

P.O. Box 4674, Honolulu, HI 96812 www.friendsoffallsofclyde.org

News Release August 13, 2016

> Contact: Bruce McEwan Phone: 265-1141 Email: <u>bmcewan@hawaiiantel.net</u>

Friends of Falls of Clyde Plan Denied: A Rebuttal

Today is the day that the Harbors Division is impounding the National Historic Landmark ship *Falls of Clyde* because the ship is illegally berthed. The Harbors Division is taking this step because they have denied the plan that was submitted by Friends of Falls of Clyde (FFOC), alleging that it was not "acceptable."

"Harbors Division has consistently maintained that the ship is a safety hazard, but they have never given any specific details as to why. In their latest justification, they have used selective misinterpretation of a comment in a report submitted by FFOC," said FFOC Board President Bruce McEwan, "I say selective misinterpretation because they have used the term poor condition to mean a safety hazard. Poor condition just means that there are some areas that do need repair, but there is no imminent safety danger as the Harbors Division wants the public to believe" he added. In any due process there should be concrete evidence of an allegation, especially in a critical case where there is the potential loss of a very valuable piece of maritime history.

A news report also said that the plan was denied because it did not include details about the immediate removal of the ship from the harbor. "This makes absolutely no sense because the plan itself is based on one of three actions being completed in 2017," said an incredulous McEwan. An illogical position like this should be dismissed by anyone with common sense.

FFOC believe that the plan is a reasonable one and should have been accepted. "If we can get an objective venue to lay out the history of this whole process, I believe we can get the plan accepted and a revocable permit reinstated," opined McEwan.

Friends of Falls of Clyde is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to preserve and restore *Falls of Clyde* for her historical, cultural, and educational importance to the maritime history of Hawaii and the world. See our website at www.friendsoffallsofclyde.org.