

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
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April 11, 2024

House Committee on Water & Land
Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

**RE: HR77, PROPOSED HD1 - STRONGLY URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
TO RECONSIDER USING THE WAIPIO SOCCER COMPLEX AS ITS NEXT LANDFILL SITE**

Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members,

I write in support of the proposed house draft for HR77, which urges the City and County of Honolulu to reconsider using the Waipi'o Soccer Complex as its next landfill site. Not only would this decision place the landfill in the middle of an environmentally sensitive area, it would also deprive the neighboring communities of an invaluable recreational space.

The Waipi'o Soccer Complex is comprised of 240 acres, including 21 soccer fields and a 5,000-seat stadium. It is regularly used by thousands of keiki and their 'ohana every week for a variety of sports and outdoor recreational activities, and it is also hosts soccer tournaments, such as the West Regional Championships and the Hawai'i International Cup, as well as University of Hawai'i soccer games.

The Waipi'o Soccer Complex is located within the Special Management Area, with the Pouhala Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary and the Pearl Harbor National Wildlife Refuge both nearby. Currently, access to the Soccer Complex requires travel through the tsunami evacuation zone; the Soccer Complex itself is surrounded on three sides by land within the *extreme* tsunami zone.

In short, an environmentally sensitive and heavily used recreational space is not an appropriate location for a landfill. And for these reasons, I stand in strong support of the proposed HD1 for HR77.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "M. Weyer", written over a horizontal line.

Matt Weyer
Councilmember, District 2
Honolulu City Council



HUI O HO'OHONUA

Community 501(c)3 Operating in `Ewa, O`ahu

HOH808.org

EXECUTIVE OFFICE DOCUMENT

Date: April 9, 2024

House Committee on Water & Land

Rep. Linda Ichiyama, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

SUBJ: House Resolution 77 HD 1. STRONGLY URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO RECONSIDER USING THE WAIPIO SOCCER COMPLEX AS ITS NEXT LANDFILL SITE.

DATE: Thursday April 11, 2024

TIME: 9:00AM

From: Anthony Chance, CEO and Founder of Hui O Ho'ohonua.

I am writing this Letter of Support for House Resolution 77 HD 1. Our Organization was just granted a historic Right of Entry Agreement with the City and County of Honolulu to restore and maintain the same area that the proposed landfill would be located. This landfill would defeat the purpose of restoring Pu'uloa to be a food producing piko. Pu'uloa would be able to feed and provide fresh water for the entire Island of Oahu.

Students from Waipahu Intermediate and Waipahu High School were present at the Mayor's historic press conference to witness the Mayors bestowing the the Students to become stewards of these future ag lands. This would all be in vain if a landfill would be located in the same area as the students are addressing our State's food security crisis.

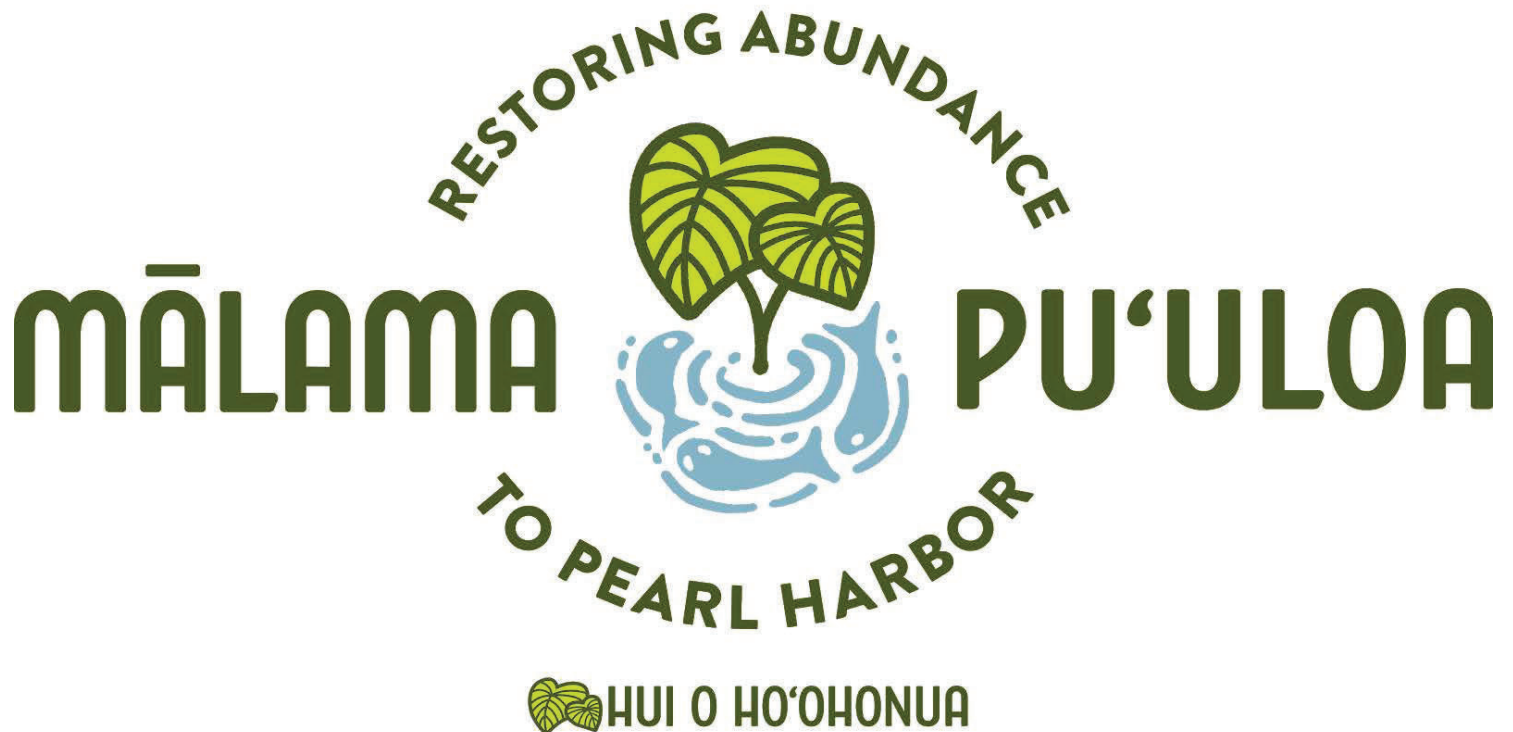
The 200 acre Hanaloa Fishpond was filled in to build the Waipio Soccer Complex, the Miki Fishery was filled in to be the toxic waste fill for the Waipio Peninsula C&C Honolulu low temperature waste burning site, The E'o Loko Fishpond was filled in to build the Ted Makalena Golf Course. We are literally starving ourselves, we are already in a famine that we have created. Once the ships stop, and planes stop flying, like they almost did during the pandemic, we starve.

Landfills are thousand years old technology. Our organization is thinking of alternative ways to eliminate, reduce, and reuse rubbish. We need to let our Students soar with next generation ideas of waste removal and reutilization. Our Students will find a way.

Sincerely,



Anthony Chance
CEO and Founder
Hui O Ho`ohonua (HOH808) 501(c)(3)
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Ewa Beach, Hawaii
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anthony.chance@hoh808.org
<http://www.hoh808.org/>
Est. 2015



HR-77

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 7:58:34 AM

Testimony for WAL on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaina Paredes	Hawaii Youth Soccer Association	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a user of Waipio Soccer Complex since 1997, I have been involved as a youth soccer coach for 28 years. There is no other soccer complex on the island that is centrally located has the best grass for our youth and colleges to play on and is big enough to host Regional and National soccer events. This soccer complex gives our youth a somewhat even playing field when they are able to play at such a facility. Yes, the grass could be better kept, but the soccer community makes the best of it. When the park shuts down to regrow the grass for world class events, the teams that play there are displaced, yet they do not complain. However, permanent conversion of our only soccer facility capable of holding High School State Tournaments, National Youth tournaments and Events, Regional Tournaments, local youth tournaments and events, and collegiate soccer games will cause Hawaii's youth soccer programs to crumble. Soccer is life for many of our Hawaii families that keeps them healthy while also shaping our youth with character development that is inherent in sports. I strongly oppose converting Waipio Soccer Complex into a Landfill. There must be another solution that will not be at the expense of Hawaii's youth.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaina Paredes

(High School Soccer Coach/Youth Club Soccer Coach/ Soccer Parent/ Former Soccer Player)



April 9, 2024

Dear Representatives:

I am writing on behalf of Hawaii Youth Soccer Association and our 7,000+ members in support of HR77 HD1 to urge the City & County of Honolulu to reconsider using the Waipio Soccer Complex as its next landfill site.

The Waipio Soccer Complex is on land owned by the Navy and leased to the city for the sole purpose as a soccer park to support the 30,000+ players on the Island of Oahu. The city is seeking permission of the Navy to convert the current Waipio Soccer Complex into a landfill and move the soccer complex somewhere else. There are many reasons this should not happen; however, I will focus on the following:

Proximity to Homes & Schools - The proposed site is less than a mile from homes and Waipahu High School. Should the City be putting a landfill this close to residents and the second largest High School in the State? The dozens of trash trucks going through Waipahu town and past the high school on a daily basis is unhealthy. This is right for this community or any other.

Proximity to the Ocean – The Waipio Soccer Complex on the Waipio Peninsula is feet away from the middle loch of Pearl Harbor. Debris from a dump will surely end up in the water. A major portion of the peninsula is part of the Tsunami Evacuation Zone. In the report of the Landfill Advisory Committee, it eliminated Waipio Soccer Complex as a potential site in part due to the Department of Health’s position that “the extreme Tsunami Zone Boundary would be enforced during the permitting process”.

Developed vs Undeveloped Land – The City has already spent tens of millions of dollars to develop and maintain the Waipio Soccer Complex which has become the beloved home to the Hawaii Soccer Community. It currently hosts thousands of practices, games, tournaments, camps and clinics each year. The city should not spend more money to develop a new complex to make the current one a dump.

There are alternatives the city should consider. There are other sites more suitable. The city should consider expanding the life of the current landfill so as to not pollute additional parts of our island; further develop recycling plans, increase H-Power to decrease and hopefully someday eliminate the need for a landfill altogether.

I thank you for your time and service to our State! Please support HR77 HD1 to urge the city to find someplace else to put a landfill. I appreciate your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Keopuhiwa', is positioned above the typed name.

Scott Keopuhiwa
President & Executive Director
Hawaii Youth Soccer Association
Cell: (808) 927-7927
Email: hawaiiyouthsoccer@gmail.com

HR-77

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 7:17:14 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luke Sarvis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the proposed draft. The City needs to find a more suitable site.

HR-77

Submitted on: 4/8/2024 8:39:51 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Bishop	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Vice Chair,

HR77 was deferred earlier in the session. After gut and replace, which was ruled unconstitutional by the Hawaii Supreme Court, a completely different HR77 is now alive as HR77 HD1 so the State can weigh in on Honolulu County's next landfill decision.

HR-77

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 2:22:10 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian and Kari Acebo	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

As parents of a child that plays youth soccer at Waipio Complex, we are grateful Rep. Cory Chun created HR 77 in opposition of creating the landfill there. We've spent weekends at Waipio Complex not only cheering our child on, but his friends playing there as well. Where will the kids get to play soccer if they decide to put this landfill there? Do these people who want to create this landfill even realize how many people utilize this complex with their kids? Knowing how many teams use this area we are truly shocked they would even consider this area for the landfill.

We are in support of Representative Chun and his opposition to creating the landfill at the Waipio Soccer Complex. We are grateful he is trying to do something to stop this.

HR-77

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 3:07:36 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandi Yorong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HR77 and requesting permission from the Navy to use the land as a permanent dumping site.

The city of Waipahu has been a historical sugar town that supported many working-class families for generations and now has a chance to be revitalized and offer more opportunities to a new generation of working-class families. Waipahu does NOT want a dumpsite to ruin a potentially bright and vibrant future.

How do you speak from one side of your mouth that you want to revitalize Waipahu then spit from the other side of your mouth and say you want to also build a legal dump right around the corner? Have you already forgotten the vision for Waipahu's future? Do you not recognize the conflict to your commitment to the Waipahu community?

The Waipio soccer field is not merely a mass of land. It has become a landmark for soccer for residents and visitors alike. It provides numerous health, social and physical benefits to users. During Covid, it served as a community outreach site for ongoing food drives. Clearly, the City recognizes the soccer field as a central location that positively benefits the community on many levels. It is a bright spot of pride in the community.

Replacing the soccer field with a legal dumpsite will have immense negative impact to the community from a health and environmental aspect. It will also transform the field from a vibrant inviting space to a stink wasteland piled with garbage debris and attract more homeless to scour the area. It will deteriorate the surrounding community and conflict with the City's commitment to turn Waipahu into a vibrant community once again with rail transit living.

The city of Waipahu deserves better. The soccer field deserves to be saved. Do not disappoint the community by placing a permanent dumpsite that will stink up the hope and promises you made for all Waipahu stakeholders.

HR-77

Submitted on: 4/9/2024 3:11:30 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Fields	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My three boys have LITERALLY grown up on those fields at WSP, and still are. I take it whichever shortsighted fool that suggested making that "soccer sacred land" a garbage dump never played nor had kids who've played soccer. Because if he did he might realize how important this land is to these kids. If you take that away from these thousands of kids you will be sucking dry a huge portion of their childhood and development. These kids learn teamwork there.

they learn motivation there

they learn strategy there

they learn sportsmanship there

and most of all the learn how to grow into fine young adults at WSP

If you people want to take that away!!

if you people want to dump on that!! Them I hope you enjoy your time in Hell because that's where you belong!

E HANA PONO KAKOU

STEVEN H FIELDS

Committee on Water and Land
April 12, 2024

Testimony on HR 77, Proposed HD1: In Strong Support

**STRONGLY URGING THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TO RECONSIDER
USING THE WAIPIO SOCCER COMPLEX AS ITS NEXT LANDFILL SITE.**

Chair Ichiyama and Members of the Committee:

My name is Richard Oshiro and I have been a resident of Waipahu and a member of the Waipahu Neighborhood Board since 1989. Although I am a member of the Neighborhood Board, I am presenting this testimony as an individual.

I am in strong support of the Proposed HD1 of this resolution, but instead of reconsidering using the Waipio Soccer Complex as the next landfill site, the City should abandon this idea for the following reasons:

1. It is located next to Pearl Harbor, Waipahu High School, residential communities, and the access points are in a tsunami inundation zone.
2. It is the first and only soccer facility of its kind in the State of Hawaii with twenty-one regulation fields, including a 5,000-seat stadium with lights for evening events.
3. It covers 288 acres and is designed to serve the 30,000 soccer players on Oahu and numerous others from outside the state who come for tournaments.
4. The City and County of Honolulu is undertaking extensive renovations of the soccer fields to be ready for this summer's soccer tournaments and it would be a complete waste of City resources if these soccer fields were converted into a landfill.
5. It has served as the home field for the University of Hawaii Division 1 soccer team since the year it opened in 2000. Turning the soccer stadium into a landfill will leave our team without a home field soccer stadium.
6. It cost \$23 million to build the soccer fields and it would cost an estimated \$40 to \$60 million or more to build a replacement soccer complex in 2024 dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony on this resolution and I urge your adoption.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Oshiro

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
WATER & LAND**

HR 77 HD1

**Relating to Strongly urging the City and County of Honolulu to Reconsider using the
Waipio Soccer Complex as its next Landfill site**

April 11, at 9:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room # 430

Submitted by Mami Bueno

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mami Bueno, and I am testifying in support of HR 77 HD1, strongly urging the City and County of Honolulu to reconsider using the Waipio Soccer Complex as its next landfill site.

The Waipio Soccer Field serves as a crucial place for sports and recreational activities, especially for youth, which provides opportunities for the community to engage in physical fitness and social interaction.

I support HR 77 HD1 because it is proposing alternative sites for landfill development that are less ecologically sensitive and more suitable for accommodating waste-management needs without compromising the integrity of recreational spaces and natural environment. It recognizes the importance of long-term sustainability and preservation of natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations of Oahu residents as well as health and well-being of nearby residents and commuters who are in close proximity.

Please pass HR 77 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to share my support.

HR-77

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 7:50:12 AM

Testimony for WAL on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ken kozuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ichiyama, Vice Chair Poepoe and the Members of the WAL Committee,

I am testifying as an individual in full support of HR77.

As an agriculture teacher and FFA advisor, I'm very concerned about using the Waipio Peninsula as the next landfill site for a few reasons.

The most alarming is that the Waipio Peninsula is at the bottom of the Ahupuaa (watershed), where all the water converges into Pu'u'loa (Pearl Harbor). The names of all the regions surrounding should be a huge indicator, Waialele, Waipio, Waimalu, Waipahu.....all have Wai (water) in their names.

All the work that Hui O Ho'ohonua (Malama Pu'u'loa) has done and the thousands of volunteer hours that's gone in to restore the land will be completely undone.

Just a few weeks ago Mayor Blangiardi was on the campus of Waipahu Intermediate speaking of his support of Hui O Ho'ohonua and Malama Pu'u'loa.

With these environmental concerns in mind, I am 100% against the Waipio Peninsula site as the next landfill. Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Ken Kozuma

Waipahu Intermediate FFA

HR-77

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 8:54:19 AM

Testimony for WAL on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Orlando Hasche	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Orlando Hasche and my wife's name is Jodie Hasche. We are homeowners residing in Waipahu and small business owners in Pearl City. My 15-year old son is a freshmen at Waipahu High School located down the road from the Waipio Soccer Complex. My 12-year old son plays soccer full-time; he plays AYSO 14U on one of Region 769's West Oahu Boy's Teams and he also plays HYSA ball on Arsenal Grey FC's 2011's Team. Nearly all of his games are held at Waipio Soccer Complex. Just this year I rejoined MISO Soccer by joining the 45-Master's Division. I play on Kaiser 808 and our games are nearly every Saturday at Field #21 or #22. The Waipio Soccer Complex is a regular fixture in our lives, as it is for so many other children and adults, families and friends, neighbors and strangers. Turning the Waipio Soccer Fields into a landfill would be an egregious affront to me and my family's way of life.

Oahu is called the Gathering Isle. The Waipio Soccer Complex is one of today's living testaments to this notion. Families all across the island and state journey to this central location to enjoy "the world's beautiful game." In doing so, whether they accept it or not, they are building familial community bonds rooted in a strong culture of teamwork and sportmanship. Turning the Waipio Soccer Fields into a landfill would be a hostile act of war on so many other people's way of life.

We are blessed here in Hawaii to enjoy the climate we do year round and this climate is highly conducive to sports and the game of soccer in particular. The popularity of soccer in the U.S. is finally taking off and Hawaii, with its year round climate, stands to produce a great deal of athletes and heroes for the future. Turning Waipio Soccer Fields into a landfill will certainly put a halt to this for years to come, quite possibly crushing the dreams and aspirations of our children and children's children.

So much more can be said in the justification to NOT turn the Waipio Soccer Fields into a landfill. But I am running out of time. There absolutely must be another way. There has to be. Soccer is life. Don't take it away from me, my children and my children's children. Thank you for hearing me out.

Very Respectfully,

Orlando N. Hasche

HR-77

Submitted on: 4/10/2024 6:30:46 PM

Testimony for WAL on 4/11/2024 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a resident of Waipahū and a frequent visitor to the Waipō Soccer Complex, I wholeheartedly support the sentiment expressed in this resolution urging the City and County of Honolulu to reconsider using this cherished space as its next landfill site. The Waipō Soccer Complex is not merely a field for sports; it's a vital community asset that fosters physical activity, social cohesion, and a deep connection to the natural environment.

I've witnessed firsthand the profound impact the Waipō Soccer Complex has on the lives of my peers and neighbors. For many, it's more than just a place to play; it's a sanctuary where friendships are forged, memories are made, and a sense of belonging is nurtured. I've seen children learn the value of teamwork and perseverance on its fields, and I've seen adults find solace and joy in the beauty of its surroundings.

Moreover, the prospect of converting this area into a landfill not only jeopardizes the health and well-being of nearby residents but also threatens the ecological balance of the region. Countless voices from across Oahu have echoed concerns about the potential consequences of such a decision, highlighting the need for alternative solutions that prioritize environmental conservation and community welfare. As we urge decision-makers to reconsider, let us also join hands in exploring sustainable waste-management practices that safeguard our precious recreational spaces and natural habitats for generations to come.