

BILL014(22)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 225

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jun 1, 2022 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 5

Oppose: 34

I wish to comment: 3

Name: Jay Morford	Email: jay.morford@dignitymemorial.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association	Position: Support	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 08:17 AM

Name: Rick Egged	Email: tmawaikiki@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Waikiki Transportation Management Association	Position: Support	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 05:32 PM

Name: Viktor Savchenko	Email: neolo@usa.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 06:30 PM

Testimony:
Haiku stairs demolition should not be funded. Stairs should be repaired and opened to public as a historical point instead. This will preserve it's historical value, save plants being damaged by hikers from the ridge side and during demolishing, as well as will be lower cost.

Name: Victoria Hawkins	Email: vromanello@icloud.com	Zip: 96786
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 06:32 PM

Testimony:
I oppose the demolition of the Haiku Stairs. The demolition would be costly when the state has bigger issues than removing the stairs. The stairs could actually be a great way to create revenue for the state to help with homeless population and fixing the roads.. Even if the stairs are removed, people would still climb the ridge as they have been doing since the stairs became illegal. This would be a complete waste of the states funds that could be allocated in a better more productive way.

Name: Aleksandr Bykov	Email: abrp722@gmail.com	Zip: 96825
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 06:33 PM

Testimony:
I oppose demolishing of the historic Ha'ik Stairs. Destroying the Stairs won't stop people climbing the ridge.

Name: Emma Boyer-Shaul	Email: ebshaul@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 06:44 PM

Testimony:
Aloha, I am writing to oppose the demotion of the Haiku Stairs. 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. 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. I truly hope that you will listen to your constituents on this issue.

Name: Jonathan Shaul	Email: jonahshaul@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Oppose	May 31, 2022 @ 06:48 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I am writing to oppose the allocation of money to demolish the Haiku Stairs. I feel it is a foolish way to spend tax payer money. The stairs are iconic and have historical significance to our state. Why wouldn't we try to work towards creating a legal way to access the stairs?</p>		
Name: Laura Crane	Email: lauralynncrane@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 06:55 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 Estern 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 Citycouncil 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 deserves to be heard, as this is 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. Not a demolition that would be completely performed on a mountain ridgeline by a helicopter.</p> <p>The second issue is the historical significance, 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 second world 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.</p> <p>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; not a demolition item on a poorly crafted budget.</p>		
Name: Eric Merkel	Email: eric.merkel@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 07:02 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I oppose the budget as it relates to the removal if the Haiku Stairs.</p> <p>The Value of the Stairs: The Haik Stairs are an iconic landmark, a historic monument, and a testament to heroic engineering.</p> <p>Costs of Demolition: Removing the Stairs would be costly and dangerous. The full cost will total in the millions. There are also serious legal, environmental, and safety concerns to be reckoned with.</p> <p>Removal Won't Work: Destroying the Stairs won't stop people climbing the ridge, especially as the City plans to leave behind a ready-made scaffolding for climbers to attach ropes and scramble up the mountain.</p> <p>Public Wants to Save the Stairs: Two unanimous Kne'ohe Neighborhood Board Resolutions in support; thousands or people have testified island-wide to support saving the Stairs; latest 2022 poll shows 55% of Windward residents in favor of preserving the Stairs.</p> <p>Managed Access is the Answer: end trespassing and provide public access in a safe, environmentally sustainable manner that</p>		

respects Hawaiian cultural protocols and bypasses residential homes. Managed Access would cost taxpayers nothing and would generate local jobs and investment in the community.

Name: Celeste Rogers	Email: teroger@pixi.com	Zip: 96707-3101
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 07:07 PM

Testimony:

The Ha'ik Stairs are an iconic landmark, a historic monument, and a testament to heroic engineering. Destroying the Stairs won't stop people climbing the ridge, especially as the City plans to leave behind a ready-made scaffolding for climbers to attach ropes and scramble up the mountain. Doing that will be much more hazardous than climbing the Stairs. Also, the neighborhood surrounding that ridge will still have hikers parking along their streets and walking through their yards. Removing the Stairs would be costly and dangerous. The full cost will total in the millions. There are also serious legal, environmental, and safety concerns to be reckoned with.

The public wants to save the Stairs. Two unanimous Kne'ohe Neighborhood Board Resolutions in support; thousands of people have testified island-wide to support saving the Stairs; latest 2022 poll shows 55% of Windward residents in favor of preserving the Stairs. Managed access is the best solution: end trespassing and provide public access in a safe, environmentally sustainable manner that respects Hawaiian cultural protocols and bypasses residential homes. Managed access would cost taxpayers nothing and would generate local jobs and investment in the community. Let's do the smart, safe thing.

Name: Lorien Kuster	Email: kuster.lorien@yahoo.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 07:08 PM

Testimony:

The Haik Stairs are an iconic landmark, a historic monument, and a testament to heroic engineering.

Removing the Stairs would be costly and dangerous. The full cost will total in the millions. There are also serious legal, environmental, and safety concerns to be reckoned with.

Destroying the Stairs won't stop people climbing the ridge, especially as the City plans to leave behind a ready-made scaffolding for climbers to attach ropes and scramble up the mountain.

Two unanimous Kne'ohe Neighborhood Board Resolutions in support; thousands of people have testified island-wide to support saving the Stairs; latest 2022 poll shows 55% of Windward residents in favor of preserving the Stairs.

End trespassing and provide public access in a safe, environmentally sustainable manner that respects Hawaiian cultural protocols and bypasses residential homes. Managed access would cost taxpayers nothing and would generate local jobs and investment in the community.

Name: Cheryl Goody	Email: csgoody@mac.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 07:18 PM

Testimony:

I have lived in the Kaneohe area for over 40 years. The Haiku Stairs are one of the most important sites in this area for many reasons: important place in history both state and national, important for Hawaiian native plants, and an important resource for generations to come. The cost to remove is wasted money that could be spent on constructive projects instead. There are definite ways to manage access and make a profit too! Please save this one of a kind treasure!

Name: Ariel Halperin	Email: ari.halp@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 07:30 PM

Testimony:

The Haik Stairs are an iconic landmark, a historic monument, and a testament to heroic engineering. Removing the Stairs would be costly and dangerous. The full cost will total in the millions. There are also serious legal, environmental, and safety concerns to be reckoned with. Destroying the Stairs won't stop people climbing the ridge, especially as the City plans to leave behind a ready-made scaffolding for climbers to attach ropes and scramble up the mountain. Two unanimous Kne'ohe Neighborhood Board Resolutions in support; thousands of people have testified island-wide to support saving the Stairs; latest 2022 poll shows 55% of Windward residents in favor of preserving the Stairs.

I believe managed Access is the answer to end trespassing and provide public access in a safe, environmentally sustainable manner that respects Hawaiian cultural protocols and bypasses residential homes. Managed Access would cost taxpayers nothing and would generate local jobs and investment in the community.

Name: Lois Crozer	Email: lbc@hawaiiantel.net	Zip: 96734-3274
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 07:38 PM

Testimony:

These stairs should be managed just like all the other trails. IF it's managed, there won't be problems in the neighborhood. People will go around the back if you take these down, and that's treacherous. PLEASE MANAGE THIS TRAIL.

Name: Sarah Hausman	Email: Sarahhausman23@hotmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 09:08 PM

Testimony:

I oppose budgeting to dismantle the Haiku Stairs and believe options to maintain and open them should be explored.

Name: Yong Mei	Email: nell.yong.mei@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 09:12 PM

Testimony:

The Value of the Stairs: The Haik Stairs are an iconic landmark, a historic monument, and a testament to heroic engineering.

Costs of Demolition: Removing the Stairs would be costly and dangerous. The full cost will total in the millions. There are also serious legal, environmental, and safety concerns to be reckoned with.

Removal Won't Work: Destroying the Stairs won't stop people climbing the ridge, especially as the City plans to leave behind a ready-made scaffolding for climbers to attach ropes and scramble up the mountain.

Public Wants to Save the Stairs: Two unanimous Kne'ohe Neighborhood Board Resolutions in support; thousands of people have testified island-wide to support saving the Stairs; latest 2022 poll shows 55% of Windward residents in favor of preserving the Stairs.

Managed Access is the Answer: end trespassing and provide public access in a safe, environmentally sustainable manner that respects Hawaiian cultural protocols and bypasses residential homes. Managed Access would cost taxpayers nothing and would generate local jobs and investment in the community.

Name: Teiji Chiba	Email: teiji@gmx.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 09:37 PM

Testimony:

I oppose the passing of this budget. This budget allocates 1.3 million dollars of taxpayer money for the destruction of the Haiku Stairs, which I along with thousands of Oahu residents strongly oppose.

The Haiku Stairs is a historically significant marvel that is known worldwide and is the only one of its kind that exists anywhere. It is more than just a recreational spot; it is a structure of great historical and educational importance. It is irresponsible to call for its destruction when alternatives, such as managed access, exist and would be cheaper to implement.

Removal will not ease the problem of trespassing in the Haiku community whereas managed access will. The actual cost of removal will far exceed the estimated 1.3 million dollars and will over time become an increasingly large burden on taxpayers. Removal will cause irreparable harm to the landscape as it opens up the ground beneath the stairs to erosion and exposure to invasive species.

The passing of this budget ought to be opposed until the allocation for the destruction of Haiku Stairs is removed from it. The money will be better spent if put towards efforts to repair and open up the Stairs.

Thank you for your time.

Name: SUSAN THAIN	Email: susietrain@hawaiiantel.net	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 09:50 PM

Testimony:

Oppose providing money to destroy the Haiku Stairs, a true treasure already installed and a viable treasure.

Use funding to secure a parking venue, a reservation and collection process for admission fees, and a fund for renovations and repairs over the life time of use and enjoyment!

Name: Jesse Palmer	Email: jdp078@gmail.com	Zip: 96762
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 09:50 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Council,

The decision to remove the Haiku stairs is short-sighted. Properly managed, the Haiku Stairs could be an attraction that people would come to Hawaii to do. They are an incredible asset for the people of Hawaii and the world. It is a tragedy that they should be removed because we cannot figure out how to properly manage them.

Name: Jessamy Hornor	Email: jessamyhornor@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Ocean Safety 'Ohana	Position: Support	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 10:16 PM

Testimony:

Ocean Safety 'Ohana is a community advocacy organization that supports increased ocean safety education and outreach, and it also represents the unique perspective of families who have lost loved ones to the ocean. We support an increased budget for the Division of Ocean Safety because it is an investment in saving lives as well as our ocean legacy in Hawaii.

Name: Beth Anderson	Email: Kailua5@aol.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Hui Kawainui Kailua Ka Wai Ola	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 10:24 PM

Testimony:

Aloha City Council Members,

I oppose allocating 1.3 million dollars to the City budget to remove Haiku Stairs. Why waste millions of dollars of taxpayer money to destroy a precious resource, destroy native species, and possibly create dangerous erosion and landslides on this ridge when there is absolutely no logical reason to do so. This is irresponsible, destructive, expensive, and absolutely unnecessary. It almost seems as though the Council has lost all perspective on what they are proposing to do when it comes to Haiku Stairs. What is this obsession with tearing down Haiku Stairs? There are huge problems on this island that need to be addressed. The list is endless and it should not include destroying a beloved hiking trail for residents that has a comprehensive access management

plan ready to go. How did Haiku Stairs even make the list when we need to fix homelessness, crime, gun violence, the high cost of living, brain drain, lack of school teachers and resources (no new books in many schools!), shoddy school facilities and grounds in disrepair and classrooms needing air conditioning, the lack of nurses, doctors, EMTs, police, life guards, social workers and other professionals, inequity, how to get Oahu to 100% renewable energy and achieve sustainability, lack of successful agricultural resources and the ability to provide much higher percentages of locally produced food, overcrowding, over development on precious, scarce open lands instead of urban renewal, a failing rail construction project draining city funds, child poverty in this state, lack of social services, a very troubled foster care system that needs serious attention and resources, mental health and drug treatment programs, neglected natural resources without enough staff to care for and manage them, and more.

Why did destroying Haiku Stairs get priority as a necessary expense to put in the City Budget? This is absurd. Why would you take something like this away from taxpayers—a valuable, spectacular resource, and a structure that provides access to education, environmental studies, stewardship, cultural history, and the restoration and preservation of native plants and the removal of invasive plants on this ridge. It is important to maintain this access in order to protect the native plants there. The City has been irresponsible and neglected to steward this fragile area and has allowed damage there to occur over the years and invasive plants to start taking over. Graduate students from the University, native plant specialists, and professors should be brought into this area to determine how to restore it.

Instead, you are proposing to destroy an historic structure that is an iconic hike known the world over for its breathtakingly beautiful views. Why would you take this resource away from residents and future generations and spend millions of dollars of taxpayer money to do so? Why aren't you actually doing something for Hawaii residents and future generations with our taxpayer money like providing needed new parks, new trails, building a cultural, historical, environmental educational preservation park in Haiku Valley that includes the Haiku Stairs, other trails and pathways in the area, as well as restrooms, parking, an interpretative center, a cultural center, native species restoration and stewardship programs, managed staff, and entry fees for out of state visitors? Managed access would take care of the area, end trespassing, allow public access in a safe, environmentally sustainable manner, end neighborhood problems and would cost taxpayers nothing, generate jobs and create investment in the community. If the Council can't conceive of how important saving this area for residents is, maybe you should transfer the land to the State DLNR. They protect our resources, trail networks, and parks for residents and understand their intrinsic value. Hiking trails, parks, bike pathways, recreational and cultural facilities, and access to natural resources contributes to higher quality of life for taxpayers. Taking away hiking trails and access to recreational opportunities is detrimental.

The public wants to save the stairs. A majority of island wide residents always give overwhelming majority testimony (near 90% + in recent years) in support of saving the stairs, but for some reason the City is determined to include destroying special natural resources and hiking trails to its budget and agenda. A 2022 poll shows 55 percent of Windward residents are in favor of preserving the stairs. I would assume it is much higher judging from the amount of supportive testimony submitted to the Council over the years. The Kaneohe Neighborhood Board passed two unanimous Resolutions in favor of preserving the stairs. The Koolaupoko Sustainability Plan demands preserving scenic views, scenic trails, outdoor recreational resources, and preserving natural, cultural and historical resources. Tearing down Haiku Stairs goes against everything the plan promotes.

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Anderson
Board Member, Hui Kawainui Kailua Ka Wai Ola
Founding Board Member, Hui Maunawili Kawainui
Member, Ahahui Mlama I ka Lkahi
Member, Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club
Member, Sierra Club Hawaii
Member, Friends of Haiku Stairs

Name: Lawrence Sarm	Email: las808@yahoo.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 10:42 PM

Testimony:
The Value of the Stairs. The Haik Stairs are an iconic landmark, a historic monument. Removing the Stairs would be costly and dangerous. The full cost will total in the millions. There are also serious legal, environmental, and safety concerns. Destroying the Stairs won't stop people climbing the ridge, especially as the City plans to leave behind a ready-made scaffolding for climbers to attach ropes and scramble up the mountain. Public Wants to Save the Stairs. Two unanimous Kne'ohe Neighborhood Board

Resolutions in support; thousands of people have testified island-wide to support saving the Stairs; latest 2022 poll shows 55% of Windward residents in favor of preserving the Stairs. Managed Access, end trespassing and provide public access in a safe, environmentally sustainable manner that respects Hawaiian cultural protocols and bypasses residential homes. Managed Access would cost taxpayers nothing and would generate local jobs and investment in the community.

Name: Gladys Carey	Email: ginger.carey@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 11:09 PM

Testimony:

I am a resident of Ha'ik Village and I oppose the passing of the budget to demolish the Ha'ik Stairs. I have resided in Ha'ik Village for over 42 years.

The stairs are a landmark. Removal will not stop people from climbing the ridge but will make it dangerous. Spending 1.3 million or more to make climbing the ridge dangerous does not make sense to me.

The Kne'ohe Neighborhood Board resolution in favor of halting demolition of the Ha'ik Stairs for one year is the plan that I favor. During this time, concerns can be addressed and solutions developed. Already, managed access plans developed by the community are well underway.

A recent survey shows that the majority of your constituents who have an opinion regarding the stairs would like to see them saved. It breaks my heart to think that this Windward treasure will be demolished. Managed access is the win-win solution we can have if you will give it the opportunity to be developed.

Thank you.

Name: Janelly Del Pinal	Email: janellydelpinal@gmail.com	Zip: 94404
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 11:19 PM

Testimony:

Please do not destroy a piece of history. It doesn't make sense spending more than a million dollars on removing stairs that are apart of history. Please use that money for REAL SOCIETAL PROBLEMS. There are mouths to feed and cure and people are worried about a beautiful, stunning masterpiece. Please stop being greedy and money hungry. Use this time to evaluate why you would ever destroy history.

Name: Richard Wainscoat	Email: wainscoat@me.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: May 31, 2022 @ 11:54 PM

Testimony:

I am strongly opposed to the allocation of funds to remove the Haiku Stairs. It is clear that the removal of the stairs will cost many times more than the \$1.3 million in the present budget.

Instead, please work towards a managed access program.

Have any of the council members who are voting on this ever climbed the stairs? Please don't destroy them without first climbing them.

Name: Shiyana Thenabadu	Email: shiyanat@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 12:01 AM

Testimony:

I am strongly opposed to the allocation of funds to destroy the Haiku Stairs. Removal of the stairs will obviously cost much more than \$1.3 million.

Instead, please work towards a managed access program. The stairs are a unique hiking trail. They provide a safe way to get to the summit of the Koolau ridge.

Please don't give in to a few loud whining individuals. Please educate yourselves by climbing the stairs before voting to destroy them.

Please understand that removing the stairs will cause erosion and remove easy access for conservationists to monitor native and invasive plants in the adjacent area. It will also remove the ability to educate our reiki and any one interested in native flora and fauna and the Koolaus. Please understand that the stairs are a historical treasure built by the military that have stood strong for over 50 years. Destroying the stairs is an affront to not only military personnel, but everyone in the state of Hawaii. Don't let this be your legacy.

Name: Gretchen Gould	Email: gretchen.gould@stanfordalumni.org	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 12:39 AM

Testimony:

Bill 14: Destruction of Haiku Stairs

I beg the Council to reconsider this measure in the budget. The price just keeps going up and we hear that even more will be needed and the price tag will go to \$3 or \$4 million!! What a waste when you are destroying a perfectly good way to take one of the most awesome and safest hikes on the Island!!

Do you want to go the way of transit and keep seeing a bigger bill to get the entire job finished? Do you really want to spend your constituents' money to destroy something rather than spending it on a needed project in your district?? Think what 3 or 4 million dollars could do toward positive things!!

The bulk of the people want the Haiku Stairs to stay and you should be accommodating that wish by helping "The Friends" provide parking and safe transport to the Stairs and hiring someone to collect money to pay for it. This will keep people out of the neighborhoods and cut down on casual troublemakers. We need more parks and trails on this Island. Compared to other states like Colorado and California where there are miles and miles of hiking trails to beautiful places and around bodies of water, we have very few. Compare us to Europe where the towns and villages are very old, but they still have made or preserved beautiful hiking trails and open spaces.

You have a second chance here to do the right thing this time! VOTE NO to wasting of money on tearing down the repaired and safe Haiku Stairs! Mahalo, Gretchen Gould, Kaneohe

Name: Richard Marshall	Email: richsmar@msn.com	Zip: 96782
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 12:54 AM

Testimony:

Council Members,

I find it difficult to understand why I have to continue providing testimony in favor of preserving Haiku Stairs for current and future generations to enjoy when polls continue to verify the majority of opinion favors managed access to this historical trail. Why is the Council and Mayor ignoring the opinion of those who elected them to office? I've been waiting to be able to climb these stairs with my family and friends,

Tearing the stairs down just brings a whole set of new issues down the road. Erosion, invasive species not being maintained, people attempting to climb an unmaintained trail among other issues. Controlled access for the use of this scenic historical trail is well worth the investment for future citizens enjoyment.

An April 22, 2022, Kaneohe Neighborhood Board (KNB) Resolution recognized the serious risks and unanswered questions surrounding the City's planned demolition. It called for the City to halt demolition plans for a year to undertake more in-depth planning and budgeting and also to allow time for community stakeholders to put forward a managed access plan for Ha'ik Stairs. Is the Council listening to the work of it's Neighborhood Boards?

Please consider information provided by Friends of Haiku Stairs along with previous EIS statements favoring preserving Haiku Stairs when it comes time for you to cast your vote on Wednesday. I know it won't be easy to take a stand against removal at this point, yet someone on the Council should be standing up for being Pono, along with being fiscally responsible, you could be that person. I will be watching your vote Wednesday to SAVE HAIKU STAIRS please, to help me decide my vote during future elections.

Mahalo,
Richard Marshall
Pearl City HI

Name: Brynn Gute	Email: bgute22@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 01:18 AM

Testimony:
I oppose passage of the budget. The cost for the removal of the Haiku stairs is not justifiable. These stairs should be preserved and steps should be taken to set up managed access so that the public can legally and safely access a breathtaking, special area in a way that minimizes inconveniences to the homeowners affected. This project will likely require more money than is budgeted for. This money is better spent on other areas such as education, infrastructure, or maintenance of other trails.

Name: Harmony Bentosino	Email: harmonyrainbow5@yahoo.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 06:12 AM

Testimony:
The stairs are an iconic landmark, an historical monument, and a feat of engineering. The cost of demolition is in the millions and rising. There are legal, environmental, and safety issues to be considered if the stairs are removed.
Removal will not work because trespassing will continue, and it will be much more dangerous without the stairs to provide safety. The stairs are the safest hike on the island because there is a railing, and you cannot get lost.
The public wants to save the stairs. There have been two unanimous Neighborhood board resolutions to save them. Thousands have testified, and 55% of Windward residents want to save them.
Managed access is the answer to end trespassing and provide a safe hike that respects Hawaiian protocols and by passes residential homes. It will cost tax payers nothing, and provide local jobs.
The stairs are a wonder to climb for the adventure of a life time!

Name: Michael Garsva	Email: mwg75@sbcglobal.net	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 07:10 AM

Testimony:
I oppose the destruction of the Haiku stairs. It will cost 5-10 times what is initially budgeted and that money will be much better spent fixing them up. It is a beautiful and unique Hawaiian treasure. Please support the Haiku stairs!

Name: Lisa Lum	Email: lisaannlum822@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 07:17 AM

Testimony:
My family & I all oppose the tearing down of the haiku stairs. Not only would it just be a waste of time and money (I don't want my tax dollars to pay for this!), it'll mean the destruction of such an iconic landmark!

Making it public domain and maintaining it would be a much better (and MUCH less costly!) solution.

Name: DeVaughn Ward	Email: devaughn.ward@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 07:32 AM

Testimony:
My name is DeVaughn Ward. I was born in Honolulu and currently reside in Waikiki on Ala Wai Boulevard. I strongly oppose this

measure as it includes funding to demolish the Haiku Stairway. The Haiku Stairway is a beautiful outdoor landmark that should remain intact. As many have mentioned, the site has not been the cause of litigation and the \$1.3 million dollar price tag to remove this structure is a complete waste of taxpayer dollars that could be better spent on addressing real quality of life issues like homelessness or food insecurity. I respectfully request the council reconsider this portion of the budget measure and find a solution to provide access to this public treasure.

Sincerely,
DeVaughn Ward

Name: Arlene Twomey	Email: lanitwomey@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 08:13 AM

Testimony:

I strongly oppose tearing down the Haiku Stairs at this time.

Please do not budget any further taxpayer funds to tearing down Haiku Stairs. As the recent Star Advertiser article and Friends of Haiku Stairs poll shows, when people actually hear about managed access, they want to save the stairs. A managed access plan is worth a try! It is an opportunity for community healing. If it works, everyone is happy because the hike remains and the neighbors are no longer disturbed. If it fails, then we can remove the stairs knowing we tried everything we could and there will be no more community rupture. I do not want the neighbors near the stairs disturbed, and I do not want the stairs torn down. Managed access is worth a shot!

Let's follow the Haena and Hanauma implementation models for a successful win-win for our people, the tourists and our economy. This is a world class experience that we need to save for our children and grandchildren.

Aloha, Arlene "Lani" Twomey

Name: Kathy Mara	Email: kguzman18@yahoo.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 08:20 AM

Testimony:

end trespassing and provide public access in a safe, environmentally sustainable manner that respects Hawaiian cultural protocols and bypasses residential homes. Managed Access would cost taxpayers nothing and would generate local jobs and investment in the community.

Name: K L McGlone	Email: kmcglone@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 08:20 AM

Testimony:

I oppose destruction of the Haiku Stairs.

I support a restoration of the Haiku Stairs, which is a unique resource.

Name: Stephanie Kendrick	Email: skendrick@hawaiianhumane.org	Zip: 96826
Representing: Hawaiian Humane Society	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 08:33 AM

Name: Holly Sevier	Email: hsevier@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96744
Representing: Kneohe Neighborhood Board; Friends of Haik Stairs	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 08:50 AM

Testimony:

I have lived in Haik Valley for 18 years and served on the Neighborhood Board for 10 years. Like many of my neighbors and like the Kneoe Neighborhood Board, I strongly oppose funding the destruction of the Haik Stairs. They are a priceless, historic, Windward treasure and should be saved and reopened under managed access. Removal will cost millions, cause environmental destruction, and will not stop people trespassing through yards in order to access the mountains. The Kneoe Neighborhood Board has now passed two resolutions supporting saving the Stairs. Do the sensible thing and do not fund destruction. Mahalo nui, Holly Sevier

Name: Brian Seabaugh	Email: brianseabaugh@gmail.com	Zip: 96744-2706
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 09:02 AM

Testimony:

The Value of the Stairs: The Haik Stairs are an iconic landmark, a historic monument, and a testament to heroic engineering.

Costs of Demolition: Removing the Stairs would be costly and dangerous. The full cost will total in the millions. There are also serious legal, environmental, and safety concerns to be reckoned with.

Removal Won't Work: Destroying the Stairs won't stop people climbing the ridge, especially as the City plans to leave behind a ready-made scaffolding for climbers to attach ropes and scramble up the mountain.

Public Wants to Save the Stairs: Two unanimous Kne'ohe Neighborhood Board Resolutions in support; thousands of people have testified island-wide to support saving the Stairs; latest 2022 poll shows 55% of Windward residents in favor of preserving the Stairs.

Managed Access is the Answer: end trespassing and provide public access in a safe, environmentally sustainable manner that respects Hawaiian cultural protocols and bypasses residential homes. Managed Access would cost taxpayers nothing and would generate local jobs and investment in the community.

Name: Robert Cavaco	Email: rcavaco@shopohawaii.org	Zip: 96819
Representing: State of Hawaii of Organization of Police Officers	Position: Support	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 09:31 AM

Testimony:

In support

Name: Carolina Cozzatti	Email: carolinacozzatti@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 09:46 AM

Testimony:

I opposed to the removal of the Haiku Stairs mostly for the great symbol and landmark it represents to Hawaii. Removing the stairs won't work and will probably only make it more dangerous for people and tourists who WILL attempt to climb the ridge. Thousands of Hawaiian residents have showed their support on keeping the stairs. Removing the stairs will be more expensive than promoting a smart plan for Managed Access, ending trespassing and providing public access and a safe, sustainable way.

Name: Lucas Lima	Email: lucascinema@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jun 1, 2022 @ 09:56 AM

Testimony:

Aloha! Please do not remove the Haik Stairs, it's a historic monument! It would be a waste of resources/money as well. Managing the access instead would be a much better solution for the community.
Mahalo nui!





Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association, Inc.

1330 Maunakea Street, Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

May 31, 2022

Tommy Waters

Chair & Presiding Officer

Esther Kia'aina

Vice Chair

Honolulu City Council Members

Council Regular Meeting – June 1, 2022 10:00AM

Re: **SUPPORT** - Bill 14 (2022) CD2

City Management Amendment relating to "Death Benefit" Reimbursement for Citizens of the Freely Associated States

- **Amendment increased to \$2,500,000**

Dear Chair Waters,

The Hawaii Funeral & Cemetery Association, Inc. is a Domestic Nonprofit Corporation, comprised of 12 independent Board of Directors representing 14 mortuaries and 10 cemeteries that serve the largest majority of Hawaii's families. We would like to give our support on the Death Reimbursement amendment that would help families of the Freely Associated States that were unable to qualify for the FEMA Reimbursement program for Covid related deaths. The FEMA reimbursement program provided up to \$9000 that, if qualified could be reimbursed to a family that incurred funeral and burial expenses.

The current management amendment of \$2,500,000 is appreciated and we believe will be very helpful covering actual funeral and cemetery cost of families we believe affected.

In addition, due to gathering restrictions and travel lockdowns families were unable to transport their loved ones back to their home (overseas). The transcontinental air-transport of decedents was shut down for a long period of time due to country lock-downs. This placed added stress on families, including added cost depending on their decisions to burial in Hawaii permanently, or temporarily until restrictions were lifted. The last two years have been extremely difficult on Hawaii families that had a death, "Covid or non-covid related deaths" families not only had to go through the grief of loss, they were not allowed to have their customary traditional "spiritual and religious ceremonies" due to the State and County restrictions, this just added to their grief.

Based on the mortality rate data gathered by the Hawaii State Department of Health,

https://health.hawaii.gov/coronavirusdisease2019/tableau_dashboard/mortality-data/ as of May 4th 2022 there have been 1391 Statewide covid related deaths; "1043 Honolulu County". (Attached exhibit) The primary race affected were Filipino - 329 deaths, Pacific Islander - 224 deaths, Japanese – 226 deaths and Native Hawaiian - 252 deaths. I think it's a fair statement to estimate that a large percentage of the Pacific Islander deaths would not have qualified for the FEMA reimbursement program and are citizens of the Freely Associated States.

This is a opportunity to help families that did not qualify for the FEMA reimbursement program. We suggest the current Death Benefit Amendment be increased to match FEMA's \$9000 per qualifying family and is budgeted for approximately 224 families and families affected in the future. We support the current amendment of \$2,500,000

Note: Fema qualifications should be used as a guideline to qualify families for the Honolulu County Reimbursement Program.

Thank you for the consideration,

Jay Morford
Sincerely,

Jay Morford – President



Summary of COVID-19 Deaths, Hawaii 2022

Last Updated Wednesday, May 4, 2022 (updated weekly)

Click the info icon for
notes on this data



1,391

Total Number of Deaths*

10

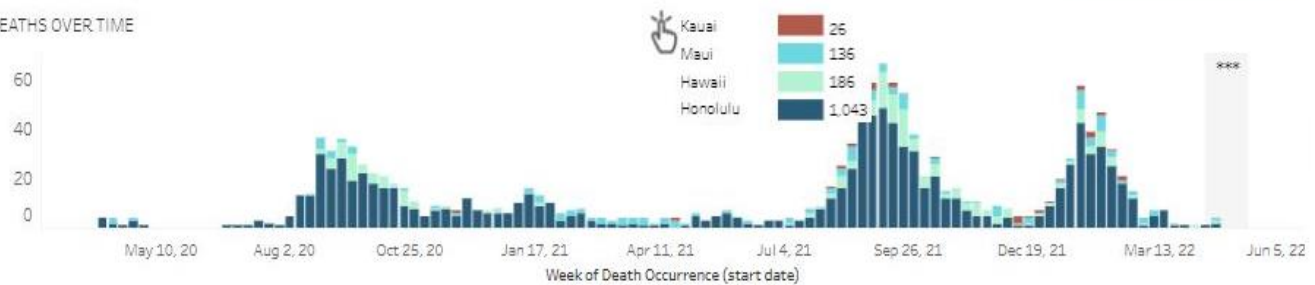
New Deaths Reported in Last 7 Days**

Click on the orange button to view deaths
reported in the last 7 days



New Deaths

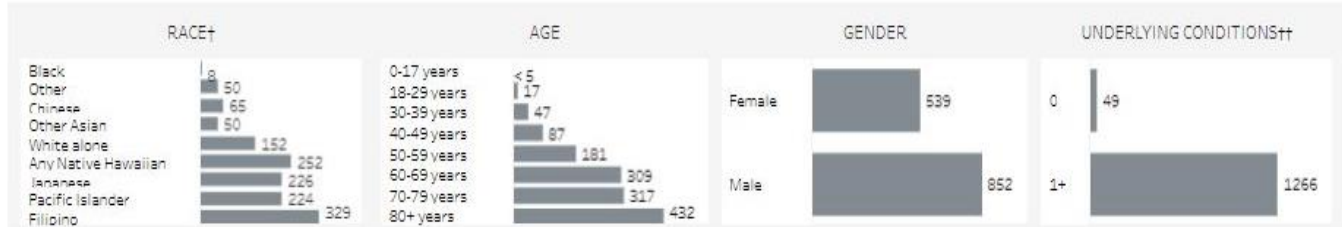
DEATHS OVER TIME



Select Metric: Hover over the 'i' to read metric descriptions



Count (n)



Selected Metric: Count (n)



Waikiki Transportation Management Special Improvement District

*Making Waikiki better,
One curb at a time.*

TESTIMONY OF RICK EGGED

President, Waikiki Transportation Management Special Improvement District
Before The
Honolulu City Council
Wednesday, June 1, 2022

In **SUPPORT** of

BILL 14(2022), CD2 Relating to the Executive Operating Budget and Program
for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2022, to June 30, 2023

Aloha Chair Waters and Council Members,

In my capacity as the President of the Waikiki Transportation Management Special Improvement District (WTMSID), I am submitting testimony in strong support of Bill 14 (2022), CD2.

Waikiki sits at the heart of Honolulu's tourism economy. The special improvement district was created to assist in preserving this unique resource. The Waikiki Transportation Management Association (WTMA) was established to coordinate and assist in the management of certain transportation operations within the WTMSID. The goal of the Special Improvement District is to improve the long-term sustainability of transportation and traffic solutions in Waikiki. Coordination is necessary to achieve this goal because of the numerous stakeholders that use transportation infrastructure.

The WTMSID is a public-private partnership including the City, business, residents, landowners and managers, and the freight and private passenger providers. We are grateful to have the Mayor, City Council, and other City officials represented on the WTMSID Board of Directors.

Identifying the funding for the WTMSID to fulfill the purpose of Ordinance 17-58 will go a long way in addressing the concerns and complaints about traffic safety problems in Waikiki. In looking ahead, I continue to have high expectations for what will be accomplished in the coming fiscal year. Those expectations will be more realistic now that your FY23 City and County Operating Budget includes the SID permit fee revenues

I would be glad to meet with any Councilmember who desires further background on the work of our WTMSID. We thank the Council for identifying the SID Permit Fee revenues to Bill 14 CD2 FY23.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MSA'.

Rick Egged, President
Waikiki Transportation Management Special Improvement District



Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

2700 Waialae Avenue Honolulu, Hawaii 96826
808.356.2200 • HawaiianHumane.org

Date: June 1, 2022

To: Chair Tommy Waters
Vice Chair Esther Kia'āina
and Members of the City Council

Submitted By: Steph Kendrick, Director of Community Engagement
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in strong support of Bill 14, CD2, Proposed FD1,
Relating to the Executive Operating Budget
Wednesday, June 1, 10 a.m., City Council Chamber

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina and Council Members,

The Hawaiian Humane Society supports the proposed floor draft of Bill 14, CD2, as it restores vital funding for animal services and law enforcement.

The Hawaiian Humane Society is the animal services contractor for the City and County of Honolulu. As such our teams enforce animal-related laws; serve as the official pet lost and found for the island of O'ahu; ensure that pet animals have a place to get help if they are stray or can no longer be cared for by their owners; provide services to pet owners in need so that families can stay together; spay/neuter pet cats, dogs, rabbits and Free-Roaming cats; serve as first responders in natural disasters and animal emergencies; adopt homeless animals into new families; and much more. The majority of our work for the City entails direct animal care and law enforcement. The contract also includes funding for the spay/neuter of Free-Roaming cats and the pets of residents on government assistance.

In the aftermath of COVID's devastation of the local economy, City animal care and law enforcement funding was reduced by nearly 14 percent, which resulted in a reduction of services and some shifting of law enforcement responsibilities to the Honolulu Police Department. This floor draft restores funding to pre-pandemic levels.

We urge the Council to pass Bill 14, CD2, Proposed FD1.