

IRON WORKERS STABILIZATION FUND

March 28, 2023
9:30 am

House Committee on Water & Land

Conference Room 430 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: HCR106/HR112 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF FACILITY MAINTENANCE OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO DREDGE AND CLEAN THE ULEHAWA STREAM AND CANAL

Aloha Chair Linda Ichiyama, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe and Members of the Committee:

We **SUPPORT** HCR106/HR112. These resolutions call upon the City and County of Honolulu, Department of Facility Maintenance to dredge and clean the Ulehawa Stream and Canal and for the County, State, and Federal governments to find a long-term solution to the perennial problem of the canal mouth being blocked.

For years the people of Nānākuli have suffered the ills of landfills and a polluted Ulehawa Stream. The Ulehawa Stream borders the sole O‘ahu Construction and Demolition Landfill operated by PVT Land Company, Ltd. which takes over 40% of all the ‘opala on the island and the stream is supposed to feed into the Pacific Ocean through Ulehawa Channel. Hundreds of residents live alongside the main Ulehawa channel and the two wing channels that reach out into the Princess Kahanu Estates Hawaiian Home Lands community on the Wai‘anae side and the Pu‘u Heleakalā Community on the Diamond head side.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention/National Center for Health Statistics Neighborhood Life Expectancy Project (see attachments for visual maps), our members and their families in the two census tracks abutting the PVT Landfill operated in Nānākuli live 10 years less than the state average of 82 years, being the 2nd and 3rd lowest life expectancies in the entire state. These census tracks include the residents that live on both sides of the main Ulehawa channel, the wing channels, and along the stream. Nānākuli and the moku of Wai‘anae have the highest concentration of Native Hawaiians per capita across the state, which includes Nānākuli and Princess Kahanu Homesteads.

The mouth of Ulehawa Channel has been frequently backed up with silt and sand over at least the last two decades. The wing channels of Ulehawa are currently littered with silt, vegetation, and trash, including shopping carts, beds, and construction debris. The mouth of Ulehawa Channel gets backed up with silt and sand sometimes within a few weeks of the City’s dredging and then the water flow out of the stream into the ocean gets cut off again. The water in Ulehawa Stream and Channel is often stagnant even with heavy rainfall, the stench becomes noticeable, and our neighbors get concerned for their public health and safety.

According to the [Revised Ordinances of Honolulu § 40-2.3](#) Maintenance of streams, Ulehawa stream as a City-owned stream should at least annually/semi-annually be cleared out of “...any debris, vegetation, silt, or other item or material of any kind that may interfere with the

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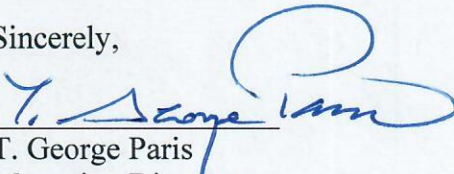
natural flow of water or is likely to create an unsanitary condition or otherwise become a public nuisance.”

We were able to verify that Ulehawa Stream and Channel was worked on in July of 2020 from [Khon2 News](#) (“Streams, stream mouths across Oahu will continue to be cleared to minimize Douglas impacts”; posted July 24, 2020). According to the City and County of Honolulu’s stream online maintenance [schedule](#) the work at Ulehawa, U-1 was supposed to have occurred between November 2022 and December 2022. As far as we can determine, the Department of Facility Maintenance did not do any work in the last quarter of 2022 or this year. So, it appears that Ulehawa has not been worked on for over 2 years now, far from the annual/semi-annual clearing called for in the ordinance.

The responsibilities and permit requirements to clear, clean, and maintain Ulehawa stream and canals runs across all levels of government. We believe that these resolutions will help spur better support from the Federal and State governments to the Department of Facilities Maintenance as it carries out its responsibilities to care for Uleahawa Stream and Canal.

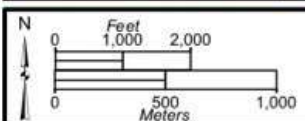
We urge the committee to **PASS** HCR106/HR112. Mahalo for the opportunity testimony.

Sincerely,



T. George Paris
Managing Director

Date Saved: 10/12/2018 4:02:03 PM Document Path: F:\Hawaii\GIS\Projects\IVT\Figure 1-1_PVTISWMF.mxd



Location Map
 PVT ISWMF Relocation
 Nanakuli, Waianae District, Oahu, Hawaii

Figure
 1-1

Life Expectancies

Census tracks surrounding PVT Landfills including Nānākuli & Princess Kahanu Homesteads: **~72 yrs.**
 HI Average: **~82 yrs.**
A 10 year loss

CDC/US Department of Health



National Vital Statistics System

U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project - USALEEP

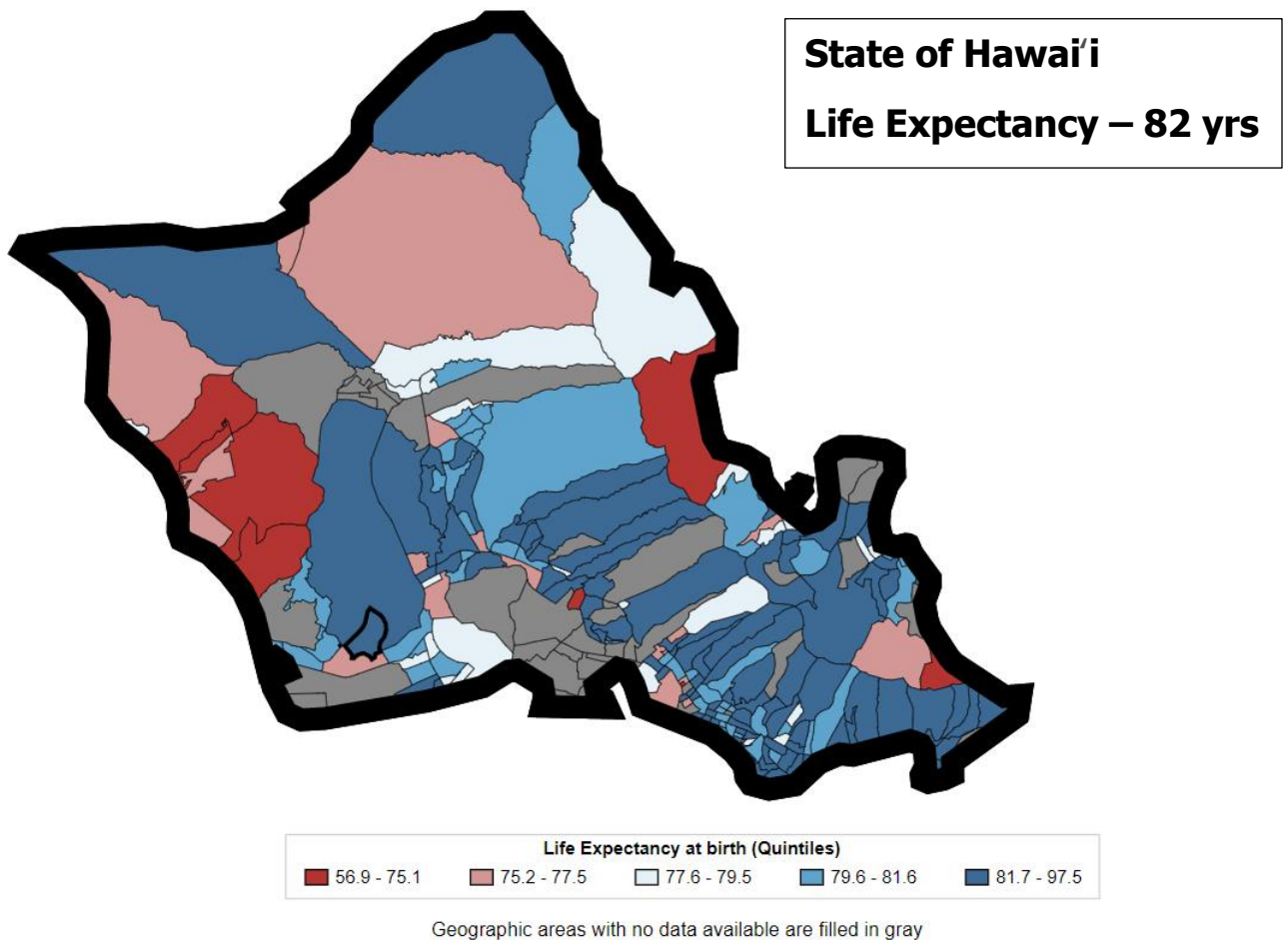
usaleep

Neighborhood Life Expectancy Project



Life Expectancy at Birth for U.S. States and Census Tracts, 2010-2015

LIFE EXPECTANCY* FOR THE ISLAND OF O'AHU, HAWAI'I

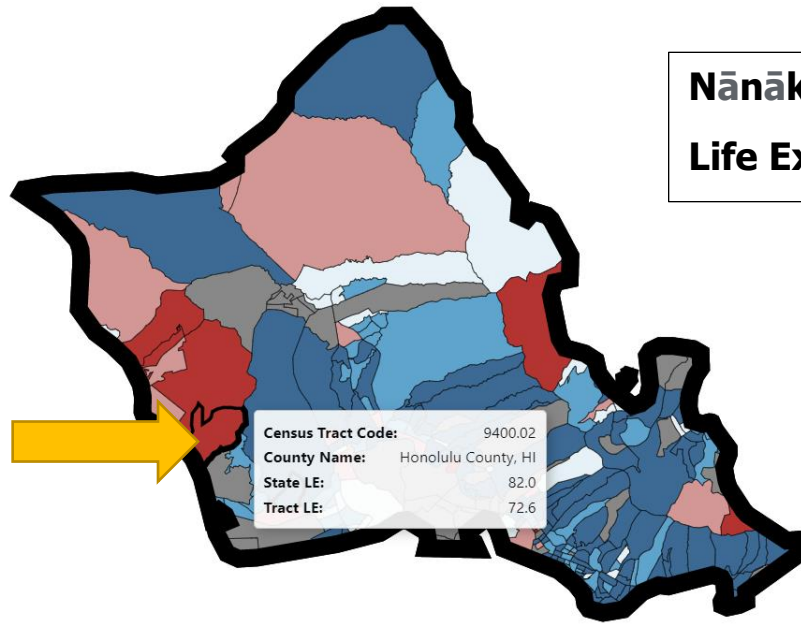


*The Life Expectancy at birth are for U.S. Census Tracts, 2010-2015. These estimates are the result of the collaborative project, “[U.S. Small-area Life Expectancy Estimates Project \(USALEEP\)](#),” between the National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), the National Association for Public Health Statistics and Information Systems (NAPHSIS), and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF).

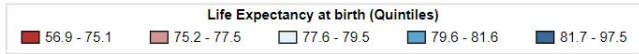
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020, March 9). *Life expectancy data viz.* Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Retrieved March 9, 2023, from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data-visualization/life-expectancy/index.html>.



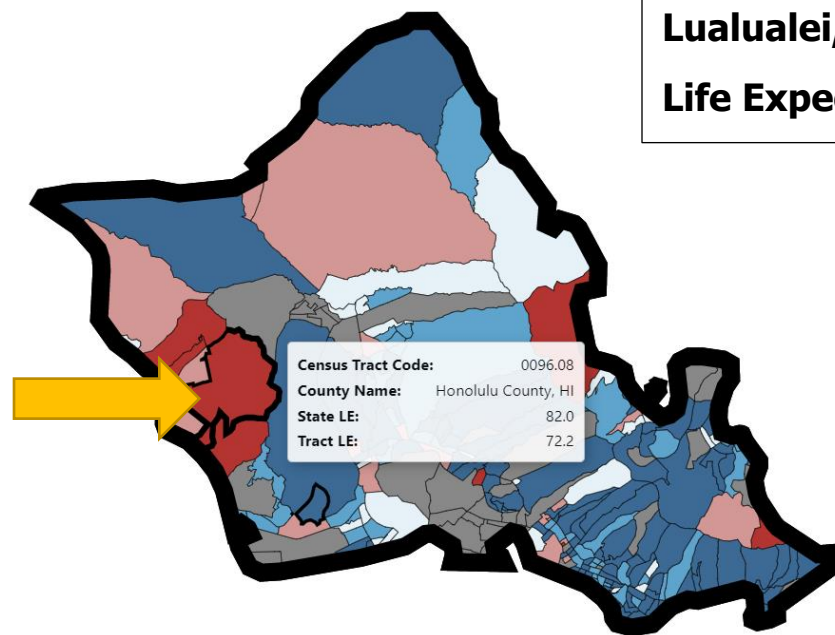
Life Expectancy at Birth for U.S. States and Census Tracts, 2010-2015



Nānākuli, O’ahu
Life Expectancy – 72.6 yrs



Geographic areas with no data available are filled in gray



Lualualei, O’ahu
Life Expectancy – 72.2 yrs



Geographic areas with no data available are filled in gray



Photos taken on February 9, 2023



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BRIDGE, STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL AND REINFORCING IRON WORKERS

Affiliated with A.F.L.-C.I.O.

LOCAL UNION NUMBER 625

94-497 UKEE STREET • WAIPAHU, HAWAII 96797

T.G. Paris
President Emeritus

March 28, 2023 - 9:30 am

House Committee on Water and Land
Via Videoconference
Conference Room 430
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415 South Beretania Street

Re: HR112 & HR106 –Relating to the Dredging and Cleaning Ulehawa Stream

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Honorable committee members,

We **STRONGLY SUPPORT** HR112 & HCR106. The resolution requests the Department of Facility Maintenance of the City and County of Honolulu to dredge and clean the Ulehawa Stream and Canal and to encourage them to work with the State and Federal governments to find a long-term solution to keeping the stream and canal open and water flowing out into the ocean.

Landfills cause harm to those that live, work, and play next to them. Our members and their families in Nanakuli, Oahu have experienced this reality for decades with the start of the privately held landfill operated construction and demolition landfill that has taken almost 40% of the island's trash since the mid-eighties. Ulehawa Stream runs directly along the border of the Nanakuli landfill. No one should have to live next to trash. Dredging and cleaning Ulehawa stream and canals will help to improve the health, safety, and quality of life of our neighbors in Nanakuli. Please consider passing resolutions HR112 and HCR106. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Joseph O'Donnell

Business Manager/Financial Secretary-Treasurer

HR-112

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 9:30:31 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ed Werner	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha:

I support cleaning and maintaining Ulehawa Stream and Canal.

Ed Werner

Nanakuli, Oahu

HR-112

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 10:33:16 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henrietta Paris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators:

Mahalo for considering how we can help make sure Ulehawa is open and clean. Please continue this good work. God bless.

Sincerely,

Henrietta Paris

Kapolei, Oahu

HR-112

Submitted on: 3/27/2023 10:40:43 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melvin Paris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators:

As a long time fishermen along the coast, I support our streams and canals being open and clear.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melvin Paris

Kapolei, Oahu

HR-112

Submitted on: 3/28/2023 8:26:32 AM

Testimony for WAL on 3/28/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamuela Werner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kakou:

I strongly support HR112. I especially encourage our state and city leaders to allocated resources DFM needs to dredge and clean our sacred stream on a quarterly schedule.

Environmental justice for all.

Me ke aloha,

Kamuela Werner