

HLU Committee

From: Martha Evans <anmevans@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 13, 2024 2:04 AM
To: HLU Committee; Tasha A. Kama
Subject: HLU-23 (Bills 23, 24, and 25)
Attachments: Kō'ele - HLU 23.pdf

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Sent via email: HLU.committee@mauicounty.us
tasha.kama@maui.county.us

Dear Chair Kama and Members of the Housing & Land Use Committee:

Aloha. My name is Martha Ann Evans. Although I currently reside in Honolulu, my children and I still own our family home in Lāna'i. I lived in Lāna'i from 1976 through 2010 and was employed at Lāna'i High & Elementary School as a teacher and school administrator.

By way of this letter, I offer my thoughts concerning HLU-23 (Bills 23, 24, and 25) regarding the Lāna'i Community Plan and Project District Amendment for properties in the Kō'ele Project District. It appears that Pūlama Lāna'i is proposing to relocate the two remaining ranch buildings (the Forbes House and the Ranch Office & Store) to the area now referred to as the Stables at Kō'ele. The two buildings at the heart of this issue were relocated when the Lodge at Kō'ele, now Sensei Lāna'i, was built. As much as it hurt to know that an integral piece of the history of Lāna'i was being altered, we rationalized that the relocation kept them with what we knew as the ranch, which included a small barn/stable and arena for training horses, as well as for rodeos and other related activities. Thus, that *pilina*, that connection to the ranch remained intact and ensured a connection to the history, families, and culture of the area known as Kō'ele Ranch, or simply the ranch.

I find it unconscionable that this action, this relocation is even being considered. The Forbes House and the Ranch Office & Store buildings must remain in their current location. To move them again to an area that was covered with pineapples as recently as the mid to late 1980's is to send a message loud and clear that it is perfectly acceptable to erase the sense of place, history, traditions, stories, and lives that created and united a unique community. It is imperative for these two buildings to remain where they are currently located as a reminder that Kō'ele has a storied history that began with kanaka maoli, transitioned to ranching, plantation, and now the hospitality industry. To erase what came before is to erase our memories, our heritage, our very being. Perhaps this is the intent of Pūlama Lāna'i but that doesn't make it *pono*, it is not what is right for those who remember and for those who made Kō'ele what it is and will always be.

Thus, I respectfully ask for your support to ensure that the Forbes House and the Ranch Store & Office buildings remain in their current locations.

Respectfully,

Martha A. Evans
3837 Monterey Drive

Honolulu, HI 96816
anmevans@gmail.com

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