

From: Rune Dahl
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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. Last year I visited the arboretum and learned about the extremely valuable restoration project she has undertaken to restore the area to mostly native plants, as well as her ambition to make it a space available to the public in Hawaii. I have since volunteered as a master gardener at her seed bank and plant nursery. I have known Ms. Wagner for a little over a year and she is highly dedicated to these valuable efforts.

I enthusiastically support her effort to provide the Joseph Rock Arboretum with a Conservation Easement, which will preserve the land in perpetuity for all people of Hawaii. It is important to save 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.

As an avid outdoor enthusiast, hiking, biking and running, I find west Hawaii in general woefully short of open space areas, and extremely short of green space with native plants. Living up mauka on Mamalahoa Hwy I wish all private property would have easements to allow paths and trails to be developed across them, such that we do not always have to drive far to enjoy Hawaii's natural resources. I hope the county will accept Ms Wagner's application for a Conservation Easement for the Joseph Rock Arboretum as a small step to improve access to open space for all residents of and visitors to Hawaii Island.

Sincerely,

--- Rune Dahl

Rune Dahl is a University of Hawaii, School of Tropical Agriculture Master Gardener. He works as a volunteer in the Hawaii Island Seed Bank.