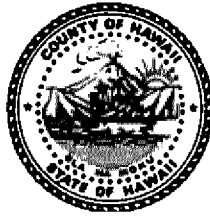


Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i

Office of the Mayor

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February 5, 2018

LATE

Senator Glenn Wakai, Senator Karl Rhoads, Senator Mike Gabbard
Committee on Economic Development, Tourism, and Technology
Committee on Water and Land
Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 224
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Senator Wakai, Senator Rhoads, Senator Gabbard and Committee Members:

Re: SB 2972 Relating to Development of Banyan Drive
Hearing Date: 02/05/18 – 2:45 pm; Conference Room 224

Thank you for convening this triple committee to take up an issue of great importance to the economic well-being of Hawai'i County. I support SB 2972.

As SB 2972 states, Banyan Drive is underutilized and in disrepair. It is the center of tourism in East Hawai'i, but it is a jewel that is quite tarnished at the present time.

Hawai'i County has taken the first steps toward revitalizing the Banyan Drive peninsula. The administration, Council, community, and Big Island legislators have found common purpose; the redevelopment area has been defined; and a conceptual master plan has been created as a starting point. Now funds are needed to conduct the environmental impact statements necessary to complete the redevelopment plan and move forward.

The Hawai'i County budget is severely strapped, and I have already had to impose increases in our property, fuel, and vehicle weight taxes. Nevertheless, I can commit to you that I would include \$250,000 in the 2018-2019 County budget, in order to provide the matching funds called for in SB 2972. We believe that it is just and proper to ask the State to share in the EIS expense, given that the redevelopment area consists almost entirely of State land, but we recognize that the County must do its part as well, to the best of our financial ability.

Please give SB 2972 your favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

The Twenty-Ninth Legislature
Regular Session of 2018



THE SENATE

Committee on Economic Development, Tourism and Technology

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Brian T. Taniguchi, Vice Chair

Committee on Water and Land

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Committee on Agriculture and the Environment

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Gil Rivere, Vice Chair

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

Monday, February 5, 2018; 2:45 p.m.

**STATEMENT OF THE ILWU LOCAL 142 ON S.B. 2972
RELATING TO LAND DEVELOPMENT**

The ILWU Local 142 supports the intent and purpose of S.B. 2972 RELATING TO LAND DEVELOPMENT.

S.B. 2972 requires the Department of Land and Natural Resources to allocate 25% of revenues collected from commercial properties within the Banyan Drive redevelopment area to the Banyan Drive Hawaii Redevelopment agency. The sum of \$250,000 is appropriated from the special land and development fund to assist the County of Hawaii in conducting necessary environmental impact studies, which are described in the bill, to complete the redevelopment plan for the Banyan Drive redevelopment area. Matching funds are required from the County of Hawaii.

The bill provides for a dedicated source of “self-funding” for Banyan Drive Hawaii Redevelopment agency. The bill provides for an agency to be responsible for the redevelopment. There is funding for the necessary environmental impact studies, which are specified in the bill, to get the needed redevelopment going. And the matching fund requirement means that there is direct investment of the County of Hawaii. We are hopeful that Banyan Drive and the surrounding areas will be the needed economic driver for Hilo. This bill emphasizes that this work is overdue.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this matter. The ILWU Local 142 supports S.B. 2972 RELATING TO LAND DEVELOPMENT.

LATE

SB-2972

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:42:19 AM

Testimony for ETT on 2/5/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glen Kagamida	Retired	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2972

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 2:51:23 PM

Testimony for ETT on 2/5/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Z. Arakawa	Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii	Comments	No

Comments:

The Land Use Research Foundation of Hawaii (LURF), submits the following COMMENTS and PROPOSED AMENDMENTS in SUPPORT of the intent of SB 2972, which: (1) Requires the department of land and natural resources (DLNR) to allocate twenty-five per cent of revenues collected from commercial properties within the Banyan Drive redevelopment area to the Banyan Drive Hawai'i redevelopment agency; (2) Appropriates funds from the special land and development fund to assist the county of Hawai'i in conducting the necessary environmental impact studies necessary to complete its redevelopment plan for the Banyan Drive redevelopment area; and (3) Requires matching funds from the county of Hawai'i.

LURF also respectfully requests that this Committee consider the following AMENDMENTS :

(4) AMEND SB 2972, to transfer jurisdiction of the Banyan Drive Redevelopment Area to the department of business and economic development (DBEDT), instead of DLNR, whose purpose, mission and staff are not geared toward economic development or tourism.

(5) AMEND SB 2972 to appropriate funds from the special land and development fund to assist the county of Hawaii in conducting the necessary planning studies to explore future tourism opportunities along the coast of Keaau, Hawaii Island.

LURF further respectfully requests that DLNR, the Legislature, counties, and aother stakeholders collaborate to reach a consensus regarding this bill.

Please feel free to contact David Arakawa, LURF Executive Director, if you have any questions.