



FOR RELEASE: September 17, 2009

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**CONSERVATION GROUPS URGE HIGH COURT TO HEAR CASE ON
OUTDATED TURTLE BAY EIS**

Honolulu, HI -- Today, a coalition of six state and national conservation organizations, represented by non-profit, public interest law firm Earthjustice, filed a brief in the Hawai'i Supreme Court urging the Court to take up the appeal of community groups Keep the North Shore Country and Sierra Club, Hawai'i Chapter, which challenges the 25-year-old Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the proposed expansion of the Turtle Bay Resort on O'ahu's North Shore. The appeal specifically seeks review of the split 2-1 decision of the state Intermediate Court of Appeals (ICA), in which the majority denied community requests for an updated review of the project's environmental and community impacts and held that no update is ever needed unless the "project itself" changes, regardless of how much the project's environment changes.

The six organizations -- Conservation Council of Hawai'i, Surfrider Foundation, Hawai'i's Thousand Friends, Life of the Land, Maui Tomorrow Foundation, and KAHEA: The Hawaiian-Environmental Alliance -- collectively hold decades of experience on the EIS process. They are weighing in on this case because of the broad negative ramifications of the ICA's ruling. In their brief, the organizations request reversal of the ICA majority's "blanket rule," under which "agencies would never be required or even allowed to consider changes in a project's environment, no matter how potentially significant the environmental impacts."

"This case highlights why allowing a project to plow ahead based on an outdated EIS, just because the project itself hasn't changed, makes no sense," said Earthjustice attorney Isaac Moriwake. "It is precisely because the project hasn't changed, despite an entire generation of change on the North Shore, that we need an update on the true impacts of the original proposal."

Earthjustice is the nation's leading non-profit environmental law firm. The Mid-Pacific Office opened in Honolulu in 1988 and represents environmental, Native Hawaiian, and community organizations. Earthjustice is the only non-profit environmental law firm in Hawai'i and the Mid-Pacific and does not charge clients for its services