

TESTIMONY

Resolution No. 12-290
Committee on Public Works and Sustainability
Chair Stanley Chang
Hearing: October 10, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.

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My name is Beverly Munson. I have been a full-time resident of Ko Olina since 2004. I live directly below the Waimanalo Gulch Sanitary Landfill. I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition to Honolulu City Council Resolution No. 12-290.

When I purchased my home in 2003, the Landfill was scheduled to be closed in 2008. Homeowners like myself and our business neighbors relied on the City's promises of closure. The City has not kept its promises.

When I moved to Ko Olina, I was appalled and outraged to observe virtual "storms" of plastic bags flying in the wind from the Landfill into the ocean. Additionally, we regularly experienced dust storms originating from the Landfill. My lanai is still covered with dirt every day from the Landfill.

When we first moved in, the stench from the Landfill was so overwhelming that we could not have our windows open or remain outside. I experienced burning eyes and a choking sensation in my throat. Neighbors with respiratory ailments such as asthma were affected by the dirt storms and fumes coming down from the Landfill. To this day, I still experience the horrible stench from the Landfill from time to time.

Over the years, our community and neighboring communities have written letters and made oral testimony about the dirt, debris, and odors generated by the Landfill. The close proximity of the Landfill to residential communities, tourist attractions, and the ocean create an environment where residents, visitors, and marine life continue to be exposed to health and safety hazards.

A full record of the City's broken promises, the problems with the Landfill and the harm to the surrounding community is on file with the Planning Commission. Those proceedings should be decided on the evidence. This should not be a political question. For that reason, Resolution No. 12-290 should be withdrawn.

Beverly Munson
bmm3898011@aol.com