



Testimony for Public Hearing regarding the Wailuku Civic Center
August 22, 2019
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Let me start by saying that the official Financial Spreadsheets of this project from the Planning Department, call for 500,000 sq. ft. of Commercial and Residential construction and that is shown to continue well past 2042. That's the most obvious example of what the true purpose of this project is. To make money for a few at the permanent expense of our sacred island is a not right.

What we are doing to Maui, named after the Legendary figure, known throughout millions of square miles of the Pacific, from Polynesia to here to New Zealand, is a crime. This isn't Miami Beach although some people think it is.

#1. All residents pay for this, most do not benefit. The County will not have the funds to meet urgent needs in other parts of the island. When the voters in your districts find out how much of their tax dollars you've spent on this project in one area, (not theirs) it won't be pretty.

#2. As you well know, this project was conceived by an Administration that, in the words of former Mayor Arakawa, "Maui needs to plan for a doubling and tripling of the island population in the future". He was quoted In the Maui News as saying that the only way to handle that was to go vertical. In my mind, I'm envisioning Honolulu. As you well know, Dave Taylor was fired because he would not go along with that vision at the expense of current needs of the County. There's a lot of money to made on a project like this and that episode shows how powerful those interests are. That's money interests. Not the interests of residents.

#3. At basically 1/10th of the County Budget, this project is disproportionately expensive.

#4. We will be saddled with debt for years. I hear talk of \$2mm a year. If a Bond is created, it requires \$5mm a year in debt service. We cannot depend on the same Tourist Revenue we enjoy today, particularly within the next couple of years. 75% of all economists expect a recession by 2021. Many, before that date. It's not financially prudent to take on this debt and Council, you are charged with the responsibility to watch over us, exercise stewardship not only of the island, but our finances.

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#5. The County Mission Statement and Core Principles clearly state that maintaining the unique character of Maui includes its culture, specifically aspects of its small-town character. The rest of these official documents do not provide for a lot of what we see.

#6. We need affordable housing, Sea Level Rise planning mandated by the State. That specifically includes moving beaches inland. Those reports along with Tourism Management by the way, are on the Maui Miracle website. Reports by the State, George Washington University, the University of Hawaii and even the UN. Urbanization of Wailuku is not part of the intent of those documents.

#7. A hot topic these days is Infrastructure Waivers. Count Ordinance 3359 s 1, 2006 calls for host of tax waivers associated with this project and so does the Planning Departments financials. Those Financials clearly indicate that tax revenue will not pay for this. Waivers on top of that are an insult to residents.

#8. I've copied several of you on my correspondence back and forth between myself, Erin Wade, Sandy Baz and Tyson Miyake, including annotated copies of several pages of the official financial figures from the Planning Department. In an email from Erin, she promised to revise those spreadsheets per our communications. You have a copy of that email from last April, along with testimony from me in November of 2018.