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To: [Haikustairtestimony](#)
Subject: Haiku Stairs Testimony - Laurence Akiyama
Date: Wednesday, April 15, 2020 2:24:12 PM

HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

Date 4/15/2020 2:22:46 PM

Meeting Date Monday, April 27, 2020

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Agenda Item* Haiku Stairs Testimony

Your Position on Matter* Support

Representing* Self

I am a longtime resident and an avid hiker. I strongly support BWS's proposal to remove the Haiku Stairs. Their continued existence results in constant trespassing on nearby residents' property, at all hours of the day and night. Through their actions, these trespassers show contempt for those who live here and for plain old aloha. There are numerous hikers and hiking groups, such as those who participate in the Hawaii Trail and Mountain Corporation (HTMC), who respect property rights and know that it is wrong to hike through someone's property all at hours of the day and night, get lost, and then selfishly expect assistance from others. I sympathize with those residents who treasured this hike when it was legal and not overrun with tourists who deliberately break the law and show flagrant disrespect for those persons through whose yards they walk. However, those days are gone and will never come back in an age in which tourists ignore common sense and courtesy in pursuit of yet another selfie for their Instagram feeds. Remember that trend, started a few years back, of people who took pictures of their friends swinging from the rails? I do not wish for my tax dollars to be wasted on either enabling or rescuing such fools. There are numerous other ridge trails that also provide excellent

**Insert Written
Testimony**

views. Local people know what they are and in fact many are easily discoverable online. Let the tourists and malihini go there, where they can hike without breaking the law and without bothering others. Nothing is stopping anyone from hiking up from the other side of the mountains and ending up at the same spot. The Haiku Stairs “trail” is obsolete and unnecessary. I would submit that arguments against closing the Haiku Stairs due to the cost are in error. A one-time expense of destroying, or at least wrecking, a long stretch of the stairs and railings cannot possibly be more expensive than perpetually maintaining the entire staircase in a climate that is actively hostile to it. Not to mention the liability attached to such an attraction if officially sanctioned. The fact is that we need only to render the initial portion of the route impassable to keep tourists off of it. Destroy the first hundred yards and let the uluhe cover the route. The Haiku Stairs are popular because they are convenient. Make it not so. The remainder can be left to rust and be consumed by vegetation in its own time. Finally, I would argue that those local people who wish to preserve the Haiku Stairs lack the support of the rest of the community. I know this is so because they have been unable to raise sufficient funds and political support to either 1) purchase the Haiku Stairs from the City, repair it, and operate it privately, or 2) get the City to transfer it to another agency, with a financial commitment to keep it in good repair. This is not the “Save Sandy Beach” initiative, which gathered widespread community support. I believe I can safely state that all residents would be happy to stop hearing about the continuing criminal activity, danger to life, and disregard for the law that characterizes the Haiku Stairs today. I say it is “put up or shut up” time for supporters of the Stairs: either step forward with an executable plan, or get out of the way and start hiking up from the Moanalua side. I thank you for your time.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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