

TO: Mr. Keith Kawaoka, OEQC Acting Director

June 7, 2021

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TO: Chair Puananionaona Thoene and Environmental Council members

FROM: Prof. Dick Mayer (808) 283-4376 dickmayer@earthlink.net

RE: Proposed Maui Hotel - Windward Hotel. Now, Kanaha Hotel

Aloha,

I am requesting that you take an action to prevent a potential problem. The matter concerns the environmental documents being prepared by an applicant on Maui Island. I am hoping that you will take action to warn the applicant before the situation gets too messy.

In October-2019 R.D. Olson Development company submitted a [DRAFT-EIS \(Draft Environmental Impact Statement\)](#) to construct the Windward Hotel near Kahului Airport. The document was circulated properly and received numerous comments from both Maui residents, and also detailed comments from Maui County Planning Director Michele Mclean representing the Maui Planning Commission.

After reviewing all of the feedback from the public and the Planning Director the developer decided in 2021:

- a) to [withdraw the initial Windward Hotel Draft Environmental Impact Statement](#);
- b) to **resubmit basically the same hotel project, but with a change in the name** of the proposed hotel from Windward Hotel to Kanaha Hotel; and
- c) to submit a new Draft Environmental Impact Statement that may not include all of the original 2019-20 feedback from the public or planning director.

Since this is basically the same hotel project and still has the same triggers requiring an environmental impact statement, I believe that any new environmental documents and the hotel name change may be merely a way of avoiding having to answer all of the original responses from the public and Maui County Planning Director. I would not like to see a "bait and switch" tactic used to avoid the intent of HRS 343.

Please inform the applicant / developer as soon as possible that they must include responses to the issues raised and the questions asked in the original Draft-EIS. They should also provide a description of the mitigation actions that they shall take to all concerns that were previously raised.

This matter is of particular concern because of Maui's over-tourism situation.

CC: Tom Eisen, OEQC Planner

Leslie Segundo, OEQC Environmental Health Specialist

Rob Parsons, Maui Member, OEQC Environmental Council