

From: "Robert O'conner" <roconner@hawaii.edu>
Subject: **A17-804 Hawaiian Memorial Park Written Testimony**
Date: June 23, 2020 at 3:27:44 PM HST
To: dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov===

To Whom It May Concern,

I strongly oppose any expansion of the Hawaiian Memorial Park. I am a Kaneohe resident, Kaneohe Bay boater, and a marine scientist with extensive knowledge on the ecosystem processes of the bay. I work for a marine conservation agency and received my masters degree from the University of Hawaii in 2016 where I studied the impacts of human induced damage to Kaneohe Bay. Aside from the fact that this cemetery expansion is a for-profit venture and is unwanted in our community, I know the environmental impacts will be significant. Kaneohe Bay has been continually damaged by anthropogenic factors both in the water and on shore. As urbanization increases, the fragile marine ecosystem quality declines in this once pristine bay. Any large earth moving endeavour will create unconsolidated sediment. Unconsolidated sediment in near shore environments serves to smother coral reefs and decrease fish habitat. Heavy rains cannot be predicted in an EA or EIS. There is no sufficient mitigation factors included in the proposed action that will prevent loss of marine habitat. Not only is the area near this proposed project a federal Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), it is also home to the endangered Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle. Any action that threatens these designations will be met with scrutiny by both private and non-profit organizations. Do not proceed with this project! I look forward to providing oral testimony in the near future, and am happy to address any questions or comments.

Regards,
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