

Via Electronic Mail  
March 10, 2020

State of Hawai'i  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Land Division  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Support for Issuance of Right-of-Entry Permit to Waikiki Community Center for Beach Activities Purposes to be held on April 25 and 26, 2020 at Duke Kahanamoku Beach, Honolulu, Oahu, Tax Map Key: (1) 2-3-037: portions of 021

Aloha Board of Land and Natural Resources,

I am a second-year student at the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law, writing in support of both recommendations regarding the Waikiki Community Center's (WCC's) upcoming Duke Kahanamoku Beach Challenge fundraiser. The first recommendation listed in the submittal is to authorize the issuance of a right-of-entry permit to Duke Kahanamoku Beach. The second is to exempt WCC from preparing an environmental assessment, pursuant to Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS) chapter 343 and Hawai'i Annotated Rules (HAR) section 11-200.1.

The WCC's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Duke Kahanamoku Beach Challenge fundraiser on April 26, 2020 can be expected to benefit O'ahu on a multi-generational level.<sup>1</sup> Since 1978, WCC has provided an array of essential social services to people of all ages in the Waikiki area.<sup>2</sup> As a former early education worker, I can testify specifically to the importance of WCC Preschool. The WCC Preschool offers need-based tuition to working families, making early education accessible to at-risk children.<sup>3</sup> In the 2017-2018 school year, 75% of WCC Preschool's students came from low-to-moderate income families.<sup>4</sup> In 2018, nearly all graduates met developmental benchmarks and transitioned successfully to kindergarten.<sup>5</sup> The high-quality education WCC Preschool provides is an invaluable resource to O'ahu's upcoming generations. Early learning before the age of five is essential for child development and lifelong academic success.<sup>6</sup>

In past years, a substantial one-third of WCC's total revenue and donations has gone towards preschool-aged programs.<sup>7</sup> The funds raised in the upcoming Duke Kahanamoku Beach Challenge will help to keep important programs like WCC Preschool available through 2020 and beyond. The staff's generous recommendation to waive the \$10,445 right-of-entry fee will further support WCC's ongoing efforts. Additionally, I agree WCC should be exempt from preparing an environmental assessment based on the Department of Land and Natural Resource's Exemption List, confirmed by the Environmental Council pursuant to HAR § 11-200.1-15.

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kelly Ann Lee

---

<sup>1</sup> Waikiki Community Center, <https://www.waikikicommunitycenter.org/who-we-are> (last visited Mar. 10, 2020).

<sup>2</sup> Waikiki Community Center, <https://www.waikikicommunitycenter.org> (last visited Mar. 10, 2020).

<sup>3</sup> Waikiki Community Center Preschool, <https://www.waikikicommunitycenter.org/wcc-preschool> (last visited Mar. 10, 2020).

<sup>4</sup> Waikiki Community Center Impact Report 2017/2018, [https://1740ef56-d4d2-4de4-b329-7254ae5f1cd7.filesusr.com/ugd/5673d3\\_05d94a5e307048699c9cf20f5036374c.pdf](https://1740ef56-d4d2-4de4-b329-7254ae5f1cd7.filesusr.com/ugd/5673d3_05d94a5e307048699c9cf20f5036374c.pdf).

<sup>5</sup> In 2018, 97% of WCC Preschool students met developmental benchmarks, and 100% of four-year-olds transitioned successfully to kindergarten. Id.

<sup>6</sup> At-risk children who do not receive high-quality early education are 50% more likely to be placed in special education and 60% more likely to never attend college. Id.

<sup>7</sup> In 2017, WCC spent \$1,073,975 on early education out of \$3,019,237 in total revenue and support. Id.