

June 2, 2020

Land Use Commission
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, HI 96804

Dear Sir or Madam:

Subject: A17-804 Hawaiian Memorial Life Plan, Ltd.
Petition To Amend The Conservation Land Use District Boundary Into The Urban Land Use District for Approximately 53.449 Acres of Land at Kaneohe, Island of Oahu, State of Hawaii, TMK (1) 45-033: por. 001

As a life-long Kaneohe resident, I oppose Hawaiian Memorial's petition to amend the conservation land use district boundary into the urban land use district for approximately 53.449 acres of land in Kaneohe.

Please don't allow Hawaiian Memorial's greed take precedence over land conservation. When the new Texas-based owner purchased Hawaiian Memorial, they knew what they were buying.

Whenever you rezone conservation land, it no longer provides the same ecosystem that allows rainwater to filter into our aquifers. The fragile ecosystem then becomes negatively impacted. Forested lands absorb more water and roots stabilize upper soil layers and prevent erosion. But any type of land use change can also impact water quality of both surface and ground water.

It is our job as stewards of the land to protect Hawaii's conservation areas from further encroachment and to seriously think about how our actions of today will impact Hawaii's fragile ecosystem and water supply of tomorrow. Plus seeing trees is always preferable to seeing seven retaining walls. Are we calling the expansion "progress"?

On another note, who will guarantee—in the decades to come—that Hawaiian Memorial will continue to do what the current owners promise? Who will be our steward/watch dog? In 2019, the Puu Alii and Pohakea Point condominium complex, right in Kaneohe, chopped down more than 1,000 trees that are protected by a 1975 city ordinance. The city cited the complex but neither the complex or city can ever replace 50+-year-old trees—the damage is done and can't be undone.

Don't be swayed by promises. The legacy that Hawaiian Memorial will leave is irreparable damage to Kaneohe's watershed and conservation land.

Sincerely,


Karen Galut

