From: <u>Jeff Argov</u>

**To:** <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Agenda item OCCL K-3 -Cell Tower in Lanikai

**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:21:00 AM

#### Agenda item OCCL K-3

I would like to convey my strong opposition to the proposed Verizon Cell Tower in Lanikai. Lanikai is a special and unique corner in Hawaii with unsurpassed views. A cell tower at the proposed location is highly visible and will detract from the beautiful views enjoyed by residents and visitors.

Thank you for your consideration!

Jeff Argov 44-391 Nilu St Kaneohe, HI 96744 From: Monique Bryan
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the Verizon Application for a new Cell Tower being approved

**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:54:47 AM

#### Aloha,

I strongly oppose the Verizon Application for a new Cell Tower being approved.

This is my written testimony but am willing to do oral testimony if necessary.

1) Verizon claims their proposed cell tower is needed for public safety.

"The FCC's basic **911 rules** require wireless service providers to transmit all **911 calls**, regardless of whether the **caller** subscribes to the provider's service or not." So building a Verizon tower in Lanikai would not improve 911 service. Lanikai already has full cell coverage from AT&T and Sprint.

- 2) Verizon claims: "location adjacent to an existing facility of a similar height would reduce the overall impact of the silhouette of the proposed installation when viewed from below, and further enhance blending with the surrounding terrain."

  Is Verizon trying to convince us that building more cell towers will minimize the visual impact? These cell towers would be visible from most of Lanikai including Lanikai beach, the pillbox trail and Lanikai park. Lanikai is a beautiful place and it needs to be protected from corporate greed.
- 3) Verizon claims: "The site as proposed will be located at a significant distance from nearby residences."

  There are homes on three sides of this proposed cell

tower location, some homes are within 100 feet. How can Verizon claim a significant distance?

- 4) Verizon claims: "The Department of Land and Natural Resources has previously determined that the proposed location is suited for telecommunications infrastructure," When did DLNR determine this? Was the community involved in this decision? The questionable AT&T tower precedent of 2018 should not be used. AT&T violated the conditions of their permit when they built their tower in 2018 and needs to be investigated.
- 5) Concern about a further precedent being set for other telecommunications companies to try and build their own towers in the same area if Verizon is approved

  It will be easier for Sprint, T-mobile, and others to build cell towers in this area if Verizon gets their application approved. Why would such a small community ever need all these cell towers. This is obviously just for the benefit of the telecommunications industry not our community.
- 6) Verizon may have understated their total project cost to avoid having to apply for a Major SMA permit.

  Total project costs that are over \$500,000 require a Major Special Management Area Permit. It is hard to believe that Verizon could build a cell tower in this location for less than \$500,000. Consider everything is more expensive in Hawaii plus all costs have increased significantly due to supply chain issues and labor shortages. Consider the extensive helicopter work that will be needed, Custom made faux rock can cost \$150,000 alone, Extensive legal costs getting the permits, Cost of making a deal with the land owner, Concrete work, Manufacturing and Shipping all material and equipment from off island, High cost of

Hawaiian labor for construction and getting the equipment working, Etc. Verizon needs to provide a current itemized estimate of their total project cost.

Mahalo, Monique Bryan From: Ruth Carlson

To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] January 14, 2022 meeting: Item OCCL K3: Additional Lanikai based cell phone tower requested by

Verizon

**Date:** Tuesday, January 11, 2022 6:00:55 AM

As a member of the Lanikai Association and beach community I know we do not want another cell phone tower, especially on conservation land, here in our community.

The currently sited location proposed by Verizon is on conservation land where such development is not legal. The AT&T tower should never have been built there. It does not meet the specifications of its own proposal.

The current AT&T and proposed future Verizon design is ugly and in no way hiding anything. The argument that 2 ugly boxes next to each other will not be noticed on conservation land is not supportable.

The argument on the table is that locating 2 or 3 of these boxes will reduce the overall impact of their presence when viewed from below. This is also wrong.

The current rectangular fake rock box can easily be seen from Mokulua Road.

I support the votes of the Lanikai and Kailua Neighborhood/Community Boards to veto this proposal.

Ruth Curwen Carlson 381C Kaelepulu Drive

From: Chow

**To:** <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item OCCL K-3

Date: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 8:50:02 PM

Attachments: No To Verizon Petition 112921 (dragged).pdf

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In regards to the proposed Verizon Cell tower on conservation land in Lanikai. BLNR agenda item OCCL K-3, Final hearing on January 14th, 2022.

There are serious issues in how OCCL has conducted this permitting process. First of all Verizon has paid a team of people to work on this permit application full time. OCCL pays its employees to work on this permitting process. Actually they are paid by our tax dollars. Both of these groups are very knowledgeable in this process. The community is at a great disadvantage. We are not knowledgeable in this process and we are not paid to work full time on trying to figure out how to convince OCCL what our community wants. It is very difficult to convince residents to spend 100's of hours working on fighting Verizon while juggling full time jobs, family obligations, and many other life obligations. Well our community has come together with a strong voice opposing Verizon's proposed cell tower in Lanikai conservation land. Only to have our hard work purposely omitted from OCCL's recommendation report.

Our community came together and provided OCCL with the items below.

- 1) A petition signed by over 500 Hawaii residents stating their opposition
- 2) Lanikai Association Board voted and wrote a formal letter stating their opposition
- 3) Kailua Neighborhood Board voted and wrote a formal letter stating their opposition
- 4) Numerous photos showing the visual impacts of our community

OCCL still recommended approval of Verizon's permit in their recommendation report. None of these submitted items were discussed in OCCL's recommendation report. Our community spent countless hours putting all of this together only to have it buried. We are not being represented by an unbiassed state organization. Now we have learned the only way for us to be heard is to present these items to BLNR ourselves at the final hearing. This leaves our community at another significant disadvantage.

1) Since our communities input was not included in OCCL's recommendation report. We have a lot of information to share and we will only be given 3 min to speak at

the hearing.

- 2) It is very difficult to get community members to set aside a full day on a work day, January 14th for BLNR's hearing. We have no idea when we will be able to testify so we will have to spend most of the day waiting for our turn to speak. Because of this very few residents will be able to give oral testimony. Verizon and OCCL / DLNR's people will all be paid to attend. This is highly unfair and is much more favorable to Verizon.
- 3) Now let us consider the ridiculous requirement of how the community was notified in the first place about permit applications via a posting at a public library or a two line ad in the announcements section of a news paper. No one ever sees these methods of notification. Permit applicants should be required to send letters to residents in the surrounding area notifying them of permit applications and ask for their input.

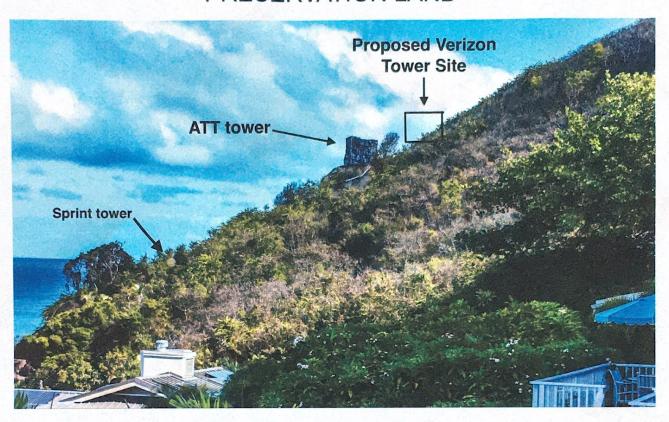
The current OCCL permit process is broken and extremely biased towards the telecommunications industry. A full investigation needs to be performed. This permitting process needs to be reengineered to ensure transparency, accountability and give the community an easier way to be heard and make sure their input has equal weight with unbiased representation.

BLNR should deny Verizon's permit application due to OCCL's significant bias towards the telecommunications industry.

Below you will find a petition singed by more than 500 Hawaii residents stating their opposition to this proposed Verizon cell tower in Lanikai.

I would also like to provide oral testimony at the January 14th hearing, Agenda item OCCL K-3

Chow Yu 713-824-7270 321x@att.net



#### Community impact

- Environmental impact. Ka'iwa Ridge is zoned P-1, which is the most restricted preservation land in the state. Preservation land is preserved for the community including wildlife and needs to be protected from commercial / industrial development. Ka'iwa Ridge is known by residents to be a Wedge-tailed Shearwater nesting area for decades.
- Visual impact. As seen in the photo above, the faux rock enclosure does not blend into the surroundings
  and will be very obvious and unsightly. It is shameful to destroy such a beautiful, scenic, centrally located
  ridge line in our community.
- Close proximity to homes & health concerns. The proposed cell tower site is very close to three main streets that surround this ridge and many residents are concerned of the continuous radiofrequency radiation exposure.
- 4. **Do we need another cell tower?** We already have two cell towers owned by AT&T and Sprint! These towers provide full coverage in the area and also serve other providers. Approval for Verizon sets a dangerous precedent paving the way for more commercial enterprise on preservation land.

Please contact Rachel E Beasley (<u>rachel.e.beasley@hawaii.gov</u>) at the Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands directly. Please reference (CDUA) OA-3879 for Conservation and Coastal Land Committee Meeting of DLNR.

Name	Hawaii Resident?	Email or /Phone	Signature
Kale Kuylendall	les	808 8lelo 9717	pur one
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Cindy Sakai	yes	8089364992	andly
Nicole WOND	Yes	(\$6) US 3 US 3	manne
Julia Horie	Yes	(808) 256 4709	
Michael Yamane	Yes	(808) 352-8083	Rege
Erika Kim	Y	8083918381	Enly
James Gerritsen	yes	551-497-8368	
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Jasmine Kumar	yes	719-761-1096	Suna
Jeff Hendrix	Yes	808 375-8775	g. Kendurg
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Name	Hawaii Resident?	Email or /Phone	Signature
Dinne Girp	169	akarawaiii@gmajl.	on sommery

#### SAY 'NO' TO ANOTHER CELL TOWER ON LANIKAI'S PRESERVATION LAND

Name	Hawaii Resident?	Email or /Phone	Signature
LINDA BAKER	405	tehani 1047 @yahooM	hhh

Name	Hawaii Resident?	Email or /Phone	Signature
Mel Estalilla	yes	estalilamel@ydoc.com	20

Name	Hawaii Resident?	Email or /Phone	Signature
	425	PS 808-263-4321	S. H. Ouwros
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DONALO HO	YES	808-436-3010	Denact to
Melanie Meinken	Yes	808-927-3066	Melanie Mank
STEVEN BETHEC	VES.	808 488 1852	Streng tel
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Proc Zehngraf	yes	paulzehn @hotmail.com	
Karenullauna	485	Knil5674@gmailia	620
Shawna Scoggini	725	Smscoggs earl, con	She Juga-
Caroline Taketin	408	schkalsu@gmal	Could
Denise Lopes	YES	anslopes Dy ahoo.com	Verife For
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Martha Mayser	yes	same	Thin.
Jashue Heppur	Yes	808.292-1172	Nailue Appru
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Austin Trujillo	Yes	austintruje, gmail. com	
Jason Jinks	Yes	Jinks 19 agmail.com	Son and
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Rhegan Wada	yes	rhe_rhelehotmal.com	, ,
Rebokka Zaffke	Yes	hagen 509@gmaile	
Kristy Henrierson	Yes	may3 sheyahoo.com	TACA
Erik Ortega	Yes	erly or legal Danal.com	1 Girls
Atiyana Flores	yes	aixanaflores@gmail.	com gigs u
Tray Myers	des	myersonang low amails	on dela
Jules Colls	Yes	( beauties a Hewarian	The later of the l
Chayisha Martin	Yes	chanisha82@quail.com	Can
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	Resident?		11/-01
Kan Dodbar	1	678-983-3338	Kain Flore
Julio Lemus	Y	954-513-0700	1 Dine
Blake Smith	1	303-885-7981	Pl 11
JOSHUA L'OPELL	Y	808-341-6446	Theland
Haley Migaoka RYTWIN LETE	1	8093418886	THUN !!
RYTWIN LEE	Y	808-988-8008	Rytwerf Lee
DRANDON FUENTS	4	2103077932	
Jessica Rohr	7	808 594 2119	and
SHAWE ARMOUR	4	808 295 5902	1///
Adrian Torres	/	614 128 8277	April 1
Ali Sheddown	4	808 315 1008	A Bluddies
Paul Izak	7	Parlizahmusica quail. com	Darl Soll
Author Markham	1	1808 381 9654	1011
Jonathan Plyler	/4	808 385 1554	Grath PS
Jesemy Kuyleandell	X	210-867-9084	MX III
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Adam Smith	1	206-953-1809	
Ella Dalin	V	541.625.9707	ella Jaley
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Ethan West	Nes	Chan West mba Camail, Con	Elfred way
MANUAGUE KUNSTIN	YES	mabel_igichoy@aphor.co	
Emma P. Alberti	yes	Emmab Phippen agmail.co	m 26/2
Zehao zhang	yes	zeezytat@gnailau	n They frey
Taylor Kavieff	yes	T. KV+ mail ( gmail. com	
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Vandra Livingston-Tallie	yes	talls tucson@ichud.on	n Der belli
Hannah Sullivan,	yes	hannah-24-09@hotmail.cm	Hannol & Sullive.
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Dennis Raberts		GENNISV roberts @gmg.	1 April 10
Kelsey White	yes	Kelsey, ann. white Ogmail. com	(fology, who
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Name	Hawaii Resident?	Email or /Phone	Signature
Rodgers, Trevar	Kes	8324990340	A
Trajkovski, Megan	Yes	mvmt1994@yahoo	con that
Johnson, Galary Ja	468	8083918581	Atla Jahren
Montano, Nikko	405	808 387-5708	Nitto Montage
Winfrey, Sarah	Yes	sewinf@gmail.com	Duh Wwy
MANU BOOKS	Ro	mbyrks 5702 @ Hotmail	up 20
CHEIS PALMER	YES	cphylocal grave. Com	C)
MMSSa Nathanson	405	Aussadanuallo @amai	I can a My 9
Kavaline Schmit	yes	7034183844	15 Sy
Alison Dugas	yes	beatriz@ Dugas.org	fra Kn
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Lois Talebi	Yes	2 Intalehi@gnia	O Down Halely
Megan Aho	Yes	808 295 3211	MA
Thusel Maden	yes	808-439-9506	Eletet
Sara Dilharia	yes	808 295 3525	J. Dungia
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Duayne Heams	405	90744/4949	Ca Ballo
SANDRA HDAMS	'yes	907-441-4927	Southa Oli
ulunchi Malama	465	uluantonio@gmail.com	Umalama
Gina Gentile	yes	5628221890	
NEIL FLEITELL	Yes	367-6755	8/1/1
Nancy Flutell	yes	301.467.4123	ng Flyitely
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Name	Hawaii Resident?	Email or /Phone	Signature
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Cassidi Gabrel	425	cussocic & hopmail con	Cyc Sor
Dalvinbabriel	yes	jarednance agril. com	
Rose Kimie	yes	8087732793	mon
Guarcarlo Corter	yes	619-927-1134	A STATE OF THE STA
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Vadyn Ustymenko	YES	ustymenko a omovil co	
Gusaa Berges	40 5	sue bergestickude	
Becky Taylor	Y+5	Becky@Sc.RR.	
Jonnie Payne	Yes	jennifesparnellechotroailcon	
Darnell Umeda	Yes	belli586 ayahor com	asch of
Yshai Yudehovite	No	Argogi Ognani. Con	
Sarah Scherling	yes	scherlingsarahagmai	
Alice James-Yudekovitz	no	abarnes 4389 @gmail.com	
AARON SKINNUR	YES	askinner870egmil	
Mikaela Ziger	N.	mikaelaziegu 7 egmail.com	M3 calls
Vicki Cuningham	162	(M 1199 70 87	
Maria kalai Denzer	Jus	808-499-7987	8000
Davellen Tenn	yes	9152629062	
Moreno Cericilia	75	Yumasta Cotmalian	dx 7
foretta Falco	yes.	8086707338	Way
Lyan Scarf	753	808-793-1867	flul
NATHEN CAUHON	yis	910) 467-4847	non
VIRONICA CALHON	Jes	(916) 233-2581	

Name	Hawaii Resident?	Email or /Phone	Signature
Cary Brock	Y	852-210	25
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	JOSELAYNE SOBREIRA	YES	JOH BORGES@GMAIL. LOM	fAB daes
	Celeste Smith	YES	celsmith 808@ yahoo us	n Cefestiffing
	Eva Wittlinger	125	ewitherpe & gmail. con	MA
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Name	Hawaii Resident?	Email or /Phone	Signature
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Deborah Wood	Y	808-226-7157	Dword
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MEUSSA MAYER	1	808-748-9328	Leison Lagr
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Elle Ashlock	yes	elletagast @yahov.car	gli an
Steve Myeres	YES.	Steve SuyEral, com	Buyer
Joy Maratta	Yes	808troy@gmil.com	Marife
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David Michael	Yes	buildtsix cessegma	
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From: <u>Tanya Davanzo</u>
To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject:[EXTERNAL] Agenda item Occl-k3Date:Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:03:52 PM

#### Agenda item OCCL K-3

I would like to convey my strong opposition to the proposed Verizon Cell Tower in Lanikai. Lanikai is a special and unique place in Hawaii with unsurpassed views. A cell tower at the proposed location is highly visible and will detract from the beautiful views enjoyed by residents and visitors. We have had no issues with cell coverage in Lanikai. Why damage the natural beauty of the community with another cell tower for no reason? Thank you for your consideration!

Tanya Davanzo 808-778-5684 Drtanya@hawaii.r.com Agenda Item OCCL K-3

Tanya D'Avanzo, Ph.D. ABPP-Cn

From: <u>Sara DiGrazia</u>

To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] cell phone tower in Lanikai **Date:** Monday, January 10, 2022 4:49:43 PM

#### Dear DLNR Board Members,

This is in regards to the proposed cell phone tower in Lanikai (item K-3 on January 14th 9:00am meeting). I am a life-long resident of Lanikai and strongly oppose the construction of another cell phone tower in Lanikai. Our reception is fine and we have worked out how to manage when it does not work. Please listen to the voices of our neighborhood.

Thank you, Sara DiGrazia and Family From: DANA EDMUNDS
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Verizon cell tower Lanikai

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:05:43 PM

#### Department of Land and Natural Resources

We join the Kailua Neighborhood Board, Lanikai Association and hundreds of Lanikai residents in opposition to the proposed Verizon Cell Tower in Lanikai.

The Lanikai neighborhood is not an appropriate location for this proposed tower. The tower would be located near Lanikai residences and visible throughout the Lanikai Community. It would set a precedent for other communications companies to add additional towers to the Lanikai hillside.

This cell tower is unnecessary. Cell service is already adequately provided by AT&T and Sprint.

Lanikai is a historic residential community cherished by those who live here and by visitors from around the world. The Lanikai hillside and environment should remain free of additional industrialization and commercialization.

Please...keep Lanikai Lanikai

Thank you

Dana and Ginger Edmunds 1328 Aalapapa drive Lanikai, Hawaii 96734 808 2953856 
 From:
 Matthew Grove

 To:
 DLNR.BLNR.Testimony

 Subject:
 [EXTERNAL] Cell towers

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Cell towers Lanikai

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:44:46 AM

Attachments: Letter to DLNR 1.pdf

Letter to DLNR 2.pdf

Hi, to whom it may concern.

I strongly oppose the proposed Verizon cell tower in Lanikai. Agenda Item OCCL K-3

The OCCL permitting process appears to be broken. It does not take into consideration what our community wants or needs and appears to favor the telecommunications industry.

Our community has come together and strongly opposed this Verizon cell tower by submitting the items below to OCCL to be included in their recommendation report.

- 1) A petition signed by more than 500 Hawaii residents stating their opposition
- 2) A letter from Lanikai Association stating their opposition
- 3) A letter from Kailua Neighborhood Board stating their opposition
- 4) Numerous photos documenting the visual impact of our community

None of these items were mentioned in OCCL's recommendation report. (See items attached below)

These two letters, petition and photos are significant, Why were they not made part of OCCL's recommendation report? There appears to be a significant bias in this OCCL recommendation report. What more could our community have done to show we do not want another cell tower?

Why did OCCL include Verizon's photos in their recommendation report that were taken to be favorable to Verizon's cause and not include photos taken by residents showing the impact on our views that we experience every day from our homes, streets, park, beach, etc?

#### 1) Verizon claims their proposed cell tower is needed for public safety.

"The FCC's basic **911 rules** require wireless service providers to transmit all **911 calls**, regardless of whether the **caller** subscribes to the provider's service or not." So building a Verizon tower in Lanikai would not improve 911 service. Lanikai already has full cell coverage

from AT&T and Sprint.

2) Verizon claims: "location adjacent to an existing facility of a similar height would reduce the overall impact of the silhouette of the proposed installation when viewed from below, and further enhance blending with the surrounding terrain."

Is Verizon trying to convince us that building more cell towers will minimize the visual impact? These cell towers would be visible from most of Lanikai including Lanikai beach, the pillbox trail and Lanikai park. Lanikai is a beautiful place and it needs to be protected from corporate greed.

3) Verizon claims: "The site as proposed will be located at a significant distance from nearby residences."

There are homes on three sides of this proposed cell tower location, some homes are within 100 feet. How can Verizon claim a significant distance?

4) Verizon claims: "The Department of Land and Natural Resources has previously determined that the proposed location is suited for telecommunications infrastructure,"

When did DLNR determine this? Was the community involved in this decision? The questionable AT&T tower precedent of 2018 should not be used. AT&T violated the conditions of their permit when they built their tower in 2018 and needs to be investigated.

5) Concern about a further precedent being set for other telecommunications companies to try and build their own towers in the same area if Verizon is approved

It will be easier for Sprint, T-moble, and others to build cell towers in this area if Verizon gets their application approved. Why would such a small community ever need all these cell towers. This is obviously just for the benefit of the telecommunications industry not our community.

6) <u>Verizon may have understated their total project cost to avoid having to apply for a Major SMA permit.</u>

Total project costs that are over \$500,000 require a Major Special Management Area Permit. It is hard to believe that Verizon could build a cell tower in this location for less than \$500,000. Consider everything is more expensive in Hawaii plus all costs have increased significantly due to supply chain issues and labor shortages. Consider the extensive helicopter work that will be needed, Custom made faux

rock can cost \$150,000 alone, Extensive legal costs getting the permits, Cost of making a deal with the land owner, Concrete work, Manufacturing and Shipping all material and equipment from off island, High cost of Hawaiian labor for construction and getting the equipment working, Etc. Verizon needs to provide a current itemized estimate of their total project cost.

Lanikai is a small community. Does Verizon really need to build another cell tower on conservation land that only serves such a small population? We have full cell coverage and don't need or want another cell tower in Lanikai.

Please support our community not the telecommunications industry.

Matt Grove
617-721-2991
mattgrove@comcast.net
Agenda Item OCCL K-3



Taken from a residence on Koohoo Place that is 6 houses away from the proposed Verizon tower site.



Taken from Koohoo Place



Taken from Aalapapa Drive



Taken from Mokolea Drive.

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Taken from residence

?

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#### KAILUA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 31

WILLIAM M. HICKS, CHAIRMAN • 923 AKUMU STREET • KAILUA, HAWAII, 96734-4004 PHONE (808) 230-2293 • E-MAIL billhicksknb@gmail.com

January 10, 2022

Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson Department of Land and Natural Resources Kalanimoku Building 1151 Punchbowl Street Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Kailua Neighborhood Board Opposition to Proposed Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) OA-3879 for Verizon Wireless Lanikai Telecom Project

Aloha Ms. Case,

The Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) received a presentation on the proposed Verizon Wireless Lanikai Telecom Project at its regular meeting on November 4, 2021 from Lanikai resident Mr. Scott Whiting.

It should be noted that Verizon was scheduled to make a presentation to the KNB at the March 4, 2021 regular meeting, but on the day of the meeting Verizon's Permitting Consultant, Mr. Grant Nakaya, withdrew the presentation citing a need to "reassess" due to feedback received on the project. Verizon subsequently never attempted any contact with the KNB. The mature nature of Verizon's application therefore came as a surprise to the KNB when Mr. Whiting made us aware on November 4, 2021.

Mr. Whiting provided history on the construction of cell towers in Lanikai, including the original AT&T antenna in 1999. Because the site is located on preservation land Zone P1 above Lanikai, extra care must be taken to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage this precious resource held in public trust. It is therefore disturbing that there has not been any formal Verizon presentation to the KNB to solicit community input regarding the installation of this tower. Mr. Whiting provided pictures of the visual impacts the current tower and contrasted it with the visual impact of this proposed tower. We are skeptical of the need for an additional tower, as the surrounding area infrastructure already provides four bars of service for Verizon customers.

The large size of the proposed project enclosure on the Lanikai hillside will have a major visual impact which was not known until Mr. Whiting's presentation. Residents' and visitors' enjoyment of Lanikai's beautiful environment will be impacted. The faux rock enclosures will have a high profile, will not blend with the natural surroundings, and will be visible from most of Lanikai.

The Final Environmental Assessment (paragraph 3.4.1) states it is "unlikely they (endangered shearwaters) would use the habitat", however, for decades residents report regular shearwater activity on the hillside. We understand no formal study of bird habitats on Ka'iwa Ridge exists, so we are concerned that possible environmental impacts may not have been properly assessed. This may require a more rigorous major SMA permit.

Nearby residents also expressed concern about potential negative impact on property values in the vicinity of this large tower due to its visual impact.

The KNB unanimously (with one abstention) approved a Resolution to oppose the cell towers on Ka'iwa Ridge in Lanikai, conservation designated and preservation zoned land, and request that a major SMA be required before any approval and/or construction.

Mahalo for your consideration!

William M. Hichs

Sincerely,

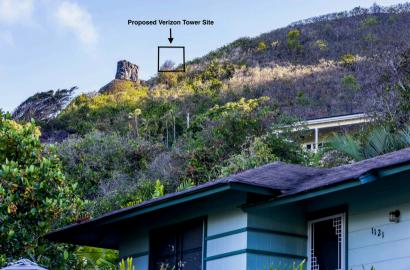
William M. Hicks

Chairman, Kailua Neighborhood Board

Copy: Ms. Rachel E Beasley
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
Department of Land and Natural Resources
rachel.e.beasley@hawaii.gov











From: <u>Jensen Jaraba</u>
To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the Verizon Application for a new Cell Tower being approved

**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 5:54:49 PM

Aloha,

I strongly oppose the Verizon Application for a new Cell Tower being approved.

This is my written testimony but am willing to do oral testimony.

1) Verizon claims their proposed cell tower is needed for public safety.

"The FCC's basic **911 rules** require wireless service providers to transmit all **911 calls**, regardless of whether the **caller** subscribes to the provider's service or not." So building a Verizon tower in Lanikai would not improve 911 service. Lanikai already has full cell coverage from AT&T and Sprint.

2) Verizon claims: "location adjacent to an existing facility of a similar height would reduce the overall impact of the silhouette of the proposed installation when viewed from below, and further enhance blending with the surrounding terrain."

Is Verizon trying to convince us that building more cell towers will minimize the visual impact? These cell towers would be visible from most of Lanikai including Lanikai beach, the pillbox trail and Lanikai park. Lanikai is a beautiful place and it needs to be protected from corporate greed.

3) Verizon claims: "The site as proposed will be located at a significant distance from nearby residences."

There are homes on three sides of this proposed cell tower location, some homes are within 100 feet. How can Verizon claim a significant distance?

4) Verizon claims: "The Department of Land and Natural Resources has previously determined that the proposed location is suited for telecommunications infrastructure."

When did DLNR determine this? Was the community involved in this decision? The questionable AT&T tower precedent of 2018 should not be used. AT&T violated the conditions of their permit when they built their tower in 2018 and needs to be investigated.

5) <u>Concern about a further precedent being set for other telecommunications companies to try and build their own towers in the same area if Verizon is approved</u>

It will be easier for Sprint, T-mobile, and others to build cell towers in this area if Verizon gets their application approved. Why would such a small community ever need all these cell towers. This is obviously just for the benefit of the telecommunications industry not our community.

6) Verizon may have understated their total project cost to avoid having to apply for a Major SMA permit.

Total project costs that are over \$500,000 require a Major Special Management Area Permit. It is hard to believe that Verizon could build a cell tower in this location for less than \$500,000. Consider everything

is more expensive in Hawaii plus all costs have increased significantly due to supply chain issues and labor shortages. Consider the extensive helicopter work that will be needed, Custom made faux rock can cost \$150,000 alone, Extensive legal costs getting the permits, Cost of making a deal with the land owner, Concrete work, Manufacturing and Shipping all material and equipment from off island, High cost of Hawaiian labor for construction and getting the equipment working, Etc. Verizon needs to provide a current itemized estimate of their total project cost.

Mahalo,

JENSEN M. JARABA jjaraba333@yahoo.com From: Frankie Lam

To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] I strongly oppose the proposed Verizon cell tower in Lanikai. Agenda Item OCCL K-3

**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 2:55:46 PM

Attachments: Letter to DLNR 1.pdf

Letter to DLNR 2.pdf

I strongly oppose the proposed Verizon cell tower in Lanikai. Agenda Item OCCL K-3

The OCCL permitting process appears to be broken. It does not take into consideration what our community wants or needs and appears to favor the telecommunications industry.

Our community has come together and strongly opposed this Verizon cell tower by submitting the items below to OCCL to be included in their recommendation report.

- 1) A petition signed by more than 500 Hawaii residents stating their opposition,
- 2) A letter from Lanikai Association stating their opposition,
- 3) A letter from Kailua Neighborhood Board stating their opposition
- 4) Numerous photos documenting the visual impact of our community

None of these items were mentioned in OCCL's recommendation report. (See items attached below)

These two letters, petition and photos are significant, Why were they not made part of OCCL's recommendation report? There appears to be a significant bias in this OCCL recommendation report. What more could our community have done to show we do not want another cell tower?

Why did OCCL include Verizon's photos in their recommendation report that were taken to be favorable to Verizon's cause and not include photos taken by residents showing the impact on our views that we experience every day from our homes, streets, park, beach, etc?

- 1) Verizon claims their proposed cell tower is needed for public safety.

  "The FCC's basic 911 rules require wireless service providers to transmit all 911 calls, regardless of whether the caller subscribes to the provider's service or not." So building a Verizon tower in Lanikai would not improve 911 service. Lanikai already has full cell coverage from AT&T and Sprint.
- 2) Verizon claims: "location adjacent to an existing facility of a similar height would reduce the overall impact of the silhouette of the proposed installation when viewed from below, and further enhance blending with the surrounding

## terrain."

Is Verizon trying to convince us that building more cell towers will minimize the visual impact? These cell towers would be visible from most of Lanikai including Lanikai beach, the pillbox trail and Lanikai park. Lanikai is a beautiful place and it needs to be protected from corporate greed.

# 3) Verizon claims: "The site as proposed will be located at a significant distance from nearby residences."

There are homes on three sides of this proposed cell tower location, some homes are within 100 feet. How can Verizon claim a significant distance?

# 4) Verizon claims: "The Department of Land and Natural Resources has previously determined that the proposed location is suited for telecommunications infrastructure,"

When did DLNR determine this? Was the community involved in this decision? The questionable AT&T tower precedent of 2018 should not be used. AT&T violated the conditions of their permit when they built their tower in 2018 and needs to be investigated.

# 5) Concern about a further precedent being set for other telecommunications companies to try and build their own towers in the same area if Verizon is approved

It will be easier for Sprint, T-moble, and others to build cell towers in this area if Verizon gets their application approved. Why would such a small community ever need all these cell towers. This is obviously just for the benefit of the telecommunications industry not our community.

# 6) <u>Verizon may have understated their total project cost to avoid having to apply for a Major SMA permit.</u>

Total project costs that are over \$500,000 require a Major Special Management Area Permit. It is hard to believe that Verizon could build a cell tower in this location for less than \$500,000. Consider everything is more expensive in Hawaii plus all costs have increased significantly due to supply chain issues and labor shortages. Consider the extensive helicopter work that will be needed, Custom made faux rock can cost \$150,000 alone, Extensive legal costs getting the permits, Cost of making a deal with the land owner, Concrete work, Manufacturing and Shipping all material and equipment from off island, High cost of Hawaiian labor for construction and getting the equipment working, Etc. Verizon needs to provide a current itemized estimate of their total project cost.

Lanikai is a small community. Does Verizon really need to build another cell tower on conservation land that only serves such a small population? We have full cell coverage and don't need or want another cell tower in Lanikai.

Please support our community not the telecommunications industry.

# I would also like to provide oral testimony on January 14th, 2022.

please send me a link to the hearing.

Sincerely, Frankie Lam jacfrankjj@gmail.com (516) 375-1412 Agenda Item OCCL K-3 Copy: Ms. Rachel E Beasley
Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands
Department of Land and Natural Resources
rachel.e.beasley@hawaii.gov



# KAILUA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 31

WILLIAM M. HICKS, CHAIRMAN • 923 AKUMU STREET • KAILUA, HAWAII, 96734-4004 PHONE (808) 230-2293 • E-MAIL billhicksknb@gmail.com

January 10, 2022

Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Kailua Neighborhood Board Opposition to Proposed Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) OA-3879 for Verizon Wireless Lanikai Telecom Project

Aloha Ms. Case,

The Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) received a presentation on the proposed Verizon Wireless Lanikai Telecom Project at its regular meeting on November 4, 2021 from Lanikai resident Mr. Scott Whiting.

It should be noted that Verizon was scheduled to make a presentation to the KNB at the March 4, 2021 regular meeting, but on the day of the meeting Verizon's Permitting Consultant, Mr. Grant Nakaya, withdrew the presentation citing a need to "reassess" due to feedback received on the project. Verizon subsequently never attempted any contact with the KNB. The mature nature of Verizon's application therefore came as a surprise to the KNB when Mr. Whiting made us aware on November 4, 2021.

Mr. Whiting provided history on the construction of cell towers in Lanikai, including the original AT&T antenna in 1999. Because the site is located on preservation land Zone P1 above Lanikai, extra care must be taken to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage this precious resource held in public trust. It is therefore disturbing that there has not been any formal Verizon presentation to the KNB to solicit community input regarding the installation of this tower. Mr. Whiting provided pictures of the visual impacts the current tower and contrasted it with the visual impact of this proposed tower. We are skeptical of the need for an additional tower, as the surrounding area infrastructure already provides four bars of service for Verizon customers.

The large size of the proposed project enclosure on the Lanikai hillside will have a major visual impact which was not known until Mr. Whiting's presentation. Residents' and visitors' enjoyment of Lanikai's beautiful environment will be impacted. The faux rock enclosures will have a high profile, will not blend with the natural surroundings, and will be visible from most of Lanikai.

The Final Environmental Assessment (paragraph 3.4.1) states it is "unlikely they (endangered shearwaters) would use the habitat", however, for decades residents report regular shearwater activity on the hillside. We understand no formal study of bird habitats on Ka'iwa Ridge exists, so we are concerned that possible environmental impacts may not have been properly assessed. This may require a more rigorous major SMA permit.

Nearby residents also expressed concern about potential negative impact on property values in the vicinity of this large tower due to its visual impact.

The KNB unanimously (with one abstention) approved a Resolution to oppose the cell towers on Ka'iwa Ridge in Lanikai, conservation designated and preservation zoned land, and request that a major SMA be required before any approval and/or construction.

Mahalo for your consideration!

William M. Hichs

Sincerely,

William M. Hicks

Chairman, Kailua Neighborhood Board

 Lanikai Association does not consider the existence of the current AT&T cell tower as justification to allow another since our community was denied an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns regarding its construction.

We respectfully request that DLNR honor our community concerns and current Lanikai Association policy by declining the application as presented. Additionally we request Verizon be required to produce copies of an updated itemized cost estimate to better assess the appropriate SMA permit.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration. See appendix for historical background of cell antennas on Koohoo.

Sincerely,

Tom Cestare

President of the Board, The Lanikai Association

CC: St

State Senator Chris Lee State Representative Lisa Marten

OCCL Rachel Beasley

### **Appendix**

Historical Background of cell antennas on Koohoo:

- In 1998-99 AT&T installed cell antennas on conservation property at 1160 Koohoo below the ridge line (BP424694) - Neighbors opposed
- In 2007 Verizon made a presentation to the Board of The Lanikai Association regarding their interest in installing a cell antenna on the Lanikai ridge.
- After three Association meetings and with significant community discussion, including its proximity to homes, view impacts, environmental concerns, and potential health issues, the following policy was adopted by the Board on Monday, January 7, 2008:
- "The Lanikai Association does not support any additional cell phone antennas, support buildings or installations for commercial purposes on conservation, preservation or residential property in Lanikai."
- In 2010, Sprint (BP662584) installed antennas and a parabolic dish at 1160 Koohoo below the ridge line estimated cost \$35,000 - Neighbors were not informed in advance
- In 2018 AT&T (BP 815292) Addition/alteration to existing telecommunications facility at 1160 Koohoo estimated cost \$125,000 Neighbors were not informed in advance yet were only alerted when helicopters started bringing in loads of concrete for the new foundation. AT&T claimed this was an "addition/alteration to existing site" in their permit application yet built a completely new tower on a new parcel of land on the ridge line. This new tower was much larger than the previous antenna and new location much higher and more visible. (See attached photo). Many discussions with AT&T followed, resulting in a camouflaged tower two feet lower. The result is a very visible faux rock structure on Kai'wa Ridge. (BP843728 faux rock to cover cell tower estimated cost \$150,000).

# The Lanikai Association P.O. Box 481 Kailua, HI 96734

November 3, 2021

Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson Department of Land and Natural Resources Kalanimoku Building 1151 Punchbowl Street Honolulu, HI 96813

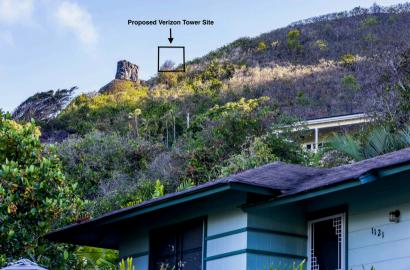
Dear Chairperson Case,

On behalf of the Board of the Lanikai Association and our Lanikai Community we would like to thank you for sending us information about the Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) OA-3879 from Verizon Wireless regarding the proposed installation of a cell tower at 1160 Koʻohoʻo Place. This information was disseminated to our membership and was on our Board meeting agenda on November 1.

After hearing from concerned community members and a full board discussion, the Board voted to oppose the Verizon cell tower application as it stands for the reasons below.

- The Association's long-standing opposition to commercial activity on conservation, preservation, and residential property.
- There appears to be irregularities in AT&T's 2018-19 permitting and construction process which Verizon's application references as a relevant precedent and an important part of their justification for this site location.
- Visual Impact: The current Verizon application (CDUA) OA-3879 (page 10) cites "..the visual impact would be
  mitigated due to the faux rock enclosure design which would allow the project to blend in with the surrounding
  terrain." While the relevance and accuracy could be debated and challenged, what is unquestionable and not
  sufficiently addressed in their application is the significant view impact the proposed cell tower would have on
  most of Lanikai, especially the surrounding homes.
- Verizon's Final Environmental Assessment (page 18) submitted to OCCL, justifies another faux rock tower because "the existing telecommunication facility has already modified the character of this portion of the ridge line and over the long term, as vegetation regrows, the project would generate decreasing visual contrast with the existing setting, resulting in a low long-term residual impact." It's unrealistic vegetation will re-grow to decrease the visual contrast when the current tower is well above the surrounding vegetation. Our concern in 2007 was the ridge could become a cell tower farm. We never anticipated a faux rock Stonehenge.
- Neighbors are concerned Conservation/Preservation land is once again being considered for commercial use.
   We disagree with this use. If this application is approved, it would create a dangerous precedent for future potential commercial development and abuse.
- Prior to Covid, Verizon estimated \$406,000 total project costs. Since then, materials, labor, fuel, shipping, and contracted services have increased significantly possibly pushing costs over \$500,000, requiring a more rigorous Major SMA permit.
- Possible Environmental Impacts: The Board questions the Final Environmental Assessment (3.4.1) stating
  'unlikely they (endangered shearwaters) would use the habitat'. However, given the steep terrain, no formal
  study of bird habitats on Ka'iwa Ridge exists. Yet for decades residents report regular shearwater activity. This
  may also require a more rigorous major SMA permit.









 From:
 Mary Helen Lam

 To:
 DLNR.BLNR.Testimony

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item OCCL K-3

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:03:49 AM

# Agenda item OCCL K-3

I would like to convey my strong opposition to the proposed Verizon Cell Tower in Lanikai. Lanikai is a special and unique place in Hawaii with unsurpassed views. A cell tower on conservation land is highly visible and will detract from the beautiful views enjoyed by residents and visitors. We have had no issues with cell coverage in Lanikai. Why damage the natural beauty of the community with another cell tower for no reason? Thank you for your consideration!

Mary Lam 901-573-7586 Mhshaver@gmail.com Agenda Item OCCL K-3 From: Ryan Lam

To: <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda item OCCL K-3

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:17:27 AM

# Agenda item OCCL K-3

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Ryan Lam 678-333-6930 ryanylam9@gmail.com Agenda Item OCCL K-3 
 From:
 michael limberg

 To:
 DLNR.BLINR.Testimony

 Subject:
 [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item OCCL K-3

 Date:
 Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:25:40 P

 Attachments:
 unknown.pdf

I strongly oppose the proposed Verizon cell tower in Lanikai. Agenda Item OCCL K-3

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- Is Verizon trying to convince us that building more cell towers will minimize the visual impact? These cell towers would be visible from most of Lanikai including Lanikai beach, the pillbox trail and Lanikai park. Lanikai is a beautiful place and it needs to be protected from corporate greed.
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It will be easier for Sprint, T-moble, and others to build cell towers in this area if Verizon gets their application approved. Why would such a small community ever need all these cell towers. This is obviously just for the benefit of the telecommunications industry not our community.

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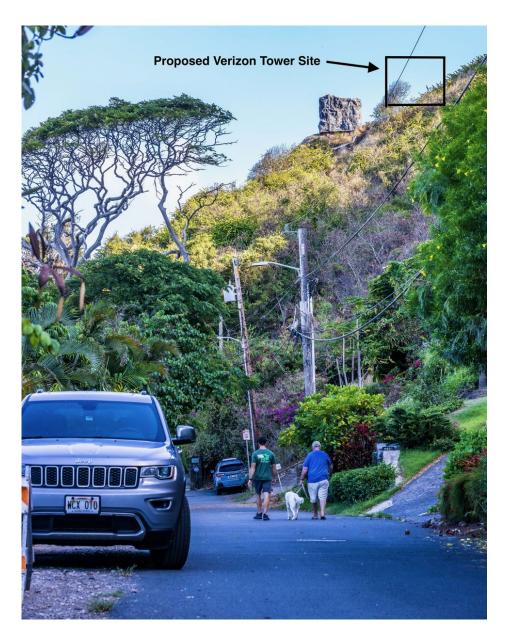
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Please support our community not the telecommunications industry.

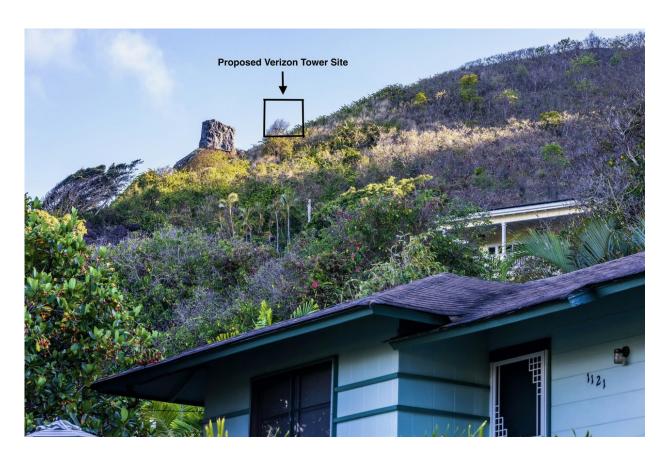
Sincerely Mike Limberg Iguy56@me.com 805-801-3836 Agenda Item OCCL K-3



Taken from a residence on Koohoo Place that is 6 houses away from the proposed Verizon tower site.



Taken from Koohoo Place



Taken from Aalapapa Drive



Taken from Mokolea Drive.





#### KAILUA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 31

WILLIAM M. HICKS, CHAIRMAN • 923 AKUMU STREET • KAILUA, HAWAII, 96734-4004 PHONE (808) 230-2293 • E-MAIL billhicksknb@gmail.com

January 10, 2022

Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson Department of Land and Natural Resources Kalanimoku Building 1151 Punchbowl Street Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Kailua Neighborhood Board Opposition to Proposed Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) OA-3879 for Verizon Wireless Lanikai Telecom Project

Aloha Ms Case

The Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) received a presentation on the proposed Verizon Wireless Lanikai Telecom Project at its regular meeting on November 4, 2021 from Lanikai resident Mr. Scott Whiting.

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The large size of the proposed project enclosure on the Lanikai hillside will have a major visual impact which was not known until Mr. Whiting's presentation. Residents' and visitors' enjoyment of Lanikai's beautiful environment will be impacted. The faux rock enclosures will have a high profile, will not blend with the natural surroundings, and will be visible from most of Lanikai.

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Nearby residents also expressed concern about potential negative impact on property values in the vicinity of this large tower due to its visual impact.

The KNB unanimously (with one abstention) approved a Resolution to oppose the cell towers on Ka'lwa Ridge in Lanikai, conservation designated and preservation zoned land, and request that a major SMA be required before any approval and/or construction.

Mahalo for your consideration!

William M. Hichs

Sincerely,

William M. Hicks

Chairman, Kailua Neighborhood Board

Oahu's Neighborhood Board system - Established 1973

Copy: Ms. Rachel E Beasley Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands Department of Land and Natural Resources rachel.e.beasley@hawaii.gov From: Maria Connolly
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Agenda Item OCCL K-3

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:44:42 PM

We strongly oppose the proposed Verizon cell tower in Lanikai: Agenda Item OCCL K-3. We think the proposed location of the cell tower is too close to where people live. If it is needed, it should be located away from where people live.

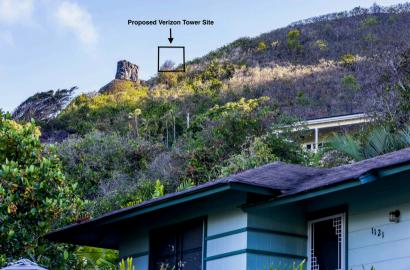
Lanikai is such a small community and does not need another cell tower on conservation land that only serves such a small population. We have full cell coverage with the existing Sprint and ATT towers located only a small distance of the proposed Verizon tower. We are very worried about the potential harm that an additional cell tower may have to our health!! We hope you listen to people in our community and deny the proposed cell tower.

Attached are photos of how close the tower would be to my home!!

Sincerely yours,

Maria & Leonard Connolly Lanikai Villa LLC 1108 Koohoo Pl, Kailua, HI 96734 714-865-2588 connolly949@gmail.com





 From:
 jon kuehu.com

 To:
 DLNR.BLNR.Testimony

 Cc:
 Scott Whiting

Subject: [EXTERNAL] A letter in protest to Verizon cell tower in Lanikai – CDUA-3879

**Date:** Sunday, January 9, 2022 8:26:58 PM

I am writing to enter my strong objection to Verizon cell tower in Lanikai – CDUA-3879 which is agenda item OCCL K-3 on Jan 14.

- 1. There are homes within 100 ft of the proposed high power radiation site.
- 2. There is no definitive study proving that cell tower radiation is safe, much less at what level it is safe.
- 3. There are people in the immediate neighborhood who are sensitive (and affected) by cell tower radiation. This type of sensitivity is well documented.
- 4. Noone in the small community of Lanikai needs another service provider and there is no economic or competitive benefit.
- 5. The cell towers are unsightly.
- 6. The cell towers are almost certainly being constructed on burial grounds and we suspect bones have been disturbed or moved illegally by the completed cell towers and will be again.
- 7. There is no safety issue. By law, any provider with a tower in Lanikai has to field 911 calls.
- 8. The only beneficiaries of Verizon service are, therefore, the very tourists who have overrun Lanikai and Kaiwa Ridge. What the DLNR should be doing is making Kaiwa Ridge safe for the hundreds of hikers a day. There is currently at least 1 helicopter rescue a week. These endanger the brave members of the rescue team and the neighborhood.
- 9. The DLNR process for assessing the need for and location of cell towers in Hawaii has never been open. DLNR is not interested in serving the public, they are, and have always been in service to corporations.
- 10. How can you live with yourselves? You have no basis or rationale for approving Verizon cell tower in Lanikai CDUA-3879.

I also wish to testify.

Thank you Jon Myers 1071 KooHoo Pl Kailua HI 96734 808-262-4900 
 From:
 Michael ONEILL

 To:
 DLNR.BLNR.Testimony

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Agenda item OCCL K-3

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 3:47:37 PM

To BLNR Board

Re: Agenda item OCCL K-3

I would like to convey my strong opposition to the proposed Verizon Cell Tower in Lanikai. A cell tower at the proposed location is highly visible and will detract from the beautiful views enjoyed by residents and visitors. Lanikai residents have had no issues with cell coverage. Why damage the natural beauty of the community with another cell tower for no reason?

Below I list a number of additional concerns about the proposed project:

- Inadequate time provided for the community to review and respond: for example, late November 2021 notice not provided directly to residents (only indirect postings where most residents didn't notice), Verizon rep failed to show at community meeting, recent community petition was not discussed in OCCL's report, etc
- Relying on AT&T's Tower as precedent for placement: AT&T clearly violated their permit when they installed their tower in 2018-19. How can this then be used as precedent?
- Concern about a further precedent being set for other cell service providers to try and install their own towers in the same area if this is approved: While Verizon claims it has no plans to add another tower over the next 10 yrs, what about other cellular companies adding to the array by using this proposed install as precedent? and what about 10 years out? Plans for such infrastructure should include thinking about the next generations to come as well.
- Major SMA vs Minor SMA required for permitting approval: no supporting documentation provided by Verizon that this would actually be a Minor SMA; given typical cost overruns for Hawaii infrastructure projects as well as the over 30% recent increase in materials due to the pandemic-induced inflation, it is difficult to believe the project would actually come in under the \$500k Minor SMA limit.
- Using Public Safety as a significant justification for asking for approval: for example, when asked for comments on this application, the Fire Department from the City and County of Honolulu stated in their response, "There will be no significant impact to fire department services." So why is this needed then?

Thank you for your consideration!

Michael ONEILL 808-772-7543 moneill@hawaii.rr.com 
 From:
 Danny Rubenstein

 To:
 DLNR.BLNR.Testimony

 Cc:
 Danny Rubenstein

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony as it relates to the BLNR Agenda item OCCL - K3 (Verizon Cell Tower Application) for the meeting to be held on January 14, 2022

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 9:40:46 AM

The Lanikai Association - Letter to DLNR regarding Verizon Cell Tower Application - dated 11-3-21.pdf
Kailua Neighborhood Roard No. 31 - Letter to DLNR regarding Verizon Cell Tower Application - dated 1-10-22 pdf

#### Dear BLNR Board Members,

My name is Danny Rubenstein, my phone number is 415-672-7622, my email address is <a href="mailto:danny@drcnow.com">danny@drcnow.com</a> and I am following up from my prior email when I requested time to present oral testimony in reference to agenda item OCCL K-3 (Verizon Cell Tower Application) during the meeting that is scheduled on January 14th, 2022 in order to offer you this written testimony in advance as well.

But before I highlight some of the specific reasons why I strongly believe you should deny Verizon's application as submitted, as well as provide you with additional information in terms of letters and pictures, I must first address what I consider to be a real failure on the part of OCCL to properly fulfil their responsibility, as our government representatives, in managing their part of this process. They were responsible for effectively communicating with residents as it relates to the permit and permitting process, receiving and assimilating all of the information submitted by members of the community, conducting a fair, thorough and unbiased review and consideration of all of that information, and from there they were responsible to compile what should have been a comprehensive, even-handed report to you.

Their report should have provided you with all of the relevant and unbiased information necessary, including the inclusion of anything they received that would be deemed material in the form of exhibits, in order for you to thoroughly understand the issues and concerns of the community and its residences as you consider whether or not to approve Verizon's application as submitted. Simply put, they did not properly fulfill that responsibility and as a result, you have been provided with a very biased, Verizon friendly, view and interpretation of the facts from which to draw your conclusions and make your decision.

To illustrate this point, what I consider to be one of the major, egregious breaches of that responsibility includes the fact that they chose to omit from their report to you the two letters address the community's concerns - The first letter from The Lanikai Association and the second letter letter from Kailua Neighborhood Board. I've attached those two letters and you can see for yourselves that they very clearly state the community's strong opposition to your approving the application. One of the things that makes these letters even more relevant, is that apparently Verizon was not responsible to notify individual residents of their intention regarding this permit (which in and of itself does a huge disservice to the residents and the community) but instead was allowed to notify these community representatives of their intentions. For OCCL to then decide to omit these letters, to me, is outrageous and inexcusable.

These letters call out, amongst other things, the questionable nature by which the AT&T tower was installed and therefore the inappropriate reference to that Tower as precedence for Verizon's tower application, insufficient time and information needed to conduct a proper review by members of the community, the visual impact that the Verizon tower would create, as well as Verizon's representative failing to reschedule to reappear in front of the Kailua Neighborhood Board after cancelling at the last minute when he was scheduled to present to them.

In addition, more than 500 Hawaii residents signed petitions in opposition to this application, in less than three weeks' time. This petition was not discussed in OCCL's report. I'm also not sure you're aware that, even given the absurdly inadequate notification requirements (posting it at the library, a two-line notice in a newspaper, etc., without any direct notification to the residents) that there were still 37 letters sent in by concerned residents in opposition to the permit (vs. 7 letters in support) and none of these letters of opposition were included as exhibits either. To underscore this point of inadequate notification and information sharing to the community further, I only first found out about the Verizon Cell Tower application last October when a neighbor asked me if I was aware of it. I know this was true for many other Lanikai residents too because when I shared this information with them, they were as surprised as I was to learn about it as well. Given the incredibly late notice of when most of us learned about this, combined with the fact that we are in middle of a pandemic and we were also approaching the holidays, it is remarkable that so many people have spent their time and leant their voices and names to try and make sure the message gets through to you that they do not want you to approve the Verizon application as submitted.

I also find it very suspicious that OCCL chose to only submit the pictures taken by the Verizon representatives in OCCL's report and to NOT include the many pictures that concerned residents submitted - that very clearly demonstrated the visual disruption both the current AT&T Tower creates, as well as what it might look like with the proposed new Verizon Tower being placed where they are proposing to install it (please see pictures attached below).

Simply put, the report you received is not unbiased and it is not complete and it therefore gives you a very unbalanced and unfair representation of many material facts that should be weighed when you consider Verizon's application for approval or not.

I've chosen the following six areas to highlight for you in which it is very clear Verizon's responses to the community's challenges fail.

### ${\scriptstyle 1\!.}$ Relying on AT&T's Tower as precedent for placement

- a. Verizon is trying to justify their recommendation for placement for their proposed cell tower, adjacent and co-located to the AT&T Cell Tower, claiming the AT&T tower as precedent for their argument, which is really relying on a false premise. They also claim that the challenges that were made with regard to the AT&T tower being inappropriately used as a basis for this application were submitted to the appropriate parties after the comment period ended, and so they chose not to respond to it directly.
- b. The fundamental problem with this argument is that AT&T clearly violated their permit when they installed their tower in 2018-19. It is important to note that there are efforts currently in the works to formally challenge the AT&T cell tower installation and so we believe that any reliance by the Board, based on the presence of the AT&T tower in this location, would be ill advised, given the challenges that are going to be forthcoming. The fact that the issue of the AT&T Tower's potential violation of their permit was not formally raised within the comment period is by no means a sufficient justification for simply ignoring the underlying premise and facts that are very relevant to this application.

### 2. Concern about a further precedent being set for other cell service providers to try and install their own towers in the same area if this is approved

- a. Verizon claims they have no plans to expand at this site in the next ten years.
- b. While it's good to know they don't have plans to further expand, that does not address the underlying premise about potentially setting a precedent for other companies to use in their applications.

#### 3. Visual Impact/Aesthetics

a. Verizon claims that they will have a custom-built camouflage enclosure, in an effort to minimize visual impact and aesthetics.

b. One fundamental problem with this is that the AT&T Tower already violated a key criteria of their application in that their installation was not supposed to placed where it is, nor was it supposed to create a silhouette against the sky amongst other things, and it obviously does, clearly impacting visual aesthetics. In addition, Verizon chose camera angles for their application that did not include any photographs that show the skyline immediately behind if

#### 4. Major SMA vs Minor SMA required for permitting approval

- a. Verizon claims that the cost of completing the proposed installation is less than \$500,000, which would require only a Minor SMA.
- b. We find it extremely difficult to believe, given the rapidly increasing costs for all kinds of construction and what it took for AT&T to install their tower, that the cost would REALLY be under \$500,000. We have asked for Verizon to present supporting documentation for the estimates they are relying on, including whether or not helicopters are included, but to date have not received anything in support of their claim. In the current estimates, they say they will have a custom-built camouflage enclosure in an effort to minimize visual impact and aesthetics.

It is clearly stated in the letter from OCCL to DNLR that there are several conditions for approval of this application, which includes, "If the actual valuation of the proposed work ultimately exceeds \$500,000, then the Project shall be returned to DPP for further review under Chapter 25 ROH". In addition, Condition #4 clearly stipulates that construction plans and specifications must be submitted for approval including consistency, before proceeding with any authorized work and Condition #7 states"...lf, subsequent to the issuance of the permit that that such information and/or data prove to bee false, incomplete or inaccurate, that the permit may be modified, suspended, in whole or in part and the department may, in addition, institute appropriate legal proceedings". Put simply, we don't believe the estimates being used are adequate and are most likely understated. It is very important to note that a Minor SMA requires considerably less rigor when it comes to the evaluation process required and also very importantly, a Major SMA would require the Honolulu City Council to approve (vs. the DNLR Board) which we can only imagine Verizon would like to avoid. Why not make those plans and specifications, including the costs, available for review now?

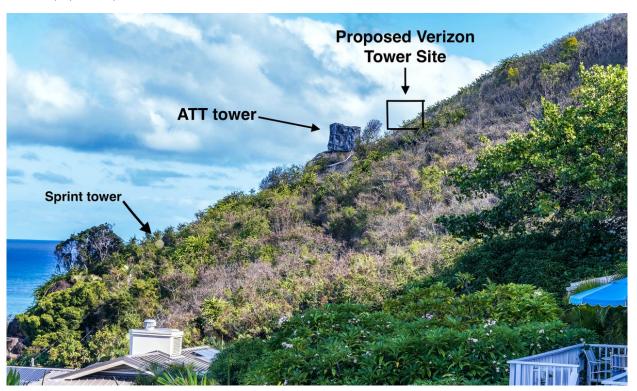
#### 5. Inadequate time provided for the community to review and respond

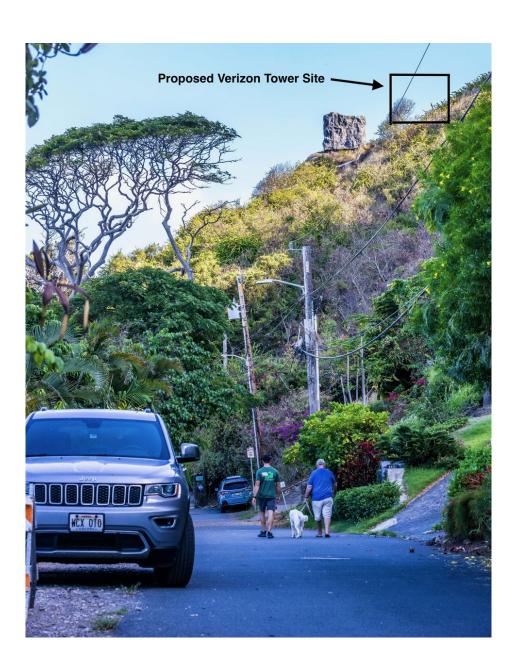
- a. Verizon claims that they complied with the regulations associated with notifying the community and posting this project and therefore sufficient time was provided.
- b. While Verizon may have technically complied with the notification requirements, individual residents were not directly notified. The fact that many members of the Lanikai Homeowners Association as well as the Kailua Community Board, were both quite unhappy when they came to learn about this application in late November, and how little time was being provided to review and respond, that this was one of the primary reasons that they both voted to submit formal letters of opposition to this application.

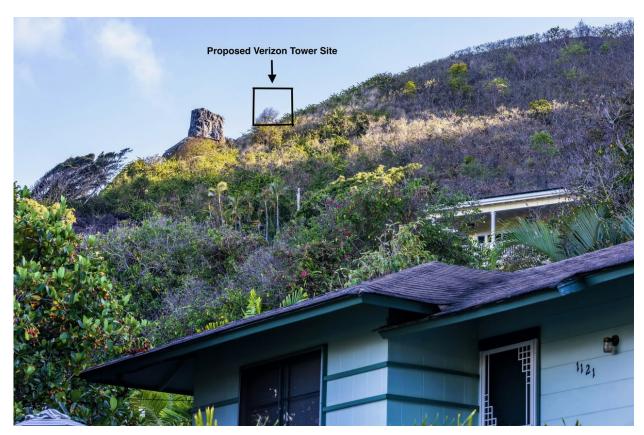
#### 6. Using Public Safety as a significant justification for asking for approval

- a. Verizon claims that 911 services are inadequate and would be substantially improved with the addition of this Tower.
- b. "The FCC's basic **911 rules** require wireless service providers to transmit all **911 calls**, regardless of whether the **caller** subscribes to the provider's service or not." So, building a Verizon tower in Lanikai would not improve 911 service as Lanikai already has full cell coverage from AT&T and Sprint. Further to this point, when asked for comments on this application, the Fire Department from the City and County of Honolulu stated in their response, "There will be no significant impact to fire department services." If the Fire Department, the very entity that would most seem to benefit from the Tower accordingly to Verizon, goes on the record in this way, it invalidates Verizon's claim about the importance the Tower would offer toward public safety.

The following pictures, which are examples of what was submitted to OCCL for their consideration and report preparation, were not included in their report and we think it is very important for you to see them:











Thank you for your consideration and I am looking forward to my time during your meeting on Friday to present my Testimony orally as well.

Sincerely,

Danny Rubenstein

Danny Rubenstein danny@drcnow.com 415-672-7622 - m 1142 KooHoo Place Kailua, HI 96734

Before printing think about your responsibility with the Environment.

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### KAILUA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 31

WILLIAM M. HICKS, CHAIRMAN • 923 AKUMU STREET • KAILUA, HAWAII, 96734-4004 PHONE (808) 230-2293 • E-MAIL billhicksknb@gmail.com

January 10, 2022

Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Kailua Neighborhood Board Opposition to Proposed Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) OA-3879 for Verizon Wireless Lanikai Telecom Project

Aloha Ms. Case,

The Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) received a presentation on the proposed Verizon Wireless Lanikai Telecom Project at its regular meeting on November 4, 2021 from Lanikai resident Mr. Scott Whiting.

It should be noted that Verizon was scheduled to make a presentation to the KNB at the March 4, 2021 regular meeting, but on the day of the meeting Verizon's Permitting Consultant, Mr. Grant Nakaya, withdrew the presentation citing a need to "reassess" due to feedback received on the project. Verizon subsequently never attempted any contact with the KNB. The mature nature of Verizon's application therefore came as a surprise to the KNB when Mr. Whiting made us aware on November 4, 2021.

Mr. Whiting provided history on the construction of cell towers in Lanikai, including the original AT&T antenna in 1999. Because the site is located on preservation land Zone P1 above Lanikai, extra care must be taken to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage this precious resource held in public trust. It is therefore disturbing that there has not been any formal Verizon presentation to the KNB to solicit community input regarding the installation of this tower. Mr. Whiting provided pictures of the visual impacts the current tower and contrasted it with the visual impact of this proposed tower. We are skeptical of the need for an additional tower, as the surrounding area infrastructure already provides four bars of service for Verizon customers.

The large size of the proposed project enclosure on the Lanikai hillside will have a major visual impact which was not known until Mr. Whiting's presentation. Residents' and visitors' enjoyment of Lanikai's beautiful environment will be impacted. The faux rock enclosures will have a high profile, will not blend with the natural surroundings, and will be visible from most of Lanikai.

The Final Environmental Assessment (paragraph 3.4.1) states it is "unlikely they (endangered shearwaters) would use the habitat", however, for decades residents report regular shearwater activity on the hillside. We understand no formal study of bird habitats on Ka'iwa Ridge exists, so we are concerned that possible environmental impacts may not have been properly assessed. This may require a more rigorous major SMA permit.

Nearby residents also expressed concern about potential negative impact on property values in the vicinity of this large tower due to its visual impact.

The KNB unanimously (with one abstention) approved a Resolution to oppose the cell towers on Kaliwa Ridge in Lanikal, conservation designated and preservation zoned land, and request that a major SMA be required before any approval and/or construction.

Mahalo for your consideration!

William M. Hicho

Sincerely.

William M. Hicks

Chairman, Kailua Neighborhood Board

## The Lanikai Association P.O. Box 481 Kailua, HI 96734

November 3, 2021

Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Kalanimoku Building
1151 Punchbowl Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairperson Case,

On behalf of the Board of the Lanikai Association and our Lanikai Community we would like to thank you for sending us information about the Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) OA-3879 from Verizon Wireless regarding the proposed installation of a cell tower at 1160 Koʻohoʻo Place. This information was disseminated to our membership and was on our Board meeting agenda on November 1.

After hearing from concerned community members and a full board discussion, the Board voted to oppose the Verizon cell tower application as it stands for the reasons below.

- The Association's long-standing opposition to commercial activity on conservation, preservation, and residential property.
- There appears to be irregularities in AT&T's 2018-19 permitting and construction process which Verizon's application references as a relevant precedent and an important part of their justification for this site location.
- Visual Impact: The current Verizon application (CDUA) OA-3879 (page 10) cites "...the visual impact would be
  mitigated due to the faux rock enclosure design which would allow the project to blend in with the surrounding
  terrain." While the relevance and accuracy could be debated and challenged, what is unquestionable and not
  sufficiently addressed in their application is the significant view impact the proposed cell tower would have on
  most of Lanikai. especially the surrounding homes.
- Verizon's Final Environmental Assessment (page 18) submitted to OCCL, justifies another faux rock tower
  because "the existing telecommunication facility has already modified the character of this portion of the ridge
  line and over the long term, as vegetation regrows, the project would generate decreasing visual contrast with
  the existing setting, resulting in a low long-term residual impact." It's unrealistic vegetation will re-grow to
  decrease the visual contrast when the current tower is well above the surrounding vegetation. Our concern in
  2007 was the ridge could become a cell tower farm. We never anticipated a faux rock Stonehenge.
- Neighbors are concerned Conservation/Preservation land is once again being considered for commercial use.
   We disagree with this use. If this application is approved, it would create a dangerous precedent for future potential commercial development and abuse.
- Prior to Covid, Verizon estimated \$406,000 total project costs. Since then, materials, labor, fuel, shipping, and contracted services have increased significantly possibly pushing costs over \$500,000, requiring a more rigorous Major SMA permit.
- Possible Environmental Impacts: The Board questions the Final Environmental Assessment (3.4.1) stating 'unlikely they (endangered shearwaters) would use the habitat'. However, given the steep terrain, no formal study of bird habitats on Ka'iwa Ridge exists. Yet for decades residents report regular shearwater activity. This may also require a more rigorous major SMA permit.

 Lanikai Association does not consider the existence of the current AT&T cell tower as justification to allow another since our community was denied an opportunity to ask questions and voice concerns regarding its construction.

We respectfully request that DLNR honor our community concerns and current Lanikai Association policy by declining the application as presented. Additionally we request Verizon be required to produce copies of an updated itemized cost estimate to better assess the appropriate SMA permit.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration. See appendix for historical background of cell antennas on Koohoo.

Sincerely.

Tom Cestare

President of the Board, The Lanikai Association

CC: State Senator Chris Lee

State Representative Lisa Marten

**OCCL Rachel Beasley** 

#### **Appendix**

Historical Background of cell antennas on Koohoo:

- In 1998-99 AT&T installed cell antennas on conservation property at 1160 Koohoo below the ridge line (BP424694) - Neighbors opposed
- In 2007 Verizon made a presentation to the Board of The Lanikai Association regarding their interest in installing a cell antenna on the Lanikai ridge.
- After three Association meetings and with significant community discussion, including its proximity to homes, view impacts, environmental concerns, and potential health issues: the following policy was adopted by the Board on Monday, January 7, 2008:
- "The Lanikai Association does not support any additional cell phone antennas, support buildings or installations for commercial purposes on conservation, preservation or residential property in Lanikai."
- In 2010, Sprint (BP662584) installed antennas and a parabolic dish at 1160 Koohoo below the ridge line estimated cost \$35,000 - Neighbors were not informed in advance
- In 2018 AT&T (BP 815292) Addition/alteration to existing telecommunications facility at 1160 Koohoo estimated cost \$125,000 Neighbors were not informed in advance yet were only alerted when helicopters started bringing in loads of concrete for the new foundation. AT&T claimed this was an "addition/alteration to existing site" in their permit application yet built a completely new tower on a new parcel of land on the ridge line. This new tower was much larger than the previous antenna and new location much higher and more visible. (See attached photo). Many discussions with AT&T followed, resulting in a camouflaged tower two feet lower. The result is a very visible faux rock structure on Kai'wa Ridge. (BP843728 faux rock to cover cell tower estimated cost \$150,000).

From: Chris Townson
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Testimony as it relates to the BLNR Agenda item OCCL - K3 (Verizon Cell Tower Application) for the

meeting to be held on January 14, 2022

**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 10:08:27 PM

Dear BLNR Board Members,

I strongly oppose the proposed Verizon cell tower in Lanikai. Agenda Item OCCL K-3

The OCCL permitting process did seem to take into consideration our community voice and appears to favor the telecommunications industry.

Our community came together to opposed this Verizon cell tower by submitting the items below to OCCL to be included in their recommendation report.

- 1) A petition signed by more than 500 Hawaii residents stating their opposition
- 2) A letter from Lanikai Association stating their opposition
- 3) A letter from Kailua Neighborhood Board stating their opposition
- 4) Numerous photos documenting the visual impact of our community

None of these items were mentioned in OCCL's recommendation report.

These two letters, petition and photos were they not made part of OCCL's recommendation report. There appears to be a bias in this OCCL recommendation report.

1) Verizon claims their proposed cell tower is needed for public safety.

"The FCC's basic **911 rules** require wireless service providers to transmit all **911 calls**. So a Verizon tower in Lanikai would not improve 911 service in Lanikai as it already has cell coverage from AT&T and Sprint.

2) Verizon claims: "location adjacent to an existing facility of a similar height would reduce the overall impact of the silhouette of the proposed installation when viewed from below, and further enhance blending with the surrounding terrain."

How does building more cell towers minimize the visual impact?

3) Verizon claims: "The site as proposed will be located at a significant distance from nearby residences."

There are homes on three sides of this proposed cell tower location, some homes are within 100 feet. How can Verizon claim a significant distance?

4) Verizon claims: "The Department of Land and Natural Resources previously determined that the proposed location is suited for telecommunications infrastructure."

When did DLNR determine this? Was the community involved in this decision? The questionable AT&T tower precedent of 2018 should not be used. AT&T violated the conditions of their permit when they built their tower in 2018 and needs to be investigated.

5) <u>Concern about a further precedent being set for other telecommunications companies to try and build their own towers in the same area if Verizon is approved</u>

It will be easier for Sprint, T-mobile, and others to build cell towers in this area if Verizon gets their application approved. A small community does not need all these cell towers.

6) <u>Verizon may have understated their total project cost to avoid having to apply for a Major SMA permit.</u>

Total project costs that are over \$500,000 require a Major Special Management Area Permit. It is hard to believe that Verizon could build a cell tower in this location for less than \$500,000. Consider everything is more expensive in Hawaii plus costs have increased significantly due to supply chain issues and labor shortages. Consider the extensive helicopter work that will be needed, Custom made faux rock can cost \$150,000 alone, Extensive legal costs getting the permits, Cost of making a deal with the landowner, Concrete work, Manufacturing and shipping all material and equipment from off island, high cost of Hawaiian labor for construction and getting the equipment working, Etc. Verizon needs to provide a current itemized estimate of their total project cost.

Lanikai is a small community which already has a cell tower (that serves multiple cell companies) on conservation land.

How can our state officials ignore their duty to listen the local serious concern about the impact for our community? Is it not their responsibility to protect the conservation land for generations to come?

Thank you for your consideration, Mahalo, Chris Townson

NAME: Chris Townson PHONE: 808 237 -9122 EMAIL:chris@ctownson.com

Agenda Item OCCL K-3

## **Verizon Customer Support during COVID**

From the time that COVID first manifested in the nation, Verizon stepped up to support and address the needs of its customers, most importantly by ensuring and maintaining a reliable network that was dependable for emergencies, at-home work, distance learning, and other customer needs.

Beginning in March 2020, Verizon made a commitment to its customers not to terminate service or charge late fees for postpaid wireless, residential and small business customers (with 50 lines or less) who notified us of their inability to pay their bills due to disruptions caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. Verizon extended that commitment for almost an entire quarter, through June 30th, 2020, and kept that pledge. Late fees were waived with no service interruption.

Starting July 1, 2020, customers who signed up were automatically enrolled in our Stay Connected repayment program to provide options to stay connected.

Verizon continues to work with customers to provide the best financial options available now and moving forward.

## Verizon Innovative Learning/ Distance Learning

With an unprecedented number of schools closing and students across the country shifting to digital learning because of COVID-19, Verizon understands the need for increased access to the right tools. As has been the case for many years, Verizon is committed to combating the digital divide and ensuring under-resourced students have access to technology - especially in times of need.

While our increased data efforts are focused on the students within our Verizon Innovative Learning Schools, we have digital resources available to all schools and teachers across the country.

The "Verizon Innovative Learning Schools Connection" website has a number of resources including tips to prepare for and implement robust digital learning plans and our partner Digital Promise has helpful COVID-19 online learning resources and FAQs.

Knowing many students also rely on schools for more than learning, Verizon is working with nonprofit partners to ensure children from low-income families still have access to healthy meals while their schools are closed.

Millions of students nationwide lack the access to technology and the skills they need to succeed in the digital world. Since 2012, Verizon has been working to help solve this problem through a transformative program called Verizon Innovative Learning. Digital Promise collaborates with Verizon to equip every student and teacher at select middle and high schools across America with a device and up to a four-year data plan, and provide students without reliable home internet access with a mobile hotspot. In addition to free technology and access, Verizon Innovative Learning Schools receive extensive teacher training, support, and the opportunity to engage in a unique, immersive curriculum to leverage technology in their classrooms.



Verizon was pleased to provide grant support and partner this past year with Kauai Community College through the Verizon Innovative Learning summer/academic year program.

Verizon continues to work with school districts around the country for opportunities to enable distance learning, such as the ground-breaking agreement with the Los Angeles Unified School District. The original agreement with Verizon enabled Los Angeles Unified to provide internet access at no cost to students whose families could not otherwise afford it. This program was recently expanded to Nevada, and is under review for Hawaii.

It was recognized that nearly 10% (nearly 26,000) of families in Nevada lack a reliable internet connection, prompting Verizon and Los Angeles Unified School District, the nation's second-largest school district, to expand their existing partnership to enable eligible families and individuals in Nevada to access discounted mobile broadband plans, voice service plans, and equipment through Nevada state, local, or select non-profit organizations.

Los Angeles Unified first partnered with Verizon on its distance learning program in the early days of nationwide COVID-19-related school closures in March 2020. The landmark agreement was amended to enable Los Angeles Unified to provide school districts, and eventually state, local and non-profit organizations across California with a fast-track to reliable and affordable internet access. The Verizon-Los Angeles Unified partnership was also the blueprint on which Verizon architected its national program that made distance learning available for up to 38 million students in 40 states and the District of Columbia. Through an amendment, Los Angeles Unified expanded its role in Verizon's national digital inclusion program, along with the Georgia Department of Education and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The program consists of discounted pricing that support economic and social development by enabling state and local government agencies, school districts and non-profit organizations to provide affordable internet access to low-income households.

#### **Verizon Foundation**

Through its charitable Foundation, Verizon provides significant grant support to eligible 501 (C)(3) organizations. Many grants focus on STEM initiatives (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) through academic and non-profit organizations, but Verizon has also expanded its breadth of partners to also prioritize: digital inclusion, climate protection, and human prosperity.

Organizations in Hawaii that have received Verizon Foundation grants, include:

*Purple Maia* -- A technology education nonprofit teaches coding and computer science through after-school or elective classes to Native Hawaiian students, low-income youth, and others underrepresented in technology.

Ha Initiative -- An after-school STEM program servicing kids from 2nd - 8th grade in low-income areas.

*Project Hawaii* -- The organization provides various services, including education to homeless children in the state.



Sustainable Coastline Hawaii – Grant funding supported the organization's efforts to protect Hawaii's pristine and environmentally sensitive coastal ecosystem.

Other examples of grant recipients:

Project Hawai'i Inc.
Girl Scouts of Hawaii
Fire chiefs Association
Hawaii State Law Enforcement Officers Association
Sustainable Coastline Hawaii

## Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)/Emergency Benefit Program (EBB)

Verizon fully participates in the FCC's new Affordable Connectivity Program, an extension of the Emergency Benefit Program (EBB), and provides for eligible customers to sign-up through the VZ website.

The Emergency Benefit Program is an FCC Program that has been on-going, and Verizon has participated to the benefit of low-income Hawaii customers who have signed up. The EBB is aimed at helping families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit provides for a discount of up to \$50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

A household has been deemed eligible if a member of the household meets *one* of the criteria below:

- Has an income that is at or below 135% of the <u>Federal Poverty Guidelines</u> or participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid, or <u>Lifeline</u>;
- Approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program, including through the USDA Community Eligibility Provision in the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, or 2021-2022 school year;
- Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;
- Experienced a substantial loss of income due to job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020 and the household had a total income in 2020 at or below \$99,000 for single filers and \$198,000 for joint filers; or
- Meets the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's existing low-income or COVID-19 program.

The EBB program was originally temporary, but valuable to low-income individuals, who receive a \$50 monthly reduction in their phone bills through participating carriers, which included Verizon. The benefit was \$75 per month for households on qualifying tribal lands.



Congress followed the EBB by recently passing the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACB), which Verizon will continue to participate in to the benefit of Hawaii customers and those eligible nationwide.

Households enrolled in the Emergency Broadband Benefit program as of 12/31/21 will continue to receive their current monthly benefit during a 60-day transition period.

- The maximum monthly benefit will change from \$50 per month to \$30 per month for households not located on qualifying Tribal lands. The monthly benefit will remain at \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands.
- Households have new ways to qualify for the Affordable Connectivity Program such as: receiving WIC benefits or having an income at or below 200% of the <u>Federal Poverty Guidelines</u>.
- Households that qualified for the Emergency Broadband Benefit due to a substantial loss of income as a result of a job loss or furlough since February 29, 2020, or by meeting the eligibility criteria for a participating provider's COVID-19 program, will need to requalify for the Affordable Connectivity Program. These households will receive additional details about the steps they need to take from the program administrator (USAC) or their internet service provider, in January 2022, and will be given at least 30 days to respond. They will continue to receive their full Emergency Broadband Benefit until March 1, 2022.

#### **Tracfone**

Last December, Verizon successfully concluded its acquisition of Tracfone. Previous Tracfone customers in Hawaii will now receive the full benefit of the Verizon network, and new customers will also find many positive benefits to the service.

#### Tracfone benefits:

- TracFone will provide Lifeline offerings with the same functionalities and features currently provided to existing customers.
- TracFone will offer low-income consumers the convenience and portability of wireless services. Many Lifeline-eligible consumers will take advantage of the opportunity to obtain subsidized wireless service.
- TracFone's Lifeline service will provide quantities of wireless usage at no charge to the consumer, unlike most services. So, TracFone's Lifeline service will essentially be free.
- TracFone's Lifeline customers will also receive a free wireless handset. TracFone's Lifeline customers will be able to initiate and receive calls with activation or usage charges.
- TracFone will offer "state-of-the-art" handsets and service features like caller ID, voice mail, text messaging, and long distance calling without toll charges.



- TracFone's service is also available regardless of age, residency and credit since it requires no term contracts, no minimum service periods or volume commitments, no credit checks, and no early termination fees.
- Customer usage and balance information is stored in the handsets.
- TracFone will offer 3 plans for Lifeline customers

There are also a number of regulatory commitments made by Verizon/Tracfone to the FCC and the Hawaii PUC that will benefit customers directly, including:

 Upon designation as an Eligible Telecom Carrier, TracFone must continually meet the federal requirements (FCC and statutory) for ETC designation including provision of services and functionalities.

#### o FCC

- Basic 911/E911 access regardless of activation status
- New E911 handsets at no cost to the customer
- PSAP certification for every place where TracFone provides service (unless after 90 days of a request in which self-certification is approved)
- Require self-certification by customers for Lifeline services
- Safeguards to prevent abuse and fraud of Lifeline.
- Federal statutes and regulations
  - File information with USAC demonstrating compliance with the federal Lifeline program and descriptions voice telephone service plans (with a copy filed with HPUC)
  - Adhere to federal verification and certification requirements for Lifeline
  - Comply with all other program requirements
- TracFone must provide a point of contact for HPUC to address service complaints.
- TracFone must file a tariff with HPUC with information on the rates, terms, and conditions for Lifeline service offerings.



- TracFone must provide HPUC a detailed advertising plan regarding the supported services, including all content and manners for planned advertisements and targeted consumers. All of these must be filed within 30 days of designation, with a copy provided to the Consumer Advocate.
- ETC Applicants must certify that it will comply with the service requirements applicable to the support that it receives by submitting a five-year plan with specification of proposed improvements or upgrades to the applicant's network throughout its proposed service area. Applicants should also estimate the area and population that will be served as a result of the improvements. Common carriers do not need to submit a five year plan.
- TracFone must demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including having backup power, managing traffic spikes, and rerouting traffic
- TracFone must satisfy consumer protection and service quality standards.
- TracFone commits to complying with the CTIA Consumer Code for Wireless Service.
- Common carriers must demonstrate that it is financially and technically capable of providing Lifeline (in compliance with subpart E of this part).
- Common carriers must submit information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephone service plans offered to Lifeline customers, including details on the number of minutes provided, additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan. Common carriers should also offer summary information regarding such plans, such as a link to a website outlining the terms and conditions of the plans.
- TracFone must cooperate with the Hawaii PUC and Consumer Advocate information/data requests.
- TracFone must comply with all applicable standards for Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers in the State of Hawaii.
- TracFone will be required to provide more detailed information regarding its service plan to USAC and HPUC and it should also file a Lifeline service tariff with the Hawaii PUC.
- TracFone must follow all other applicable laws, decisions, orders, etc. related to the Lifeline program.
- TracFone must provide the Hawaii PUC, the Consumer Advocate, the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs a copy of the report filed to the FCC and USAC every year.





November 10, 2021

State of Hawai'i
Department of Land and Natural Resources
Office of Conservation And Coastal Lands
P.O. Box 621
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809

Attn: K. Tiger Mills, Staff Planner

Re: Application Number: CDUA O-3879

387 Supporters for Verizon Wireless' Proposed Facility in Lanikai

Dear Mr. Mills:

I am a Manager in Verizon's Consumer Sales Operations Group, and I oversee the network-related messages that are sent to Verizon Wireless customers. In connection with its proposed facility, Verizon Wireless arranged for a text message to be sent to customers with billing addresses within ZIP code 96734 in the Lanikai area. The entire text message sent reads as follows:

Verizon Msg: Help us improve wireless voice and data service in your area! Reply "Yes" to this message to show your support for a new wireless facility that will help improve coverage throughout the Lanikai neighborhood. You may also add an optional message describing your support to City & County officials.

The text message above was sent on November 8, 2021. As of November 10, 2021, we have received 387 affirmative text message responses indicating support for the proposed facility and 28 respondents opposed. Text messages received confirm the need to provide improved Verizon Wireless service in Lanikai. Samples of the text messages received from Verizon Wireless customers appear on the attached page.

I am available to verify the above information as you may require.

Sincerely,

Rynae Benson

Manager - Legal Support Consumer Sales Operations

Attachment

## Sample Text Message Responses for Verizon Wireless Proposed Facility in Lanikai

Yes // I Support the work that you are doing in Lanikai, I Have A Lot Of Friends That Leave In Lanikai Keep Up The Good Work // Mahalo //

Yes I'm off all for making it all better for all of us I need help

Yes we need better wireless coverage in Lanikai

Yes yes and yes!

Yes, absolutely needed. Coverage is very poor in the Lanikai area.

Yes, and also to improve the Waimanalo area as well.

Yes, it's not safe the way it is now with marginal coverage throughout that large neighborhod.

Yes. Include Kailua please

Yes. It is a public danger to have no or minimal coverage at the beach.

Yes. Signal strength has been an ongoing issue for all of us in Maunawili. I support efforts to improve coverage in and around Kailua assuming any impacts to any viewsheds are mitigated to the maximum extent practicable. Thank you, Abbey and Sayoko Mayer

Yes. I'm in Keolu Hills and need better wireless coverage.

Yes It's stressful cause coverage is horrible in Lanikai area

We need better service here in Lanikai please! Verizon is the BEST wireless company out there, but it concerns me that we have blind spots in Lanikai that makes our phone conversations on the way entering into Lanikai & exiting an issue! Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter!!

For equity, safety and emergencies, Lanikai needs better cell phone coverage. Please allow a cell facility in the area.

ABSOLUTELY NO not unbelievable that you, verizon, ask for blind support of "new wireless facility" with absolutely no information for informed and intelligent responses....NO CELL PHONE TOWERS IN KAILUA!!!!

No! Enough buildings! And it's Ka'ohau NOT lanikai!

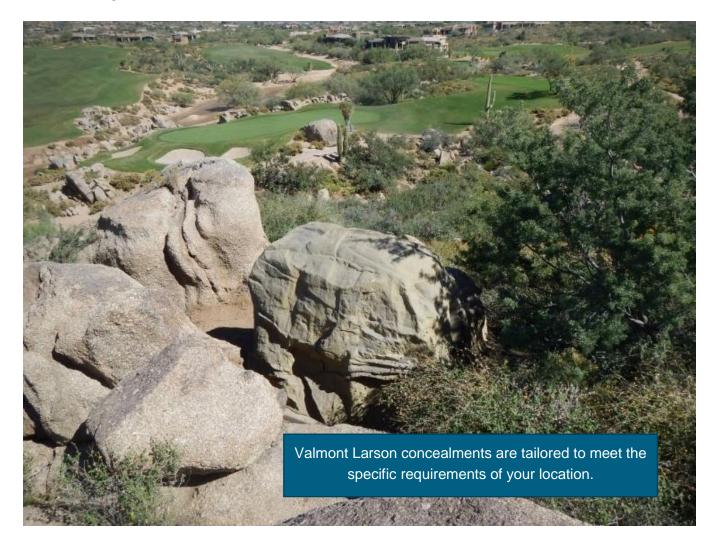
No 5G!

NO NO NO!!!!



# Larson®

## **Site Specific Concealments**



Often, the customers who demand reliable wireless service are the same ones who don't want a tower hovering over their home. We pioneered Minimum Visual Impact (MVI) or disguised towers with those customers in mind.

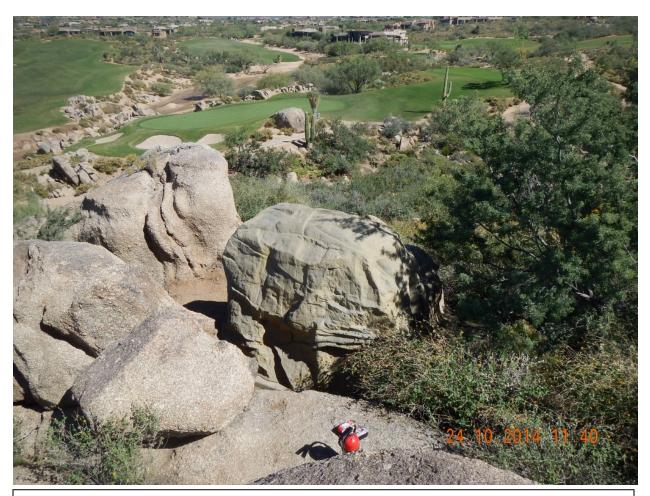
Our goal is to bridge the gap between the **aesthetics in a** community and the utility of telecommunications.











# Recommended Best Practices for Communication Tower Design, Siting, Construction, Operation, Maintenance, and Decommissioning

Migratory Bird Program
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Falls Church, Virginia
April 2018

NOTE: These recommendations replace all previous recommendations for communication tower construction and operation. These recommendations have been modified and updated from previous versions to incorporate the state of the science and the 2015 Federal Aviation Administration *Obstruction Marking and Lighting Advisory Circular AC 70/7460-1L*.

Communication towers are some of the tallest structures across the landscape and birds are regularly found dead around these towers (Longcore et al. 2012a). It is not definitively understood why this mortality occurs, but evidence suggests that night-migrating songbirds are either attracted to or disoriented by tower obstruction warning lighting systems, especially during overcast (i.e., low cloud ceiling), foggy, or other low visibility conditions (Cochran and Graber 1958, Avery et al. 1976, Ball et al. 1995, Erickson et al. 2005, Evans et al. 2007, Manville 2014, Gehring et al. 2009 and 2011, Longcore et al. 2012a). Birds aggregate in larger numbers at towers with non-flashing lights compared to those with flashing lights, although birds aggregate at flashing lights during the "on" phase, they disperse during the "off" phase (Larkin and Frase 1988; Gauthreaux and Belser 1999, 2006; Evans et al. 2007; Poot et al. 2008). Additionally, birds moving across the landscape at night (e.g., owls and seabirds) can collide with communication tower wires when they are placed in high movement areas.

Given the height, structural engineering needs (i.e., guy wires), and obstruction lighting requirements, communication towers may cause direct and indirect bird mortality through:

- 1. Collisions Birds that are attracted to tower lights and aggregate in the lighting zone, circle the tower and collide with the tower, guy wires, other birds, or fall to the ground from exhaustion (Longcore et al. 2012b, Gauthreaux and Belser 2006, Erickson et al. 2005).
- 2. Construction, operation, and maintenance activities Adults, eggs, or nestlings can experience direct mortality through:
  - a. Trauma or death during vegetation removal;
  - b. Trauma or death during tower maintenance; and
  - c. Death of eggs or nestlings when actions or activities cause adults to abandon nests.
- 3. Significant loss of fat reserves in adults due to the energy expenditure of circling towers, leading to reduced survival during long migrations (Norris and Taylor 2006, Gehring and Walker 2012).

The following avoidance and minimization measures, when used comprehensively, reduce the risk of bird mortality at communication towers:

#### SITING AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TOWERS

- 1. *Contact with USFWS Field Office*. Communicate project plans to nearest USFWS Field Office. www.fws.gov/offices/index.html
- 2. *Co-location*. Co-locate communications equipment on existing communication towers or other structures (e.g., billboard, water and transmission tower, distribution pole, or building mounts). This recommendation is intended to reduce the number of towers across the landscape.

- 3. *Placement*. All new towers should be sited to minimize environmental impacts to the maximum extent practicable.
  - a. Place new towers within existing "antenna farms" (i.e., clusters of towers) when possible;
  - b. Select already degraded areas for tower placement;
  - c. Towers should not be sited in or near wetlands, other known bird concentration areas (e.g., state or federal refuges, staging areas, rookeries, and Important Bird Areas), or in known migratory bird movement routes, daily movement flyways, areas of breeding concentration, in habitat of threatened or endangered species, key habitats for <a href="Birds of Conservation Concern">Birds of Conservation Concern</a>, or near the breeding areas ("leks") of prairie grouse;
  - d. Towers should avoid ridgelines, coastal areas, wetlands or other known bird concentration areas; and
  - e. Towers and associated facilities should be designed, sited, and constructed so as to avoid or minimize habitat loss within and adjacent to the tower "footprint". In addition, several shorter, un-guyed towers may be preferable to one, tall guyed, lit tower.
- 4. *Construction*. During construction, the following considerations can reduce the risk of take of birds:
  - a. Schedule all vegetation removal and maintenance (e.g., general landscaping activities, trimming, grubbing) activities outside of the peak bird breeding season to reduce the risk of bird take. Breeding seasons can be determined using online tools (e.g., <u>Avian Knowledge Network</u> [AKN], <u>Information for Planning and Conservation system</u> [IPaC], <u>Birds of North America Online</u>) or by contacting qualified experts (e.g., local Audubon or birding groups);
  - b. When vegetation removal activities cannot avoid the bird breeding season, conduct nest clearance surveys:
    - i. Surveys should be conducted no more than five days prior to the scheduled activity to ensure recently constructed nests are identified;
    - ii. Timing and dimensions of the area to be surveyed vary and will depend on the nature of the project, location, and expected level of vegetation disturbance; and
    - iii. If active nests are identified within or in the vicinity of the project site, avoid the site until nestlings have fledged or the nest fails. If the activity must occur, establish a buffer zone around the nest and no activities will occur within that zone until nestlings have fledged. The dimension of the buffer zone will depend on the proposed activity, habitat type, and species present. The buffer should be a distance that does not elicit a flight response by the adult birds and can be 0.5 1 mile for hawks and eagles.
  - c. Prevent the introduction of invasive plants during construction to minimize vegetation community degradation by:
    - i. Use only native and local (when possible) seed stock for all temporary and permanent vegetation establishment; and
    - ii. Use vehicle wash stations prior to entering sensitive habitat areas to prevent accidental introduction of non-native plants.
  - 5. *Tower Design*. Tower design should consider the following attributes:
    - a. Tower Height. It is recommended that new towers should be not more than 199 ft. above ground level (AGL). This height increases the mean free airspace between the top of the tower and average bird flight height, even in weather conditions with reduced cloud ceiling;

- b. Guy Wires. We recommend using free standing towers such as lattice towers or monopole structures. If guy wires are required for tower design:
  - i. The minimum number of guy wires necessary should be used; and
  - ii. Guy wired towers that are proposed to be located in known raptor or waterbird concentrations areas, daily movement routes, major daytime migratory bird movement routes, staging areas, or stopover sites should have daytime visual markers or bird flight diverters installed on the guy wires to attempt to prevent daytime collisions.
- c. Lighting System. Lights are a primary source of bird aggregation around towers, thus minimizing all light is recommended:
  - i. No tower lighting is the preferred option if Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations and lighting standards (FAA 2015, Patterson 2012) permit.
  - ii. For some towers, the FAA can permit an Aircraft Detection Lighting System (ADLS), which maintains a communication tower of any height to be unlit until the ADLS radars detect nearby aircraft, at which time the tower lighting system is triggered to illuminate until the aircraft is out of radar range.
  - iii. If taller (> 199 ft. AGL) towers requiring lights for aviation safety must be constructed, the minimum amount of pilot warning and obstruction avoidance lighting required by the FAA should be used. Unless otherwise required by the FAA, only white or red flashing lights should be used at night, and these should follow FAA obstruction and marking standards with regards to the minimum number of lights, minimum intensity (< 2,000 candela), and minimum number of flashes per minute (i.e., longest duration between flashes and "dark phase"). Avoid using non-flashing warning lights at night (FAA 2015, Patterson 2012). Owners of existing towers lit with lighting systems that include non-flashing lights should submit plans to the FAA explaining how and when they will transition to the new standards.
  - iv. Security lighting for on-ground facilities, equipment, and infrastructure should be motionor heat-sensitive, down-shielded, and of a minimum intensity to reduce nighttime bird attraction and eliminate constant nighttime illumination while still allowing safe nighttime access to the site.

#### OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF ALL TOWERS

- 1. *Existing Tower Lighting*. We recommend that towers be unlit, when allowed by FAA regulations. Light impacts can be minimized by:
  - a. Extinguishing L-810 non-flashing red lights (USFWS 2007, 2011) on towers >350 ft. AGL or reconfiguring L-810 non-flashing red lights to flash at 30 FPM (+/- 3 FPM) in synchrony with other flashing obstruction lights on towers 150-350 ft. AGL (FAA 2015);
  - b. Extinguishing L-810 red lights and reprogramming LED L-810 lights; this can be done from the tower transmission building or remotely and does not require climbing the tower (FCC 2015).

A "lighting deviation" can be used to extinguish or eliminate L-810 steady-burning side lights from an existing registered tower taller than 350 ft. AGL and to reprogram L-810 steady-burning side lights to flash on registered towers 150-350 ft. AGL.¹ The following steps are necessary: <sup>2</sup>

1. File a Marking and Lighting study electronically with the FAA (https://oeaaa.faa.gov/oeaaa/external/portal.jsp) requesting the elimination or omission of steady-

burning lights (L-810) or requesting that steady-burning lights flash with Form 7460-1, Notice of Proposed Construction or Alteration. Designate structure type: "Deviation from Red Obstruction Light Standards."

- 2. Once the FAA has approved the request and assigned a FAA Study Number, file Form 854 with the FCC via the Antenna Registration System (ASR). Please select "MD Modification" and choose the appropriate FAA Lighting Style.<sup>3</sup> The FCC typically will approve the application and modify the registration within 24 hours.
- 3. Once the lighting change for a tower has been granted by the FCC via ASR, the L-810 steady-burning side lights can be extinguished on towers taller than 350 ft. AGL and reprogramed to flash in concert with L-864 lights on towers 150-350 ft. AGL. Extinguishing L-810 lights and reprogramming lights are typically accomplished in the tower transmission building and do not ordinarily require climbing the tower. Per the FAA requirements, flashing red lights should flash at 30 FPM (+/- 3 FPM).
- 2. *Infrastructure Lighting*. We recommend that existing infrastructure be unlit. If associated buildings require security or operational lighting, minimize light trespass using motion sensors and downshielding with minimum intensity light (USFWS 2011; Poot et al. 2008; Manville 2013; FCC 2014).
- 3. Vegetation Management. When management of facility infrastructure is required:
  - a. Schedule all vegetation removal and maintenance (e.g., general landscaping activities, trimming, grubbing, etc.) activities outside of the peak bird breeding season to reduce the risk of bird take. Breeding seasons can be determined using online tools (e.g., <u>Avian Knowledge Network</u> [AKN], <u>Information for Planning and Conservation system</u> [IPaC], <u>Birds of North America Online</u>) or by contacting qualified experts (e.g., local Audubon or birding groups);
  - b. When vegetation removal activities cannot avoid the bird breeding season, conduct nest clearance surveys:
    - i. Surveys should be conducted no more than five days prior to the scheduled activity to ensure recently constructed nests are identified;
    - ii. Timing and dimensions of the area to be surveyed should depend on the nature of the project, location, and expected level of vegetation disturbance; and
    - iii. If active nests are identified within or in the vicinity of the project site, the site should be avoided until nestlings have fledged or the nest fails. If the activity must occur, a buffer zone should be established around the nest and no activities should occur within that zone until nestlings have fledged. The dimension of the buffer zone depends on the proposed activity, habitat type, and species present. The buffer should be a distance that does not elicit a flight response by the adult birds and can be 0.5 1 mile for hawks and eagles.
- 4. Birds Nesting on Towers: If birds are nesting on communication towers that require maintenance activities, contact the state natural resource protection agency and/or the USFWS for permits, recommendations, and requirements. Schedule construction and maintenance activities around the nesting and activity schedule of protected birds. Minimize excess wires and securely attach wires to the tower structure to reduce the likelihood of birds becoming entangled on the tower. Consider installing a bird nest exclusion device on the towers where birds frequently nest.
- 5. *Tower Access*: Representatives from the USFWS or researchers should be allowed access to the site to evaluate bird use, conduct dead-bird searches, and conduct other research, as necessary.

#### **DECOMMISSIONING**

*Tower Removal*. Towers no longer in use, not re-licensed by the FCC for use, or determined to be obsolete should be removed from the site within 12 months of cessation of use, preferably sooner.

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From: whitingk@cox.net
To: DLNR.BLNR.Testimony

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] proposed cell tower

**Date:** Wednesday, January 12, 2022 11:09:56 AM

#### Agenda item OCCL K-3

I would like to convey my strong opposition to the proposed Verizon Cell Tower in Lanikai. Lanikai is a special and unique place in Hawaii with unsurpassed views. A cell tower at the proposed location is highly visible and will detract from the beautiful views enjoyed by residents and visitors. We have had no issues with cell coverage in Lanikai. Why damage the natural beauty of the community with another cell tower for no reason?

Thank you for your consideration!

Kim Whiting 702-524-3231 whitingk@cox.net Agenda Item OCCL K-3 
 From:
 MK\_Whiting

 To:
 DLNR.BLNR.Testimo

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Written testimony for BLNR meeting January 14 Verizon Wireless Project - OCCL - K3

Date: Wednesday, January 12, 2022 1:51:24 PM
Attachments: Letter to DLNR 1.odf

Marianne K. Whiting 322 Aoloa Street Unit 1401 Kailua, Hawaii 96734 808-263-6489

Dear Honorable Board Members.

As a long time resident of both Lanikai and Kailua, I am expressing my strong opposition for the proposed Verizon Cell Phone tower. My frustration is probably best addressed with these unanswered questions that repeatedly come to mind.

\*Why do we need another visual blight on our hillside when cell phone 911 emergency services are readily available (one of the main purported justifications for construction)?

\*Why would the BLNR agree to add this blight on a designated conservation area?

\*Why are the written and testimonial wishes of the community, residents, and both the Lanikai Association and the Kailua Neighborhood Board, all opposed, being ignored? Over the decades we have consistently opposed commercial activity on commercial, preservation, and residential property. This project is in direct opposition. (See attached letters from both the Association and the Board.)

When concerns about the endangered shearwaters nesting in the area were raised, they were minimized. The reality is no formal study has been done on Ka'iwa Ridge due to the steep hillside. Yet, talk to anyone who has ever lived on that hillside. We all have heard them during their nesting season. Does this not concern BLNR?

It seems AT&T's '98-'99 tower and the subsequent 2018 tower, both strongly opposed, appeared to be stealthily added. Now it's being cited as justification for the building of Verizon's. Why don't we residents receive notification about structural additions and have a say in these blights we feel affect our quality of life?

\*Since residents are understandably concerned about the proposed 'camouflage faux rock', why have there been no efforts to suggest a less obtrusive solution versus something that looks like it belongs in Glacier National Park than volcanic Hawaii?

\*If the project is essential, why hasn't the possibility of co-locating antennas been explored?

Based on the aforementioned questions/concerns, how could we feel other than marginalized for the sake of a commercial entity's profits and growth?

Please study the visual impact of the attached photos. Then ask yourself, do you want this in your backyard?

Please hear our concerns and pleas. We have valid, unaddressed concerns. We want no more antennas, 'faux rocks', or our conservation areas tampered with.

Thank you for your careful and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely, Marianne K. Whiting



#### KAILUA NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 31

WILLIAM M. HICKS, CHAIRMAN • 923 AKUMU STREET • KAILUA, HAWAII, 96734-4004 PHONE (808) 230-2293 • E-MAIL billhicksknb@gmail.com

January 10, 2022

Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson Department of Land and Natural Resources Kalanimoku Building 1151 Punchbowl Street Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Kailua Neighborhood Board Opposition to Proposed Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) OA-3879 for Verizon Wireless Lanikai Telecom Project

Aloha Ms. Case.

The Kailua Neighborhood Board (KNB) received a presentation on the proposed Verizon Wireless Lanikai Telecom Project at its regular meeting on November 4, 2021 from Lanikai resident Mr. Scott Whiting.

It should be noted that Verizon was scheduled to make a presentation to the KNB at the March 4, 2021 regular meeting, but on the day of the meeting Verizon's Permitting Consultant, Mr. Grant Nakaya, withdrew the presentation citing a need to "reassess" due to feedback received on the project. Verizon subsequently never attempted any contact with the KNB. The mature nature of Verizon's application therefore came as a surprise to the KNB when Mr. Whiting made us aware on November 4, 2021.

Mr. Whiting provided history on the construction of cell towers in Lanikai, including the original AT&T antenna in 1999. Because the site is located on preservation land Zone P1 above Lanikai, extra care must be taken to enhance, protect, conserve, and manage this precious resource held in public trust. It is therefore disturbing that there has not been any formal Verizon presentation to the KNB to solicit community input regarding the installation of this tower. Mr. Whiting provided pictures of the visual impacts the current tower and contrasted it with the visual impact of this proposed tower. We are skeptical of the need for an additional tower, as the surrounding area infrastructure already provides four bars of service for Verizon customers.

The large size of the proposed project enclosure on the Lanikai hillside will have a major visual impact which was not known until Mr. Whiting's presentation. Residents' and visitors' enjoyment of Lanikai's beautiful environment will be impacted. The faux rock enclosures will have a high profile, will not blend with the natural surroundings, and will be visible from most of Lanikai.

The Final Environmental Assessment (paragraph 3.4.1) states it is "unlikely they (endangered shearwaters) would use the habitat", however, for decades residents report regular shearwater activity on the hillside. We understand no formal study of bird habitats on Ka'iwa Ridge exists, so we are concerned that possible environmental impacts may not have been properly assessed. This may require a more rigorous major SMA permit.

Nearby residents also expressed concern about potential negative impact on property values in the vicinity of this large tower due to its visual impact.

The KNB unanimously (with one abstention) approved a Resolution to oppose the cell towers on Ka'lwa Ridge in Lanikai, conservation designated and preservation zoned land, and request that a major SMA be required before any approval and/or construction.

Mahalo for your consideration!

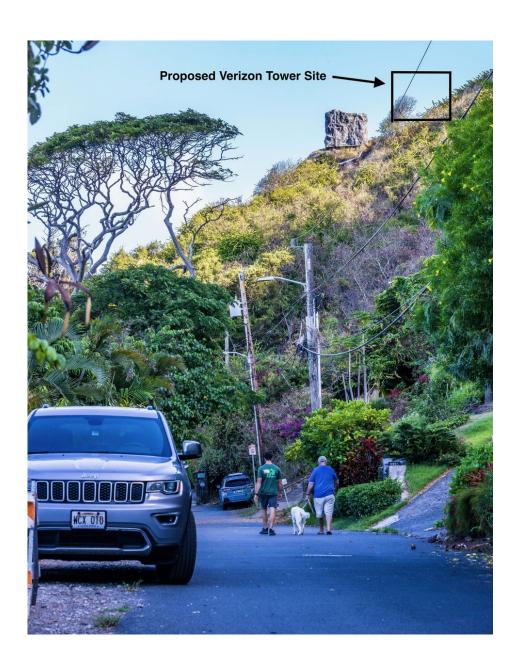
William M. Hichs

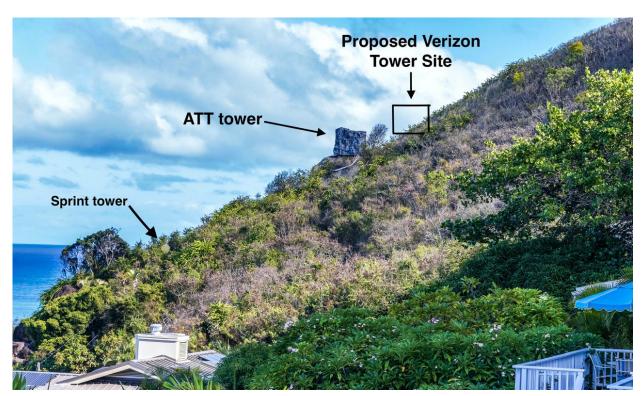
Sincerely,

William M. Hicks Chairman, Kailua Neighborhood Board

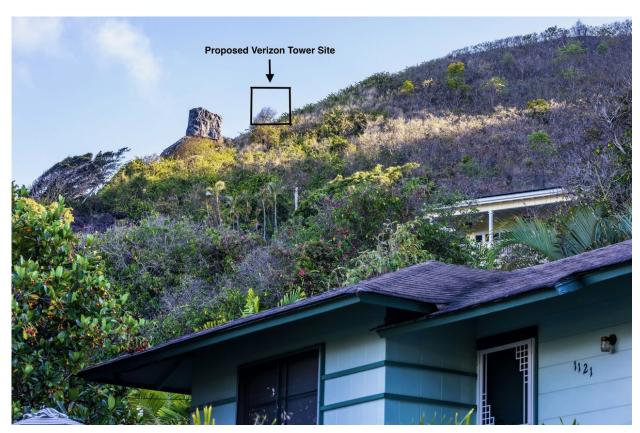
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Oahu's Neighborhood Board system - Established 1973











## The Lanikai Association P.O. Box 481 Kailua, HI 96734

November 3, 2021

Suzanne D. Case, Chairperson Department of Land and Natural Resources Kalanimoku Building 1151 Punchbowl Street Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chairperson Case,

On behalf of the Board of the Lanikai Association and our Lanikai Community we would like to thank you for sending us information about the Conservation District Use Application (CDUA) OA-3879 from Verizon Wireless regarding the proposed installation of a cell tower at 1160 Koʻohoʻo Place. This information was disseminated to our membership and was on our Board meeting agenda on November 1.

After hearing from concerned community members and a full board discussion, the Board voted to oppose the Verizon cell tower application as it stands for the reasons below.

- The Association's long-standing opposition to commercial activity on conservation, preservation, and residential property.
- There appears to be irregularities in AT&T's 2018-19 permitting and construction process which Verizon's application references as a relevant precedent and an important part of their justification for this site location.
- Visual Impact: The current Verizon application (CDUA) OA-3879 (page 10) cites "..the visual impact would be
  mitigated due to the faux rock enclosure design which would allow the project to blend in with the surrounding
  terrain." While the relevance and accuracy could be debated and challenged, what is unquestionable and not
  sufficiently addressed in their application is the significant view impact the proposed cell tower would have on
  most of Lanikai, especially the surrounding homes.
- Verizon's Final Environmental Assessment (page 18) submitted to OCCL, justifies another faux rock tower because "the existing telecommunication facility has already modified the character of this portion of the ridge line and over the long term, as vegetation regrows, the project would generate decreasing visual contrast with the existing setting, resulting in a low long-term residual impact." It's unrealistic vegetation will re-grow to decrease the visual contrast when the current tower is well above the surrounding vegetation. Our concern in 2007 was the ridge could become a cell tower farm. We never anticipated a faux rock Stonehenge.
- Neighbors are concerned Conservation/Preservation land is once again being considered for commercial use.
   We disagree with this use. If this application is approved, it would create a dangerous precedent for future potential commercial development and abuse.
- Prior to Covid, Verizon estimated \$406,000 total project costs. Since then, materials, labor, fuel, shipping, and contracted services have increased significantly possibly pushing costs over \$500,000, requiring a more rigorous Major SMA permit.
- Possible Environmental Impacts: The Board questions the Final Environmental Assessment (3.4.1) stating
  'unlikely they (endangered shearwaters) would use the habitat'. However, given the steep terrain, no formal
  study of bird habitats on Ka'iwa Ridge exists. Yet for decades residents report regular shearwater activity. This
  may also require a more rigorous major SMA permit.

From: <u>fei yu</u>

**To:** <u>DLNR.BLNR.Testimony</u>

Subject:[EXTERNAL] Agenda item OCCL K-3Date:Wednesday, January 12, 2022 12:04:00 PM

I would like to convey my strong opposition to the proposed Verizon Cell Tower in Lanikai. Lanikai is a special and unique place in Hawaii with unsurpassed views. A cell tower on conservation land is highly visible and will detract from the beautiful views enjoyed by residents and visitors. We have had no issues with cell coverage in Lanikai. Why damage the natural beauty of the community with another cell tower for no reason? Thank you for your consideration!

Fei Yu msfyufei@gmail.com 678-234-1221 Agenda Item OCCL K-3