

**TESTIMONY**  
**SB1069**  
**LATE**

February 17, 2009

**TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND,  
AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS – For Wednesday, February 18, 2009  
RE: SENATE BILL 1069 - Relating to the Hawai'i Community Development Authority**

TO Chairman Clayton Hee, Vice Chairman Jill N. Tokuda and Committee Members:

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This testimony is offered in full support of SB1069.

I am an elected member of the Ala Moana/Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board and have served on the Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning and Advisory Council (CPAC) and its Steering Committee since it was formed by HCDA in response to HCR 30 (2006). In that resolution, the HCDA was advised to "*immediately convene a working group of interested stakeholders, particularly the groups and individuals that have surfaced in this controversy, to meaningfully participate in the development, acceptance, and implementation of any future plans for the development of Kaka'ako Makai.*"

There are many reasons to support this legislation. In the interest of time I will be selective and point to those reasons closest to my heart.

**1. Why does Kaka'ako Makai matter so much?** Because it is symbolic of the most important resources to be protected in Hawai'i – precious shorefront that gives public access to the ocean, to open space, to green spaces along the shore line, and to view planes from the ocean horizon to the mountains. Kaka'ako Makai is also symbolic of the historical abuse of waterfronts that are now being restored around the world. And finally, and most disturbingly, it is symbolic of the trend of governments to put economic development and private development profit-making at the top of the list of priorities – or as the only priority!

Hawai'i offers no exception to this great challenge to protect shoreline land such that we assure full public use and public access and still allow shoreline use for the multiple purposes that a society requires. I became deeply involved in caring about the future of Kaka'ako back when the State/HCDA was going to sell land to a private developer for luxury condo towers. I found that many in the larger downtown/Waikiki community opposed this development and supported the need to "Save Our Kaka'ako Makai." We worked together to inform legislators and mobilize support to save this land so it could be dedicated to serve the *higher purposes* we envisioned for this beautiful stretch of shoreline that is part of Oahu's *lei of green*.

One of the key *higher purposes* for Kaka'ako Makai is to provide the parks and green spaces needed to make "Live, Work and Play" a philosophy rather than the meaningless slogan it has become. That is, beyond the shoreline, we recognized that neither HCDA nor private developers were respecting the standards for "park space/green space" that would be essential for the whole of Kaka'ako, given the population expansion created by all the luxury high-rise condos.

**2. Why does CPAC matter and why does it need legislative protection?** CPAC represents a first level of formalized community participation, even if the realities are still limited by the lack of real authority invested in our work. Rightfully, a community advisory process would be invested with a particular form of *authority* that derives from community expertise and commitment to its many stakeholders and their respective values and commitments.

LATE TESTIMONY

2. Why does CPAC matter and why does it need legislative protection -- continued

The authority of the community is surely an important voice when a series of developments are being advanced that have their legitimacy primarily in the economic value that will be created. And when the costs are the less tangible matters of public use and public access.

We have done admirable work in forming the CPAC with the able assistance of UH facilitators, HCDA support staff and many enthusiastic citizens from the community. We have engaged with our diversity of ideas and dreams and we have created a statement of Vision and Guiding Principles that is a more than respectable product.

Community participation, however, has not been assured. **That is why I support this legislation.** The HCDA needs continued direction from the legislature that a strong focused voice of community stakeholders is to be respected. *And even more, because of the nature of this State agency, the legislature must ask that focused voice and input of the community be enabled by this legislation.*

Here are three examples of threats to “meaningful community participation:”

1) HCR30 directed the HCDA to particularly involve “*the groups and individuals that have surfaced in this controversy*” (referring to the “Save Kaka‘ako Makai” protest). But the initial steps to form this community participation intentionally sought out every possible variety of community voice that could be found, including developers and architects, which functioned successfully to diminish the voice and numbers of the “groups and individuals” that surfaced in the controversy.

2) In the most recent HCDA meeting in which the CPAC Vision and Principles were presented to HCDA Board members, the executive director said that these would be given to a planning consultant group that would develop a plan that would then be presented to CPAC for comment. He additionally explained that community input would then be sought a very wide range of groups and individuals and CPAC would be (only) one of those groups. So despite the State resources invested in CPAC and the huge investments of time and expertise that we CPAC members have made, our voice/impact is by design to be diluted into being just one of many many voices.

3) Over the months we have been working as CPAC, HCDA has undertaken numerous initiatives that were in some way opposed by the community but these were not initially brought to the group for input and participation in development of good ideas about how to go forward. In some cases, initiatives have had to be delayed or modified, which is ultimately wasteful of time and effort when compared with the advantages of working together.

**In summary, I support this legislation and urge your support.** As a social psychologist with training and experience conflict resolution, I view this situation as one of entirely natural and logical differences in viewpoint and goals for a good society. The issue, as with all human endeavors, is not whether to have conflict or not. Or whether conflict is *good* or *bad*.

The issue is whether to be *destructive* or *constructive* in the work of creating solutions. My most fervent hope and ideal for this “meaningful participation” process we seek to create is that it be transparent, honest, and passionately willing to address and resolve differences in aims and dreams.

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Hedlund  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i



HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY



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**LATE TESTIMONY**

STATEMENT OF

ANTHONY J. H. CHING, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

BEFORE THE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND  
HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 18, 2009

3:30 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229

**S. B. 1069 - RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

**Purpose:** This measure requires the Hawaii Community Development Authority ("HCDA") to collaborate and consider the recommendations of the working group of interested stakeholders in developing, accepting, and implementing plans for the development of Kakaako Makai.

**Position:** The Kakaako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council ("CPAC") will necessarily have a voice in the next step of the planning so the HCDA **supports** the intent of this measure and offers the following comments for consideration.

**CPAC will be a Resource.** We envision that CPAC will be a resource to the HCDA and its consultants as the plan and/or rules are being prepared. Their involvement in the development of the vision and guiding principles will be invaluable.

**Statutory law is not necessary to implement the intent of this measure.** CPAC, after working hard for nearly two years, has presented its vision and guiding principles to the HCDA. The vision and guiding principles represent the collective work of many people. This was the initial phase of this planning process. The HCDA will take the vision and guiding principles and begin the next step of the planning process for Kakaako Makai. CPAC will necessarily be involved in the next step of the planning process.

**The HCDA's planning efforts will include CPAC and the broader community, general public, and the State.** CPAC, along with members of the general public, the broader community, and other interested groups will have a chance to participate in the next phase of the planning—developing a master plan and/or rules. It is important to reach out to and include the broader public in this process.

**The next phase of the planning will be inclusive.** The hallmark of good planning requires relevant input. The HCDA, along with its planning consultant, will embark on a process that builds upon the work of CPAC and incorporates other ideas. The planning work will consist of the following:

- Validation of the Vision and Guiding Principles. Kakaako Makai is for the people. The community must validate CPAC's vision and guiding principles. A community-wide survey will be distributed and the community will be given the opportunity to agree, disagree, or add to the vision and guiding principles.
- Input on Programming Elements for the Master Plan. The program elements of the master plan typically identify the uses and activities within a master plan area. For Kakaako Makai, the community will have the opportunity, through a survey, to identify the elements that are important in their vision for Kakaako Makai.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LATE TESTIMONY**

Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Feb. 18, 2009  
3:30 pm  
Room 229

ALOHA Chair Clayton Hee and Vice Chair Jill N. Tokuda and members,

I would like to send written testimony in **full support of SB 1069**.

The new statutory material will provide the needed “push” to ensure the continuation of the People’s input in the planning and development of Kaka’ako Makai.

As the Vice Chair of the KM Community Planning Advisory Council, I have seen first hand the good that is coming out of this group and process.

Mahalo for supporting and fostering the Public input process.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Iwami  
President Friends of Kewalo Basin Park Association  
Organizer of Save Our Kaka’ako Coalition

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**From:** Wayne Takamine [waynetakamine@hawaii.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 18, 2009 12:29 PM  
**To:** WTLTestimony  
**Subject:** SENATE BILL 1069: Kaka 'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC).

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair

Wednesday, February 18, 2009  
Senate Conference Room 229  
3:30 PM

**SENATE BILL 1069**  
**Relating To Kaka 'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC).**  
Testimony Offered in FULL SUPPORT by Wayne Takamine

Aloha Chair Hee, Vice Chair Tokuda and Committee Members:

I am a participating and elected Steering Committee member of the Kaka 'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC). Today I am testifying as an individual to present my support for CPAC's commitment to function in accordance with HCR 30, 2006.

CPAC offers the HCDA and other interested planning organizations in Kaka'ako Makai a perspective from the community that has been lacking on other past planning efforts. Through meetings and forums, CPAC has successfully completed the Visions and Guiding Principles for Phase 1 planning in Kaka'ako Makai in an effort to give the HCDA direction from the community of what is perceived to be the best and highest use of the valuable land in Kaka'ako Makai. CPAC has worked with HCDA to create a relationship to provide better communication, transparency and public input to aid in critical planning decisions.

The process in creating a viable advisory working group has been successfully achieved but there is still much work is left to be done. I humbly request that the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs support CPAC and Senate Bill 1069.

Respectfully,

Wayne Takamine

CPAC Steering Committee

**Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs  
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair  
Senator Jill N. Tokuda, Vice Chair**

**February 18, 2009, Committee Hearing  
Conference Room 229  
3:30PM**

**LATE TESTIMONY**

**Senate Bill 1069  
Relating to The Hawaii Community Development Authority**

Chair Hee and Committee Members:

I support the passage of Senate Bill 1069.

I am Dexter Okada. As a disclosure, I am a member of the Hawaii Community Development Authority(HCDA). But I am here testifying as an individual who participated in the Save Our Kaka'ako coalition and a current participant of the Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council(CPAC).

When the working group first met, I thought to myself that no way would such a diverse group of people from the community be able to come together and accomplish anything. The first few meetings seem to confirm my thoughts. But then with the help of facilitators and the commitment of the participants, things began to slowly come together. All comments were accepted. There was no such thing as a bad comment. Through a consensus process, certain comments would float to the top. And now, CPAC has a vision and guiding principles. But this is only a fourth of the way. SB1069 will insure that the community is still involved in Kaka'ako Makai through the planning, development, and implementation phase.

CPAC's process is worth studying and possibly applying to other community efforts where there is a diverse group of participants, such as affordable housing.

Thank you,

Dexter Okada



**TESTIMONY**  
**SB1069**  
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**(END)**