

FAX TO HAWAII STATE LAND USE COMMISSION: 241218

Re: Hokua Place

Aloha tatou,

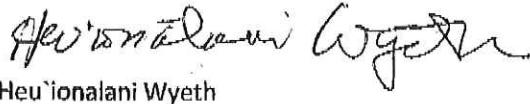
It is proverbial that to understand someone's point of view one should walk a mile in her/his shoes. How about requiring anyone who supports the Hokua Place development to drive a mile along our already congested East Kaua'i thoroughfares? I have lived in the area for over 35 years, and have seen the local traffic situation steadily deteriorate. Back in the early 1980s, for example, I could drive from my home in Anahola to Lihu'e Airport in 30 minutes at most. Nowadays it can take an hour or more. How can this be called progress?

How will the building of 769 new houses at Hokua Place improve this state of affairs? The proposed development will only add to traffic congestion in the area. This is more than a problem of simple inconvenience. The already overburdened roads are the very ones that are designated tsunami evacuation routes. How many people could die if a tsunami or flash flood should catch them during the increasingly many hours each day when Kuhio Highway and the Kapa'a bypass are gridlocked?

The highway problem is a symptom of other East Kaua'i ills. The local wastewater treatment facility is old and prone to malfunction. The addition of several thousand more residents doing laundry and flushing toilets will stress it even more.

Certainly our community needs more housing that local working people can afford. According to statistics published in our local newspaper, however, the suggested starting price for Hokua Place units will be \$650,000. How many working people will be able to afford this?

Please do not allow this proposed development to proceed. Our community does not need it. Let us fix the infrastructure problems we already have instead increasing them. Smart growth is certainly desirable for our island. Hokua Place is not smart.



Heu'ionalani Wyeth

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LAND USE COMMISSION