

IT Committee

From: Yukilei Sugimura
Sent: Wednesday, November 24, 2021 5:06 PM
To: IT Committee
Cc: Laksmi M. Abraham; Clarita Balala
Subject: Fw: Aloha from Makawao :) Thank you for reading

Aloha IT Staff,

Forwarding the following email from Darlene Rayhill as testimony for IT-67.

Mahalo,

Jordan Helle
for Councilmember Sugimura

From: Darlene Rayhill <darlene@ohanafilms.com>
Sent: Friday, October 29, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>
Cc: Laura L. McDowell <Laura.McDowell@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Aloha from Makawao :) Thank you for reading

You don't often get email from darlene@ohanafilms.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Councilmembers Mike Molina and Yuki Lei Sugimura,

My name is Darlene. I hope you are well today :) I submitted a testimony little while back when you asked for it via the BlueJeans session regarding the Makawao Baseyard moving to the Makani Landfill.

First off, let me thank you for reading this email today. I know that your inbox is probably full, that your plate is full, and that you are stretched too thin. Plus, it's Friday, and you are looking forward to the holiday weekend probably spending it with friends and family. There is a whole slew of things happening in the world, in Hawaii and within Maui county.

I know that our situation here in Makawao might not seem dire, but please know that a few changes on the county's side would make a world of difference for those of us surrounding the Makawao baseyard.

This is what is prompting me to write you today: for the last two nights, my husband has to sleep in a separate bed than *our* bed. He needs to sleep on the couch because it's further away from the baseyard. I never thought that it would come to having to not being able to sleep in your own bed, but it has, and it is kind of depressing.

We work from home. We do video production. We like to keep the windows open for the cross breeze. Day in and day out, despite wearing headphones, noise and exhaust comes into our house. It's affecting our work and our mental health.

Just now, as I write this, the Vac-Con sewage pump truck was being cleaned out right behind our houses again. I have a feeling that this is not sanitary. Not only that, it was a loud engine sound for about 20 minutes. This is the kind of thing that is affecting us daily.



This is just my experience, but we have neighbors all around us that are elderly, that are ill, that are newborn, that are children. Humans of all ages who have their own stories. There are people who work for the county who will say "this is the way it has always been" but this is incorrect.

For example, the couple across from us in their mid-80s have lived there their entire lives. They are afraid to speak up because of retaliation, but they have to keep their home shuttered due to the pollution, dust and noise from this new version of the baseyard. *Don't the elderly members of our community deserve to enjoy their golden years? To open their windows? To garden in their yards?*

There are dozens of children on this street. Some of the kids literally wake up to coughing on truck exhaust at 5am each morning, I find it absurd that garbage trucks can be backed up just 20 feet from bedroom windows. Truck exhaust is a known carcinogen. I feel like the county is failing its residents by allowing this activity to continue to happen.

I will make this brief as I can. And I will have the solutions laid out in a separate email, so that you can forward to the appropriate departments if needed. You *might* remember me from a couple of the county council testimony opportunities over the last couple of months.

I originally testified back in August about amending the post-closure plan on the Makani Landfill so this offending activity could be moved there.

BUT HERE IT IS, THE GOOD NEWS!

In the meantime, my research has found that **post closure is complete!** The EPA states that post closure lasts 30 years from closure. So, as of August of 2021, the Makani Landfill can be used for activity other than what was stated in the post closure plan! This is amazing news and just as simple as filing paperwork. No more hiring a lawyer and doing amendments, all you have to do is get a few signatures.

The construction staging activity that has been the major change to the baseyard can go back there.

Yes, *go back.*

Apparently the county used to use the Makani Landfill for staging activity. Then they lost the area, for whatever reason, and now it's here in our back yards.

- And now there's a dust barrier.
- And now there are piles of dirt, gravel and giant trucks moving and beeping for all of this staging activity.
- And a giant sewage truck being cleaned out.

Plus, the dust barrier makes us invisible. Trucks come in and out, idling, beeping, as they do on a construction site. And you know what? That's totally fine, but this is a neighborhood. This is not a construction site. The giant wall makes them forget we're here.

So, what would make this neighborhood very happy is using that 100K that was going to be used for a fence at the Makawao Baseyard and use it over at the Makani Landfill. Move the staging and larger trucks to Makani. Take down the dust barrier at the Makawao Baseyard.

And then our neighborhood baseyard would actually be more like it used to be.

This is a **very easy solution** to the most offending activity happening in our neighborhood. Old landfills have restricted use, so you wouldn't even be able to sell to a developer. However, roadwork staging is a perfect allowable use. Housing garbage trucks is a perfect use. Another one is green energy, such as solar. Perhaps "truck ports" with solar roofing (like the costco ones) could be built to house the garbage trucks.

You could put it all in the plans for a greener Maui and happier Makawao residents.

Additionally, there would be fewer trucks going through Makawao town, destroying the roads and costing the county more money on repairs. Less traffic for Makawao town as well.

A step-by-step request email with the solutions is on its way. Again, thank you for your time over the last year, we really need your help.

Lots of aloha,

Darlene Rayhill
808.446.6442