

Hon. Adv.
11/20/86 A-5

Proposed Queen's Beach resort opposed at hearing

By Donna Reyes
Advertiser Government Bureau

About 40 people, including Hawaii Kai and Waimanalo residents, surfers, fishermen and conservationists, last night blasted a controversial Kaiser Development Co. proposal to build a resort in the Queen's Beach area between Sandy Beach and Makapuu Point.

Most of the 60 people at a City Council public hearing in Council chambers said they favor preserving the rustic beauty of Queen's Beach, across from the Hawaii Kai Golf Course along Kalaniana'ole Highway. Council members are considering a proposal to amend the general plan to designate Hawaii Kai as a secondary resort area.

After the city changed the general plan zoning of the 210 acres from resort to preservation and park use, Kaiser went to court charging illegal "down-

zoning." But federal Judge Samuel King in October tossed out the suit.

David Matthews, a representative of Hawaii Kai residents who oppose Kaiser's long-sought Ikekai resort, said Queen's Beach is part of the last remaining undeveloped stretch of open beach and shoreline on the southeastern shore of Oahu between Hanalei Bay and Waimanalo.

"The flora and fauna of this area have been shown to be rare and disappearing from our oceanfront," Matthews said. "This beach belongs not only to you and me; it belongs to our children and grandchildren as well. If we do not preserve these open spaces, where will they go to learn the beauty and majesty of this beautiful place?"

Quincy Kaneshiro, Hawaii Kai Neighborhood Board member, warned that drownings would increase because the pro-

posed resort site has unsafe beaches. "The dangers posed by the low elevation and tsunamis are ever-present, and we can't fight Mother Nature," Kaneshiro added.

Hawaii Kai resident and attorney Richard Diehl said "a resort of any size at Queen's Beach will only aggravate an already severe problem of traf-

fic congestion, both in the Hawaii Kai area and between Hawaii Kai and downtown" along Kalaniana'ole Highway.

Several residents said the Queen's Beach area is, and can be, used for camping, picnicking, nature studies, fishing, diving and surfing.

But Dan Davidson, Kaiser Development's land-use man-

ager, argued that Ikekai would create "thousands of jobs" and would provide millions of dollars in new state and city tax revenues.

Davidson added that the proposed Ikekai would "create an environmentally sensitive ocean-oriented resort project

that (would) serve the quality hotel market."

The City Council took no action last night after about 45 people testified on the Queen's Beach question. The resolution will now be referred to the Council Planning and Zoning Committee, which will next meet on Dec. 9.