

Testimony for HB1002 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 7:56 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Attachments: HB1002 WLO 2-2-09 NB.pdf (79 KB)

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1002

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jeannine Johnson

Organization: Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB1002 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 9:59 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: psnerney@yahoo.com

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1002

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Philip Nerney

Organization: Individual

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

This measure should be adopted because it is reasonable, narrowly tailored and necessary. The City and County of Honolulu has allowed the development of marginal lands that are unsuitable, despite meritorious objections. The State should supply leadership to protect citizens from the risk and expense of adverse impacts from landslides and rock falls.

The Department of Planning and Permitting has, for example, failed, neglected and/or refused to attend Neighborhood Board meetings and other community gatherings concerning a controversial steep slope development in the Dowsett area. One half-ton boulder has already hit one home in the area. Interestingly, a person believed to be employed by the Chair of the City Council's Zoning committee has openly declared that he represents the developer of that project. It is unclear how that apparent relationship might affect policy but it has an appearance that should raise concerns. In all events, the State should enact legislation to oblige the City and County to do what is obviously appropriate to protect people from needless personal injury and property damage. Environmental degradation is also a significant concern. Please adopt HB 1002.

LATE TESTIMONY

Jeannine Johnson, Legislative Sub-Committee Chair

Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2

5648 Pia Street, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96821

Phone: 373-2874 (h) / 537-7261 (w)

February 1, 2009

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

HB1002 RELATING TO ZONING

Hearing: Monday, February 2, 2009 at 9 am in Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har and Honorable Committee Members,

As Committee Chair of the **Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2** Legislative Sub-Committee, I am pleased to inform you **Neighborhood Board #2** strongly supports HB1002 which requires each county to enact zoning ordinances providing that lands deemed subject to the potential impact of land slides and rock slides shall not be used for residential, commercial, or other intensive use and shall require a sufficient buffer zone to protect persons from any dangers to life, health, safety, or property. **Neighborhood Board #2** represents over 6,000 households, with a population of almost 20,000 people (State of Hawaii Data Book 2002) in East Honolulu.

The 'Āina Haina-Niu Valley-Kuli'ou'ou areas in our District have a long history of flooding, rockslides, boulders, slope instability:

- December 3, 1950: Landslide of rocks, tree stumps and mud came down a mountainside on Manauwea Street and a section of the roadway ripped off.
- November, 1956: A 1,000-pound boulder loosened by torrential rains smashes into a Niu Valley home, stopping short of a bed on which a woman is sitting.
- July, 1958: A boulder crashes into an 'Āina Haina yard, narrowly missing a mother and her three children.
- March 5, 1958: A large boulder fell on Hao Street, a landslide of mud and debris covered a section of Ahuwale Street, and tons of rock knocked down a retaining wall on Hind Iuka Drive.
- February, 1961: A 2-ton rock strikes an 'Āina Haina home.
- August, 1962: Eight-year-old Lei Ushijima is killed by a boulder at her 'Āina Haina home.
- September, 1962: A 6-ton boulder crashes through the wall of an 'Āina Haina home, causing a woman and her two daughters to run from the house.

- February 4, 1965: Rains washed rocks onto Kalaniana'ole Highway in 'Āina Haina.
- November 14, 1965: Landslide reported on Hao Street.
- December 18, 1967: Niu and Kuli'ou'ou Streams flood homes after becoming dammed with rocks and other debris. Niu Stream was "choked full with boulders, many piling up at Kalaniana'ole Highway bridge" per Honolulu Star Bulletin. A landslide was also reported in 'Āina Haina on Leighton Street.
- New Year's Eve 1987-1988: Debris flows containing large boulders, some the size of vehicle tires, directly impacted several homes in Kuli'ou'ou Valley and piling debris onto Kalaniana'ole Highway. Rain triggered a large landslide high in the Kūpaua Valley that sent tons of mud, rock, and other debris downstream into lower Niu Valley, obstructing drainage channels and flooding a number of homes and a shopping center and burying some vehicles in mud. A two foot thick layer of mud, rocks and debris crossed Kalaniana'ole Highway near 'Āina Haina.
- April 1, 1989: Landslides in the 300 block of 'Ānonia Street scar the mountainside.
- March 19-20, 1991: A landslide of rocks, some the size of basketballs, were reported at Hawai'i Loa Street in Niu Valley and blocking Kalaniana'ole Highway with two feet deep of rocks. Drainage along 'Anolani Street in Niu Valley was plugged with big rocks causing flooding. Landslides of mud and debris block Lani, Kahinu, and Aimoku Streets in Kuli'ou'ou Valley and Leighton, Manauwea and Olapa Streets in 'Āina Haina.
- October, 1992: A girl is injured when a boulder crashes through her family's Niu Valley home.
- August 4, 2004: A boulder the size of an armchair rolls down the mountain and is stopped by a fire hydrant on 'Anolani Street in Niu Valley.
- April, 2006: A family on 'Ānonia Street in Niu Valley has a landslide in their back yard.
- August, 2006: A 300 pound boulder knocked a hole through a cement wall of a Kuli'ou'ou home on Mo'omuku Place at about 3:30 am, sending cement pieces crashing to the ground just a few feet away from where two-year-old Saydee Kauila was sleeping.
- August 14, 2008: A 4-foot boulder rolled down Kulepamoa Ridge, sideswiped a home at upper Haleola Street, crashed through a wooden fence and cinderblock wall and landed on the sidewalk.
- Sometime between August 14 and August 20, 2008, another 500-pound boulder rolled down Kulepamoa Ridge onto the side yard at upper Haleola Street.

Allowing development onto steep slopes, higher elevations, undeveloped mountain ridges and valley walls or deeper recesses of our valleys in areas suspect for land movement is inappropriate. Although Section 3.1.2 of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan mandates preservation of tracts of lands left undeveloped because of physical

constraints or hazards, the existing ordinances and rules and regulations of the City and County of Honolulu do not establish sufficient specific standards for assessing slope stability of our steep mountainsides, especially those with a history of rockfall and landslide hazards and those that pose a safety risk for residential neighborhoods located below such areas where development is proposed. Therefore, at its November 6, 2008 meeting, **Neighborhood Board #2** voted to impose appropriate standards for lands with an average grade of 20 percent or more, especially those that pose a safety risk for residential neighborhoods located below such areas where development is proposed.

Your support of HB1002 is respectfully requested.

Mahalo,


Legislative Sub-Committee Chair
Kuli'ou'ou / Kalani Iki Neighborhood Board #2

cc via email: Chair Robert Chuck
Sen. Sam Slom
Rep. Lyla Berg
Rep. Barbara Marumoto
'Āina Haina Community Association
Niu Valley Community Association

LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for HB1002 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 7:55 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

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Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1002

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jeannine Johnson

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

JEANNINE JOHNSON

February 1, 2009

LATE TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair

Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

HB1002 RELATING TO ZONING

Hearing: Monday, February 2, 2009 at 9 am in Conference Room 325

Aloha Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har and Honorable Committee Members,

I strongly support HB1002 which requires each county to enact zoning ordinances to protect against land slides and rock slides. I live in Niu Valley which has a long history of land slides, rock slides, and boulders.

According to the O'ahu Civil Defense's Geologic Hazards Report on Landslides / Debris Flows and Rock Falls posted at http://www.mothernature-hawaii.com/files/honolulu_planning-11.pdf, more than 1,779 landslides and resulting debris flows have been recognized in aerial photographs of the Honolulu District flown during a period of approximately 50 years (USGS Open-File Report 93-514). Development on steep slopes or unstable soils could result in adverse visual impacts or hazardous conditions. In valleys with deposits of unstable soils, slowmoving landslides can cause property damage, prompting claims against the City - as has happened in Mānoa, Moanalua and 'Āina Haina. Incremental build-out of hillsides and lower valley slopes can also affect drainage systems, both natural and urbanized. Increased lot coverage by larger buildings and more extensive paving has increased the volume and rate of stormwater discharge. This problem is exacerbated in the mauka reaches of the valleys and hillsides, where rainfall is higher. Over the long term, the cumulative impact of greater lot coverage threatens to erode natural stream banks downstream - requiring expensive, aesthetically and ecologically undesirable structural hardening of the drainage channel - or even to exceed the capacity of the rainage system, resulting in flood conditions.

The O'ahu Civil Defense recommends that in order to prevent inappropriate development, hillside lands should be placed in preservation or low-density residential zoning districts. Such lands should also be subject to stricter development standards - such as maximum lot coverage and structural stability - than those that apply to level land.

The Primary Urban Center Development Plan Land Use Guidelines indicate that the City should "prevent development on properties with average slopes of 40% or more, or on lands with slopes of 20% or more . . ." While the reasoning for this guideline is to avoid "significant adverse visual impact," it also discourages development in areas subject to debris flows.

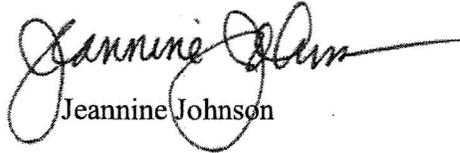
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

February 1, 2009

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I humbly request your support. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeannine Johnson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeannine Johnson

cc: Sen. Sam Slom
Rep. Lyla Berg
Rep. Barbara Marumoto
Niu Valley Community Association
'Āina Haina Community Association

Testimony for HB1002 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

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LATE TESTIMONY

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB1002

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: David W. Hall

Organization: Individual

Address: HI

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/2/2009

Comments:

I support this bill. I believe that the language in subsection (d) on page 5 of the draft may need to be changed to assure that lands which are the sources of potential slides and lands across which such potential slides may flow are included.