

## Great Committee

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**From:** County Clerk  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 14, 2022 12:37 PM  
**To:** Great Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Napili House and government relations, ethics and transparency committee.

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**From:** Gary Elster <crazy2kite@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, July 14, 2022 11:54 AM  
**To:** County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>  
**Subject:** Napili House and government relations, ethics and transparency committee.

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Napili House

Dear Chairman Molina and members of the Government relations, ethics and transparency committee.

I support your investigating the Napili house and learning how this got approved by planning. That said, representations have been made that it cannot be used as a vacation rental and that its size and height have been brought into compliance with applicable requirements.

There has been talk of the county's buying the property and turning it into a cultural center and/or tearing it down. At that point I ask you to stop and consider the ramifications. The cost to acquire the property would be in the many millions of dollars and the cost to turn it into a center, undoubtedly a lot more. But, I ask, to what purpose? The large structure would still be there.

Many years ago, the planning department was also accused of mistakes that resulted in a subdivision approved on Baldwin beach. The landowner sued for inverse condemnation and won and the county paid millions. Similarly, there was talk of turning it into some purpose other than a residence. That failed and eventually at great cost to the County the structure was removed.

So, at this point I suggest that the main purpose of your inquiries has been accomplished, i.e. to reduce the height and square footage and to get assurances that it could not be used as a vacation rental.

With inflation rampant the cost of government will be higher in the future just to maintain the existing level of services. I strongly suggest that you drop the idea of acquiring that property and focus on things that are needed badly like an adequate water supply, roads and a fully staffed police force.

Aloha

Gary Elster

