

Honolulu City Council Testimony
June 4, 2008

Bill 19, CD2
Executive Capital Budget and Program

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Aloha Chair Marshall and City Councilmembers:

We commend the City Council for adding essential public safety lighting for Kapi'olani Park's entrance open space to the CIP budget in Bill 19, CD2, under project #2001097, "Honolulu Zoo Improvements." While this area in need of public safety lighting is outside the fenced zoo enclosure, it could be said that this vital improvement will be in the area "around" the Zoo, the historic landscape that is specifically the open space entrance to Kapi'olani Park and its trust lands at Kalakaua and Kapahulu Avenues.

We particularly commend Budget Committee Chair Apo and Councilmember Djou for ensuring that this public safety CIP is in the forthcoming budget. The attached documentation shows the public need this vital safety improvement will meet. This area is very dark and without adequate lighting at night to protect pedestrians on their way to and from their residences and Waikiki shops, restaurants and hotels, and is frequently occupied by individuals and activities many of our residents and visitors knowingly avoid for their own safety. Others have not been so fortunate. Residents and visitors alike feel, and are, unsafe in this area at night.

Thus the implementation of this public safety project should be classified as urgent, and not be hampered by other project sub-groups under Project #2001097, "Honolulu Zoo Improvements." For example, in addition to properly preserving and restoring the original Alfred Preis zoo entrance, a zoo entrance expansion is proposed to include a street-front storefront, which appears to be a stand-alone commercial attraction unto itself in violation of Kapi'olani Park Trust provisions and related court rulings. As both the City Council and Kapi'olani Park Trustees are aware, the State probate court has recently appointed a Master to review and report on commercial uses in Kapi'olani Park.

We therefore ask that the City Council ensure that the vital public safety lighting needs of Kapi'olani Park's historic open space entrance not be held up until the court has had an opportunity to rule on this case. This vital lighting improvement is a separate need, both in location and design. Please ensure that this lighting improvement is placed in Bill 19, CD2, as an immediate priority.

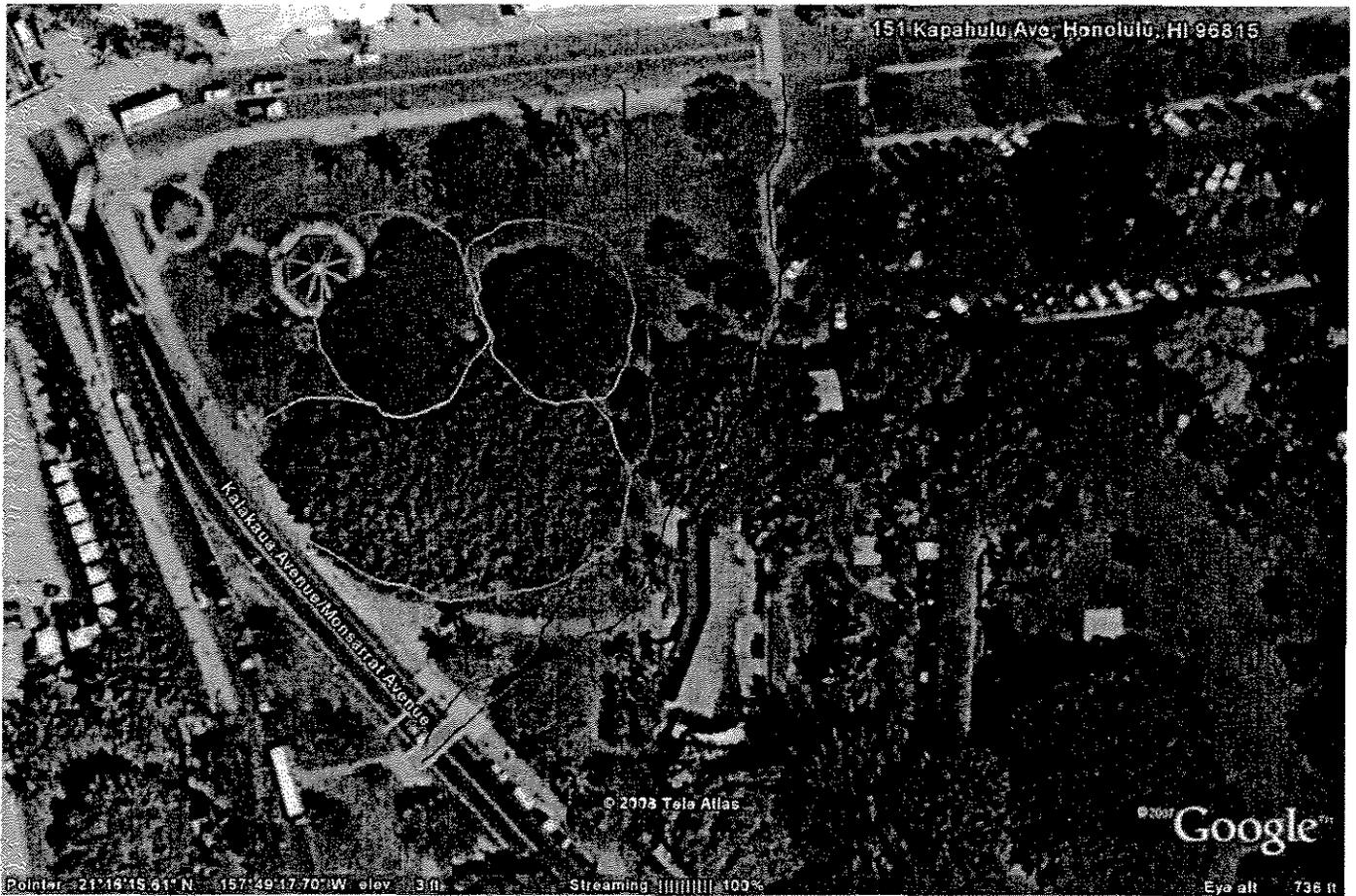
Sincerely,

Michelle S. Matson

Michelle Spalding Matson

President, Kapi'olani Park Advisory Council

MISC. COM. 1445
COUNCIL



Blue Line - Pathway in front of Zoo Entrance. This pathway should be better lighted. The only lighting is from a light fixture on the building.

Red Lines - These lines outline the short cuts people take through the park going to and from Montserrat Ave & Kapahulu Ave

Orange Lines - These areas indicate where additional lighting is also required. When walking through this area, a person is not able to see if someone is in front of them, lying on the ground or lurking behind a tree.