

**RES23-051
Testimony**

MISC. COMM. 245

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: May 17, 2023 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 22

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Tania Waa	Email: tanwaa79@gmail.com	Zip: 96762
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 15, 2023 @ 09:18 PM
Testimony: We need and deserve to be afforded the same facilities that our neighbors here in Hawaii have.		
Name: Tatiana Santiago	Email: tatisantiago12@gmail.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 15, 2023 @ 09:44 PM
Testimony: Aloha, I support RES23-015 to develop a multi-purpose recreational facility with an indoor gym and 50 meter swimming pool because as a rural community we do not have access to this type of facility compared to communities in urban areas. We were promised this facility when my grandma bought her home here back in 1982. Forty years have gone by and still we have no pool or gym that we can use to stay healthy and for our future generations to thrive. Mahalo!		
Name: Stevie Apelu	Email: sapelu@kahukurl.k12.hi.us	Zip: 96762
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 15, 2023 @ 09:48 PM
Testimony: Kahuku would greatly benefit from a multi purpose rec center with an indoor gym and pool. I strongly feel that a facility that can provide our children with a means to teach our keiki to swim is basic survival skills for children on an island. We also need a facility that I would hope can offer nutritional classes along with an indoor gym. Our community has many with health conditions that could have been prevented with proper education and exercise facilities early on. Having a rec center with an indoor gym and pool would play a huge part in the success of future generations in our community.		
Name: Meg Thomander	Email: meg.thomander@yahoo.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 15, 2023 @ 10:03 PM
Testimony: I am in support of a multipurpose recreational facility and a 50 meter swimming pool in kahuku. Our community does not have a public pool for our use or a recreational facility. The closest ones are an hour away. We would greatly benefit from one within our community.		
Name: Joshua Kaina	Email: joshnewlife5@gmail.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 15, 2023 @ 10:09 PM
Testimony: I am in support of this resolution. When I was in Kahuku high school in the 90's we were told that we would have a swimming pool. It's overdue. Please help our students and community of koolau loa to have access to this much needed amenity. Thank you!		
Name: Carissa Tafuna	Email: carissam40@gmail.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 15, 2023 @ 10:15 PM
Testimony: I hope that you will fully support the building of a gym and a 50 meter pool in Kahuku. We really need a place to teach and train our keiki in a pool that is closer than 45 minutes away. My children really thrive when I teach them to swim in a pool and I just cannot make the drive as often as they need. Also, we get rained out of sports practices and games since we don't have an indoor gym. A facility here in Kahuku would benefit the health of people of all ages! I would love to be able to work out in a gym or pool		

without having to drive 45 minutes one way and I have spoken to Kupuna that say the same thing. Please support!!!		
Name: DEREK WHETTEN	Email: derek@whettens.net	Zip: 96762
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 15, 2023 @ 10:28 PM
Testimony: This is sorely needed in our community. The nearest facilities are 45 minutes away. Please approve.		
Name: Dr. Alan Keil	Email: alanfkeil@yahoo.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 15, 2023 @ 11:28 PM
Testimony: 1. It is time for a new generation of children to have a place to learn how to swim with confidence. 2. It is time for the older generation to have a place to exercise and have social interaction. Thank you for your time. Dr. Alan Keil.		
Name: Talalupele Niutupuivaha	Email: talalupele@yahoo.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 02:13 AM
Testimony: Kahuku residents have waited far too long for a compete District Park. On the states City and County website it states: " Enjoy a picnic at a regional park or lift some weights at a gym. Swim laps in a pool or ride the ramps at a skate park. It's all yours!" The surrounding communities want to enhance their lives with all a District Park can provide. " Kahuku District Park is home to so many outdoor events that have strengthened the way of life for its residents near and far. Please dedicate the resources needed to enhance our community's "quality of life" as stated: "Everyone in our department is dedicated to keeping our island green, our residents and visitors happy and our facilities operating. Enjoy the outdoors and remember, "We Add Quality to Life!"		
Name: Mailefihi Niutupuivaha	Email: jrandlupe@gmail.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 02:19 AM
Testimony: Please help our families have a recreation center, pool, and other amenities to strengthen individual, family and community healthy lifestyles. Kahuku residents have waited far too long for a compete District Park. On the City and County website it states: " Enjoy a picnic at a regional park or lift some weights at a gym. Swim laps in a pool or ride the ramps at a skate park. It's all yours!" The surrounding communities want to enhance their lives with all a District Park can provide. " Kahuku District Park is home to so many outdoor events that have strengthened the way of life for its residents near and far. Please dedicate the resources needed to enhance our community's "quality of life" as stated: "Everyone in our department is dedicated to keeping our island green, our residents and visitors happy and our facilities operating. Enjoy the outdoors and remember, "We Add Quality to Life!"		
Name: Dawn Bruns	Email: dawnbruns@gmail.com	Zip: 96712
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 07:12 AM
Testimony: The community of Kahuku needs and deserves a public pool		

Name: Chyann Ponciano-Ahue	Email: Ckponciahue@gmail.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 07:38 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>As someone who was born and raised in Kahuku, I support RES23-051. Seeing all these other towns with rec centers/ swimming facilities made me question, why don't we have the same? Yes the closest one is BYU-Hawaii, BUT not just anyone can use that facility. So the next ones would be haleiwa/ wahiawa or kaneohe which is mostly for the residents of that area. Yes we have the beach, but you can't use the beach to practice water polo or swim team. If we had the opportunity to have these facilities our kids and coaches wouldn't struggle trying to look for places to practice let alone use another schools facilities as our home pool. If we had the facilities we could have sports practices/games, community members would be able to learn how to swim, & even the elderly would be able to exercise for physical therapy or if the just exercise. That is the reasons why I support RES23-051.</p>		
Name: Treana Solomon	Email: treana.solomon@gmail.com	Zip: 96762
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 07:58 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>I support the development of a public recreation center and swimming pool in Kahuku.</p>		
Name: Sunny Unga	Email: kahukucommunityassociation@gmail.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Kahuku Community Association	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 08:16 AM
Name: Sunny Unga	Email: sunnyrkim@gmail.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 08:29 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>Please support resolution 23-051 to construct a multi purpose recreational facility with an indoor gym and 50m pool. Our family used to live in town by Punahou and had access to a handful of public pools within 10-15 minutes of where we lived. I took my three girls starting from 18 months old to the free swimming lessons offered by the Department of Parks and Rec. It was a wonderful resource and my children learned to love the water and learned how to swim. However, this wonderful resource was no longer available to us when we moved to Kahuku in 2018.</p> <p>As soon as we moved here, I looked for Swimming lessons offered by the Department of Parks and Rec and found out there were no options nearby since there was no public pool in our community or anywhere nearby. While my friends in town were able to continue enjoying the swimming lessons, we were left with no option and had to find other alternatives which were very difficult to find. We once took them to a private swimming class taught by a student in a small residential pool at their home as a last resort. However, it was nothing close to our experience learning swimming lessons through the Department of Parks and Rec swim program and didn't fill the needs of my children. Traveling to Kaneohe for their swim class also imposed many challenges due to the far distance. It was nearly impossible to make it in time to the class times that were offered there at Kaneohe Pool.</p> <p>I hope sharing my experience as a mother of three children demonstrates the need to have a public pool and rec center for our Ko'olauloa and North Shore Community. I wish this resource was available for my kids in our community so they can have these opportunities to learn how to swim. As I am still trying to find swim lesson opportunities for my girls. Perhaps more keiki will have opportunities for athletic scholarships with swimming or other aquatic sports in the future if they had these resources. This is a huge issue of inequity and not having access to these basic public infrastructures creates greater challenges to families and children who are already living in underserved rural communities. Please support this resolution. Mahalo!</p>		
Name: Valeriano Garrido	Email: valshawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96731

Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 08:31 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Fellow Honolulu Council Members,</p> <p>The Kahuku community is in urgent need of a Community recreation center, with the many needs for Kupuna, keiki, and community with no where to meet. We are home to "State Swim Team and Water Polo Champions" all done without a pool, they achieved this by rental of the neighboring BYU pool (fees paid for use) and open ocean (higher risk). The time of commuting to these locations with the students and necessary equipment. Much needed community aided programs for Kupuna care, After school keiki programs, and community held events. are currently done using other communities facilities (Hau'ula Civic Center). We also need this facility to aide in Major disasters or evacuation purposes, Hurricane Douglas caused major flooding in low lying areas, with no shelter to go to, many kupuna and ohana's where left to fend on their own. The neighboring BYU open their facilities only to Laie residents. In talking to FEMA during the recent "P.R.I.M.O. Conference" we can apply for funding to add to this project. Please consider passing this measure as Kahuku's Population continues to grow, without supporting facilities.</p>		
Name: Karen Lauaki	Email: k83lauaki@gmail.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 08:36 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>My name is Karen Lauaki. I was raised in Kahuku on Kahana st, graduated from Kahuku Elementary and Kahuku High School C/O 2001. Married my high school sweetheart in 2002 and was blessed to purchase a home on Kahana st(1 house away from my childhood home) in 2012. We have 6 children who attended and is currently attending Kahuku Elementary and Kahuku High School.</p> <p>I hope and pray our community will get a rec center. This will be an amazing resource for our children to have the opportunity they deserve to further their physical, mental, social, spiritual and Intellectual health and wellness. This rec center will give our community a safe and secure place to have trainings/workshops for our physical, mental, social, spiritual and Intellectual health and wellness. We can also have educational classes, tutoring and so forth. As of now we are limited to where we can hold trainings and workshops of all sorts and if we don't have a location then our community and children will lose out. Our amazing water polo team currently travels for practice, can you imagine if we had a pool for them?</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Karen Lauaki</p>		
Name: TriAna Lauaki	Email: loanashots@gmail.com	Zip: 96731
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 09:07 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Hi!</p> <p>My name is TriAna Lauaki, graduated from Kahuku Elementary and High School C/O 2022. I was raised here in Kahuku and I loved it.</p> <p>I am in support of the multi-purpose recreational center and 50 meter swimming pool BECAUSE when I was younger my mom had to drive us to attend our extra curricular activities that us siblings were involved in.</p> <p>I used to do gymnastics in Laie until I got older and we had to travel to Mililani, so my mom took me out. My mom signed me and my brothers up for boxing because she felt it would help us with our mental and social health and wellness. I was bullied in elementary so I experienced mental health. My mom felt boxing would help me with my emotions. She drove us to the Kaneohe rec center where the class was being offered 3 times a week. That class helped me over come my mental health and I was</p>		

blessed to learn of mental wellness. I wanted to try water polo because I am strong for a female but I didn't want to travel for practice if it was my mom taking me or catching the bus and being late.

Having a MULTI-PURPOSE RECREATIONAL CENTER AND A 50 METER SWIMMING POOL will benefit the children of our community in all ways. I feel if we had the resources we need in our community, us as children would be successful in our goals and make this world a better place.

Mahalo for your time,
TriAna Lauaki

Name: Ella Siroskey	Email: ellarn@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96717
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 10:34 AM

Testimony:
The Ko'olauloa area has been under-parked for a very long time. Erecting this facility will be a bonus for all of our communities, not just the Kahuku area. It will be able to serve all ages. It will also give our youth a place to practice and hold swim meets without having to drive to Kaneohe or other areas.

Name: Veronica Foster	Email: veronicafoster808@gmail.com	Zip: 37015
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 04:38 PM

Testimony:
Title 9 gives equal opportunities for girls to experience sports. Water polo is one of the most popular sports in the western region of the United States. Kahuku has been very successful in winning OIA, but does not win when competing against Kamehameha and Punahou, who have their own pools. Very rarely will you see a Kahuku girl make the Olympic development regional team. Most girls who make the regional team come from Kamehameha or Punahou, due to the accessibility of a pool. Girls who go on to compete in club or Olympic development are the girls that go on to play in college. I believe this is a great disservice to our girls on the North Shore, who do not have a pool. The Kahuku girls success is due to the fact that they are water women, a lot of them surf. Which is great, but the surfing paddle is very evident. If the girls had access to a swimming pool, there would be more opportunities to work on skills needed to swim competitively or play water polo competitively. Kahuku needs a pool and seriously this has gone on too long. If we had a pool at Kahuku, we would have so many more opportunities for our girls to compete. BYU was a nice temporary fix. In the past we had limited access times at BYU which were often cut short and girls were sometimes given dryland exercises or scrambling for use of tiny private pools or even the ocean. If you don't know, pool water does not compare to ocean water due to buoyancy. I was a swimmer and I made sure I gave those opportunities to my daughters. Both girls played Olympic Development water polo and both went on to play college water polo. We drove all over the island to play. I even left Hawaii to go to California for water polo opportunities. We did return to Hawaii where my daughter returned to Kahuku to win OIA and she was asked to play at University of Hawaii. I am sharing this to show that I saw the gaps, Kahuku needs a pool. Thank you and I hope this helps your decision process.
Veronica Foster

Name: Victoria Fullmer	Email: vickycontreras95@yahoo.com	Zip: 96762
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 04:53 PM

Testimony:
Please allow this. The community and children need it.

Name: Amy Casey	Email: caseyamy8@gmail.com	Zip: 96718
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: May 16, 2023 @ 10:07 PM

Testimony:
Aloha Government and State reps,

Our community is in need of a swimming and multipurpose recreational center to provide a location for the youth on the North Shore to learn how to swim and a hub to gather to participate in sports and other activities. You can grant this opportunity by approving this bill. Please help invest in the youth. Thank you.

Amy Casey



Kahuku Community Association

Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 768-4141

May 16, 2023

RE: Resolution 23-051, Multi-Purpose Recreational Facility & 50m Swimming Pool

Aloha Chair Waters and Fellow Council Members,

Kahuku Community Association is writing in strong support for Resolution 23-05 to construct the Multi-Purpose Recreational Facility and 50m Swimming Pool on Kahuku District Park.

This development was promised to the residents who purchased homes during Phase 1, 2, and 3 affordable housing projects in the early 1980's in Kahuku. In addition, the 2006 Koolauloa Region Master Plan and the 2020 readopted Ko'olauloa Sustainable Communities Plan provide specific direction for implementing the policies for parks and recreation which is to expand Kahuku District Park to support the development of a multi-purpose recreational building and swimming pool complex.

Our children especially deserve a safe place for indoor sports and extracurricular activities. In addition, our community needs a gathering place to provide activities through the community as well as the Department of Parks & Recreation. Currently, our children practice various indoor sports such as volleyball, basketball outdoors and are limited in holding extracurricular activities due to the lack of space.

In addition, there is a great need for a public pool for our communities. There is not one single City and County public pool (and indoor gym) between Kaneohe and Waialua which gravely neglects the needs of our Koolauloa and North Shore keiki and residents. This raises a serious issue of inequity and lack of access to basic public infrastructure that promotes educational and athletic opportunities for our children.

It is unfortunate that many of our keiki who live in such close proximity to the beach either do not know how to swim or have access to free swimming lessons or aquatic activities offered for free through the Department of Parks and Recreation. This public pool is extremely important as it will teach life-saving skills and provide athletic opportunities for children who otherwise would not have that opportunity. This public pool can also help our Kahuku High School Swim team and Waterpolo team to have a nearby facility to practice.



Kahuku Community Association

Given that The City and County of Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency is in the process of creating a Resilience Hub Master Plan, we could also consider that a Multi-Purpose Recreational Facility with an indoor gym would also serve as a resilience hub. Our community is the most isolated on Oahu and we face mounting challenges with sea-level rise, food insecurity, and lack of energy sovereignty should the realities of climate change continue to hit the leeward and windward coasts surrounding us. It is an imperative matter of survival that we urge the city, the state, and other related entities to make these requests a high priority.

We urge the city to conduct a feasibility study for alternative sites if the original plan is no longer feasible. The Koolauloa Master Plan refers to the 2.5 acres at Malaekahana State Park as an alternative site (page 16, Koolauloa Master Plan). Another alternative site is a city county-owned land such as the .92 acre section near the Kahuku Medical Center (TMK 56009164). Our community is open to solutions to give our children and community the center and pool it desperately needs.

The Ko'olauloa and Northshore communities, especially our keiki, have been long-waiting for this development and strongly request for your support in fulfilling the needs of our keiki and resident by constructing the Multi-Purpose Recreational Facility with an indoor gym and 50 m Swimming Pool on Kahuku District Park. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Sunny Unga (e-sign)

Kahuku Community Association Board of Directors,

Sunny Unga - President

Valeriano Garrido - Vice President

Leilani Lauaki - Secretary

Hinano Tangaro - Treasurer

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