

Date: Jan 22, 2024

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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 express my enthusiastic support for the Conservation Easement for the Joseph Rock Arboretum. As someone deeply committed to environmental stewardship and biodiversity, I have been following Ms Wagner's efforts with great interest and admiration for the past 2 years.

By focusing on the preservation and propagation of native plant species, Joseph Rock Arboretum not only helps in maintaining biodiversity but also educates the community about the importance of ecological preservation. I am particularly impressed by Ms Wagner's work in restoration, seed banking, teaching and land consultation.

I believe that the conservation work done by Joseph Rock Arboretum not only benefits our immediate environment but also sets a precedent for conservation efforts statewide. It is an exemplary model of how local actions can have a profound impact on global environmental challenges, so it would be wonderful if Joseph Rock Arboretum could have a Conservation Easement. This property is in the heart of Kona and will make a wonderful green space for generations to come.

Mahalo

Srimoyee Chakraborty