

Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-10-25 5:00 PM

Meeting Time: 10-25-23 17:00

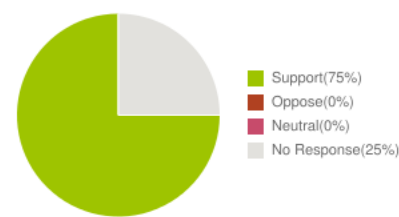
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-10-25 5:00 PM	10-25-23 17:00	2	4	3	0	0

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

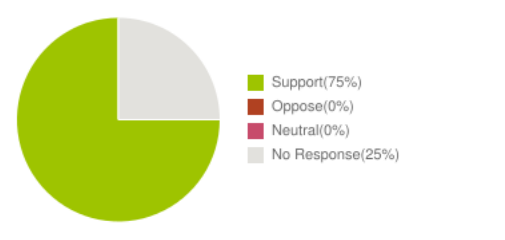


Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	1	1	0	0
GREAT-14 Reso 23-194 West Maui RESOLUTION 23-194, RELATING TO DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY PLAN IN RESPONSE TO THE ISLAND OF MAUI'S TRAGIC WILDFIRES OF AUGUST 2023 (GREAT-14)	3	2	0	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

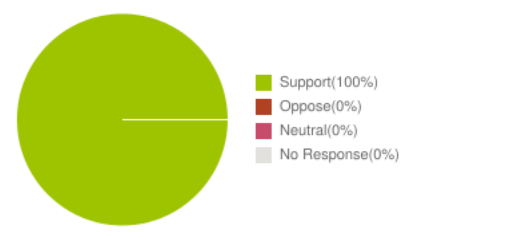
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 3:51pm 10-25-23
Imagining a new Lahaina Town

As we grieve for those who perished in the August 8, 2023 Lahaina fire, let us continue our healing by imagining what a new Lahaina Town can become. We know that the reconstruction of Lahaina Town will cost between \$10 billion and \$20 billion, and take many years to complete – let's do it right, and leave our descendants with a town they can be proud of and a platform that they can build on.

Here are four elements to an reimagined Lahaina Town:

- A memorial park on Front Street between Shaw St. and Papalaua St., 150 feet from the ocean's high-water mark – in accordance with the county's building statute and the West Maui Comprehensive Plan (sea level rise of 3.2 feet)
- Lahaina as the Cultural Capital of Hawaii – the commercially zoned area between Papalaua and Shaw to the highway – should be designated as the Cultural Capital of Hawaii
- Double zoning density of the residential zoned areas of Lahaina Town, including the areas makai of the highway. Strict design guidelines in place so that the residential areas maintain conformity, beauty and green space
- Hills greened with fire resistant indigenous plants and trees to retard future wildfires; investigate the use of solar powered sea water desalination to irrigate the fallow lands – safeguard the existing aquifer and stream water

These four ideas could create a Lahaina Town that would be resilient to future fires and be an attraction to visitors from Hawaii, the Mainland and the Pacific islands...and form a base on which future generations can build.

Imagine ...

We drive to Lahaina Town, park our car in one of the large parking lots at the edge of town. There we are supplied with a smaller motorized vehicle (golf cart, wheelchair, scooter, bicycle) to continue our visit.

We begin our visit at the Memorial Park along the ocean; there are non-permanent structures for food, for artists, for music, for carvers, for dance, an open air theater for locally written and produced plays; an open air theater for films created and produced in Lahaina Town. We see non-permanent structures for healers and educators. Some of the historic Lahaina Town buildings have been rebuilt and there is a museum documenting the history of Lahaina Town. Next to a revitalized harbor, is an institute for marine studies and sea level rise; an institute to teach voyagers how to build sea faring canoes and to live on the ocean in a small canoe for weeks. At the ocean, the Hokulea and its associated voyaging canoes are anchored and the crews of the Hokulea are the teachers at the institute.

If our visit is in the the first two weeks of November, the memorial park hosts a hula festival modeled on the Merri Monarch Festival – perhaps it could be a mid-year Merri Monarch festival run by the committee that runs the Merri Monarch festival in Hilo. There are movies every night, some created by the students and graduates of a film school located in the commercial zone of Lahaina town, and produced at the film studio up-hill. At the Shaw St. end of the memorial park, we visit revitalized Moku'ula, with enough water to make it what it once was. Shops, restaurants and art galleries line the mauka end of the memorial park. There are places for us to sit in the shade and take in the wonder of the ocean, watch the whales, look up at the greened hillsides.

The current commercially zoned area of Lahaina houses art schools, dance studios, music venues, a food innovation center, areas for the research and practice of the healing arts – both traditional and modern, a film school associated with a film studio built up hill from the main Lahaina Town. The commercially zoned area of Lahaina segmented for each of these activities, with associated shops and galleries. We are free to go to any of these institutes where we are shown the work of artists in residence, given a sampling of the work that is done there – a hula lesson by accomplished teachers; the basics of Polynesian and Hawaiian art; etc.

Mauka of Wainee Street and south of Dickenson, the commercial area gives way to residential lots, churches and community centers. Those homes and institutes have been rebuilt under a new zoning category, allowing for two dwelling units, effectively doubling the housing stock of the community.

Strict design guidelines reflect the historic architecture of Lahaina Town and create enough green space and foliage to make the residential areas a verdant and pleasant place. Residents of these areas arrive to their homes using special entrances at Prison, Dickenson and Lahainaluna Streets.

Mauka of the highway are the town's grocery stores, gas stations, banks, doctor offices, vet clinics and other commercial establishments serving the local community. And mauka of these commercial areas are the main residential areas of Lahaina Town, extending between the highway and the bypass. These residential areas are also allowed two dwellings per lot, and governed by the same strict design guidelines that apply to the makai residential areas of Lahaina town. We don't see any concrete block apartment buildings, and green spaces and abundant foliage offer a sense of peace and serenity.

As we continue our visit to the land above the residentially zoned areas of Lahaina Town, we are told that these lands were once fallow and dry, helping wildfires to spread and destroy the town. Now, these lands are lush with native species of trees and foliage, selected to retard future wildfires and a fire detection mesh system installed to give early warnings of developing wildfires. Solar power is used to power the desalination plants and irrigation pumps. We are given a tour of the solar power installations and the desalination plant, shown the intricate network of pumps and irrigation pipes that allow for the greening of these 5 square miles of land. There are farms that produce food for the people of the town and the tourists who visit West Maui; the farmers work with the food innovation center located in the main commercial area of the town. We are told that in the forests above, sandalwood and koa trees are beginning to flourish.

We tour the 50 acre parcel that has been developed into a film studio and are learn that up to 5 major motion pictures are produced here each year, employing upwards of 1,000 people, most of whom live in Lahaina and were trained at the film school below.

And so ends our tour of the new Lahaina Town.

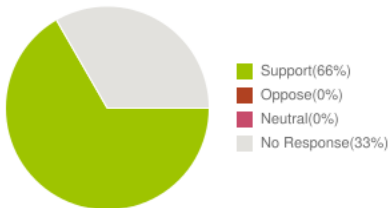
As noted, \$10-\$20 billion will be spent to reconstruct Lahaina Town. Let's do it in a new and different way, a way that will make us proud to have created beauty from disaster, to have honored the memories of those who perished here, and leave future generations with a canvas on which they can design their own dreams.

Respectfully submitted,

Virendra Nath and Nancy Makowski
Lahaina, Hawaii
October 25, 2023

Agenda Item: eComments for GREAT-14 Reso 23-194 West Maui 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



Great Committee

Location:
Submitted At: 12:17pm 10-25-23

Testimony received by GREAT Committee

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 9:25pm 10-24-23

Streamline the reconstruction of Lahaina

Aloha:

I have four simple recommendations to expedite the reconstruction of Lahaina:

- 1) Allow individual property owners to obtain permits while infrastructure is being revamped. Owners can plan, permit, bid, and reconstruct while roads and utilities are being redone. A "Certificate Of Occupancy", however, would not be granted until relevant infrastructure is completed and the reconstructed property ties into necessary utilities. The property owners can assess their own competition schedule VS risk.
- 2) Reinstate the "Plan Review Waiver". The county has a shortage of both employees and financing. The individual property owners can hire architects/engineers to attest to the compliance of intended improvements. Professional licenses are on the line. This should greatly reduce the workload of the Planning Dept and Building Dept and thus put less strain on the county budget.
- 3) Allow the AIA to revise the Lahaina Historic District construction guidelines. After major revisions to the town are agreed upon, update the building requirements to a more fire friendly template. Think "Seaman's Hospital" and the integration of stone. Once said guidelines are in place, they can be used for the pursuit of the aforesaid Plan Review Waiver.
- 4) Allow contemporary buildings to be reconstructed. If a structure received a building permit or Planning Commission approval within the last couple of decades it should qualify for rebuilding, subject only to updates to present building codes. Again, the Plan Review Waiver could attest to compliance.

Good luck with this enormous task. I hope the community can work together with vision and tolerance.

05fishery_college@icloud.com

Steven Bronstein

Location:

Submitted At: 9:13am 10-22-23

Front Street 600-900 Block Redevelopment: Makai 800-900 Block: New Questions Arise!!

(Please note that I have represented the leasing of approximately 23 plus Front Street retail store tenants since the year 2000 which included Billabong, Maui Hands, Pacific Whale Foundation, Maui Divers, & others.) Prior to that I founded and directed the entire retail division for Cushman & Wakefield, Inc. when the company was owned by Mitsubishi and The Rockefeller's.

New Questions arise with regard to the redevelopment of Front Street and its hopefully "new" set back distance from water?

What will a "new Front Street " walkway look like? Will a walkway be without autos? Will it be elevated? Will it be a board-walk style of construction or garden style appearance? Will a new Front Street incorporate the visions of our honored elders.

Will certain tenant uses such as artisan galleries be limited in size and scope?

(In 2004 the students across the street from 612 Front Street at King Kamehameha Elementary School volunteered to paint the construction barrier. The last two letters of my cell phone are visible)