

4 December 2013

LAND USE COMMISSION  
STATE OF HAWAII

EIS Evaluation

Dear Mr. Daniel Orodener,

2013 DEC 13 A 7:58

This letter is regarding the proposed development for the Kaloko Makai site near the industrial area in Kona. Kaloko Makai is situated within the ahupua'a of Kaloko and Kōhanaiki and has a deeply rooted history of being a traditional burial site of prominent Hawaiian ali'i. These ali'i include Kamehameha, Kahekili, Kalola, and Keku'iapoiwa Liliha, all whose bones are hidden within the underwater caves and lava tubes.

As for the proposed development, sampling methods were not properly conducted for the assessment, which is an important aspect of having a comprehensive understanding of the environment. Samples were only collected on one day on two separate occasions (February and November 2012), which gives an inaccurate representation of the marine environment of Kaloko. Additionally, on one of those occasions, water samples were not taken from the ocean, which is inconsistent from the previous occasion. We recommend a consistent, year-long monitoring study to adequately assess any potential impacts.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft of the EIS, it also states that since Kaloko is one of the driest areas, evaporation and porous land surface minimizes sedimentation runoff. In Kawaihae, after heavy rainfall events, large amounts of sediment are deposited into the coastal areas greatly affecting coral reefs. Coral reef degradation negatively affects the entire marine ecosystem including marine organisms that utilize reefs as habitats and for resources.

Furthermore, the proposed project would require 2.2 mgd of water from the Hualālai aquifer, further depleting its vital freshwater resource. Also, the 2.2 mgd estimation does not seem adequate for the number of proposed housing and facilities in the area since the adjacent residential areas consume upwards of 3-4 mgd of water. In an effort to dispose of sewage waste, an injection well is proposed to be developed in the Kaloko Makai area. Injection wells that were built on Maui have shown negative impacts on coral reefs by increased nutrients leading to macroalgae blooms. This bloom leads to an ecological phase shift from a coral-dominant habitat to a habitat primarily dominated by algae. The data of this report on Maui shows that nutrients are being biologically utilized, so the Kaloko Makai site has the potential of showing similar effects. We hope that these concerns will be considered before continuing the development of Kaloko.

Sincerely,

Concerned Native Hawaiian Marine Science Students of Hilo  
Kalani Quiocho, Daniel Jennings-Kam, Kanoelani Steward

