

Comments for advisory committee meeting November 7

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Main topic is safe, healthy, livable communities. Cross-cutting areas of relevance:

A. Emergency Services. The biggest gap between what we have now and a safe, healthy, and livable community is the lack of an emergency room on this side of the island.

Policy recommendation:

1. A parcel zoned public/quasipublic should be reserved for an urgent medical care center, with the option for future growth (clinic, hospital, professional buildings, etc).

B. Mobility. Lahaina bypass does not extend to Kaanapali and has the same problem that Honoapiilani Highway does: only one lane in each direction.

Policy recommendations:

1. All new highway construction must be two lanes in each direction.
2. Implement CA law where cars that have 3 or more cars backed up behind them must pull over.

C. Recreation network. West Maui has one facility for live theater and other performances, and it is currently under private ownership and closed. In most communities, the lowest level of government owns the theater, and rents it out for weeks at a time to local groups.

Policy recommendations:

1. Maui County should acquire the Maui Theatre, and the parcel should be zoned public/quasipublic.
2. The county should rent the facility to groups on a rotating basis; no one organization should be given permanent use of the facility.

D. Housing. As the draft report notes, there is a huge jobs-housing imbalance on West Maui. Such imbalances can only be mitigated by controlling both factors. More housing must be constructed to accommodate the existing workers, but future job growth must be constrained so that even more demand for housing is not created. Otherwise, we end up in a spiral.