

BILL012(23)
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 180

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Apr 19, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 8

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 3

Name: Levani Lipton	Email: Levani.rachel@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 10:34 AM
Name: Robert Bourke	Email: rebourke2003@yahoo.com	Zip: 93950
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 11:23 AM
Name: Donald Young	Email: donaldy238@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 11:31 AM
Name: Margaret Novack	Email: margaret.novack@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 12:15 PM
Name: Lisa Cates	Email: lisa.k.cates@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 12:44 PM
Testimony: Please allocate appropriate CIP funding to properly improve and maintain our waterways. Kailua Beach, Kailua bay, and the offshore islets are lucrative marketing tools utilized by the State that has turned Kailua into a tourist destination. Therefore, the City has a financial obligation to ensure these resources are properly managed and protected.		
Name: Leonard Rossoff	Email: lrossoffmd@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 01:54 PM
Testimony: My name is Leonard Rossoff, and I am also a member of the Windward Coalition. I support Councilmember Kiaina's request for \$2,000,000 in CIP funds to be used for capital improvement projects aimed at minimizing pollutants entering our streams, ponds, bays and beaches from the City-owned stormwater systems and roadways in the Kailua Ahupuaa. Providing the community with clean, safe water in our streams and ocean requires the city to adequately invest in stormwater management Systems. Currently polluted muddy stormwater and debris flows freely into our streams, ponds, bays, adversely impacting our communities environment, economy, and recreation. Our aging stormwater infrastructure is insufficient to protect vulnerable ecosystems. Brown water runoff from heavy rains pollute our streams, bays and beaches, They pose dangerous public health risks as evidenced by repeated DOH closures of Kailua Bay after heavy rains. The Kailua Waterways running through our town and neighborhoods receive almost all of its flow through City storm drains. Pollutants build up in this estuary threatening the health of native fish and wetland birds, as well as Kailua's residents and visitors. This only flows out to the ocean when the berm is open at Kailua Beach. The State DOH is scheduled this summer to release its TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study of the estuary which, under threat of Federal EPA enforcement, will require the City to quantify a reduction in pollutant loads from storm drains into these public waters. These funds must be allocated to construct pollution capture systems to meet this Federal pollution reduction requirement.		

I concur with others that adding a detention structure to the Kaopa Sediment Basin functioning as a settling basin will filter out excessive sediment and debris during heavy rains.

Additionally, by installing in-channel trash racks to Hele Channel, Keolu Lined

Channel and Alahaki Ditch (recommended in the City's 2008 report) will significantly reduce debris and trash that flows to Kailua Beach and Bay. The City 2008 Stormwater BMP Plan for Kaelepulu Pond presented multiple solutions to improving stormwater runoff that have not yet been started or completed. These City should use the funds to implement these Solutions and fulfill 2008 Stormwater Management Plan for Kaelepulu recommendations.

A reduction in floatable trash entering the ocean from Kaelepulu Stream can be accomplished by installing floating trash screens in the channel above the Lanikai Bridge pushing these materials to a shoreline collection point. Adding and maintaining many more curb inlet trash scenes and baskets will also be of great value. Additionally fitting screens to the many open storm drain channels in the surrounding hillsides have hydraulic jumps that would further capture and remove solids from the flow stream. Re-routing the storm drain under Akeke Place and Akumu Street to run beneath Akumu Stream with a trash rack before it outfalls to the City's Kaelepulu Tributary storm channel would also be useful. Trash racks, serviced by one of the several boats in the Kailua DFM baseyard, could be installed by the City at the end of each of the 80 buried storm drain pipes where they outfall into Kaelepulu Wetland, Kaelepulu Pond, Kaelepulu Stream, and Kawainui Stream.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Leonard J. Rossoff MD

Name: Eileen Hilton	Email: ehiltonmd@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 03:58 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters,

My name is Eileen Hilton and I am a homeowner in Lanikai as well as the Vice President of the Windward Coalition. I also attend the Kailua Neighborhood Board's subcommittee regarding pollution of Kailua's waterways and beaches. I am testifying in strong support of Council-member Kiaina's request for \$2,000,000 proposed in Bill 12 to be used for capital improvement projects that will help eliminate pollutants that enter our waterways.

As an infectious diseases physician, I am very concerned about the health impact of water pollution. I also serve as a volunteer sampler for the Blue Water Task Force. After a heavy rainfall, increases in bacterial contamination and pollutants are seen in high numbers. Infections have been reported in residents and visitors. This is unacceptable. It can be fixed with proper funding. For example, the City 2008 Stormwater Plan for Kaelepulu Pond that have not yet been started or fully completed.

Please approve the funds to clean up our waterways.

Mahalo. Eileen Hilton MD

Name: Cindy Turner	Email: cindy@hotpixels.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 04:14 PM

Name: Mike Compton	Email: slowviper@juno.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 05:10 PM

Name: Robert Gratz	Email: vvgnj@icloud.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 18, 2023 @ 05:18 PM

Testimony:

For The Council's consideration -

I support Councilmember Kiaina's request for \$2,000,000 in CIP funds to be used for capital improvement projects that minimize

pollutants that enter our streams, ponds, bays and beaches from the City-owned storm water systems and roadways in the Kailua Ahupuaa.

The City & County's current storm water system was designed primarily to move rainwater runoff from our built public infrastructure to our natural environment. Completed, that hard collection system needs repair maintenance for it to continue to properly function. It's parts have a life span.

Likewise, proposed modern public storm water systems also need maintenance, but this maintenance work is not repair maintenance like the previous system. Maintenance is now part of the month-to-month functioning of the system itself and is perhaps better termed "servicing", e.g., clearing catchment devices. This differs from the original built system's needs which were only build and repair.

There are a number of worthy proposed projects listed in these testimonies. Many however would likely be wasted taxpayer dollars unless they are legislatively coupled with the required servicing, as described. Perhaps the legislation defining these proposed projects (and the contracts so let) need to specifically mandate the timely provision of such servicing as well as the funding to support it.

Thank you for your attention.

Name: Kelli Ann Kobayashi	Email: kelliann.hawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 19, 2023 @ 07:09 AM

Testimony:
Aloha Councilmembers,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I strongly support Councilmember Kiaina's request in Bill 12 for \$2,000,000 in CIP funds proposed to be used for capital improvement projects that minimize and eliminate pollutants that enter our streams, ponds, bays and beaches from the City-owned stormwater systems and roadways in the Kailua Ahupua'a. I am a member of the Kailua Neighborhood Board and its water pollution subcommittee. The community has rallied around water quality issues in Kailua for many years. These funds would give the community and City the opportunity to work together to address some of the Stormwater related water quality issues in Kailua through a community supported project. We live in Kailua and we love Kailua. What the everyday residents see can help the City in its continuing efforts to protect the environment for future generations. I strongly urge you to appropriate the request for \$2,000,000 proposed by Councilwoman Kiaina.

April 18, 2023

Dear Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Kia'āina, and City Council Members

Aloha, my name is Levani Lipton, I am Chair of the Kailua Neighborhood Board's subcommittee that addresses pollution of Kailua's waterways and beaches. I am testifying on behalf of myself and as a deeply concerned resident of Kailua. I support Councilmember Kia'āina's request for \$2,000,000 in CIP funds proposed in Bill 12 to be used for capital improvement projects that minimize and eliminate pollutants that enter our streams, ponds, bays and beaches from the City-owned stormwater systems and roadways in the Kailua Ahupua'a.

We are a community that has seen tremendous impact on our waterways from pollution. Every time there is a big rain, bodies of water like Kaelepulu Pond turn completely brown. This flows out to our beautiful Kailua Bay. Sediment blankets the corals. We get brown water alerts through phone and email. Our aging stormwater infrastructure threatens our most vulnerable ecosystems. Heavy rains pollute our streams, bays and beaches with runoff filled with debris, trash, and muddy water. These are dangerous public health risks as evidenced by repeated DOH closures of Kailua Bay after heavy rains. We shouldn't wait for a big rain to take action. We need to work to prevent pollution from entering our waterways NOW. Before the next storm.

We need to better address this by preventing pollutants like sediment and debris from entering our waterways at their entry points. This can be done effectively by focusing the stormwater infrastructure including installing screens on storm drains, installing catchment nets to catch debris and building a berm / detention basin at **Kaopa Silt Basin** (located in Keolu Hills). The silt basin's intended purpose is to control and trap sediment and debris before it reaches the water and this is the City's responsibility to



maintain this. Building a berm would create the necessary structural improvement and enhancement to help the basin to function more efficiently. At present during each big storm significant portions of sediment collects from developments upland and pollution includes runoff that flows underneath Kalanianaʻole Highway directly into the silt basin, through a hardened channel (near Keolu skate park) and ends up in Kaelepulu Wetland where many endangered birds live. Their habitats are being threatened. Ultimately, this all flows to Kailua Bay which is enjoyed by both our community families and our visitors.



Kaelepulu Watershed



Kaelepulu Canal: Kailua Beach

I strongly urge you to appropriate the request for \$2,000,000 proposed by Councilwoman Kia'āina because water quality affects all of us. All of us have played, paddled, swim, shared Kailua Beach with our families. This is our kuleana to take care of our waterways. Doing everything we can to stop pollution at its source will benefit both human beings and our natural and aquatic wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Levani Lipton, MPH, MPA

City and County of Honolulu
2023
City Council

April 18,

Subject: Bill 12: \$2M funding for stormwater improvements in Kailua

Dear City Council Members;

This letter is being submitted in **support** of Councilperson Kia`aina's request for \$2M in CIP funds to improve stormwater infrastructure in the Kaelepulu watershed impacting the communities of Kailua and Enchanted Lake.

As a marine biologist and environmental scientist, I worked in Hawaii from 1975 through 2017 and conducted numerous stormwater related projects for the City, Department of Health, and State Highways. Although I am no longer a resident of Hawaii, I do have three children with homes in Kailua and Kaneohe and act as the scientific advisor for the Enchanted Lake Residents Association (ELRA).

The City has a major problem with its stormwater program. The City's stormwater outflows introduce more than twice the quantity of solids and an equal amount of nitrogen nutrients into nearshore waters as compared to the City's waste water treatment facilities. But stormwater is introduced directly to our reefs and swimming beaches whereas the sewer outfalls are in deep water often a mile or more off shore. Pollutants in stormwater are a greater threat to nearshore ecosystems than sewer outfalls or leaching septic systems. Across the nation cities have been forced through the Federal Clean Water Act to upgrade their stormwater systems to limit pollution to public waters.

Having studied this issue, and personally traveled through many cities on the mainland and in Europe during the past 5 years, I can say that Honolulu is well behind the curve in making much needed improvements to its stormwater system. This problem is not the fault of City personnel, whom I know personally to be well trained and dedicated to their work. The problem does have everything to do with the age of the system and its immense size as compared to the population tax base.

Physically, Honolulu is a large city and is unique in that it consists of over two dozen watersheds each with multiple independent stormwater outfalls to public waters. Most cities have to deal only with much simpler systems: one or two watersheds, that flow towards, not away, from each other. The City's stormwater

system contains over 1,000 miles of stormwater conduits which is comparable to mainland cities such as Sacramento, San Diego, or Seattle. These cities have annual dedicated stormwater budgets ranging from \$40M to \$90M, which is far more than is presently being spent in Honolulu.

While the City is forced to tackle this large problem, the residents of Kailua and Enchanted Lake must deal with a much smaller but more critical issue. Almost all of the storm drains in Kailua and Enchanted Lake outflow directly to the Kailua Waterways (Kaelepulu Wetland, Hamakua Wetland, Kaelepulu Pond, Kaelepulu Stream, Kawainui Stream). This estuary system only opens to ocean flow every one or two months. This intermittent flow to the ocean allows trash and pollutants to accumulate in the estuary. The buildup of these pollutants within the estuary adversely impacts the endangered waterfowl in the wetlands, the native fish within the estuary, recreational boating in the estuary, and the health and safety of the community's people. The Kailua and Enchanted Lake communities are impacted much more by polluted stormwater as compared to other communities around Oahu due to the nearly closed condition of the Kailua Waterways.

Cities across the US and Europe have met these challenges with innovative methods to both prevent pollutants from entering stormwater systems and for removing them before the system flows to public waters. The City has its own study (2008) that outline some (but not all) possibilities for methods to reduce pollutant loads. Given adequate resources, I am confident that the City Department of Facilities Management and the Storm Water Program can meet these challenges.

Aloha

Bob Bourke
122 19th St.
Pacific Grove, CA 93950

Ph: 808 256 2057



Enchanted Lake Residents Association

Written Testimony Presented Before the

City Council of Honolulu

Wednesday, April 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM

By

Donald Young

President, Enchanted Lake Residents Association

In Support of Bill 12 Relating to the Executive Capital Budget and Program

Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'ina, and Members of the Council

My name is Donald Young President of the Enchanted Lake Residents Association representing 130 homeowners on Ka'elepulu Pond who live in Councilmember Kia'aina's district.

We support Councilmember Kia'aina's request for \$2,000,000 in CIP funds to be used for capital improvement projects that minimize pollutants that enter our streams, ponds, bays and beaches from the City-owned stormwater systems and roadways in the Kailua Ahupuaa.

Our communities need clean, safe water in our streams and ocean. The City must adequately invest in stormwater management systems and improvements that protect the public from pollution, flooding, and environmental damage to Hawai'i's fragile ecosystems.

Stormwater flows freely into our streams, ponds, bays, and beaches carrying with it debris, trash, and pollution threatening our neighborhoods and closing our beaches.

Our aging stormwater infrastructure threatens our most vulnerable ecosystems. Heavy rains pollute our streams, bays and beaches with runoff filled with debris, trash, and muddy water. These are dangerous public health risks as evidenced by repeated DOH closures of Kailua Bay after heavy rains.

The Kailua Waterways running through the heart Kailua receive almost all of its flow through City storm drains and only flows out to the ocean when the berm is open at Kailua Beach. Pollutants carried by the storm drain system build up in this estuary and threaten the health of native fish and wetland birds, as well as the health and safety of Kailua's residents and visitors.

This summer the State DOH is scheduled to release its TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study of the estuary which will require the City, under threat of Federal EPA enforcement, to quantify a reduction in pollutant loads from storm drains into these public waters. These funds are needed to construct systems that can capture pollutant loads to meet this Federal pollution reduction requirement. These funds should be used to

- Add a detention structure to the Ka'opa Sediment Basin so that it functions as a settling basin to filter out excessive sediment and debris during heavy rains.
- Reduce debris and trash flowing to Kailua Beach and Bay by installing in-channel trash racks to Hele Channel, Keolu Lined Channel and Alahaki Ditch as was recommended in the City's 2008 report.

- Implement solutions as stated in the City's NPDES permit from the EPA.
- Fulfill recommendations of the 2008 Stormwater Management Plan for Ka'elepulu and implement effective trash and debris collection devices in hardened channels and curb stormwater inlets.
- Install floating trash screens in the channel above the Lanikai Bridge to push these materials to a shoreline collection point.
- There are 110 storm drain curb inlet screens and 35 curb inlet trash baskets already installed, but there are over 700 curb inlets in the watershed. Install and maintain screens and baskets on the remaining curb inlet baskets to reduce pollutant loads to the estuary.
- Many of the open storm drain channels in the surrounding hillsides have hydraulic jumps (vertical drops) already installed to dissipate energy. These drop structures could be modified with screens to capture and remove solids from the stream flow.
- The storm drain under Akeke Place and Akumu Street should be re-routed directly beneath Akumu Street with a trash rack incorporated before it outfalls to the City's Ka'elepulu Tributary storm channel.
- Install trash racks at the terminus of each of the 80 buried storm drain pipes where they outfall into Ka'elepulu Wetland, Ka'elepulu Pond, Ka'elepulu Stream, and Kawainui Stream. These trash racks could be serviced using one of the several boats already in the Kailua DFM baseyard.

Thank you for your consideration.

Dear Chair Waters, Vice-Chair Kiaāina, and City Council Members

My name is *Margaret Novack*. My family and I live in Councilmember Kiaāina's district on the shore of Kaelepulu Pond (Enchanted Lake). I have served on the Board of Directors for the Enchanted Lake Residents Association (ELRA) for almost 10 years.

I strongly support Councilmember Kiaāina's request for \$2,000,000 in CIP funds to be used for capital improvement projects that minimize pollutants that enter our streams, ponds, bays and beaches from the City-owned stormwater systems and roadways in the Kailua Ahupuaa.

Our home is within a few feet of a major drainage ditch that runs downhill from the Keolu Hills directly into the Pond and we observe daily how organic debris, trash, and pollution flow into the same water that we fish from, boat on, and eventually flows directly into Kailua Bay.

From my seat on the ELRA Board, I hear frequent complaints from homeowners who struggle to keep their water fronts clear of the materials that flow down hill into the Pond. ELRA, a very small non-profit, finds itself having to fund cleanups of massive amounts of debris that it has no means of controlling.

These CIP funds could be immediately directed at several worthy projects:

We can clean our waters and reduce flooding by adding a detention structure to the Kaopa Sediment Basin so that it functions as a settling basin to filter out excessive sediment and debris during heavy rains.

Many of the open storm drain channels in the surrounding hillsides have hydraulic jumps (vertical drops) already installed to dissipate energy. These drop structures could be modified with screens to capture and remove solids from the flow stream.

The storm drain under Akeke Place and Akumu Street should be re-routed directly beneath Akumu Street with a trash rack incorporated before it outfalls to the City's Kaelepulu Tributary storm channel.

The City could install trash racks at the terminus of each of the 80 buried storm drain pipes where they outfall into Kaelepulu Wetland, Kaelepulu Pond, Kaelepulu Stream, and Kawainui Stream. These trash racks could be serviced using one of the several boats already in the Kailua DFM baseyard.

April 18, 2023

RE: Bill 12

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

My name is Cindy Turner and **I support Councilmember Kia'āina's request in Bill 12 for \$2M in CIP funds** to be used for capital improvement projects that minimize pollutants that enter streams, ponds, bays and beaches from the City-owned stormwater systems and roadways in the Kailua Ahupua'a.

I was born and raised in Kailua. For the last 18 years I've lived in the Enchanted Lake area in a home that looks out onto the Kaelepulu Wetland.

I have seen firsthand the devastating effects that stormwater flowing through the City-owned Keolu hardened channel, filled with trash debris, and literally tons of mud, has had on the fragile Kaelepulu wetland and Kaelepulu Pond ecosystem. The wetland, pond and streams all turn red-brown for days, and much of this polluted water flows out to Kailua Beach and Bay –killing oysters and causing algae blooms in the lake and pond that in turn can result in die-offs of hundreds to thousands of fish, and smothering corals in the bay.

I have participated in numerous cleanups after storms where volunteers have had to remove truckloads of debris that could have been prevented from entering the waterways if the City implemented proven BMPs for stormwater management.

I urge you to appropriate the funds requested by Councilmember Kia'āina so that these projects can be implemented:

- Add a detention structure to the Kaopa Sediment Basin so that it functions as a settling basin to filter out excessive sediment and debris during heavy rains
- Install in-channel trash racks to Hele Channel, Keolu Lined Channel and Alahaki Ditch to reduce debris and trash that flows to Kailua Beach and Bay as was recommended in the City's 2008 Stormwater BMP Plan for Kaelepulu Pond
- Install floating trash screens in the channel above the Lanikai Bridge to push floating trash, coconuts, and debris to a shoreline collection point to improve after-storm conditions of Kailua Bay and Beach
- Re-route the storm drain under Akeke Place and Akumu Street to go directly beneath Akumu Street with a trash rack incorporated before it outfalls to the City's Kaelepulu Tributary storm channel
- Install trash racks at the ends of each of the 80 storm drain pipes where they empty into Kaelepulu Wetland, Kaelepulu Pond, Kaelepulu Stream, and Kawainui Stream.
- And there are multiple other solutions for improving Kailua's stormwater runoff in the City's 2008 Stormwater BMP Plan for Kaelepulu Pond that have not yet been started or fully completed. These funds could be used to implement these solutions as set out in the City's NPDES permit from the EPA.

I believe our communities have a right to clean, safe water in our waterways and ocean. The City must adequately invest in their stormwater management systems and make the improvements needed to protect the public from pollution and flooding, and prevent environmental damage to Hawaii's fragile ecosystems. I urge you to appropriate the full \$2M that our Councilmember has requested.

Mahalo,
Cindy Turner



The Kaelepulu Wetland in normal conditions.



Muddy water and debris fills the Kaelepulu Wetland during a storm.



Muddy stormwater flows into Kailua Bay.



Storm debris that could have been collected before being washed onto Kailua Beach.

My name is Mike Compton and I live in Councilmember Kia'āina's district. I support Councilmember Kia'āina's request for \$2,000,000 in CIP funds to be used for capital improvement projects that minimize our pollutants that enter our streams, ponds, bays and beaches from the stormwater systems and roadways in the Kailua Ahupuaa.

The Kailua Waterways running through the heart of our town and urban neighborhoods receive almost all of its flow through City storm drains and only flows out to the ocean when the berm is open at Kailua Beach. Pollutants carried by the storm drain system build up in this estuary and threaten the health of native fish and wetland birds, as well as the health and safety of Kailua's residents and visitors.

We need a multi-layered approach to tackle this pollution.

First, there are 110 storm drain curb inlet screens and 35 curb inlet trash baskets already installed, but there are over 700 curb inlets in the watershed. Installing (and maintaining) screens and baskets on the remainder of the curb inlet baskets would go a long way towards reducing pollutant loads to the estuary.

Second, we can significantly reduce debris and trash that flows to the estuary, Kailua Beach and Bay by installing in-channel trash racks to Hele Channel, Keolu Lined Channel and Alahaki Ditch as was recommended in the City's 2008 report.

Finally, we can catch the last of floatable trash entering the ocean from the Kaelepulu Stream by installing floating trash screens in the channel above the Lanikai Bridge to push these materials to a shoreline collection point.

There are multiple solutions to improving Kailua's stormwater runoff in the City 2008 Stormwater BMP Plan for Kaelepulu Pond that have not yet been started or fully completed. These funds should be used to implement these solutions per the City's NPDES permit from the EPA.

Thank you for your time and concern for Hawaii's environment,

Mike Compton