

Chris Yuen  
November 17, 2006

Hawaii County Planning Department

101 Pauahi St

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RE: Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Sea Mountain at Punalu'u

Mr Yuen:

I have reviewed the DEIS that I have referenced above. I have a specific concern that I do not see addressed in the document. My concern involves an endangered species. However, it is not a plant or animal. My endangered species is the Native Hawaiian.

The report generates a multitude of concerns that are related to the Hawaiians of old and their sacred lands, burial sites and heiau's. Others have or will address these issues.

My concern is related to the Native Hawaiians who are now residents of the district of Ka'u and whose families have been part of the fabric of this rural community for generations and centuries of time.

In many ways the Native Hawaiians define Ka'u. Without them Ka'u would not be Ka'u.

The proposed development represented in this DEIS is foreign to, if not hostile to, the very nature of the district of Ka'u and most specifically to the very lifestyle of the Native Hawaiians who live here.

This incredibly hospital people have welcomed us to their homeland with much aloha. We must honor them by making sure that any decisions made provide for their way of life and means to sustain it.

The most immediate concern I have is that this development would dramatically effect the property values of the entire district of Ka'u. As the property values rise so will the property taxes and all fees associated with them.

Think about what this would mean to Ka'u. The largest resort proposal every suggested in East Hawaii imposed on the most rural district of East Hawaii.

The residents of Ka'u, Native Hawaiians and all others, choose to live here because it is rural and they can afford to live in this district. Yet a development is proposed that would undeniably raise the property values and taxes and force many to have to sell out and move.

All of the Hawaiian Islands are full of these results. Look at the comparative situation on the Island of Molokai. This Island is mostly rural and it's population is roughly the same as Ka'u (approximately 7000) and with a high concentration of Native Hawaiians.

Development on Molokai, corporate or individual has caused a rapid increase in property values and resulted in long time Native Hawaiian Families having to sell out because they could not pay the property taxes. Not only did they sell out but they took their money and left the State settling in Las Vegas NV where they could buy a house with land and find jobs. Sounds great but it is not. There is a problem: They want to live HERE and raise their families HERE in Hawaii like their ancestors have for generation after generation.

The mitigation effort on the part of the developer appears to be that he will build "affordable housing " I ask you AFFORABLE TO WHO ?? The prices the developer is talking about far exceed the ability of most Hawaiian families. They live a simple lifestyle centered on the land and the sea. For them money is not the be all and end all.

Family, traditions and close intimate connection to the land are their priorities.

This development flies in the face of the Native Hawaiians who for centuries have treasured this land of Punaluu and all of Ka'u as SACRED and will not only be displaced

Physically by this development but will also feel the roots of their spiritual selves ripped up and separated from the very source of their identity.

The developer has simply not addressed this issue of the Native Hawaiians. He has only looked at it in terms of dollars and cents. The Native Hawaiians will not be able to afford to remain in Ka'u regardless of the "affordable housing " or jobs which the developer is promising.

I find the developers assertion that the resort would result in a probable positive impact both on the history and culture of the area to be ludicrous in light of the fact that the source of that history and culture, the Native Hawaiian, would be forced from their ,land,reefs and ocean all in the name of financial gain for everyone but them.

It is my hope that the developer, understanding better the nature of this place we call Ka'u, might look elsewhere for his development.

I look forward to a response that answers DIRECTLY, the issue I raise which is the displacement of the Native Hawaiians of Ka'u by the Sea Mountain Development.

I attest that all information in this presentation is the truth to the best of my ability.

Sincerely,

Jim Spielman

Resident of Ka'u

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