

EACP Committee

From: Mark Hyde <HYDEM001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 8:08 AM
To: EACP Committee
Subject: EACP-6

- **Hana Highway, Hana town and surrounds cannot continue to support the continued and increasing volume of tourists driving the highway.** I recommend either limiting the number of visitor cars allowed to enter the highway (like freeway light systems controlling the number of cars entering during peak commute hours) or converting the highway to a toll road with fees collected dedicated to Hana area/road to Hana improvements. Also, tourist wanting to see the area could do so through a van program.
- **Maui state highways are ill-equipped to handle the flow of traffic** now present and for which there is no credible current plan to remedy (MPO efforts to get people out of their cars is unlikely to succeed.) Specifically, the state highway over the Pali and the Pi'ilani Highway are overburdened while cars just keep coming, fueled by the new, huge rental car facility at the airport. The cost of improving the highway over the Pali has been estimated at nearly one billion dollars per a statement by the Governor quoted in the Maui News about two years ago. To achieve this level of funding, the Governor or his agent noted that the state would have to stop all Hawaii roadway repair and improvement for three years to upgrade the highway to acceptable standards. Pi'ilani Highway in south Maui was expanded to four lanes in a manner inconsistent with federal highway requirements rendering it unqualified for federal funds for remediation.
- **Maui's "livability" for both residents and tourists is being eroded** with increasing numbers of both, with little or no government assessment of impact on quality of life or quality of visitor experience. It's more, more and more. "Jobs for our people" is the rallying cry with no accounting for the cost of low-paying service jobs on local family health due to lack of housing, long commutes and the necessity of working multiple jobs just to stay afloat. The county and state lack critical indicators for measurement of impact, so we fly blindly into the future as the number of tourists grows steadily and our young people leave the island because they just can't make it here + good career opportunities are lacking due to our nearly singular, obsessive and mindless focus on tourism.
- **I am concerned that Maui County government leaders are unclear who they are elected to serve.** Clearly there is overlap between serving residents and serving tourists but there are points where the two interests diverge - as when tourist demand for accommodations swamps the ability of resident to afford housing or where our beaches become overrun with numbers of tourists.
- **Worldwide, many precious places are being over-run** by hords of tourists: Venice, Florence, and Santorini for example. Maui is well on the way to joining the ranks; Waikiki already is a tourist zoo.

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