

## LU Committee

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**From:** Cathy Ross <cathyjaneross@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 10, 2017 12:25 PM  
**To:** LU Committee  
**Subject:** Email testimony re:proposed development in Paia/mtg 7/11/17

Dear valued Maui Council Members,

I am unable to attend the meeting held to express for or against testimony re: bills proposed concerning the development of Paia Town. I would like this email to serve as written testimony.

As a resident of Maui since 1970, and a former board member of the Kula Community Association, I am very familiar with the growth and proposals of our beautiful Maui community. I have witnessed changes I find disturbing and therefore voice my concerns.

My primary concern is the lack of suitable infrastructure to support any more growth in Paia. The two lane road is presently clogged with extensive traffic during peak and otherwise high volume times of the day. I believe it is an impossibility to widen or change both Baldwin Avenue and / or Hana Hwy to eliminate traffic problems. I have witnessed many times traffic to be backed up to Sprekelsville on Hana Hwy, going west, or to Kuau, going east. Baldwin Ave, has been backed up as far up as the old sugar mill. Widening either road would destroy the ambiance of Paia, as well as encroach on existing storefronts and walkways. The danger of emergency vehicles such as police or ambulance or fire to maneuver through traffic should be noted. It already is a dangerous situation. Adding more development would surely increase the problem.

The integrity of Paia as an old plantation town comes under severe compromise if further development is approved. The attraction of Paia to locals and tourists alike does not warrant an Oahu like persona. It is the quaint atmosphere that is essential to the unique attraction to Paia. Further approval of business districts or any building of anything beyond two stories is destructive of any current what I refer to as the "charm" of Paia. For Maui to continue as the Maui we appreciate for its special qualities I most sincerely oppose any further development other than the already proposed senior housing.

Senior housing on Maui is an embarrassment. As a senior that has applications pending, it is a disgrace to have received letters that there is anywhere from a 2-7 year wait list on existing properties. It is especially disturbing that senior housing remains at a virtual standstill, except for a current project at Kulamalu, while developments for expansion of high income housing has been approved. Quite honestly, I as well as others see this as a sellout of certain political entities. Maui, and all of Hawaii is founded on concepts of aloha and what is pono. These principles need to be honored.

These are my concerns. I have only the love of Maui as my motivator. Please consider my testimony as a long term resident and an observer of what is, and the threat of what is in our future. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,  
Cathy Ross

Email: cathyjaneross@yahoo.com  
Phone: 808 856 6566  
PO Box 880629 Pukalani, 96788