

**Testimony in favor of House Bill 1106,
House Committee on Water and Land,
February 4, 2013**

**Jonathan Morse
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I don't live in Kahala, I'm not a member of a neighborhood board or any other governmental body, and I didn't participate in any way in drafting this bill. However, I support it and urge you to vote in favor of passage.

Passage of this bill won't help only Kahala, either. In Hawaii Kai, where I live, the scars of Genshiro Kawamoto's real estate activities during the 1980s are still visible. For decades, Mr. Kawamoto has bought up properties by the dozen, deliberately run them down, paid his small fines for doing so, kept right on buying, and kept right on running down. I don't claim to understand his business plan, but it's clear that he considers the fines only a cost of doing business. To deter operations like Mr. Kawamoto's will take something more effective than a fine — something, for instance, like a law providing for personal liability.

If it helps you deliberate, here's a picture of a small part of Mr. Kawamoto's Kahala operation in December 2012. You'll probably agree that the graffiti are to be considered vandalism.



But if the graffiti are vandalism, what else would you call the rest of the site, with its disorder and its in-your-face vulgarity? If you're interested in seeing more images, there's a small photo gallery online at

<http://theartpart.jonathanmorse.net/2012/12/art-is-to-money-as-t-are-to-a/>

lowen1-Kyli

From: Carol Gottlieb [gottbali@me.com]
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 4:11 PM
To: lowen1-Kyli
Subject: support of House Bill 1106

Dear Sirs/Madames,

I would like to respectfully state my support of House Bill 1106.

I have been a homeowner on Royal Circle for over 10 years and am very concerned about the ongoing neglect of properties and blatant lack of respect shown by Mr. Kawamoto for our neighborhood.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Carol Kirsh Gottlieb
124 Royal Circle
Honolulu, HI

lowen1-Kyli

From: Andy Trozzi [shaka1@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 8:29 AM
To: lowen1-Kyli
Cc: lowen1-Kyli; PAULA BLUM; 'Leslie Sharp'
Subject: House bill 1106

Shirlee and Andrew Trozzi owners of 4327 Royal Place is in favor of bill 1106. Kawamoto bought and destroyed 100 houses in Hawaii Kai and now he is doing the same on Kahala Ave. with no resistance. He knows how far he can push and what a joke he can make out of Hawaii. Kahala Ave. Was the most prestige's street in Oahu now it is a disgrace with the walls thorn down and drug dealers living in his properties. Two nights ago there was 8 police cars in front of 4337 Kahala Ave. for another fight and screaming. They also have no electricity and run a generator all day long. Kawamoto is getting his way again and making Hawaii politicians look like helpless fools to the rest of the world and if you think no one notices there is a tour bus every hour showing our tourist Kalaha Ave. Please open your eyes and do something to stop destroying Hawaii. This street looks like a war zone with statues. Aloha Andrew Trozzi

lowen1-Kyli

From: DEAN MCPHAIL [deanmcphail@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, February 04, 2013 6:39 PM
To: lowen1-Kyli
Subject: House Bill 1106

To all concerned,

I am writing you to let you know that I support the House Bill 1106. As you know in recent years many homes along Kahala Ave. have been in disrepair, and are now starting to impact the safety, as well as the overall appearance of the neighborhood. It is at a point where there is rubble,, and often times dead vegetation on public walkways and right of ways to our beaches. Many of these homes are also covered with graffiti. It is so bad that recently I was at Kahala beach and some tourists, visiting with their young children, asked me if this was a safe neighborhood. This was due to the condition of the properties, along with the graffiti, they encountered on their walk down to the beach.

In addition, some of these homes have been rented out for \$1 per year, which I have no problem with. What I do take issue with is now some of these tenants are renting out connected units to multiple families. Some of these units have no electricity, so the tenants are using loud generators to obtain power. Also, there have been several fights involving these tenants, which have been on the street and caused quite a commotion in the neighborhood late at night.

I am not sure all of the laws in place, but I find it hard to believe that the homes being used for boarding houses are in compliance with all laws, as well as some of the homes along Kahala Ave. must in some way have violated zoning or permitting restrictions. I understand that some of these homes have been demolished without first obtaining a permit.

Unfortunately due to travel, I could not attend today's hearing.

Again, I write you to support House Bill 1106.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Dean McPhail
132A Royal Circle
Honolulu, HI 96816

lowen1-Kyli

From: Peter Dudgeon [pdudgeon@me.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 8:09 AM
To: lowen1-Kyli
Subject: House Bill 1106

I support House Bill 1106...because I see that the beauty of the Islands On Kahala Avenue is being s
compromised by one misguided individual and we should all be ashamed for allowing this to happen.....Where
is our pride? Peter Dudgeon.....Diamond Head Road...
Sent from iCloud

lowen1-Kyli

From: Twigg-Smith Sharon [sharona.twiggsmith@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 05, 2013 9:18 AM
To: lowen1-Kyli
Subject: in favor Bill 1106

I am in favor of House Bill 1106 and, as are many of us in this community, am disgusted by the ability of Mr. Kawamoto to take over our Kahala neighborhood and destroy the homes, the ambiance of the neighborhood, and the safety of all. I am also disgusted by the failure of our city and state officials to enact laws over the many years this has been happening to protect us from the disrespect of this individual toward our state. Your inattention and inaction has allowed this man to constantly degrade the quality of life in our community and our own neighborhood is now an embarrassment and an eyesore. In my opinion Bill 1106 doesn't go far enough, but it's a start.

*Sharon Twigg-Smith
mailing address:
4348 Waialae Avenue, pmb 389
Honolulu, HI 96816*