

Hokua Place Development
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From: Bart Walton
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Dear Land Use Commission,

As a full time resident of Kauai, I am very concerned about the proposed Hokua Place Development that will add some 800 dwelling units in Kapaa. I currently live in Wailua Homesteads and already the traffic congestion in Kapaa is near gridlock for much of the work day. At the present time, my wife and I have to plan our day in order to avoid going through Kapaa between 10:00 A.M. and 6:30 P.M. During these times, the traffic congestion is so bad that it takes 25 minutes to drive from the Kuamoo Rd. intersection, to the Public Library in Old Kapaa, a distance of less than 3 miles.

If you add to the Hokua Place proposal, the proposed new development at Coco Palms, Coconut Beach resort and Coconut Plantation, it's expected that an additional 1800 vehicles will be added to the traffic load along the Kapaa/Wailua corridor. Has anyone considered how this is going to work in light of the current gridlock that already exists in Kapaa from 10:00 A.M. to 6:30 P.M. every day?

As a resident of Wailua Homesteads, we are particularly affected by any increase in traffic volume on the East side. As you know, we have only two routes down to the main highway; 1) Olohena Rd., or 2) Kuamoo Rd. Let me address each of these.

1) Olohena Rd. is a winding, narrow, two lane country road. Adding 800 housing units proposed by Hokua Place will turn this road into a congested main feeder into old Kapaa town. Neither the road, nor the traffic circle at the bottom of the hill were designed to handle the volume of traffic being proposed. Also, have you considered the effect this development will have on Kapaa Middle School? When school lets out in the afternoon, traffic on Olohena Rd. essentially comes to a halt until all the busses can leave. During this time, the whole Hokua development will be essentially unable to get in or out.

The Kapaa Bypass road is not going to be sufficient to serve as any solution to this problem. As with Olohena, it's a winding road and can be dangerous at the speeds people often drive there. With this new development, you can predict terrible congestion and a lot more traffic fatalities.

2) Kuamoo Rd. is somewhat wider and straighter than Olohena Rd., but still, it's already congested at certain times of the day. For example, if you try to go down the hill at 7:30 A.M., the traffic is sometimes backed up 1.5 miles, all the way to Opaekaa Falls.

It's my understanding that the traffic plans developed in 1997 have not been completed. Since that time, the Kapaa area has grown substantially. New long-term plans have to be developed before any new development is approved.

I am not against development per se. But before development is approved, the roads, drainage, sewage and refuse infrastructure have to be updated in order to handle the substantially increased volume of cars and people.

Other problems that concern me are:

a. **Environmental impacts** on storm drainage, land fill and recycling centers, as well as the impact on the land from sewage and septic systems.

b. **Impact on Retail Business** - Already the traffic is so bad that many people are avoiding Kapaa retail businesses and finding ways to do their shopping on-line, or on other parts of the Island.

c. **Impact on Quality of Life and Tourism** - The main reasons people want to visit our Island is to enjoy the rural lifestyle and to get away from the stress of urban living. Already in parts of the Island, we have ruined this benefit. What effect do you think it has on vacationers who come here and find they have to spend an hour in traffic just to buy groceries?? Are we going to continue down this path until Kauai is simply no longer a pleasant place to live and visit?

In my opinion, Hokuia Place should not be approved until ALL the impacts on our community can be thoroughly addressed.

Thank you for considering our comments.

Bart and Anne Walton