AH Committee

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Sent:	Thursday, June 27, 2019 4:25 PM
То:	AH Committee
Subject:	July 3rd Committee Meeting
Attachments:	2019 Maui Vegetative Fuels Management Fact Sheet_HWMO.pdf

Aloha, Committee Members,

Attached is an infographic published today by Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) that is relevant to the decision about the proposed Makila projects.

It maps the risks of vegetative fuels, and shows Launiupoko and Maalaea as the two areas on Maui of "highest concern." These are the areas on Maui that ought to receive mitigation first.

It also lists the actions that ought to be taken to manage the fuels. So far, few if any have of these actions have been taken in the Makila area.

It lists four recommended actions with implications for county policy. A detailed report will be published by HWMO in July.

This document is a red flag. Dr. Trauernicht's testimony sent to you today is a red flag. The tearful voices of those affected by last year's fire are red flags.

If you knew me well, you would know I am not one to be hyperbolic or melodramatic. I have a PhD in engineering, and strive to be guided by fact and objective observation.

Given all of this, there can be no other conclusion: you must reject these projects. Put affordable housing (indeed any new housing) in places where wildfire is not such a high risk.

Respectfully,

Gordon Firestein Launiupoko Firewise Chair

Managing Hazardous Vegetation on MAU

Reduce Wildfire Spread and Damage

Increase Firefighter Safety

Why manage vegetation?

Dry plant matter ignites easily and provides **fuel** for a fire to follow.

In Hawai'i, the **amount of flammable hazardous vegetation,** or **fuel load**, can develop quickly due to rapid growth of vegetation, multiple growing seasons, and regular dry and drought cycles.

Frequent, active vegetation management is critical to reduce fire hazard across the landscape and to protect our communities and valuable ecosystems from destructive fire impacts mauka to makai. Wildfires need **oxygen**, **ignitions (heat)**, and **fuel** to start and spread. Maui has all of these ingredients year-round and wildfire impacts are devastating and far-reaching.



Land Managers are Currently Reducing Wildfire Risk Through Vegetation Management

In 2018-19, Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization (HWMO) conducted a statewide rapid assessment to identify where vegetation is managed in a way that reduces wildfire hazard.

Vegetation management efforts were categorized as strategies that:

- Reduce fuel load (fuels reduction)
- Transition vegetation from higher to lower fire risk (fuels conversion)
- Provide safer first response access and breakup fuel continuity across landscapes (firebreaks or access roads)





Map 3: *Maintenance frequency of areas with vegetation management activities reported by mapping participants*. Regular, ongoing maintenance of vegetation is critical to effectively reduce wildfire hazard.







Once every few years
Irregular or Unmaintained



For more results visit:



MAUI (cont.)

There is a great need for investment in and collaboration on vegetation management as expressed by the **23** map contributors and **41** action planning workshop participants on Maui.

Kahakuloa Where to Start First? Mapping contributors identified roughly 132,000 Honokowa acres and 90 miles of needed vegetation Paia management. 86,000 acres of these are in addition to Wailuk Lahaina areas already manage. Wailua Pukalan Olinda Ma'alaea 30% High Concern Hana Agency For-Profit Business Kipahulu No Noted Concern Non-Profit/Community 35% 23 Map Ulupalakua Major Roa Contributors Map 5: Collaborative priority areas. Participants at the action 35% planning workshop identified areas of highest concern where fire hazard (hazardous vegetation, fire weather, and frequent ignitions) and Proposed Vegetation Management values at risk of fire damage intersect. Proposed Vegetation Management **Current Vegetation Management Recommended Actions Current Vegetation Management** (input from 41 action planning workshop participants) Roads Develop planning and policies supportive of landscape-level vegetation management Island-wide vegetation management plan Develop funding sources for establishment and maintenance of fire infrastructure Reduce hazardous fuel loads around communities Make green waste removal easy for communities Use strategic grazing and fuel reduction buffers around community boundaries Encourage active management of agricultural lands 06 including overgrown forestry operations 10 mi Prioritize 'hotspot' areas with recurring fires: (\bigcirc) Reduce hazards through strategic grazing and fuel reduction buffers Map 4: Rapid assessment results. Land stewards identified · Prevent ignitions by addressing the source of ignitions current and proposed areas in need of ongoing vegetation (e.g., power lines, encampments) management.



The 2018-2019 statewide rapid assessment of vegetation management was conducted by HWMO to better understand existing vegetation management and prioritize needed vegetation management to **reduce future losses from wildfire**. This project was made possible by the numerous land steward and agency partners who participated in the project and funding support provided by the Hawai'i State Grant-in-Aid Program 2016 and the U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region, under the terms of Grant No. 16-11052012-146 and No. 17-DG-11052012-143. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



More project details at: hawaiiwildfire.org