

March 1, 2011

The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Senator Malama Solomon, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Housing
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Testimony opposing SB 683 Relating to Kakaako

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Solomon and members of the committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to present testimony in strong opposition to SB 683.

This legislation is a slap in the face of the people of Hawaii whose 2006 grassroots uprising resulted in the legislature passing a bill that, among other things, forbids residential development in the area known as Kakaako Makai—the last piece of publicly owned open space in the Downtown/Waikiki area.

SB 683 seeks to undo that landmark legislation and turn back the clock by six years to the days when the Hawaii Community Development Authority tried to sell Kakaako Makai to a well-heeled developer—Alexander and Baldwin.

While some of you might not have been in elected State office at that time perhaps you can recall the mass rally of individuals who marched from Kakaako to the State Capitol and was so persuasive that your predecessors created a law that prohibited residential development in Kakaako Makai. That legislation also required the creation of a stakeholder-based community planning organization to guide the HCDA in creating new plans for the long term future of Kakaako Makai. The grassroots, Save Our Kakaako initiative, stands today as one of the most powerful and successful citizen activist efforts that this legislature has experienced in recent history.

Now, this legislation, sponsored by you, Mr. Chairman, would return us to those shameful days when the will of the people was ignored. When politically connected power brokers were nearly able to take away the people's land. When brave legislators were convinced that Kakaako Makai should never be put up for sale and that the future of that invaluable piece of waterfront property would be decided through an open, public process.

Well...never say never. Because now, with this legislation, we are again faced with the specter of losing this jewel to the highest bidder. We're also faced with wiping out nearly four years of dedicated work performed by dozens of volunteer citizens who were duped into believing that they were participating in a legislatively mandated planning effort that would result in Kakaako Makai being a place of the people, by the people and for the people. SB 683 would reverse that and make Kakaako Makai a place for developers to fill their pockets and a place created for those who can afford to live in expensive oceanfront developments.

This legislation is wrong. If it passes it will leave deep gash in the credibility of this legislature and once again place Kakaako Makai in jeopardy of being used for greedy private purposes rather than the public purposes which have so rightly been envisioned for the past half decade.

Who is wielding the power and what promises are they making that would cause our elected officials to consider reversing the course charted for Kakaako Makai in 2006? We can start by looking at the testimony of those who favor this abomination.

We strongly urge the members of this committee to look deep into you souls and be resolute in doing the right thing by voting against this abhorrent legislation and reaffirming that Kakaako Makai is still not for sale.

Respectfully,

Bob Loy
Director of Environmental Programs

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WLH Testimony](#)
Cc: armltd@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB683 on 3/1/2011 1:15:00 PM
Date: Sunday, February 27, 2011 5:42:26 PM

Testimony for WLH 3/1/2011 1:15:00 PM SB683

Conference room: 225

Testifier position: oppose / ~~oppose residential~~

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Robert Miller

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: armltd@hawaii.rr.com

Submitted on: 2/27/2011

Comments:

I along with many others, oppose residential development in Kaka'Ako Makai.

It appears that Section 5 (2) of the proposed bill changes the prohibition against residential development for a description of the Kaka'ako Makai area to Kaka'ako Mauka. Was this change intentional or an error in drafting the bill?

Please review the proposed bill carefully and oppose its passage if it would allow residential development in the Kaka'ako Makai area.