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Subject: Olowalu Testimony
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Hi I waited most of yesterday Wednesday as I was #125 on the sign up sheet to testify. I could not make Thursday to testify due to work. Thank you.

Aloha

I seriously question why Olowalu is even considered an area to be developed here on Maui, especially for a 1500 home development and attached Ohana's. I strongly oppose the Environmental impact statement and I believe it is both flawed and missing important detail.

Olowalu is home to fresh water that runs to the sea and it is this water that creates an estuary like epicenter for creating fertile corral reef breeding grounds for Maui. It is home to monk seals, and Nene nesting grounds that birds return to annually, I believe a new road is planned to be installed nearby their nesting grounds, further endangering our Nene Friends. Additionally the land of Olowalu is home to a very important cultural history. Including, current local Hawaiian practitioners who actively use this land and it is my understanding that land disputes in this area still held up in court. Truthfully I believe that Olowalu should be designated as all cultural reserve.

Olowalu is home to breeding grounds that support wildlife and habitat to so many areas that I wonder that if these breeding grounds are seriously damaged that we would lose our already endangered monk seals marine fisheries, and our tourists who love nature. A multi million dollar industry. After all tourists want paradise. They do not want toxic or polluted oceans and frankly when an environmentally sensitive area has to endure more pressure than less we add greater risk to their survival.

A 1500 (+ Ohana) home development with treatment plants and new roads and extremely large zoned business area for the coastline of Olowalu does raise concern. The oil runoff alone is a huge impact. The average home now days has at least two cars. That means 4500 plus cars suddenly moving through neighbor hoods. We all know that what is up stream moves down. 60 mile an hour winds will move dust out into the ocean and rain does flow down hill, so does oil.

One drop of motor oil from each car, what happens? There are 4,732 drops in one cup and 4 cups in a quart of oil. One quart of oil pollutes 250,000 gallons of water. (according to the University of Georgia Marine Extension Service) Lets say in the neighborhoods alone, 4500 cars release one drop of oil a day that is roughly one and a half quarts a week of oil polluting water. This is actually a weak outcome because it does not include the huge area that is slated for a business epicenter. It also does not include statistics on backyard mechanics and I did run across a comparison statistic that said in Michigan backyard mechanics dump more oil into the environment than the Exxon Valdez spill. (from the Nevada Environmental products and services LLC)

Additionally the information on oil flow to our precious reefs does not include the treatment plant also slated for development in an area of porous soils with a stream that has been manually moved from its original location. Statistics from the marine group states that in the United States waters sewage treatment plants discharge twice as much oil each year as tanker spills. Ouch. Here in Olowalu? Really? A treatment plant for 2300 homes and a business area development. It is also my understanding that treatment plants also release lots of copper into the water which is extremely toxic to reefs. Why would the County of Maui even consider polluting one of the most important reefs on the island? It should be a reserve. It is a breeding bed for our other reefs. My last statistic has to do with runoff and the notion that what is upstream moves down. The National academy of sciences states that Land runoff and recreational boating account for nearly 3/4 of the 25,000,000 gallons of petroleum released into the oceans annually. Were talking runoff. If Olowalu becomes a planned community these hidden statistics alone will indeed damage the reef just like all other reefs on the island. The facts are in. The difference is the sensitivity that coincides with Olowalu's reef because this is the reef that bring hope for renewal of our other reefs on this island and possibly even surrounding islands. This reef is the spawning habitat and currents transport the corals spawn. On a curious note, How come 700 (plus) year old reefs do not have special environment protection designations? On the mainland a 250 to 500 year old forest of trees is considered old growth forest. They have preservation value mostly because we have cut most of our ancient forests down. Most of our ancient corral reefs are gone in the United States, and for what we may know, This reef at Olowalu may be the Oldest Reef in the vicinity left. I would like to know if this is true before onland development is considered.

To conclude, the environmental impact statement needs to take into account not only endangered species, cultural preservation, farmland preservation, disputed land claims, corral reef breeding grounds for the island of Maui. I believe there are flaws in the EIS methodology and needs review. Also a reminder that an EIS' under law "shall fully declare the environmental implications of the proposed project or discuss the feasible concerns" Olowalu is both a sacred and sensitive area. Why not designate the entire area as cultural reserve and leave the ocean beaches and land masses as a greenspace between Lahaina and Maalaea. I advocate for hiking trails. We do not have enough on the island.

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