

## LU Committee

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**From:** weeklyupdate@hawaii.rr.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 09, 2017 3:43 PM  
**To:** LU Committee  
**Subject:** Conditional permit for 355 Haiku Rd LLC-STRONGLY OPPOSE  
**Attachments:** HaikuTestimony.pdf

July 8, 2017

Councilman Robert Carroll, Chairman  
Maui County Council, Land Use Committee  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Chairman Carroll and Committee Members,

I am writing you **in strong opposition** of the permit pending for 355 Haiku Road-allowing for transient vacation rentals and special events, because commercial development of agricultural land does not belong in the Haiku community.

My name is Dr. Bertram Weeks Jr., and my family has lived at 435 Haiku Road for 55 years. Our property directly adjoins the former Baldwin Estate, on the south side of their property. I grew up in Haiku and graduated from Baldwin High School. My ohana enjoys the peace, tranquility and rural nature of our home and community.

Allowing commercial activity within an agricultural and residential zone will detrimentally alter the character of our neighborhood. Whether there is amplified music or not, there will be an increase in traffic, noise and visitors in our community. Haiku is not the same as other places islandwide which have been set aside to accommodate the tourism industry. Simply put, Haiku is not meant to hold this type of business, and the land has been zoned accordingly. The land board should respect this designation and not allow commercial use.

There is no benefit to the current residents of the area to have this permit approved. Currently, we already have to put up with noise and traffic from events at Haiku Mill. We do not need additional intrusion into our tranquil community. My ohana has lived in our home since 1962. There have been significant changes to Maui since then. Haiku has remained, for the most part, separate from the massive developments, the resorts, and, until now, the commercialization by the visitor industry. The character of our community is defined by its rural nature. Photo shoots, parties and other events detract from this. Such events will increase the number of people in Haiku, who don't have any stake in our community.

I do not want to be living next door to an event venue. Why does the monetary need of one new landowner take precedence over the wants and needs of the current community?

The proposal to commercialize the former Baldwin estate takes place without regard for the residents that have always been here. Granting this permit sets a precedent for future commercial use of agricultural land. It takes one step away from the best parts of Haiku towards a neighborhood sacrificed to commercialism. This proposal will negatively impact us. The future of my community is at stake.

I **firmly oppose** this conditional permit and urge the Council to deny this request.

Sincerely,  
Bertram Weeks Jr, MD  
435 Haiku Road, Haiku, HI 96708  
weeklyupdate@hawaii.rr.com