

**SCR-20-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/14/2026 5:46:57 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/16/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kirk Shorte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Council,

My name is Kirk Shorte, and I am a board member of WHIPAC, the West Hawai‘i Parks and Athletic Corporation. I have been involved with this effort for the past four years, but this project has been in motion for over sixteen years.

I want to be clear. I fully support the development of a regional park in West Hawai‘i. Our community needs it. Our keiki need it. Our families need it.

But I also need to be honest about what I have seen.

Over the years, there has been a consistent pattern of support in words, but very little movement in action. Administration after administration has said they support this project, yet progress continues to stall. From the outside, it feels like the can keeps getting kicked down the road.

Now we are being asked to support a new land swap for a site across the street from the original proposal. If this is the path forward, then it needs to actually be forward.

That means securing the Governor’s approval for the land swap, releasing the funding that has already been promised, and moving ahead with design, environmental review, and approvals without further delay.

We cannot afford another cycle of promises without progress.

Sixteen years is a long time for a community to wait for something this important. At this point, the question is not whether we support the park. We do. The question is whether there is the will to finally move it forward.

If you are asking for our testimony today, then I am asking for accountability in return.

Let’s stop studying this project and start building it.

Mahalo for your time.



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Hawaii State Legislature  
Re: Support of SCR20 SD1  
Kealakehe Regional Park Project

Aloha House Committee,

My name is Jeffrey Kimoto and I am the Senior Softball USA Regional Director for Hawaii. Our organization administers tournaments and perpetuates the game of softball for kupuna and players 40 and above. The state of Hawaii has almost 3,000 senior softball players aged 40 to 85. I am submitting testimony in support of the Kealakehe Regional Park Project.

Oahu and Maui islands have a recreational complex that provides recreational activities for residents of all ages. Hosting several events per month can be financially beneficial for the big island and its community. For example, the economic impact of hosting a recent sporting event for six days generated almost \$1 million for the Honolulu economy. That event was the Aloha Bowl held last month at the Patsy Mink Central Oahu Regional Park.

Keiki, adults, and kupuna will utilize a recreational complex for decades to come. "Build it, and they will come." Use the building plans from Oahu or Maui so you don't have to start from scratch. Just duplicate what's already made with slight modifications.

Local residents have been waiting over 10 years for a complex to be built in Kona. Please make this project come to fruition. Don't let another generation wait for a recreational facility that will be extremely beneficial to the island and its residents.

Mahalo.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Jeffrey Kimoto". The signature is written in a cursive style with large, flowing loops.

Jeffrey Kimoto  
SSUSA Hawaii Regional Director