

JOHN L. REPPUN

Mr. John L. Reppun is being recognized for the Grassroots Initiative Special Recognition award for his lifetime support of planning throughout the Northern Ko'olaupoko community. He has been an active community advocate in Northern Ko'olaupoko for over three decades, involved in grassroots efforts over many years and projects. Mr. Reppun has also steadfastly supported community voice in planning decisions for a primarily agricultural underserved community. He has embraced community planning efforts as a member of the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board #29; the Executive Director of KEY Project; a farmer within the Wai'ohole community; and a volunteer serving on boards, taskforces and working groups.

While Mr. Reppun has been involved with many projects identified by the community as projects to oppose, he has always had the planning vision of what "could be". Instead of being satisfied that a proposed development had been stopped, Mr. Reppun actively engaged with the community and decision-makers to seek solutions to benefit the community. He has been an active participant in most planning processes affecting Northern Ko'olaupoko, including the Kane'ōhe Bay Master Plan, the Heart of Kahalu'u Master Plan, the Ko'olouupoko Sustainable Communities Plan, and the Board of Water Supply Watershed Management Plan. While important to the future of the community, most are initiated by others. Below are some examples that are the result of community-initiated efforts to preserve and protect the community, of which Mr. Reppun has been a critical voice in all.

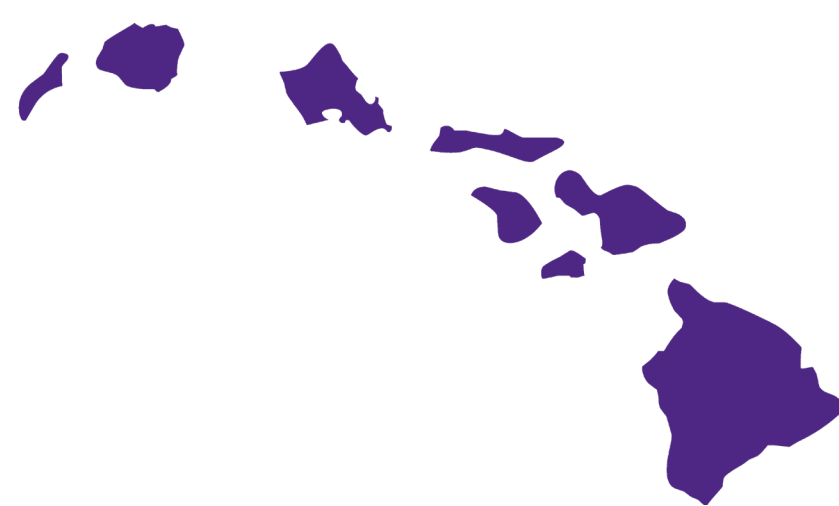
- **Waihe'e Stream** – In the early 1990's when Waihe'e Stream was part of a project to channelize 'Ahuimanu, Kahalu'u and Waihe'e Streams, Mr. Reppun encouraged the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board # 29 (KNB) to create a Waihe'e Watershed Task Force to engage diverse stakeholders (farmers, landowners, environmentalists, general public) to develop community alternatives to channelization. This resulted in community consensus that Waihe'e Stream should not be channelized. He recognized that as a natural stream, Waihe'e Stream was a community asset. The Kahalu'u community did not have a major park and Mr. Reppun, through the KNB and KEY Project, advocated to purchase land adjacent to the stream for a new park. He encouraged the City & County to fund a planning consultant and worked to ensure that community voice was present throughout the process, including engaging school children in identifying their vision for a park. This resulted in Kahalu'u Regional Park being established with sports fields, walking paths, restrooms and parking.

Additionally, when golf courses were proposed throughout the community, he worked to map all Windward O'ahu proposals to demonstrate the cumulative impact including loss of agriculture land and public access. Then, he worked to ensure that there would be a long-term benefit to the community. Three examples that stand out include:

- **Wai'ohole Beach Park** – Golf course was proposed on the mauka lands, coupled with a marina on the shoreline and Mr. Reppun was successful in working with community to stop that development but recognized the need for long term protection for the public. He identified the Trust for Public Land as a partner to facilitate funding for acquisition and worked with the surrounding community to develop a use plan. This led to 100 acres of shoreline property being preserved as a public beach park, owned by City & County of Honolulu, providing access and views of Kane'ōhe Bay.
- **He'eia Kea** – Another golf course with residential development was proposed mauka of the He'eia Kea Small Boat Harbor. Recognizing the value of this land for potential expansion of the harbor and/or to relocate Kamehameha Highway away from the shoreline, Mr. Reppun, together with the KNB, worked to protect the land and secured 200 + acres gifted to City & County of Honolulu with long-term planning options preserved.
- **Minami Foundation** – Private company was seeking a CDUA permit for use of public, conservation land. Mr. Reppun advocated for the community to receive a "public benefit" for the loss of use of public land leading to the establishment of the Minami Foundation, funded by each round of golf, that provides support to nonprofit community groups on the windward side.

Mr. Reppun continues to actively encourage his community of Wai'ohole to work with HHFDC on a strategic plan for the valley. He has demonstrated his commitment to community planning over many decades. Without his dedication, Kahalu'u would be a very different community today.

As such, the APA Hawai'i Chapter would like to recognize Mr. Reppun for his grassroots efforts in supporting planning efforts through conversations with community about "keeping open planning options" over many decades. Thank you Mr. Reppun for encouraging community members to think broadly and regularly suggesting the use of strategic or master plans as means to capture community ideas so that they can be easily conveyed to



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