



From: [Janice Glennie](#)
To: [DBEDT LUC](#)
Cc: [rebecca Villegas](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Attn: State Land Use Commission; Deny U of N BENCORP (HAWAII) development plan proposal
Date: Monday, October 31, 2022 10:28:22 PM

University of Hawaii at Hilo, Campus Center, Room 301
IV. A02-737 U of N BENCORP (HAWAII)

Aloha Commissioners,

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment.

I have many concerns about this development including that the hearing for the project is being held in East Hawai`i. University of Nation projects and expansion have already created huge impacts on West Hawaii's infrastructure, so West Hawai`i would be the best venue for it to be addressed by those most affected by it.

Archeological sites have been a consideration in this area for numerous projects where litigation has been necessary to prevent disturbance and decimation of significant archeological and cultural sites including heiau, the Kuakini Wall, a historic trail, and burial sites.

The current main U of N site on Kuakini Highway includes a huge, view-obstructive "hangar" replete with bright lights that are a nuisance to humans (knowing neighbors of the facility who've made complaints) and, likely, migratory birds. Was the hangar a way to get around building codes? Will that same type of structure be erected on this site?

With Kailua-Kona's overstretched infrastructure, this body must consider traffic, water resources including wastewater treatment, emergency preparedness including road access, medical facilities (already severely stretched for local residents) and much more. Personally I've witnessed the extensive use of recreational facilities by U of N students and staff, including beaches and limited surf spots. In fact, last night there was a large group of students at a local surf spot gathered around a bonfire with their teacher -- at least 15 surfboards surrounding in tow ("Surfing the Nations" being part of their evangelical program — a program which frustrates and angers local surfers who deal with a very limited, surf-able shoreline).

Will this be another project that comes up again and again for rezoning and other development permits? Is BENCORP development-ready, or are these speculators hoping to expand profits over time by reclassification? I can't help but recall that a recent U of N leader was convicted of embezzling funds. Despite being a religious organization, there are obvious financial issues that U of N corporate leadership might be considering.

As the most consistently and longest-serving member of the Kona Community Development Plan Action Committee, I'm concerned that the developer hasn't clarified how their proposal fits with the Kailua-Kona community goals and the ordinance created through that plan.

Mahalo for considering these and other issues before you give approval of this plan.

Sincerely,

Janice Palma-Glennie
Kailua-Kona

Cc: Hawai'i County Council representative Rebecca Villegas