



**OFFICE OF PLANNING
STATE OF HAWAII**

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

JESSE K. SOUKI
DIRECTOR
OFFICE OF PLANNING

235 South Beretania Street, 6th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone: (808) 587-2846
Fax: (808) 587-2824
Web: <http://planning.hawaii.gov/>

Statement of
JESSE K. SOUKI
Director, Office of Planning
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY AND INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS, AND CULTURE AND THE ARTS**
Wednesday, February 12, 2014e
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of
HB 2062
RELATING TO A KOREATOWN.

Chair Takai, Vice Chair Ito, and Members of the House Committee on Veterans, Military and International Affairs, and Culture and the Arts.

The Office of Planning (OP) offers the following comments on HB 2062, which appropriates a sum to be determined for the designation or the formal adoption of a special district to be known as Koreatown.

There appears to be community support for the designation or formal adoption of a Koreatown (See OP's report *Options for the Establishment of a Koreatown in the City and County of Honolulu: A Report to the Hawaii State Legislature in Response to H.C.R. 169, Twenty-Sixth Legislature, 2012* (Dec. 2013)).

If the proposed special district were in the City and County of Honolulu, the Revised Ordinances of Honolulu § 21-2.70 sets forth provisions for the establishment of special districts within the City and County of Honolulu. As described in this ordinance, the City Council and Planning Commission are the lead agencies to propose and coordinate the process of establishing

a special district in the County. Thus, a grant-in-aid to the City and County of Honolulu for the establishment of a Koreatown is the most appropriate vehicle to accomplish the bill's intent.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065

ANN H. KOBAYASHI
COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 5
CHAIR, COMMITTEE ON BUDGET
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5005
FAX: (808) 768-1227
EMAIL: akobayashi@honolulu.gov

February 11, 2014

The Honorable K. Mark Takai, Chair
House Committee on Veterans, Military &
International Affairs & Culture and the Arts
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: House No. 2062 – Relating to a Koreatown.

Dear Chairs Takai and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on House Bill No. 2062, Relating to a Koreatown. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Office of Planning for the formal adoption of a special district to be known as Koreatown.

The designation of a special Koreatown district in urban Honolulu would be the first government-established ethnic district in the State of Hawaii. It is true that we already have a Chinatown, but that district grew from a collection of Chinese merchants who gathered in the area in the 1800's without any direct government support. These Chinese merchants were originally laborers for the sugar plantations who opened businesses in areas such as Chinatown after their contracts expired.

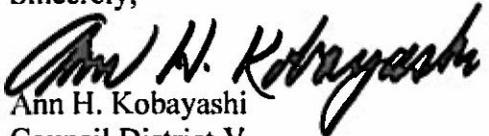
Honolulu is a place where everyone is accepted, and has an equal chance to make their dreams come true. Our city is a wonderful place to live and do business- regardless of location or ethnicity.

I believe this appropriation bill however well-intentioned it may be, falls short as it creates a special district for only one of the many different ethnic groups that live and work in the City and County of Honolulu. The Moiliili community rejected the idea of establishing a Japantown because of our state's multi-cultural heritage and feeling of inclusiveness – the Keeaumoku/Kaheka community should follow their lead and continue to keep Hawaii the crossroads of the Pacific.

Chair K. Mark Takai
February 11, 2014
Page 2

Thank you again for the opportunity to present testimony and for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,


Ann H. Kobayashi
Council District V

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 12:56 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: tinabae@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2062 on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM

HB2062

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for VMI on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Christina Bae	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the SB2512 and HB2062 to designate a special district, Koreatown, similar to Chinatown in Honolulu, Hawaii. This small investment will bring an economic boost we need from tourists visiting the special district and also more business activities among the locals in the district. There are already many Korean-themed shops and restaurants in Ala Moana area alongside Kapiolani Blvd. and Keeaumoku Street to support this effort as well. The creation of Koreatown as a special district will bring the rich cultures and heritage of Korea to be shared with the locals and tourists from different parts of the U.S. and other countries. The immigration of Koreans to Hawaii since 1903 has enriched Hawaii's unique culture alongside the many other immigrant groups. Establishing a Koreatown sends a strong message of support, encouragement and commitment in fostering a more diverse cultural, social and economic environment which focuses on the Korean culture. A Koreatown designation will provide a stronger self of community value and pride, which will naturally generate a greater interest and platform for the Korean community to increase its cultural and business activities in the Hawaii community

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Testimony of Warren Kim for HB2062 (Designation of Korea Town)

The maturing of an ethnic group in the United States is not a threat, but rather a fruition of what once presidential candidate Jesse Jackson stated as a salad rather than a melting pot. The designation of Korean Town is a compliment to the whole as it adds variety, contrast, and interest into our unique Hawaii. From the first immigrants from Korea in 1903, the Koreans have always been in the shadows of the other ethnic groups from Japan and China. From a ragtag band of 102 immigrants in 1903, we have grown and matured along with the rest of the country.

We do not seek of Balkanization of the United States, but want to emphasize that our differences are a source of strength; the variety contributes to the survival and growth of our country. Much as a purebred dog is riddled with disease, a mixed breed dog brings out the true nature of the animal. Much in this way, it would be closing our eyes to the fact that the United States has many different ethnic groups. This has not made our country into a fractional state, but rather we enjoy each other's uniqueness, much as the Silk Road in the distant past transmuted valuable knowledge, religion, and technology to transform the world.

The recognition of a Korean Town is only an official recognition of the current state of the area. Everyone calls it Koreamoku. Only the state has lagged behind in this recognition. Can anyone say that Hawaii's Chinatown has been a source of problems? No, it only adds to the richness of our culture, the spirit of Aloha that is Hawaii that has welcomed people from every nation.

The other valuable reason would be that you would add one more tourist destination for Hawaii. Let us face it, we have beautiful beaches and mountains, but we have no sites like a casino or Disneyland. When tourists come to Hawaii, they should experience as much as they can for their hard earned money. Koreatown could be just one more category on the Internet website, Yelp, and help with the tourist understanding of Hawaii's past that have brought together so many different ethnic groups to this island. It will also be very welcoming to the growing Korean tourists who come to Hawaii for their vacations.

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my written testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Warren Kim', written in a cursive style.

Warren Kim

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 12:58 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: nrl@kawashimalum.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2062 on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM

HB2062

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for VMI on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Natasha R. Lum	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am submitting testimony via internet regarding my support in establishing a Koreatown special district. Establishing such a district sends a strong message of support, encouragement and commitment in fostering a more diverse cultural, social and economic environment which focuses on the Korean culture. A Koreatown designation will provide a stronger sense of community value and pride, which will naturally generate a greater interest and platform for the Korean community to increase its cultural and business activities in the Hawaii community.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2014 1:08 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: yangcanteach@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2062 on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM

HB2062

Submitted on: 2/10/2014

Testimony for VMI on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joyce Yang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As one of the advisors of Kapolei high school's new Korean club, I am happy to offer my support of this initiative to formally develop and establish a Koreatown in Hawai'i. For so many years, the hallmarks of the hard-working Korean spirit have grown in their presence in Hawai'i, influencing businesses, popular culture and the social-cultural sphere. It is about time that the legacy of the Korean-American presence in Hawai'i be recognized and memorialized in this manner. Our students meet weekly to learn about Korean language and culture, including how to cook traditional dishes, who the hottest K-pop stars are, and old world customs of Korea. They are drawn to Korean food and culture as much as the residents of Hawai'i are, and continue to be fascinated by the contributions of this amazing and dynamic country. Having a formal Koreatown will promote tourism and increase pride among Korean- Americans and residents of Hawai'i. It would also make it easier to organize and communicate with members of this demographic. It is time that we formalize a Koreatown in Hawai'i, in memory of past generations and for the benefit of future generations.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Youn Mo Sung
990 Ala Nanala St.#17D
Honolulu, HI 96818

February 10, 2014

Re: SB2512 and HB2062

Dear Sir or Madam:

I support the SB2512 and HB2062 to appropriate funds to designate a special district, Koreatown, in Ala Moana area in Honolulu, Hawaii. This decision will bring a huge economic returns from tourists visiting the Koreatown as a special district and also more businesses and things to do among the locals, not just Koreans, in the district.

There are already many Korean shops and restaurants in Ala Moana area, Kapiolani Blvd. and Keeaumoku Street to support this effort as well. We have cultural centers in Hawaii celebrating cultures of Japan, Okinawa, Philippines and China, but there is none for Korean cultures. There is no place for the locals and visitors to go to learn Korean culture and foods in Hawaii.

The creation of Koreatown as a special district will bring the rich cultures and heritage of Korea to be shared with the locals and tourists from different parts of the U.S. and other countries.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Youn Mo Sung

Seung Hee Lee
990 Ala Nanala St.#17D
Honolulu, HI 96818

February 10, 2014

Re: SB2512 and HB2062

Dear Sir or Madam:

I support the SB2512 and HB2062 to appropriate funds to designate a special district, Koreatown, in Ala Moana area in Honolulu, Hawaii. This decision will bring a huge economic returns from tourists visiting the Koreatown as a special district and also more businesses and things to do among the locals, not just Koreans, in the district.

There are already many Korean shops and restaurants in Ala Moana area, Kapiolani Blvd, and Keeaumoku Street to support this effort as well. We have cultural centers in Hawaii celebrating cultures of Japan, Okinawa, Philippines and China, but there is none for Korean cultures. There is no place for the locals and visitors to go to learn Korean culture and foods in Hawaii.

The creation of Koreatown as a special district will bring the rich cultures and heritage of Korea to be shared with the locals and tourists from different parts of the U.S. and other countries.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,


Seung Hee Lee

Giampaolo Boschetti
1087 Market Street
San Francisco, California 94103

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
& CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice-Chair

Testimony against House Bill 2062 "RELATING TO A KOREATOWN"
Appropriates funds to the office of planning for the designation of formal
Adoption of a special district to be known as Koreatown."

Wednesday, February 12, 2014
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha, Chairman Takai, Vice-Chairman Ito and Committee Members,

My name is Giampaolo Boschetti . This testimony is in opposition to HB 2062 Relating to a Koreatown. I am an owner of properties in the area where this bill proposes to create a special district. I have been purchasing condominium units in the neighborhood where Koreatown is proposed.

I am completely opposed to this bill.

It creates a preference for one ethnic group in one geographic area, and this area has no real connection to the Korean community. I am Italian and was born in Italy. However, I would feel the same sense of opposition if this neighborhood were to become a 'Little Italy.' We should be welcoming all sorts of businesses and ethnicities to this area and not just one group.

Please vote against this bill.



Giampaolo Boschetti

ROBERT MCFARLANE
765 Amana Street, 5th Floor
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814
Tel. (808) 947-1326

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
& CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice-Chair

Testimony against House Bill 2062 "RELATING TO A KOREATOWN"
Appropriates funds to the office of planning for the designation of formal
Adoption of a special district to be known as Koreatown."

Wednesday, February 12, 2014
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha, Chairman Takai, Vice-Chairman Ito and Committee Members,

My name is Robert McFarlane and I am presenting this testimony in opposition to HB 2062 Relating to a Koreatown. I am an owner of a property in the area where this bill proposes to create a special district.

I am strongly against it.

It will create a special district, solely for one ethnic group, and does not acknowledge that long-time owners like myself, simply have no connection or affiliation with this group. It is forcing us to adopt a name, spend public funds for, and create just another bureaucratic agency with more bureaucratic nightmares, more restrictions that will ultimately devalue my property and by favoring just one special interest group.

I believe that this bill is divisive and ignorant of our multi-cultural heritage and should fail right here and now. It ignores the simple fact that the Ala Moana-Kapiolani-Kalakaua-Piikoi area should be open to all.



Robert McFarlane

Donna Walden
3939 Old Pali Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
Tel. (808) 306-9472

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
& CULTURE AND THE ARTS
Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair
Rep. Ken Ito, Vice-Chair

Testimony against House Bill 2062 "RELATING TO A KOREATOWN"
Appropriates funds to the office of planning for the designation of formal
Adoption of a special district to be known as Koreatown."

Wednesday, February 12, 2014
8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 312
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha, Chairman Takai, Vice-Chairman Ito and Committee Members,

My name is Donna Walden and I am presenting this testimony in opposition to HB 2062 relating to a Koreatown. I am an owner of properties in the area in the Kapiolani Boulevard - Kalakaua Avenue - Piikoi Street -South King Street neighborhood. We are very active real estate investors in the area.

I am strongly against it.

I have a \$50,000 Korean video collection, I contribute to the Korean community, I have many close Korean friends and feel very uncomfortable testifying here today.

This is the very reason I am speaking against Koreatown. What this bill is going to do is begin to separate cultures against other cultures in Hawaii. I thought Hawaii was the melting pot? Why are you trying to separate communities by ethnicity? I am of Japanese ancestry and would really appreciate a Japantown. Where is the fairness. All this bill would do would be to divide rather than bring people together.

The other reason I am speaking against this bill is that I purchased several properties in the area you are designating Koreatown and have already consulted with a commercial bank appraiser with a MAI designation about this and he told me this would not be good for any property in the designated area, both residential and commercial values. He told me that certain people will not purchase properties in culturally designated areas and mentioned that this would

be similar to downzoning by City or State, and resulting devaluation of the property.

I would not have purchased the properties we did in this area had I known it would eventually be designated Koreatown, Japantown, Filipinotown, Samoatown, etc. because I believe it would have a negative impact on property values, lowering the values and causing certain ethnic groups to avoid buying the properties because of the labels placed on the area. Can you imagine the disruption this will cause to the other businesses and residents of the area, most of whom are non-Korean? Koreans do not own the majority of land in this area. Korean businesses do not make up the majority of businesses in this area.

This is an ill-conceived and poorly planned and shallow attempt to make a few people in the Korean community happy, who have failed to fully consider the impact of this bill on all of the small and large businesses and residents in this area. I am surprised a significant issue such as this is being quietly proposed at the legislature without notice to the general public. This is not fair to the community when they have a lot at stake. Especially the elderly and moderate income group who only own one property, their condo that they live in. This will impact condo values in the area. I only found out about this a few days ago by chance but I am sure more people would be here had they known about it. Did the people promoting the bill advise all of the property owners and tenants, Bishop Estate, Walmart, Walgreens, all of the condominium owners, First Hawaiian Bank, and many others that a special district will be created and that they will be given a name that they did not anticipate when they acquired or leased their property in this area.

Finally, and most importantly, it is clearly not the State Legislature's responsibility, to create a special district for ethnicity. The concept of a special district, mandated by the State has never been done in Hawaii. If a special district is created in the City by the State, it should be done only with the knowledge and consent of all landowners, condominium owners and business owners in that area. It should certainly be done with the advice and consent of the City and the community.

This simply has not been done.

Unless and until this is done, this bill must be defeated.

Also the Senate Committee on Water and Land, and the Senate Committee on Technology and the Arts did not pass Senate version of this bill.

Thank you for your time listening to my opinion on this matter and giving this bill careful thought to the negative impacts both short and long range.

Donna Walden

Donna Walden

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 11:13 AM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: koolauwill@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2062 on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM

HB2062

Submitted on: 2/11/2014

Testimony for VMI on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Lee	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Greetings: I am in support of HB2062, for a designation of "Koreatown" in the Ke`eaumoku/Ala Moana area. The explosion of the South Korean economy across the globe lends itself to more opportunities for continued synergy between Honolulu and Korea. One of our sister cities is Incheon (locale of the Incheon International Airport, mainly serving Seoul), and even the Hawaii State Bar Association has a friendship agreement now with the Seoul Bar Association. In addition to direct routes served by Korean and Asian Airlines , direct Honolulu to Seoul routes are now serviced by Hawaiian Airlines as well. The partnership is growing, and we must keep pace. Creating a "Koreatown" center, in form and substance will continue to anchor the trans-Pacific partnership. I have often thought that while there is substantial amount of Koreans in Hawaii via those who have lived here for generations, UH, HPU and Chaminade exchange students, immigrants, and other Korean-Americans who grew up here or from the mainland, there really is not a meaningful physical area in which the community can come together and bond. Of course there is the Korean Festival and the Plantation Village in Waipahu, but there really is not a true sustainable nerve center. A cultural center could also be built in Koreatown in the future to also preserve the important history of the Korean people to the plantation economy here in Hawaii. A creation of a Koreatown can serve as a beacon for Koreans local and from afar to reconnect and reach out to the greater Korean community here on Oahu and Hawaii. Hawaii as a place of great diversity is an especially apt place for these kinds of things to happen. Further, with our economy so dependent on tourism, this is another way to be more creative in expanding the pie for that sector. Going forward, Honolulu will have to think of creative ways to continue to keep our economy vibrant and viable as certain economic sectors dry up. As a Korean-American and attorney by trade, I whole-heartedly support this measure. Mahalo, William Lee

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

Supporting Appropriation of Funds for Designation of Koreatown

In support of SB 2512 and HB 2062

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Legislature:

My name is Austin Ki Kang, President of The United Korean Association of Hawaii.

The State of Hawaii, our paradise on earth, is home to approximately 45,000 Koreans. The history of Korean immigration goes back 111 years in Hawaii. On January 13, 1903, S.S. Gaelick carrying the first group of Korean immigrants (103 people) arrived at the Honolulu Harbor. They worked at sugar plantations, raised families and educated their children. On pay day, historian said, our ancestors prepared three containers to save money. One for their living, one for their children's education and one for the liberation fund for their homeland. Over time, several generations of Koreans contributed to the community and produced honorable leaders such as Chief Justice Ronald Moon and HPD Chief Lee Donahue.

Since its formal establishment as the Republic of Korea in 1948, Korea's economy grew dramatically. Korea's annual export grew from mere \$3.5 million in 1945 to over \$1 trillion in 2011, 2012 and 2013 three consecutive years. Since the Free Trade Agreement between Korea and the USA went into effect on March 15, 2012, the economic relations and cooperation between the two countries will continue to experience a significant growth.

The number of Koreans traveling abroad reached 12.7 million in 2011. Following the passage of the visa waiver program in 2008, the number of Koreans visiting Hawaii in 2013 was over 172,000 and it is expected to grow 30% to 50% annually. There are 21 weekly Korean Air flights connecting Honolulu and Korea. Asiana Air flies 5 times a week and Hawaiian Air flies daily. With the strong economy, more Koreans are coming to the USA for tourism and investment, encouraged by the Korea-US FTA and the visa waiver program.

Now is the opportune time to establish Koreatown in Honolulu where Korean-based businesses are most active. Koreatown will make Hawaii, the world famous tourist destination, more inviting and secure for Koreans to come for tourism and financial investments. Korean universities are investing tens of millions of dollars to develop global education center in Hawaii. We sincerely urge the Legislature to vote in favor of appropriating funds to the Office of Planning for the designation or formal adoption of Koreatown. Thank you.

LATE

Hawaiian National Communications Corporation

MarshaRose Joyner

477 Opihikao Place * Honolulu, Hi 96825

mrjoy@hawai.rr.com * 808-741-4612

Testimony strongly against

HB2062 RELATING TO A KOREATOWN

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS, MILITARY, & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, & CULTURE AND THE ARTS

Rep. K. Mark Takai, Chair

Rep. Ken Ito, Vice Chair

Rep. Karen Awana

Rep. Tom Brower

Rep. Romy M. Cachola

Rep. Isaac W. Choy

Rep. Takashi Ohno

Rep. Richard H.K. Onishi

Rep. Clift Tsuji

Rep. Bob McDermott

Rep. Jessica Wooley

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, February 12, 2014

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Conference Room 312

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

Aloha Representatives,

I'm strongly against HB2062 Relating to a Koreatown, for several reasons.

One: The way the bill reads, is vague, unclear as well as ambiguous and has no dollar amount attached to it.

There is no background attached to this document. There is no description of the area in question. There is no justification for the cultural district called Koreatown. Are the current land owners, Korean and non-Korean, going to pay for the redesign? Or are we, the tax payers, going to pay?

I do not want to accuse anyone of hanky panky, however this bill reads as if something is missing.

Two: The State of Hawaii has no jurisdiction or the ability to grant a special design district within the City & County of Honolulu. The entire Island is incorporated as the City & County of Honolulu. The State of Hawaii i.e. the Governor and the Legislature has neither jurisdiction nor the ability to designate a special design district.

If there is to be a special design district it must come from a City & County Ordinance. This would include public hearings. Senate President Kim and Senator Dela Cruz as well as the Governor all of which have signed onto this project have served in the City Council and know the issues of jurisdiction and City Ordinances.

If you pass this bill out it will be an insult to the City & County residents because it deprives citizens of the City from home rule. It takes away their ability to decide their own zoning and planning and gives to a special district authority. It destroys "home rule." It will elevate special interests over the will of the people of this area and of the citizens of Honolulu.

Three: Far be it from me to rain on anyone's Cultural Parade. Inasmuch as the idea of a Special Design District is laudable, do you really think that Wal-Mart, Ross, Walgreens, The Likelike Drive Inn, Don Quijote and that huge building with its curved glass windows and facade of metallic burnt orange and silver panels, on Kapiolani Boulevard are Korean Icons? These imposing structures dominate the area. There is nothing along Kaheka-Ke'eaumoku Streets that harkens to Korean Culture. Will the name of the main street be changed? Ke'eaumkou was a Hawaiian high chief.

We understand that Korea is an increasingly strong ally and economic partner, and its visitor traffic increases yearly. Do we really want the Korean Visitors to see the area that Senator Dela Cruz has indicated as Koreatown in all of its rough edges? As beautiful as South Korea has become, to call this area Koreatown is an embarrassment. On Ke'eaumkou and the surrounding area there are a lot of cheesy, crammed together and frankly dirty areas. With narrow driveways, very little parking and questionable businesses, including gambling after dark establishments, a lot of massage places, restaurants of doubtful cleanliness and litter all over. Is this really what we want to show the Korean Tourists?

LATE

Roxanne Kamalu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2014 12:34 PM
To: vmitestimony
Cc: anohano@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2062 on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM

HB2062

Submitted on: 2/12/2014

Testimony for VMI on Feb 12, 2014 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Anolani Hanohano	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Hawaii does not need a "KoreaTown" . What next "VietnameTown". This is Hawaii and the host culture should always prevail and have preference.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov