Aloha Executive Director Daniel Orodenker,

I am writing on behalf of Keep Your Power, a coalition of concerned citizens, residents of Hawaii, who oppose the application submitted by Pulama Lana’i to change the land use designation for the area by Lana’i airport from agricultural to urban.

In June of this year the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH), on behalf of Alphabet (Google), tech giant SoftBank and defense contractor AeroVironment, submitted an application to the Lana’i Planning Commission to approve use of agricultural land to build a second airport and turn Lana’i into a giant drone manufacturing plant and launchpad.

In fact, RCUH went ahead and built an airstrip and a 16,500 square foot drone hangar on agricultural land without permits or approvals. Clearly they were not acting in good faith.

The “after-the-fact” RCUH application was resoundingly opposed by Hawaii residents, to the extent that the application was quickly modified due to opposition and eventually withdrawn. Their application was also opposed by Hawaiian cultural practitioners in a lawsuit. Despite this opposition, the current proposed upzoning from agricultural to urban would accomplish what RCUH was trying to do. That is not right.

We oppose this zoning change. Lana’i does not need a second airport, nor the loss of agricultural land. Food production is more important than industrial development. And the rest of the state, and our ocean inhabitants, should not have to suffer the onslaught of highly experimental football field sized drones beaming down toxic radiation in our airspace, because of the desire of a few.

Sincerely,

Debra

Debra Greene, PhD
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Sent from my faster, safer, more secure HARDWIRED computer