

Testimony for the Maui County Land Use Commission: Olowalu project
November 17, 2015

We originally felt that the development of Olowalu would be destructive for the coral reef in this area. After the intense summer heat and the recent reports of coral bleaching, we are even more convinced this is a project that should not proceed. Living on Maui for over 35 years, we have seen Maui's beauty lose many pristine areas due to development which has caused the loss of healthy reefs.

Ma'alaea use to have beautiful coral reefs until condos were built without adequate sewage treatment. We have fond memories of taking our children to beaches in Wailea and Kihei that now have hotels and little access to these beaches.

This area has no infrastructure in place for the project. The sewage treatment will be a problem just like the County is now having with the Federal government. The road to Lahaina is already inadequate, and will be challenged with the amount of cars that will be added. The children of these homeowners will need schools to go to, a fire department nearby, and ambulance service. Who pays for this?

The real reason I am here though is to stress the need to preserve the reef and the marine animal habitat. These 700 years old corals which grow only an inch a year, give life to the sick corals to South Maui. This is one of the last pristine reefs existing in Maui.

People come to Maui because of our beauty and nature. When weather is bad, our boating industry takes tourists to this reef for snorkeling instead of to Molokini. This project will cause severe harm to this ocean habitat and reef, and consequently to Maui's tourist industry. Please look at all the other beaches that have been affected by development; the fish have disappeared.

There will be a point where Maui's beauty will be so affected by development that our main industry of tourism will be severely affected. People will go to places that have what Maui use to have.

This area should remain in open space or even park or eminent domain to make sure all always get to see and enjoy this special reef area.

Please know whatever you do will have impacts and we pray you realize the people of Maui have plans we all worked on years ago and they need to be followed. This land has always been zoned agriculture and should not be developed.

Mahalo.

Dennis and Jill Fitzpatrick
85 Mokuahi Street, Makawo HI 96768