

PSLU Committee

From: Susan Halas <wailukusue@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 27, 2019 5:06 AM
To: PSLU Committee; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Kelly King; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Keani N. Rawlins; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: (PSLU-27) Testimony in Opposition Wailuku Civic Complex - Susan Halas

Susan Halas, 1939A E. Vineyard St., Wailuku, HI 96793
(808) 280-9205 cel; wailukusue@gmail.com

Testimony in Opposition to Wailuku Civic Complex (PLSU-27) Committee meeting Feb. 27, 2019, 9am, Council Chambers

My name is Susan Halas. Thank you to committee chair Paltin for putting this item on the agenda. I am here to testify in opposition to the Wailuku Civic Complex. I am a long time resident and property owner in Wailuku and live a block from the construction site.

I look forward to the presentation by Erin Wade of the Redevelopment Office and I hope it will be widely broadcast so that the community can get a clear understanding of what is proposed and how it will gentry and supersize the town without actually solving the parking problems.

This project is budgeted at over \$80 million and it will virtually shut down Wailuku for two years or more. It has yet to be reviewed by or explained to the people who live and work in the area. I request that this committee hold a night time public hearing in Wailuku with enough advance notice that working people can attend and speak.

I oppose the project because it is not a high priority use for public money. It does not add a single unit of housing. It supersizes and destroys the small town character of Wailuku and paves the way for real estate speculation. (Even now two different hotels are in the planning stages.) The parking garage segment is obsolete before it is built. If the garage is built the actual net gain in parking spaces over what exists now is only about 160 stalls. The office and retail components are expensive, out of character and not a priority use for tax payer money.

The first phase is scheduled to break ground in June, but we have yet to see a viable plan for parking when the Municipal lot closes later in the year.

In short, many unanswered questions remain.

The Wailuku Civic Complex costs the earth, it isn't a priority, it's ugly, it doesn't solve the problem, the neighborhood doesn't want or need it, it only benefits a few landowners and it is paid for 100 percent with taxpayer dollars. I am against it.

I urge you to hold a night time public hearing, listen to all who would like to speak on this subject and then divert the funding from this expensive boondoggle to more important needs like housing.

Thank you. Are there any questions?