

RES24-051 Testimony

MISC. COMM. 143

PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES AND CULTURE & THE ARTS (PESCA)

**PARKS, ENTERPRISE SERVICES AND CULTURE &
THE ARTS (PESCA) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Apr 3, 2024 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 5

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 1

Name: David Ahuna	Email: davidkahuna@gmail.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 09:25 AM

Name: Wes Porter	Email: wesreberporter@gmail.com	Zip: 96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 01:20 PM

Testimony:

I write in support of this resolution to create and maintain more beach volleyball courts in the City & County of Honolulu.

Volleyball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country. Some of the reasons include the appeal and low cost barrier to entry of beach volleyball. Hawai'i has a long and distinguished history of participation and success in women's and men's beach volleyball. Most colleges and universities now offer beach volleyball as a scholarship sport for women - and Hawai'i girls are very competitive. Yet, understanding these dynamics, mainland states and cities are building beach courts and investing in the access and health of their youth. Hawai'i should keep pace and maintain its competitive advantage.

The resolution is also about access for all of our Honolulu citizens, especially all young people growing up in Hawaii. Families that have means can access the few private beach courts on island (ie. Outrigger, Hunakai Park, etc.). With the passing of this resolution, beach volleyball can be relatively inexpensive for youth participation and its set where young people are already hanging out - at the beach. Hawai'i can improve its access to beach volleyball with an investment of space and some funding.

Thank you for reading & aloha,

Name: Robert Strand	Email: resq808@gmail.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO)	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 02:04 PM

Name: Frances Sawai	Email: fsawai@aol.com	Zip: 96744
Representing: American youth soccer organization AYSO	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 04:12 PM

Testimony:

Kaneohe as an older community needs more field space for our Keki opening up school fields such as Ben Parker and Kaneohe elementary would help. However for the state to charge organizations for the use of those fields is not affordable to non profit organizations. We as residents pay taxes that goes towards education and facilities already

Name: Kimeona Kane	Email: Kimeonakane@gmail.com	Zip: 96795
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 09:30 PM

Testimony:

Aloha nui kkou,

Kimeona Kane of Waimnalo in support of this effort to establish more opportunities for community sports to take place to keep up with the evolving needs of each sport respectively. While I recognize the great potential I do also caution that I also think we must have safeguards to protect the schools interests and assets as well. Care and maintenance is so important and we know first hand how neglect and poor management leads to a lapse in usability. Let's do this well and right.

Mahalo nui,
Kimeona Kane

Name:	Email:	Zip:
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Paul Aio	ppaio@comcast.net	96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 2, 2024 @ 11:21 PM
Testimony: I am a Nanakuli Homestead lessee, retired LEO and currently coaching girls volleyball for Club Kulia (12s). We're sharing the NHIS gymnasium with the school's athletic programs due to our mutual respect and foresight to improve the overall school's athletes and programs. The current school administration sees this mutual support of our athletes to be foremost in our Nanakuli Ahapuaa. The foundation of these athletes begins with Education, Family and Coaching.		

JOSEPH P. H. AHUNA, JR.
Attorney At Law

Joseph P. H. Ahuna, Jr.
David K. Ahuna

Kāneʻohe Atrium
46-005 Kāwā Street, Suite 307
Kāneʻohe, Hawaiʻi 96744

Telephone: (808) 235-4000
Facsimile: (808) 247-3821
Email: Hawaii1aw@ahunalaw.com

RE: Resolution 24-51 (City Parks and Recreation)

To Whom It May Concern:

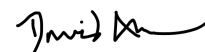
I am writing to **enthusiastically support** Resolution 24-51, which urges the Department of Parks and Recreation to make official requests use of State Department of Education facilities after school hours for the purpose of enhancing and improving the public's opportunities for recreational and community activities, particularly in park districts where the demand for field space exceeds the availability of City and County of Honolulu recreational facilities.

I currently work as an attorney in Kaneohe, where I have also been volunteering 20+ hours/week for the last 10 years coaching soccer. I also grew up in Kaneohe and was fortunate to participate in youth sports and see the positive impact it had on my life. Currently, there is a dire situation for youth sports in Hawaii due to the lack of adequate field space. The demand for youth sports in Hawaii has been growing exponentially over the last several decades. Unfortunately, the supply for field space that the City has access to is limited and insufficient, often leaving youth teams without a field to practice or play in. Sadly, I have seen teams fold and kids stop playing sports because of this ongoing issue.

I believe that the proposed resolution would provide the City with greater access to needed field space for our youth. While there are some DOE campuses that allow youth sports programs to practice or play on their facilities after-school hours, many do not. Further, it is very difficult to obtain field permits from DOE campuses, especially if you do not know anyone in leadership positions at these DOE campuses. In other words, if you do not have any "connections", it is very unlikely and nearly impossible to get a field permit. Allowing the City to have access to these fields would alleviate this issue, and more importantly, provide more access to field space for our youth.

The physical, mental, emotional, and social benefit that sports have on our youth is immeasurable. It is my hope that supporting this necessary and important resolution will improve access to field space for our youth, which will ultimately help improve their quality of life and make them better citizens in our community.

Very truly yours,



David K. Ahuna



AMERICAN YOUTH SOCCER ORGANIZATION
a nonprofit corporation dedicated to youth soccer
everyone plays[®]

April 2, 2024

Council Members:

My name is Bob Strand and I am the Hawaii Section Director for the American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO) that has almost 10,000 youth and adult soccer players enrolled in its programs in Hawaii with almost 7,000 on the Island of Oahu. I am writing for two reasons: to state AYSO's opposition to the conversion of the Waipio Soccer Complex into a landfill and to support Council Member Kia'aina's Resolution 24-51 that urges the City Department of Parks and Recreation to officially request the use of more State Department of Education facilities after school hours for the purpose of enhancing and improving the public's opportunities for recreational and community activities.

Many of our AYSO teams practice and play games at the Waipio Soccer Complex almost year round and AYSO holds three major soccer tournaments at Waipio each year including the Rainbow Tournament over the July 4th holiday that draws teams from Hawaii and the mainland as well. AYSO has also hosted the AYSO National Games on three prior occasions with over a hundred teams from Hawaii and the mainland participating in the games and frequently extending their stays to enjoy the cultural and natural beauty of the islands. We have also been asked to consider sponsoring the AYSO National Games scheduled for the summer of 2027 but could not in good faith commit to that if Waipio is no longer available. As a result, AYSO is very concerned about the adverse impacts that losing the Waipio Soccer Complex would have on our AYSO players and the thousands of other youth and adult players who play at Waipio in other leagues sponsored by the Hawaii Youth Soccer Association, the Men's Island Soccer Organization, the Women's Island Soccer Association and the high schools from the OIA and the ILH that play games and the State championships at Waipio.

While the Waipio Soccer Complex is essential to adult and youth soccer programs in Hawaii, many soccer games and practices are held at City parks and State of Hawaii schools. In many areas of Oahu the demand for field space for these activities, be it for soccer, baseball, flag football or other sports, exceeds the availability of City and County of Honolulu recreational facilities. While AYSO very much appreciates the efforts made by many DOE school principals to make their fields available, we believe that more can be done through coordination between the City and the DOE. As a result we support Council Member Kia'aina's goals in presenting Resolution 24-51 for your approval.

Thank you for your consideration of AYSO's comments on these very important matters.

If you would like more information about AYSO's youth and adult soccer programs, please contact me at resq808@gmail.com.

Bob Strand
AYSO Section 7 (Hawaii) Director

