

PC Committee

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To: PC Committee
Subject: pc mtg 1/18/18 testimony

Planning committee mtg 1-18 2018

Item PC-2

Written testimony to the maui planning committee by laakea poepoe, lineal descendant of kanaka maoli native inhabitants of Molokai, tenant of puko'o and pala'au ahupua'a.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain what purpose our Molokai community plan must serve. It must become a document that provides protective measures to be referenced by the people of Molokai for all reasons listed:

The top priority is providing for the environmental needs of the island, exploitation must not ever exceed sustainability. Infrastructure is worthless without proper maintenance, management, and preservation of natural resources. Poor planning decisions, man-made interference with natural processes, such as development on wetlands, leaves no opportunity for natural filtration of surface water, which leads to an increase of storm runoff silting of the ocean, leads to coral bleaching, leads to habitat loss, leads to decline in fish populations of territorial herbivorous species, disruption in the food supply in turn leading to a decrease in predatory species... as just one example. We live in the planning mistakes of the past revealed in the present.

Next is complete representation of the Molokai community, meaning the full-time, permanent, contributing resident members that forms what we call our community, the people who understand and know how to maintain the sense of community established by previous generations of long-time Molokai families. Pandering to predominantly non-resident interests, such as STRH's, against the voice of the Molokai community should be a perversion of the intent of the Molokai community plan. Also good to remember is that public service is not to be mistaken with a position of nobility, we operate at eye level.

The last consideration is understanding the difference between responsible development, and reckless overdevelopment. A business type developer will not give you an accurate estimation of how much development an island needs, just as a disconnected bureaucrat cannot be expected to understand the needs of the local population of specific neighborhoods. Protecting our chosen rural lifestyle and the peace and quality of a simple life is vastly more important than the economic benefits that accompanies road-rage traffic jams.

As a representative of Molokai, I would like to state my support for the proposed Molokai community plan, I recommend approval...

Absolutely DO NOT take alterations of county communication 16-98 by the planning director into consideration.

PC-14

I do not agree with the streamlining of anything, as it allows for sloppy decision making.