



***Kaka'ako Makai Bill-Action Item BAE #25-03ALOHAWAIIIONIPAA.ORG***

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***A tax-exempt public benefit charity under section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue code whose major aims are to keep the Hawaiian spirit, heritage and culture alive and flourishing while also furthering women's health, education and protecting the environment and planet earth.***

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January 7, 2025

Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA)  
560 N. Nimitz Hwy. #200  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817

Board of Trustees. Trustee Kaiali'i Kahele, Chair; Trustee Keoni Souza, Vice Chair.

Re: Kaka'ako Makai Bill-Action Item BAE #25-03 Approval of an addition to the 2025 OHA Legislative Bill Package: *Proposes to overturn residential high-rise development and building height restrictions on OHA parcels Makai (oceanside) of Ala Moana Blvd. In Kakaako, thereby allowing (pressuring?) the Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA) to approve such then unrestricted development.*

Alohahawaiiionipaa Board members testified for years against residential high-rise development by Victoria Ward, Limited in Kakaako along Ala Moana Blvd. mauka (mountainside) because of serious environmental and public safety concerns. The Victoria Ward proposals did not, and the present OHA proposals in areas not zoned for residential high-rise development also do not provide sustainable development defined as *"development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of Hawaii's future generations to meet their own needs."*

During many of the Victoria Ward public hearings, it became clear to us that such "vested" development proposals, supported also by what seemed to be staged public testimony, "had to be approved" because they provided critical living wage employment in the construction industry as well millions of dollars in State and local tax revenues. OHA has now also stressed that it is proposing similar high-rise residential development for economic reasons and to provide affordable housing. However, the claim of creating affordable housing will probably not even provide such for its trustees because of the unattainable formulas used that had also been strongly opposed by OHA in the past.

OHA's proposed projects are largely situated within the NOAA 3-foot sea-level-rise zone and also within the ocean's edge of a former white sand beach that stretched along present Ala Moana Blvd. before the area was capped with unstable landfills that included toxic wastes. When OHA proposed to its supporters a few years ago to develop residential high-rises there, environmental and safety concerns were of course not addressed as OHA clearly stated then that it should have the same right to develop as Victoria Ward across the street. With the now acknowledged unstoppable global warming expected to greatly exceed 1.5° C, sea-level-rise is also expected to greatly exceed the one-foot increase predicted by NOAA for 2050. Localized or area-wide subsidence or sinking of the unstable coastline accelerated by the cumulative weight of the now-clustered high-rises, anchored in less than rock-solid bedrock, also needs to be seriously addressed.

Astronauts that have spent time in space have strongly stated that unstoppable Climate Change that is already causing the death of millions of people all around the world can only be stopped if we prioritize Planet Earth over the economy. So, OHA, what shall it be? Protecting our Aina or continued, unfettered development for profit in the last ocean-side open space in Honolulu.

Haunani Chandler,  
President

Klaus Radtke, Ph.D.,  
Wildland Resource Scientist