

## AH Committee

---

**From:** Tamara A. Paltin  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2020 12:34 PM  
**To:** AH Committee  
**Subject:** Fwd: Olowalu testimony  
**Attachments:** Olowalu.docx

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Kekai Keahi <kekaikeahi@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 22, 2020 12:32:49 PM  
**To:** Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>  
**Subject:** Olowalu testimony

Please distribute.

If can i going try testify. what is the link to testify?

To the Maui County council and the planning commission,

My name is Kekai Keahi and I have been a resident of Lahaina all of my life. I understand the need for affordable housing especially on the Westside where the majority of local residents are being priced out. For many of us who have only known of Lahaina as our home have seen the changes that has occurred over the years and have felt the hardship that it has brought to Lahaina. One of the elephants in the room that no one wants to acknowledge or are to blind to see is the gentrification that is taking place, where little by little and even much more nowadays we are witnessing the removal of our local people and having them replaced with new commers not even from Hawai'i to the Westside. With this influx of people moving in it has cause the house prices in Lahaina to sky rocket putting an ownership of a home out of reach for many who wish to buy a home. Having said that though, I am very much against this project and am greatly alarmed of what it could do to the reefs and nearshore resources that Olowalu is known for. For many of us who frequent the area for subsistent diving and fishing to put food on the table for our families and friends. I believe that this development will bring to and end the downfall of this pristine area. There is a species of Kole that only exist in two areas in Lahiana one is at Hanakao'o the other is at Olowalu. This species of Kole is know to many as the King Kole or the black Kole. Unlike the orange eye Kole the King Kole gets to double and even triple the size of the orange eye Kole. The King Kole or black Kole looks just like the orange eye kole , but is much, much, larger and does not have the orange ring around the eye. This species of Kole is very, very, very rare. For those of us who knows of this fish and where they are found, we tend to keep it a secret in fear of it being over fished. I fear that with the building of this development it could cause the loss of this species from the Olowalu reefs for good. The whereabouts of this fish has been kept a secret for a long, long time. This knowledge was passed down from my father and from his father before him. I would dare to say that, for those of who knows about this fish and where they are have been guarding it for generations and we feel that it is our kuleana to continue to protect it. We cannot allow this rare fish species to be wiped out from existence just develop a bogus affordable homes development which is already out pricing anyone I know anyway.

If you really want to make homes affordable do not put homes on the lots, do not make them turn key, allow the people buying the lots the opportunity to build their own homes, this greatly decreases the cost for buyers. Only the rich and well to do are offered this opportunity to buy empty lots usually consisting of acres to build the home of their dreams. People who may not have the money to buy acres of land also have dreams and a lot that can support a home for most is a dream come true.

Once again let me reiterate my position. I am against this project for the things that was mentioned in my testimony and I wish to see true affordable LOTS, NOT HOUSING, LOTS, in place that would not be such and environmental disaster to construct.

Aloha a Mahalo Nui

Kekai Keahi