

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK  
CITY OF HONOLULU

2016 MAY 31 AM 17:56

**Aha Wahine**

**98-070 Lokowai Street**

**Aiea, HI 96701**

**808-354-7765**

Testimony in Opposition to Bill 15, CD2 FD1-Ozawa

Aha Wahine is a State non-profit organization whose mission is to help women spiritually, physically and mentally to be the best they can be. Our organization's board is made up of Hawaiian women. We support efforts to preserve and protect our wahi pana for in doing so, we as women can help educate the generations to come about the importance of having such sites to malama for our own wholeness in life.

Our Organization strongly opposes the amendment that would take funding away from Kanewai Springs. This wahi pana must be protected. The group Maunalua Fishpong Heritage, has been caring for this wahi pana for the last 6 years using community volunteers. In a time when we encourage community support to help protect sites such as this, it is ironic that there even is a question as to the validity of community efforts.

The monetary investment into Kanewai will reap benefits to the community a hundred fold. East Oahu is urbanized but there are pockets of gems that are worth preserving and protecting such as Hawea and Kaiwi Mauka of which our organization supports. Kanewai is such a gem.

To withhold funding due to complaints from a handful of residents is not a valid reason. If it were not for the tenacity of community, Hawea would now be a parking lot, swimming pool and tennis court. It was the community who saw the need and foresight to protect Hawea. It is the same for Kanewai. It is community that would benefit from the protection of this precious spring. One must ask, how many fresh water springs are left in East Oahu? There must have been hundreds before the urbanization of the area. The loss of these precious water sources was not deemed important in the past however, today we have laws and awareness from community that see the importance of protecting such resources.

Our organization asks the Council to see the wisdom in protecting this site by allowing the funding to proceed and to allow community to malama this wahi pana.

Sincerely,

Kaleo Paik, President