

MT Committee

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Sent: Sunday, September 29, 2019 3:42 PM
To: MT Committee
Subject: Hana Road traffic

Aloha Kakou

My Name is Shelly Tumbaga. I am a resident in Hana and I am writing this letter in regards to our traffic problem here in Hana.

I drive out of Hana twice a week and very often 3-4 times a week. My Husband and I have a tropical flower farm and we do a lot of business island wide.

We battle with the traffic and the tourist every single trip out of Hana. I mean battle!

I understand the Hana highway regulations committee has done a lot of campaigning and education with the tour and car rental companies along with some of the hotels.

But never the less we still have a major problems with the tourist and the way they drive the Hana road. These are the problems.

1. Tourist do not pull over when we beep our horns and flash our lights. (Had people threaten me several times for doing this)
2. 15 Cars behind tourist and tourist won't let other motorist pass
3. Abrupt stops by tourist for picture taking or sight seeing
4. Tour buses parked in oncoming traffic lanes
5. Tourist disregarding yield signs or overly stoping at yield signs
6. Tourist driving in the middle of the road
7. Tourist parking anywhere they please. Especially on the turns of the bridges.
8. Tourist throwing coconuts in the middle of the road. (Illegal Vendors)
9. Illegal vendors at parks and along roadside (Non-Resident)
10. Homeless people/Vagrant people camping out at rest stops, pull off areas and bathrooms at night.
11. Tourist defecating and urinating along roadside and waterways
12. Tourist entering private properties, disregarding posted signs, damaging fence lines which keeps cattle off the road. (Loose cow's on road)
13. Vehicles being dumped and burned along the Hana Road at turn offs
14. Nude bathers in our water ways
15. People cycling along the Hana Road

I can't say the roads are geographically dangerous but I can say the tourist and other motorists do make the road dangerous.

Especially with the tourists blatant disregard for safety and endless pursuit of reckless adventure. The Hana road has become a free for all. Free to do what ever you please!

What I have observed in the past. The tourist will hold up the traffic and the Hana residents get impatient, which causes the residents to pass on blind turns and speed.

Over the past year Ive also noticed the Tourist are coming into Hana very early in the mornings (5:00am). This use to be the best time to travel the road for the local people.

Im also seeing tourist leaving later (8:00pm). These late tourist will blind you with their highlights and won't lower the light beam while driving in the middle of the road because they are afraid and unfamiliar with the road.

This makes driving conditions dangerous for residents and other people traveling the Hana road.

Here are my suggestions.

1. Do 2 Toll booths. One the twin falls area or the Huelo area and one in the Kahiki Nui area. Make it mandatory stops. Collect a toll. The toll fee can be used for Highway improvement, wages for the attendant or compensation for the East side residents for damaged fences or other property damage caused by the tourist or neglectful motorist.

The toll booths can be used to distribute Hana Highway Regulations and Cultural Awareness information. It will also be a deterrent for people dumping and burning vehicles along the Hana road. Anymore dumped or burned cars would be coming from a Hana resident.

2. Limit the hours the tourist and non-residents can go in and out of Hana. This will give the residents a reprieve from the tourism traffic. Less vagrant people hanging out along the Hana Road.

Make it safer for the residents who do have to travel or get stranded along the road. We still have a lot of dead zones with no cellular service along the Hana road. Emergency call boxes don't always work, and long distances between emergency call boxes.

It gets really scary when you get stranded in the middle of the night or early morning.

3. Have 2 or 4 people patrolling the road through out the day and evening. Giving citations and enforcing the signs posted and the Hana Highway Regulations 4. Need "No parking" signs posted along the turns of the bridges.

5. No cyclist. Good Lord! They ride there bikes in the middle of the road. We got to many blind turns and no bike lanes!!!

Mahalo Nui Loa
Shelly L.Tumbaga