

## Quinones, Natasha A

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**From:** DBEDT LUC  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022 6:38 AM  
**To:** Quinones, Natasha A  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Testimony in Opposition of Special Application for Connections Charter School

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
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**From:** No Connections <nocbess@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 10:22 AM  
**To:** DBEDT LUC <dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Fwd: Testimony in Opposition of Special Application for Connections Charter School

My name is Larry Kimura. I reside at 243 Mikala Street, Ka'ūmana, Hilo, Hawai'i.

I am not against education of students at the Connections Charter Public School. My testimony is against the proposed site at Ka'ūmana. I believe I submitted my testimony opposing this site years ago when Connections first made this application.

First of all, Connections has not asked or polled the residents of Ka'ūmana about having a school in the community's neighborhood. Communication comes to us via newsprint or an agenda posted for a Hawai'i County meeting. The only way the community can express itself is to attend the County meeting or submit testimony in writing. A major civic program such as a school should be welcomed into the community in which it serves.

I am sure the concern for increased traffic going to and coming from the school site on Ka'ūmana's existing twisty, minimal shoulder road, presents a major concern for all.

So far, no transparency has reached the community that Connections has the funds to construct the campus being put forward to the public. This is a critical concern. Adequate funding for such a charter runned public facility and program must be ascertained. The public should not be put in a position down the road, holding the bag for the shortcomings of a project.

Respectfully submitted me ka mahalo,

Larry Kimura

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**Sent:** Wednesday, February 2, 2022 6:38 AM  
**To:** Quinones, Natasha A  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] Connections Charter School Testimony of Opposition  
**Attachments:** 20220120\_NoConnectionsTestimony\_Kimura\_Kurohara.pdf

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**From:** Ka'iu Kimura <kaiukimura@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 20, 2022 9:06 AM  
**To:** DBEDT LUC <dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Connections Charter School Testimony of Opposition

Aloha nui,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony re the application of Connections Charter Schools. Attached are my comments. Please let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Mahalo nui!  
na Ka'iu Kimura

*Randy Kurohara & Ka'iu Kimura  
1205 Pōmaika'i Way  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720*

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO:

SPP 12-000138: Special Permit for Connection Public Charter School to be built on Edita Street

20 January 2022

Aloha nui e nā lāla o ke komike ho'olālā 'o ka Planning Commission,

We are writing in OPPOSITION to the approval of the special use permit request to grant Connections Charter School approval to build on Edita Street.

We reside at the Pacific Plantations residential subdivision. We have lived here since 2014, and prior to that, 1998 to 2008. Over the years there has been significant growth in the amount of traffic coming in through Edita Street - a 1 way in/out subdivision - located off of the narrow Ka'umana Drive. Adding a K-12 school with potential enrollment of 400+ students, and faculty and staff who are not from the local area would exponentially increase and impact traffic flow and safety in and out of Edita Street – an area already challenged by traffic in high peak times for those of us who live in Pacific Plantations and along Ka'umana Road both “ma uka” and “ma kai” of Edita Street. One way in and out of the campus, and the neighborhood, is a dangerous situation for students, staff, Fire, Police, EMS and the Ka'umana community at large.

In addition, the school acknowledges the maximum potable water available from the Department of Water Supply (DWS) is 4,200 gallons per day (GPD). A full build out of the school would require between 6,858 and 10,828 gallons per day. How would this difference be made up in order to support the schools infrastructure and population? It is mentioned in the plan that a water catchment or well system could be developed then turned over to DWS to maintain. That will place unreasonable burden on the County's public utility.

There has been no consultation between the school's representatives and the Pacific Plantations community at lease since we moved back in 2014. At least 11 new families that are in our immediate area in Pacific Plantations have moved in since we did in 2014 who have also not been aware of the proposed Connections Charter School plan. I understand that no new information will be entertained in the review of this permit. However, as a resident of the community that will be directly and adversely impacted by this development, I had hoped that the school would have attempted to connect with the residents to build relationship and resolution to our concerns. No such efforts were undertaken which reflects the kind of “neighbor” that seeks to live in this tight knit community.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your consideration of this request.

Me ke aloha kaiāulu na'auao,

*Randy Kurohara*

*Ka'iu Kimura*