



MAKAKILO/KAPOLEI/HONOKAI HALE NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 34

c/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BLVD SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

LETTER OF SUPPORT

August 21, 2025

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Zoning and Planning
City and County of Honolulu
650 South King St 1st Floor
Honolulu HI 96813

Re: Resolution No. 25-207; Granting a Special Management Area Permit to Allow for the Cove
Redevelopment in Ko Olina Oahu

Aloha e Chair Esther Kiaʻāina and honorable members:

On behalf of the Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board No. 34, we are pleased to submit this testimony in **support** of the project.

The applicant's plan to redevelop the 10.85-acre project site, in accordance with Ordinance No. 89-27, aligns with the existing land-use regulations, which limit commercial activities to restaurants and retail operations associated with a Hawaiian Theme Park and a commercial lū'au operation. The proposed improvements will be contained entirely within the subject parcel and represent the first major enhancement of existing amenities on the property in over 25 years. The intent of the proposed action is to update the commercial lū'au show and create an authentic Hawaiian outdoor recreation facility and community gathering place that honors and reflects the history, culture, and connection to the location.

The revitalization of the project site will provide a dynamic mix of retail, entertainment, and dining experiences within an immersive coastal setting that authentically honors the property's Hawaiian legacy in a contemporary form. The proposed action is envisioned to serve as a major recreational resource, visual amenity, and economic generator for the community.

We would like to offer recommendations to further enhance the project. Incorporating Hawaiian Sustainable Landscapes and plants, as outlined in our 2024 resolution, attached, could be a valuable approach to maintaining the natural beauty of the area and creating a unique and immersive experience. This consideration would not only align with our community's values but also contribute to the project's overall aesthetic and environmental appeal. To foster a positive relationship with the surrounding community, we suggest that the project developers proactively engage with immediate neighbors to address any concerns they may have regarding noise and dust pollution during construction, as well as vehicle traffic before and after construction. We also recommend exploring



Oahu's Neighborhood Board system – Established 1973

DEPT. COM. 644 ZON



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opportunities to support the local economy by considering local leases for entertainment and restaurant venues, which would allow the community to showcase its unique character and charm. Moreover, incorporating local made goods for sale would provide an authentic experience for visitors while supporting local artisans and businesses, thereby celebrating the community's creativity and talent.

We would also love to see the project developers consider providing support for the control and eradication of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle as part of a community give-back initiative, which would help to protect the environment and preserve the natural resources of the area. Offering free or subsidized use of entertainment, including the proposed amphitheater, to schools and community groups could also be a great way to foster a sense of community and provide opportunities for social and cultural enrichment. Increasing public beach access stalls from 15 to at least 20 could help to improve accessibility and provide a better experience for visitors, and we think this would be a wonderful way to share our beautiful beaches with everyone. Providing free or subsidized parking for kama'āina, particularly during school, community group, or festival events held at the project site, could also be a great way to support the local community and encourage participation in events, and we believe this would be a thoughtful and generous gesture.

We are grateful for the project developers' commitment to wildfire mitigation at the project site and across Campbell lands in the Kapolei area, which will help to protect the environment and prevent potential hazards. We also appreciate the developers' commitment to targeting local working families as the primary demographic for visitors to the new project, as this will help to support the local economy and provide opportunities for social and cultural enrichment. The use of local and union labor for construction is also a positive aspect of the project, as it will help to support the local workforce and ensure that the project is completed to a high standard. The provision of a publicly available comfort station and showers is also a welcome addition, as it will help to improve the overall experience for visitors and provide a convenient and accessible facility.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Me ke aloha,

Anthony Makana Paris
Chair

Ltr and forwarding of resolution Authorized by Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board No. 34 at its April 23rd, 2025 Regular Board Meeting, 7-0-0.



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RESOLUTION

**SUPPORTING THE USE OF SUSTAINABLE HAWAIIAN PLANT LANDSCAPES AND
INCREASING FOOD SECURITY TOWARD RESILIENT NEIGHBORHOODS**

Whereas, the Makakilo/Kapolei/Honokai Hale Neighborhood Board No. 34 (“Board”) is a citizens’ advisory board whose purpose is to “increase and assure effective citizen participation in the decisions of government” per the City and County of Honolulu’s Neighborhood Plan of 2008; and

Whereas, in 2015, the State Legislature amended [HRS §103D-408](#) to set clear mandates for the use of Hawaiian (native and Polynesian-introduced) plants in new or renovated landscaping for public projects using public money, in furtherance of the preservation of Hawaii’s cultural and ecological heritage and HRS §103D-408 defines Hawaiian plants as endemic or indigenous plant species as well as those brought to Hawai’i by Polynesians before European contact, such as kukui, kalo, wauke, niu, noni, and kamani, and the law intends to set clear mandates for the use of Hawaiian plants in public landscaping; and

Whereas, in 2022, the City and County of Honolulu through [Ord. 22-22](#) (Bill 33) affirmed the use of indigenous (Hawaiian) plants including naupaka, pohuehue, ‘akiaki, ‘akulikuli, pohinahina, and ‘ilima papa in public beach parks as a “key resiliency action” as part of the O’ahu Resiliency Strategy to address the impacts of climate change; and

Whereas, according to the Association of Landscape Architects, sustainable landscapes are responsive to the environment, regenerative, and can actively contribute to the development of healthy communities, as well as sequester carbon, clean the air and water, increase energy efficiency, restore habitats, and create value through significant economic, social, and environmental benefits; and

Whereas, sustainable landscapes of Hawaiian plants would use those plants that are naturally occurring within that ahupua’a; and

Whereas, O’ahu is highly food insecure importing the majority of its food with little on-island supply in case of natural disasters or emergencies; and

Whereas, the following are naturally occurring or have been brought to Hawai’i by Polynesians before European contact across Makakilo, Kapolei, and Honokai Hale: ‘a’ali’i, akia, alahe’e, ‘akoko, akulikuli, aweowe, hau, ‘ilie’e, ilima, kolomona, kou, kukui, kulu’i, lama, lonomea, milo, ma’o, ma’o hauhele, naio, naupaka, ohai, ohe makai, pohinahina, pua pilo, uhaloa, wiliwili and some produce food including hala, ‘ulu, and ‘uala; now, therefore, be it,

Resolved, that Board No. 34 urges the use of sustainable Hawaiian plant landscapes and increasing food security toward resilient neighborhoods; and be it

Ordered, that copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Council Members, and all Neighborhood Boards.

