

Mori, Ashley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 2:10 PM
To: General Plan
Subject: Allocation draft study of Mud Lane scenic route

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF HAWAII

2019 NOV 1 AM 9:24

Aloha,

My name is [REDACTED] I am a Kumu hula, cultural Practicionar, and 5th generational Rancher in Hāmākua. I reside on [REDACTED]

I highly object to the draft general plan provision to allocate county resources to the study of a scenic drive along mud lane and to the Waipi'o Valley Lookout.

The rim lands that overlook Waipi'o valley are culturally significant and are important to be kept in preservation for education, agriculture and to preserve our open spaces and our natural resources for future generations.

This plan was first devised by the county many years ago before the lands were bought from the plantation by KSBE (Kamehameha Schools Bishop Estates). Such a development would increase traffic and trespassing into culturally significance areas and the fragile endemic eco-systems along the rim lands of Waipi'o. It would cause and encourage more people to hike into areas that are unsafe and inaccessible which, would cause more search and rescue deployments by the county. In turn, costing the county and taxpayers the cost of these rescues. The impact of tourism along this proposed project would increase the access of visitors into Waipi'o Valley which, currently is over run by mainland visitor and whom enter Waipi'o through the Waipi'o county road at the lookout.

The present day congestion has caused many close call accidents on this road and are potential for wrongful death law suites against the county. The county simply can not afford these expenses in the future.

Such a proposed project would cost into the millions to develop which, the county could put to better use in other areas and improvements of existing county roads, schools and parks.

The clearing of the eucalyptus trees and old growth eucalyptus along mud lane would significantly impact the residents and ranchers who live on the upper existing county road, mud lane. It would also disturb their/ our way of life and our lifestyle by the impact of constant traffic and it's noise pollution. It would also encourage re zoning and residential development of these areas along mud lane from present agricultural pastoral zoning.

In closing, such a proposed project would adversely effect many island residents and culturally important sites, it's native eco systems and change forever Hawai'i's island way of life.

Mahalo,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

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