

TESTIMONY
SCR208/SR106
LATE

March 22, 2010

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The Honorable Senator Clayton Hee, Chairperson
Members- Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 228
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Testimony: Supporting Senate resolution 106 requesting the Senate to urge Governor Linda Lingle to amend Executive Order 3665 to re-designate 193.5 acres of public lands for a Regional Park.

On behalf of La'i'opua 2020, partners, stakeholders, and surrounding communities, we respectfully **request your support for Senate Resolution 106** requesting Governor Linda Lingle to amend the Executive Order 3665 to re-designate 193.5 acres from a golf course to a Regional Sports complex for the residents of West Hawaii.

On April 23, 2009, we the Kaniohale Community Homesteaders Association, Alliance for a Sustainable Ahupu'a'a (ASA) in Kealakehe & Keahuolu, and many community stakeholders held a meeting for the planned "urban expansionism" in the ahupua'a of Kealakehe and Keahuolu. At that time, we met with Governor Linda Lingle, Hawaii County Mayor Billy Kenoi, former DHHL Chairman Micah Kane, Kamehameha Schools- Scott Abrigo, Forest City-COO Jon Wallenstrom, and Laiopua 2020 Board members. We offered an overview of the plans and designs of the regional development to include the roads, sewer, community facilities, and affordable housing. An estimated 63 participants attended this event

In addition, the Kona and West Hawaii community came together during the weekend of May 16 to May 18, 2009 for a three day District Park planning charrette to begin the design and planning for the development or re-development of the Kailua-Kona "Old Airport" shoreline beach park. It became immediately apparent that there was a tremendous need for more room and space for more ball fields and hard surface courts for "spectator sports". More significantly, as we planned and designed the Old Airport Park to meet the needs of various interest groups, we continue encroached into to the limited open space and beach front access at old Airport Park which created more conflicts than solutions.

In July 1995, then Governor Cayetano signed an Executive Order 3665 for the public purpose to develop a County Golf Course and, to facilitate the Use of the Kealakehe treatment water on 193.5 acres in Kealakehe ahupua'a. Since that time, the County of Hawaii has not procured a developer to develop this parcel for this purpose. More importantly, a golf course under construction in the Kohanaiki Ahupua'a approximately 1.5 miles north of Kealakehe has claimed more of our shoreline access and enjoyment. The back nine rest less than an estimated 500 ft from the high water mark. This is a tragedy and the community now has to travel around this golf feature to reach the prime surf beach known as "Pine Trees".

While the County of Hawaii has no developer to develop the Golf course, and with the Kohanaiki golf course construction only 1.5 miles north of Kealakehe, the Executive Order 3665 amendment would provide our community the opportunity to address many conflicting issues at the Old airport and offer our communities and West Hawaii residents a world class opportunity for a Regional Park. Therefore, we, the respectfully requests your support to seek the Honorable Governor Linda Lingle to amend E.O. 3665 to establish a Regional Park within the Kealakehe ahupua'a. Your consideration in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Mahalo Nui,
Bo Kahui
Executive Director
La'i'opua 2020

Cc: Kealakehe Regional Park Advisory Committee
DHHL Chairman Kaulana park
COH-Mayor- Bill Kenoi
Kaniohale Community Homesteaders Association
La'i'opua 2020 Board

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