

LU Committee

From: weeklyupdate@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, August 13, 2017 10:52 PM
To: LU Committee
Subject: STRONGLY OPPOSE Conditional permit at 355 Haiku Road

Dear Chairman Carroll and members of the Land Use Committee,

I am writing in **strong opposition** to the conditional permit at 355 Haiku Road, for transient vacation rentals and events. My name is Dr. Bert Weeks, and my family has lived directly next door to this property since 1962.

I originally partially supported this proposal, when it was billed as transient vacation rental and an *occasional* event. There was no mention of other commercial ventures such as photo shoots, farm to table meals, botanical garden tours, and the list goes on. We decided to oppose it when we learned of the frequency of the proposed events. They are proposing twice weekly small events and 18 large events per year. However they consider all wedding related activities as one event. This could potentially be 3 days-1)a rehearsal, 2)wedding/reception, and 3)brunch the third day. Now we have up to 54 days of large events plus 104 small events per year. 158 days a year. Plus one large community event of up to 250 people. Whether there is amplified music or not, 20 or 150 people, allowing these events will detrimentally alter the quality of life in our home. We will lose our privacy and tranquility.

There will be added noise that will adversely affect our community. Don't believe it when they say that amplified music cannot be heard outside of their property lines. Over the years, we have been able to hear parties being held next door, especially if the wind blows in a certain direction. But these were private parties and they were rarely held.

The events will create additional traffic into our community. Even if some guests are shuttled, the renters and all the vendors will have cars.

The former Baldwin Estate is a beautiful property. The current owners say that they want to share this beauty so that others can enjoy it. The problem is that not only are they sharing *their* property, but they will also share the rest of the community. Yet they are the only ones who will benefit from the commercialization of the neighborhood. Part of what makes the Baldwin Estate so beautiful is the rural, agricultural nature of the area. What WE love about our home and community is the peace and quiet. Please don't ruin it by shuttling tourists into our neighborhood, who have no stake in our community.

We have met the owners, Erica and Peter, and they are lovely people. This proposal, however, is a commercial venture by big time developers. They are business people, and this is a business proposal. We applaud them for farming, and producing food for the community. That is what agriculture is all about. There has been farming on this property for a long time. The farm that they are touting has nothing to do with having events or a TVR on their property. In fact, most of the land that they are farming is not included in their conditional permit. If it was, it would be more than 15 acres, and this permit would have to be heard by the STATE land commission, instead of Maui County.

While I strongly oppose holding events, I do not oppose having a transient vacation rental on the property. However, if a TVR is approved, then they need to abide by the current rules for TVRs, including limiting number of rooms rented to 6, not allowing visitors, and noise restrictions. As the proposal stands, 10 rooms, allowing 20 more guests and noise till 10 pm would be considered a mini hotel. Despite not having a check-in

desk, there is housekeeping and cooking staff on site. Note that in the Maui master plan, hotels and resorts are not allowed in Haiku.

Our community is quiet and isolated. We will lose much of what we love about our home and neighborhood, while the beauty of the former Baldwin Estate is used for commercial purposes. The Weeks Ohana has been a good neighbor and community member for over half a century. Shouldn't the needs of the current residents of Maui override the need to create a better tourist destination? Why does the monetary need of one new landowner take precedence over the wants and needs of the current community?

Granting this permit will negatively impact my home and the Haiku community. I **firmly oppose** this conditional permit and strongly encourage the Council to deny this request.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bert Weeks

435 Haiku Road, Haiku, HI 96708

weeklyupdate@hawaii.rr.com