

January 15, 2024

From: Henk B. Rogers
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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 COUNTY ACQUISITION OF THE JOSEPH
ROCK ARBORETUM**

Aloha Commissioners:

I am writing to support the Conservation Easement for the Joseph Rock Arboretum. I have known Ms. Wagner for over 15 years from her work at Pu'u Wa'awa'a Ranch where she started a planting of species, native to the dry-land forest, that were largely displaced by invasive species and adversely affected by the ungulates brought in and raised as ranch animals in the last 150 years.

In addition she has built the West Hawaii seed bank, a collection of seeds of native species housed at Pu'u Wa'awa'a Ranch.

As long as I've known her, she has been dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the native species of Hawaii.

I think that it would be wonderful if the Joseph Rock Arboretum could 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 will make a wonderful green space for generations to come.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'HBR', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left and a horizontal line underneath.

Henk B. Rogers

Pu'u Wa'awa'a Ranch