WAIANAE COAST NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 24



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<u>Urging the City and County of Honolulu and the State of Hawaii to resolve multiple</u> <u>Community concerns at Maale'a Bay/Pokai Bay.</u>

WHEREAS, In January 1989, the Department of Parks and recreation, City and County of Honolulu, Prepared and filed a Negative Declaration for "Acquisition and Development of Pokai Bay Beach Park Expansion, Waianae, Hawaii pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawaii Revised Statues.

WHEREAS, Expansion of Pokai Bay Beach Park was to be accomplished by acquiring approximately 2.55 acres of private property, closing both improved and unimproved City owned road and streets, and taking possession of 1.12 acres of City shoreline property licensed to the U.S. Army, Site planning and park improvements were not identified but were to be detailed in a master plan to be prepared later.

WHEREAS, A Master Plan for Pokai Bay Beach Park was completed in June of 2000. It was completed and approved by the Department of Design and Construction, City and County of Honolulu to include the Environmental Assessment describes potential short and long-term Environmental impacts and impacts on special management area resources resulting from implementation of the Master Plan.

WHEREAS, the Pokai Bay Master Plan encompasses several parcels comprising Pokai Bay Beach Park ("PARK") identified as Tax Map Keys: 8-05-01: 6, 8, 62 and 8-5-08:, 40, 41, 43, and 44. The Park also includes a crushed coral road abutting the Waianae Army Recreation Camp (no TMK) and a paved City street bearing TMK: 8-5-11:27.

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Pokai Bay Beach Master Plan ("Master Plan") is to guide the orderly expansion of recreation and facility improvements at the park to provide shoreline recreation opportunities and facilities for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors.

WHEREAS, the concepts fostered by the Master Plan are to preserve shoreline open space and encourage activities in the protected waters of the bay. This is to be achieved by moving most non- recreation facilities and activities away from the beach and back beach to the flat lands above the vegetation line and to the Mauka areas of the park.

WHEREAS, The U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii (USAG-HI), the Pilila'au Army Recreation Center (PARC) and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) does not allow community members to access the property to get to the beach due to insufficient identification due to a higher Operational Control (OPCON). The Military Police does not extend their jurisdiction outside of the PARC Property.

WHEREAS, The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has official and lawful Park closure hours at Pokai Bay from 10:00 pm to 5:00 am

WHEREAS, The City and County of Honolulu, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has put up plastic yellow caution tape to keep vehicles and people out of Pokai Bay due to COVID-19 Closure. The Park remains completely unsecured during closure hours with no gates installed to close the restrooms / roads and no barricades, fencing or pilings along the property to limit vehicular access during the closure hours of 10:00 pm to 5:00 am.

WHEREAS, Pokai Bay was used as a boat harbor for the Waianae community from October 1953 up until January 1979 with the construction of the Waianae Small Boat Harbor at a cost of \$1,943,010. Pokai Bay is no longer an active launch ramp or an area permitted for boats to launch. Pokai Bay however is a 72 hour Mooring area (Zone A) and Zone B is a dedicated swimming area. Zone A and Zone B is open to canoe activities which all vessels must vacate during any permitted ocean activity.

WHEREAS, Pokai Bay's ocean water is a conservation area that stretches out from the tip of Kaneilio point (Ku'ilioloa Heiau) to the fifty (50) yard line of the Raymond Torii field at Waianae High School. This conservation area meant for marine life to thrive in and in return offer sustainability and a solid future to a Community that depends on it for income and sustenance.

WHEREAS, The Pokai Bay property has poor lighting and visibility at night and does not effectively cover its 15.981 acres and this is due to an outdated, poorly planned lighting scheme and non-energy efficient lighting system which allows a wide range of illegal activities and crime to be conducted at night during the Park closure hours of 10:00 pm to 5:00 am.

WHEREAS, over the years there has been countless cases of skin infections due to poor circulation of ocean water, pollution and the aging and damaged jetty that still does not provide a "natural" flow of ocean current. The jetty has been a hazard for over 10 years to which people have installed ladders and rope to navigate the broken jetty to fish at their own risk. To include there is no beacon at the end of the jetty to warn boaters during hours of limited visibility.

WHEREAS, The Ku'ilioloa Heiau is a culturally significant area which was semi destroyed by the Army during World War II in 1954 (DOE, Dept of Anthropology, Bishop Museum 1978). A place where to this day many culturally significant classes and meetings take place. It is also home to nesting sea birds that raise their hatchlings within the ground at the base of the Heiau and all throughout the landscape.

WHEREAS, The Coral dirt road in front of the Pilila'au Army Recreation Center (PARC) was never improved. The Residents of Army Street, Guard Street and Bayview Drive have complained about a decline in their respiratory health due to the dust being blown into their homes. The Residents have also complained about illegal parking in front of their home and driveways. After business hours Restaurant 604 must escort their waitresses outside of the PARC gate due to suspicious males hanging out on the coral road due to almost zero street lighting. Residents complain of illegal activities happening at night due to the lack of street

lighting, one resident even had his neck broken after responding to a domestic dispute that took place in the dark on the coral road.

WHEREAS, During COVID-19 (concurrently) Community members such as Surfers, Fishermen, Kupunas and Families are not allowed to walk through the gate of the PARC without a military ID in order to get to the beach and surf. These impacted Community members and visitors must walk around the fence line to get to the ocean due to the U.S. Army's higher operation level in response to COVID-19.

BE IT RESOLVED, That the recipients of Resolution 01-21 are bound and commissioned to implement and complete The Pokai Bay Beach Park Master Plan and The Bayview Drainage plan to it's entirety. These amendments to the original Pokai Bay Beach Park Master Plan and the Bayview Drainage plan is needed in order to protect the Waianae Community for generations to come. These resolutions reflect the promises made by the City and County of Honolulu and the U.S. Army to, the people of the Waianae Community; these amendments are much needed improvements that have been brought up by our Community for years, of these years it has been an issue during our general board meetings and not only necessarily bound to the Parks, Land and Agriculture committee.

- 1) The City and County of Honolulu will develop the Coral road in front of the Pilia'au Army recreation center, add parking stalls, street lights, tow away signage to include gates and signs that match the closure hours of Pokai Bay in accordance with Title 19, Chapter 8, City and County of Honolulu Administrative Rules, entitled "Rules and Regulations Governing Park Closure". The Community requests that the Coral road be a one way road with a one way entry from Army street; an exit and entry on Guard Street and a one way exit on Bayview drive. To include follow the Pokai Bay Master Plan for the updated parking lot which turns a portion of Bayview drive into a cul-de-sac.
- 2) The City and County of Honolulu will replace all outdated Street and Park lights (restroom and sidewalk, etc.) implement a new lighting scheme with added Street and Park lighting within Pokai Bay. Change all bulbs to much brighter LED lights that will combat illegal activities, improve safety and bulbs must be energy efficient in order to meet the Hawai'i 2050 Sustainability Plan.
- 3) The U.S. Army Garrison Hawaii (USAG-HI), the Pilila'au Army Recreation Center (PARC) and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) will work with the Waianae Community to foster a working relationship and stewardship of Hawaiian lands, this partnership will conduct itself within the best interest of the Community and within the best interest of the environment.
- 4) The City and County of Honolulu will Install Gates and barricades or pilings along the 15.981 acres to enforce closure hours; a measure that is needed in order to give Pokai Bay a rest due to a high volume of use during the day. These Gates will benefit the

community in the future during any pandemic or emergencies. The Department of Parks and recreation will be able to close Pokai Bay much more effectively rather than relying on a yellow piece of plastic tape strung across of the entry ways into Pokai Bay. It will generally promote Community order and morale and will no longer remove a police officer away from another mission to patrol Pokai Bay. Lawfully gathering at night (Fishing) within a Conservation area will require street parking outside of Pokai Bay. This measure will promote park purposes and to ensure the public's health, safety and welfare in the usage of its parks; To prevent costly damage to parks and recreation facilities; To prevent disturbances to nearby residents; and to ensure that parks and recreation facilities are safe environments for all park users in accordance with Title 19, Chapter 8, City and County of Honolulu Administrative Rules, entitled "Rules and Regulations Governing Park Closure".

- 5) The City and County of Honolulu will supervise the Department of Public works and fund the Park Drainage plan or the Bayview Street Relief Drain another plan within the Pokai Bay beach Park Master Plan, *Amendment to the plan is that it will no longer drain in or near Pokai Bay, it will instead drain into an area near Sewers Beach which is directly across of the Waianae Wastewater Treatment Plant, an area that is not used daily for swimming or family activities. This will also include connecting the storm drain on the corner of Lualualei Homestead road and Farrington highway, a storm drain that has been an issue for years due to the Bayview Street Relief Drain not being implemented.
- 6) Legislation will Provide funding to the Department of Boating and Ocean Recreation and the Department of Health (HB 107; Legislation 2020) to conduct a study that will enable effective water circulation and that funding will also be used repair the aging Jetty with the intent that, it will maintain a calm and cleaner swimming area which will in turn guarantee the health and safety of the Waianae Community and future generations.
- 7) The Department of Boating and Ocean Recreation will remove the 72 hour mooring zone from Pokai Bay and relocate it to another location, somewhere that is not within a Conservation Area and highly populated swimming area. Bilge pumps automatically pumps out water and could potentially pump hazardous chemicals from a vessels hull and into the ocean. Boaters have been seen dumping buckets of human waste over the side and into the ocean. These hazardous chemicals and human waste pollute our ocean and swimming areas.
- 8) Legislation will fund the Department of Conservation and Enforcement Division in order to maintain two to three DOCARE officers on the Waianae coast to monitor activities on our ocean and within Pokai Bay's conservation area. A measure that will keep a permanent party in Waianae to also look after our State park, the Keawa'ula and Makua area, which is a place that has been neglected for years.
- 9) Division of Conservation and Enforcement Division with the help of the Honolulu Police Department will remove the groups of people living in and around Ku'ilioloa Heiau. This

will serve as a means to preserve history and also ensure that the sea birds are able to nest along the point and throughout the Heiau with freedom of maneuver. DOCARE will maintain a daily presence on land and on the ocean, DOCARE in a combined effort with HPD will patrol all along the Waianae coast to ensure that all rules and laws are being followed in order to protect our resources, deter illegal activities and promote sustainability and protection of Culture and Ohana zones for generations to come in accordance with the Waianae Neighborhood Board letter addressing law enforcement concerns dated January 6th, 2021.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Wai'anae Neighborhood Board No. 24 requests the Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu and members of the City Council to expeditiously fund the Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public works and also create a solicitation by contract so that The Pokai Bay Beach Park Master Plan in its entirety (and with amendments) may be implemented. The U.S. Army will be good stewards of the environment and work alongside of the community with conservation efforts. State Legislation will allocate funds to the Department of Boating and Ocean Recreation to study and repair the aging jetty, State Legislation will allocate funds to the Division of Conservation and Enforcement so that they may be able to permanently station themselves on the Waianae coast and uphold rules and regulations both on land and on sea, the Department of Boating and Ocean recreation to seek and relocate its 72 hour mooring area to an area which is not within a swimming area or a Conservation area that is meant to protect marine life.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution shall be sent to the following recipients. Mayor Blangiardi, U.S. Army Garrison Command Hawaii USARHAW, Councilmember Tupola (District 1), Councilmember Tulba (Parks), Councilmember Tsuneyoshi (Public Safety), Managing Director and Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Public Works, Governor Ige, Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Department of Boating and Ocean Recreation (DOBOR), Department of Conservation and Enforcement Division (DOCARE), Department of Aquatics Division (DAR), State Senator Shimabukuro and State Representative Gates.

The Wai'anae Neighborhood Board No. 24 adopted this resolution by a unanimous vote on February 4th, 2021.