



Wednesday, November 06, 2013

Hawai'i Land Use Commission

Re: Turtle Bay Resort – Show Cause Hearing

Aloha Commissioners,

On behalf of the members of Holomua, a grass-roots community advisory group comprised of various community leaders, educators and businesses that seek to improve communication and socioeconomic opportunities for residents of our area and supports those issues that benefit the community and its people in a positive and healthy way; we thank you for the opportunity to share our mana'o with you today of the Ko'olauloa we currently live in and the Ko'olauloa of tomorrow.

My name is Brandy Burke, and like the others of Holomua I come from generations of Ko'olauloa 'ohana and have a personal connection to the land and community. Born and raised within the ahupua'a of Hau'ula, surrounded by 'ohana I've learned the importance of one's civic responsibility to his or her family and community. The time has come for us to stand up and allow our voices to be heard instead of having others speaking for us. I come before you today representing Holomua with its mission and vision.

Although our distance from much of the island sometimes sets us apart from everyone else, we too face and share in many of the same problems with the rest of the island: multifamily living, career opportunities and recreational access.

Recently on October 23, 2013, an unfortunate event occurred that displaced twenty-eight residents from two homes on Leleuli Street in Kahuku due to a fire. Eighteen of those displaced lived in the home where the fire started the other ten living in the neighboring home. Luckily no lives were lost in the incident. What does this tell you? We need more affordable homes for our growing families.

Some may argue "well that's tradition." It's tradition in a sense because for decades many of our families live together simply because they can't afford the rent or the cost to purchase a home within the community. Investors or retirees from the mainland are buying out the homes making it their Hawai'i causing the spike in real estate.

Having the opportunity to work with many in our community we value the time spent with our family and friends. However the amount of time spent on the road by our residents commuting to and from work takes away quality of time we value and treasure most. As our workforce continues to grow, employment opportunities lessen. It's troubling to get phone calls from college graduates wanting to move home but can't find jobs. There simply isn't enough jobs in Ko'olauloa to support our residents.

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We all appreciate the recreational opportunities our island home has to offer. Whether it's in the ocean, on land or up in the mountains local-living wouldn't be same without it. With many of our island neighbors traveling to Ko'olauloa for a family weekend escape, our beaches and trails experience high levels of use so much that many of our parks are overfilled and there's just not enough to be used. The need for parks and trails is growing.

Turtle Bay's project helps address these struggles and offer us the opportunity to address issues with housing, employment and recreational access by:

- Adding 590 Resort Residential Units and 160 Affordable Housing Units
- Creating 750 new full-time jobs with (not including construction)
- 5 public parks on 75 acres of land for use by the public
- Shoreline access
- Ensuring 469 acres preserved for farming

The list of public benefits continues and that's why we believe in Turtle Bay and applaud their efforts for doing what's pono and for doing it in a way that both sides either in support or against can come forth and in a respectful manner share in the collaborative efforts in shaping our Ko'olauloa for generations to come. We humbly ask for your support of Turtle Bay and our community. Let's *Holomua!*

Mahalo piha,



Brandy Burke, Board Member
Holomua