

HFC Committee

From: Pokintako <pokintako@gmail.com>
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To: HFC Committee
Subject: Kanaha Beach Park Master Plan public meeting
Attachments: Kanaha Beach Master Plan.docx

Please include this as testimony for the Kanaha master plan meeting.

February 13, 2019

Kanaha Beach Master Plan Public Meeting Testimony

Maui County Council and Everyone,

My name is Jeff Chong, I moved here from Oahu in 1983. I am an avid beach user, free diver, body surfer, photographer, basically anything to do with the beach.

My history with Kanaha

We called it Naska back then, you don't here that much anymore. I would call those the good old days, back then we would have small get togethers to large family reunion parties in the park. There would be other families using the park for the same purpose so you needed to get there early to save your spot.

Diving was a regular thing, relatively safe, we would go anytime, mostly in the morning because it was calmer, but we would stay out longer if the diving was good, (productive). There was no real time that we wouldn't dive. It was one of my regular dive spots for years back in the 80's.

I stopped diving there because it became too dangerous, no not sharks, worse, WINDSURFERS! "Maui doesn't have **enforceable** rules to protect divers from windsurfers, kiteboarders, foils and future ocean crafts." However, this is about the park and its future, so we can save that for another time.

What I see for Kanaha today

My first thought for Kanaha would be to once again see it as a family park. I haven't been there lately because it's not what I would call a safe park or family friendly park.

Homeless issue has made the park uncomfortable to be in and at times unsafe. We need to resolve this.

1. Clear all unnecessary brush, create a clear line of sight to roadways and parking areas from the park. Create more useable grassy areas, maybe add in a few more picnic tables and fire pits.
2. Limit overnight access, create an enforceable rule to allow some access (fishermen always come out losers by locking everyone out of the parks at night)
3. Allow vehicles to access the park from only the Hobron St. side. This may be a deterrent for thieves. One way in and one way out.
4. Create a police substation in the park. Their presence is a deterrent.

Parking and showers

1. More parking areas are needed as the park is expanded, if we are expanding the useable park area, adjust the parking equally.

2. Position shower locations near parking lots.
3. The beachfronts are changing all the time, parking can no longer be placed near the shorelines as it once was.

Commercialization of Maui County Beach Parks.

Kanaha Beach park is a windsurf destination park. If you look it up on trip advisor or google maps it will bring up a number of windsurfing or kiteboarding schools. I have been to the park on a few afternoon's it has become primarily a windsurf park more so than a family park.

1. Does the county charge these companies that do business in the parks? Do they charge by the stall, by the week, month or by the year? Is it a fair amount, not enough or too much?
2. Kanaha is becoming more like Makena landing where a lot of the parking is taken up by business vendors and their customers as I found out on a few morning and midday visits.

Maui has grown over the years, both in population and visitors and I don't see it slowing in its popularity. I have seen an increase of beach and ocean use in many beaches around Maui. I haven't seen family beach parks growing with the population.

I would like to see the park expanded, but with rules that will allow families to return knowing it will be a safe park for their families. They wouldn't have to worry about their cars in the parking lots. Swimmers, divers and other ocean users wouldn't worry about high speed boards skimming through the water.

You can create a beautiful park but not without enforceable rules. Locking up the parks at night is not the solution, it penalizes everyone for the actions of a few.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my two cents.

“Create rules that can be enforced, the key to a successful park”

Jeff Chong

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