



Waikapū Community Association

To enhance the quality of life for the residents of Waikapū through the preservation and appreciation of its history, natural environment, and values of its rural tradition.

Mr. Nolly Yagin,
Project Manager
Dept. of Public Works,
County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

April 5, 2011

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment, Proposed Waiale Road
Extension and East Waiko Road Improvements in Waikapū,
Maui, Hawaii

Dear Mr. Yagin,

The Waikapū Community Association wishes to present the following comments on the Draft EA for this proposed Project.

The WCA Development Monitoring Committee met on March 28, 2011 to discuss the Draft Environmental Assessment and the letter of February 18, 2011, received from your consultant Leilani Pulmano of Munekiyo & Hirage.

The Committee has the following comments:

- 1) The Waikapū Community Association strongly disagrees with the finding in the Draft EA that a traffic signal at the intersection of Waiale Road and Haawi Street is not recommended. The experience of current Waikapū Gardens subdivision residents with the present levels of traffic on Waiale Road is one of great frustration when attempting to merge from the subdivision onto Waiale Road using a left turn.

The proposed median acceleration and deceleration lanes on Waiale Road at Kokololio, Haawi, and Nokekula Streets will create, through their proximity to one another, a confusing picture of traffic lining up in visually hard to distinguish lanes of turning and through traffic, that should be expected to block a clear view of the actual traffic movements. Residents from the Waikapū Gardens will now have to deal with at least two lanes of

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traffic approaching on Waiale Road (the deceleration and the through lane) in attempting to make a left turn on Waiale Road. With the observed speeds well in excess of the posted limits, that will be a daunting task.

Furthermore, the projected increase in traffic volume from the stated purpose of the extension to increase the viability of Waiale Road as an alternative to Honoapiilani and Kuikahi Highways through the Waikapū area, will only serve to exacerbate the problems experienced by the residents of Waikapū gardens.

Clearly, the only reasonable and, to the residents, acceptable solution is to require that a traffic light be placed at the intersection of Waiale Road and Haawi Street. This will be the only way to effectively prevent the serious accident(s) that are bound to occur as a result of poor traffic mitigation planning such as found in the Draft EA.

- 2) Separated bikepaths and sidewalks should be included in the roadway design for the improvements of Waiale Road, from Honoapiilani Highway to the intersection with Kuhikahi Drive/Maui Lani Parkway(?). As a member of the Steering Committee for the Non-Motorized Access Plan Project, you should be aware of the likely designation of the Waiale Road corridor as a regional connector route for bicycle and pedestrian users.

Separate bike and pedestrian paths, separated from motorized traffic are likely to be a key recommendation in the plan to promote safe opportunities for non-motorized traffic. Developments planned for both ends of that entire corridor will be expected to bring stores, schools, churches, housing for the elderly and additional residential development to the area, which must be expected to generate a considerable amount of pedestrian and bicycle traffic along Waiale Road.

The Draft EA suggests that a '10-ft. bike/pedestrian path on the west side of the roadway' be provided. This apparent combined use has shown to create safety conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrians, and will likely result in underutilization of this path. Again, in anticipation of the recommendations in the Non-Motorized Access Plan, the Waikapū Community Association strongly urges you to provide separate paths for bicyclists and pedestrians. There is no shame in being forward looking in projects such as these!

The Waikapū Community Association looks forward to continuing dialogue regarding this project. The Development Monitoring Committee requests to be informed of any meetings regarding this project, as may need to be scheduled before any approving bodies.

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Thank you again for this opportunity to provide comments on this project.

Sincerely,

Jacob W. Verkerke
Waikapū Community Association Chair

cc: Ms. Leilani Pulmano, Project Manager, Munekiyo & Hlraga
Mr. Mike Victorino, Council Member, County of Maui