

AH Committee

From: Thomas Landrigan <toroland12@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 03, 2019 11:08 AM
To: AH Committee
Subject: Affordable Housing Projects (Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of the Makila Farms Project (Lahaina)) Agenda Item AH-1 (3)

Dear Honorable Chair and Members of the Affordable Housing Committee,

I am writing in opposition to the proposal for Makila Farms.

I attended the Affordable Housing Committee meeting on June 19 and was impressed by the impassioned and heartfelt testimony of many members of our West Maui and greater Maui Community. The majority of testifiers were strongly against the proposals for Makila Rural East and Polanui Gardens.

The central issues and concerns over water, fire safety, traffic, septic systems, cultural rights, lack of access to shops, schools, medical care, public transportation etc. expressed repeatedly by residents provided overwhelming evidence and a clear picture of why this location is not suited to this type of development.

Like many West Maui residents, I had to flee the fires on August 24 last year. Just after 1am, amidst howling winds, I heard urgent hammering on my front door by Maui Police Department and a neighbor. I grabbed my go bag and ran shoeless to my car, driving away from the flames, which were closing in on my house from 2 directions, grateful to be safe.

I have very real concerns over what might happen the next time the West Maui Mountains catch fire... If these new developments were to go forward, we would have hundreds more people and cars trying to evacuate the Launiupoko/Makila area. Would families be trapped, unable to leave their cul-de-sacs? Would that in turn prevent people who live mauka of any proposed developments from getting out?

Another issue worthy of consideration is the well-documented overcrowding in West Maui schools. I substitute teach at Lahaina Intermediate School and from there have been watching the progress of the construction of the much needed new wing at Princess Nahi'ena'ena School over the past 2 years. As we know, these infrastructure changes do not happen fast.

This is of particular concern when any project submitted by the developer is presented as a 201H project, which, even in a tied vote from the Council, would be fast tracked and exempt from environmental and other scrutiny.

This proposed development is located on agricultural land which currently allows three ranches. Any more would contribute to overdevelopment and affirm all the negative impacts to the environment stated in all previous testimony AGAINST development in this area.

Also, with the many concerns over water in this area, the riparian and appurtenant water rights of the Kuleana in Kaua'ula Valley should be acknowledged under state law. This has been brought to the forefront with the

recent CWRM decision to protect and restore the instream flow at Ukemehame, Olowalu, Launiupoko and Kaua'ula Streams.

I am well aware of the need for truly affordable housing in West Maui and it is my understanding that other locations have been identified with infrastructure already in place, and are consequently far more suited to fulfilling those affordable housing needs.

For these reasons, I am respectfully asking that you disapprove of the proposal for Makila Farms.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Sincerely,

Rona Landrigan