

March 1, 2017

## **Broken Promises, Planning Violations, and Fines Pile Up at Hanapohaku's Sharks Cove Development**

*by The Save Shark's Cove Coalition*

Last April, the North Shore Neighborhood Board held a special meeting where over 250 community members voiced concerns about the poor planning and un-permitted commercial activity by Hanapohaku LLC on the three-acre site across from Shark's Cove. At the end of the meeting, the developer apologized and promised to come into compliance with the law.

**Unfortunately, in the past ten months, the community's concerns, and even the City's numerous enforcement actions, have been ignored.** The violations have increased and the fines have piled up. At the meeting, Hanapohaku apologized for its poor planning decisions and promised to be good neighbors. Although the owners boast that they have fixed some violations, the truth is that they committed many new violations and fixed only a few blatant building code violations "after the fact" – and then only after repeated community complaints and numerous city inspections.

Whether the violations were caused by ignorance or intention to evade the law, is that being a good neighbor? The good news is that the City and County of Honolulu Department of Planning & Permitting (DPP) has finally put its foot down after months of cat-and-mouse with the owners.

**On January 23, 2017, the City cited Hanapohaku for a mess of illegal activity that violates the Special Management Area (SMA) law, the important rules that protect our coastline from improper development. The City's Notice of Violation for "multiple violations" of the SMA law is reprinted here.**

Unfortunately, rather than comply with the City's order, **Hanapohaku appears, once again, to be "rolling its eyes" and simply ignoring this citation.** It must be counting on paying off fines as the "cost of business," continuing its lucrative and unpermitted "food truck circus" for several more years, while it pitches a glossy conceptual plan for a commercial center that may not even be feasible on this site.

**The community should know that Hanapohaku also has two prior violations (dating back to 2015) from the City, with accumulated fines of over \$65,000.**

**Why have these violations not been fixed? What about fairness to everyone else in the community who must obtain permits for their home and property improvements? While obtaining permits is not easy for anyone, a commercial developer on this spectacular piece of property should set the highest, not the lowest, standard for compliance with planning laws.**

Please support the City's enforcement action and ask Hanapohaku to clean up its act and comply with the law before rolling out shiny new plans and pretty promises to attract community support for a future development. If the owners could not find a way to comply with the law over the past year, what does that tell us about their future actions? Bad development is irreversible. If the owners could find a way to comply with the law over the past year, what does that tell us about their future actions?

### **Our Community Cares About Good Planning**

The Save Shark's Cove Coalition is a network of community groups, neighbors, and individuals united to protect Shark's Cove. In spite of Hanapohaku's misleading statements, our position is not for or against any particular development, but rather that any and all development must follow the laws intended to protect our community and the environment. For more information, go to: [SaveSharksCove.org](http://SaveSharksCove.org)