

6-1-2016

Aloha Chair Martin and Council Members,

I am a teacher at SEEQS Public Charter School and I would like to submit the following testimony in support of the funding for Kānewai Spring. Unfortunately I was not able to do this by the deadline, but I hope that you can share this tonight as I will not be able to be there.

I support the funding for Kānewai Spring and oppose the suggested amendment to delete the funding under the proposed draft FD1 by Councilman Ozawa. I urge Councilman Ozawa, Chair Ernie Martin, Budget Chair Ann Kobayashi and the City Council to keep the Clean Water funding in the budget for Kānewai Spring to preserve this critical source of fresh water. Without this funding, it is very likely Kānewai Spring will be lost to private development.

Kānewai Spring is a life-giving source of water for many fish and wildlife species. It feeds Kānewai Fishpond, Paikō Wildlife Sanctuary and finally Maunalua Bay. It is the last large open spring that freely flows to the ocean in Honolulu. It is also a cultural and historic piko. The City Clean Water and Natural Lands Commission has strongly recommended funding to purchase and preserve Kānewai Spring. In addition, the culture and biodiversity of Hawaii is strongly dependent on the Mauka to Makai connection. Please keep this connection alive and well!

Mahalo,  
Cara Chaudron

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