

State of Hawaii
Land Use Commission
November 6, 2013

My name is Bob Comeau, Executive Director of the North Shore Career Training Corporation in Kahuku. I am in opposition to the petition to reclassify and down-zone Turtle Bay Development's property from urban to agriculture.

The Corporation is a private, non-profit, community-based organization formed to provide training and employment opportunities for residents of the Koolauloa and North Shore districts of Oahu. It was created in 1978 as an outgrowth of the community's concern for its long-term economic welfare and as a means of coordinating efforts toward resolving those needs. Our funding has come from a variety of sources, including Campbell Estate, Kuilima Resort Company, the State Department of Labor, and other public and private entities.

Many of us have been involved for over 30 years searching for ways to solve the chronic employment problems of the area. Since the traumatic closing of the Kahuku Sugar Plantation in 1971, we have struggled for solutions which would allow us to continue living in our community to raise our children, earn an honest living, and maintain our own lifestyle.

We knew that the only way these things could happen would be by encouraging economic growth within our area. We supported Del Webb, Prudential Insurance, and Asahi Jyuken then, and we continue to support Turtle Bay Resort LLC now, for there simply are no other viable options available to us. We love the country as our home, but we reject the notion that it should remain untouched or in its natural state for others to enjoy. The true beauty of an area is measured in many ways, not only by its physical, scenic attributes, but equally in its ability to provide sustenance and hope for those who call it home. For better or worse, our State has come to terms with the fact that tourism will provide the base for our economy. We accept this reality and have committed ourselves to supporting its growth, via this development, in our community.

We fully support Turtle Bay's revised plans. We support the implementation of the numerous community benefits and entitlements which are included in their development plan including affordable housing, parks, shoreline access, and the preservation of agricultural lands. But above all, we support and welcome the opportunity for increased employment for our people. We need the jobs this project will provide and have played an active role, together with the developer, in assuring that the jobs to be created will accrue to our people. The Corporation has established a close working relationship with the resort's new owners. We firmly believe that this is a realistic, mutually beneficial situation. We understand the tradeoffs: we must give something - our land - in order to get something - jobs.

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In the long-term economic interests of our people, we continue to support this project.
We ask that you support our opposition to the reclassification.

Mahalo,

Bob Comeau