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O'AHU GROUP

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P15, Bill 1

MALAMA I KA HONUA
Cherish the Earth

January 24, 2017

Aloha Chair Menor, Vice Chair Anderson, and Members of the Council,

On behalf of the Sierra Club O`ahu Group's 8,000 members and supporters, I write to urge you to SUPPORT Bill 1, which would formally adopt the long-overdue revision of the Ko`olauloa Sustainable Communities Plan. This Bill and the Community Plan it contains would ensure that precious farmlands of Malaekahana are preserved from development and remain available for agriculture, to boost O`ahu's food security and provide agricultural jobs. In doing so, Bill 1 would protect the rural character of Ko`olauloa and ensures that the Sustainable Community Plan adopted is one that has received support from local community groups and environmental organizations.

The Sierra Club has opposed the creation of the new suburban town "Envision La`ie" since it was first proposed in Bill 47 and Bill 53. Our opposition is based not only on the expressed desires of the local community, but of O`ahu's adopted General Plan, which commits to concentrate growth and new development projects on O`ahu's Leeward coast. The re-introduction of Bill 53 as Bill 1 makes the intention of the Ko`olauloa Sustainable Community Plan clear: keep the country country, and keep development inside the urban growth boundary where it belongs.

We urge Members of the Council to bear in mind the 2009 Plan Advisory Committee report for the Ko`olauloa region. After two years of public meetings and input from the community, the committee recommended retaining existing boundaries in La`ie and ensuring new development of affordable housing to be built within those boundaries. That 26-member advisory committee included broad representation of community members, including developers, and we believe this report was an accurate reflection of the community's wishes. Bill 1 effectively restores the recommendations that came out of the 2009 Plan Advisory Committee.

This Bill will maintain the integrity of the small community in La`ie, not impose additional infrastructure and traffic on an already stressed 2-lane highway, and ensure that farm and ranch lands remain available to build food resiliency of O`ahu and the State. For these reasons, we SUPPORT Bill 1 and respectfully ask the Council to advance this version of the Ko`olauloa Sustainable Communities Plan.

Mahalo,

Jodi Malinoski, Sierra Club O`ahu Group Coordinator

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Council