

# OPEN LETTER TO HONOLULU MAYOR KIRK CALDWELL

**The Waimanalo General Public was alarmed when they noticed bulldozers grubbing the wooded Sherwood Forest Beach Park on and around mid-April 2019. The Waimanalo Bay Beach Park Master Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed on June 12, 2012.**

Date: May 23, 2019

To: Office of the Mayor  
City and County of Honolulu  
530 South King Street, Room 300  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Subject: An open letter to Mayor Caldwell requesting community consultation and further environmental review on the [Waimānalo Bay Beach Park Master Plan](#)

We are writing in support of community efforts to obtain consultation and clarification on the 2012 Waimānalo Bay Beach Park Master Plan. Our groups support community engagement with public processes and proper review of environmental impacts of projects planned on public lands and especially our treasured beach parks. Many longtime Waimānalo residents and leaders, including Nā Kua'āina o Waimānalo, expressed that this plan does not reflect today's community needs and priorities.

We understand a final environmental assessment was accepted in 2012, but since that time the community, Waimanalo, and even the Master Plan project have undergone significant changes.

- The Plan identified uses of R-1 water, but the Waimanalo water treatment plant does not recycle water to an R-1 level. Where will the water be sourced from?
- How will new traffic projects planned for areas adjacent to the park exacerbate the previously reviewed environmental impacts?
- The initial project provided that grubbing wouldn't occur between April 15 and August 15 to avoid interfering with the breeding season of the endangered 'ōpe'ape'a (Hawaiian hoary bat). However, the final plans changed the time period to June 1 to September 15 without a clear explanation. How is the City certain that this important species will be protected?
- The community has documented instances of archaeological monitoring violations during grubbing. How can the community be better assured iwi and historical sites are protected?

Communities that value Waimanalo beach park have many concerns. Neither the Master Plan nor the environmental review documents have answered them. We urge project proponents to immediately cease tree-clearing and call together a public hearing to answer the community's cogent questions. Further environmental review and consultation is prudent and needed.

We are a coalition of Hawai'i-based nonprofit groups organized around protection of our communities' parks, open spaces, and cultural resources.

- **Nā Kua'āina o Waimānalo** is a community association of 'aloha 'āina assembled to protect Waimanalo.
- **KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance** has been advocating for the rights of Hawaiian communities in our precious natural resources since 2000.

- **Hawaii’s Thousand Friends** is a non-profit environmental, land and water use organization dedicated to ensuring that Hawaii’s natural and cultural resources are protected for present and future generations.
- **O’ahu Island Parks Conservancy** advocates for sustained protection and preservation of public landscapes and open spaces including historic parks, scenic byways, greenways, natural spaces, and related view planes, to benefit the people of Hawai‘i and future generations.
- **The Outdoor Circle**’s mission is to conserve and enhance the natural beauty and resources of our islands for future generations by providing and promoting environmental education and activities that cultivate respect and appreciation for Hawai‘i’s unique natural environment.
- **The Hawai`i Alliance for Progressive Action** seeks to catalyze community empowerment and systemic change towards valuing ‘āina and people ahead of corporate profit.
- **Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui** is a community association dedicated to principles of preserving our public park spaces.
- **The Hawaii Audubon Society** has been fostering community values that result in protection and restoration of native wildlife and ecosystems and conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawaii and the Pacific since 1939.

Mahalo for considering our concerns.

Please contact Kalani Kalima , Donna Wong or Bianca Isaki with any questions.

Me ke aloha,

Kalani Kalima, Nā Kua‘āina o Waimānalo  
 Bianca Isaki, KAHEA: The Hawaiian Environmental Alliance  
 Donna Wong, Hawaii’s Thousand Friends  
 Michelle Matson, O’ahu Island Parks Conservancy  
 Winston Welch, The Outdoor Circle  
 Anne Frederick, Hawai`i Alliance for Progressive Action  
 Shar Chun-Lum, Save Ala Moana Beach Park Hui  
 Linda Paul, Hawai`i Audubon Society

Cc:

Council chair Ikaika Anderson  
 Councilmember Heidi Tsuneyoshi  
 Councilmember Tommy Waters  
 Councilmember Anny Kobayashi  
 Councilmember Carol Fukunaga  
 Councilmember Joey Manahan  
 Councilmember Brandon Elefante  
 Councilmember Ron Menor  
 Councilmember Kymberly Pine  
 Kamakana Ferreira, Office of Hawaiian Affairs  
 Hinaleimoana Wong-Kalu, O`ahu Island Burial Council  
 Alan Downer, State Historic Preservation Division  
 Senator Laura Thielen  
 Representative Cynthia Thielen  
 Representative Chris Lee