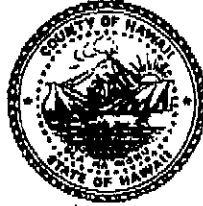


J YOSHIMOTO
COUNCIL MEMBER
Council District 3



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

LATE TESTIMONY

*County of Hawai'i
Hawai'i County Building
25 Aupuni Street, Suite 1402
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

March 23, 2012

**Testimony in Support of H.C.R. No. 163
Relating to a Study on the Establishment of a Public-Private Partnership to Develop
and Improve the East Hawai'i Area of Hawai'i County**

**Public Hearing on March 23, 2012 at 10:45 a.m.
Conference Room 325**

Dear Chair Chang, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources:

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony IN SUPPORT of H.C.R. No. 163 to study the establishment of a public-private partnership to develop and improve the leasehold lands of East Hawai'i that are subject to the expiration of leases in 2015, which include existing properties on Banyan Drive and in the Kanoelehua Industrial Area.

I represent Council District 3, which includes part of Hilo, and I strongly support this resolution. Improvement to these areas would help to stimulate the economy by increasing the number of tourists to the East side as well as providing more job opportunities for our local residents.

With the upcoming lease expiration in 2015, there is little incentive for lessees to make any substantial investments to improve infrastructure and existing properties. This is something that needs to be changed in order to stimulate the local economy in East Hawai'i. Please support H.C.R. No. 163.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments.

Aloha,

J Yoshimoto, Council Member
Hawai'i County Council
Council District 3

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer

LATE TESTIMONY

House Committee on Water Land and Ocean Resources

Chairperson Chang and members of the House Committee on Water Land and Ocean Resources:

Your favorable consideration to House Resolution 163 is respectfully recommended. As a lifelong member of the East Hawaii Community I have been very fortunate to witness a flourishing Banyan Drive resort area that attracted many visitors, golfers, business people and even world class entertainers. I have also grown up witnessing many of our local successful business men and women were able to do very well for themselves through their insightful investments in business enterprises and developments in the Kanoiehua Industrial Area of East Hawaii. These same successful business leaders have also been at the heart of community support here in East Hawaii.

Unfortunately, these opportunities have long disappeared as the ground leases in these same areas have been allowed to approach its maturation without any consideration for renewal. Ideally, the economic opportunities should continue to assure a continuous flow of investments to upgrade these same developments over a long period of time. However, as the expiration date of these leases approaches without any long-term solution, deterioration, deferred maintenance and outflows of investment from our community will begin and grow. In these times, we cannot afford NOT to reinvest in East Hawaii. But that is exactly what is occurring and what will continue to occur until a viable long term solution is developed.

I strongly encourage you to take that first step to pass this resolution. Hopefully, a study will result in a win-win solution for the State and for the East Hawaii Community. The State and the East Hawaii community are not polarized on this issue. I strongly believe, as do many others, that a solution does exist that will provide for a viable economic opportunity for investors, the State and for all of East Hawaii. Thank you for your consideration of this Resolution.

Sincerely,

Eugene Nishimura, representing myself
158 Hokulani St.
Hilo, HI 96720

LATE TESTIMONY

har2-Samantha

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 23, 2012 5:55 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: hono@ssfm.com
Subject: Testimony for HCR163 on 3/23/2012 10:45:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 3/23/2012 10:45:00 AM HCR163

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Hugh Y. Ono
Organization: Individual
E-mail: hono@ssfm.com
Submitted on: 3/23/2012

Comments:
Absolutely support the intent to address uses of this prime tourist/recreational area.