

Mori, Ashley

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, October 31, 2019 12:12 PM
To: General Plan
Subject: Comments on general plan-please don't use PONC for waste lands
Attachments: General.plan_PONC.docx

Aloha,

Thanks for all of your hard work. Please see the attached comments on the general plan.

Best regards,

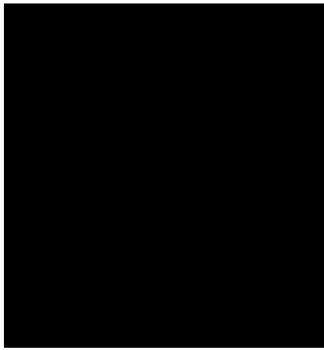
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2019 NOV 1 AM 9 28
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF HAWAII

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October 31, 2019

Aloha Planning Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft General Plan for the County of Hawai'i. I am writing to draw your attention to the language on page 30 of the General Plan (section 36.1.38) which proposes the following:

36.1.38 Amend Charter to revise land acquisition and preservation regulations and criteria (PONC) to include lands impacted by climate change or those with beneficial attributes for climate adaptation and mitigation.

I strongly oppose the portion of this amendment which proposes that the Charter be revised so that PONC funds may be used to acquire lands which have been impacted by climate change. This particular clause would directly contravene the true purpose of the PONC which is to acquire, protect, and maintain lands of extraordinary natural beauty and significant natural resources; of cultural and historic importance; and/or to provide shoreline and mountain access. The impacts of climate change already include many detrimental effects ranging from flooded shoreline properties; groundwater inundated with saltwater intrusion; soil rendered toxic from soil salinization; dramatic erosion and instability due to unpredictable and unsafe storm surges; and so on. These lands could be considered as waste and PONC funds should not be used to purchase them. Instead, the proposed amendment should read as follows:

36.1.38 Amend Charter to revise land acquisition and preservation regulations and criteria (PONC) to include lands with-beneficial attributes for climate adaptation and mitigation.

This amendment would allow for PONC funds that still fit within the specific PONC criteria AND provide beneficial attributes for climate adaptation and mitigation. This amendment would allow further flexibility in using the PONC funds to acquire and protect extraordinary lands while considering the ongoing and unpredictable impacts of climate change.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this section. I very much appreciate your hard work and attention to this matter.

Best regards,

