



Name: Lynn Britton

Agenda Item: C.1 Subarea 1 |

Mā'alaea/Keālia

Date Received: 7/10/23 via email

July 10, 2023

To: South Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee Members

RE: CPAC RECOMMENDED GROWTH ALTERNATIVE MAPS: MA'ALAEA

Aloha Chair Weltman and SMCPAC Members:

Mahalo for placing the Recommended Growth Alternative Map for Ma'alaea and other South Maui regions on the July 12th Agenda.

Ma'alaea Village Association (MVA) previously submitted testimony (1/9/23) on 2.4 goal of Mauka to Makai Watershed Management. We also support 4.06 regarding resources for upland forest conservation, and restoration projects to improve forest cover and functions and reduce downstream flooding. This relates directly to community-wide efforts to protect and preserve Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea.

Mahalo to the CPAC for placing both Ma'alaea project districts in Ag. At this time we ask you reconsider and place the Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea parcel in Open Space designation.

The Maui County Council's Agriculture, Diversification, Environment and Public Transportation (ADEPT) Committee is currently considering adding the Ma'alaea parcel to the committee's South Maui recommendations to the Conservation Planning Committee. These 257 acres meet the Countywide Policy Plan goals: "Maui County's natural environment and distinctive open spaces will be preserved, managed and cared for in perpetuity."

These Ma'alaea lands have been deemed of value by the State Legacy Lands Commission which granted \$1 million toward their purchase. The County's Open Space preservation funds are to be used for 'acquiring lands or property entitlements for land conservation', including the following purposes:

1. Public outdoor recreation and education;
2. Preservation of historic or culturally important land areas;
3. Protection of significant habitat or ecosystems, including buffer zones;
4. Preserving forests, beaches, coastal areas and agricultural lands;
5. Protecting watershed lands to preserve water quality;
6. Conserving land for the purpose of reducing erosion, floods, landslides and runoff;

7. Improving disabled and public access to, and enjoyment of public land, open space, and recreational facilities.

The Ma'alaea Mauka parcel fits all criteria. The situation of the historic Lahaina Pali Trail through the property and community goals to expand trail access, increase parking and accessibility and build bike paths are part of the community vision for the parcel. It's historic significance is documented in the new book published by MVA: Ma'alaea: The Untold Story of Maui's Historic Crossroads.

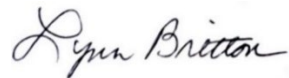
Renewed community efforts are underway to work with the new owner to address the critical erosion and wildfire issues that are major impacts on Ma'alaea Bay. ADEPT Committee Chair Johnson's proposed amendments to the Resolution going to the Conservation Planning Committee include "Management' of land for conservation purposes; 'Portions of land;' vs the whole property and 'establishing a public-private partnership'. All amendments would benefit this effort.

Although eminent domain proceedings were begun during the last administration, they have not been renewed on the county level. It is important to show the public benefit for preserving these lands for current and future generations. Community support is critical to achieving our goals of protecting these vital lands above Ma'alaea Bay at the crossroads between West, Central and South Maui.

Mahalo for your reconsideration and decision to place the Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea parcel in open space.

We appreciate your continued efforts on behalf of the communities of South Maui.

With Aloha,



Lynn Britton, Co-Founder, and Immediate Past President, MVA