

Ka Iwi shoreline area reclassified as conservation land

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HONOLULU (HawaiiNewsNow) – The fight is over for many East Oahu residents. The scenic Ka Iwi coastline is now preserved. It's been a battle for decades, but Friday, the State Land Use Commission voted unanimously to save the stretch of shoreline from Sandy Beach to the Makapu'u Lighthouse so it can't be developed.

"We want people to know Ka Iwi has been preserved. It's there for every, as long as the community says vigilant, Ka Iwi will remain as it is," Said Representative Gene Ward of Hawaii Kai, Kalama Valley.

Representative Ward calls this is a landmark decision. The community has been battling to preserve the coastline for nearly four decades. Brett Fee, who grew up in Hawaii Kai, says it about time.

"You cant just always be driving through homes and traffic and infrastructure. They just want to keep developing and developing, we should be able to drive down the road and see the ocean and see the mountains," said Fee.

Back in the 1960's, the Ka Iwi coastline makai of Kalaniana'ole Hwy was zoned as urban. There were plans for residential and resort developments, but they never happened. Now the focus will be on trying to preserve the mauka side.

"On the mauka side there is still some undeveloped urban land. That's something the community has a lot of concerns about. There have been a variety of development proposals mauka," said Abbey Mayer, Director of the Office of Planning.

"We have heard some rumors here, heard some rumors there, but so far they haven't developed and they know that we are watching," Said Rep. Ward.

Representative Ward says he will work hard in the month and years to come to make sure the mauka side of the land is saved. Ward would like to make that conservation land as well.

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