

From: Pueo McGuire-Turcotte

Ka`u

Message: :: Aloha,

I understand that the proposed development at Punalu'u is in the stage in which the public are asked to thoroughly review an Environmental Impact Statement(E.I.S.). If this statement is deemed insufficient or inadequate by the public, the authorities must deny any further progress of Sea Mountain Five LLC. The E.I.S. submitted for public review was looked over by everyone in my immediate proximities(both in Ka'u and at UH Hilo) and the most common responses I saw were encompassed in a small range between disgust and dissatisfaction. The obvious inaccuracy of the statement is shown persistently through all 2,000+ page document. Their account of the amount of burials in the 400+ acres of the project is well below the realistic amount of sites that are surely below one of the most populated areas in the islands, pre contact. Home of many He'iau and other types of culturally significant areas, it is ludicrous to assume that it would be okay for a mega-hotel/housing project to be what becomes of it. On the other hand, their account of the endangered species in the area, namely: the Honu 'Ea(hawksbill sea turtle) and Hawaiian Monk Seal, is simirlarly unfulfilling and inadequate in it's description. I also firmly believe the research methods that were used to conduct these observations could be described as a "pedestrian observation", in they barely took more than 3 days to conduct their studies , except for the hoary bat.

Perhaps much more importantly is their views on the social impacts on the area. Doubling the population of Ka'u, and placing all in 400 acres in ludacious. We have one hospital in Ka'u, 1 high school, a huge drug problem and no jobs...They claim that this project will provide ample employment for the youth coming of age in Ka'u. But I ask you this: If the developers claim that the construction process will last until the year 2020(and we all know how many of these projects actually finish on time...), and most of the contractors and workers will be obtained from the mainland, how will this create jobs for the young adults of Ka'u? Furthermore, Why should the message projected to the children be to hope and dream for a construction job, or a romm service position? We need schools!!! we need the fundamental social infrustructures(hospitals,old age aid programs, drug programs), and I don't think you can consciounselly believe this development will provide this.

Finally the cultural aspect. Punaluu may be the first place Hawaiians landed...The chiefs of Ka'u called it their homes...It is the only accessible beach for hawaiians in Ka'u who can't afford 4-wheel drive vehicles to go fishing and practice their cultural activities, their right according the the hawaiian hunting/gathering laws.

If you allow this development, you are contributing to the slow process of extinction the hawaiians are facing. According to anthropologists, a culture dies when their language and their ability to practice their culture are gone. This is

another example of how this is happening, the children of Ka'u will no longer know Punalu'u as one of the most sacred areas in the State, no they will only know it as an example of how their culture was stolen from them for someone to make a profit. Please don't be responsible for me having to explain to my children what happened to the place where I learned to be a hawaiian, and where one used to be able to be one.