

**RES23-267
Testimony**

MISC. COMM. 26

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jan 24, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 15

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Mary Ellen Apostol	Email: maliakai027@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Neighborhood Security Watch (Lualualei Beach Park 2)	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 19, 2024 @ 11:36 AM
Testimony: In support of Bill 23-267, the NSW of Pokai Bay, especially Lualualei Beach Park2 that has been a magnet for illegal activities for years. Due to its close proximity to homes lining POKAI BAY STREET , the disturbance to residents has been non stop. It has attracted game room activated in several homes for years with its late night hours of traffic, noise and lack of HPD enforcement. Our NSW and other organizations have gone above & beyond with clean ups to discourage illegal campers and homeless. We have submitted numerous signed petitions over the years. It has taken away our "Quality of Life" and reduced our property values.		
Name: Darius Kila	Email: repkila@capitol.hawaii.gov	Zip: 96813
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 05:35 PM
Name: Adam Wayson	Email: adamswayson@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 05:43 PM
Testimony: Many westside parks are infested with houseless people, abandoned vehicles and trash. They are not safe environments for kupuna or keiki and C&C have a responsibility to protect these spaces for future generations.		
Name: Edward Hanohano	Email: KANAKA806@GMAIL.COM	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 05:43 PM
Testimony: When I was young, my family would always camp and fish at the park, it's sad to see how it is today and I would not even consider going there anymore in the condition that it's in with all the homeless taking over the park.		
Name: NAOMI HANOHANO	Email: Nhanohano@hotmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 05:46 PM
Testimony: I support this resolution.		
Name: Halford Yamamoto	Email: halford.yamamoto@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 05:58 PM
Testimony: Lack of enforcement has made this beach unavailable to the community. The conditions there are hazardous to our health and safety. Piles of trash and abandoned vehicles litter the entire beach park from, sewers to pokai Bay. Homeless camps, drug use and drug sale is the normal there. Violence is a daily occurrence. Nearby home are in danger of the fires that are constantly occurring. If the city cannot take care of the beach park, then they should sell it to private owners.		
Name: Cassandra Werner	Email: waianaecoastcleanup@gmail.com	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 08:54 PM
Testimony:		

My great-great grandparents settled in Wai'anae and my family has lived here for generations. I grew up on the Wai'anae Coast and many of our memorable moments with family and friends have been at the beaches. Over the years the parks and beaches have become occupied with people who do not follow laws, rules or even common sense. My family and I often fear for our safety when we go out for beach days or sports practices at the parks because there are many homeless encampments with mental health people walking around talking to themselves and, yelling at people passing by. There are many dogs and cats that belong to the encampments that are not leashed and I fear they could attack our children. In this specific area I have done community service and cleaned many drug paraphernalia off these beaches. The amount of needles, syringes and drug baggies that I have seen, lets me know that this is a high area for drug abuse. Innocent people are getting hurt in my community and we need help. The city rules, regulations and laws should be followed by ALL citizens. Please help my community by improving the park conditions, enforce the city ordinances and address our safety concerns. My community has great people and we deserve better! Please help us CLEAN IT UP!!! Mahalo, Cassandra Kehaulani Werner

Name: Joseph Simpliciano	Email: jks0609@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 10:06 PM

Testimony:
I strongly support this resolution and also stand by my previous testimony as nothing has changed for the better. Lualualei beach park and the stretch of Pka' bay road continues to provide others with a sanctuary for drugs, gambling and crime.

Name: Carmen Guzman-Simpliciano	Email: carmzz84@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 10:13 PM

Testimony:
Aloha, as a community advocate and "boots on the ground" nothing has changed for the better in this area, in fact there has been more illegal activities, our public bathroom set on fire, shootings and theft. I firmly stand by my previous testimony with hopes that City Council will also support this resolution as a means to clean up the area, make our streets and beach parks safer for everyone!

Name: Ronald Strode	Email: ronald_strode@hotmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 23, 2024 @ 11:40 PM

Testimony:
Subject: Testimony in Support of RES23-267

Aloha City council members-

I am writing to express my strong support for RES23-267, which urges the Department of Parks and Recreation, along with the Honolulu Police Department, to improve conditions, strictly enforce city ordinances, and address community concerns at Lualualei Beach Park.

As a resident /community member, I have personally witnessed the decline in conditions at Lualualei Beach Park, which are now reminiscent of the challenges faced by Portland, Oregon. The park's natural beauty and the community's well-being are overshadowed by homelessness, illegal camping, littering, lack of maintenance, safety concerns. Such conditions not only detract from the park's ambiance but also pose significant health and safety risks to residence/visitors and the environment.

On numerous occasions, I have encountered abandoned camp sites and excessive trash, which not only mar the park's beauty but also threaten our delicate marine ecosystem. The presence of makeshift shelters and unregulated activities has made me, and many others, feel uneasy and less inclined to visit what was once a place of tranquility and recreation.

The passage of RES23-267 is a critical step towards revitalizing Lualualei Beach Park. By improving maintenance, enhancing safety measures, and ensuring adherence to city ordinances, we can restore the park to its former glory as a jewel of our community, a safe gathering place for families, and a destination for visitors seeking the natural splendor of Waianae.

Furthermore, addressing these issues will not only improve the park but also reflect our commitment as a community to uphold standards of care and respect for our public spaces. This resolution is an opportunity to demonstrate that by working together, we can create positive change and ensure that the beauty and serenity of our parks are preserved for future generations.

I urge you to implement the measures proposed in RES23-267 promptly and efficiently. By doing so, we can send a clear message that we value our public spaces and are dedicated to maintaining the quality and safety of our community's assets.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I look forward to seeing the positive changes that will arise from the enactment of this resolution.

Sincerely and Mahalo for your time

Ronald Strode

Name: Tiana Wilbur	Email: tianawilbur2023@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 12:26 AM

Testimony:

I am in Strong support as many Kupuna in our Moku has voiced and diligently advocated to make necessary impactful changes in the last few years, to help deter illegal activities and disturbances all hours of the night!!!! With ALL current unfortunate events that have been occurring in our Moku, we need change we need to enforce park closures and create a safer healthier tomorrow for generations to come!!! I hope this will be a positive step forward for us to witness a positive difference in this area and maybe duplicate as we continue to IMUA together!!! Mahalo Nui for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Name: Cheryl Martin	Email: ck_matnz1@yahoo.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 03:22 AM

Testimony:

I support enforcement of all City Parks. Houseless encampments are taking over our Beach and Neighborhood Parks. I would like to address Pililaau Park and see it cleared out so actual park users may do so safely.

Name: August Kryger	Email: augustkryger@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 07:45 AM

Testimony:

This measure is a small but critical step in improving the lives of everyone on the island, the health of the land and the restoration of Hawaii to its natural beauty.

Name: Samantha DeCorte	Email: sdecorte@hotmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 07:46 AM

Testimony:

Subject: Testimony in Support of RES23-267 Urging Improvement at Lualualei Beach Park

Honorable Members of the Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for RES23-267, which urges the Department of Parks and Recreation and the Honolulu Police Department to improve conditions, strictly enforce city ordinances, and address community concerns at Lualualei Beach Park. As a resident, I have witnessed firsthand the challenges facing this park, and I believe that urgent action is needed to ensure the safety, cleanliness, and overall well-being of the park and its visitors.

Lualualei Beach Park has the potential to be an inviting recreational area for our families and residents. Unfortunately, in recent years, the park has faced significant issues related to safety, illegal activities, and neglect, which have negatively impacted the surrounding community.

By passing RES23-267, the City Council has an opportunity to send a clear message of support to the residents who value Lualualei Beach Park. The resolution's call for improved conditions and strict enforcement of city ordinances is a crucial step toward reclaiming the park as a safe and inviting space for all. Additionally, addressing community concerns demonstrates a commitment to fostering open communication and collaboration between local authorities and the people they serve.

I believe that by coming together and taking proactive measures, we can restore Lualualei Beach Park to its full potential and create a place that enhances the quality of life for everyone in our community. I commend the City Council for considering this important issue, and I hope that you will vote in favor of RES23-267 to pave the way for positive change at Lualualei Beach Park.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your dedication to improving our public spaces.

Mahalo,
Samantha DeCorte
Resident of the Wai'anae Coast

Name: Kimie Korenaga	Email: kimiekorenaga@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Jan 24, 2024 @ 09:21 AM

Testimony:
Aloha,

My name is Kimie Korenaga and I am a resident of the neighborhood immediately fronting Lualualei Beach park and I am in support of Resolution 23-267.

On Friday 1/19/2024 at 10:30pm we noticed that the bathroom at Lualualei beach park was engulfed in flames.

There are 2 things I'd like to discuss about this. One, if this specific beach park was maintained better, there would be more use by the community therefore deterring unwanted activities. I would love to be able to take my toddler there to run around in what could be a great grassy area. I remember at one point there was a group of kupuna that would do taichi there. These are 2 examples of positive activities that could return with better maintenance and attention to the park. Perhaps the fire would have never started had the park had a better reputation and use by a larger array of residents. (Also, imagine what the headlines would have been if they had found a body trapped in the fire.)

The second thing I'd like to address is that because the bathroom is burnt, the drug use, prostitution and other explicit activities, and the literal act of using the bathroom, will move outside of those walls. Residents, many of them children, will be more openly exposed to these activities, which shouldn't be happening anyway, but will continue in the area because that is what the park is unfortunately known for.

I would love to see us be able to take back our park for the use of positive activities with the support of the council and maintenance teams. Mahalo



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Hale o nā Luna Makaʻāinana

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

January 22, 2024

Meeting: August 9, 2023, 10:00 a.m.

City and County of Honolulu Council
City Council Chamber

RE: Testimony Relating to RES23-267
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION AND THE
HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS, STRICTLY
ENFORCE CITY ORDINANCES, AND ADDRESS COMMUNITY CONCERNS AT
LUALUALEI BEACH PARK

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kiaʻāina, and Members of the Council

I am Darius Kila, and I am the current Representative for House District 44, which encompasses Honokai Hale, Nānākuli and Maʻili.

I am in STRONG SUPPORT of Resolution 23-267. Although Lualualei Beach Park is not located directly in my district, the situation occurring at Lualualei is duplicated at ALL of the beach parks along the Westside, and I strongly urge you to adopt Resolution 23-267 and amend it to include all of the beaches and parks along the Westside.

The situation regarding after hours occupancy, parties, loud music, unauthorized camping, underaged drinking, drugs, living in inoperable cars, etc., occurs at all of the beaches and parks on the Westside.

Constituents are not only complaining of the aforementioned activities, but also theft from their yards/properties, loud parties, drug use and dealing, and loud arguments and screaming very early in the morning, waking up the sleeping residents.

Additionally, constituents are complaining about HPD being unable to enforce the rules and laws in place such as the park being closed between 8:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., camping when there is no camping allowed or without a permit, living in cars when living in cars not allowed, drinking in the parks, and drug use in the parks.

Representative Darius K. Kila

House District 44—Honokai Hale, Nānākuli, Maʻili
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 322 / Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-9480 / Fax: (808) 586-9485 / Email: RepKila@capitol.hawaii.gov

City and County of Honolulu Council
RE: RESOLUTION 23-267
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The increase in violence has plagued the area and should be stemmed. I urge you to grant HPD larger enforcement powers and the ability to enforce the laws that are currently in place.

While this is not the panacea to our homeless situation, allowing HPD and the Department of Parks and Recreation greater discretion in enforcing the currently laws is one step towards stemming the illegal activities currently occurring in the beaches and parks, and, hopefully, will provide some assistance to the homeless.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Darius K. Kila', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Darius K. Kila
Representative, House District 44