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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Claire Yamashiro  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:21:51 AM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/23/2020 5:20:40 AM

**Meeting Date** Monday, April 27, 2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** Claire Yamashiro

**Phone\*** (808) 247-0611

**Email\*** [anelatutu@msn.com](mailto:anelatutu@msn.com)

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Oppose Removal of Haiku Stairs

**Representing\*** Self

**Insert Written Testimony** Stairs should remain can be used with strict rules: 1. Must obtain a permit to use stairs (specified date with time limit of 3 hours). 2. No opala left along trail and at top of trail. 3. Trail is open 5am to 5pm (with guard on duty), M-F, unless closed when mandated by government due to severe weather conditions. 4. No trespassing through private property. Any infraction of above is \$5000 fine and/or a year in prison.

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - John Patterson  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 7:37:38 AM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/23/2020 7:37:08 AM

**Meeting Date** Monday, April 27, 2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** John Patterson

**Phone\*** (808) 395-1059

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**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Oppose Removal of Haiku Stairs

**Representing\*** Self

### Insert Written Testimony

Having read the EIS and the comments submitted to date, only one option - Managed Use - can satisfy the interests of all parties. It is understandable that BWS would propose the parochial option to rid itself of a responsibility for something distant to its primary mission. It is understandable that the local community would oppose retaining the stairs due adverse experience with illegal use of the stairs. Please note that virtually all comments supporting removal come from neighborhood entries. It is understandable that the broader Hawaiian community, the world community for that matter, would support retention of this remarkable, one-of-a-kind, historic and cultural landmark. Can managed care satisfy the interests of these seemingly opposing bodies? We need only look as far as the Doris Duke "Shangri La" to see how managed care can allow thousands of people annually to experience the wonder of another one-of-a-kind historic and cultural Hawaiian asset while treating its neighborhood partners with consideration and respect. I urge decision makers to opt for the alternate option - transfer the stairs to an organization having the mission, interest, and authority to rid BWS of a burden, establish entry and management designs and protocols considerate of legitimate neighborhood concerns,

and permit retention of a world class historic and cultural asset for us and future generations to experience.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Gary Furukawa  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:28:26 AM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/23/2020 8:27:27 AM

**Meeting Date** Monday, April 27, 2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** Gary Furukawa

**Phone\*** (808) 392-5494

**Email\*** k1w1@hawaii.rr.com

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Support Removal of Haiku Stairs

**Representing\*** Self

**Insert Written Testimony**

I mistakenly initially stated that I opposed the removal of the Haiku Stairs and would like this testimony to replace my original one. Please note that my statements in my original testimonial reflect my views on this subject and I just incorrectly selected the wrong position on the matter. Thank You Gary Furukawa

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - HEINZ GERT DE COUET  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 11:41:24 AM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/23/2020 11:39:56 AM

**Meeting Date** Monday, April 27, 2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** HEINZ GERT DE COUET

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**Email\*** [couet@hawai.edu](mailto:couet@hawai.edu)

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Support Removal of Haiku Stairs

**Representing\*** Self

#### Insert Written Testimony

I am a Kailua resident and a volunteer pilot for the US Coast Guard Auxiliary. I am expressing my strong opposition to the restoration of the "Haiku Stairs" and I support the removal of any remaining structures that may entice hikers to ascend to the top of the Koolau mountains. 1. Over the past years, several people had to be rescued by the Honolulu Fire Department and/or the US Coast Guard after running into problems while illegally trying to use the Haiku Stairs and other hiking paths because they were ill-prepared or had no weather information and safety equipment. Members of the police, HFD and the USCG risked their lives while rescuing tourists and irresponsible hikers from the Haiku Stairs. Allowing anyone to access Haiku Stairs opens the gates to more potential rescues with considerable costs to Hawaii tax payers and serious risks to members of Hawaii's first responders and the US Coast Guard. 2. Social media sufficiently document the irresponsible acts of visitors to the stairs. Critical comments to this effect are dismissed in an arrogant fashion reflecting the careless and immature attitude displayed by hikers that seem to be more concerned with posting 'extreme' pictures of their antics on the internet than about the safety of hikers and peace to the neighborhood. 3. Haiku

Stairs are not accessible to a broader general public. The use of the trail is restricted to those with a modicum of physical fitness lest they risk getting into trouble along the way. It is therefore not in the interest of the general public to open the stairs. While it is an attraction to a small subsection of visitors, the potential costs cannot be weighed against the gain, even if user fees were charged. The hourly costs of a rescue helicopter runs into thousands of dollars and the risk to a human life in return for a cheap thrill is unethical. 4. The illegal use of Haiku Stairs has led to a plethora of problems and nuisance complaints in the neighborhood that range from early morning noise, illegal parking, to mounds of trash in people's front yards and feces on the doorsteps of the residents. None of our neighbors and residents of Hawaii should have to put up with this in return for a modest increase in adventure tourism.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**From:** [John Goody](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairstestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs, testimony in support of preserving for managed use  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:24:24 PM

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Aloha Water Board,

In your deliberations on Haiku Stairs at the upcoming meeting, please preserve the stairs for managed public use, which will reduce the impacts on the neighboring homes and provide a valuable and badly needed resource for outdoor exercise and an unparalleled educational opportunity. By transferring jurisdiction to the city for managed use, accomplishes the expressed end of getting the “monkey off your back” at the earliest possible date, and does so at the least possible cost to rate payers and to BWS, by avoiding costs for removal and for providing security during the ensuing years to perform the removal. Conveyance for managed use is best for rate payers and BWS.

Thank you for considering this testimony,  
Best regards,  
John B. Goody  
Kahaluu

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**To:** [Haikustairstestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Susan Polanco de Couet  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:52:56 PM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/23/2020 12:51:51 PM

**Meeting Date** Monday, April 27, 2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** Susan Polanco de Couet

**Phone\*** (808) 351-4067

**Email\*** sipolanco@gmail.com

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Support Removal of Haiku Stairs

**Representing\*** Self

### Insert Written Testimony

Aloha, I am writing in favor of removal of Haiku Stairs. As a resident of Oahu, I would prefer that our fees to the BWS go toward maintaining water infrastructure for the island; that is their primary mission. I am concerned by the increased social media presence of the Stairs as a "must do" destination without regard to the impact on our first responders and the neighbors. Per the FEIS, the cost to remove the stairs will cost almost \$1M. However, at a cost of nearly \$250K per year for security, impacts to the safety and security of the windward neighbors, the strain on our first responders this is a reasonable price to pay; especially when putting our first responders in harms way for wonton trespassing. If the transfer goes through to the CCH, the residents of O'ahu will still pay for any liability cases if hikers sue for injury. Thank you for the chance to provide testimony. Let's focus on the primary mission of the HBWS; to provide clean and safe water to O'ahu.

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**From:** [dawnagomes](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairstestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 12:58:21 PM

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I am in favor of saving the Haiku Stairway to Heaven. It is of historic, recreational and economic value. It should be transferred out of the Board of Water to another entity for management and maintenance.

Mahalo,  
Dawna Gomes  
46-359 Haiku Rd #B9  
Kaneohe, HI 96744

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device



## Testimony for the Board of Water Supply regarding Haiku Stairs

By John Morgan, President, Kualoa Ranch Hawaii, Inc.

April 23, 2020

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii, Inc., hereby submits this testimony in favor of removing the Haiku Stairs.

Having safe and secure stairs, like the Haiku Stairs, that provide public access to the very top of the Ko`olau mountains is a great public resource. I have been on the Haiku Stairs several times, first in the 1970's and the last time was shortly after they were repaired. They are relatively safe and provide the public a unique and easy way to get into nature and to see some amazing views of the windward side of Oahu. It would be a shame to see them taken down and the public not have this kind of opportunity.

That having been said, there is another, and perhaps even better opportunity to provide this kind of experience to the public: **Relocate the stairs to another location**, possibly on the mountain between the valleys of Kaaawa and Kahana. The area on the mountain where we propose it to go is part of Kualoa Ranch.

We think this is a viable option, which is why we are in favor of the removal of the Haiku Stairs. We presented this idea to the Board of Water Supply during the EIS process. The following is a brief recap of why we think this option should be considered.

1. **Access/Community.** There have been numerous complaints about hikers disrupting the neighborhoods around the stairs and there are problems with multiple landowners and stakeholders regarding access. At Kualoa Ranch, none of these problems would exist.
2. **Management.** Should the stairs be kept in place, a government agency or a third party would be to have to manage and maintain the stairs. This is possible, but presents many challenges. Kualoa Ranch is already in the business of managing multiple outdoor recreation activities and having stairs would be a relatively simple addition to our existing operations.

3. **Liability.** Understandably, the Board of Water Supply, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, Department of Transportation, Kamehameha Schools and multiple other stakeholders are concerned about liability. If the stairs were removed and possibly relocated to Kualoa, none of these parties would have to worry about the associated liability.
4. **Weather, Difficulty & Enjoyment.** There are over 3,900 stairs at Haiku, with an elevation gain of over 2,000' and the summit is often in the clouds, since it is at the very top of the Ko`olau mountains. Alternatively, stairs at Kualoa would only have an elevation gain of about 1,500', and the top of the mountain is cloud free at least 50% more often than the top of the current stairs, at Pu`u Keahiakahoe. Stairs at Kualoa would be still be a tough climb, not for the couch potato set, but less difficult. It would also yield better views at the top for a greater percentage of people who make the climb. From the top of the mountain, you can not only see all of Kaaawa valley and beautiful coastline vistas, but you can also see over the Kualoa mountain, to North Beach and parts of Kahalu`u.
5. **Environment.** There is no denying that the environment at the current stair location in Haiku is spectacular, and I do not know about the condition of the native ecosystems, or plans to manage and preserve them. I do know that there is an amazing ecosystem on the mountain at the ranch, which includes a hidden valley at the top of the mountain. The native ecosystem at the top of the mountain is threatened by invasive species and with a stairway in place, Kualoa would be much more able to mount the necessary efforts to control the spread of invasive plants. We already have a team of people dedicated to controlling invasive plants and if we are able to get better access to the top of the mountain, will be able to increase our efforts managing that unique and predominantly native ecosystem.

I want to thank the Board of Water Supply for the opportunity to present our views. We know that having stairs that allow people to get the top of the Ko`olau mountains in windward Oahu is a resource that is worth keeping.

We support their removal in hopes of relocating them to another location, preferably to Kualoa Ranch, on the Kaaawa mountain.

Mahalo

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Howard Fu  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 3:10:40 PM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/23/2020 3:09:31 PM

**Meeting Date** Monday, April 27, 2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** Howard Fu

**Phone\*** (808) 256-4128

**Email\*** fuh003@hawaii.rr.com

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Support Removal of Haiku Stairs

**Representing\*** Self

### Insert Written Testimony

Aloha, my name is Howard and I strongly support the removal of the Haiku Stairs, which is evident from my comments dated August 5, 2019 for the BWS Haiku Stairs EIS. What is paramount is the chronic problems associated and experienced by the local residents, community, Honolulu Police Department, Honolulu Fire Department and the Emergency Medical Service must be addressed. Concerns such as trespassing and parking; noise created by early morning hikers and tour helicopters; biology effects on the environment; emergency response safety and the trash that litters our Koolau mountain and our AINA. For those supporter's of the Haiku Stairs, are you willing to pay for the liability, hiker injuries, parking, maintenance, restrooms, hygiene and cleanliness! Thank you and Aloha!

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Margaret McCain  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 3:55:57 PM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/23/2020 3:55:48 PM

**Meeting Date** Monday, April 27, 2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** Margaret McCain

**Phone\*** (808) 679-1874

**Email\*** maggiemccain@gmail.com

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Oppose Removal of Haiku Stairs

**Representing\*** Self

### Insert Written Testimony

The haiku stairs are an opportunity for Oahu to shine in terms of it's hiking. People come from all around the world to see this hike, and it is a huge source of tourism. It would make sense for the local economy to capitalize on this. In order to relieve the local neighborhood from becoming congested, permits could be allotted, only a certain number a day, and even further, times for hiking could be staggered so that the neighborhood does not get inundated with visitors. National Geographic has rated it twice, once as one of the most spectacular staircases in the world, and again as on of the most thrilling trails IN THE WORLD. The haiku stairs are a destination, and taking them away will take away a huge part of Oahu's history, as, I am sure, other testimonies have documented. PLEASE SAVE THE HAIKU STAIRS. They are a treasure.

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Craig Koizumi  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:06:25 PM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/23/2020 5:05:59 PM

**Meeting Date** Monday, April 27, 2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** Craig Koizumi

**Phone\*** (808) 235-8897

**Email\*** craigcrazek@gmail.com

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Support Removal of Haiku Stairs

**Representing\*** Self

**Insert Written Testimony**

Traffic congestion, and no parking will become big issues. Without adequate parking, people will park illegally in Castle Hills subdivision. We have lots of young children which will be a safety issue for them. Also, Windward College students and Hina Mauka persons park on Pookela Street which means that any overage will make hikers want to park in Castle Hills making it dangerous for kids and residents.

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - carmen pilien  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 5:43:13 PM

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## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/23/2020 5:42:33 PM

**Meeting Date** Monday, April 27, 2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

---

**Full Name** carmen pilien

**Phone\*** (808) 351-0632

**Email\*** [bubuandyogi@gmail.com](mailto:bubuandyogi@gmail.com)

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Support Removal of Haiku Stairs

**Representing\*** Self

**Insert Written Testimony** I live in the Castle Hills neighborhood and strongly oppose any access through our neighborhood.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Shannon Ida  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:44:57 PM

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## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/23/2020 8:43:31 PM

**Meeting Date** Monday, April 27, 2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

---

**Full Name** Shannon Ida

**Phone\*** (808) 478-3334

**Email\*** [kawailehua96744@yahoo.com](mailto:kawailehua96744@yahoo.com)

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Support Removal of Haiku Stairs

**Representing\*** Self

**Insert Written Testimony** I feel that the stairs should be removed. It would put a strain on neighborhoods ( Castle Hills and Hokulele. And it would be a distraction to drivers on the H-3 with all those people on the stairs.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**From:** Brent Teraoka <[bteraoka@gmail.com](mailto:bteraoka@gmail.com)>

**Sent:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 8:47 PM

**To:** Rae Leong <[rleong04@yahoo.com](mailto:rleong04@yahoo.com)>

**Cc:** Kathleen M. Elliott-Pahinui <[kelliott-pahinui@hbws.org](mailto:kelliott-pahinui@hbws.org)>; Carleen Yokotake <[cyoko@hawaii.edu](mailto:cyoko@hawaii.edu)>

**Subject:** Re: 4 Hikers Just Now

**Attachments:** 04232020\_Hikers.zip

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Hi Kathleen,

Hope you and your loved ones are continuing to stay safe. Thank you very much for keeping us updated and for informing us about the testimony submission and the subsequent meeting this upcoming Monday. We are all going to be submitting our testimony before the deadline. Rest assured. We are all taking additional time to be as detailed, thorough, and factual as possible.

I have attached a copy of the videos of the two incidents that Rae referenced today. I know the entire state is dealing with inconsiderate people violating the Stay At Home mandate. I included a separate video of the "Getaway car" to show that the hikers who claimed to be injured were in fact lying. They ran down the hill to jump in a car all in a span of a few seconds. It honestly reminded me of a getaway car trying to rob a bank. It was premeditated and deliberate. Examples like these are the reasons why there's such a divide between the residents and tourists during the pandemic.

Lastly, not sure if your Security notified you, but HPD responded to their call for help at the Puoni gate on Monday (4/20) at 9:20AM. We were informed that a few folks were cited for both trespassing and violating the Stay at Home order. We had to call the police back again an hour later because the hikers were harassing us and threatening us as they were planning to cut under the gate and down the road while we were outside on our property. The tensions are at an all-time high and honestly the hikers are being more daring, hostile, and aggressive.

Again, we will be submitting our testimony, but I sincerely hope that the Security tallies, the HPD incidents and HFD/Paramedic rescues are being collected as part of the final testimony. We the residents are doing our best to spread the word and submit our testimony, but without some of these hard #'s, we are at a disadvantage. We keep hearing from folks such as the Friends of Haiku Stairs that the trail is statistically safer than many other trails in Hawaii and that is not accurate at all. If these stats are not being logged officially, then there's no way for us to have any proof other than the tallies we keep track of on our cameras and eyewitness accounts.

Mahalo again for your support. Please stay safe and we are looking forward to Monday's meeting.

Brent Teraoka

**Attachments - 042320\_Hikers.zip**

042320\_1453PM\_GetawayCar.mov

042320\_1453PM\_Hikers.mov

042320\_1849PM\_HikersDeterred.mov

**From:** [Annette Tashiro](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:11:42 PM

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I am a resident of Kaneohe. I have friends who live near Castle Hills and Haiku Valley. They are frustrated with people who trespass to access the Stairway to Heaven. I love hiking and would like to experience the stairs but have never used them.

I am a former employee of C&C DPR. So when I heard that the Stairway could be managed by DPR, I needed to speak up to say: "Terrible Idea!" I think that the best of the venue ideas would be to have Kualoa Ranch purchase the stairs and move it onto their own property. It fits their environmental and commercial recreation mission. If DPR acquired it; STH needs to become accessible to the general public and that is an impossible situation.

Thanks for letting me share my testimony.

Aloha,  
Annette C. Tashiro  
Statewide Independent Living Council of Hawaii Secretary & HGEA Retiree

**From:** [contactus=notify2.boardofwatersupply.com@mq.boardofwatersupply.com](mailto:contactus=notify2.boardofwatersupply.com@mq.boardofwatersupply.com) on behalf of [contactus@notify2.boardofwatersupply.com](mailto:contactus@notify2.boardofwatersupply.com)  
**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - ANNETTE TASHIRO  
**Date:** Thursday, April 23, 2020 9:14:21 PM

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## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/23/2020 9:13:11 PM

**Meeting Date** Monday, April 27, 2020

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Support Removal of Haiku Stairs

**Representing\*** Self

**Insert Written Testimony** see email

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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