



SIERRA CLUB OF HAWAI'I
MĀLAMA I KA HONUA. *Cherish the Earth.*

LATE

Testimony of the Sierra Club of Hawai'i to the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
March 23, 2018 2:55PM Room 224
In opposition SCR 49 and 63

Aloha Chairwoman Case and members of the Land Board,

On behalf of our 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i strongly oppose a permanent seawall at the Hololani Condominium.

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i strives to improve local actions to mitigate for and adapt to climate change, especially sea level rise. This seawall at Hololani is an example of the short-term planning decisions that have destroyed shorelines throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Maui has lost more than 4 miles of beaches to coastal erosion fronting seawalls and other shoreline armoring. Many more miles of beach could be lost with sea level rise, if widespread armoring is continued to happen.

Seawalls eliminate the ability of beaches to naturally fluctuate with changing waves and tide. With nowhere to go, sandy beaches are squished between an unyielding seawall and rising water levels. Without proper transport, beaches are eventually lost, public shoreline access is hindered, coastal habitats suffer and local economies are impacted. Worse, seawall projects typically cost in the millions of dollars, putting a serious drain on financial resources that could otherwise be spent to make the road better.

Shoreline planners from the Maui County Planning Department (MPD) and the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands (OCCL) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) determined that the Hololani project would impact the coastal zone as a result of shoreline hardening, create a wave environment that will contribute to further narrowing of the public beach and sand loss fronting the Hololani and would likely accelerate episodic and long-term erosion on adjacent, unarmored portions of the Kahana Bay beach cell.

Item D-3 submittal incorrectly indicates “no further regulatory requirements” are pending because the shoreline certification, Department of Health water quality certification processes, and concurrent resolutions from state lawmakers remain incomplete. Permitting construction under the easement without prior authorization by the governor and a concurrent resolution from the legislature violates Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 171-53(c).

That data shows impairment of waters due to exceedance of state standards for ammonium, nitrates/ nitrites, and turbidity. The Hololani project’s addition of further pollutants to already impaired waters would violate Hawaii’s anti-degradation policy.

Affected community members have raised questions about Hololani’s “hybrid revetment” and whether it qualifies as a reasonable alternative in light of new information, disclosed after Hololani published its 2013 Final Environmental Assessment, that an offshore source of sand may feasibly be used for regional beach renourishment.

The Hololani AOAO should only be allowed to construct a temporary seawall to be used until beach nourishment activities can be properly reviewed and implemented. The applicant should not be allowed to construct a permanent structure, as the staff report recommends.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

LATE

SCR-49

Submitted on: 3/23/2018 7:42:34 AM
Testimony for WTL on 3/23/2018 2:55:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MaryAnn Omerod	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF A TERM, NON-EXCLUSIVE EASEMENT COVERING A PORTION OF STATE SUBMERGED LANDS SEAWARD OF TAX MAP KEY: (2) 4-3-010:009 AT KAHANA, LAHAINA, MAUI, FOR SEAWALL AND ROCK REVETMENT PURPOSES.

Although seawalls are an attempt to halt coastal erosion, they can be extremely detrimental to neighboring beaches, nearshore ecosystems and water quality.