

BILL024(24)

Testimony

MISC. COMM. 199

PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION (PI&T)

**PLANNING, INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORTATION
(PI&T) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Apr 2, 2025 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 3

Oppose: 3

I wish to comment: 3

Name: Jacob Wiencek	Email: jacob.m.wiencek@pm.me	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Mar 30, 2025 @ 06:42 PM
Testimony: Aloha Committee Members, I am very glad to see Bill 24 near the legislative process finish line. It has long been past time to re-envision what the Primary Urban Center can be for the residents of Honolulu. We've got to tackle the challenges of urbanization, infrastructure development, and affordability. We've got to get this right. I applaud the Council for taking the time to conduct a vigorous public engagement effort to solicit feedback. The final result is a stronger, better document for it. I strongly support the vision of the PUC Development Plan, I encourage the Council to support not just this specific bill, but the vision it represents.		
Name: Jacob Aki	Email: jacob@jacobaki.com	Zip: 96818
Representing: Ke One O Kakuhihewa - Oahu Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2025 @ 05:45 AM
Name: Kehaulani Lum	Email: Kehaulanilum@Ameritech.net	Zip: 96701
Representing: Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 1, 2025 @ 08:57 AM
Name: Kellee Hearther	Email: calikellee@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Apr 1, 2025 @ 09:06 AM
Name: Damiana-Frances Espiritu	Email: coachD808@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 1, 2025 @ 11:00 AM

Testimony:

I am still opposed to this bill. Our aquifer is already taxed by the amount of users we have in our area. While development is very important I feel we should be mindful of the limitations of our natural resources. This plan, while it promotes development the number of units over look the amount of water, the capacity of the land and many other natural resources that would be needed to support the influx of new residences in the area. Also, Lipoa Place, as its name states, was built on a HUGE fish pond. It also has numerous natural spring underground in the area. As you can see by just looking under Pearl Kai Shopping Center which floods all the time. It would be irresistible to allow such a huge project to be built in that area. Please don't allow this bill to be passed in our fragile area. Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Name:

Claire Tamamoto

Email:

claire2164@gmail.com

Zip:

96701

Representing:

'Aiea Community Association

Position:

I wish to comment

Submitted:

Apr 1, 2025 @ 02:04 PM

Name:

Kristen Young

Email:

kristenslyoung@gmail.com

Zip:

96813

Representing:

Self

Position:

Oppose

Submitted:

Apr 1, 2025 @ 08:00 PM

Testimony:

Aloha, my name is Kristen Young and I am a resident of Honolulu. I am testifying in OPPOSITION to Bill 24 and the adoption of the Revised Primary Urban Center Development Plan.

I regularly spend time in the "city of 'Aiea" (the area targeted for increased urbanization with the proposed plan) with Ho'ōla Hou iā Kalauao, a nonprofit organization focused on restoring 'āina (land) and kānaka (people) in the ahupua'a of Kalauao in 'Ewa, O'ahu. As a 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. 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.

For years, generations, our society has prioritized the development of buildings in the name of progress. This has come at a great cost to people and the environment. Native Hawaiians and people who've grown up on and cared for these lands hardly, if ever, see the benefit. More often than not, there has been a negative impact. People lose their connection to 'āina which is integral to being able to live harmoniously in any place on earth, but especially on a small island with limited

resources. We are seeing the detrimental impacts of years of unsustainable development, here and all over. We cannot continue to develop our way out of issues.

Please—please consider the knowledge and wisdom of those who prioritize the environment, those whose only motivation lies in caring for people and 'āina and preserving our precious resources for future generations.

Mahalo,

Kristen Young

Honolulu, HI 96813

Name: Kristin Hamada	Email: Kristinmiehamada@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Oppose	Submitted: Apr 1, 2025 @ 09:55 PM

Testimony:

While i appreciate the amendments to the bill to address cultural and environmental issues, I still oppose. Endless development is not something local people want or need. We need housing, food and medical systems that exist as a human right. High rises that are marketed as "affordable" that continue to price people out; shopping centers selling food and clothes we go in debt to buy; concrete over fishpond and lo'i; these things do not take us in the direction our communities want or need. If the development the bill brings is going to cost more than what a minimum wage worker can afford, how can we in good conscience say it'll benefit everyone in our communities? Oppose.

Name: Alison Ka`olinokaimana Yasuoka	Email: kaolinokaimana@gmail.com	Zip: 96701
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Apr 2, 2025 @ 05:30 AM



Testimony of
KE ONE O KĀKUHIEWA
O'ahu Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs

before the
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

in consideration of
BILL 24 (2024)
TO ADOPT THE REVISED PRIMARY URBAN CENTER DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Aloha e Chair Waters, Vice Chair Kia'āina, and members of the Honolulu City Council

On behalf of Ke One O Kākuhihewa, the O'ahu Council of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, representing 26 clubs across O'ahu, we appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony on Bill 24 (2024), the Revised Primary Urban Center Development Plan.

As an island-wide council dedicated to uplifting Native Hawaiian communities and advocating for responsible land use policies that honor our environment, cultural heritage, and history, we recognize the importance of comprehensive planning that balances development with long-term resilience, cultural preservation, and community well-being.

We commend the work that has gone into shaping this plan and especially acknowledge the inclusion of Loko I'a Pa'aiau in Kalauao—a site of deep cultural significance undergoing restoration through community partnerships for more than a decade.

Concerns and Recommended Amendments

While we support many elements of the plan, we urge the Committee to strengthen its commitment to protecting Native Hawaiian cultural and historic sites by:

1. Ensuring language that protects these sites—already approved by the City Council—is integrated into the TOD Neighborhood Plans.
2. Upholding the community's vision for the 'Aiea Mill Site, respecting decades of advocacy for balanced and thoughtful development.
3. Addressing the impacts of overdevelopment in 'Aiea, including diminished traditional land use, food production, and overall community livability.

We **strongly support Councilmember Radiant Cordero's proposed amendments**, which provide necessary protections for Native Hawaiian cultural and historic sites and reflect the true status and vision of the 'Aiea Mill Site.

Specifically, we urge adoption of the proposed new paragraph on page 150 of the Plan under the “Land Uses and Development” section, which reads:

“Prioritize and invest in biocultural restoration (Native Hawaiian lo ‘i kalo, loko i ‘a, māla, etc.) in lower ‘Aiea, to foster community health and well-being through an adaptive strategy that addresses stormwater management and groundwater recharge, and mitigates fire risk, flooding, urban heat island, and other climate change shoreline impacts, while also expanding urban greening, cultural restoration, food security, and community stewardship.”

Incorporating this language will embed cultural values and environmental resilience directly into the City’s vision for ‘Aiea, aligning with the decades-long work of community members and cultural practitioners.

We also endorse the ‘Aiea Community Association’s recommendations to:

- Ensure any future development at the ‘Aiea Sugar Mill Site aligns with the ‘Aiea Town Center Master Plan and remains within agreed-upon growth parameters.
- Remove vague references to “infill” development that conflict with the community’s long-standing vision.

Without these amendments, the plan risks undermining years of grassroots work to transform the area into a livable, culturally grounded, and environmentally conscious community.

Conclusion

Ke One O Kākuhihewa stands ready to collaborate with the City to ensure that this plan reflects the needs of present and future generations. The amendments we recommend—and especially those championed by Councilmember Cordero—will help ensure that growth and development proceed responsibly, with deep respect for the cultural, historical, and environmental foundations that sustain our island home.

Mahalo for your time and thoughtful consideration. We urge adoption of the proposed amendments.

Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club
99-045 Nalopaka Place
`Aiea, Hawai'i 96701
[**aliipauahi@gmail.com**](mailto:aliipauahi@gmail.com)

April 1, 2025

The Honorable Councilmember Radiant Cordero, Chair
The Honorable Val A. Okimoto, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Committee on Planning, Infrastructure & Transportation
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: Comments on Bill 24 (2024) and Support for Proposed Amendments in CC-84

Aloha Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Okimoto, and Honorable Members of the Committee on Planning, Infrastructure & Transportation,

On behalf of the Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club, a 50-year chartered member of the Association of Hawaiian Civic Clubs, we send our heartfelt aloha and gratitude to the Committee for its commitment to hearing the voices of the people of 'Aiea, as you deliberate Bill 24 (2024), Revised Primary Urban Center Development Plan.

Ali'i Pauahi is based in the ahupua'a of 'Aiea and stewards the treasured historic royal fishpond, Loko I'a Pā'aiau, in Kalauao, which is gratefully included in the proposed Plan revision. Founded by esteemed kupuna educators, over 50 years ago, we steadfastly honor Princess Bernice Pauahi whose vision and commitment to the well-being and promise of our native children is a blessing to the residents of Honolulu and to all of Hawai'i Nei.

Bill 24 (2024) impacts us personally and directly, as many of our members are lineal descendants of the first stewards of the land, and we strive to preserve what remains of our ancient culture in the urban sprawl. We thank you for the opportunity to carry their light in our testimony today.

Ali'i Pauahi HCC does not support Bill 24 in its present C.D. 1 form. We have so stated this numerous times throughout the Council's consideration, and, now, as the

Committee meets for action, we rise again to express our gratitude to you for ensuring compassionate and pono planning.

We echo the comments of the 'Aiea Community Association, on whose board we sit, and **strongly support** the amendments proposed by Chair Radiant Cordero in Council Communications 84.

We are especially grateful to you for hearing and responding to our call for **restoration and preservation of Native Hawaiian cultural and historic resources**.

Ali'i Pauahi supports this amendment to the Land Use section, **to prioritize investment in biocultural restoration (Native Hawaiian lo'i kalo, loko i'a, māla, etc.) in lower 'Aiea, as an adaptive strategy to address stormwater management and mitigate fire risk, flooding, urban heat island, and groundwater recharge, while also supporting urban greening, cultural restoration, food security, and community stewardship.**

We support actions to restore the unique historical lo'i system that once dominated lower 'Aiea through the creation of a community youth-driven biocultural space in the area just makai of Mikalemi Street.

Ali'i Pauahi further strongly supports Chair Cordero's additional amendments:

Item 4: Amendment to add a new paragraph to reflect the community's desire to restore and preserve Native Hawaiian cultural and historic resources

Item 5: Amendment to amend description of 'Aiea Sugar Mill Site to reference the 'Aiea Town Center Master Plan

Item 6: Amendment to the Growth Scenario for 'Aiea Town

These amendments strengthen the Primary Urban Center Development Plan and honor and reflect more than 30 years of visioning and effort of the 'Aiea community.

We strongly urge the Committee to support their adoption.

Like the ACA, we respectfully request that additional amendments be offered to align the narrative of the plan to the map, especially, as relates to Figure 2.1 of the Primary Urban Center Development Plan. The current map conflicts with the type of use that is necessary to achieve the intent of the amendments, and a change in color to

appropriately identify the areas, such as the neighborhood in lower 'Aiea, and the 'Aiea Sugar Mill site is essential.

We support ACA's additional recommendations for amendments relating to the accuracy of place types on the map, to truly reflect the vision of the 'Aiea-Pearl City Liveable Communities and the 'Aiea Town Center maps as the voice of the kupuna of 'Aiea.

In deepest gratitude to Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Okimoto and the Members of the Committee, for your loving and tireless commitment to the health and well-being of our people.

We respectfully submit our comments.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Kehaulani Lum
Pelekikena
Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Councilmember Radiant Cordero, Chair

The Honorable Val A. Okimoto, Vice Chair

Honorable Members of the Committee on Planning, Infrastructure and Transportation

530 South King Street

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Subject: Comments of Bill 24 (2024) and
Support for Proposed Amendments in CC-84**

Dear Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Okimoto, and members of the Committee on Planning, Infrastructure and Transportation:

I thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on Bill 24 (2024) and appreciate your time considering and hearing the voices of the community.

I DO NOT support Bill 24 in its current C.D. 1 form.

I DO, however, STRONGLY SUPPORT the amendments proposed by Chair Radiant Cordero in Council Communications 84; and in line with the testimony from the 'Aiea Community Association and Ali'i Pauahi Hawaiian Civic Club.

In particular, I strongly support the amendments listed as items 4, 5, and 6 in Council Communications 84:

-Item 4: Amendment to add a new paragraph to reflect the community's desire to restore and preserve Native Hawaiian cultural and historic resources

-Item 5: Amendment to amend description of 'Aiea Sugar Mill Site to reference the 'Aiea Town Center Master Plan

-Item 6: Amendment to the Growth Scenario for 'Aiea Town

I offer my mahalo to Chair Cordero for her proposed amendments as I believe these amendments better reflect the preferences of the 'Aiea community. I resolutely urge the Committee to support the adoption of these amendments and to add the two additional amendments offered to Figure 2.1 of the Primary Urban Center Development Plan described in the testimony of the 'Aiea Community Association, especially (but not limited to) Item 4:

Restoration and preservation of Native Hawaiian cultural and historic resources. I emphasize and hope you will adopt the language to support the amendment to Item 4: "To prioritize investment in biocultural restoration (Native Hawaiian lo'i kalo, loko i'a, māla, etc.) in lower 'Aiea, as an adaptive strategy to address stormwater management and mitigate fire risk, flooding, urban heat island, and groundwater recharge, while also supporting urban greening, cultural restoration, food security, and community stewardship." To align with this, I support actions that encourage the preservation of the unique historical lo'i system that once flourished in lower 'Aiea through the creation of a community youth-driven biocultural space in the area just makai of Mikalemi Street.

Additionally, please amend, per the 'Aiea Community Association testimony, to reflect the appropriate mapping of the area to reflect the true community.

I am happy to support this measure if the amendments proposed by Chair Cordero in Council Communications 84, as well as the two additional amendments proposed by 'Aiea Community Association in their testimony, are adopted.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration of the proposed amendments and my comments.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and the efforts and energy you put into representing

your communities.

Kellee Hearther

'Aiea resident

'Aiea Community Association, member



April 2, 2025

The Honorable Councilmember Radiant Cordero, Chair
The Honorable Val A. Okimoto, Vice Chair
Honorable Members of the Committee on Planning, Infrastructure & Transportation
530 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

**Subject: Comments on Bill 24 (2024) and
Support for Proposed Amendments in CC-84**

Dear Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Okimoto, and members of the Committee on Planning, Infrastructure & Transportation:

The 'Aiea Community Association (ACA) thanks you for the opportunity to provide the following comments on Bill 24 (2024).

The ACA does not support Bill 24 in its present C.D. 1 form.

However, the ACA strongly supports the amendments proposed by Chair Radiant Cordero in Council Communications 84; and we respectfully request two specific changes in the Figure 2.1 map to:

1. Amend the place type for the undeveloped area behind existing homes in the area bound by Mikalemi Street, Nalopaka Place, and Kauhale Street, in lower 'Aiea, from the Near-Town Neighborhood place type to an appropriate Open Space Type (either Major Parks and Open Space or Preservation Area); and
2. Amend the place type for the area bound by the 'Aiea Town Center and 'Aiea Community Center, Mikalemi Street, Kino'ole Place, and 'Aiea Stream to reflect the residential place type.

Support for Amendments proposed by Chair Radiant Cordero in Council Communications 84

The ACA strongly supports the amendments proposed by Chair Cordero in Council Communications 84. In particular, the ACA strongly supports the amendments listed as items 4, 5, and 6 in Council Communications 84:

- Item 4: Amendment to add a new paragraph to reflect the community's desire to restore and preserve Native Hawaiian cultural and historic resources
- Item 5: Amendment of description for 'Aiea Sugar Mill Site to reference the 'Aiea Town Center Master Plan
- Item 6: Amendment to the Growth Scenario for 'Aiea Town

The ACA expresses its gratitude to Chair Cordero for her proposed amendments. We believe these amendments strengthen the Primary Urban Center Development Plan and better reflect the desires of the 'Aiea community. We strongly urge the Committee to support their adoption. To facilitate the intent of items 4 and 6, we also respectfully request two additional amendments to Figure 2.1 of the Primary Urban Center Development Plan, which we describe below.

Item 4: Restoration and preservation of Native Hawaiian cultural and historic resources. The ACA supports this amendment to prioritize investment in biocultural restoration (Native Hawaiian lo'i kalo, loko i'a, māla, etc.) in lower 'Aiea, as an adaptive strategy to address stormwater management and mitigate fire risk, flooding, urban heat island, and groundwater recharge, while also supporting urban greening, cultural restoration, food security, and community stewardship. In line with this, we support actions that encourage the preservation of the unique historical lo'i system that once dominated lower 'Aiea through the creation of a community youth-driven biocultural space in the area just makai of Mikalemi Street.

To facilitate this vision, the ACA respectfully requests that a corresponding amendment be made to the Figure 2.1 map to amend the place type for the undeveloped area behind existing homes in the area bound by Mikalemi Street, Nalopaka Place, and Kauhale Street, in lower 'Aiea, from the Near-Town Neighborhood place type to an appropriate Open Space Type (either Major Parks and Open Space or Preservation Area).

Item 5: Amendment description of 'Aiea Sugar Mill Site to reference the 'Aiea Town Center Master Plan. The ACA supports this amendment to add a reference to the 'Aiea Town Center Master Plan in reference to the 'Aiea Sugar Mill Site.

The 'Aiea community came together twenty-five years ago to create a vision for the site of the former 'Aiea Sugar Mill following its demolition in 1998, with the support of the City and County of Honolulu. The result of this process was the 'Aiea Town Center Master Plan, which called for the preservation of this land for the benefit of the community, including a library, senior housing, and community space.

We thank Councilmember Cordero for this proposed amendment, which acknowledges the hard work that many in our community have put in to preserve this site for future generations, including many who have since passed on.

Item 6: Amendment to the Growth Scenario for 'Aiea Town. The ACA supports this amendment to amend the growth scenario for 'Aiea Town. There will be a number of new residential developments in the vicinity of 'Aiea, including development

associated with the New Aloha Stadium Entertainment District (NASED) and Transit-Oriented Development projects near Hālawā and Kalauao Stations, which will increase the population density of the community. In addition, private renovation and redevelopment has been ongoing as the residential subdivisions of 'Aiea age out and new, much larger multi-family homes increased in number in Hālawā and Enchanted Hills. Accordingly, additional infill is already being accomplished by the private landowners and additional infill of the Aiea Town Center, both adjacent to the 'Aiea Sugar Mill site and in lower 'Aiea near Kauhale Street and Mikalemi Street, does not appear to be necessary.

The ACA respectfully requests that a corresponding amendment also be made to the Figure 2.1 map to amend the place type for the area bound by the 'Aiea Town Center, 'Aiea Community Center, Mikalemi Street, Kino'ole Street, and 'Aiea Stream to reflect the residential place type.

Conclusion

The 'Aiea Community Association would be proud to support this measure if the amendments proposed by Chair Cordero in Council Communications 84, as well as the two additional amendments we have proposed in our testimony.

We appreciate your consideration of our comments and proposed amendments.

Thank you for your time and efforts representing your communities.

Claire J. Tamamoto
'Aiea Community Association, President

Alison Ka`ōlinokaimana Yasuoka

Testimony for the Honolulu City Council

Wednesday, April 2, 2025; 9 am

Bill 24 (2024) CD1- to adopt the revised Primary Urban Center Development Plan for the City and County of Honolulu.

City Council Chamber

Position: **-Comments on Bill 24 (24) CD1 in its present form and
-Support for Proposed Amendments offered by Chair Radiant Cordero through Council
Communication (CC) 84 but with additional changes**

Honorable Chair Cordero, Vice Chair Okimoto and committee members in Planning, Infrastructure, & Transportation:

I value and respect the time that you are all taking to ensure that community voices are heard, as you deliberate, then respond accordingly in the protection of `āina and our precious waiola, as well as preserve the sense of place and identity of `Aiea Town within the Revised Primary Urban Center Development Plan–PUCDP.

I, Alison Ka`ōlinokaimana Yasuoka, am a resident of Waimalu, O`ahu. I appreciate this opportunity to submit testimony. Although my own residence in `Aiea occurred within the last 5 years, my husband, and his father spent their entire lives in `Aiea starting with his father's parents. They resided near their watercress farm along the shorelines of Pu`uloa, near the Waiau Power Plant. Later, they resided and farmed some of the acreage where Sumida Farms sits today in Kalauao. Thus, the impacts from Bill 24(2024) and the proposed amendments do resonate with my family. As someone who loves being able to work in the māla–garden, who has witnessed students, families and communities positively transformed through their interactions with māla-gardens, lo`i, and loko i`a, I humbly ask for the assurance that the very reasons that we feel the healing energy from the `āina, and the very reasons we have aquifers, and punawai-springs that bring forth life-sustaining fresh waters, will be preserved and protected into perpetuity. We must ensure that the `Aiea Communities foresight, and proactive dedication to envisioning an `Aiea that honored the past, with eyes on ensuring a present and future, that preserved the sense of place unique to `Aiea is supported. Thus, I am grateful that Chair Cordero's proposed amendments to Bill 24 (2024), especially item 4 speaks to this.

As an educator who has worked with students from the Wai`ale-Kahala area, to Hau`ula, and Nānākuli, I have had the opportunity to experience the unique character of each place with the its native plants, animals, unique land and ocean features, the people, all with the `āina, and its mo`olelo, as the kua–the backbone for each place.

As with many things in life, there isn't always a clear "side" to take. Even with this bill, **there are two, juxtaposed positions that I take on Bill 24 (2024).**

- 1) **I would like to express my strong opposition for Bill 24 (24) CD1 in its present form.**
- 2) **At the same time, I offer strong support for the proposed amendments put forth by Chair Radiant Cordero in Communications 84.**

What are the present issues/concerns with Bill 24(2024)?

I oppose Bill 124 (2024) in its present iteration for these reasons:

- 1) I would like **the `Aiea Town Center Master Plan to be upheld as envisioned** because the community spent decades giving thoughtful input, curating, and iterating. To not honor the `Aiea Town Center Master Plan would be ignoring and silencing the voices, past and present, and their vision for `Aiea.
- 2) Additionally, there is a need for guardrails that will not allow `Aiea to be gentrified, over-developed, and left susceptible to urban sprawl. In order for `Aiea to maintain its unique character, filled with its own sense of place, its own unique identity, guidelines that will protect its open spaces, and the environments, and ecosystems within; guidelines that will restore, reclaim, protect and preserve biocultural spaces, and historic resources; guidelines that honor responsible and protective land use policies must be prioritized.
- 3) Next, I humbly request that vague references to “infill development” be removed because this pursuit conflicts with the community’s long-standing vision. Any additional infill development of the Aiea Town Center, both adjacent to the `Aiea Sugar Mill site and in lower `Aiea near Kauhale Street and Mikalemi Street, should be avoided.

Accordingly and in alignment with the `Aiea Community Association, I also respectfully request that a corresponding amendment be made to the **Figure 2.1 map to amend the place type** for the area bound by the `Aiea Town Center, `Aiea Community Center, Mikalemi Street, Kino`ole Street, and `Aiea Stream to reflect the **residential place type**.

Now, I would like to provide **testimony in strong support of the amendments proposed by Chair Radiant Cordero in Council Communications 84—specifically concerning items 4, 5, 6.**

Item 4: Restoration and preservation of Native Hawaiian cultural, environmental, and historic resources.

I appreciate the the biocultural amendment proposed by Chair Cordero in hopes that it will ensure that the waiola that runs from ma uka-upland areas, and flows ma kai-to the sea will be cherished, mālama-cared for, and nurtured with aloha so that the life giving waters can continue to flow through holistic systems like lo`i kalo and loko i`a. This is essential in ensuring that these valued but finite resources are available for generations to come.

Two inter-generational `Aiea residents best illustrate the importance of protecting and preserving biocultural spaces through their writing:

“As Aiea landowners for more than seven generations, our family has experienced first-hand the ravages of unfettered urban sprawl. The once-bountiful acreage of our fathers' childhood memories, lush with spring-fed kalo, watercress and lotus root lo'i, fell victim long ago to condemnation easements and gentrification. Along with the lo'i went the passing of a lifestyle rich in subsistence practice and history.” (Wes and Kehaulani Lum, 1997)

Individuals like Auntie Kehaulani Lum illustrate how long the `Aiea Community members have remained active, committed, dedicated, and passionate, in their efforts to ensure that `Aiea doesn't lose its sense of place, or identity. The `Aiea Community values its place, and wants to ensure that people don't forget about the abundance of Ke Awalau o Pu`uloa, and the waters that are flowing under our feet, because it still has the capacity to sustain us, when we are ready to allow it to flow out

What are the present issues/concerns with Bill 24(2024)?

I oppose Bill 124 (2024) in its present iteration for these reasons:

- 1) I would like **the `Aiea Town Center Master Plan to be upheld as envisioned** because the community spent decades giving thoughtful input, curating, and iterating. To not honor the `Aiea Town Center Master Plan would be ignoring and silencing the voices, past and present, and their vision for `Aiea.
- 2) Additionally, there is a need for guardrails that will not allow `Aiea to be gentrified, over-developed, and left susceptible to urban sprawl. In order for `Aiea to maintain its unique character, filled with its own sense of place, its own unique identity, guidelines that will protect its open spaces, and the environments, and ecosystems within; guidelines that will restore, reclaim, protect and preserve biocultural spaces, and historic resources; guidelines that honor responsible and protective land use policies must be prioritized.
- 3) Next, I humbly request that vague references to “infill development” be removed because this pursuit conflicts with the community’s long-standing vision. Any additional infill development of the Aiea Town Center, both adjacent to the `Aiea Sugar Mill site and in lower `Aiea near Kauhale Street and Mikalemi Street, should be avoided.

Accordingly and in alignment with the `Aiea Community Association, I also respectfully request that a corresponding amendment be made to the **Figure 2.1 map to amend the place type** for the area bound by the `Aiea Town Center, `Aiea Community Center, Mikalemi Street, Kino`ole Street, and `Aiea Stream to reflect the **residential place type**.

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I appreciate the the biocultural amendment proposed by Chair Cordero in hopes that it will ensure that the waiola that runs from ma uka-upland areas, and flows ma kai-to the sea will be cherished, mālama-cared for, and nurtured with aloha so that the life giving waters can continue to flow through holistic systems like lo`i kalo and loko i`a. This is essential in ensuring that these valued but finite resources are available for generations to come.

Two inter-generational `Aiea residents best illustrate the importance of protecting and preserving biocultural spaces through their writing:

“As Aiea landowners for more than seven generations, our family has experienced first-hand the ravages of unfettered urban sprawl. The once-bountiful acreage of our fathers' childhood memories, lush with spring-fed kalo, watercress and lotus root lo'i, fell victim long ago to condemnation easements and gentrification. Along with the lo'i went the passing of a lifestyle rich in subsistence practice and history.” (Wes and Kehaulani Lum, 1997)

Individuals like Auntie Kehaulani Lum illustrate how long the `Aiea Community members have remained active, committed, dedicated, and passionate, in their efforts to ensure that `Aiea doesn't lose its sense of place, or identity. The `Aiea Community values its place, and wants to ensure that people don't forget about the abundance of Ke Awalau o Pu`uloa, and the waters that are flowing under our feet, because it still has the capacity to sustain us, when we are ready to allow it to flow out

once again. I am heartened by the dedication and commitment of this `Aiea community who continue to want `Aiea to feed its people like the historic Mo`i wahine of this place, Kalanimanui`a. At the same time, they also want to ensure that `Aiea remains a place where generations will have their hearts, minds, souls and spirits filled. This is the essence and energy of being on the `āina, connecting with the `āina in `Aiea, in Pu`uloa.

Towards this end, I strongly support Chair Cordero's proposed amendment, item 4.

Item 4: The proposed amendment to page 150 of the plan, adds a new paragraph(see–underlined and bolded section below), to reflect the community's desire to restore and preserve Native Hawaiian cultural and historic resources.

o Land Uses and Development

I strongly support this amendment to **prioritize investment in biocultural restoration (Native Hawaiian lo`i kalo, loko i`a, māla, etc.) in lower `Aiea, as an adaptive strategy to address stormwater management and mitigate fire risk, flooding, urban heat island, and groundwater recharge, while also supporting urban greening, cultural restoration, food security, and community stewardship.**

The lo`i and loko i`a, are prime examples of the intellect, wisdom, and ingenuity of Kanaka Maoli. These systems never took the water away and out of the system, but instead kept the waiola within the system so that it could go on, bioremediated by the kalo, and filled with nutrients as it made its way into the loko i`a. Loko i`a with its mix of wai and kai, provided unique ecosystems that allowed it to flourish, as well as has the capacity to support native organisms that need that mix of wai and kai. As we face climate change, it makes clear the need to mālama these biocultural ecosystems—not just for us—people, but for all life. The health of these systems—`āina, kahawai-stream, pūnāwai-spring, waikai/muliwai-wetlands, and kai, are indicators of the overall health of our place.

How important are wetlands (which include lo`i and loko i`a)?

According to a Moloka`i Wetland Partnership-MWP article on wetlands,

“Coastal wetlands are fundamentally important to Native Hawaiians—their function is inextricably intertwined with sociocultural values, a prime example of the Hawaiian socioecological system in which humans are perceived as part of and not separate from nature (Berkes and Folke, 1998; Winter and others, 2018; Gon and others, 2021).” (MWP, 2025)

The benefits of preserving wetlands—which include lo`i kalo and loko i`a (also listed on the MWP story map):

Protecting and restoring wetlands can bring many benefits to the local community, including:

- ***Providing flood control*** to reduce mudslides and improve water quality
- ***Trapping sediments*** originating from the uplands and thereby protecting the reef and increasing fishing yields
- ***Storing flood waters*** and thereby increasing groundwater recharge
- ***Increasing recharge*** to coastal aquifers
- ***Restoring traditional agriculture*** (lo`i kalo and loko i`a)
- ***Aiding in the recovery of native and migratory birds*** which are important in Native Hawaiian culture
- ***Carbon sequestration*** (essential to mitigating climate change)

The incredible truth about loʻi kalo is that they expand these life-giving, abundance-filled wetland areas, multiplying the benefits that natural wetlands provide. In addition, they also serve as places for the community to come together, provide spaces for our keiki to interact and connect with nature, provide healing spaces, and can act as food security/sustainable resources that benefits overall health and well being.

Additionally, spaces with loʻi kalo, loko iʻa, and māla/agroforestry spaces, are often filled with plants, and trees that offer a reprieve from the heat. With temperatures rising from climate change, it is of utmost importance that we proactively seek out ways to mitigate its many impacts including the “Urban Heat Island”--UHI effect. Maintaining plant filled biocultural spaces actively mitigates the UHI effect. According to this article in Nature, “Climate change is exacerbating the need for urban greening and the associated environmental and human well-being benefits.” (Ettinger, A.K., et.al 2024)

(Please read the article, **Care Of Honolulu’s Freshwater Springs A Shared Responsibility:**

These are spaces where spirits are renewed and where people reconnect with water, land and each other. from Civil Beat. Written by PhD student Andrew J. Lewis.

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/02/care-of-honolulu-freshwater-springs-a-shared-responsibility/>)

The more these spaces can be reclaimed, restored, protected, and/or preserved, the more resources we will have in the future, and the more resilient we will be in the midst of the changes we are facing.

I would also like to extend my support for two additional amendments proposed by Chair Cordero’s Council Communication 84:

-Item 5 would amend the description on page 151 of “Aiea Sugar Mill Site” to reference the **The `Aiea Town Center Master Plan**. The inclusion and fulfillment of this plan (which includes community-serving anchors, open spaces, and senior housing) would honor the coming together of the `Aiea community 25 years ago post demolition of the `Aiea Mill Site to envision the benefit of generations past, present, and future.

-Item 6, page 151, would **amend the unit amounts in “Aiea Town—Growth Scenario.”**

- o `Aiea Town—Growth Scenario: [~~500~~] 200 units

I strongly support these amendments proposed by Chair Cordero because they strengthen the Primary Urban Center Development Plan and honor and reflect more than 25 years of visioning and effort by the `Aiea Community.

I strongly urge the Council to adopt these aspects of Chair Cordero’s proposed amendments

A Request for Changes

Although I do strongly support items 4, 5, and 6 of Chair Cordero’s amendments, I would also like to **align with the `Aiea Community Association by respectfully requesting two specific changes** to Chair Cordero’s Council Communication 84 amendment with regards to the Figure 2.1 map. My request is to::

- 1) **Amend the place type for the undeveloped area behind existing homes in the area bound by Mikalemi Street, Nalopaka Place, and Kauhale Street, in lower `Aiea, from the Near-Town Neighborhood place type to an appropriate Open Space Type (either Major Parks and Open Space or Preservation Area); and**

- 1) **Amend the place type for the portions of the 'Aiea Town Center makai of the H-1 freeway that are not currently zoned B-2 from the Near-Town Corridor/Center Medium place type to the Near-Town Neighborhood place type.**

The final part of my testimony will be the sharing of a petition.

On December 14, 2024, I created a petition to gauge the support for:

The restoration and protection of biocultural spaces– lo'i kalo, loko i'a, and māla in lower 'Aiea for the health, safety and well-being, sustainability and resilience of our community, and our environment.

During the Fun Fair following the 'Aiea Community Christmas parade, I stopped to chat with people and was able to collect about 150 signatures together with Kellee. There were only two people who did not sign the petition wanting to find out more about biocultural spaces first.

One of the non-'Aiea residents who signed the petition shared that he and his family do not live in 'Aiea, but often visit for various reasons. On that day, they visited the Fun Fair, when they noticed it after attending and to attend swimming lessons. Even if he wasn't from the area, he still believed in the preservation and protection of biocultural spaces. I highlight this because I do believe that all signatures collected that day should be valued whether the person resides in 'Aiea or not. It also highlights that 'Aiea is a destination where families visit wherever they reside on O'ahu. Mahalo in advance for valuing and honoring each and every signature on the petition because it connects to their voice, to their beliefs.

Also of note, young 'Aiea residents who were starting families of their own did not express wanting more housing development, instead, they expressed wanting to be able to raise their children with the same kind of small-neighborhood-feelings that they experienced when they were growing up. They did not want their beloved 'Aiea to become over-developed, and did not want it to become too urbanized. I share their voices to honor them.

Thus I respectfully implore the City Council to consider the voices of their constituents. Rather than push for unsustainable development and urbanization, that would overtax our limited, finite resources, we ask that you invest in the long-term health of our 'āina, of the native flora and fauna, of the the overall health and wellbeing of our interdependent ecosystems that are all inclusive.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony, and for your deepest consideration and deliberation of it.

With great humility, respect, and aloha,

Ke aloha nō,

Alison Ka'ōlinokaimana Yasuoka

References

Ettinger, A.K., Bratman, G.N., Carey, M. *et al.* 2024 Street trees provide an opportunity to mitigate urban heat and reduce risk of high heat exposure. *Sci Rep* 14, 3266.

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Lum, K., Lum, W. 1997. Sugar mill once defined life in Aiea and could again. *Honolulu Star Bulletin*.

Accessed: <https://archives.starbulletin.com/1997/12/22/editorial/otherviews.html>)

_____. 2025. Prioritizing restoration of coastal wetlands on Moloka'i. *Moloka'i Wetland Partnership*

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/a52be2794a684d15a463ba794d911c43>

Lewis, A.J. 2025. Care Of Honolulu's Freshwater Springs A Shared Responsibility: These are spaces where spirits are renewed and where people reconnect with water, land and each other. Civil Beat. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/02/care-of-honolulus-freshwater-springs-a-shared-responsibility/>

Support amendment: to prioritize investment in biocultural restoration (Native Hawaiian lo'i kalo, loko i'a, māla, etc.) in lower 'Aiea, as an adaptive strategy to address stormwater management and mitigate fire risk, flooding, urban heat island, and groundwater recharge, while also supporting urban greening, cultural restoration, food security, and community stewardship.

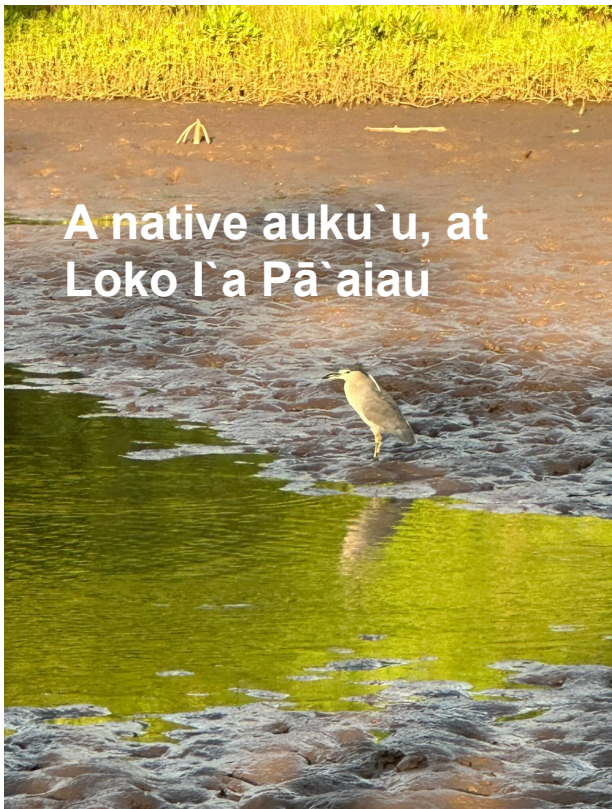


There is so much to learn about one's self, about the `āina, and wai when you are caring for a lo'i kalo.

A lo'i kalo filled with water from the pūnāwai, spring waters. Students building pilina—connections to each other, the `āina, and the organisms around them.

A.K. Yasuoka 7





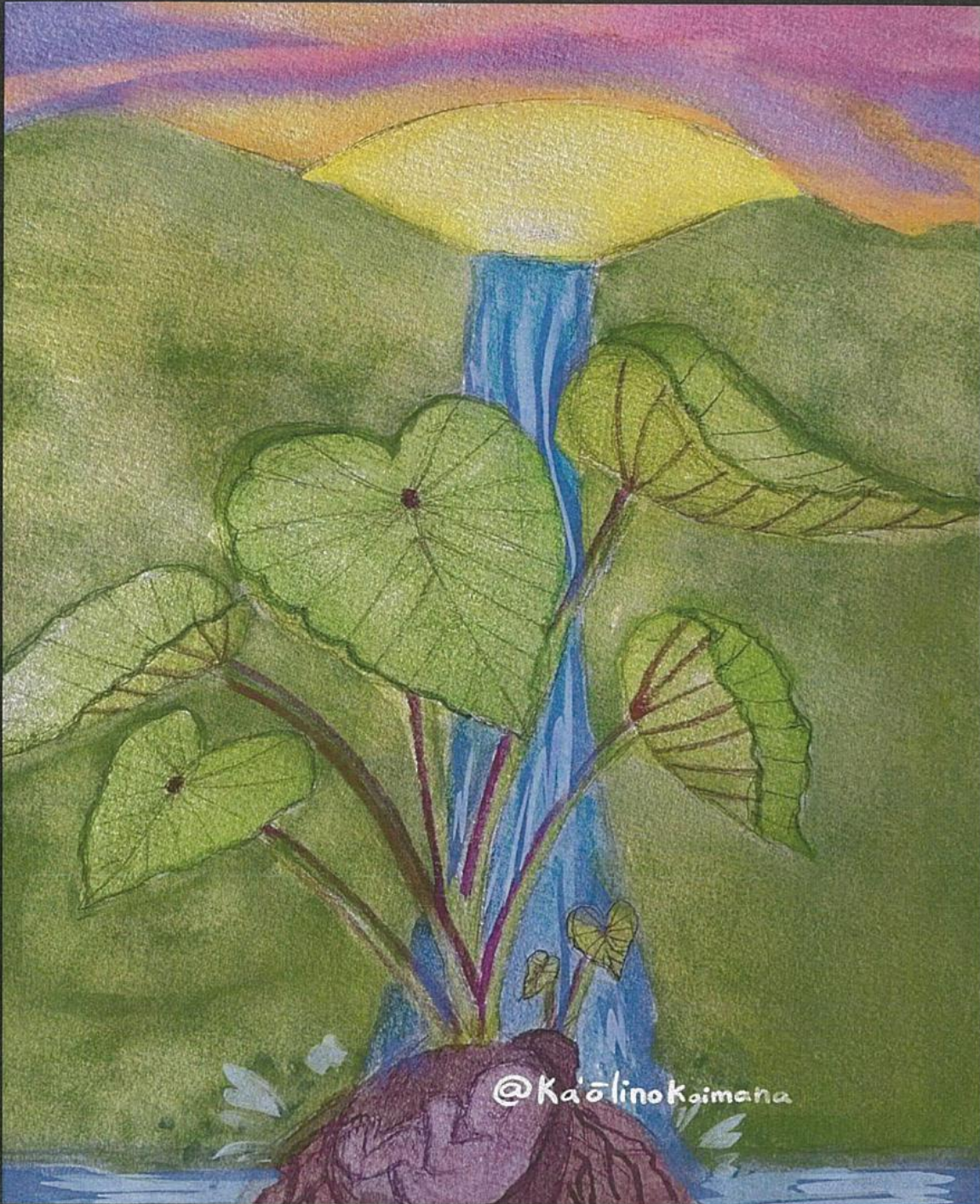
Restoring Loko I`a Pā`aiau



Biocultural Spaces Petition

SUPPORT

The restoration and protection of biocultural spaces— lo`i kalo, loko i`a, and māla in lower `Aiea for the health, safety and well-being, sustainability and resilience of our community, and our environment.



December 14, 2024

Why do we need biocultural spaces within our community?



Biocultural definition:

Biocultural approaches recognize the ever-present and dynamic interactions between biological and cultural phenomena. It is an interdisciplinary approach that cultivates relationships to place and community, and includes in part: the biological, sociocultural, environmental, geochemical, marine, anthropological, climate resilience, and community-based support and protection efforts.

- Biocultural spaces combine interdependent ecosystems with the culture of the place. In Hawai'i, the indigenous culture, like many cultures around the world, is intimately connected to nature, and caring for the land, the water, and the organisms that share the space.
- Biocultural spaces, where we can interact closely with nature, is good for our health and total well being
- Biocultural spaces like nahele–forest, in the uka, upland areas; lo'i, and māla in the kula, plains areas; and waikai–estuaries, and loko i'a, fishponds in the land meets the sea areas, are all examples of biocultural spaces.
- Biocultural spaces provide the community with open spaces to connect and gather
- Biocultural spaces allow native organisms to co-exist and thrive together with people

PETITION IN SUPPORT

We, the residents and friends of `Aiea, support the restoration and protection of biocultural spaces--lo`i kalo, loko i`a, and māla in lower `Aiea for the health, safety and well-being, sustainability and resilience of our community, and our environment.

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CORAZON LUM	96701	808-221-0176	Corazon Lum
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Dave Harris	90245	310 322-7621	
KAMEHI LUM	96701	808.488.8118	
WINSTON LUM, JR.	96702	808-255-6194	Winston Lum, Jr.
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Keani Lum	96706	808-924-7825	Keani Lum
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RANDY CHUNG	96793	(808) 280-2445	Randy Chung
Karissa Lum	96826	(803) 476-6080	Karissa Lum

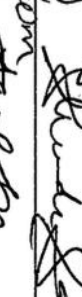
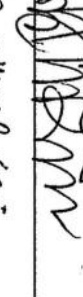
Name of Organizer/Person Collecting Signatures

Address

Date

PETITION IN SUPPORT

We, the residents and friends of Aiea, support the restoration and protection of biocultural spaces—lo'i kalo, loko i'a, and māla in lower Aiea for the health, safety and well-being, sustainability and resilience of our community, and our environment.

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PETITION IN SUPPORT

We, the residents and friends of `Aiea, support the restoration and protection of biocultural spaces—lo`i kalo, loko i`a, and māla in lower `Aiea for the health, safety and well-being, sustainability and resilience of our community, and our environment.

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Joseph K Hoapili III	96816	808-384-1868	
Stanford Carr	96816	808 711-3642	
Nannua Malatu	96706	808 342 4320	
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Sheila Sanford	96701	808-721-7615	
Trisha Meia	96701	808-388-1161	
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Lianne Mitani	96701	808 770 8773	
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Name of Organizer/Person Collecting Signatures	Address	Unit 'Aiea	Date
Kelie Heather	99-969 `Aiea Heights Dr	✓ 96701	12-14-2024

PETITION IN SUPPORT

We, the residents and friends of Aiea, support the restoration and protection of biocultural spaces—lo'i kalo, loko i'a, and māla in lower Aiea for the health, safety and well-being, sustainability and resilience of our community, and our environment.

Name: First & Last	Ahupua'a/Zipcode	Contact Info	Signature
Ethan Shimizu	Aiea 96701	AIS	Ethan Shimizu
Hiwaleani Carter	Aiea 96701	~~After~~ AIS	Hiwaleani Carter
Lily Anne Turner	Aiea 96701	AIS	Lily Turner
Brooke Billington	Aiea	AIS	Brooke
Sherry Cassette	Honolulu 96817	Kumu AIS	Sherry
Trey Hukuhira	Aiea		Trey
Jazenic Hata	Aiea	lakeside	Jazenic
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Name of Organizer/Person Collecting Signatures

Address

Date

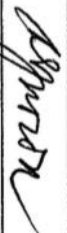
Jazenic Hata

48-~~443~~ 443 Kilihae Way

12/19/24

PETITION IN SUPPORT

We, the residents and friends of Aiea, support the restoration and protection of biocultural spaces—lo'i kalo, loko i'a, and māia in lower Aiea for the health, safety and well-being, sustainability and resilience of our community, and our environment.

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Alison Yasuoka	98-1619 Nāhale St.		12/14/2024

PETITION IN SUPPORT

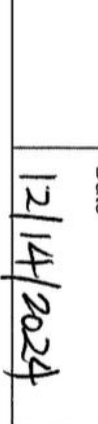
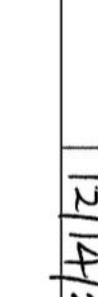
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Name: First & Last	Ahupua`a/Zipcode	Contact Info	Signature
John Teruya	96092	808551-0521	[Signature]
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Name of Organizer/Person Collecting Signatures	Address	Date
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PETITION IN SUPPORT

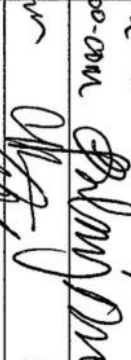
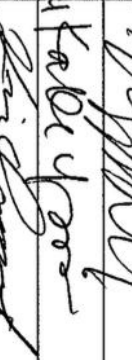
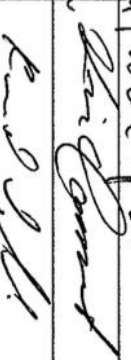
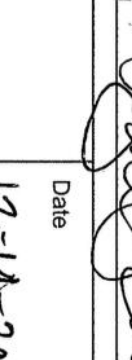
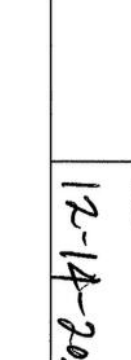
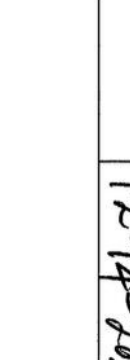
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Jed Murgoe	96701	808-206-0940	
Yvinda Rose	96815	808-304-8123	
Ela Agustín	96701	808-330-3192	
Kelvin Sautoka	96786	808-938-5559	
Ricardo Quiniola	96701	808-945-1566	
Allegra Quinila	96701	808-211-2252	
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Name of Organizer/Person Collecting Signatures	Address	Date
J. Kaitiainana Yasutaka	98-1613 Nāhale St. `Aiea 96701	12/14/2024

PETITION IN SUPPORT

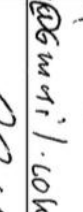
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Name of Organizer/Person Collecting Signatures	Address	Date
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PETITION IN SUPPORT

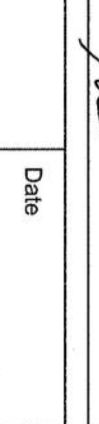
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Name of Organizer/Person Collecting Signatures	Address	Date
Kellee Heather	99-969 Aiea Heights Dr Unit Aiea 96701	12-14-2024

PETITION IN SUPPORT

We, the residents and friends of `Aiea, support the restoration and protection of biocultural spaces—lo`i kalo, loko i`a, and māla in lower `Aiea for the health, safety and well-being, sustainability and resilience of our community, and our environment.

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[illegible]

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Name of Organizer/Person Collecting Signatures	Address	Date
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