

## PSLU Committee

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**From:** Robert Aldrich <robert.aldrich12@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 26, 2019 6:40 PM  
**To:** PSLU Committee  
**Cc:** Charlene Schulenburg; Robert Aldrich  
**Subject:** PSLU-25

Aloha:

Please accept my testimony as follows:

**I am opposed to a change to the South Kihei Community Plan re. 1488 South Kihei Road.**

**The property is designated by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as PEMC1 – a freshwater emergent wetland (Explanation on page 2). The areas bordering the Kealia National Wildlife Refuge are designated the same.**

**The property at 1488 South Kihei Road sits in between two US Army Corps of Engineers approved Jurisdictional Wetlands. One is the Kalama wetland immediately maikai of PEMC1, and the other is the WESCO wetland, mauka of PEMC1 (hereinafter PSLU-25).**

**First, there is an unbroken surface or shallow sub-surface connection to the WESCO and the Kalama wetlands, as well as the "downstream" Laie wetland.. It is quite important to the protection of the Keokea drainage area and the effectiveness of the Ecosystem Service that wetlands provide. Wetlands retain nutrients, trap sediment, purify water, help control floods, provide carbon sinks, and shoreline stability. They are the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems and serve as a home to a wide range of plant and animal life. Amending the South Kihei Community Plan, with rezoning of this property to residential, would defeat the overlying usefulness of the Wetland. Wetlands are the most biologically diverse of all ecosystems and serve as home to a wide range of animal and plant life, including endangered species and culturally significant herbs. It is my opinion that protecting this wetland is crucial.**

**Second, the PSLU-25 wetland is adjacent to the Halama and WESCO jurisdictional waters, which infers that there is an ecological interconnection with the jurisdictional waters of Halama and WESCO.**

**I am opposed to the amendment/rezoning proposal. I also ask that no decision should be made re. PSLU-25 until the Kula Kai Moku Council has been consulted.**

**Respectfully,**

**Robert Aldrich, Kihei**

**808-658-5240**

**PEMC1 Classification code:**

System **Palustrine (P)** : The Palustrine System includes all nontidal wetlands dominated by trees, shrubs, persistent emergents, emergent mosses or lichens, and all such wetlands that occur in tidal areas where salinity due to ocean-derived salts is below 0.5 ppt. It also includes wetlands lacking such vegetation, but with all of the following four characteristics: (1) area less than 8 ha (20 acres); (2) active wave-formed or bedrock shoreline features lacking; (3) water depth in the deepest part of basin less than 2.5 m (8.2 ft) at low water; and (4) salinity due to ocean-derived salts less than 0.5 ppt.

Class **Emergent (EM)** : Characterized by erect, rooted, herbaceous hydrophytes, excluding mosses and lichens. This vegetation is present for most of the growing season in most years. These wetlands are usually dominated by perennial plants.

Subclass **Persistent (1)** : Dominated by species that normally remain standing at least until the beginning of the next growing season. This subclass is found only in the Estuarine and Palustrine systems.

Water Regime **Seasonally Flooded (C)** : Surface water is present for extended periods especially early in the growing season, but is absent by the end of the growing season in most years. The water table after flooding ceases is variable, extending from saturated to the surface to a water table well below the ground surface