

Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-09-27 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 09-27-23 09:00

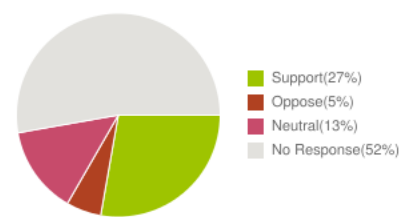
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-09-27 9:00 AM	09-27-23 09:00	2	72	20	4	10

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment

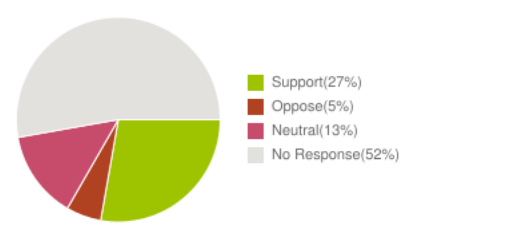


Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	22	6	0	4
GREAT-14 Reso 23-194 RESOLUTION 23-194, RELATING TO DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE ISLAND OF MAUI'S TRAGIC WILDFIRES OF AUGUST 2023 (GREAT-14)	50	14	4	6

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

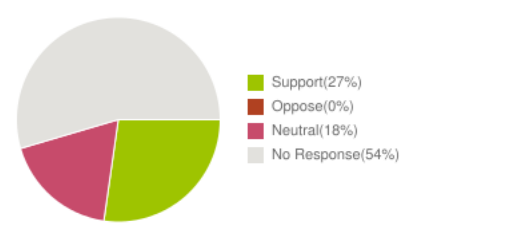
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 5:12pm 09-28-23

My partner and I are/were a small business owners in Lahaina whose livelihood was destroyed in the fires. The lack of support, by which we mean NONE, for small business owners is appalling. We are more than 7 weeks from the fire and we have received ZERO assistance because we were fortunate enough to not lose our home. At this point, we are beginning to wonder if we would be better off if we had. The only available assistance appears to be SBA, which has also proven to be unhelpful so far. Without any assistance, we will be forced to leave the island. We can't imagine we are not alone in this situation. How does the county, state, or federal government expect to support tourism if there is no assistance for the small business that were lost in the fires? We were like to return servicing our community, but at this rate, not only do we not have funds to rebuild/restart our business, but we are not even receiving support to live now that our livelihood it gone.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:13pm 09-28-23

1. I live in Kapalua. Please work on extending the bypass all the way at least to Kaanapali. Can you imagine if we didn't have the Bypass? The people of the Westside would have been isolated for months without resources.
2. There are policies adapted by states who are prone to fires, e. g. California. Let us not be too proud and insist that we don't care how they do it in the Mainland. Let's review and adapt best policies.
3. Let's not do the recovery piece meal. With all the monetary resources, let's hire a large professional firm who is in the business of rebuilding and have the resources to do so. Of course, we should be mindful of the input of residents but let's ask the help of professionals to draw up a master plan, have them collate all input, come up with a readjusted plan and execute. Let's not depend on semi-pros who will not follow through or show up for the job. Otherwise, rebuilding will take a century.
4. Definitely bury all utilities so that they are not prone to the elements.
5. Listen to the Native Hawaiians. Restore the water pond or whatever else their elders say. They know the course of nature for centuries and progress should not change that, otherwise, more disaster will befall us.
6. I was not directly affected by the fire but my heart is broken as well. We have been residents for more than 30 years and have hopefully given back to the community as best we can. We have volunteered and contributed in our own little way and still do. Please let us know exactly what happened that day, who was in charge, where were our leaders, what went wrong, how are we going to correct it moving forward and what are the consequences to those who failed us.
7. The people of the Westside refuse to be 2nd rate citizens any longer. We need a satellite hospital here. Friends have not survived the 45 min drive (at best) to the other side.
8. Honoapiilani Hwy on a couple of spots is always wet due to the water from the ocean. It won't be long until the ocean will take over, especially on high tide. It is time to move the road onto higher ground instead of waiting for a disaster to happen again.
9. The community has come together in unbelievable ways. We are so lucky to be living in a community such as ours. All we ask is for our leaders be honest with us. It was August. People go on vacation. It's ok to be away from one's job but someone has to be left in charge. It's not ok to think- oh nothing will happen anyways .
10. I am willing to assist in doing research for any project that will need an extra pair of hands.

Sally Muñoz

Sajnmunoz@comcast.net

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:32am 09-28-23

Recently my permit for repair of an existing structure took 2 years for permit approval even though i had a permit expediter, The work cost \$200,000 and took 10 days to complete. I cannot imagine how long it will take to permit \$500,000,000 worth of projects with the existing system. People will be without their homes for generations.

Please confirm Title 16.26B of the Maui County Code 105.2.1 Emergency reconstruction of dwellings and accessory structures will be in effect.

Kim von Blohn kimvonblohn@hotmail.com

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:22am 09-28-23

Aloha,

I am Kanani Higbee, Maui 'oiwi. I am displaced from Lahaina. I would like Hawaiian homes Leialii 1B built asap. Fast track. If developers can get the county and state to approve fast track of HHFDC housing, they can fast track Hawaiian Homes. We waited long enough. 3 generations of my family have died on the list. We still have not gotten a home. In fact, my grandma and sister were murdered. My grandma was murdered for her home up Lahainaluna Road. Many of my family have been murdered when I speak up about Hawaiian homes. Now my home in Lahaina is burned down. Other people received word to leave their homes because of approaching fires and no one warned me and my neighbors. My neighbors perished.

I believe lots of affordable housing need to be built. Not just rentals, but homes for Native Hawaiians to live in. We are under represented in home ownership, over represented in poverty. It's no wonder when we are murdered for

our housing and land.

We need temporary housing in Lahaina and West Maui to be slapped together until our housing is rebuilt. There is not enough being done to rebuild temporary homes.

I would like for us to have steel electric poles that won't knock over when we have strong winds or cars run into them.

We need more water going to Lahaina. We need to not have golf courses anymore. There is nothing Hawaiian about golf courses. That just steals water from our Native Hawaiian farmers in the valleys.

We need other things like a siren that tells us what's the specific emergency. We need lots of fliers and ads in social media and the news telling us what the different siren sounds mean so we know what emergency is happening.

Please, we need homes. We need the land cleaned ASAP so we can go back. There needs to be much more people admitted to their homes with more National Guard dispatched to Lahaina so we can go back to our homes and then begin the next phase.

Please, we are going to be homeless if we don't have Hawaiian homes built. It's genocide for us to wait for years for housing. I was already forced from Maui to California when my sister and grandma were murdered. We need our Native Hawaiian people protected as we fight for our rights. The United Nations need to know that genocide is happening to Hawaiians. Every time I fight for funds for Hawaiian homes, people like Keeaumoku Kapu and his son in law Kaipo Kekona steal our funds to use for projects they want that's not even related to Hawaiian homes. People like myself put my life on the line telling my story of murders that happened to my family so we can get funds for our housing and then greedy people like Keeaumoku Kapu's son in law Kaipo Kekona steal the money. He doesn't need \$20 million for upcountry fencing. He just wants to pocket the money or get others the funds so they can gift him in other ways to his non profit which they use on themselves. It's greedy. Pure greed. Kaipo Kekona gets upcountry funds for fencing from taking from Hawaiians waiting on the list of Hawaiian homes so his family of developers can get bids to build and make a ton of money. We aren't blind to what's happening.

cheryl hendrickson

Location:

Submitted At: 5:51am 09-28-23

Lahaina needs to have its natural water flow, diverted during the plantation era, restored. Once the area is green and flourishing again, it can serve as a model of resilience. To right the wrongs of the past. It would also regenerate business and tourism in a sustainable way. Working with the natural world is the only way to truly prosper for all our citizens.

Deleted User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:01pm 09-27-23

I am writing to offer my wholehearted support for the proposal to consolidate medical facilities and services into one comprehensive complex, which includes the establishment of a hospital for the West Side of Lahaina. I believe this initiative is a crucial step forward for our community, addressing the inadequacies of our current healthcare system and promising a higher standard of care for our residents.

Our current system, characterized by scattered medical facilities and limited services, no longer meets the growing healthcare needs of our community. The consolidation of these resources into a unified complex is not merely a matter of convenience; it is about saving lives. In emergencies, having a fully-equipped hospital in our community can make a profound and life-saving difference.

The benefits of a unified complex are manifold. It will streamline operations, reduce costs, and most importantly, result in better care for our residents. The synergies created through consolidation will enable us to attract more specialized medical staff and offer a wider range of treatments right here in Lahaina, reducing the need for residents to travel long distances for essential healthcare services.

Furthermore, a consolidated healthcare complex aligns with the values that have defined Lahaina as a tight-knit community. We have always thrived on our ability to come together in times of need. Consolidating our medical facilities not only meets our immediate healthcare needs but also strengthens the bonds that hold us together as a community.

In conclusion, I urge you to support and move forward with the proposal to consolidate medical facilities and services into a unified complex with a hospital for the West Side of Lahaina. This endeavor represents a monumental step towards enhancing the well-being and future of our community. Together, we can create a healthcare hub that not only meets our needs but also reinforces the unique spirit of Lahaina.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this crucial matter. I look forward to witnessing the positive impact that this consolidation will have on the health and vitality of our community.

Sincerely,

Lee Chamberlain

Saman Dias

Location:

Submitted At: 6:16pm 09-27-23

This attachment was missed to Saman Dias Testimony

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:39pm 09-27-23

Aloha, my name is Anis Bel. I am born and raised in Lahaina and a Lahainaluna high school graduate. I lost my home, all of my possessions, and a pet in the fires on August 8. I support the initiative to put the power lines underground. To me it is not right that the federal government bails out Maui Electric and provides funds for them to put the power poles back. That money should be used to put the lines underground. It shouldn't even go to a huge corporation like that when thousands of people are struggling, still having to pay mortgage on a home that is no longer even there. I think there needs to be more support for these families and solutions for them to build quickly so the issue can be resolved.

I also support bringing back Malu Ulu O Lele. We have been talking about managed retreat for years and this is the opportunity to do something. The state went through putting together a comprehensive sea level rise assessment. Use that assessment to set new setbacks in Lahaina so we are not battling for the next 20 years. This is a pivotal moment in Lahaina's history. We need to do things right and with intention. Bringing back Malu Ulu O Lele throughout town and especially in those setbacks will provide food for our community so when the next crisis comes along, and it will, we are prepared. They will not be as much stress on the shipping system with constant delays and people who rely on tourism for money to feed their family. Hawaiians had hundreds if not thousands of years to resolve these issues and they did. They knew how to live with the Aina cohesively and we threw it all away. Let's bring back this island's roots and traditional systems because we know they still work. This is our chance to make a transition. A transition to diversify our economy and our food system. Transition to eco tourism and regenerative tourism to bring people that want to help Hawaii not abuse it. We need to rebrand the islands as the home of Hawaiians not some tiki bar tourist destination.

There is no need to think outside the box because native Hawaiian ancestors have already made the box and passed it down to us. Let's learn from our history in Hawaii, we need to Malama Aina not follow suit of the capitalist exploitive system of America.

Lee Chamberlain

Location:

Submitted At: 2:30pm 09-27-23

I am writing to submit my testimony in support of a crucial initiative that aims to improve emergency evacuation routes for the Lahainaluna area by utilizing existing pathways along Kahoma Stream. I believe that this proposal aligns with the priorities outlined in the Hawaii Bicycle Plan of 2003 and can significantly enhance the safety and resilience of our community.

Specifically, I would like to refer back to the priority items identified in the Hawaii Bicycle Plan 2003, which

categorized the Kahoma Stream pathway and the Lahainaluna Road as priority II items. It's worth noting that these priorities were carried over from the 1974 Hawaii Bicycle Plan, underscoring their long-standing importance.

The proposed emergency evacuation route along Kahoma Stream has the potential to serve a dual purpose by not only facilitating bicycle transportation but also providing a safe and efficient means of escape during emergencies. Given Lahainaluna's vulnerability to various natural disasters, having such a resource in place is of paramount importance for the well-being of our residents.

The Kahoma Stream pathway, running parallel to the ditch, offers an excellent opportunity to create a dedicated evacuation route. It not only leverages existing infrastructure but also minimizes environmental impact, making it a sustainable choice for enhancing our community's resilience.

Furthermore, the connection between Honoapiilani Highway and Lahainaluna High School via the Kahoma Stream pathway (Item 71 Lahainaluna Road) and the link between Nohea Kai Drive and Lahainaluna High School through the Kahoma Stream pathway (Item 72 Kahoma Stream Path) would contribute significantly to the overall accessibility of the evacuation route network.

I kindly urge decision-makers and relevant authorities to consider the adoption of this proposal as a priority project for the Lahainaluna area. Enhancing our emergency evacuation routes is an investment in the safety and well-being of our community, and it aligns with established priorities in the Hawaii Bicycle Plan. I believe that this initiative will not only improve our readiness for emergencies but also promote sustainable transportation and community resilience.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to seeing the Lahainaluna area become better prepared and more resilient in the face of emergencies.

Sincerely,

Lee Chamberlain

Please follow URL to map depicting the route. <https://www.strava.com/routes/3142250509359357314>

Elise Travis

Location:

Submitted At: 1:28pm 09-27-23

Elise Travis at September 27, 2023 at 12:31pm HST Oppose

My name is Elise Travis and I am a 44YR. resident of Maui. I am appalled how the animal rescue was handled by MHS. Top animal rescuers came on their own donations, brought all the top equipment for rescue and wanted to offer their services free of charge and work with anyone to help in the fire zone. They were told explicitly by MHS they were not invited and told if they are anywhere near the fire zone they will be arrested. No Aloha, No thanks for wanting to help. Very cold. MHS was adamant about this and these were the top rescuers who were deployed in Ukraine twice last year saving animals. They were treated horribly. We have all the documents to show this. I would like transparency and would like to know how much the rescuers who were allowed to be in charge were pd. From what I heard they have been pd. a lot of money (\$200,000+) Also, they were not allowed to be in contact with the group hired and not allowed to be connected to work with anyone else. So, many lies were spread to keep them out. We need an investigation into this. This group that was denied clearance also had hazmat training and the drones to go in at night and get the job done fast. I am outraged that this was allowed to happen and the way they were treated when all they wanted to do was to help save the cats in the fire zone. No money needed to pay for their services. Also, the group that was contracted by MHS had no fire experience with fire cats along with the people held in charge. They are only trappers and no training to how to deal and trap the fire cats. They had one photo op and left. They did nothing and got pd. a fortune. I would like transparency as to what they were pd. Also, why they spread the lies to turn people against this group. All documented. Also, would like transparency on the donations collected for the Fire Cats and Animals. This money needs to go for them alone. They cannot be put back into the fire zone like MHS is doing. MHS needs to open sanctuary's with the 3+ mil \$ they collected. This money needs to be earmarked for the well being of the firecats. That's what the donations were for. They can't just release them back into the fire zone. Right now, they will be spraying bad chemicals that will kill any cats left in the zone that are suffering and not being saved. We need the top professional rescuers to come in before they do any spraying. The ones that are hired do not know what they are doing. They are not trained to rescue Fire cats. This is a very specific type of training and it needs to be done now! there is no more time to waste. The Colony Cats were all affected by the fires and by law they are required to take care of them also. No food was allowed to be given to The Colony cats when MHS was giving out food. I was told explicitly by one of the volunteers that food was only given out to Pet Owners. By law they were required to also give food for the Colony cats that were in the Fire Zone and affected by the Fires. This was not done also. We need to get to the bottom of everything that was done and show transparency. Too many people are upset over the debocking of the animal

rescuing Please open a 2nd recovery Center. Mahalo

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:20pm 09-27-23

For the Love if God , and the safety of all this poor pets, we need to have access to the burned zone to collect them.

So many loving, sad, starving , terrified animals are struggling for survival.

Please let the animal organization such as " save Maui cats" enter the city and save those innocent animals. Mahalo and Aloha!

Lea Chassagny.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:55am 09-27-23

Aloha,

My name is Amy together with my other half we have 3 kids one of them with multiple disabilities and due to it I'm a stay at home mom. For the past 6 years we have continued to live with family due to unaffordable housing. I like many would love to own a home or rent an apartment but cannot due to the ridiculous prices that are placed. Even if one were to go through all the hoops to get approved for HUD, its still difficult to find a place thatll accept HUD. I do not find it fair nor right that many of the homes that should go to the people of hawaii are being snatched up by others living out of our state. Who then sell it for more or turn it into an air bnb or their vacation home to only live for a certain amount of months then abandoned or turned into an air bnb. How is it that we allow others who were not born and shaped by the land of hawaii to buy up it's land and homes when it's people are left to become homeless. You need to make owning a home, land more accessible to us. Especially now. Do away with the small town homes and start building actual homes with a yard so our children can flourish and have a home that gets passed down through generations. The greed needs to stop on the high prices for owning a home and renting. Landlords need to rent at a fair price rather than relying on the renters to pay for their whole house and mortgage. Celebrities and other non residents who own homes but do not live there year around should be taxed in their own brackets because the excess amount of land and housing they own could've gone to the people. Air bnb needs to be banned and housing for residents need to become more affordable because as I've stated before we all need a home.

Also we need safer routes for fire evacuations especially at the schools. As well as more water irrigation to vacant land so that fires don't restart. Putting our lines underground would be ideal but if it cannot be done then we really should be allowing the streams to flow again so that the land can become green. Native plants should be regrow so that native wildlife can flourish. A place where children can practice hula or even a place to play music freely would also be good.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:38am 09-27-23

The world is watching Maui at this time and how officials react to the treatment of victims pets that are still in the burn zone. If chemicals are sprayed and clearing commences before at least two full weeks of funded support to trap and remove the 500 estimated cats in the fire zones, there will be serious ramifications for Maui.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:07am 09-27-23

Aloha Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee. I apologize for this late testimony but only heard about this meeting a few minutes ago.

As a local Hawaiian, I am looking forward to our island's rebuild. There are so many of us who have lost everything to these fires and are still in shock over what we have experienced.

I'm grateful to the good people and agencies who are helping us with necessary supplies such as shelter, food and other support. Having lived my life on Maui, it's not surprising to see the aloha spirit within the intentions and actions of so many people. "Everyone coming together to help" is how all the best things have always gotten accomplished.

With that said, something feels different this time. The fires have wreaked their havoc on all our lives and while plans are forthcoming to rebuild, my Hawaiian brothers and sisters are feeling lost in the bureaucratic shuffle. Offers of supplies have been abundant but our hearts are absolutely broken.

And to make matters worse for us, our pets are being ignored. We have heard about all the animals still trapped inside the fenced off areas where the fires were. The Maui Humane Society, to put it plainly, has been a joke. For every social media post they make about a family being reunited with their missing pet, there are dozens more agonizing stories of animals that could have been helped, but weren't. examples of them dropping the ball. They told us that they searched for our pets inside the burn zone, but then we learned that by "search" that means a person drove by our burned down homes - without getting out of their vehicle. Of course a scared animal is going to be hiding, not just sitting calmly out front! And once our "Lost" Tickets were closed, the Humane Society's search for our pet concluded. Without having access to search for ourselves, we were counting on the Humane Society to really try. I'm certain that if they did, many more animals would have survived. Apparently it's an issue of space to house them once they catch them. But isn't that the idea of a fire rescue? To Rescue? Was there no plan in place? And why not?

On a positive note, some animal rescuers not associated with the Humane Society have done amazing work. There have been several instances where they trapped a cat and were able to reunite it with its owner. This is the true spirit of aloha. And even though they asked the Humane Society to share some of their donated traps, cages, and food, they were denied. But they keep on going! The unpaid rescuers out there as much as they can be, saving the lives of the animals that the Humane Society fails to.

Please allow the rescuers into the fenced in areas to continue to save the animals trapped in there. From what I understand the Humane Society only has a couple of people in there.

Mahalo for your time,

SR

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:42am 09-27-23

I respectfully ask that you do much more to support and rescue the approximately 500 surviving animals in the restricted area. You must allow more trappers who have the necessary experience and training into the restricted area as there is absolutely no way that the current 2-4 people can trap, monitor trail camera footage and maintain 80 food and water stations.

A mass trapping project must be allowed to take place immediately. Once the EPA begins spraying Soiltac it will result in the death of many more animals and the ones that manage to survive that will unlikely survive the demolition.

Secure the facilities necessary to house these animals. MHS has received more than enough financial assistance from the public to do this. And, as you know, FEMA will also pay for these short term facilities so there is absolutely no excuse for not securing necessary shelter space.

You have plenty of qualified local people who want to assist these animals by feeding, trapping and helping in any way that is needed. Let the community help!

Bring HAKA back! They are the most qualified, well rounded group that has been there at any point since the fire. The current director of field operations for MHS has no disaster response experience. Trapping after a disaster requires special skills that are unknown by those who specialize in Trap Neuter Release. At the very least, HAKA and anyone they approve should be working the restricted area. Ideally HAKA should also be placed in charge of field operations.

People have tried to be incredibly patient through six weeks of egos and posturing as animals suffer and die daily but time has run out!

Hundreds of these animals have families who are desperate to find them but you continue to compound their grief. This must change immediately! The eyes of the world are on Maui and the lack of official concern for the animals. It's time to step up and do the right thing! If you think this can't have a negative impact on both your political careers as well as how the world views Maui in the future then you need to look into Hurricane Katrina and a little dog named Snowball. It's still all over the internet after 18 years!

From a very concerned animal welfare professional and disaster animal search and rescue specialist

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:02am 09-27-23

I beg you to allow trappers and helping organizations into the burn zone IMMEDIATELY to get cats out of the toxic ash into safety!

It is inhumane to leave animals in those toxins that they will ingest leaving them to suffer and die a horrible slow death.

Fieldhaven only has one temporary shelter and more are needed to pull out the 500 or more surviving cats from the burn zone. Please secure another building immediately!! Time is of the essence.

Your actions have and will continue to be judged by those that donated, including myself. You have received millions in donations, much targeted for the animal rescue efforts and Maui Humane Society, yet this money is not being used to help these fire cats. You need to have more trappers help NOW - what is sickening is that you've had many experienced trappers offering to help yet you send them away?! That is unbelievably ignorant and sickening!

Please, get the cats out of the burn zone NOW!!

I will not donate another penny to you until I see proactive help for these animals still trying to survive on their own in the burn zone. Please, act now!

Sincerely

A very concerned citizen

Karyn Barbe

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:41am 09-27-23

We need homes to be more affordable for the people of lahaina and everywhere in hawaii. Landlords should charge a reasonable rent rather than making the renters pay for their house and mortgage. HUD is nice but once you go through all the hoops and are approved there aren't a lot of homes that accept it. Also buying homes need to be more affordable and easier for the people of hawaii. Why is it that people who were not born and shaped by the islands can buy our lands and homes and in large quantity but not even live there full time. Those houses and land should go to the people instead of becoming vacation homes or air bnbs. Air bnbs should also be banned as again that's housing that the people do not get the chance to own. Our children deserve a home with a yard to flourish and grow and pass down through generations. I'd also like to propose maybe taxing those that do not live here year round. Also I'd like more fire escape routes as this fire could've been preventable if we had safer routes to go through. Especially at schools. There needs to be a dirt path that cars can easily evacuate the children out. I'd love to see more native plants being planted and more places accessible to those who have disabilities. More shaded areas too and resting spot and places to play music or dance hula rather than shops along the shore. The government needs to return the water to the people as well. Had we had more water maybe more people and homes could've been saved

Amy Langman

Location:

Submitted At: 9:27am 09-27-23

I feel the lack of care for the animals still in the burn zone is unacceptable! The group from the mainland doesn't have disaster experience and the local group HAKA does and they are being denied entry!! When that chemical is sprayed it will be detrimental to these poor animals that have survived losing everything. Please let HAKA in to save these animals! They have the safety equipment and the expertise! The fact that we have to still be requesting this 7 weeks in is deplorable!

C. Young

Location:

Submitted At: 9:12am 09-27-23

Good morning, thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns today.

As a community, we are trying to heal but our animals are still suffering out there. They're trapped inside the burn zone by fences. Please let the rescuers in to help get them out before demolition starts. The Humane Society isn't doing nearly enough, turning away expert help. Please give the animals a chance to be rescued before the city starts crushing them when they begin demolishing the structures. Many of our pets are still out there and saving their lives will help us heal.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:53am 09-27-23

Here's what I just wrote on the link that will become part of the public record:

OUR PETS ARE STILL TRAPPED INSIDE THE BURN ZONE!

It has been confirmed by the Maui Humane Society that there are at least 500 animals still alive and trapped inside the burn zone, an area that's 3 and a half to 5 square miles. They are only using 4 people to trap surviving animals, while dozens of disaster-trained rescuers and expert trappers are being excluded from helping. They have been offered disaster relief help from all over the world but have refused assistance.

It has become sadly apparent that the Maui Humane Society is either not interested in helping the rest of the animals stuck inside the fenced-in burn zone, or are simply inept.

Initially they turned away fire survivor's pets because they claimed that they didn't have the space to take them in. But when presented with the opportunity to open an animal recovery center, they dragged out the process. Once they were forced by the community to do so, the facility was at capacity with rescued and fire-victim animals within days. The Maui Humane Society clearly needs to open more animal recovery centers but once again, are stalling the process.

They have had plenty of time and resources to open a second recovery center but once the demolition process begins, they won't have to. All surviving animals will be crushed or suffocated by bulldozers and hardening spray chemicals.

Animals that have managed to survive this long, need our help and our voice. They are fenced inside the burn zone and will suffer horrific deaths if not rescued soon. We are begging for their lives.

WHAT IS THE MAUI HUMANE SOCIETY DOING WITH THE 4 MILLION DOLLARS IN DONATIONS IF NOT HELPING THE ANIMALS STILL STUCK INSIDE THE BURN ZONE?

WE URGE THE MAUI HUMANE SOCIETY TO OPEN A SECOND RECOVERY CENTER AND BEGIN AN URGENT TRAPPING AGENDA TO SAVE ANIMALS INSIDE THE BURN ZONE.

We demand transparency and we want the Maui Humane Society to do what they are supposed to do. SAVE MAUI'S ANIMALS!

Thank you for the opportunity to be heard today.

C. Young

Juenlee Brown

Location:

Submitted At: 3:34pm 09-26-23

This is one of the major documents to support my testimony.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:26am 09-20-23

Sept 27th Council hearing westside

Council Members,

I will say, I had to scan that semi public notice in the online Mauinow.com article, just to find day, time, location and room. I never saw such a piecemeal public announcement, it followed no standard of protocol call. I have been a former County Planner and private consultant since 2000. The level of disorganization is peak at this point. It is making me seriously question if anyone is taking their position, authority and responsibility serious. It seems to be a full decline of leadership and obfuscation, now it has resulted in the loss of a whole town under your watch.

The firsthand accounts that I have heard, in person, which corroborate other first hand accounts is at such a level of negligence or malicious intent that it is undeniable. People need to be held to account thoroughly and be put on leave or asked to resign. Public trust and the low level of safety that people feel for their person, under this leadership, is unparalleled.

Plus, what is being done to secure the debris from runoff once we get a serious rain? Do you have Public Works on that? Who is in charge of securing the runoff from entering the storm drains and ocean and creating another environmental disaster?

Where are the answers to all the questions from the testifies, from the past hearings that were put to the County Council? Where are those answers being addressed in writing? We need answers to past questions!

It is as if there is no one in charge. No one has stood up and said, "I am the top leader and the buck stops here! I will get substantive answers for you! Or I will resign because I'm only a distraction at this point and woefully unqualified to lead."

The days of fluffy words, fluffy actions and fluffy expectations are gone. This is life and death at this point, literally, sadly. Infrastructure and proper security that cares about the people, needs to be addressed fundamentally.

Pretending it was Electrical is baseless as any one who was in Lahaina can tell you that power was out. We need properly trained, skilled and substantially qualified people at the helm. Those who are faking it need to resign in the interest of the community, step aside, so people who can organize and lead, can step up.

Things are so serious at this point that anyone faking it is so obvious to see because they don't have any understanding of what needs to happen and they just come up with ideas that aren't fully developed. It is terrible!

I will have additional testimony but what is testimony if nothing substantive happens? The community will not be moving on until matters are addressed, there is no way to heal the wounds without proper resolution. So all those questions that no one in leadership is taking serious need answers, because it seems like everything leadership is saying doesn't match up to facts on the ground. If your memory is failing you then step down or take better notes and get answers.

Council members should be coming to that hearing with answers from the last hearings and then taking testimony. Let's get some facts going!

So leadership can either continue to pretend or they can start taking actions that address all the disfunction that resulted in massive loss of life and property. This is a huge mess to have as a legacy.

We are all connected on this island. One way or another coconut wireless is stronger than ever. And people who documented the events should not be persecute but held up in honor for their foresight and courage snd tireless work. So sad how much nonsense has come from the government. I didn't see any Council members out there documenting and interviewing people one on one in any substantive fashion. Shame on you all for hiding away when we have needed you most.

Personally, if you are upset by the level of unhappiness in this email, rather than write off what I am saying you would be better served by taking note and trying to make amends and get answers to all the questions that have been voiced by the community and getting yourselves on the road to recovery. Denial isn't going to work this time.

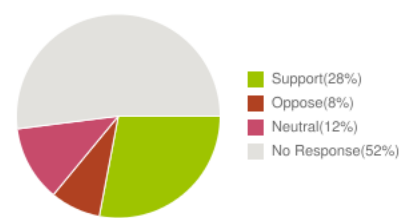
I have been waiting patiently to see integrity and commitment from the leadership and it has been found wanting on pretty much every level. Step up or bow out! We need true leadership or we are all going to go down with this ship.

Kind regards,

Maria N Isotov
Cell: 808-344-0330

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-14 Reso 23-194 RESOLUTION 23-194, RELATING TO DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE ISLAND OF MAUI'S TRAGIC WILDFIRES OF AUGUST 2023 (GREAT-14)

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 3:59am 09-29-23

I oppose to opening Lahaina due to the residents of Maui and families having time to grieve. I believe that this is a time that they need to get on their feet's and their privacy is well needed as well. Opening Lahaina can bring a lot of controversy, division, hurtful intentions and costumer service will not be the same. Hear the cries of the people of Maui and know these are hardworking , dedicated, and strong individuals that need space and time to heal. I am not born and raised in Maui but I've adapted to the culture and aloha that is given . Aloha is very deep and if we are performing customer service to tourist that come to Lahaina it would have to be a dedication of a whole heartedly well being one to another . Residents lost friends, family and are going through trauma with what happened on August 8,2023. When Lahaina is ready then it's time to continue what they wanna do first. Years and years of service to the United States of America and being a resident should come down to what the people of Lahaina choose to do . We the people of Maui should come together to rebuild and to rebuild one another up . The same way we show love and dedication to tourist is the same we we've been showing love towards one

another. Please I ask that you do what is right . I am a firm believer with what goes around comes around . What you give into the world will surely come back . Lahaina lost a lot and you don't want each individual to feel like their voice of what they choose to do is not being heard as well . Some are looking for housing , and looking for a place to call home when prices is ridiculously high . We as the people can find ways we don't always got to depend on tourism and we can depend on one another and learn from this tragic situation how to better resolve it . Don't point fingers Maui and continue to love, continue to heal, and continue to know that we as the people is capable of alot.

The future of our families are at stake . The future of Maui is at stake. The future of visitors are at stake. The determination of opening Maui and treating the people of Lahaina reflects on who we are as ONE. If we treat those that are asking for more time like nothing then we fail as One to care for our own residents and family . We have people and families ready to build let that sink in that higher officials don't always have to set the rules let the voices and hearts be heard for you to better lead . Having faith in the people of Maui is the way . Hearing and trusting the people of Lahaina is the way. Being pono and living pono is the way . May you all stay blessed brothers and sisters of Maui.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:57pm 09-28-23

I am not sure what I would be opposing. I support dialog and mutual effort between those that will set the rules and those that are just trying to sustain themselves and their families. What I am hearing is 'please don't talk at us, let's talk together'. We ARE in this together. Can we not find a way to agree to not push forward too soon. Can we all move forward peacefully and with respectful concern on all sides for the people of Lahaina who were burned out of their homes and employment. They should be first concern, not the hotel.

Mahalo. Judy Jarvie. 40 year resident of Maui.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:39pm 09-28-23

Prioritize residents: Lahaina rebuild efforts and pending building permit process

Aloha Maui Council members,

With all the suggestions presented yesterday, we did not see anything about priority building permits for residents. With the shortage of materials and labor, it would be nice for residents to get their permits first. Vacation rentals contribute to the tax base for sure, however with so many displaced residents, it would make a substantial difference if all the resident permits were approved before even reviewing the vacation rental applications. We hope any "Emergency" permitting process prioritized residents over investment properties. Once all the residents have all received their permits, only then begin to review all the vacation rental building permit applications. Even revised resident permits we hope will be prioritized over mainland and foreign real estate investor permit applications.

Of course a moratorium on ALL TVR's would go a long way to helping residents find a medium term home until we can rebuild our homes. Including the invisible grandfathered in units that do not show up on the county site. Is there anyway to have them all listed? Maybe they get guaranteed TVR permits, but we can actually see how many there are. We know in our community TVRs are grandfathered in, however we have no way of knowing if it really is a TVR as we cannot find any info on them. We try and review the Minotoya List, it is difficult. If the county could keep this actual list, maybe cross checking with the GET or TAT. We just cannot tell who is doing a legal TVR vs renting to "Friends". Please find a way to make a comprehensive listing of all TVR in the county please.

We are looking forward to rebuilding as soon as we get our permits approved, get materials on island and find a great group of people to build it. We are making modifications to the old design for ADA access. We hope this does not delay to process too much. We are right on the southern edge of the destruction. We lost everything.

Keleko

40 Puakukui Pl

Lahaina, 96761

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:27pm 09-28-23

Date: Sep 27, 2023

County Council Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee

Committee Chair - Nohelani U'u-Hodgins

Committee Vice-Chair - Tamara Paltin

Subject: Urgent Request for Investigation and Action Regarding Recent Tragic Events in Lahaina

Dear Members of the County Council Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee, I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern and distress over the recent events that have unfolded in Lahaina, particularly the tragic loss of over 100 lives and the displacement of over 7,000 individuals due to a devastating incident. These events have had a profound impact on our community, and we must take immediate steps to ensure that such a catastrophe never occurs again.

The Maui Fire Prevention Bureau plays a critical role in safeguarding our community from fire hazards and promoting public safety. Their core responsibilities include:

1. Education: The Fire Prevention Bureau is responsible for developing and implementing programs that increase public awareness of fire safety. This encompasses educating the community about fire risks and preventive measures.
2. Enforcement: Code enforcement is a vital function of the bureau, focusing on the enforcement of fire codes and regulations. This includes inspections, investigation of complaints, and ensuring compliance with fire safety standards.
3. Prevention: Fire prevention is at the heart of the bureau's mission. They are tasked with abating fire and life-safety hazards before they can cause injury and property damage.

In May 2022, I initiated correspondence with the Fire Prevention Bureau regarding my concerns about fire prevention and safety in our community. I outlined the need for proactive measures, such as press releases and public service announcements, to engage the community in fire prevention efforts. I did so under the assumption that these requests aligned with the bureau's core responsibilities.

However, despite my efforts to bring attention to potential hazards and the importance of prevention, I received responses that indicated a lack of resources and insufficient action. These emails serve as evidence of my attempts to address the issue and the responses received from the Fire Prevention Bureau.

The tragic events that have befallen our community in Lahaina are a stark reminder of the consequences of inaction and inadequate allocation of resources when it comes to fire prevention and safety. The loss of over 100 lives and the displacement of thousands underscore the urgency of ensuring that the bureau fulfills its basic responsibilities.

I kindly request that your committee:

1. Initiate a thorough investigation into the circumstances surrounding these events, with a specific focus on the actions (or lack thereof) taken by the Maui Fire Prevention Bureau in response to concerns raised by community members.
2. Evaluate the adequacy of resources allocated to the Fire Prevention Bureau and other relevant agencies responsible for ensuring public safety and fire prevention on Maui.
3. Recommend necessary policy changes, resource allocations, or personnel adjustments to prevent similar incidents from occurring in the future.
4. Ensure transparency throughout the investigative process and actively engage with affected community members to provide updates and gather additional information.

In addition to my correspondence with the Fire Prevention Bureau, I also escalated my concerns to various offices within the county government, including the Office of Climate Change, Resiliency, and Sustainability, the Mayor's office, and the Mayor's PR communication department. I requested a public announcement to educate the Maui community about fire prevention. Unfortunately, no action was taken in response to these requests. The loss of over 100 lives and the displacement of thousands in our community are tragedies that should never have happened. We owe it to the victims and their families to thoroughly investigate the circumstances surrounding these events and take swift and effective action to prevent such disasters in the future.

I appreciate your attention to this matter and your commitment to the safety and well-being of our community. I am ready and willing to provide any further information or assistance that may aid in your investigation.

Thank you for your prompt and earnest consideration of this urgent request.

Sincerely,
West Maui Community leader

Saman Dias

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:23pm 09-28-23

Aloha Kakou,

Thank you for taking testimony about the future of Lahaina. Restore water rights to the Native Hawaiians and allow them to manage these precious resources correctly. Water is a human right, not a privilege. Limit outside investors or voices as they will pollute our rebuilding process and delay community healing. This is a great opportunity to plan ahead of the next fire. These fires are manmade- created by overdevelopment and lack of green areas. Now is our chance to make it right.

As a teacher of all ages, grades k-12 and beyond, I have worked in Lahaina schools over the past 20 years and submit my support for the keiki to create better schools with at least two evacuations routes. Our students are the foundation of our town, we need to plan a large area for the youth and teens to gather, along with expansive green areas to curb fire risks.

Our students, many of whom are displaced, have priority over any "development " or tourism. Lahaina has been pimped out for too long!! In these next 6-12 months, the rest of the State can absorb the visitors. They can return to West Maui after the children have safe roads (the Pali), safe water, and shade so they can use agriculture to develop a self sufficient economy. Manage the land with crops and ulu trees. Vacant land will just be another fire threat.

Leslie Farnel

Location:

Submitted At: 9:33am 09-28-23

It is unconscionable that the government tell the people of Lahaina how the rebuild and recovery will happen. It is the people's town. It does not belong to the state or the county. The government has gone against the wishes of the residents for way too long. It stops now. The people have been sacrificed as collateral damage for the tourism industry. There are times I would need to walk in the street because the sidewalks were crammed with disrespectful tourists. The new buildings are not for the residents. They clutter the land with tourism development. This has killed the ocean, displaced the wildlife and contributed to climate change. Quit blaming the weather. Quit blaming the electric company or the big land owners. It is development done without consideration that has brought us to this point. It's sad. But we have a clean slate. Let's not do what we did after covid reopening. You guys promised it would be different. Nothing changed. No more empty promises. No more lies. It stops now. Listen to the people and follow their wishes

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:07am 09-28-23

Not a Lahaina resident but have a few constructive thoughts which may have already covered. Put all electrical lines under ground, Water should be for the use of all residents and not governed by special interests always available in emergencies free flowing streams is not in the interest of all. A volunteer fire and police should be in place to augment firefighters and police in emergencies. Access roads in out Lahana there should not be only one road. 3 Air water tankers stationed in Oahu that can go to any island to fight fires in accessible locations . Better emergency coordination to have fire fighters police and medical personnel come to area needing assistance from other islands. A Ferry system that support local people to get from one island but also gets emergency vehicles and personnel quickly. I know some of these suggestions can be expense but so are the destructions of fire and tropical storms.

Mahlo

Les Sang

950 Lekeona Loop

Wailuku HI 96793

sanglesliec@gmail.com

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:21am 09-28-23

after going back to work from the Lahaina fire three weeks later , i have already noticed tourist coming to the westside into our office asking questions about is it okay to drive throw the burned town and we nicely tell them they can not and they make a face or say something inappropriate about how that unacceptable . I strongly believe now is not the time to let tourist back into the community when they can not even respect those lives lost or displaced because of the fire . we should use this time to rebuild and take care of those in need and stop becoming dependent on tourist . we should only focus on rebuilding what was lost for now and finding a permeant solution to their lodging now

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:25am 09-28-23

rights for renters... zone 7 was all the apartment. the multicultural, the multigenerational people lived. i propose they stipulate that when hale mahaolu lahaina surf, state senior and front street apartments recieve funding to rebuild, they put all their EXISTING tenants on aug 8 1st on the waitlist and NOT A LOTTERY. we are the kupunas, the aunties and uncles oarents keiki and all the workers and baby sitters, the school kids, the teens and the teachers hotel workers, bus boys "we are Lahaina Surf". we ee all one community and need low income housing allocation guaranteed. and 1st on waitlist wherever and when ever our landlords rebuild.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:59am 09-28-23

With all the suggestions we agree with, we did not see anything about priority building permits for residents. With the shortage of materials and labor, it would be nice for residents to get their permits first. Vacation rentals contribute to the tax base for sure, however with so many displaced residents, it would be a real life saver if all the resident permits were approved before even reviewing the vacation rental applications. Of course a moratorium on ALL TVR's would go a long way to helping residents in the short term. Including the invisible grandfathered in units.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:26am 09-28-23

First, I would like to say thank you to the council for coming TO LAHAINA and for taking time to meet with us and LISTEN to us. Second I would like to thank my community for all of your efforts. I loved Maui before and despite what has happened I TRULY see now and understand what the real meaning of Ohana is.

With that, I would like to take one minute of my time for silence to remember our Ohana who perished in the August 8 fires as well as take this time to grieve in the silence to represent the mourning that we EACH feel in our heart.

Timer....

With my last two minutes I am going to give you an outsider perspective. Which an outsider I am. I landed here on October 30, 2008 which a corporate job that brought me here from Texas. Immediately after stepping into the breezeway to get off the airplane, I felt a sense of peace I will never forget. I believe that peace was a peace telling me I was home.

Three months after that I was beat up by two local women for mistakenly cutting them off on the H-2 highway in Oahu while I was there on business. I was literally chased off the road, and yelled at "to go back home back to where I came from you Haole; you do not belong here".

Despite that set back and even a few others my first year, by the end of 2009 I knew even STILL that I was right where I was meant to be. Literally ALL THE ROADS OF MY LIFE led me here, and indeed if you knew my story

you would agree! Fast forward to 2023, after the fires I was given an opportunity to pack it up and move to Texas, where we Betsill's are from. Same with the pandemic in 2020. I could have left and gone down the easy SELFISH road but I stayed because I love Hawaii so much.

Fast forward to now. This is my home and I refuse to live here any longer and not be a part of the solution(s). For many years I was a part of the problem. Running around like a chicken with my head cut off for almost a decade having owned three wedding and event planning businesses, as well as two rental company businesses with my husband. I was busy. I was not paying attention. I was not helping. I was living here benefiting from the land, our Aina, and not giving back the way I should. After this tragedy in Lahaina town though and knowing myself over 36 families that lost their homes I simply refuse to live here anymore and not be a part of the solution!

So with that, I have a question for you. Will you accept me as an "outsider"? Will you allow me the honor to come into this County and State to help make forward progress change that protects the interests of Hawaii nei and many of you in this room? This is not rocket science. This is unity over division. This is living in a mentality of the RISING TIDES LIFT ALL BOATS. And again let me repeat, UNITY OVER DIVISION.

In closing, i want to share a few strong sentiments that i have...

1. For years i have been hearing about water, can we please just give the water back. I do not understand what the big deal is. Peter Martin donated two acres of land to Maui County for a fire station in March of 2021 that i helped organize. He is generous and wants to make things right. I BELIEVE. My point though is just give the water back. It seems crazy to me that the government does not own it. Especially being one of the wettest places on the planet Earth, how, simply how did we lose water the days of the fire in not one part of the Island but TWO??? Kula literally experienced the same issue of running out of water.
2. On that note and to segway, Hawaii is one of the most strategically placed archipelagos on the Planet. The furthest removed land mass from anyone else in the world. IF Hawaii was sovereign today, I strongly believe with every ounce of my soul that another country would be here immediately to take over. We are a GLOBAL WORLD NOW. There is no going back from that so is it not better to be aligned with the USA? Or what would be better? Can someone please explain to me a better solution when and if Hawaii becomes sovereign, what happens next?
3. Lastly: infrastructure and government. There is a huge disconnect between the local, state, and federal government. As well as I BELIEVE we are living in a very opportunistic county with little or no transparency for over a century now. That needs to stop. The good old boys club and the bullying of our government officials needs to stop. Saying things to the Councilmen and Councilwomen today "we are watching you and how you vote". "We are paying attention to what you are doing". I mean who says that? WHY are things li
IF you want to serve in government and VOTE then get involved. You know that ANYONE can get into politics or public office as a citizen of the United States of America. Moving forward I expect to see as a west Maui resident those power lines to be buried in Lahaina town. That is number one. And then after Lahaina, we need a five year plan to bury our power lines in Honokowai, Kahana and Napili. As guess what? It is US next up there. If you see the power lines right outside my neighborhood in Kahana it is SO alarming. I am literally just waiting for this to happen to me. The afternoon of the fires my dear friends, Dallas and Crystal Mitchell who own 808 Boards drove straight to my house. His ears were still smoking from a fire ball hitting the back of his head while hosing down his roof. Even more tragically for their situation, this is the SECOND time their house burnt down. in 2018 their house was one of the 22 homes lost that were rebuilt and believe that THIS TIME around, this is on the hands of a disorganized system and government who also could REALLY use some more eyes on the budget.

IF IT IS TRUE that Lahaina generates 40% of the taxable revenue in Hawaii then we need to do more for Lahaina. We need Hui F Rd. fixed. We need sidewalks in Kahana. We need our parks restored and a skate park in Napili. And we REALLY need stoplights down by the old car wash off of Keawe and outside of what i feel is number one with burying the power lines, we NEED THAT bypass extended. You guys are not going to build 400 new homes and then not give me a way to get out when my house burns down because of the faulty power lines that catch fire. I WILL NOT be stuck in a grid lock with my friends and DIE like the innocent victims in Lahaina did. And that is right, THEY ARE THE VICTIMS. Let's not forget those that have perished ESPECIALLY as we restore and bring unity to Lahaina just the way God intended it. My Uncle Dwayne Betsill told me this a month ago and it has stuck with me every day since. ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS BE KIND. THAT IS ALL WE HAVE TO DO. The rest will fall into place. This is a LONG road ahead but please be rest assured, at least from my perspective if you care, GOOD IS HAPPENING. PROGRESS IS HAPPENING. And together we can =)

With Warm Regards –

Lorrie Betsill Nielson

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:30pm 09-27-23

Aloha! This is regarding the “Comprehensive Recovery and Resiliency Plan, West Maui.” Although my husband and I live in upper Haiku and did not get DIRECTLY affected by the wildfires, we have family from Lahaina (in two different homes) who lost everything and are being housed in a hotel/resort. The grandmother has had to relocate to another island and stay with relatives there. And I just found out that another, lesser-known relative lost his business in the fire: a barber shop which had been there for a long time. I would LIKE to trust that the Maui County government officials who are in charge of “fixing the problems” will do a good job at that very thing. However, past history has made MANY local residents be rather WARY, and so I hope that time will show that you LISTENED TO THE PEOPLE... AND ACTED ACCORDINGLY! First priority, after making sure that the land in Lahaina is thoroughly cleaned up and safe, is to allow natural resources (water) to be freely opened up to West Maui — for future fire protection (“greening” the slopes will be a win for the environment!), AND as an additional water source for use by local residents and businesses! Secondly, let the PEOPLE have the majority of the say-so in planning THEIR community! And thirdly, it would be prudent to move all power lines, etc. UNDERGROUND, to prevent a repeat of live wires coming loose and falling down to street level! I KNOW you can do this... We can ALL do it if we work together! Mahalo for reading this!!

Kristi Jane

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:11pm 09-27-23

As a long time resident of Lahaina who was born and raised here and called Lahaina home for my whole life I am hopeful that our local government will do right by our community and our town. Below are the things I feel are most important for Lahaina to move forward and thrive.

First, I believe the original stream flows need to be restored. People should be able to own the land but NOT the resources. Water should not be private and I urge you all to return the water to Lahaina and the people.

Second, this tragedy unfortunately just amplified the already absurd housing crisis that this state, island and town have faced for decades. We need rent control, a short term rental BAN and legislation that taxes people who do own here and let their homes sit empty or be used for tourists.

By banning or creating a moratorium on short term rentals in West Maui you can very quickly help solve the issue of displaced families by forcing landlords to rent long-term to residents or sell to them vs. continuing to line their pockets renting short term to people on vacation.

Third, I urge you to do MORE thorough testing of the air, ash and water on Lahainaluna where you intend to send kids back in the coming weeks. Although educating our keiki is extremely important their long-term health should supersede that. I keep reading that the air is fine but the ash is dangerous and have seen videos almost weekly since the fire of big ASH dust devils tearing through Lahaina.

Fourth, push to have peoples mortgage payments delayed during the rebuild and allow people to sell if they'd like but ONLY to other Lahaina residents. I'm not sure how people are supposed to afford rent and to rebuild if they are paying a mortgage on a house that is no longer standing.

Fifth, I hope moving forward we do everything in our power to develop an emergency plan that DOES work. I personally don't think the events on August 8th were planned but I can confidently say that mistakes were made on all levels and that cannot ever happen again. When there is an emergency the alarms should sound and then there should be a radio station people can tune in to for updates. Especially if phone and internet services are down.

Sixth, please please please put the power lines underground. Repeating this tragedy would be far more

expensive than just doing what should have been done back in 2018. Fire aside people were blocked from escaping because of downed lines all over Lahaina.

Seventh, require AG lots to actually be AG lots. No more BS mansions w/ a single papaya tree on an acre. AG lots should be for actual ag use that ensure our water is being used for food security and to support this community not to water someones vacation homes massive lawn.

Eighth, Prioritize affordable homes for SALE in West Maui not for rent. The people here deserve the dignity to own a piece of the place they call home and not compete w/ out of state interests.

Just as Hawaii is not Hawaii without Hawaiians. Lahaina is not Lahaina without its people do whatever you can to keep us all here and thriving regardless of the size of our checkbooks.

Saman Dias

Location:

Submitted At: 6:12pm 09-27-23

Please see attached Testimony and supporting documents

Sep 27, 2023

Honorable County Council Chair and Council Members,

I am Saman Dias, and today I stand before you to share my condolences and join in mourning for the devastating losses our community has suffered. While I personally did not lose my home or life, I feel a profound sense of grief as I believe we have lost a part of our family and community.

In May 2022, I felt a sense of urgency and began reaching out to various authorities, including the Maui Fire Prevention Bureau, Climate Resilience Department, Mayor's office, and the Emergency Management department. My plea was clear - we needed community education, enforcement, and prevention measures to address the looming threat of wildfires.

Unfortunately, my efforts were met with responses indicating a lack of resources to address these concerns.

Despite my persistence, I reached the Mayor's office only to encounter the same refrain - a shortage of resources. My final message to them was a plea: "I am praying we have no fires, and that you will be ready if the fire starts. That time will come. We should be well prepared for that if we are not prepared to do simple prevention."

Tragically, 15 months later, we find ourselves in the aftermath of a devastating fire that has claimed the Lahaina community, with over 1,800 homes lost and more than 100 lives taken. My message today is clear: our government officials have failed us.

The excuse of a lack of resources from the county is no longer acceptable. I urge our government to shift its perspective from "lack of resources" to "how can we collaborate, how can we work together to serve our community." I'd like to highlight several key points:

1. Fire Prevention Plan: We urgently need a comprehensive fire prevention plan, and the community is willing to assist in its execution.
2. Emergency Evacuation Route: The recent article in Civil Beat reveals the importance of the Cane Haul Rd as an escape route during the fire, emphasizing the need to expedite the development of the West Maui Greenway (WMG). This route is vital for the safety of our residents.
3. Underground Utilities: The call for underground power line infrastructure in West Maui aligns perfectly with the goals of the WMG project. It can serve as an avenue to implement underground utilities, enhancing safety and infrastructure resilience.
4. Climate Change Mitigation: The WMG promotes sustainable transportation methods and aligns with Hawaii's goals for reducing carbon emissions and achieving energy independence.
5. Community Benefits: Beyond safety, the WMG offers improved transportation, recreation, and economic development opportunities.
6. Opportunity for Transformation: Let us change our perspective and channel our efforts into resourcefulness, seeking innovative solutions and partnerships. We can transform the tragedy of the Lahaina fire into a catalyst for positive change.

Additional points I'd like to emphasize:

- Safety of our Children: Schools should practice fire evacuation with children, and we need fire evacuation plans with alternative routes. Idea attached - Lahainaluna- Evacuation route from Hawaii Bike Plan 2003

- Partnership with Red Cross: Conduct ongoing surveys to better understand the needs of our people and provide support through collaboration with county and state agencies.
- Employment and Job Training: Proactively consider retraining programs and job placement to support those affected by disasters.
- Lack of Resources and Funding: The constant excuse of resource scarcity is not acceptable. We should encourage collaboration with the community, including volunteers with professional expertise. There are many grant opportunities that are available. We can help. County has declined.

In conclusion, it is crucial that we do not allow years to pass before implementing a comprehensive wildfire prevention plan. I propose forming a committee that includes experienced community leaders to expedite this process. We must enforce regulations regarding dead grass, trees, and address fire hazards posed by items such as junk cars and equipment. Furthermore, a community education campaign is essential, and we can draw upon the resources of organizations like Ready for Wildfire and Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization. Lastly, we should prioritize the West Maui Greenway as an alternative evacuation path, leveraging the resources and expertise within our community.

Thank you for your attention and let us work together to ensure that such a devastating situation never occurs again and that our community becomes a model of resilience, safety, and sustainability.

West Maui Community Leader and Chair of Maui Bicycling League

Mahalo Nui Loa!
Saman Dias
Chair Maui Bicycling League
808-209-2542
maui@hbl.org
www.mauibike.org

p.s attachments

letter to Brian Senator Brian Schatz / Gov. Green / Mayor Bissen

Lahainaluna- Evacuation route from Hawaii Bike Plan 2003

Emails sent reg fire prevention. And Letter to Governor

Comprehensive Wildfire Prevention Strategies for Hawaii – letter to Representative Ichiyama and Representative Kila.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:50pm 09-27-23

Testimony for 9/27/23 Lahaina Meeting

Aloha Kakou,

Thank you for taking the time to hear community testimony after the Lahaina disaster. We need regulations to help limit outside investors or voices. Most of the residents are working class, please make sure that the wealth does not pollute our rebuilding process. This is a great opportunity for us all to make sure the fires never hit our town again. To be clear: this was not a wildfire, it was a man made fire created by overdevelopment. Man can make this better by planning ahead, give the Hawaiians the water so they can teach us about the 'aina.

My experience in Maui has led me to teach keiki on all grade levels K - 12 as a paraprofessional and English as Second Language instructor. While living in Napili for the past 25 years, I have worked at three different schools here in West Maui and would like to submit my testimony on behalf of the keiki and teens of West Maui. Given the trauma they have lived, their stability and the local schools need to come first as we rebuild. The youth need a center to gather, more parks and planning of GREEN areas.

In order to open the schools correctly, we need two access roads so the students are not stranded and trapped in case of fire. This also involves restructuring the roads including the Pali Hwy which is very fragile and falling into the ocean in two spots. Now that our town has burned down, these students need that one road to transport safely to doctors or dentist appointments, or if they need to buy a pair of shoes. West Maui residents have PTSD; please help us manage a safe life while serving our immediate needs. One road guarantees incredible traffic

paralyzation. which only indicates a lack of planning. Now is our time to make it right.

These children have priority over any "development" or tourism. Lahaina has been "pimped out" for too long, now (for the next 6-12 months) the rest of the state can absorb visitors. Give our children roads, safe water, and shade so they can enjoy agriculture and a self sufficient economy. Manage the land with crops & ulu trees. Vacant land will just be another fire threat.

Mahalo,
Ann Franzenburg

Nani Bee

Location:

Submitted At: 5:14pm 09-27-23

I support Lahaina community in what they want building back their community & town. I also would like to see this city council unanimously vote on a moratorium regarding rent and mortgage payments. There should be no struggle to get 5 votes to protect the people, that should be a unanimous decision! incentivizing homeowners to rent out units at above premium rate for government reimbursement is only going to hurt this community and drive up the cost of living. They need a moratorium to help them figure out how to get through at least a year +. I also understand the dependance of tourism, but to open on the anniversary date of the most horrific tragedy seems so insensitive and can only spark more mental health issues from a community that is trying their best to recover! My heart is with you Lahaina and all that you continue to go through. I can only pray this council votes unanimously on addenda items that will protect you and help you to find some sense of peace as you recover.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:00pm 09-27-23

Good afternoon,

First I'd like to offer my sincere condolences to any of you who have lost anyone in the fires. I can't imagine how painful it is to look at Lahaina every day and see total devastation. My heart is with all of you.

I don't live in Maui but have been traveling to your beautiful island for the past 28 years. The scenery speaks for itself but part of what my family loves about Maui are all the friendly, fixed cats that visit us at our hotels and condos. We were still planning our visit in November because we wanted to support local businesses in their time of need but are beginning to have second thoughts.

We'd been hearing stories about the beloved friendly island cats being rescued by the wonderful "caretakers" who care for them. We often get to meet some of them during our visits. These people are like celebrities to us!

What is troubling however are the many reports we're hearing stateside that the same cats we thought were safe (and presumably other animals) are not being rescued the way we had hoped. I'm not sure if you're aware but we've heard reports that your humane society was catching cats in live traps, but if the cat seemed wild, it was to be released right back into the burned out areas, without access to food or water, where it will surely die. And apparently there are as many as 500-700 cats still in there. My husband is a retired fire chief and has told me the horror stories of what those cats are facing. Asbestos poisoning, exposure to toxic chemicals, dehydration, starvation and respiratory failure.

How is it that this is allowed to happen? Why hasn't there been more done to help care for these animals? The place that I called my second home for nearly three decades has failed at caring for the cats of Maui. Feral or not, every animal's life should at least merit respect and good faith efforts to be saved. Until I hear that the humane society is making every effort possible to save as many animals trapped inside the burned down areas, my family can't in good conscience ever call Maui our second home again. Please remedy this.

Thank you for your time,

Anne Rice
NY, NY

Amanda Kuhns

Location:

Submitted At: 4:52pm 09-27-23

Aloha

I attended the meeting for a few hours today but had to leave. I can't help but echo what was passionately delivered by the rightful stewards of Lahaina.

I would only add that local businesses serving local communities need rent assistance to avoid losing our spaces- or legislature that assists what is conscionable during this time. So far there are no actual 10k grants and our big landlords aren't giving us help. It is in their financial interest to evict some of us based on truly one sided contracts as is. With the level of unemployment and underemployment and the good hearts of the some of the good businesses giving back or paying it forward- making rent, cam and bills seems close to impossible.

I would add that grants for K_naka and generational non-white business owners should be in place for the future/present. As Haole- I know this is a key for the rightful stewards to remain in their land. Opening a business here is almost exclusively for transplants or non-residents because the costs are astronomical- truthfully they are nonsensical. If real locals don't run the small businesses here- we lose more of the cherished mom and pops and needed influence in the business community. That meeting at the Ritz is a good example of what happens when there is a lack of representation in the business sector. The opinions lean towards those that are only affected in one way by the tragedy. That's not fair.

I am opening a business in Napili Plaza and I know it may not survive this. I also know that the needs of the people are the most important. All businesses are not created equal and residency alone in Lahaina or Hawaii is not indicative of Aloha.

If any business or government entity or organization is not taking into consideration the voice of K_naka Maoli; I don't think their voice should carry much weight at all.

In addition- I live in an apartment complex in Napili with open units... Lahaina families should be placed here so they can stay in this side. Of course it is excruciatingly overpriced. The complex is an out of state owner- the government can and should do something to put the people over the businesses. We all deserve real neighborhoods with people that truly care about the land and each other. Tourism can't come back in good conscience until the most has been made of what we already have on this side too. That's the minimum.

Mahalo for your time

Mahalo for all who spoke today

May Lahaina and Maui continue to set an example for the world on what is possible when a different path is chosen. Our future ancestors deserve better.

*People/and the planet over profit is the right path.

*Return the water.

*Invest in solar or burying lines or both.

*Invest in public education, public libraries and public parks that allow enjoyment of life without cash.

*Make sure King Kam 3 gets to come back to Lahaina town despite the new temporary location.

*Invest in K_naka Maoli business grants and homes/communities for Kupuna that would also create jobs.

*ordinances to protect current on island business owners from eviction

*Divest from outsider owned housing, businesses and perspectives.

*Divest from AirBNB.

*Build affordable housing yes but also make the housing that is here affordable and the access to be generational based if need be. I shouldn't have easier time getting benefits for example than K_naka that been here or was even recently displaced.

*divest from random philanthropists buying their names on future Lahaina

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:34pm 09-27-23

To: Chair and Committee Members

Subject: Public Testimony Regarding A Comprehensive Recovery and Resiliency Plan for West Maui

Aloha County Council,

I am a Native Hawaiian resident of Ha'iku with 'ohana affected by Lahaina wildfires. I stand in support of amplifying the voices of our Lahaina lahui. Amidst the many items to be addressed, I write to urge you to prioritize putting the immediate and longterm needs of our Lahaina community and environmental restoration before corporate interest and those interested in the privatization of our natural resources. Following protocol for immediate environmental remediation, it is critical to activate a plan of action for responsible wetland restoration/watershed management and restore culturally significant sites including Moku'ula and surrounding ahupua'a in cohesion with rebuilding infrastructure to meet Lahaina community needs. Doing so will provide both longterm stability for residents and healing for our Native Hawaiian population in perpetuity. We are living in a time of radical accountability and in the wake of unfathomable tragedy are now presented with an opportunity to make pono. I urge you to please assist in a vision to prioritize the wellness of our Lahaina population and beloved 'aina.

Sincerely,

Anna Tanodra

808.463.4156

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:20pm 09-27-23

I am submitting testimony. _-Restore water flow to west Maui and other residential fire prone areas now. _-Put tourism hubs such as the airport and resort areas on (at the very least) cosmetic water restriction. _- Prioritize the needs and living conditions of the residents over the visitors. _- create emergency economic aid/relief for every household and business on Maui _- provide snap benefits for every primary residential household on Maui. _- remove bureaucratic and arduous process to provide access to aid.
-prioritize and create more business opportunities for local entrepreneurs to support a more circular economy
-create infrastructure for food independence
-stop allowing tourism and gentlemen real estate to be prioritized over our natural resources

Mahalo,

Darnell Andrade

Waiehu

Chani Goering

Location:

Submitted At: 3:17pm 09-27-23

Please see my testimony below regarding recovery and resilience following the Lahaina wildfire event by category of issue:

PROPERTY / LAND OWNERSHIP

- Prioritize the needs of our displaced community by advancing legal and legislative action to halt mortgage payments and accrual of interest until rebuilding can begin.
- Provide safe and suitable temporary housing for our displaced 'ohana. Families need stability and children need continuity in schooling. Do NOT force families off the island by failing to address this major need.

FOOD / MENTAL HEALTH / OTHER RESOURCES

- Provide a centralized, easy-to-find online link hub directing residents to critical resources WIDELY promote this information and use it every time there is a need from here forward.
- Staff up Maui County's 211 information call line to quickly and efficiently answer questions about resources available. Not all residents have access to mobile data or the internet, nor feel comfortable navigating the county's cumbersome website for information.
- Provide transparency about all monies received and how they will be or are intended to be used in the coming months to directly support survivors.

REBUILDING LAHAINA

- Stop promoting traffic and driving. Envision county-funded shuttles that run every 10 minutes along the new Front Street, giving access to Lahaina town and relieving congestion. This applies no matter how set back from the ocean it may be.
- Encourage alternative transport with bike and walking lanes suitable for small electric scooters and other wheeled equipment.
- Create affordable housing opportunities for Lahaina residents who were previously stuck in the overpriced rental market.
- Build a new, beautiful boat harbor that is adequately maintained and staffed and funded by DLNR fees collected. There was so much corruption and mismanagement in the old one.
- Bury electrical lines in and nearby population centers and upgrade the grid to be smart-controlled when power needs to be shut off.

SAFETY / EARLY WARNING / EVACUATION

- Create statewide standards and legislative mandates detailing the minimum requirements for disaster early warning and response plans and training that every County must adhere to. Fund these functions and institute checks and balances to ensure each County adheres to the standards.
- Create a policy for new appointees and elected officials to receive immersive training in the escalation of emergencies and how to make official requests to the National Guard, military, and federal government for additional responders and disaster relief.
- Hire emergency management leadership with on-the-ground, life-saving experience, and active-duty training only. No political loopholes for bypassing this requirement. People who have seen action understand the urgency and take seriously their responsibility for saving lives and will use every tool in their arsenal to do so.
- Employ and exercise annually the use of multiple modalities of early warning. This includes grassroots, community-based designees who can go door-to-door when other systems fail, to use of the sirens for all major events, and cellular system redundancy to ensure cellphone alerts are received.
- If possible, pipe ocean water to the fire hydrants so they are not using our precious fresh water.
- Finish the Lahaina bypass to ensure adequate evacuation of residents and visitors. This part of the island can easily be cut off from resources by tsunami, fire, tropical cyclones, and other hazards.
- Maintain equipment, health supplies, food and water in warehouses located strategically across Lahaina and other parts of Maui (South side and Hana), and routinely inspect the equipment and goods.

TOURISM / SUSTAINABILITY

- Return the control of water to the people. Currently, a few private corporations extract from the watersheds and aquifers, never allowing replenishment, and return nothing to the community (Mahi Pono). Do any of our planning department or policymakers have any idea how much water we have left in the aquifer? Recent decisions about water use are dangerous and unsustainable for all life on this island.
- Immediately reprioritize the use of Maui County's precious freshwater resources to ensure the sustainment of life on the island now and into the future. Extracting all the water from watersheds and aquifers for the entertainment of tourists and lavish landscaping is not sustainable or pono.
- Stimulate a job economy through eco-tourism and conservation of resources. Create a county-sponsored ride-share app/business where residents who participate in giving rides to tourists (reducing congestion on the roads and carbon monoxide emissions) get tax breaks and revenue.
- Create community farming/education programs funded by grants and tourism.
- Heavily invest in water quality and coral restoration jobs along the coastline where injection-pumping of

wastewater has destroyed the Kaanapali ocean ecosystem. Many tourists would like to give back, participate in educational programs, and pay for eco-experiences.

- Favor local sustenance farming over commodity crops (Mahi Pono, A&B). According to the 30-year State plan, the Hawaiian islands were supposed to be food-sustainable and independent of outside suppliers. We have the capacity in Maui to feed all the islands but still, our leadership chooses to import 97% of our food supply. Provide tax breaks and incentives to local farmers and give them water to be successful.

- Ensure sustenance farming is first in line for water use over wasteful hotel and millionaire landscaping uses. This includes the multi-million dollar Montage housing complexes that run water all day to irrigate tropical rainforests in drought-stricken areas. Waterfalls, lazy rivers, and entertainment pools should not be permitted use if our own people are punished for watering their food gardens in their own backyards! Life over luxuries!

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:09pm 09-27-23

My name is Lara Taamu and on 8/8/2023 my two adult sons and myself fled our 1321 Kenui Front St Aps home that had been our home for 20 yrs.

I have many questions, but will focus these questions about the failure of being notified of life threatening danger by radio and text. These basic tools were not effectively executed by the emergency response network. I need to know the answers for my mental health. Our Community deserves to know the degree of negligence thru transparency of their actions. The WORLD is watching how State of Hawaii and County of Maui are treating the PEOPLE, many many comments being made worldwide about how they can not consciously vacation to a place that is dangerous and reckless with the lives of its residents and visitors.

On Sept 19, I asked the Mayor Bissen office and the Gov office the questions. Both offices transferred me to voicemail and I have had no response as of today's date.

My first question is WHY WAS THERE NO EMERGENCY INFORMATION ON THE RADIOS AS WE WATCHED FIRE ON WAINEE AND LAHAINALUNA FROM 2 PM. MANY NEIGHBOURS CALLED 911. I WATCHED THEM FROM MY WINDOW AS I OBSERVED THE FIRE FROM MY BACK LANAI - LOOKING MAUKA TO LAHAINALUNA. I HAVE A SOLAR BATTERY RADIO AND WENT STRAIGHT TO RADIO FOR INFORMATION. NOTHING BUT MUSIC.

4:25 PM WE FLED THE APT WHEN SMOKE WAS COMING INTO THE AIRCON AND SETTING OFF SMOKE DETECTORS IN THE APT. WE SAT IN BUMPER TO BUMPER GRIDLOCK FROM KENUI ST TO MY FINAL DESTINATION, WHALER'S VILLAGE FOR 2 HOURS. THATS A MILE AND HALF AND SHOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN 2 HRS. DURING THIS TIME WE WATCHED LAHAINA BURN IN OUR REAR VIEW MIRRORS AND CONTINUED TO SEARCH THE RADIO FOR INFORMATION.

THE RADIO ONLY PLAYED MUSIC FOR THIS ENTIRE AFTERNOON. THE RADIO SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVING THE COMMUNITY THE INFORMATION GATHERED FROM 911 CALLS AND POLICE DISPATCH. TO WATCH THE TOWN BURN AND LISTEN TO ONLY MUSIC IS LIKE A TWILIGHT ZONE HORROR SHOW GONE REAL. THIS IS CAUSING ME DISTRESS BECAUSE OF TOTAL LACK OF NEGLIGENCE AND ADDED TO THE FACT SIRENS WERE NOT ALLOWED MAKES FOR VERY DARK AND GRIM CONCLUSIONS.

AGAIN, WHY WAS THERE NO INFORMATION ON THE RADIO 8/8/2023 ABOUT THE LEVEL OF DANGER AND ESCALATING EMERGENCY FOR LIFE AND DEATH. ITS THE RADIO!! IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN NOTIFYING PEOPLE OF SEVERE DANGER. THIS IS CRIMINAL.

MY SECOND QUESTIONS IS ABOUT THE 4:18 EMERGENCY TEXT I RECEIVED. THE TEXT WAS THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE FACE OF THE PHONE DESCRIBING THE HAWAIIAN NAMES OF THE AHUPUAA AND THE LAST SENTENCE WAS EVACUATE NOW. I HAD TO READ THRU VERY LONG UNFAMILIAR HAWAIIAN WORDS TO GET TO THE SIMPLE ALERT EVACUATE NOW. IT CAUSED ADDITIONAL STRESS TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HAWAIIAN AHUPUAA WAS BEING DESCRIBED.

ON OAHU I HAVE NOTICED THAT THERE ARE SIGNS THAT SIGNIFY THE HAWAIIAN NAME FOR THAT

AHUPUAA. NOT IN LAHAINA. THERE IS NO WAY THAT THE PUBLIC WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE WORDING OF THE AHUPUAA DESCRIPTION AS SHOWN IN THE EVACUATION TEXT. NOT EFFECTIVE AT ALL AND LIMITS THE ABILITY FOR PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT TEXT WAS TRYING TO SAY EVACUATE NOW WERE THE LAST TWO WORDS. THOSE SHOULD HAVE BEEN THE FIRST TWO WORDS.

I DO NOT HAVE THAT TEXT AS OF 9/27/2023 BECAUSE ALL MY TEXTS HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM MY PHONE. MY ASSOCIATES WHO RECIEVED TEXTS FROM ME THAT DAY ALL HAVE THE CONVERSATIONS WE HAD 8/8/23. HOWEVER, IF SOMEONE WAS GIVEN THAT ALERT AT 4:18PM - IT HAS BEEN SCRUBBED FROM ALL OUR PHONES AND I AM DISAPPOINTED I DID NOT TAKE A SCREEN SHOT OF THE ALERT TEXT. I DID NOT THINK ALL TEXTS PERFORMED 8/8/23 WOULD BE REMOVED FROM MY PHONE. WHY IS THIS?

SIMPLE QUESTIONS WHY DURING LIFE AND DEATH SITUATION NO INTEL ON RADIO? WHY EVACUATION TEXT ALERT IN HAWAIIAN NOT EASY TO READ AND 'EVACUATE NOW' LAST TWO WORDS OF A TEXT THAT TOOK UP ENTIRE SCREEN SPACE ON PHONE AND STILL COULD NOT UNDER STAND WHAT IT WAS SAYING UNTIL LAST TWO WORDS....EVACUATE NOW.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:57pm 09-27-23

I am submitting testimony.

- Restore water flow to west Maui and other residential fire prone areas now.
- Put tourism hubs such as the airport and resort areas on (at the very least) cosmetic water restriction.
- Prioritize the needs and living conditions of the residents over the visitors.
- create emergency economic aid/relief for every household and business on Maui
- provide snap benefits for every primary residential household on Maui.
- remove bureaucratic and arduous process to provide access to aid.

Thank You,
Pomai Weigert
Keokea, Maui 96790

Lee Chamberlain

Location:

Submitted At: 1:36pm 09-27-23

Subject: Proposal for the Integration of MECO and Appropriate Departments in Rebuilding Lahaina's Power Grid and Advancing the West Maui Greenway Project

Dear Governor Greene,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to bring to your attention an important opportunity that could greatly benefit Lahaina and the broader community in the wake of the recent emergency proclamation following the August 8 fires. This opportunity involves the integration of the Maui Electric Company (MECO) and relevant state departments in the reconstruction of Lahaina's power grid, alongside the advancement of the West Maui Greenway project.

The West Maui Greenway project has made significant progress, including the completion of the Final Plan, its inclusion in the County of Maui Public Works Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP), and secured funding under the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) MC28. It is poised to serve multiple critical functions, including accommodating underground utilities, which can greatly enhance its value to the community.

Here are key points supporting the case for advancing this project, especially in the context of Lahaina's recovery efforts:

1. Resilience and Sustainability: The West Maui Greenway's incorporation of green infrastructure, underground utilities, and resilience features aligns perfectly with the goal of creating a more resilient and sustainable community, crucial in the aftermath of the August 8 fires.
2. Multi-Use Benefits: This project offers multiple benefits, including recreation, transportation, and utility accommodation. It embraces the principle of providing alternative transportation solutions and modernizing ground transportation infrastructure, as outlined in Act 131.

3. Alignment with Legislation and Policies: Hawaii's legislative efforts and policies that emphasize clean transportation, safety, and sustainable transportation infrastructure dovetail seamlessly with this project's objectives.

4. Integration with State Goals: The project aligns with the State Climate Commission's focus on clean transportation choices and Act 131's mission to create a sustainable multimodal transportation system for Hawaii.

5. Economic Vitality: It has the potential to boost economic vitality, public health, livability, and overall quality of life, which is particularly important during the post-emergency recovery phase.

6. Infrastructure Upgrades: Investment in infrastructure upgrades that accommodate the community's evolving needs, such as high-capacity broadband infrastructure, can drive economic and community development while embracing technological advancements.

7. Proven Resilience: Underground utilities are known for their resilience and reliability during natural disasters, aligning perfectly with the need for a robust infrastructure system in Lahaina after the fires.

8. Regular Maintenance: The inclusion of underground utilities beneath the Greenway offers a practical solution for ongoing maintenance, ensuring the long-term value and sustainability of both the Greenway and the utilities.

Considering these factors, I believe there is a compelling case for advancing the West Maui Greenway project in conjunction with rebuilding Lahaina's power grid. This integrated approach not only enhances the resilience of Lahaina's infrastructure but also contributes to a sustainable, modern, and economically vibrant community. I kindly request that you consider exploring this proposal with the relevant departments, including the Maui Electric Company, to assess the feasibility and potential benefits of this integration. Your support for such a initiative could have a lasting positive impact on Lahaina and the entire state of Hawaii.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing your thoughts and insights on this proposal.

Sincerely,
Lee Chamberlain

Lorien Cunningham

Location:

Submitted At: 1:07pm 09-27-23

Aloha Hon. Councilmembers,

Thank you for opportunity to offer testimony about our concerns as we all works towards the recovery of our beloved Lahaina.

Near-term recovery:

1. There are hundreds of residences in the burn zone at Opukea, Ho'onanea, and Kahoma Village that are still standing and can be a piece of the housing solution if all agencies work together to prioritize returning these areas to safe inhabitability! But that has to be a coordinated effort to make it happen. This includes restoring utilities (sewer, water, power, telecom). This includes prioritizing the work on the water system to re-establish safe water and remediate and remove the safety advisories. But also must include prioritizing the properties needing debris removal in and adjacent to the parcels. Until the debris removal is completed on the adjacent properties, owners can't move forward with necessary remediation of ash, soot, and smoke in the homes because insurance companies will only provide coverage for all the treatments once. Only after this happens can these hundreds of residences become a part of the housing solution moving recovery forward for displaced residents and freeing up additional rental inventory for those who lost homes.

Long-term recovery:

2. Critical evacuation planning and infrastructure is our greatest concern for long term planning the County does because it's a safety issue for the most important stakeholders in all of this - the people. We've known for all of our two decades in west Maui that if an emergency ever arose down where we are off of Front Street, that the evacuation would be complicated. We always imagined that the threat would come makai from the ocean. But on that tragic night of Aug. 8th, it came from mauka at us like a freight train. Please ensure all of your committees put a comprehensive and defensible evacuation plan into place for all of the west side, mauka to makai. From our homes, from our schools, from our community gathering places and parks, from the businesses.

3. Harden the utilities infrastructure, bury the power lines (ESPECIALLY through the lens of keeping the evacuation routes clear in any future emergency) and mandate fire-fuel/brush remediation annually across all of

the West Maui hillsides mauka.

4. Medical infrastructure - fast tracking the West Side medical center is beyond overdue for the benefit of all. Our kapuna, keiki, and community all deserve access to high quality healthcare and emergency care that isn't a 45 minute ambulance ride away over in Wailuku.

5. If the 3.2 sea level rise modeling in the SLR-XA is going to prevent rebuilding along the shoreline, then please prioritize securing these lands in perpetuity as shoreline parklands available to all, returning the aina to the people to use.

6. We imagine a Front St. where it's safe to walk without the burden of car traffic end to end, with uninterrupted views makai, with the Moku'ula restored for all of us to learn from.

7. Fast track the Bypass extension and address the urgent need for safer access out to the north around Kahakuloa. We've all known for decades that a narrow one lane road is not adequate emergency infrastructure - please do something about it already!

8. Help the rebuild efforts in Lahaina to become resilient by granting funding, offsets, incentivization, etc. for green infrastructure such as PV power on residential and business structures, green/climate-resilient building materials and methods, etc.

Additional recovery concerns: We'd like to see all-agency coordination to restore access to Mala Ramp for the benefit of the community as soon as possible. As Lahaina community members, we care about getting Mala Ramp open to all again (residents, long time permit holders, those with necessary needs for west side access because of fire losses at the harbor alike). It's frustrating when elected officials refer in public meetings to the "community" as if we all feel the same way about access at Mala Ramp. I respect there are community members with diverse needs, desires, hopes, and opinions about access at Mala Ramp who may feel differently than we do, I hope all are given consideration for diverse views when the County and State are charting paths forward. We care about restoring access for residents. We care about the safety of the nearshore reef from stranded vessels on the moorings, and therefore care about getting them access to launching their support tenders for maintenance. We care about the resiliency of the maritime fleet as employers supporting ~1000 jobs on the west side (between Lahaina Harbor, Mala Ramp, and Kaanapali). There's a need for balance there—of course, but access needs to be restored and allow for recovery and resiliency of all stakeholders needing west side ocean access.

Mahalo and Aloha as you work through these immense challenges. We appreciate your service to the community.

Lori Cunningham,
Lahaina community member

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:05pm 09-27-23

I have lived in Lahaina for 17 years and I'm very upset with the current protocol to help save surviving pets and animals in the burn zones.

Please allow professionals to help save the surviving animals and pets in the burn zone. They have been denied entry and sent home multiple times while pets suffer and starve for no valid reasons.

Please delay spraying the Soiltac and bulldozing until most animals are removed from the areas. Many citizens are upset at how this has been handled thus far and want to get their pets home. This is outrageous but it is also your chance to do right by the community which has been let down so much since the fire.

Contact me anytime at 808-344-6999 or SaveMauiCats@gmail.com

Aloha, Michael Willinsky

Elise Travis

Location:

Submitted At: 12:31pm 09-27-23

My name is Elise Travis and I am a 44YR. resident of Maui. I am appalled how the animal rescue was handled by MHS. Top animal rescuers came on their own donations, brought all the top equipment for rescue and wanted to offer their services free of charge and work with anyone to help in the fire zone. They were told explicitly by MHS they were not invited and told if they are anywhere near the fire zone they will be arrested. No Aloha, No thanks for wanting to help. Very cold. MHS was adamant about this and these were the top rescuers who were deployed in Ukraine twice last year saving animals. They were treated horribly. We have all the documents to show this. I would like transparency and would like to know how much the rescuers who were allowed to be in charge were pd. From what I heard they have been pd. a lot of money (\$200,000+) Also, they were not allowed to be in contact with the group hired and not allowed to be connected to work with anyone else. So, many lies were spread to keep them out. We need an investigation into this. This group that was denied clearance also had hazmat training and the drones to go in at night and get the job done fast. I am outraged that this was allowed to happen and the way they were treated when all they wanted to do was to help save the cats in the fire zone. No money needed to pay for their services. Also, the group that was contracted by MHS had no fire experience with fire cats along with the people held in charge. They are only trappers and no training to how to deal and trap the fire cats. They had one photo op and left. They did nothing and got pd. a fortune. I would like transparency as to what they were pd. Also, why they spread the lies to turn people against this group. All documented. Also, would like transparency on the donations collected for the Fire Cats and Animals. This money needs to go for them alone. They cannot be put back into the fire zone like MHS is doing. MHS needs to open sanctuary's with the 3+ mil \$ they collected. This money needs to be earmarked for the well being of the firecats. That's what the donations were for. They can't just release them back into the fire zone. Right now, they will be spraying bad chemicals that will kill any cats left in the zone that are suffering and not being saved. We need the top professional rescuers to come in before they do any spraying. The ones that are hired do not know what they are doing. They are not trained to rescue Fire cats. This is a very specific type of training and it needs to be done now! there is no more time to waste. The Colony Cats were all affected by the fires and by law they are required to take care of them also. No food was allowed to be given to The Colony cats when MHS was giving out food. I was told explicitly by one of the volunteers that food was only given out to Pet Owners. By law they were required to also give food for the Colony cats that were in the Fire Zone and affected by the Fires. This was not done also. We need to get to the bottom of everything that was done and show transparency. Too many people are upset over the debookling of the rescueing. Mahalo

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:22pm 09-27-23

Testimony for Meeting 9/27 Westin Kaanapali

Aloha

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony. I am sure you have heard all of these items before so I will be concise as I just want to add my concurrence to all of these items:

Short Term:

- Staff up and locate a building permitting office in Lahaina staffed by Lahaina people ASAP.
- Expedite utility restoration to neighborhoods that are partially standing: Opukea, Hoonanea, Waihikuli, Kahoma Village and also debris removal in those areas and the surrounding perimeters. These neighborhoods will provide urgently needed housing for displaced families, both owners of those homes and rentals.
- Fast track Pulelehua and the neighborhood next to the bypass that has already begun construction to expedite housing for displaced families and make rules conducive to displaced people using those homes for short term housing (2-5 years) or long term if they decide to stay there.

Long Term:

- Put utilities underground!!!!!!
- New construction should be incentivized to be as "green" as possible, such as PV on rooftops, improved insulation, cool roofs, low emittance windows, etc.
- Restore Moku'ula in Lahaina

- Make Front Street a walking street and create a parking structure so so people can park and walk along Front Street in an organized fashion

Mahalo for your attention. There is much to do.

MaryBeth Chin
808-280-7473

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:04am 09-27-23

Aloha my name is Brandi Corpuz and I am a resident and community advocate from Kula Kai. I have testified for this county council in the past as a resource and I am here to testify about the importance of the wetlands in Lahaina.

1st you must listen to the residents of Lahaina who need their community rebuilt 1st. I have testified to this council before about the wetlands of Kula Kai as a natural infrastructure and I would like to say it once again in reference to Lahaina.

Our wetlands in Hawaii are vital to our ecosystem on every side of every island. The diversion and destruction of wetlands has caused the death of our natural resources. From the top of the mountain to the ocean we need our fresh waters restored and protected so that the abundance of life that is a wetland can thrive once again. Many others and I believe that if our wetlands would have been in place on August 8th then the destruction of Lahaina would not have been as devastating.

As we move forward, we are under water restrictions while million-dollar homes enjoy their private pools and resorts and visitors enjoy green lawns and no restrictions. This is so wrong and backwards.

I have often wondered why anyone would look at something so beautiful as a wetland ecosystem such as Moku'ula and decide to backfill and build on top of it. I will never understand this mindset so I ask you to be mindful of these valued cultural and historical wetlands as you move forward with the restoration of Lahaina town.

No private dwellings or person should be allowed to use and abuse our most valuable resources such as water. The county should own all water rights even if the land around it is owned by someone else. If any owner diverts or damages our water they should be put in jail and fined heavily for their crimes. There was just a major purchase of 200 plus acres of land above Wailuku Heights. It is a very steep mountain area so why do they want this land? Its so they can divert and abuse the water from the top of the mountain which is the source! If we allow people to divert our waters from the very top, every piece of land below them is in jeopardy! You must make laws to protect us against this type of water theft on every part of Maui but especially in Lahaina.

I support restoration of all the wetlands of Lahaina and all of Maui. We have a wetland overlay bill that needs to be completed asap and it should include every stream, springs, and gulch. We are no longer protected by the EPA or Federal guidelines so we must utilize our County Councils Bill 91 to protect our most valuable resource.

I support the Lahaina community in rebuilding however they see fit. I echo the voices we have heard today in restoring front street to its historical glory instead of focusing on the rich and tourism. No shoreline development should be allowed in the area. Instead, it should become a walking path of historical and cultural sites as an attraction for all to enjoy now and in the future.

This council and state should use the money that has been received to help the community rebuild their homes so that no one has to sell or leave because of the cost to rebuild.

It is time to support the community of Lahaina and all of Maui and take the focus away from more building, hardscaping, water theft and tourism. You each have the power to make historical and lasting decisions. Please do what is right for our people and the aina we all call home.

Sincerely, Brandi Corpuz

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:49am 09-27-23

I support whatever the people of Lahaina need for their recovery, but please allow Hawaii-based animal rescue groups to assist in the safe trapping of cats before the soil is sprayed. HAKA rescue workers from Hawai'i Island are there and ready to assist the too-small team from New York. Please let them help the estimated 500 cats awaiting rescue and their owners who must be anxious for their reunion. Mahalo.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:42am 09-27-23

To: Chair and Committee Members

Subject: Public Testimony Regarding A Comprehensive Recovery and Resiliency Plan for West Maui

My name is John Helly, I am a resident of West Maui for about 22 years. I am a scientist at Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the retired Laboratory Director for Earth and Environmental Science at the Supercomputer Center at the University of California, San Diego. I am also a Board Member on the Maui County Board of Water Supply but offer this testimony as a private citizen.

I would like to make the following six points for the consideration of the Committee.

1. Watershed Management: West Maui needs a watershed management program that implements defensible fire boundaries around the fallowed, privately owned, agricultural lands. The existing programs, that I am aware of, focus on ecological health of watersheds but not on wildfire control per se.
2. Meteorological Data: Wind data is important in predicting fire risk, fire-fighting and post-fire forensic analysis. In the aftermath of the Lahaina fire, I've attempted to organize wind data to support the fire investigation and, so far, find that there isn't any. Meteorological stations are low-cost items that provide invaluable data for fire control and risk mitigation.
3. Emergency Communication Centers: Outside of Lahaina, we were largely unaware of the extent of the disaster for days. People on the mainland and the other side of the island knew more than we did as we learned through occasional cell-service from a few high spots. Emergency communications centers should be developed within the west-side communities and provisioned with Starlink stations, HF/VHF/UHF radios and antennas, and emergency services scanners with emergency power sources. Starlink stations popped up spontaneously in a variety of locations so it is already proven important. The County should institutionalize this capability and pre-position the equipment and operational and maintenance responsibility and publicize it.
4. Evacuation Routes and Staging Sites: Already an obvious topic due to what happened on Front Street and others. Highway 30 and Lower Honoapiilani are the only routes. During the Kaanapali fire, we had to evacuate from the Hillside and the stretch on 30 between the Lower Honoapiilani Road and Kapalua Airport are perfect setups for the evacuation gridlock that trapped people in Lahaina. There should be firebreaks along the highway and escape routes to fire-safe staging areas mauka of the highway to avoid gridlock to allow for controlled traffic flow.
5. Utility Infrastructure Hardening: The utility infrastructure on Kaanapali Hillside is dangerous. The dried and fragile telephone poles used to support the cables going up Puukolii Road, for example, appear ready to collapse and fall on the passing traffic without any disaster as a cause. This obviously all needs to be hardened and made fire resistant.
6. West-side Medical Center: The West Side medical center should be speedily developed for the obvious

reasons. It could also provide a staging area for evacuation with a fire-safe boundary.

I'm available to elaborate further on any of these topics and to provide whatever assistance I can.

John Helly / jjh@hellylab.net

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:40am 09-27-23

Aloha Council Members, Sorry for some reason accessing today's meeting and testimony has been more than difficult- but hopefully the meeting went well with overwhelming testimony charting a path forward the State Legislature can be guided by. Rep. Diamond Garcia is in your audience and will brief me in place of the live-streaming that didn't work out.. Bottom line this has got to be of, by, and for the people of Maui as the State listens closely to your voices and heartbeat for the future.

Aloha and Mahalo,
Rep. Gene Ward

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:28am 09-27-23

Aloha

Thank you for the opportunity to give testimony. I am sure you have heard all of these items before so I will be concise as I just want to add my concurrence to all of these items:

Short Term:

- Staff up and locate a building permitting office in Lahaina staffed by Lahaina people ASAP.
- Expedite utility restoration to neighborhoods that are partially standing: Opukea, Hoonanea, Waihikuli, Kahoma Village and also debris removal in those areas and the surrounding perimeters. These neighborhoods will provide urgently needed housing for displaced families, both owners of those homes and rentals.
- Fast track Pulelehua and the neighborhood next to the bypass that has already begun construction to expedite housing for displaced families and make rules conducive to displaced people using those homes for short term housing (2-5 years) or long term if they decide to stay there.

Long Term:

- Put utilities underground!!!!!!
- New construction should be incentivized to be as "green" as possible, such as PV on rooftops, improved insulation, cool roofs, low emittance windows, etc.
- Restore Moku'ula in Lahaina
- Make Front Street a walking street and create a parking structure so so people can park and walk along Front Street in an organized fashion

Mahalo for your attention. There is much to do.

MaryBeth Chin
808-280-7473

Kanoelehua Cantiberos

Location:

Submitted At: 10:25am 09-27-23

Aloha Kakou,

I am Hawai'i Island born and raised. I have Ohana that reside on Maui. I come with complete Aloha in my testimony here. The residents of Maui are my first priority. Rebuilding our historical buildings/sites are second.

I am writing to offer my assistance and ideas in rebuilding. I'm aware that 86% of the destructed structures, are residential. I'm aware that the average home was 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 1,420 sqft. plantation/ranch style home

built between 1970 and 1999.

My company and I can provide cold form steel panelization that is cost efficient, fire, hurricane, water, and mold resistant. We are willing to work together with residents, council, government officials, and federal and state programs, to assist the residents in rebuilding. Please see the attached floor plan and rendering of a 3/2 bath ranch style home. Also attached is an estimated budget sheet that we can discuss in further detail and work together in solidifying a bottom line.

We need to build back stronger and have more solidified preventative measures in place. Let's laulima and rise up from this tragedy.

Please feel free to reach out for further discussion or inquiries.

Mahalo nui,

Kanoelehua Cantiberos
(808) 315-0814
KaNoe@KnKCapitalEnterprises.com

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:33am 09-27-23

How come no one is doing more for our pets? People are being turned away from getting the help they need by the Humane Society in Pu'unene, saying that they're overcrowded and overwhelmed. Someone saw my cat but I wasn't even allowed in to look. Plus what about the animals still trapped in the burnt areas? I'm so sad.

Mahalo, please help

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:22am 09-27-23

As I'm concerned, Citizen long term resident of Maui, I urge you to make the Maui Humane Society accountable for the lives of the animals still in the burn zone! Everyone who supports them and donated to them in hopes that they will do the right thing and rescue all the animals still in the burn zone needs to be addressed! They need a second recovery center for all the animals that have survived the fire and are now trying to survive daily before the poisons and the bulldozers get them in a few weeks! I urge everybody who is searching for their beloved pets, still trapped in the burn zone to put more pressure on MHS to do the right thing! They have rejected many professionals in animal, rescue and welfare from around the globe, and even the local animal rescue groups have been denied access to help these poor animals that are still trapped inside the burn zone! They only have 2 to 4 trappers nightly, and they only bring out max five animals nightly and they estimated there are still over 500 cats trapped in the burn zone! Please allow at least the local animal rescue groups to come in and secure a second Recovery Center, ASAP! Maui Humane Society needs to do the right thing with the millions of dollars in donations that they have received for these efforts! Mahalo for your time, aloha

Great Committee

Location:

Submitted At: 9:13am 09-27-23

Testimony for 09/27/2023 GREAT meeting

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:55am 09-27-23

Aloha Maui County Council,

As someone who has worked animal welfare on Maui for the past decade my vision for rebuilding is bringing the local animal rescue community together during this unprecedented time. Maui Humane Society (MHS) stated in a press article 2 days ago that they are estimating still 500 live animals inside the burn zone waiting for rescue, but

yet they are only allowing a couple trappers from the mainland in to help. This is despite having credentialed professional animal search and rescue groups like Hawai'i Animal Kuleana Alliance (HAKA) on island sitting standby ready to assist.

Instead, at the beginning of September a New York based group called Neighborhood Cats (NC) was tasked by MHS to run the trapping/rescuing in Lahaina Town. NC is a Trap Neuter Release (TNR) group consisting of just a couple people that have no experience in disaster rescue like HAKA does. It's become clear very quickly that NC is not equipped to run the rescue side of things. For example, they only had one third the amount of feeding stations established that the professionals (AIM that MHS had brought in last month) told them they needed based on live animal sightings. It's completely unacceptable that AIM gave their assessment/recommendations and then NC didn't follow up until the next fire expert got into the field almost 2 weeks later and realized there was not even close to enough food/water to meet the huge need. That fire rescue expert also gave recommendations that have since been ignored. NC has proven to not be transparent with the community or even a team player as in the 5 years since the husband/wife two-person-team moved here they denied assisting the two main TNR groups on island.

It has been stated that after the county is done escorting Lahaina homeowners back to their properties that Soiltac will be sprayed and demolition will begin in these areas. There is a timeline of 3 weeks before FEMA starts spraying the Soiltac and begins demolition. This is an urgent situation and the local animal rescue community is reaching out again to offer our help because we don't feel it will be a safe environment for any cats once this process begins. The cats that survived the fire need to be removed from the burn zone immediately and their ohanas given a chance to find them/reunite.

What it comes down to is that locals with disaster rescue credentials are willing and wanting to help with the fire animal rescue operations, but are being denied when they should be the ones leading these recovery efforts! We are begging the county to allow HAKA in who will continue working with the local rescue community where transparency and true team work can begin as we move forward together with these long term rescue efforts.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:52am 09-27-23

Independence Energy Company (IEC) submits the following proposal for the conversion of the Town of Lahaina. The first principle essential to the conversion process is the preservation of the dignity; first and foremost, of the remains of the victims of the fire who could not be recovered and then the preservation of the physical remains of the Town of Lahaina. IEC's technology will convert the remains in a final step akin to a full cremation. Our process will completely deconstruct the remains that were partially and crudely cremated by the fire. Our process yields a combustible gas and inert ash. IEC will temporarily store the inert ash awaiting interment. The decisions regarding interment will rest in the hands of those most connected to the Town of Lahaina. The IEC process is essentially modular and portable. IEC will locate its hardware at a site suitable for a temporary project. The total area needed is 2-3 acres. IEC will place at the site material preparation equipment, thermal reaction hardware and combustible gas (the gas produced by the IEC thermal reaction) processing equipment. IEC has targeted a timeline for completion of the conversion process of less than 12 months. The operation of the conversion process will be conducted by a local company already identified by IEC. The local company will train and employ Lahaina and Maui persons to complete the conversion process. The IEC conversion process is demonstrably carbon neutral if not carbon negative. The process is fully compliant with prevailing Federal and State environmental statutes and regulations. For instance, no particulate matter escapes IEC's controlled process. Additionally, all organic compounds are converted to an environmentally safe and benign state. As noted above, throughout the entire conversion process IEC will seek the guidance of persons connected to the Town of Lahaina to ensure the preservation of the dignity of the remains. IEC fully recognizes that the conversion of the remains is not an industrial project. The conversion of Lahaina and most importantly the unrecoverable victims is the final process of interment. The preservation of dignity is the first and continual principle. Please direct any questions or inquiries to Adrian Lanser, CEO/President of Independence Energy Corporation, 770-606-4403 or adrianlanser@gmail.com.

Susan Pcola-Davis

Location:

Submitted At: 8:35am 09-27-23

Support with reservations

Zuri Aki

Location:

Submitted At: 5:29am 09-27-23

I am providing this position in SUPPORT on behalf of the Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) as the OHA Public Policy Manager. In addition to the testimony attached here, copies have been emailed directly to Councilmembers. Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to share this mana'o on such crucial legislation.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:02am 09-27-23

Testimony regarding Lahaina Rebuild

When rebuilding Lahaina please:

- restore Moku'ula & Mokuhinia
- bury power lines
- keep sea level rise in mind and turn waterfront into park/public lands
- ban vacation rentals in the neighborhoods-
- utilize hawaiian land management practices to restore 'ulu forests and waterways

John Carty - Honolua Farms

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:38pm 09-26-23

Aloha Maui County Council,

I support the following policies for Lahaina's recovery and future resilience.

1. Ten year moratorium on ALL new vacation, short-term, transient rental permits, homes, and units for all of Maui County.
2. Ten year moratorium on ALL permits, buildings, and construction for hotels, resorts, condos, and any accommodation used for short-term/transient visitors and/or tourists for all of Maui County.
3. Additional county tax incentives and rebates for owners who rent their home or apartment/condo to long-term (12 months or longer) Hawaii resident tenants.
4. Increase county tax rates on ALL short-term, transient vacation rental units and homes.
5. Ten year ban on all cruise ships for all of West Maui.
6. Strict monitoring and enforcement of county (and state) commercial activity permit regulations for businesses that operate on public land, beaches, and near shore waters (surf schools, kayak tours, photography, wedding ceremonies, etc.).
7. Establish an additional county TAT for all transient accommodation that will be used for Maui County infrastructure modernization and maintenance.
8. Increased fines and tax penalties for land and/or home owners on land zoned for agriculture who are not operating agriculture business.

Maui's housing shortage is a direct result of the county and state's approval of approximately 12,000+ short-term vacation rental units while ignoring the housing needs of residents. The county and state allowed Maui's development to outpace our island's infrastructure for decades. Before August 8, 2023, the daily visitor population was approximately 40,000 to 70,000 tourists with approximately 20,000 rental cars on island, in addition to the

resident population of 165,000. Stop building and approving short-term accommodation that overburdens limited island resources, outdated infrastructure, medical facilities, and emergency personnel.

Lahaina residents lost family and friends, homes, and businesses because the state and county prioritized tourism industry profits over the needs of working class residents for decades. Water shortages, chronic drought conditions, shoreline erosion, annual wildfires, outdated sewage treatment/infrastructure, crumbling electric grid, emergency personnel shortages, and inadequate medical facility infrastructure are all issues that must be addressed now to create a resilient island and resilient island economy. The catastrophic fires on August 8 were the direct result of the county's status quo policies that ignored residents' needs while catering to tourism, real estate, and land development lobbyists. Maui County has employee shortages in all major employment sectors including the following; medical, education, skilled trades, emergency first responders, state/county parks and recreation enforcement, retail, and service (including resorts and restaurants). Lahaina/Maui doesn't need more tourist accommodation or luxury vacation homes. Maui doesn't need more tourism sector jobs. We have enough already.

Maui needs affordable long-term housing and modern infrastructure to support the development that was allowed to outpace our island's finite resources.

Mahalo,
Amber Coontz
Lahaina, HI, 96761

Juenlee Brown

Location:
Submitted At: 3:27pm 09-26-23

Testimony was a family collaboration with my son and my daughter.

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 10:57am 09-26-23

Aloha GREAT members and Maui's West Side Ohara,

Thinking way, way ahead - I would like to see some of the Federal Disaster Funds (along with funds from other sources) used to acquire all Front Street properties in Lahaina's commercial district to create a public space. This could be a pedestrian walk-way and green space, with art, plaques, gardens to memorialize old Lahaina - from monarchy days to 2023. This would maintain our links to our history, as well as provide a tourist destination.

Ann Marie Quinlan
West Side Resident

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 2:55pm 09-25-23

Questions Regarding GREAT Meeting 9/27

Aloha Chair Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Tamara Paltin, & Committee Members,

As we prepare for the GREAT meeting at the Westin on 9/27 in West Maui, I was hoping to get some comments from you all..

I understand that this meeting is to "invite thoughts regarding Resolution 23-194" however, I don't think majority have or will have time to read this 10-page document (especially when people still need to read the 12-page Bill 86; and attend the Special Meeting on Monday 9/25). As I share and encourage my sphere to attend + speak to have their voice heard, I found it important to ask this GREAT Committee the following questions:

_ What specifically are we asking of the West Maui Community to speak on and have their voices heard? (Pretend no one knows about Reso 23-194).

_ Are we asking the people to speak on what went wrong 8/8, so these failures are on the record?

- _ Are we asking the people to speak to potential solutions/prevention ideas?
- _ Are we asking the people to speak on how they think Lahaina should be rebuilt?
- _ Are we asking the people to speak on anything not mentioned?

I attended the GREAT Committee meeting on Monday and intended to testify but was pulled away before I could do so. The reality is the majority of West Maui fire-survivors have not been able to attend the various meetings even on-line for countless reasons. They are experiencing high stress, literally living week-to-week in hotels with no long-term option available and a mere 3-days notice of location changes so the hotels can accommodate TOURISTS coming 10/8, all while trying to manage PREMATURE vital deadlines for XYZ things that force them into cattle-call lines etc. Additionally, there have still been no childcare solutions or schooling for majority Westside keiki, which has been a frustrating ongoing cry to the DOE + State Reps that have fell on deaf ears.

Furthermore, and staying on point with the GREAT Committee, I have to ask if the Mayor collaborates with the County Council &/or any of the Committees, including GREAT or if he just does his own thing? I'm specifically asking this because of the recent announcement on September 19th on the County of Maui Social Media platforms spotlighting the new "Lahaina Advisory Team". I would have expected this to come AFTER the West Maui meeting, which is why I was so surprised and genuinely curious about communication channels (or lack thereof). Or perhaps I'm just confused as to what the GREAT Committee Meeting is actually for on 9/27.

Mahalo nui for your time and for clearly having compassion on Lahaina – I appreciate the Council's decision to defer Bill 86 and to host this GREAT Committee Meeting on the Westside. And I thank you in advance for expanding on the questions listed above. _

PS: If anyone can let me know why Reso 23-201 was deferred and what Committee it defers to, that would be greatly appreciated! I felt the number of testifiers supporting the Council to urge the DOH to continue the AMR contract was clear, so I was confused why it was deferred at all and want to keep up with it &/or help advocate my sphere to send in (more) written testimonies.

Mahalo!

God Bless,

Jenn Pederson

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:27am 09-25-23

Ho'oponopono Healing Protocol

This is a link for a Ho'oponopono Healing Protocol. It is very powerful and is great to do everyday or as much as you can to build up health and wellbeing. It will support you and the community. Can do with the instructions of a white candle in bowl of sea salt and water and when done throw in ocean or just do when sun is in view over the ocean and send everything negative to the sea water. It will be neutralized there by. Keep doing till you feel a solid space of goodness take root and then you won't need to do as frequently. Feel free to share as you wish. I got this years ago. It will help the whole community of Maui. I also did a Ho'oponopono business training on Oahu 2018. This is very good medicine. It may be good to email to the hubs teams if you feel so guided.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4j40y2bzgg1unspur7ppo/hooponopono2.pdf?rlkey=szurloymdd19te3motura1xdn&dl=0>

Kind regards,

Maria N Isotov

Cell: 808-344-0330

Guest User

Location:

Sept 27th Council hearing westside

Council Members,

I will say, I had to scan that semi public notice in the online Mauinow.com article, just to find day, time, location and room. I never saw such a piecemeal public announcement, it followed no standard of protocol call. I have been a former County Planner and private consultant since 2000. The level of disorganization is peak at this point. It is making me seriously question if anyone is taking their position, authority and responsibility serious. It seems to be a full decline of leadership and obfuscation, now it has resulted in the loss of a whole town under your watch.

The firsthand accounts that I have heard, in person, which corroborate other first hand accounts is at such a level of negligence or malicious intent that it is undeniable. People need to be held to account thoroughly and be put on leave or asked to resign. Public trust and the low level of safety that people feel for their person, under this leadership, is unparalleled.

Plus, what is being done to secure the debris from runoff once we get a serious rain? Do you have Public Works on that? Who is in charge of securing the runoff from entering the storm drains and ocean and creating another environmental disaster?

Where are the answers to all the questions from the testifies, from the past hearings that were put to the County Council? Where are those answers being addressed in writing? We need answers to past questions!

It is as if there is no one in charge. No one has stood up and said, "I am the top leader and the buck stops here! I will get substantive answers for you! Or I will resign because I'm only a distraction at this point and woefully unqualified to lead."

The days of fluffy words, fluffy actions and fluffy expectations are gone. This is life and death at this point, literally, sadly. Infrastructure and proper security that cares about the people, needs to be addressed fundamentally.

Pretending it was Electrical is baseless as any one who was in Lahaina can tell you that power was out. We need properly trained, skilled and substantially qualified people at the helm. Those who are faking it need to resign in the interest of the community, step aside, so people who can organize and lead, can step up.

Things are so serious at this point that anyone faking it is so obvious to see because they don't have any understanding of what needs to happen and they just come up with ideas that aren't fully developed. It is terrible!

I will have additional testimony but what is testimony if nothing substantive happens? The community will not be moving on until matters are addressed, there is no way to heal the wounds without proper resolution. So all those questions that no one in leadership is taking serious need answers, because it seems like everything leadership is saying doesn't match up to facts on the ground. If your memory is failing you then step down or take better notes and get answers.

Council members should be coming to this hearing with answers from the last hearings and then taking testimony. Let's get some facts going!

So leadership can either continue to pretend or they can start taking actions that address all the disfunction that resulted in massive loss of life and property. This is a huge mess to have as a legacy.

We are all connected on this island. One way or another coconut wireless is stronger than ever. And people who documented the events should not be persecute but held up in honor for their foresight and courage and tireless work. So sad how much nonsense has come from the government. I didn't see any Council members out there documenting and interviewing people one on one in any substantive fashion. Shame on you all for hiding away when we have needed you most.

Personally, if you are upset by the level of unhappiness in this email, rather than write off what I am saying you would be better served by taking note and trying to make amends and get answers to all the questions that have been voiced by the community and getting yourselves on the road to recovery. Denial isn't going to work this time.

I have been waiting patiently to see integrity and commitment from the leadership and it has been found wanting on pretty much every level. Step up or bow out! We need true leadership or we are all going to go down with this ship.

Kind regards,

Maria N Isotov
Cell: 808-344-0330

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 9:40am 09-20-23

Mala Boat Ramp

Aloha

This email is intended for the Maui Emergency Management Administration (MEMA), DLNR, MPD and the US Coast Guard.

Hope this email finds you all well. I know the County is working hard with the Re-Entry to Lahaina. I am following up on a particular part of the Re-Entry plan which is the opening of Mala Ramp (Zone 6A).

We believe it is time to move forward with the opening as the community needs a safe access for gathering, transportation and recreation on the West Side.

Here is a list of government concerns we have heard that we from the public understand and believe these answers can help the government with the decision to open up Mala:

-In accordance with the MauiRecovers.org zoning map that shows the opening of zone 5B (Lahaina Cannery Mall), vehicle access thru zone 5B is achievable to Zone 6A, which encompasses the Mala Wharf area, all its parking and even part of the beach at Mala.

-It is well known that Kahoma Village residences are living in their homes and vehicle access for them to go to & from Kahoma Village has little to no safety concerns from the fires as that access drives right thru zone 6A to get to zone 5B.

-Barricades would need to be relocated to maintain the secure access points on both the South & North side of Front St of zone 6A. This seems achievable by relocating the current National Guard barricade at 5B at the back end of the Cannery that leads to front Street further South to where Front Street meets the road to Mala so anyone going to Mala Wharf cannot proceed anywhere else except to Mala. Additionally, continue to restrict access to only residences in Kahoma Village to their home.

-We know of several boaters who have now used Mala with special permission from the USCG. There appears to be no navigable hazards for the USCG or DLNR to restrict water access to Mala.

-The rinse water spigots and bathrooms may or may not be working, but these amenities is not critical elements for the operation of the ramp at this time. These amenities in the past were shut off/closed and it did not close use of the boat ramp or beach. This should not be a reason for holding up access to Mala.

-Use of Mala has always been an issue with respect to the limited parking. Tourist on island are limited rn so this

issue may be less of an issue especially if we open it up now. But again, this should not be a reason for holding up access to Mala.

Trailer Boat community members have reached to me and are requesting for updates on the timing of the ramp opening. By the eyes of the public, opening up zone 6A should be a relatively easy decision for all the entities involved. Please Maui County, DLNR, MPD, and Coast Guard give what I say some consideration and prioritize the opening of zone 6A. It would be a huge win for the community, not just the boaters and I think you guys could use any wins you can get with the way this response has been going.

Mahalo

Ben Walin
Commodore
Maui Trailer Boat Club Inc.
A Hawaii 501C3 Non Profit Corporation

808-250-7687

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:23am 09-20-23

Sept 27th Council hearing westside

Dear Honorable Council Members:

In reference to your hearing scheduled for next week in Westin Kaanapali, a couple items:

1. Thank you for finally Providing ample public notice that there is a hearing.
2. FREE public parking needs to be provided in excess of the Whalers parking structure which is over full on any regular day.
3. Alternative sites in the resort on the grass need to be found for free parking.
4. And multiple public notices need to go out at the Hubs well in advance of the hearing so people are aware and can attend so you can be informed properly.

Kind regards,

Maria N Isotov