

**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 - Barbara Akamine  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 2:41:48 AM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/21/2020 2:41:07 AM

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** Barbara Akamine

**Phone\*** (808) 387-1521

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

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

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

**Representing\*** Self

**Insert Written Testimony** If the stairs could be repaired and people could use it safely, I'm all for it. I'd hate to lose such a "historical" site. We've known the "stairs" since before I was born. I remember my kupuna talking story about it. It was an adventure! Spectacular views! Guess it wasn't as bad then as it is now.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**From:** [Netter](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 7:17:17 AM  
**Attachments:** [2020 04-21 Haiku Stairs testimony.pdf](#)

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Aloha, please find attached my letter in support of the conveyance/managed access option of the Haiku Stairs.

Mahalo,  
Annette Lancaster  
Haiku Valley Resident

April 21, 2020

To: Honolulu Board of Water Supply  
haikustairstestimony@hbws.org

Re: Haiku Stairs

Aloha,

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide you with my support for the conveyance/managed access alternative regarding The Haiku Stairs.

The following is my testimony of what the Haiku Stairs mean to me. They and the whole valley are inside me, they are a part of me and always will be. I am who I am for growing up in such an incredible place. This story reflects a young girl's perspective of the first time I climbed the Haiku Stairs in 1970's. I searched my memory and the words came so easily, even though it was a long time ago. Following is my essay . . .

*Growing up in Haiku Valley was something very special. My childhood memories of roaming the valley are among the happiest in my life. I recall those carefree days when I was a kid who hadn't yet realized that the escapades in my young life would shape the person I was to become: It was seeing the first light of sunrise on those ridges, bringing with it the promise of new discoveries, exploring all day, and hoping the roof of our tree fort would hold out the passing showers. It was climbing mango trees and running free through the tall pasture grass. It was finally becoming old enough to climb the Haiku Stairs, after years of hearing my older brothers' stories of their day on the mountain. It was calling the weather service the night before a planned hike and praying for a clear summit the next morning - it seemed the most important thing in the world. It was rising before dawn and suiting up for the day's adventure with a syrup bottle for a canteen and peanut butter sandwiches that would be smashed beyond recognition by the time we reached the top. It was that kid-like excitement we felt when starting out up the road, the beginning of a long journey; craning our necks and eyeing the summit with great anticipation. It was the renewal we felt breathing in the dawn air; giving us strength for the exertion that lay ahead. It was touching the railings - so cool with morning dew - and beginning the ascent.*

*It was that scary first cliff, then moving onward up to the first, then second break in the stairs; eyes wide with wonder at just how insignificant we felt clinging to this great mountain. It was mentally putting those obstacles behind us, and knowing that the top was closer than ever but seemingly harder to reach. It was coming to eye level with the antenna wires strung across the valley, and recognizing that the buildings in the valley were getting ever smaller. It was feeling our muscles burn, and everywhere, the scent of earth and life. It was reaching the first concrete antenna anchor and climbing to the top of it, as though reaching the top of the mountain wasn't high enough. It was climbing the short staircase to the cable car house, and smelling the diesel that still lingered on the old engine. It was peering down the shear cliffs with Likelike Highway to the left and the cradle of Haiku Valley to the right. It was looking over the top of the range to the south and seeing Aloha Stadium, then gazing northward in awe of Kaneohe Bay and Mokapu Peninsula. It was pushing on to the "radar station" atop Pu'u Keahi a Kahoe, and feeling for the first time what it was like to walk in the clouds. It was scaling the spine of the summit trail with white knuckles and attaining the goal we had set out to accomplish. It was climbing atop the radar building's roof and up into the tangled network of dish supports. It was standing with our arms outstretched above our heads, jumping up and down, and screaming at the top of our lungs "WE MADE IT!"*

*It was settling down for smashed peanut butter sandwiches - they never tasted so good - and shivering in the chilly pinnacle winds. It was pinpointing the location of our house, and studying the lay of the land so as to keep an aerial picture in our heads after the descent. It was not wanting to leave so soon after lunch, but agreeing that it was a long way down, and we'd better get started. It was getting shaky legs as we made our way down, down, down - always looking back towards the summit to assure ourselves we had actually made it. It was reaching the foot of the stairs and letting go of the railings - until next time - and silently saying "we'll be back". It was smiling to ourselves that this valuable outdoor asset was in our very back yard, and knowing we could climb it anytime we wanted. It was aching legs and heavy arms, as we climbed into our beds that night, safe and warm. It was going over in our heads all we had been through that day and all the excitement which would feed our dreams that night. It was loving it a little more every time we reached the top.*

The stairs are unique in all the world. If you've ever climbed a mountain, you know the feeling...the emotional, physical and spiritual exertion of it. Then to reach the top over and over again only for it to feel different each time because you're at a different point in your life. That's the best way I can explain it. That's why this place is so much inside me.

The station ran for 55 years and served her country well. For our family, who grew up with her in our backyard, she became a part of our young lives and shaped us more than she'll know. For the myriad of others who have hiked the Haiku Stairs over the decades, they undoubtedly have their own fabulous memories - some say a life changing experience.

It is my greatest wish that these positive memories will encourage the preservation and re-opening of this unique and historical treasure. With highest hopes that others may experience this fantastic place and make their own memories to cherish while remembering a once-secretly built Naval facility, turned Coast Guard Omega station, with all the good and purpose it served during its life.

Gone means forever.

Aloha Pumehana,

Annette Lancaster  
Haiku Valley resident

The first time I  
walked in the  
clouds ... early  
1970's atop Pu'u  
Keahi a Kahoe



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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - JoAnn Takamiyashiro  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:59:44 AM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/21/2020 8:58:20 AM

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** JoAnn Takamiyashiro

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**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

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

**Representing\*** Self

#### Insert Written Testimony

The State/City has much more pressing issues to worry about. We have an increasing population of homelessness, high unemployment rate and facing and unknown economic future. We need to spend our time and energies on those issues don't need to spend any unnecessary time and resources on the haiku stairs. We have an abundant amount of already marked and maintained trails for hikers to use. The stairs have always been a financial burden on the state and we need put our resources where it is needed the most. We pay for rescues for those who illegally trespass and endanger the lives of those who have to rescue them. For once, make a sensible decision and remove the stairs Thank you for your time and consideration.

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**From:** [Lorna Tomatani](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairstestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:33:47 AM

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Hello,

My name is Lorna Tomatani and my husband is Thomas Tomatani. We oppose the access to the Haiku stairs through Castle Hills. We have a quiet and safe neighborhood and would like to keep it this way.

Having additional cars coming through our neighborhood and taking street parking that is used by our neighbors will be problematic. Hikers may leave their rubbish behind. They may also loiter and be noisy. In the current access on Haiku road, hikers use water hoses and leave their dirty socks at residences.

We certainly do not welcome that.

Thank you for your consideration.

Lorna and Thomas Tomatani

**From:** [James Moy](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#); [J. Ikaika Anderson](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 9:58:04 AM

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The Haiku Stairs is a historic structure, which took a great deal of efforts and resources to build. It is a great recreational endeavor and unique experience for those who are interested in climbing it.

I have been a Haiku Village resident for more than 50 years. Even though I have not climbed the Haiku Stairs, I think it should not be torn down. If the Honolulu Board of Water Supply is not able and willing to maintain it, then a good option is to transfer the ownership and maintenance responsibility to another city agency or department.

I understand the Stairs is in need of repairs. One option is for the Honolulu City and County Parks and Recreation Department to take over the stairs, and seek funding from the City and the State for repair and restoration. Part of the funding can also come from private and corporate donations.

To avoid future liabilities claims, and when the Stairs is repaired and open to the public, a sign at the entrance of the Stairs should read, "Enter and Climb these stairs at Your Own Risk. The City and County of Honolulu is not responsible for any injury or death as a result of climbing the Stairs."

I urge the Directors of the HBWS vote not to tear down the Haiku Stairs, but make a concerted effort to transfer the ownership and maintenance to another city department.

Mahalo,

James H. Moy, Ph.D.  
Korean War Veteran (Bronze Star medal recipient)  
Commander, VFW Post 110, Military Intelligence Service

**From:** [Yoshiko Nakaoka](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairstestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Safe care and protection of our natural resources  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:06:09 AM

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Aloha,

I am a resident of Kaneohe and have personally climbed haiku stairs twice in my life when it was legal to do so. Both times with boy scouts, the effort was difficult yet exhilarating at the top. This was experienced in the 70's - 80's, at that time the condition of the stairs was not in the best condition with some obvious deterioration in places.

In 2020 and for the future I recommend that these stairs be removed by the Board of Water Supply at their expense to protect trespassers from harm, to conserve peace and quiet, to keep the community from unwanted noise at all hours of the day, illegal parking and protect personal and home security.

Another option would be for a partnership between BWs and Kualoa ranch where they split the cost to remove the stairs and Kualoa ranch takes the material and builds it at their location.

Just NO to our city or state having to continue to maintain the structure and the liabilities, associated costs that taxpayers have to pay.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my opinion.

Yoshiko Nakaoka  
Kaneohe  
808 222-0020

**From:** [Carole Iacovelli](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairstestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 10:42:18 AM

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I hope you will find a way to make the Haiku Stairs - or Stairway to Heaven as I know it - available for hikers. I know local citizens at the base of the stair way have concerns, but I can think of many ways around that problem. I have heard many possible options to solve the parking problem. Please be creative and find a way to make the stairway available again. Mahalo for your consideration.

[Carole Iacovelli](#)  
[Retired](#)  
[Director of Luke Center for Public Service](#)

[808-222-2225](#)

**From:** [randall.kennedy](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairstestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Katrena Kennedy](#); [Sean Kennedy](#); [Bryan Kennedy](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony in strong support for reopening Haiku Stairs for legal managed access  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:20:22 AM

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Aloha ,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

As a 30 year resident of Heeia/Haiku, I strongly support reopening Haiku Stairs for legal managed access.

Your (BWS) EIS's highest ranked action, conveying the Stairs to another entity and reopening for legal managed access, would solve your problem, and make thousands of Kaneohe residences and hikers cheer. This solution must also bring relief for the residence impacted by the needless closure all of these years.

Your chief engineer, Ernie Lau, said at the Kaneohe Neighborhood Board meeting last July which I attended, he was in favor of legal managed access for Haiku Stairs by transferring it to another entity. Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell said his intent is for the city's Department of Parks and Recreation to take over the Stairs, and to explore potential private proposals to manage access. The City and County recently solicited (Solicitation No. RFI-DES-2000005) Request for Information Regarding Managing and Operating a Concession at Ha'ikū Stairs in Kāne'ōhe. It is my understanding at least 14 separate entities submitted letters of interest! Obviously the City and County are interested in taking over the Stairs and there are many legitimate entities interested in managing this treasure.

On a personal note, I am very disappointed that Kaneohe kids, my sons and their friends included, are and were never allowed to legally utilize this great resource in their own backyard. Hopefully you, Mayor Caldwell, and the City Council can use this opportunity to do the right thing and come up with a mechanism to reopen the Haiku Stairs for legal managed access.

Thank you for your attention and consideration on this matter

Randy Kennedy

**From:** [Patricia Blair](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairstestimony](#)  
**Cc:** [Ikaika Anderson](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Disposition  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 11:34:45 AM

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Managing the Haiku Stairs is not a and should not be a BWS function. Please convey the land and stairs to an appropriate public or private entity that will establish appropriate parking, access, fee, and maintenance. This is one of the issues in Hawaii long over due for a decision/ settlement. Thank you, Patricia Blair, Kailua

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Gladys Matsushita](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairstestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Testimony on Haiku Stairs  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 12:19:31 PM

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I am opposed to any plan that would allow access to the Haiku Stairs thru Castle Hills neighborhood. I am fully in support of any plan to tear down the stairs.

Castle Hills is a small neighborhood and would not be conducive as access to the stairs. Parking is very limited and is needed for residents only. Moreover, the roads in Castle Hills are private property.

The many complaints/problems experienced by the residents of Heeia Village are just being transferred to Castle Hills residents. These same complaints/problems are real and serious and still exists. The situation/problems have not changed. No acceptable position has been offered to justify access to the stairs thru Castle Hills.

If Castle Hills is designated as the access point, hikers will hike across Anchor Church property. Too many hikers. They will litter the neighborhood and the church grounds; use church and Castle Hills residents' facilities and generally make a mess. Hikers will also cause traffic congestion for Castle Hills residents

Thank  
Gladys Matsushita  
45-735 Puupele Street.

**From:** [Bryce Tomatani](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 12:20:10 PM

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To Whom It May Concern,

Please do not allow access to the trail through the Castle Hills neighborhood. I was born and raised in that community and still reside there. Unfortunately, since our neighborhood is off the main road and secluded, we've had problems with homeless people living in the bushes near our neighborhood, people dumping there bulky items (including abandoned cars), people "hanging out" and congregating on the street. People constantly trash the area and I believe that it will only get worse with opening of the trail

Thank You

Sent from my iPhone

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - ray cabrera  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 12:30:57 PM

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## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/21/2020 12:30:02 PM

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Full Name** ray cabrera

**Phone\*** (808) 250-4550

**Email\*** raycabrera@gmail.com

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

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

**Representing\*** Self

### Insert Written Testimony

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**From:** [Ed Hirata](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 2:09:09 PM

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I am Edward Y. Hirata, former Manager of the Honolulu Board of Water Supply.

I strongly agree with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply's preferred course of action to demolish the Haiku Stairs.

The Haiku Stairs has become an attractive nuisance because residents and visitors have illegally entered private property to access the Haiku Stairs. Maintenance of the Haiku Stairs is not a water supply function. The BWS should be relieved of this responsibility. Due to Hawaii's corrosive environment, the Haiku Stairs would be a continuing maintenance headache. The best alternative is to demolish the Haiku Stairs.

There are numerous hiking trails on Oahu to legally accommodate hikers.

Edward Y. Hirata

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Chris Soares  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 3:23:47 PM

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## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/21/2020 3:23:43 PM

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

---

**Full Name** Chris Soares

**Phone\*** (808) 254-0289

**Email\*** Aikahisasa@aol.com

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

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

**Representing\*** Self

**Insert Written Testimony**

I do not support individuals who flagrantly choose to put themselves in danger as those who climb the Haiku stairs. There is history at every corner and hikers costing landmarks to vanish because of selfish reasons. They cost tax payers as well as in this case Board of Water Supply in ways that affect all of us in some way. KAPU was a message to trespassers that once was a loud message to locals and visitors, then something happened so it no longer was enough, why that is no longer acceptable for some unknown reason explains how the social population disrespects our environment and restrictions. Bottom line is to penalize individuals with hefty fines for blatantly trespassing. I know personally Haiku residents have complained over a decade and reported problems with hikers parking on their streets, harassment, and often vandalism of property. The problem I see here in this case, is there is no control of individuals committing these acts of a criminal nature.

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Stanley K. Fujioka  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 4:31:26 PM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/21/2020 4:30:35 PM

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** Stanley K. Fujioka

**Phone\*** (808) 347-4804

**Email\*** stan.fujioka@gmail.com

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

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

**Representing\*** Self

**Insert Written Testimony**

I strongly support the removal of Haiku Stairs. As I mentioned in a previous testimony, I do not want our community exposed to excessive traffic and parking along our streets as well as potential proliferation of trash. Additionally, more people wandering our streets will increase the likelihood of increased crime.

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Timothy Donahue  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 4:35:46 PM

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## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/21/2020 4:35:04 PM

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

---

**Full Name** Timothy Donahue

**Phone\*** (808) 341-5667

**Email\*** [timdonahue409@gmail.com](mailto:timdonahue409@gmail.com)

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

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

**Representing\*** Self

**Insert Written Testimony** Leaving the stairs will result in increased foot and vehicular traffic through our neighborhood and inevitably require rescue efforts for unskilled hikers. It is unlikely that a non-profit can muster effective administration of the stairs as a tourist attraction.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Jerry Roach  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 21, 2020 8:32:56 PM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/21/2020 8:31:57 PM

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** Jerry Roach

**Phone\*** (214) 724-5215

**Email\*** [jerryroach@icloud.com](mailto:jerryroach@icloud.com)

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

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

**Representing\*** Self

### Insert Written Testimony

The stated purpose of the EIS was to identify a means of eliminating BWS' potential liability of continued management and operation of the Haiku Stairs. The EIS evaluated all the potential alternatives by project objective and made clear that the Conveyance Alternative ranked the highest overall (Table 6-11). This evaluation noted that the proposed action (demolition and removal of the stairway) scored fairly. BWS would still own the underlying property, which it does not use for supplying drinking water. Illegal hikers would still brave scaling the ridge with or without the stairs in place. The hike would therefore become even more dangerous and a greater liability for BWS. The Conveyance Alternative, on the other hand, was scored as "good" for the objective of eliminating BWS liability. Under this alternative, the land would be transferred to the City and BWS would become completely free of any potential liability risks.

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