TESTIMONY IN FAVOR OF HOUSE BILLS 1132 AND 1133
PROHIBITION: ARTIFICIAL REEFS AND FISH FEEDING IN WAIKIKI
To: Committee on Ocean Recreation and Marine Resources
Rep. Kenneth Hiraki, Chair
Monday, March 1, 1993
8:30 a.m.

Conference Room 1310 Leiopapa A Kamehameha Bldg.
235 South Beretania Street
Sgt-at -Arms Fax #586-6510

by George Downing
With a lifetime Commitment

Summary: Support legislation to *prohibit* "fish feeding" in Waikiki waters and "artificial reefs" from being built in Mamala Bay

This is our story..."*is anyone listening?*"

WAIKIKI, MAMALA BAY, is not man-made. Nature, through the process of depositing volcanic material and fresh water from mountain streams, carved an ocean bottom that cannot be found anywhere in the world and would cost billions to duplicate artificially with no guarantee of success.

Nature has given us these treasured resources to use and to protect. A contoured ocean bottom with variable depths has created the greatest, safest surfing area in the world. Countless thousands have learned to surf in Waikiki.

This surfing ocean park, with its surfboard riders, canoe surfing and sailing catamarans, is one of the themes used in

promoting Hawai'i and making the word "Waikiki" a magical image nationally and internationally, as a vacation destination.

If the leaders had foresight and built the Royal Hawaiian and Moana Hotels, and their private homes on the mountain side of Kalakaua Avenue, we would have a beach today to advertise instead of wishing for.

We believe these bills that we have submitted are in the best interests of the State of Hawai'i, the people it serves and the people who use this ocean park as well as the tourist industry. We ask you to use your better judgment and make decisions based on *long term needs*, not short term profitability.

State's laws governing the use of "public property" do not exclude liability for creating negative impacts on the environment. We speak not only of the monetary obligation but also of the moral obligation we all have to protect what nature allows us to use.

What we share with you is fact not fiction. We did not create "Mamala Bay" — Nature did. Those who want to damage this Bay, by man-made interventions,including *artificial reefs, groins, breakwaters, fish-feeding and increasing unbalanced mixed uses*, must understand that they will meet *MAJOR OPPOSITION* with public demonstrations by our local users of this national treasure.

And to that loss, add the aloha for tourism and the tourist industry.

The State made a bad mistake by allowing an artificial reef site for the Atlantis submarines in Mamala Bay. No model studies were conducted as to the effect this artificial reef would have on "wave swell" energy patterns and

currents entering and leaving Mamala Bay. The effect this shoal would have on the near-shore wave riding areas, and the effect their changes would have on the offshore and near-shore current patterns would cause negative effects on shoreline, on shifting sands and beach erosions.

Why gamble with changing mother nature in any way?

The Atlantis artificial reefs made of sunken airplanes were completely wiped out in the recent Iniki storm. Another artificial "reef" consists of a sunken oil barge with its load of gravel to keep it on the bottom. It was shifted down the coast spilling gravel over the natural ocean bottom thus destroying a section of the Crustacean seabed that supports the herbivore link in the food chain.

Increasing the numbers of people who use Mamala Bay by encouraging an increase in the numbers of viewing submarines and surface craft for tourism and others snorkeling and scuba diving, in an already established surfing park used by canoes, surfboards, bodyboards, sail boats, powerboats and swimmers, in my expert opinion, is not in the best interest of its users — residents and visitors alike. This would increase the danger of user-injuries and raises the assumption of state liability to the injured parties.

Allowing million-dollar companies with limited risk capital to jeopardize, in any way, a 10-billion dollar tourist industry with billions of dollars of risk capital is not serving the best interests of the owners and shareholders of these corporations, the State of Hawai'i, and local users of Mamala Bay. <u>High-yield minimum-risk capital investors and owners of submarines and other vehicles can pick up at any time leaving behind their problems.</u>

LIKE FOREIGN TOURISTS, SUBMARINES CAN MOVE ELSEWHERE, BUT YOU CAN'T MOVE HOTELS!

Our national and international competitors competing for tourist dollars would greatly enjoy using any negative publicity, especially when we create the scenario for an accident. A WAIKIKI SHARK ATTACK, for example, or a LOCAL PEOPLE'S UPRISING against such tourism-sponsored plunder of our environment would certainly affect Hawaii's future.

IN CONCLUSION:

Ask and test yourselves on the following questions:

1 — Can I afford to take the gamble? Yes ____ No____.

2 — Can I afford to be a party NOT supporting what we have informed you about? Yes____ No____.

3 —Do you want to be remembered by your children to have been responsible for supporting something that caused an injury or loss of life? Yes____ No____.

4 — Do you want to allow yourself to be a victim, whether by choice or by chance, to damage in any way what nature has given to us all to enjoy? Yes____ No____.

5 — Do you want to be a party to destroying your own industry? Yes____ No____.

6 — How do you want to feel when you reminisce about your adventures in life, in the memory of your thoughts?

Good____ Bad____

Now that you've completed your quiz, add up your score. This may help you to make the right decisions.

SCORE TALLY:

YES_____(the negative results)

NO_____(the positive results)

Thank you for allowng us to share this information with you.

SAVE WAIKIKI! SAVE MAMALA BAY!

COMMITTEE ON OCEAN RECREATION AND MARINE RESOURCES

Representative Kenneth Hiraki
Chairman

VERBAL TESTIMONY
IN FAVOR OF H.B. 1132 & H.B.1133

Addendum to Written Testimony

by

George Downing

March 1, 1993

Prohibition: Artificial Reefs and Fish Feeding

in

WAIKIKI, MAMALA BAY, O'AHU

MALAMA WAIKIKI!
Protect and care for Waikiki

TONIGHT — WHEN THE SHADOWS ARE FALLING
HEAR THE ROLLING SURF CALLING
CALLING FOR YOU,
FOR ME AND ALL OUR KEIKI

KOMO MAI — COME WITH ME
TO THE SURF 'N SEA OFF WAIKIKI
LISTEN CAREFULLY
TO THE WORDS I SPEAK
IT TELLS A STORY OF WAIKIKI

KOMO MAI — COME WITH ME
TO WAIKIKI AND FEEL ITS SPIRIT
ITS SOUL, ITS HEART
FOR YOU, FOR ME, AND ALL OUR KEIKI

MALAMA WAIKIKI
THE BEACHBOY'S SPIRITS RISE
AND SAY TO YOU, TO ME
TO EVERYONE TO HEAR
AND LISTEN CAREFULLY

IT ECHOS CLEAR
THROUGH MANOA AND PALOLO
THESE VALLEYS NEAR

THIS IS WAIKIKI
ITS SPIRIT SPEAKING
I'M GRATEFUL YOUR VALLEY'S WATER
FILLED MY BOSOM
SO CLEAR
AND DEAR TO ME!

IT CONTOURED ME
MY FORM,
TO SHARE WITH YOU
THE NALU
MY SAFE AND FRIENDLY WATERS
TO SWIM AND PLAY
TO TEACH SURF SPORTS TO MILLIONS
NOT BY CHANCE
BUT SAFELY
THIS CAME TO BE
MY CHOICE
I GAVE TO YOU.

KANAKA MAOLI!
YOU NOW HAVE SEEN
THE WAY THEY TAKE AND TREAT OUR LAND
AND NOW THEY COME TO *RAPE* ME — MAMALA!
KOKUA FOR ME
AND MAKE THEM SEE
YOU UNDERSTAND,
I ASK OF YOU
START WITH *ME!*
SAVE MAMALA BAY
AT WAIKIKI!

LET IT BE KNOWN FOR ALL TO HEAR:
YOU COME TO CLAIM
WHAT'S YOURS TO USE
BUT NOT TO OWN!

PROTECTING — YES!
—OUR KUPUNA TEACH:
"YOU OWN NO LAND, NO SEA!"

MALAHINI — THEY CAME
AND COME TODAY
WITH FOREIGN WAYS!

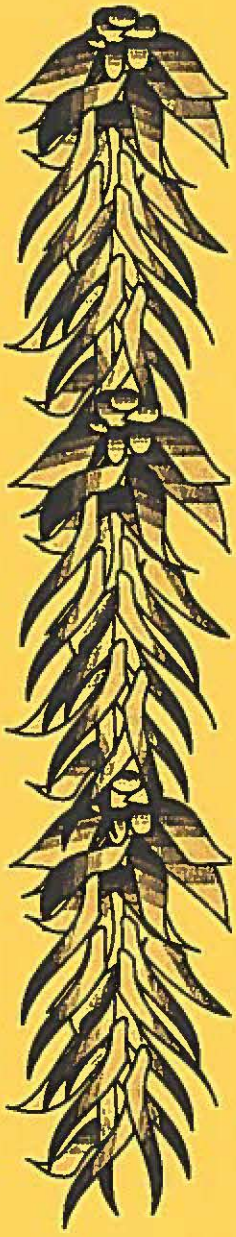
THEY STOLE
— AND CLAIM TO OWN —
THE LAND
AND NOW THE SEA!

TO CHANGE *ME* —
AND *SCAR* ME!!!

IF THIS YOU DO
I SAY TO YOU
LET NALU RISE
AND THUNDER LOUD!

WHEN THESE DAYS COME
LIKE MANY TIMES
MY BOSOM CLEANSED OF FOREIGN MESS
I WARN YOU NOW
WHEN SCARRED TOO DEEP
I LOSE MY LOVE
FOR MALAHINI!

SO — KOMO MAI
COME WITH ME
TO WAIKIKI
FOR YOU AND ALL OF US
AND THOSE WHO VISIT
NO MATTER WHO
— YOUNG AND OLD
NEAR AND FAR —
WE WELCOME YOU



LISTEN CAREFULLY
WE SPEAK THE TRUTH
NO HIDDEN PLANS
— LIKE *SOME* OF YOU —
WE JUST WANT
TO KEEP MAMALA BAY — WAIKIKI
AS NATURE PLANNED!

MALAMA — WAIKIKI
TODAY, TONIGHT, TOMORROW
YOUR SUNSETS
MOONLIGHT NIGHTS
YOUR SURFING SPORTS
AND CITY LIGHTS
YOUR SOUNDS OF MUSIC —
ALL ROMANCE ME

MALAMA — WAIKIKI
WE WANT TO HEAR YOUR ROLLING SURF
CALLING FOR YOU
FOR ME
AND ALL OUR KEIKI!

KOKUA LEGISLATORS!
FOR ALL TO SEE
YOUR PASSION
AND LOVE
FOR ME!

MALAMA
WAIKIKI!