

PSLU Committee

From: jeanne schaaf <jmbschaaf@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2020 7:36 AM
To: PSLU Committee
Subject: Testimony on (PSLU-65) W670 Compliance Review
Attachments: testimony to submit PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE LAND.docx

Aloha Committee Chair Paltin and Committee members, please see my attached review of the (PSLU-65) W670 Compliance Report.

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PLANNING AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 9, 2020 9:00 a.m. 11 Alaska Time

Phone testimony: 1-408-915-6290, meeting code 994 504 421

Agenda Item: (PSLU-65) ""Honua'ula Annual Compliance Report to Maui County Council"
send to...pslu.committee@mauicounty.us

To : Planning and Sustainable Land Use Committee

Re: agenda item; (PSLU-65) W670 Compliance Review

Aloha Committee Chair Paltin and Committee members:

I am an archaeologist and retired from 30 years of cultural resource management with the National Park Service in the Alaska Region. I live half the year now in south Kihei near the parcel.

I have visited W670 many times with cultural users and community members. These visits covered all sections of the project area and included several site identification walks with the owners' representative and their archaeologists.

I have read the Archaeological Survey reports and the September 2019 Preservation Plan. One thing that really stood out to me in these reports was the lack of consultation: cultural knowledge was excluded from the site descriptions and significance evaluations. Michael Lee, and people you are hearing from today, had provided information on the specific cultural importance of many sites. This information was not included in the AIS or the Preservation Plan.

Zoning Condition 26 requires that both the State Historic Preservation Division and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs approve the Preservation Plan. OHA has not approved the Plan because their beneficiaries have deep concerns about the accuracy of the maps- the many undocumented sites and the inaccurate lists of protected sites in the Plan. I agree with those concerns.

Cultural users have identified and photographed many sites that are not recorded in the present Archaeological Survey, and are not in the Preservation Plan based on that survey. That means that these sites can be destroyed by future development without ever being recorded or evaluated. This is against Hawaii's historic preservation laws.

I have verified in the field that the cultural users are right: many important Hawaiian sites need to be recorded and mapped correctly. This should be included in an updated AIS and Preservation Plan. These unrecorded sites span centuries of Hawaiian history and ways of

living. They have been found in all sections of the parcel and many are slated for destruction in house lots and other development areas.

I agree with OHA and the cultural users: the Preservation Plan, required by Condition 26, should not be considered complete, because it doesn't include dozens of historic sites, it doesn't accurately map the location of many sites and did not consult with cultural users about the meaning of the sites. OHA is right to listen to those who have spent many hours on the land, and have deep family ties to the land.

The Landowners say that there is no need for a more complete archaeological survey now because a survey will be done on each parcel as it is developed. As an archaeologist, I do not support this piecemeal approach because fragmenting the work undermines the contribution of each site to the whole cultural landscape. The complete archaeological survey should be done now, before final project design (Phase II) permits are given by the Planning Commission. That way, there can be a project design that can preserve sites that now are not even recorded.

I have helped take GPS points and map many unrecorded sites with cultural users on the W670 lands in the last year. OHA is correct in not approving the Preservation Plan that was prematurely approved by SHPD. SHPD did not realize how many important historic sites were still missing from the HP Preservation Plan. These were sites that were specifically listed for preservation in the settlement HP and Sierra Club-Maui Unite signed in 2016. If they are incorrectly mapped or missing from maps, they are at risk of being destroyed. This was not the intention of Condition 26.

I believe that the site complexes found on the Wailea 670 land represent an extremely significant and mostly intact cultural landscape. I have seen many important cultural site complexes and this is one of them. The extensive agricultural field system in W670 is significant because the intensive dryland agricultural systems developed in Hawaii were unique in Polynesia and the world, and they contributed to the development of a complex political and state system in Hawaii. Extremely marginal habitats were made productive and sustainable and they supported a large population for centuries. How did they do that? We have a lot to learn about these practices, which makes preservation of this important cultural landscape so important.

I ask the Committee to hold another hearing on the compliance on the conditions, especially those that preserve archaeological and botanical resources. At that meeting the cultural users of the land should be given a chance to present their information about what resources are really there. Then the Committee will have a true picture of whether compliance has been achieved, or more needs to be done.

I sincerely thank you for your time,

Jeanne Schaaf, PhD
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