

LATE

Kawainui Marsh Environmental Education Initiative

Support the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan

Kawainui Marsh is the largest wetland in the State of Hawaii and the only wetland in Hawaii to be recognized as a *Wetland of International Importance* by the Ramsar Convention, an environmental branch of the United Nations. In 2005, the Ramsar Convention recognized Kawainui primarily because of its significant cultural history, environmental importance, and educational value.

The Ramsar Convention strongly encourages the establishment of education centers at Ramsar wetlands because they are important places of hands-on learning and training about wetlands. In keeping with this mission, the Master Plan supports educational opportunities and facilities at the marsh that will foster stewardship, preservation of native cultural sites and practices, wetland and lowland forest restoration, sustainability practices, and protection of endangered birds and natural resources.

The marsh is the site of the earliest known inland settlements in the Hawaiian Islands and was at the center of the Kailua ahupua'a, an ancient model of sustainability and conservation practice. The fishponds and taro fields of Kawainui sustained a large Hawaiian population and can again. We can learn a great deal from the conservation, sustainability, and preservation practices that took place there and continue to teach how these methods maintained the health of that ecosystem, its people, and the planet.

The Aha Moku Act signed into law in 2012, addressed the decline of resources in our state and was enacted to enable Hawaiians to take a more active and supportive role in managing our natural resources in order to protect and sustain the lands and oceans of Hawaii. The empirical knowledge of the kanaka maoli about fishing and agricultural methods protected natural resources for thousands of years. This Hawaiian perspective was recognized as a critical solution.

Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi of Kailua and the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club are the foremost environmental/conservation/cultural preservation organizations involved at Kawainui Marsh and they have been the primary caretakers and educators at Kawainui Marsh for over thirty years. They have brought thousands of students from all over the world there to learn about wetlands, eco-engineering, endangered birds, marsh restoration, native Hawaiian culture, hydrology, archeology, botany, biology, sustainability and more. Restoration and preservation of the marsh is reliant on these organizations and this was recognized in the formulation of the Master Plan. When you support the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Master Complex Plan, you are supporting the work of these environmental/conservation leaders, the preservation and restoration of the marsh, and educational and cultural opportunities for generations to come.

Join the Kailua Community Environmental Leaders and Organizations in Support of the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan

Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi has a curatorship agreement with State Parks for Na Pohaku O Hauwahine at Kawainui and a co-curatorship agreement with State Parks at Ulupo Heiau with the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club. The mission statement of Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi is to practice and promote a modern Hawaiian conservation ethic, one that provides for a healthy Hawaiian ecosystem nurtured by human communities that serves as a model for local and global resource management.

True to their mission, Ahahui and Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club members, with the help of their many volunteers, have been actively restoring damaged lands in and around Kawainui Marsh since the early 90's by removing invasive species, junked cars at an auto wreck site there, and other rubbish, as well as being advocates for removal of cattle and sewage outfalls negatively impacting the marsh. These groups have also restored heiau sites around the marsh, and the spring fed lo'i and malo (garden) where field taro and other native plants are now grown. They have also restored native bird habitats, often digging out wetland ponds by hand, and restored native lowland forest at Na Pohaku O Hauwahine. In short, these community leaders, all volunteers, through very hard manual work have already accomplished much in the way of restoration of this degraded marsh. It is an area sacred to many of them and they are the main caretakers and the people who work every day to restore and preserve it.

Dr. Chuck Burrows, known as "Doc", a leading proponent familiar to many, is a retired Kamehameha Schools biology teacher who has taught and brought thousands of students, primarily high school and college students, to Kawainui since the 1960's. Students from all over the world come to work and study at the marsh with Doc and members of Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi, including University of Hawaii entomologist and environmentalist, Dr. Steven Montgomery, who is on the Executive Committee of the Hawaii Sierra Club, Dr. Sam 'Olu Gon III, Senior Scientist and Cultural Advisor at the Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, and Lehuakona Isaacs, President of Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi, who has directed the restoration of the native lowland forest at Na Pohaku O Hauwahine. Kaleo Wong, one of the new generation of navigator-captains on the Hokulea voyage this past year, and a former native plant conservationist and resource management coordinator at the Army Natural Resources Program, is leading stewardship and restoration efforts at Ulupo Heiau.

Lehuakona Isaacs and Doc Burrows were instrumental in attempting to bring a pilot model, The Living Machine: A Bio-Remediation and Ecological Facility to Kailua to educate students about ecological engineering technology. They plan to employ this technology as part of the marsh restoration. The Living Machine is located at the Hawaii Nature Center. Lauren Venu Roth, who serves as a Board of Directors member for Ahahui Malami I Ka Lokahi, is the Founding Principal of Roth Ecological Design International. She has also served as an advisor for the Hawaii State Water Conservation Plan Committee, and serves as President of the Board of Directors for the Water Institute for Sustainability Education (WISE). She is an expert on water bioremediation projects of the type that will be implemented at the marsh with this plan to manage pollution.

Doc Burrows has recently formed a collaborative working group, Hui Kawainui-Kailua Ka Wai Ola, composed of leaders in eco-engineering including scientists and educators from Pacific American Foundation, hydrologists, and other scientists from the University of Hawaii including Scott Ferguson, Director of Marine Technical Services at University of Hawaii, SOEST and Dr. Floyd McCoy, UH Professor of Geology, Geophysics & Oceanography. Dr. Paul Brennan, an anthropologist, author of *Kailua*, and President of the Kailua Historical Society is on the Board of Hui Kawainui-Kailua Ka Wai Ola. This group plans to study and map the waterways of the marsh toward the goal of restoration of the ponds and waterways, as well as employ bioremediation solutions to deal with run-off from the roads, housing developments, schools, churches, hospitals, etc. that ring the marsh. Pollution from run-off is a major polluter of our oceans and the waterways of Kawainui feed into Kailua Bay, so cleansing the marsh, cleanses the bay.

The Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan Provides Environmental Educational Opportunities

It is largely recognized that hands-on teaching about ecology, biology, endangered birds and plants, eco-technology, and cultural practices on-site, is invaluable for many reasons. To borrow from the mission statement of the first Audubon Center established in the United States in New York State, "Using hands-on, experiential, and inquiry-based methods, participants will develop a deeper understanding and consideration for our natural world, gain a sense of stewardship for their local environment, and become informed decision makers for the future."

The plan recognizes that education and cultural centers are essential for fostering environmental stewardship and preservation. The plan facilitates educational opportunities and marsh restoration by providing pavilions, classrooms, plant propagation areas, buildings for tool storage and maintenance equipment, bathrooms, and a critically needed Division of Forestry and Wildlife station for management and protection of the marsh and for overseeing and carrying out research there.

Trail networks linking educational centers and a Hawaiian cultural center to Ulupo Heiau, other ancient sites, and bird viewing areas are envisioned as well as parking for school buses and staff. The proposed cultural/educational centers for Hawaiian cultural practices and education will be unobtrusive buildings modeled after traditional Hawaiian structures that will employ modern materials and be LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified. The goal is for these structures to be totally off of the grid.

The Goal and Promise of the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan

The Master Plan recognizes the value of a Hawaiian perspective and caretaker role at Kawainui Marsh and the belief that hands-on involvement with the natural environment is paramount to cultural and individual health and well being and fostering lifelong stewards. Taking care of that environment and ancient sacred sites, and being good stewards of the land and waters is viewed as an inherent responsibility passed on by our ancestors to future generations.

In her speech at the United Nations, Mililani Trask stated, “the gradual deterioration of indigenous peoples is due to the non-recognition of the profound relationship that indigenous people have to their lands, territories, and resources.”

The Western perspective of fencing off and limiting access to natural areas to protect and preserve them is not a viable choice for Kawainui. Decades ago when junk cars and garbage piled up there, and dirt bikers ripped through and destroyed heiau and other sacred sites, non-involvement led to neglect and pollution. There are still areas littered with munitions from the years it was used as a military training ground. Even today, many residents, who are not knowledgeable about the cultural, political, and scientific history, or present condition of the marsh, drive by, look out at it and believe it is pristine and should be preserved as is.

Unfortunately, the marsh is presently in a degraded state and there is much work to be done. Despite years of work by Hawaiian organizations, the majority of it is choked with alien vegetation and trees and will soon revert to a swamp if the funding the plan provides is not approved. The plan will help provide necessary monies for the opening of bird ponds and waterways.

It is our belief, as stated in the PBS series on our national parks and state park legacies, that we lose the essential premise of stewardship for our culture if we lose this park. We lose the opportunity to educate generations about an ancient culture that lived and thrived here and we lose our connection to the past that defines our present and our future. People not knowing who they were, where they came from, and what they did is tantamount to losing the great paintings, poems, or writings of our culture. The vast reservoir of history and knowledge stored within Kawainui needs to be celebrated and preserved.

Environmental organizations on Oahu, not necessarily presently involved with the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan, should be informed and supportive of the plan and endorse it so it will be supported by the state legislature.

Join us in supporting the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan.

Provide written endorsement from your organization, and please call, or write a letter of support addressed to your legislator, the state departments, environmental planning firm, and Windward legislators listed below.

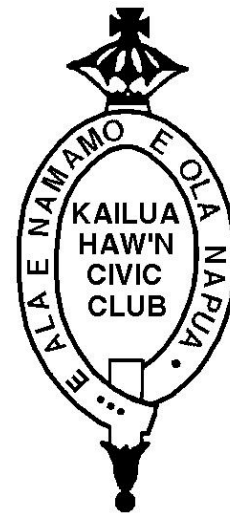
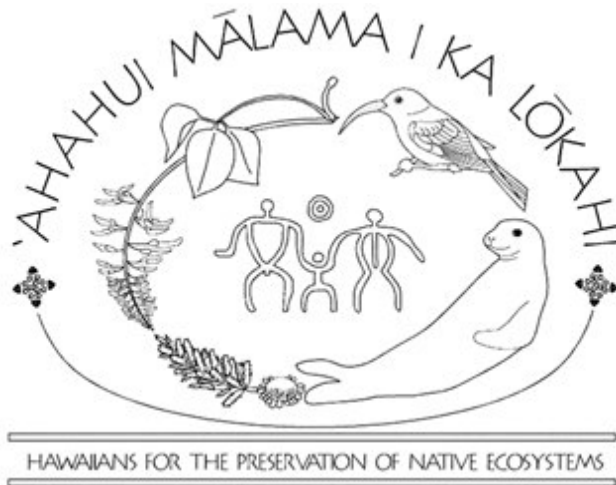
If you would like to learn more about the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan and take an informative tour of Kawainui, please contact kawainuied@gmail.com.

We will notify you about a tour for environmentalists to take place soon.

The Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan can be viewed at: <http://www.hhf.com/kawainui/index.html>.

With warm aloha,

Beth Anderson, Author, Kawainui Marsh Environmental Education Initiative
Dr. Chuck Burrows, Chairman, Hui Kailua-Kawainui Ka Wai Ola
Lehuakona Isaacs, President, Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi
Mapuana de Silva, President, Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club
Kihei de Silva, 2nd Vice President, Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club



Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi

To practice and promote a modern native Hawaiian conservation ethic

That provides for

A healthy Hawaiian ecosystem nurtured by human communities and serving as a model for local and global resource management

Published Contact Information for the Legislators, State Departments, and Environmental Planning Firm

The Honorable David Ige
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LATE



Hawaii's Thousand Friends

300 Kuulei Rd. Unit A #281 * Kailua, HI 96734 * Phone/Fax (808) 262-0682 E-Mail: htff3000@gmail.com

March 23, 2018

COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Gil Riviere, Vice Chair

Aloha,

Chairs Rhoads and Gabbard
Vice Chairs Gabbard and Riviere
Committee Members

SCR 146

URGING ACTIONS TO RESTORE AND RESERVE THE KAWAINUI-HAMAKUA MARSH COMPLEX AND PREPARATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE WETLANDS ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PLAN, A DETAILED WATERBIRD HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN, AND A COMPREHENSIVE WETLANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN TO PROTECT HAWAII'S FOUR ENDANGERED WATERBIRDS AND VISITING MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS IN THE KAWAINUI-HAMAKUA MARSH COMPLE

Hawaii's Thousand Friends supports SCR 146 that urges the preparation of plans and actions that will lead to restored and fully functioning Kawainui-Hamakua Marshes that will provide an abundance of habitat and protection for endangered waterbirds and migratory birds, water quality that is clean and free from contaminants, provides a safe and secure place to visit and protects known and yet discovered archaeological sites.

In 1979 Kawainui Marsh, an ancient freshwater fishpond and largest remaining freshwater marsh 1000 acres, in Hawai'i was declared eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places as a *Cultural, Archaeological and Historical District*.

In 2005 Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex located in Kailua Oahu, nominated by Hawaii's Thousand Friends and the National Audubon Society, was accepted as a Ramsar Wetland of International importance. The wetlands were accepted for their hydrological functions, flood control, support of four endangered endemic waterbirds, and providing pathways for indigenous and endemic goby, and endemic shrimp. Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex is the only Ramsar site in the state.

Kawainui Marsh has been abused and degraded over the decades from water diversions to Waimanalo, city created dump sites in the marsh, polluted water flowing through Kapa`a Stream, a State Impaired Water Body, from the Quarry and Industrial Park, pesticide runoff from subdivisions and a golf course and over grown vegetation.

The DLNR's Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project (KHMPP) for Kawainui and Hamakua marshes in Kailua Oahu accelerates the need for the studies and actions identified in this resolution.

The KHMPP states that about 10,000 visitors a month, not including staff or volunteers, will go to Kawainui Marsh. Currently about 2,000 visitors and volunteers go to two sites in Kawainui Na Pohaku o Hauwahine State Park Reserve and Ulupo Heiau State Historical Park.

The KHMPP identifies 52 structures and facilities around Kawainui Marsh. Currently there are only 3-4 temporary DOFAW buildings at Kawainui.

The KHMPP identifies 23 buildings along Kapa`a Quarry Road where no hook up to municipal sewer or water is available. Thus requiring each building or complex of buildings to have septic systems within the riparian area of Kawainui Marsh.

The KHMPP identifies numerous parking lots, unspecified miles of pedestrian trails, roads, boardwalks and bridges with no way to secure any of these areas.

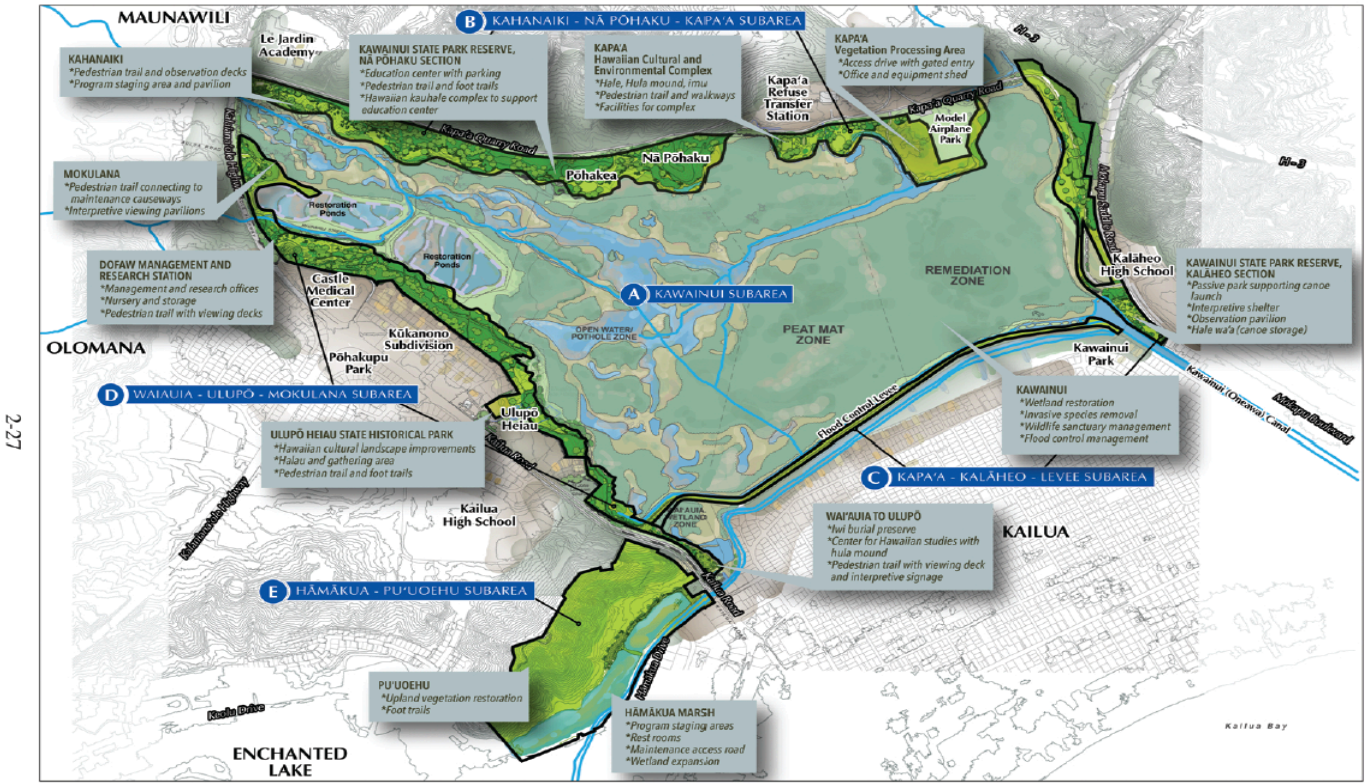
While Kawainui is public land the KHMPP identifies two locations the Kapa`a Cultural Center and Waiaua Cultural Center that will not be open to the general public.

Passage of SCR 146 will help ensure that these two important marshes and the wildlife that depends on them will survive and thrive.

*"If we don't save the knowledge and ecosystems of our Islands,
no one will ever understand who we are today."
Muriel Seto 2005*

Kawainui-Hamakua Master Plan Project DEIS 2017

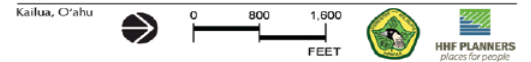
Kawainui Marsh Overview



2-27

Source: State of Hawaiʻi GIS

Kawainui - Hāmākua Master Plan Project
Figure 2.4 - Master Plan Overview



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Testimony in Favor of SCR 146, Kawainui Marsh

Passing of SCR 146 would create the cross-community, cross-agency, multidisciplinary view and forum necessary to turn the threatened watershed into a model of successful, community-backed ahupua'a-centric remediation and restitution.

We have before us a Development Plan for the perimeter landscape, structures, and associated hardscape buildout, under the DLNR-HHF plan that is acknowledged by its designers to be highly constrained, based on State land ownership limits. This Development Plan is thus unable to incorporate ahupuaa-scope waterflow thinking, usage governance, or even take advantage of the innovative watershed management ideas presented at the recent IUCN Conference in Honolulu. Passage of SCR 143 would allow a full ahupuaa-level focus on the situation Kawainui finds itself in, visualizing the future of Kawainui as a flowing watershed fed by 25 sq mi of drainage, feeding in turn its residue to the entire Kailua Bay marine ecosystem, meanwhile providing effective flood prevention for Alele while discovering and preserving the natural environment and human record deposited in the marsh. SCR 143 could promote the essential and thoughtful community involvement, such as the superb model that finally emerged out of the struggle that initiated the somewhat-equivalent conservation of the Hawi Kamehameha statue two decades ago. So essential to success in such an endeavor, community involvement in Kawainui has been fatally underperformed.

Open-minded, inclusive community involvement, is essential, patiently taking the time to consider cause-and-effect of actions, involving keiki thru kupuna, informed by history and science, guided by ahupuaa wisdom (assuming we pick the right ahupuaa model!), creating a balanced governance approach, and dealing effectively with homelessness and tourism pressure – all can be enabled by SCR 143.

Perhaps one of the best community-based models on the scale of Kawainui is the Whanganui Watershed in Aotearoa, which has been transformed from an environmental and economic disaster into a model of success over a 20-year period. Central to this reconstitution of spirit and life of the land was the determination that the watershed ought to have the rights of a living entity, similar to how a corporation has the rights of a person – and those rights include health, sustainability, and representation. Focusing on 'what is right for the watershed' produced dramatic results for Whanganui, its people, and its future economy. Dr Pene Lafale of Massey University, the author of the Whanganui movement, has visited Kawainui, seen the similarities, and has offered to help.

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2017/mar/16/new-zealand-river-granted-same-legal-rights-as-human-being>

The one factor that Whanganui underpredicted and was not prepared for was the massive increase in tourism that occurred. Curiously, tourism has been naively under accounted in the Kawainui development plan, based as it is on the desires of the plan architects rather than on the reality of the tourist business. Better predictions will come thru community involvement, where the examples of tourist industry creativity such as Lanikai Pillbox Trail, Makapuu Trail, and Hanauma Bay, all expanded by the Internet are well understood.

The future of Kawainui is in our hands. First step – an important one – is to call it what it is, Kawainui...aa naturally occurring watershed, heavily abused... it is not a Designed Commodity, eg a Complex, as is All Moana Center or Honolulu Airport, each of which is designed to serve US. Let's get it named correctly in order to gain the proper focus, and serve IT.

SCR 143 will ensure that our minds and hearts are powered by the broadest thinking and most open approach to setting Kawainui on a good course for its own future.

Ted Ralston

738.6814

LATE

SCR-146

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 2:30:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Herman Marciel	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

SCR 146 is an extremely ill-conceived attempt to thwart a plan that has been in preparation for at least 20 years. An Environmental Impact Statement has been prepared that addresses the discussion on the Kawaiui-Hamakua plan. This proposed legislation cherry picks information from the EIS, twists the information and presents conclusions that have no bearing in facts.

The resolution proposes steps that aren't possible, lack scientific standing or are ignorant of the goal of the Hamakua-Kawaiui proposals.

Testimony Regarding Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 146

Submitted by Beth Anderson

March 22, 2018

LATE

Aloha Kakou,

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 146 seeks to model the master plan for Kawainui/Hamakua Marshes on the sterile, artificial, man-made bird ponds surrounded by chain-link fence and manicured lawns that together constitute the Campbell Wildlife Refuge on Oahu's North Shore. This resolution demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the symbiotic relationship between culture, place, rocks, birds, plants, mountain, soil, and human involvement which led to Kawainui's designation as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance. Kawainui isn't just any wetland with endangered native birds, it is the site of the oldest Polynesian settlement in the Hawaiian Islands, which eventually grew to one of the largest Hawaiian settlements in the islands because of its abundant fishpond and the lo'i kalo cultivation at Kawainui. The oldest heiau in the Hawaiian Islands, Ulupō, is at Kawainui, a place still revered and considered sacred by Hawaiians who practice their culture there. It is this history, the native Hawaiian culture, the mo'ōelo of this place, and the ancient archaeology that exists at Kawainui, along with the native birds, that makes it a wetland of international importance.

Senate Resolution 146 effectively removes the very things in the plan put there to preserve the Hawaiian presence at Kawainui, facilitate education about the history and science within that sacred area, and support the work of native Hawaiians laboring there for decades to heal and protect Kawainui. Vital culturally and educationally relevant elements of the master plan and any trace of a living, working, breathing Hawaiian presence at Kawainui is effectively removed by this resolution. This resolution plan is fatal for Kawainui—it effectively kills the promise of a strong Hawaiian presence in Kailua at Kawainui Marsh and reduces Kawainui to a bird pond. It is like ripping the heart and soul from a patient and expecting that patient to survive and thrive after that. In this case the patient is Kawainui, but right now, I am seeing an image of Laura Thielen standing over a Hawaiian who is prostrate on the ground with her foot on that individual's chest and holding that Hawaiian's heart, which she has just ripped out of his chest, in her hand. This is what native Hawaiians of the Kailua Hawaiian Civic Club, 'Ahahui Malama I Ka Lokahi, Hika'alani, Hālau Mōhala 'Iima, Hui Kailua Kawainui Ka Wai Ola, and other native Hawaiians of Kailua, are feeling when they read this Resolution.

The State DLNR Master Plan for Kawainui/Hamakua Marshes recognized the importance of supporting a strong native Hawaiian presence in these wetlands. It was understood and recognized that the healing, stewardship, restoration of native lowland forests and ancient historical sites, lo'i kalo growing, and the cultural and scientific education presently offered at Kawainui by native Hawaiians and DLNR needs to be supported and enhanced to achieve restoration and preservation of this wetland and the native Hawaiian culture there. These were viewed as elements of primary importance.

But, Senator Thielen seems to think native Hawaiians and others coming to the marsh pose a grave danger to native birds and Kawainui Marsh itself, and must be kept out. Her Resolution is the moral equivalent of Trump's wall for the Hawaiians and children of Kailua. There is a total failure to recognize the rich tapestry of culture and environment that weaves the multi-dimensional story of Kawainui and how culture, people and birds co-exist there and can thrive. There is no question that restoration of the wetland and increased lo'i kalo agriculture, and restoration of the fishponds by native Hawaiians, will increase the numbers of native birds at Kawainui. It has been my observation that if you want to see native birds at Kawainui, do not go to the artificially, protected government bird ponds at the Kahanaiki end of the marsh. I have never seen a native bird there. On the other hand, there are scores of native birds in the lo'i kalo at Ulupō, a place heavily populated by people, including kids, working in the lo'i there. I would also recommend going to Hamakua Marsh and look right below the banks near the Creekside Bar, where Harley Davidson's regularly rev their motors, and right below the busy Down to Earth parking lot if you want to see native, endangered birds. I go to Kawainui to paint birds and this is where I find most of them.

Let's take a look at what is left after this Resolution proposed by Senator Thielen removes the Hawaiians, and the needed tool sheds, education centers, cultural centers, restrooms, plant nurseries, maintenance facilities, trails, non-polluting surface parking lots, and boardwalks proposed by the plan. The Resolution removes any planned buildings in the master plan that are within 2000 feet of the marsh because these planned LEED certified, kuahale structures with green septic tank systems, which are less polluting than municipal sewer systems, and don't produce the sludge to be processed at the city sewer treatment plant, are seen as a hazard to the birds of Kawainui by Laura Thielen.

Here is what will remain: the model airplane facility with its model airplanes buzzing through a bird sanctuary and its impervious surface parking lot and locked, private bathroom will remain right on the marsh, as well as the Kailua Kentucky Fried Chicken establishment, and all of the schools, churches, housing developments, condos, a YMCA, and Castle Hospital. These polluting buildings, restrooms, road ways, and large parking lots will remain and expand in some cases. Some of these facilities have just recently expanded (St. John's Lutheran Church just added a large building and Castle Hospital is adding on a very large addition). In addition, Kapa'a Quarry Road runs right through Kawainui Marsh and thousands of cars and trucks drive over that road every single day, and leave their pollutants. None of these features at Kawainui are seen as pollution problem for Kawainui, or our watershed, or a problem for native birds there by Laura Thielen, apparently, and none of these facilities are green buildings. But, if native Hawaiians want to build a green cultural center and education center surrounded by rain gardens, and eco-engineered water polluting mitigation features, green septic systems, green parking lots, and LEED certified engineering, Hawaiians are deemed as polluting and endangering native birds.

This bashing, misinformation about the plan, and denial about the real threats to Kawainui and the native birds there has gone on throughout the process of presenting the State DLNR master plan for Kawainui to the Kailua community and it continues now with this Resolution. The community has been told by some of the Kailua Neighborhood Board members that this master plan will pollute the marsh and pose hydrological problems, things that the EIS looked at thoroughly and deemed false. They have been told by Representative Cynthia Thielen that this master plan “will bring tourists and tour busses,” even though tour busses will not be allowed to park anywhere at Kawainui and are not welcome there. Tourists are not a focus of the plan, even though the community has been told this over and over.

This Resolution was slipped in under the radar and so last minute, that this letter against it is very unpolished and hurried. I apologize for that and I do not have time to address other problems I see with this Resolution. I did want to mention the Visitor Counts that were discussed—10000 a month proposed by DLNR, which Laura Thielen says is unacceptable. This does not seem unreasonable if you look at the number of Kailua residents and school children coming to the marsh each month right now. I often bike the levee and there are up to 200 local residents using that levee each day. That is 6000 people per month. There are another 100-200 kids, native Hawaiian stewards and other volunteers and students coming each week to Kawainui, which adds on another 3000 local residents at the marsh each month. This is a total of around 9000 local residents at the marsh every month already.

I don't have time to finish this testimony and get it in because of the last minute notice, so I am submitting it undone and will end it here. I urge you not to accept and pass Resolution No. 146.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Anderson

LATE

SCR-146

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 7:42:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaily Wakefield	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Water & Land

Committee on Agriculture & Environment

Friday, March 23, 2018 2:15 p.m., Conference Room 224

Re: S.C.R. 146

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Gabbard, Vice Chairs, and members of the committees,

My name is Kaily Wakefield, I am a resident of Kaneohe and I am submitting this testimony in **Support** of S.C.R 146 in my individual capacity.

This resolution is important for the preservation and restoration of the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex, a unique wetland which supports Hawaii's four endangered waterbirds and visiting migratory waterbirds. The marsh is already heavily impacted by pollution from various sources, including the nearby roadways and abandoned rubbish that enters the wetlands.

We cannot afford to let this beautiful and important habitat further degrade. Unfortunately, DLNR's Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan will only be making the current degradation worse. This plan violates Hawaii's public trust doctrine, which states: "For the benefit of present and future generations, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air, minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation . . . All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people."

I support the preservation and restoration of the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.C.R. 146

Sincerely,

Kaily Wakefield

LATE

SCR-146

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 9:10:30 PM
Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Hayes	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I think it is imperative to stop the master plan as it is detrimental to the health and well being of Kawaiinui.

LATE

SCR-146

Submitted on: 3/22/2018 9:31:40 PM
Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Betsy Connors	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

For four decades I have lived in Maunawili Valley. Its beauty is outstanding as is the contribution it makes to the Kawainui Marsh via its mountain waters. It is way past time to assess the incomparable value of the Maunawili Valley, in terms that can be understood by all. The health of the marsh depends on the health of the valley. This resolution is the beginning of the process to assess Kawainui's current status and protect its future. Thank you so much for considering this vital resolution.

Mahalo,

Betsy Connors

808 261-8839

LATE

**Testimony Supporting SCR95 and SR55
Relating to Conserving the Maunawili forest and lo'i**
Senate Committee on Water and Land, and
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Friday, March 23, 2018, 2:45PM, Conference Room 224

SUPPORTING THE PURCHASE, PRESERVATION, AND RESTORATION OF AGRICULTURAL AND CONSERVATION LANDS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY, O'AHU, AND URGING VARIOUS FEDERAL, STATE, AND COUNTY ENTITIES TO ACQUIRE AND PROTECT IMPORTANT ANCIENT AND HISTORIC SITES AND TRAILS AND WATERS IN MAUNAWILI VALLEY.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair Wakai, and Committee Members,

‘Ahahui Mālama I ka Lōkahi is writing in strong support of the purchase, preservation and restoration of the 900+ privately-owned acres in Maunawili. Our Mission Statement is: To Practice, Promote and Perpetuate a Modern Native Hawaiian Conservation Ethic. We are mālama ‘aina practitioners who were formerly organized in the mid 1990s. The evidence of our work includes but is not limited to Kawainui, Kailua Ahupua’a: we have restored 4 acres (11 acres remain) of native lowland forest at Na Pōhaku o Hauwahine; opened ancient as well as new lo’i (taro patches) at Ulupo Heiau and created native bird habits at several islets at the Kaha-Park end of Kawainui. The list is lengthy however it is important to understand that we know of what we speak when it comes to both cultural and environmental restoration and practice; the evidence is in the ground. We do not preach but rather, we are active cultural and malama ‘aina practitioners. We are also members of Hui Maunawili-Kawainui.

- The words of our Mission Statement “...a Modern Native Hawaiian Conservation Ethic” can be expressed several ways. One ethic is that we are all connected from Mauka to Makai and the seasoil beyond. In contemporary times our concerns extend beyond the outer reefs. Therefore, the impact of the waters that flow through the subject Maunawili lands of Kailua Ahupua’a (developed or conserved) (TMK No.s: (1)4-2-006:001, (1)4-2-006:008, (1)4-2-007:001, (1)4-2-008:001, (1)4-2-008:005, and (1)4-2-009:001) directly impact Kawainui Marsh. Kawainui waters continue to flow to our shoreline and to the deep blue waters beyond. The deep blue waters eventually touch other shores. We are all connected. We have a kuleana (responsibility) to protect Maunawili waters as close to its source—the Ko’olau Mountain—as possible. Conserving these lands will be a significant step forward in protecting ka wai a Kane, the life giving waters of Kane.
- Trails were our highways and bi-ways in ancient times. Our ancestors used the trail systems to move from one kauhale (village) to the other. Trails led to sacred areas; to areas where natural resources were available to maintain the material culture; to plants used in healing; to food sources; to freshwater springs; to the mighty Koa used for the wa’a. Today, access to trails, especially in culturally significant areas, is critically important to cultural practitioners and native Hawaiian youth. Many of our young people have become disconnected from their culture and practice. Today we use Eddie Kamae’s “Listen To The Forest” documentary as one of our teaching tools. We seek continued

access to these trails that lead into the forest. We look forward to working with youth, the greater community and our Hui Maunawili-Kawanui partners to malama these trails as an act of kuleana as well as building a narrative of identity for our Hawaiian youth. Ahahui Malama I ka Lokahi has a deep and long history of restoring lands, building and maintaining trails, providing youth and community groups with educational and cultural opportunities, planting native plants and trees. Purchasing the Maunawili lands is imperative. It will allow all of us to work together as the rightful, caring stewards of these lands.

- Lawmakers will be shocked to see how historical and cultural sites have degraded over time. In 2000, ‘**Ahahui Mālama I ka Lōkahi**’ met with the landowners, with the Trust for Public Lands, OHA and the Kailua Historical Society for purpose of preserving “Queen’s Retreat” where Lili‘uokalani took respite and wrote the song “Aloha ‘Oe”, as well as heiau, petroglyphs, wahi pana and ancient agricultural terraces. We volunteered to maintain the area however, the landowners feared the liability of allowing volunteers to malama the area. Therefore, the Queens retreat was allowed to degrade, to be vandalized and to be consumed by the forest. Not only shameful but this is painful as well. HRT has not been a good steward of our historical lands. The Maunawili lands must be purchased for the purpose of protecting and restoring its cultural treasures and environment.
- The subject Maunawili lands include almost all of Kailua’s Hanalei soil – the richest and most fertile soil in Hawai‘i – and can once again grow kalo and other healthy food crops that can significantly increase Hawai‘i’s local food production.
- As a consequence of restoring 4 acres of a native lowland forest at Na Pohaku we now have a mature forest consisting of high and low canopy trees, brush and groundcovers. We have observed that an established native forest is more resistant to aggressive, alien species. We can also say that pono (balance) is being restored to the ‘aina. It is vital to protect and improve the natural habitat for native and endangered species. We can bring this experience to our Maunawili partners that will further protect native species including three endangered Hawaiian damselflies, the Hawaiian Hoary Bat, O‘ahu ‘Elepaio, and many native plants such as ‘Akoko, ‘Ohe‘ohe, Alani, and Haha.

In closing, ‘Ahahui Mālama I ka Lōkahi is in full support of SCR95 and SR55. We see this as a path to restoring responsible ahupua’a resource management practice and for the community to be involved as pono stewards of these lands for today and our descendants yet to come..

Malama ‘Aina,

C. Lehuakona Isaacs (please contact me at mobile, (808) 386-2034, or email: palikea@hawaii.rr.com should you need to confirm my signature)

Name: C. Lehuakona Isaacs

Title: President

Organization: ‘Ahahui Mālama I ka Lōkahi

Website : www.ahahui.net



**World
Wetlands Day**
2 February 2018

Wetlands for a sustainable urban future



Hāwea Heiau Complex
& Keawāwa Wetland

LATE

March 22, 2018

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senate Committee on Water and Land

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture & Environment

RE: Support for SCR 146: DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO PREPARE A COMPREHENSIVE WETLANDS ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PLAN, A DETAILED WATERBIRD HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN, AND A COMPREHENSIVE WETLANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN TO PROTECT HAWAII'S FOUR ENDANGERED WATERBIRDS AND VISITING MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS IN THE KAWAINUI-HAMAKUA WETLANDS COMPLEX

Aloha,

On February 14, 2014 Livable Hawaii Kai Hui became the owner and steward of a lands known as Hāwea heiau complex and Keawāwa wetland. Keawāwa is a spring-fed estuarine wetland and still connected to Kuapa Pond. This wetland provides habitat for indigenous 'auku'u (black-crowned night heron), endemic piano (giant green damer dragonfly), various species of native damselflies, and the endangered 'alae'ula (Hawaiian moorhen). We rely upon island-wide visitors, school groups, and area residents to help us carry out a conservation plan provided by our partner NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Services).

- The first most important thing we learned from NRCS was *“to understand the wetland ecosystem in support of protecting the habitat of the endangered 'alae'ula”*.
- Of equal importance was what the late Ron Walker taught us when at Keawāwa guiding us on being good stewards of wetlands. He said *“Each little wetland pocket helps to maintain the well-being and genetic diversity of wetland species in Hawaii”*.

The success of the endangered alae'ula thriving at Keawāwa wetland rests upon our conservation plan which includes a restoration plan for the uplands, a wetland enhancement plan for the alae'ula, and a management plan for predator control. These plans rest upon understanding the resources of the land, wetland ecosystem, animal habitat (endangered and other). Absent of a comprehensive wetlands management plan how can you steward lands where endangered waterbirds nest, let alone welcome the public?

At the 2018 World Wetlands Day celebration we discussed the need for connectivity of wetland managers and wetland data and practices so to improve the health and longevity of our endangered wetland birds and visiting migratory waterbirds. What happens at Kawainui Marsh has an impact on all island-wide wetlands.

I ask you join me in supporting the passage of SCR146 which simply speaks to our responsibility to elevate our actions to be better stewards of this specific wetland treasure.

Warmest aloha,
Elizabeth Reilly, President, Livable Hawaii Kai Hui

LATE

SCR-146

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 2:43:50 PM
Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
De MONT R. D. CONNER	Testifying for Ho'omanapono Political Action Committee (HPAC)	Support	Yes

Comments:

We STRONGLY SUPPORT this resolution. Mahalo.

LATE

To: Committees on Water and Land and Agriculture and Environment

From: Beth Anderson

Re: Opposition to S.C.R. 146

URGING ACTIONS TO RESTORE AND RESERVE THE KAWAINUI-HAMAKUA MARSH COMPLEX AND PREPARATION OF A COMPREHENSIVE WETLANDS ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION PLAN. A DETAILED WATERBIRD HABITAT RESTORATION PLAN, AND A COMPREHENSIVE WETLANDS MANAGEMENT PLAN TO PROTECT HAWAII'S FOUR ENDANGERED WATERBIRDS AND VISITING MIGRATORY WATERBIRDS IN THE KAWAINUI-HAMAKUA MARSH COMPLEX.

Aloha Chairs and Members of Respectful Committees,

I am testifying in opposition to SCR 146 for the following reasons:

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 146 seeks to model the master plan for Kawainui/Hamakua Marshes on the sterile, artificial, man-made bird ponds surrounded by chain-link fence and manicured lawns that together constitute the Campbell Wildlife Refuge on Oahu's North Shore. This resolution demonstrates a complete lack of understanding of the symbiotic relationship between culture, place, rocks, birds, plants, mountain, soil, water, and human involvement, which led to Kawainui's designation as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance.

The following article from National Public Radio (*New Zealand River given Human Rights*) recognizes this concept. The legislature should consider similar legislation for Kawainui. <https://www.npr.org/sections/thetwo-way/2017/03/16/520414763/a-new-zealand-river-now-has-the-legal-rights-of-a-human> Another look at the measure from The Huffington Post: https://www.huffingtonpost.com.au/2017/03/15/new-zealand-just-gave-this-river-human-rights_a_21897192/

In summary, the local Māori people, who view the river as "an indivisible and living whole," were given guardianship of the river they call Te Awa Tupua. Similar legislation has been passed in other areas of the world.

Kawainui isn't just any wetland with endangered native birds; it is the site of the oldest Polynesian settlement in the Hawaiian Islands and because of its abundant fishpond and lo'i kalo cultivation eventually grew to be one of the largest Hawaiian settlements in the islands. One of the oldest heiau in the Hawaiian Islands, Ulupō, is at Kawainui, a place still revered and considered sacred by Hawaiians who practice their culture there. It is this history, the native Hawaiian culture, the mo'oeolo of this place, and the ancient archaeology that exists at Kawainui, along with the native birds, that makes it a wetland needing guardianship of native Hawaiians and one of international importance. In stark contrast, this resolution reduces Kawainui to a bird pond and ignores the reality of what constitutes Kawainui as a whole and the integrity of the native Hawaiian groups caring for her.

Senate Resolution 146 effectively removes the very things in the plan put there to preserve the Hawaiian presence at Kawainui, facilitate education about the history and

science within this sacred area, and support the work of native Hawaiians laboring there for decades to heal and protect Kawainui. Any trace of a living, working, breathing Hawaiian presence at Kawainui will be hindered by this resolution, when it should be aided. Eliminating the Hawaiian culture center and other elements that support Hawaiian culture is like ripping the heart and soul from Kawainui and expecting it to continue to survive and thrive. The State DLNR Master Plan for Kawainui/Hamakua Marshes recognized the importance of supporting a strong native Hawaiian presence in these wetlands. It was understood and recognized that the healing, stewardship, restoration of native lowland forests and ancient historical sites, lo'i kalo growing, and the cultural and scientific education presently offered at Kawainui by native Hawaiians needs to be supported and enhanced to achieve restoration and preservation of this wetland and the native Hawaiian culture there. These were viewed as elements of primary importance.

But, Senator Thielen seems to think native Hawaiians and others coming to the marsh pose a grave danger to native birds and Kawainui Marsh itself, and must be kept out. There is a total failure to recognize the rich tapestry of culture and environment that weaves the multi-dimensional story of Kawainui and how culture, people and birds co-exist there and can thrive. There is no question that restoration of the wetland and increased lo'i kalo agriculture, and restoration of the fishponds by native Hawaiians, will increase the numbers of native birds at Kawainui. It has been my observation that if you want to see native birds at Kawainui, do not go to the artificially, protected government bird ponds at the Kahanaiki end of the marsh. I have never seen a native bird there. On the other hand, there are scores of native birds in the lo'i kalo at Ulupō, a place heavily populated by people, including kids, working in the lo'i there. I would also recommend going to Hamakua Marsh and look right below the banks near the Creekside Bar, where Harley Davidson's regularly rev their motors, and right below the busy Down to Earth parking lot if you want to see native, endangered birds. I go to Kawainui to paint birds and this is where I find most of them.

Let's take a look at what is left after this Resolution proposed by Senator Thielen removes the Hawaiians, and the needed tool sheds, education centers, cultural centers, restrooms, plant nurseries, maintenance facilities, trails, non-polluting surface parking lots, and boardwalks proposed by the plan. The Resolution removes any planned buildings in the master plan that are within 2000 feet of the marsh because these planned LEED certified, kuahale structures with green septic tank systems, which are less polluting than municipal sewer systems, and don't produce the sludge to be processed at the city sewer treatment plant, are seen as a hazard to the birds of Kawainui by Laura Thielen.

Here is what will remain: the model airplane facility with its model airplanes buzzing through a bird sanctuary and its impervious surface parking lot and locked, private bathroom will remain right on the marsh, as well as the Kailua Kentucky Fried Chicken establishment, and all of the schools, churches, housing developments, condos, a YMCA, and Castle Hospital. These polluting buildings, restrooms, roadways, and large parking lots will remain and expand in some cases. Some of these facilities have just recently expanded (St. John's Lutheran Church just added a large building and Castle Hospital is

adding on a very large addition). In addition, Kapa'a Quarry Road runs right through Kawainui Marsh and thousands of cars and trucks drive over that road every single day, and leave their pollutants. None of these features at Kawainui are seen as pollution problem for Kawainui, or our watershed, or a problem for native birds there by Laura Thielen, apparently, and none of these facilities are green buildings. But, if native Hawaiians want to build a green cultural center and education center surrounded by rain gardens, and eco-engineered water polluting mitigation features, green septic systems, green parking lots, and LEED certified engineering, Hawaiians are deemed as polluting and endangering native birds.

Misinformation about the plan, and denial about the real threats to Kawainui and the native birds there has gone on throughout the process of presenting the State DLNR master plan for Kawainui to the Kailua community and it continues now with this Resolution. The community has been told by some of the Kailua Neighborhood Board members that this master plan will pollute the marsh and pose hydrological problems, things that the EIS looked at thoroughly and deemed false. They have been told by Representative Cynthia Thielen that this master plan "will bring tourists and tour busses," even though tour busses will not be allowed to park anywhere at Kawainui and are not in any way a focus of this plan, even though the community has been told this over and over.

I did want to mention the Visitor Counts that were discussed—an increase to 10000 a month proposed by DLNR, which Laura Thielen implies is problematic. This does not seem unreasonable if you look at the number of Kailua residents and school children coming to the marsh each month right now. I often bike the levee and there are up to 200 local residents using that levee each day. That is 6000 people per month. There are another 100-200 kids, native Hawaiian stewards and other volunteers and students coming each week to Kawainui, which adds on another 1000 local residents at the marsh each month. This is a total of around 7000 local residents at the marsh every month already. I think DLNR is estimating another 3000 residents using the area once planned trails and boardwalks in the master plan are constructed. Residents will continue to enjoy Kawainui and the passive recreation offered there, as well as the ongoing educational programs, unless this Resolution's intent is to fence off the entire perimeter of the marsh and keep everyone out except birds as does Campbell Wildlife Refuge. Please consider Mercer Slough, a wetland in the heart of Bellevue, Washington and similar to many Audubon Centers across the nation as a model for Kawainui/Hamakua Marshes rather than Campbell Wildlife Refuge. Information about Mercer Slough at: <https://parks.bellevuewa.gov/parks-and-trails/nature-trails/mercer-slough-nature-park-trails/>

I urge you not to accept and pass Resolution No. 146.

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Anderson

Parks and Recreation(<https://bellevuewa.gov/>) / Parks & Trails (<https://bellevuewa.gov/parks-and-trails/>) / Nature Trails(<https://bellevuewa.gov/parks-and-trails/nature-trails/>) / **Mercer Slough Nature Park Trails**

Mercer Slough Nature Park Trails



Nestled in the heart of Bellevue, the 320-acre Mercer Slough Nature Park offers a tranquil setting for a variety of recreational experiences: biking, hiking, canoeing, blueberry picking, and environmental education. The Mercer Slough is Lake Washington's largest remaining wetland, containing hundreds of plant species and an abundance of water resources. The park

provides a diverse habitat for over 170 species of wildlife. Interconnected boardwalks, soft surface trails, and asphalt paths transport visitors through this unique urban wetland.

Mercer Slough Nature Park Trail

Map([https://bellevuewa.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_4779004/File/P:
& Community Services/Natural-Resources/Trails/merc-slough-nature-park-trail-map.pdf](https://bellevuewa.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_4779004/File/P&C/Community%20Services/Natural-Resources/Trails/merc-slough-nature-park-trail-map.pdf))

Contact

Parks & Community Services

450 110th Avenue NE
or PO Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Telephone
425-452-6885

Email
[parksweb@bellevuea.gov](mailto:parksweb@bellevuewa.gov)
(<mailto:parksweb@bellevuewa.gov>)

Social Media



(<https://www.facebook.com/byb>)

The Periphery Trail

The Periphery Trail is an asphalt path circling the perimeter of the park. The trail is ideal for jogging, bicycling, rollerblading and strollers. A component of the Lake Washington Bike Loop and Mountains to Sound Greenway, the path provides connections to Newcastle Beach Park, Seattle, Factoria, Renton, and beyond. Portions of the Periphery Trail will be closed during Sound Transit construction.

The Bellefields Trail

The Bellefields Trail loops through upland forest, scrub-shrub wetland, and open meadow habitats to the edge of the slough channel.

The Winters House Visitor Center

Winters House will be closed until the completion of Sound Transit construction. For information, call the Education Center at 425-452-2565.

The Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

The Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center offers educational

The Heritage Trail

The Heritage Trail, located behind the Winters House, meanders past remnants of old greenhouses, though an abandoned rhododendron nursery, and parallels the historic blueberry fields.

The Canoe Trail

The Canoe Trail allows visitors a unique beaver's-eye view of the Mercer Slough. Canoe rentals are available at Enatai Beach Park through Cascade Canoe & Kayak Centers. The City offers guided

classes on wetland ecology.

trips on Saturday mornings, May-September.

Contact the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center (425-452-2565) for more information.

To Reach the Trailhead:

West side of the park: Sweyolocken Boat Launch (<http://parks.bellevuewa.gov/parks-and-trails/parks/sweyolocken-boat-launch>), 3000 Bellevue Way SE

East side of the park:

- Bellefields Trailhead(<https://bellevuewa.gov/parks-and-trails/parks/bellefields-trailhead-at-mercere-slough-nature-park/>), 2101 118th Ave SE
- Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center(<https://bellevuewa.gov/rentals/indoor-rentals/mercere-slough-environmental-education-center/>), 1625 118th Ave SE

Directions:

East side trailhead parking is available at the Environmental Education Center, 1625 118th Avenue SE or the Bellefields Trailhead at 2101 118th Avenue SE.

West side trailhead parking is available at the Sweyolocken Boat Launch, 3000 Bellevue Way SE

Parks and Recreation(<https://bellevuewa.gov/>) / Parks & Trails (<https://bellevuewa.gov/parks-and-trails/>) / Bellevue's Parks(<https://bellevuewa.gov/parks-and-trails/parks/>) / **Mercer Slough Nature Park**

Mercer Slough Nature Park

NOTICE: Winters House:

(<http://parks.bellevuewa.gov/parks-and-trails/parks/winters-house/>) CLOSED due to Light Rail construction

PARKING: As of July 31, 2017, the parking lots at the Winters House and Blueberry Farm are closed due to East Link light rail construction. Access to Mercer Slough Park and the trail system will remain open, and a new temporary parking lot near the South Bellevue Station site is be available for users. The new lot is for Mercer Slough Park users only; not commuters. Details can be found in Sound Transit's July 25 Construction Alert

(<https://www.soundtransit.org/Projects-and-Plans/east-link-extension/Construction-alert-072517>).

Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

(<https://parks.bellevuewa.gov/nature-and-environment/visitor-centers-environmental-programs/mercer-slough-environmental-education-center/>):

1625 118th Ave. SE, 425-452-2565

MSEEC Community Room Rentals

(<http://parks.bellevuewa.gov/rentals/indoor-rentals/mercer-slough-environmental-education-center/>):

Contact

Parks & Community Services

450 110th Avenue NE
or PO Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Telephone
425-452-6885

Customer Assistance
MyBellevue App

(<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/civil-services/mybellevue/customer-assistance/>)

Social Media



(<https://www.facebook.com/byb>)

1625 118th Avenue SE, 425-452-6914

Sweyolocken Boat Launch:

(<http://parks.bellevuewa.gov/parks-and-trails/parks/sweyolocken-boat-launch/>)

3000 Bellevue Way SE (non-motorized boats)

Bellefields Trailhead:

(<https://parks.bellevuewa.gov/parks-and-trails/parks/bellefields-trailhead-at-mercerc-slough-nature-park/>)

1905 118th Ave. SE

Amenities

7+ miles trails, visitors center, environmental education center, picnic areas, waterfront, canoe launch, blueberry farm, and restrooms. Just minutes from downtown, the Mercer Slough Nature Park is the largest of Lake Washington's remaining fresh water wetlands and is one of Bellevue's largest parks. Explore over 320 acres of wildlife habitat, agriculture, and freshwater wetland ecosystems on 7+ miles of trails including a unique canoe trail. The blueberry farm sells fresh seasonal produce. The beautifully restored historic Winters House (closed during construction) is Bellevue's only public building on the National Historic Register. The Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center is a partnership with the Pacific Science Center focusing on freshwater wetland ecology, provides a park visitor center (open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) and offers programs for adults, youth and families.

Free Guided Ranger Walks

Selected Sundays, 2 p.m. - please call 425-452-2565 for info and to RSVP.

Guided Canoe Tours

Canoe tour information([https://bellevuewa.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_4779004/File/Parks & Community Services/Natural-Resources/MSEEC/mercerc-slough-guided-canoe-trips-2017.pdf](https://bellevuewa.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_4779004/File/Parks%20&%20Community%20Services/Natural-Resources/MSEEC/mercerc-slough-guided-canoe-trips-2017.pdf)) and [M of Enatai Beach Park and Mercer Slough Nature Park Water Trail](http://parks.bellevuewa.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_4779004/File/pdf/Parks/enatai_mercerc_slough_water_t_of_Enatai_Beach_Park_and_Mercerc_Slough_Nature_Park_Water_Trail) (http://parks.bellevuewa.gov/UserFiles/Servers/Server_4779004/File/pdf/Parks/enatai_mercerc_slough_water_t)

(206) 443-2001 feedback@pacsci.org

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Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center

Visit Mercer Slough

Located on a biologically diverse 320-acre wetland nature park in the heart of urban Bellevue, WA, Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center is a collaboration between the City of Bellevue and Pacific Science Center. To learn more about Mercer Slough Nature Park or adult and family programs offered by the City of Bellevue, stop by the Visitor Center and talk to a Park Ranger or visit bellevuewa.gov.

Mercer Slough Educational Programs



Kids & Early Learners

From preschool to camps to Wild B'earthday parties, we offer engaging programming that will ignite your child's curiosity in nature.

Teens

Jumpstart your teen's experience in environmental education with our innovative programs.

Families & Groups

Looking for activities to do with your family or a large group to connect with nature? We have something for everyone.

Teachers & School Groups

Plan your next field trip, classroom lessons, or check out our educator resources.



Mercer Slough
1625 118th Avenue
SE
Bellevue, WA 98005



For more information about Mercer Slough, call (425) 450-0207.



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709
Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com
www.hawaii Audubon.org

LATE

THE SENATE
TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Friday, March 23, 2018
2:15 p.m., Conference Room 224, State Capitol

S.C.R. 146

Chairperson Rhoads, Chairperson Gabbard, Vice Chairpersons, and members of the committees, my name is Linda Paul and I am testifying in favor of S.C.R. 146 as a volunteer, President of and in behalf of the approximately 2000 members of the Hawaii Audubon Society.

This resolution urges the Department of Land & Natural Resources and the Department of Health to take action to restore and preserve the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex and the preparation of a comprehensive wetlands ecosystem restoration plan, a detailed waterbird habitat restoration plan, and a comprehensive wetlands management plan to protect Hawaii's four endangered waterbirds and visiting migratory waterbirds in the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex. While SCR146 may not specify the agencies responsible for taking these actions, these are conservation actions that the public trust doctrine requires these state agencies to take to preserve these important wetlands.

Article XI Section 1 of the Constitution of Hawaii provides: "For the benefit of present and future generation, the State and its political subdivisions shall conserve and protect Hawaii's natural beauty and all natural resources, including land, water, air minerals and energy sources, and shall promote the development and utilization of these resources in a manner consistent with their conservation . . . All public natural resources are held in trust by the State for the benefit of the people."

The diversion of the natural flow of water through Kawainui and Hamakua marshes and the pollution that enters these wetlands from a variety of sources are the primary reasons for the current degradation of these important natural resources. DLNR's Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh Complex Master Plan will add to this degradation. At the last public presentation on the Master

Jan 18, 2018
Le Jardin

Plan a chart was displayed that indicated that 52 structures are to be built along the last edges of the Marsh that currently do not have buildings.

Summary of Potential Built Environment
Potential Facilities - Quantity and Area

Facility Type	Quantity	Area (SF)
Educational (Education Center)	1	5,600
Resource/Habitat Enhancement (DOFAW Veg. Processing Site, DOFAW Management & Research Station, Mokulana Peninsula, DOFAW Storage Facility)	12	26,600
Cultural (Kauhale at Pohakea, Kapaa Cultural Center Wailaula Cultural Center, Ulupo Heiau State Historical Park)	25	42,900
Recreational (Hale Waa at Kalaheo Section, Observation Decks, Program Pavilions)	12	9,200
<u>Restroom</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>700</u>
TOTAL	52	85,000

The above chart shows only two restrooms. We must assume that these are outdoor public restrooms. But how can two restrooms service the 10,000 visitors/month that the Master Plan is designed to attract and accommodate? We must also assume that each of the Built Facilities will have restrooms connected to drain/leach fields from which the nutrients from human waste will percolate down into the water table and enter the wetlands.

The Kailua Neighborhood Board, most of the Kailua Community and the conservation community are very opposed to opening up the Marsh to 10,000 visitors per month 12 months out of the year, and granting long term leases to private groups who want to construct buildings and restrooms makai of the Quarry Road that will not be hooked up to the City's waste water treatment plant. Their structures and facilities will also be closed to the public most of the time. Most importantly the Master Plan draft Environmental Impact Statement has a \$63 million price tag and most of that will NOT be spent on water flow restoration or on wildlife wetland habitat restoration.

The Kawainui-Hamakua wetlands are part of a single mountain-to-ocean ecosystem that has been altered and severely degraded over the years by human exploitation. Upstream water diversions to the Waimanalo watershed and the construction of a dyke has prevented stream flow from following its natural course through Kawainui Marsh, through Hamakua Marsh, and on into the ocean. Instead, normal water flow has been diverted to the artificial Oneawa canal, which doesn't allow water out of the Kawainui wetland ecosystem at low water levels. The

impact of these diversions, plus pollution from Kapa`a valley industrial park and horse stables, alien California grass and Hale Koa introduced to feed cattle, private residences and a hospital along more than half of the Kawainui Marsh border, and businesses, streets, and parking lots, have led to the buildup of the huge 8-10 feet thick floating peat mat in the center of Kawainui Marsh that acts as a plug during storm events and results in downstream flooding despite the dyke. Unfortunately DLNR's "Master Plan Project" facilitates increased human use of the Kawainui and Hamakua wetlands and their continuing piece-meal destruction, instead of focusing on the restoration of these public trust resources and wetlands of international importance.

Hawaii's public trust doctrine requires that:

- 1) Kawainui Marsh be closed to visitors during the waterbird nesting season,
- 2) the Maunawilli Valley water diverted to Waimanalo be restored to the Kawainui Marsh watershed,
- 3) the waterbird habitat ponds be excavated down to the water table so that they function naturally,
- 4) the water that flows into the ponds be allowed to flow out of the ponds so that stagnant water doesn't cause botulism in native and migratory waterbirds,
- 5) Kapa`a industrial waste be prevented from entering and polluting Kawainui Marsh,
- 6) the central peat mat in Kawainui Marsh be removed to help prevent flooding of Kailua town,
- 7) all buildings upstream of Kawainui and Hamakua marshes be connected to the city's wastewater treatment facilities, and
- 8) the waters of the Ko`olaupoku watershed be allowed to flow where history and geology indicate they should flow, which is through the Kawainui and Hamakua marshes, through the Kawainui-Hamakua stream and the Kaelepulu stream and down into the sea.

Please pass this Resolution and thank you for the opportunity to testify about the development that is being planned for the Kawainui - Hamakua Marsh Complex.

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