

Chamber Orchestra of Kona (COOK)  
75-5576 Pawai Place, J542  
Kailua Kona, HI 96740  
FEIN 93-2742548



January 21, 2024

To: Chair Alex Kelepolo and the Commissioners of the Public Access,  
Open Space & Natural Resources Preservation Commission  
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1101  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252

**RE: SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION EASEMENT OF THE JOSEPH ROCK ARBORETUM**


Aloha Commissioners:

I am writing as a member of the Chamber Orchestra of Kona (COOK) to support a Conservation Easement for the Joseph Rock Arboretum. COOK has been a non-profit organization in Kona since 2009, and is a volunteer orchestra that offers free concerts to the Hawaii Island community. Creator of the Joseph Rock Arboretum, Ms. Jill Wagner, has been part of the group since 2012. Since COVID, the orchestra has had trouble finding suitable space for their weekly rehearsals. It would be wonderful if the orchestra could have the Joseph Rock Arboretum as a new, stable venue for this purpose..

Since the Joseph Rock Arboretum is a new garden, it should have a Conservation Easement which would preserve the land in perpetuity for the people of Hawaii. It is important to save the open spaces now, while we can.

This property is in the heart of Kona and would make a wonderful green space for generations to come. It is such a beautiful place for the community to experience. Thank you for seeing this vision.

Sincerely,

  
Juliana Salis, VP COOK Board