

Testimony of Wayne Takamine
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Friday, February 27, 2015, 9:05 a.m.
Conference Room 016

In Strong Support of SB 906 - Relating to the Hawaii Community Development Authority

Chair Keith--□Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members:

My name is Wayne Takamine and participated in the Kaka'ako Makai Master Plan process as the chairman of the Kaka'ako Makai Community Planning Advisory Council (CPAC). During the last year I noticed an abundance of negative newspaper and TV news reports related to Kaka'ako and Kaka'ako Makai development and controversy by the HCDA. I have followed the actions of the HCDA during its condominium project hearings process and quite frankly the community has been shut out of the process for many projects.

Last year the legislature passed HB1866 to improve community engagement with HCDA. However, the HCDA appears to interpret and apply the laws and funding appropriations in ways contrary to the intent of lawmakers. In this case the HCDA created and adopted rules that are restrictive to community engagement and the new procedures appear to discourage public from making comments. Many community members and residents have complained that they feel like they are just being ignored.

The HCDA requires interveners to apply for contested case at the first hearing while just hearing the presentation and having limited information about the project while the developers have its legal team present along with construction union workers. Many times the board will go into executive session and again the public is left to wonder "what's going on!"

SB 906, if passed, will address these problems by providing: 1) guidelines for community engagement that brings community, developer, and other stakeholders together as part of the development application in a more collaborative and less adversarial way; 2) time for community residents to obtain information to "meaningfully participate in the authority's decision-making process" by moving the deadline to file a motion to intervene from 20 days after the application notice is published to 30 days after the first public hearing (presentation).

SB906 will not only provide for more open and accountable decision-making, it will also encourage design decisions by developers that follow the original Kaka'ako vision, plans, and rules and avoid undermining Kaka'ako's vision. In situations where a contested case is still necessary (likely to be rare if the pre-application process is followed), the hearings will be conducted with all parties properly informed and prepared – after the applicant has presented its proposal at the first public hearing.

SB906 will allow the community to offer its best input to make Kaka'ako a vibrant, livable and "local" community for the benefits of the people of Honolulu.

Respectfully,
Wayne Takamine
Kaka'ako Makai CPAC

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SB906

Submitted on: 2/26/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 27, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John Kobelansky Jr.	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please consider passage of this bill to help the residents of Kakaako, such as myself, rein-in the "avalanche" of construction projects within this neighborhood. HCDA has run amok with approval after approval with very little thought about impacts to existing infrastructure, not to mention the island-wide increases in traffic, sewage, population and crime as a result of accelerated approvals. Please put the brakes on the approval process and vote FOR (yes) on all instances of this bill and it's companion bill also. Mahalo A nui

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SB906

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 27, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Clara K Morikawa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SB906 which requires developers to present their project proposal to the public before the 1st hearing and allows the public to address their concerns. This, in itself, would lessen contested cases. Presently, developers are allowed to make changes to their project after obtaining HCDA approval. Developers must be made to abide by the approved plans. Each project should be required to "give back" to the community by financing schools, parks, infrastructures, etc, for years in proportion to the size of their project(s).

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SB906

Submitted on: 2/27/2015

Testimony for JDL on Feb 27, 2015 09:05AM in Conference Room 016

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Surfrider Foundation	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill and allow for more public input. Mahalo.

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