

Testimony of Hokuala Johnson
In OPPOSITION of Amendment to Bill 15, CD2 FD-1 Ozawa
May 31, 2016

Aloha –

I am writing in ***opposition*** to the suggested amendment by Councilmember Trevor Ozawa to delete the funding under the proposed City Council Bill 15 CD2 FD-1. Kānewai Spring is an important cultural and natural resource to the communities surrounding Maunalua Bay. It is one of the last functioning freshwater springs on O‘ahu and must be protected in order to maintain the precious ecological balance of the larger Paiko lagoon area. Many of Hawaii’s freshwater springs have disappeared, being filled in for development or polluted beyond recovery. Kānewai is not only a beautiful, pristine example of a Hawaiian freshwater ecosystem, but it also feeds the larger Paiko lagoon area including the State of Hawai‘i Paiko Lagoon Wildlife Sanctuary which is home to numerous endemic and endangered waterbird species including the ‘Alae ‘Ula (Hawaiian Moorhen, or *Gallinula chloropus sandviensis*) and Ae‘o (Hawaiian stilt or *Himantopus mexicanus knudseni*). Removing funding for the purchase and preservation of Kānewai will not only allow the spring to become vulnerable to development threats, but it will create an irreversible negative domino effect on the larger ecosystems of Paiko, Kuli‘ou‘ou Makai and Maunalua Bay – all special places that east Honolulu communities are working hard to protect.

The City Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission has strongly recommended funding to purchase and preserve Kānewai Spring and I respectfully urge you **all to keep the Clean Water funding in the budget for Kānewai Spring** to preserve this critical source of fresh water.

Respectfully,



Hokuala Johnson
Kalama Valley

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