

Resolution 21-267 Testimony



Kamehameha Schools

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Zoning and Planning

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Date: January 13, 2022

Where: Mission Memorial Auditorium

TESTIMONY

By: Kau'i Burgess

Director of Community & Government Relations

RE: RESOLUTION 21-267 – PUNALU'U STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT SMA APPLICATION

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Elefante, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kia'āina, a me nā Lālā o kēia Kōmike, aloha! Kamehameha Schools writes in support of Resolution 21-267, which approves an SMA permit application for our Punalu'u stream restoration project.

Kamehameha Schools recognizes that through proper stewardship of our 'āina, we can support resilient economies, cultural landscapes, diverse learning, and career pathways, which create environments in which our learners can thrive.

The Punalu'u stream restoration project for which we are requesting this SMA permit helps to achieve these goals. The project would restore the stream in certain areas to its natural state, create new drainage retention basins, and relocate Green Valley Road with the intended purpose of improving public safety by mitigating flood risks. It would also allow for greater agricultural, cultural, educational, and economic outcomes within the valley of Punalu'u.

The City Council previously approved an SMA permit for this project on July 6, 2016, which has since expired due to the time required to secure the other permits needed for this complex project. With the approval of this new SMA permit, Kamehameha Schools hopes to move the project forward to benefit the Punalu'u and surrounding communities as intended.

Please adopt this resolution.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an educational organization striving to restore our people through education and advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership. Hānai i ke keiki, ola ka lāhui.

49-041 Kamehameha Hwy
Kaneohe, HI 96744
(808) 294-1921

January 12, 2022

Kamehameha Schools
Joey Char, Jamee Miller and
Kamuela

Aloha Joey, Jamee and Kamuela,

I am the property owner at 53-324 Kamehameha Hwy, Punalu'u. I was a guest on the Punalu'u Community Association Zoom meeting on January 11, 2022.

My house was built in 1946. Apparently the previous home washed away in the 1946 tsunami. My 75 year old house is built on a slab with a hollow tile base. I have owned this property since 1986 and have endured 10 floods where mud and water have come onto the property and into the house. My first experience was New Years 1987. I remember waking up and realizing there was water surrounding my bed. I then quickly realized that the electricity was still on as I stood in the muck. I made my way to the kitchen and used a board to turn off the circuit breakers. My neighbors at that time, Ronald and Blanche Harbottle told me they had not experienced flooding in the 50+ years they had lived there.

I learned that Punalu'u stream had been straightened. Army Corps of Engineers became involved but the stream was never restored. I was told that the landowners wanted to develop the Valley and had straightened the stream to enhance this project. I wrote to our state government, asking for help but was simply told I should elevate my home. Legal advice told me that I would be wasting my time and limited funds. During the flooding, huge trees were washed down, getting caught at the bridge causing further backup of the floodwaters. My father took it upon himself to try to chainsaw some of the branches to try to free the trees to wash out to the beach. I have learned to live with the flooding. My house now has tile floors, the furniture is all wood and the legs tall enough to keep mud off the cushions. My house has seen a lot of storms but it remains a beautiful property.

The new Punalu'u Stream Bridge has helped reduce the flooding (slightly taller and greater span between pilings) but unfortunately it has not been enough to prevent flooding. Since the bridge was completed my house has flooded two times.

I am pleased that Kamehameha Schools is proceeding to restore Punalu'u Stream. Putting curves back into the stream to allow the rainwater to slosh over at these curves and slow down the flow should reduce the chance of flooding downstream and reduce the runoff into the ocean.

I currently live in Hakipu'u taking care of my 94 year old mother. I have always planned to live at Punalu'u again and having the stream restored will definitely make that plan more attractive. At 66 years and my husband 71, I hope we do not have to clean mud from the house in the years to come.

Mahalo for your time,

Kathleen McGovern-Hopkins

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 5:26 AM
Subject: Zoning and Planning Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Georgia Gonzaga

Phone

Email Tavman223@yahoo.com

Meeting Date 01-13-2022

Council/PH
Committee Zoning and Planning

Agenda Item Resolution 21=267

Your position on
the matter Support

Representing
Organization Self

Written
Testimony As a resident of Punaluu I support this project in my community. I have attended meeting in the past and present for this project and still believe it to be a good plan. I am a member of the Punaluu Community Association and am writing this as my own personnel opinion. Joey Char & the staff assigned to this project have continued to be open to questions and are to be commended in their patience over the length of this process. Mahalo, Georgia Gonzaga

Testimony
Attachment

Accept Terms
and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67