

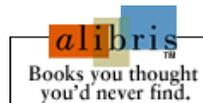


pebble COLORS ARE BACK

ORDER NOW

Star Bulletin.com

Vol. 10, Issue 324 - Sunday, November 20, 2005



Info | PDA/Text | Corrections | Calendars | Movies
Obituaries | Vital Stats | Weather | Surf

Search

StarBulletin.com Web

Go >>

Not Found

The requested URL /test/quicklinks.ht was not found

Back Issues

(1996-Present)

S | M | T | W | T | F | S

Sections

Local News

Features

Sports

Business

Editorial

Travel (Sunday)

Corrections

Classifieds

Wheels

Island Homes

Jobs

Government Section

Bidding Advantage

Advertise

Columns

Kauakulahale

Dictionaries

Poll

Calendar

Movies

Special Packages

MidWeek



Subscriptions
Newsstands
Directory

OUR OPINION

Valley's worth can't be counted in dollars alone

THE ISSUE

The City Council is considering a proposal to split Waimea Valley.

AS THE Honolulu City Council [deliberates a deal that would sever shoreline from mountain in Waimea Valley](#), it appears that money is at the core of its considerations.

However, the Council must balance its financial responsibility to taxpayers with the public's desire to keep intact one of the few undivided ahupuaa -- the land from mountain to sea -- remaining on Oahu. It is essential that members weigh whether a quick cost-solution that the valley's dissection will allow is worth more than the preservation of a small segment of the island in the long term.

More than four years ago, the city began condemnation to acquire the 1,875 acres with the view that the North Shore valley merited public claim when the bankrupt owner, who ran an tourist-oriented entertainment-theme park there, put it up for sale.

For the last two years, the area has been managed by the National Audubon Society, which has worked with community groups and others to restore gardens with native plants -- some of them nearly extinct species -- and to encourage return of endangered native birds to sustain a cultural, environmental and educational center.

To buy the land, the city set aside \$5.2 million, but now the Council and Mayor Hannemann worry that the price tag might go higher if the condemnation proceedings go to court.

There is no way to predict what amount a court will set; the landowner had first sought \$25 million, then \$19 million. So the Council is considering a settlement that would have the city retain just 300 acres. The remaining 1,500 acres would revert to the owner, whose plans might include subdividing the upper regions of the valley into eight parcels for a half-dozen houses and a tourist camp.

In condemnations, a court considers potential use of lands in determining value. The Waimea Valley land is zoned conservation, which lowers its dollar value. In order to build residential units, a tourist facility and accompanying roads and infrastructure, the state

THIS ARTICLE

- E-MAIL THIS ARTICLE
- PRINTER-FRIENDLY
- E-mail to Editorial Page Editor

THIS EDITION

Local News

- » Hatchet mayhem leaves dad dead
- » Mabuhay! A toast to success and sacrifice
- » Longevity study to focus on Hawaii men over 91
- » Ahuimanu families take back community
- » Diabetes education starts in the schools
- » Festival of hope & lights
- » Synthetic digs sprout at Schofield
- » Pearl officer sentenced to 1 year for fraternizing
- » Hawaii now being promoted musically
- » Newswatch, Police/Fire
- » Obituaries
- » Corrections
- » Vital Statistics
- » For Your Benefit
- » Kauakulahale

Weather

Features

- » Independent spirit
- » Big impact in a little package
- » 'Loveless' serves justice in Wild West
- » Symphony showcases rewards of cultural influence
- » Isle Pages
- » Da Kine

Travel

- » Dealing your way



pebble

Colors are back in stock!

ORDER NOW



2.7% HARP Refinance

PDA/Text
StarHeadlines
RSS

Contribute

tourist facility and accompanying roads and infrastructure, the state Land Use Commission's approval of a change must be obtained, a major hurdle for development.

In addition, the valley, most of which has yet to be fully surveyed, contains more than 30 archaeological sites -- including one of the largest heiau on Oahu -- Hawaiian burial caves and other historical remnants of human occupation. Though these are of great value culturally, they could be hindrances for any development.

Whatever the case, the Council's primary focus is cost. Members appear unwilling to gamble that the court might raise the price of the land or that the legal proceedings might stretch on. However, the public has supported the valley's acquisition as a whole. The Council should stand behind that goal.

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

ONLINE EDITION

Oahu Publications, Inc. publishes the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, MidWeek and military newspapers

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

David Black, Dan Case, Dennis Francis, Larry Johnson, Duane Kurisu, Warren Luke, Colbert Matsumoto, Jeffrey Watanabe, Michael Wo

HONOLULU STAR-BULLETIN

Dennis Francis, Publisher **Lucy Young-Oda**, Assistant Editor
(808) 529-4762
lyoungoda@starbulletin.com

Frank Bridgewater, Editor **Michael Rovner**, Assistant Editor
(808) 529-4791 (808) 529-4768
fbridgewater@starbulletin.com mrovner@starbulletin.com

Mary Poole, Editorial Page Editor
(808) 529-4748; mpoole@starbulletin.com

The Honolulu Star-Bulletin (USPS 249460) is published daily by Oahu Publications at 500 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 7-500, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813. Periodicals postage paid at Honolulu, Hawaii. Postmaster: Send address changes to Star-Bulletin, P.O. Box 3080, Honolulu, Hawaii 96802.

[BACK TO TOP](#)

© Honolulu Star-Bulletin -- <http://archives.starbulletin.com>

- ...coming your way through Vegas
- » X Marks: Maritime museum
 - » The Search for Signs of Hawaiian Life
 - » Isle Hopping
 - » Airfare Rates

Sports

- » 'Bows bury No. 4 Michigan State
- » Spartans' Izzo finds paradise overrated
- » Maui field is loaded
- » No big upset for Wahine
- » Utah State gets WAC's No. 2 seed
- » Punahou puts away Aiea
- » Hawaii Beat
- » Scoreboard
- » TV & Radio

Business

- » Bridging this gap
- » Devoted to selling 'until the end'
- » Wall Street Journal Sunday
- » Dilbert

Editorial

- » Valley's worth can't be counted in dollars alone
- » Letters
- » Gathering Place
- » Our Side of the Story

Loan
harp-loan.freerate...
No Appraisal, No MAX LTV, 3.3 APR*. 1 Bank, Low HARP Rate, Get a Quote.




Kokua Line
June Watanabe



Island Images
S-B Photographers



In the Military
Gregg K. Kakesako



What the Heck?
John Heckathorn



Corky's Hawaii
Corky Trinidad



Honolulu Lite
Charles Memminger



Health Options
Joannie Dobbs & Alan Titchnal



Yoga For You
Ray Madigan & Shelley Choy



Weekly Eater
Nadine Kam