

Name: Michele Lincoln
Agenda Item: Draft Plan
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Testimony for CPAC Meeting March 12, 2020 (Cancelled)

Before it is too late, please change the language in the community plan. On July 25, 2019 testimony was submitted for appropriate changes. Here are two of the four suggestions with current pieces of pending legislation to support them.

#1: Change the wording in the community plan to support Senate Bill 749 “the bill for an act relating to actions for quiet title.”

Excerpts of the testimony: “Page 1-9: Quote: ‘Between 1860’s and 1920’s Pioneer Mill Company’s predecessors acquired the land of Hawaiian residents.’”

“Please change the language in the community plan with full disclosure. Some land was only leased by Pioneer Mill Company’s predecessors. In subsequent sales, leased lands were included with purchased lands of Hawaiian residents resulting in the necessity of quiet title and quit claim today. Due to insufficient documentation or lack of financial resources for court appeals, many kuleana heirs are discriminated against. How many Hawaiians are being swindled from family lands due to this unjust practice? Recognizing the plight of native Hawaiians may help them obtain justice!”

#2) Community Plan Policies could help create an inventory of affordable housing in perpetuity. The Lahaina News March 12-18, 2020 reported: “The State House of Representatives passed the 2020 budget bill, HB2725 HD1. The supplemental budget contains funding for West Maui projects, including \$10 million to advance the Department of Hawaiian Homelands’ Villages of Leiali’i Project. Rep. Angus McKelvey explained that the measure was part of a package of housing bills designed to invest state resources into affordable housing that cannot be converted to market price homes in the future. Not only is it the right thing to do, but this is the kind of affordable housing that won’t end up in speculator hands.”

Create land trust housing options for non-native Hawaiian residents too. Include the concept in the community plan policies. Future funding may be available from the state for this kind of affordable housing in perpetuity.

July 25 Testimony: “Page 1-12: ‘Housing Demand to 2040’ needs to emphasis that 73% of West Maui workers earn less than \$44,000 annually. Housing demands need to be met with homes affordable for that income bracket. HUD guidelines are unaffordable and should be disregarded. (Note: HUD affordable guidelines consider close to \$800,000 as affordable.)

“Include criteria in the community plan that a percentage of future housing is to be affordable in perpetuity. Use the model of Department of Hawaiian Homelands to create an inventory of affordable homes for all residents.”

#3 Emphasis in the community plan policies the importance of a large community park in Lahaina. The only real reference to the community’s desire for an expansive park in Lahaina is found on the maps. Language in the community plan needs to support the necessity and desire of the public for an enormous park.

The area identified by the CPAC is an ideal location for an expansive community park. It could include reforestation and agriculture parks for public use. This would be mutually beneficial for the landholder and the community.

Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estates is the primary land holder in the area the CPAC designated for a park. Please include policies and actions to encourage that land use. Also, include a contingency plan in the event Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate refuses to comply with the community plan.

Policies and Actions of the CPAC could ensure a large parcel of land is designated for a future expansive community park.

Recently a Member of Congress, Tulsi Gabbard wrote:

“Promoting Urban Agriculture: Across America, too many families are faced with limited access to affordable and nutritious food — straining their wallets and their health. I introduced H.R.5266 , the Urban Agriculture Healthy Food and Entrepreneur Act, which will establish two new programs — the Urban Agriculture Conservation Easement Program and the Urban Agriculture Micro-entrepreneur Assistance Program. Together they would increase the availability of land and capital in communities for urban agriculture production.”

Federal funding and incentives could help create an expansive community park in this area ideal for community gardens/ agriculture park along with a food hub/co-op for distribution. Please include language in the community plan to support a vision for the future promoting safety, well-being, and food security with a large community park in Lahaina.