Testimony to the Land Use Commission Feb. 10, 2016

Chairman Aczon, Members of the Commission,

Over the past 3 months the fishermen representatives consisting of Mr. Warren Von Arnswaldt, Mr. Rodney Ajifu, and myself met with Mr. Ken Williams of Ko’Olina Community Association and their attorney’s Mr. Ben Matsubara and Mr. Curtis Tabata. Based on our last LUC meeting we were tasked to communicate with each other to resolve our disagreements with the operations of the new boat ramp facility. The major concerns we had were the fees being charged for parking and launching, insurance requirements, and the vehicle and trailer length. We did meet once at Ben’s office and a follow up only last week at my residence.

Ko’Olina wanted to advise us of their decision to our 3 major concerns. In summary as far as the fees and insurance requirements, there will be no adjustment and they will remain the same. As far as the boat length is concerned Ko’Olina will adjust 9 stalls and 1 handicap stall to accommodate a vehicle + trailer length of 50 feet. This is 10 feet additional to the original length of 40 feet. This adjustment affects one third of the total available stalls. This however does not allow for many boats which are longer than the 50 foot limitation. We mentioned to them that the requirement should allow for any legal trailerable boat (see attached pictures). This trailer and vehicle was allowed to use the facility. Being a triple-axle trailer, the boat must have exceeded 28 feet and the trailer over 30 feet.
Also we still believe Ko’Olina is still mixing apples and oranges where they are associating the requirement of a stripped stall to the vehicle and trailer length. As mentioned before almost all State Harbors are stripped with 40 foot stalls and the vehicle and trailer stick our beyond the lane lines. There is no requirement in the standards where a vehicle and trailer need to be fully in the marked stall. This requirement has been made only on the whim of Ko’Olina and by doing so restricts the use of many legal trailerable boats. For example, a boat 26 feet or longer boat will have a trailer roughly 30 feet long requiring a stall of 56 feet. Why would these larger boats be excluded? We all understand this is a “Private Ramp” open to the public. Well I still think they should accommodate the entire Public especially after spending over 11 years and over $3 Million. The only way to recover their cost is to have people sign up to use it. We ask you to open up the facility to all legal trailerable boats.

We the fishermen have been fighting this issue since the original ramp was closed, over 11 years ago. We need to bring this issue to a close and get back to fishing.

In our last meeting with Ko’Olina, we were given assurances the lines of communication will always be open and they will continually evaluate the use, and the cost of the facility and possibility make adjustments to 1. Lower the fees at a later date (based on use) and 2. Lengthen the stalls depending on demand for the facility.

Thank you Chairmen Aczon, Commissioners, Mr. Orodenker, Mr. Williams, Mr. Matsubara, Mr. Tabata, and Mr. Brian Yee for the last 11 years of hard work to get this new boat ramp built
for the general public. Hopefully we can get this new facility open to everyone and not just a select few.

Thank you,

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