

AH Committee

From: Amy Fonarow <afonarow@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 20, 2020 10:22 PM
To: AH Committee
Subject: Testimony against Lihau'ula Development

Aloha Affordable Housing Committee,

My name is Amy Fonarow, I'm a science communicator who used to work as a marine naturalist at Maui Ocean Center, and I am testifying against the Lihau'ula development being proposed at Olowalu.

Corals that spawn there at Maui's "Mother Reef" don't just seed Olowalu, their planula drift and settle throughout Maui's west side, across the Au'au Channel to Lanai, and even all the way to Molokai. Corals in Hawaii grow about a centimeter per year, and parts of Olowalu's reef are estimated to be about 500 years old. This place is a precious resource that needs to be protected and cannot be replaced.

Developing just above this extensive reef system is likely to cause irreversible environmental impacts by adding polluting runoff that will smother the reef. Nearshore reefs need sunlight to live and grow, and sediment blocks that light, killing the reef. I realize that retention basins are planned for Lihau'ula, but storms are coming in stronger and waves are coming in higher, and the pollution mitigation that's currently planned doesn't seem sound enough.

Please consider such archipelago-wide impacts while mulling over this development, and say no to Lihau'ula.

Mahalo nui,
Amy Fonarow

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