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March 30, 2015

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Laura Thielen, Chair

Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice Chair

SCR 106

CONVENING A TASK FORCE TO IDENTIFY PARCELS OF URBAN SHORELINE IN
KAKA`AKO MAKAI IN COORDINATION

Committee chair and Members;

Hawaii's Thousand Friends, a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to comprehensive planning and reasonable, responsible and appropriate land and water use, *supports* convening a task force to begin the process of creating a "Lei of Green" along Oahu's urban shoreline.

First introduced in the 1938 *Whither Honolulu*, authored by prominent planner Lewis Mumford, the "Lei of Green" policy was adopted by Governor Ariyoshi's administration to ensure shoreline open spaces accessible to the public.

Seventy plus years later urban Honolulu is even more congested with shoreline open space rapidly disappearing and the envisioned "Lei of Green" has still not been fulfilled.

The "Lei of Green" policy has been more recently adopted in the Kaka`ako Makai Master Plan and the city's 2012 O`ahu Bike Plan, which considers interconnecting bikeways and "the urban Honolulu lei of parks." (See attached)

As Kaka`ako and downtown are developed into dense residential areas the need for quiet and recreational open space will become even more necessary for a healthy and livable quality of life.

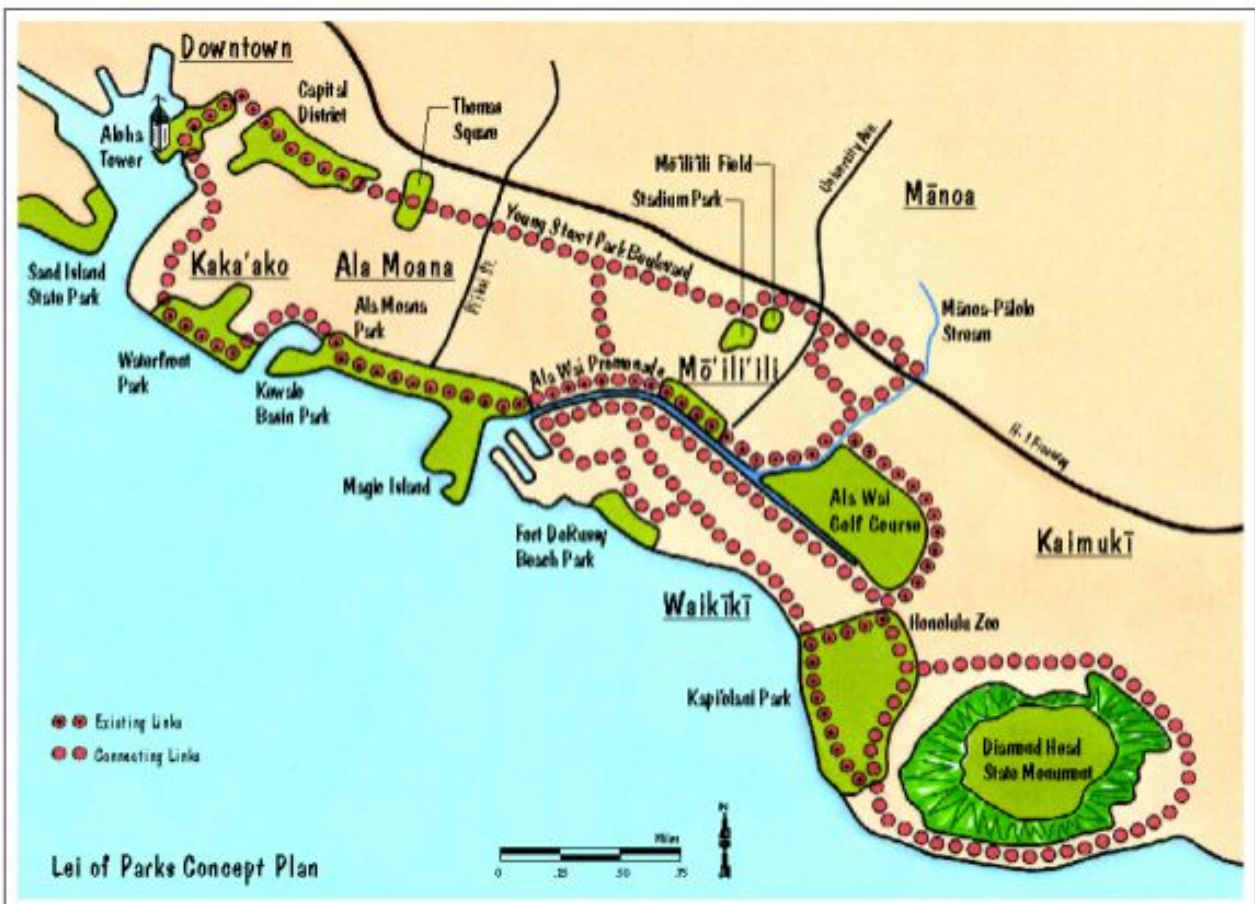
Hawaii's Thousand Friends urges the committee to pass SCR 106 so that the planning process can begin before another seventy years passes and we are only left with the long lost dream of what could have been.

Lei of Parks

“Lei of Parks” is a system of paths and bike lanes linking the City’s regional and local parks, as well as attractions. It is categorized as a multi-use network for different types of users (pedestrians, bicyclists, runners...). It will go from Diamond Head to Aloha Tower and focus mainly on the urban areas of Honolulu. The Lei will span 14.9 miles and include 24 separate segments. Once completed, it will attract both tourists and residents.

Find the entire Honolulu Bicycle Master Plan in PDF [here](#), including more information on the Lei of Parks project and maps of concerned areas. These projects are currently underway.

Below is a map of the Lei of Parks concept plan:



Testimony of Chris Lethem

Senate Committee on Water & Land

Monday, March 30 at 3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 224

In Strong Support of SCR 106

Convening a task force to identify parcels of urban shoreline in Kaka'ako Makai in coordination with the "lei of green" policy

Chair Thielen and Members:

My name is Chris Lethem.

The 2006 legislature via HCR30 started The Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC). It called for the creation of a community working group to effectively contribute ideas for the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) in the development, approval and implementation of any future plans for the development of Kaka'ako Makai. The CPAC's participants have a strong understanding of the public fiduciary responsibility for the Kaka'ako Makai common land with the State as trustee of this public trust resource, which has been followed since 2006.

During the Kaka'ako Makai planning process, the "Lei of Green" policy, also known as the "Lei of the Land", "Lei of Parks" was a compelling and strongly supported planning objective. Many stakeholders and community groups supported this policy that was an essential part of the HCDA adopted Kaka'ako Makai Vision and Guiding Principles and Kaka'ako Makai Master Plan. In fact after the 2011 HCDA approval of the master plan, the HCDA Executive Director promised to move forward on the Shoreline Promenade and Parks Expansion as recommended.

Unfortunately no action has been taken by HCDA to employ the "Lei of Green" policy. Rather, the HCDA imposed its "Exclusive Negotiation Agreement" (ENA) policy to foster the following commercial long-term lease projects:

1. 50,000 sq ft. Kewalo Wedding Chapel and Entertainment Complex at Kewalo Basin
2. 9.4 Acre Commercial LED Light Amusement Park with a 25 year Lease at Waterfront Park
3. Kewalo Peninsula Restaurant at the Harbor Master's site
4. Italian Restaurant at the Kewalo Basin Charter Boat Building
5. Seagull Schools Charter Schools at the Waterfront Park

Kaka'ako Makai Stakeholders, Community Groups and Individuals are very distressed with HCDA's ENA process and lack of transparency for many of these plans. The Kewalo Basin Wedding Chapel and Italian Restaurant plans infringed on the Kaka'ako Makai Shoreline Promenade areas and impedes on the commercial boaters service areas. It should be noted that a renowned legal specialist has advised that these HCDA ENA agreements do not comply with HRS 343, Environmental Statements.

Following the 2011 approval of the Kaka'ako Makai Conceptual Master Plan, OHA became land owners in Kaka'ako Makai that includes shoreline areas near the Ewa side of Kewalo Basin that includes the Fisherman's Wharf and continues to the UH Kewalo Marine Lab at Point Panic. OHA leadership stated in public hearings that they intend to be good stewards of the Kaka'ako Makai land and follow the Kaka'ako Makai Master Plan. However, in recent years, OHA has taken a stand for of maximizing profits with commercial ventures including prohibited residential development. OHA is now preceding its Kaka'ako Makai master planning process and it is questionable how they will implement concepts from the Kaka'ako Makai Master adopted in 2011 and how OHA will comply with ACT 231, State Cultural Public Market in Kaka'ako Makai, HRS206E.34.

The HCDA has also submitted its EISPN-Kakaako Makai Parks Active Use Facilities Master Plan to the OEQC with its objective to implement commercial long-term leases of Kaka'ako Makai Park Land. That would effectively commercialize Kaka'ako Makai Park Land. During a HCDA Kaka'ako Public Briefing the HCDA Executive Director suggested projects on Kaka'ako Makai Park Lands as follows:

1. 9.4 Acre Commercial LED Light Amusement Park with a 25 year Lease at Waterfront Park
2. 18,000sf Arts Incubator facility on Gateway Park along Ala Moana Blvd
3. Private Volleyball Training facility
4. Beach Volleyball Venue near the Children's Discovery Center
5. Seagull Schools Charter Preschool at Waterfront Park Maintenance Building site.
6. Obama Library at the Look Lab and Hyperbolic Lab lot near the Point Panic Parking Lot

The Kaka'ako Parks EIS Planning process has consisted of 2 public meetings and a MindMix public website. During the first hearing the public showed its concern for HCDA's planning process funded by the HCDA Board's approval of 650,000 HCDA. On March 23, 2015 the OEQC just posted the EISPN-Kakaako Makai Parks Active Use Facilities Master Plan:

http://oegc.doh.hawaii.gov/Shared%20Documents/EA_and_EIS_Online_Library/Oahu/2010s/2015-03-23-OA-5B-EISPN-Kakaako-Makai-Parks-Active-Use-Facilities-Master-Plan.pdf

The Kaka'ako Makai Parks Plan has been advancing gradually but many Kaka'ako Makai Stakeholders are troubled and have stated trepidations during the HCDA's two public hearings and during its Kaka'ako Makai public event at Gateway Park. Many Kaka'ako Makai stakeholders publicly shared their concerns with HCDA's planning process.

Ultimately, the Kaka'ako Makai Stakeholders, Kaka'ako Community Groups, Park User Groups and Individuals have voiced concerns for HCDA's planning process. Planning that is inconsistent with the Kaka'ako Makai Conceptual Master Plan. The Kaka'ako Makai Master Plan also includes Commercial Uses along with Educational and Cultural & Arts facilities. SCR106 and its taskforce would provide the public with a forum for the community to voice its desire to implement community & public use planning that reinforces the "Lei of Green" policy.

Thank You for Your Consideration,

Chris Lethem
Kaka'ako Resident

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Cc: daniel.dano.gardner@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR106 on Mar 30, 2015 15:00PM
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 12:19:01 PM

SCR106

Submitted on: 3/30/2015

Testimony for WTL on Mar 30, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 224

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dan Gardner | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: My wife and I are in strong support of the Lei of Parks plans and urge your committee to favorably endorse this legislation forward.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: [Nancy L. Hedlund Ph.D.](#)
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
Subject: Testimony in Support of Concurrent Resolution 106
Date: Monday, March 30, 2015 1:23:09 PM

**TO: Senate Committee on Water and Land. Monday, March 30, 2015
Senate Conference Room 224, 3:00 PM**

RE: Strong Support for Senate Concurrent Resolution 106

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy Hedlund,

Member, Kaka‘ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council

Aloha Chair Theilen and Committee Members:

I am a founding member of CPAC, the Kaka‘ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council. I am also a member of the Oahu Island Parks Conservancy, advocates for sustainable parks, scenic byways, and greenways.

I urge you to support the Concurrent Resolution 106 and consider some changes that would contribute to more effective and meaningful impact of this resolution to carry forward the “lei of green” in Hawai‘i. A planning process has been completed through community participation and endorsed by the HCDA. This should be the foundation of what is recommended in the resolution, so as to assure continuity in values, principles and recommended actions as this moves forward.

Respected community members have submitted testimonies that offer extensive detail on the foundational matters that lead us to recommend that this resolution be brought more into alignment with the history of this concept. It has a history, it has policy implications, and it is affected by the recent planning history in important ways. The resolution needs alignment with existing tax map key with respect to the zoned uses expressed in the Vision and Guiding Principles of, and illustrated by, the defining Master Plan adopted by the HCDA for the public shoreline lands of Kaka‘ako Makai.

I urge you to support the resolution and related improvements and to trust the broad base of information submitted in other testimonies on this subject.

Respectfully Submitted, Nancy Hedlund
Resident of Honolulu, Ala-Moana/Kaka‘ako Neighborhood