

Comments Received on Comment Slips at Public Meeting, 12/17/14

Written Comment Form

Proposed He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve in Kāne'ohe Bay, Hawai'i

Thank you for participating in the public scoping meeting to solicit comments on significant issues related to the preparation of a draft environmental impact statement (NEPA) document and draft management plan for the proposed He'eia National Estuarine Research Reserve System in Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i. We invite you to use this form to provide your comments. If you complete this form at today's meeting, you may leave it at the registration table as you exit. If you do not wish to complete your comments during this meeting, you may submit comments by any of the methods listed below.

1. E-mail: [hawaii.nerr.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:hawaii.nerr.comments@noaa.gov)
2. U.S. mail:

Rebecka Arbin  
 Hawai'i Office of Planning  
 P.O. Box 2359  
 Honolulu, HI 96804

Your input into this process is appreciated. If you wish to be notified of future developments, please check here [ ] and provide your name, mailing address and/or e-mail address below.

Name: FRED FLORES (AKA PELEKE)	Date: 12/17/14
Mailing Address: 46-077 IPUKA ST. KANE'OHE, HI 96744	E-Mail Address: HAWAIIAN-PEVA@HOTMAIL.COM

**COMMENTS (Please continue on the back of this page as necessary)**

EXTEND BOUNDRIES TO ORIGINAL BOUNDRIES, WE CAN  
 MĀLAMA, ALOHA 'ĀINA, SUSTAINABILITY CULTURE  
 AND FOOD RESOURCE.

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
 Rebecka Arbin, Hawaii Office of Planning, Phone (808) 587-2831, [rebecka.j.arbin@dbedt.hawaii.gov](mailto:rebecka.j.arbin@dbedt.hawaii.gov) or [hawaii.nerr.comments@noaa.gov](mailto:hawaii.nerr.comments@noaa.gov). Phone number listed is not a toll-free number. Please see <http://planning.hawaii.gov/czm/initiatives/nerrs-site-proposal-process/> or <http://www.nerrs.noaa.gov/> for more information.

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Name: <u>KELVIN CHING</u>	Date: <u>12/17/14</u>
Mailing Address:	E-Mail Address: <u>SKINNYKIDHI@YAHOO.COM</u>

**COMMENTS (Please continue on the back of this page as necessary)**

*ATTENTION ~~WASTE~~ COMMERCIAL TOURIST OPERATIONS AS INTENDED IN MASTER PLAN.*

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Oral Comments from Public Scoping Meeting, 12/17/14

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<p>Ernie Theodore</p>	<p>My question is what made the Office of Planning determine the outline of the proposed boundary? I have a suggestion, all of the fisherman fish in this area here (points to the reefs throughout the proposed boundary), there's no fishing around Coconut island so, that would be a perfect place. Coral island is enforced by the military. They would come shooting off the zodiac in the estuary. See these boundary lines on the chart there, it was changed from the previous meeting, why is that? I see some of the boundary lines, doesn't it include conservation lands? Why? Also, the proposed boundary in the ocean, it includes certain reef patches. That's unnecessary. The previous chart included two patch reefs and stretched out to Coconut island for what? Research or whatever? We get two natural estuaries.</p>
<p>Michael Chung</p>	<p>I am a fisherman of Kāne'ohe Bay and the previous comment reflects my concern as well in regards to boundary lines being changed. I brought this up at the first meeting. It extended to the commercial operations here and nothing was going to change. Fisherman were going to be included in this area. If nothing is gonna change why did they exclude these commercial guys? You guys must've thought of excluding them would help right? Well, we're worried. Are fishermen going to be excluded? I mean I care about a lot of other stuff too. But, the issues the water. The water quality check is gonna be from present and you gotta include historical water quality info, but we no more. We don't have enough water because it's going to 'Ewa side. But if you give back the water to Kāne'ohe Bay a lot of the bait fish is gonna come back. There's only one aku boat out there and that boat is done. They're retiring. So you cannot blame them for less fish in the water. They used to have 20 aku boats. Now there's no water.</p>
<p>Kelvin Ching</p>	<p>I also grew up in the bay and have been involved in the bay issues when I was in college. I attended all the meetings especially with the Kāne'ohe Bay Master Plan and I am disappointed. This sounds like another go through the motions. This will probably be adopted because it has different motives. You want comments and input regarding your goals and aspirations. Ok, well first off if there are no new regulations, I'd like to be able to reference that when I tell my kids and grandkids about it. But, I know it's not gonna happen. This is the beginning of the end for us. Second, these partners in the management plan: who decides who the partners are? Can we be partners? By the time public comment is over everything is all said and done. I see you guys going back to the ahupua'a and that's not recognized today. It's not for one certain group, privatizing the ocean, that's not right. You're</p>

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	<p>going back to old Hawaiian system. Would be good if everything was done the same way across the State. We can't live in the two worlds. You can't have State support and want to be sovereign. Also, where is the money coming from? It seems like we're doing the same thing and expecting different results. I'm sure there will be different results. What I wanna see is us to save time and money... let alone the money we don't have.</p>
Donna Camvel	<p>Aloha to everyone, I too am concerned about He'eia as it is a very special place. A lot of us have long time genealogy and various kuleana here. My question regarding the boundaries seems insignificant as so many of my other concerns have an effect on our current practitioners. I understand the reasoning too. Here, we are looking at new ways to manage resources that are severely impacted and will continue to be impacted especially now due to climate change. We cannot merely look towards next generation; it must start with us now. There are mo'o of this 'āina and we need to all work together. I'm aware of the concerns regarding trust with various agencies that have come here from across other lands and have done great harm. But we do live in a time that the ahupua'a framework is coming back. Here in He'eia we can say we have a real special place that still holds a lot of critical components regarding customary practices and science. There must be serious mitigation measures in terms of environmental impacts. As fishermen, I know there are changes in species and amount of fish. The abundance conditions are certainly observed for example at Ioleka'a. In terms of interests in the NERR project include that when we talk about ahupua'a we talk about a mauka to makai management system. For Kanaka Maoli and the local community this is a complex and interconnected system. While it may appear to be broken, components in each 'ili are alive. This includes the tangible and intangible. The way those things are managed must be place-specific kuleana. So when we look to fishermen for expertise, we have to pay attention to their concerns. When we look to farmers, their concerns also must be addressed. I would also like to see the inclusion of the 4 perennial streams: Haiku, Ioleka'a, He'eia, and Puolena. These streams run through the wetland and into bay. The muliwai must be productive in order for the reserve to work properly. We need to begin talking about managing resources in best way possible. However, we also can't leave mauka sections out of the reserve if we are going to do this properly. Waters that come from mauka are source waters that flow to the Bay. These streams go thru smaller ecosystems, and it is important on how they are managed and then the</p>

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	<p>capacity they have to manage themselves. This is critical to this plan. I would also like to clarify that the idea of ahupua'a is not a watershed. A watershed says there's bunch of water and it all drains in same place. Ahupua'a is so much more. Everything in it is relational. Everything is bound by reciprocity and that includes the people who live in it. Cultural perspectives must be included while putting together this plan. You certainly have lots of volunteers in this room that have been a part of many volunteer efforts. See how we would like to remain in the loop. You may include streams yet, not the whole 'ili or the whole stream. We would like to see the streams evaluated, tested for components such as flow, groundwater, and turbidity. We would like to see studies regarding the drainage in the wetland. In terms of science, these elements can help answer those questions and explore the directions we should take. Yes, it is pretty hard to go national when you are going sovereign, but there is space for 'āina. There must be a way for us to advocate for that right? I also have a few questions. Are these arbitrary boundaries? Can they change? Who said they could be changed? Answer these questions, and we will begin to establish trust. As long as our history remains, we will always be looking out for the best interest of the 'āina. I understand this can help reserve and preserve but it might happen to have long-term ramifications. However if it is written using a cultural lens, it might just work. Another suggestion. You see here where Haiku Stream in Haiku valley trace from the source, where the punawai starts, maybe go from the middle of the stream 5 feet on each side. That might also be a good boundary. Those waters flow thru wetland. Mahalo. `</p>
<p>Ms. Luwella Leonardi</p>	<p>Aloha I am Luwella Leonardi and I live in Wai'anae. However I am the daughter of Edward Nī'aupi'o who was born in Maunawili. We are the mauka Nī'aupi'o. Under Sites of O'ahu, under Waimānalo you'll find Edward Nī'aupi'o there. He was insulted throughout the Ko'olaupoko region. I'm opposed to this project. I don't have any theory; I can't talk theory and thesis. I'm not educational. I teach in the schools and the colleges. I know how to teach the children about the ocean in the classroom. I look at children every day. My question is where are these kids gonna live. They're not gonna have the opportunity to live in Hawai'i. I'm here to see that opportunity exists. This plan sort of carves our future generation out of Hawai'i. It does not embed our children into the future that our parents woke up to. I can't guarantee them that. I grew up in Waimānalo, before Sea life Park. It is appalling that we're creating another Sea Life Park. It took so much from my dad. When Chad Pryor showed up, he</p>

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	<p>said, "Oh, we're going to feed the world." All that I can remember him doing was putting a wholphin and – a dolphin and a whale together and coming up with a wholphin. I got pictures of the wholphin. I thought he was cute. But did that feed the world? Later as an instructor I took students to Sea Life Park. The wholphin, two species together, to me that's appalling. When Makai Pier came up, that raped our resources.</p> <p>I remember when my father and grandfather's brother, okay? He showed McAllister, the scientist, what our ko'a is about, but today we have Makai Pier on it. Sea Life park was a heiau too, a lot of 'iwi buried there. They swept across like a plague. By the way read the Stratton Report. The only copy they have is in Hilo, used to have in Hamilton Library. What I've got from DLNR is that we don't have any authority and that scientists on west coast they have authority backed up by junk science. So I'm sitting here telling you 'a'ole, 'a'ole, 'a'ole, 'a'ole. That's what we say. We're still sovereign and we're occupied. So what we're looking at, if the game is going to court how much is this gonna cost us? And whose gonna carry the burden. It can end tonight on your comments.</p>
<p>Mahealani Cypher</p>	<p>I live in Kāne'ohe. Eō to some of the remarks made earlier especially by Donna Camvel in regards to finding the right balance for Kāne'ohe Bay. What I also heard, in moving forward is to include the voices of our fishermen. They need to be a part of this. It's not about a museum piece but the living pieces. We need to work together. We need to accept the help. What's the cause of problems, you know? I look forward to having the research done. I don't look to what's junk and I don't care where you come from. If you have the help than please help. I think it's rude to tell people to leave if they are offering help. Yes, we have been shifted out of balance for a hundred years. I don't see as many fish as there used to be over the last 10 years. There's a hope that through the years they are not meant to lock us out and hopefully ensure our future. The only way to do that is to stay engaged. Nobody should be outside the window. You guys are a part of this. And anyone who wants to be a part of the solution should be a part of the working group. Mahalo to everyone.</p>
<p>Jerry Kaluhiwa</p>	<p>Jerry Kaluhiwa. I'm from He'eia and born raised there. Before everyone talk about doing these areas I'd like know about the red line. I want to expand in the direction that won't be blocking no community. I'm talking about no community around so we don't have conflict with the community. It</p>

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	<p>happens a lot. I've done research since the 60s with at-risk kids in the Key Project. That's how I got involved in high schools. We did a seaweed project with Ogo. On the Ogo part, I'm the only one that made seedlings. From that time on, I wanted to get deeper in my studies. I'm concerned about Kāne'ohe Bay. I caught it with my family. I know how to do it. Today, we don't show anyone that kind of fishing. Because not enough fish. I dive today; I go every day. These days the fish is too well educated, you gotta really think like one fish to catch one manini. We trying to find out why? Then I got into tropical fish. Tropical I see disappearing right from the earth. Some fish extinct. I ask fishermen, do you know what's happening? Today you don't see that kind of fish. I went to research on these tropical fish. It's coming back at least 1 or 2 I see. Makes my feelings good. We should look into it. Coral, now I went into corals trying to protect corals in front my place. I went to court and all that fighting is all in the air. Judge slapped those guys on the wrist, why? Because the judge don't know the rules. I try to protect Kāne'ohe Bay. I take tours out especially to see the tropical fish. When we go we feed fish, then there comes these crazy guys with net and they surround the whole place. When I go out again each time fish is getting less and less. Especially around Coconut Island. When I see people walking on the reef and saying they have rights. I know they were lying because I'm there and I know they not supposed to be doing that. It's the law. They should leave Coconut Island and use it as a restoration area. We did research there and it is excellent. Especially the limu Ogo. Now I have another project called Mauka Makai. We need to do a little more. We did Mauka Makai, had 6 members. Hi'ilei was one of them and several other people. Hi'ilei knows about it. We did that because I am also in the lo'i business. I helped build lo'i kalo in He'eia and I stayed doing that worked with Hi'ilei on the fishpond. In analyzing mauka, this boundary line needs to be moved more towards the blue mountain. We get rivers from Uncle Lono's place. We gotta research that. Next thing we looking at that to see how it affects the seaweed and the coral reefs.</p>
<p>Wali Camvel</p>	<p>I was born and raised in Kāne'ohe and have been here for 52 years. I swam at Ice Pond by Luluku side and have gone around Mōkapu. I've been from mauka to makai these hanabata places. Aunty you talk about Kanī'aupi'o. Kaupo where you from that's a good place too. I want to address where the Army Corps guys started dredging the bay. It changed the currents, and no more that wash that cleans it out. Maybe that part science can help clean out, circulate here. Here, these subdivisions, the mud goes right out into the bay. Now I hear people are afraid of doing stuff. If we don't do anything what are we</p>

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	<p>going to do. If we just do nothing, what is our option? We can get together someplace else and actually do something. We have invasive species up mauka that goes into the stream, which goes into the bay. Several groups in Haiku are planting kalo and opening up streams loleka'a side, also the working being done at Paepae by the fishpond. Get involved, there are people actually doing something make this place better. He'eia is on the move, we not good yet but we doing something. What kind of future are we going to leave? My parents never do anything. If one hurricane came can you drink the water in the stream? I know we can. We stay up mauka. But, the H3 frees all that asbestos from all your tires go into the drains into the streams and into the bay. What can we do now? How can we control our community so that we can offer something later on? Neighbors spray Round Up that goes in the stream. They spray Round Up, goes on top the bees and kills the bees. What are we doing to better our community? We take care of the limu and we gonna get that fish. Sure, we cannot go back 100 years but if you think about 100 years, was not so long ago. We really mucked it up. I have memories when my sisters, they played in taro patches. For a long while He'eia wasn't producing any kalo. 1948 was the biggest production of kalo and after that slowly went downhill. Lo'i kalo allows for stream water to percolate and create water recharge. Board of Water calls em recharge units. The water, they go into the aquifer. If we do nothing now, then what are we going to do?</p>
Rocky Kaluhiwa	<p>Aloha kākou, I was born and raised He'eia all my life. I am a part of the Kāne'ohe Bay Regional Council. We have talked to the senators; we have 5 members. Kelvin, Maybe you should get back on that committee. What Wali and Donnie said is true; I used to drink that water, near their place. My 'ohana is from up that place. All my life we always maka'ala with He'eia because that is our ahupua'a. We have 11 'ili inside there. Rick Barboza them are back there. I also just like let you folks know that we are the partnerships that are actively sustaining these resources, it's all what we have. So, don't just come grumble. We invite you guys to come because we need your help. It is our kuleana and it is a kākou thing. You know we got little left. Look at our coral reefs and the depletion of fish. You're a fisherman, you can help on the board of fishermen. And you know what? Every time I hear He'eia I'm on top of it. Either you gonna help us or you gonna fight us, either way we invite you to help us.</p>

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Wali Camvel	For clarification, the ahupua'a of He'eia actually goes to the Marine Base. It's a good place to do studies because get plenty fish and not to mention the fishpond out there. There are several fishpond. Also get place for us to make salt.
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<p>Sean Martin</p>	<p>Hi, I live in Kahalu'u, and I am affected somewhat frequently. My place is very close to some of these boundaries. Going back to Leo's comment, regarding community engagement. He said that community engagement would be primarily based on landowners and the community within these respective areas. I think it's shallow. Users of the bay are not only from the windward side. Community involvement should be encouraged at a higher level other than the public comment period. For example, there are other interested parties that aren't engaged as landowners or users. It would be good if they had the opportunity to provide input. Another concern I have is regarding the layer of bureaucracy. I've been hearing that the Feds are not going to develop regulations. So it's clear that the State will allot the activities that are encouraged or prohibited in the designated area. I am cautious about that. The more you have public engagement the less hostility</p>
<p>Wendy Wiltse</p>	<p>I work for the EPA and I support the nomination of the He'eia for NERRS program. I think it's a positive thing for Hawai'i, for Kāne'ōhe Bay and for Ko'olaupoko area. As far as the boundary, I recommend considering including more mauka land to have more of a complete ahupua'a system. The remainder of my comments relate to management. Some aspects of this area that I'd like to see considered in the EIS and the management plan include the following: first, the role of mangroves. I know that in general they're considered a nuisance but in my personal opinion they have important ecological function especially for filtering sediment. I think they're more effective than a native wetland. I'd recommend they evaluate the ecological function of mangroves. My second comment would be on the fishpond aquaculture and taro production. I think they're positive but they also could be negative. It depends on how they're operated and managed. For example, water quality studies we have done in Hanalei, the biggest taro producing region in the state, we have found that the lo'i export nutrients and sediments. Although we do not have the data, we suspect the lo'i also export pesticides. How the taro is managed needs to be considered as well. I wouldn't want to see a major nutrient export from these lo'i into the bay. In addition, fishponds and the way they are managed is also a concern. Well, like the lo'i it depends, will the fish be fed? What's the population density? Is there a potential for exporting nutrients from fertilizers and fish feed? We already have eutrophic conditions in the bay, especially with the algae blooms due to nutrient exports. Finally, the plan should consider herbivore fishery management. It's something that DAR is doing on Maui with some success. There's lots of</p>

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	<p>scientific information that indicate that a high abundance of herbivorous fish serve an important ecosystem function.</p>
<p>Jerry Kaluhiwa</p>	<p>Aloha, just for your information, like I've said, we did research on these areas (points to coastal region of the proposed NERR site). I don't only do lo'i, fishponds or marine biology. It's all what I do. We started a program up mauka with 429 acres of kalo. We doing that today too. We doing our Mālama Mauka-Makai project. What we're doing is monitoring these areas (points to mauka areas of proposed NERR site and above the NERR mauka boundary line). I was born and raised Kāne'ōhe all my life. Why we suggested doing this? It's because we're doing lots of projects. We're working on the river. Kāko'o 'Ōiwi Program started in here too. We're going through a fishpond protection and used one of the key projects out in Kahalu'u. We're already doing it. We were the only one out of every island doing these projects and we will continue to do this. This is my second round and it is getting much bigger. Now we're trying to work on the whole Kāne'ōhe Bay and studying limu. I've made the babies with Dr. Abbot and Jack Fisher. Thank you for letting me do this project again. Just reminding you guys we working hard. We get the Ko'olaupoko Civic Club raising money for kids who are going through college. We are not kicking back, we moving.</p>
<p>Luwella Leonardi</p>	<p>This is a tough project. It's so glamorous—rich with Christmas tree lighting. Unbelievable. Our children deserve a future here in Hawai'i and that's where I'm coming from. Is there a future for our children in Hawai'i? I personally would like this project to go away. It's taking from our future and it's not going to contribute to our children. I've seen it before, the type of focus on this bay. I grew up in the area where sea life park is located. I've seen the damages to our people and to our places. I've seen the worldwide damage projects like these have done and that's what I'm comparing it to. I have been reading the Stratton Report. I've done huge meetings in the 70s and I speak to the fisherman everyday. I attended the December 4th meeting and that was tough. That meeting was missing a group of non-commercial fishermen. I attended the meetings in Kahana and He'eia in the 70s and the 80s. I attended the meeting when the Tuna industry was going down. We're supposed to focus on K-12. I'm in the schools on the leeward side. From Pearl city to Makaha. This project's curriculum is inviting. We need that, it's plausible. You know I don't see our participation. I don't see the NOAA program</p>

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	<p>including our children as a part of this plan. I see more out-transits doing the bulk of this project. I don't see the relationship. Dawn Chang knows me really well. This is a huge comparison especially with the huge statewide meetings with the DOI. It was awful, it was nasty rotten, and I knew that it was going to be that way before it begun. It was tough and I'm still burnt out. I can't believe they're going through with this second wave of meetings. I attended all the CZM meetings in 2013. I attended the first for this project in January. And well, Dawn knows me. What I'm seeing here is that we need to take a look at the local community. Not a particular person, community or Hawaiian Civic Club. This is going to hurt us. We are a polytheistic people; we are not of a mono-god. I don't know how we're going to address the local community. I don't have the resources to keep the communication going back and forth. There needs to be more investment in money, rather than that 30% and 70% you folks talk about. I've been on that computer researching the NERS. And, I seen the Native Americans are pretty pissed about it. I'm not sitting at home I've been doing a lot of homework and asking questions. It's not going to be a good thing. We're going to have the same old problems with all the programs. I don't know the resolutions anymore.</p>
Rocky Kaluhiwa	<p>Aloha. My name is Rocky Kaluhiwa, and I'm the vice president of the Ko'olaupoko Hawaiian Civic Club and I just wanted guys a brief background of He'eia. Our family fought against all of the developments since the early '70s. We fought against that. The He'eia meadowlands, which was going to be another Hawaii Kai. I actually saw a model of it. The 500-berth Marina was going to either be constructed over the fishpond or they were going to fill it in. Remember when He'eia State Park at Kalaeulaula at Kealohi Point was going to be a hotel? We fought against that. Part of the plan was even to raze the broken bridge and leave a drawbridge. We fought against that. When He'eia Kea was going to be a nuclear power plant; we were the first community to take that case all the way up to the Supreme Court. I'm also on the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board. Here, we extend our hand for help. We are working on research to look at the coral and the limu. They are not here to harm us we need the resources from them. Also, this is not just one person, community, or civic club. The restoration efforts of Native Hawaiian plants and other species is ongoing. The Ko'olau Foundation and HIMB help us research. Kāko'o 'Ōiwi does the lo'i. I just want to make a note that no taro goes into the lo'i without coming to my house first. We inspect each one. We even incubate the</p>

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	<p>kalo and make sure everything is pono, that there's no snails or other diseases. Also, I don't believe in insecticides or pesticides. My grandpa ran the last poi mills in this area. You guys welcome to come, we have Mālama days, come. We are inclusive, we want everyone to come. My grandfather was the last konohiki for the ahupua'a of He'eia. My family before that, we were maka'ala. We're trying and I will continue to fight for the rest of my life. Come join our club, or there are other clubs. Kāko'o 'Ōiwi and the Haiku Nursery is open to the public, so come in. Even HIMB is open to the public. Come and join us, I see nothing wrong with that. Mahalo.</p>
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