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to whom it may concern,

EARLY 1990s

Please excuse this typing. Salty air ravages machinery.

I am writing with great apprehensions of the public policy regarding protection of Hawai'i's coral reefs. Emphasis of the state and federal agencies seems to be to discount research of schools with advanced marine biology facilities (Univ. of Florida, et al.) and follow policies of bureaucratic and commercial expansion at the direct expense to these ecological systems.

True, the increase in algae production provides more food for turtles, but the damage that sewage and fertilizer and silt do to the reefs far out-weighs this convenience to the turtles.

As Marine Biologists, you know how important the tidal zones' biological fitness is to their inhabitants, be they young fry or other creatures and plants. It shows a conflict of interest for schools in Hawai'i and the various other government agencies to feel economic expansion based on destruction of these resources is a satisfactory path. I realize that Big Money provides a number of endowments to the University of Hawai'i.

It is in the interest of clearing the national debt by declaring that a huge new tax base is available for economic exploitation.


Before folks get all hot on installing yet another research facility, at Puako, for example, you need to know that reef fish counts are down over 70% of 1970 levels, many tide pools are fouled by algae, few people care, and the local illegal 'representatives' of Puako rarely, if ever, involve themselves with reef life, except by using it for a toilet. The reef suffers. The old timers and locals have told you. But you don't listen. National Geographic publishes that sewage and industrial pollution destroys coral reefs. It is published that the human Herpes virus causes malignant tumors in sea turtles. Other human diseases can be transmitted to cetaceans via sewage.

Perhaps, if you know of any, you could provide the identities of the above mentioned studies, it could be illustrated as to exactly what happens when these problems go too far.

It was truly written that a person cannot be obsessed with money and reality at the same time. Also an old proverb states "Man who says it cannot be done should not interfere with men doing it." Consider that we did not inherit the earth, we merely borrow it from our children. Note that most residents of Puako including all tenants and landlords can afford new \$10,000 and up cars. Any argument countering mandatory holding tanks for all sewage (minus grey water) should fall on deaf ears. Anyone in Puako not willing to follow this does not deserve to live there. Aesop's The Dog in The Manger best illustrates their lives' philosophy. Many local divers and fishermen agree. Have not found any who disagree. The only disagreement I've found is among the 'Oh So Chic' citizens of Puako who have not yet realized their failure to adapt to their surroundings. Some citizens of Puako, such as Leon Devenin, have already taken it on themselves to wipe their own selves. But most have not. Washington state understood the importance and nature of this issue over 25 years ago when a law was passed giving people 5 years to install appropriate facilities to avoid penalties which matched the cost of the system and cost more if failure to comply occurred. Our public officials should raise up out of their decadent, ambient state, and do the right thing. Scholars should not be regarded as slaves to the rich. That crap went out with the Roman Empire.

Please assure me that you see the relevancy of the researchers before you, and as your contemporaries. Note the destruction around the world for the sake of making money and breeding like rats. Think, grasshopper.

Sincerely,



Howard T. Lewis III

1995
P.S. PLEASE SEND 2 OR 3 YEAR OF THE TURTLE
BUMPER STICKERS IF YOU HAVE ANY MORE.