

EACP Committee

From: Arabella Ark <arabellaark@icloud.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 15, 2019 1:07 PM
To: eacp.committee@mauicounty.us.
Subject: Testimony for August 20th 1:30 pm council meeting

Aloha, Members of the EACP Committee and County Council Members,

My testimony is regarding the State Hana Highway from Haiku to Hana town and the County Pi'ilani Highway from Hana town to Ulupalakua.

The number of cars and buses must be limited and regulated for the safety of all drivers and residents as well as for the well-being of the roads and bridges.

The work of the Hana Highway Regulation commission is excellent. Please listen carefully to their research and recommendations.

As a resident of Hana for nineteen years, I felt strongly the need for regulation. I watched over-sized vehicles and tour buses ram the buttresses of bridges because they could not navigate the turns. I inched along behind long lines of vehicles taking five hours to get one way to a doctor's appointment when the same drive without traffic took me one hour and twenty five minutes. I have accompanied family members in emergency situations in ambulances with sirens blaring and lights flashing and cars would not pull over to let us pass.

My recommendations for your consideration are:

1. To create a large public parking area near Twin Falls in Haiku. Parking could be paid parking to defray costs. As revenue is often of importance, fees are a way of getting it.
2. Allow the tour bus companies to offer shuttles up and down the coast with stops at proscribed scenic areas and a general ticket to get on and off any bus at any time/stop during the trip.
3. To have a toll-type gate for all vehicles which only opens with a Hawaii driver's license or voucher for an overnight stay. This gate would also be good for visitors who are spending the night in Hana.
4. No day trips for visitors unless on the buses.
5. A booth at the gates to be manned 24/7 to properly regulate and direct traffic as well as oversee parking.
6. Not allow any tour buses on Pi'ilani Highway west of the national park...until the road is properly paved and wide enough for two lanes of traffic.

Thank you for your time and concern over this important matter. The highways are more than a simple means of transportation; they are a life-line for residents of the greater Hana community. Our lives and welfare must be your greatest concern.

Respectfully submitted,
Arabella Ark