

DRIP Committee

From: Robin Ritchie <robinritchiemaui@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 26, 2023 9:41 AM
To: DRIP Committee

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Aloha

I need help trying to reduce the ongoing and current fire risk in West Maui.

We started by contacting highways division and Maui Electric about reducing the fire risk by clearing easements and the sides of Highway 30 of tall dry grass and vegetation under utility lines. Maui electric informed me that the land owner Kaanapali Land Corp is the land owner by mile marker 25 and responsible to clear their land. Yesterday Maui electric stated they would take action when the trees are close to their power lines.

The large land owners need to clear their fields, have security patrol their fields, remove the homeless camps and stop public access. There should be an agreement for these land owners to assist the emergency responders with emergency evacuation road routes and for the police to be quizzed on these resources. These major land owners are paying the smallest land taxes and certainly can be encouraged to co-operate or enjoy a raise in their taxes to cover extra evacuation costs. The County could have an agreement of liability in place for using the cane haul roads for evacuation. I encourage all the agencies to come clear the fire rocks as soon as possible. The Lahaina bypass is our only road (single lane) past Lahaina to service areas of Kaanapali and the "I 'm Not Really in Kapalua" airport fields. These areas have had 6 fires that I know of in less than a year.

With West Maui tourists arriving October 8th we know the Lahaina Bypass will be gridlocked with tourists day trips or arrivals to stay in West Maui. While sitting on the Bypass I realized there are no emergency exits routes. The side streets are dead ends, barricaded or the gates are locked. Another disaster waiting to happen.

Please have our West Maui fire risk resolved or have West Mauis closure extended and enforced.

Please consider this an emergency request and assign the departments and agencies that can fix it.

Sincerely

Robin Ritchie.

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