RES26-029
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 112

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Mar 25, 2026 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Fred Rodi	fred@drfortress.com	96819
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
DRFortress	Support	Mar 23, 2026 @ 01:51 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am providing testimony in strong support of Resolution 26-29 to allow the expansion of the existing cable landing station and installation of additional subsea fiber-optic infrastructure serving West O‘ahu. This project is important because all of our existing undersea fiber cable infrastructure has an end of life date and will need to be replace with new ones. It is currently very difficult and time consuming to land these cables in Hawaii, so most of these systems have bypassed Hawaii completely. This project will make it easier for future systems to land in Hawaii and provide the high speed capacity that we need for internet and connectivity back to the rest of the world. This will ensure Hawaii has affordable and fast internet for generations to come. For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support of Resolution 26-29.

Thank you,

Fred Rodi

Name:	Email:	Zip:
David Slessor	davisl@bw-digital.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaiki Submarine Cable USA LLC	Support	Mar 23, 2026 @ 04:55 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jennifer Cruz	jenniferc@fvcoluccio.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Frank V. Coluccio Construction Company, Inc.	Support	Mar 24, 2026 @ 06:51 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
David Slessor	davisl@bw-digital.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawaiki Submarine Cable USA LLC	Support	Mar 24, 2026 @ 10:35 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lei'a Haff	Leia.vhaff@gmail.com	96792
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Mar 24, 2026 @ 05:39 PM

Testimony:

I am writing in support of RES26-029 / CR-65(26), Resolution 26-29, CD1, to grant a Special Management Area Major Permit

for the Hawaiki Cable Landing Station Expansion Project in Honouliuli, Oʻahu. This item appears on the Council's March 25, 2026 agenda under Zoning and Planning.

This project represents an important investment in Hawaiʻi's long-term infrastructure, resilience, and ability to remain connected in an increasingly digital world. Reliable telecommunications systems are no longer optional. They are essential to education, business, healthcare, public safety, emergency response, and everyday life across our islands. Expanding critical cable landing infrastructure helps strengthen Hawaiʻi's connectivity and supports the kind of forward-looking capacity our communities will continue to need.

Just as importantly, Hawaiki has shown a willingness to engage with the community throughout this process. The company has presented public project updates to the Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board, returned with follow-up updates, and provided a direct community email for questions, comments, and concerns. Public records for those meetings also note that Hawaiki discussed the project openly, shared details about the expansion, and highlighted community-oriented efforts such as a scholarship program intended to support local talent development.

That kind of visible and continued engagement matters. It demonstrates that this is not a project moving forward in isolation, but one being advanced with public communication, transparency, and responsiveness. In a project of this scale and significance, that diligence should be recognized.

The Hawaiki Cable Landing Station Expansion Project is the type of infrastructure investment that helps position Hawaiʻi for long-term stability and opportunity. It supports greater connectivity, strengthens critical systems, and reflects the importance of planning for the future while remaining engaged with the communities affected in the present.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Honolulu City Council to approve RES26-029 and support the Hawaiki Cable Landing Station Expansion Project.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and service to our community.



Honolulu City Council

Resolution 26-29

Fiber Optic Submarine Cable Landing Facilities Project
(2025-SMA-79)

Council Meeting

25th March 2026

RES26-29: Background and existing infrastructure

HAWAIKI
MEMBER OF BW DIGITAL

- Hawaiki was the last international subsea fibre optic telecommunications cable to be deployed in Hawai'i – landing on the west side of O'ahu
- Existing cable landing station
  - Located mauka of the Farrington Highway between the Waimānalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill and the HECO Kahe Power Plant.
  - Fully operational since 2018

    Operational permits included Cultural Impact Assessment, Archaeological Inventory Survey, HDD bore test etc.

    Previous HDD drilling experience through rock at this location - latest geotechnical data for the project area shows more of the same
  - Supporting construction services provided by local businesses
  - Staffed by locals employed by DRFortress
- Hawaiki supports high-speed international data connectivity from Hawai'i to the US mainland, American Samoa, New Zealand and Australia today, with construction of a vital subsea link to Tonga underway
  - The only carrier-neutral facility providing access to international capacity on a fair and equal basis





Proposed project is Phase 2 of our Hawaiian operations

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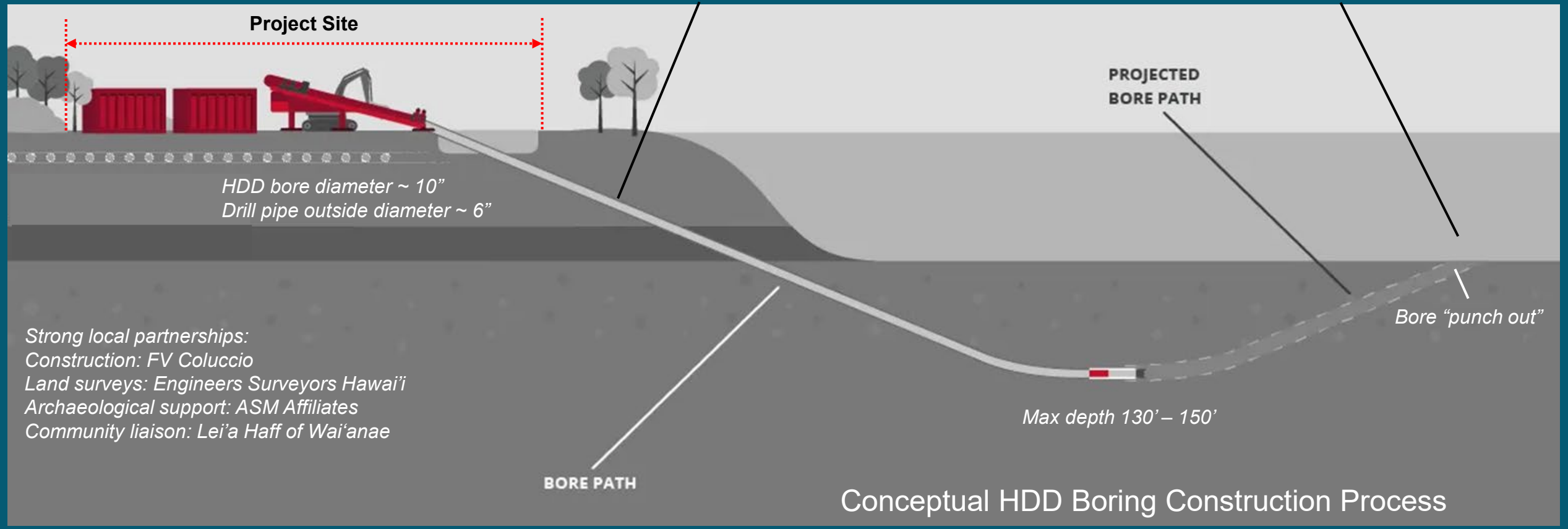
RES26-29: Purpose and scope of the proposed project

HAWAIKI
MEMBER OF BW DIGITAL

Three underground conduits to house future fiber optic telecommunications cables
Buried concrete vault (i.e. a manhole or BMH) within our property boundary
Below ground conduits between the BMH and existing Hawaiki cable landing station and a temporary access road and drill pad also on our property

HDD bores pass underneath the Farrington H'way and OR&L Railroad 60' – 80' target depth

Marine survey complete, ocean floor mapped HDD bores designed to "punch out" in sand thus avoiding the coral and its ecosystem Conduits will be left 2' – 3' below the seabed



Strong local partnerships:
Construction: FV Coluccio
Land surveys: Engineers Surveyors Hawai'i
Archaeological support: ASM Affiliates
Community liaison: Lei'a Haff of Wai'anae

Conceptual HDD Boring Construction Process

RES26-29: Benefits to the State and neighboring communities

Future subsea telecommunications cables will bring greater data capacity into the State, increasing competition among service providers and strengthening the resilience of the island's connectivity to the rest of the world

HAWAIKI
MEMBER OF BW DIGITAL







Benefitting Hawai'i

The proposed infrastructure enables the stronger, future-proofed digital connectivity needed to stimulate a balanced competitive broadband market providing affordable access to everyday services like Netflix, Google, Zoom, Amazon and more.

Advancing Connectivity

Enabling new domestic or international subsea telecommunications cables offers more reliable connectivity for education, remote working and mobile services providing greater opportunity for innovation. Complementary to the State of Hawai'i Kākou initiative to achieve full fiber-optic connectivity by the end of 2026 and to ensure digital equity and access for all residents by 2030.

Environmentally Safe and Culturally Sensitive

We have performed an Environmental Assessment, Cultural Impact Assessment and Cultural Resources survey across the project sites Installation of the new infrastructure under the ocean floor has been carefully planned and approved to utilize the soft sandy bottom posing little risk to delicate coral reefs and associated ecosystem.



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RES26-29: Community Engagement

Early engagement with the local community has been a key component of our project planning. Through ongoing open communication, consultation, and collaboration, our aim is to ensure that community concerns are heard and that the benefits of the project are shared

➔ Ongoing Community Outreach

Meetings with the Nānākuli–Māʻili Neighborhood Board and Land and Water Committee, the Makakilo–Kapolei–Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board, important community members and other key local representatives

Consultation with key environmental and cultural advocates

Public engagement through open door sessions at community meeting venues in Nānākuli and Kapolei

Mail outs to neighbours with positive ongoing meetings with residents in dwellings adjacent to the project site

Distributed flyers in the community and created a dedicated email inbox for feedback and questions

community@hawaiki.us

Hosted visits to existing cable landing station and adjacent project site

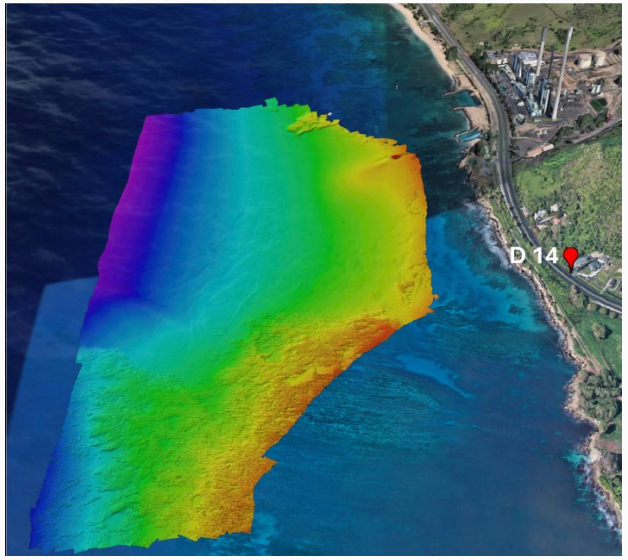
➔ Environmental & Cultural Studies

Environmental Assessment with Findings of No Significant Interest, Archaeological Inventory Survey x 2, Cultural Impact Assessment. Should any culturally significant artifacts be discovered, we'll refer to respected community cultural practitioners

➔ Community Support

We are supporting the community through a multi-year scholarship program designed to encourage and support the development of local talent





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HAWAIKI

MEMBER OF BW DIGITAL

THANK YOU

Contractor's License # ABC-35781

March 24, 2026

Honolulu City Council

RE: RES26-029
GRANTING A SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA MAJOR PERMIT TO ALLOW FOR THE HAWAIKI CABLE LANDING STATION EXPANSION PROJECT IN HONOULIULI, O'AHU.

Aloha Chair and members of the Council,

My name is Jennifer, and I am a Project Manager with Frank V. Coluccio Construction Company, the general contractor for this project.

Our company has been part of Hawaii's construction community for nearly 47 years. Our team is made up primarily of local residents, many of whom have been with us for over 15 years. We also make it a priority to work with local subcontractors, suppliers, and service providers so that projects like this continue to support local businesses and the broader community.

As the contractor, we understand our responsibility to carry out this work safely, thoughtfully, and in full compliance with all permit conditions. The project will utilize Horizontal Directional Drilling, a trenchless method that allows the conduits to be installed beneath the shoreline and seabed, avoiding disturbance to the beach and reef and helping to protect these coastal areas.

Our team has experience performing similar shore crossings and directional drilling work in Hawaii, and we recognize the importance of doing this work with care, respect for the environment, and coordination with agencies and the community.

Projects like this also contribute to supporting Hawaii's infrastructure and local workforce during construction.

We respectfully support Resolution 26-29 and appreciate the Council's time and consideration.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jennifer Cruz
Project Manager
Frank V. Coluccio Construction Company Inc.

HAWAIKI

MEMBER OF BW DIGITAL

March 25th, 2026

Honolulu City Council
Uploaded to: http://hnldoc.ehawaii.gov/hnldoc/testimony

Re: Written Testimony in Strong Support of Resolution No. 26-29: Granting a Special Management Area Major Permit to Allow for the Hawaiki Cable Landing Station Expansion Project in Honolulu, Oahu.

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Tupola, and Councilmembers,

My name is David Slessor, and I'm writing on behalf of Hawaiki to share a brief overview of our project to expand our existing cable-landing facilities. The project site sits mauka of Farrington Highway, between the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill and the HECO Kahe Power Plant.

Hawaiki has been invested in Hawai'i for nearly a decade, ever since we brought our trans-Pacific subsea cable on-line in 2018. That privately funded system opened the door to long-needed competition in a market once dominated by a few incumbent operators. It added significant new capacity and helped strengthen Hawai'i's digital resilience. Today, the Hawaiki cable connects Hawaii with the U.S. West Coast, American Samoa, New Zealand, and Australia, with branching options that allow Pacific neighbors to join as their needs grow.

We've already seen how this connectivity enables new possibilities. Our network supports the 3D holographic learning program between the University of Hawai'i and the American Samoa Community College, allowing students to interact in real time with life-size projected instructors. And right now, we are bringing Tonga onto the system to improve its resilience after the 2022 volcanic eruptions severed both of its subsea cables and forced the country to rely temporarily on low-speed satellite links.

This proposed project is the next step in that ongoing commitment. Our goal is straightforward: keep Hawai'i a preferred landing point for future subsea cable systems, particularly as several of the state's domestic and international cables approach the end of their typical 25-year lifespans. In recent years, several international cables have bypassed the state due to perceived permitting complexity, and we want to help remove those barriers so Hawai'i remains globally connected.

To do that, we are proposing to install three underground conduits from our project site, extending roughly 3,000 feet offshore. **It is important to emphasize that no new subsea cables are being installed at this stage.** The conduits simply prepare the site so that future cable systems, proposed by other parties, can land here without the need for repeating nearshore construction activity. They will exit the seabed in sand at about 60 feet of water depth and then sit safely two to three feet below the seabed until needed. Any equipment used to terminate and activate future cables using these conduits will be located inside our existing facility.

We're using Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) to install the conduits. HDD is a trenchless and environmentally sensitive method that burrows through bedrock up to 150 feet below the seabed, minimizing disturbance to the shoreline and nearshore environment. This approach ensures the work is done as carefully and respectfully as possible.

It also provides two clear land-use advantages. First, it avoids repeated shoreline construction when a new cable is proposed to land in the area, significantly reducing cumulative impacts over the coming decades. Second, it positions Hawai‘i as a more attractive, less complex landing point at a time when global network planners are choosing their routes.

This work also builds on strong local partnerships, construction by FV Coluccio, land surveys by Engineers Surveyors Hawaii Inc. (ESH), archaeological engagement through ASM Affiliates (ASM) , and community liaison support from Lei‘a Haff of Wai‘anae. We rely heavily on local workers, local expertise, and local contractors throughout this project. Our existing landing facility is staffed locally through DRFortress, and data from the Hawaiki system is carried statewide by Hawaiian Telcom, Spectrum, Lumen, the University of Hawai’i, T-Mobile etc. to reach mobile devices, homes, schools, hospitals, and businesses. Ultimately, it’s the backbone behind everyday services like Netflix, Google, Zoom, Amazon, and more.

Since September 2024, we’ve met extensively with community members, particularly the Nānākuli–Mā‘ili Neighborhood Board and Land and Water Committee, the Makakilo–Kapolei–Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board, kupuna councils, coral restoration groups, and nearby residents. We also held open door engagement sessions in both Nānākuli and Kapolei, giving residents the opportunity to speak directly with our technical, cultural, and environmental teams. For neighbors who couldn’t attend, we conducted targeted mail outs, distributed flyers throughout the community, and created a dedicated email inbox for questions and feedback. In parallel, we consulted closely with key environmental advocates to ensure their perspectives shaped our approach. This feedback directly influenced the project design, most notably in reducing the number of proposed conduits from six to three in response to concerns about potential effects on the coral ecosystem.

For west side communities, these improvements translate into more reliable connectivity for education, remote work, and mobile service as carriers gain access to more diverse international routes. Over time, greater diversity and competition in subsea infrastructure help moderate prices for residents and businesses. We are also supporting the community through an annual scholarship program designed to encourage and support the development of local talent.

We’ve seen what these investments can deliver. In Hawai‘i, household access to high-speed internet has increased from roughly 84% to over 91% in recent years as new, neutral capacity entered the market. In American Samoa, the activation of the Hawaiki branch helped drive internet participation from about 50% to 75%. These improvements are not abstract; they show that resilient subsea infrastructure directly supports digital equity, economic opportunity, and community resilience.

By preparing this conduit system now, Hawai‘i becomes a simpler, more predictable landing point for future cables, bringing greater capacity, stronger competition, and ultimately better service for residents and businesses.

For your convenience, I have attached to my testimony and Question & Answer Sheet. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your leadership in planning for Hawai‘i’s long term digital future.

Yours sincerely,



HAWAIKI

MEMBER OF BW DIGITAL

Hawaiki Cable Landing Facilities Expansion Project

Community Q&A Handout

1. Where is the project located?

Hawaiki's existing cable landing facilities are at 92-384 Farrington Highway (TMK 9-2-051: 011), located between the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill and the HECO Kahe Power Plant. The project site is located on the adjacent land parcel directly to the north (TMK 9-2-051: 001).

2. Is Hawaiki installing a new submarine cable?

No.

This project installs three offshore subsurface conduits – empty protective pathways. They allow any future cable operator to land a cable system without repeating nearshore construction. The conduits remain unused unless a future proponent undertakes its own project.

3. Why is this work happening now?

Several recently deployed trans-Pacific subsea systems have bypassed Hawai'i due to perceived permitting and construction complexity. By preparing conduits now, Hawai'i becomes more attractive for future systems, which:

- Increase data capacity into the state
- Improve competition among carriers
- Strengthen resilience and redundancy

These benefits support affordability and service quality over time.

4. What does this mean for west side communities?

More reliable long-term connectivity for education, remote work, mobile service, and household internet. This supports greater digital equity on the west side, where connectivity challenges have historically been more pronounced.

5. Will local workers be used?

Yes.

Major project elements are delivered by local contractors, including:

- FV Coluccio – construction
- Engineers Surveyors Hawaii Inc. – land surveys
- ASM Affiliates – cultural and archaeological engagement
- Leiʻa Haff (Waiʻanae) – community liaison

The existing landing facility is also maintained by local Hawaiʻi staff through DRFortress.

6. What community outreach has been done?

Since September 2024, Hawaiki has engaged with:

- Makakilo–Kapolei–Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board
- Nānākuli–Māʻili Neighborhood Board & Land & Water Committee
- Waiʻanae Moku Kupuna Council
- Kuleana Coral Restoration group
- Hālau Kiawekūpono O Ka Ua
- Hoʻōla Hāniʻo
- Direct neighbors and property users
- Community open door meetings in Kapolei and Nānākuli

Community feedback directly shaped project refinements.

7. Is Hawaiki providing Community Benefits?

Yes.

Initiatives focus on:

- Digital access improvements
- Education support and a scholarship program
- Local workforce opportunities in telecom and infrastructure

These ensure west side communities share in long term advantages.

8. Are there environmental impacts?

Impacts are minimal.

The project uses **Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD**), a trenchless method that keeps all work underground until the conduits emerge offshore at depth. This avoids trenching, avoids nearshore disturbance, and places conduits 2 to 3 feet beneath the seabed.

9. Does this set a precedent for shoreline development?

No.

The project extends an existing permitted utility use. It does not expand the shoreline footprint, add new structures, or increase daily activity.

10. What are the long-term benefits for Hawai'i?

- Stronger digital resilience
- A more competitive broadband market
- Easier landing for future cables
- Reduced future shoreline construction
- Greater opportunity for education, innovation, and local business
- Reinforces Hawai'i's role as a Pacific connectivity hub

11. How does this benefit the wider Pacific region?

The Hawaiki system has already improved digital access in the Pacific.

American Samoa's internet participation rose from ~51% to 77% after gaining modern fiber capacity. Hawai'i has seen similar gains, with household high speed internet use now above 91%. These outcomes show how subsea infrastructure supports digital equity and economic resilience.

12. What if the conduits are never used?

Nothing changes.

They remain safely buried underground. The project simply creates future options that would be more disruptive and costly if built later.

13. Who can I contact for further information?

You can reach us at: community@hawaiki.us