

LATE

The East Diamond Head Association was conceived in 1973 and founded in 1975:

The original officers were:

Peyton Carroll, President

Robert Moranha, Treasurer

Mrs. E. A. Alexander, Secretary

Wilson C. Moore, Trustee and Legal Advisor

The Association was established expressly to help curb the intrusions into the East Diamond Head community by the CBS film crews who were filming "Hawaii Five-O."

Governor George Ariyoshi mediated and a temporary settlement was agreed which included a provision that CBS pay \$50,000 to the East Diamond Head Association for community beautification projects, and that the State would build a larger, more appropriate film studio on State land in Hawaii Kai or Kapolei to replace the interim film studio located on Kapiolani Community College land. The East Diamond Head Association representing over 1,000 homes in the area has always opposed the film studio's location at KCC. It's an oversized industrial warehouse structure within a visual protected area. Significant view planes of the Diamond Head Monument are obstructed from 18th Avenue and Kilauea Avenue. The parking is already inadequate and consequently the overflow is using the National Guards parking lot on the corner of 22nd Avenue and Diamond Head Road. Most of the "extras" who are being employed drive in from the west side of Oahu thus adding to the traffic nightmare. The film companies roam the neighborhood looking for film sites and periodically occupy in its entirety the Operation Red Wings Medal of Honor Park.

As President of the East Diamond Head Association since 1999 I've noticed a definite decline in the maintenance of the plants and greenery that borders the film studio. They neglect to cut the grass and trash collects along the fence. When I inquired they told me their budget was cut and could not afford the yard service. This is another blight on the neighborhood.

As in the past, we oppose any expansion of the Hawaii Film Studio Diamond Head Campus. We urge that a more adequate and appropriate site be evaluated.

Aloha,

CLARK G. HATCH

President, East Diamond Head Association

**Senate Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Senate Committee on Education
Joint Hearing**

**March 30, 2012
1:15 PM**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 36

**“Requesting Development of a Plan for the
Expansion of the Hawaii Film Studio Diamond Head Campus
to Accommodate Increased Studio Activity”**

Aloha Chairs Fukunaga and Tokuda, and Joint Committee Members:

This testimony provides comments in ***strong opposition*** to SCR 36 and SR 15:

The present film studio’s limited campus was originally a taking of the Kapi’olani Community College campus for unrelated industrial purposes. This film studio is a huge warehouse structure blighting a significant view plane of the Diamond Head State Monument and National Natural Landmark. Should the present film studio be “expanded to accommodate increased studio activity,” this will necessitate a further and conceivably larger taking of the KCC campus that is vitally needed for educating and fulfilling the needs of a vast range of our community college student population.

It is important to point out that during an informational briefing in January, Senator Espero inquired about the progress of establishing a state-of-the-art film and media complex in the vicinity of West Oahu, where there is adequate space and open topography suitable for such a complex. The Senator’s insightful question was met with an absence of information and interest from the agency representative.

Now, however, interest in compounding the mistakes of the past in the vicinity of Diamond Head is being carelessly rekindled without consideration of existing constraints or appropriate solutions for the future. The film and media studio complex does not belong within the limited area it has outgrown adjacent to the KCC campus. This expanded commercial film and media complex is best suited for West Oahu, where adequate space and increased accessibility can be provided for it to grow as a physical plant and prosperously flourish.

Further, with the relocation of the film and media complex to a far more compatible and larger campus site in West Oahu, the planned KCC culinary school improvements can be properly located within the restored KCC campus - instead of becoming an outcropping of alien buildings on the semi-wilderness slopes of the protected Monument as misdirected by the previous Administration.

Moreover, should the subject Resolutions be supported by the Senate, this could set a dangerous precedent for additional threats to the Diamond Head State Monument and National Natural Landmark that would proceed to impact and alter this world-renowned treasure to the detriment of present and future generations. Specifically, Senate Bill 755, HD2 exempts state and county projects from the environmental review process of Chapter 343, HRS; and Senate Bill 3050, HD1 authorizes the Department of Land and Natural Resources to lease public land for purposes of developing creative media production and post-production facilities.

Should the above Bills and Resolutions become a collective reality flying in the face of long-established land use and environmental laws as well as public due process, the integrity of some of Hawai'i's most protected natural and historic assets and treasures, including that of Diamond Head, would be lost as they become jeopardized and cast in the path of commercial destruction in the name of "economic development."

Respectfully,

Michelle S. Matson