

Great Committee

From: Terri Pascual <outlookmaui@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 7:34 PM
To: Great Committee
Subject: Testimony for Lahaina Recovery

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To the Maui County Council members in attendance on Wednesday September 27th @ The Westin Kaanapali Resort...Shane Sinenci, Keani Fernandez Rawlings, Gabe Johnson, Nalani U'u Hodgins, Tamara Paltin, Alice Lee, Yuki Lei Sugimura and Tasha Kama.....

Thank you for taking time to read this letter regarding input into Lahaina's recovery. As a lifelong resident of Lahaina, I feel it is my right and responsibility to have my thoughts and opinions documented just as so many did in giving their testimonies on the 27th. Having lived in Lahaina all of my 56 years and being 4th generation, I have seen a lot of changes from when I grew up.

1) When did our neighborhoods go from single family homes to having monster homes housing 7 or even 8 families on one property? How has the housing/planning department gone so far of course in allowing these to be built? I want my next neighborhood to be free of monster homes that have tenants circling like sharks to find a parking space on our already narrow streets. As a homeowner, we couldn't even use the easement in front of our house because someone from across the street or up in the cul-de-sac would be in it. Please do better in seeing that our neighborhood is not overpopulated.

2) We need more accessible roadways to connect to the bypass or other neighborhoods as alternate routes in and out of Lahaina. WHY are there 5 different subdivisions and 3 major schools off of Lahainaluna Road? Even before this disaster, traffic has ALWAYS been a major concern on Lahainaluna Rd. This disaster as well as the fire that was fueled by Hurricane Lane in 2018 have already proved how inadequate our evacuation on this road is. I thought there was a time, years ago, that Dickenson Street was supposed to be extended up into the Lahainaluna area and that never became a reality.

3) Why can't we downsize the number of hotels in West Maui especially if that's what the residents here are adamant about? We need a hospital, this much is true and a desperate reality. We also need senior housing/senior living....independent and assisted living. Be bold and use at least 2 existing hotels for those purposes! The structures are already there....we are at a point of over tourism. We CANNOT continue to "grow" tourism here! When is enough ENOUGH!! Do we want our precious resources to stay within our community or given to outsiders that just exploit their entitlement at the expense of our Aina?! I hope not!! And I hope you, the council members who are asking for the community/residents to give our input, will try to think outside the box!

The County Council of yesteryear who made wrong and inadequate decisions for our future are gone. We need to start anew and have progressive leaders representing us, our voices, and our future generations. As I stated before, now is the time to think outside the box and find creative solutions in moving us forward.

With much sincerity,

Terri Smallmon
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