

## O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy

Honolulu City Council Meeting  
 Wednesday, June 1, 2016  
 Capital Improvement Budget Bill 15, CD2  
 and Proposed FD1 (Ozawa)

**Opposition to the Proposed Multi-Level Parking Structure  
 on Kapiolani Park Trust Lands and within the  
 Kapiolani Park Registered Historic Landscape**

**Opposition to Removal of Clean Water and Natural Lands Funding  
 for the Protection of Kanewai Spring and Fishpond**

**Support for Restoring Koko Crater Riding Stables with  
 Recommendation to Re-Direct Parking Structure Funds for this Purpose**

**Opposition to the Proposed Planning and Construction of a  
 Multi-Level Parking Structure on Kapiolani Park Trust Lands  
 and within the Kapiolani Park Registered Historic Landscape**

The O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy *strongly opposes* the proposed planning and construction of a multi-level commercial parking structure on Kapiolani Park Trust Lands.

We find it inexplicable why construction of such a structure has been proposed on Kapiolani Park Trust Land and is presently being fast-tracked into the City Budget without full and proper due diligence and deliberation by the Kapiolani Park Trustees. This creates the appearance that the City Council, aka the Kapiolani Park Trustees per the 1991 findings of fact, conclusions of law and order of the Court, may be oblivious to the terms of the Kapiolani Park Trust.

The feeble excuse provided for this make-work project as a vehicle to exploit Kapiolani Park Trust lands has been that "people who want to go to the zoo cannot find a place to park." When this occurs it is largely due to the City and County violating the terms of the Trust by not enforcing the Court's ruling that "existing parking in and around Kapiolani Park ... clearly marked for Park users only" with "signs clearly restricting the use of parking spaces to park users only."

Instead, the City and County of Honolulu, its respective administrative departments and the City Council have allowed indiscriminate parking in Kapiolani Park by myriad other interests, including Waikiki hotel employees and guests, construction workers, and business patrons destined for the adjacent Waikiki area, who park at will in Kapiolani Park thereby consuming existing parking, and precluding Park users from the use and enjoyment of the Park and its accessory facilities as intended by the Trust.

We urge the City Council to remove the proposed commercial parking structure from Executive Capital Budget Bill 15, CD2, on pages 33 and 55, respectively, to ensure intelligent, knowledgeable and thorough due diligence by both the City Council and the Kapiolani Park Trustees with a refreshed understanding of the terms and provisions of the 1896 Trust and the 1988 Supreme Court and subsequent 1991 Circuit Court rulings.

**Strong Support for Retaining Clean Water and Natural Lands Funding for the Protection and Preservation of Kanewai Spring**

In concert with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources Legacy Land Conservation Program and the City's Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission, Bill 15, CD2 provides companion funds for the purchase, protection and preservation via contractual community stewardship of ancient Kanewai Spring.

Kanewai Spring is a vital life-giving fresh water source for numerous species of fish and wildlife. Kanewai Spring feeds Kanewai Fishpond, Paiko Wildlife Sanctuary and ultimately Maunalua Bay. Yet, in 2015 Kanewai Spring was designated as one of the most endangered sites in Hawai'i.

The O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy has been informed that a proposed FD1 calls for removal of the commitment to provide the City's share of this funding. We question the integrity of irretrievably cancelling all that has gone before intended to preserve, protect and restore this important Hawaiian cultural asset, environmental ecosystem and community treasure that promises a great legacy for present and future generations.

We therefore *strongly oppose* removal of this essential funding, which is reported to be on behalf of a few private interests with a private agenda - a transparently thoughtless maneuver that will undermine years of hard work and commitment by Hawaiian cultural practitioners, historians, environmentalists, and preservationists to protect and restore this natural and cultural resource and to perpetuate this valuable legacy.

We support the exemplary work and efforts of the Maunalua Fishpond Heritage Center, the Trust for Public Land and the State DLNR to meet this goal. ***We urge the City Council to do the same by retaining the Clean Water and Natural Lands funding for Kanewai Spring in the Executive Capital Budget.***



**KĀNEWAI in KULI'OU'OU**

**Support for Koko Head Riding Stables Restoration and Re-Directing Kapiolani Park Multi-Level Parking Structure Funds for this Purpose**

The O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy has been following the recorded deterioration and recent closure of the historic Koko Head Riding Stables due to conditions of benign neglect of this treasured recreational resource by the City and County of Honolulu. We now find that a proposed FD1 for Bill 15, CD2 calls for funding a Koko Head Riding Stables project.

We support the full restoration and proper maintenance of the Koko Head Riding Stables within its current footprint as a recreational asset that has been historically symbiotic with the Koko Crater Botanical Garden.

We are concerned, however, that while the FD1 calls for addition of the Koko Head Riding Stables project to the Executive Capital Budget, the same FD1 calls for removal of vital funding for the protection and preservation of the historic Kanewai Spring natural and cultural resource.

Therefore, to ensure the essential funding for both the restoration of Koko Head Riding Stables and the preservation of Kanewai Spring, ***we urge the City Council to instead re-direct the \$500,000 slated for planning the construction of a notably legally questionable multi-level commercial parking structure proposed for the Kapiolani Park registered historic landscape and Trust lands, and use this amount instead for the full restoration and proper maintenance of the Koko Head Riding Stables.***

Most sincerely,  
Michelle Spalding Matson  
President, O'ahu Island Parks Conservancy