

**From:** Kirk Deitschman  
**To:** [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Agenda Item D-11  
**Date:** Wednesday, September 9, 2020 11:09:03 PM

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September 10, 2020

Aloha e Chairperson Case and Board Members

My name is Kirk Deitschman and I am a resident of Waimanalo, Koolau-poko, Oahu. As a kamaaina of Waimanalo, I OPPOSE the proposed repair work to the Waimanalo Paradise sea wall. Spending many days at Kaiona Beach Park and at Pahonu I have many reservations on the proposed work.

After reading through your entire DEA and doing some basic research, I have a few concerns.

1. Through research I have found many resources that have shown that seawalls have diminished the shorelines across the state. With nowhere to go, beaches effectively drown as sea levels rise against the walls and waves claw away the sand fronting them, moving it out to sea. In my lifetime I have seen firsthand the diminishing beaches, specifically Kaiona Beach Park in Waimanalo the closest beach to the Waimanalo Paradise LLC property has lost majority of the sand. More important majority of the beach fronting the current seawall has disappeared.
2. In the "Alternatives Considered" section, in my opinion a managed retreat would be the best option. It would allow the shoreline to migrate naturally, avoids battling sea level rise, reduces chances of preventing freshwater from entering the ocean, and would be considered a long-term option that could be permanent now instead of in the future as stated in your report. Additionally, the Hybrid Seawall-Revetment option would also be a better choice of alternatives considered as appropriate engineering solution for the project site and would satisfy the project objective to increase the resilience of the property to sea level rise.
3. As for the rich history of the pond, it was built some 500-800 years ago. The ruling chief of Waimanalo ordered an enclosure to be built for fishermen to place any honu that they catch for the chief, all honu were kapu for everyone except the chief. There are many loko i'a or fishponds throughout Hawai'i but only one turtle pond or Pahonu. Pahonu is in the fishing village of Kukui at Kaiona, Waimanalo, Koolau-poko, Oahu. Pahonu is also on the state historic register of historic sites (SIHP #50-80-15-01037) as of 7/6/71. With Pahonu registered as a historic site, I believe there should be more protections in place to protect the special integrity of this wahi pana.  
([https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/shpd/home/attachment/historicregisters\\_18feb2020/](https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/shpd/home/attachment/historicregisters_18feb2020/))
4. It seems that work will disrupt natural species that live in surrounding areas of current seawall.
  - Animal species such as: Kupee, Pipipi, Opihi, Aama, Leho, Loli, Papai, Unauna, Ina, Hee, Aukuu, Ulili, and various fish and coral species. Seaweed species such as: Wawaeiole, Aalaula, Eleele, Kohu, Manaua, various species of Caulerpa
5. Lastly, with the COVID-19 pandemic, our community completely shut down and everyone stayed home for theirs and fellow community members safety. The community had one chance to hear about the proposed plan, but there was very little community outreach on the developer's behalf. I

would suggest further community input be collected before further decision-making.

I appreciate having my concerns heard prior to issuance of the permits for construction / modification of the Waimanalo Paradise Sea Wall. In closing, I hope that the Board of Land and Natural Resources, as the current stewards of our natural and cultural resources and the body that controls the policies and have the decision-making authority to create and make change, OPPOSE the proposed repair work to the seawall. If you have any questions about our concerns, please feel free to contact me by email at [kdeitsch95@gmail.com](mailto:kdeitsch95@gmail.com) and by phone at (808) 753-4098.

Oia Hooia, E Ola,

Kirk Deitschman

Waimanalo, Koolaupoko Oahu

September 2, 2020

Suzanne Case, Chairperson  
Hawaii Board of Land and Natural Resources  
DLNR Main Office  
Kalanimoku Building  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Members of the Board,

I am submitting this letter in regard to our request for Board approval to repair and modify the existing seawall fronting the referenced properties. As you know, the properties are fronted by a seawall that is over 100 years old and is in a deteriorated condition. When my wife and I purchased this property, we did so with the knowledge that the Board of Land and Natural Resources and Hawaii State Legislature had granted an easement to the prior property owner that conveyed not only the right to have the seawall in this location, but also the obligation to maintain the seawall in a safe condition for the 55-year term of the easement. The seawall was constructed over a century ago to protect the properties, but it also helps to protect the adjacent properties from erosion and wave inundation, as well as the State-owned historic Pāhonu (turtle pond) from the negative effects that would occur should the seawall fail in part or in its entirety.

Since purchasing the property in 2015, my wife and I have sought to hire the most knowledgeable local team to help guide us on the scope of work that is necessary to meet our obligations as defined in the easement and have worked with them at every step of the process to be respectful and considerate of the local community and environment that we will be so privileged to call home soon.. As outlined in our submittal to the Board, our team has guided us that the existing seawall needs to be repaired in some areas and modified in other areas to prevent erosion, wave overtopping, and flooding, which could result in wall failure or cause damage not only to our properties, but also to the adjacent properties and the Pāhonu.

Over the last few years, our team has consulted with various agencies to ensure that the repairs and modifications could be accomplished in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, or ordinances. The City & County of Honolulu has reviewed the potential environmental impacts of the project and issued a Final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact. We are in the process of obtaining the remaining approvals. My wife and I were deeply concerned when we learned that some members of the community had expressed concerns during the Environmental Assessment process that the proposed project could potentially disrupt the natural flow of freshwater into the Pāhonu, which we understand could affect their Pāhonu wall and limu restoration efforts. In response, we instructed our team to conduct a specific study to evaluate freshwater discharge and incorporated design changes to ensure that freshwater will continue to flow freely into the pāhonu. We understand the historical and cultural significance of the Pāhonu and want to do our part to help ensure it exists for future generations. Since confirming that the community group approved of our proposed design changes to facilitate the flow of freshwater into the Pāhonu, we have continued to work closely with them and have recently donated pōhaku from within the property to support their ongoing efforts to restore the Pāhonu walls.

My wife and I take our responsibility to the local community and environment very seriously and we hope that repairing the existing seawall per our proposal will protect our properties from the impacts of sea level rise, while preserving the historical, cultural, and recreational value of the pāhonu. We respectfully request that the Board approve our request to proceed with the proposed seawall repairs.

Sincerely,



Martin H. Nesbitt