

From: [Sequoia](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#); [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item D6 Coco Palms - opposed
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 9:28:35 PM

Aloha, and thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter. As a long-time resident of Kaua'i, I urge you to NOT extend the permits for use of State land to RP21 Coco Palms LLC. I will be brief and only outline my top concerns:

1 - This company has blatantly flouted the law in the cutting of the coconut palms, without permission, on State land, as well as other actions. We truly do not need organizations like that abusing and profiting off our island of limited size and infrastructure.

2 - This area is in danger of imminent sea level rise and king tides - we don't need all their new construction becoming part of the massive debris when this happens.

3 - A large resort such as this would overtax our infrastructure, including roads that are already overly congested and our overburdened wastewater treatment plant.

Thank you for considering the environmental and social impacts that would result from the extension of permits for this project.

Sincerely,

Sequoia
Kalaheo Hawai'i

From: [Tina Billy](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item D-6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 3:54:59 PM

Aloha,

I am testifying on behalf of myself and my ohana. We do not support the re development of "Coco Palms". We ask that these leases and permits NOT be granted to RP21. If they are granted to anyone, the Board MUST require the recipients to do an environmental assessment in compliance with HRS343. The development will effect us in many ways. We live in Kapaa but frequent Wailua Beach and river. There's the obvious reasons such as traffic, the current no parking or open recreational space will worsen, the foot traffic on the Wailua beach, wetlands and nearby heiau will increase and be detrimental to those spaces. Please end the continued disregard for natural resource protection with in our state and look at this land for what it once was and could be.

Mahalo, Tina Taniguchi and ohana

From: [Jed Robinson](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coco Palms restoration support
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 5:33:12 PM

Hello, Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Jed Robinson, and I would like to offer my support for the restoration at the Coco Palms property. These lands should continue in their historic use designated as part of the Coco Palms Resort Historic District, just as it has since 1962.

I understand that, as a result, Coco Palms will do much to improve the Island. Public parking and public restrooms will improve the community. The current ownership group has already turned the mess of a site into something better with promises and financial backing to make it something amazing. The decision before the BLNR is not whether to approve the restoration of Coco Palms. That decision was made years ago. The BLNR can now make approvals that will go a long way to benefit the local community. Homelessness and crime will be positively impacted. Hundreds of jobs will be created. The project would bring millions of dollars to the local community. The project does all of this while supporting local cultural activities. Please approve the recommendations in the staff report for disposition of these parcels. Thank you!

Jed Robinson

From: [Drew](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coco Palms
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 8:23:03 PM

Aloha,

I support the continued development of this property into a resort that will highlight the culture of Hawaii as well provide a beautiful place for locals and tourists to gather. It's time that something be done with this property.

Thank you.

Drew Click

Kapaa

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Nori Scouras](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Coco Palms
Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023 1:40:04 AM

Respectfully Submitted Opposition

To whom it must concern,

As a new Lawai homeowner who left a potential home in the Homesteads unpurchased due to this pending development I beseech you to protect the interests of the longtime residents of Kauai.

I am writing from Lahaina where I am visiting friends, old and new, whom have lost everything and have seen terrible heartbreaking catastrophic loss due to greed and poor planning.

Traffic can have deadly implications.

Mahalo,
Magdaline Nori Scouras

From: [Amy Jindra](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] D-6 Coco Palms
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 8:59:52 PM

Hello,

As a resident of Kapa'a and a small business owner in Waipouli Center, please understand that I pass by the "Coco Palms" daily. Traffic is already atrocious and building a resort here will have negative effects on the overall quality of life for tourists passing by and residents, not to mention there's nowhere for traffic to go except to wait. The negative impacts on our beautiful beaches would be unfathomable. I volunteer frequently with Surf Rider to clean up beaches in the Kapa'a area, and it seems never ending. These leases and permits should NOT be granted to RP21; and If they are granted to anyone, the Board MUST require the recipients to do an environmental assessment in compliance with HRS343.

Please and thank you,
Amy Jindra

From: [Scott Poland](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] D-6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 3:09:00 PM

Dear BLNR and Kauai Council,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the proposed resort development on the public lands in Wailua, Kauai. As a passionate advocate for preserving our natural heritage and ensuring access to public lands for all, I strongly oppose any plans that prioritize resort development over the greater good of the community.

Public lands hold immense value, serving as a collective treasure for the people—a space where residents and visitors alike can immerse themselves in the beauty of nature, connect with the environment, and appreciate the cultural significance of these spaces. The proposed development threatens to disrupt this delicate balance and compromise the accessibility of these lands for future generations.

Preserving public lands is not just an environmental concern; it's a matter of social justice and community well-being. These lands play a crucial role in the cultural heritage of Kauai, providing opportunities for education, recreation, and spiritual nourishment. They serve as a sanctuary for local flora and fauna and contribute to the island's unique ecosystem.

While development can bring economic opportunities, it should not come at the expense of irreversibly altering the natural landscape or impeding public access. There are alternative ways to support economic growth that do not involve encroaching upon these vital public spaces. I urge decision-makers to prioritize the long-term interests of the community and the preservation of these public lands. Let's explore sustainable and equitable solutions that safeguard the environment, respect cultural heritage, and ensure that these precious lands remain accessible to all.

Thank you for considering the concerns of the community and the importance of protecting our public lands for the greater good. Together, we can make choices that honor our heritage and create a legacy of stewardship for generations to come.

And remember the Coco Palms should never have been built in that location the first time let's not make that same mistake again, please do not renew leases for this outside entity .

Sincerely,
Scott Poland

From: [Marj Dente](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DEC 8, 2023 BLNR MEETING AGENDA ITEM D6 COCO PALMS
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 8:30:41 PM

ALOHA BLNR MEMBERS

As a Kapaa property owner, with Family members still residing there since 1989, I strongly object to this Board granting permission to any person or organization for establishing or continuing the Coco Palms Hotel.

There have been large changes on Kauai since that hotel was built in 1953, I.E.: the residential population, the tourism industry, doubling or tripling vehicle traffic, and the many businesses and services established to sustain these populations. BUT there have been little attention or the necessary funds available to Kauai County, in-order to increase the basic Island infrastructure to provide a safe, healthy and affordable environment for local Kauai citizens and respecting the Host Culture.

Insufficient potable water resources, as well as outdated sewage treatment facilities, (too often a reminder) with a most obnoxious odor at Kuhio Highway and Halelio Rd., are definitely enough reasons to not allow any such development at the old Coco Palms location. Of course the personal safety for any pedestrians safely trying to access the Wailua Beach and for any additional vehicle traffic at or near the Kuamoo Road intersection are more than problematic situations already.

Bad storms have often closed the Wailua River bridges. With existing climate change and predicted ocean intrusion, should it not be obvious to NOT allow any kind or size of building currently being anticipated by developers at this location ?

Thank you for considering my reasons to deny any change in zoning or allowing any legal hotel development on or within any part of the property being discussed.

Sincerely,

Marj Dente, Waipouli Road, Kapaa property owner, paying taxes for 34 years.

From: [Noa Kanealiioponoi](mailto:Noa.Kanealiioponoi)
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: BLNR testimony [CADES-LAW.FID6861035]
Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023 2:05:00 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Mauna Kea Trask** <mtrask@cales.com>
Date: Thu, Dec 7, 2023 at 1:39 PM
Subject: BLNR testimony [CADES-LAW.FID6861035]
To: Noa Kanealiioponoi <kanealiioponoi@gmail.com>

blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov

Aloha Honorable Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Nao Kanealii-lo-Ponoi Mau-Espirito. I am a native Hawaiian born and raised on the island of Kaua'i. I am a descendant of the aboriginal people who occupied the ahupuaa of Wailua prior to 1778. I am a lineal and cultural descendant of the ahupuaa and people of the ahupuaa of Wailua.

Since around 2015 I have been taking care and of and restoring the ili o papaalae and ili o papa kihapiilani of Wailua within portions of that certain parcel of land identified as Tax Map Key ("TMK") No. (4) 4-1-003-004, which is the land granted to Iosiah Kaumualii in the Great Mahele and my ancestor.

Since 2015, I have also been watching the development of Coco Palms to make sure that whoever was doing the project was pono. Back in 2016, I didn't think Chad Waters and Tyler Greene were pono, so I lead an effort to stop their project. Although I still think Chad and Tyler were not the right guys for the job, as I have said before, after the development was stopped, things got very bad down in Wailua.

Over the past 8 years I have seen homeless camps become established and grow. The homeless camp contained trash, abandoned vehicles, structures and other materials that were harmful to the aina. This area became a criminal war-zone filled with drugs, violence, and robbery. It was terrible. Like the walking dead.

However, a few years ago, a childhood friend of mine Jon Gibb reached out and told me he was helping clean up the area for RP21 and if I would help. I said yes, and for the first time a developer worked with me to clean up this area. I was present during the cleanup of the Property by RP21 beginning in the fall of 2022 and continuing to April 2023. At no time did the landowner RP21 or its contractors grade or grub on the Property. Any and all bare ground on the Property was either pre-existing due to the homeless camp or was the result of removing abandoned vehicles and other trash from the Property. However, some people made false accusations against RP21 and they stopped the project. This was the wrong thing to do and I hope that one day we can go onto the property and finish the job and restore the po alima lands of my kupuna.

I cannot be at your meeting on Friday December 8, 2023, because I am sick, but I support giving RP21 the state parcels as recommended by DLNR staff. RP21 is pono and I trust that they will malama this place. They have committed to work with me to finish cleaning up the mauka conservation lands and to restore that area to lo'i kalo and native habitat for plants and animals. Plenty people talk bad about RP21 but they are not down here with me everyday trying to take care of this place. RP21 is the only one who helped me do the right thing.

Mahalo for your time.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Nao Kanealii-lo-Pono Mau-Espirito

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From: [Lee Anne Spencer](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose any development at Coco Palms
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 11:10:12 PM

Please stop this madness! Anyone who looks at the Coco Palms site knows that there SHOULD NOT be a hotel or any other development allowed.

1. It is in a **FLOOD ZONE**. Aren't we supposed to be moving development away from low lying coastal areas? This goes against all common sense and current laws.
2. This area already has some of the worst **TRAFFIC** on the entire island. There is no mitigation plan for this. How will this area accommodate hundreds more cars every day? How will the hotel guests cross the road to the beach?
3. This area is **SACRED** to Native Hawaiians, with many heiau and historic sites. It should be utilized for the benefit of the community.
4. These developers have operated in **BAD FAITH**. They have continually violated the terms of their permits & the permits should be revoked.

For the above reasons, I am asking you to **STOP ALL DEVELOPMENT** at Coco Palms, forever.

Thank you,

Lee Anne Spencer
2731A Ohana Aina Pl
Kalaheo, HI 96741

From: [Justin Belliveau](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] IN SUPPORT of COCO PALMS RESTORATION, Agenda Item 6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 6:28:51 PM

Aloha Chair Chang and members of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

My name is Justin Belliveau and I am testifying in support of the restoration of Coco Palms and the disposition of lands to RP21.

I'm testifying in support of the restoration of the Coco Palms Resort and the disposition of lands to RP21. These lands are designated as part of the Coco Palms Resort Historic District under the national and state historic register. These same state lands have been assigned to the owners of the Coco Palms Resort since 1962.

As a result, these lands should continue its historic use. As part of the use of these lands, Coco Palms will establish public parking and public restrooms - benefits sought by the community that Coco Palms would fund. For over 30 years since Coco Palms was devastated by Hurricane Iniki, Kauai County Councils, Kauai Mayors, County Planning Commissions, Kauai Planning Departments and even prior Boards of Land and Natural Resources have all consistently taken action or adopted policies in support of the Resort's restoration. As recently as last month both the Kauai County Planning Commission and the Kauai County Planning Director affirmed the restoration project is properly permitted and approved to move forward

In less than two years since acquiring Coco Palms and its affiliated entity RP21, the new ownership group, Reef Capital has sought to turn around decades of failure by past owners and correct prior missteps. The decision before BLNR is not whether to approve the restoration of Coco Palms, that approval was made years ago by the County. Rather, BLNR now has the opportunity to approve Coco Palms to utilize these lands for the benefit of the community. And the restoration will help to support cultural activities such as a lo'i kalo managed by lineal descendants, a cultural advisory group comprised of Kauai Native Hawaiian leaders and a cultural center and museum as part of the project's community benefits.

For these reasons, I urge the BLNR to approve the recommendations in the staff report for the disposition of these parcels. Thank you for your consideration.

Justin

From: [Dena Schofield](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In Support of Coco Palms Restoration. Agenda Item 6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 3:08:38 PM

To whom it may concern,

My name is Dena Schofield and I am writing to testify in support of the restoration of Coco Palms and the disposition of lands to RP21.

I remember watching Blue Hawaii with my mother at a very young age. That was my very first introduction to the magic of Kauai and to the beautiful Coco Palms. When I made the connection to that special memory from my childhood and Coco Palms being under new ownership by Reef Capital and of their plan to bring back the historic use of the land, I was ecstatic. It saddens me to think that for the last 30 years since the tragedy of Hurricane Iniki, the land hasn't been functioning to its full potential.

In less than two years since acquiring Coco Palms and its affiliated entity RP21, the new ownership group, Reef Capital has sought to turn around decades of failure by past owners and correct prior missteps. These lands are designated as part of the Coco Palms Resort Historic District under the national and state historic register and have been assigned to the owners of the Coco Palms Resort since 1962. As part of the use of these lands, Coco Palms will establish public parking and public restrooms - benefits sought by the community that Coco Palms would fund.

The restoration will also help to support cultural activities such as a lo'i kalo managed by lineal descendants, a cultural advisory group composed of Kauai Native Hawaiian leaders and a Cultural Center and Museum as part of the project's community benefits. The restoration of Coco Palms will help to address the blight of homelessness and crime currently in the area and will reactivate public use of this area for the first time in decades. It will also help to address the decades of degradation of these public lands that have sadly gone without active management and stewardship. The economic benefits of generating roughly 300 hundred direct construction jobs and 400 permanent full-time jobs when complete are extraordinary, not to mention the over \$300 million in direct economic activity for Kauai.

For all of these positive reasons, I strongly ask the BLNR to approve the recommendations in the staff report for disposition of these parcels.

Thank you,
Dena Schofield

From: [Kenton Walker](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] In support of Coco Palms Restoration, Agenda Item 6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 6:38:27 PM

I am testifying in support of the restoration of the Coco Palms Resort and the disposition of lands to RP21.

This is a unique opportunity to have a very nice and beautiful public use area that will be well maintained and protected. A restored resort will be a needed boon to jobs and local economy for decades to come.

Please don't miss out on such a rare opportunity to invest in the future.

Thank you!

From: [Alex Stoddards](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] NO PERMITS Should Be Given To Develop CoCo Palms Site as Hotel-Resprt
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 10:37:38 PM

- TO BLNR
- This is the MOST OBVIOUS NO of all time.
- NO Permits should be given for a Private Non-Hawaiian, PROFIT-FOCUSED ONLY Enterprise to encroach on any public lands or be awarded Any permits to Develop this sacred property.
-
- I can list countless reasons but the 2 most clear are:
- #1 - This would Destroy Culturally Sensitive sites - this is obvious and easy for all to understand. The Kauai General Plan of 2018 specifically calls out in multiple guideline sections - that the **Culture of Kauai and Hawaii is to be Preserved.** Full Stop.
- Any decisions taken that are counter to these guidelines are Counter to the Kauai General Plan and would under law, be easily challenged.
- #2 - The Traffic in that area of Kapaa is the worst on the entire island.
- Again, the General Plan specifies that development decisions taken will be for the **Benefit of Residents.**
- Any decisions taken that would further increase traffic, accidents, egress issues, sea level rise issues and the like - but especially and most immediately, traffic, would run counter to the Kauai General Plan and thus would have every reason to be legally challenged.
Make the right decision that you are bound by your role at BLNR to make. Please.
- Mahalo, Alex Stoddards

From: [Kyle Kajihiro](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Cc: iolawailuanui@gmail.com
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Strong opposition re: agenda item (D-6)
Date: Thursday, December 7, 2023 12:57:53 AM

Aloha e Chair Chang and members of the Board

I am testifying on Agenda Item D-6. I strongly oppose granting the use of these public lands for resort development.

The devastating wildfires on Maui have shown us the terrible human, economic, and environmental costs of reckless development enabled by decades of poor decision making and lax oversight by government entities. Developers should not use public lands in Wailuanui for a resort which will have long-lasting and harmful impacts on the community and the environment.

I urge this Board to REJECT the proposed leases and permits to RP21.

The developer must complete a full environmental impact study in compliance with HRS343.

This proposed development will further harden an important wetland ecosystem and degrade the vital environmental services these wetlands provide. This will impair Kaua'i's resiliency in the face of imminent climate change and sea-level rise.

A decision by this Board to allow the use of State lands to facilitate the planned resort development will contribute directly to negative impacts on the shoreline, nearshore water quality, and important cultural, historical, and archeological resources.

The proposed development is situated in environmentally sensitive areas with unquestionable historical and cultural significance. It is located in a coastal tsunami zone, which will become more vulnerable with sea-level rise. And the project is adjacent to wetland areas, known habitats for rare native birds, which are impacted by frequent flooding. The ancient fishponds and waterways connect to and ultimately drain into the Wailua River and the ocean.

I urge you to not repeat the same misguided short-sighted decisions which produced the conditions of possibility for the deadly Lahaina wildfire. You have the opportunity and a trust obligation to take a path grounded in an ethics of care for the environment. **I urge you to vote NO on the proposed leases and permits to RP21.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kyle Kajihiro

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Kyle Kajihiro, Ph.D. (he / him)
Assistant Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
kkajihir@hawaii.edu

From: [De Austin](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on agenda item D-6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 5:51:14 PM

Aloha, respected board members and chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,

This is re: items related to the “Coco Palms” project on the island of Kauai

Please do NOT grant these leases to the applicant. Kauai is fighting to maintain its green spaces and undeveloped, natural areas. Do not let it become another Oahu or Maui.

I don't understand the disconnect that there is between the knowledge of how ecosystems work, wetland survival, and green space dependence for clean water and clean air. Kauai is an island. As an island, its resources are extremely limited when compared to a US state like Arizona or Oregon or California.

As a lineal descendant of these islands, I am aggravated by the continued abuse of our islands for further tourism development. Science, cultural practice, and common sense see the proverbial writing on the wall: we are not building a future but a tomb.

As has been noted:

- The further development and hardening of these wetland ecosystems degrades the resilience and environmental services that this sensitive environment provides.
- The development of these coastal lands will negatively impact our resiliency to sea level rise and climate impacts in the coming decades.
- These lands are situated in environmentally sensitive areas with unquestionable historical and cultural significance.

Allowing the use of these State lands in conjunction with the planned resort commercial development will contribute directly to increased impacts on the shoreline, nearshore water quality, and further degrade existing cultural, historical, and archeological elements.

It is written in our state constitution that our lands should be preserved for generations to come.

- Article XI, Section 7 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution: “The State has an obligation to protect, control and regulate the use of Hawai‘i’s water resources for the benefit of its people.”
- Article XII " For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation and in furtherance of the self-sufficiency of the State
- Article XII, "The State reaffirms and shall protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by ahupua'a tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778"

Please end this travesty. Do not extend the lease nor provide any option of a contingency or

second audience. We need to keep Hawai'i alive for the people of Hawai'i.

With respect and aloha,

D Austin
Kihei, Maui

From: [Lauren Esaki-Kua](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on Agenda Item D-6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 6:39:20 PM

Aloha Board,

I'm writing to urge you to prevent the leases and permits to RP21 for resort development at the old Coco Palms site. The use of public lands should be held in public interest.

As a Kaua'i resident born and raised, I am deeply concerned about the the negative consequences we would face as a community with a resort development in the area. The traffic is already a major issue that reduces quality of life for all commuting to and from their places of employment. As a former planner by education and profession, I'm also concerned about the lack of an Environmental Assessment as required under HRS 343 for any major development of this size and with the use of public lands.

There have not been enough good faith efforts to abide by environmental laws in place by the developer to accept their proposed plans as they currently stand. Mahalo for making the right decision on behalf of the people of Hawai'i and especially on behalf of the people of Kaua'i and our natural resources when looking at this agenda item.

Best regards,
Lauren Esaki-Kua

From: [Heidi Hughes](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on agenda item D-6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:04:18 PM

Aloha,

I am writing today to voice my strong opposition to the development proposed by RP21; these leases should NOT be granted. I have several reasons for my opposition:

- We are homeowners and full time residents of the Wailua Houselots neighborhood and the development as planned would be extremely negatively impactful, both during the construction period and the operation of the resort. We don't need additional traffic, noise and dirt.
- We are career hospitality industry professionals and we know without question that this island does not need another 350 room resort hotel, anywhere, much less at one of the island's most heavily-trafficked choke points.
- The proposed area of development is environmentally sensitive and its proper care and maintenance is critical to the future of our island's eco system, and our resiliency to the negative impacts of climate change. Allowing the use of these State lands in conjunction with the planned resort commercial development would **contribute directly** to increased impacts on the shoreline, nearshore water quality, and would further degrade existing cultural, historical, and archeological elements.
- Furthermore, the Board MUST require an environmental assessment in compliance with HRS343 from any developer before considering granting any permits and leases in this location.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

HEIDI HUGHES

m: 435.901.3947

heidi@summiteventsdmc.com

From: [Mauliola Cook](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on agenda item D-6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 3:44:46 PM

12/06/2023

Kilauea

Re: Testimony on agenda item D-6

Aloha

My name is Maui Ola Cook (aka Christine Anne Cook). I have been a resident of Kaua'i since 1986.

I am a resource teacher in creative arts and Hawaiian studies and have taught principally in schools from Kapa'a to Hanalei but have taught at all public elementary schools throughout the island as well. I am a hula practitioner and have been teaching a small class in hula for over 20 years.

It is my kuleana to once again write to you to please consider the following points when receiving updates from Coco Plams LLC.

That hotel flourished in a time much different than today. Currently the traffic flow is horrendous in that area. That is a limited land area with an already too dense traffic flow. Putting a big resort there would create insurmountable infrastructure challenges. The community has been pointing this out for many years.

Please consider as well the following points:

- The further development and hardening of these wetland ecosystems degrades the resilience and environmental services that this sensitive environment provides.
- The development of these coastal lands will negatively impact our resiliency to sea level rise and climate impacts in the coming decades.
- Allowing the use of these State lands in conjunction with the planned resort commercial development will **contribute directly** to increased impacts on the shoreline, nearshore water quality, and further degrade existing cultural, historical, and archeological elements.
- These lands are situated in **environmentally sensitive areas** with unquestionable historical and cultural significance. They are located in a coastal tsunami zone, clearly impacted by issues relating to sea level rise, adjacent to wetland areas, currently and historically impacted by frequent flooding, known habitats for rare native birds, and include ancient fishponds and waterways that connect to and ultimately drain into the Wailua River and nearby ocean.
- That these leases and permits should NOT be granted to RP21; and that if they are granted to anyone, the Board MUST require the recipients to do an environmental assessment in compliance with HRS343.

We are counting on you to protect our natural resources and our sacred sites. Mahalo for all you are doing

and may Akua and the 'Aumakua be with you to guide you in your decision making process.

Na'u me ka ha'aha'a

Mauliola Cook

8086528173

PO 326

Kilauea Kauai 96754

From: [Heather O'Donnell](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on agenda item D-6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 7:26:44 PM

Aloha BLNR,

I am writing to give my testimony on why a new hotel at the old Coco Palms site is completely unacceptable. I don't know one person who lives on island who supports this. The entire community are all saying absolutely, emphatically, no.

There are so, so many problems with this site for a huge hotel. Our island infrastructure is severely unable to keep up with the amount of visitors we have now. The Wailua stretch where Coco Palms ruins are located is the worst gridlock on Kauai. As a Kapaa resident, the thought of a hotel there, increasing the bulk of cars in that area, is mind blowing and scary. It's also in a flood and tsunami evacuation zone.

Then there's the issue of climate change. In the 11 years that I've lived here as a full time resident, homeowner and voter, I've seen Wailua Beach disappear. A parking lot right there was taken out by the ocean, for crying out loud. I could not possibly imagine a worse place for a new hotel! What made sense 70 years ago makes no sense now. Also, using 30 year old Iniki ordinances to allow this to happen is just downright WRONG.

Every person I talk to abhors the thought of a hotel there. It was one of the most sacred areas in the entire state. The world is changing, and people have more respect and appreciation for indigenous people than before. Visitors, more than ever before, want to tread lightly and give back, as well as learn authentically about the culture of the place.

I Ola Wailuanui has wonderful ideas for an area that would benefit and educate residents and visitors, as well as honoring our kanaka maoli "host culture." Times are changing, and people are seeking ways to have a more mindful vacation where they can learn, participate and engage. Hawaii is a special, sacred place like no where else in the world. The possibilities are huge at the old Coco Palms site for something wonderful. Kauai is sorely lacking in places for visitors to learn and connect with Hawaiian people and culture. What place could be better for this purpose than one of the most culturally, spiritually, and historically significant areas in all of Hawaii??

Yet another hotel, in the most congested area on the island, in a flood zone, and on such profoundly sacred ground would be a travesty. The community does NOT want this.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Heather O'Donnell

From: [Lisa Parker](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on agenda item D-6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 5:52:39 PM

I am writing concerning these items related to the “Coco Palms” project on the agenda for Dec 7 and 8:

- The issuing of Term, Non-Exclusive, Easements to the RP21 Coco Palms LLC Developers for two state parcels (TMK 4-1-003:044 and 4-1-005:017).
- The issuing of Revocable Permits (RPs) for and the sale of the Lease at public auction for the Kuamoo Rd corner state parcel (TMK 4-1-003:017).

And the consideration of granting developers “Immediate Right-of-Entry” for three state parcels to utilize public lands in the development of a 350 room hotel. (TMKs 4-1-003:044, 4-1-003:017 and 4-1-005:por.017)

I strongly urge that these leases and permits should **NOT** be granted to RP21; and That if they are granted to anyone, the Board MUST require the recipients to do an environmental assessment in compliance with HRS343.

As someone who lives in this area, I strongly oppose the use of these public lands for resort development and I would remind BLNR that allowing the developers to use these public lands for the resort will have impacts on the community and the environment. There are many reasons not to build a resort on this busy corner which is already a problematic area for traffic but here are a few others:

- The further development and hardening of these wetland ecosystems degrades the resilience and environmental services that this sensitive environment provides.
- The development of these coastal lands will negatively impact our resiliency to sea level rise and climate impacts in the coming decades.
- Allowing the use of these State lands in conjunction with the planned resort commercial development will **contribute directly** to increased impacts on the shoreline, nearshore water quality, and further degrade existing cultural, historical, and archeological elements.
- These lands are situated in **environmentally sensitive areas** with unquestionable historical and cultural significance. They are located in a coastal tsunami zone, clearly impacted by issues relating to sea level rise, adjacent to wetland areas, currently and historically impacted by frequent flooding, known habitats for rare native birds, and include ancient fishponds and waterways that connect to and ultimately drain into the Wailua River and nearby ocean

Thank you,

Lisa Parker
5956 Lokelani Rd.
Kapaa, HI

From: [vernon family](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on agenda item D-6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:12:57 PM

To whom it may concern. I am opposed to coco palms using state lands. I am opposed to any development for environmental, public safety , infrastructure, and traffic. Please do not allow coco palms developers to use our state lands.

Thanks for your time.

Ian verson 808-652-4102

From: [John Wert](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on agenda item D-6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 4:02:01 PM

Aloha,

First I would like to know how much money the DLNR Committee has received from the developer (interested parties) in order to circumvent the need for ANY environmental assessment of ANY kind in compliance with HRS343? I can not understand how the organization responsible to “Enhance, protect, conserve and manage Hawaii’s unique and limited natural, cultural and historic resources held in public trust for current and future generations of the people of Hawaii nei, and its visitors, in partnership with others from the public and private sectors.” Maybe the part of your Mission Statement that REALLY APPLIES here deals with partnership with the private sector? Profit sharing, free rooms, "Juice", or other remunerative items?

Additionally, the further development and hardening of these wetland ecosystems degrades the resilience and environmental services that this sensitive environment provides.

The development of these coastal lands will negatively impact our resiliency to sea level rise and climate impacts in the coming decades.

Allowing the use of these State lands in conjunction with the planned resort commercial development will **contribute directly** to increased impacts on the shoreline, nearshore water quality, and further degrade existing cultural, historical, and archeological elements.

These lands are situated in **environmentally sensitive areas** with unquestionable historical and cultural significance. They are located in a coastal tsunami zone, clearly impacted by issues relating to sea level rise, adjacent to wetland areas, currently and historically impacted by frequent flooding, known habitats for rare native birds, and include ancient fishponds and waterways that connect to and ultimately drain into the Wailua River and nearby ocean.

Sincerely,
Prof John C Wert (Ret)



Virus-free. www.avast.com

From: [Dana Bekeart](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony on item D-6
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 6:06:29 PM

Please include my appeal against further blnr proposals to allow the Coco Palms commercial developments to proceed.

The time is long passed to continue such fruitless efforts.

Thanks, longtime Kapaa resident Dana Bekeart.

danab4636@gmail.com

From: [Toi Pua La`a](#)
To: [DLNR.BLNR.Testimony](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wailua
Date: Wednesday, December 6, 2023 7:12:20 PM

To Whom It May Concern:

I urge you to revoke Coco Palm Resort shuttle bus turn around at Horners Beach , Wailua .

Currently, there is insufficient parking for locals, fishermen, surfers and visitor guests to use this beach. Already the Wailua river area of beach has become inaccessible, and a loss to community for the culturally rich and much needed recreational use beach access.

It is outrageous that this is being considered a viable option when you look at the traffic congestion and the current limited use access.

Please think of local residents , and the health of community by leaving open spaces, natural recreation areas, parks and beaches.

Please think of future generations and irrevocable damage caused to environment if you allow shuttle turn around. I imagine there will be a multitude of problems; which you can avoid by making smart choices now.

Listen to the people, not the corporations.
Mahalo.

Ms. T. PuaLaa Norwood

*Aloha ke kahi ke kahi.
Malama pono, malama kino.
E Ola!
(Love each other, one another.
Care for/Respect Righteousness, care/respect your body.
Live life in Health!)*

Pua La`a

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