



P.O. Box 1229
Pearl City, HI 96782

25 September 2023

Hawai'i Board of Agriculture
Hdoa.board.testimony@hawaii.gov

RE: Testimony in Support of Milton Coleman, Jr. regarding Agenda Item IV. B2.
Request to Terminate General Lease No. S-3109, Milton Coleman, Jr. Lessee, TMK (1)
4-1-018:048, Ko'olaupoko, Waimanalo, Island of Oahu, Hawaii

Aloha Chairperson Hurd and members of the Board,

Our organization submits this testimony in support of Mr. Coleman and in strong **opposition** to the staff's recommendation to cancel the lease. Our organization has partnered with Mr. Coleman through his Pahonu Wa'a 'Ohana organization to support a Hawaiian canoe sailing program. The staff submittal states that the current lease rent is \$12,340.00 per year and notes that this year alone, the family paid \$19,600.00 towards the lease rents. In other words, in this year alone, the family paid for nearly a year and a half of payments. It is our understanding that a substantial payment was made last year as well. Given the good faith effort of the 'ohana to demonstrate an intent to bring their account current, this Board should inquire and consider what kind of realistic repayment plan was considered or offered before resorting to the drastic step of lease cancellation and removing this longstanding Waimanalo family from the 'āina.

Ko'ihonua, is a non-profit dedicated to reclaiming and providing cultural space for our lāhui to learn, practice and engage in Hawaiian traditions and practices. Our mission is to reclaim and restore Hawaiian lands and provide the means and resources for Hawaiians to engage in traditional practices by creating Hawaiian cultural space. We are currently in partnership with Kumuhau Farm and the Pāhonu Wa'a 'Ohana, both of which are run by Mr. Coleman and his 'ohana. The program is dependent on access to the lease parcel in Waimanalo currently subject to termination.

Ko'ihonua has participated in an agroforestry cohort with Kumuhau Farm for two years under the guidance and mentorship of Dr. Craig Elevitch through Ke Kula Nui o Waimanalo. During that time, Mr. Coleman and his 'ohana have participated as an

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EIN: 81-4352379

active partner, working to reestablish native and food plants on the leased property. Their 'Ohana is an active contributor to the cohort and the Waimanalo community.

Our organization also partners with Pāhonua Wa'a 'Ohana through the use of a large scale sailing wa'a used for community educational programming. Ko'ihonua is looking forward to future partnership and collaboration with Kumuhau Farm and Pahonu Wa'a.

The value of maintaining an 'ohana with generational roots in the local community and committed to land stewardship is priceless. We request that you consider the substantial payments already made this year and extend further consideration to the Coleman 'ohana in light of their deep commitment to the Waimanalo community.

'O wau iho nō,



Camille Kalama
Executive Director
Ko'ihonua

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Aloha Nui Kakou!

Please accept this letter of strongest support of the Coleman Ohana and their efforts in a sustainable lifestyle by growing food and community on their aina on Kumuhau Street in Waimanalo! Aina Ku'oko'a! This Ohana has worked long and hard to grow food, support community and sustain independence since receiving this parcel! They have opened up this space to countless groups so learning and growing can happen easily and organically in a community setting that is safe and wholesome!

Your desire to cancel this lease puts all of us as a community ten steps backward. Why do you want to do this? Our people need this for health, for healing, for life! Finding a solution in their efforts is a better way of doing business. Not taking away their life and livelihood! You should be looking for ways of supporting families who live and breathe Aloha!

I include these logos of the various programs that our organization provides for the Waimanalo community; and numerous others. I highlight these because the Coleman Ohana are active in every one! Whether they are participants, facilitators, mentors and/or teachers. They participate freely and wholeheartedly! With no expectation of anything in return. Such programs are hard to be successful but not for us in Waimanalo! Because of People like the Colemans! It takes a village. It truly does. And our village, Waimanalo, is here for each other. We support one another. Like you should be supporting them! I ask for your support in finding a solution to the predicament we are in. I give you my support to find success in implementing the solutions. On behalf of God's Country Waimanalo, the Waimanalo Learning Center, and myself I ask for you to support the Coleman Ohana on retaining their aina, Aina Ku'oko'a! Please contact me should you need any input, action, etc. Mahalo!



Ke Akua Pu!

Ilima Ho-Lastimoso

Ilima888@gmail.com

808-499-5055

September 24, 2023

Aloha Board Members,

My name is Dr. Samantha Keaulana-Scott and I am writing to **STRONGLY SUPPORT** Milton Coleman, Jr.'s and ohana's request in keeping General Lease No. 3109. I am a professor and health disparities researcher, but I write you today as a concerned, Native Hawaiian. My work unpacks how inequities, like **LACK OF ACCESS TO LAND**, in society impacts Native Hawaiian Health.

Since receiving this parcel of land, 'Ohana Coleman has worked tirelessly to support the Waimānalo community and **MANY** others across Hawai'i with their sustainable living, growing of food, and offering programs that **IMPROVE** Native Hawaiian health. The land has fed many of us and provided a place of healing, community connection, and (re)connection to land and identity (all of which contribute **LARGELY** to Native Hawaiian mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health). They established a food forest with many native plants, fruit trees, sweet patoto and more to echo a natural forest which will support the environment and grow agriculture in a sustainable way. The food forest has since fed 'Ohana Coleman and the community in Waimānalo. 'Ohana Coleman has also received various grants to establish working groups on the leased land. Some of those working groups are for youth who will get to work on the land and build youth leadership and a skillset in land health and growing food that will feed generations to come.

We know that COVID-19 has had a detrimental impact on our Hawaiian families. In a recent study conducted, over 300 Native Hawaiians were surveyed, and many were from Waimānalo. The data demonstrated that 31% and 42% of Native Hawaiians suffered from depression and PTSD respectively during the pandemic. Furthermore, 33% and 20% suffered from low food security and very low food security respectively. A moratorium on rent was not enough for most families. Many were and are still hungry on top of dealing with stress and other burdens.

Your board has the opportunity to demonstrate that you care about Hawaiian health, the future of Waimānalo, and Hawaiian families that were largely impacted by the financial and social consequences of the pandemic. To strip 'Ohana Coleman of their lease is to strip them of their health and well being, our health and well being, and the community's health and well being. Sustainable, healthy living **STARTS WITH FAMILIES** like 'Ohana Coleman who have dedicated their lives to helping others live sustainably.

Please join us in supporting this amazing family.

Me ke aloha,



Samantha Keaulana-Scott, PhD, MSW

Clingan, Marci

From: theodore@hawaii.edu
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2023 9:48 AM
To: HDOA.BOARD.TESTIMONY
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for agenda item IV.B.2. Coleman Lease 3109

Aloha HDOA Board Members,

Junior Coleman and his family have participated in our programs at the Waimānalo Research Station for several years, including aquaponics and agroforestry programs aimed at providing Native Hawaiians food production training.

I just had a meeting with Junior Coleman on Saipan where I am presenting a series of ecological farming workshops with the CNMI Division of Agriculture. He made me aware of the recent progress being made on paying what's owed on the lease and the plans to continue to increase production and profits on the farm. As a CTAHR extension specialist in sustainable and organic farming systems, I fully recognize the importance of keeping our agricultural lands productive and profitable. I will be visiting the farm when I return to O'ahu to review the plan and make suggestions on how to increase and sustain the farm's productivity and viability.

Mahalo for considering this testimony,

Ted

Theodore J.K. Radovich, Ph.D., Extension Specialist & Professor
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Visit the Sustainable and Organic Agriculture Program (SOAP) website:
<https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/soap/>

Check out our sustainable agriculture newsletter:
<https://cms.ctahr.hawaii.edu/soap/Hanai-Ai>

Plan of utilization of development is being expanded To first and of course continue the growing of canoe plants(niu, ulu, ‘olena, uala, Maia , noni etc.) and other native food/Medicinal plants. Furthermore , utilizing available invasive trees such as African tulip,Java Plum, Fern tree for the production of canoe model kits and Waimanalo wood furniture will commence.

A second business endeavor involves an innovative concept creating a ‘living off the land scape’ venture where potential clients and customers visit the farm free of charge to take a look at different models of food and medicinal plant landscapes including canoe plants, endemic species, citruses, staple starches, and aesthetic Hydroponic systems etc. Personalized family food systems can be installed at their residences, businesses or estates.

The third tier will include a proactive approach to harvesting and processing various plants including Uhaloa(Waltheria indica), Malunguy(Moringa Oleifera), Olena (tumeric), Nioi, Mamaki etc. for teas and high potency juice extracts. Additionally, harvesting and processing of the abundant Java Plum trees by using the fruit, seeds and leaves for it’s beneficial health properties, also using excess wood for carving products and firewood products as well.

Fourth income producing venue comes by way of various plant and flower (lei) groves namely ti, puakenikeni, plumeria, pakalana, and pikake which will continue to be cultivated for their respective viable purpose.

The timeline to have each agri-business venture aforementioned to be at optimal operation and revenue generating is over the course of 2-3 years. Agricultural/Cultural products and services will be marketed via social media platforms, internet, open markets, conferences, conventions, news, school systems, hotel shops, media, etc.

3 Year Agribusiness Revenue Projections :
ECO Canoe Kits and Waimanalo Wood Furniture

Year	#of canoe kits	Retail price	Gross Sales Total
2023	50	197.60	\$9880.00
2024	200	214.70	\$42,940.00
2025	240	231.80	\$55,632.00

LIVING OFF THE LAND SCAPES-

Year	#of customers/clients /households/ businesses	Retail price avg system installation	GrossAnnualTo tal
2023	7	\$947.00	\$6,629.00
2024	21	\$1147.00	\$24,087.00
2025	63	\$1347.00	\$84,861.00

Heal Thy Natural Teas, High Potency Juice Extracts and Supplements. (Java Plum, ‘Uhaloa, ‘Olena, Nioi, Mamaki, Noni etc.)

*Revenue Projections currently under Planning, Research & Development

Na Lei o Waimanalo

Year	Est. Avg.#of lei:Haku sold	Est.Avg.Retail Price ea.	
2023	14	18	\$252.00
2024	98	21	\$2058.00
2025	294	24	\$7056.00

