DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL MAYOR



DONNA Y. L. LEONG CORPORATION COUNSEL DESIGNATE

April 10, 2013

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair and Members Committee on Ways and Means State Senate Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Ige and Committee Members:

Subject: S.C.R. 102 and S.R. 68 Requesting the Auditor to Conduct an Audit of the Kapiolani Park Trust to Evaluate its Governance Structure and Identify the Permissible Uses of the Park Lands, Including Delineating any Limitations on Commercial or Other Inconsistent Uses that May Fall Outside the Scope of the <u>Trust's Purpose or May Constitute Waste of the Trust Property.</u>

The City and County of Honolulu opposes S.C.R. 102 and S.R. 68, which contain factually incorrect statements concerning the *res* of Kapiolani Park Trust. The 11th "whereas" provision in each Resolution incorrectly states that the new ocean safety substation will be developed on Kapiolani Park Trust land. Contrary to the testimony of the Kapiolani Park Preservation Society ("KPPS") provided to the Legislature, the proposed site for the new ocean safety substation is neither within the boundaries of the Kapiolani Park Trust nor subject to the terms of the Kapiolani Park Trust.

In <u>City and County of Honolulu v. Warren Price, III, et al.</u>, Circuit Court of the First Circuit, S.P. No. 89-0015, the KPPS had argued that lands makai of Kalakaua Avenue, including the proposed site of the ocean safety substation, were within the boundaries of the Kapiolani Park Trust. In total disagreement with the position of the KPPS, the Circuit Court of the First Circuit ruled that the lands makai of Kalakaua Avenue are not in the Kapiolani Park Trust:

The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair and Members Committee on Ways and Means April 10, 2013 Page 2

2. The Court finds that the issue of ownership of the oceanfront lots and the Tam Pong Ditch lands has been previously litigated and that prior court orders have determined that these lands are not included in the Kapiolani Park Trust and need not be treated by the Trustees as part of the Kapiolani Park Trust.

Order Denying Intervenor-Defendant Kapiolani Park Preservation Society's Second Petition for Instructions to Trustees of the Kapiolani Park and Request for Attorney's Fees and Costs Filed February 11, 1999, filed on March 29, 1999, in S.P. No. 89-0015 (copy enclosed).

In addition, it is our position that it is not the Auditor to whom the two Resolutions are directed, but the State Attorney General, as *parens patriae* of charitable trusts, who is responsible for overseeing the activities of the trustees to the end that the trust is performed and maintained in accordance with the provisions of the trust documents, and for bringing any abuse or deviation on the part of the trustees to the attention of the court for correction. <u>Hite v. Queen's Hospital</u>, 36 Haw. 250, 262 (1942). The City appreciates the interest of the Legislature concerning the Kapiolani Park Trust; however, generally, only the Attorney General has standing to enforce the terms of a charitable trust and to oversee the activities of the trustees.

For these reasons, we respectfully object to S.C.R. 102 and S.R. 68.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide our comments on these Resolutions.

Very truly yours,

DONNA Y. L. LEONC

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Enclosure

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	DAVID Z. ARAKAWA, 2908 CORPORATION COUNSI: CORPORATION COUNSI: JAMES C. BUTT, 4633 CYNTHIA M. NOJIMA, 3596 Deputies Corporation Counsel City and County of Honolulu Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 Telephone: 523-4702/527-5586/527-5688 Attorneys for Trustees IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE FIRST CIRCUIT STATE OF HAWAII					
	CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, a municipal corporation,		S.P. NO. (Special	89-0015 Proceedings	3)	
vs. MARGERY S. BRONS General of the S Hawaii,			DEFENDAN PRESERVA SECOND P INSTRUCT OF THE K REQUEST	NYING INTERA T KAPIOLANI TION SOCIETY ETITION FOR IONS TO TRUS APIOLANI PAH FOR ATTORNEY S FILED FEBH	PARK 'S STEES SK AND 'S FEES	
			Time:	March 5, 199 10:30 a.m. Kevin S. C.		

ORDER DENYING INTERVENOR-DEFENDANT KAPIOLANI PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY'S SECOND PETITION FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO TRUSTEES OF THE KAPIOLANI PARK AND REQUEST FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS FILED FEBRUARY 11, 1999

The Petition of Intervenor-Defendant KAPIOLANI PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY ("KPPS"), filed herein on February 11, 1999, having come on for hearing on March 5, 1999, at 10:30 a.m., before the Honorable Kevin S. C. Chang, Judge of the aboveentitled Court, with Deputies Corporation Counsel Cynthia M.

> I do hereby ceruly that this is a full, true, and correct copy of the original of file in this office. 0a

> > Nort Cinnell Decent Find Mennik

Nojima, Natalie Hiu and Reid Yamashiro representing the Kapiolani Park Trustees ("Trustees"), Steven M. Shinn, Esq., representing KPPS, Deputy Corporation Counsel Dawn D. M. Spurlin representing Plaintiff City and County of Honolulu ("City"), and Deputy Attorney General Linnel T. Nishioka representing Defendant State of Hawaii ("State"), and the Court having duly considered the affidavits and memoranda of law, the arguments of counsel and reviewed the records and files herein, and the Court being fully advised of the premises and for good cause appearing;

THE COURT HEREBY FINDS AND CONCLUDES AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Court finds that prior court orders have determined that an accounting and/or listing of Kapiolani Park improvement, construction and maintenance projects, to be provided either annually or in the Trustees' tri-annual reports, are not required. The Kapiolani Park Trust is a unique trust in that its corpus consists of non-income-producing property. Prior court orders have determined that Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 560:7-303 does not apply to the Kapiolani Park Trust and that the members of the City Council, as Trustees, only serve as guardians of the Trust property with no day-to-day responsibilities.

2. The Court finds that the issue of the ownership of oceanfront lots and the Tam Pong Ditch lands has been previously litigated and that prior court orders have determined that these lands are not included in the Kapiolani Park Trust and need not be treated by the Trustees as part of the Kapiolani Park Trust lands.

-2-

3. The Court finds that a prior court order has determined that the Honolulu Zoo is a permissible use of the Trust's lands. The Zoo admission fee is a permissible user fee for admission to the Honolulu Zoo. Therefore, the City and Zoo may continue using such lands as a zoo and charging an admission fee to the Honolulu Zoo.

4. KPPS now attempts to relitigate issues which have been the subject of previous proceedings and orders. The Court determines that issue-preclusion doctrines prohibit the relitigation of the above issues, as they have been determined by prior court orders.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED AS FOLLOWS:

A. The Court hereby denies KPPS' requests in toto, including its request for its attorney's fees and costs incurred in pursuit of these issues.

B. If KPPS desires interlocutory relief, it should request so in a separate petition.

DATED: Honolulu, Hawaii,

KEVIN S. C. CHANG STAL

MAR 29 1999

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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STEVEN M. SHINN Attorney for Intervenor-Defendant Kapiolani Park Preservation Society

DAWN D. M. SPURLIN

Attorney for Plainbiff City and County of Honolulu

RANDALL Y. K. YOUNG LINNEL T. NISHIOKA Attorneys for Defendant Margery S. Bronster, in her capacity as Attorney General of the State of Hawaii

S.P. NO. 89-0015, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU v. MARGERY S. BRONSTER and KAPIOLANI PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY - ORDER DENYING INTERVENOR-DEFENDANT KAPIOLANI PARK PRESERVATION SOCIETY'S SECOND PETITION FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO TRUSTEES OF THE KAPIOLANI PARK AND REQUEST FOR ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS FILED FEBRUARY 11, 1999

OR-PET.2

<u>SCR102</u>

Submitted on: 4/9/2013 Testimony for WAM on Apr 11, 2013 14:15PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benjamin Shafer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

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<u>SCR102</u>

Submitted on: 4/10/2013 Testimony for WAM on Apr 11, 2013 14:15PM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, 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.

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