



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
530 SOUTH KING STREET, ROOM 202
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-3065
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5010 • FAX: (808) 768-5011

TOMMY WATERS

CHAIR AND PRESIDING OFFICER
DISTRICT 4
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5004
EMAIL: tommy.waters@honolulu.gov

March 28, 2022

House Committee on Water and Land
Rep. David Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Patrick Pihana Branco, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee

RE: Testimony in Support of HCR 93 – Requesting the City and County of Honolulu to Purchase Certain Tax Map Key Parcels to be Used For Additional Parking and Other Community Needs, as Deemed Necessary by the City and County of Honolulu

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to share my support for the intent of HCR 93, Requesting the City and County of Honolulu to Purchase Certain Tax Map Key Parcels to be Used For Additional Parking and Other Community Needs, as Deemed Necessary by the City and County of Honolulu. There are many needs in the Waikīkī community and government should be looking at ways to increase the quality of life for residents and visitors by maximizing the use of vacant parcels. Given the recent action that the City is taking on 1615 Ala Wai Boulevard, we should take steps to acquire vacant parcels with the support of the Waikīkī community in the hopes that we can build places for people to live.

I would defer to the City Administration over the specific method of acquiring the properties and whether the City has the budget to move forward. I nonetheless look forward to working with City Administration and the introducer of the measure, Representative Tam, to continue efforts to improve and revitalize the Waikīkī community.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to submit testimony on this matter.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tommy Waters".

Councilmember Tommy Waters
District 4 (*Hawaii Kai, Kuliouou, Niu Valley, Aina Haina, Wailupe, Waialae-Iki, Kalani Valley, Kahala, Wilhemina Rise, Kaimuki, portions of Kapahulu, Diamond Head, Black Point, Waikiki, and Ala Moana Beach Park*)



WAIKIKI NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 9

/o NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BLVD. SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov>

March 25, 2022

Senate Committee on Water and Land

Support for HRC 97 and Companion HR87

Aloha Senator Inouye and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for allowing the Waikiki Neighborhood Board to testify in favor of resolutions HRC 93 and HR 87.

The property identified by Representative Tam has long been an eyesore in Waikiki and after a short development attempt decades ago it has set undeveloped and has degraded the neighborhood appearance.

While the final use of this property has not been determined by the City and County of Honolulu, recommendations from a paved parking lot to a dog park have been discussed in past neighborhood board meetings.

Your support of this Resolution is greatly appreciated,

Robert Finley
Chair

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 10:20:09 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phyllis Foley	Lucky Cat Properties Group, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This empty space has been an eyesore for years. It only serves as a place for pigeons to congregate. It does nothing to beautify the area, which is especially a shame since Liliuokalani Ave is heavily used as a route out of Waikiki.... the tourist busses and residents daily pass the heaps of skeletonized rusted forgotten rebar and building detritus. This is not a pleasant view of Waikiki, it looks like a broken down bankrupt city, reminiscent of decaying northern mainland cities. Many people walk their dogs along the side of this... how nice it would be if this was a green space , with some trees and plants and paved walkways. The sidewalks in this neighborhood are not exactly safe for pedestrians, due to more people using their scooters, mopeds and bikes on the sidewalk. This would be a great step forward if the parcels of land were made into a simple park for the people to safely walk. Plenty of room for extra parking along the sides of these parcels as well.

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 8:50:45 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Bickel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly support this concurrent resolution. The property in question is about a block from my home. It has been vacant with rebar protruding out of the ground for as long as I can remember-which is back to the late 1990s. It is an eyesore. It attracts dumping of trash. It attracts drug dealers on Tusitala by Liliuokalani St. There are so many needs for land in Waikiki. Affordable housing, green space, and especially affordable parking would be great additions to the neighborhood. This resolution nudges City Council to explore them.

You may ask why should the STATE legislature nudge a City Council. My answer is that Waikiki is the engine to our tourist economy. Having this unsightly lot near hotels diminishes our ability to sell Waikiki as a pleasant destination. Therefore it affects the state.

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 10:11:06 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Boisvert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and Committee members,

I am submitting testimony in FULL SUPPORT of HCR93 and am grateful to Representative Tam for introducing it.

Central Waikiki has very few lovely green spaces. Too many buildings in a concentrated area prevent adequate absorption of rain water and they dramatically increase heat.

The long-empty parcels should be used for more community benefits like EV charging stations - a perfect way to plan for the future. Many of the older condo and apartment buildings do not have the space or infrastructure to add them to their buildings. This would be a real benefit to hundreds or thousands of neighbors and others per week, and would be a GET generator.

Please pass Resolution 93 out of your committee. Thank you for your kind consideration.

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 10:24:36 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill does *not make sense*. If the State of Hawai'i is trying to reach Global Climate Change goals, and the State of Hawai'i is trying to save water, and if the State of Hawai'i is working with Kanaka Maoli to return lands, why is the State of Hawai'i *also* committing to take and destroy more land/trees to make a parking lot, on Kanaka Maoli lands, in a direct breach of the Paris Agreement as it pertains to Climate Change goals? Are you telling us that the State of Hawai'i wants to be more sustainable, wants to reduce the impact of tourism upon the residents, wants to give back lands to Kanaka Maoli, and wants to increase sustainable methods of transportation - **so the State of Hawai'i can make new parking lots? Where it will cut the trees that make the rain? Knowingly committing to parking the cars that the State is trying to reduce the harmful impacts of? Using the land that the State is supposed to be managing more efficiently or giving back to Kanaka Maoli? And are you able to scientifically measure *how* this is going to help fix climate change? How is this going to persuade people to ride bikes or utilize alternative transportation? This bill is hypocrisy and should not be passed.**

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 10:51:29 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Jorgensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HCR93. The empty lots with partial foundations and rebar have been eyesores for years. There are not enough green spaces in central Waikiki and these lots would be put to great use for the surrounding community.

If parking is also provided in addition to green spaces, then it definitely needs to provide many EV charging stations to service the need by residents in the older buildings that surround these parcels.

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 11:38:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayland Lim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly agree with Bill HRC93. We are always in need of green spaces in Waikiki. No more tall concrete buildings.

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 12:42:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vladimir Gurovich	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi!

This huge empty lot next to Waikiki Lanais has been an eyesore for the neighborhood for decades and i have personally witnessed it for over 10 years. With land being a limited commodity it always saddened me that this space was going to waste.

Please acquire and turn it into a park or something else useful for the community. Im not excited about its potential use for parking as it will further incentivize more cars in Waikiki or on the island.

In my dream, this would be a park with lots of shady trees, a kids playground area with shade, etc.

One can dream, but please bring that dream closer to reality and turn that eye sore into something useful for the community

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 2:41:51 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adriel Tam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a fantastic idea. I have owned my unit at the Waikiki Lanais for almost 20 years and I love the location, the community, and the beautiful aloha. The property adjacent to our building has always been empty, fenced off, and overgrown at times. It would be such a blessing to have a green space for keiki, families, tourists, and locals to enjoy in the heart of Waikiki. The additional parking or EV charging would be so welcome in our neighborhood.

I would be fully supportive of this and would love to see this come to fruition.

Thank you for the consideration.

Adriel

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 3:15:45 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Lee Jensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe supporting this is a positive benefit to Waikiki. empty vacant lots are used for trash dumping as is, for homeless issues, and other unsavory issues. Beautifying the empty lots, and also using them for greenery, parking areas, EV charging stations will improve the area. It would look better, which is important for tourism. It will clean up the are, and actually make good use of the empty eye soars that are currently there. the road ways in waikiki are narrow as is, and without more parking , cars park on sidewalks and along the streets, impeding pedestraians and cars alike. Please purchase these empty lots and make them useful, as a benefit to all of Waikiki. Maholo!

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 4:41:27 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E. Singleton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The empty lots are an eyesore for tourists to see. Dumping grounds, gross. I am in favor, and encourage the city to purchase the empty lots and make them useful! Parking is needed, EV charging is needed, and making waikiki look better for tourism is very much needed in these areas. Turning an empty eyesore of a lot into greenery would also be nice. Please help us in making Waikiki the international tourist attraction look better!!

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/25/2022 10:40:56 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Hegarty	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to see long vacant parcels be converted into parks along with additional areas for parking with inclusion of electric car charging stations as well. I believe this would enhance the many great amenities already offered in the Waikiki beach area.

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 7:27:10 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curt Malouin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I own a condo in Waikiki Lanais and support HCR93. It is a rare opportunity to add permanent green space for residents and would strengthen the neighborhood by activating a long-term vacant lot. Additional parking could be provided using the parcels along Lili'uokalani Ave between Tusitala Street and Mountain View Drive, which are adjacent to the Monte Vista and Waikiki Lanais parking garages.

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/26/2022 1:06:54 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Strait-Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** for this HCR that may provide opportunity for additional green space and possible parking options. It's an excellent idea. I hope that the City and County of Honolulu agree to purchase this and other parcels as needed.

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 1:45:33 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcos A Dupreyiraola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a long time resident liveing on Tusitala (Waikiki Lanais) for the past 15 years I have always wondered about these two parcels on corner of Tusitala and Liliokalani. I agree there should be more parking added for hotel workers to park in a secure and affordable parking structure. The parking structure would also give local owners who have 2 cars and only 1 parking a better place to park rather than hunt for parking on the Ala Wai. With the many pet owners, it would be great to have a dog park as well. This would keep pets releaving themselves in on area and run free. These parcels have been empty and non developed for a long time it would be great fot these parcels to become useful for locals and workers in Waikiki.

Marcos A. Dupreyiraola

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 6:52:28 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

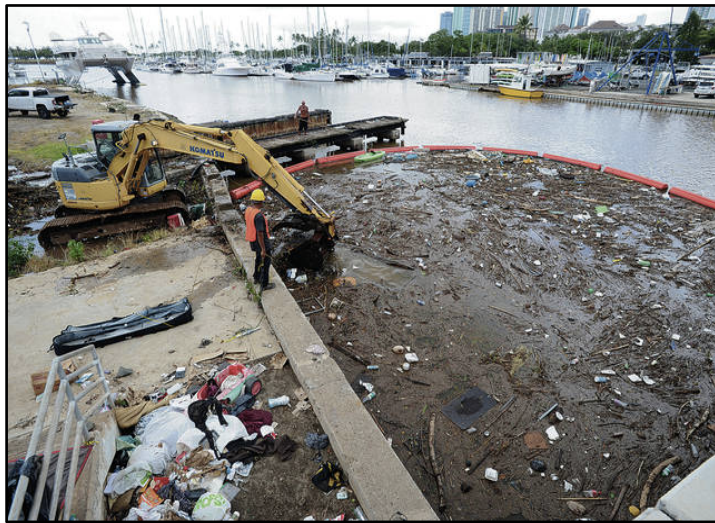
This currently un-utilized space does nothing to improve Waikiki community or resident welfare. From the critical shortage of affordable housing to a lack of parking to new parks there are a myriad of uses for which the City and County of Honolulu can use this land for. My personal preference is to construct high rise affordable housing on the plot. Nevertheless, now is the time to do something about this land, to make it productive. I urge the House to consider this Resolution to encourage Honolulu to start the process to make this land productive for my neighborhood.

Testimony on HCR93

In this testimony, I argue that the best option for the city is to turn empty lots into green spaces/infrastructure for the community. Here are three main points:

- 1) Green infrastructure can be more effective and resilient than gray infrastructure.
- 2) Green spaces reduce crime.
- 3) Green spaces increase the value of neighborhoods and cities.

To maintain and improve the resilience of Honolulu, it is essential to implement decisions that take into account the dynamic nature of our current environment. This past year has shown us a glimpse of future conditions under a warming climate. With record-setting rainfalls flooding many parts of the island, these events threaten to destroy Honolulu's coastline through erosion and pollutionⁱ. Scenes such as this one picture below will become more



common; rains fall too fast for soil to absorb, which results in large amounts of water washing over the city surface, picking up garbage and pollution as it flows. These polluted waters go straight into the ocean, choking out the area coral reefs, polluting beaches, and damaging infrastructure in the processⁱⁱ. This problem is an opportunity for Honolulu to become a model for a resilient and sustainable community. *(Picture Above - pollution in Ala Wai Canal, source: staradvertiser.com)*

Cities are reliant on traditional “gray” infrastructure - a system of gutters, pipes, and tunnels used to transport stormwater through the city. However, when compared to green infrastructure, these systems are less capable of adapting to future uncertainty in the context of population growth and more frequent severe weatherⁱⁱⁱ. Green infrastructure, which includes parks, rain gardens, and other natural spaces, provides natural filtration and absorption of excess rainwater^{iv}. They also contribute towards healthier air and water quality. Community green spaces, such as garden co-ops, can cost very little to build and are successfully maintained by co-op fees and volunteer work hours. Parking lots and other infrastructure on the other hand can cost millions to build, contribute towards the heat island effect of cities, and contribute towards

noise pollution and more opportunity for property crimes. Many studies have shown that well-designed green spaces contribute towards a lower crime rate^v. They help establish a better sense of community and provide places for people to exercise and improve mental and physical health^{vi}. This is especially useful for lower-income individuals who may be more reliant on social health programs, which ultimately come from city resources. Finally, people simply value green spaces; a building or community next to a park is worth more to everyone. Families with children, young active adults, retirees.

There are a plethora of resources to support building green spaces. The EPA provides a tool kit for implementing green infrastructure, and similarly, there are grants for green spaces from organizations ranging from the EPA to The Arbor Day Foundation, and the Garden Club of America:

<https://www.epa.gov/water-research/green-infrastructure-modeling-toolkit>

<https://www.epa.gov/green-infrastructure/green-infrastructure-funding-opportunities>

<https://www.arborday.org/programs/tdgreenspacegrants/>

<https://gardenclub.org/awards-and-grants>

ⁱ Thompson et al., “A Statistical Model for Frequency of Coastal Flooding in Honolulu, Hawaii, During the 21st Century”; Elison Timm et al., “Projection of Changes in the Frequency of Heavy Rain Events over Hawaii Based on Leading Pacific Climate Modes.”

ⁱⁱ Banner, “A Freshwater Kill of the Coral Reefs of Hawaii.”

ⁱⁱⁱ Dong, Guo, and Zeng, “Enhancing Future Resilience in Urban Drainage System.”

^{iv} Benedict and McMahon, “Green Infrastructure: Smart Conservation for the 21st Century.”

^v García de Jalón et al., “Providing Access to Urban Green Spaces”; Shepley et al., “The Impact of Green Space on Violent Crime in Urban Environments.”

^{vi} García de Jalón et al., “Providing Access to Urban Green Spaces.”

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 9:49:39 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
oscar pinaev	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

After walking about the Tusitala street for years and observing the empty lots, I always wondered about who owns the land and why they are not doing anything with it. Just a week ago my growing kids started thinking about this as well. My youngest daughter said: "Why didn't they build a playground for us to play on or a mini park, why is this place fenced off and empty?" I really didn't say anything, besides that someone owns this land and they choose not too. Now me and all of my kids are super exited that the land might be turned into some kind of recreational facility, an EV charging place (that we plan on buying) or something other then just another empty lot that gets its lawn done once every 6 months. We vote YES with all of our 10 hands for this welcome change. Thank you for your consideration.

Oscar Pinaev

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/27/2022 10:47:20 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary-Ellen Foley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, these empty parcels of land are a nuisance. Birds, mostly pigeons, gather here and the empty pools are a magnet for mosquitoes and rats. Since no one seems to watch over these, except for the occasional grass cutting, the edges of the fenceline become a dumping ground for trash, and large items, and a sleeping place for homeless people with their attendant belongings and trash. The 2 deadend streets have become by default extra parking, and some abandoned mopeds etc. It is an eyesore, and not a proper way to honor the land.....this was after all, the neighborhood of Ainahau, and the legacy of Princess Kaiulani... apparently, Governor Cleghorn had a nice garden in this area with unusual plants, I think I recall hearing that he wanted his land to be left as a garden. It is sad to see this area, where royalty once lived, looking like an abandoned heap of scrapmetal. There are many people in the area who take walks along here.... how nice it would be to have a safe enjoyable public garden. There are many kapuna in this neighborhood, and a small lawn for the practice of Tai Chi would be a great benefit to all. It would only serve to improve the cohesiveness of the neighborhood, and interaction between residents. I highly encourage you to upport this bill.

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 2:09:02 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Duckart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this resolution. It's way past time that these derlict lots were developed or passed on to the city.

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 5:59:41 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlos Casillas-Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Committee Members,

I reside at 2452 Tusitala Street, and I support HCR93 for the following reasons:

1. The undeveloped parcels identified in this resolution attract illegal dumping in our neighborhood which can lead to unsanitary conditions and reduced neighborhood "curb appeal."
2. Repositioning these parcels to provide community resources such as a dog park, farmer's market pavilion, or playground may help foster ties within our corner of Waikiki which could help with safety and petty crime concerns.
3. Using the land partially for EV charging and parking could help support Hawaii's clean energy goals and make it easier for local visitors to take advantage of the Ala Wai walking path, shopping, and surfing.

Undeveloped parcels are voids that detract from the value and enjoyment in neighborhoods. These voids are likely filled with undesirable elements. The purpose of local government is to enrich the safety and quality of life of its citizens, and replacing these neighborhood voids with community resources such as parking, dog parks, farmer's market pavilions, and playgrounds fulfills that purpose.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Carlos Casillas-Jones

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:28:54 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nathan carl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please consider passing HCR93 for many reasons. The city and county of Honolulu/Waikiki and the community in general would certainly benefit from providing additional green spaces and parking for it's citizens and visitors alike. These particular large and adjoining partials on Lili'uokalani Ave in Waikiki are in an ideal location only two blocks from the most popular beaches and also are in a very densely populated area of Waikiki with both resident and visitor buildings in close proximity. I've lived in that area for well over ten years and those two parcels have become an eye sore of sorts surrounded by chain length fences and trash built-up in and around them over the years. They would be the perfect "Central Park" if you would of Waikiki.

With that much space, you could have a walk path, work-out station and playground for the keiki, maybe even a couple pick-ball courts to encourage people to get outside and enjoy this beautiful environment the city created. With the success of Centennial Park on Seaside Ave, this should encourage us to build more of these in and around the city.

Mahalo the consideration,

Nathan Carl

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 8:29:07 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Carl	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Waikiki is a crowded place that has increasingly felt the impact of increased human and vehicle traffic over the years. HCR93 proposes that the City and County of Hawaii purchase certain tax map key parcels to be used for additional parking and other community needs, such as access to green space. This is of vital importance to the community as additional parking, charging stations for EVs, areas for pet-walking, and greenspace would significantly improve the quality of life for residents and the experience of visitors in Waikiki.

Outside of the beaches, there is little open space available for residents to enjoy in the Waikiki area and parking has become a more limited commodity, both of which cause stress and an increase in aggressive interactions. Also, significant amounts of scientific evidence support the understanding that access to green space has countless mental and physical benefits for people (and their pets) as well as being a benefit to the ecosystem (both locally and globally).

Please consider moving this bill forward and investing C&C funds to purchase and improve properties providing vital resources to the people of Waikiki.

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

From: jchawaii@aol.com,

To: jchawaii@aol.com,

Subject: HCR93

Date: Mon, Mar 28, 2022 8:53 am

Hawaii State Legislature

Please consider moving Bill bill HCR93 for a better / green Waikiki

Jeffrey Cochrane, Realtor, CRS, GRI

J. H. Cochrane and Associates

2452 Tusitala Street #810

Honolulu, HI 96815

808-922-8811, 808-226-8811 (cel)

www.jeffcochrane.com (web site)

jchawaii@aol.com (e-mail)

HCR-93

Submitted on: 3/28/2022 11:14:40 PM

Testimony for WAL on 3/29/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
dennis boyd miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Waikiki needs more parking.

Businesses and residents will all benefit from more parking, and if the parking structure will replace dilapidated/unused properties then you're also helping to reduce nuisances and increase local property values.

This is a good proposal long overdue.

Dennis B Miller

Waikiki