

PEA Committee

From: Peter Cannon <peter@hawaiianresources.net>
Sent: Monday, November 19, 2018 7:54 AM
To: PEA Committee
Cc: County Clerk; Kelly King; Susan A. Foley
Subject: Testimony regarding Community Facilities Districts (PEA-93)
Attachments: CFD letter.docx

Gentlemen:

I would like to submit the attached testimony:

In email form, it reads as follows:

Peter W. Cannon

282 Hauoli Street Unit A-17

Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

To: The Maui County Council

November 19, 2018

In the early 1970's, when Kaanapali was first being developed, Hawaii had 1.2 million tourists. Injection wells were new technology and they appeared to be an adequate means of disposing human waste. Today, with ten million visitors a year, this method of disposal has overwhelmed our near shore ocean environment. Maui is on the wrong side of history with its injection well lawsuit against the EPA.

I was born in Paia and raised in Maalaea. Our home was where the Maalaea Banyans now stands. My great grandmother lived on the property that is now Kanai A Nalu. My great aunt built the beautiful home that is the one last standing on Hauoli Street. My cousins, my siblings and I can all testify that the ocean water of Maalaea Bay in front of our home looked like the Bora Bora, Moorea, or Palau of today (our competitors) when we were young explorers. Today Maalaea Bay is dead and dying. Yet this Bay is an economic engine that attracts visitors and supports our livelihoods on Maui.

The residents of Maalaea know that we have a problem. We have banded together to be proactive and not reactive to the enforcement actions that we are expecting from the Hawaii State Department of Health and from the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. We want to find a way to stop injecting partially treated nitrogen loaded sewerage effluent into Maalaea Bay. Our goal is to find a way to build a long-term regional solution with a village waste water treatment plant that produces R-1 water for the agricultural lands in our immediate neighborhood. This goal is economically feasible.

I am on the Board of Directors for the Hono Kai Condominium. The cost of rebuilding our 40+ year old injection well system is about a million dollars. Will this new injection well be legal in two or three years? Will this be money down the drain? Or could our community solve this problem with newer 21st century technology? Lauloa and Hono Kai, together with the Maui Ocean Center, is funding a feasibility study to answer these questions. We are serious about solving this problem. We want your support.

The Community Facilities District ordinance proposed by this Council provides a solution for the residents of Maalaea. Every single condominium on Hauoli street is in the wastewater treatment business and will be scrutinized by the EPA when the Kaanapali lawsuit is finished. We all have budgets for building capital improvements and for maintaining our individual WWTPs. We would rather pool our resources and build a regional WWTP for less money and let the wastewater experts manage our sewers. We do not want to waste our funds by building and maintaining individual wastewater systems that, through its method of disposal, is ruining Maalaea Bay. This proposed ordinance provides the means.

Please approve this well written ordinance and let the Maalaea Village Waste Water Treatment Plant become your first successful community project.

With aloha,

Peter Cannon