

# Ko Olina cuts ties to shoreline and our past

*Editor's note: Ko Olina Resort and West Beach Estates have asked the state to designate waters between Barbers Point Deep-Draft Harbor and the Kahe Point Beach Park as a marine sanctuary. Residents say construction of the resort has resulted in restricted public access to the water, and fishing would be prohibited if the area is declared a sanctuary.*

**D**AD, what that old guy doing on the rocks?"

"Eh, he picking some kind limu."

We watch as an old Hawaiian man walks out between sets onto a wave-washed area of the reef. This is the same flat rock ledge which turtles would swim onto and tear at the limu with their mouths. This is the area where my father and his friend Bobby would dunk for uhu (parrot fish), using sea urchin as bait — sometimes getting so many strikes that they had to run from pole to pole to pull in the fish. This was "Ko Olina" before the development.

I have no idea what the shoreline looks like today; I have not seen it since the day the developers closed off access. I remember that day, when we drove up to the entrance to the Ko Olina area and the security guard said, "You can't fish here any more." I remember the look of disappointment on my father's face and the pain on the security guard's face as my father explained that he had been fishing the area for more than three decades.

My father and I have fished the beach at Malakole, the area of the cement plant, the area of the Barbers Point Deep-Draft Harbor (even before



**VIEW  
POINT**  
By Michael W.  
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there was a harbor), the cowpens, the lighthouse and the area now known as "Ko Olina," for 37 years. My father and my uncle fished the area since the late 1940s. My grandfather probably fished the same area back in the late 1900s.

We are being or have been cut off from many of our favorite fishing areas as beaches have been totally blocked off by hotels and golf courses, by industrial areas, housing and other development.

Now we are being told an area we have not been able to fish for many years, but which the developer promised would be accessible, may be cut off forever. The developer's spokesperson says that they want to "keep the water nice offshore, that's all." I have several choice words for this situation, but you can't print them in the newspaper.

The main goal of the developers is to keep local people out, except as workers and entertainers, to create some fantasy play land for tourists from the mainland and Japan. The local fishermen and divers are not welcome; maybe because we may look too grubby or we don't fit into their idea of the ideal "Hawaiian" background for their tourist-oriented development.

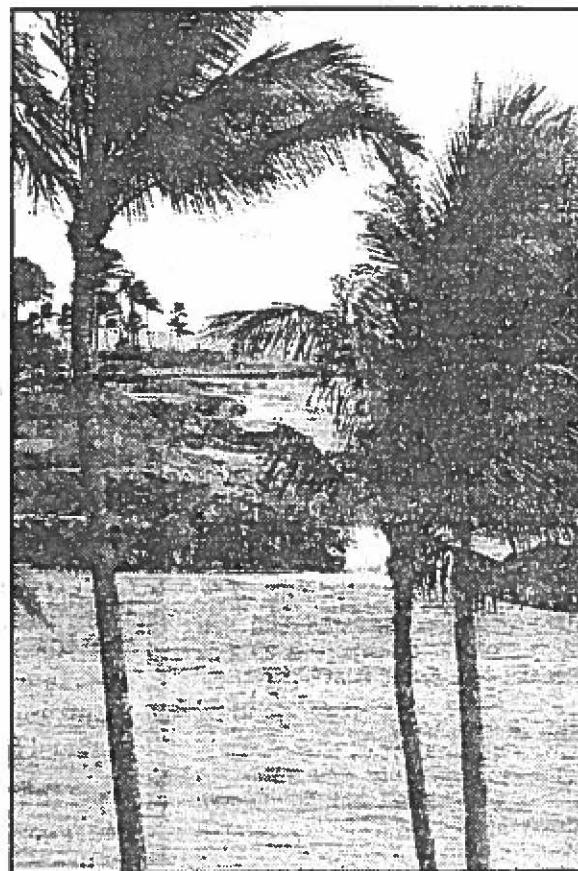
This is wrong and it makes no sense even for the tourist industry. You can-

not create "aloha" and "Hawaii" with artificial lagoons and transplanted palm trees. You cannot create the real feeling of Hawaii with golf courses and ridiculously expensive hotels. Other tourist destinations can and do build the same things being built in Hawaii and they can sell the package to the tourists for much less than the Hawaii tourist industry.

The hotels, developers and merchants are killing off the very tourist industry they are trying to promote. Just take a walk through Waikiki — rip-off prices for trinkets and junk, high room rates and even higher food prices; tourists being fleeced left and right.

I feel sorry for the many tourists who are ripped off from the moment they set foot in Hawaii to the moment they leave.

To sum up: It is unbelievable that a developer who blew holes in a highly productive reef is now crying for the state to come in and protect the shoreline and near shore waters. This is a big shibai. The developers only goal is to keep the people of Hawaii off a beach area that they have decided is their private property. The state must not be allowed to



Kathryn Bender, Star-Bulletin

Fishermen say making the waters at Ko Olina a state marine sanctuary would be like giving the developers a private marine preserve.

give the developers what would amount to a private marine preserve.

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