



MEMORANDUM

TO: Laura Thielen, DLNR Chairperson
FROM: Denny Coffman, District 6 Representative

Based upon yesterday evening's meeting at the Honokohau Harbor, I cannot support DOBOR's position to implement parking fees at the Honokohau Harbor. A document prepared and presented by the community group clearly stated that the issue is not about fees. The issue is about the negative impact of parking fees and parking enforcement on the entire community. If additional revenue is needed, the group is willing to work with DOBOR to find the money.

In preparing for the meeting, I realized that the purpose for the parking fee increase was not clear to me. Mooring fees were increased as part of the "Recreational Renaissance Plan B – Back to Basics"; a plan to increase funds to support the repair and maintenance of DOBOR facilities. The discussion for parking fees has now shifted from the "Renaissance Plan" to a position that funds are needed to support the day-to-day operation of the Honokohau Harbor. Operational fees are deficient by \$411,521.88.

If we need to raise \$411,521.88 to continue the operation of the Honokohau Harbor, it is not clear to me or anyone who attended the meeting that the implementation of parking fees will meet or exceed that requirement.

What is very clear to me is that the Honokohau Harbor community is upset and ready to fight over this and other issues. They are organizing a formal Harbor Users and West Hawaii Community Group. They are in the process of seeking legal opinions regarding the rules and rule development process for parking fees. I expect to be asked to open a legislative investigation into the entire management of the Harbor. The investigation will include collapsing piers, water usage problems that cost thousands of dollars each month, sanitary issues, safety issue, security issues and the accounting, allocation & use of the special funds that support the harbor.

To avoid possible litigation, investigations and other action that consumes time and money, I would like to meet with you and your staff to better understand the funding problem and develop a solution that solves our problem without the use of a parking fee program at the Honokohau Harbor.

Denny Coffman
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