



Dear Editor:

Global Treasure

The North Shore of O'ahu is a global treasure.

Our community has been blessed with an incredible number of unique and precious environmental features. These priceless, fragile assets include, among others, Sharks Cove, Pupukea Beach Park, and the Pupukea-Waimea Marine Life Conservation District (one of only three of its kind on our entire island).

There are plenty of laws, policies, and guidelines on the books that are intended to protect the public's interests, including the environment. For example, it is the State of Hawaii's policy to: "preserve, protect, and where possible, to restore the natural resources of the coastal zone of Hawai'i."

Unfortunately, our government is frequently unable or unwilling to enforce these important laws. The Community is fed up with this lack of enforcement, which endangers our health, safety and quality of life.

After four years of disrespectful and reckless behavior by Sharks Cove developer Hanapohaku LLC, the Honolulu City Council approved a proposal for an \$18 million dollar commercial development – a mall - along with a continuing cluster of food trucks, on a piece of property fronting a 100 year-old highway (that is already gridlocked) and literally across the road from the marine sanctuary without doing its due diligence.

That was the last straw.

The Save Sharks Cove Alliance, a grassroots network of community organizations, neighbors, and concerned individuals that have come together to protect Sharks Cove, Pupukea Beach Park, and Pupukea-Waimea Marine Life Conservation District, filed a lawsuit in the State of Hawai'i Circuit Court on Friday, January 11, 2019 to halt the permitting process for Hanapohaku LLC's proposed development at Sharks Cove until they have fully complied with all provisions of applicable State and City and County of Honolulu laws.

The proposed development would not only have a negative impact on traffic, the environment and its immediate neighbors along Pahoe Road, it contravenes the clear intent of the North Shore Sustainable Communities Plan that specifically states that any development at this location should serve primarily the local residents – not establish another tourist trap.

All of this adds to the fundamental concern over the wisdom of allowing any additional commercial activity so near to the Marine Life Conservation District.

The Save Sharks Cove Alliance views this lawsuit as a last resort, because residents feel that they have no other recourse.

It is everyone's responsibility to remain vigilant to ensure that the lure of tourism dollars does not induce poorly planned commercialization, sloppy enforcement of land use laws, lack of regulation and the resulting degradation of the precious natural environment.

The community deserves better, our keiki deserve better, and our oceans and our reefs deserve better.

There are several ways to join & support the effort to preserve, protect and enhance our beloved North Shore:

Donate to the Save Sharks Cove Alliance Legal Fund:

- Online via this Go Fund Me page: <https://www.gofundme.com/save-sharks-cove-alliance>
- Or by check to: Malama Pupukea Waimea P.O. Box 188, Hale'iwa 96712.

Write letters to the editor of all our local media outlets.

Be Active on Social Media

<https://www.facebook.com/SaveSharksCoveAlliance>

<https://www.instagram.com/savesharkscovealliance>

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Save Sharks Cove Alliance

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SALES & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT SINCE 1993



Letters to the Editor continued from page 10

Dear Editor:

Out-of-hand Illegal Business

I was born in Schofield Barracks. I graduated from Kamehameha School for Girls. I went to the Mainland to further my education. I met my husband, who was originally from Hawaii too, and he promised we would come home to Hawaii when he retired.

We finally returned to Hawaii 28 years later.

Eventually, we bought a home on the north shore. It has been a real culture shock to see the changes – the illegal vacation rentals and student rentals in residential areas.

The problems:

1. Strangers in the neighborhood constantly (Safety for our kupuna becomes an issue).
2. They are robbing local people of long-term affordable rental or a chance to own.
3. Are illegal vacation rental owners paying their fair share of taxes?

Hawaii was overthrown by illegal powers. Today, we're having another illegal overthrow.

This time we have rich people coming from outside of Hawaii who buy properties and turn them into illegal vacation rentals. The owners don't live here. They hire others to do the management for them.

For those reading this, chances are high that the vacation rental you're staying in is ILLEGAL. What you see on the internet websites for vacation rentals

like VRBO and Airbnb are mostly illegal.

Let's get back to the honest days where neighbors respect neighbors. Let's have some respect and integrity for each other and the aina.

A Compassionate Resident,
Auntie Charlie, Laie Point

Dear Editor:

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