



**HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM**  
**A S S O C I A T I O N**

Testimony of  
Mufi Hannemann  
President & CEO  
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

House Committee on Water & Land

House Resolution 81, Proposed HD1: Requesting the City & County of Honolulu to develop a comprehensive plan to drain and clear streams and canals that flow in residential areas in Waiahole and other Ko'olauloa communities.

Chair Tarnas and members of the Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers — has seen the devastating effects that nature can have on our statewide community and its infrastructure. Flooding, hurricanes, tsunamis all pose significant risk of damage to both local residents and property. Despite the seeming randomness of these events, it is apparent that much of this risk could be mitigated via the actions urged in the proposed draft of this measure.

An immediate action that can be taken is the clearance of the streams and canals that be found around the City & County of Honolulu. This would help to minimize the risk of extreme flooding during the next severe weather event. Moreover, improving our local flash flood warning system and creating comprehensive evacuation plans in the event of flooding would diminish the likelihood of unneeded fatalities due to flooding. In the big picture, these are relatively small requests that can have outsized consequences for our community and its residents.

**For these reasons, HLTA supports House Resolution 81, Proposed HD1.**

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

**HR-81**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:14:26 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Bronze Fonoimoana	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Support

**HR-81**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 8:29:08 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joe Wilson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I'm writing as a member of the Ko'olau Waialua Alliance in Strong Support of HR 81, "URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU, TO IMMEDIATELY AND REGULARLY CLEAN THE DRAINAGE CANALS AND STREAMS IN KANEOHE AND KAILUA AND DEVELOP RECOMMENDED CLEANING SCHEDULES FOR DRAINAGE CANALS AND STREAMS."

The Ko'olau Waialua Alliance is a grassroots network of residents and community groups across Oahu's north and windward shores uniting to ensure more just and sustainable realities for current and future generations.

The storms that ravaged our region over the past few weeks not only disrupted family and community life in extraordinary ways, they posed grave threats to human health and the environment.

With more regular maintenance and upkeep of our critical infrastructure, it is my hope that we can mitigate and avoid such emergencies in the future.

I hope you will take these concerns for our region to heart and take action on this important resolution.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Joe Wilson

Waiale'e, North Shore O'ahu

**HR-81**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 9:31:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2021 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Derrick Pressley	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Hawaii State Legislature, the flooding on 3/9/21 has been a very difficult for my mom and me in the city of Hauula. We had the stream of Kaluanui, from Sacred Falls jump the bank, and come through our garage, 2' high destroying our positions TV's, decese dad recording studio, photos, artwork and enter my sports car. Brown mud and feces are spread all over our home. We have been dumping and cleaning for thirteen days. We still have little help hiring my neighbors' children to help. We are borrowing a truck of the neighbor to transport rubbish to the dump five times now. We just purchased lumber for shelving to get what is left higher up to 2' of the ground. As I tried to sand bag the side of my home during the flood the brown water rushed through with force. Our garbage cans washed away, my mom went to retrieve them, and was almost swept away in the fast flood water. Mom needed help to get back to the house in the flood water, by the neighbors. We have at least two weeks more of cleaning, clothing, cars inside, stored boxes now wet with contents destroyed. I was told the road behind the falls was unpermitted and paved that helped the speed of the water and carried it our way. You can also see the stream is still not cleared with homeless folks living at the bank. This is financially hard and physically difficult. Please develop or maintain the streams in Hauula. This was a tragedy that didn't need to happen. Thank you.***

**HR-81**

Submitted on: 3/22/2021 9:41:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/23/2021 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Tevita O. Kaili	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am in full support of this resolution. I have personally witness the flood in the Ko'olauloa during heavy rains due to the blockages in the drainage canals. The flood in 2008 damaged many of the homes in my neighborhood.