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Speaker Registration/Testimony

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 Meeting Date 02-22-2017
 Council/PH Committee Council
 Agenda Item CR-46 Bill 57 CD1 Ko'olaupoko SCP CC-35 DeReis Amendment
 Your position on the matter Oppose
 Representing Organization Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board #29
 Do you wish to speak at the hearing? Yes

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The Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board #29 strongly opposes the 2/1/17 action by the Transportation and Planning Committee to include CC 35 DeReis Amendment to the Draft Bill 57 Ko'olaupoko Sustainable Communities Plan (KPSCP). We believe that CC 35 DeReis Amendment was not properly noticed to the public, having been filed with the City Clerk on the morning of the 2/1/17 committee hearing at 11:54am. Consequently, the residents of Kahalu'u were unaware of their opportunity to testify and oppose this specific amendment. Isn't this a violation of Sunshine Law?

At the Board's regular 2/8/17 meeting, community members asked Vice Chair Anderson regarding the economic interests of his ohana in the area. It was noted that his Uncle Andy Anderson had sold this parcel to Ronald DeReis, and that his uncle and cousins continue to hold tracts of land immediately adjacent to the DeReis parcel. Moving the urban growth boundary (CGB) would enable the Vice Chair's ohana and other AG-2 properties for high density development, resulting in serious loss of agricultural and watershed lands.

In addition to ethics questions raised, neighbors expressed concern that the upzoning of this parcel will increase property valuations creating a higher tax burden for the kupuna and elderly in surrounding properties, an undesirable impact anticipated by the H-3 EDAW study. So in securing his retirement, Mr. DeReis is adversely impacting the retirement security of his neighbors.

I testified at the committee hearing as the Chair of the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board with written testimony on well founded reasons why the urban growth boundary should not be moved into Kahalu'u to alter the rural character of our food producing and freshwater producing area. However, my testimony was tagged as individual testimony, which was not the case. I was testifying then and now in my elected capacity on behalf of the community.

The Board also noted that the Transportation and Planning Committee did not have quorum on CC 35 DeReis Amendment, but that Council Chair Menor, who was in attendance, was given temporary vote on this committee in order to pass this amendment. We believe Council Chair is ex-officio and without vote.

We respectfully request that the City Council reject the inclusion of CC 35 the DeReis Amendment to Bill 57 CD 1 Ko'olaupoko Sustainable Communities Plan for these irregularities and the following reasons:

1) Agricultural Lands/Open Lands: The Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board #29 is concerned that we must preserve the integrity of the Sustainable Community Plan by keeping agricultural land in agriculture. The Board also has a long history of facilitating the hydrologic cycle and recharging of underground aquifers by preserving large tracts of open lands for adequate filtration.

2) Recharging of Underground Aquifers: The DeReis property is currently zoned for AG-2 and preservation. The proposed project of 6 country lots with 12 dwellings destroys open land that is needed to filter rainwater to recharge the underground aquifers. The Board of Water Supply is currently developing plans to construct a desalination plant in Ewa to supplement our dwindling freshwater stocks.

3) Pure Water Source: We believe that it is vital to protect the health of our streams and sources of pure water in Kahalu'u from storm water pollution and leaking septic systems. Increased development will lead to increased degradation of Kahalu'u stream and pollution of Kahalu'u lagoon.

4) Public Safety: The proposed development, if built, will further endanger public safety by aggravating a heavy sewage seepage problem from that area. As you may be aware, the Department of Health and the Environmental Protection Agency, is currently actively investigating the sources of high dangerous bacterial levels along Kahalu'u stream and Kahalu'u lagoon.

5) No Fire Protection: The Board of Water Supply states that the water supply is inadequate for fire protection (Page C 43)

6) Private Roads: Substandard private roads cannot support the increased population density and traffic with proposed development projects. These plans are not sustainable, and neighbors face losing their property by eminent domain in order to construct municipal roads to service these subdivisions. High traffic volume will affect the rural nature of this community.

7) No DPP Support: The DeReis project is not supported by DPP because there is sufficient land within the existing growth boundary to accommodate some growth (Page A.6-3). Parks and Recreation Department agrees with the DPP position (page C 43)

8) No Community Support: The Kailua Neighborhood Board also opposes the project (Page C 57) as well as the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club.

Written
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9) O'ahu General Plan: Expanding residential development by extending the Urban Growth Boundary (CGB) into Kahalu'u agricultural land violates the intent of the Oahu General Plan.

Mahalo for your consideration of our request to reject the inclusion of CC-35 DeReis Amendment in Bill 57 the proposed draft of the Ko'olauoko Sustainable Communities Plan.

Respectfully,

Flora Obayashi
Chair, Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board #29

Testimony
Attachment
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