

## MT Committee

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**From:** Nalani Tukuafu <nalanitukuafu@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2019 12:20 AM  
**To:** MT Committee  
**Subject:** HAna highway - testimonial

Aloha

My name is nalani Tukuafu- I'm from kipahulu. I'm extremely grateful that someone is finally taking the HAna highway traffic issue seriously. Only those of us who Live on the east side understand what it is to live with this specific kind of obstacle. Let me just say- it is more frustrating then downtown Honolulu on a weekend. Our highway experience can make even the extremely timid stick their head out the window and yell with full intensity for someone to pull over. Over the years I've noticed a few things about uneducated drivers that a little bit of education would help with. Due to the fact that A majority of this traffic are tourist, they don't know what they're doing or what the HAna highway protocols are. It seems they know no respect, and often no common sense. They stop in the most obscure places, and at the least convenient times. They pull off on blind turns and signal for people to pass without being able to see for themselves if there's any oncoming traffic. They pull over or simply Stop in the middle of the road to take pictures. They stop when they shouldn't, and swim in waterfalls and rivers that are marked "no trespassing." This sort of behavior is part of what they think the "adventure" of their Maui experience is all about! I believe that Hawai'i tourism authority has a part to play and therefore needs to be part of correcting this issue, but the county can also make things more clear for tourist with proper signage- and proper law enforcement. "Do not stop on bridge" or "do not pull off on blind turn" or "slower traffic pull off here" etc— these might all make everyone's driving experience more enjoyable. And if the county takes the time to put up signs such as these- then law enforcement needs to be serious as well, otherwise what's already happening with just continue, and people will just avoid noticing the signs and do as they wish. I feel that if these measures are taken- then the overall experience for tourist and

locals will be more enjoyable. Especially if tourist know that a small toot of the horn from someone behind them just means they want to drive faster then 5 mph, and need you to pull over.

The other issue apart from uneducated, ignorant, and blind tourist not having the proper signage to help them along, is that there are an increasing number of tour vans coming from both directions on our already congested and tiny road. Let me just say- it's hard enough trying to fit Two regular cars in some areas... fitting a van and a car- and fitting two vans is impossible. It forces someone to back up until they find a place to pull off to make room, which is often extremely dangerous maneuvering. This makes the drive even worse— the vans hold up traffic purely cause of their bulk, and often because they're doing the same silly things all the other tourist are doing like stopping on bridges and driving on the wrong side of the road for the view. This is simply unacceptable. The vans are too wide, and there are way too many of of them. I feel like the number of vans that can be allowed to drive the road per day needs to be limited, that they need to be smaller, and that they should only be permitted to travel where the highway can supply two lanes.

The traffic on our road specifically between kipahulu and Hana, and between kipahulu and Kahikinui is at an all time high, and it's all one lane. In the last 5 years we have noticed a steady increase in traffic— which has a major impact on our daily commute, and an increasing impact on our community in general. Even walking with my children has become a challenge.

These issues are extremely important to Me and my family- and to the community of HAna. We may not be able to show up to testify, probably due to traffic, but that doesn't mean we don't care and that there isn't a real need for change. I hope that this governing body can come to some conclusions on how to help the immediate and long term health of our beautiful highway.

Mahalo nui