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COUNTY CLERK

August 2, 2016

Council Member Don Guzman and Members of the Economic
Development, Energy, Agriculture and Recreation Committee

TESTIMONY: Re: EAR-63

The global vision promoted by the Mayor's Office of Economic Development on behalf of investors obscures unique cultural values of our communities in Haiku, that I have come to know. It swallows up culture in a way that on first impression, feels good. The fact that the County paid \$5,500 to A and B for this property and at a time when the assessed value was approximately 2.3 million dollars and exemption listed at 2.3 million and that was a long time ago kind of brings this down to earth as we know it. Maui:

The proposed lease transfers control of this property to a conglomerate that proudly proclaims it possesses 500 years of aggregate relevant experience. But from where and how many; and why insult Council Member's intelligence, by assuming that it mattered. (Even if sufficient reason for pitching this idea could be conjured up.)

The huge conglomerate from....where ever.... requires that it possess the property for 3 generations or 60 years and that this is necessary to assure reasonable return for investors. (See 14-15/p-15 RFP at Exhibit 4 page 7)

The Governor's Executive Order 4343, by which the County obtains its control does not appear to authorize this County to set aside its authority in this circumstance.

The lease obligates the County to build and maintain roads subject to appropriations, and that ad valorem property tax assessments be suspended for 5 years and who knows what else is given away for the privilege of serving the interest of mainland investors.

Hundreds of pages, and thousands upon thousands of words are dumped upon this Council without regard for the Community. We don't need a "Paradise Park" or a tourist attraction - another entertainment venue. But, roads to and from homes where working men, women and their children live. I urge that this matter be filed.

Respectfully,
/signed Jim Smith
Jim Smith
08_01_16