



January 6, 2020

Aloha Council Members!

During the course of last year, we saw some great achievements and some things that some of us weren't too happy about. But we all agree that we've got important work to do and that we must focus on that, according to what's pono for everyone, including the aina. Our future is in *your* hands.

Maui is one of the greatest Blessings I've ever been gifted with in my life. I learned at a young age, to be grateful for my Blessings while I had them.

Now, it's become more than a matter of preserving this sacred, special place I feel Blessed with. It's literally about the ability to sustain our way of life. We have no choice but to be mindful of that in every decision we make.

Preserving the island against the fundamental challenges our land and waters have been facing for years is no longer an esoteric thing. We already experience higher summer air and ocean temperatures. The Maui News reported that we broke temperature records 84 times between April and October last year. We continue to experience drought conditions. Our winters are now colder and wetter. Our water distribution system can't handle the amount of rain we'll experience, perhaps even this year, not to mention brown water contaminating our beaches. Our 12,000+ cesspools are like a smoking gun. We've been spared from hurricanes in past years but that could change. This is a radically new world. Growth and expansion are no longer fashionable. Long term survival is.

In business, I learned from 9-11 and the Great Recession in particular, that the traditional rules we used to depend on, no longer exist. The unimaginable has happened so many times. Today in business, it's about applying new ways of seeing things in order to maintain a strong revenue stream. Here on Maui, only new ways of thinking can guarantee our way of life.

RECEIVED AT CAK MEETING ON 01-06-2020

We ask you to make environmental challenges a priority because those issues relate to things like safe drinking water and even having enough of it to go around. We need to take care of our food supply, how we handle anything related to water.

Overall, we ask you to prioritize the long-term well-being of our residents, which does not include expansion to accommodate others. We must take care of ourselves first.

We ask you to remember that anything we build today is based on an obsolete, mainland business model that stretches resources. It makes the tough challenge of sustaining our way of life even tougher and more costly than it already is now.

I hope that a preliminary 30-year budget projection will be created and distributed. When a final one is made, we can really see what our financial obligations will be and budget for them but hurry up. The clock is ticking faster than we realize.

We are just a tiny, fragile island. Mainland thinking has no place on Maui.

I wish you all aloha and that your choices and decisions will be based on wisdom and your love for our precious island this year and in the years ahead.

Mahalo nui,

Nick Drance