

RES25-023
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 44

COUNCIL

COUNCIL Meeting

Meeting Date: Jan 29, 2025 @ 10:00 AM

Support: 0

Oppose: 30

I wish to comment: 1

Name: Kyle Kajihiro	Email: kyle.kajihiro@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 27, 2025 @ 11:52 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>While I support more affordable housing as a general policy, I oppose this particular project because it fails to consider significant cultural and environmental impacts. There are other sites more suitable for affordable housing. The proposed site is the location of the one of the three royal fishponds of 'Ewa. The Lahaina fire illustrated the importance of understanding the history of wai in Hawai'i's landscapes and the tragic shortsightedness of those who filled in the wetlands and fishponds, allowing Lahaina to become dry and susceptible to fire. With climate change and rising seas, this area is vulnerable and should be protected for its cultural and environmental significance. Why is this project being given special consideration for exemption from normal policies? Have all potential conflicts of interest been carefully scrutinized? A full EIS should be done.</p>		
Name: Kevin Chang	Email: kevin@kuahawaii.org	Zip: 96744
Representing: Kuaaina Ulu Auamo	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 27, 2025 @ 03:17 PM
Name: Barbara Wakatake	Email: ohelo@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 27, 2025 @ 05:44 PM
Name: Robert Deedman	Email: rdeedman58@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 27, 2025 @ 06:19 PM
Name: Mima Field Perkins	Email: mimaftp12@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 27, 2025 @ 07:52 PM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>This area was formally a fishpond and has potential to be restored. As a community member, a steward of the land, and a Native Hawaiian, I oppose RES25-023.</p>		
Name: Kellee Hearther	Email: calikellee@gmail.com	Zip: 96701

Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 27, 2025 @ 09:14 PM
-----------------------	---------------------	---------------------------------------

Testimony:

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a resident of ‘Aiea, ‘Ewa, O‘ahu and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō‘ī Wahine Kalanimanu‘ia, Loko ‘Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama ‘āina. A true concern for ‘āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen’s historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo‘i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project’s own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the ‘auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the ‘auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council’s website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that “The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's

governance.” One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this ‘āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,
Kellee Hearther, ‘Aiea Resident
January 29, 2025

Name: Anthony Deluze	Email: kaonohipoi@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: hoolahou ia kalauao	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 27, 2025 @ 10:33 PM

Testimony:
Aloha,

On behalf of myself, my ohana and organization, I strongly urge you to listen to your constituency! We have been saying loud and clear that we oppose this resolution and do not need or want this development in the area. 1) this community, and valley does not have the capacity , infrastructure or resources for any further development , let alone what is already in place. 2) We have worked very hard over the past decade and a half to restore culture identity, space, and practice to the direct and adjacent areas. It is now time for a change to restore , not develop any further.. Our aquifer is already extremely stressed and the water table extremely low. We barely have enough water for farming kalo, as it is and what remains has salt intrusion because the developments broke the fresh water lense. Further more the endangered native wildlife depend on the extremely dwindling water that is in the space. 3) you folks know we are in a water crisis? There is fuel in our aquifer and you want to develop more while the aiea shaft has been shut down?. 4) while i am not against proper development for the sake of housing, this is not the place for it . Furthermore we are tired of the rhetoric that is used over and over. Let's be clear, we do not have a housing crisis. We have a greed crisis. Development is on going for out of state purchase as well as foreign investors. There are countless homes that sit idle with jo one on them, as well as high rises like in kakaako for example. When you all talk about affordable housing , you

clearly are out of touch because it is not affordable for us who work multiple jobs to barely make ends meet.

Do the right thing for once and put your community first. As stated , we have all made it clear, we do not want this development.

Lastly.. what is the sens of law and ordinances if you simply continue to change them to suit the next big cash in.

Aole!

Mea aloha

Anthony kawika Deluze

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Richlen Nakamoto	niknak.hawaii@gmail.com	96839
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Jan 27, 2025 @ 11:36 PM

Testimony:

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō'i Wahine Kalanimanu'ia, Loko 'Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama 'āina. A true concern for 'āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen's historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo'i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence

of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the ‘auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the ‘auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council’s website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that “The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city’s governance.” One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this ‘āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community’s wishes,
Richlen Nakamoto

Name: Nicole Nakamot	Email: nikkiadamjones@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 27, 2025 @ 11:37 PM

Testimony:
Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō'i Wahine Kalanimanu'ia, Loko 'Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama 'āina. A true concern for 'āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen's historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo'i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the 'auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the 'auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council's website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that "The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's governance." One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this 'āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these

sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,

Nicole Nakamoto

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kristen Young	kristenslyoung@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Jan 27, 2025 @ 11:40 PM

Testimony:

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 lack of affordable housing in Hawai'i (I'm 30, work full time, 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 in its proposed location 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 this development and oppose the resolution.

Mahalo,

Kristen Young

Honolulu, HI 96813

Name: Michael Davis	Email: onelongstory@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Living Life Source Foundation / Loko I'a Pa'aiau	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 05:41 AM
Name: Stacy Chong	Email: shp@healaniland.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Healani Land Company	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 05:51 AM
Name: Katie Hearther	Email: katie.hearther@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Loko I'a Pā'aiau	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 06:22 AM
Name: Jordan Yoshimoto	Email: yoshimoto.jordan@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Loko I'a Pa'aiau	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 06:50 AM
Name: Bruce Keaulani	Email: bkeaulani@kaitogakko.org	Zip: 96822
Representing: Loko'ia Pa'aiau	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 06:58 AM
Name: Liann Jimmons	Email: liannjimmons@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 07:45 AM
Testimony: Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Lipoa Place. OPPOSE		

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a resident of 'Aiea (or friend of 'Aiea) and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Lipoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō'i Wahine Kalanimanu'ia, Loko 'Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama 'āina. A true concern for 'āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development. Not seek exemptions to rush an already flawed project.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen's historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo'i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the 'auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the 'auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council's website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that "The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's governance." One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this 'āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,

Liann Jimmons

Concerned Citizen and Steward of Loko I'a Pā'aiau,

January 28 2025

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Christina Agullana	tinagullana@yahoo.com	96789

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Jan 28, 2025 @ 08:29 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Yuko Barretto	yuko.barretto@gmail.com	96797

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Jan 28, 2025 @ 08:53 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a resident of Oahu, a volunteer at Loko 'Ia Pā'aiau, a mother of a 9-year-old son, and a wife.

I STRONGLY oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place.

To tell you the truth, I am quite speechless that council members, who should helping the community create the best future for our children in this challenging world, is even considering this resolution that does not require any environmental or cultural studies. If you do care about the place, you would know that this site rests on 'Opu, one of few remaining fishponds built by Mō'ī Wahine Kalanimanua. You would also be aware about how the restoration of Loko 'Ia Pā'aiau, led by Aunty Kehaulani Lum and Uncle Bruce Keaulani has not just transformed the land but touched hundreds and hundreds of lives, and understand the significance of cultural restoration, not just for Native Hawaiian people but

everyone.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developer's proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama 'āina. A true concern for 'āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development. Not seek exemptions to rush an already flawed project. That is pure rhetoric and I don't understand why you don't see through their shallow wording. Please listen to your heart and na'au. What would your grandparents, your ancestors will say?

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the 'auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the 'auwai and downstream into the harbor.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources.

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,

Mahalo for all you do for our community and thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Yuko Barretto

January 28, 2025

Name:

Emilie Parry

Email:

RootbridgeEcosystems@gmail.com

Zip:

96817

Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 08:54 AM
Name: Kehaulani Lum	Email: aliipauahi@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 09:06 AM
Name: Stacy Chong	Email: shp@healaniland.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: Healani Land Company	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 09:24 AM
Name: Aaron Mattis	Email: aaron_mattis@yahoo.com	Zip: 96734
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 09:27 AM
Name: Danielle Espiritu	Email: info@kalauao.org	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 09:31 AM
<p>Testimony:</p> <p>Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,</p> <p>My name is Danielle Espiritu, and I am a testifying on behalf of myself and my 'ohana. I am a member of Ho'ōla Hou iā Kalauao, a nonprofit organization focused on restoring 'āina (land) and kānaka (people) in the ahupua'a (land division) of Kalauao in 'Ewa, O'ahu, where the planned development will take place. We OPPOSE Resolution 25-023 and Resolution 25-026, granting a special management major permit and exemptions to Līpoa Development LLC for the Hale o Līpoa project at 98-150 Lipoa Place.</p> <p>Ho'ōla Hou iā Kalauao cares for Ka'ōnohi, a spring-fed lo'i kalo (irrigated taro field) and māla (garden space) directly ma uka (inland) and up the street from the proposed development. The lo'i we care for receives water directly from the aquifer. Further development, especially so close to Ka'ōnohi, could result in the inability to continue farming lo'i kalo there. We have already seen a significant drop in water level due to overdevelopment in the area and overtaxing of the aquifer. Should the water level continue to drop, there will not be enough water coming up through the springs to flood patches, and we would lose that cultural practice entirely in this area. Any damage to the aquifer and freshwater lens due to construction and the need to support additional development will have direct impacts on the springs and lo'i at Ka'ōnohi. We are the last lo'i kalo within several ahupua'a in either direction and so we are talking about a direct threat to</p>		

the remaining traditional farming and cultural practices in a huge land area. These are cultural practices protected by law.

In addition, the site chosen for the proposed development is culturally significant in and of itself as it is the site of Opu, a historic 10.5 acre fishpond commissioned by Kalaimanuia (Kalanimanuia), mōʻī wahine (queen) of Oʻahu. Residents of the area are well aware that the space floods often. It is a fishpond. With the potential for sea level rise in the coming years, it would not only be disrespectful, but irresponsible for the city to support such a build.

To be clear, we are not anti-affordable housing. As those who give our lives in service to our community, we are huge advocates for housing and services to be made affordable to our people. Instead, we are critical of the way “affordable housing” has been used as the sheep skin to conceal ulterior motives of developers and corporations whose actions will have unsustainable long-term ramifications that our community will need to live with. There is significant housing available on island; however, we lack regulations that curb the greed that makes those units unavailable to working, local people. Let’s stop using “affordable housing” as a way to justify more development of ‘āina that could in fact feed and heal our community.

In the case of Loko Opu and the decision to build on top of a historic fishpond, members of our community have voiced concerns and opposition to this development at every juncture - town hall meetings, neighborhood board meetings, city council meetings, and on record in the cultural interviews included in the impact assessment.

As I shared in my 2023 cultural impact assessment interview included below, the choice to allow this development to move forward is a choice to ignore community and practitioner concerns.

Please do not approve these resolutions, and do not allow this project to continue.

Ke aloha,

Danielle Espiritu

Hoʻōla Hou iā Kalauao

info@kalauao.org

Included below are relevant excerpts from my Hale o Līpoa Cultural Impact Statement interview from August 26, 2023.

3) What is your association to the subject property (family land, work place, etc.)?

I am a part of an organization named Hoʻōla Hou iā Kalauao that cares for a spring-fed loʻi kalo and farm space directly uka (upland) of the planned development. Kaʻōnohi the name of the farm space we care for, it is also the name of the ‘ili ‘āina in the area. Kaʻōnohi is just across the street of the proposed development. The springs that feed the ‘āina at Kaʻōnohi come directly from the aquifer. Over the last decade, and especially in the last 5 years, we have noticed changes in the

springs at Ka'ōnohi. Water levels have dropped significantly and some areas have shown elevated salinity levels, all of which happened in conjunction with increased development and construction in the surrounding area. Due to the proximity of the planned development to Ka'ōnohi, any construction and development will have a direct impact on our ability to continue farming lo'i kalo traditionally, a cultural practice carried on in Hawai'i since time immemorial. While Kalauao and 'Ewa were once famous for its abundance in water and resources, overdevelopment and contamination have left their mark. We are the last lo'i kalo in several ahupua'a in either direction and so we are talking about a direct threat to the remaining traditional farming and cultural practices in a huge land area. These are cultural practices protected by law. In terms of my personal family connection to the area, my 'ohana lives down the street. We are two traffic lights away from the proposed development, and yet in a completely different ahupua'a. To have ahupua'a that were so thin, speaks to the abundance of resources in Kalauao and Waimalu, and in the broader 'Ewa moku.

5) Could you share your mana'o relevant to the 'Aiea area, or Kalauao Ahupua'a, and the surrounding region (personal anecdotes, mo'olelo, mele, oli, place names, etc.)?

One interpretation of the name Kalauao is a multitude of clouds. Ka – the, lau – many/400 (like we would say with the word laulima), ao – light or clouds. Our placenames give us insight into what our kūpuna observed over many generations, and so that tells me about the weather patterns in the area. Kalauao, and the larger moku of 'Ewa was famous for freshwater. We see that in many of the names in this area. Waimalu, Waiau, Waimanō, Waiawa, Waipi'o, Waipahū, Waikele. The word wai (freshwater) is repeated over and over. There are mo'olelo of Kāne and Kanaloa going throughout the moku of 'Ewa with their 'ō'ō (digging sticks). They would travel, plunge their 'ō'ō in the ground, and wai, freshwater, would come up. There are mo'olelo of Kalanimanuiā (Kalaimanuiā) making her residence in Kalauao because of the abundance of freshwater in the area. She was the daughter of Kukaniloko, for whom the sacred birth stones are named. Both are renowned mō'i wahine, queens, of O'ahu. Kalanimanuiā is credited with developing many of the lo'i kalo and loko i'a in the area. In Kalauao specifically, the area uka of the proposed development would have been spring-fed lo'i kalo going all the way up toward the uplands, and the water there would empty into Opu, one of the fishponds Kalanimanuiā is credited with constructing. Opu, no longer in tact, would have been in the area of the proposed development. On the other side of Kalauao, closer to Kalauao stream, 'auwai were constructed to create a sophisticated engineering system that would direct water from the stream into lo'i kalo and then back into the stream again. That fresh water would then go into Pā'aiau, another fishpond of Kalanimanuiā where it would mix with salt water attracting fish and creating a suitable environment for them to grow. Some kūpuna say there were upwards of 100 fishponds throughout Pu'uloa, which served as the breadbasket for the 'Ewa moku. Pu'uloa was also famous for the i'a hāmau leo, or oysters, that were once abundant. There are also mo'olelo tied to manō and mo'o in the area.

6) As far as you remember and your experiences, how has the area changed? Could you share how it was when you were young and how it's different now?

My grandparents who lived in 'Ewa in the 1940s and 50s used to be able to gather fish and shellfish from Pu'uloa, just down the road and in walking distance of the proposed development. They grew up swimming in the streams and gathering and eating from them and from the ocean. My mother remembers Waimalu stream being cemented and channelized in the 1960s, part of Wai'eli (the ridge separating Kalauao and Waimalu) being blown up to make way for what

is now Moanalua Road, and the land being drilled in order for the huge posts that are now the freeway to be put up. Kama'āina were forced to relocate. We saw similar things along Kamehameha Hwy for the rail project. I was born in the 1980s and grew up primarily in the 1990s, and for my entire lifetime I have not been able to touch the streams or ocean water in our community because I have known it was contaminated. There are signs posted in the areas where my kūpuna used to gather food that say DO NOT EAT FISH & SHELLFISH. Within three generations, Pu'uloa and the surrounding streams have gone from a source of food and sustenance, to one of potential danger due to contamination and unregulated development, urbanization, industry, and militarization. We are now in the critical generation that will determine the future health of our aquifer and subsequently our springs.

7) Do you know of any traditional sites or historically significant buildings which are or were located on the Property site-- for example: cultural sites, archaeological sites, historic structures and/or burials? Please elaborate.

There was a fishpond name Opu in the area where the proposed development is located. The freshwater coming from springs and lo'i kalo further uka would flow down and into the fishpond, mixing with salt water and would provide food. As mentioned, Kalanimanuia, mō'i wahine of O'ahu was credited with the construction of Opu as well as the surrounding lo'i kalo and loko i'a.

8) Do you think the proposed development would affect any place of cultural significance or access to a place of cultural significance? Please elaborate.

As mentioned above, Ka'ōnohi is the only lo'i kalo in either direction for several ahupua'a. This is shocking considering 'Ewa, and Kalauao in particular were once famous for its abundance in food and freshwater. The vast majority of the food-growing areas, which often took the form of lo'i kalo and loko i'a, are now filled and cemented. Ka'ōnohi is the last lo'i kalo in Kalauao and one of very few in the entire moku of 'Ewa. The proposed development, and any further development of the surrounding area, poses a direct threat to Ka'ōnohi, the nearby spring fed lo'i kalo. We have already seen a significant drop in water level due to overdevelopment in the area. Further development, especially so close to Ka'ōnohi, could result in the inability to continue farming lo'i kalo there. Should the water level continue to drop, there will not be enough water coming up through the springs to flood patches and we would lose that cultural practice entirely in this area. What happens in one area will have direct impacts in another.

9) Are you aware of any traditional gathering practices at the Property area and/or within the surrounding areas both past and ongoing?

There is a lo'i kalo across the street, directly uka of the proposed development. Native Hawaiian varieties of taro, some that were well known in 'Ewa, are being grown in the flooded style there as they have been for generations in Hawai'i. Other Native dryland crops are being grown traditionally there. Food is being prepared traditionally there. Hawaiian and non-Hawaiian families are gathering to perpetuate these Native Hawaiian cultural practices just uka of the proposed development area. These practices require water. In addition, a hui is restoring Loko Pā'aiau not far away.

10) While development of the area continues, what could be done to lessen the adverse effects on any current cultural practices in the area?

The choice to develop is choosing to ignore community concerns. Perhaps landowners should think innovatively and generationally, looking for green solutions that allow 'āina and people to heal, reconnect, and build in a way that benefits both. What might it look like to restore the abundance of 'Ewa that is literally just below the surface? 11) Are you aware of any other cultural concerns the community might have related to cultural practices within or in the vicinity of the Property site and its surrounding areas? Mahi'ai (farmers) are concerned about how development in 'Ewa will affect freshwater, and subsequently, all cultural practices that rely on it. What happens when the springs dry up? How do you farm lo'i kalo without water? You cannot... In addition, we have already seen with the tragedy on Maui what happens when resources are exploited for generations, water is extracted, and Native water and resource management systems are not allowed to function as they should. We are already overtaxing the aquifer, something that would not be happening if development were monitored with a generational mindset. Water levels have dropped significantly in the last decade alone. Additional developments will mean more water must be pumped into buildings to support more people in an already concentrated area. In addition, any damage to the aquifer and freshwater lens will have direct impacts on the springs and lo'i nearby.

Name: Nick Agullana	Email: nickagullana@yahoo.com	Zip: 96789
Representing: Loko I'a Pa'aiau	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 09:36 AM
Name: Nicole Matsumoto	Email: nmatsumoto@healaniland.com	Zip: 96821
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 09:51 AM
Name: Claire Tamamoto	Email: Claire2164@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Aiea Community Association	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 11:43 AM
Name: Andrew Lewis	Email: lewisandy3@gmail.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 05:33 PM
Testimony: We must protect the landscape where our pūnāwai exists. True resilience comes from balancing the needs of our communities with the stewardship of our natural resources.		
Name: Alexandra D'Angelo	Email: kananidangelo@gmail.com	Zip: 96701

Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Jan 28, 2025 @ 10:52 PM
-----------------------	---------------------	---------------------------------------

Testimony:

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a resident of ‘Aiea and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō‘ī Wahine Kalanimanu‘ia, Loko ‘Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama ‘āina. A true concern for ‘āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development. Not seek exemptions to rush an already flawed project.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen’s historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo‘i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project’s own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the ‘auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the ‘auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council’s website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that “The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's

governance.” One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this ‘āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,

Alexandra D'Angelo,
Concerned Citizen and Steward of Loko I'a Pā'aiau,

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kimberly Moa	kimberly.moa@gmail.com	96701
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Jan 29, 2025 @ 12:39 AM

Testimony:

Re: Testimony in Opposition to RES25-023 and RES25-026 related to Hale O Lipoa Project

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

My name is Kimberly Kamaluokeakua Moa. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in opposition of Resolution 25-23 and 25-26 related to Hale o Lipoa.

I am a resident of ‘Aiea residing in the ahupua’a of Kalauao in a home that’s been in my ‘ohana for going on four generations. I am also an Aiea Community Association Board Member, Ali’i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club Member, one of the kī'ai loko (fishpond caretakers) of Loko I’a Pā'aiau and my ‘ohana has longtime pilina with the ‘āina and caretakers of the lo'i kalo at Ka'onohi, just mauka of the project site near Pearlridge Center.

I am writing in opposition of Resolution 25-23 and Resolution 25-26, granting a special management major permit and exemptions to Līpoa Development LLC for the Hale o Līpoa project at 98-150 Lipoa Place.

As kanaka maoli and a cultural practitioner who has been working alongside others in my community for over a decade to

restore the fishery and wetlands of Kalauao, I am deeply concerned that this project will have an adverse impact on the aquifer and the surrounding wai and kai of Kalauao, both during and after its construction. The freshwater 'auwai that flows near the project will carry pollution flow into the harbor and the construction itself and continued use of water resources into the future would further overtax and potentially damage the water table and freshwater lens in the area which would have direct impacts on the existing springs and lo'i of Kalauao and the return of endangered native species nearshore and mauka of the project area.

In addition to its adverse impact on our 'āina and wai, the proposed development threatens the sacred and culturally significant site of Loko Opu, a historic fishpond commissioned by mō'i wahine of O'ahu, Queen Kalaimanuia, as well as the broader ecosystem that includes Loko I'a Pā'aiau, Loko Pa'akea, and the springs and lo'i of Kalauao, all of which could be irreparably harmed by this project.

Community members from all of the entities mentioned in the developer's project proposall have voiced concerns and opposition to this development at every juncture, including on public record and within the EA impact assessment. These concerns have continuously been dismissed and ignored by the developer and government entities engaged in moving this project forward without adequate consideration of its adverse effects, and they have failed to engage in meaningful consultation or collaboration with our community to this point. This is a pattern I don't expect to change into the future in spite of the developer's claim.

Affordable housing is a major concern for all of us who live Hawaii and especially those of us who were born and are indigenous to Hawaii. However, our community is already bearing the brunt of infrastructure and development for the County and State and will soon be host to a new OCCC Jail, a Stadium District, as well as additional TOD development in coming years. The increased density's impact on our 'āina, and the wai beyond and below it, will be immeasurable.

Voting in favor of these resolutions would prioritize harmful development over ecological and cultural preservation and would once again ignore our community concerns.

Mahalo nui loa,
Kimberly Moa
Aiea Resident
98-124 Kihale Street, Unit B
Aiea, HI 96701

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Alex Philippou	zoephlp48@gmail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Jan 29, 2025 @ 07:46 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I, Alex Philippou, strongly oppose the building of Hale o Līpoa altogether, I therefore oppose any and all exemptions for this proposed project. The resolution lists some twenty-five (25) exemptions including everything from not having to pay application and permitting fees to zoning for perimeter and maximum height to development standards. Page 2 of the Resolution states that “the granting of the exemptions is necessary for the timely and successful implementation of the project.” Aren’t fees and permits and requirements put in place for an important reasons? These exemptions are deeply concerning and should be opposed by all who care for the ‘āina.

Proposed affordable housing is not an excuse to authorize exemptions that are meant to protect and preserve the sanctity of the ‘āina and safety of our current and future residents.

People are fleeing the shoreline on the North shore and you are proposing a building across the street from the shoreline in ‘Aiea. No exemptions. No Hale o Līpoa.

Mahalo nui for your serious consideration.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Alison Ka`olinokaimana, & Jason Yasuoka-Arakaki	kaolinokaimana@gmail.com	96701
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Oppose	Jan 29, 2025 @ 09:39 AM



Testimony Before The
City Council of the City and County of Honolulu
IN OPPOSITION TO Res 25-023
Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 10:00AM

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being. Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to submit testimony in regards to [Res 25-023](#), which addresses the planned Hale o Lipoa development.

Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA) means “grassroots growing through shared responsibility,” our acronym KUA means backbone. KUA works to empower communities to improve their quality of life through caring for their environmental heritage together. We employ a community-driven approach that currently supports a network of close to 40 mālama 'āina (natural and cultural resource stewardship) community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (move forward together), over 60 indigenous aquaculture restoration projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a growing group of over 60 limu loea (master practitioners in gathering native seaweed) called the Limu Hui -- all from across the Hawaiian archipelago. **Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as 'ĀINA MOMONA – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.**

We oppose this request to waive restrictions on a proposed building in the Special Management Area (SMA) along the harbor in Kalauao. We write because we are connected to a number of community projects who have expressed concern about this hearing on SMA Major Permit No. 2024/SMA-86. They are concerned that the process has moved too quickly and threatens, if not entirely foregoes, their long and ongoing efforts to revitalize their cultural heritage and landscapes, further threatening an area known to suffer from already drastic environmental degradation as it is.

We are particularly engaged in and support networks of Indigenous and locally driven actions and movements in the social-ecological space bridging people and place, Indigenous and locally situated knowledge, and contemporary practices and views with conservation science. We believe positive innovation tying communities to their natural environment is important not just for the culture and people on the ground here in Hawai'i, but also for the health and abundance of the world as a whole. The SMA that would be impacted by your decision today sounds like it was created for exactly this kind of positive innovation.

We understand this SMA extends inland from the shoreline, established by the Honolulu City Council to preserve, protect, and restore the natural resources of the coastal zone as part of a larger vision of the surrounding community, who fought to ensure that the shoreline and harbor area remain protected. This project site also sits within the boundaries of the historic

royal Loko I'a 'Opu, and the increased density's impact on the 'āina, the water beyond and below it, and the sky above it, is contrary to the community's intent for the SMA.

To be clear, KUA is not opposed to development in general, and especially not affordable housing developments. We have supported efforts to keep our people home in the past, and indeed it is an underlying reason for our work, after all, "What is Hawai'i without its kama'āina, whose cultural values and practices are core to Hawai'i's foundation and identity?" However, we do believe housing should be appropriately located and vetted in light of the surrounding communities' input and the cultural and environmental mandates of our state constitution. In this case, the community has been provided very little input.

We urge you to **defer** decision-making until further study of the project's impact on the SMA can be explored and discussed in collaboration with the community stakeholders.

E aloha 'āina momona kākou, let us all work to increase abundance in our precious and sacred, 'āina.

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a friend of ‘Aiea and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō‘ī Wahine Kalanimanu‘ia, Loko 'Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama 'āina. A true concern for 'āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen's historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo'i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the 'auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the 'auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council's website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that "The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's governance." One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this 'āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,
Barbara Wakatake
Native Hawaiian Resident of Oahu & Registered Voter
January 29, 2025

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE
Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

Aloha,

My name is Robert Deedman and I am a resident of ‘Aiea and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō‘ī Wahine Kalanimanu‘ia, Loko ‘Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama ‘āina. A true concern for ‘āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen’s historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo‘i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project’s own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream.

In fact, the ‘auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the ‘auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council’s website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that “The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's governance.” One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this ‘āina and its people in the past.

Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community’s wishes,

Robert Deedman
99-969 Aiea Hts Dr
Unit G
Aiea, HI 96701

January 29, 2025

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a resident of ‘Aiea (or friend of ‘Aiea) and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō‘ī Wahine Kalanimanu‘ia, Loko 'Opu. A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama 'āina. A true concern for 'āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen's historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo'i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream.

In fact, the 'auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the 'auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council's website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that "The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's governance." One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this 'āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,

Michael J. Davis, Steward of Loko I'a Pa'aiau

January 29, 2025



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

January 28, 2025

Chair Waters and Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council

530 S. King St.

Honolulu, Hawaii



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

Aloha Chair Waters and Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

Aloha Chair Waters and Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council.

I am writing on behalf of Healani Land Company to strongly oppose Resolution 25-23 CD1 and request that the City Council deny the Special Management Area Major Permit for the proposed eight-story affordable rental housing project on Linna Place.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

impacted our sister island and our extended ‘ohana. Lahaina, once the heart of the Hawaiian monarchy, suffered the loss of **ancestral lands**, **cultural landmarks**, and **sacred sites** that are vital to the continuation of Hawaiian traditions and identity. Among the losses were historical treasures like **Hale Pi’ilani**, the ancient royal palace, a blow to the heritage of not just Maui, but



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

impacted our sister island and our extended ‘ohana. Lahaina, once the heart of the Hawaiian monarchy, suffered the loss of **ancestral lands**, **cultural landmarks**, and **sacred sites** that are vital to the continuation of Hawaiian traditions and identity. Among the losses were historical treasures like **Hale Pi’ilani**, the ancient royal palace, a blow to the heritage of not just Maui, but



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

history and **sacred lands** are **protected**. The land at Lipoa Place, which was once the property of **Queen Kalanimauia** and is home to the ancient fishpond **Loko 'Opu**, and holds significant cultural and historical value. It is incumbent upon you, as our elected representatives, to honor and safeguard these sites for future generations. **You have the power** to demonstrate



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

history and **sacred lands** are **protected**. The land at Lipoa Place, which was once the property of **Queen Kalanimauia** and is home to the ancient fishpond **Loko 'Opu**, and holds significant cultural and historical value. It is incumbent upon you, as our elected representatives, to honor and safeguard these sites for future generations. **You have the power** to demonstrate



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

locations on O‘ahu better suited for such a project, where development would not compromise sacred and historically significant lands. Affordable housing is essential, but it should not come at the cost of erasing our shared cultural heritage.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

locations on O‘ahu better suited for such a project, where development would not compromise sacred and historically significant lands. Affordable housing is essential, but it should not come at the cost of erasing our shared cultural heritage.

Chair Waters, in your own words, the Honolulu City Council’s “Navigation House” states that



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

follow. IMUA!" With this kuleana in mind, we respectfully urge you and your colleagues to reconsider the proposed development at Lipoa Place.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

follow. IMUA!" With this kuleana in mind, we respectfully urge you and your colleagues to reconsider the proposed development at Lipoa Place.

We also ask that you re-review the Environmental Assessment (EA) completed by Keala Pono Architectural Consulting in May 2024. The EA clearly states, "the project has the



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

forefront to **prevent any adverse effects** from occurring as a result of this development.” This assessment underscores the need for further scrutiny and protection of this land. **We need more than just an EA; we need a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** to fully assess the impact of any development on these sacred lands before moving forward.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

forefront to **prevent any adverse effects** from occurring as a result of this development.” This assessment underscores the need for further scrutiny and protection of this land. **We need more than just an EA; we need a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** to fully assess the impact of any development on these sacred lands before moving forward.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

Statement before any development takes place on Lipoa Place—a place that holds deep cultural significance for the people of Hawai‘i.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

Statement before any development takes place on Lipoa Place—a place that holds deep cultural significance for the people of Hawai‘i.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter that will shape the future of our **aina** and the well-being of our **keiki**



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

Sincerely,



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

Sincerely,

Stacy Chong



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a resident of ‘Aiea (or friend of ‘Aiea) and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō‘ī Wahine Kalanimanu‘ia, Loko 'Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama 'āina. A true concern for 'āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development. Not seek exemptions to rush an already flawed project.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen's historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo'i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the 'auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the 'auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council's website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that "The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's governance." One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this 'āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,

Katie Hearther
Concerned Citizen and Steward of Loko I'a Pā'aiau,
January 29, 2025

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a resident of ‘Aiea (or friend of ‘Aiea) and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō‘ī Wahine Kalanimanu‘ia, Loko 'Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama 'āina. A true concern for 'āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development. Not seek exemptions to rush an already flawed project.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen's historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo'i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the 'auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the 'auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council's website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that "The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's governance." One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this 'āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,

Jordan Yoshimoto
Concerned Citizen and Steward of Loko I'a Pā'aiau,
January 28 2025

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a resident of ‘Aiea (or friend of ‘Aiea) and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō‘ī Wahine Kalanimanu‘ia, Loko 'Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama 'āina. A true concern for 'āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development. Not seek exemptions to rush an already flawed project.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen's historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo'i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the 'auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the 'auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council's website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that "The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's governance." One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this 'āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,

Bruce Keaulani

Concerned Citizen and Steward of Loko I'a Pā'aiau,
January 28 2025

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a resident of ‘Aiea (or friend of ‘Aiea) and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō‘ī Wahine Kalanimanu‘ia, Loko 'Opu. A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama 'āina. A true concern for 'āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development. Not seek exemptions to rush an already flawed project.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen's historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo'i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream.

In fact, the 'auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the 'auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council's website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that "The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's governance." One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this 'āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,

Christina R K Agullana

Concerned Citizen and Steward of Loko I'a Pāiaiau,

January 28 2025

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. **OPPOSE**

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a friend of ‘Aiea, and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. **It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies.** This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō‘i Wahine Kalanimanu‘ia, Loko ‘Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama ‘āina. A true concern for ‘āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development.

While the building site may superficially appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen’s historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo‘i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project’s own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream.

In fact, the ‘auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the ‘auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council’s website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that “The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's governance.” One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this ‘āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. **Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!**

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community’s wishes,

Emilie Parry

Climate Change and Environmental Specialist, steward of Loko I‘a Pā‘aiau in ‘Aiea

January 29, 2025

Kehaulani Lum
Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club
99-045 Nalopaka Place, 'Aiea, Hawai'i 96701
allipauahi@gmail.com

January 28, 2025

The Honorable Councilmember Tommy Waters, Chair
The Honorable Matt Weyer, Vice Chair
Honolulu City Council Members
City Council Chamber

Re: Opposing Resolutions 25-23 CD1 and 25 - 26 CD1 relating to granting a SMA Major Permit to 98-150 Lipoa Place. Hearing: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 10:00 a.m.

Rendering of Proposed Hale O Lipoa Project





1920 Aerial view of project site (large pond at bottom of photo)

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, and Distinguished Members of the Council,

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to appear in person today. It is with a heavy heart that I bring forth Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club's (APHCC) **opposition** to Resolution 25-23 CD1 and, by extension, Resolution 25-26 CD1, as we believe that the site of Loko I'a 'Opu, the 10.5 acre royal fishpond attributed to Queen Kalanimanu'ia, the grandmother of Kakuhihewa, is not the right space for such a massive development.

For over 400 years, the area fed our ancestors, until it was disrupted by greed, plantation fill, water diversion, and post-World War II low-rise urbanization. Contrary to the statement that it is not part of the shoreline, beneath its acre of fill lies the remnants of a once-thriving coral bed and pond. The waters from upland springs still flow alongside and beneath it. Native birds fly from the ocean to uplands above it. Kalanimanu'ia's home and pond, Loko I'a Pā'aiau, is located just beyond the proposed building, in the photo provided. The harbor of Pu'uloa, is just makai. One cannot say that this is not in a coastal area with any degree of truth. The building's very name, referencing the prized līpoa seaweed that once proliferated in the surrounding waters, announces it.

Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club was one of only two community participants at the applicant's first public engagement session and was present when it appeared before the 'Aiea Community Association. We have never received a response to our requests from the project proponents.

We oppose the resolutions because we believe that the project is flawed, short-sighted, a potential waste of government funds, a visual, ecological and environmental blight, and because there are other sites where a true affordable housing project can be built within the community. We urge the Council to create a real beacon of affordable housing on safe mauka lands; not on that which the community, State, County, and Federal Governments envisioned decades ago as a coastal protection zone to "preserve, protect, develop, and where possible, restore and enhance the nation's coastal zone resources....". Also, to reflect upon the fact that 'Aiea will soon become home to thousands of affordable housing units, over the next twenty years, as the stadium is developed.

APHCC is a 50+year-chartered member of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs. Headquartered only a mile away from the site in question, we sit on the board of the 'Aiea Community Association, which, after nearly 30 years of effort, successfully championed the current building of 146 affordable housing units for kūpuna on the former 'Aiea Sugar Mill site. Six years ago, we helped convince the City to not sell the parcel to the State for another use, and, instead, to release the RFP for Aloha Ia o Halewiliko. This is a community-visioned project, filled with the perseverance and aloha of its beloved members.

In 2015, we were one of only two active civic club representatives to advocate for increased rental housing trust funds (a \$40,000,000 infusion). We also sat on the Legislative Working Group which identified a traditional Hawaiian living space, called, "Kauhale," as a model plan for our indigenous community. And, we were invited by the City to speak in support of ADUs, as a means to nurture 'ohana, especially for our kūpuna.

I offer this ho'olauna because I want you to know that we are kindred spirits, when it comes to identifying real solutions to creating truly affordable housing. We support permanent affordable housing that is safe, of high quality, loving and built in the proper place.

At the same time, our kupuna left us a mission which compels our kuleana as mālama 'āina stewards, through which we honor ecological and cultural harmony and look to our ancestors for guidance, in the 'olelo no'eau: **"He Ali'i ka 'āina, he kauwa ke kanaka. Land is the chief, the human being is the servant."**

We echo the testimony of the 'Aiea Community Association, which first inspired our community to restore our Ali'i's fishpond legacy. We oppose this project which will be built on one of the most significant historic sites on our island, yet to be archaeologically lifted, as the pond built by

Kalanimanu'ia, O'ahu's highest sovereign who was born at Kūkaniloko and ruled during the time of Machu Picchu, in peace, abundance and no war.

Individually, the site may appear to untrained eyes to have no adverse impact on cultural or traditional practice. But, through the lens of the SMA, the cumulative effect of its construction will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen's historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres) and the traditional ecological system surrounding it that fed our ancestors for generations and, as the oceans rise, can do so again. Only steps away from its projected front door, the harbor is being cleansed of 80 years of detritus. This new structure cannot be built without impaling the depths of the water system 90' below and injecting cement and fill that does not currently exist nor belong there.

As a lineal descendant of the last konohiki of 'Aiea and Kapakule, the fishing shrine at the entrance to Pu'uloa, I have been blessed to continue the practice of raising a child in a multi-generational kauhale, on 'āina that fed our ancestors for hundreds of years and which we pray will continue to survive amidst the feverish pace of overdevelopment today.

I am also the head of an organization created by graduates of The Kamehameha Schools that has contributed to the well-being of our 'āina, through over a decade of resources and labor, alongside thousands of members of the community and the U.S.Navy, to transform the health and safety of Pearl Harbor and its shoreline fisheries, especially, Loko I'a Pā'aiau, on the Kalauao Stream, only steps from the proposed project.

Contrary to the findings of DPP and the Committee, the proposed project does **not** satisfy this, nor, does it comply with SMA guidelines that must be achieved before a SMA Major permit can be approved, including: **1)** mitigation measures; **2)** preservation of important archaeological sites (Loko 'Opu, the 10-acre "great" fishpond attributed by Kamehameha Schools' to O'ahu's most Kapu sovereign, Queen Kalanimanu'ia - the grandmother of Kakuhihewa) see: https://www.ksbe.edu/assets/site/special_section/regions/ewa/Halau_o_Puuloa_Kalauao.pdf), as well as the waters that flow from the nearby Kahuewai Spring waters into the Pearl Harbor National Historic Site; **3)** building height restrictions; and, **4)** drainage improvements to mitigate flooding or to control siltation in coastal waters (especially, increased fill which may already be susceptible to tidal rise).

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint on the site and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over

the Waimalu Aquifer and an important water source, it is reckless for a permit to be given, before this is conducted.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future. Moreover, it sits in the highest risk red zone for wildfire, identical to that of Lahaina.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the ‘auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the site feeds directly into the ‘auwai and downstream into the harbor.

The fact that the name of the project, Hale O Līpoa echoes the abundance of the highly prized and fragrant seaweed that once grew in the nearshore waters, justifies the wisdom of requiring studies, to ensure that the project will not have any adverse impact upon the waters alongside, in front of and below, as well as Loko I’a Pā’aiau and Loko I’a Pa’akea, to the west of the project.

Despite several attempts to urge a more robust and pono study on the potential adverse impacts upon the waters of Pu’uloa that the community has been cleaning for over a decade, we have received no communication from the Developer nor its representatives, in response. Instead, the project has moved zealously ahead, with indifference. This is not a sign of a sincere interest in engaging with the community; something that its report says that it will do as a mitigation action.

The ecosystem that once comprised Queen Kalanimanu’ia’s three royal ponds, Loko I’a Pā’aiau, Loko ‘Opu (project site), and Loko Pa’akea is a treasure that can be restored, in the same way that the royal fishpond known as Mokuhinia, in Lahaina, is being championed by Governor Green and Native Hawaiian leaders, in the post-fire restoration plans. Indeed, Kalauao and Lahaina are closely related, as Kalanimanu’ia and Pi’ilani, the chief of Maui, were first cousins who managed and built fishponds in the same generation.

Awarding of the SMA Permit – Major, to a structure that resembles the chunky architecture and bulk of the Waiau Power Plant, in an area of such historic and ecological importance, would destroy any opportunity for future generations to experience the innovative technology that Native Hawaiian fishponds represent, in terms of food sustainability, traditional ecological knowledge, rising tides and climate resilience. It would further ignore Section 219.100-2, relating to TOD Neighborhood Plans, as approved by the City Council, to ensure the protection, preservation and recognition of traditional Hawaiian cultural properties in the area.

As stewards who have succeeded in encouraging the return of dozens of endangered species to the nearshore area fronting the project site, proving the wisdom and efficiency of restoration over speculation, we are deeply concerned that the Board of Water Supply's Primary Urban Center Watershed Management Plan is being wholly disregarded. Even though there are areas in the community that are more ideal for such a project, including thousands of new homes to be built on the Aloha Stadium site, the project insists that this is the best alternative and, consequently, fails to: 1) Promote sustainable watersheds; 2) Protect and enhance water quality and quantity; 3) Protect Native Hawaiian rights and traditional and customary practices; and, 4) Facilitate public participation and education.

At a time when the wells in the area have been shut, possibly permanently, even the BWS is not guaranteeing that there will be sufficient water for the project, as it calls for a review at the time of permitting.

For reference, a 2007 Central Oahu Watershed Study (HBWS (Honolulu Board of Water Supply). (2007). Central Oahu Watershed Study, Final Report. Prepared by Oceanit, Townscape, Inc., Eugene Dashiell), commissioned by the Honolulu Board of Water Supply, the USACE, and the City and County of Honolulu Department of Environmental Services, includes an overview of the Kalauao Stream watershed and detailed descriptions of the watershed conditions. Relevant sections on Kalauao watershed (ahupua'a) conditions including climate, soils, hydrogeology, ground water, surface water, flooding and drainage patterns, nearshore waters, terrestrial ecosystems, traditional and customary rights and practices, and settlement history are described and relevant sections summarized below. The study also includes a lengthy chapter on water use, as that was a large driver for the study, as well as a chapter on projects and programs (HBWS 2007). Relevant to the Loko I'a Pā'aiau project, the study describes projects and programs suggested to address identified watershed issues. A number of program or project priorities identified in the study, including fishpond restoration, wetland restoration and protection, and ecological restoration in Pearl Harbor, are specifically targeted by the proposed actions at Loko I'a Pā'aiau.

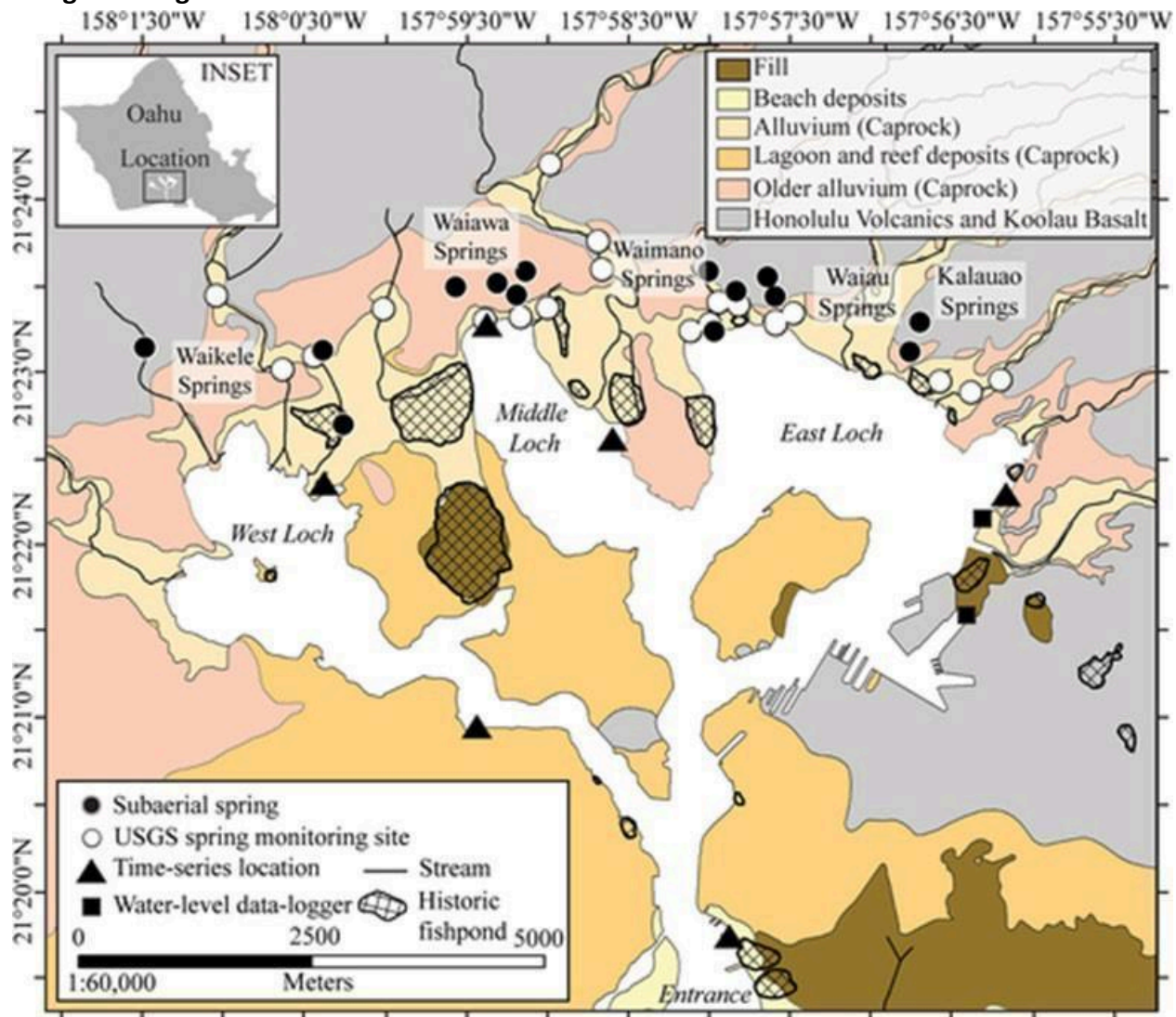
While the HBWS study is somewhat dated, it still highlights the long-standing and on-going need for comprehensive actions to address excess sediment from upland sources affecting Central Oahu streams (such as Kalauao Stream) and Pearl Harbor, to improve land management practices and sediment control for the purposes of improving water quality. The watershed study included six separate programs with recommendations needed to address gaps and begin to rectify the terrestrial-sourced sediment issue:

- A sediment source study and analysis to identify the courses and volumes of sediment polluting Pearl Harbor and freshwater tributary streams

- Stream erosion and sediment control to address sedimentation as a major non-point source of contamination of stream deltas and Pearl Harbor waters, risk to aquatic life including food chain and bioaccumulation issues, and reduced flood capacity
- Best management practices (BMPs) to reduce erosion and stormwater impacts on surface water quality
- Total Maximum Daily Load allocation modeling to address complex water quality management problems of toxic contaminants, sediments, and nutrients produced at point and nonpoint sources
- Stream habitat restoration to address degraded native habitats from water pollution, invasive species introduction, and channelization and riparian zone modifications that threaten native stream fauna, including turbidity and trash, as well as other parameters that impact water quality and have a direct correlation to the health of aquatic species
- Riparian buffer zones, to increase vegetated cover and functions in the many areas with limited or no vegetation, leaving the streams at risk to increased sediment loading, increased temperatures, decreased water quality and reduced ability to attenuate flood waters

The list above points to a large-scale and systemic problem with upland sources of excess sediment impacting aquatic resources throughout the Central Oahu watershed and Pearl Harbor. As one example, multiple acres and tens of thousands of cubic yards of accumulated trash and debris-laden sediment has built up along the East Loch shoreline and at the mouth of Kalauao Stream in the vicinity of the project area and Loko I'a Pā'aiau. The programs noted above provide solid evidence of a high-priority problem affecting marine life (especially sedentary species) (and human life), smothering estuarine habitats, degrading water quality, and increasing the risk of sediment delivered pesticides, toxins, bacteria, heavy metals, excess nutrients, and pathogens to the habitats of threatened and endangered birds and other native fauna.

Geologic Setting



Pearl Harbor geological setting. Source: Kelly et al. 2018

Pearl Harbor is at the base of the Koʻolau volcanic mountain range. This range is the remnant of the Koolau shield volcano, which along with the remnant of the Waianae volcano, form the island of Oahu. The Koolau formation is composed almost exclusively of highly heterogeneous basaltic lava flows. Loko lʻa Pāʻaiau is mapped in an alluvial geologic unit (“Qa”) defined as poorly sorted sand and gravel alluvium of the Koolau volcano, as depicted below (Kelly et al. 2018). These unconsolidated surficial deposits are from the Holocene and Pleistocene periods, and along with marine sediment and reef limestone deposits interspersed with volcanic tuff, form a wedge up to 1,000 feet thick in places, commonly referred to as caprock. The caprock overlies the lava flows of the basaltic aquifer near the coast. Caprock typically has a lower conductivity than the basaltic rocks and confines the underlying

basal aquifer, impeding the natural coastal discharge of groundwater from the basalt, allowing groundwater storage in the volcanic aquifers to be greater than it would be without the caprock. Much of Oahu's extensive groundwater resources are the result of the island's well-developed coastal-plain caprock (USGS 2020).

Waters

Estuarine Waters

Isolation from oceanic currents and tides means that Pearl Harbor water quality is mostly influenced by both natural and human-made sources on land, including several freshwater springs, streams, storm drains, and watersheds (USACE 2022). The water of Pearl Harbor has always been relatively turbid from stream runoff and other sources of sediment; however, runoff-related sedimentation increased dramatically in the nineteenth century with deforestation, ranching and grazing of hillsides, declining use of taro ponds—which acted to retain stormwater, and development of sugarcane cultivation (Coles et al. 1997).

Streams

Stream flow contributes 31 million gallons per day (mgd) of freshwater into Pearl Harbor during dry periods and 87 mgd during wet periods (DoN 2011). Approximately 40 percent of the stream runoff entering Pearl Harbor enters Middle Loch, another 40 percent enters West Loch, and 20 percent enters East Loch, where the project is sited. Seven perennial (Waikele, Waiawa, Waiau, Waimalu, Kalauao, Halawa, Kapakahi) and two intermittent (Honouliuli, Aiea) streams flow into Pearl Harbor and drain about two-thirds of the watershed area. In the Central Oahu Watershed, only the streams with headwaters in the Ko'olau Range or fed by basal springs are perennial. The National Wetland Database lists 12.3 miles of intermittent, 5 miles of non-perennial, and 10.5 miles of perennial streams in the watershed. These perennial and intermittent streams drain agricultural and urban lands before passing through highly urbanized lands near the harbor. Stream water is fresh up until a short distance upstream from the mouth of the streams where they enter the saline waters of the estuary. High flood peaks and low base flow above the areas of spring influence Pearl Harbor streams (DoN 2011). Additional intermittent freshwater input comes from point and nonpoint wastewater sources through controlled stormwater infrastructure and uncontrolled urban/terrestrial runoff, respectively. Natural streams in Hawaii are typically short and steep with limited watershed areas (HBWS 2007). This physical aspect combined with intermittent and often intense rainfall patterns tend to make the streams very flash-flood prone. Streams in Hawaii exceed their average flow only about 10 percent of the time. Native Hawaiian stream fauna in perennial interrupted streams rely on the flash flood nature of the flows to migrate up and down the stream for spawning purposes.

Groundwater

Groundwater is water that flows or seeps downward and saturates soil or rock, supplying springs and wells. Groundwater is used for water consumption, agricultural irrigation, and industrial applications. Groundwater properties are often described in terms of depth to aquifer, aquifer or well capacity, water quality, and surrounding geologic composition. Sole-source aquifer designation provides limited protection of groundwater resources that serve as drinking water supplies. Groundwater provides essentially all municipal, military, and diversified agricultural uses in Central O'ahu (HBWS 2007).

Although they are surrounded by seawater, the Hawaiian Islands are underlain by large quantities of fresh groundwater, which are the result of the large mountainous island land masses causing orographic rainfall (rain that is produced from the lifting of moist air over a mountain). The rainfall recharges Oahu at an average rate of 23.3 inches per year, with the spatial distribution of recharge mimicking the spatial distribution of the precipitation. The permeable soils and rocks that compose the uplands allow easy infiltration of the abundant rainfall to accumulate as fresh groundwater. These geologic conditions allow for the subsurface movement of water with low-permeability geologic features impounding large amounts of water in the thick groundwater reservoirs.

Five large springs heavily influence the stream flows into Pearl Harbor: Kalauao, Waiau, Waimanu, Waiawa, and Waikele. These springs are located along the shoreline and are considered the largest and most significant spring complex in the Hawaiian Islands. The largest spring is the Waimanu-Waiawa Spring, which drains into East Loch and has a median flow of 32 mgd. The springs issue from points along the edge of the upper confining member of the aquifer and represent overflow of the artesian basin rather than artesian springs.

Groundwater that accumulates in high rainfall regions in higher elevations of Central Oahu is considered superb in quality and needs no treatment before being used as drinking water (HBWS 2007). The quality of groundwater as it reaches urbanized areas is affected by the introduction of dissolved matter generated by surface activities and the intrusion of saltwater into basal lenses due to freshwater withdrawal. Historically, the infiltration of rainfall and irrigation return water replenished groundwater reserves, but brought with it the additional fertilizers, salts, pesticides, and residues resistant to breakdown in the soil column. (HBWS 2007). In areas once fed primarily by irrigation, such as areas above the Ewa caprock Aquifer System Area, the lost input of freshwater has contributed to reduced sustainable yield and increased saltwater intrusion.

Pearl Harbor receives freshwater input from the Waimalu, Waipahu-Waiawa, and Pearl Harbor aquifer systems. The aquifers of Oahu contain two flow regimes: shallow freshwater and deep saltwater. The freshwater floats on underlying saltwater in a condition of buoyant displacement (Hunt 1996). The freshwater in the basalt aquifer floats on top of the denser saltwater at depths of up to 900 feet. The

movement of groundwater is controlled by bedrock fractures and local hydrologic conditions that influence the supply and distribution of water. In the Ko'olau Range, the hydraulic gradient in the basin was found to be from 1.2 to 3 feet per mile. The Pearl Harbor area is underlain by two aquifers: a sedimentary caprock aquifer and a basaltic aquifer. Sedimentary caprock is typically composed of fine-grained sediment and lies atop an unconfined aquifer in which water moves downward to the zone of saturation (i.e., water table). The caprock is underlain by an impermeable stratum that overlies and confines the basaltic aquifer. Contaminants have a potential migration pathway, because overlying basalts and soils are highly permeable, except in areas overlain by sedimentary caprock (Grovehoug 1992). Groundwater also saturates sediments on coastal plains, particularly layers of limestone.

The thickness of the unconsolidated caprock aquifer is unknown at the Loko I'a Pā'aiau site. It is anticipated that the capstone aquifer in the Loko I'a Pā'aiau and adjacent area is saturated with freshwater from precipitation and potentially with groundwater discharging from the underlying basalt. The water table is anticipated to be 6 to 18 inches below land surface (NRCS 2023). Most of the groundwater in the capstone aquifer at the I'a Pā'aiau site is discharging to Pearl Harbor; however, this subsea discharge could be affected by nearby pumping wells.

Near the Loko I'a Pā'aiau site are several up-gradient supply wells. An agricultural supply well is just north of the area, less than a mile away. Northwest of the area, multiple municipal wells are located along Kalauao Stream. A few of these wells are about a mile away, while most on Kalauao Stream are about 1.5 miles. Some of these wells withdraw up to 13.4 mgd of groundwater.

These areas are near to the project site.

Besides the obvious environmental challenges that should be remedied by robust investigation, above and beyond a Phase 1 study, given the SMA status, the project also fails to demonstrate that it will be a truly affordable housing one, **in perpetuity**.

With an amendment that allows it to enter market-rate status five years earlier than required, in 3 generations, the problem that this project purports to address today will no longer be affordable, just as today's keiki reach kupuna age. By then, most of us will be long gone. What kind of ancestors will they think of us then?

When Kalanimanu'ia chose this shoreline upon which to center her fishponds and government, she left a legacy of peace and abundance. The SMA identification is not something that is "nice to have." It is a connection from past to present to future that deserves to be honored. It is a traditional ecological resilience response to the rising waters. It is a way for us to feed ourselves again and release our dependence on foreign imports.

Please do not extinguish our Queen's last light. We have the capacity to create powerful mo'olelo together again, in true lōkahi and aloha, while providing a safe and affordable home for our residents in areas free of flood, inundation and ecological and environmental harm.

Let us, instead, strive to be the benevolent ancestors of the future, whose descendants will be cared for forever.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kehaulani Lum

President

Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club



January 28, 2025

Chair Waters and Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council
530 S. King St.
Honolulu Hale
Honolulu, HI. 96813

RE: Opposition to Resolution 25-23 CD1

Aloha Chair Waters and Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council.

I am writing on behalf of Healani Land Company to strongly oppose Resolution 25-23 CD1 and request that the City Council deny the Special Management Area Major Permit for the proposed eight-story affordable rental housing project on Lipoa Place.

We have all witnessed the immense devastation caused by the Maui wildfires, which tragically impacted our sister island and our extended ‘ohana. Lahaina, once the heart of the Hawaiian monarchy, suffered the loss of **ancestral lands, cultural landmarks, and sacred sites** that are vital to the continuation of Hawaiian traditions and identity. Among the losses were historical treasures like Hale Pi’ilani, the ancient royal palace, a blow to the heritage of not just Maui, but all of Hawai‘i.

Now, here on O‘ahu, we have an opportunity to ensure that our own **cultural history and sacred lands are protected**. The land at Lipoa Place, which was once the property of **Queen Kalanimaui** and is home to the ancient fishpond **Loko ‘Opu**, and holds significant cultural and historical value. It is incumbent upon you, as our elected representatives, to honor and safeguard these sites for future generations. **You have the power** to demonstrate true leadership by placing the preservation of our **aina** and cultural history above development.

While we recognize the importance of affordable housing, we also believe that there are other locations on O‘ahu better suited for such a project, where development would not compromise sacred and historically significant lands. Affordable housing is essential, but it should not come at the cost of erasing our shared cultural heritage.

Chair Waters, in your own words, the Honolulu City Council’s “Navigation House” states that together we are tasked with “engag(ing) in our **civic kuleana** to the **aina** and **people of O‘ahu**. As you stated, “our collective action impacts all of us now and generations to follow. IMUA!” With this kuleana in mind, we respectfully urge you and your colleagues to reconsider the proposed development at Lipoa Place.



HEALANI

LAND COMPANY INC.

We also ask that you re-review the Environmental Assessment (EA) completed by Keala Pono Architectural Consulting in May 2024. The EA clearly states, “...**the project has the potential to affect natural and cultural** resources located within and adjacent to the project, as well as affect natural and cultural resources in the area. Awareness of this should be at the forefront to **prevent any adverse effects** from occurring as a result of this development.” This assessment underscores the need for further scrutiny and protection of this land. We need more than just an EA; we need a full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to fully assess the impact of any development on these sacred lands before moving forward.

As stewards of this land, you have a responsibility to protect it. We ask that you vote **no** on this resolution and require the developer to complete a thorough Environmental Impact Statement before any development takes place on Lipoa Place—a place that holds deep cultural significance for the people of Hawai‘i.

Thank you for your attention to this crucial matter that will shape the future of our **aina** and the well-being of our **keiki**.

Mahalo for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

Stacy Chong
CEO and President
Healani Land Company

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a resident of 'Aiea (or friend of 'Aiea) and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō'i Wahine Kalanimanu'ia, Loko 'Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama 'āina. A true concern for 'āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development. Not seek exemptions to rush an already flawed project.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen's historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo'i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the 'auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the 'auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council's website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that "The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's governance." One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this 'āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,

Aaron Mattis

Concerned Citizen and Steward of Loko I'a Pā'aiau,
January 28 2025

Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place. OPPOSE

Aloha Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council,

I am a resident of Mililani and friend of 'Aiea and I oppose Resolutions 25-23 (CD1) and 25-26 which grant a Special Management Use Major permit and exemptions to a mainland-led speculator to build an 8 story, block long building right across the street from the shoreline, on Līpoa Place. It does NOT require any environmental or cultural studies. This site sits upon the second of three fishponds built by Mō'i Wahine Kalanimanu'ia, Loko 'Opu.

A SMA area is supposed to protect the environment and the people's access to the harbor. This measure completely ignores that and also requires no community benefit. The developers proposal, however, continuously mentions mālama 'āina. A true concern for 'āina would motivate the developers to complete an EIS and then seek a more appropriate site for their development. Not seek exemptions to rush an already flawed project.

While the building site may appear to have no negative impact on cultural or traditional practice, the construction of this so called affordable housing will destroy all opportunity for the restoration of the Queen's historic fishpond complex (over 30 acres), growth of indigenous limu and restoration of lo'i kalo; a system that fed generations of this community and can do so again.

Of added note, the project's own report finds that the site may experience a potential environmental concern, as it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The project site is also noted as being within the area of inundation of the 1% flood and will be well within the 3 and 7 feet rise, within the near future.

A very important flaw in the report says that the closest water source to the property is the Kalauao Stream. In fact, the 'auwai (ditch) that carries fresh water from Kahuewai (Kalauao Springs/Sumida Watercress Farm) passes parallel to the property, only feet away, and a drainage ditch that carries runoff from the property feeds directly into the 'auwai and downstream into the harbor.

A statement from the council's website about the swearing in of the City Council at the beginning of 2025 states that "The ceremony symbolizes a continued dedication to public service and incorporating new perspectives into the city's governance." One may ponder what the definition of public service is if the council ignores the will of the people. New perspectives should include a hard look at what worked for this 'āina and its people in the past. Zealous development is not always the answer.

The community does not want this building on this site. It is too close to the shoreline, in an area that already floods, and will erase all possibility of recreating a space where residents can subsist from the land and build relationships with these sacred spaces and each other. The supporters are campaign donors, unions or outside companies who stand to make millions from this project.

A different site for this project would provide housing AND fishery restoration, instead of burying the opportunity for the community to restore the complex of royal fishponds and revitalize its natural resources. Please vote no to Resolutions 25-23 and 25-26!

Mahalo for your serious consideration of the community's wishes,

Nick Agullana

Concerned Citizen

January 28 2025

January 28, 2025

Aloha Chair Waters and Honorable Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I am writing to **strongly oppose Resolution 25-23 and Resolution 25-26** and the granting of a Special Management Area Major Permit for the proposed affordable housing project on **Lipoa Place**.

While I fully support the need for more **affordable housing**, I cannot support this particular project. It fails to address the **significant cultural and environmental impacts** of building on a site that is home to one of the **three royal fishponds of 'Ewa**. This land, historically tied to **Queen Kalanimaui** and the ancient fishpond **Loko 'Opu**, is of immense cultural value and should be preserved, not developed.

The recent devastation in Lahaina from the wildfires underscores the critical importance of understanding and protecting Hawai'i's **natural and cultural landscapes**, especially **wai (water) systems** like fishponds that are vital to our ecosystem. The destruction in Lahaina, in part due to the loss of wetlands and fishponds, serves as a stark reminder of the shortsightedness of disregarding these important sites. With the threats of **climate change** and **rising sea levels**, this area is particularly vulnerable and must be preserved for the benefit of **future generations**, or our **keiki**.

Why is this project being considered for **exemption** from the normal policies that protect our **aina**? Have all **potential conflicts of interest** been fully reviewed and disclosed?

Given the historical and environmental significance of this land, a **full Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** must be conducted to assess all potential impacts thoroughly before any development moves forward.

We need to **value the land**, respect its cultural history, and ensure its protection for our children's future. Please **deny this resolution** and require the developer to undertake a comprehensive **EIS**.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Nicole Matsumoto



January 26, 2025

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officers and
Councilmembers of The City and County of Honolulu
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: In opposition of the proposed Special Management Area (SMA) Major Permit for
Lipoa Development LLC referred to as Hale O Lipoa Affordable Multi Family Rental
Housing Project.

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

On behalf of the 'Aiea Community Association (ACA) and the Friends of the Pearl Harbor
Historic Trail, we would like to express our opposition to this proposed SMA Major Permit
request.

Nearly 30 years ago, the City and County of Honolulu through its administration, Department of
Design and Construction and the Department of Planning and Permitting engaged the 'Aiea
community to develop the following vehicles to serve as guidelines for future development of
'Aiea: The Pearl Harbor Historic Trail Master Plan (2001, Resolution 03-188), The 'Aiea-Pearl
City Livable Communities Plan, (2004, Resolution 05-48 CD1) The 'Aiea Town Center Master
Plan (2002) and the 'Aiea-Pearl City Neighborhood TOD Plan (2009-2023). These plans were
developed through numerous community outreach meetings. They represent the essence of our
'Aiea community's vision well beyond our lifetime. They are to serve as a historical guide for
future development.

The Pearl Harbor Historic Trail (PHHT) was identified and highlighted in the 'Aiea and Pearl
City Livable Communities Plan. It was also the vision of Empower O'ahu as an economic engine
when the City applied for a HUD Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Communities designation
in 2000. The PHHT stretches 18.6 miles from Halawa Landing to Nanakuli links the
communities along the west side of O'ahu. The PHHT represents the efforts of a community-
based plan to reclaim the shoreline and generate economic pathways into our communities. The
Trail is the Pearl Harbor shoreline opportunity to expand recreational opportunities for our
communities. It also identifies and attempts to protect the historic and cultural sites of our 'Aiea.

Special Area Plans give communities the opportunity to define the identity, function,
organization, and character of their specific neighborhoods in accordance with the general
planning framework provided by their area's Development Plan or Sustainable Communities
Plan. The proposed Hale O Lipoa does not meet the criteria to demolish 6 - 2 story buildings to
replace them with 1- 8 story building with inadequate parking going from 48 units to 153 units
on 42,000 square feet of land. The proposed development will consist of 1-to-3-bedroom units
with the majority being 2 bedrooms. Currently, they are proposing 147 parking spaces with
overflow parking on the streets. The Aiea Neighborhood Board has expressed concern about the

"Building A Sense of Community"



Opposition to SMA Major Permit

Hale O Lipoa

Page 2

over the lack of even 1 to 1 parking spaces to units. The ANB had further concerns and asked Mr. Keegan Flaherty to return for further dialogue. Mr. Flaherty was invited to the ACA meeting the following week and was not present,

Although an EA was done, such a large and long-term project should require an Environment Impact Statement to fully flush out any environment, cultural and historical issues. For example, it has been presented that the project is not increasing the footprint of the existing buildings. It does however, quadrupling its height. Mr. Flaherty presented that site is 4.5 feet above sea level and they anticipate having to go 50 – 100 feet below grade with their concrete piling to support the height increase. The TOD plan for the area calls for “Medium-density housing makai of Kamehameha Highway, potentially above proposed bus transfer facility.” Medium density was defined by DPP as 60 feet.

As a participant of those many hours of community outreach, it was understood that we were not proposing the demolishing of building or areas that did not meet the above-mentioned plans, rather when the opportunity presented itself for redevelopment, especially along the shoreline areas, that the adopted City plans would be the DPP’s historical guide of prior work and vision. Deference would be given to creating access and views to water. In addition, the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail emphasizes the important role that water has played in this area, from the ancient Hawaiian fishponds to sugar plantation irrigation to today’s military presence in Pearl Harbor. This principle links the station area neighborhoods to nearby streams, springs, wetlands, and shoreline. The Plan promotes creating new public spaces and revitalized neighborhoods along the waterfront as development occurs, enhancing view corridors from mauka areas, and improving the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail.

Specifically, the plans speak to publicly accessible open space with new developments on parcels of 20,000 square feet or larger providing publicly accessible open spaces or contribute an equivalent value toward public park improvements within the station area. We ask that the Council honors the integrity of our ‘Aiea community’s plans as we have always respected the process from which they were developed.

We invite you to come to the Pearl Harbor shoreline and listen with your natural ears and hear the water that flows beneath these lands. Precious water that our wells have shared with all of Honolulu.

Claire J. Tamamoto

‘Aiea Community Association, President

Friends of the Pearl Harbor Historic Trail

“Building A Sense of Community”

Alison Ka'ōlinokaimana Yasuoka-Arakaki

Jason T. Arakaki

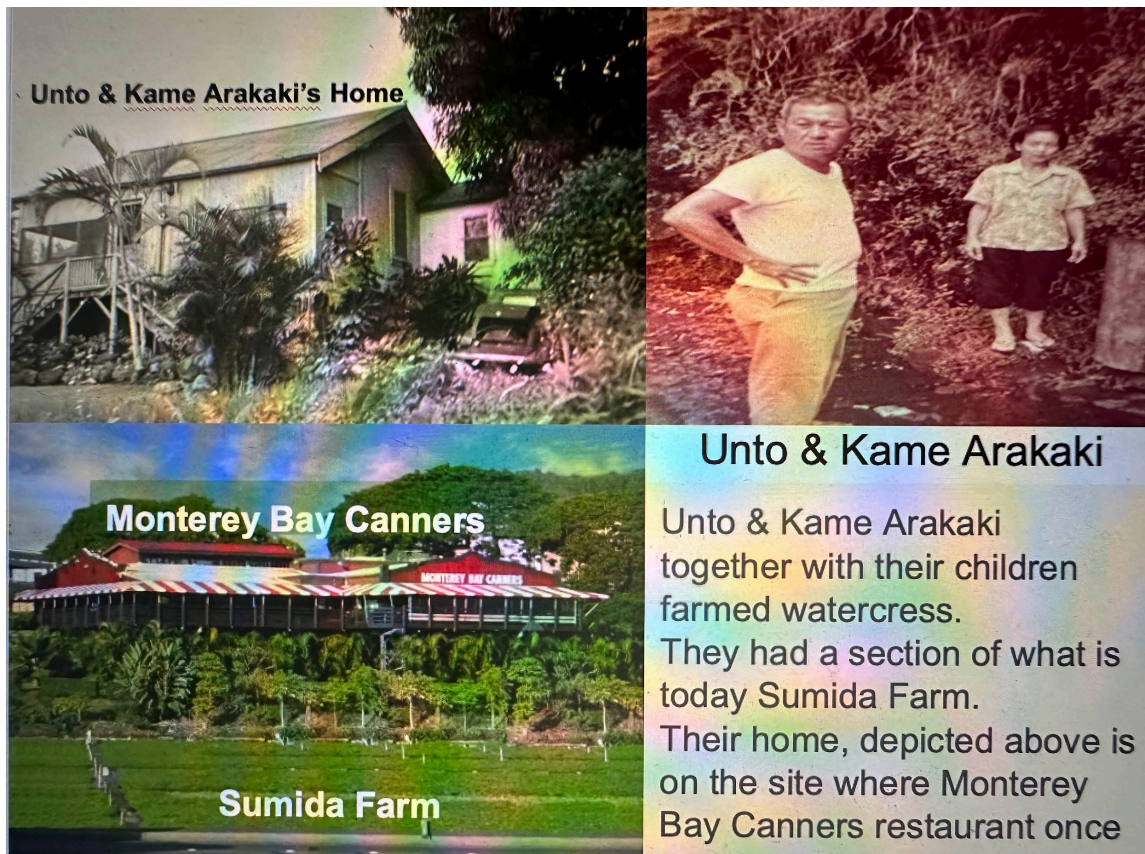
Resolution 25-23 CD1 related to granting a SMA Major permit to 98-150 Līpoa Place.

January 28, 2025

Position: OPPOSE

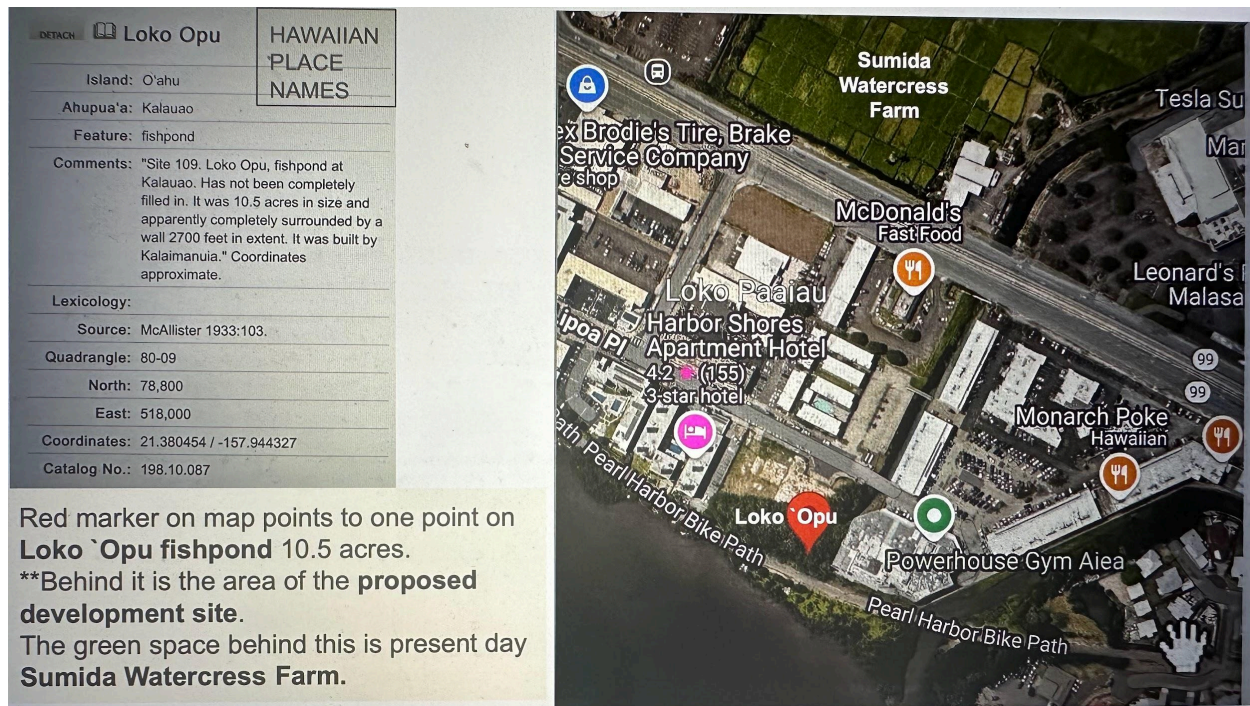
Aloha e Chair Waters, Vice Chair Weyer, Floor Leader Cordero, and Members of the Council, We are the Arakaki's whose lineage is tied to Unto Arakaki from Okinawa who moved to O'ahu and farmed the wetlands of 'Aiea. He felt such a close connection to this place, that he ended up raising his family in the Waimalu, 'Aiea area, where we still reside today. This is significant to Resolution 25-23 because James Arakaki, my husband's late father, helped his family with their watercress farming, across the street from 98-150 Līpoa Place development site, on a section as part of a watercress farming collective and what today makes up Sumida Watercress Farms. We are grateful to second generation Sumida Watercress farmer, Mr. Masaru Sumida whose passion, commitment, and dedication, and lobbying preserved the waters, and abundance of this place. His unwavering voice, and staunch resistance to the development and urbanization of this land, is why it still has the capacity to feed—not just mouths, but mentally and spiritually as well. "Masaru Sumida perpetuated the idea of the farm as a social gathering place (Burchard, 2023)." Biocultural ecosystems like this are important ecosystems that demonstrate true waiwai—wealth, and how it is waiola—the life-giving waters, life-giving not just to the watercress, but to the community, and the organisms that are provided a reprieve from the development of the area.

Mr. Sumida, Unto & Kame Arakaki, and James Arakaki—my late father-in-law, have inspired me to write in opposition of Resolution 23-25 and 25-26.



They understood the value of farming, and the importance of preserving the āina, and the wai.

Even before the cultivation of watercress, and the saving of this green, life-giving space, ka Mōʻī Wahine Kalanimanuiʻa, served as a model of stewardship, and aloha ʻāina. She brought wealth to her kaiāulu, her community, (in the area being targeted for this Līpoa Place development) through the maintenance of her fishpond, Loko ʻOpu (see Loko ʻOpu on the map below). In reality, she and other Kanaka Maoli stewards left a sustainability and resilience map for us to follow—if we consider the vast 3, fishpond system she developed during her reign, that included not just Loko ʻOpu, but also Loko Iʻa Pāʻaiau, and Loko Kapaʻakea.



According to a research paper in the National Institute of Health's National Library of Medicine that focused on Sumida Farm,

"As urban areas expand around the world, there are growing efforts to restore and protect natural and agricultural systems for the multitude of ecosystem services they provide to urban communities."

The research in this paper on the nearby Sumida Farms calls attention to all of the benefits in wetland systems like, Loko ʻOpu:

Concerns about the well-being of growing urban populations globally has led to increasing interest in urban ecosystems and ecosystem services, including provisioning (e.g. crop yields), regulating (e.g. nutrient retention, storm water regulation), supporting (e.g. nutrient cycling) and cultural (e.g. mental health benefits, sense of place) services [1–3]. Urban ecosystems include natural, novel (e.g. constructed wetlands and green roofs), and urban agricultural systems such as community gardens [4–9] (Engels, et.al, 2020).

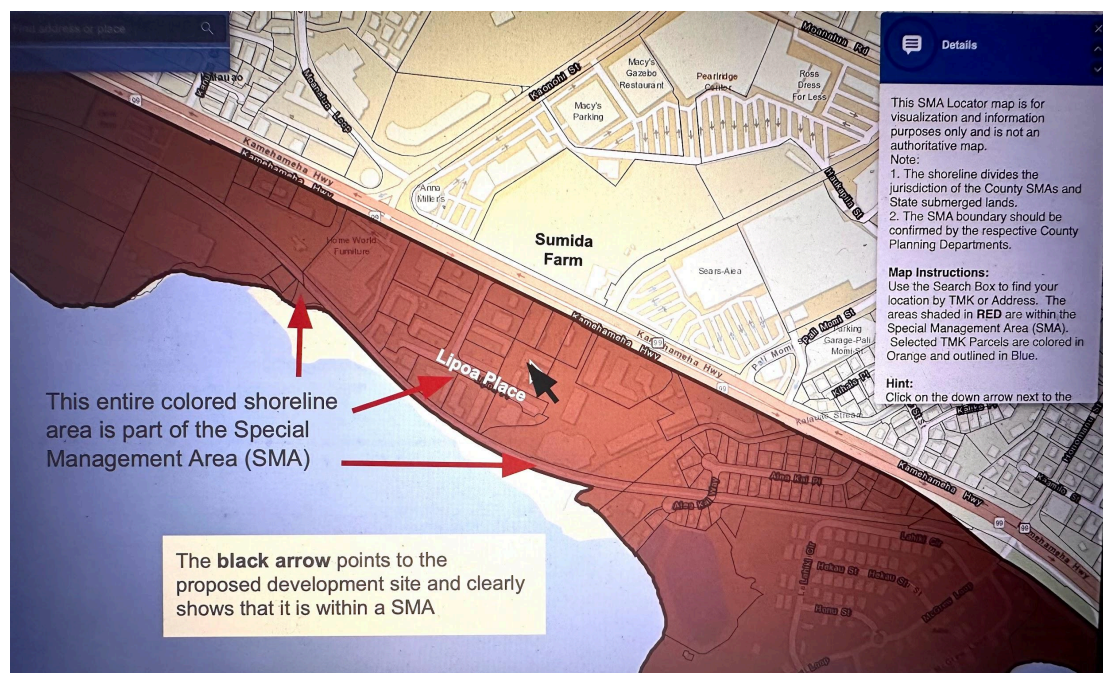
What if instead of only imagining a sustainable, resilient Hawai'i, we all worked together to actively make concerted efforts to increase the number of sites targeted for restoring the natural systems that can support urban, biocultural ecosystems? The restoration of these systems and ecosystems would serve the multitude of positive impacts that include food security and sustainability, sense of total health and well being—that include supporting cultural and traditional practices, healthy water and wetland systems, sense of place, belonging, and strong inter-relationships both inter-personal, and with nature.

There are various concerns that must not be overlooked in attempts to push this project through without the heeding of restrictions, and with complete disregard for hazardous issues, and projected catastrophic events as depicted in the projection maps from CTHAR, and PACi00s.

Let's Examine the Issues with This Proposed Līloa Place Development Project:

1. Blatant Disregard for Special Management System

A Special Management Area (SMA) “...was established in 1975 under Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 205A, Coastal Zone Management. The law states that it's in the public interest to protect and preserve natural resources and public access to the coastal zone through appropriate controls on development.” This image shows that the proposed development lies within the SMA.

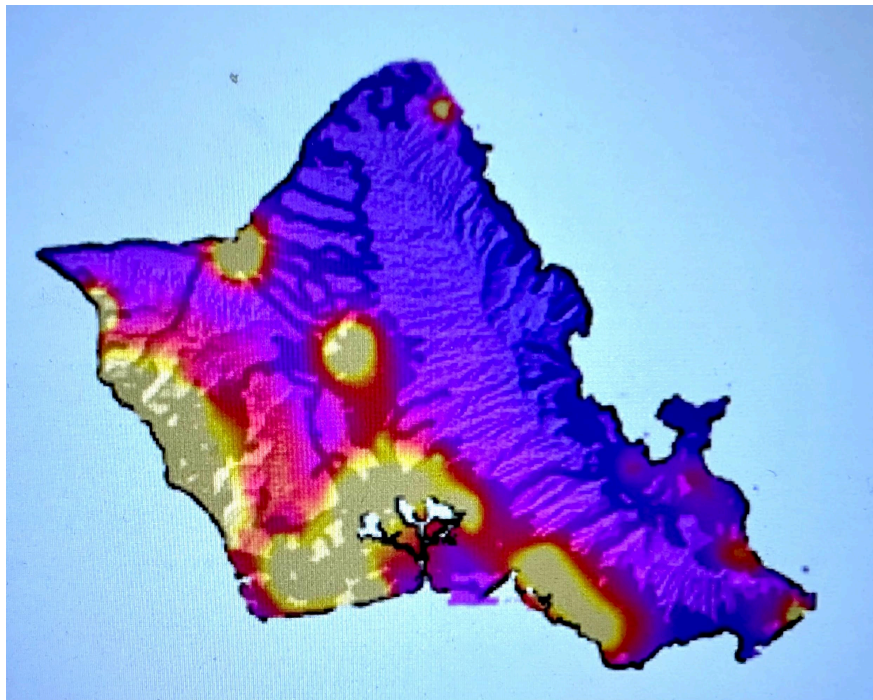
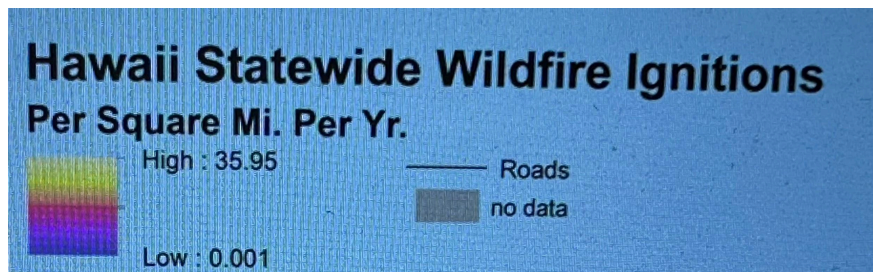
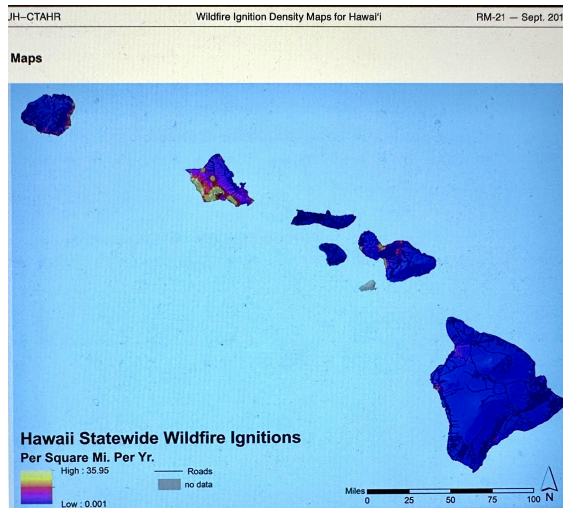


It is obvious that in years past, historically, the SMA was disregarded. However, we live in a time where there is heightened awareness of the importance of actually seeing that these SMA spaces are protected. Rather than grant permits to the developers that would again not adhere to the integrity born within the designated SMA areas, the members of this council can take a different trajectory, and a necessary one. Many within the development industry, and realty industry use `ōlelo Hawai'i, or attempt to add rhetoric to their proposals to make it appear that they are being place conscious and that they are utilizing concepts of mālama `āina within their

development proposals, however, as past testimony shows, those who are truly practitioners of aloha and mālama `āina, are having their testimony disregarded, and their voices silenced.

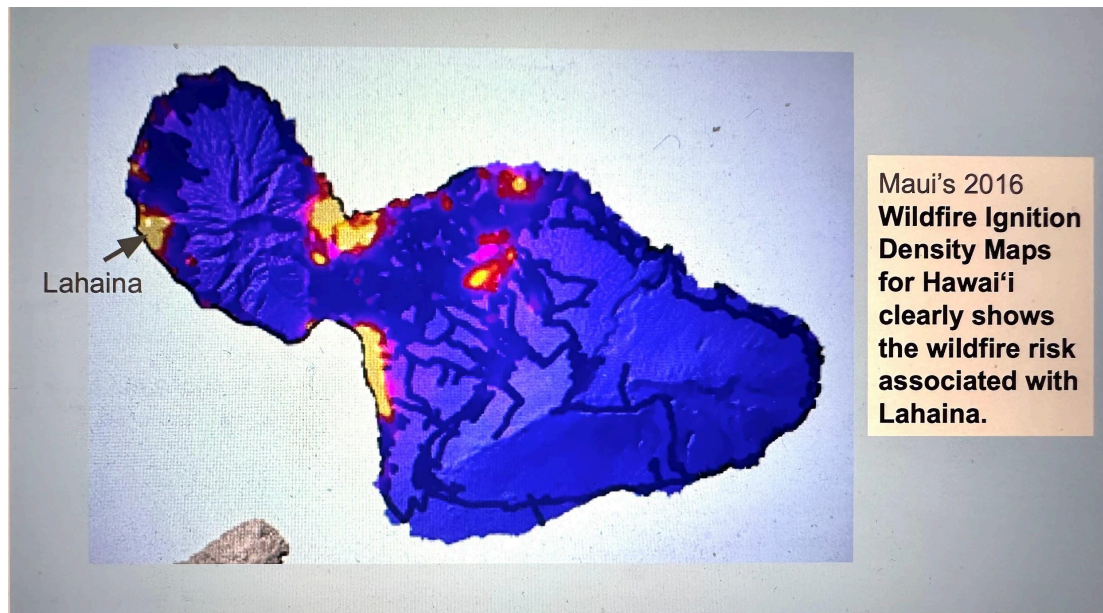
2. Wildfire Ignition Density Maps for Hawai'i (Year 2016)

**Note that climate change has increased these indicators



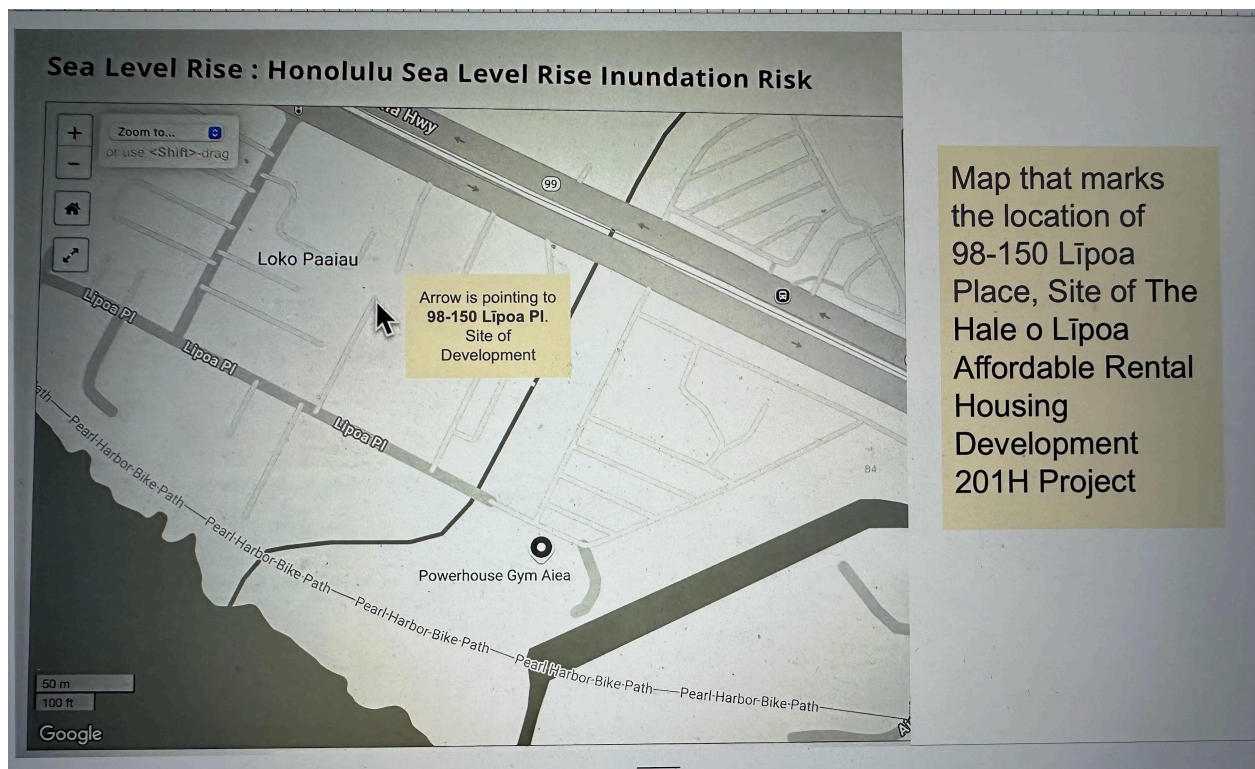
Why we cannot ignore these wildfire maps?

From these 2016 maps, we can look at the island of Maui.

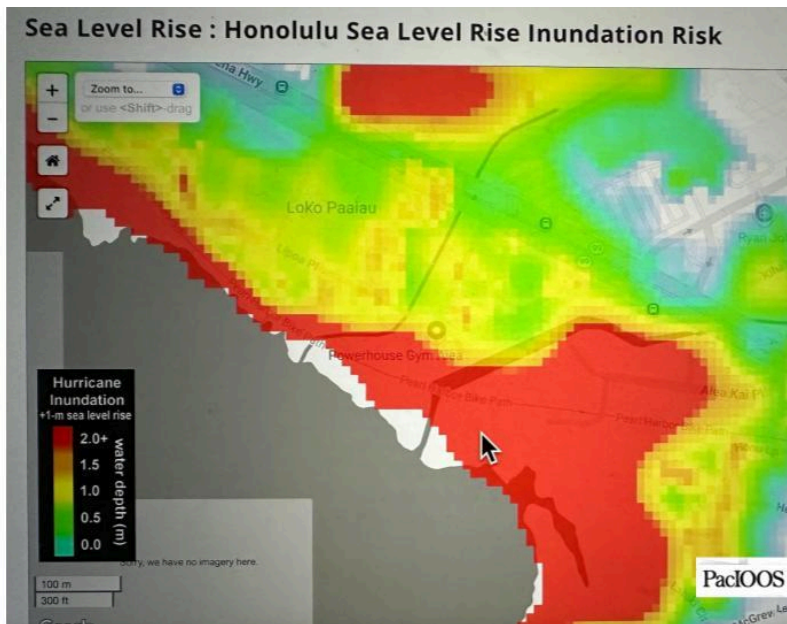


Prior to the Lahaina Fires of 2023, this 2016 map shows the high level of wildfire ignition density.

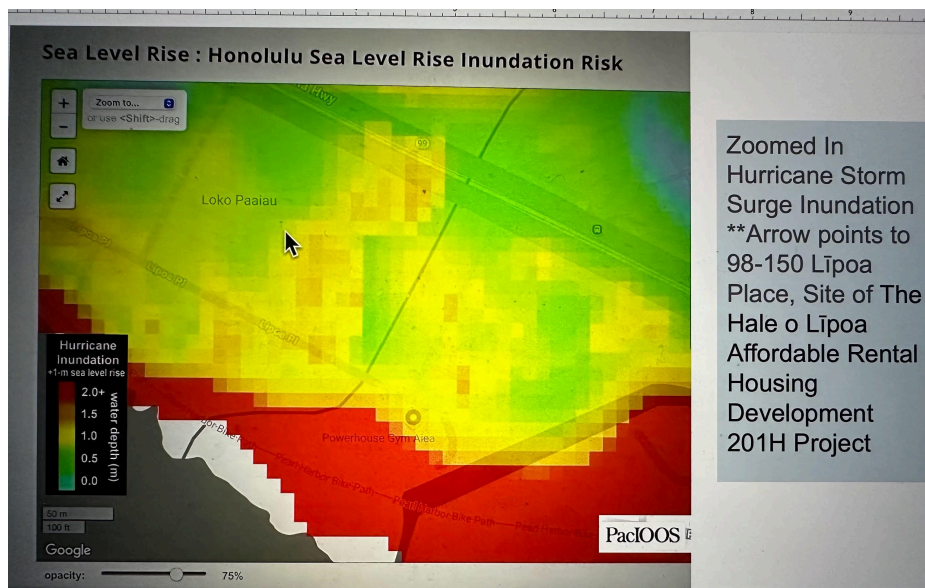
3. Hurricane Storm Surge Inundation



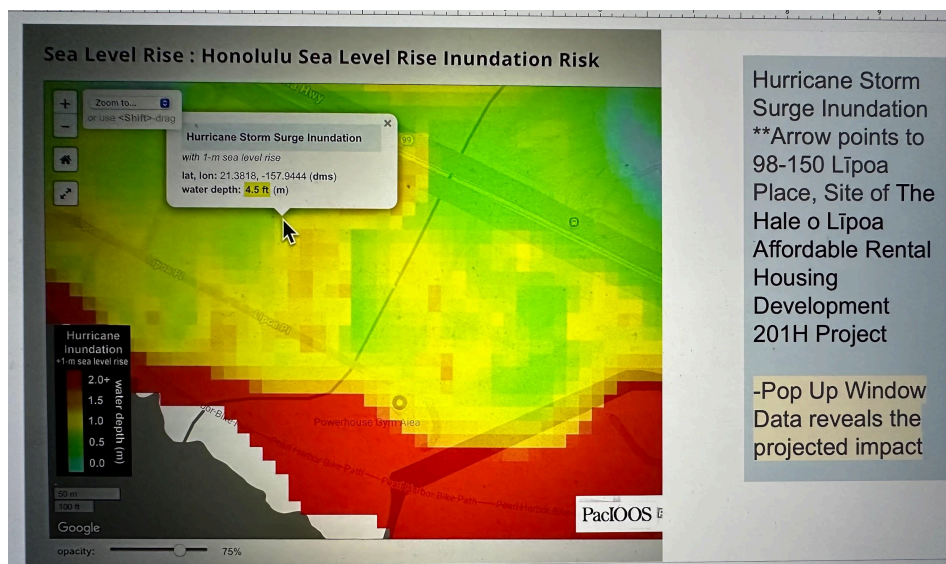
Hurricane Storm Surge Inundation Focusing on Projected Development Site



Zoomed Out Map of Hurricane Storm Surge Inundation



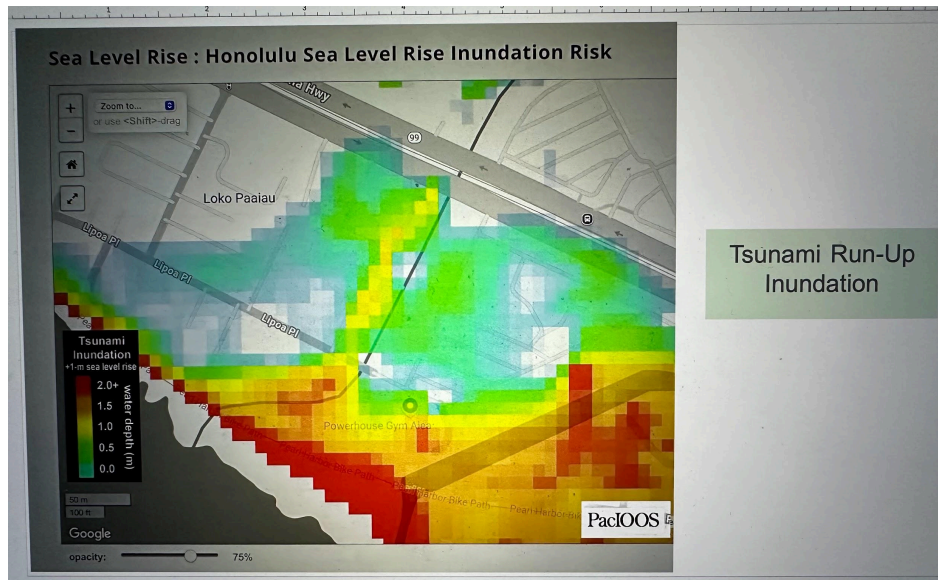
Zoomed In Hurricane Storm Surge Inundation
**Arrow points to 98-150 Lipoa Place, Site of The Hale o Lipoa Affordable Rental Housing Development 201H Project



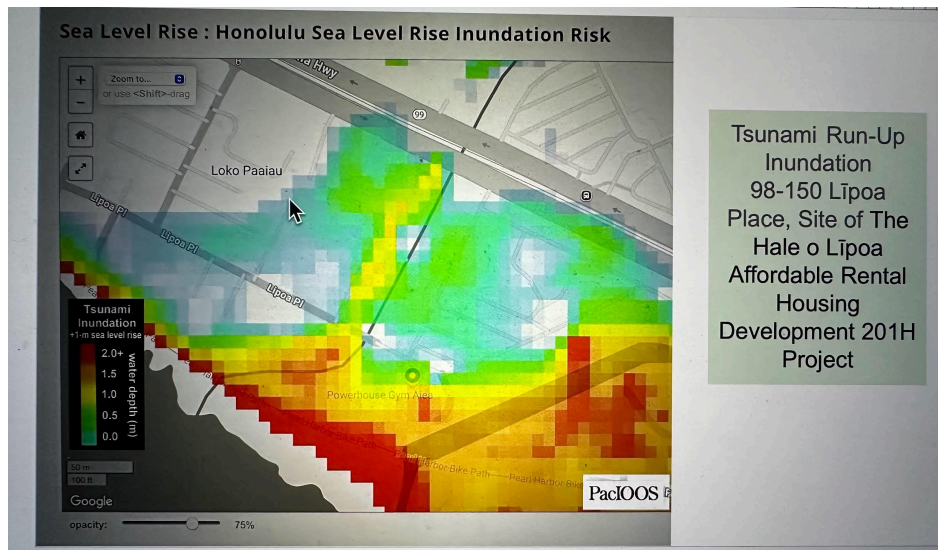
Hurricane Storm Surge Inundation
**Arrow points to 98-150 Lipoa Place, Site of The Hale o Lipoa Affordable Rental Housing Development 201H Project

-Pop Up Window Data reveals the projected impact

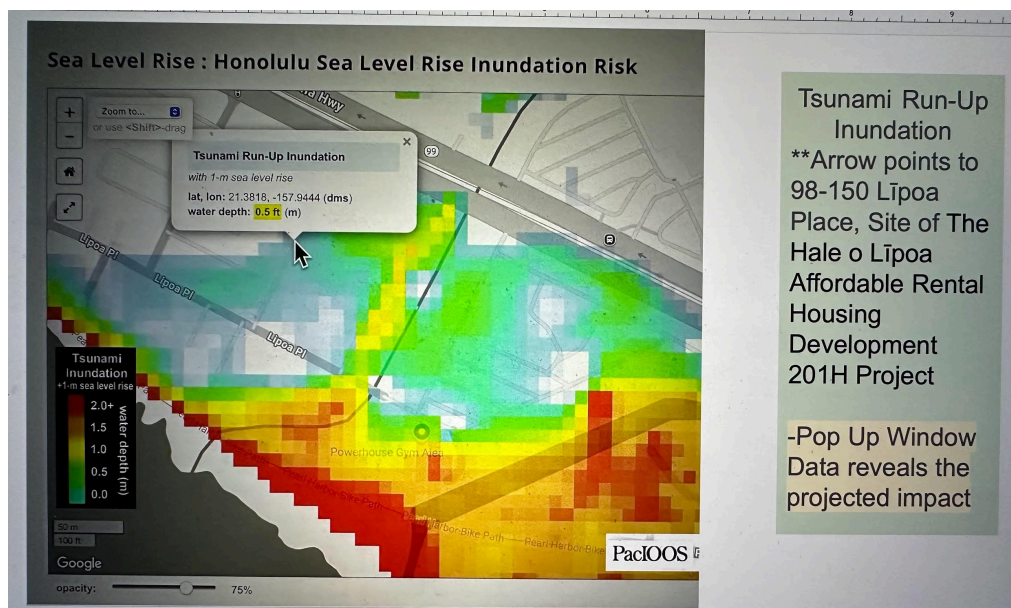
4. Tsunami Run-Up Inundation Projections For Development Site and Surrounding Area



Tsunami Run-Up
Inundation



Tsunami Run-Up
Inundation
98-150 Lipoa
Place, Site of The
Hale o Lipoa
Affordable Rental
Housing
Development 201H
Project



Tsunami Run-Up
Inundation
**Arrow points to
98-150 Lipoa
Place, Site of The
Hale o Lipoa
Affordable Rental
Housing
Development
201H Project

-Pop Up Window
Data reveals the
projected impact

5. Housing Labeled Affordable is Not Within the Targeted Buyers Reach

We can not deny that the cost of home insurance is on the rise because of all of the catastrophic events connected to climate change that have devastated homes. Because of this, home insurance rates have either skyrocketed or, some insurers are also choosing not to insure those who they are deeming to be in high-risk zones. The images shared on wildfire and hurricane storm inundation, reveal that the site of the proposed project development will stand in high-risk areas.

None of us can avoid these home insurance price hikes. The Lahaina wildfires put Hawai'i on Insurers radars. Those who are seeking affordable housing, are doing so because other attempts to secure housing have proved to be out of their price range. When considering a rent or mortgage, one must consider all costs that will be incurred. Banks will do their due diligence if loans are sought. They will not only consider that a person qualifies for affordable housing, in accordance with what the state or city and county sets as "qualifying," but they will also need to ensure that home insurance coverage costs also fall within the qualifiers means. For banks, home insurance is not a luxury, it is a must have. We can not ignore this fact in the name of affordable housing. The 51 % of residents for whom these "affordable" units are supposedly being built for, may not be able to afford the high insurance costs that will be tied to properties that are at high flood, tsunami, hurricane, or wildfire risk. This area has high risk from at least 3 of these four variables—as noted above. We must not pretend to be unaware of the possibility for future catastrophic events. In the end, this would negate the very reason why the City Council is proposing these permit exemptions.

7. Aaron Mattis shares this additional environmental concern for this project: it is located in close proximity to a business that uses a large quantity of petroleum projects. It further describes the presence of asbestos and lead paint and recommends a hazardous materials survey prior to demolition. As a matter of caution, given that the site sits over the Waimalu Aquifer, an important water source, approval of the permit before this is done is reckless.

The Pu'uloa area which includes `Aiea, and Kalauao is famous for its flowing wai, waters which is what contributed to the historic abundance of the area. It is not a coincidence that Pu'uloa was filled with lo'i and loko i'a, fishponds—this was all due to the fact that the wai of the area was cherished and protected. Rather than work against the systems—geologic, biologic, hydrologic, the waiwai—abundance of this area grew from the wai itself. We must not turn a blind-eye to the need for extensive studies: geologic, hydrologic, biological, archaeological, cultural, as well as do a community well being study of areas that will be impacted to ensure that these development plans that are being rushed will not have an adverse impact on the `āina. We must not only look at our place from a western perspective of more is better.

Yes, as a mother of 4, I do recognize the need for affordable housing. However, like journalist Denby Fawcett's OpEd piece in the Civil Beat I also see issues with Bills and Resolutions like this that are seemingly forgetting about the reasons why there is a process in place for permitting and development to not just put developers, profit, development, ill-managed growth to take place. This very much has the appearance of a free-for-all that is pushing the gentrification of areas, expansion, urbanization, over-densification of areas in the name of affordable housing over the health and well being of `āina, communities, and the sense of belonging, and well being of the people and organisms of the place.

We must not have a tunnel visioned view of affordable housing, and in our race to achieve this goal, forget values that sincerely and genuinely care, restore, protect, and preserve our cultural and historic sites. people across our islands. Far too many use mālama `āina as “talk” and rhetoric, with no true plans to restore, and preserve the biocultural ecosystems of the place.

True Protection, Restoration, Conservation & Preservation

All too often community members connected to a place who share the cultural and historic value of a place, are silenced in that their words are at best “noted” then ignored. Kanaka Maoli with lineages connected to a place, should be the ones placing the value of preservation and conservation of a site. To not heed the words of these community members is hewa loa—blatantly wrong.

“There are many facets to conservation, one has to do with the examination of “cultural heritage values” as defined as: The term *cultural heritage values* is generally taken to mean the values of a site that make it worthy of conservation; in other words, the attributes that are seen as valuable by one or more cultural groups. The historical, aesthetic, and scientific values of archaeological sites have long been recognized, but more recently their social or spiritual values in a range of cultures have also received recognition. The extent to which a site possesses these values determines its cultural significance. (p. xiv, Sullivan & Mackay)”

These words clearly show that sites have not only aesthetic, historical, and cultural value, but also social and spiritual value connected to them. Leave the assessments and the recommendations not in hands of those who get paid to make the recommendations, but in the hands of those who continue to look at `āina from an indigenous perspective, in the hands of those who see `āina as `ohana. For `āina is `ohana, family.

Solution:

Rather than use “affordable housing” and development as the “north star” to guide urban growth and development, Hawai`i, in recognition of the sacredness of `āina that values the deep familial relationship to the land that are integrally tied to protection and preservation of its integral, interdependent systems, we need to step back and take a biocultural approach that incorporates science, history, and culture to make decisions on stewardship of a place.

We identify various meanings in diverse practices of stewardship and the ways in which these concepts travel across different geographical contexts and culturally distinct communities. We stress that the meanings and practices resulting from such an integration are important because they shape the conceptualization of resources, their management, and the rights and responsibilities people have for stewardship of their places. We conclude that a biocultural approach to stewardship can help reorient stewardship practices in any context, including urban ones. A shift toward biocultural stewardship can have many positive effects for urban environmental stewardship, but also for much broader applications related to cultivating sustainability and well-being on a planet undergoing rapid environmental, social, and climate change.

We must recognize that any changes to a community have impacts on the families that have lived there for generations.

Our ability as a society to move to a resource stewardship model as explained in this excerpt (I will use this extensive excerpt to help those unfamiliar with “resource stewardship” and what it means to look at our place through a biocultural lens the ability to gain a contextual background. I have bolded key/essential concepts):

Resource stewardship has roots in a diversity of ancient practices, often founded on intimate connections between humans and nature. In some communities, human-nature relationships have long been and continue to be enshrined within a concept of kinship, and codified in

cultural practices founded on the intergenerational accumulation of knowledge about the social-ecological system that sustains them (Berkes 2012, Pascua et al. 2017, McMillen et al. 2017). The **kinship** quality of resource relationships is not unique to rural Indigenous communities of the past, but rather continues to define resource relationships for contemporary Indigenous and other local communities, and can be seen as **broadly defining people's relationships to nature across time** (Nash 2014), including in urban areas (Elands et al. 2019). **In urban centers, stewardship has been practiced in the pursuit of cultivating resources that sustain body, mind, and spirit** (Barthel et al. 2005, Colding et al. 2006, Svendsen et al. 2016a), and these practices have evolved in response to ever changing social-ecological urban systems. **Stewardship has long been a key feature of resilience thinking, especially in relation to ecosystems and the biosphere** (e.g., Berkes et al. 1998, Chapin et al. 2009, Folke et al. 2016), **and more recently specifically in urban areas** (Andersson et al. 2014).

Today, the promise of community-based stewardship of place is increasingly recognized as critical to the sustainability of our planet (Tengö et al. 2014), **including the following: our capacity to respond to global environmental change** (Olsson et al. 2004, Enqvist 2017); **support biocultural diversity** (Muhumza and Balkwill 2013, Elands et al. 2015) **and human well-being** (Svendsen et al. 2016a); **promote social-ecological resilience** (McMillen et al. 2016, Kealiikanakaolehaililani et al. 2018, 2019, Dacks et al. 2019); **and sustain identity, values, responsibilities, and social relationships** (Chan et al. 2016a).

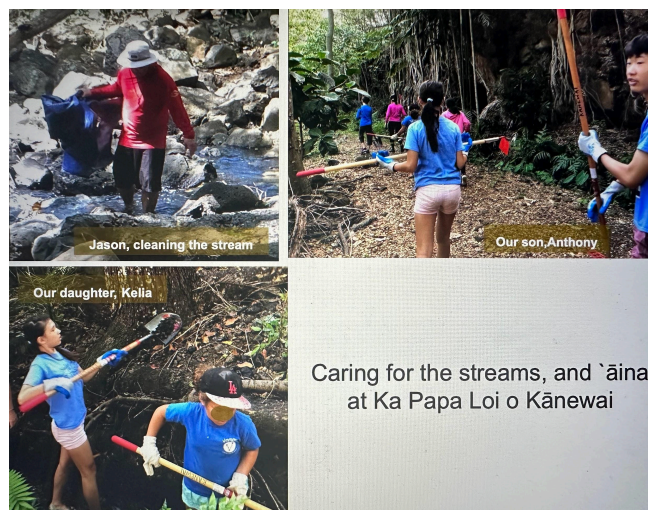
Rather than rush into moving “full-steam ahead” without considering the devastating impacts that have already been set forth because of global environmental, and climate change, and without thinking about what it truly means to be develop with environmental sustainability in mind, that aligns with the promotion of social-ecological resilience, then we are forgetting our kuleana, our responsibility to ensure that we are caring for, and continuing to build strong relationships with not only each other, but to all the relationships within the places and communities that we live.

I humbly ask the members of this council, to oppose this resolution and listen to the voices of those who want to make pono-right, the wrongs of the past when loko i`a, and lo`i kalo were filled in because a lack of understanding of the true waiwai—abundance that lay in the wetland itself. Now more than ever, with climate change having devastating effects across the globe, our islands need to heed the warnings of what lays ahead and proactively, and pre-emptively find ways to revitalize, reclaim, restore our resources so that we will not only talk about food sustainability, and Hawai`i's food security—and instead actively work to make these concepts a reality. What we need to understand on deep levels that connect various fields together—science, medical, psychological, sociological, economic, and agricultural... is that food sustainability and food security supports peace, supports a total sense of well being. In places globally, where resources of water, food are not secure, the levels of in-fighting increases as people “fight” to obtain the necessary resources to support their families. Ka Mō`ī Wahine of this place, Kalanimanui`a understood this and how important it was to utilize the environmental ecosystems that already existed in pono ways that honored the idea: He ali`i ke āina, he kaua ke kanaka, whereby the land was always treated with the utmost respect. She functioned with the deep understanding that inā mālama ka `āina, e mālama ka `āina iā `oe—that if you care for the `āina , then it will care for you. The life-giving waters used for the lo`i, flowed through the system to

grow kalo, but was never removed from it. Instead there was a ho'i wai—a returning of the wai back to the system, whereby the kalo cleaned the water through bioremediation, and nutrients added through detritus decomposition, that in turn would feed into the loko i`a-fishpond, which would ultimately flow out and feed the sea.

It was not a fluke that indigenous Hawaiians prior to the arrival of foreigners existed for about 2,000 years. It is because they understood the need for functioning with pono, that includes balance, with adhering to the laws that managed the abundance of their place. They also understood that it was important to not place man's needs over the `āina. This development project is clearly the putting of man's needs before the protection and preservation of the resources of the `āina.

Some of you may wonder, “Is it even possible to restore the āina, and fishpond, Loko `Opu of this place?” Look at the countless number of sites across the island where community members come together to give of their time to restore loi kalo, to restore loko i`a, to restore māla. I am not Kanaka Maoli, but my family also comes from a legacy of farmers, and from a legacy that valued hard work. My entire family, including my four children have worked at various restoration sites across O`ahu. And we will continue to be here for `āina.



Decades ago, the `āina along our shores of Puuloa were mismanaged because the abundance that were present in these wetlands were not recognized. Because of this, the fishpond, Loko `Ōpu was filled in, and the access to the abundance was cut off, not just to the people of `Āiea, but to the many native organisms that also call fishponds and the wetland ecosystems that they are a part of home.

Who will take responsibility when inundation occurs due to tsunami, storm/hurricane flooding, and sea level rise?

We must bring forth reconciliation, restoration, and healing to the `āina that was unjustly filled-in and developed upon.

We must put a halt to the continued development that paves over the historical and cultural stories that exist in this place with a history connected to ka Mō`ī Wahine Kalanimanui`a. The

stories will continue to carry on, but even deeper connections and meaning are built when we work together as a collective to restore these biocultural, life-giving spaces.

Do you all want to go down in history as being the council member's who disregarded the voices of the community, the voices of the kama'āina, and the voices of Kanaka Maoli who are standing up, providing testimony, coming forward in the protection and preservation of these lands?

Thus, we humbly ask that you oppose this resolution 25-23 CD1 & Resolution 25-26.

Mahalo nui loa for reflecting upon, evaluating, and for seriously considering our testimony,

Alison Ka'ōlinokaimana Yasuoka-Arakaki

Jason T. Arakaki

Residents of Waimalu, 'Aiea

January 29, 2025

Glossary

SMA

“The Special Management Area (SMA) is the area of the island that's located near the shoreline. This area is designated as a special management area due to its unique natural and cultural resources. The SMA was established in 1975 under Hawaii Revised Statutes, Chapter 205A, Coastal Zone Management. The law states that it's in the public interest to protect and preserve natural resources and public access to the coastal zone through appropriate controls on development.”

“The SMA extends inland to varying degrees depending on the location. Many properties that aren't directly on the shoreline are still considered part of the SMA.”

From: Land Planning Hawai'i LLC

[https://www.landplanninghawaii.com/special-management-area#:~:text=The%20Special%20Management%20Area%20\(SMA,Chapter%20205A%2C%20Coastal%20Zone%20Management.](https://www.landplanninghawaii.com/special-management-area#:~:text=The%20Special%20Management%20Area%20(SMA,Chapter%20205A%2C%20Coastal%20Zone%20Management.)

References

Burchard, S. (2023) Envisioning The Future and Sustaining a Legend at Sumida Farm. Forbes. <https://www.forbes.com/sites/sarahburchard/2023/03/20/envisioning-the-future-and-sustaining-a-legend-at-sumida-farm/>

Engels, J. L., Watson, S., Dulai, H., Burnett, K. M., Wada, C. A., Aga, , DeMaagd, N., McHugh, J., Sumida, B., & Bremer, L. L. (2020). Collaborative research to support urban agriculture in the face of change: The case of the Sumida watercress farm on O'ahu. *PloS one*, 15(7), e0235661.

Accessed on NIH: National Library of Medicine. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0235661>

Trauernicht, C., Lucas, M.P. (2016). Wildfire Ignition Density Maps for Hawai'i. Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Management. <https://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/oc/freepubs/pdf/RM-21.pdf>

Ulukau. Hawaiian Place Names. Ulukau: The Hawaiian Electronic Library.

<https://ulukau.org/cgi-bin/hpn?e=d-0hpn--00-0-0--010---4-----0-0l--1en-Zz-1---20-about---00031-00112escapewin-00escapewin-00&a=d&c=hpn&cl=CL1.11.2.20&d=HASH0194dd4a07202c9bbc0890>