

3/10/08

To: Rep. Ken Ito, Chair, House Committee on
Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs
From: Rev. Bob Nakata ~~Bob Nakata~~
Re: SB 2423 on Turtle Bay Resort

Chair Ito and Members of this Committee,
I am Rev. Bob Nakata speaking on my own
behalf, in support of this Bill. I only
decided to speak as I drove in to this
hearing, so these are my own comments. I
see this Bill as enabling Legislation, supporting
the Governor's vision of buying the Resort to
prevent the loss of 5 miles of coastline and
the construction of 5 more hotels

As a result of the turnout of over
500 people and overwhelming testimony
against the expanded resort, ^{at the Governor's talk} it is now crystal
clear that the people of the North Shore and
Kodanaka overwhelmingly oppose the expansion.
It can no longer be said that it is only a
few of us activists who oppose it, if that
were ever true. Let me hasten to add that
there was overwhelming support for the
existing hotel and its workers.

People want to Keep the Country Country.
Many options should be kept alive to accomplish
this. A new one was presented at the talk

story session, which was to have the owners donate it for a tax write off. They have the personal assets to do it. The chair of the governing entity, Daktree Capital Management, and its CEO are worth \$1.4 billion each, easily beyond the \$400 million outstanding loan. They are causing much grief for the residents of the area, the City planning process, ^{and} Native Hawaiians among others.

The proposed expansion has many obstacles;

- 1) Without gambling it does not make economic sense.
- 2) It makes no sense as a large resort because of high winds, rough waters, inadequate transportation, burial sites that would constantly be causing stop work orders
- 3) Inadequate EIS
- 4) Community Opposition
- 5) Moves to remove it from the City's sustainable communities plan; and many more

Bad business decisions are dragging the expansion down and ruining Dak Trees reputation for making strong profits. It will suffer further damage as time goes on. It is advantageous for Dak Tree to strike a deal, saving its reputation, by donating the Resort to the State, County or Federal body, or a land trust.