

Resolution 21-267, CD1 Testimony

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

January 19, 2022

Aloha City Council Heidi Tsuneyoshi and Mike Sakata,

I am the property owner at 53-324 Kamehameha Hwy, Punalu'u. 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 in pursuing charges. During flooding, huge trees were washed down, getting caught at the bridge causing further backup of the floodwaters. During the second flood, 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 acknowledges the need 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.

Looking over a copy of the presentation Joey Char of Kamehameha Schools made to my community last November, I am concerned about the purpose of the project. It appears that the first phase is to build a new road into Green Valley. I would think that the Punalu Stream restoration should be the first phase of the project and not the new road! I expect that once the stream is put back to its meandering course, the existing road may serve the purpose of access into the Valley? I am concerned about Kamehameha Schools intentions with this proposed project.

Mahalo for your time,

Kathleen McGovern-Hopkins



Kamehameha Schools*

City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Time: 10:00 a.m.
Date: January 26, 2022
Where: City Council Chamber

TESTIMONY

By: Kau'i Burgess
Director of Community & Government Relations

RE: RESOLUTION 21-267, CD1 – PUNALU'U STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT SMA APPLICATION

Aloha e ka Luna Ho'omalua Waters, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kia'āina, a me nā Lālā o ka 'Aha o ke Kūlanakauhale a me ke Kalana o Honolulu. Kamehameha Schools writes in support of Resolution 21-267, CD1, 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 Punalu'u valley.

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.

kaburges@ksbe.edu

In the matter of the Punalu'u Stream Restoration Project (Resolution 21-267)

The Phillip 'Ohana wishes to present its testimony before the council. Under no circumstances do we, the Phillip 'Ohana, question the sincerity of Kamehameha School's desire to restore the natural habitat of Punalu'u, Ko'olaupua, O'ahu. However, we question the capability of Kamehameha Schools to achieve the goals of this restoration project due to the following reasons:

- 1- The Schools have failed to provide evidence that would assure the 'Ohana no alterations to the existing main access road would be prompted by this project. The current access road is maintained as a mandated easement recorded in the Bureau of Conveyances to our kuleana parcel landlocked by the institution's property. This issue surfaces two specific concerns
 - a. This project was proposed approximately ten years ago. We have recently become aware of this project in November of 2021. The family then reviewed a ten-year-old presentation that contained five slides where it has been assumed that the access route would change. After attending the Punalu'u Community Association (PCA) board meeting held on January 11th, 2021, our issue regarding the future of the easement was presented and met with bewilderment. The representatives of Kamehameha Schools stated that they were not aware our recorded easement existed, and further added that there was a possibility that no alterations would be made to said easement but no confirmation. It is this uncertainty that fueled our 'Ohana to urge the PCA not to collectively support this project. The Schools own representatives could not confirm a major result of the Stream Project (the future of the access road) they were presenting to the PCA, a project that has been ten years in the making. A member of our family communicated to the representatives that the Schools must confirm no alterations would be made to the easement at the January 11th meeting. At the time of this testimony's completion, January 23rd, 2022, the 'Ohana has received no confirmation in this regard. Should the Schools not provide the evidence we have requested in due time, this will force the 'Ohana to seek an injunction to achieve a legal resolution.
 - b. This project was proposed many years ago, and it was (and still is) the Schools' responsibility to inform the 'Ohana, an involved party, of matters related to the easement, which was in fact recorded only two to three years prior to the restorations conception. Make no mistake, the 'Ohana is naturally willing to come to an agreement on revising the current easement and route of access after discussions and recording the revision into the Bureau of Conveyances. However, the institution has not provided this opportunity to our family, and therefore, caused a great delay in our awareness of their intentions and subsequently our response. This oversight does not assure us of the efficacy of this project, causing the family to question what else has the Schools not considered. We fear the possibilities resulting from these failures of considerations.

- 2- From the beginning of this project, there have been ten years of opportunity to educate the community regarding the purpose, actions supported with evidence, and results of this project. Yet, the Schools have not achieved this sentiment in proper capacity to garner informed decisions to support from surrounding individual residents, much less a compelling awareness of said restoration. This lack of awareness is evident in the absence of significant attendees at the meetings conducted by either the institution or the PCA when this matter is discussed. Across the period of time that this project has progressed there has been no direct contact to surrounding residents affected, but rather only recent communication with the PCA.
- 3- Moreover, the shortage of information presented by the Schools' to the PCA is comprised of five slides that have remained stagnant over the course of ten years. This is only further construed when considering two of the slides are vague maps with complex overlays. These diagrammatic maps do not express nearly any nuances of the project that would firmly assure the community that this project is backed by evidence and will surely produce a beneficial result for the people and more importantly the 'aina.
- 4- The absence of information, community awareness and support, and oversight of a crucial detail by Kamehameha Schools does not allow for the Phillip 'Ohana to have any indication to support this project in the current state it has been presented. Should the Schools decide to accept responsibility by recognizing their shortcomings, move to address the issues presented in this testimony as well as others, it would only assure all parties involved.

The purpose of the Punalu'u Stream Restoration Project is intended to benefit the environment and community; however, the result of these intentions cannot currently be confirmed by the 'Ohana. Therefore, we move forward to oppose this project for the aforementioned reasons. We reiterate that in no way do we oppose the sincerity of this project, only the insufficient actions, and competence of Kamehameha Schools.

E Kulia I Ka Nu'u

The Phillip 'Ohana

simonphillip808@gmail.com

January 25, 2022

Honorable, Tommy Waters, Honolulu City Council, Chair
Honorable, Esther Kia'āina, Honolulu City Council, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council

RE: CR-5 Resolution 21-267, CD1 Granting a Special Management Area Use Permit for the Punaluu Stream Restoration Project. (Applicant: Kamehameha Schools) (Deadline: 4/17/22) FOR ADOPTION, AS AMENDED

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

My name is Pane Meatoga III. I am a member of the Koolauloa region and currently reside in the village of Laie. I am writing this personal testimony in support of Resolution 21-267.

The Kamehameha School's (KS) Punaluu Stream Restoration project will bring much need relief to the residents and farmers that reside in the area. The project will mitigate flooding by removing existing berms, restore the streams function to a natural meandering state, and create a new drainage retention basin. I really like the focus of this plan to keep more water on KS land and keep it out of the community.

We deal with a lot of flooding up and down the Koolauloa area and I am happy that a large landowner like KS is willing to step up to the plate and address the flooding issue and help a community like Punaluu.

Mahalo,

Pane Meatoga III
Koolualoa Resident
meatoga21@gmail.com

January 14, 2022

To: The Honolulu City Council Committee on Zoning and Planning

From: Racine Hee, individually

RE: Testimony supporting Resolution 21-267 - Punalu'u Stream Restoration Project

I am a longtime resident of Punalu'u and I support Resolution 21-267, which approves Kamehameha School's permit application for the Punalu'u Stream Restoration Project.

I am a third-generation Hee family member. In 1952 my grandfather moved his wife and 4 children from downtown Honolulu to Haleaha Road. My grandfather was an avid fisherman that was known in the community for his fishing skills. He used topography in Punalu'u to mark special fishing spots, knowledge which he passed down to my brother and his sons and continues to be used by my family today. Fishing has provided food for my family for several generations, as well as other families in the community.

I was born and raised on Haleaha Road. I lived there for 30 years. I now live a few miles away near Kaliwa'a State Park, where I built a home 15 years ago. I have witnessed over the years, the devastating impacts of the flooding in the Punalu'u Stream area. Flooding where all of Kamehameha Highway from Punalu'u Beach Park to Ching Store is under water. Motorists and vehicles are stranded by floodwaters. Homes on the either side of the Punalu'u Bridge are damaged by the stream jumping and inundating these homes with water, mud, vegetation, and other debris.

The Punalu'u Stream Restoration Project seeks to remedy these flood impacts, and benefits the Punalu'u community in the following ways:

1. It minimizes flooding along Kamehameha Highway due to heavy rain, creating safer driving conditions near the stream.
2. It minimizes flood damages to residential property and personal property of those that live near the stream.
3. It minimizes sediment discharge from the stream into the ocean, which promotes a healthy ocean ecosystem.
4. It protects Punalu'u's abundant water and redirects and sustains it for use by future generations.
5. It supports our local economy by providing construction employment opportunities.
6. It preserves Punalu'u's rural lifestyle and self-sufficiency by creating additional farming opportunities in our community.
7. It facilitates Kamehameha Schools' long-term education objectives.

As a Kamehameha School alum, I am proud of the demonstrated leadership, investment and impact of Kamehameha Schools in Punalu'u, including its work toward the restoration of the Punalu'u stream.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Racine Hee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and a long, sweeping underline.

Racine Hee

racinehee@gmail.com

This letter is submitted to convey our concerns with regard the resolution given above. While we hope that this project will ultimately achieve the goal of mitigating damage due to flooding from the Punaluu Stream, we must object at this time to the permit being sought by Kamehameha Schools because of the reasons listed below.

The request Granting Special Management Area Use Permit For The Punaluu Stream Restoration Project came as a surprise to us. Kamehameha School representative, Joey Char, told us this project was in process for ten years, however it was only 3 months ago at a meeting of the Punaluu Community Association (PCA) that we learned of the project. We reside at 53-326 Kamehameha Hwy. in Punaluu, in area immediately makai of the proposed estuary, for the last 4 years and were never contacted by Kamehameha Schools. Our neighbors, the Phillip family, who would also be impacted, have lived at their residence property located at 53-330 Kamehameha Hwy. for 20 years and did not receive any notice of this project until they attended a PCA meeting. Members were given a very brief overview of the project with little or no specific details and asked to vote to approve a template letter drafted by Kamehameha Schools to be sent from PCA supporting the project. The presentation included some slides with pictures and a proposed project design map. We requested additional information but were only given copies of the 5 presentation slides. We have not seen any final designs, maps or plans. We note that there have been additional maps included in the City Council filing but they do not provide a clear design plan either.

Additionally, we were unable to ascertain the relevant experience of the Engineering firm employed to carry out this project. Do they have a track record of successful prior projects of similar nature provided to assure us that this is a well planned project and that it will ultimately achieve the goals of 'reduced flooding? What was the flood stage level that this project was engineered to mitigate?

Also, while we understand that Kamehameha Schools are hopeful that their property that could benefit from this project, they have no duty to the property of their neighbors and there have been no assurances or guarantees given to us that the success of reduced flooding to their land would not potentially increase the risk of enhanced flooding off their property and onto ours. Indeed when I asked Joey Char who would be responsible for maintaining the new road and berm on the property, he told me that no one would be responsible to provide maintenance as it is the private property of Kamehameha Schools.

The Phillip family have asked that we also represent their interests and concerns regarding their residence property which is located next to ours. The Phillip family also have legally based issues regarding a deeded easement over the subject Kamehameha Schools property to access their landlocked 3.6 acre parcel of land. Simon Phillip will submit testimony for the Phillip Ohana to address the separate issues that this project raises with regard to preserving their legal rights to the easement.

In conclusion, We do not believe that this proposed project has been detailed enough or available to the community long enough to support a permit for this project. We would respectfully request that the Council continue this vote so that we can learn more about this project and we hope that with more information and legal easement issues addressed, we can support it.

Mahalo nui loa for your kokua,

Bill and Christine Mohar
53-326 Kamehameha Hwy.
Hauula, HI 96717
(808) 228-2340
cgmohar@hawaiiantel.net

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 7:36 PM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name	Verla K. Moore
Phone	
Email	verlamoore@hawaii.rr.com
Meeting Date	01-26-2022
Council/PH Committee	Council
Agenda Item	CR-5 Resolution 21-267
Your position on the matter	Support
Representing	Self
Organization	
Written Testimony	
Testimony Attachment	
Accept Terms and Agreement 1	

IP: 192.168.200.67

From: CLK Council Info
Sent: Tuesday, January 25, 2022 10:31 PM
Subject: Council Testimony

Written Testimony

Name Stephany Vaioleti
Phone
Email stephanyvaioleti@gmail.com
Meeting Date 01-26-2022
Council/PH Committee Council
Agenda Item CR-5 Resolution 21-267
Your position on the matter Support
Representing Organization Self

Written Testimony

Aloha Chair Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council:
My name is Stephany Vaioleti. I am a member of the Koolauloa region and currently reside in Kahuku. I am writing this personal testimony in support of Resolution 21-267. The Kamehameha School's (KS) Punaluu Stream Restoration project will bring much needed relief to the residents and farmers that reside in the area. The project will mitigate flooding by removing existing berms, restore the streams function to a natural meandering state, and create a new drainage retention basin. I appreciate that the plan intends to keep more water on KS land and keep it out of the community. We deal with a lot of flooding up and down the Koolauloa range and I am confident that KS will address the flooding issue and help not only the Punaluu community as it's impact will be felt in all of Koolauloa.

Testimony Attachment
Accept Terms and Agreement 1

IP: 192.168.200.67