

Name: Susan Douglas
Agenda Item: C.1 Subarea 1: Mā'alaēa/Keālia
Date Received: 8/19/23 via email

From: Susan Douglas
To: <wearesouthmaui@mauicounty.gov>
Date: 8/19/2023 5:01 PM
Subject: Designate Ma'alaēa Mauka as Open Space

Warmest Mahalo and Aloha!

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Phone numbers removed for privacy



From: Maalaea Village Association <maalaeavillageassociation@gmail.com>
Date: August 18, 2023 at 10:32:45 AM HST
To:
Subject: Ma'alaēa Mauka/Pohakea land designation--your voice is needed!

August 18, 2023

**Now more than ever: designate Ma'alaēa
Mauka/Pohakea as Open Space, not Ag
Estates.**

Aloha Ma'alaēa 'Aina Protectors

Mahalo to those who spoke up for the purchase and protection of the 257 acres of Ma'alaēa Mauka / Pohakea Watershed lands in 2020 and 2021. Your voices were heard by Maui County Council and funds were allotted in the budget to purchase the parcel, to be preserved as open space. Unfortunately, the purchase was not finalized by the administration.

But there is immediate action you can take to help protect this land. The 20 year plan for South Maui's future growth is being reviewed by 13 appointed South Maui residents- known as the SOUTH MAUI COMMUNITY PLAN ADVISORY GROUP ('CPAC')

Please ask the South Maui CPAC to DESIGNATE MA'ALAEA MAUKA/POHAKEA AS "OPEN SPACE" (managed for conservation purposes) RATHER THAN "AG". The current AG designation allows the parcel to be subdivided into +/- 20 estates in size from 2 to 50 acres.

The Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea lands above the Ma'alaea community are in an extremely windy, dry, fire prone area, immediately downslope of high voltage power lines. It has burned several times in the recent past. The Hawaii Wildfire Management Association identifies this area as a "hot spot" (see exhibit and link to the report below). It is a poor location for any residential development and critically important for management to prevent not only wildfires, but also to control erosion and sedimentation of Ma'alaea Bay. By changing the designation of the parcel to Open Space, it can be specifically managed for fire hazard and erosion while at the same time allowing for agricultural pursuits.

The CPAC will be meeting on August 30. Use the button below to send an email to the CPAC before August 28 to ask the CPAC to support this sensible planning decision. Your comments can be very short and simple. Make any points you feel are important. Here's an example:

Dear CPAC

Final decisions are being made about your recommendations for future growth areas in Maui. Please designate the Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea lands as Open Space rather than Ag. This is an extremely high wind, fire prone area that should be re-evaluated in light of more extreme weather conditions. Please send a clear message that this land is best managed for Open Space to help reduce wildfire, flooding, and erosion.

[Click here to send an email to the CPAC at wearesouthmaui@mauicounty.gov](mailto:wearesouthmaui@mauicounty.gov)

In March 2020, MVA initiated a petition drive to "Protect Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed". The Maui community responded with over 200 petition signers and numerous testimony at public meetings, which convinced the County of Maui to allocate \$6.2million to pursue the purchase and preservation of the parcel, with support from the Trust for Public Lands, the Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), and the State Legacy Lands Commission. Unfortunately the purchase was not finalized and the parcel is in the hands of a private developer.

[Click here to read the original call to action.](#)

A wildfire burns across the pali above Ma'alaea in March 2012.

Above is one page from the Hawaii Wildfire Management Association 2018 report which identifies the pali above Ma'alaea, including Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea, as a "Hotspot Area" with recurring fires. Click on the image to see more of the report.

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The MVA Mission:

MVA supports "Mauka to Makai" efforts to preserve and protect Ma'alaea Village and Ma'alaea Bay for the benefit of all.

The MVA Vision:

**"Our Community,
Our Bay,
Our Ohana,
Our Responsibility."**

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