

**From:** Jeannine Johnson [mailto:jeannine@hawaii.rr.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, April 20, 2010 8:17 PM

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**Subject:** Council Meeting Testimony re Bill 15

Aloha mai kākou,

After living in the Chicago area for seven years, my family and I returned home to live in Niu Valley in East Honolulu in 2003. I was happy to be leaving the murder capital of America behind to raise my sons in the quiet, safe neighborhood where I grew up. Imagine my shock at finding out there were not one, but two houses in Niu Valley dealing drugs. Imagine my dismay at finding out that my most of my neighbors had been burglarized or had their car broken into or stolen (one neighbor was even burglarized while attending his father's funeral). Then imagine waking up in the middle of the night to the blast of over half a dozen gunshots. I was mortified.

So I attended my very first Neighborhood Board meeting and, along with 100 other Niu residents, requested help. Well we got it. Two days later the police raided one drug house.

Since then, I have asked the Neighborhood Board to support various legislation affecting my community: to ban shark tours, oppose the legalization of TVRs and B&Bs, enforce the public's rights of access to and use of coastal and inland recreational areas, to oppose Waldorf moving its high school to its Niu Valley campus, and oppose developments that excavate into our mountains and steep unstable slopes. But what I am most proud of is how the Board lead the way in legislation that eventually became law and made all of our communities safer:

- § Requiring those who run scrap metal and recycling businesses to ask clients for photo identification and to keep a logbook of any copper purchased or to be subject to appropriate criminal penalties;
- § To adopt an electronic surveillance ("wiretap") law that would protect civil rights, but still allow electronic surveillance of drug dealers under limited circumstances;
- § To reform sentencing in Hawai'i; and
- § To pass a "Megan's Law Amendment" so that the law regarding access to sex offender information is the same under Hawaii law as it is under federal law.

Please do not take away the life blood of our neighborhood boards - because they are the heart of our communities.

Mahalo.

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