Resolution 25-23
Testimony

MISC. COM. 13
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Testimony on Hale O Līpoa Affordable Housing Project
Committee on Zoning Meeting, January 16, 2025, 9:00 A.M.
Resolutions 25-23, 25-26

Aloha, council members:

My name is Kristen Young and I'm a Honolulu resident. I am a board member for Faith Action Hawai'i, a nonprofit organization which sees affordable housing as one of its top priorities. I am also a volunteer with Ho'ōla Hou iā Kalauao, a volunteer-led nonprofit organization focused on restoring 'āina (land) and kānaka (people), based in the ahupua'a of Kalauao in 'Ewa, O'ahu.

As a regular volunteer with Ho'ōla Hou iā Kalauao, I help in the work to mālama a spring-fed lo'i kalo (taro patch) and māla (garden) space at Ka'ōnohi, the last lo'i kalo in the area – across the street from the proposed Hale O Līpoa Affordable Housing Project. At Ka'ōnohi, we are surrounded by concrete. Springs and lo'i kalo are covered beneath Pearlridge mall. Neighboring buildings and construction projects draw from the same water source that nourishes Ka'ōnohi where we have already been experiencing a shortage of water and increased salinity due to stress on the aquifer. Further development in the area directly threatens the restorative work done at Ka'ōnohi.

In addition to impacts on the surrounding community, the proposed site for Hale O Līpoa sits atop Opu, a historic and culturally significant 10.5 acre fishpond. Because it is a fishpond, the area often floods. To approve building here would not only be disrespectful but also irresponsible.

I am very aware of the housing crisis in Hawai'i (I'm 30 and still live at home with my mom!), but more development is not the only solution and should be the last resort, especially while there are thousands of houses sitting empty on the island. While I support affordable housing, I must **oppose** the Hale O Līpoa project as it threatens the health of the land, water, and people of the area. I believe it is essential to consider the whole community – the natural environment, the people who live there, the knowledge of those who have stewarded 'āina for generations, and impact on future generations – when working toward solutions that are sustainable. Otherwise we just create more problems.

Please do not approve the resolutions and halt the project at 98-150 Līpoa Place.

Mahalo,
Kristen Young
Honolulu, HI 96813



Father and son work in the lo'i at Ka'ōnohi



Community Work Day, every 3rd Saturday