

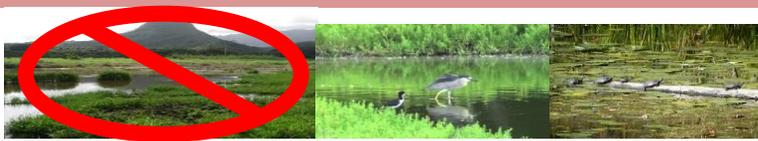
Windward Coalition Newsletter

Issue 11



February 2018

Our mission is to improve the quality of life of Windward residents



OPPOSITION TO DEVELOPMENT PLAN OF KAWAINUI-HAMAKUA MARSH

Kim Tomey

On February 6, 2018, the Windward Coalition Executive Board, on behalf of the entire Windward Coalition, submitted a comment letter to the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Forestry opposing, in its current form, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) concerning the Master Plan Project for development of the Kawainui-Hamakua Marsh, Hawai'i's largest freshwater wetland; home to thousands of plant and animal species, including several that are endangered. In the Executive Board's studied opinion, implementation of the Master Plan would lead to:

- A 300% increase in visitors, 90% of them non-residents;
- Increased traffic with concomitant pedestrian hazards;
- Unnecessary human encroachment on an ecologically fragile natural resource;
- Detrimental impacts on endangered fauna that inhabit Kawainui Marsh;
- Creation of private enterprise zones on public land;
- Commercialization of the Marsh and, ultimately, the Kailua area.

In addition, the Master Plan does not go far enough with its proposed efforts to ameliorate conditions that are leading to the deterioration of the wetlands. In particular, the DLNR has no plans to remove the peat layer that is choking the Marsh, reducing its flood storage capacity and hastening its demise from open wetlands to swamp. The DLNR has known of this condition for over 20 years. The DEIS fails to further the DLNR's mission to preserve and hold State lands in trust for the people of Hawai'i.



CO's Corner

Col. Raul Lianez,
U.S. Marine Corps



As president of the Windward Coalition, I would like to thank Col. Lianez for contributing to this news letter and his ongoing constructive engagement with our community. [Eileen Hilton](#)

Aloha,

Thank you for your continued friendship as we are moving quickly into 2018. Our Marines have been busy in the New Year. The Airfield has re-opened after a brief closure for repaving and upgrades. Marines across the base continue to train in order to sustain proficiency in their skill sets and be ready to deploy when called upon. In the past two months, we have had Marines participate in exercises in California and on the Big Island that simulated logistical deployment requirements. This is an example of one of the many opportunities our Marines have to produce readiness when needed to deploy to any place in the Pacific when called upon.

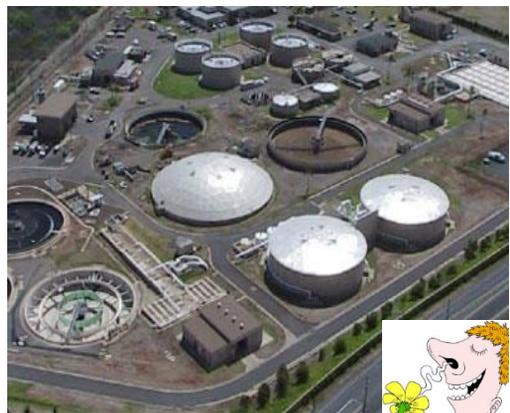
On January 13th, many of us received a shocking alert on our cell phones that we never expected. The false alarm of a ballistic missile threat was an unfortunate mistake, but can serve as a reminder of the reality we live in, and to remain prepared and vigilant. We had many nervous families aboard the installation and held a town hall to help them better prepare for these threats. My guidance to them is directly in line with the guidance from the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, prepare ahead of time, and shelter in place. Plan to have 14 days of food and water, and seek shelter wherever you are. (cont'd)

As a community, the more prepared we are, the better we can weather any storm that comes our way.

Since I have taken command, we have had two lasing incidents on the windward side of the island. Lasing is the act of shining a laser from a handheld device at an aircraft. This is extremely dangerous and also a federal crime. The light can blind pilots and aircrew, causing an emergency situation in the cockpit and aircraft, which can lead to a catastrophic situation on the ground. This federal crime is punishable by a \$250,000 fine and up to 5 years in jail. If you see something, say something. You can make a report by dialing 911, emailing the FAA through their tip line at laserreports@faa.gov, or text your tip to NCIS by texting "NCIS"+ your tip info to CRIMES (274637). Please assist me in helping to keep our Service members and community safe.

Lastly, I want to thank you for sharing your noise concerns with my staff and I. We have recently updated our voice message on our noise concern hotline (808-257-8832), making it shorter and more easy to use. We have also added a feature to our online form (<http://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil>) that will email you a copy of your submittal for your records. I look forward to continuing to work with you to build a solid community through listening and mutual cooperation.

Semper Fidelis
Colonel Raul Lianez
Commanding Officer
Marine Corps Base Hawaii



Kailua Waste Water Treatment Plant Aikahi Sewer Project



Sewer update

Feb 21, 2018

Laurel Leslie

In four months, the Aikahi sewer project will be fully operational including the tunnel wastewater system and the installation of additional pumps to move wastewater. In addition to the current construction, the Honolulu City and County is putting in more odor control with the installation of a carbon filter system. Replacement filters will be changed on a regular basis according to the project construction manager, Brian Gomolski.

The tunnel is nearly complete and contains an interior pipe that requires grout and a fiberglass seal to plug construction holes. Another contractor is constructing an additional building on the Kaneohe end which will be finished in June, 2018. Some of the equipment has been moved from the Kaneohe side and more is scheduled to be moved in the coming months.

Testing of the pump for permanent equipment systems will continue with ongoing site work. These pumps will be indoors and operational during daytime only.

The plan is to landscape where the construction of equipment has damaged the grounds.

If you hear/see something!

Say something !

Otherwise they can't fix it.

MCBH Hotline

Call: 808-257-8832

Online: <http://www.mcbhawaii.marines.mil>