

AH Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 11:49 AM
To: AH Committee
Subject: FW: Affordable Housing Committee - Written Testimony by L. Santos (Meeting 798867277 - Lihau'ula)

From: Leah Santos <leahmsantos@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, September 18, 2020 11:32 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Fwd: Affordable Housing Committee - Written Testimony by L. Santos (Meeting 798867277 - Lihau'ula)

Testimony in opposition of proposed 201-H Lihau'ula Workforce Housing Project in Olowalu.

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From: Leah Santos <leahmsantos@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Sep 18, 2020 at 10:46 AM
Subject: Affordable Housing Committee - Written Testimony by L. Santos (Meeting 798867277 - Lihau'ula)
To: Leah Santos <leahmsantos@gmail.com>, <ah.committee@mauicounty.us>

Aloha,

My name is Leah Santos and I consider my birth sands to be in Olowalu. My family has lived there for many generations and I have witnessed its history.

I strongly oppose the approval of the proposed 201-H Lihau'ula Workforce Housing project in Olowalu (public meeting notice scheduled for September 23, 2020).

The history of this development has changed over time, as community opposition rises, and financial backers remove themselves, the development acquires a new name, often a new shell company and relishes in advancing off of the backs of governmental loopholes. Peter Martin has bought out all of his partners, he has acquired government employees who sit on the planning commission to do his bidding and feed him insider information (which I personally think should be illegal in such a small community) and has continued to push forward a development solely for money making purposes that the community has already protested and previously thwarted.

He has bribed (in kind) certain Olowalu community members, he has schmoozed with Olowalu 'Elua (a homeowners association that is primarily run by Canadian citizens who only call Olowalu home during parts of the year) and has hired Lawrence Carnicelli for planning advice and insight to circumvent impact studies and expedite construction before the State has made a decision about the Honoapiilani Hwy repositioning.

Carnicelli has verbally stated that Martin is waiting for the road to become a state of emergency (once the water goes over the highway and cuts off access to the west side of the island). He claims this would be in his benefit, therefore being able to disregard any cultural impact analysis and being allowed to proceed (which we KNOW would be devastating in that area given its historical context).

This is currently being framed as a low income housing development however many local families cannot afford the price tag. This unfortunate misnomer leads one to believe that local current Maui residents will be calling this

area home, but as we know with the lottery system that may not be the case, instead being filled by island new comers who are incentivized by the lower Maui price tag.

And as for the listed Olowalu community meetings, there are no such thing. They are initiated by vague meeting requests which members show up for (myself included), where Peter Martin and his team try to wine and dine without talking about ANY PLANS for construction or development. The current "Olowalu village" community members are being told to decide between a low income housing opportunity providing the empty promise of lots to family members of those long time Olowalu residents, versus the choice of millionaire mansions which would consist of other newcomers to Maui who eventually kick out the local families. So in essence, any confused support was made in the face of choosing the best of two misguided choices.

I hope that you can see that this renamed development is a race to make money without the long range foresight to see that Olowalu is consistently met with fire, water shortage, and the NEED to commute no matter what your line of work. The current infrastructure cannot handle that kind of extra development and without the road being repositioned, (which will likely need to go exactly where this "affordable housing project" is proposing), we would be shooting ourselves in the foot by allowing anything to be built there without that major issue handled first.

On a cultural note, the amount of heiau and artifacts in Olowalu, some of which are currently being destroyed by the Olowalu 'Elua development up mauka, is devastating to witness. Olowalu is a politically significant place for Maui and we should take every reverence in making decisions that affect such an important ahupua'a (one that used to be for refuge and health). Please be mindful of the current residents, the current ecosystem, and its preservation as a beautiful place on Maui that doesn't have the ability to take on more stress to its environment.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and I humbly ask you to think of yourself as a long time resident of that place before casting your vote.

Leah Santos