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Representative Aaron Ling Johanson

House District 31 – Aiea, Ft. Shafter, Moanalua, Red Hill, Aliamanu, Foster Village

April 5, 2016

Testimony Submitted on Bill 14 (2016)

Dear Chair Kobayashi, Vice Chair Manahan, and members of the Budget Committee. On behalf of the communities that I represent, I write in support of Bill 14 relating to the executive operating budget and program for fiscal year July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017, and specifically, the proposed amendment that re-provisions funds for the reimbursement of the purchase of Aiea Sugar Mill, to allow for expanded public purpose and uses.

The Aiea Community Association (ACA) and residents of Aiea have been involved in the redevelopment of this property for the past 20 plus years. We are very interested in redeveloping this property into something that fits the needs of the community as a whole. We believe that the land should be turned into something that serves not just the residents of Aiea but neighboring communities as well.

This bill will provide the necessary funding to reimburse HUD for the upper parcel of this property. This would allow more flexibility in the planning, design and redevelopment of the entire property. The property that was previously occupied by the Aiea Sugar Mill, consists of three parcels. The passing of this bill would allow us to plan and redevelop the property without having requirements on only one of the parcels. With all three parcels having no specific requirements, it will be easier to plan, design, and solicit interested developers to develop this property.

The Aiea Community Association (ACA) and residents envisions a senior facility and community center to serve the needs of the Aiea and surrounding communities. This property sits in a residential area surrounded by Aiea Elementary, Alvah Scott Elementary, Gus Webling Elementary, Aiea Intermediate, and Aiea High School. With the Aiea Library anchored at the front of this property, it is the ideal location to plan for a community-type development to serve our children, teens, adults and elderly.

Bill 14 offers a potential solution to help address a key concern of many residents in my community. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aaron L. Johanson".

Aaron Ling Johanson
State Representative
District 31