

AH Committee

From: Doris Lang <doelang@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2019 1:30 PM
To: AH Committee
Subject: 201H Polanui Gardens. Makila Rural-East

Aloha Council Members

Re: 201H-38 Polanui Gardens and Makila Rural-East
PLEASE REJECT THIS APPLICATION

I would like to submit the following testimony regarding the Fire and Flood.

August 25, 2018.FIRE

My husband Gordon Firestein and I were awakened by a neighbor who scaled two fences, and banged on our door at 1:30am. We quickly got our dogs, found one of our cats. Then grabbed our already packed bins for our animals and got in our truck and left our home. We drove through our neighborhood honking. We got down to Launiupoko Beach Park, joining our neighbors and a number of tourists who had vacated their vacation rentals. The visitors didn't know where to go, they didn't have friends offering them places to stay, like we did. A very serious consideration with the many illegal rentals in Launiupoko. Although, many shared their stories, no one mentioned at the 6/19 meeting that Hurricane Lane was predicted it could bring 15 ft. Waves going over the highway. For a moment, imagine being stuck in Launiupoko Beach Park in the dark, the wind howling, a threat of massive waves and having no where to go, while watching the fire engulfing the hillside. We couldn't drive north, we go home and we didn't know if the highway was safe to travel. When daylight came, we took our chances to head south to Kula, where friends boarded our dogs and friends gave us a place to sleep. A year ago July, a deadly wildfire occurred in Greece. Here is link to that catastrophe https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_Attica_wildfires

September 27, 2018 FLOOD

Gordon and I were in Kahului when the downpour began. Gordon was at a FireWise meeting, I was running errands. I got a call from my neighbor that Launiupoko is in a white out of rain. After talking with Gordon, I decided to head home for the animals. Just before Olowalu commercial area the road was becoming flooded, by the time I got to Olowalu, the water was nearing the bottom of my doors. The road was fully packed with cars going very slow in both the directions. It was impossible for any emergency vehicles to enter the stream of cars or go even along side of them. The visibility was limited due to the heavy rain. Between Olowalu and the recycle place, muddy run off water rose above the bottom of my door. The smooth paved road was replaced by submerged rocks, I slowly kept going, hoping I wouldn't hit a large rock that would stop my car, a 2005 Prius. I approached the right turn lane to Kai Hele Ku, still rocky underneath, the water seemed to feel deeper. Being in a lane much closer to the dirt embankment, muddy water with pebbles shot out from the bank, hitting my passenger door. The force seemed like it was coming from a pipe, later I discovered it was the force of the water cutting through the dirt, creating a shoot. Feeling relieved that I was about to turn up Kai Hele Ku, I encountered the road blocked due a large bulldozer traversing the road, it was trying to push the pooling water into the undersized storm drains on both sides of Kai Hele Ku. In the intersection with the bypass, the water looked like a lake. All of the cars coming from the south turned left onto Kai Hele Ku towards the highway. I didn't know how deep the water was in the lake, being too afraid to attempt a crossing, I hesitated, then a large tour bus drove right through the intersection, onto the bypass. I followed behind it to safety.

I may be the only one in Launiupoko who experienced both evacuating the fire and driving through the flash flood. Being only a month apart, my nerves were extremely on edge I sought help temporarily for minor PTSD.