

Resolution 19-49  
Early Testimony

Shirley Murakami  
2210 Kuahea Pl  
Honolulu, HI 96816

March 20, 2019

Council chairmember Carol Fukunaga  
Committee on Public Infrastructure, Technology and  
Sustainability

Re: Item number Three on the Agenda, Resolution 19-49  
Repair and mitigation plan for infrastructure - Palolo Valley

CC: Chairmember Ann Kobayashi

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I am writing personally in behalf of the residents of Waiamao Road, Kuahea Street and Kuahea Place. I believe you are aware of the dire need to repair the area, due to land movements affecting the streets and houses shifting off its foundation. It is both unsafe traversing the streets and homes are unsafe to live in.

I live on Kuahea Place off of Kuahea St. It is a dead end street and the only access to our homes. The hill is torn up with deep ruts and loose rocks that can't be traversed by cars or trucks. The city claimed that they could not get through to replace the light in the middle of the hill due to unsafe conditions and the truck could not make it up.

This year will be 80 years old. Am still employed and the only way I can get to my house is by using trekking poles part of the way and climb up on my hands a portion of the way. I'm coming down by using a mat to slide a portion of the way. One of neighbors fractured her ankle a few months ago and I am terrified that I might tumble down myself. Need to use a lighted head gear to go up at night and also difficult when it rains.

The various agencies are aware of the problems but there seems no immediate solution or relief. I'm afraid I'll not be able to get to my home in the near future and like my other neighbors might be forced to abandon our homes and find some other accomodations. Besides the costs involved, needless to say am not able to remove my belongings.

Since the situation is dire, would request you look into the problems and help us.

Thank you for your attention in this matter

*Shirley Murakami*

March 21, 2019

TO: Honolulu City Council  
Committee on Public Infrastructure, Technology and Sustainability

FROM: William & Rose Chismar  
2200 Kuahea Pl  
Honolulu, HI 96816

RE: Support of Resolution 19-49, CD-1

We strongly support Resolution 19-49 as amended in the proposed Committee Draft CD-1.

We have been residing on Kuahea Place for 26 years and several of our neighbors have been residing on Kuahea Place and Kuahea Street since the 1950s.

From the published studies from UH, the USGS, GeoLabs, and others we are aware of the slow ground movement in the "Waiomao Slide" and the "Lower Kuahea" areas that go back decades. However, our observations as residents, the movement was not a problem outside of the Waiomao Slide area, specifically the area around the intersection of Kuahea Street and Place, until after the March 2006 rains.

At that time, ground movement became evident along a path about 15 feet wide running under 2221 Kuahea Place, across Kuahea Place, under 2331 Kuahea Street, turning to cross Kuahea Street, and a running under 2334 Kuahea Street. Because of the visible underground water flowing, the initial cause appeared to be large amounts of water from the hillside adjacent to the roads making its way underground. As the years progressed, the damage slowly spread from its original location, making its way under more houses, and down to Waiomao Road.

As noted in the Resolution, the City had issued contracts to address the problem, but the work was never completed. Work was completed on Kuahea Street in the Waiomao Slide zone and new drainage was install on Waiomao Road between 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Kuahea Street. However, no work was done in the Kuahea Street and Place area.

Over the past year, the land movement has accelerated to a frightening pace. Clearly something has changed and we no longer seem to be in a "slow-moving" landslide condition. Houses are falling down, streets are being closed, and residents are living in dangerous conditions or being forced to abandon their houses. At the March Palolo Neighborhood Board meeting last week, we found out that the City has been working to develop a plan for mitigating the movement. However, the City seems to have no plans to investigate the cause of the ground movement.

We fully support Resolution 19-49 CD1, so that 1) we can learn what exactly the City plans to do to mitigate the problem, and 2) the source of the problem can be identified, allowing everyone to have confidence that the City's plans will successfully address the problem.

Since the hillside above the streets where the water originates is State land, we recently have communicated with Representative Calvin Say and DLNR Chair Suzanne Case. They are willing

to work to see how the State can support the City in its investigation of the causes of the shifting land.

Mahalo for your efforts in helping to protect the safety and homes of residents in our neighborhood.

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**From:** CLK Council Info  
**Sent:** Friday, March 22, 2019 10:50 AM  
**Subject:** Public Infrastructure, Technology and Sustainability Speaker Registration/testimony

## Speaker Registration/Testimony

Name Keoki Noji  
Phone 8087728536  
Email keokin@gmail.com  
Meeting Date 03-25-2019  
Council/PH Committee PITS  
Agenda Item 19-49  
Your position on the matter Support  
Representing Self  
Organization  
Do you wish to speak at the hearing? No

Friday, March 22nd, 2019

Subject: Repairs to Kuahea (Palolo Valley)

Dear Committee Members:

As a resident of Kuahea Place, I am in support of Resolution 19-49 and in support of the Kuahea project in Palolo Valley.

Written  
Testimony

Kuahea Street needs to be properly repaired so that the residents of the area, including my pregnant wife and myself (and our future child), are able to live in a safe environment with access to basic services. Kuahea Place is currently only accessible by foot over treacherous terrain due to the land movement that has caused Kuahea Place and the area around it to collapse. My wife will soon be unable to climb the hill as she approaches her delivery date and our older neighbors already have to crawl up the hill on all fours.

In addition, the water in the neighborhood is turned off on a daily basis to repair leaks, electrical power was off for an extended period of time when a utility pole fell down, phone and cable lines have fallen down and are hanging loose, and the US Postal Service has stopped delivering mail to the residents of Kuahea Place. All of these issues create additional problems (plumbing, etc.) for individual resident homes and properties.

With multiple residents over the age of 75, health and safety are urgent concerns. Ambulance and fire department vehicles are currently unable to access homes on Kuahea

Place. It goes without saying that this would be a huge issue should residents need emergency assistance.

Lastly, residents cannot continue to spend thousands of dollars to repair their properties if the streets continue to shift.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 808-772-8536 or keokin@gmail.com

Mahalo,  
Keoki Noji

Testimony  
Attachment  
Accept Terms and Agreement 1