

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

ROY K. AMEMIYA, JR.  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
  
GEORGETTE T. DEEMER  
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

April 14, 2020

Mr. Bryan Andaya, Chairman  
and Members of the Board  
Honolulu Board of Water Supply  
630 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96843

Dear Mr. Andaya and Members of the Board:

This is to confirm and repeat our previous requests that the Honolulu Board of Water Supply (BWS), which currently owns and manages the Haiku Stairs ("Stairs"), transfer the Stairs to the City and County of Honolulu.

As you are aware, I believe Haiku Stairs is an important and unique asset on Oahu, and that the Stairs should be preserved as long as they can be renovated for safety, and that public access issues are addressed and resolved. It's critical that the Stairs are managed properly, including providing access to hikers that does not negatively impact the surrounding community.

The Board of Water Supply did an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) of the Haiku Stairs in order to help the Board in determining the future of the Stairs relative to the responsibilities of the BWS. While the preferred action of the EIS is to dismantle the Stairs, one of the alternatives is to transfer the Stairs to the City.

The City published a Notice to Offerers earlier this year entitled, "Request for Information (RFI) Regarding Managing and Operating a Concession at Haiku Stairs in Kaneohe." We wanted to determine if a private partner could conceivably pay for the cost of renovating the Stairs, and successfully manage the Stairs as a concession. The RFI resulted in 14 submittals, from which we are currently preparing a Request for Bids. We will then select a qualified organization willing and able to restore, operate and maintain the Stairs for a fixed period of time.

Mr. Bryan Andaya  
and Members of the Board  
April 14, 2020  
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Therefore, given the City's interest in going forward with a competitive process related to the preservation and operation of the Stairs, we respectfully request the Board's approval to transfer the Haiku Stairs to the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Parks and Recreation.

If you have any questions on the City's commitment, please feel free to contact Georgette Deemer, Deputy Managing Director, at 768-4811 or email [gdeemer@honolulu.gov](mailto:gdeemer@honolulu.gov). Thank you for the opportunity to offer these comments, and for your serious consideration of the City's interest in preserving the Haiku Stairs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Caldwell", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kirk Caldwell  
Mayor

**From:** [Adrian Scotte](#)  
**To:** [Haikustairstestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 8:39:37 PM

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I would like to submit testimony to the Board of Water Supply Board of Directors regarding Haiku Stairs.

My testimony is below or attached.

It is EGREGIOUS to attempt and FATHOM how the government can spend 1mm to tear down a peaceful Safe and healthy access route to a wonderful area of the island.

Recommend the following

1. Make people park safely away from the neighborhood of the "residents" - more walking is not a bad thing! ugh.
2. Create a turnstile for access to this SANCTIONED walk-route - that is devoid of Police Hinderance
3. Charge a modest fee for the support of the stairs, 25\$
4. REQUIRE a doctors certificate to state health of hiker is acceptable.

with regulated access that doesn't disrupt the resident, no one is gonna be waking up at 3am..... sigh.

(SCUBA REQUIRE a doctors note -- why can't a significant hike with its associated risks.....).

5. MONITOR and stipulate private health cover to OFF SET RESCUE costs/insurance

(example 2 - when you go to the snow fields in various countries purchasing a lift ticket requires you to have your own Ambulance Insurance for the season - it costs .... NOT MUCH... 25-50-100 for a season - but this offsets the cost of a government rescue response)

It took 4 minutes to come up with an "alright" plan. How can you as civil servants justify the DIABOLICAL waste Taking place to commission a study let alone not simply PRAGMATICALLY act in the interest of SAFE TOURISM THAT DOESNT HAVE to impact neighborhoods.

\*BY THE WAY the maps HARDLY suggest the route to the stairs is trampling dozens of streets and hundreds of homes.

Shaking my head. Come on GOVERNMENT. GOVERN WISELY. The vast majority of people DONT want to have to get

Up at 3 am to travel precariously..... TRIAL My suggestion for a 1 year period and then TWEAK it based on OH THATS RIGHT

PUBLIC input. ....

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**To:** [Haikustairstestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Adam Becker  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:31:26 PM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/14/2020 9:30:13 PM

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** Adam Becker

**Phone\*** (808) 838-9749

**Email\*** beebopbogo@gmail.com

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Oppose

**Representing\*** Self

#### Insert Written Testimony

I oppose the removal of Haiku Stairs. Haiku Stairs is a part of Hawaiian history while providing a very unique view of Oahu. Where else can you climb this type of terrain without a machete and climbing gear? Removing it would be like removing access to the Pali Lookout or Diamond Head! There still remains hope to negotiate legal access to Haiku Stairs and until that time, leave the stairs in place. As a side note, it would be great to hear why it's costing so much for security while access is closed. "BWS spends approximately \$250,000 annually for guard services at the base of Haiku Stairs and for special duty police officers to deter hikers from climbing them." That's \$694 per day! And wouldn't the fines collected from violators help offset that amount as well? Please leave this amazing monument of WWII history for the future! Thank you

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

**Acceptance** I UNDERSTAND and ACCEPT that written testimonies are not accepted

**Policy**

prior to the agendas being posted.

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I UNDERSTAND and ACCEPT that all public hearing transcripts and testimony are public documents. Therefore, any testimony that is submitted verbally or in writing, electronically or in person, for use in the hearing process is public information.

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**To:** [Haikustairstestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - Jeremy Fleming  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:48:46 PM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/14/2020 9:47:36 PM

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** Jeremy Fleming

**Phone\*** (808) 238-1990

**Email\*** [jeremyfleming@hotmail.com](mailto:jeremyfleming@hotmail.com)

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Oppose

**Representing\*** Self

#### Insert Written Testimony

I oppose the removal of Haiku Stairs. Haiku Stairs is a part of Hawaiian history while providing a very unique view of Oahu. Where else can you climb this type of terrain without a machete and climbing gear? Removing it would be like removing access to the Pali Lookout or Diamond Head! There still remains hope to negotiate legal access to Haiku Stairs and until that time, leave the stairs in place.

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**To:** [Haikustairtestimony](#)  
**Subject:** Haiku Stairs Testimony - David Hartzel  
**Date:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 11:13:50 PM

## HAIKU STAIRS TESTIMONY

**Date** 4/14/2020 11:13:22 PM

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

### CONTACT INFORMATION

**Full Name** David Hartzel

**Phone\*** (808) 626-4999

**Email\*** DavidHartzel@yahoo.com

**Agenda Item\*** Haiku Stairs Testimony

**Your Position on Matter\*** Oppose

**Representing\*** Self

**Insert Written Testimony**

I personally have never done this hike and in all likelihood never would due to my fear of heights. However, it has to be one of the most beautiful hikes in the world and I think the opportunity to experience it should not be taken away from the general public. My recommendation is to make it legal to make the hike and do so in a manner that maintains safety and good stewardship of the land. Life is about experiences!

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