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## MEMORANDUM

DATE : October 2, 2013

TO : ERNEST Y. MARTIN, CHAIR  
ALL COUNCILMEMBERS

FROM : JOEY MANAHAN, COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT VII 

RE : **PERMITTED INTERACTION GROUP (PIG) REPORT, HAIKU STAIRS**

This memorandum is made pursuant to a meeting conducted under Resolution 13-181. Resolution 13-181 formed a permitted interaction group ("PIG") for four (4) members of the Honolulu City Council, Joey Manahan, Ikaika Anderson, Ron Menor and Kymberly Marcos Pine, to meet with members of the Board of Water Supply, Department of Hawaiian Homelands and Friends of Haiku Stairs to investigate safety and access issues relating to the Haiku Stairs.

The meeting took place on Monday, August 26, 2013 at 7:00 a.m., at Kaneohe District Park and continued through the Haiku Plantation neighborhood, Windward Community College, DHHL property surrounding Heeia Omega Transmission Station, Ha'iku Valley, and the Board of Water Supply property in the Haiku Plantation neighborhood.

<b>City &amp; County of Honolulu</b>	Hon. Joey Manahan Council Member, District VII
	Hon. Ron Menor Council Member, District IX
	Hon. Ikaika Anderson Council Member, District III
	Hon. Kimberly Pine Council Member, District I
<b>Board of Water Supply</b>	Chief Engineer, Ernest Lau
	Deputy Chief Engineer, Ellen Kitamura

### **BACKGROUND:**

On March 25, Councilmember Joey Manahan held his Committee on Parks meeting. Included on the agenda was a discussion on the Haiku Stairs. Testifying at the discussion were State representatives – Rep. Ken Ito and State Senator Jill Tokuda (both opposed), Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting – George Atta

(no position), HFD – Captain Mosher (opposed), HPD – Assistant Chief Macadangdang (opposed), as well as numerous members of the public representing community organizations as well as testifying as private citizens (19 support, 2 opposed). Written testimony in support and opposition were also considered.

Upon conclusion of discussion item, Councilmember Manahan stated that he would consider establishing a working group or task force composed of all interested stakeholders to discuss and come up with a proposal for Haiku Stairs.

As a result of the discussion at the Parks Committee Meeting, Councilmember Manahan introduced Resolution 13-181, to form a permitted interaction group for four members of the Honolulu City Council to meet with members of the Board of Water Supply, Department of Hawaiian Homelands and Friends of Haiku Stairs to investigate safety and access issues relating to the Haiku Stairs.

On August 7, 2013, the Honolulu City Council passed Resolution 13-181, to form a PIG to meet with the aforementioned stakeholders. Councilmembers Joey Manahan, Ikaika Anderson, Ron Menor and Kymberly Marcos Pine were designated as PIG members.

The meeting was scheduled and held on Monday, August 26, 2013 at 7:00 a.m.

#### **AUGUST 26, 2013 MEETING:**

The meeting on August 26, 2013 commenced at 7:00 a.m. at the Kaneohe District Park. There, the four councilmembers and staff met with Ernest Lau, Chief Engineer and Ellen Kitamura, Deputy Chief Engineer of the Board of Water Supply, as well as representatives from the Friends of Haiku Stairs. The Friends of Haiku stairs gave a history of the stairs, as well as presented councilmembers with a map showing different points of access that have been historically used, including access through BWS property, through the Haiku Plantation neighborhood, Kamehameha Schools – Bishop Estate property and through DHHL property.

Following the brief explanation, the PIG traveled to Windward Community College to review the first of four access points. From there, the PIG traveled to the Haiku neighborhood's Kamehameha preschool, where there is an access road through Kamehameha Schools property into the Haiku Valley. Following this, Friends of Haiku Stairs escorted the PIG to the Omega Station, a former Naval Communications Site in Haiku Valley, owned by DHHL with portions of the land being leased to the Samuel Kamakau Hawaiian Immersion Charter School. Representatives from DHHL's land management division were on hand to escort the PIG around the OMEGA station property and explain the issues and difficulties with controlled access on the property.

Lastly, the PIG traveled to examine the stairs access point from the Haiku Plantation neighborhood. BWS escorted the PIG through a gated access road and up to the base of the stairs. From here, the PIG had an opportunity to examine the base of the stairs and to discuss security with the guard present.

#### **PROPOSED ACTION:**

The PIG participants recommend that the Haiku Stairs remain closed to public, until sound and reasonable recommendations are obtained after a full observation and inspection of the Haiku Stairs. Touring the whole trail would have given the PIG participants better judgment in regards to the safety, cost of repair, improvement and maintenance of the Haiku Stairs.

PIG participants discussed access with the BWS representatives and BWS representatives stated that they would be open to exploring a controlled means for access that satisfied safety concerns as well as concerns of the surrounding community.

Councilmember Manahan recommends that the City continue its working relationship with all stakeholders City, State, and Private land owners, as well as the various community organizations including the Friends of Haiku Stairs, The Ko`olau Foundation, and community partner, Ko`olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club to preserve the area.

It was concluded that it was in the public's interest to keep the Haiku Stairs closed until all stakeholders involved from the State and City can come to a consensus on what to do.