

PC Committee

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To: PC Committee
Subject: written testimony for maui planning committee meeting june 1 2017

To the maui planning committee

From laa poepoe, resident of both puko'o and ho'olehua, Molokai.

i would like to express my support for all three agenda items for your meeting on june 1, 2017.

item number 1 pc-2: i am in support of adopting the revised updated 2016 version of the Molokai community plan. I believe that the plan should always remain current and relevant to the generation it serves, and accommodate for concerns likely to occur in the future, and to operate in a way that aligns the evolution and responsible development of Molokai, with the culture, traditions, character, and values of the kama'aina, the native people, in order to preserve the authenticity of our island.

item number 2 pc-9: community engagement in the community planning process. I strongly support the intention of this item. The language of the county planning dept is complicated, and navigation from beginning to end through the process is confusing, kind of as if it was meant to discourage community participation. I feel that interpretation is necessary between a consultant and the community so the thoughts and opinions of our residents can be organized, and applied in a practical manner.

item number 3 pc-11: TVR enforcement. I support the purpose of this item. the violation of rules and codes are not actually our top priority. The main focus is on the idea that the short-term rental industry is ruining the rural character of our neighborhoods. It raises property values and taxes within its proximity, which makes home ownership that much more unattainable for the permanent residents of Molokai, with a large portion of our population whose average income qualifies them for welfare. these properties are bought with the intention of building a mini-resort, using expensive materials that will increase the value of a property. for example: a parcel designated for rural ag use, originally bought for \$170,000 in 1981, is bought, developed, and reassessed to a value of \$1,115,000 in 2016, again, making this property unattainable to our local people. they betray the original intentions of ag zoning through loopholes such as considering an strh a home business, which it is not. If allowed to continue without limits, it will continue to diminish the already diminished rural character of our community. I believe this industry to be a reckless, irresponsible use of an agriculture lot in a rural neighborhood anywhere on molokai.

I would like to add to my testimony some personal notes: i am in agreement with my community members who attended the aha kiole meeting in 2016 when i say i want the west end and east end policies to be included with the Molokai community plan, and i do not want to see it subjected to alteration without the consent of our respective communities. i would also like to address a benefit of the current location of the

puko'o fire station. the puko'o fire station is currently in the most centralized location of the more populated portion of our district in east Molokai. With consideration to response time, engine 12 is able to respond to residences to the further east end of the district equally as quick as it can respond to houses furthest to the west of the district. Moving the station towards the west, towards the assistance of Kaunakakai engine 4 as well as medic 8, will increase/delay the response time to incidents occurring at the further east side of the district, where supporting fire units and medic assistance would then be making up for lost ground. Another consideration is that if a tsunami were to occur on a scale large enough to destroy pukoo station, roads as well as a majority of houses would also be destroyed, rendering the ability to respond highly improbable.

Please accept this as my testimony for the maui planning committee meeting on june 1, 2017.