

Mori, Ashley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 10:00 AM
To: General Plan
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Waipi'o Valley Feasibility Study on Developing Scenic Route from Waipi'o Valley Lookout

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF HAWAII

2019 NOV 1 9 21 AM

To Whom It May Concern - see below for public and residents' concerns regarding the idea of a scenic park and lookout area for Hi'ilawe Falls.

- Native Ecosystems Will Be At Risk - what studies will be done (EIS) to ensure native flora and fauna are not destroyed/disturbed?
- Erosion & Landslide Impacts to Valley - Landslides have happened often over recent years and pose a serious threat so how would new infrastructure affect the valley? Also with multiple surface water drainage issues, further landslide risks and possible large sections breaking free are a serious concern.
- How would current stewardship be affected and what communication will occur with land owners?
- **SERIOUS CONCERN OVER TOURIST TRAFFIC EXPANSION INTO RIMLANDS** - Traffic is already a serious concern for the lookout and the valley itself. What safeguards, funding and oversight will the County put in place for this to be regulated? Should seriously consider and look into other conversation areas on the US continent such as The Wave in the Southern Utah/Northern Arizona area where a lottery for permits are conducted daily and the amount of visitors are CAPPED per day.
- **WAIPI'O VALLEY ACCESS ROAD** and its safety is CURRENTLY still an issue and remains unresolved - where is the funding to fix the access road? what is the status of this? long term maintenance and projects need to be discussed ASAP and long before any new roads are created.
- **SERIOUS CONCERNS OVER INCREASED TRAFFIC INTO THE VALLEY DUE TO VIEWING FROM ABOVE** - current commercial tour groups have been observed as conducting illegal tours and are not currently regulated - how will this change if a viewing area is created? Who will enforce? How? Again, we strongly believe tourist access needs to be limited and restricted for the safety of everyone!
- **EUCALYPTUS TREES** - what is long term plan for these areas? How will trees be maintained? Removed when fallen over, etc?
- How will monitoring & management of access to these areas occur? Rapid Ohi'a Death needs to be prevented with decontamination of all tires of vehicles and shoes of each individual and vehicle. Who will manage this process? How?

The public needs to be informed every step of the way if and when this feasibility study moves forward and residents input need to be strongly considered because we are impacted daily!

Mahalo nui loa for your time in reading these concerns. We look forward to hearing back from the County on how we move forward.

E ku ma kapu aloha,

