

Subject: OPPOSED - A10-786 Olowalu Town - Testimony of the Final-EIS, Reject the EIS

Aloha Members of the Land Use Commission,

I ____Joan Dapitan_____ live in __San Clemente, CA_____ and oppose the proposed Olowalu town development because the Environmental Impact Statement is inadequate and fails to address the community's concerns about the preservation of Native Hawaiian cultural practices, traffic, fires, tsunamis and the degradation of vital terrestrial and marine habitat, just to name a few.

To Native Hawaiians, the ahupua'a system represents the revitalization of a life cycle from Mauka to Makai (the land to the sea). The priority of an ahupua'a is to maintain and foster its resources in order to sustainably support the community. In an ahupua'a system, people did not dominate the natural ecosystem, but instead they were a natural part of it. Hawaiians would never urbanize prime agricultural land for short term profit. The use of the concept ahupua'a as a development model is out of date, false, and completely opposite of the true value an ahupua'a system affords. Therefore, to use the ahupua'a system as a development model to urbanize Olowalu Mauka to Makai is a romanticized idea of the ahupua'a system in order to promote a non-Hawaiian project.

Traffic to Lahaina is already unbearable and there are tens of thousands of homes yet to be built in other West Maui locations; the area is in a tsunami inundation zone, there are fire threats nearly every year, and a majority of the homes will not be affordable to the average local families here on Maui. This area will likely end up following in Wailea's footsteps and become a series of vacation homes rather than affordable housing for local families seeking relief from absurd rental prices.

The EIS does not mention the impact on surfers that utilize Olowalu. There is no mention of where public parking will be placed near existing surfing locations and how recreational beach users will be able to access the coastline. Furthermore, they are proposing to build a waste water treatment plant across the road from a popular surf break. This EIS fails to consider the effects this has on the culture of surfing at this area and the potential affects a sewage spill may have on the nearshore environment. Furthermore, they are planning to have a 4.5 acre leach field and there is no mention of the potential for nutrient rich water to percolate through the porous lava rock and add excessive nutrients to the coral reef that cannot afford this type of stress. Here on the West Side of Maui we find the injection wells killing coral reefs several miles away. Will the leach field do the same?

The EIS fails to address endangered species that frequent the area. In the Final EIS Volume 1- Part 2 page 22 section b. the proposed EIS says "There are no endangered or threatened species or their habitat in the Master Plan for alternatives 1 & 2." This is contrary to local knowledge of the area where we find endangered Nene goose nesting areas in the path of what will be the new highway. In addition, they choose to exclude the Endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals that frequent the reef area and utilize the beach as a resting area. What happens to these resting areas when 4000 more people are utilizing the beach and coral reef ecosystems? They completely exclude the endangered sea turtle cleaning stations that are often frequented by 20+ turtles. Lastly, they

don't include the effects this development project has on rare species of corals that are being proposed to be placed on the endangered species list.

In addition to endangered coral species, this development threatens the very existence of the last well-developed coral reef on the island. You find 700+ year old kupuna coral colonies that seed adjacent reefs. With the exception of the paid Marine Research Consultants Inc. who claim the retention basin, 1700 homes, 3,000 cars, waste water treatment plant, 4.5 acre leach field, additional fertilizers and pesticides will actually benefit the largest, oldest, and extremely priceless coral reef ecosystem; coral reef experts from across the globe have told us that this development will exacerbate the affects global climate change and ocean acidification are causing. They say that this development will drive this priceless coral reef down the slippery slope to slime.

Lastly, when the 1,350 community members and GPAC originally met to discuss this project, they proposed 500 affordable housing units, 500 under market housing units, and 500 market priced units. Since these original meetings, they have added 300-350,000 square ft. of commercial space that is the equivalent to 3 Maui Malls, and substantially reduced the number of affordable housing units and the promise of affordable housing still remains vague in this proposal. They have also added a 60 room hotel on the point. This is an area that families take their keiki and kupuna to swim in protected waters of Olowalu. Much of this wasn't originally proposed, yet the developers act as if everyone wanted this project.

Because of the multitude of reasons, this plan is terrible; it is time to hold additional meetings with the community to talk about the proposed project and suitable win-win situations that can be reached with the citizens of Maui County.

I ask you to stand with us and reject the Olowalu town development and the EIS for the sake of future generations and a healthy thriving coral reef ecosystem.

Mahalo for your time,

Name

Contact Information

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