

AH Committee

From: Tiara Ueki <tiaraueki123@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 5:40 AM
To: AH Committee
Subject: affordable housing Makila Farms
Attachments: makila farms.docx

Aloha Maui County Council Members,

Attached is a copy of my testimony regarding the Makila Farms project.

Mahalo,
Tiara Ueki

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

September 4, 2019

Aloha Maui County Council Members,

My name is Tiara Ueki. I am writing in opposition to the Makila Farms project, presented by Greg Brown. The concerns I would like to concentrate on are: Safety (fire, evacuation exits), water, traffic and home loans.

The number one concern for our community is safety. Because of continued negligence and poor management by large landowners, these lands are prone to fire. We do not need more structures for fire controls. Lands that are managed and agriculture are an excellent way to manage these uncultivated properties up Launiupoko. Who is responsible to maintain these fire hydrants? The fire hydrants in the Launiupoko area were not maintained and therefore left the residents with no water in the hydrants. Westside has two fire stations, Lahaina and Napili. Imagine if we had multiple emergencies like, a car accident or ocean rescue at the same time there was a fire up Launiupoko. How long will it take them to get to the proposed project location?

Mr. Brown is claiming there are 5 exits for the Makila Farm Community...I live up in Launiupoko and would like to clear this up. There is ONE clear exit, Kai Hele Ku. TWO. A private road exit heading down from Punakea to the lower road (Waianukole) above Honoapiilani Hwy, this road leads to Hokiokio. THREE, On the lower road of Waianukole, below the bypass and above lower Honoapiilani Hwy. there are 2 yellow gates (they are locked at all time) that would exit out to Hokiokio and Kai Hele Ku. FOUR, there is an unpaved road with a yellow gate (locked at all time) that is unnamed, and ONLY visible from Kai Hele Ku. FIVE, the evacuation route that is located on Punakea going through the Launiupoko trail. There are two poles centered on the Punakea side and the exiting side towards Pu`unoa gated community of the Launiupoko trail. Who will be responsible for opening these so called exits during a natural disaster or emergency? Will it be Mr. Brown, the fire department or some other individual? Will these people be available on such short notice to open up the 3 locked yellow gates and the 2 poles located at the evacuation routes? Will they never go on vacation or even to Kahului and get trapped there due to traffic? I feel for the Council Members to get a literal idea of these so called exits, is to visit the proposed location.

Water. There is no water. All the Launiupoko residents testified to this fact. The project will have their own non-potable water wells dug. They state that the non-potable water will not affect Kaua`ula or Launiupoko Stream. I am no scientist, but if they dig a well where will the water come from? Wouldn't it come from Kaua`ula and/or Launiupoko Stream due the seepage of the river(s) water? I can't state that as a fact, but pretty sure it's common sense. Bottom line, there is no water.

Traffic in and out of West Maui is already so very high. Imagine another 34 homes right in the prime spot of traffic central. How will the traffic be maintained? Will they have another thru passage going in and out of Hokiokio or will Kai Hele Ku still the main entrance and exit?

Ok, now for the fun number game. I am basing my numbers on the 50% median income level, one bedroom Makila Farms loan scenario. If I have a family of 2 and make a combined income of \$41,900 and won the lottery for a 1 bedroom on Makila Farms. I make \$3,491 a month. My loan with fees are \$1300.89. This leaves me left with \$2190.11 for the rest of my expected living cost

My living expenses:

Home insurance-\$90
Car payment- \$300
Car insurance-\$75
Gas-\$140
Electrical- \$125
Cable/internet- \$70
Food- \$15 a day per adult (low side)= \$900
Dental/Medical- \$50
Toiletries/Clothes- \$100
Cellphone- \$80
Date night- \$100
Total- \$2030

Left with at the end of each month \$160.11

I tried using the very lowest numbers for each living expense. This number doesn't include the use of state assistance, they have no credit card payments, they don't go on vacation or do any other curricular activity that involves money, they don't expect to have any children. I feel that with the \$160 left at the very most each month for 2 people will not be able to live a fulfilling and positive life. What if there was an unexpected emergency. Now imagine if the family decided to go with a 2 bedroom or 4 bedroom to house their families, still at the same median income. Mr. Brown said the families that win the lottery will have the choice of the amount of bedroom(s) they choose. I know it falls on the responsibility of the homeowners, but wouldn't you want to guarantee that these families are able to live in their home without filing bankruptcy or foreclosing on their home.

What it really comes down to is location and affordability. This project is in a very BAD location and I'm not sure if it is truly affordable for working families making the 50% to 100% median income.

I thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and for doing your due diligence.

Mahalo nui loa,

Tiara Ueki
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