

## LU Committee

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**From:** Amanda Ploski <mandie.ploski@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, December 01, 2017 5:22 AM  
**To:** LU Committee  
**Subject:** NO! 17-484

To Whom It May Concern —  
— beloved Pa'ia, Maui & Maui County

I'm speaking as a woman who grew up on Maui in the 1970's & 80's. And lived there too in the 90's. Pineapple & Sugar Cane we're still growing strong; Maui snow was the ash that made my feet black & caused my mother to rush out to the clothes line screaming her wash might be ruined. But it was beautiful; it was our island; it was the life here and the island was green. The Best was driving down Ka'ahumanu or Wakea and getting behind one of the pineapple trucks full of the sweetest smelling ripe pineapples you've ever smelled, let alone tasted. The whole island smelled of it a bit; it made the mud sweet... everywhere. And the indigenous plants were still a flourish. My friends worked in the pineapple fields; I found my friend's old pineapple harvesting knives when I was home last; she'd left them at my parents house. They are rusted and unused now.

I was back in August for a visit, I had not been since the sugar mills had been closed. My parents are older now. The cane fields and pineapple fields are laying fallow, but not to be sown again with those crops. The island was dry, as it can be in late Summer, but it looked rusted too. My heart broke. But I said a prayer that Maui County & the state would do the right thing to honor the island, her beauty, her people. My family and hanai are still there plugging away working because they are still able to live here on Maui and have a living. And they love the island. They love our island home.

People who visit come see the beauty because they see its beauty not only for what it is but I the hearts of the people here.

I came back to the mainland and shared my heart break with my neighbor. She is a life-mainlander and her exact words were, 'yeah, Maui, you know we've gone every year for the last 20 years but this time it just wasn't the same; we'll be going somewhere else next year.'

Perhaps the agriculture was worth far more than we were even paying the hard workers working the land. Could it have been part of the draw?

Isn't tourism our number one industry? It was appalling in the late 80's when the island sold out to south and west coast developers. Barricading and blocking the beaches. Chicago, a huge city, is beautiful and it's number one asset has always been its waterfront. As crazy corrupt as they can be they saw this. Legislation blocked development within a 1/2 mile of the water. It is for everyone.

This island is for everyone. You, the tourists who come and spend their money here and the beloved families living here. You have a choice now, here. Take the path you are taking, continue to take, and take and take. You will end up doing what the Onceler did to the Lorax and the Truffala trees. Seuss might have just been writing Childrens stories, but we all know his deeper messages ring true. The resources can be destroyed, the people will leave and then you'll be left naval gazing at the destruction you have caused.

Be bigger than that. Go beyond the money and legislative walls. Keep the laws and law makers for the people No on 17-484.

Aloha,

Mandie Ploski

(sent from my iPhone)