

WAI Committee

From: maui@hbl.org
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 11:20 AM
To: WAI Committee
Subject: RE: Resolution 24-50 Written Testimony
Attachments: Res 24-50_Testimony Maui County Council.pdf

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Aloha WAI Committee Staff,

Pls. find attached my written testimony for resolution 24-50.

I have few other thoughts and ideas and can email if you like to share with the committee.

Mahalo!
Saman



Together, we can make our streets safer for everyone.

Saman Dias
Chair Maui Bicycling League
808-209-2542
maui@hbl.org

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From: WAI Committee WAI.Committee@mauicounty.us
Sent: Friday, March 8, 2024 8:25 AM
To: maui@hbl.org
Cc: WAI Committee <WAI.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Resolution 24-50 Written Testimony

Aloha Ms. Dias,

Thank you for providing oral testimony during yesterday's Water and Infrastructure Committee meeting relating to Resolution 24-50. Would you please send us your written testimony to WAI.Committee@mauicounty.us?

We expect Resolution 24-50 to be rescheduled for March 15, pending on the availability of Committee Members that day.

Mahalo,
WAI Committee Staff



March 1, 2024

Ref. Water and Infrastructure Committee - Resolution No. 24-50

Aloha Chair Tom Cook and
Vice-Chair Yuki Lei K. Sugimuraair,

I am writing to address Resolution No. 24-50 recently proposed by the Maui County Council and to express my concerns and recommendations regarding the preparation of a comprehensive West Maui roads and public infrastructure master plan.

Firstly, I commend the Maui County Council for taking proactive steps to address the aftermath of the devastating wildfires that struck West Maui, resulting in tragic loss of lives, serious injuries, and significant damage to property and infrastructure. Resolution No. 24-50 reflects the urgent need to prioritize rebuilding efforts and enhance resilience in affected areas.

In light of this resolution, I would like to emphasize the importance of incorporating old cane haul roads as part of the evacuation routes in the comprehensive master plan. These abandoned roads have historically served as alternative routes during emergencies and could significantly improve evacuation capabilities in West Maui. Considering the challenges highlighted in the Maui Police Department's Preliminary After-Action Report and ongoing efforts by the Department of Public Works and the Department of Fire and Public Safety to identify substandard roads and infrastructure needs, integrating old cane haul roads into the master plan is crucial for enhancing community safety and resilience.

Furthermore, I strongly urge the Maui County Council to ensure close coordination between the implementation team of the West Maui Greenway (WVG) project and the consulting firms hired to develop the comprehensive master plan. The WVG project, aimed at establishing a multi-use path in West Maui, aligns with the goals of enhancing regional connectivity, promoting sustainable transportation options, emergency evacuation and reducing carbon emissions. By integrating the WVG project into the master plan, we can leverage resources effectively and ensure synergy between infrastructure development initiatives in West Maui.

Additionally, I propose considering the possibility of engaging the same consulting firms that developed West Maui focused plans to create the comprehensive West Maui Transportation Plan in conjunction with other infrastructure projects. By streamlining efforts and utilizing the expertise from consulting firms that have created previous plans, we can maximize efficiency, minimize duplication of efforts, and achieve comprehensive planning outcomes that address the evolving transportation needs of West Maui.

I acknowledge that the plan proposed is not solely focused on transportation but encompasses all infrastructure aspects. However, I am specifically addressing transportation and emergency evacuation planning for West Maui as a subset of the comprehensive master plan. It is essential to ensure that transportation and emergency evacuation plans are robust and integrated into the broader infrastructure planning framework for West Maui's resilience and sustainability.

Current plans that are in existence:

West Maui Community Plan -

<https://www.mauicounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/131915/West-Maui-Community-Plan-January-2022>

West Maui Greenway Master Plan -

https://issuu.com/mauimpo/docs/220920_wmg_final_report?fr=sNGLwNTMwNzgwNTg

West Maui Greenway master Plan Phase 1 - <https://ssfm.konveio.com/westmauigreenway>

West Maui Community Corridor Plan -

https://www.westmauicommunitycorridor.org/files/ugd/b59736_112f2976bbe240dca100a74952fcd15c.pdf

Other useful resources-

Pali To Puamana Parkway Master Plan

<https://www.mauicounty.gov/DocumentCenter/View/83453/Pali-to-Puamana-Parkway-Master-Plan-Feb-2005?bidId=>

Hawaii Bike Plan (pls refer to Maui Maps) -

<https://hidot.hawaii.gov/highways/bike-plan-hawaii-master-plan/>

Reviewing the West Maui Transportation Access Plan created in 2009 by the Hawaii Department of Transportation, mandated by Act 214, this addresses the use of cane haul roads for evacuation. These roads have been utilized in the past, and I believe we should have these roads open and remove any gates.

<https://hidot.hawaii.gov/administration/files/2013/01/west-maui-trans-access-plan.pdf>

Cane Haul Roads The segment of Honoapiilani Highway between Olowalu and Kaanapali is laced with cane haul roads which access the lands mauka of the highway. While these roads were intended to service the sugar plantation operations, these cane haul roads also serve as emergency alternate routes in the event of road closures occurring within this segment of Honoapiilani Highway.

Engaging with landowners and starting the process sooner rather than later is crucial. The Maui County Land Acquisition Division should initiate these conversations now. This is an opportunity for us, and we should engage with landowners immediately.

Additionally, I recommend and request that we consider creating a transportation/evacuation plan for the entire West Maui, not just for the Lahaina disaster area. Disasters can happen in other parts of West Maui, and we should learn from this experience. At minimum, we should have a plan for emergency evacuation.

In conclusion, proactive and collaborative planning efforts are essential for rebuilding a resilient West Maui community. I appreciate your attention to these recommendations and look forward to supporting initiatives that prioritize safety, sustainability, and resilience in West Maui.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahao!

Saman



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