

## Testimony for ADEPT Committee 6-22-23

Good afternoon chair and members of the committee, David Goode here as a member of the public and representing Ledcor Maui as the owner of the first parcel listed in the proposed resolution 23-146, ADEPT-12.

I stand by my written testimony at the May 23, 2023 council meeting that ***the proposed resolution is premature and should be filed***. As I mentioned then, the first parcel listed, TMK 2-1-008:145, is not for sale nor should it be acquired by the County as it does not meet the criterium for acquisition.

This resolution is a wobbly cart before the horse.

There needs to be a better process to identify properties to send to the Conservation Planning Committee (CPC) that is community vetted, landowner engaged, administration supported, fiscally responsible and within the CPC's capacity of being reviewed.

Now ***community vetting*** doesn't mean working with a few community organizations in closed door meetings. The CPC is charged with producing a "greenprint" by December 2024. The previous council put in the code a requirement of a greenprint as follows: "Using *public outreach*, the general plan, and other community and documentary resources, including land conservation organizations, a comprehensive conservation plan, also known as a greenprint, *must* be created. The greenprint will guide land acquisition (repeat: ***the greenprint will guide land acquisition***) by the County for open space, natural resources, cultural resources, and scenic views preservation purposes."

There is a long way to go for the greenprint to be produced, and until it is, this list of properties to acquire is untethered and out in front of the horse.

***Landowner engaged*** means communicating with landowners in advance. Explain to them why their parcel is being considered and provide evidence.

Advise them of the overall process for land acquisition including the steps for condemnation. This should be done in the greenprint process and at council meetings. We received no notice as a landowner of the previously mentioned TMK that this property is on the agenda of this meeting. Imagine if your home was being considered and you were not notified?

**Administration support** on buying, owning, maintaining, and managing any property is key to decision making. Engage the administration.

**Fiscal responsibility** is paramount. Some properties listed in the resolution could cost tens of millions of dollars. What is the budget to purchase? To maintain?

**Understand the CPC capabilities** – I would suggest starting with a meeting to understand how they are staffed, their rules, what materials they want to receive in order to do their work, and get the status on the “greenprint”. The CPC has met just six times since its inception with the latest meeting held last December, and to date, none of the minutes of the meetings since July of 2022 are published on the County’s website. We have no idea what was discussed, nor any action taken for the last year. Looks to me like they need some help.

Finally, please make public the materials and communications by and between the Chair from the community organizations that led to the creation of the list. **Let’s be transparent.**

Again, **please file this communication** and if for some reason the list is being deferred or forwarded to the CPC, **remove TMK 2-1-008:145**, it is not for sale.

Let’s get the cart back behind the horse – properly tied off with a well-trained driver and a defined route.

Mahalo.