

## FINTestimony

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**From:** Ron Iwami [ronald@kewalo.org]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2013 12:42 AM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of HB429

**LATE**



Committee on Finance Thursday, February 21, 2013  
Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair 11:00 am  
Rep. Scott Nishimura, Vice Chair Conference Room 308  
Rep. Aaron Ling Johanson, Vice Chair State Capitol

### **Testimony is support of HB 429 HD1**

Aloha Chair Luke and Committee members,

I am Ron Iwami, President of Friends of Kewalos, a non profit organization whose mission is to Protect, Preserve, and Malama the Kaka‘ako Makai area. We are part of the Save Our Kaka‘ako Coalition who has fought diligently since 2005 in our red shirts to accomplish our mission.

We also worked diligently with the community and other stakeholders to develop the Kaka‘ako Makai Master plan that was adopted by HCDA in May of 2011.

Development plans and rules took a lot of reasoning, thought, time and effort to create. For that reason, they should be followed. What good are they if exceptions are approved even with public opposition? An example of this is the 650 foot tall 690 Pohukaina Project which exceeded the 400 foot height limit and the orientation of a high-rise contrary to preserving the view plane, both approved by an exception to the rule.

We believe that this is a good bill because it will be another check by the legislators to make sure that the amendments and exceptions to the current plans and rules proposed by HCDA are in the best interest of the People of Hawaii.

I would like to note a correction should be made to section 1, paragraph (f) to read: “the makai area plan and rules adopted by the authority in May of 2011”. This is the plan I mentioned above and is the most recent plan on record which took 4 years to create.

This bill will bring the power back to the People through all of you.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify and share our manao.

Ron Iwami  
President, Friends of Kewalos

*To Protect, Preserve, and Malama Kewalo Basin Park and the surrounding shoreline and ocean to ensure that the recreational user will continue to have  
access  
and the ability to enjoy the area for future generations to come.*  
[www.kewalo.org](http://www.kewalo.org)



HOUSE COMMITTEE on FINANCE  
February 21, 2013, Public Hearing  
House Conference Room 208  
11:00 AM

**HOUSE BILL 429, HD1**  
**RELATING TO THE HAWAII COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Testimony in SUPPORT with AMENDMENT submitted by M.S. Matson

House Bill 1292 helps to ensure agency adherence to established policies and plans with Legislative oversight of any amendments thereto. Despite well-vetted and well-advised community-based master plans for both Kaka'ako Mauka and Kaka'ako Makai, the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) has repeatedly floundered in the face of the public trust by autonomously wielding its free-wheeling rubber stamp on subsequent developer-driven plans and proposals, and wedging in incompatible projects and proposals after-the-fact. HB 1292 references the 2011 Kaka'ako Mauka Area Plan and the 2005 Kaka'ako Makai plan as being the guiding master plans adopted by HCDA by which to guide development in these areas.

Naming the **2005** Kaka'ako Makai plan is a fatal flaw in this measure. This is the master plan adopted by the HCDA to pave the way for the 2005 A & B mega-development proposal for Kaka'ako Makai. As many Legislators may recall, HCDA's approval of this development caused a massive public outcry – to the extent that the A & B mega-development plan was withdrawn and laws were passed to prohibit any sale of public land and any residential development within Kaka'ako Makai, a public shoreline area on State public land.

Further, in 2006 a Concurrent Resolution was adopted by the Legislature advising HCDA to form a public working group of all stakeholders to develop a community-based master plan for Kaka'ako Makai. HCDA slowly followed the Legislature's advisory, and the public working group, named the Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council, eventually succeeded in producing very comprehensive Guiding Principles and significant community-based Master Plan elements thoroughly vetted by area stakeholders and the larger community.

The significant elements of this community-based master plan subsequently adopted by HCDA focused on a vital and vibrant community gathering place surrounding the Kaka'ako waterfront and open shoreline, keeping in mind the future needs of an anticipated Kaka'ako Mauka population increase of 30,000 new residents by reserving the Makai area for public recreational, cultural and educational uses, and where buildings would not to exceed 2 to 3 stories in order to protect the documented significant and cultural makai-to-mauka view plane as experienced from the public shoreline.

By now reverting to the HCDA's outdated 2005 Makai plan in HB 429, is it the Legislature's intent to revisit the enormous controversy created by the HCDA's mega-development partnership with A&B for residential and commercial complexes up to 200 feet high in Kaka'ako Makai? We hope this is not the intent of this bill.

Recommended instead is the replacement of any reference to the 2005 Makai plan with assurance that the community-based Kaka'ako Makai Master Plan Guiding Principles and plan elements will be adhered to by the HCDA, and not "foreclosed upon," as the HCDA executive director has previously so stated. Further, the "concept" as adopted by the HCDA must be refined with the plan elements properly placed in accordance with the community's needs and desires. Also welcome in the public interest would be the legislature's endorsement of Mauka area development fee considerations for the improvements advocated by the community in the Makai plan, and that any chosen developer be responsive to community needs and desires in partnership with the community.

Community-based planning is a fully-supported planning policy nationwide. Community-based planning is the here and now, and for the future. Community-based planning is in the greater public interest. Shutting out and stifling the community is an ugly thing of the past.

**House Bill 429, HD1 should be amended to support the community-based Guiding Principles and Master Plan for Kaka'ako Makai, not the developer-driven 2005 HCDA plan. We thank you for your full consideration of these continuing concerns, and for your support of the community-based efforts to improve and maintain Kaka'ako Makai state public lands in the greater public interest.**

**FINTestimony**

**LATE**

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 11:38 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** nimo1767@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB429 on Feb 21, 2013 11:00AM

**HB429**

Submitted on: 2/20/2013

Testimony for FIN on Feb 21, 2013 11:00AM in Conference Room 308

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Robert Petricci	Individual	Support	No

Comments: FIN 308 Feb 21, 2013 11:00 AM RE:HB429 Support with question. Aloha chair Luke and committee members I am in support of HB429 however. HB 429 states that the 2005 Kaka'ako Makai Area Plan is to be the guiding plan. This was the Makai master plan with 200-foot building heights that the A&B development proposal followed immediately after this plan was adopted by HCDA. Do we want to return to A&B-type development in Kaka'ako Makai? The Kaka'ako Makai community-based master plan was adopted by the HCDA in 2011. Thank you for your consideration. Robert Petricci

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