

EACP Committee

From: William Church <Hanakauhi@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 7:42 AM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: Negative impacts of unrestrained tourism to the lands, roads, infrastructure, of Hana District

My name is William Church, for over 28 years I was the Hana District Representative for Maui Electric Company. I retired in late 2003 and for the past seven years have been the primary caregiver for my severely disabled spouse. Because of my wife's ongoing health crisis, we don't get out much. Recently I took her for a drive around our scenic, beautiful Hana district, for the first time in several years, we were completely caught off guard by what we saw.

We first drove out to Koki beach and tried to traverse the Haneoo Rd. loop through Hamoa. Koki was overwhelmed with vehicles along the road side, with hundreds of people on this beach. Continuing on past the ancient fish ponds we were again observing a concentration of vehicles parked along the shoulder of this road, making it impossible for two way traffic, as throngs of outsiders were spread out from one end of the beach to the other. One would have to walk a quarter mile or more to access Hamoa Beach on this summer day.

After returning from Hamoa, we stopped, bought take out Thai food, and planned to eat our lunches in Hana Bay. The place was so crowded, there was no place for this senior couple to sit, the disabled parking stalls were full, some cars did not display placards. So we decided to try Waianapanapa State Park. We were astounded by the sight we saw on this week day. Bumper to bumper traffic, the road, Honokolani?, is nearly none existent, especially in the lower half. Pot holes were so bad, that if I were a rental car company, I would not allow my rental cars to be used in this area. Stopping, safely on the side of this road, we observed over a dozen rental cars bottom out their suspensions, slamming their frames into the ground. Having an SUV with AWD helped us get down safely to the park. After reaching the parking area closest to the Park Administrator's residence, we pulled into the only disabled stall, and then walked about 150 ' to an empty park table and ate our lunch. It took over 20 minutes to get down from Hana Hwy to the park.

We must travel to central Maui several times a month for medical reasons and to resupply our home with food & sundries. The lines of rental cars and vans, stretch for miles. The No parking signs, are ignored, people stop traffic on the bridges, taking pictures, and when confronted with their selfish behavior, they often react violently. It's not uncommon now to see people spitting on each other as they pass, going in different directions!

Time is long overdue for more oversight on this Hana Hwy. We need patrolmen on this road, but with budget constraints as they are, maybe something hi-tech like a series of cameras keeping a 24/7/365 days a year, watch on this road. Especially at the scenic sights, where tourists frequently and flagrantly disregard traffic signs, doing whatever they want, with total disregard to the environment and to the Hana citizens who must share there home with them. For too long, government has taken a benign approach to it's handling of issues confronting Hana community and its environs. We need attention to the disintegrating roads, upgrades to sewage treatment to accommodate these millions of visitors pouring into this island. Who should pay for this? The corporations who own the hotels filled with their guests. The same ones that are sending their clients to see all that east Maui has to offer. They profit from our misery and neglect to help with the mess. They don't pay living wages, but spread the gravy amongst the upper level management. We need to have a surtax on Corporate profits, keeping some of their profits to fund the maintenance needed to keep the beauty of the area intact which in turn would be attractive to both visitors and the local population.

Everywhere you look on Maui, you see change, which is inevitable. But change can be good, if done intelligently. We must take the necessary steps to mitigate the threats to our natural environment, wherever it may be. Right now, Hana's small infrastructure is not capable of handling the masses of tourists visiting daily. Charge a toll fee to every rental car & van visiting the Hana environs, (residents who would have placards placed on dashboards in plain sight, are

exempted). Hana needs funding to cope with it's many issues, and today we should be more proactive in dealing with them.

Thankyou,

William Church, Hana resident, property owner, taxpayer, and proud parent/grand parent/ great grandparent.