
Message to DLA Candace Martin in Support of a Shoreline Easement at Punalu'u Black Sands Beach, Ka'u, Requested by Enriques Ohana.

From George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

Date Tue 4/21/2026 1:03 AM

To Candace Martin- District Land Agent DLNR Land Division <candace.m.martin@hawaii.gov>

Cc George Balazs <itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com>

Dear Ms. Candace Martin, District Land Agent-

My name is George Balazs and I am 83 years old. My wife Linda and I have lived in Hawaii for 61 years. My career as a professional researcher at the University of Hawaii (HIMB), at NOAA (PIFSC Marine Turtle Research Program), and privately post-retirement since 2018, has focused on the sea turtles of Hawaii. As a way of introducing myself, here's the link to my personal NGO web page-

www.GeorgeHBalazs.com

and to my CV-

[GHB_CV_Nov2019.pdf](#)

I am writing to you today to voice my support in favor of a Shoreline Easement at Punalu'u Black Sands Beach in Ka'u, as requested by the Guy Enriques Ohana. My wife and I first met the matriarch of their family, Jeanette Howard ([1923 until Forever- Jeanette Kaulani Akiu Howard, Kapuna of Punalu'u.](#)) at the gift stand in 1976, after she contacted me about a sea turtle nest she was watching over to prevent harm. Later that year, working with Jeanette's husband Arnold Howard, I initiated a tagging and monitoring program of sea turtles at Punalu'u. That program has endured to the present time ([Home of Kauila – George Harvey Balazs](#)). What I want you to kindly be aware of is that the Enriques Ohana has been a key community player in the turtle program and conservation of sea turtles and their ocean and sand beach habitats at Punalu'u. Without question, the presence of their gift stand and interactions with tourists and locals have made this possible in the Spirit of Aloha. I consider the gift stand a part of the Old and Better Hawaii- a Traditional Treasure- that remains at a time when so much of Hawaii has faded away with no memory of what we have lost. At our age, and lifetime of experiences, my wife and I are deeply aware of this fact.

Thank you for your consideration.

With Best Regards & Appreciation,

George Balazs

itsahonuworldinhawaii@hotmail.com

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