

TO: The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair House Committee on
Transportation

FROM: Brandon Masuoka, 939 Wailupe Place, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96821

SUBJECT: House Resolution 116

HEARING: Wednesday, March 28, 2012; 10:30 a.m.

Conference Room 309, State Capitol

PURPOSE: The purpose of the resolution is to request the Department of Transportation and the City and County of Honolulu to inspect, clean, and fix the drainage system in East Honolulu.

POSITION: I **strongly support** this resolution.

BACKGROUND: Starting on March 5, 2012, a week-long storm that included hail and a tornado swept across the State and flooded homes, closed roads, and contributed to the loss of electricity in numerous areas, affecting many businesses and communities. In valleys and low-lying areas, particularly in East Honolulu, extensive flood damage was sustained to homes and property, resulting in financial and emotional hardships for many residents, especially for those in Aina Haina where flood waters reached nearly two feet and damaged at least six homes on Wailupe Place. Flooding in the valleys and low-lying areas of East Honolulu has worsened over the years because antiquated and inadequate sewage and drainage systems have not been able to accommodate the increasing flow from the East Honolulu community. The primary need is to conduct a comprehensive study of the drainage system to identify its deficiencies and implement necessary facilities, maintenance, and operational upgrades.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

Sincerely,

Brandon Masuoka

939 Wailupe Place

Honolulu, Hawaii, 96821

TO: The Honorable Joseph M. Souki, Chair House Committee on Transportation

FROM: Edwin Masuoka, 939 Wailupe Place, Honolulu, Hawaii, 96821

SUBJECT: House Resolution 116

HEARING: Wednesday, March 28, 2012; 10:30 a.m.

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PURPOSE: The purpose of the resolution is to request the Department of Transportation and the City and County of Honolulu to inspect, clean, and fix the drainage system in East Honolulu.

POSITION: I **strongly support** this resolution.

BACKGROUND: Alongside Wailupe Place road is a state-owned drain pipe that was installed approximately fifty years ago. It was apparently designed to serve Kalaniana'ole Highway, which was narrower then, and a certain amount of land area.

Unfortunately, this drain was constructed with two 90-degree bends close together which is retarding flow.

Since the original installation of the drain, Kalaniana'ole Highway has been widened and the areas mauka of the highway have been greatly developed, especially with more paved areas. This situation is causing a tremendous increase in the amount of storm water flowing into the subject drain.

This increased volume of storm water with a tremendous velocity is popping up the drain manhole covers, especially the one at the 90-degree bend, and causing a gushing fountain of storm water which rapidly floods Wailupe Place road and the adjacent areas.

It can be said that the main cause of flooding of the Wailupe Place road and adjacent areas is due to the overflowing of the state-owned drain.

Corrective action should be taken as soon as possible since further modernization of the surrounding areas will increase the volume of storm

water to the subject drain and endanger the health, safety, well being and properties of the residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

Sincerely,

Edwin Masuoka

939 Wailupe Place

Honolulu, Hawaii, 96821

ichiyama1 - Curi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 12:18 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: perry@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for HR116 on 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for TRN 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM HR116

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Perry Sorenson
Organization: Individual
E-mail: perry@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/26/2012

Comments:

As a resident of Wailupe Place in East Honolulu, I support House Resolution 116 because it is responsive to a serious flooding problem in the neighborhood. Flooding is caused by a state-owned drain that has overflowed into our neighborhood in 2004, 2005, 2007 and most recently this month, March 2012.

The drain is supposed to take water off of Kalaniana'ole Highway and drain it to the ocean, but because of either poor engineering, poor maintenance, or both hundreds of thousand gallons don't make it to the ocean, but spread across our neighborhood. It is extremely unfair that we are victims, not of natural water flow, but of a drain that purposefully takes water from one area and dumps it into our neighborhood.

We are then faced with several days that we must wade through polluted water to get to our homes, with all the dangers of dirty water, not to mention the damage to homes and possessions. Our property values are also significantly devalued. I have personally written to and met with representatives of the State Department of Transportation, and been assured of their attention, but the problem continues.

In concern for our health and safety, and fundamental fairness to our neighborhood, I urge passage of House Resolution 116.

Sincerely

Perry Sorenson
929 Wailupe Place
Honolulu, HI 96821

ichiyama1 - Curi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 8:34 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: ring2wice@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for HR116 on 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for TRN 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM HR116

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mark goto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ring2wice@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2012

Comments:

ladies and gentlemen,
my name is mark goto, i reside at 938 wailupe place. i've lived at this address my entire life.

i agree that the storm drain/drainage system needs to be revised. the pipe diameter is way too small to carry the amount of water that comes down from the mountain during heavy rainfall. also the 2 90degree bends in the storm drain, leading out to the ocean really adds to why the manhole covers blow open, and thus all the runoff water drains into our lower lying street. i've had water coming into our house and flooding it with 4 inches of water on numerous occasions. during this past rainfall, besides the flooding of our house, my car was deemed a total loss by my insurance company because the water got into the interior, and into the engine of the car.

please change or re-design the drainage system so we dont have live with this kind of fear and apprehension whenever it rains severely.

mahalo!

ichiyama1 - Curi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 5:43 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: keithkodani@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR116 on 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for TRN 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM HR116

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Keith Kodani
Organization: Individual
E-mail: keithkodani@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2012

Comments:

I live at the beginning of Wailupe Pl. and am the third generation in this dwelling. I have seen and remember every flood since hurricane Eva. It has not yet affected my home but have seen the gradual worsening of this problem. Years ago water would only get up to two homes from mine, now the water has come up to my driveway. This in turn has a very negative affect on my neighbors down the road. I have seen water approach the bottom of front doors, and with children living there it wouldn't take much for a child to slip, fall and possibly drown in this dirty knee high water. So please, something that can be done, like larger piping, change out the two 90 degree turns or at least maintain the drain, make it happen.

ichiyama1 - Curi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 26, 2012 4:05 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: ogawa.kristina@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for HR116 on 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for TRN 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM HR116

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Russell and Kristina Ogawa
Organization: Individual
E-mail: ogawa.kristina@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/26/2012

Comments:

We have lived on Wailupe Place since July 2003. Our neighborhood has experienced extensive flooding in 2004,2005,2007 and March 2012. The flooding is a result of inadequate, and/or poorly designed and maintained drainage system that is suppose to drain water from Kalanianaole Highway and Aina Haina valley to the ocean. However, due to the design of the current drainage system, this water is deposited into our street which causes severe flooding.

We have three young children and we are extremely concerned that this polluted flood water could potentially cause serious health concerns. The department of health issued a warning to stay out of "brown" water for fear of infection. It was impossible to stay out of this water as it surrounded our house for three days. The flooding measured approximately two feet high and possibly deeper in other areas. My youngest child is three years old and he could potentially drown in our flooded street if he fell off the porch. It was impossible to drive down our street and made it very difficult to even take our children to school.

We support the passage of House Resolution 116.

Sincerely,

Russell and Kristina Ogawa
925 Wailupe Place
Honolulu, HI 96821

ichiyama1 - Curi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:37 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: a.kohrogi@verizon.net
Subject: Testimony for HR116 on 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for TRN 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM HR116

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Acey Kohrogi
Organization: Individual
E-mail: a.kohrogi@verizon.net
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

My name is Acey Kohrogi and we own the house at 946 Wailupe place. We live in the mainland 75% of the time and live in our home on Wailupe the rest of the year. Though we were not in Hawaii at the time of the flood, we were able to see our home submerged under water through the evening news and thoughtful neighbors . The entire property was flooded at the bottom level of the home. I had to make a special trip to Hawaii from the mainland to assess the damage. By the time I arrived most of the water had receded but all of my belongings that were stored in that level of the home had been displaced and covered in mud and debris. I spent the next 4 days cleaning and organizing everything. Anything that was not water proof (vacuum, power tools etc...) were damaged. This is probably the 3rd time this has happened since owning the property from 2004. This most recent flood was the worst one yet. We need immediate resolution for the drainage problem causing the back up during the rainy seasons especially because we do have many elderly and also young children living on our street who may not be capable of dealing with an even greater flood next time. Thank you for your time.

Acey Kohrogi

ichiyama1 - Curi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 10:28 AM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: darrick808@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for HR116 on 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for TRN 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM HR116

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Darrick Hamamoto
Organization: Individual
E-mail: darrick808@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

I live on Wallupe Place. There is a State water drainage located behind my property that is intended to carry the water run off from West Hind Drive to the ocean. There are two 90 degree bends in the drainage pipe one property from the ocean. During heavy rains this drainage pipe is inadequate and causes the run off water from West hind drive to over flow from the man hole covers at these 90 degree bends and flood our street.

During the recent heavy rains our street flooded several feet deep. The flooding has happened several times over the past 10 years. It has forced us to park across the street and walk through knee high water to get home. I am concerned about health risks, public safety, and property damage. Something must be done! The State is responsible for the flooding on our street and must correct the inadequacies and deficiencies in the drainage system.

ichiyama1 - Curi

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 27, 2012 9:18 PM
To: TRNtestimony
Cc: keone@downingsurf.com
Subject: Testimony for HR116 on 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM

Testimony for TRN 3/28/2012 10:30:00 AM HR116

Conference room: 309
Testifier position: Support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: keone downing
Organization: Individual
E-mail: keone@downingsurf.com
Submitted on: 3/27/2012

Comments:

Our family lives on punahele place and has been flooded by the water pouring through adjacent properties on wailupe st. This has been going on for decades. When I walked over to see the drainage pipes i noticed their was two 90 degree turns in less than ten feet. I'm not an engineer but how can you expect water to make two turns when it is flowing at such a fast speed. Because of that bad design the water blew the manhole cover off and the water ran downhill and flooded wailupe st. then punahele pl. If you just redesign that section of pipes I'm sure that would make a considerable difference. Aloha keone downing