

From: [Gary Wong](#)
To: [LPCtestimony](#)
Subject: Revise Hawaii General Plan Testimony Here
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Here are some concerns:

The word “Stakeholder” defined in the plan, is written 86 times and literally means anyone in the entire world can have input on this plan.

Please recommend Stakeholder change to the following: “Local Communities”. Local Communities are local Big Island farmers, homeowners, renters, organizations, businesses, and individuals who live on Big Island or have property on Big Island that will be personally affected by projects, decisions, or activities in the general plan. Effective local community engagement and management are crucial for the success and sustainability of any initiative, as it helps ensure that diverse perspectives and interests are considered.

Hilo does not have a Community Development Plan. How can a Big Island General Plan move forward without that? Hilo is 22% of the island.

This plan wants to turn land into “conservation”. The exact opposite is what is needed for Big Island! We need to turn land into Ag Villages and grow more food! Steve Shropshire, a resident of Papaikou, has created an Ag Villages plan.

1.13 under “Increase the biodiversity and resilience of native habitats” reads, “incentivize private land management practices that protect and enhance natural resource values and, when appropriate, pursue the acquisition of lands for the protection of natural resources.” “Incentives” mean more taxes. “Protection” means more rules. Who’s “values” is this plan referring to because it’s not the locals? “Pursue the acquisition of lands” does this say they are going to pursue taking people’s private property? Again with “protection of natural resources”. This plan should be focused on people growing more food and it is doing the exact opposite.

Thank-you
Rita Wong