



## Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

September 16, 2010

Mayor Charmaine Tavares  
c/o Mayor's Small Business Awards Program  
Maui County Business Resource Center  
70 East Ka'ahumanu Ave  
Unit B9  
Kahului, HI 96732

Dear Mayor Tavares,

I am writing this letter of recommendation on behalf of the Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, in support of Makena Boat Partners', dba Kai Kanani, nomination for the Mayor's Small Business Awards Program in the category of Non-profit Angel.

For the last decade, Makena Boat Partners has demonstrated their commitment to helping protect Maui's environment through company-wide environmental goals, their support of ours and the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary's education programs onboard the Kai Kanani, and at Ahihi-Kina'u Natural Area Reserve, and through their participation in marine debris recovery on Kaho'olawe.

Through their generous donations (more than \$20,000.00 over the last decade), we were able to secure cell phones for our office staff and naturalists at Ahihi Kina'u Natural Area Reserve. As you are aware, the Reserve is in a remote and sometimes dangerous location, and our naturalists provided the visitors with phones to make emergency calls many times. They were also able to use the phones to call the DLNR Rangers and DLNR/DOCARE officers when Reserve rules were violated and/or people's lives were in danger.

Their support has also allowed us to our provide quality education program to thousands of visitors and residents, as well as their own staff and crew.

In closing, I would like to commend you for offering this award because I believe that companies that help small non-profits such as ours deserve all the recognition and kudos we can give them. Although they have helped further our shared goals to protect Maui's precious marine environment with no expectation of an award for this assistance, I really appreciate the opportunity to nominate the Kai Kanani and its staff and crew for

an award such as this one. I believe that more businesses would help more local non-profits if they saw that it benefits our entire community to work together. This award program offers a chance to spotlight those companies who are just trying to do the right thing.

It is with sincere conviction that I enthusiastically recommend that Makena Boat Partners, dba Kai Kanani, receive the Mayor's Small Business Non-profit Angel Award. If this award must be presented to a representative of the company and not the entire company, then Captain/Owner Roger Gildersleeve richly deserves this award for setting the standard by which it operates.

Sincerely,

Hannah Bernard  
President and Director of Education