From: Ke"ala Lee Loy
To: DBEDT LUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Connections Public Charter School Permit Application
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 7:19:24 AM

To: State Land Use Commission

Date: 01/17/2022

Re: Connections Public Charter School (CPCS) Permit Application

The Connections Public Charter School (CPCS) Permit Application has been denied twice since 2014. It has been appealed twice and both appeals were upheld. We find ourselves here once again before the Land Use Commission to continue the quest for safety in our community.

To be clear, CPCS is a GREAT idea, it is just a TERRIBLE location with SAFETY red flags everywhere you look.

What‘s changed that we find ourselves here once again before the Land Use Commission?

Has the proposed project changed?

Has the geography of the proposed project site changed?

What‘s changed?

Other than being in an unprecedented worldwide pandemic, what has changed are the members of the Windward Planning Commission. This commission voted to exclude any current or updated information while deciding on the proposed permit application. In my opinion that was an irresponsible and reprehensible decision as this pandemic will change EVERYTHING about how we move forward in our educational institutions. I get it, they did not want to be inundated with MORE information.

Let us not forget there are principles, guidelines and best practices about living on an island in the middle of the Pacific that cannot be discounted or avoided. There are too may development GREAT ideas and not enough attention to the potential outcomes.

He ali’i ka ‘āina he kauwā ke kanaka.

The land is chief, man is its servant/steward.

There’s much wisdom in this ‘ōlelo no’eau, it implies we are all land stewards because we need it to survive. It doesn‘t need us, we need it. It reminds us that the lay of the land, its geographical features and natural elements are in charge, not us.

There are basic mauka/makai principals of island living that are really quite predictable. Island living teaches us what happens mauka affects and effects makai. Every.Single.Time. A wise and well-trained kahuna kuhikuhi pu‘uone (expert who points out the land contours and its relationship to the natural elements, equivalent to about 5 different engineer titles) could tell you precisely why a school of this nature is not appropriate to build on Edita Street, above an extension of Kaūmana Caves.

We can predict that the waste water will trickle makai with normal Hilo rain or travel with bullet force during torrential rain down Waipāhoehoe and Alenaio, ultimately ending up in Hilo Bay.

When kānaka (the servant or steward, us) alluded to in the ‘Ōlelo No‘eau proceeds with its plan even though the geography tells us it is inappropriate, we end up with huge problems like the Hilo Bay soccer field previously known as Wailama River, the ‘Ō‘ōkala Dairy with its offensive wastes heading makai in the gulches of neighborhoods and the overflow of the Kaūmana culvert exiting from Kaūmana caves on Edita across from the proposed project site. All examples of force fitting permit applications and poor planning.

Also of concern is an inadequate supply of water. Of course the school has tried to convince everyone that their current water use will be very similar to their projected water use when and if granted a permit to build out in Kaūmana. The notion is ludicrous and insulting to our intelligence in that the two locations are incomparable. A proposed dormitory and raising livestock alone will increase water use exponentially.

As the Land Use Commission with the power to approve or deny this special permit, please take the time to study the case and know and understand the lay of the land this project is requesting a permit for. Our community deserves your full attention to all the details before making this decision. Please use your moral compass to guide you.

Ola i ka wai, water is life!

Mahalo nui,

Pauline Ke‘ala Lee Loy

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Ke'ala Lee Loy
keleeloy@hawaii.rr.com

From: Henry Lee Loy
To: DBEDT LUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony in Opposition of Connections Public Charter School in Upper Kaumana, Hilo, Hawai"i
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 8:45:38 AM

1-19-2022 State Land Use Commission E-mail/Written Testimony

My name is Dr. Henry Lee Loy. I am a retired physician. I reside in Kaumana, Hilo, Hawaii. I am not against the existence of Connections Public Charter School. I oppose the development of a public charter school for 435 students and a 30 person dormatory on the Edita street entrance road for multiple health and safety reasons.

#1 Traffic
A school of this magnitude is inappropriate for the proposed location. Kaumana Drive is tortuous with many curves and no sidewalks. The Intermediate Court of Appeals concluded that traffic stemming from this development would have an adverse effect on surrounding properties. In accordance with EDSPECS guidelines, "The site should have a minimum of two vehicular access points each on a different side of the property." However, the Connections Public Charter School application form states "The campus would have a single vehicular access from Edita Street." Having only one way in and out of the campus does not meet the EDSPECS guidelines and presents a clear and present danger for students, staff, emergencies services and the neighborhood community.

#2 Water
The school does not have enough drinking water. The County of Hawaii Department of Water Supply (DWS) has stated that "potable water allocation to the property is limited to 4,200 gallons per day (gpd). Based on a 60 gpd per student standard, the 4200-gallon allocation could support 70 students." The water demand for this project based on a total of 435 students (@ 60 gallons/student) is 26,100 gpd. This demand is well above the stated 4,200 gpd currently available from Hawaii DWS. While the planned use of harvested rainwater for non-potable uses may reduce the actual potable demand, there should be analyses conducted to estimate what the actual demand for potable water would be. Based on the preliminary water usage estimate submitted by CPCS, DWS determined that the entire project will require an estimated average daily demand of 10,828 GPD. As such, the DWS existing water system cannot support any additional water demand within the subject parcel at this time. In order to provide additional water, extensive improvements would be required, which may include, but are not limited to source, storage, booster pumps, transmission, and distribution facilities. In order to source more water DWS, in 2013, estimated it would cost $4 million to improve their existing water system to meet the needs of the Connections Public Charter School development. In the Intermediate Court of Appeals Memorandum Opinion, the court affirmed that "there was no definitive evidence in the record that Connections would be able to develop potable water sources." Catchment systems would be prone to contamination from leaching of metallic roofs from sulfur dioxide in the vog causing elevated levels of heavy metals such as lead and zinc. Wind-blown dirt, leaves, fecal droppings from birds and animals can pose high health risks such as infectious diseases from Dengue, Leptospirosis, Rat Lung disease, E. coli, Cryptosporidium, Giardia, Campylobacter, Vibrio, Salmonella, Shigella, and Pseudomonas. According to DOE's site selection criteria, "appropriate utility infrastructure needs to be in

place prior to the start of school construction." Therefore the project would place an unreasonable burden on a Public Utility, the County Department of Water Supply to provide water for its facilities.

#3 Wastewater, Storm runoff and Drainage
The proposed project covers 70 acres and is bordered by Waipahoehoe Stream on its makai/bottom boundary which flows down to Alenaio Stream into the Wailoa River and out into Hilo Bay. Several times in recent years Kamehameha Avenue from Ponahawai street to Bishop street, including the soccer fields have been closed due to heavy flooding from storm runoff.

This project which sits on top of the Kaūmana Cave system does not intend to use the conventional septic tank system. They are considering using a "Living Machine" biological wastewater treatment system. While using bacteria, plants and other organisms such as snails and fish to break down and digest the organic pollutants sounds environmentally appealing I am concerned about the quality and safety of the water that the school intends to reuse for possible nonpotable use. Is the recycled wastewater safe for agricultural irrigation and livestock use or if it can be safely released back into the environment? According to the CDC, currently there is no evidence showing anyone has gotten COVID-19 through drinking water, recreational water or wastewater, but SARS-CoV-2 can be shed in the feces of individuals with symptomatic or asymptomatic infection. We remain early in the pandemic and I suspect the Covid virus to mutate further as seen with the Delta and Omicron variant. The CDC remains concerned as they maintain the Waterborne Disease and Outbreak Surveillance Reporting Program nationwide.

From Connections Public Charter School Application Form:

"The school does intend to include an agricultulral program...Roughly one-half of the lower parcel has been allocated for the agricultural use...in addition the school would like to have a small number of livestock."(P. 27 Special permit application form)

"The Property is approximately 70 acres in size...The project site is separated into two parcels...The upper parcel comprises roughly 33 acres, and the lower parcel 37 acres" (p. 5 Special permit application form).

(One half of 37 acres =18.5 acres that is allocated for agricultural use)

Hydrology, Surface Water, and Groundwater: Rainfall is abundant in the Hilo area, with the project area receiving between 160 and 200 inches of rain annually (Juvik and Juvik, 1998). Much of the rainfall percolates into the ground, recharging the underground aquifers. During periods of heavy precipitation, runoff can be problematic if the amount and rate of runoff exceeds the percolation rate of the underlying ground water. Surface Water: There are no perennial streams, lakes or ponds within the project site or in the immediate vicinity. The nearest perennial stream is Waipahoehoe Stream, which flows north of the project site and feeds into Wailoa River. There is topographical evidence that indicates the presence of an intermittent stream south of the lower parcel that drains toward Alenaio Stream. Runoff that flows through Kaūmana Cave to the concrete channel along Edita Street feeds into this intermittent stream. Inland waters in the vicinity of the project site are designated Class 2 waters and the nearest marine water to the project is Hilo Bay, which is designated as class A waters. Groundwater: the project site is located within the Northeast Mauna Loa Aquifer

Recharge Zone (Juvik and Juvik, 1998). With the highly permeable pāhoehoe flows , which are characteristic of the project site, precipitation quickly percolates into the ground where it recharges this aquifer resource. The Mauna Loa Aquifer Recharge Zone provides a sustainable yield of approximately 740 million gallons per day (gpd) of fresh water for the residents, forests, and ecosystems within the zone, including the town of Hilo and surrounding area." (p. 47 Special Permit Application Form)

Contrary to the planners statement above the perennial Waipahoehoe Stream IS in the immediate vicinity, as it borders the lower parcel and they admit feeds into Wailoa River. The pollutants in the runoff could harm the protected Native Hawaiian Nene goose habitat where the geese depend on these wetlands to survive and breed. Wailoa River then flows out into Hilo Bay and surrounding coastal waters directly impacting recreational activities such as fishing, surfing, outrigger canoe paddling, kayaking, paddle boarding , sailing, swimming, and picnicking.

"Although rare, high flow events have been known to occur from storm water that flows through Kaūmana Cave. Water that naturally seeps into Kaūmana Cave during periods of high rainfall along with surface runoff from the upper regions of Kaūmana Drive that enter into Kaūmana Cave can create high flow conditions. As storm waters are channeled through Kaūmana Cave, there is a potential that water volume could be high enough to exit the cave system through the cave opening on Edita street. From the Edita Street exit, storm water then flows through a concrete channel running parallel to, and alongside Edita Street, where it is directed into a culvert underneath the road and into an intermittent stream that borders the lower parcel's southern boundary. During very severe storms, water has been known to overtop the concrete channel and flow across Edita Street, resulting in some flooding of adjacent areas." (p. 14 Special permit application form)

The entrance to the school is located directly across from the concrete channel and culvert.

"Previous flood events in the Kaūmana area do raise concerns with regard to flood conditions." (p. 24 Special permit application form)

"Drainage: The project includes features to minimize storm water runoff from the site. The rain catchment system would capture runoff from the building roofs and covered walkways for reuse, which would reduce the amount of storm water runoff from the subject property. It may also be possible to capture and reuse storm water runoff from the paved and ground surfaces for some nonpotable uses, which could further reduce site runoff...Runoff from paved areas would be managed on-site by a series of detention basins that would capture and hold runoff until it percolates into the ground and/or evaporates...further engineering studies would be conducted to develop adequate drainage plans...to address potential flood hazards posed by the conditions along Edita Street." (p. 25 Special permit application form)

The EPA says "Traditional stormwater management approaches that rely on peak flow storage have generally not targeted pollutant reduction and can exacerbate problems associated with changes in hydrology and hydraulics" (EPA Website; Problems with Stormwater Pollution)

"In the Kaūmana area. The storm drainage system consists old roadside ditches, culverts, and narrow channels. Most of the area's storm water runoff is discharged through Waipahoehoe or Alenaio Stream. The project site is underlain by porous pāhoehoe lava flow. This results in a

terrain in which the majority of rainfall rapidly percolates into the substrate. During storm events, runoff along the upper regions along Kaūmana Drive flow into and through Kaūmana Cave. Stormwater exits through an opening at Edita Street into a concrete channel that runs parallel and adjacent to the street. From the concrete channel, storm water flows under the roadway and discharges into an intermitent stream that borders the lower portion of the property...While not common, stormwater has been known to overtop the concrete channel and flow across Edita street."(p. 60,61 Special permit application Form)

"The project information document indicates that water will be provided through the Department of Water Supply municiple system. We recommend that the Draft Envoronmental Assessment (DEA) quantify the potable and non potable needs for the project, and whether there are any available alternative sources of non-potable water. Waipahoehoe stream is in the vicinity of the project, and any potential impacts to this stream should be disclosed." (Letter of February 19, 2009 from Ken C. Kawahara, P.E., Deputy director Commission on Water Resource Management DLNR to Morris Atta, Land Division DLNR, SUBJECT: Early Consultstion for Draft Environmental Assessment for Connections New Century Public Charter School, Hilo, Hawaii)

It was never disclosed that on the subject property storm runoff and water that seeps into the ground or drainage water that is captured and allowed to percolate from detention basins and rainfall that rapidly percolates through the porous pāhoehoe lava into the substrate could carry inadequately treated wastewater including human and livestock waste and unknown debris downsteam into Waipahoehoe stream and Alenaio stream which flow down into Hilo Town. (see Exhibit C; Location map showing Waipahoehoe and Alenaio Streams, Downtown Hilo and Hilo Bay Special permit application form). This would adversely impact Sunrise Ridge, Sunrise Estates, Lakeland, Kukuau, Ponahawai, Mohouli and Hilo House Lots subdivisions, Hilo Bayfront soccerfields, State and County government offices, business locations and recreational activities in Hilo Bay including fishing, surfing, outrigger canoe paddling, kayaking, paddle boarding, sailing, swimming, and picnicking.

During the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) of 2009 Environmental researcher Patricia Kambesis who had conducted speleological , hydrological and resource inventory work in the Kaūmana Cave System since 1996 stated a full Environmental Impact Study was needed to be completed for development of the project , the Draft EA " Only takes into account the surface hydrology of the area and there is no mention whatsoever of ground water. In fact a perennial underground stream , which is perched on layers of Pahala Ash, flows in the lower levels of Kaūmana Cave. The recharge area for that stream is in and around Kaūmana town. The stream continues to flow underground beyond the Edita Street culvert and it has been speculated that It recharges a major spring in Hilo. During storm events, the stream overflows its lower level confines and actually upwells into and flows through the main conduit of the cave system. Residents have reported that during major storm events, the Edita Street entrance discharges a heavy flow of water. The ground water hydrology of the cave system is vulnerable to surface pollution caused by faulty septic systems, contaminant transport from roadways, and from chemicals and sediment associated with urban and agricultutal land use. Paving more surfaces for building and parking also increases the flood vulnerability of the area.

In order to responsibly manage the surface and groundwater hydrology associated with Kaūmana Cave, a hydrologic study needs to be conducted to delineate the groundwater recharge area, identify underground flow routes and to confirm points of discharge both during

base level and storm flow conditions"... The intent of the EA was "to ensure that comprehensive and systematic consideration is given to potential impacts of the proposed action upon the natural and man-made environment" (draft EA p. 7) "...nor any assesssment of the ground water hydrology, or the caves natural resources, indicates that comprehensive and systematic consideration has NOT been given to the impact of construction and development. These omissions not only potentially compromise Kaūmana Cave System but also run contrary to Connections vision of "constructing a green school which would become a model of sustainable development and design" (Draft EA p.13). Kaūmana Cave System is important for its natural, historical and cultural resources. It is currently used for educational and research purposes, and is a popular tourist and recreational site. Any development in the area should address impacts within each of these contexts and as such a full environmental impact study is critically important" (Letter dated September 3, 2009 from Patricia Kambesis, Assistant Director Hoffman Environmental Research Institue Western Kentucky University to Will Chee Planning), but was dismissed by planners as being unwarranted and beyond the scope of the project stating "while a watershed-wide hydrological study would be benificial to better understand flooding conditions and develop long-term flood prevention and protection measures throughout the watershed, CPCS should not bear that responsibility".

Wastewater, storm runoff and drainage from the project could lead to potential adverse effects on the groundwater hydrology of the cave systems, which includes Waipahoehoe Stream, Alenaio Stream, Wailoa River, and Hilo Bay. All of these waters are under the protection of the Hawaii Water Code.

A final EA was published in the Environmental Notice in November 2010 after DLNR issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). No Environmental Impact Statement was ever done.

In conclusion, the proposed location of Connections Public School with 435 students, a 30 person dormitory, a 6 horse barn, livestock, a robust agricultural progam of 17 acres, encompassing a total of 70 acres in an established residential neighborhood is inappropriate due to multiple health and safety reasons that will affect students, staff, the neighboring community and it will have detrimental effects from mauka to makai to the town of Hilo downstream of the project.

You have been given the authority to deny this project and I respectfully ask that you do so.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Henry K. Lee Loy

PROPOSED CONNECTIONS PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL PROJECT WATER IMPACT

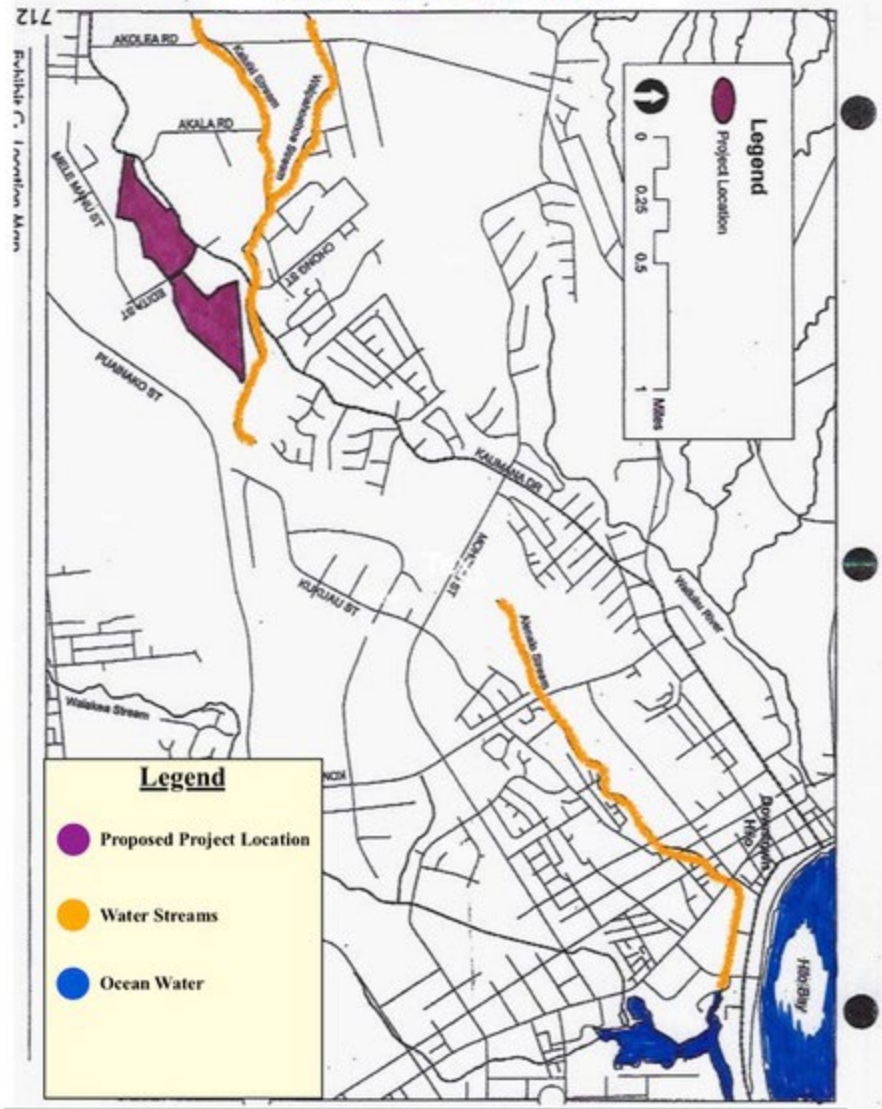

Exhibit #4: Special Permit Application Form Exhibit C: Location map showing property in relation to Waipahoehoe Stream, Alenaio Stream,Downtown Hilo, Wailoa River and Hilo Bay.

From:	Wanda Quiocho
To:	DBEDT LUC
Subject:	[EXTERNAL] Connections Charter School in Kaumana
Date:	Tuesday, January 18, 2022 10:47:01 AM

Hi, My name is Wanda Quiocho and my home address is 1222A Kaumana Drive, Hilo, HI 96720. I live across from where the proposed Connections Charter School is to be located.

I oppose the construction of this school only because of the area that is chosen. We already have enough traffic on Kaumana Drive. Getting out of my driveway now is already a problem with the amount of traffic going up to drop off children at Kaumana Elementary School and then the traffic coming back down.

Also we have the traffic of people going down Kaumana Drive to drop off their children at DeSilva, Hilo Intermediate, Hilo High and Hilo Union schools. Even with the Puainako extension, we still have plenty of traffic coming up and down Kaumana Drive.

I already have a hard time getting out of my driveway! The school only shows one way in and one way out. There is not enough room to make a turn lane on Kaumana Drive and when the traffic backs up, no one in my area will ever get out of their driveways! You try driving Kaumana Drive every day and see how you like it. Especially since they paved the roads a few years back, cars speed up and down that road all day long! Kaumana Drive is becoming a very dangerous road and it will only get worse with more traffic. Even with the Puainako extension, many people still use Kaumana Drive.

Also, the water situation is a concern to me. I don't see how they can supply enough water for that large of a school as even rain catchment wouldn't be enough.

I think they should have to install a septic system to handle all of the waste that the large school would create. Chong Street bridge and Edita Street have shown to flood during severe storms. This would raise concerns regarding flooding in the area and water runoff into the lower streams.

I am not against education or schools, I think we need more of them. It is just the location is not the place for such a large school in the middle of a residential neighborhood.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

--
Wanda A. Quiocho
Operations Manager
Savio Realty Ltd.
Office: 808-961-4818
email: wandaq@savio.com

A Hawaii Owned and Operated Business
"All Income from sales and services remains in Hawaii to support our local economy."

From: Ming Peng
To: DBEDT LUC
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written Testimony Regarding SP21-413
Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2022 12:02:55 PM

January 18, 2022

To The Land Use Commission Regarding Special Permit 21-413 Connections New Century Public Charter School

I am a resident in the Pacific Plantations Subdivision in Kaumana on Mele Manu Street. I have lived here for almost 15 years. The proposed Connections Public Charter School site is at the entrance to my subdivision. This is NOT a good site for the school for many reasons.
-**Traffic**- with over 500 students (200 High school, 100 Middle school, 200 Elementary, Pre-school, Dorm) and staff- I do not need an Environmental Impact Study to tell me it will be very difficult and frustrating getting in and out of my neighborhood. The study done by Connections is not useful as it was done in 2009 on one day when school was not in full session (the senior high school students were already done with classes). This will also cause further congestion all along Kaumana Dr. And it is already not uncommon to have traffic back up at the stop light intersection of Kaumana- Aionako- Mouhouli.
-**Inadequate water supply** for the school. The application states the school would need 26,100 gallons per day. The County Dept. of water can only provide 4,200 gpd- only 16% of the water needed. This would be unacceptable if the state were building the school, why should it be acceptable for a Public Charter school? The lack of water is also a safety issue. In the event of a fire, I would be concerned about delays in controlling & extinguishing the fire due lack of water and water pressure. That not only puts the students at risk, but the surrounding area as well. I understand there is a plan to use a catchment system, but that may not be adequate if the tanks are not full. Fires are more likely when there is less rain.
-**Not Need Another School in this Area**- there are already 6 Public Schools within 5 miles of the proposed site- 3 Elementary Schools, A High School & Middle School. Many areas in the east side do not have a school in their neighborhood.
-**Too Big of a a Project for the Residential area**. 70 Acres to Develop- If water availability, road access, and traffic problems do not limit what can be developed on the site, this project can morph into a much bigger development with more dorms and more residences. This project will change this neighborhood into a more commercial and industrial area as there will be little to constrain a much bigger development with time.
-**Lack of access to school**- only entrance from Edita- what will happen when there is an accident? With more traffic, there will be accidents.
-**Lava Tubes**- having a large number of young people around lava tube openings is begging for trouble.

Unfortunately, so far my encounters with the Administration of Connections have NOT been positive. The Administration of Connection has not conducted business in an honest and honorable manner.

The first community meeting I attended (Fall 2011) with the Connections staff told me the school would be built there despite community opposition and that it was set. Not only was that not true, but the Connections Staff did the minimum notification about the meeting (I found out from my neighbors).

A Connections Staff member took pictures of all the houses with "No Connections in Kaumana" signs.
The fence around the lower lot was put up illegally, which is just the most visible evidence of the Connections Administration being a bad neighbor and untrustworthy.
In a video report Mr. Thatcher, the principal of the school at that time, claims he thought he could put the fence up because the check for the lease had been cashed even though he was fully aware of the Planning Commission meeting was still pending. Claiming ignorance that this was wrong is also unacceptable as he is an educator and 'should do his homework'. It seems he would rather ask for forgiveness than permission as he may not get permission.
Mr. Thatcher and Mr. Hong claim the Connections project are the victims in this Fencing Fiasco. Mr. Thatcher lives within walking distance of the proposed building site. The bull dozing did not occur overnight. There were NO claims of being a "victim" when the fence was being installed. Connections Administration did NOT claim to be a "victim" when they put their lock across the gate after the fencing was done. It was only after the community reported the activity that they became "victims". This is not the first time they claim to be the "victim" when found guilty of wrong doing. They claimed to be the "victim" when found guilty of ethics violations.
Mr. Thatcher said he put up the fence over concerns marijuana was being grown on county land. That is pretty far fetched and a thinly veiled excuse. Given the populated area and how often helicopters from HELCO, tour companies and medical transportation services fly over, a farm of any sort would be noticed. Given how much land has already been cleared, I did not hear any reports of a large pot farm being uncovered in our area.
Even *if* the Connections Administration had permission to do anything on the lot, it should not have been done during hawk breeding season. According to their own plan, page 4 section 1.6 under Fauna: "To avoid disturbance to nesting Hawaiian Hawks, tree clearing should be avoided during the breeding season from March to September. If tree clearing must be conducted during this period, it is recommended that a survey be conducted to verify if any Hawaiian Hawks are present." With all the clearing and building that has been done since the fence went up, I would not be surprised if they have scared all the hawks out of their area.
The Administration of Connections has been and continues to be dismissive of the communities concerns. There has been no outreach to the surrounding community to try to work with us to address the concerns.

I do <u>not</u> feel the Connections Administration has been open and honest with the Kaumana community. The Connections Administration has not been a good neighbor so far. The fence being put up is just the first and most visible evidence and leaves me very concerned and not able to trust the whole project.
Building a 70 acre (huge) project in my small, quiet, residential community will destroy it. Currently, I have an excellent idea as to what cars 'belong' in the area and which ones I may need to keep an eye on. I love seeing familiar faces when I go for walks. I love the peace and quiet. I like that most people do not even know our subdivision is nestled up here. With the school here that will all go away. People will move out and people will not want to move in, so property values will plummet. So many cars and people coming and going. So much exposure. Less sense of security and community. More fences and walls. Any big commercial project will cause this problem. Please do not destroy my neighborhood and community.

If you look at the school that have been built recently (Kamehameha, Keaau, Kealakehe), you will note that they were built in less densely developed areas. You need to plan a school in a community or build one on the edge of the community and let the community grow towards it.

This is so that there can be adequate roads, water and minimal negative impact to an established community. This allows the school to thrive because it has the support of the community. The community thrives because it welcomes and supports the school. That is not the situation here. There is lack of community support for the reasons stated above, as the school is too big of an entity for this well established and populated community.

Please do not think that I am against the Connections Public Charter School itself. I am sure the students are wonderful people. They definitely need a campus, but Kaumana is NOT the appropriate site for a large campus. There are other sites they can build their campus. Mr. Thatcher claims the school should be at the Kaumana site to be near UH Hilo, but the 110 acre UH Hilo Agricultural Farm Laboratory is in Panaewa. Land in Puna was not even considered even though half of the students reside in Puna. Mr. Thatcher says the land at the Kaumana site is like Puna. What is even more like land in Puna is actual land in Puna. The climate at the Kaumana site is different than Puna as the site is at about 1000 feet above sea level. There are other options for school sites. There are not other options for maintaining the Kaumana community. I know no one wants to be the 'bad guy' and stop the school building project. By denying the special permit, you are not stopping Connections from building a school, you are, finally, letting them consider other site that will likely work out for the better in the long run. I feel bad that so much time and money has been spent on Environmental Impact Study, lease payments, attorney fees, illegal fencing & fines, but if the administration of Connections had done their homework and truly asked for community input and looked at it from a practical point of view it would have saved them 10 years and a lot of money.

Please stop the Connections Public Charter School in Kaumana now! Please save my neighborhood, my community, my home.

Yours truly,

Nadezna Lyn 'Nalyn' Ang, MD
Mother
Kaumana Resident at 1547 Mele Manu St.
Internist & Pediatrician