

HCR-96

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 1:06:19 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Pat Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To: The Honorable Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair/ The Honorable Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Water & Land

Date: Tuesday March 23, 2021

Time: 8:30 A.M.

Place: House Conference Room 430

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

From: Pat & Dianna Lee

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 96, Urging the City & County of Honolulu DFM, DES and the US Army Corps of Engineers to Coordinate, Clean and Maintain Streams in the Kaneohe and Kailua Areas

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco and Members of the W&L Committee,

We have lived along Kawa Stream in Kaneohe since 1988. The stream is owned by the City & County of Honolulu which is responsible for its maintenance and upkeep. For many years we, like many of our neighbors have been concerned about flooding and erosion of Kawa Stream bordering our homes.

The stream banks are partially lined with concrete. There are certain portions of Kawa Stream that are not improved and have earthen banks which have been subject to erosion, and potentially exasperating flooding conditions. Additionally, there is overgrown vegetation, downed tree branches and other debris in the stream bed, which is a constant concern particularly during heavy rains and Hurricane season.

In the interest of public safety, we respectfully request the passage of HCR 96, and urge the State and the City and County of Honolulu to undertake regular maintenance measures as well as seek long term permanent solutions to prevent flooding and erosion along Kawa Stream.

Thank you for allowing us to express our views on this matter.

Sincerely,

Pat & Dianna Lee

45-248A Pahikaua Place Kaneohe, HI 96744

Ph: 235-8919

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Submitted on: 3/22/2021 1:17:35 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lilia Hao	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HCR96. Being born and raised in Kaneohe, I strongly advocate for the clearing and maintenance of our streams and drains. Kaneohe experiences so much rainfall that we cannot afford to not be prepared for flooding. I believe HCR96 will help prevent and/or decrease the damaging flooding of our waterways especially during the rainy season. Mahalo, kindly,

Lilia Hao

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Submitted on: 3/22/2021 3:27:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Takayama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For HCR96

I fully support this bill. The Anolani Stream in Kaneohe has not been cleaned since before 2018. It is overgrown with vegetation and poses a definite threat to free flowing of water. Thank you very much.

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Submitted on: 3/22/2021 6:33:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bill Hicks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am Bill Hicks, Chairman of the Kailua Neighborhood Board, but I am submitting this testimony strongly in support of HCR 96 as an individual.

On October 30, 2018 a 15' wide and 15' deep sinkhole occurred on Kanapuu Drive, the major traffic artery in the Keolu Hills section of Kailua. The cause was the collapse of a 12' diameter storm drain pipe. The cause of the collapse of the pipe was inadequate maintenance of drainage pipes and canals. Now, some 2½ years later, Kanapuu Drive is still cut off and closed at the site of the yet to be repaired sinkhole. This problem was preventable. A culvert downstream of the collapsed drain pipe had become blocked with rocks and tree stumps, trapping the water. If the city had properly maintained the culvert, there probably wouldn't have been a sinkhole.

As a result of heavy rain this month, Kailua streams and canals were filled with brown water upstream of Enchanted Lake (Kaelepulu Pond), the brown water carried with it massive amounts of debris and sediment. Aerial video images at <https://kailuawaterways.com/brown-water/> are dramatic. Eventually much of this sediment and debris works its way into Kailua Bay. Regular maintenance and cleaning of drainage canals and streams would reduce this pollution load.

I am encouraged by and wholeheartedly support HCR 96 as representing a necessary and overdue action to improve water quality in Kailua and Kaneohe.

Mahalo.

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Submitted on: 3/22/2021 9:48:05 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Levani Lipton	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Branco, and Members of the Committee on Water and Land,

I am writing in support of Resolution HCR 96 to regularly clean drainage canals and streams and to establish cleaning schedules for the drainage canals and streams in Kailua and Kaneohe. The protection of our waterways and the reduction of pollution to our oceans is absolutely critical to the survival of our watershed and ecosystem. Regularly cleaning is an absolutely necessary for this to occur.

The Department of Facilities Maintenance has for a long time struggled with being able to maintain our waterway infrastructure due to lack of staff and resources. Having a crew of five people responsible for 150+ streams and for the entire island is unacceptable. There needs to be further support for the responsibilities of this agency. The impacts of lack of stream maintenance are compounded over time.

We should not be cleaning our streams only as a response in the case of severe weather events like the March 2021 storm that may have precipitated this Resolution HCR 96 as well as the current Resolution 21-77 before the City Council.

Brown water events seem to be increasing and this is a public safety and public health concern to the public. With something as important as water and with access to water being a critical issue for most of the world, we need to take preventative steps to protect this natural resource.

Regular scheduled stream maintenance is like going to the dentist —it assists in the prevention of problems such as clogging and collapsing of infrastructure. We have seen the exorbitant costs passed on to taxpayers from the collapse of a concrete culvert on Kanapu'u Street in Kailua. The culvert collapsed under several feet of silt and natural debris because it wasn't maintained. Regular maintenance would prevent build up and help mitigate overall pollution.

It is important that all agencies (Department of Environmental Services, Department of Facilities Maintenance and Army Corps of Engineers) work together and coordinate these efforts toward the common goal of improving the health of our waterways.

I would strongly suggest an addendum to the current resolution to include a website linked to the City and County that includes the following: 1) The schedule and location for the drainage canals and streams 2) inspection dates and the result, 3) pictures before and after the cleanup and 4) the cost for each stream. This would greatly improve transparency and also keep the public informed.

The issue of viability of our waterways needs to have greater importance. Our streams are the arteries and tributaries that lead to our larger bodies of water. If they are sick the entire ocean gets sick.

Please pass this resolution with the suggested amendment. Mahalo for your consideration.

Mahalo,

/Levani Lipton/

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Submitted on: 3/22/2021 10:09:38 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cindy Abe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I have called to complain about the streams in Keapuka and Kapunahala many times in the past 3 years. (The first time I was told "Not going flood". The very next day there was a flash flood and the water came up pretty high) I worry about all the debris that comes with heavy rains. I was happy they finally cleared most of the Kapunahala side but yet didn't clear closer to the bridge on Kamehameha Hwy. That is a potential flooding hazard. We have been lucky so far, yet regular maintenance needs to be done.

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Submitted on: 3/23/2021 12:54:17 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Moana Wheelon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kakahiaka kakou,

Good morning Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members:

My name is Moana Ah Yuen Wheelon, and I am a 45 year resident of Kane'ohe. Today I would like to share my testimony with all of you in unwavering support of Bill HCR96. This bill was drafted specifically to address and urge The Department of Facility Maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu, in conjunction with The United States Army of Corps Engineers and also The Department of Environmental Services of the City and County of Honolulu to immediately and regularly clean the drainage canals and streams in Kane'ohe and Kailua, furthermore develop recommended cleaning schedules for drainage canals and streams.

It has been documented that a blocked drainage canal is at a high risk of frequent overbank flooding. "On March 11, the entire state of Hawaii was faced with devastating floods with Governor David Ige declaring a state of emergency just before bridges collapsed and houses were decimated". Many Hawaii residents were prompted to evacuate after homes, bridges, roads, and dams sustained severe flood damage from Kailua to Haleiwa. We are still in the midst of a very wet rainy season here in the Islands. Global warming and climate change are interconnected often causing severe weather patterns unlike what we have seen in years past. I implore you to address and mitigate these blocked streams and canals immediately as they pose obvious threats to our homes and communities. We need your help and cannot attempt this job on our own, we have tried to do our part, but it is a job that is often beyond our limitations. We are willing to pitch in when we can, but we need heavy equipment and the expertise of those who are knowledgeable and adept.

Once again I would like to express my strong support of Bill HCR96. I would also like to thank all of you for allowing me to bear my testimony today and for your consideration in passing this bill.