

BILL014(22)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 117

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Apr 13, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 93

Oppose: 75

I wish to comment: 17

Name: David randell	Email: randell001@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 10, 2022 @ 06:15 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Dear Councilmembers:</p> <p>I am opposed to the section of this Bill that grants funding for the removal of the Haiku Stairs.</p> <p>The Haiku Stairs are a treasure----keep the Haiku Stairs - under the trial arrangement previously proposed to the Council by the group of private citizens.</p> <p>David Randell</p>		
Name: Laura Crane	Email: lauralynncrane@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 10, 2022 @ 06:32 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>At the September 8th, 2021 City Council hearing when the agenda item regarding the removal of the Ha'iku Stairs was being addressed, Councilwoman Esther Kia'aina made a motion to dismiss all written testimony from area codes that are not 808 numbers. I feel compelled to give oral testimony as this now larger budget item for the same issue is again under City Council review and I want my voice to be heard. First and foremost I would like to clarify that my zip code is used to determine my electoral district, not my area code, and my area code has not matched where I've lived for the past 15 years. My zip code is in district 3 and this item affects my community.</p> <p>I would like this budget item for the removal of the Ha'iku Stairs to be struck from this budget. I believe that there are many benefits to keeping the Ha'iku Stairs that are not being properly addressed, and that the loss of the Stairs would be a loss of WWII history as well as a resource that could be utilized as a community benefit.</p> <p>The first issue I have is that the budget seems shortsighted. \$1.3 million dollars is what it costs to demolish a building, on grade, with adequate crane access from multiple sides. The second issue is the historical aspect, by definition of being older than 50 years the 80 year-old Stairs are historic and should be saved to protect history and Hawaii's role in winning the war. My grandfather was a prisoner of war for two years of his life, and as that generation is passing we are losing their stories, memories, and relics of that time - a time that should not be forgotten. The final issue I have is the community benefit these Stairs could provide. If access is managed as to not disturb the adjacent neighbors, revenue from the stairs could help serve the adjacent community. The Stairs are a landmark and should be protected as so.</p>		
Name: Jesse Palmer	Email: jdp078@gmail.com	Zip: 96762
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 11, 2022 @ 08:35 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Dear Council Member Tsuneyoshi,</p> <p>I find it hard to believe that after receiving thousands of letters in support of opening and maintaining the Haiku stairs and a detailed management plan from the Friends of the Haiku Stairs non-profit, the city council finds itself in a position to fund their removal. This level of disregard for the people of Hawaii is one of the reasons why so many people are cynical about government in Hawaii. Yes, there are some very vocal members of the community who are being severely inconvenienced by the City and County's inability to manage the stairs effectively, but that is the city's problem. The proposal to remove the stairs is shortsighted and infuriating, especially when there is a plan in place and an entity with a solution on hand willing to solve the problem.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jesse Palmer</p>		
Name: Rick Egged	Email: tmawaikiki@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: WTMA	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 11, 2022 @ 04:21 PM

Name: Beth Anderson	Email: Kailua5@aol.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 11, 2022 @ 07:45 PM
Name: Bryan Phillips	Email: bryanphillips808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 11, 2022 @ 08:28 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am in strong support of Council Member Tupola's amendments to CR-79, Bill 14, CD1. The amendments will add 7 positions and equipment to the Ocean Safety Division for Kahe Point on the west side of Oahu. These additional positions will save lives. Kahe Point has been show a huge increase of activity over the last few years with increased social media attention. Mahalo to the entire council for continued support for Ocean Safety.</p> <p>Aloha, Bryan Phillips HGEA BU15 President</p>		
Name: Jeremy Brown	Email: kalanibrown@yahoo.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 07:47 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am writing you In SUPPORT of CR-79, Bill 14, CD1 , in particular, Council Member Tupola's proposed budget amendments for 7 new Ocean Safety positions and a tower for Kahe Point on the west side.</p> <p>Thank you for you time.</p> <p>Kalani</p>		
Name: Chris Tanaka	Email: ctanaks@hotmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 07:55 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am in full support of CR-79, Bill 14, CD 1... In particular Council member Tupola's proposed budget amendments for 7 new Ocean Safety positions and a tower for Kahe point on the West side!</p>		
Name: Brendan Shea	Email: bs96712@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 08:43 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I have been a lifeguard for over 30 years. In that time I have seen an exponential growth in ocean activity. Several new water sports have been invented in that time. This combined with social medias exposure of places that used to be somewhat secret has lead to a major increase in ocean related calls. Our department has not been expanding as quickly as it should to keep up with these issues.</p> <p>I am in full support of any and all increases in full time positions, towers and any other staffing that may help us protect our residents and visitors alike.</p> <p>Mahalo, Brendan Shea</p>		
Name: Jesse King	Email: jking808808@gmail.com	Zip: 96712

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:12 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am in support of CR-79, Bill 14, CD1.</p> <p>The Ocean Safety Division needs to continually grow to meet the increasing needs of the public. Our beaches are only getting more crowded.</p> <p>Several areas of our coastline are long overdue for Ocean Safety services to meet the public's needs. The proposed budget amendment for 7 new Ocean Safety positions and a tower for Kahe Point is just one example of that. One step in the right direction for public safety.</p> <p>Mahalo council member Tupola for requesting this amendment.</p>		
Name: Holly Sevier	Email: hsevier@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96744
Representing: Kaneohe Neighborhood Board; Friends of Haiku Stairs	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:56 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha nui, I have lived in the neighborhood of the Ha'ik Stairs for 18 years and have been Neighborhood Board Member since 2012. I volunteer with a number of community groups to do invasive species removal in the valley, including Friends of Ha'ik Stairs with whom I have volunteered since 2009. I have climbed the Stairs legally a number of times to do maintenance work and to document the rare and native plants you can see undisturbed from the Stairs' vantage point. I plead the City Council to work for a managed access solution instead of wasting millions on destroying this iconic WWII structure. The Stairs have an impeccable safety record and the Friends are willing to maintain them for free, take over security costs, and adopt all the City's liability. The plan to cut 595 steel modules off an undisturbed Ko'olau ridgeline and helicopter them away during a gas crisis and on the 80th anniversary of the Ha'ik Stairs is beyond comprehension. As a taxpayer and as someone who votes, I strongly disapprove of a budget that funds destruction of history and of the 'ina.</p> <p>Regards, Holly Sevier</p>		
Name: Jason Patterson	Email: jpsurfs@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 10:22 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>My name is Jason Patterson and i am a Resident of Hawaii for 50 years, born and raised on the Waianae coast. I am a Lieutenant for ocean safety with 31 years of lifeguarding experience. I have seen many changes happening to our beaches and our lifeguarding department and the one thing that remains the same is the need for more lifeguard positions and the need for more towers. I remember back in March 1991 I became a contract lifeguard, which meant that I am contracted to work 19hrs a week and call in the rest of the weeks. Since 1991 till now I have worked 40 hours a week. The need for lifeguard positions back then was huge and it's the same for today.</p> <p>When you work for the city long enough, you can see and witness the improvements and the changes in the social, economical environment and safety for our lifeguards and our communities.</p> <p>In conclusion, I, as a Lieutenant, in the past 6 years have had countless amounts of rescues and CPR cases at Kahi point which is not a guarded beach, and it's ranks the top beach, with the most rescues and CPR cases on the Waianae Coast. The need for Lifeguard positions is a must and a need for a tower is imperative.</p> <p>I am in support of CR-79 Bill 14,,CD1...in particular, council member Tupola's proposed budget for 7 new ocean safety Officers positions and and a life guard tower at Kahi Point, on the Waianae coast.</p> <p>Mahalo Nui Loa, Jason Patterson</p>		
Name: Christian Hemmings	Email: aloha_hemmings@yahoo.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 10:46 AM

Testimony: In SUPPORT of CR-79, Bill 14, CD1 ... in particular, Council Member Tupola's proposed budget amendments for 7 new Ocean Safety positions and a tower for Kahe Point on the west side		
Name: Derek Wong	Email: wongderek808@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:00 AM
Testimony: In support of of cr-79, bill 14, cd1 of council member ripples proposed budget amendments for 7 new ocean safety positions and a tower for Kahe point on the westside .		
Name: Matthew Beall	Email: mattbeall808@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:07 AM
Testimony: I support CR-79, Bill 14CD1 in particular Council Member Tupola's budget amendment for 7 new ocean safety positions and a tower for Kahe Point.		
Name: Jaron Chong	Email: jaronchong2011@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:08 AM
Testimony: I am in SUPPORT of CR-79, Bill 14, CD1. I am in SUPPORT of proposed budget amendments by Council Member Tupola as well. Ocean Safety needs additional support. Especially in the terms of at least 7 new positions and a tower at Kahe Point on the Leeward Coast. Mahalo.		
Name: Brett Carter	Email: brettcarter4444@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:17 AM
Testimony: I support of CR-79 bill 14 CD1. In particular, council woman Tupola's proposed budget amendments for 7 new ocean safety positions and a tower for Kahe point		
Name: Andrew Logreco	Email: andrewlogreco@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:19 AM
Testimony: I am 100% for this bill and see it as something that is long over due		
Name: Lokene Fao	Email: lokenefao@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:23 AM
Testimony: To whom it may concern. I fully support CR-79, CD1, Bill014(22) and council member tupolas proposed Budget amendments for seven Ocean safety positions and a new lifeguard tower in kahe point in Waianae.		

Name: Chelsea Kahalepauole-Bizik	Email: chelsea_opuulani@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:33 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am fully in SUPPORT of CR-79, Bill 14, CD1 ... in particular, Council Member Tupola's proposed budget amendments for 7 new Ocean Safety positions and a tower for Kahe Point on the west side.</p> <p>This is long overdue for that area!</p>		
Name: Paolo Marra-Biggs	Email: PMarraBiggs@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:39 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I believe repair of the stairs, rather than the demolition would be a more cost effective management of the property. It is an iconic hike and people should be able to continue to use it</p>		
Name: Tanner Williams	Email: coin145@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:39 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am writing this testimonial in support of the City and County Ocean Safety and Lifeguard Services Division. On December 27, 2020 I was bodysurfing at Sandy Beach when I had a freak accident and suffered a compound fracture to my right ankle.</p> <p>It was late in the day on a Sunday afternoon (a little after 5:00 pm) when the lifeguards are normally packing up for the day. Thankfully they were still on duty and were able to help me up the shoreline, get me stabilized and on a backboard for transport. From there, I was taken via ambulance to Straub where I underwent emergency surgery a few hours later to reset my bones.</p> <p>I'm very lucky that these lifeguards, Tanner Williams being one of them, were still on scene even though their working hours had technically ended. Had my accident occurred even 15 minutes later they may not have been there to provide the excellent service that they did. I am forever grateful for the care and attention that I received that day! Without a doubt, my accident is a testament to the need of extending ocean safety hours from sunup to sundown.</p> <p>With that said, I've also grown up bodyboarding and bodysurfing around the island and have seen multiple incidents where the brave men and women of C&C Ocean Safety have put their own lives in danger in order to rescue someone else's. I cannot stress enough the importance of the job that they do each and everyday of the year, rain or shine, flat or triple overhead, they are there to ensure the safety of all. I hope this testimony can help assist them in obtaining the funding and equipment that is critical for them to bravely continue their jobs protecting our beaches.</p>		
Name: Carole Iacovelli	Email: carole.iacovelli@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:41 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Please do not fund the destruction of the Haiku Stairway. There are solutions that will make the neighborhood satisfied while preserving this historic stairway and amazing view of the windward side. Thank you, Carole</p>		
Name: Kelli Bullock Hergert	Email: kellibullock808@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:49 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I vehemently oppose the budget that will allow for the destruction of the Haiku Stairs.</p>		

0 accidental deaths and 0 lawsuits in the Ha'ik Stairs' entire 80-year history. There is NO ground for the council to stand on calling these stairs dangerous to the community.

The problem and issues in the community attached to the lower stair access stems from the lack of support by the City Council, private land owners and the State to provide adequate support and solutions to the neighborhood's complaints of trespassing and traffic. PROPER MANAGEMENT of the access and the stairs themselves can provide many benefits and relief to the locals who live in the neighborhood, and maintain the historical and cultural importance of this engineering marvel.

The Haiku Stairs, Stairway to Heaven, is a unique and special part of the landscape of O'ahu, and deserves protection. The residents of the neighborhood surrounding this hike/access point, also deserve to have their issues addressed; this can be achieved by properly managing the permitting, access, entry, parking and traffic to the stairs.

The Stairs are safer, when properly managed, than the many other hikes that draw visitors (recent deaths at Olo Mana, and constant rescues at Lanikai Pillboxes to name a few.)

Save the money of the destruction costs (which has grown exponentially and will continue to do so) to address the larger problems in our neighborhoods: bad roads, homelessness and mental illness, drugs and crime, and lack of school funding. City Council needs to listen to ALL of their constituents, and not just a localized minority.

Name: David Wassel	Email: dwassel@hotmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:52 AM

Testimony:
C&C Lifeguards are the countys least expensive insurance plan. Thank you for your time

Name: Kristine Corliss	Email: corlissk001@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 12:03 PM

Testimony:
Please save the world renown "Stairway to Heaven". Don't fund the destruction of Haiku Stairs.

Name: Bjarne Bartlett	Email: bjarne@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 12:04 PM

Testimony:
I am writing to oppose funding in Budget Bill 14 because of out-of-control spending for the removal of the Haik Stairs. There are novel facts and newly-identified risks that the Council should consider. And promising new alternatives to demolition are now on the table—a broad-based, community-driven solution that we can easily move forward. I am personally am very passionate about protecting Haik Stairs because our community has a vision to turn a world-famous hike into a responsibly-managed destination on 'Oahu.

I am very upset that the Council is rushing into a disastrous and costly mistake. The initial allocation of \$1.3 million is only the beginning — it is an expensive solution that is looking for a problem. Ripping the 80-year-old Stairs off the mountain, aside from being expensive, will also harm the environment. Removal won't even solve the problem: hikers are already flocking to alternative routes that are far more dangerous and environmentally destructive. Please reconsider this funding.

Name: Terry Shimabukuro	Email: gobows58@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 12:05 PM

Testimony:
I oppose funding in this bill for the removal of the Ha'ik Stairs. Instead, the resolution to remove the stairs should be reversed and funds should be provided to implement the managed use plan as proposed by the Friends of Ha'ik Stairs.

Name: Kelli Bullock Hergert	Email: kellibullock808@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
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Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 12:08 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I vehemently oppose the budget that will allow for the destruction of the Haiku Stairs.</p> <p>0 accidental deaths and 0 lawsuits in the Ha'ik Stairs' entire 80-year history. There is NO ground for the council to stand on calling these stairs dangerous to the community.</p> <p>The problem and issues in the community attached to the lower stair access stems from the lack of support by the City Council, private land owners and the State to provide adequate support and solutions to the neighborhood's complaints of trespassing and traffic. PROPER MANAGEMENT of the access and the stairs themselves can provide many benefits and relief to the locals who live in the neighborhood, and maintain the historical and cultural importance of this engineering marvel.</p> <p>The Haiku Stairs, Stairway to Heaven, is a unique and special part of the landscape of O'ahu, and deserves protection. The residents of the neighborhood surrounding this hike/access point, also deserve to have their issues addressed; this can be achieved by properly managing the permitting, access, entry, parking and traffic to the stairs.</p> <p>The Stairs are safer, when properly managed, than the many other hikes that draw visitors (recent deaths at Olo Mana, and constant rescues at Lanikai Pillboxes to name a few.)</p> <p>Save the money of the destruction costs (which has grown exponentially and will continue to do so) to address the larger problems in our neighborhoods: bad roads, homelessness and mental illness, drugs and crime, and lack of school funding. City Council needs to listen to ALL of their constituents, and not just a localized minority.</p>		
Name: Shaun Chow	Email: shaunchow00@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 12:09 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose funding the destruction of the Haiku Stairs.</p>		
Name: Eric Merkel	Email: eric.merkel@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 12:11 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Please do not fund the demolition of the Haiku Stairs in this budget.</p> <p>It has had 0 accidental deaths and 0 lawsuits in the Ha'ik Stairs' entire 80-year history and should be preserved.</p>		
Name: Rick Egged	Email: rick@waikikiimprovement.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: WTMA	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 12:11 PM
Name: Craig Davidson	Email: craigdavidson@me.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 12:17 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha My Name Is Craig Davidson. I am a retired former Senior Ocean Safety Rescue Craft Operator. I am writing to support CR-79 Bill 14, CD1 in particular , Council member Tupola's proposed budget amendments for 7 new ocean safety positions at Kahe Pt.</p> <p>I think these positions were needed 15 years ago. With dive activities and boat tours all posting up in that area it would be really valuable to have lifeguards on duty full time. In all my years as a Rescue Craft Operator , I have responded to that area prob over a 100 times and most times we are usually too late and the person in need usually drowns or is hospitalized. having lifeguards there will save lives.</p> <p>Mahalo Craig Davidson</p>		

Name: Lawrence Oswald	Email: larryoswald001@gmail.com	Zip: 96713
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 12:28 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>The Haiku stairs are a state treasure, and world famous. Imagine how much money would needed to build a new stairway. Do NOT fund the removal of these valuable stairs.</p> <p>Lawrence Oswald</p>		
Name: Ryan Collier	Email: collier.ryan.p@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 12:32 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>The Haiku Stairs are a marvelous wonder of Oahu and have attracted visitors from all over the world. The experience of the Haiku are not something that a small group of elected officials has the right to remove from the landscape. Removing the stairs would cause massive erosion and destruction to the terrain from which it has existed for decades. It would also ensure more erosion on the Moanalua side as it is more frequently trafficked than the haiku side. It is also far more dangerous than the haiku side; the majority of injuries occur from the trecherous Ridgeline which hikers endure in order not to break the law. The haiku stairs could be accessed easily, legally, and safely if the gate accesses along Puoni Place and Kuneki St remained unlocked allowing safe transit to the bottom of the Haiku Stairs. The trespassing concerns are self-induced by local bureaucracies; if there were not arbitrary restrictions hikers would not be enticed to trespass. Numerous other hikes on Oahu begin in neighborhoods, and the neighbors tolerate the parking and influx of hikers. The Haiku neighborhood is not distinguished from Kuliouou, Lanikai, Maili, Waimano, or numerous others. People can hike there without issues, why is Haiku different? It is not dangerous; most rescues are made at Lanikai pillboxes and Koko Crater. The rescues performed in vicinity of the Haiku Stairs are usually from more dangerous portions of the Ko'olau Summit Trai such as Stairway to Hell or K2. Please reconsider your decision and how the selfish preference of a few will cause a detriment to many in the years to follow. Mahalo.</p>		
Name: Aleksandr Bykov	Email: abrp722@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 01:20 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose demolishing of the historic Ha'ik Stairs.</p>		
Name: Keith Richmond	Email: kailuabungalow@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 02:02 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I strongly feel the Haiku Stairs are precious and should be preserved and used by the public. Their historic and scenic value are indispensable. Hiking the stairs is a healthy activity and the vistas can only otherwise be had from a helicopter and I don't want to encourage more tourist helicopters. Plus, hiking is a free activity. Let the people climb!</p>		
Name: Heidi Bornhorst	Email: heidibornhorst@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 02:02 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Hiking is out of control all over Hawai'i these days. Many trails are very unsafe with frequent costly rescues and even Deaths. The 'Scary selfie' culture makes it hard for those of us who just love to hike and be in nature. Haiku stairs is not one of them. We hiked it, back when it was legal. it is very safe due to handrails, foot traction, and akamai construction. I worked at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Gardens at the time and our educational Program staff would hike it, we'd lead school hiking clubs, Firefighter Hikers,</p>		

and so on.

From the stairs you can safely nurture the Hawaiian plants and do weed control. The Alien weeds are very bad makai of H3, and getting worse. There are many rare and precious Hawaiian plants next to the stairs.

Demolition is very destructive and Costly. So much environmental destruction, erosion, death to native plants etc. will occur if you demo the stairs. We really cant afford this right now.

Haiku stairs are a Historic TREASURE. We have spent millions to repair them, and control lolos who try to hike illegally.

I still think a community entity could adopt and manage them for all of our better good. It could even be fiscally positive for the City. Perhaps HTA could be the entity. We dont need them to promote for more tourists, we need to CONTROL and manage the Tourists who do come. KUPU is another group with a good track record of educating keiki and leading to good careers.

Destroying the stairs will come at a Huge cost, to us taxpayers and Voters as well as the native Hawaiian rainforest enviromnment. Please reconsider, delay the demo at least. Save our tax dollars and don't react to NIMBYs.

As a lifelong Hawaii resident who loves to safely hike and nurture our Forests and Native Hawaiian species, I kindly ask you to reconsider this very costly Budget item.

Mahalo NUI Loa,

Heidi Leianuenue Bornhorst, Palolo

Name: Richard Wainscoat	Email: wainscoat@me.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 02:27 PM

Testimony:

I am strongly opposed to use of any money for the removal of the Haiku Stairs. I am strongly in favor of establishing managed access, and believe that viable managed access plans have already been provided to the council.

The stairs are a world class hike. How many of the council members who are voting on this have ever climbed the stairs?

Removing the stairs is an action that will appease a very small number of outspoken people. Saving the stairs is backed by the vast majority of Oahu residents who care about access to public places, including hikes and beaches.

A managed access plan can generate revenue to maintain the stairs, Removing the stairs is beyond foolish, and will cause serious environmental harm.

Name: Bill Hicks	Email: billandbarb1976@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 02:29 PM

Testimony:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE the portion of BILL 14 (22) that seeks to allocate \$1.3M to remove the Haiku Stairs.

(1) The Haiku Stairs are an important and unique Hawaii treasure.

(2) The Haiku Stairs did not cause inconvenience to the neighborhood when managed by the USCG.

(3) Stop Trespassing and Reduce Disturbances to Local Neighborhoods: The Managed Access Plan eliminates problems in the neighborhood and eliminates trespassing from the windward side. It is the lack of managed access that has caused the problems.

(4) Increase Public Safety and Remove Potential Liability to the City: The Haiku Stairs have an impeccable 7-decade history of safety, with almost no serious injuries. They are absolutely the safest way for climbers to access the ridge. Deliberate removal of the Haiku Stairs by the city will directly cause more hikers to use the much more hazardous Moanalua Valley Trail, directly causing more serious injuries and possibly deaths.

(5) Protect the Environment: The Environmental Impact Statement commissioned by the Board of Water Supply found the alternative to convey the stairs to the Department of Parks and Recreation for managed access scored the highest – much higher than removal of the stairs. Managed access brings with it education and appreciation for the cultural and environmental well-being of the mountainside. Hikers cause more environmental damage climbing the dirt Moanalua Valley Trail than stepping on the steel steps of the Haiku Stairs.

(6) To address the long standing Haiku Stairs issues, the best solution is managed access and not removal.

On April 27, 2020 the Board of Water Supply, which at the time owned the property containing the Haiku Stairs, considered the removal of the Haiku Stairs. The Board of Water Supply conducted an impressive on-line public hearing on the topic that elicited 4,489 pieces of written testimony and many hours of oral testimony. The testimony was an overwhelming 90% in favor of keeping the Haiku Stairs while implementing a management plan to control access, and only about 10% in favor of removing the Haiku

Stairs.

The Board of Water Supply decided upon a course of action favored by Mayor Kirk Caldwell that would transfer ownership of the affected property to the City's Department of Parks & Recreation. This was a sound decision. The Environmental Impact Statement commissioned by the Board of Water Supply found the alternative to convey the stairs to the Department of Parks and Recreation for managed access scored the highest. The Haiku Stairs are exceedingly safe, and removal of the stairs would have led to more hikers climbing from the much more hazardous Moanalua Valley Trail, causing more serious injuries and possibly deaths.

The property transfer was completed on July 1, 2020 and the City started to develop proposals for management of the Haiku Stairs to include control of access, limitations on the numbers, transportation of hikers to the stairs, security, and liability. These measures are designed to protect the environment and the peace and quiet of the nearby neighborhood. The City received 14 qualified bids and proposed a 12-year concession agreement for a managed access plan and guided hikes at the Haiku Stairs which the City Council recommitted to the Committee on Economic Assistance and Revitalization.

The rationale for the City spending about \$1M for restoring those stairs nearly 20 years ago was sound. With solid steps and handrails, they provide the safest access for many people to enjoy both the exercise and the spectacular views from the ridge. That rationale remains valid.

The stairs were made as good as new but the failure of various government agencies to implement a fair agreement for access to the stairs was irresponsible. For example, in 2004 the City and the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands worked out a responsible agreement to exchange 53 acres of the City's undeveloped land at Varona Village for 65 acres of DHHL land in Haiku Valley, but in September 2004 the City Council put the deal on hold pending more information about the city's plans and costs for the Haiku Valley. City Managing Director Ben Lee was reportedly frustrated by the postponement of what he called a "win-win" situation. It is the lack of legal access that has subjected the surrounding neighborhood to abuse over the years.

The Friends of Haiku Stairs has developed a Concept Plan for Managed Use of Haiku Stairs that comprehensively addresses all of the concerns that have been raised. The plan is sustainable, including an environmentally sound and sustainable business plan, limiting use to 80 hikers per day, using vans to transport hikers from an off-site staging area to the trailhead eliminating neighborhood contact, utilizing staff members and the use of color coded RFID wristbands to manage hikers, and measures to eliminate trespassing including effective fencing, security cameras with night vision capability, the use of off-duty HPD officers to issue trespassing citations, 24/7 security including use of a second guard placed on the stairs above the point where any trespassers would join the stairs (such as the 1st platform), and a Security Planning Group composed of neighbors, HPD, private security, the operator, and FHS to implement and supervise the security operation. The key is to issue a \$1,000 trespassing citation 24/7 to any unauthorized person on the stairs by checking the RFID or issuing the citation at the first platform (or other location above section 60) that would catch 100% of people coming up from various paths from the Kaneohe side.

The Kaneohe Neighborhood Board unanimously took a position SUPPORTING REOPENING THE HAIKU STAIRS TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC UNDER A CONTROLLED AND MANAGED ACCESS PLAN.

Substantial progress was made in the last 6 months of 2020 toward resolving remaining issues and creating a safe, legal, managed, environmentally sound plan that would not impact the nearby neighborhood. The City now has the ability to safely and responsibly bring the recreational potential of the stairs to fruition. Now is the time to apply skill and expertise to finally resolve this long-standing issue by concluding a fair agreement for managed access to the stairs, and not the time to suddenly reverse course and remove the stairs.

Name: Kai Wilding	Email: kaioateswilding@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 02:33 PM

Testimony:

I think if you ask the community you'll find that there is an overwhelming amount of people that yearn for the haiku stairs to be kept. Far more than otherwise. We all want to have legal, safe access to one of the most amazing hikes on planet earth. Removing it doesn't do anyone justice or benefit in my opinion and instead costs the tax payers of Hawai'i an unreasonable amount of money for something we do not want.

Name: Shiyana Thenabadu	Email: shiyanat@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 02:42 PM

Testimony:

I have never climbed the Haiku Stairs. I would like to do so legally with my family and friends. Several of my avid hiker friends have climbed the Haiku Stairs several times and have told me that it is the best hike on Oahu. It is also one of the safest ridge

hikes in Hawaii. There have been zero rescues or deaths on the Stairs. The Friends of Haiku Stairs have done clean ups on this hike and managed it prior to it being closed. The Friends have also outlined a detailed plan that provides managed, legal access that have addressed all the complaints of the people who live in the Haiku neighborhood. Please note that not all who live in the neighborhood want to see the Stairs destroyed. It is a select few who want it destroyed and it is such a shame that a few City Council members listened to these voices instead of the vast majority of Hawaii residents who want to see the Stairs saved. I will not support a single penny of my tax dollars being used to destroy a world class hike - a Bucket List hike - and an 80 year old historical treasure. Save the Stairs and operate it according to a managed access plan. Use the hiker fees to upkeep the Stairs and the native plants around the Stairs. Educate the hikers, preserve and protect the Stairs and the native plants around the Stairs. The Stairs are the easiest, safest and most beautiful way to get to the top of the ridge for conservationists to check on the plants. Why would anyone want to destroy this and cause erosion? Save the Stairs for future generations to enjoy. Manage it well so it can be revenue generator. Use the funds to malama aina.

Name: John Drake	Email: johnmtdrake@gmail.com	Zip: 96818
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 02:46 PM

Testimony:

I am asking that you reconsider this bill as it contains a budget for demolishing the Haik Stairs. As a long time Hawaii resident and having climbed those stairs twice I think removing them would be a travesty.

Name: Angela Posatiere	Email: angela@myartmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 02:47 PM

Testimony:

I am in favor of using funds to fix and maintain the Haiku "stairway to Heaven".

This is a historical trail, for advanced hikers and there ought to be

1. Public access,
2. A security guard to collect a fee from non kama`aina
3. Proper maintenance and regular environmental impact assessment.

My guess is that if you waste money to "remove" the stairs, there will always be people trying to access this now famous landmark.

Name: Craig Oswald	Email: oswald@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 03:03 PM

Testimony:

I am opposed to any expenditure related to demo and removal of the Haiku Stairs. Respectfully demand a solution/leadership to preserve and allow enjoyment of many . Hawaii has a sad history of retiring, removing and destruction of many historic and other noteworthy structures and features. These stairs are a world class feature, so unique and spectacular to preserve and ensure future access , enjoyment and sprit lifting positive returns for thousands in years to come.

Name: Alexa Porpaczy	Email: alexa.porp4@gmail.com	Zip: 85719
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 03:25 PM

Testimony:

This landmark is much too beautiful and unique to destroy. The historical significance is also important to uphold as Pearl Harbor was a serious event, therefore, this part of Hawaii should remain in order to remember the event.

Name: Lillian Lowe	Email: Lilyloweky@icloud.com	Zip: 85719
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Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 03:25 PM
Testimony: This place is very special to so many people who live on the island. I have been many places in the world but this place is magical and beautiful. The stairs are an amazing part of Oahu and deserve to be reserved.		
Name: Mike Karas	Email: greekboy27@gmail.com	Zip: 98614
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 03:26 PM
Testimony: I am saddened by the fact that the city is still pushing to spend taxpayer money to tear down the Haiku stairs. Lots of taxpayer money was spent to rehab the stairs and then never opened back up. The land at the bottom already has an access road. I am surprised that the landowner is unwilling to work something out with the city and prospective management of the stairs (I am in favor of managed access and charging a fee for safety and upkeep) to allow easement through a small sliver of the valley for access. Not only a historical entity, it is hands down one of the most unique hiking experiences on the planet. Rather than being a revenue generator for the state, a few select people are pushing to have them torn down at the expense of the taxpayer. I'm not sure where the likely too low 1.3 million budget comes from when it cost around 20k alone to cut out and remove two small poles at the top of the stairs about 5-6 years ago. The safety issues, work to be done, shoring up the ridge line afterwards... etc etc etc.... this could easily balloon in cost. (Just like the rail for instance) It has seemed to be that a minority of people are wanting it gone compared to a larger majority wanting it opened for the recreational community/residents of Hawaii on top of a tourism application as well. It's also seemed to have been pushed by one specific council member as well sadly. I feel that managed access needs to at least be given a chance to work before tearing it down and spending even more money than has already been spent with the idea of opening the stairs, not tearing them out forever. Please work to represent the larger majority who are in favor of this and work together with local private partners or the parks and rec division along with Hawaiian Homelands to find a solution for all sides rather than just one AND provide NET income for the state while you're at it. The political capital that's being utilized to push this through for a handful of people could also be used to get everyone to sit at the same table and come to some sort of positive resolution which would preserve such a unique experience and and feature that does not exist anywhere else. Having seen prior testimony and meetings I know that these islands and mountains are special and even sacred to some including the main council member pushing this... I would hope that they would also come to think about how it may be special to others in other ways too. Denying people access or an opportunity to have such a unique experience and connect with the beautiful in a we have here in a relatively safe, well built, and secure manner would be a failure of the government in my humble opinion. Mahalo.		
Name: Aaron Richards	Email: aaronrichards912@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 03:28 PM
Testimony: I do not support the destruction of the Stairway to Heaven, as it is a landmark of Hawaii and has cause 0 deaths to date.		
Name: Monica Webb	Email: monical.webb@yahoo.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 03:29 PM
Testimony: I know that there is a lot of discussion regarding tearing the stairs down. I understand a lot of those who live in the neighborhood wish to see the stairs go. I live in this same neighborhood, and I love being able to see the stairs from my home; something so vivid and relic from such an important part of our past. I don't understand the rush to remove them, granted the immense cost to do so. There has never been a lawsuit filed in regard to the stairs, there's never been a death. Aside from foot traffic in my neighborhood-the stairs existence in no way inconveniences me at all. It is so iconic to Hawaii, especially for us on the windward side. People pay to see it on helicopter tours, people trek the longer route to see the radio tower at the top. The stairs are bringing people and money to Hawaii. How are we going to allocate SO much money to taking it down, when so many are coming here to		

see it? How are we going to allocate SO much money to taking it down, when that much money (1.3 million) could be MUCH better used in our community. Can't we use this money for our school age children, our roads, anything else? Is there no better way to enrich and improve our economy with those funds? Please consider using those funds to much more appropriate projects, please let us continue to enjoy and honor the history of the stairs.

Name: Kaelyn Carlson	Email: kgracie25@yahoo.com	Zip: 85719
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 03:29 PM

Testimony:
Although this lookout point has proven itself to be dangerous, I do not think tearing it down is the right course of action. It embodies all that is and makes Hawaii and beautiful place. My family scattered my late uncles ashes out here after his passing in Pearl Harbor and if this gets taken away a piece of him will go with it.

Name: Debbi Yoshimoto	Email: debyosh7@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 03:39 PM

Testimony:
The stairs are not dangerous and is a landmark. Lots of hikers take the backway to the top of the stairs and this has cause a lot of erosion along the ridge. By keeping the stairway open and regulating the amount of people who frequent it such as the way that Hanauma Bay is regulated, this would be a sustainable way to help the community and keep the amount of traffic to a minimum.

Name: Ben Canfield	Email: wasborn@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 03:39 PM

Testimony:
I am writing to oppose funding in Budget Bill 14 for removal of the Haik Stairs. There are novel facts and newly-identified risks that the Council should consider. Promising new alternatives to demolition are now on the table—a broad-based, community-driven solution that we can easily move forward.

I personally am very passionate about protecting Haik Stairs because they are a great, safe, way to enjoy nature and get outside. It's a unique experience that should be protected and run under a managed access program.

I am very upset that the Council is rushing into a disastrous and costly mistake. The initial allocation of \$1.3 million will be the beginning of an endless money pit, just like HART. Ripping the 80-year-old Stairs off the mountain will also harm the environment and trigger landslides. And removal won't even solve the problem: hikers are already flocking to alternative routes that are far more dangerous and environmentally destructive.

Please halt the removal process. NOW is the time for solutions that will benefit all.

Name: Alexander Rishling	Email: xanderrish@gmail.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 03:44 PM

Testimony:
PLEASE DO NOT WASTE 1,000,000 DOLLARS TO REMOVE A STATE MONUMENT AND PIECE OF HISTORY. THERE ARE BETTER USES FOR THAT MONEY. THANK YOU <3

Name: Julia Hayes	Email: juleshayes11@gmail.com	Zip: 76107
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 04:06 PM

Testimony:

Instead of using the money to demolish a historical monument.. why not capitalize on it? Use the money to build a safe route to Stairway that does not disturb the neighbor. Go even further by charging tourist on the way up. Put that money to good use - help clean up the ocean, the homeless... tearing down something that has not done damage on large scale whatsoever is a waste of money and time that could be better used elsewhere.

Name:

Annette Lancaster

Email:

netter000@gmail.com

Zip:

96744

Representing:

Self

Position:

Oppose

Submitted:

Apr 12, 2022 @ 04:13 PM

Testimony:

I am writing to oppose funding in Budget Bill 14 for removal of the Haik Stairs. There are novel facts and newly-identified risks that the Council should consider. And promising new alternatives to demolition are now on the table—a broad-based, community-driven solution that we can easily move forward.

I grew up in Ha'iku Valley and am still a resident here. I vehemently oppose the removal of Haiku Stairs. I've experienced hiking the Stairs many times. I, along with thousands of others, recognize this priceless, irreplaceable, historical asset, and removing them would be a grave and great loss to our community.

Opening the stairs with managed access can be achieved, guided by the contents of the proposal submitted by the Friends of Haiku Stairs. I realize there have been challenges with the trespassing of my neighbors, but the comprehensive managed access plan solves all of the issues brought up...please at least give the plan a chance.

I am very upset that the Council is rushing into a disastrous and costly mistake. The initial allocation of \$1.3 million will be the beginning of an endless money pit, just like HART. Ripping the 80-year-old Stairs off the mountain will also harm the environment and trigger landslides. And removal won't even solve the problem: hikers are already flocking to alternative routes that are far more dangerous and environmentally destructive.

Please halt the removal process. NOW is the time for solutions that will benefit all.

The wishes of the many outweigh the wishes of the few. Unique in all the world. Gone means forever.

Name:

Yvonne Lancaster

Email:

netter000@gmail.com

Zip:

96744

Representing:

Self

Position:

Oppose

Submitted:

Apr 12, 2022 @ 04:15 PM

Testimony:

I've lived in Haiku Village for over 53 years and the stairs have been a big part of my family's "growing up" memories. I am saddened that the stairs have remained closed for this long. I am writing to oppose funding in Budget Bill 14 for removal of the Haik Stairs. Keep them for the past, keep them for the present, keep them for the future, it's the right thing to do. If we can put a man on the moon, we can solve the issues surrounding this wonderful historic landmark and open them up for all to enjoy legally. Don't let all of the great stories spoken about the stairs be said in the past tense. Removing them is wrong on so many levels. Please, please, please reconsider.

Name:

Chris Shively

Email:

chris.shively@kelleher.com

Zip:

96744

Representing:

Self

Position:

Oppose

Submitted:

Apr 12, 2022 @ 04:17 PM

Testimony:

I oppose the funding in Budget Bill 14 for the removal of Haiku Stairs! Save Haiku Stairs! Stop steamrolling ahead on a path that the majority of people are against!!

Name:

Jesse Sapp

Email:

jesse@hawaiiantel.net

Zip:

96744

Representing:

Position:

Submitted:

Friend of haiku stairs	Oppose	Apr 12, 2022 @ 04:30 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>As a life long resident of haiku stairs I oppose the tearing down haiku stairs. Rather than spend 1.3million to tear it down why not make it an attraction similar to diamond head charging visitors a fee to access one of the worlds most dramatic accessible views anyone can see. Money should be spent other ways than tearing it down as money was spent to refurbish it.</p>		
Name: David Saito	Email: davids@marinahawaiiivacations.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Marina Hawaii Vacations	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 04:51 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Dear Chairman Elefante, Planning Committee and Council Members,</p> <p>Thank you for listening to the comments from the rental owners and refining Bill 41. The current Bill is a vast improvement from the original.</p> <p>The challenge with Bill 41 is creating a law that tries to cover several different zones and rental types simultaneously. Everyone is for the enforcement of illegal rentals, controlling the disruptions they may cause, and preventing the development of monster rental homes. The legal rental units in the Waikiki Resort Mixed-Use Zones generally operate harmoniously with the hotel operators, neighbors, and associations. There should be extended considerations for this.</p> <p>Changing the 30-day to a 90-day minimum is a point of contention for many. Since the goal is to keep tourists in the Resort Zone, the Bill should provide a provision to allow the Waikiki Resort Zone units to keep the 30-day minimum. There should also be exceptions for buildings like Discovery Bay. Two-thirds of the units are rentals, and it sits directly across from the Resort Zone. The association currently allows 30-day rentals.</p> <p>Bill 41 will require all TVUs in the Resort Zones to pay the \$1,000 registration fee and a \$500 annual fee. These owners are already paying the 10.25% Transient Accommodations Tax, Bill 40s 3% TAT increase, the Resort property tax, and the GET. That is a lot of additional tax burden for a legal rental owner. Possibly the one of the highest in the country.</p> <p>The legal TVUs in the Resort Zone are registered under the Resort property tax. It would be fairer if they could use that registration instead of the new TVU registration and forgo the high fees or offered reduced fees. Considering all of the owner's expenses, it seems unfair to have them also fund the enforcement for the illegal rentals.</p> <p>Of Bill 40s, 3% TAT increase, 50-60% goes to the rail, with the remaining portion used to fund the much-needed tourist environment sustainability programs. An option to support the enforcement would be to use part of the 3% TAT. That is a small amount, and it will serve a fairer purpose until the fines from the illegal rentals help to subsidize the cost of the additional inspectors.</p> <p>Blaming the vacation rentals, including those in the Resort Zones, for the housing crisis is not a fair statement. Hawaii has the highest median home price in the country and a very high cost of living, making it difficult for the average homeowner. Renting a vacation rental is not an economical choice for many.</p> <p>The real issue behind the affordable housing crisis is development has fallen behind year after year. The lack of city projects, rigid zoning laws, slow permitting process, and land use ordinances add up to a painfully slow process for the developers. Kudos to Mayor Blangiardi and his team for recognizing the issues and teaming with the new DPP to streamline the process. It is an excellent step forward to address the housing issue.</p> <p>Please consider allowing the 30-days minimum stays in the Resort Zone, further streamlining the registration process, and considering all the taxes the Resort owners are paying, eliminating or reducing the registration and annual fees.</p> <p>Thank you to all the hardworking public servants working towards a fair and comprehensive bill.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>David Saito</p>		

Vice President Marina Hawaii Vacations		
Name: Adriane Truluck	Email: flowerova@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 04:56 PM
Testimony: I strongly oppose spending taxpayer money to senselessly demolish the historic Haiku Stairs. This asset, which has never caused harm to anyone, can and should be thoughtfully managed for use. Demolition is unnecessary, environmentally destructive and shortsighted, and should absolutely not be a budget item. Use that money instead to address some of the many pressing issues in Honolulu that actually would benefit your constituents (homelessness, education, road repair, affordable housing, park improvements, sea level rise mitigation).... Mahalo for your time.		
Name: Cheryl Goody	Email: csgoody@mac.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 05:10 PM
Testimony: I am writing to oppose the removal of Haiku Stairs. I now live in Kahaluu but I used to live in Haiku Valley, for 11 years. When the Coast Guard was managing the access, there were never any problems. We would call to get permission to go up, and we often did, with our kids, with friends, with visitors. No problems. This is a one of a kind in the world site - the important history, the native plants to be seen only in the Koolaus, the views of both sides of the island - always an inspiring ascent. The Stairs should actually be a historic site, either state or national. What a crime it would be to tear them out, at great expense to the public, no less! Millions of dollars that could be spent on something constructive not destructive! There are ways to manage access to control over-usage and problems in local neighborhoods. But I'm afraid someone in the valley has political connections and is using them to block all solutions. Please help!		
Name: Dan Powlison	Email: danpowlison@earthlink.net	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 05:20 PM
Testimony: Born and raised here in Oahu, I have had the good fortune in my 70 years of life to hike the Haiku Valley 'Stairway to Heaven' three times. It is a true wonder. The \$1.3 million cost to tear down the stairs (which after so much \$ was spent fixing the stairs) is outrageous. Far better to re-open the stairway in a responsible limited number of person way is the right path to take. Spends \$500,000 setting up access and limits and allow for whoever is able to take advantage to have a wonderful experience of a lifetime. With Aloha! Dan Powlison		
Name: Joanne Amberg	Email: joanne.amberg@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 05:37 PM
Testimony: Please do not fund the demolition of the historic Ha'iku Stairs. A solution can be found to preserve and make accessible this historic and iconic treasure. Please do not give up on preservation of such a valuable resource for our community. Mahalo nui loa for considering alternatives to destruction.		

Name: nicholas whiteaker	Email: nicholas885@gmail.com	Zip: 96860
Representing: Friends of the Haiku Stairs	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 05:38 PM
Name: Emma Boyer-Shaul	Email: ebshaul@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 05:50 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>I am writing to oppose the demotion of the Haiku Stairs.</p> <p>It baffles me that the city is willing to spend so much money to destroy them when so many in this state are fighting for them to be saved. The stairs are not only an iconic structure that people around the world wish to visit, but they also have historic significance.</p> <p>I believe that the Friends of Haiku Stairs have a solid and viable plan to save them. Just as the Kokonut Coalition has cared and maintained the Koko Crater stairs, I know that the people involved with the Friends of the Haiku Stairs would do the same for these stairs. I also know that both locals and tourists would be willing to pay for the opportunity to legally hike them, and I truly believe the Kaneohe neighborhood would not be trespassed if legal access was provided.</p> <p>I truly hope that you will listen to your constituents on this issue.</p>		
Name: Debra Malloy	Email: deb_malloy@hotmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 05:53 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Haiku Stairs has been enjoyed by locals & tourists. Since there has been no accidents nor lawsuits, it should be saved for future generations to enjoy. Wasting \$1.3 m to destroy it is ridiculous!!! Our HI & USA economy is struggling so we could use that money for infrastructure, homeless, schools, roads etc. please save Haiku Stairs.</p>		
Name: Matt Arakaki	Email: deluge.claim-0s@icloud.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 05:57 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>In SUPPORT of CR-79, Bill 14, CD1 ... in particular, Council Member Tupola's proposed budget amendments for 7 new Ocean Safety positions and a tower for Kahe Point on the west side</p>		
Name: Kamakani Froiseth	Email: kamakanifroiseth@live.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 05:57 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am in strong support of CR-79, Bill 14, CD1 ... in particular, Council Member Tupola's proposed budget amendments for 7 new Ocean Safety positions and equipment. Due to the high concentration of people and hazards there is a need of special care for this area. Thank you members of city council</p>		
Name: Jonathan Shaul	Email: jonahshaul@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 06:00 PM

Testimony:

I am writing in opposition of funding for the demolition of the Haiku Stairs.

I am very upset that the Council is rushing into a costly mistake. Also, ripping the 80-year-old Stairs off the mountain could harm the environment and trigger landslides.

The stairs are such an iconic and historic place. When there are viable alternatives, why are they being ignored? My understanding is that the major reason is complaints from the Kaneohe neighborhood. This would be solved by legal accessibility.

Please halt the removal process. Now is the time for solutions that will benefit all, not just one community.

Name: Zachary Hambaro	Email: zhambaro@yahoo.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 06:04 PM

Testimony:

In SUPPORT of CR-79, Bill 14, CD1 ... in particular, Council Member Tupola's proposed budget amendments for 7 new Ocean Safety positions and a tower for Kahe Point on the west side

Name: Joslynn Ojiri	Email: Squanto0518@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 06:29 PM

Testimony:

RE: Haiku Stairs.

The stairs. need. to come. down. The desecration. of the. land, the impact of the neighborhood and the influx of tourist and visitors has and will continue to have a major impact on our way of life.

Traffic on Kahekili is already horrendous. This neighborhood is filled with families with children and grandchildren. I fear more cars may mean more accidents.

The. friends of Haiku stairs donot live in. Kaneohe, the suggestion. of a. managed access. plan will not work and. We already. have significant impact of tourism with excessive helicopter tours, major traffic in our neighborhood.

We need our community out from being a tourist attraction.

Aloha,
Joslynn

Name: JOHN SILBERSTEIN	Email: islandsurfresq@aol.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 06:31 PM

Testimony:

To the esteemed members of the Honolulu City Council and Budget review committee,
ONCE AGAIN.....

I would like to respectfully voice my support regarding the approval of the FY operations and CIP budget proposed for the Honolulu Ocean Safety Division. In these unprecedented times of fiscal uncertainty, I know every penny will be scrutinized. However, I believe it is critical that in order for us to get our economy and way of life here in Hawaii back on track as the pandemic seemingly rounds a corner, we must not short change our first responders, especially our Ocean Safety personnel and their woefully underfunded and under established support needs.

In spite of all the rhetoric and novel ideas to create a diversified economy moving forward, tourism is still the largest egg in our basket. I would argue that our Ocean Safety personnel have one of the greatest impacts on the tourism industry. Hawaii is viewed as one of the safest visitor destinations in the world, but, is it really that safe or is that just an image we portray? "Come to Hawaii,

we have low COVID numbers” (but, please don’t die in the water while you’re here). Should that be our mantra? Let’s be honest, most people come to Hawaii for our beautiful beaches and our diverse culture. Everything else is just a bonus, cherries on the cake. Most visitors will at least get sand on their feet and dip their toes in our warm waters at some point in their stay. But, in spite of the picture postcard we promote to the world, many of our visitors are unaware that the ocean is a dynamic and potentially very dangerous place. Ignorance is often bliss and people on vacation in “paradise” often leave their sense of situational awareness and cautious mindset at home. Social media often sends them to areas that are incredibly beautiful but extremely dangerous. What was once remote or reserved for local knowledge only has now been found. Our visitors should be dying to come to Hawaii, not coming to Hawaii to die.

Our local folks as well are not immune from hazards. I drove past Maunalua Bay earlier today and observed a lifeless body wrapped in a white sheet at the boat ramp surrounded by police cars. For me it instantly brought back very distressing memories of having to recover and respond to similar cases throughout my career at the exact same location. I learned later that our Ocean Safety Rescue personnel had to respond via jet ski and recover a lifeless woman who died while surfing in the bay. Right now a family is grieving and they are having the worst day of their lives. This is a part of the job you never get used to. Every life is precious and many of these tragic events can be prevented with a greater investment in overall ocean safety services. Modern day lifesaving focuses on prevention through education and early intervention because once a rescue is needed, time is extremely critical. A delayed response posture in the ocean environment is often too late.

Our lifeguards are out there on the front line, forwardly deployed and vigilant. Their goal is to ensure our visitors go home safe and sound from the best vacation of their lives so they can begin to plan their next return visit. They are also on the front line to ensure our Kamaaina also go home safe and sound to their Ohana.

Lifeguards not only ensure for beachgoers safety, they are often the main ambassadors of Aloha our Malihini guests come in contact with. They offering advice on places to visit, eateries and share the local culture.

I won’t even begin to try and touch on the impact our Ocean Safety personnel have on most of our local residents, our way of life and our culture that is inexplicably intertwined with an ocean lifestyle.

Hawaii has some of the best watermen /women in the world and we are fortunate that many have chosen Ocean Safety as a career. Men and women who have inadvertently been training for the rigors of this job their entire life. They are considered the best lifeguards in the world, but the organization they work for, the equipment and facilities they are provided are at times substandard. This reality is not the fault of their internal leaders who bang the drum over and over and beg to provide them with better resources. For an island state surrounded by water and an economy reliant on the overall health and safety of our beaches, we have failed year after year to establish a premier Ocean Safety program as compared to other coastal regions of the globe.

We have been throwing peanuts at the organization. In many ways it is still almost third world-ish with regard to inadequate staffing, offering water safety officers a livable wage, and establishing adequate support facilities. Year after year the powers that be are guilty of woefully underfund the division. Growth is slow and it can be like watching the grass grow. The Ocean Safety Division needs to become its own properly funded and properly managed Department. Remaining as part of Emergency Services offers no benefit as it appears competing priorities, senior management by “non-water” people (for lack of a better term) seems to perpetually stall progress. The needs to serve the ocean recreation community have far surpassed the small division status and mindset long ago. Ocean Safety has decades of neglect to make up. That seems to be common theme or curse in Honolulu, a bustling metropolis with some leaders still clinging to a small town mentality. I wish we were still small town, mom and pop, that’s why I live in Waimanalo one of the last hold outs. But look around, look at all the houses that cluster in the valleys and on the ridges, look at the traffic, look at the crowded beaches even on weekdays, we are not a small town anymore, but we still have a small town lifeguard division.

The current upper management in the division is the best it’s ever been in its 100 year plus history and Ocean Safety has the opportunity to become the premier phoenix agency rising from the ashes of a global pandemic. It just needs the vision and support from our current senior leadership in local government to make that happen. I fear we will lose our best and brightest talent in ocean safety to other agencies or private sector due to sheer frustration.

I wholeheartedly support CM Tupola’s council add to provide lifeguard services at Kahe Point. It’s long overdue. She gets it, she’s a water person. Bravo for her addressing the needs of her community. Electric Beach aka Tracks is an area (through social media) that is rapidly turning into another Hanuma Bay for snorkelers. I made a rescue there last year just passing through on a watercraft heading to the Ko Olina Marina.

Over 6 years ago I submitted a document I entitled Ocean Safety Assessment of Needs. In that document it I called for the creation of additional rescue units and identified several beaches on Oahu that needed lifeguard tower services. I listed Kalama Beach Park in Kailua, Three Tables on the North Shore, and the area of West Waikiki from the Royal Hawaiian Hotel to the Hilton Hawaiian Village just to name a few. Unfortunately SEVERAL people have died in the water in these unguarded areas over the last 6 years. It begs the question, how many precious lives would still be here had we addressed those obvious needs for better services? Why haven’t we taken a greater Kuleana to stem such tragedies? Is it funding? A lack of will? Or just a lack of understanding by the senior decision makers? I’ve notice throughout my career that many non-beach users simply have a hard time understanding the need or prioritizing it. We lose about one person a week due to drowning. Can you imagine if we lost one

person a week due to homicide? Would we for even a minute consider not hiring enough police officers to stem that trend? A loss of life is a loss of life no matter how it happens. It's more tragic when it's preventable.

There are few things more terrifying than nearly drowning to death. I've had some frightening experiences in waves of consequence and I've been in and on the ocean as a surfer and paddler since a very young child and spent half of my adult life as a lifeguard, Coastguardsman and marine enforcement officer. Imagine how horrible it must be to perish in such a horrible manner. Sheer terror.

Please support a more exigent effort to build and establish a professional ocean lifeguard program on Oahu that meets the demands and needs of the times. Please support Councilmember Tupola's Pono effort to better safeguard her community.

MAHALO

Name: Siarah Spencer	Email: siarahspencer@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Ocean Safety	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 07:34 PM

Testimony:
I support this bill

Name: Kate Pitt	Email: Kate.s.pitt@gmail.com	Zip: 90210
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 07:34 PM

Testimony:
It would be a travesty to destroy the stairway to heaven. It is a part of Hawaiian history. Funds need to be put towards fixing the stairs and can be used as a source of income to tourism.

Name: Michael Flumian	Email: michaelflumian@outlook.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 08:44 PM

Testimony:
The case is clear that tearing out the stairs is a fiscal and environmental disaster in the making.
Let's focus on all the good that properly managing access to the Ha'ik Valley will bring:

- a safe and educational experience with neighborhood friendly access
- funds that can be used in the neighborhood
- jobs for kama'aina
- no more liability to the City or County
- preserved endangered species
- preserved historic site

We can do this!
It is our responsibility to protect this world class site and make it available for future generations.
Michael Flumian
Oahu resident since 2015

Name: Brittany Gavieres	Email: brittanygavieres@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 08:59 PM

Testimony:
Save the stairway to heaven!
Please do not demolish a landmark.

Name: Jon White	Email: jonwhite.hawaii@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:08 PM

Testimony: I stand in Strong Support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Analise Marshall	Email: marshallanalise1@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:15 PM
Testimony: Hello! I am writing to express my opposition to this bill because Stairway to Heaven is something I care about a lot. The Haiku stairs hold tremendous history and it would be devastating to see them be torn down. The legal path to the top of the mountain is harder, more unsafe, and causing environmental damage due to erosion. It's so much safer to take the stairs to the top and better for the environment. This has to be one of the most beautiful hikes on the planet. Once the stairs are gone their gone forever. This money could be used for something else a lot more important. Please reconsider this decision.		
Name: Keanu Bosgra	Email: keanuhsurf@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:17 PM
Testimony: I am in support of CR-79, Bill 14,CD1. In particular City Council Member Tupola's proposed budget amendments for Ocean Safety to add seven new positions and a new tower at Kahe point. I've been working in Ocean Safety for five years now and we need help. From my experience and from others I've spoken to in the department, it is no secret that we are not being paid a livable wage in proportion to the cost of living here in Hawaii. This one of the main reasons why we are understaffed, because people cannot support their families and the cost of living on this job alone. Those who have qualified for raises over time have not been given their raises for months. Ocean Safety is a crucial departments for our islands protecting our kanaka (people) and those visiting as well. We are surrounded by some of the most powerful oceans in the world. We need to strengthen our Ocean Safety Department.		
Name: Cisco Valeho	Email: ciscovaleho@icloud.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:24 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Chaz Bajet	Email: chazbajet@gmail.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:26 PM
Testimony: I stand strong in support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Eddie Klaneski	Email: klaneski21@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:26 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1. Mahalo!		
Name: Keenan Luke	Email: konan_l@hotmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:26 PM

Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD 1.		
Name: Chauncey Dunhour	Email: bivalve.regard-0l@icloud.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:26 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1.		
Name: Alana Kaili	Email: alanakk31@yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:27 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Kainalu Paikai	Email: nalupaikai1998@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:28 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1.		
Name: Jacob Ramos	Email: jacobjames_07@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:28 PM
Testimony: I Strongly Support CR-79 BILL 14 CD1.		
Name: Michael Masutani	Email: neuspeedkekoa@yahoo.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:28 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 bill 14 CD1.		
Name: Sy Delizo	Email: delizosy2@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:28 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Noah Kassebeer	Email: kassebeer@yahoo.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:28 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of cr-79 bill 14 CD1.		
Name: Adrian Nakashima	Email: knakashimaohana@gmail.com	Zip: 96795

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:29 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1.		
Name: Kelsey Beck	Email: ilikea.beck@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:29 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Louis Mansanas	Email: mansanaslouis@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:29 PM
Testimony: I stand in support of CR-79 bill 14 CD1		
Name: Douglas Hiu	Email: doughiu@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:29 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Dave Teriirere	Email: dave.teriirere@yahoo.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:30 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 bill 14 CD1		
Name: Tyler Yuu	Email: tyleryuu@gmail.com	Zip: 96786
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:30 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 bill 14 CD1		
Name: Ka'ena Paikai	Email: kaenapaikai@yahoo.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:30 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 bill 14CD1		
Name: Pomai Kalama	Email: pomaikalama21@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:31 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		

Name: Zorich Palimoo	Email: zpalimoo@gmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:31 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 014 CD1		
Name: Robert Enriquez	Email: robnani99@yahoo.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:31 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 bill14 CD1		
Name: Seth Holck	Email: holck239@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:32 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Trey Ah Yuen	Email: tasay96706@gmail.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:32 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1.		
Name: Kyle Miyahana	Email: kylem@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:33 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Levi Archuleta	Email: Islandshores_99@yahoo.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:33 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Ted Scott	Email: kahakiart@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:34 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 BILL 14 CD1		
Name: Montgomery Meyer	Email: meyerstrong6@gmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:35 PM

Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Joshua Demello	Email: tamatoa02@yahoo.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:35 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 bill 14 CD1		
Name: Jonovan Tuinei	Email: j.tuinei30@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:36 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1.		
Name: Keoni Mendiola	Email: keoni8727@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:36 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1.		
Name: zach matsunaga	Email: hawaiianblood2013@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:36 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support		
Name: Christopher Finau	Email: chris79finau@gmail.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:36 PM
Testimony: Im in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Chad Amasiu	Email: chadaamasui@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:36 PM
Testimony: I stand strong in support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Kekoa Bruhn	Email: kekoabruhn@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:36 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of cr-79 bill 14 cd1		
Name: Paquito Capillan	Email: kalei21511@gmail.com	Zip: 96817

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:37 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 bill 14 CD1		
Name: Manny Kulukulualani	Email: paahawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:37 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Gabriel PIEPER	Email: gabe.pieper@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:39 PM
Testimony: I am in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Clinton Blackman	Email: ctk.blackman@gmail.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:40 PM
Testimony: I am in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Richard Gideon	Email: gideon.ohana@me.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:42 PM
Testimony: I strongly support CR-79 Bill 14 CD1.		
Name: Burton Chun	Email: burtonchun88@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:43 PM
Testimony: I support CR 79		
Name: Hubert Pruett	Email: hubertpruett@yahoo.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:43 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of cr-79 bill 14 cd1		
Name: Seth Ilae	Email: ilaeseth@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:44 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		

Name: Clayton Glass	Email: claytonglasshawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96786
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:45 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 bill 14 cd1		
Name: Wade Terlep	Email: wterlep@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:45 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 BILL14 CD1		
Name: Brittany Streeter	Email: britta.streeter@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:45 PM
Testimony: The Haiku stairs are too special to the island to be torn down. There's nothing else like these stairs in the world and tearing it down would be erasing part of Oahu history. Not to mention the financial burden it will cost to tear the stairs down as well as the environmental impact. The stairs are so much a part of Oahu. I strongly oppose the removal of the stairs!		
Name: Harmony Bentosino	Email: harmonyrainbow5@yahoo.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:52 PM
Testimony: I am writing it is a sad waste of money to remove the stairs when they could be managed as a valuable resource to make money for their upkeep. Tourists will flock from far away and locals want this treasure for Hawaii as well. It is the safest most spectacular hike on Oahu. It could be managed like Hanauma Bay. I have climbed the stairs to do maintenance for The Friends of Haiku Stairs. It is cheaper and more environmentally ethical to keep the stairs than to destroy them.		
Name: Jay Amina	Email: jkealii3@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 09:53 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 bill 14 CD1.		
Name: Chad Failma	Email: cdfailma@yahoo.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 10:00 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: John Rabanal	Email: jrabanal01@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 10:01 PM
Testimony:		

I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Blake Morrison	Email: blake.morrison5@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 10:07 PM
Testimony: I oppose bill 14.		
Name: Anthony Padilla	Email: anthonycpadilla@yahoo.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 10:08 PM
Testimony: I am in strong support of bill 014(22)		
Name: Roen Wainscoat	Email: roenw22@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 10:11 PM
<p>Testimony: I am strongly opposed to money being allocated to destroy the Haiku Stairs. The city council has blatantly ignored public opinion presented MULTIPLE TIMES on this matter. Removing the stairs would be catering to a very small, vocal minority. The vast majority of Oahu residents, including myself, want the stairs to be preserved and managed appropriately. If they are removed, this will become a slippery slope to remove other trails in residential areas.</p> <p>It feels like the city council has already made up its mind on issues like this and public testimony is completely ignored. Any member of the city council who votes to remove the stairs after the incredible display of public support for saving the stairs should be ashamed.</p>		
Name: Dane Kaluhiwa	Email: dakine808kaluhiwa@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 10:12 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 bill 14 CD1		
Name: Kodey Saizon	Email: kodstah@yahoo.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 10:18 PM
Testimony: I strongly support of CR-79 bill 14 CD1		
Name: Scott Palma	Email: scottpalma@gmail.com	Zip: 96818-2954
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 10:25 PM
<p>Testimony: I oppose the costly and short-sighted destruction of The stairway to heaven. I support a managed access plan that preserves the sites historical and recreational value. Railings provide safety compared to a bare mountain. Can easily be managed on a profitable or at least cost neutral to the city basis. Destroying the world-renowned stairs at huge tax payer expense would be a tragic embarrassment.</p>		

Name: Anthony Padilla	Email: anthonycpadilla@yahoo.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 10:35 PM
Testimony: I strongly support of cr-79 bill 14 cd1		
Name: Walter Walker	Email: wwalker3111@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:16 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Sean Pager	Email: spager98@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Friends of Ha'ikā« Stairs	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:32 PM
Name: Brandon Parker	Email: brandonjpkparker@gmail.com	Zip: 96834
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 12, 2022 @ 11:41 PM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79Bill 14 CD1.		
Name: Jason Yoshimura	Email: kaiponohea56@gmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 12:01 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill in CD 1		
Name: Hailey Shadix	Email: shadixh@gmail.com	Zip: 96814
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 12:37 AM
Testimony: As a public Ha'ikā major at UHM, I have been seeking to voice my opinion more frequently. Today I was given a chance. After reviewing statistics and listening to fellow citizens's remarks, I support the opposition of Bill 14 regarding the "Stair Way to Heaven" demolition. I feel and support a budget redirection to the up keeping of the current trail and most importantly (for city accountability) providing/requiring a hiking permit. The permit would not only provide a legal safety net, but allow those who are capable to endure the adventure, enjoy the beautiful Hawaiian Island of Oahu.		
Name: Kahekili Fuchs	Email: kahekilifuchs@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 12:40 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Marva Chun	Email: marvachun96734@gmail.com	Zip: 96734

Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 01:49 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Haiku stairs has had 0 deaths or accidents...it is a world wide heritage site and should be preserved and protected...We could develop a shuttle system to mitigate parking...sell tickets to limit access and raise funding to support the site...a few vocal people are overriding the many...Keep Haiku Stairs open.</p> <p>Marva Chun</p>		
Name: Pierre Gaulon	Email: gaulonpierre@hotmail.fr	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 02:21 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>There's absolutely no reason to remove these stairs ! This is part of the history of the island.</p>		
Name: Laura Platana	Email: lplatana@gmail.com	Zip: 95993
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 03:58 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I would like to formally oppose the dismantling of the Haiku Stairs. I may not be a resident of Oahu, but I am a responsible tourist and feel as though a fee/waiver system could financially benefit the island while also covering off concerns related to the hiking of the stairs. The repairs could be paid for by the fee system, not by taxpayers. Further, the stairs are a special part of Oahu's history. Please reconsider dismantling.</p>		
Name: Nick Lange	Email: nalange17@hotmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 04:18 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Oppose destruction of Haiku Stairs.</p>		
Name: Brennon Pias	Email: brennonp07@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 04:19 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1</p>		
Name: Ivan Orozco	Email: ivanlorozco85@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 05:03 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose the destruction of the Haiku Stairs. Instead of using the funds to destroy them, use the funds to improve them. Like many popular hikes across the mainland, lottery's for permits to hike specific trails have helped deal with negative impacts from overcrowding.</p>		
Name: Marissa Pastrana	Email: hairbymp@gmail.com	Zip: 98615
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 06:09 AM

<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose the bill RELATING TO THE EXECUTIVE OPERATING BUDGET AND PROGRAM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2022 TO JUNE 30, 2023.</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Collin Whittaker</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>cgwhitt99@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>98632</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Oppose</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>Apr 13, 2022 @ 06:44 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>The Stairway To Heaven Hike is a traditional location that is rich and history and happiness to anyone who witnesses it. With 0 death and 0 lawsuits during it's 80 year lifespan, it makes no sense to tear it down.</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Nicole Lao</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>nicolelao@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96814</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Oppose</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>Apr 13, 2022 @ 06:53 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Hello,</p> <p>Please consider not going forward with the removal of Haiku Stairs. The budget used to remove the stairs could instead be utilized to restore this path that holds much historical significance. Thank you.</p> <p>Nicole</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Lorien Kuster</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>kuster.lorien@yahoo.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96701</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Oppose</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:03 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Spending over a million dollars to tear down the Haiku Stairs does not make sense. That amount of money can go toward repairing the stairs and creating a path to the stairs that doesn't bother the neighborhood. The stairs are historic, iconic, and majestic. Open them as an attraction, and people WILL pay to hike them.</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Luke S</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>lukescandlyn@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96822</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>Self</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>I wish to comment</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:08 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am writing in opposition to the destruction of the Haik stairs. I believe in the historic and cultural significance that should be protected as a right of access to all but also this seems to be a gross mismanagement of budget and there are better alternatives that appease all sides while preserving access.</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Kyle Foyle</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>kfoyle@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96712</p>
<p>Representing:</p> <p>North Shore Lifeguard Association</p>	<p>Position:</p> <p>Support</p>	<p>Submitted:</p> <p>Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:17 AM</p>
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>This bill is so important because it provides needed lifeguards services to a area that is extremely hazardous and very popular among locals and visitors. Right now a mobile unit response to this area and sometimes they don't arrive until it's too late. We need to provide better lifeguard services to the people of Oahu. Please support this bill and you might be saving someone life that you know</p>		
<p>Name:</p> <p>Sabrah Mitchell</p>	<p>Email:</p> <p>sabrah.mitchell5@gmail.com</p>	<p>Zip:</p> <p>96731</p>

Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:26 AM
Testimony: Do not destroy the stairs!		
Name: Mary Helmstetter	Email: helmstetterm@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96744-5411
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:29 AM
Testimony: Please do not use the current money in budget to remove Haiku Stairs. I support keeping and improving Haiku Stairs for public use.		
Name: EDDIE Horner	Email: eddiehorner@icloud.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:30 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill14 CD1		
Name: Nicole Perez	Email: perezn2014@fau.edu	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:40 AM
Testimony: I oppose bill 14 tremendously. I oppose increasing the budget for removal of Haiku Stairs. This is a disservice to the people of Oahu. It is also heartbreaking to think the stairs would be removed. They are a valuable and sentimental monument of Hawaii's history. There are many solutions to manage the stairs and the hike. There are solutions for liability and managed access.		
Name: Justin Scorza	Email: justinscorza@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:42 AM
Testimony: I oppose this measure because I support keeping the stairs. I cannot fathom why the city would tear out such an incredible public resource, let alone spend exorbitant public money to do so. Please keep the stairs and let the public enjoy them. The hike is one of the least dangerous hikes in the Hawaiian islands. Thank you.		
Name: Myra Macapinlac	Email: myra.macapinlac@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:44 AM
Testimony: Save Ha'iku Stairs and not to spend dubious amounts of moneys to demolish the stairs.		
Name: Isaiah Tomas	Email: footballlover.halmon46@gmail.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:45 AM
Testimony: DO NOT TAKE THE STAIRS DOWN		
Name:	Email:	Zip:

Craig Thomas	craig@hepa.net	96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:49 AM
Name: Austin Pike	Email: austinpik28@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:53 AM
Testimony: In all the time the stairs have existed there have been 0 deaths or accidents. It is a historical landmark that many people have enjoyed since it has been built. Any attempt to destroy this would be a disservice to the public. Especially for a costly 1.3M dollars of taxpayers money. Homeless people have affected my life here more than any stairs have. Perhaps this money would be put to better use than this.		
Name: Rodney Choy Foo	Email: kaikigirl@yahoo.com	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:54 AM
Testimony: I strongly support CR 79 bill 14 cd1		
Name: Gavin Concepcion	Email: GAV.CONCEPCION@GMAIL.COM	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 07:58 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14 CD1		
Name: Joshua Lindstedt	Email: surf_bum_726@yahoo.com	Zip: 96714
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 08:04 AM
Testimony: I would like to support the addition of 7 positions which would aid in extended operating hours as well as a new tower at electric beach. Working on ocean safety for almost 10 years now, I see the need to extend our hours due to increase in crowds and in the amount of rescues we all do after hours while off duty as the hazards are not gone just because we are off duty and people are still in danger. Thank you for your consideration		
Name: Gabi Bedlion	Email: gabicsuha@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 08:22 AM
Testimony: As a Hawaii resident I've had dozens of friends complete the Haiku stairs hike over the years and have never heard of any injuries. The hike is an iconic landmark of the island and draws awe from locals and tourists from around the world. The unique beauty of this hike is recognized by the thousands who have made the trek, it is an irreplaceable O'ahu gem. The city has already made an enormous error in barring entry to this hike on an already crowded island with limited access to lands, but to destroy this landmark would be a monumental loss for the people of Hawai'i. Every hike and excursion comes with challenges and dangers. The people of Hawaii deserve the choice to accept any risk and partake in exploration of their lands. The stairs provide safe access to the ridge, and without them the trek would be much more hazardous. The city should consider repairing this infrastructure instead of destroying it for the sake of the Kanaka and Kama'aina who treasure this beautiful land.		
Name: Natalie Iwasa	Email: the-green-one@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96825

Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 08:26 AM
Testimony: Oral testimony only on budget bills & several resolutions. Not sure how to sign up for oral testimony only. Please do not post this comment.		
Name: Dylan Haight	Email: haight0mail@gmail.com	Zip: 96746
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 08:26 AM
Testimony: Aloha, I am currently serving as an Ocean Safety Officer for the North district on the island of Kauai. I am in Support of CR-79, Bill 14, CD1, in particular, council member Tupola's proposed budget amendments for 7 new ocean safety positions and a tower at Kahe Point. This area has become a very popular diving/snorkeling spot. With the increase of water activities, in the area, it is very important to have an ocean safety presence to help protect the people and marine environment. We are currently struggling to get new ocean safety positions on Kauai, so I understand how important it is to have all the support they can get. I hope that in the passing of this bill the ocean safety department on Oahu will be able to expand their scope of care to a much needed area. Mahalo, Dylan Haight		
Name: Sabrina Larson	Email: sabrina.lawlor@yahoo.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 08:38 AM
Testimony: Please do not fund tearing down the historic Ha'iku Stairs. 0 accidental deaths and 0 lawsuits in the 80 year history. Do not fund the demolishing.		
Name: Harmony Bentosino	Email: harmonyrainbow5@yahoo.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 08:49 AM
Testimony: Please disregard my earlier testimony that was accidentally classified as supporting removal of stairs when I am vehemently opposed. What is the council thinking to budget a 1.3 inflationary million to remove the stairs when the city previously spent money to repair the stairs? The stairs are a valuable resource that needs to be saved. Saved not only to save money but to protect a unique Oahu treasure of spectacular beauty that is the safest hike on Oahu because there are hand rails and you cannot get lost. There has never been a rescue needed for hikers using the stairs. Removing the stairs poses a risk for hikers who will still come for the beauty and the adventure. The stairs attract tourists from around the world who will gladly pay to climb them. The stairs can be managed in a way similar to Hanauma Bay. Local residents also benefit. Removing the stairs would be as cost escalating as the rail project. It is cheaper and safer to save the stairs, not to destroy them! Save them for future generations as well.		
Name: Heather Hall	Email: heathermhall10@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 08:51 AM
Testimony: All other first responders are able to work overtime to do the job they are trained to do except for ocean safety we are surrounded by water if more staff is needed and that means overtime or hiring more staff then it should absolutely be put into the budget.		
Name: Lawrence DeCosta	Email: ldciii@aol.com	Zip: 96734

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 08:51 AM
Testimony: I stand in strong support of CR-79 Bill 14CD1 Mahalo		
Name: Andrew Larson	Email: drewplarson@yahoo.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 08:57 AM
Testimony: I oppose this bill because in the last 80 years there have been zero accidental deaths and zero law suits at the Ha'ik stairs.		
Name: Kai Hall	Email: kaithall@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 09:21 AM
Testimony: We need this to pass to better serve our ever growing community. We as a state need to be proactive in preparing for the rise in visitors year after year. Without supporting the front lines we are unable to provide service to our number 1 attraction. Thank you for your consideration.		
Name: Delaney Cole	Email: delaneyccole@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 09:22 AM
Testimony: Haiku stairs has not caused deaths in nearly 80 years. It is not fair to spend this amount on destruction of land. The hikers that don't perform well on this hike are undereducated because you made it inaccessible. The goal is the stairs but haven't we caused enough erosion and damage? Put this money to housing for those in need. In conservation tactics to help endemic species. Anything productive, this isn't productive.		
Name: Joseph Cadiz	Email: joeycamillewedding@gmail.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 09:37 AM
Testimony: I support Bill 14, in particular the 7 Ocean Safety positions and station to be located at Kahe Point in District 1. This area has a high volume of beach attendance and is in need of Ocean Safety personnel and resources to best serve the public.		
Name: Isis Usborne	Email: isis.usborne@gmail.com	Zip: 96819
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 10:29 AM
Testimony: Oppose - please don't demolish haiku stairs		
Name: Elise Turner	Email: eliseturnersu@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 10:33 AM
Testimony: They stairs should not be taken down.		

Name: Tia Swarbrick	Email: tia4nyc@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 10:35 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose the budget that will allow the destruction of the Haiku Stairs. There has been no deaths or law suits in all the 80 years the stairs have been there. I think with proper management of the stairs there should be no problems. These stairs are historical and people from all over the world come here and want to see them. Tearing them down would be no win for anyone. I also think if you do tear them down people will still try to hike that area and it will be more dangerous and cause the state more money for rescues services. I am aware that the neighbors around are not happy with people trespassing through their yard but that is only because the gate is closed to the entrance with a guard. I believe if they opened up the gate and had proper management of the stairs (which i know many people are willing to do) this would be avoided of disrupting home owners in the area. I also think this Haiku Stairs can generate money for the state. Many people would even pay to go up them. So save your money and use it for something that's more useful!</p> <p>Thank You, Tia Swarbrick</p>		
Name: Mariah Zuzick	Email: mariahzuzick@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 10:53 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>To Whom It May Concern:</p> <p>Aloha all,</p> <p>As a member of the great city of Kne'ohe, I am sad to see the issue of the Ha'ik stairs being demolished brought up again.</p> <p>Our island is rich in history and the stairs are a part of that history. The Ha'ik stairs were a crucial part of World War II for our soldiers.</p> <p>Everyday, a little part of history is being destroyed somewhere around the world.</p> <p>What will we have to show our keiki if we destroy it all?</p> <p>There has never been a single death or lawsuit regarding the stairs and I believe the stairs should remain and stay available to the public. If a tragedy were to happen, matters could be discussed on how to keep the stairs a safe for residents and tourists to explore the rich history O'ahu has to offer.</p> <p>Mahalo for your time,</p> <p>Mariah</p>		
Name: Matthew Kievlan	Email: MatthewKievlan@gmail.com	Zip: 96714
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 11:56 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>.</p>		
Name: Finna Christensen	Email: finna@opendive.io	Zip: 96704
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 11:56 AM
<p>Testimony:</p>		

I, Finna Christensen, hereby oppose the destruction of Ha'iku Stairs in which this bill would provide funding for. This is a historical site and landmark that is important to O'ahus culture and history. Along with betraying cultural morals, the removal of Ha'iku Stairs would put county workers lives in danger, far more than it would to any passing traveler. Please reconsider and reallocate your funds to a better cause. Mahalo nui

Name: Miguel Baez	Email: oceansafety2000@hotmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 12:23 PM

Testimony:
I'm in SUPPORT of CR-79, Bill 14, CD1. In particular, Council Member Tupola's proposed budget amendments for 7 new Ocean Safety positions and a tower for Kahe Point on the west side.

Name: Shawn Wolff	Email: swolff.hnl@gmail.com	Zip: 96823
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 13, 2022 @ 01:29 PM

Testimony:
Tower guards are the front lines in preventing ocean injuries and drownings. With so much coastline unguarded and the towers that are guarded being understaffed t puts a strain on responders and a disservice to the public.

Waikīkī Transportation Management Association Special Improvement District



*Making Waikīkī better
...one curb at a time.*

April 11, 2022

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: Bill 14 CD1 Amendment Request

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

The Waikīkī Transportation Management Association (WTMA) requests your consideration of adding a proposed amendment to Bill 14 CD1 (2022). Although the "Loading and Unloading of Passenger and Freight in Transportation Management Special Improvement District", known as the Waikīkī SID Permit Fee, is listed in "Budget Communication No. 5 – Item 12, Inventory of Fees" transmitted to Council by the Department of Budget and Fiscal Services on March 2, 2022, no corresponding FY 23 Operating Budget expenditure to utilize these funds for their intended purposes can be found in Bill 14 CD1 (2022).

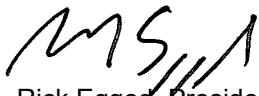
The suggested Bill 14 CD1 amendment proposal is to add a Current Expense item to the Administration section of the Department of Transportation Services line item FY23 Operating Budget with the proviso that "At least \$462,960 shall be used for the Waikīkī Special Improvement District to fulfill the purpose of Ordinance 17-58". All expenses would be from revenue generated by the Waikīkī SID Permit Fee being collected by the Department of Customer Services since January 2020. The Department of Budget and Fiscal Services has set aside the Waikīkī SID Permit Fee funds into a trust fund account.

By FY23 the Waikīkī SID Permit Fee will have been collected during three fiscal years. As of this date none of these funds have been expended. It is time to use these funds for the purposes intended when you approved Ordinance 17-58.

We appreciate your consideration of our Bill 14 CD1 amendment request. I would be glad to meet with any Councilmember who desires further background on the work of your WTMA.

Thank you for your support of the WTMA.

Sincerely yours,



Rick Egged, President
Waikīkī Transportation Management Special Improvement District

Cc: WTMA Board of Directors

Testimony in Opposition of Funding in Budget Bill 14 for Removal of the Ha'ikū Stairs

I am opposed to the City Council including 1.3 million dollars of taxpayer money in the Executive Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 to remove Ha'ikū Stairs. This is one of the most sensational hikes in the world, one of the most popular in our state, and one of the safest. It is your job to serve the public not to take extreme, unpopular, costly, unnecessary actions like this and ignore workable solutions.

The plan proposed for management of Ha'ikū Stairs is comprehensive and solves the quality of life issues in the Ha'ikū neighborhood impacted by the stairs. The plan included cultural and environmental education about the area, close monitoring, restricted entry, and high security, unlike the failed security system the City wasted taxpayer money on for years.

Expert testimony about invasive species that was given as part of the Board of Water Supply EIS when that agency was considering removal, concluded removing the stairs would increase that risk. The ability of plant specialists and scientists to access and monitor the area by way of the stairs, combined with a trail of metal steps, would ensure the area remains pristine.

Removing the stairs solves nothing and may even cause problems. Ha'ikū Stairs measures are already turning into a money pit and you have already given us one of those—HART. Ripping these stairs off of the mountain will undoubtedly be even more costly than anticipated, cause environmental damage and possibly trigger erosion and landslides. The City already spent a million dollars to repair the stairs, and next 1 million plus for destruction? This is irresponsible.

There are several people in the Ha'ikū neighborhood impacted by the stairs who are actually in favor of keeping them. I know cultural practitioners in Kailua and Kaneohe, some who steward Ha'ikū Valley, and environmental scientists who also don't agree with the plan to remove them and don't think it is wise. I know Native Hawaiian parents who served on the Board of, and whose children attended Samuel M. Kamakau Public Charter School in Ha'ikū Valley, who don't agree with removing the stairs. They think it's a terrible idea and they have testified about it. Yet, you have ignored the massive amounts of testimony over the years that is always overwhelmingly in support of saving the Ha'ikū Stairs. You are listening to about 70 people and ignoring hundreds.

The last decision the Council made to go through with removal was shockingly horrible news that resonated across the nation and the world. An editorial I wrote with a highly revered cultural practitioner in the Kailua and Kaneohe ahupua'a, my friend, Charles Burrows, about why the stairs should be saved, was quoted in the New York Times:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/09/21/us/haiku-stairs-hawaii.html>

Here is the Honolulu Advertiser editorial we wrote that was quoted in the New York Times:
<https://www.staradvertiser.com/2021/08/12/editorial/island-voices/column-save-haiku-stairs-for-cultural-environmental-education/>

Please halt this removal process and prevent a disastrous decision. These stairs are historical and loved by many local residents. I am personally passionate about protecting Ha'ikū Stairs because it is my son's favorite hike in the world even though he has hiked all over the world in beautiful places with us. Rightfully, they should remain and be there when his baby daughter is old enough to hike them. My daughter wants her sons to be able to hike the stairs. All, including my daughter, sons, grandchildren, all born and raised here, will be deprived of that opportunity for no logical reason. My family are respectful, considerate hikers who value, take care of, and protect our natural and cultural resources.

Government should be working to preserve and improve the numbers of hiking venues for local people, not destroying them. The 2021 State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Survey indicated hiking was the by far the most popular land-based recreation among our residents. Removing the stairs solves nothing, may even cause problems, and does nothing to serve the public or the environment. There are promising new alternatives to demolition now on the table that absolutely should be considered, including a community driven access plan.

Please do not fund the destruction of Ha'ikū Stairs. Thank you for considering my comments and saving Ha'ikū Stairs.

Aloha,
Beth Anderson

Waikīkī Transportation Management Association Special Improvement District



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...one curb at a time.*

April 11, 2022

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
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The suggested Bill 14 CD1 amendment proposal is to add a Current Expense item to the Administration section of the Department of Transportation Services line item FY23 Operating Budget with the proviso that "At least \$462,960 shall be used for the Waikīkī Special Improvement District to fulfill the purpose of Ordinance 17-58". All expenses would be from revenue generated by the Waikīkī SID Permit Fee being collected by the Department of Customer Services since January 2020. The Department of Budget and Fiscal Services has set aside the Waikīkī SID Permit Fee funds into a trust fund account.

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We appreciate your consideration of our Bill 14 CD1 amendment request. I would be glad to meet with any Councilmember who desires further background on the work of your WTMA.

Thank you for your support of the WTMA.

Sincerely yours,



Rick Egged, President
Waikīkī Transportation Management Special Improvement District

Cc: WTMA Board of Directors

Aloha city council,

I am writing you today in regard to the removal of the haiku stairs. First and foremost the stairs are a rich part of Oahu's history. This leads to the biggest concern for most in regards to the removal of the stairs. The stairs have become an iconic place for tourists and locals to frequent the summit. As a person who has just recently moved to the island I have been working with a group of locals on trail restoration projects. This has given me the opportunity to see the adverse affects the stairs popularity has had on our Aina and members of the community who have grown up here. With the tight regulations that surround the stairs it has forced anyone who wants to see the stairs to go up the Moanalua Valley Ridge. The massive amounts of foot traffic here have severely impacted the ridge to the point of it almost no longer being accessible and that ridge turning into one big mud slide that would cause massive amounts of damage to the surrounding Aina. These casualties can be greatly mitigated by not removing the stairs and using the over 1 million dollars budgeted to help restore our sacred Aina. The stairs would also serve as a safer route to the top as the ridge trail has severely been eroded. This would be a win win for the Local residents and I who care very much about sustaining this ridge and for the city council. I do hope the city council takes what I have written here seriously. It is important and deeply rooted to malama our aina.

Mahalo

Nicholas Whiteaker

SKYROCKETING COSTS & UNANSWERED QUESTIONS RE: HA'IKŪ STAIRS REMOVAL

Answers Can Be Found in Community Managed Access Plan

HONOLULU, HI April 13, 2022 –

Since the Friends of Ha'ikū Stairs (FHS) have learned that budgetary error, we have been looking deeper into budgetary issues. We wondered why City's proposed demolition budget has increased 30% to \$1,300,000 in less than six months. This increased cost to taxpayers demands explanation, especially given the overwhelming testimony in favor of keeping the Stairs last fall—with over 90% of public comments (1338 total) opposing demolition. Further unanswered questions concern impacts on endangered species and engineering challenges related to erosion control and potential landslides. The City's own planning documents call for multiple measures to mitigate the impacts of demolition whose costs remain entirely unaccounted for. The cumulative costs of these necessary measures could easily dwarf the current demolition budget. Meanwhile, a new, community-driven, comprehensive managed access plan has emerged that would solve the Ha'ikū Stairs problem at zero cost to the City. Accordingly, we hereby ask that the Council delete its funding for removal of the Stairs, or, alternatively, place a rider to restrict use of said funds solely to preliminary planning and feasibility studies.

FHS's independent analysis of the City's demolition plans raises multiple red flags that suggest the City has grossly underestimated the actual costs to taxpayers. Until the City has addressed these omissions and fully reckoned with the costs, FHS urges the City Council to pause the demolition funding. Rushing into removal puts the taxpayer on the hook for an ill-planned project whose costs could easily spiral out of control. Such a premature commitment would be especially tragic now that a new, community-driven managed access solution is on the table that would fully solve the Ha'ikū Stairs problem at zero cost to the City. We urge the City Council to consider the exciting potential for an environmentally sustainable, culturally respectful solution that preserves public access while bypassing residential neighborhoods.”

FHS believes the failure of the City's budget to account for the full costs of removal largely spring from inadequacies in the City's 2019 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS represents the City's principal attempt to evaluate the costs and challenges associated with removal. The original \$1 million removal budget appropriated by the Council last September directly tracked the EIS's estimated removal costs. This \$1 million figure was based solely on the costs of the helicopter operations

to physically detach and remove the Stairs modules from the ridgeline. FHS questions this estimate. Nakoa, the very company cited in the EIS, estimated helicopter costs in 2011 as almost triple the EIS figure. FHS questions how helicopter costs have declined since then, especially given inflation and skyrocketing gas prices.

Furthermore, the EIS itself makes clear that additional expenditures will be required that go well beyond helicopters. The full extent of these additional costs remains to be evaluated and properly budgeted for. However, a few examples illustrate the EIS's incomplete accounting:

First, the Ha'ikū Stairs occupy a critical conservation habitat with federally protected endangered flora and fauna in the immediate vicinity. The EIS explicitly acknowledges that "removal of Ha'ikū Stairs has the potential to impact endangered plant species." It also notes potential impacts on endangered native bird species, invertebrates, and bats. The EIS calls for further studies by a qualified biologist to assess these risks and determine appropriate mitigation measures. The City's failure to undertake such necessary steps and its failure to budget for the costs is concerning. If threatened and endangered species are likely to be harmed by the Stairs removal, the City will need to formulate a Habitat Conservation Plan and obtain an Incidental Take Permit under both state and federal law before any take happens. The costs of such planning, permitting, and mitigation measures can easily total well over \$1 million. Going through this process will likely take at least a year before any removal work can begin.

Second: the City removal budget fails to account for the potentially significant engineering challenges to prevent landslides and control erosion. The Ha'ikū Stairs occupy extremely hostile terrain, with near vertical, exposed cliff faces lashed by pelting rain and up-to-100 mph winds. The underlying soil and rock is inherently unstable. The EIS itself acknowledges that landslides are known to have occurred in the vicinity of the Haiku Stairs and elsewhere along the Ko'olau Pali and Windward districts.

The EIS suggests erosion issues can be addressed by applying standard grading measures following "best management practices." Yet, there is nothing standard about working in this harsh, unstable terrain. Access is restricted to helicopter; heavy equipment cannot reach the project site; and weather-related interruptions will pose a constant challenge. At minimum, erosion controls measures would cost at least \$4.3 million, according to Chris Dacus, a landscape architect who oversaw public works projects for both the City and State government. However, the full costs could easily be higher.

Ripping a staircase off the side of a steep, rain-soaked mountain will be risky and complicated in myriad ways and may initiate landslides such as those we recently encountered at the Pali Highway tunnels, for example. Tons of soil and rock have piled up against the stair modules over the decades. Failing to take adequate precautions could precipitate a collapse.

At minimum, the engineering and construction costs entailed need to be assessed. The Pali Highway repairs were budgeted at \$20 million and took several months to complete. Unlike the Pali Highway repairs, which dealt only with natural erosive forces, the Stairs demolition entails an active intervention to remove an 80-year structure anchored to a ridgeline that rises over 2300 feet and 2.2 miles from valley floor to summit.

Furthermore, this is a matter of public safety, not just cost— human lives and property are at stake. Unlike the Pali tunnels, hundreds of homes and a school lie directly below the Stairs project site. The City's failure to grapple seriously with the costs, safety risks, and engineering challenges is concerning to FHS. We hope that the Council will agree that even if the risk of a catastrophic collapse is low, it needs to be addressed before proceeding with demolition.

The shortcomings and omissions in the City's budget and planning go beyond these examples. FHS has compiled a long list of hidden costs, unanswered questions, and potential obstacles. Other essential, but unaccounted for costs include the "temporary and permanent sediment control measures" that the EIS contemplates, the costs of revegetating the denuded hillside once the Stairs are removed, and continuing security expenses. Further potential obstacles include toxicology concerns, a historic preservation covenant (which the EIS entirely overlooks), required State and Federal permitting, and potential lawsuits.

All these issues need to be addressed before proceeding further toward demolition. The City Council should pause its demolition funding and protect O'ahu taxpayers from a potentially costly mistake. The last thing we need is to blunder into another open-ended public works project where planning failures lead to costly overruns, especially where a better alternative awaits: a complete, zero-cost solution that was not on the table last September.

The costs and concerns surrounding demolition can be entirely avoided if the City and County move forward with a community non-profit managed access plan for the Stairs. FHS is partnering with a diverse array of stakeholders and civic organizations who are

committed to solving the problem and preserving the Stairs for future generations. The Ha'ikū Stairs are a historically significant World II monument and iconic Windward landmark, whose majestic views have thrilled generations of kama'āina families. A majority of the O'ahu and Windward public supports keeping this popular destination open. When the issue of demolition was before the Council in September 2021, 1,338 citizens took their time to submit testimony opposing the Stairs removal—representing over 90% of submitted comments.

The City's rush to removal is especially troubling given the emergence of a promising new, community-driven alternative solution. Instead of spending taxpayer money to destroy a priceless, historic monument, the City Council should take stock of the potential for a win-win solution that can solve the problem without the need for any public funding. In the six months since the Council voted for demolition budget, we have brought together local community members, Native Hawaiian groups, and other key stakeholders to develop a new vision for Haikū Valley that includes preservation of the Haikū Stairs for future generations through a non-profit, community-driven managed access plan. The plan allows for controlled public access in a safe, environmentally sustainable manner that respects traditional cultural protocols, fully protects the City from costs and liability, eliminates trespassing and disturbances to valley residents, and provides safe and sustainable public access and parking that avoids residential neighborhoods.

Momentum behind this new collaborative vision continues to build. Given the chance, we can fully resolve the issues surrounding Haikū Stairs in a positive manner that generates local jobs and community investment. The Friends of Ha'ikū Stairs urges the City Council to slow down and fully account for the costs and challenges of destroying the Stairs. Once you have done so, FHS is confident you will see the advantages offered by preservation over demolition.

The Friends of Haikū Stairs is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit group that was formed in 1987. Their mission is to protect the historic Haikū Stairs and its environment for current and future generations.

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September 7, 2021

To: Honolulu City Council

From: Craig Thomas, MD

Aloha,

I'm strongly opposed to the removal of the Haiku Stairs which are a state treasure.

In the thirty-eight years I've worked in the Castle Emergency Department I have never treated an injury from the Haiku stairs. This is a stark contrast to the Pillbox trail, Olomana Peak or Maunawili Falls where injuries and medevacs are common, and deaths occur.

An avid hiker I first climbed the stairs twenty-five years ago, a fantastic experience and clearly the best Ko'olau summit trail complete with handrails – fantastic.

Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Craig Thomas", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Craig Thomas, MD

President, HEPA