

From: [toni Bello](#)
To: [Planning WPC Testimony](#)
Subject: Opposition to PL-USE-2026-000042
Date: Tuesday, June 2, 2026 10:38:29 AM

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To: The Windward Planning Commission

Regarding: Strong Opposition to the Permit Application for Big Island Neuro Health Foundation's Outpatient Clinic in Pepeekeo. PL-USE-2026-000042

To the Members of the Windward Planning Commission,

My name is Carlton Bello, and I am a resident of Pepeekeo. I am writing to express my strong opposition to the permit application for the Big Island Neuro Health Foundation's proposed outpatient clinic. My opposition is based on critical procedural failures regarding community notification, as well as deeply concerning inconsistencies regarding the facility's operational scope, staffing, and patient safety protocols.

I respectfully urge the Windward Planning Commission to deny this permit based on the following facts:

- **Failure of Required Public Notification:** The applicant has failed to meet basic transparency and notification requirements. I personally checked with Councilwoman Heather Kimball, who confirmed that my property falls within the required 300-foot notification boundary. However, when I explicitly asked about this at a community meeting, I was incorrectly told that I was outside the boundary. Consequently, I never received the first or second notification letters regarding this project. If immediate neighbors within the legal radius are being excluded or misinformed, the applicant has not conducted proper, lawful community outreach.
- **Contradictory and Shifting Scope of Staffing:** The applicant has provided inconsistent information regarding the scale of the operation. Representatives initially stated that only three people would be at the clinic. Shortly thereafter, they contradicted themselves by stating that more people would be hired on. The Commission cannot accurately assess the traffic, parking, and infrastructure impact of a facility when the applicant refuses to provide a transparent, definitive cap on staffing and headcount.
- **Unclear Scope of Medical Care:** While initially presented strictly as a neurological health facility, the applicant has noted that services would extend to mental health patients. Introducing a mental health treatment facility into a quiet residential zone requires distinct oversight, security considerations, and community dialogue—none of which have been adequately addressed or detailed in the current application.

- **Lack of Viable Transportation and Safety Protocols:** When asked how patients without independent transportation would return to their residences, the community was told that Ms. Stevens would personally put patients in her own car and drive them home. This is a staggering lack of professional protocol for a medical facility. Relying on a staff member's personal vehicle to transport individuals—who may be dealing with complex neurological or acute mental health conditions—is completely unviable, poses immense liability risks, and demonstrates that the applicant lacks a serious, professional operational plan.

Conclusion

A project of this nature requires absolute transparency, strict adherence to county notification laws, and rigorous operational standards. The Big Island Neuro Health Foundation has failed on all three fronts. They have misinformed immediate neighbors about the 300-foot boundary, shifted their narrative on staffing, altered the scope of care, and offered highly unprofessional solutions for patient transit.

Pepeekeo is a residential community that relies on this Commission to protect its integrity and safety. Because the applicant has demonstrated a clear lack of readiness and transparency, I respectfully urge the Windward Planning Commission to **deny this permit**.

Thank you for your time, leadership, and consideration of the Pepeekeo community's voice.

Sincerely,

Carlton Bello

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