

From: [Wayne Kanemoto](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Cc: [Mr Wayne Kanemoto](#); [Layne Novak](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Connections Charter School Application
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 10:44:10 AM

State Land Use Commission Members,

I live at 1358 Mele Manu St., near the site of the proposed Connections New Century Public Charter School. I oppose Connections building their school in the subdivision for the following reasons:

--[if !supportLists]-->1. <!--[endif]-->Negative impact on traffic, water usage and capacity, quality of life continue to concern me and others in our area.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->a. <!--[endif]-->Traffic- 381 students, 67 full and part time staff with 140 parking stalls will increase the vehicle and bus numbers entering and leave from the same point at Kaumana Drive. Presently the traffic is consists of vehicles from the residences on Edita and Mele Manu Street. In addition entrance and exit to Kaumana Drive at the same point is a problem if it is blocked

<!--[if !supportLists]-->b. <!--[endif]-->Water- use and capacity to meet the needs of the school not been resolved. The school's estimate of water use hasn't been resolved with other estimate. In addition a dorm facility would increase the water usage and I do not know what the plans are for the dorm facilities.

<!--[if !supportLists]-->c. <!--[endif]-->Current residents quality of life will be degraded with increase vehicle traffic. This has been a single family community for over 30 years.

--[if !supportLists]-->2. <!--[endif]-->Connections has not taken steps to be a "good" neighbor" and earn our respect, trust and support. Instead, litigation is their choice. We had limited communication before the first hearing on their application and no communication since denial of permit by the Windward planning Commission in 2019. I have no idea of the positive benefits for present and future residents.

Members of the State Land Use Commission deny Connections approval to build and operate the school at this site.

Wayne Kanemoto

From: [iwasaki farms](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Docket No. SP21-413 Connections New Century Public Charter School
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 4:49:42 PM

January 17, 2022

Land Use Commission

dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov

RE: Docket No. SP21-413 Connections New Century Public Charter School

Dear Commission Members,

While the goals of the Connections Charter School are noteworthy, the chosen location on Edita Street is unsuitable for the intended purpose. In fact, it would be a danger to the community. As a resident on Edita Street since 2009, I drive up and down Kaumana Drive on a regular basis. Driving at the 35 mph speed limit, I have had impatient drivers pass me around the many blind curves. Developing a campus with over 300 students, teachers, and other workers without a proper left turn lane and other necessary traffic infrastructure exposes the community and students to a known hazard and creates an unnecessary liability.

Furthermore, the application submitted does not contain the required information to determine compliance with federal water and sewage statutes. It is well established that agency deference does not allow decisions that would be detrimental to community health and safety. Due to the above facts, this application by Connections Charter School must be denied as a matter of law.

Sincerely,

Alan Iwasaki

From: [Loretta Crivello](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposed to Construction on Edita Street.
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 5:59:09 PM

Construction will disturbed the natural landscaping and will cause the collapse of the natural lava barrier that is withholding the land from further erosion. My house is next to Waipahoehoe Stream and has already suffered damage from Hurricane Lane in 2018. Right now it is very fragile and the state or county will not put any kind of barrier to withstand any more erosion. We oppose to any kind of construction in this area.

Thank you and Sincerly,
Loretta and Ronald Crivello
1073 Kaumana Dr.
Hilo, Hi

Sent from my iPad

From: [Fay Sakata](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony for Land Use Commission Meeting (Jan 19-20, 2022)
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 6:04:26 PM

RE: Connections New Century Public Charter School

Aloha,

My name is Fay Sakata and I live on Mele Manu Street, near the site of the proposed charter school. The project will have an adverse impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

The record will show that there were considerable objections from the community. A petition was submitted which showed that of the 106 lots within the Pacific Plantation Subdivision, 90 or 85% opposed the project.

Further, a survey was taken of properties within 500 feet of the proposed site. There were 170 lots, excluding government land and road lots. Of these, 116 or 68% opposed; 54 or 31% took no position or could not be contacted (vacant land or absentee owners).

One of the criteria for a Special Permit is whether the use would have an "adverse impact to the surrounding property." The statement from the Police Department noting its adverse impact combined with the perceptions and statements of the overwhelming majority of the project's neighbors should be sufficient to conclude that the request indeed would have an adverse impact.

As noted by the Court, the Commission had a wide discretion in deciding whether to approve a special permit. While the request may meet some of the other criteria, the most critical one - in our estimation - is its impact to the community. We therefore respectfully request the Commission to exercise its discretion and deny the request.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fay Sakata
Mele Manu Resident

From: [Yolanda Keehne](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] HI State Land Use Comm Letter Connections Charter School 1-17-22
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 7:07:18 PM
Attachments: [HI State Land Use Comm Letter in Oppostion to New Site for Conn.pdf](#)

Aloha,

Attached please find my testimony in opposition of the proposed site for the new Connections Charter School in Kaumana, Hilo, Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Yolanda M. Keehne

January 17, 2022

Yolanda M. Keehne
69 'Uhaloa Place
Hilo, HI 96720

Email: dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov

Hawaii State Land Use Commission
Department of Business, Economic Development *and* Tourism
P.O. Box 2359
Honolulu, HI 96804-2359

**RE: Testimony in Opposition of the Proposed Construction of the New
Connections Public Charter School in Upper Kaumana, Hilo, Hawaii**

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in opposition of the proposed construction of the **Connections Public Charter School** campus in upper Kaumana, near Edita Street and Kaumana Drive. My home is located approximately 2 miles from this area and I have been a resident there for 42 years. As a result I believe that I am qualified to offer my opinion on this important matter.

First of all, the area is not equipped with the proper infrastructure to support a school campus of this size. There is no existing water supply source that could accommodate such a high consumption rate required for a school campus.

In addition to this, there is no existing wastewater system that could accommodate such a large facility. Flooding events are commonplace in this area and have presented numerous problems in the past. Most of the "run off" from rainstorms and flooding nearby is discharged via the Alenaio or Waipahoehoe streams and this project could exacerbate the problems related to this.

Finally, the construction of a large school campus on the proposed property would certainly create more traffic nearby and it would adversely affect safety and transportation issues for faculty, students, parents, fire-rescue services, law enforcement services *and* residents in the surrounding communities. This is not simply a matter of "not in my back yard," i.e. **NIMBY**, rather it is a matter of multiple complex essential issues that must be carefully considered for the *greater good* and the extenuating and far-reaching negative consequences which are likely to occur as a result of poor planning.

Sincerely,



Yolanda M. Keehne

My name is Steven Sakata, and I live on Mele Manu St., near the site of the proposed charter school. The project's traffic will have an adverse impact on the surrounding neighborhood.

This was adequately documented in the existing record and confirmed by the Court. To reiterate the Court, the burden fell on the applicant to demonstrate the impact will not be adverse. Additionally, there were many testifiers, including the Police Department, who claimed that the impact will be adverse in terms of noise and safety.

This factor in and of itself, is sufficient for the Commission to deny the request. Thank you for this testifying opportunity.

From: [Bertram Carvalho](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to the Building of Connections Public Charter School in Kaumana
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 10:26:50 PM

Aloha.

My name is Bertram Carvalho, and I have lived in Kaumana all of my life.

This email is to let you know that I oppose the building of Connections Public Charter School in Kaumana. My concern is that the school will increase traffic along Kaumana Drive, which would increase the potential for traffic accidents in an area that does not have the infrastructure to support it. Kaumana Dr. is a narrow, winding road, and those who might speed or are not familiar with the roads could get into an accident.

The increased traffic will also result in difficulty for both residents of the area and patrons of the school trying to pull out of their driveway or streets in the mornings. The left turn from Edita onto Kaumana Drive is already dangerous as the bend in the road makes it difficult to see cars coming downhill until they are almost upon you. In addition, cars turning right off of Edita often block the view of the traffic coming uphill, making it doubly hard to make the left out of Edita. This is a serious safety issue that needs to be addressed.

This school should not be approved until or unless these safety issues are resolved. Please do the research before you make a decision.

Aloha,
Bertram Carvalho

From: [anna.kennedy](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written testimony for State Land Commission January 19-20, 2022 on SP21-413 Connections New Century Public Charter School
Date: Monday, January 17, 2022 11:01:09 PM
Attachments: [Submission to State Land Use Commission Meeting. .pdf](#)

Please see attached written testimony for State Land Commission Meeting January 19-20, 2022 on SP21-413 Connections New Century Public Charter School. Submitted by Anna Kennedy, 1300 Mele Manu Street, Hilo HI 96720

My name is Anna Kennedy, I own and live at 1300 Mele Manu Street in Pacific Plantation. Three generations live in this home. We are new to this address but not new to Hilo.

We are not opposed to the Connections Charter School concept but thoroughly question whether this is the right location for a school of this size and intended agricultural program. We fully support additional objections submitted by the neighborhood.

Our main concerns regarding the special permit as submitted by the Connections New Century Public Charter School would be Location for intended use, clientele; Safety of all concerned; More traffic on an already congested network; disruption of a primarily residential neighborhood. And just what is a special permit and how is it processed.

1. **Location:** Why would an agricultural School want to build on land designated by the Land Study Bureau “unsuitable for Agriculture.” (1) The site is on top of the 1880-1881 pahoehoe lava flow and has very little soil. Wouldn't a piece of land in an established agriculture area make for a better learning environment? The school has declined such lands available for lease.

The property in question is in an already residential community and by admission the school will not serve the community. Majority of the students are from outside Hilo.

2. **Safety :** It is a documented that Pahoehoe flows typically have lava tubes with branches (2) . Kamana Cave in fact lies under the upper portion of the Cave and has an opening on Edita Street. The question is how many tubes may lie under the remaining property. The existing cave and unknown tubes would be a safety issue especially for a public school. When “Johnny” falls through a tube or skips school and is injured in Kamana Cave right on Public School property the State will be open to

civil liability and litigation. There have already been injuries and death from cave ins on private property in the community.

3. Traffic: The studies on traffic counts for this project are 13 years old (as of May 2022) (4). Surely this is not sufficient information on the impact of additional traffic in 2022. Much building has been underway in the area. Property adjacent to the proposed school is up for sale and has been approved for a subdivision of six more lots. Kaumana Drive, a narrow winding mountain road, services a large area and is the main way in and out. The larger community already has a school at each end, both generating Hilo school traffic chaos. Edita street opening onto Kaumana drive is the only in and out for the whole Pacific Plantation and adjacent neighbors. Bottleneck in the making.

4. Neighborhood Impact: Adjacent neighbors will suffer. Our home and at least fifteen others in direct line of sight and sound will be subjected to at least 16-26 years of building according to the schools proposal to build in stages. As well as the general noise of a school and farm for years to come.

Edita street is used by the neighborhood for walking (It is the "flat" street) and of course additional traffic and likely new traffic patterns will endanger that activity. Not to mention local children on bicycles or the fact that it is the only way home for many homes on Edita and the whole of Pacific Plantation above.

5. Special Permits for land Use: From my research, I understand that special permits should benefit the surrounding area, should not require public agencies to expend extra services or heavily impact tax dollars for special or expanded services. And should fit the general plan for land use of an area. I strongly disagree with the decision to grant a special permit by the Hawaii County Windward Planning Commission in October 7, 2021. No new evidence by all concerned parties was allowed at that

meeting ,although the Connections School did just that with no objections by the Commission. It was not clear to me that the Planning Commission fully exercised their responsibility as remanded by the Court of Appeals in January 2020. Much of the Intermediate Court of Appeals remand seemingly was totally disregarded and without explanation. It is our hope that the State Land Use Commission fully consider all aspects of the request for a special land use permit and from all concerned parties and angles.