1	LAND USE COMMISSION
2	STATE OF HAWAI'I
3	CONTINUED HEARING
4 5	A07-774 NORTH KONA VILLAGE, LLC) 'O'OMA 2nd KALOKO, NORTH KONA,) HAWAI'I.)
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9	TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
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12	The above-entitled matter came on for a public hearing
13	at Ballroom #1, King Kamehameha's Kona Beach Hotel,
14	75-5660 Palani Road, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i commencing
15	at 9:35 a.m. on Thursday, June 17, 2010 pursuant to
16	Notice.
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21	DEDODEED DV. HOLLY M. HACKERE CCD #120 DDD
22	REPORTED BY: HOLLY M. HACKETT, CSR #130, RPR Certified Shorthand Reporter
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1	APPEARANCES			
2	COMMISSIONERS: KYLE CHOCK			
3	THOMAS CONTRADES VLADIMIR DEVENS			
4	LISA JUDGE DUANE KANUHA			
5	NORMAND LEZY RANSOM PILTZ (Chairman)			
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7	DVEGUETUE OFFICED. OFFINDO DAVIDGON			
8	EXECUTIVE OFFICER: ORLANDO DAVIDSON ACTING CHIEF CLERK: RILEY HAKODA			
9	STAFF PLANNERS: SCOTT DERRICKSON DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL: DIANE ERICKSON, ESQ.			
10	AUDIO TECHNICIAN: WALTER MENCHING			
11	Docket No. A07-774 NORTH KONA VILLAGE, LLC			
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13	For the County: BRANDON GONZALEZ, ESQ.			
14	Deputy Corporation Counsel BOBBY JEAN LEITHEAD-TODD, ESQ.			
15	Director, County Planning Dept. PHYLLIS FUJIMOTO, Planner			
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17	Deputy Attorney General ABBEY MAYER, Director			
18	Office of Planning			
19	For the Intervenor NPS: GREGORY LIND, ESQ. Office of the Solicitor,			
20	U.S. Dept. of the Interior National Historical Parks			
21	KATHY BILLINGS, SALLIE BUCHAL, M. MELIA LANE-KAMAHELE,			
22	Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park			
23	For the State PRVAN VEE ESO			
24	For the State BRYAN YEE, ESQ. Office of Planning: Deputy Attorney General ARREV MAYER ARE MITSUDA			

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- 1 June 17, 2010
- 2 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: This is a continued hearing
- 3 on Docket No. A07-774 North Kona Village, LLC. Let me
- 4 briefly describe our procedures for today. First,
- 5 we'll have the parties identify themselves for the
- 6 record.
- 7 As noted yesterday those individuals
- 8 desiring to provide public testimony will have the
- 9 opportunity to do so at the conclusion this morning.
- 10 And at 1:30 also this afternoon we'll continue with
- 11 the public testimony.
- 12 Also let me remind all of those public
- 13 testimony that since March 3rd has been transcribed
- 14 as part of the record for those who have already
- 15 testified, the Commission would appreciate if you
- 16 would confine your testimony to new information.
- 17 In addition, a three minute time limit will
- 18 be applied to the testimony and we will enforce this.
- 19 The reason for this is to allow all parties to present
- 20 their cases to the Commission. And I thank you for
- 21 that.
- 22 Hawai'i County, are you ready for your
- 23 testimony, your presentation?
- MR. GONZALEZ: Good morning, Mr. Chair.
- 25 Yes, the County is ready.

- 1 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Go ahead.
- 2 MR. GONZALEZ: We'd like to call as our
- 3 witness Bobby Jean Leithead-Todd, county planning
- 4 director, county of Hawai'i.
- 5 BOBBY JEAN LEITHEAD-TODD
- 6 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 7 and testified as follows:
- 8 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Proceed. Name, address,
- 10 please.
- 11 THE WITNESS: Bobby Jean Leithead-Todd
- 12 director, County Department of Planning, 118 Lukia
- 13 Place, Hilo, Hawai'i.
- MR. GONZALEZ: Mr. Chair, also as a matter
- 15 of housekeeping, yesterday the County of Hawai'i
- 16 Planning Department distributed to the Land Use
- 17 Commission an enlarged version of attachment 1 to
- 18 county of Hawai'i's Exhibit 1. It's the same content
- 19 in information except it's just a larger version. And
- 20 actually the color is more accurate. So we felt it
- 21 would be easier for the Commissioners to read.
- 22 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: So noted. Go ahead.
- THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 24 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank
- 25 you, Madam Director.

1

DIRECT EXAMINATION

- 2 BY MR. GONZALEZ:
- 3 Q Director, could you please inform the
- 4 Commission what the Planning Department's position is
- 5 on this docket?
- 6 A The department, after having reviewed both
- 7 the General Plan and the Kona Community Development
- 8 Plan, supports the request to amend the State Land Use
- 9 boundary maps and reclassify the land.
- 10 Q Thank you. Could you tell me what is the
- 11 county General Plan land use designation of the
- 12 property?
- 13 A The land use designation has two
- 14 designations. Most of the property is in what we
- 15 consider urban expansion. Then the makai portion is
- 16 in open.
- 17 Q And is a majority of the property designated
- 18 in urban expansion?
- 19 A Yes. The majority of the property is urban
- 20 expansion.
- 21 Q And what does urban expansion allow for for
- 22 uses?
- 23 A It allows for a variety of uses including
- 24 the commercial and residential components that are
- 25 proposed by the development.

- 1 Q Could you tell us what the shoreline area is
- 2 designated as?
- 3 A The shoreline area is designated open in the
- 4 LUPAG map.
- 5 Q And what does the open designation refer to?
- 6 A That's consistent with trying to keep it
- 7 open and undeveloped with the exception of putting in
- 8 things like park facilities, parking lots, things that
- 9 would enhance the use of the area.
- 10 Q Is the proposed reclassification of the
- 11 property to urban consistent with the General Plan
- 12 land use designation?
- 13 A Yes, it is.
- 14 Q When was the Kona Community Development Plan
- 15 adopted?
- 16 A I believe it was the end of 2008.
- 17 Q I believe we had testimony that it was in
- 18 September 2008.
- 19 A That's about right.
- 20 Q Could you describe for us briefly what is
- 21 the Kona Community Development Plan land use
- 22 designation for the property?
- 23 A The area is included -- I think if you refer
- 24 to the large map that we passed out, our exhibit, our
- 25 attachment 1. If you're looking at that map you'll

- 1 see a red line surrounding portions of Kona that
- 2 designates the Kona urban area.
- 3 The Kona urban area is the area in which we
- 4 are supposed to try and direct development of Kona.
- 5 And this particular property is located within the
- 6 Kona urban area.
- 7 Q According to a land use policy articulated
- 8 in the Kona CDP, the future growth in Kona to be
- 9 directed to the Kona urban area as delineated on
- 10 attachment 1 to Exhibit 1?
- 11 A Yes, it is.
- 12 Q How is the Kona urban area defined in the
- 13 Kona CDP?
- 14 A As I mentioned earlier it's defined on the
- 15 map as basically an area extending from Keauhou down
- 16 past Keahole. And from the shoreline area mauka to a
- 17 line that sometimes follows the Old Mamalahoa and
- 18 sometimes follows a little bit below the Old
- 19 Mamalahoa.
- 20 Q Thank you. Is there a policy in the Kona
- 21 CDP that establishes a minimum of 1,000 foot open
- 22 space no-build setbacks for open space next to the
- 23 shoreline?
- 24 A Yes, there is on Page 4-39 of the Kona CDP.
- 25 And this would be under policy LU- I believe 1.6 we

- 1 talk about the thousand foot setback. And we also
- 2 talk about trying to protect the makai portion of
- 3 'O'oma.
- 4 Q Is the developer's proposal to set a
- 5 no-build shoreline setback of 1,000 to 1700 feet
- 6 consistent with the Kona CDP policy?
- 7 A Actually think their proposal is from
- 8 1100 feet to 1700 feet. And it's consistent with the
- 9 policy in the Kona CDP that says in areas where the
- 10 property is large enough to have a 1,000 foot setback
- 11 that we would try and impose that.
- 12 I think the CDP recognizes that there may be
- 13 proposals that come to us and properties that don't
- 14 have the ability to do that kind of setback. So it
- 15 specifically says just where we have the opportunity
- 16 to impose that kind of setback that we should do it.
- 17 Q Thank you. Is the proposed 'O'oma Beachside
- 18 Development -- 'O'oma Beachside Village -- consistent
- 19 with the Kona CDP's land use pattern and shoreline
- 20 setback policies?
- 21 A Yes, it is.
- 22 Q I believe a question was posed yesterday on
- 23 whether or not leaving land in the conservation
- 24 classification was consistent with the Kona CDP. Do
- 25 you recall a question to that nature yesterday?

- 1 A I think there was some type of a question
- 2 like that.
- 3 Q Would leaving the land in conservation
- 4 classification be consistent with the Kona CDP?
- 5 A It would be consistent with a portion of the
- 6 Kona CDP. There are a number of guiding principles.
- 7 And one of those is protecting natural resources,
- 8 preserving coastline areas.
- 9 And so if I were to look at just one segment
- 10 of the CDP, then I would say that leaving it in
- 11 conservation is consistent.
- But when we review these applications we
- 13 look at a plan in its whole, in its totality, not just
- 14 one section or one page out of a plan.
- And so in looking at this, the plan
- 16 envisions what we call kind of like a floating zone
- 17 for TNDs or the traditional neighborhood type of
- 18 design. The plan calls for things like providing
- 19 connectivity in transportation choices, providing
- 20 housing choices.
- 21 And when you look at all of those including
- 22 multi-use, this hits many of those objectives.
- 23 Because the plan protects the makai portion of 'O'oma
- 24 from development. It will provide public access to
- 25 the public. There will be a beach park area. It also

- 1 fits into what we call a compact village design which
- 2 is called for in the Kona CDP.
- 3 It has bike paths and pedestrian
- 4 inter-connectivity. It's got multi-use. It's got
- 5 shopping opportunities that are close to residential,
- 6 all of which is asked for in the CDP.
- 7 So when you look at the plan and the
- 8 multiple things that it calls for, it fits what's
- 9 asked for in the CDP.
- 10 There's even language in the CDP that when a
- 11 project comes in and it fits this definition of a TND,
- 12 the county is required under the CDP to support a
- 13 proposed State Land Use boundary amendment to go to
- 14 the urban, particularly in an area where it's already
- 15 been designated for urban expansion under the county
- 16 General Plan.
- 17 Q Thank you, Director.
- I have no further questions. And I will
- 19 turn her over for cross-examination. But I reserve my
- 20 right for any redirect. Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Petitioner, any questions?
- MS. BENCK: Just a couple of quick questions
- 23 if I may, Ms. Leithead-Todd.
- 24 xx

- 1 BY MS. BENCK:
- 2 Q The Kona CDP, is that a county or state
- 3 document?
- 4 A It is a county document.
- 5 Q Thank you. Who has the final authority for
- 6 making determinations on consistency with the Kona
- 7 CDP?
- 8 A Planning director.
- 9 Thank you very much. That's all my
- 10 questions.
- 11 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. OP?
- MR. YEE: We have no questions.
- 13 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Intervenor?
- MR. LIND: No questions.
- 15 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Office of Planning, do we
- 16 have -- I'm sorry. Commissioner Kanuha.
- 17 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Thank you,
- 18 Mr. Chairman. Good morning, Bobby Jean. Just a
- 19 couple questions for clarification. The General Plan
- 20 is adopted how?
- 21 THE WITNESS: It's adopted by ordinance by
- 22 the county council. The CDPs were created -- this is
- 23 kind of new territory for the county -- they were
- 24 created under the umbrella of the General Plan. There
- 25 is specific language in the General Plan that says the

- 1 CDPs are to be adopted by ordinance. And there's also
- 2 language in the General Plan which says when there's
- 3 an inconsistency between the General Plan and the CDP
- 4 the General Plan rules.
- 5 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Okay. Thank you.
- 6 Now, assuming a petition, not necessarily this
- 7 petition, but a petition to go into the Urban District
- 8 is sanctioned by the Commission, what happens next in
- 9 the entitlement process?
- 10 THE WITNESS: Well, in the entitlement
- 11 process I would assume that before actually submitting
- 12 something to the county a developer like this one or
- 13 anyone else would first come to the Planning
- 14 Department.
- 15 In this case because this is a project in
- 16 Kona I would refer them to the Kona office where we
- 17 have set up a Kona design center, which is a
- 18 multi-department -- it's kind of an informal
- 19 committee.
- When a project comes through we're going to
- 21 pull somebody from the public works department. We're
- 22 going to pull somebody from fire department, police
- 23 and try to get input, provide input to a developer
- 24 before they submit a proposal that would ultimately go
- 25 to the Planning Commission and then to the County

- 1 Council for adoption.
- 2 But what we would be doing is probably
- 3 pre-consultation for whether the specific project that
- 4 they are proposing meets with our village design
- 5 guidelines, which we are in the process of adopting.
- 6 We have a contract out with PlaceMakers for
- 7 the Honokohau TOD. And part of that contract is for
- 8 them to draft what are going to ultimately be adopted
- 9 as village design guidelines.
- 10 It's to kind of implement the vision of the
- 11 CDP into something that's actually adopted by rules
- 12 and/or possibly by an ordinance.
- And so that the plan that they're actually
- 14 showing may have to be tweaked. We may decide that we
- 15 want more bike paths, more pedestrian. We may decide
- 16 that the configuration may need to be a little
- 17 different to conform to the CDP. But that would
- 18 happen, hopefully, before they actually submitted a
- 19 proposal.
- 20 Once that occurred and that pre-consultation
- 21 occurred, then they would submit an application for
- 22 rezoning with the county. It would be given to my
- 23 department. We would then make a recommendation on it
- 24 to the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission
- 25 would then hold public hearings. The public hearings

- 1 would be before the Leeward Planning Commission so
- 2 they would take place here in Kona.
- 3 The Leeward Planning Commission would then
- 4 make its recommendation on the proposed rezoning. And
- 5 then it would go up to the county council. The county
- 6 council would probably hold a minimum of three
- 7 meetings because there would be at least one meeting
- 8 at the planning committee level and two meetings at
- 9 the county council level.
- 10 But in applications that tend to draw a lot
- 11 of community interest it's usually been the practice
- 12 of the county council to hold additional meetings and
- 13 including public night meetings. And I envision
- 14 something like this particular application, because of
- 15 the size and because of public interest, would go to
- 16 additional public hearings.
- 17 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Thank you. That's all
- 18 the questions I have.
- 19 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Any other questions,
- 20 Commissioners? Commissioner Lezy.
- 21 COMMISSIONER LEZY: Good morning, Madam
- 22 Director.
- THE WITNESS: Good morning.
- 24 COMMISSIONER LEZY: Thanks for your
- 25 testimony. Couple brief questions. You testified, if

- 1 I heard you correctly, that under the General Plan
- 2 that some portion of the Petition Area has been
- 3 designated as open?
- 4 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 5 COMMISSIONER LEZY: Are you able to show us
- 6 on the Petition Area map what portion is designated as
- 7 open?
- 8 THE WITNESS: The way we lay the General
- 9 Plan out it's not metes and bounds. We kind of draw a
- 10 line. And the intent -- what you have, let's start
- 11 with the NELHA parcel. You have open that comes here,
- 12 then it kind of jogs up.
- 13 Then it comes across and then you go down
- 14 Kohanaiki and Kohanaiki it's a wavy line on Kohanaiki.
- 15 Over here we have it designated as kind of a straight
- 16 line that ran kind of like this.
- 17 The intent was to have some flexibility to
- 18 protect at a minimum a thousand feet but possibly up
- 19 to 1400 feet, or to have the line perhaps go closer to
- 20 the ocean in some areas and farther inland in other
- 21 areas, depending physically what's on the property so
- 22 that it would be kind of a case-by-case scenario.
- 23 So even though the GP has a straight line
- 24 across, when you actually work on a project you may
- 25 end up with a line that meanders. Because what you

- 1 may have is a specific archaeology or anchialine ponds
- 2 that you want the line to go further in. And in other
- 3 areas if there isn't as much of those resources then
- 4 the line could go the other way. And that's kind of
- 5 the vision when we get this out on the GP.
- 6 COMMISSIONER LEZY: If I understand
- 7 correctly then, it looks to me like the intent of the
- 8 General Plan is met in, at least in the proposed
- 9 petition development by that shoreline park as far as
- 10 the open area's concerned.
- 11 THE WITNESS: Yeah. The open area here runs
- 12 from 1100 to 1700 feet. So it's very consistent.
- 13 It's not a straight line but it's very consistent with
- 14 the vision of the General Plan to have a significant
- 15 belt along the ocean.
- And I note that that open space belt on the
- 17 'O'oma property is significantly larger than the open
- 18 space belt on NELHA's property and the open space belt
- 19 that we have on Kohanaiki.
- 20 And I think that part of that was kind of
- 21 reflecting what we knew the plans at Kohanaiki already
- 22 and it was already urban. We had already worked some
- 23 of that out.
- 24 So sometimes what you do in a General Plan
- 25 you try to reflect what's actually on the ground.

- 1 Then you make amendments.
- 2 And then when you're looking at stuff that
- 3 hasn't been developed yet what you have is basic, kind
- 4 of a broad brushstroke of what you envision. So in
- 5 this case the makai portion is envisioned as open and
- 6 the bulk of the property is envisioned as urban
- 7 expansion.
- 8 COMMISSIONER LEZY: Thank you.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Commissioner Kanuha.
- 10 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Mr. Chairman, one more
- 11 follow up question. Ms. Leithead-Todd, you know, in
- 12 looking at the County's Exhibit No. 1 which is the
- 13 Kona CDP development plan, is there any reason why an
- 14 open space buffer along the shoreline is not shown on
- 15 the CDP?
- 16 THE WITNESS: I don't know why they don't
- 17 have that on the CDP. But I envision that it is
- 18 because those open space buffers are included in the
- 19 General Plan.
- 20 So the CDP could not -- even though you have
- 21 that Urban Growth Boundary, if the General Plan says
- 22 that the area along the coast is supposed to be open,
- 23 then my department would follow the General Plan
- 24 rather than the CDP and say that you can't develop all
- 25 the way right up to the shore even if the red line is

- 1 there.
- COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Okay. Thank you.
- 3 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Commissioner Judge.
- 4 COMMISSIONER JUDGE: Thank you, Chair Piltz.
- 5 Good morning, Ms. Leithead-Todd.
- 6 THE WITNESS: Good morning.
- 7 COMMISSIONER JUDGE: I know we're talking
- 8 about the General Plan designation but could you
- 9 remind me, what is the current county zoning on the
- 10 Petition Area?
- 11 THE WITNESS: The portion that's involved in
- 12 this particular application is open. The mauka
- 13 portion, which is not a part of the State Land Use
- 14 application, is currently industrial.
- So in order to effectuate the particular
- 16 proposal by 'O'oma there would be two pieces that
- 17 would have to be rezoned. The mauka portion would
- 18 have to go from industrial to residential/commercial
- 19 mix.
- 20 And the makai portion, which is basically
- 21 from where the line for what was, I think, intended to
- 22 be the old Mamalahoa Trail, where they actually
- 23 thought the trail was, just kind of a diagonal line,
- 24 that portion down to where, the other where it meets
- 25 where it would be left in open, that would also have

- 1 to be rezoned from open to mixed residential and
- 2 commercial.
- 3 COMMISSIONER JUDGE: Okay. Thank you.
- 4 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Let me ask a question.
- 5 When was this General Plan adopted?
- 6 THE WITNESS: The General Plan was adopted
- 7 in February of 2005.
- 8 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: And CDP?
- 9 THE WITNESS: September 2008.
- 10 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. Good enough. Thank
- 11 you. Any other questions, Commissioners?
- 12 THE WITNESS: I just wanted to add one thing
- 13 if any of you are familiar with the CDP. That's on
- 14 Page 4-46 where it addresses rezoning. Any project
- 15 that's more than 20 acres basically has to come in as
- 16 a TND. And when we reviewed 'O'oma it was consistent
- 17 with what a TND is supposed to be.
- 18 Under that section of the CDP it
- 19 particularly addresses State Land Use applications.
- 20 And it says, "Where rezoning application meets the
- 21 above criteria the county shall support a State Land
- 22 Use Urban Boundary Amendment for lands within the
- 23 county urban expansion area."
- So when my staff reviewed this, because it
- 25 fit the TND, we then dropped to the section on State

- 1 Land Use applications. And because it fits the TND we
- 2 felt that we were bound by the language in the CDP
- 3 that says we have to support the reclassification.
- 4 And that's how we analyzed it.
- 5 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Thank you for
- 6 the clarification. Any other questions,
- 7 Commissioners? Redirect?
- 8 MR. GONZALEZ: One second, Mr. Chair.
- 9 (pause) Thank you, Mr. Chair. No further questions.
- 10 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Park Service.
- 11 MR. LIND: Good morning. We have one,
- 12 Sallie Buchal. She's out right now. But in the
- 13 interim I would like to introduce the new
- 14 superintendent for the National Park, Kathy Billings.
- 15 She's behind me.
- 16 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Please do so.
- MR. LIND: We have been with an acting
- 18 superintendent for a few months and now she's here for
- 19 the duration.
- 20 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Thank you for
- 21 the introduction.
- 22 SALLIE BUCHAL,
- 23 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 24 and testified as follows:
- THE WITNESS: I do.

- 1 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Your name and address for
- 2 the record.
- 3 THE WITNESS: My name is Sallie Buchal. The
- 4 address is Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park
- 5 4786 Kanalani Street, Unit 14, Kailua-Kona 96740.
- 6 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Proceed.
- 7 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 8 BY MR. LIND:
- 9 Q Would you indicate your position with the
- 10 National Park Service, your educational background and
- 11 whether or not you have testified before this
- 12 Commission.
- 13 A Yes. Aloha, Commissioners. I'm the marine
- 14 ecologist and the chief of integrated resources at
- 15 Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park. And I
- 16 offer testimony for the Intervenor.
- 17 I've worked for the National Park Service
- 18 for nine years. And in that time, all of that time at
- 19 the National Park at Kaloko-Honokohau. I have a
- 20 Bachelor's Degree in Biology with an emphasis in
- 21 Marine Science from the University of California at
- 22 Santa Cruz.
- 23 And I have a Master of Science in Wildlife
- 24 Science with an integrated minor in oceanography and
- 25 statistics from Oregon State University.

- 1 And I've previously testified for the
- 2 National Park Service before the Land Use Commission
- 3 once as an expert witness in the area of marine
- 4 ecology.
- 5 Q Please describe your duties and
- 6 responsibilities.
- 7 A Yes. In Hawaiian culture natural and
- 8 cultural resources are inextricably intertwined. I'm
- 9 in charge of both cultural and natural resource
- 10 management at the Park.
- 11 The National Park Service uses a science
- 12 based management approach. And it's my job to
- 13 protect, restore and manage our culture and natural
- 14 resources based on sound scientific data.
- I and my staff inventory, establish baseline
- 16 conditions, monitor and conduct research on our
- 17 resources.
- 18 And as resource manager I take a
- 19 precautionary approach. I must make an informed,
- 20 educated decision based on available evidence,
- 21 peer-reviewed published literature and the advice of
- 22 subject area experts regarding restoration, threats to
- 23 resources and alternatives for protection of Park
- 24 resources.
- 25 My job also includes establishing

- 1 partnerships with universities and other government
- 2 agencies in order to facilitate projects on natural
- 3 and cultural resource management.
- 4 Q Why did the National Park Service intervene
- 5 in this matter?
- 6 A The National Park Service intervened in this
- 7 matter to ensure that if the proposed development
- 8 proceeds that it is completed and maintained with
- 9 effective protection for the nationally significant
- 10 cultural and natural resources in the National Park.
- 11 And in doing so that it provides for the
- 12 preservation and perpetuation of traditional and
- 13 customary Native Hawaiian practices in the Park.
- 14 Q Could you address some of the concerns of
- 15 the National Park?
- 16 A Yes. The concerns of the National Park
- 17 Service regarding the potential impacts from the
- 18 proposed Project are well documented in our comments
- 19 on the draft environmental impact statement and in our
- 20 testimony before the Commission on January 8th, 2009.
- In response to these comments, and in order
- 22 to avoid costly and time-consuming proceedings before
- 23 the LUC, over the last year and-a-half the Petitioner
- 24 and the National Park Service negotiated an agreement
- 25 to address our concerns regarding the potential for

- 1 impacts from groundwater withdrawal and potential
- 2 groundwater and ocean pollution resulting from the
- 3 proposed development.
- 4 The agreement's been introduced into the
- 5 record as Intervenor's Exhibit 4 and Petitioner's
- 6 Exhibit 28.
- 7 The National Park Service does not ask the
- 8 Commission to enforce or supervise the agreement.
- 9 That's between the National Park Service and the
- 10 Petitioner.
- 11 Rather, the National Park Service requests
- 12 that the provisions identified in the NPS/OVB
- 13 agreement as development conditions be included by the
- 14 Commission in the Final Decision and Order in this
- 15 matter. These development conditions are found on
- 16 pages 2 to 6 of Intervenor's Exhibit 4 within the
- 17 agreement.
- 18 The National Park Service believes that
- 19 including the development conditions in the Final
- 20 Decision and Order is clearly within the authority and
- 21 mandate of this Commission, and it's supported by
- 22 information already in the record for this matter.
- 23 Including the conditions in the Decision and
- 24 Order makes these protective conditions enforceable by
- 25 state and county agencies.

- 1 Q What are the issues about developments
- 2 around the Park for the Park Service?
- 3 A Mauka and adjacent land use activities in
- 4 and adjoining the four ahupua'a of the National Park
- 5 are of significant concern to the National Park
- 6 Service.
- 7 And as shown on Intervenor's Exhibit 1 the
- 8 Petitioner's proposed development lies a little over
- 9 half a mile north of the National Park and shares the
- 10 same resources as the Park, the same aquifer and the
- 11 same marine environment. And if it's okay may I
- 12 approach the map and point out a few specifics.
- 13 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Yes, go ahead.
- 14 THE WITNESS: I thought this was a big map.
- 15 I hope everyone can see well enough. I have a
- 16 pointer. Here's the National Park right here. I'll
- 17 just point out some features of the Park first 'cause
- 18 I'll list off their names and that may help.
- 19 Up here at the north -- is it easier if I
- 20 use my finger or you can see the pointer? Kaloko
- 21 Fishpond is right here. Aimakapa Fishpond and its
- 22 wetland is on the southern portion.
- 23 'Ai'opio fish trap is here. Honokohau
- 24 Harbor is right here. The orange is the coral reef in
- 25 the Park. The blue dots are the anchialine pool

- 1 locations. Here's the Petition Area is No. 1 on the
- 2 map. And I'm going to refer to a couple of other
- 3 developments that were before the LUC.
- 4 No. 11 up here is the Shopoff Development
- 5 Kule Nei. No. 6 the TSA docket. And No. 8 is the
- 6 Lanihau. Not numbered is McClean Honokohau
- 7 Properties. I'll also be mentioning that. A few
- 8 other things. The red dots represent the pumping
- 9 wells above the Park.
- 10 And in particular this development is The
- 11 Shores of Kohanaiki adjacent to the National Park.
- 12 These eight red dots are groundwater pumping wells for
- 13 their RO system. The green is their injection well.
- 14 They're using this solely for irrigation for their
- 15 golf course.
- So as you can see by Exhibit 1 shows the
- 17 National Park is quickly becoming an urban park,
- 18 surrounded within its watershed by industrial and
- 19 light industrial parks, medium to high density
- 20 residential developments, a golf course on its
- 21 northern boundary, that's at the Shores of Kohanaiki
- 22 and a desalination plant immediately adjacent to the
- 23 Park.
- 24 Even the best designed development may
- 25 present significant adverse impacts to these shared

- 1 resources. As this Commission itself stated in the
- 2 TSA matter, quote, "This Commission is acutely aware
- 3 that continuous development is planned for this
- 4 coastline.
- 5 Although each developer might claim that
- 6 only a small amount of pollution will result from
- 7 their development and the area's ecosystem will show
- 8 little effects, these developments and their impacts
- 9 are cumulative, and absent strong mitigation measures
- 10 have the potential to devastate the fragile resources
- 11 of the coastal and marine aquatic environments of the
- 12 entire Kona coastal region." End quotes.
- 13 Q How's the National Park Service addressing
- 14 the concerns about development?
- 15 A As urban development is surrounding the Park
- 16 and has accelerated, the National Park Service has
- 17 similarly increased its involvement in the planning
- 18 and permitting processes associated with these
- 19 developments.
- 20 Accordingly, the National Park Service
- 21 intervened in the TSA and Lanihau matters before this
- 22 Commission. And the National Park Service withdrew
- 23 petitions to intervene in the McClean and Shopoff
- 24 matters after those petitioners, with the concurrence
- 25 of the LUC, agreed to include protective conditions in

- 1 their decision and orders for those projects.
- 2 The February 14, 2002 findings of fact,
- 3 conclusions of law and decision and order for the TSA
- 4 matter, which is submitted as Intervenor's Exhibit 6,
- 5 has served as the basis for development conditions
- 6 concerning wastewater, stormwater and pollution
- 7 prevention that have been imposed by this Commission
- 8 on subsequent developments surrounding the Park;
- 9 Lanihau, now known as West Hawai'i Business Park,
- 10 McClean and Shopoff.
- 11 The TSA findings of fact comprehensively
- 12 addressed the National Park and its unique resources,
- 13 the negative impacts from nonpoint source pollution
- 14 including wastewater treatment and disposal, surface
- 15 runoff to groundwater via drainage wells and the
- 16 current lack of state laws and county codes adequately
- 17 regulating pollutants in wastewater and drainage for
- 18 the protection of significant environmental resources.
- 19 Over 50 percent of the 475 TSA findings of
- 20 fact were devoted to the issues of pollution and
- 21 protecting the resources of the National Park.
- 22 Many of the findings of fact in TSA matters
- 23 are directly relevant to this proceeding. And my
- 24 written testimony submitted earlier this week
- 25 references those specific findings for you.

- 1 Q Would you please briefly describe the
- 2 history of the National Park.
- 3 A Certainly.
- 4 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Just a second. We have
- 5 that on the record. Can we skip that? She's reading
- 6 verbatim and we have -- all our Commissioners have
- 7 that.
- 8 MR. LIND: We could skip it. We were trying
- 9 to make sure everybody heard it.
- 10 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Let's skip that and go to
- 11 the next section.
- 12 MR. LIND: Sure. I have no problem with
- 13 that. As a point of order would you like to skip to
- 14 the next section about the Park Service managing the
- 15 Park?
- 16 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: No. We are aware of the
- 17 significance of the Park Service but we do have a
- 18 limited time today. And if you could briefly, because
- 19 she's reading verbatim what we have in front of us.
- 20 So if she can go ahead and shorten it, briefly
- 21 describe it but not verbatim because we have the
- 22 verbatim issue right in front of us, I'd appreciate
- 23 it.
- MR. LIND: Absolutely.
- 25 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: So if you want to continue

- 1 with that go ahead but it can't be read directly from
- 2 this. We have the record. It is on the record.
- 3 Please.
- 4 MR. LIND: Sure. I'm going to turn to the
- 5 important resources within the Park.
- 6 Q Could you describe the natural resources in
- 7 the Park that we're trying to protect?
- 8 A Yes. The natural and cultural resources in
- 9 the Park make it the special place that it is. In the
- 10 TSA matter this Commission found that Kaloko-Honokohau
- 11 is a, quote, "natural and cultural resource of the
- 12 utmost value to both the state of Hawai'i and the
- 13 nation as a whole representing some of the state's
- 14 most important natural systems, habitats and valued
- 15 cultural, historical and natural resources."
- The Commission also recognized the economic
- 17 value of this coastal National Park providing such
- 18 exquisite natural, recreational and cultural
- 19 resources.
- The Park's resources are described in detail
- 21 in the Intervenor's Exhibits 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 16.
- 22 Q Just as a matter of limiting the time that
- 23 we're discussing here, could you just focus on the
- 24 importance of water resources to the National Park.
- 25 A Certainly. Water resources in the National

- 1 Park and the national historic landmark that shares
- 2 its boundary, the Honokohau Settlement National
- 3 Historic Landmark, are nationally significant cultural
- 4 and natural resources. And groundwater quality and
- 5 groundwater quantity are vital to those resources.
- 6 In the TSA matter this Commission found that
- 7 the water in the National Park whether the water in
- 8 the fishponds, the anchialine pools or the ocean water
- 9 is a critical park resource in and of itself.
- 10 And in the TSA there were a large number of
- 11 findings regarding the important water resources in
- 12 the National Park.
- 13 Groundwater enabled human settlement of this
- 14 arid region where there were no streams or even
- 15 intermittingly for drinking water. And the ponds,
- 16 pools, wetlands and marine waters of the Park are fed
- 17 by groundwater discharge from the basal aquifer.
- 18 The brackish water in marine ecosystems of
- 19 the National Park are partly, or in some cases solely
- 20 dependent upon this groundwater to maintain their
- 21 current composition and functioning.
- 22 Traditional and customary Native Hawaiian
- 23 practices within the Park rely heavily on the quality
- 24 and quantity of the groundwater.
- Noting the connection between the natural

- 1 and cultural resources in the Park this Commission
- 2 found in TSA that any impacts to waters in the
- 3 National Park would in and of itself be an impact to
- 4 cultural resources.
- 5 I'd also like to emphasize that the
- 6 resources in the National Park that I just described,
- 7 indeed all the marine resources of the Kona coast and
- 8 Hawai'i whether stemming from tourism or commercial
- 9 activities such as fishing, the marine resources
- 10 provide significant economic value to the local
- 11 community in a variety of ways.
- 12 For example, the marine resources in the
- 13 Park provide diverse fish populations for shoreline
- 14 and nearshore fishing, subsistence fishing and 15 days
- 15 mooring buoys for recreational diving.
- 16 The National Parks themselves have been
- 17 shown by a study by the National Parks and
- 18 Conservation Association to have significant private
- 19 sector economic value to their communities.
- The net benefit of coral reefs to Hawai'i's
- 21 economy are estimated at \$360 million per year. The
- 22 estimated asset value of the state of Hawai'i's
- 23 410,000 acres of potential reef area in the main
- 24 islands is estimated at nearly 10 billion.
- These estimates are the actual economic

- 1 value, do not include an estimate of the intrinsic
- 2 value of the reefs.
- The economic value of the Kona coast in
- 4 particular is estimated at 17.7 million. With
- 5 recreational value at 45 percent of those total
- 6 benefits.
- 7 This Commission also recognized the economic
- 8 importance of both the Park and the coastal and marine
- 9 resources in the TSA matter.
- 10 Q Would you summarize the concerns of the
- 11 National Park Service with the proposed development.
- 12 A Yes. The primary concerns to the National
- 13 Park Service are the potential impacts to water
- 14 quality and quantity and the ability of the National
- 15 Park Service to continue to meet its congressional
- 16 mandate to preserve, protect and perpetuate the
- 17 cultural and natural resources in the Park that depend
- 18 on that water quality and water quantity.
- 19 The specific concerns to the National Park
- 20 are four-fold. First, the potential impacts from the
- 21 withdrawal of groundwater and the injection of
- 22 hypersaline water back into the groundwater.
- 23 Second, the potential impacts from nonpoint
- 24 source pollution to groundwater and marine resources.
- 25 And, third, the potential impacts from the

- 1 use of treated wastewater this close to the ocean
- 2 especially when the groundwater is so close to the
- 3 surface.
- 4 And, fourth, what monitoring will be
- 5 implemented to detect any adverse impacts that do
- 6 occur and monitor the effectiveness of any protective
- 7 measures.
- 8 Q Can we turn to the National Park Service
- 9 agreement and the actual specifics of the development?
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 Q Can you describe the concerns with the
- 12 reverse osmosis water system that's proposed and how
- 13 the agreement addresses that?
- 14 A Yes. The groundwater in the National Park
- 15 and the Petition Area -- the groundwater where the
- 16 National Park and the Petition Area are located are
- 17 increasingly being tapped for water, as a source of
- 18 water for human use.
- 19 The FEIS for the Petitioner's proposed
- 20 Project does not analyze the effects of the existing
- 21 desalinization plant that's located between the
- 22 National Park and the Petition Area at the Shores of
- 23 Kohanaiki that I mentioned before.
- This plant began operating in November of
- 25 2008. They have eight pumping wells. They're

- 1 permitted to extract up to 2.2 million gallons per day
- 2 of brackish groundwater and to reinject .72 million
- 3 gallons a day of concentrate back into the
- 4 groundwater.
- 5 So we're concerned because increased water
- 6 withdrawals can change the flow and salinity of
- 7 groundwater that ultimately discharges to coastal and
- 8 marine waters in the National Park and the surrounding
- 9 area.
- 10 And adverse impacts from reduced water flow
- 11 include changes to salinity, changes to the anchialine
- 12 pool ecosystem and to endangered water bird habitat.
- 13 Reduced flow may also adversely affect traditional and
- 14 customary Native Hawaiian practices.
- The proposed development will be part of
- 16 this increased groundwater development.
- 17 Q How does the agreement address their
- 18 proposed system? I'm skipping over the details that
- 19 we have in our testimony.
- 20 A The Petitioner proposes to provide water for
- 21 the development by desalinating seawater or brackish
- 22 groundwater through reverse osmosis or RO plant. The
- 23 Petitioner estimates up to 1.9 million gallons per day
- 24 of groundwater called feed water will be necessary for
- 25 the RO plant to produce the needed water for the

- 1 proposed development.
- 2 The groundwater production wells will take
- 3 water from the same aquifer that underlies the
- 4 National Park. And the byproduct of desalination will
- 5 be a concentrated solution with a salinity of 60 parts
- 6 per thousand. That's more than two times the salinity
- 7 of the feed water if it's taken from a groundwater
- 8 well.
- 9 The hypersaline concentrate will be injected
- 10 back into the aquifer. Neither the amended petition
- 11 nor the FEIS identified the specific source of the
- 12 feed water.
- 13 Instead, both documents state that the feed
- 14 water from the RO plant may come from the Natural
- 15 Energy Laboratory Hawai'i Authority, and ocean water
- 16 or groundwater production wells that may be located on
- 17 the Petition Area or any number of other places.
- 18 So similarly the location of the RO plant
- 19 and its associated injection wells are not specified
- 20 but could be located in a number of different sites
- 21 including on the Petition Area.
- 22 According to the amended Petition in the
- 23 FEIS the groundwater production wells, the RO plant,
- 24 injection wells could be located as close as one mile
- 25 to the Park.

- 1 Q How does the agreement address our concerns?
- 2 A The development conditions in the agreement
- 3 are designed to address some of the concerns of the
- 4 National Park Service regarding the proposed RO
- 5 system.
- 6 The Petitioner, as described in the FEIS,
- 7 will obtain its feed water either from ocean water,
- 8 from NELHA or from groundwater protection wells
- 9 located adjacent to the RO plant, and be located at
- 10 one of three specific places or in a more general
- 11 location mauka of the Petition Area.
- The Petitioner has agreed that the amount of
- 13 RO water shall be no more than is needed to provide
- 14 sufficient potable and non-potable water for the
- 15 Project.
- 16 In the event that the Petitioner obtains RO
- 17 feed water from groundwater wells, regardless of where
- 18 they're located, the Petitioner has agreed that the
- 19 wells should be drilled to a depth that's sufficient
- 20 to tap groundwater containing at least 25 parts per
- 21 thousand total dissolved solids.
- The Petitioner has also agreed to monitor
- 23 its RO feed water sources and to include an additional
- 24 well near the production wells that will monitor water
- 25 levels, specific conductions for salinity and

- 1 temperature.
- 2 Finally, the Petitioner has agreed to
- 3 discharge the RO concentrate through the injection
- 4 wells into groundwater that contains at least 30 parts
- 5 per thousand total dissolved solids.
- The agreement therefore commits the
- 7 Petitioner to construct and operate the RO system that
- 8 was described in the amended petition in the FEIS.
- 9 More importantly as the system upon which the
- 10 Petitioner based its hypothesis for -- and assumptions
- 11 regarding the level of impacts of this system.
- 12 So the agreement also commits the Petitioner
- 13 to measure the actual effect of the RO system, the
- 14 actual effect the RO system will have on the aquifer
- 15 and only then will we be able to know that
- 16 Petitioner's assumptions are correct.
- 17 Q In the spirit of the request from the
- 18 Commissioners I'll ask you to just briefly summarize
- 19 non-point source pollution before we turn to that.
- 20 A Sure. Non-point source pollution is any
- 21 pollution that's not from a point source. It's when
- 22 rainwater, stormwater or irrigation water moves across
- 23 the lands and it carries with it -- from across
- 24 impermeable surfaces such as roofs, roadways, parking
- 25 lots, and it carries with it all the pollutants that

- 1 have been left there by a variety of sources.
- 2 And additionally when rainwater and other
- 3 waters move through wastewater leachate carrying --
- 4 from individual wastewater systems, also carrying
- 5 those nutrients and other contaminants into ground and
- 6 surface water.
- 7 So essentially non-point source pollution
- 8 includes sediments, nutrients, toxins, metals,
- 9 floatables, pharmaceuticals, and pathogens. And this
- 10 is especially here in Kona because Kona's recharge --
- 11 the Kona aquifer is recharged by rainwater. And we
- 12 have very little soil. And the lava is highly
- 13 permeable.
- 14 So water moving across the land quickly
- 15 goes to groundwater carrying everything that it
- 16 encounters with it. And those waters then discharge
- 17 to our coastal waters, anchialine pools, fishponds and
- 18 our marine waters.
- 19 Q I'm going to ask you now just to talk about
- 20 how the proposed Project addressed non-point source.
- 21 A Absolutely. So 66 percent of the proposed
- 22 Project Area will be developed and will include -- and
- 23 that area will include a significant amount of
- 24 roadways, parking lots, residences, commercial areas,
- 25 these impermeable surfaces that I just mentioned. And

- 1 those are exposed to petroleum products, pesticides,
- 2 fertilizers, all of those other contaminants that I
- 3 mentioned earlier.
- 4 So in the Project Area the surface and
- 5 stormwater runoff is planned to be managed through a
- 6 system of catch basins and drain lines that will
- 7 dispose of runoff into dry wells. And other runoff
- 8 including irrigation water will also -- which will
- 9 come from the wastewater system -- also infiltrate
- 10 down to groundwater.
- 11 And it's important to note that dry wells
- 12 are simply holes in the ground. And there's no
- 13 inherent non-point source pollution control device in
- 14 drywells that will remove pollutants. Drywells are
- 15 simply organized to control volume and not pollution.
- 16 Q How did the proposed Project address
- 17 non-point source pollution?
- 18 A Initially the Petitioner didn't address the
- 19 problem of non-point source pollution in their Draft
- 20 Environmental Impact Statement. However, in response
- 21 to comments by the National Park Service and others
- 22 the Petitioner included in the Final Environmental
- 23 Impact Statement as a part of their proposed
- 24 development a list of items designed to reduce
- 25 non-point source pollution impact to groundwater and

- 1 marine waters.
- 2 This list was taken from previous decision
- 3 and orders issued by this Commission for developments
- 4 adjacent to or near the National Park, especially the
- 5 TSA Decision and Order.
- 6 Q How does the agreement between the Park
- 7 Service and the Petitioner address non-point source
- 8 pollution?
- 9 A The agreement addresses non-point source
- 10 pollution in several ways. First, the Petitioner's
- 11 agreed to design and construct and maintain BMPs, Best
- 12 Management Practices, to prevent violation of the
- 13 state's water quality standards; to design subsurface
- 14 drainage structures with debris catch-basins that will
- 15 remove rubbish and sediments.
- 16 And design and construct landscaped areas
- 17 and other areas as structural BMPs that will treat
- 18 first flush runoff to remove pollutants from surface
- 19 waters and stormwater runoff.
- 20 What that means is when you get, you have
- 21 those pollutants that are in a very dry area like this
- 22 laying on the ground for a long time, you get an
- 23 intense rainfall. That first flush of water
- 24 discharging down is carrying the highest level of
- 25 pollutants. That's called the first flush.

- 1 So the requirements in the agreement will be
- 2 binding on subsequent owners through covenants,
- 3 conditions and restrictions, CC&R's that will be
- 4 recorded against the property.
- 5 And a draft of the CC&R's is included in
- 6 Exhibits 4 as -- excuse me, it's included as an
- 7 Appendix to the agreement which is Intervenor's
- 8 Exhibit 4, Petitioner's Exhibit 28.
- 9 Secondly, the Petitioner has agreed to
- 10 develop a pollution prevention plan. And that
- 11 addresses all categories of permitted uses within the
- 12 Project and also addresses environmental stewardship
- 13 and non-point sources that can be generated from any
- 14 uses allowed within the Project Area.
- 15 And as I mentioned before the approach to
- 16 creating necessary controls for non-point source
- 17 pollution is taken directly from conditions that this
- 18 Commission has imposed on other developments adjacent
- 19 to or near the National Park.
- In particular the draft CC&R's are modeled
- 21 after the CC&R's recorded for the Lanihau property.
- 22 And the Petitioner's agreed to make the
- 23 pollution prevention plan consistent with the
- 24 pollution plan already recorded against the Lanihau
- 25 property.

- 1 Finally, the Petitioner has agreed to
- 2 monitor, to monitoring requirements to measure the
- 3 effectiveness of these controls.
- 4 And I want to reiterate that all of the
- 5 conditions regarding the non-point source pollution
- 6 that are required in the agreement were found by this
- 7 Commission in the TSA matter to be necessary to
- 8 protect resources in the Park.
- 9 Q Let's turn now to wastewater disposal. Can
- 10 you describe how the agreement address that?
- 11 A First of all, just take a moment to describe
- 12 the proposed system and then I'll -- very briefly and
- 13 I'll talk about how the agreement addresses it.
- 14 As described in the amended petition in the
- 15 Final EIS the Petitioner proposes to construct their
- 16 private wastewater treatment plant. They're going to
- 17 be using treated wastewater for irrigation throughout
- 18 the Project Area. The excess treated water that's not
- 19 used for irrigation is proposed to be injected into
- 20 the groundwater.
- 21 The treated wastewater will be R1 which
- 22 means that it's tertiary treated for removal of
- 23 pathogens. The treated wastewater will then in the
- 24 end also become another source of non-point source
- 25 pollution.

- 1 The agreement address this by requiring the
- 2 Petitioner to connect to the Kealakehe wastewater
- 3 treatment plant, if that connection is accessible to
- 4 the Project before the county of Hawai'i approves the
- 5 change of zone.
- 6 Then in the event that there's no connection
- 7 successful or available and no connection to another
- 8 public wastewater treatment plant, then Petitioner
- 9 will develop its own private wastewater treatment
- 10 plant as described in the amended petition and the
- 11 FEIS.
- 12 So the agreement requires that the
- 13 Petitioner ensure that the total concentrations -- the
- 14 concentrations of total nitrogen and total phosphorus
- 15 are reduced to less than 5 milligrams per liter for
- 16 total nitrogen and less than 2 milligrams per liter
- 17 for total phosphorous or lower, if required by the
- 18 Hawai'i Department of Health.
- 19 So similar to provisions dealing with the RO
- 20 system the agreement requires Petitioner to build its
- 21 private wastewater treatment plant as described and
- 22 analyzed in the FEIS.
- The Petitioner is also required to monitor
- 24 the concentrations of nutrients coming out of the
- 25 wastewater treatment plant monthly.

- 1 Q Let's turn to the groundwater monitoring
- 2 system you mentioned. Would you describe how the
- 3 agreement addresses groundwater monitoring for
- 4 pollutants.
- 5 A I forgot to mention one thing. There is
- 6 also the comfort station at the beach park. The
- 7 agreement addresses that by requiring, if they use an
- 8 individual wastewater system, that it have enhanced
- 9 nutrient removal or that it be a composting station.
- 10 Back to your question on the groundwater
- 11 monitoring.
- 12 Q How's the agreement address groundwater
- 13 monitoring for pollutants?
- 14 A So groundwater monitoring is the only way to
- 15 test the assumptions set in the FEIS that there will
- 16 be no significant impact on the National Park
- 17 resources. Or to evaluate the effectiveness of any of
- 18 the protective measures that are imposed.
- The agreement requires the Petitioner
- 20 develop a groundwater monitoring plan to detect
- 21 pollutants in the groundwater below the Petition
- 22 Area -- the Project Area.
- 23 So the agreement includes that the
- 24 Petitioner must install at least three monitoring
- 25 wells, one hydrologically upgradient from the Project

- 1 and two downgradient.
- 2 And the agreement also requires Petitioner
- 3 develop a sampling and analysis plan that includes
- 4 sampling, shipping protocols, analytical procedures,
- 5 and, importantly, a quality assurance project plan.
- 6 And this will specify quality control performance
- 7 criteria.
- 8 The quality assurance plan will include
- 9 things like method detection limits that at least an
- 10 order of magnitude lower than the ambient groundwater
- 11 concentrations for these nutrients.
- 12 Water quality parameters to be monitored
- 13 include Ph, temperature, salinity, nitrate, ammonia,
- 14 dissolved organic nitrogen, total dissolved solids,
- 15 total nitrogen, phosphate, dissolved organic
- 16 phosphorus, total phosphorus and any other parameters
- 17 that may be required to monitor by the County Planning
- 18 Commission or the Department of Health.
- 19 The agreement also provides that monitoring
- 20 will begin at least six months prior to the start of
- 21 grading activity and shall be conducted quarterly for
- 22 two years, annually thereafter or as required by the
- 23 DOH or the county.
- Q Finally, would you state from the Park
- 25 Service's point of view why the Land Use Commission

- 1 should include the development conditions as defined
- 2 in the agreement with the Park Service in any Decision
- 3 and Order issued for this matter?
- 4 A The Petitioner's already included the
- 5 development conditions as part of its proposed Project
- 6 either in the FEIS or in its request to include the
- 7 conditions in the Decision and Order.
- 8 The state of Hawai'i Office of Planning has
- 9 stated that it supports the inclusion of the
- 10 development conditions in the D&O. And, moreover, the
- 11 development conditions dealing with the non-point
- 12 source pollution control issues, wastewater/
- 13 groundwater monitoring are the same conditions that
- 14 have been applied in the past by this Commission for
- 15 other proposed developments near or adjacent to the
- 16 National Park.
- 17 All of the development conditions address --
- 18 this is really -- a key point is that all the
- 19 development conditions address matters that are not
- 20 mandated by other local, state or federal agencies.
- 21 The development conditions are needed to
- 22 protect the fragile cultural and natural resources of
- 23 the National Park along the Kona Coast for the benefit
- 24 of the people of Hawai'i and for our nation as a
- 25 whole.

- 1 MR. LIND: No further questions.
- 2 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. Petitioner,
- 3 questions?
- 4 MS. BENCK: One questions, please.
- 5 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay.
- 6 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 7 BY MS. BENCK:
- 8 Q Hi, Sallie. On February 1st the National
- 9 Park Service filed its Statement of Position with the
- 10 Land Use Commission. I'm going to read a sentence
- 11 from that.
- 12 It says, "The National Park Service does not
- 13 object to the Petition for Boundary Amendment as set
- 14 forth in the petition and supporting documents
- 15 provided that the development conditions are
- 16 implemented as part of Petitioner's Project."
- 17 Is that still the National Park Service's
- 18 position?
- 19 A Yes, it is.
- MS. BENCK: Thank you very much. And I have
- 21 no further questions.
- 22 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Hawai'i County?
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 24 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. OP?
- MR. YEE: I have a series of what I hope are

- 1 friendly leading questions which actually just lead up
- 2 to one particular issue.
- 3 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 4 BY MR. YEE:
- 5 Q As I heard your testimony I understood that
- 6 you said basically the Park Service has important
- 7 resources. And water's important both in and of
- 8 itself and to those resources, right?
- 9 A Correct.
- 10 Q And you mentioned four specific provisions
- 11 that you're concerned about that require mitigation,
- 12 withdrawal of water, non-point source pollution, the
- 13 wastewater and then monitoring.
- 14 A Yes.
- 15 Q And then you described a variety of things
- 16 such as regulations and what kind of groundwater can
- 17 be withdrawn, Best Management Practices such as debris
- 18 catch basins and a variety of requirements on how you
- 19 treat wastewater and what you do with it afterwards.
- 20 Correct?
- 21 A Correct.
- 22 Q The fourth issue was monitoring. And I
- 23 understand from the monitoring information you get you
- 24 can become more educated and you can figure out
- 25 whether or not pollution is occurring.

- 1 My question to you is what do you do with
- 2 the -- what I didn't find in the testimony is what do
- 3 you do with the information after you get it?
- 4 A Well, as you just mentioned -- I'll just
- 5 reiterate. The importance of monitoring is to be able
- 6 to provide an early warning system so that actions can
- 7 be taken.
- 8 So those monitoring data are very important
- 9 data for county agencies, state agencies, federal
- 10 agencies in order to observe what is happening and
- 11 then take action, if needed, to correct a problem or
- 12 prevent a problem from happening. Early warning is
- 13 the key. So those data are very useful to all of us
- 14 for those reasons.
- In the OP exhibits from the department --
- 16 the Division of Aquatic Resources, they're very
- 17 interested in reliable monitoring data for protection
- 18 of the state's marine resources. So there's
- 19 definitely an interest by all parties concerned with
- 20 how those data will be used.
- 21 Q I don't disagree. But with this information
- 22 is it possible to detect the source of the pollution?
- 23 A Well, for the Petitioner's Project they're
- 24 going to have a well, a monitoring well upgradient,
- 25 then wells downgradient.

- 1 The idea behind that monitoring regime is to
- 2 be able to identify background levels as to what is
- 3 entering the Project and what is coming out of the
- 4 Project. So this gets at that situation. That
- 5 particular scenario, that's sort of the bare minimum
- 6 to capture that.
- 7 Q So with that you can figure out whether you
- 8 need to look at the Petition Area or outside the
- 9 Petition Area if you're noticing higher pollution
- 10 levels? Right?
- If you have one upgradient and one
- 12 downgradient you know where at least between the
- 13 Petition Area or somewhere outside the --
- 14 A Right.
- 15 Q -- Petition Area you know where the
- 16 pollution is coming from.
- 17 A That's the idea behind strategically
- 18 positioning your monitoring wells, yes.
- 19 Q And that will help you then investigate or
- 20 direct the investigation if you're finding higher
- 21 pollution levels, correct?
- 22 A Absolutely.
- 23 Q And if you do find higher pollution levels
- 24 why is that? In addition to any mitigation efforts
- 25 you or the National Park Service might itself take,

- 1 would that also be of assistance to the regulatory
- 2 agencies?
- A Absolutely. It will assist the State DOH
- 4 whether any water quality standards are being
- 5 violated. Will help with DAR's management of the
- 6 marine waters. Yes, those data will be used to assist
- 7 state agencies and county as well.
- 8 Q And to help them identify who might be the
- 9 source.
- 10 A Yes.
- 11 O In then addition to that would the National
- 12 Park Service also have a law that it could enforce to
- 13 the extent that there are impacts to the Park?
- 14 A Yes. The National Park Service -- I'm going
- 15 to forget the exact name of it -- the Resource
- 16 Protection Act I believe it's called, 19JJ, it's
- 17 referred to, yes, does allow for the National Park
- 18 Service to seek restoration for resources that have
- 19 been damaged, yes.
- 20 MR. YEE: Thank you. I have nothing
- 21 further.
- 22 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Commissioners, questions?
- 23 Before we do that we'll take a 5-minute break.
- 24 (Recess was held.)
- 25 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: We're back in session.

- 1 Commissioners, questions? Commissioner Kanuha.
- 2 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Thank you,
- 3 Mr. Chairman. Thanks, Sallie, for your rather
- 4 extensive testimony. In the past I've expressed
- 5 several overriding concerns with some of the positions
- 6 that the National Park has taken in regard to
- 7 petitions coming before us.
- 8 Don't get me wrong. I understand that the
- 9 Park is in a tough situation because of where it is
- 10 and all of the -- basically I think you said it best
- 11 where it's turning into an urban resource type Park.
- 12 But I think what I need some better handle
- 13 on is maybe I'll start backwards and I'll kind of take
- 14 off on some of the comments from OP with regard to
- 15 monitoring.
- So I guess my question -- you may have
- 17 submitted it somewhere through the EIS process or
- 18 within your testimony -- but one of my questions with
- 19 regard to monitoring is what kind of baseline data
- 20 does the Park itself have that you can use to measure
- 21 against what these potential impacts are from, you
- 22 know, surrounding projects?
- THE WITNESS: That's a good question. Yes,
- 24 the Park, especially in the last decade where we have
- 25 seen this increase around us, as I said we use a

- 1 science-based management approach. And a big part of
- 2 that's collecting baseline data on all our resources
- 3 and ecosystems.
- 4 The National Park Service has a program
- 5 called -- it's a national program across the country,
- 6 an inventory and monitoring program. It's a separate
- 7 group and branch in each region where they
- 8 specifically look at certain, what they call vital
- 9 signs. These are the respiration, the heart rate, the
- 10 things that are to indicate that there's a problem.
- 11 Water quality is one of them and we collect
- 12 data in the National Park. So we have been over time
- 13 building up a baseline data because we do need to be
- 14 able to identify is there a change and where is that
- 15 change coming from.
- So most of the studies that we are doing
- 17 right now with regard to natural resources in the Park
- 18 are directed at just that: Establishing our baseline,
- 19 establishing the modes of entry for certain pollutants
- 20 into the Park.
- 21 And we work with the US Geological Survey in
- 22 particular on that. They're a very high standard of
- 23 science. For example, you can trace the origin of
- 24 waters into the Park with methods like isotope
- 25 tracing. We have established a baseline. We are

- 1 working on that continually.
- 2 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: So you have one or
- 3 you're working on one?
- 4 THE WITNESS: Well, there's such a thing
- 5 conditions are always changing, correct? As
- 6 everything changes that's where the monitoring comes
- 7 in. So we have a current condition baseline is the
- 8 most accurate way of putting it.
- 9 A baseline would be prehuman approach to
- 10 these islands. Then after that we as humans tend to
- 11 change things. So we can't get that. But what is the
- 12 baseline now? So the establishment of the Parks in
- 13 1978. So we try to go back to that as much as we can
- 14 with data and move forward.
- So we have baseline water quality data,
- 16 baseline archaeological data for how those sites are.
- 17 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: So do you have enough
- 18 data or has enough time elapsed to give you some
- 19 indication of whether or not these concerns you have
- 20 are valid? Or are there still potential impacts?
- 21 THE WITNESS: Um, that's a great question.
- 22 There are -- we have -- there are impacts to the Park.
- 23 We have shown there have been changes. So we have
- 24 actual impacts, observed impacts, as well as predicted
- 25 impacts to Park resources.

- 1 So the observed impacts we have changes in
- 2 salinity in the Park's water resources. For example,
- 3 I didn't get to mention in my testimony, but in my
- 4 written testimony you'll find that Honokohau Bay,
- 5 which is the southern part of the Park, in 2008 was
- 6 designated as 303D impaired water body for elevated
- 7 nutrients by the state. 303D is the Clean Water Act.
- 8 So now that water body has a statement of
- 9 impairment for elevated nutrients.
- 10 Also the US Geological Survey Study, which
- 11 is our Exhibit 9, predicts or demonstrates that there
- 12 will be, with increasing pumping, a reduction in
- 13 groundwater levels in the Park and potentially that
- 14 could lead to increased salinity. So reduction in
- 15 flow, reduction of level and a potential increase in
- 16 salinity.
- 17 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: You know, I think this
- 18 testimony is the first one that I can recall where the
- 19 Park Service seems to be making an attempt to define
- 20 where you believe the impact area is.
- 21 And in this recent testimony it does seem to
- 22 narrow it down to the area mauka and basically
- 23 covering the four adjacent ahupua'a.
- I think one of the questions I asked of
- 25 Gerry Bell sometime ago was: How far mauka does the

- 1 Park, you know, anticipate that activities would have
- 2 some potential impacts to the water quality concerns.
- 3 THE WITNESS: Well, we took a watershed
- 4 approach.
- 5 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Okay.
- 6 THE WITNESS: Which is really the Hawaiian,
- 7 the traditional ahupua'a management approach. In fact
- 8 our Exhibit No. 2 is what we refer to as the Spirit
- 9 Report. I highly recommend if you can read the first
- 10 few pages of it it will clarify.
- This is a report that was written to
- 12 Congress during -- to support the authorization of the
- 13 Park. So it was an advisory, congressional advisory
- 14 commission report.
- And it talks about the Hawaiian water cycle,
- 16 what affects the lands above and around affects the
- 17 Park. The ability of the Park to manage its resources
- 18 is a little difficult because we are just at the
- 19 coast.
- 20 But in our enabling legislation it
- 21 directs -- our enabling legislation "Directs the
- 22 Secretary of the Interior to the best of his or her
- 23 ability to manage the Park," and it uses the word "the
- 24 ahupua'a, "with the ahupua'a style of management"
- 25 which is a watershed management.

- 1 So essentially we are talking about our
- 2 entire watershed all the way up to the top, the
- 3 ahupua'a.
- 4 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Utilizing I guess
- 5 that's your exhibit on the wall behind you?
- 6 THE WITNESS: Yes, Exhibit No. 1.
- 7 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: I was looking at it
- 8 during the break. Is that the general area of
- 9 concern? Does it go any further north, any further
- 10 south?
- 11 THE WITNESS: We have to look at each. Our
- 12 watershed is our general area of concern. But you
- 13 also have to remember, as I testified, that the area
- 14 has essentially no soil and highly permeable lava.
- 15 So the extent of the aquifer, which is all
- 16 of the groundwater that contributes to the Park's
- 17 water, is a bit bigger than the surface watershed.
- 18 So the best way that I can answer your
- 19 question is to say that we're certainly concerned
- 20 about what's immediately above and around the Park.
- 21 But then with regard to the aquifer we have to look at
- 22 each individual development or well development,
- 23 groundwater development by itself and make a
- 24 determination based on that development whether we
- 25 think that may impact Park resources or not and what

- 1 actions we may need to take.
- 2 So I can't draw a big line for you and say
- 3 we're gonna -- you'll see us for everything within
- 4 this line. You'll see us for everything that's
- 5 adjacent or immediate or within close proximity of the
- 6 Park. But we may be intervening if we determine a
- 7 specific -- you have to look at the specifics of each
- 8 proposed project whether we think that might affect
- 9 Park resources.
- 10 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Okay. Because on that
- 11 map you show a series of wells too, right?
- 12 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 13 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Potable water wells
- 14 both private and public.
- 15 THE WITNESS: That's right.
- 16 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: And I think that also
- 17 leads into where this is going to end up. Because we
- 18 spent a lot of time over the last couple days in
- 19 particular talking about the extent of the Kona CDP,
- 20 the General Plan.
- 21 So to implement those things and, you know,
- 22 petitions before the Commission is just one segment.
- 23 You know, there's going to be a lot of other impacts
- 24 that are not necessarily related to the Commission.
- There's, as you show on your map, there's

- 1 water wells. There's going to be a major mid-level
- 2 road project that, you know, that's obviously going to
- 3 contribute something to non-point runoff.
- 4 So, again, I'm wondering at what point
- 5 there's enough information, again, based on the
- 6 numerous negotiations the Park has had with various
- 7 petitioners coming before the Commission, that the
- 8 Park can come up with kind of a standardized condition
- 9 or, you know, a structure that either we or the county
- 10 or the state and the individual petitioners besides
- 11 private folks, the government as well, can be
- 12 comfortable with and, you know, so you don't have
- 13 to -- or we don't have to deal with, you know,
- 14 specifics on a project-by-project basis. Because, you
- 15 know, I don't know where it's going to end.
- The county has a new facility going in just
- 17 mauka of that. Again, the mid-level road's going to
- 18 go in. If this plan is to be implemented, you know,
- 19 it's just gonna be a lot of stuff going.
- I would hate to see the Park have to
- 21 intervene or threaten to intervene on every little
- 22 thing in order to accomplish what they feel they need
- 23 to accomplish. And I think we all want to support
- 24 that.
- But I'm just wondering whether or not we're

- 1 going to get to a point where something like that
- 2 could be developed for everybody's benefit.
- 3 THE WITNESS: I couldn't agree more. It's
- 4 true with regard to our intervening. We're trying to
- 5 follow the model of TSA and that each development gets
- 6 something a little different based on what kind of
- 7 development, what kinds of threats they pose.
- 8 The state of Hawai'i does have a non-point
- 9 source pollution control plan. It's never been fully
- 10 implemented. That sort of thing would go a long way
- 11 to stopping this one-by-one individual action that at
- 12 this time we have to take because currently, although
- 13 there are plans to ultimately address this through the
- 14 Legislature, currently there aren't any state or
- 15 county laws or regulations that control non-point
- 16 source pollution.
- 17 Impacts from water withdrawal are a separate
- 18 matter. But that also is a big concern. Development
- 19 is exceeding what we can see the capacity for water.
- 20 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Thank you. That's all
- 21 I have.
- 22 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Commissioners, any other
- 23 questions? One question. You mentioned three
- 24 monitoring wells. And you have any specific depths
- 25 where these wells should be?

- 1 THE WITNESS: I have to look in the
- 2 agreement to see if the depths of the monitoring wells
- 3 are --
- 4 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: If that's been addressed
- 5 that's fine.
- 6 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 7 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: The other thing is has
- 8 there been or is there a problem with algae bloom in
- 9 the area?
- 10 THE WITNESS: Um, algae is a significant
- 11 concern, and it's something that the National Park
- 12 Service is monitoring on a regular basis. At this
- 13 time we're not seeing within the National Park an
- 14 algae problem.
- We're a fisheries management area. That
- 16 means that aquarium fishing is banned within the Park
- 17 waters. Fish that are targeted under the aquarium
- 18 fishing -- well, fish that are targeted by aquarium
- 19 fishers are plant eaters, algae eaters, must have a
- 20 lot of sea turtles. So those fish provide that
- 21 service of helping keep the algae in check. But it's
- 22 a fine balance. We lose the fish, we lose the plant
- 23 eaters. There's a lot of nutrients out there. So
- 24 currently, to answer your question, no, we're not
- 25 seeing a problem.

- 1 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. So essentially the
- 2 algae that you have is in check. Is there any problem
- 3 with any alien species of algae there?
- 4 THE WITNESS: Absolutely. We do have
- 5 Acanthophora Spicifera. This is an alien red algae,
- 6 likely came from Guam. It's invaded Kaloko Fishpond.
- 7 It has been seen outside the fishpond. We are
- 8 monitoring it very closely.
- 9 We had a project a number of years back to
- 10 study how to remove and control that algae. We
- 11 published that in the Journal called Pacific Science.
- 12 So, yes, that alien algae is a problem. It's also
- 13 been found in Honokohau Harbor.
- 14 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Commissioners?
- 15 Redirect?
- MR. LIND: Just one question.
- 17 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 18 BY MR. LIND:
- 19 Q Is there evidence that there are pollutants
- 20 within the Park resources currently?
- 21 A Yes. We have detected contaminants within
- 22 the Park groundwater.
- MR. LIND: No more questions.
- 24 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Office of
- 25 Planning?

- 1 MR. YEE: For our next witness? For our
- 2 witness?
- 3 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Yes, your next witness.
- 4 MR. YEE: Thank you. Our next witness is
- 5 Gail Suzuki-Jones.
- 6 GAIL SUZUKI-JONES
- 7 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 8 and testified as follows:
- 9 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 10 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Would you state your name
- 11 and address for the record.
- 12 THE WITNESS: Yes. It's Gail Suzuki-Jones,
- 13 235 South Beretania, room 506, Honolulu, Hawai'i
- 14 96804.
- 15 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: OP, your witness.
- MR. YEE: Thank you.
- 17 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 18 BY MR. YEE:
- 19 Q What is your current position?
- 20 A I'm Energy Analyst at the State Energy
- 21 Office.
- 22 Q Was Office of Planning Exhibit 5A, your
- 23 amended written testimony, and 28 your PowerPoint
- 24 presentation prepared by you or at your request?
- 25 A Yes.

- 1 MR. YEE: And just for the Commission's
- 2 information these were admitted into evidence.
- 3 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: So noted.
- 4 MR. YEE: Thank you.
- 5 Q Please describe your position in this
- 6 docket.
- 7 A Our position is that LEED-Silver level
- 8 should be standard for the market rate housing and
- 9 commercial development. And for the affordable
- 10 component using the Green Communities' checklist.
- 11 Q Would you summarize your testimony, please.
- 12 A Okay. Living here in Hawai'i we know we're
- 13 all very vulnerable. We live in the middle of the
- 14 Pacific Ocean. There are hurricanes, global warming
- 15 and here on the Big Island there is also the challenge
- 16 of the vog.
- 17 We also have many opportunities. We have
- 18 solar and winds resources. We have a year 'round
- 19 growing cycle. So we have the opportunity for both
- 20 food and energy self-sufficiency.
- 21 Hawai'i, however, is the most petroleum-
- 22 dependent state in the country. And here's a little
- 23 chart that summarizes that.
- 24 And the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative is
- 25 what we at the Energy Office, as well as others, have

- 1 been working hard to achieve. It's a national
- 2 partnership to achieve 70 percent clean energy by
- 3 2030.
- 4 It's a way to increase Hawai'i's energy
- 5 security, capture the economic benefits, demonstrate
- 6 innovation and build a workforce of the future. It's
- 7 also a way to serve as a model for the rest of the
- 8 country.
- 9 And here on the Big Island there are at
- 10 least several if not more LEED projects that have been
- 11 built. The Natural Energy Lab of Hawai'i Gateway
- 12 project is a LEED platinum project.
- There's the Waikoloa Hilton's Dolphin Quest
- 14 which is also LEED-Silver.
- We have Kanu o ka 'Aina Learning Center that
- 16 has been or is in the process of getting LEED
- 17 Certified. There's also the HPA's science center.
- 18 There are other LEED projects in the works.
- 19 So Act 155 was signed into law last year
- 20 requiring a tremendous amount of energy efficiency to
- 21 be achieved by the year 2030. And buildings account
- 22 for a large percentage of that.
- 23 All of you know that the cheapest form of
- 24 energy is the energy that's not used. So we have been
- 25 working hard to increase the awareness of programs

- 1 such as Energy Star, LEED and the Green Communities
- 2 initiative.
- 3 The Energy Star Homes program is something
- 4 that the U.S. EPA and DOE have instituted. And homes
- 5 that achieve this standard are in the top 20 to
- 6 30 percent of the homes of their similar types.
- 7 There are Energy Star qualified homes all
- 8 over our state. Here's some of the features that are
- 9 included in Energy Star homes.
- This is a list of some of the partners.
- 11 Sonny Ventures I know is here on the Big Island. A
- 12 lot of these developers have signed on to become
- 13 Energy Star partners in the state.
- 14 And here's a list of the benefits. The
- 15 Energy Star label is a third-party certified label.
- 16 It gives consumers confidence that these projects and
- 17 products are indeed energy efficient, lower ownership
- 18 cost, they're higher performing and it's actually a
- 19 very good investment for resale.
- 20 And here's some facts and figures on Energy
- 21 Star homes on O'ahu. Energy Star is a prerequisite
- 22 for LEED for Homes as well as a requirement for the
- 23 Green Communities checklist. And there are now
- 24 actually, I think it's 40 Energy Star commercial
- 25 buildings in the state. Here's some of the benefits

- 1 in terms of reducing carbon emissions.
- Then: What is LEED? For those of you on
- 3 the Commission I know you've seen and heard about
- 4 LEED. LEED is Leadership in Energy and Environmental
- 5 Design. It's a tool. It can be used as a score card.
- 6 It's also a seal of quality from third-party
- 7 certification.
- 8 Then LEED-recognized performance in the
- 9 areas of energy, water, indoor environmental quality.
- 10 It also recognizes smart site selection and
- 11 development, good material selection and innovation
- 12 and education and awareness.
- 13 Here's some facts and figures about LEED in
- 14 Hawai'i and the number of LEED accredited professional
- 15 certified projects, registered projects and the number
- 16 of homes that are in the process.
- 17 So what we're advocating for is a commitment
- 18 to Energy Star, a commitment to Water Sense, which is
- 19 also an EPA program, and a commitment to waste
- 20 management as well as good indoor air quality, green
- 21 operations maintenance, and of course green and
- 22 affordable housing.
- 23 That's a good segue to the Enterprise Green
- 24 Communities Initiative. Their goal is to green all
- 25 affordable housing by the year 2020. Attachment C in

- 1 Exhibit 5A goes into some details on this.
- 2 The Hawai'i Built Green Program is a program
- 3 that was established almost a decade ago that verifies
- 4 not through third-party but self-certification green
- 5 homes in Hawai'i. And the checklist is also available
- 6 as an attachment.
- 7 This is just a quick slide on Kaupuni
- 8 Development by DHHL in Wai'anae on O'ahu with 18 net
- 9 zero energy homes. This just shows how this can be
- 10 done in affordable housing. It will be completed
- 11 probably sometime next year. This just gives a list
- 12 of some of the features.
- 13 So the state of Hawai'i and the HCEI Clean
- 14 Energy Initiative we have pretty aggressive goals to
- 15 reach. We need the help and participation of all
- 16 entities both public and private sector to
- 17 participate.
- 18 We want everyone to lead by example.
- 19 LEED-Silver is kind of just a benchmark for that.
- 20 Energy Star is very important as well as the Green
- 21 Communities Initiative.
- I also wanted to mention that we're working
- 23 with Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy
- 24 Lab as well as Building America Teams to help local
- 25 developers and developers of housing in Hawai'i to

- 1 achieve these goals.
- 2 So working together I think we can all
- 3 achieve a clean energy future, 70 percent clean energy
- 4 by 2030.
- 5 Q Thank you.
- 6 That's all the questions we have. She's
- 7 available for cross-examination.
- 8 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Petitioner, questions?
- 9 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 10 BY MS. BENCK:
- 11 Q Hi, Ms. Suzuki-Jones. Thanks for your
- 12 testimony today. I have just a few questions for you.
- 13 Through your testimony I heard you talk about LEED
- 14 certification. But then I heard you talk about
- 15 different, other energy efficiency measures like
- 16 Energy Star.
- 17 A Right.
- 18 Q So I want to find out is the state's goal to
- 19 maximize energy efficiency? Or is the state's goal
- 20 solely to promote LEED certification?
- 21 A It's actually energy efficiency is one
- 22 component of it. In order to achieve energy
- 23 self-sufficiency renewable energy and going beyond
- 24 energy efficiency is important as well as achieving
- 25 water efficiency, resource efficiency and good indoor

- 1 air environmental quality.
- 2 So LEED encompasses all of those. So it's
- 3 beyond energy efficiency. That would be -- that would
- 4 be my response.
- 5 Q Thank you. Is LEED-Silver essential to
- 6 accomplish those goals? Or can those goals be
- 7 accomplished outside the LEED-Silver certification?
- 8 A They may be accomplished outside the
- 9 certification. However, LEED provides that
- 10 third-party verification in a systematic way to make
- 11 sure that what is built and developed and maintained
- 12 is something that was designed.
- 13 So you can design and plan some, you know,
- 14 development but if it's not certified by a third-party
- 15 entity you're never guaranteed that you're going to
- 16 get the same result. So that's what LEED provides is
- 17 that verification and certification.
- 18 Q Thank you. Is the state currently required
- 19 to build structures to LEED-Silver?
- 20 A Yes. There is a mandate for state agencies
- 21 to build to LEED-Silver as well as to improve their
- 22 existing buildings to LEED-Silver level. And we're
- 23 working very diligently to achieve that. I think
- 24 there are over a dozen LEED government, state
- 25 government projects right now that are underway or

- 1 have been completed.
- 2 And we are working on Energy Star labeling
- 3 all of the facilities over 5,000 square feet by the
- 4 end of this year with Energy Star Portfolio Manager.
- 5 Q So when you say the state is mandated that
- 6 means that it's, absolutely it must construct to a
- 7 LEED-Silver certification?
- 8 A Yes. Also as everyone knows our budget
- 9 considerations have led to a lot of cutbacks, cutbacks
- 10 in projects and personnel. So what we're doing is
- 11 working hard with the existing budgets that we have in
- 12 order to achieve that.
- 13 Q So HRS 196-9 that says that "to the extent
- 14 possible" the state should do those things, is that
- 15 what you're referring to?
- 16 A Right.
- 17 Q So practical considerations come into play
- 18 on whether or not the state has to fulfill a LEED
- 19 certification aspiration.
- 20 A Right.
- 21 Q Thank you.
- 22 A That is part of our limitation.
- 23 Q If I could I'm just going to ask a couple
- 24 more questions. If you could help me out. In your
- 25 testimony you gave figures on what it costs to

- 1 register a project for LEED and then also the
- 2 certification costs.
- 3 You said it was about \$225 to register and
- 4 certification cost is about 300. You conclude that
- 5 it's about 2500 bucks to go through the certification
- 6 process.
- What I'm hoping you might be able to tell us
- 8 is what it actually costs to put the necessary LEED
- 9 features into a home, how many thousands of dollars it
- 10 cost to build a home to the LEED-Silver standards.
- 11 A Right. Well, it really depends on the
- 12 project. It's highly dependent on the planning also
- 13 of the layout of the lots. It's dependent on a lot of
- 14 different items and variables.
- So it's something that it's impossible for
- 16 me to sort of predict right now since I think
- 17 that's -- this is the only information that's
- 18 available right on the planned development. I think
- 19 if there were more detailed plans, elevation sections,
- 20 specifications we could be able to do that.
- 21 Q I understand it would be extremely difficult
- 22 for you to do that for this Project. But if you could
- 23 even give us a rough order of magnitude -- there was
- 24 testimony yesterday. I don't know if you were here.
- 25 A No, I wasn't.

- 1 Q But the testimony yesterday indicated it
- 2 could be, you know, upwards of 30, 40, even \$50,000 to
- 3 build a home to LEED-Silver criterial. I'm just
- 4 wondering if you could give us any ballpark.
- 5 A It would depend on what features you decided
- 6 to design into the Project. For example, if you
- 7 wanted it to be a Net Zero Energy home, the higher
- 8 range of \$50,000 could be an estimate just for the
- 9 photovoltaic system alone.
- 10 And that would also depend on whether or not
- 11 there was air conditioning or natural ventilation.
- 12 It's really highly variable. That's all I can say.
- 13 Q So I think my last question will be: Has
- 14 your department or have you undertaken an analysis of
- 15 any projects you can identify for us and what it cost
- 16 to just make those projects or those buildings LEED
- 17 Certified?
- 18 A We are actually in the process of doing just
- 19 that. We don't have any of the results. We need to
- 20 get a number of projects to assess in order to do the
- 21 study to make it a statistically representative
- 22 sample. So we are in the process of doing that right
- 23 now. Once we get that we'll be able to share it. But
- 24 at the current time we don't have that information.
- MS. BENCK: Thank you. That concludes my

- 1 questions.
- 2 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Hawai'i County,
- 3 your questions.
- 4 MR. GONZALEZ: Thank you, Mr. Chair.
- 5 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 6 BY MR. GONZALEZ:
- 7 Q Good morning.
- 8 A Good morning.
- 9 Q Thank you for being here. Isn't it true --
- 10 could you go back to your presentation slide relating
- 11 to Kaupuni. Isn't it true that this project is being
- 12 underwritten by federal grants?
- 13 A There's some funding from the NAHASDA
- 14 program to help offset some of the costs of the
- 15 renewable system for the affordable, because it's an
- 16 affordable housing project. And on DHHL land they're
- 17 able to supplement some of the development costs with
- 18 NAHASDA funding.
- 19 Q So it is receiving federal grant money for
- 20 its project, right?
- 21 A Right.
- 22 Q Isn't it true that the land that this
- 23 project is located on was given to Department of
- 24 Hawaiian Home Lands by the Consuelo Foundation?
- 25 A Right. That's true.

- 1 Q So the land was free, right?
- 2 A Right.
- 3 Q Isn't it true that the projected publicized
- 4 price for these affordable homes are supposed to be
- 5 within the \$260,000 to \$320,000 range?
- 6 A That sounds about right.
- 7 Q Thank you. No further questions.
- 8 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you.
- 9 MR. LIND: No questions.
- 10 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Commissioners, any?
- 11 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 12 BY MR. YEE:
- 13 Q Just briefly. If the homes will all have
- 14 Energy Star appliances and will have alternative
- 15 energy such as photovoltaic, do you believe it would
- 16 cost 30 to 50,000 more dollars in order to bring -- or
- 17 is it likely -- let me rephrase that.
- Is it necessary to spend 30 to \$50,000 in
- 19 addition in order to bring that home to a LEED
- 20 standard?
- 21 MR. GONZALEZ: I hate to object, Bryan, but
- 22 I think it's vague. I don't know what homes you're
- 23 referring to. Can he be a little more clear?
- 24 Mr. Chair, if there could be more clarification on
- 25 that.

- 1 MR. YEE: Referring to the homes on this
- 2 Project.
- 3 MR. GONZALEZ: Thanks, Bryan.
- 4 THE WITNESS: I don't think that amount is
- 5 necessary.
- 6 MR. YEE: That's all I have.
- 7 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Anything from the
- 8 Commissioners? Thank you.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Thank you very much.
- 10 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: At this time we're going to
- 11 take public testimony. Any persons out there wishing
- 12 to testify at this time? There's a list. We'll get
- 13 the list there. First person up will be Burke
- 14 Matsuyama. Burke.
- 15 BURKE MATSUYAMA
- 16 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 17 and testified as follows:
- 18 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 19 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State your name and address
- 20 for the record.
- 21 THE WITNESS: My name is Burke Matsuyama.
- 22 And I'm the president of the Kohanaiki Business Park
- 23 Association. I have the written testimony prepared
- 24 for you guys to read. And I know you're stretched for
- 25 time so let me summarize.

- 1 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you.
- 2 THE WITNESS: Like you I was here at
- 3 yesterday's meeting. And I heard the testimony from
- 4 different witnesses. And I was really taken by the
- 5 comments made by the developer Dennis Moresco.
- In his testimony he indicated that there are
- 7 two major elements to this development that caught his
- 8 eye from the start. The first is that the shoreline
- 9 is such a big part of the attractiveness of his
- 10 Project that provides its unique stature and its
- 11 competition to other projects in the Kona area.
- 12 However, the second element that he pointed
- 13 out, the negative element, was that of the airport,
- 14 the noise components that I know all of you are
- 15 concerned about.
- But on behalf of my Association I would like
- 17 to present to this body a major concern within the
- 18 community. And that element is traffic. And the
- 19 reason why I bring this up is specifically because of
- 20 the recent award for Queen Ka'ahumanu widening by
- 21 HDOT. They plan to redo the highway, expand the
- 22 highway by the end of this year.
- 23 Now, for the Commissioners' information, the
- 24 state plans to restrict all left-turning vehicles for
- 25 landowners between Hina Lani Street and Ka'iminani

- 1 Drive by right in/right out only policy following the
- 2 widening of Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway.
- 3 All left-turning vehicles emanating and
- 4 entering 'O'oma, NELHA, Shores of Kohanaiki, the
- 5 county park at Pine Trees and our subdivision will be
- 6 directed to Hina Lani Street and Ka'iminani Drive to
- 7 execute U turn maneuvers.
- Now, within the traffic study presented by
- 9 Warren Matsumoto, he has identified a major component
- 10 for traffic mitigation regarding the project to be
- 11 Huliko'a Drive.
- 12 The preservation of Huliko'a intersection is
- 13 vital to operation of the highway as it will alleviate
- 14 congestion to Hina Lani Street and Ka'iminani Drive
- 15 intersection by greatly reducing the amount of
- 16 U-turning traffic.
- 17 It is estimated that U-turning traffic from
- 18 'O'oma alone will cost motorists between 1 to
- 19 \$2 million extra a year in gasoline costs, wear and
- 20 tear on their vehicles, lost time, not to mention
- 21 pollution, additional congestion on the highway and
- 22 increased highway maintenance cost to the taxpayers
- 23 totaling \$400,000 a year. This is what is estimated
- 24 by our consultants who we have hired to try to
- 25 establish the intersection.

- 1 Secondly, the Traffic Impact Analysis
- 2 Report, which Warren talks about, assumes that the
- 3 intersection at Huliko'a Drive will be constructed.
- 4 However, as currently designed there is no provision
- 5 for a signalized intersection at Huliko'a Drive within
- 6 the Queen Ka'ahumanu Phase 2 widening.
- 7 The Shores of Kohanaiki and our organization
- 8 have been working with the state Department of
- 9 Transportation to provide this intersection. But as
- 10 of this time the state has told us to either come up
- 11 with \$2 million or be restricted to right in/right
- 12 out.
- 13 'O'oma was asked to participate in the
- 14 funding of this intersection but has declined. Our
- 15 members and the Shores have offered to a fair-share
- 16 contribution to this public benefit. However, we'll
- 17 not shoulder the costs for impacts that are generated
- 18 by other developments in the area.
- 19 For example, 2008 Fehr and Peer traffic
- 20 study that was jointly commissioned by the Shores,
- 21 'O'oma and our organization concluded that the 'O'oma
- 22 Project will contribute over 40 percent of the traffic
- 23 to Huliko'a intersection.
- We strongly urge the LUC to require the
- 25 'O'oma Project to contribute their fair-share to the

- 1 intersection.
- 2 Secondly, a vital part of 'O'oma's Traffic
- 3 Impact Analysis Report is the Project's future
- 4 connectivity to the Kona Community Development Plan
- 5 frontage roadway to alleviate its impact on Queen K.
- 6 The first phase of this roadway is being
- 7 paid for by the Shores and will only happen if
- 8 Huliko'a intersection is built. Without Huliko'a
- 9 acting as the southern terminus the frontage road does
- 10 not work.
- 11 Again, 'O'oma is counting on infrastructural
- 12 developments paid for by others to mitigate their
- 13 impacts.
- We ask the LUC to require 'O'oma property
- 15 owners to participate in the funding of this
- 16 intersection concurrently with the Queen Ka'ahumanu
- 17 widening project, and work with NELHA to fund the
- 18 northern extension of the frontage roadway to
- 19 Ka'iminani Drive.
- The basic question to this Commission is
- 21 whether the project the size of 'O'oma can adequately
- 22 be served by right in and right out only. Because
- 23 that is the present design approved by HDOT for the
- 24 Queen Ka'ahumanu Phase 2 widening. All other
- 25 solutions, alternatives presented by the developers

- 1 are purely speculative.
- 2 We respectfully request that this Commission
- 3 reevaluate the traffic mitigation plan proposed by
- 4 'O'oma. We feel that the plan inadequately addressed
- 5 the Project's impact to our community especially
- 6 within the right in/right out guidelines mandated by
- 7 HDOT.
- 8 We need the Commission's kokua. If all
- 9 developments work together there can be fair public
- 10 and private partnership in infrastructural
- 11 development.
- 12 It is unfair for one property owner to fund
- 13 the majority of the infrastructure when another
- 14 property owner creates the majority of the impacts.
- 15 Thank you.
- 16 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Petitioners? You should
- 17 have some questions.
- 18 (Audience laughter).
- 19 MR. LIM: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good
- 20 morning, Mr. Matsuyama.
- 21 THE WITNESS: Good morning.
- MR. LIM: We've been working together
- 23 through Dennis Moresco and his team with the Kohanaiki
- 24 Business Park, and Shores at Kohanaiki on the Huliko'a
- 25 intersection.

- 1 At one time we were participating in the
- 2 memorandum of agreement with the county at that time
- 3 when they thought they could get some funding, which
- 4 funding subsequently lapsed. However we did
- 5 participate.
- 6 Let me ask you questions now with that as
- 7 background. So the three people at least so far that
- 8 have been participating at the Huliko'a intersection,
- 9 this is the intersection located to the south of the
- 10 'O'oma project right immediately fronting the
- 11 Matsuyama Store front right there on Queen K Highway.
- 12 Is it true that the Kohanaiki Business Park
- 13 Association has an existing Land Use Commission
- 14 condition requiring it to fund its portion of highway
- 15 improvements at the Huliko'a intersection?
- THE WITNESS: No.
- MR. LIM: You've satisfied that condition.
- 18 THE WITNESS: In terms of funding the
- 19 intersection?
- 20 MR. LIM: You satisfied your Land Use
- 21 Commission condition of approval.
- THE WITNESS: Well, what happened was during
- 23 the Land Use Commission, and it's applied to all
- 24 landowners in the area, is there is this condition of
- 25 right in/right out to all landowners. So once Queen K

- 1 becomes four lane we all lose our left-turning
- 2 ability. That was the condition set forth by the Land
- 3 Use Commission.
- 4 MR. LIM: I think that's a condition --
- 5 isn't that the condition set forth by the DOT's four
- 6 lane widening of Queen K Highway?
- 7 THE WITNESS: That's right.
- 8 MR. LIM: When you did your initial Land Use
- 9 Commission reclassification for your Project isn't it
- 10 true you had a condition of approval that said that
- 11 the business park would have to make improvements to
- 12 the Queen K Highway to service its Project?
- 13 THE WITNESS: Correct.
- 14 MR. LIM: I don't know if you know this, but
- 15 is it also true that the Shores at Kohanaiki project
- 16 across the street also has a similar condition to make
- 17 its improvements to the intersection at the Queen K
- 18 Highway?
- 19 THE WITNESS: But we -- they do. And we did
- 20 make our improvements to the highway. We do have a
- 21 channelized intersection there. That's why we
- 22 presently have left-turning movements on Queen K.
- 23 MR. LIM: So your problem with the Queen K
- 24 Highway widening is not caused by 'O'oma Beachside
- 25 Village. It's caused by the DOT's plan to widen it to

- 1 four lanes and put a median in blocking your left
- 2 turns.
- 3 THE WITNESS: I think the problem we all
- 4 face together, Steve, not us, not the Shores, all of
- 5 us because what's going to happen with this new
- 6 schematic the DOT is going to lay down on our
- 7 community, is there's going to be hell to pay at Hina
- 8 Lani and Ka'iminani.
- 9 You know we all -- when I went to see Dennis
- 10 I was very confident that he was going to understand
- 11 the situation we all face. And yesterday, you know,
- 12 when he indicated that he as a big, big developer must
- 13 constantly figure out ways to make his Project more
- 14 competitive, you know.
- 15 What is it going to be when he has the
- 16 albatross like us around his neck where if my
- 17 customers want to get out from my center and want to
- 18 head toward Kailua south, the state is requiring all
- 19 of us that that customer gotta head north two and a
- 20 half miles, do one U-turn at Ka'iminani and then head
- 21 into Kailua. What kind of competitive edge do I have?
- 22 What kind of competitive edge does Dennis have to
- 23 market his project?
- You know, when you talk about one unique
- 25 lifestyle to the 'O'oma Village, what kind of unique

- 1 lifestyle is that going to be when the homeowners and
- 2 the customers who come to their center gotta head two
- 3 and a half miles one way before they can even get out
- 4 of their project?
- 5 So it's all of our problems, not Shores, not
- 6 Kohanaiki Businesses Park. I'm here to bring to the
- 7 people of Kona and this Commission what we're facing
- 8 now. You know, it's not something that's gonna be
- 9 done because they couldn't handle the RFP award. That
- 10 thing is a done deal.
- 11 The design is being down right now as we
- 12 speak. Unless this issue is resolved in the
- 13 integration of Huliko'a intersection -- I think it
- 14 jeopardizes all our business interests in the area not
- 15 only for business, but recreational and residential.
- 16 It's unworkable.
- 17 For example, for Hina Lani in order to do
- 18 the U-turns you gotta make one separate U'y. Two left
- 19 turns at Hina Lani because right now the left turns
- 20 are at full capacity. You know, if there's one
- 21 Commissioner from Kona he knows already they're going
- 22 to be two left turns at Hina Lani if Huliko'a is not
- 23 built.
- Now, that improvement is not only on Queen
- 25 K. It has to have a mirror image on Hina Lani in

- 1 order to be able to receive it. Now, if one car is on
- 2 the outside lane who wants to do a U'y, it's going to
- 3 be a nightmare, you know. You're going to need to
- 4 expand Hina Lani out humongously to handle two left
- 5 out/two right in, right going toward the airport.
- 6 They gotta condemn.
- 7 And the first right in Hina Lani I think
- 8 they gotta close 'em because they cannot cross all
- 9 these lanes that they gonna require. That's what I
- 10 wanna bring up today.
- 11 MR. LIM: I understand your frustrations.
- 12 And I know Mr. Moresco is in the same boat as you with
- 13 respect to that issue. But that is -- isn't that the
- 14 DOT's requirement not 'O'oma Beachside Village?
- 15 THE WITNESS: Exactly. But what I'm saying
- 16 is we cannot afford to pass an entitlement program
- 17 without getting first this thing resolved because this
- 18 community deserves better.
- 19 We have to -- we have to make sure that the
- 20 types of projects that we approve on this highway is
- 21 being able to be accommodated by the highway design.
- 22 If the design cannot accommodate the volume
- 23 of the high -- you're talking about 1200 homes,
- 24 200,000 square foot footprint on the commercial. I'm
- 25 only 20,000 square feet in my subdivision.

- 1 MR. LIM: Mr. Matsuyama, you indicated in
- 2 your testimony fairly early on while we were, 'O'oma
- 3 Beachside Village was participating with yourself and
- 4 Shores of Kohanaiki, initially that we had dropped
- 5 out.
- 6 At least my recollection of the recent
- 7 events was that isn't it true that the Kohanaiki --
- 8 Shores at Kohanaiki is already entitled zoning, SMA
- 9 state land use?
- 10 THE WITNESS: Correct.
- 11 MR. LIM: And also the Kohanaiki Business
- 12 Park Association, that project is also fully entitled
- 13 and sold out I think already?
- 14 THE WITNESS: Correct.
- MR. LIM: Isn't it true that Mr. Moresco
- 16 declined to participate because he doesn't have any of
- 17 his land use entitlements at this point in time?
- 18 THE WITNESS: Correct.
- 19 MR. LIM: My recollection -- and I'm not
- 20 sure on this, I'm going to ask you though, my
- 21 recollection, we -- from the 'O'oma Beachside Village
- 22 through his agents we discussed with you maybe within
- 23 the last six months that we asked that the Shores at
- 24 Kohanaiki and the Kohanaiki Business Park Association
- 25 provide us with some form of a plan where we could at

- 1 some point in time participate with you but not be
- 2 able to give upfront cash.
- 3 THE WITNESS: Correct.
- 4 MR. LIM: No further questions.
- 5 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Hawai'i County?
- 6 MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 7 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: OP?
- 8 MR. YEE: No questions.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Intervenor?
- 10 MR. LIND: No.
- 11 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Commissioners, questions?
- 12 Go ahead.
- 13 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Howzit, Burke? Can
- 14 you just clarify where your project is? So you're at
- 15 the intersection of...?
- 16 THE WITNESS: Huliko'a.
- 17 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Huliko'a.
- 18 THE WITNESS: Correct.
- 19 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: So --
- THE WITNESS: And you can see the diagram.
- 21 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Yes. In the diagram
- 22 you're right in the middle of where these new traffic
- 23 improvements will be done as it relates to Ka'iminani
- 24 and also Hana lani.
- 25 THE WITNESS: Correct.

- 1 COMMISSIONER KANUHA: Okay. Thanks.
- 2 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. Any other questions?
- 3 Fine. Thank you. Next person will be Marian Wilkins.
- 4 Is David here? David "Bones" Inksten?
- 5 THE WITNESS: On top of all that testimony
- 6 and stuff I feel very inadequate.
- 7 DAVID "BONES" INKSTEN
- 8 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 9 and testified as follows:
- 10 THE WITNESS: Yes, I do.
- 11 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: And you're bringing in some
- 12 new testimony, right?
- 13 THE WITNESS: Yes. Basically new. 81-6420
- 14 Mamalahoa Highway Kealakekua, Hawai'i. And I've lived
- 15 up there for quite a few years.
- 16 This is the fourth time I've been to these
- 17 meetings. Each time I've tried to explain why the
- 18 people of Kona, the Big Island, do not wish to have
- 19 you reclassify the 'O'oma lands from conservation.
- 20 For over 40 years my family and friends have enjoyed
- 21 the property just like it is and was.
- 22 Each meeting is mostly people that wish to
- 23 have the land kept just as it is and certainly must
- 24 realize that by now. There is absolutely no reason
- 25 why you all should allow a wealthy developer and his

- 1 high-priced lawyers to convince you otherwise.
- 2 And the man who was just here about the
- 3 traffic is one certain thing why all of you folks
- 4 should listen to what's going on. The traffic is
- 5 totally terrible. We've tried everything that there
- 6 is. So just try to listen to what's going on. We
- 7 don't need 600 homes, 1500 apartment condominiums or
- 8 shopping centers at the old Pine Trees. The Pine
- 9 Trees was nice the way it is. Your family, my family,
- 10 everybody's family enjoys goin' there.
- 11 With all of those people there there won't
- 12 be any way to get there. I don't care what anybody
- 13 says about how there will be thousands of feet and
- 14 everything. You look at that, it's totally bull.
- 15 Anyway, I don't know really what
- 16 conservation means. It's conservation land. We
- 17 should conserve it. That's why it's conservation
- 18 lands. I didn't look it up in the dictionary or
- 19 anything. I'm pretty sure it means conserve it.
- 20 Mr. Moresco doesn't see why anyone should
- 21 complain as no one's using the land. Of course nobody
- 22 is using it. It's open land. If you want to walk up
- 23 through the rocks you can. That doesn't mean there
- 24 has to be big houses there or condos or shopping
- 25 centers or big roads or anything like that.

- 1 It's conservation. That's why it's kept
- 2 that way. So let's keep Kona Kona, what the
- 3 developers have left of it. We need some open space.
- 4 And this land was placed in conservation for a reason.
- 5 I have several things like I have written
- 6 down here. One is the wastewater. After listening to
- 7 the Park Service lady, I realize that there's going to
- 8 be a lot of wastewater. I didn't think -- I thought
- 9 about it but I didn't write it down before.
- 10 But once the wastewater is coming and all of
- 11 a sudden the ocean becomes polluted or what are we
- 12 going to do? Go around to all those people in those
- 13 houses and tell, "Oh, look, you can't flush your
- 14 toilet. You can't water your lawn. You can't do this
- 15 or that." We're stuck and that's it. There's
- 16 nothin' else to stay about it.
- Now, the Park, I've seen this happen before.
- 18 They put in the condominiums, the houses, the parking
- 19 lots and everything. They're full of people that are
- 20 living there and their friends.
- 21 And pretty soon we have to pay like we do to
- 22 get into this hotel. So there you're stuck with
- 23 parking. You wanna go surfing, you wanna go swimming
- 24 or sit on the beach you have to pay. That's what'll
- 25 happen.

- 1 And there's not a setback. I find it
- 2 questionable. And I don't see no thousand feet. I
- 3 measured it. It doesn't seem like there's gonna be
- 4 any thousand feet. And there's lots of places where
- 5 there isn't thousand feet.
- 6 At whose discretion is the thousand feet
- 7 gonna be? Whether they start to bulldoze and do all
- 8 that who knows who's gonna go where and who's gonna
- 9 measure it?
- 10 Now, landing at the airport. I brushed on
- 11 this last time or the time before when I was here.
- 12 One reason is because years and years ago we used to
- 13 ride horses up and down the coastline. And one time
- 14 it was very hot. Took my shirt off, an airplane
- 15 swooped down, big black chunks of goo landed on me. I
- 16 felt them landing on me. Okay?
- So pretty soon these houses 6,000 houses
- 18 whatever are going to be built there and these
- 19 people'll be out on their lawn watering in their
- 20 bathing suits and a plane's gonna swoop over. All of
- 21 this is gonna happen, the noise and whatever, what are
- 22 we gonna do? Build a new airport? Aha! That's
- 23 already happened once. We've already moved it out
- 24 there. Now here we're going to go again. We're going
- 25 to build a new airport? It probably won't be that

- 1 long.
- 2 And I was just wondering is this particular
- 3 development certified by LEED? The LEED thing was
- 4 very interesting. So who says they have to build
- 5 these LEED houses if they're going to cost another
- 6 thousands and thousands of dollars.
- 7 Basically that's all I have to say. I just
- 8 wanted to spit is out so you guys can hear how I feel
- 9 and a lot of friends and family, probably maybe a lot
- 10 of people in this room feel. Thank you.
- 11 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Questions from
- 12 the Petitioner?
- MS. BENCK: No questions.
- 14 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: How about County?
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 16 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State?
- MR. YEE: No questions.
- 18 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Park Service?
- MR. LIND: No questions.
- 20 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you very much. The
- 21 next person will be Marianne Wilkins followed by Ted
- 22 Leaf.
- 23 MARIAN WILKINS
- 24 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 25 and testified as follows:

- 1 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 2 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Your name and address
- 3 please.
- 4 THE WITNESS: Marian Wilkins, 73-1410 A
- 5 Kaloko Drive, Kailua-Kona 96740.
- 6 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Go ahead.
- 7 THE WITNESS: I have testified before. And
- 8 I still am very concerned about the answers that are
- 9 still being given as to where the beach access will be
- 10 and where the parking will be for the 'O'oma
- 11 development.
- 12 As of now -- I think Mr. Young is here, am
- 13 still being told that they're going to share an access
- 14 with Kohanaiki project whose land they don't own.
- 15 'O'oma does not own it.
- And I'm wondering what pie-in-the-sky is
- 17 it -- what happens if 'O'oma -- if Kohanaiki does not
- 18 want to share the access with 'O'oma? This is still a
- 19 very huge concern. And I think that needs to be
- 20 settled.
- I don't see it. I haven't heard anybody
- 22 talk about that. Maybe you have, but I haven't. I
- 23 don't know. I still don't know.
- 24 So I asked Mr. Young about: What happens if
- 25 that access is not approved by Kohanaiki? And he said

- 1 well, they're considering going through the middle of
- 2 that project, the whole 'O'oma Project. I said,
- 3 "That's not going to happen."
- I would really like to hear someone address
- 5 beach access. Because, again, like everybody else has
- 6 testified, it's a huge, huge issue. And at this point
- 7 I would be very much against having the 'O'oma Project
- 8 built because I think there are too many unanswered
- 9 questions.
- 10 And also, again, even the Land Use
- 11 Commission I know is still having problems with the
- 12 development at Kuilima on O'ahu, Turtle Bay Resort.
- 13 Used to be Kuilima. We used to live there. And
- 14 there's a parking lot. The last I saw you had to pay
- 15 to get in there.
- We really need some really good rules or
- 17 laws or whatever the Commission calls for any
- 18 development, that this will not happen here like the
- 19 Mauna Kea, 25 parking spots, no bicycles allowed,
- 20 things like that. We have to know what's gonna
- 21 happen. This is what worries all of us. Thank you.
- 22 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Petitioner, questions?
- MS. BENCK: No questions.
- MR. GONZALEZ: County, no questions.
- MR. YEE: No questions.

- 1 MR. LIND: No questions.
- 2 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Anything, Commissioners?
- 3 Thank you. Ted Leaf? Oh, he's coming in. Is there
- 4 any other person here that would like to testify.
- 5 Okay. Come on up.
- 6 MR. WILKINS: I was asked yesterday to be
- 7 here this morning. I'm George Wilkins. I thought you
- 8 might have forgotten me.
- 9 GEORGE WILKINS,
- 10 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 11 and testified as follows:
- 12 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 13 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Name and address please.
- 14 THE WITNESS: My name is George Wilkins. I
- 15 live up Kaloko with my wife. 73-1410A Kaloko Drive,
- 16 96740, Kailua-Kona.
- 17 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: And you have some new
- 18 testimony for us.
- 19 THE WITNESS: I do. I did testify a month
- 20 ago about the nature of what I call the second surface
- 21 in 'O'oma. The surface you see looking at it from the
- 22 atmosphere and the surface underneath where the
- 23 seawater underlies the land and captures any
- 24 freshwater that comes down from the mountain as a thin
- 25 layer as it ducts that layer out to the sea.

- 1 That particularly in 'O'oma is probably
- 2 never more than a few inches thick 'cause you're near
- 3 the ocean. The impedence of further flow to the ocean
- 4 is low and there's no back pressure to back the water
- 5 up.
- It's going to be a very difficult layer to
- 7 pump up to the surface. It will probably be quite
- 8 saline the moment you start pumping. So I really
- 9 downgrade the value of that brackish water layer as a
- 10 source for freshwater for 'O'oma. Perhaps as a source
- 11 for RO, reverse osmosis, but even then it's doubtful.
- 12 I've been a resident of Hawai'i for 42
- 13 years working entirely in ocean science and
- 14 technology. And I worked especially here along the
- 15 Kona Coast when I was with the University of Hawai'i,
- 16 first, with George Curtis of the University of Hawai'i
- 17 running the infrared video flights all along the West
- 18 Coast of the Big Island looking for sources of fresh
- 19 or brackish water floating out to sea.
- 20 We have seen literally rivers of lava
- 21 especially at Honokohau Harbor, and Anaeho'omalu
- 22 freshwater, drinkable water actually in most cases,
- 23 but floating for a mile or more out to sea having a
- 24 not yet perfectly known impact on the flora and fauna
- 25 offshore.

- 1 But I'm going to talk today about what
- 2 happened to the water that we use on the land, what
- 3 are its sources, how do we get rid of it. What are
- 4 the impacts?
- 5 First of all, almost all natural runoff from
- 6 the hills onto the land will sink to this underwater
- 7 seawater surface that I talked about, and will flow
- 8 downhill or down pressure until it reaches the open
- 9 ocean. It will follow a very broad swath, even wider
- 10 than that of the 'O'oma property and will carry with
- 11 it all landside pollutants picked up along the way.
- 12 Cleansing, collecting or filtering this
- 13 water will range from very difficult to impossible. I
- 14 think you're going to be forced to waving goodbye to
- 15 that water as it flows by you and empties into the
- 16 beach right exactly at the waterline within the wash
- 17 of the surf where it's going to have the worst
- 18 possible contamination impacts on people who also want
- 19 to occupy that narrow swath of beach.
- 20 Second. Any freshwater converted to sewage
- 21 within the development must be given on advance level
- 22 tertiary or at best secondary treatment before it is
- 23 released to the ocean.
- Second stage treatment, what is used in
- 25 Honolulu, for example, will deliver an unacceptable

- 1 load of organics into the ocean if it is dumped into
- 2 that narrow band of beachside water.
- 3 Even so, final delivery to the sea should
- 4 and must be accomplished by pipeline or shaft to a
- 5 point hundreds of feet below sea level and thousands
- 6 of feet offshore. That is it must dissipate in
- 7 relatively deep and distant seawater.
- 8 Remember, this water is essentially fresh,
- 9 therefore very bouyant in seawater. And as they
- 10 learned to their dismay at Ma'alaea on Maui it will
- 11 rapidly rise up into the ocean and the surface of the
- 12 ocean with horrible impacts on the ecology of the
- 13 area.
- 14 Third. I haven't heard it discussed at all
- 15 here, any water used for irrigation within the
- 16 development will probably be impossible to collect,
- 17 concentrate and/or deliver to the sea because it is
- 18 introduced to the land over such a broad area.
- 19 You're in the same category as you are with
- 20 the brackish water that floats down from the mountain
- 21 on top of the seawater surface.
- It will permeate downward to sea level, will
- 23 follow the seawater surface until it's released to the
- 24 ocean. As in case one, all fertilizers and
- 25 insecticides, poisons and organics picked up by this

- 1 water will also reach the ocean. This third case is
- 2 the most dangerous of all at 'O'oma. And to my
- 3 critical eye, has not been treated by the developer.
- In fact, all we are getting on these issues
- 5 of water disposal are arm wavings. There's no solid
- 6 engineering, no solid science offered. And I think
- 7 you should not allow them to go until you get decent
- 8 technical, professional answers.
- 9 I say that not being inherently against
- 10 'O'oma at all. It's the finest development plan I
- 11 have seen in 20 years on the Kona Coast.
- Now, what are the possible solutions?
- 13 Partial solution No. 1. Operate the development with
- 14 minimized use of water for irrigation. This will
- 15 reduce Case 3 irrigation water flow, but may not do
- 16 much to lessen the flow of nutrients, poisons and
- 17 organics into the freshwater sheet at sea level.
- 18 Expert, and I emphasize impartial study is
- 19 needed to develop this solution.
- 20 Partial solution 2. Build an inland trench
- 21 near the shoreline perhaps within the 300-foot zone,
- 22 perhaps slightly mauka I don't know on that one, to
- 23 collect all fresh or brackish water so that it can be
- 24 treated and/or disposed of well offshore.
- 25 By well offshore I'm talking about perhaps a

- 1 mile offshore, more than a hundred, maybe 200 feet
- 2 below the surface. But accessible by divers who
- 3 might, for example, lay in a steel pipeline to a
- 4 dispersion point.
- 5 This trench need not be very deep because
- 6 its purpose is to collect brackish water which is just
- 7 below the surface of the ocean and not very deep into
- 8 the subsurface formation.
- 9 It could even be designed as a brackish
- 10 water marsh of the type commonly seen along Southern
- 11 California shorelines.
- 12 Again, expert and impartial studies are
- 13 needed on this subject. Similar approaches will be
- 14 needled by adjacent developments because you can't put
- 15 a trench just along the shoreward limits of 'O'oma
- 16 without involving Kohanaiki, NELHA and other adjacent
- 17 properties.
- One last comment I'd like to make on sources
- 19 of freshwater. I think without RO you're not going to
- 20 get them from the 'O'oma property. The brackish water
- 21 lens is too thin. You can't pump it without
- 22 destroying it, disrupting it. I believe you can buy
- 23 water from the county. It's available. Even with
- 24 8 percent price increase they're trying to get now
- 25 it's cheap.

- 1 There are several wells that have gone in up
- 2 mauka above Mamalahoa Highway. The only thing lacking
- 3 is infrastructure, pipelines to bring them down to the
- 4 Queen K Highway.
- 5 The second source that should be seriously
- 6 considered -- and this may be the only place in which
- 7 I deviate from the National Park Service -- I really
- 8 loved Sallie's testimony -- that's the Honokohau
- 9 Harbor were recently on a study for the University of
- 10 Hawai'i we identified almost a hundred discrete lava
- 11 tube type freshwater flows into the Honokohau Harbor
- 12 from the mauka side, some of them that big around and
- 13 you couldn't hold yourself in the opening against the
- 14 rush of the water.
- With salinity so low that to my jaded 78-
- 16 year-old test they tasted fresh, that indicates to me
- 17 the percentage, the content of salt in the water was
- 18 somewhere between 2 and 3 percent. That puts you in a
- 19 range -- you can't survive on this for a lifetime but
- 20 you can run it through an RO plant at very much
- 21 reduced pressure.
- 22 And pumping pressure is the greatest cost of
- 23 an RO plant. You could power an RO plant off
- 24 Honokohau water with probably no more than 100 PSI
- 25 rather than a thousand PSI. And there's enough water

- 1 flowing into Honokohau to supply the entire city of
- 2 Kailua-Kona.
- Now, it needs to be considered. You're very
- 4 close to Kohanaiki. You're very close to the National
- 5 Park. You're very close to 'O'oma. So if you purify
- 6 the water it would cost rather little to get it there.
- 7 That's all I have to say.
- 8 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Petitioner.
- 9 MS. BENCK: Thank you. No questions.
- 10 MR. GONZALEZ: County no questions.
- MR. YEE: No questions, thank you.
- 12 MR. LIND: No questions.
- 13 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Commissioners? Okay.
- 14 Thank you. The next person will be Mark Travalino.
- 15 THE WITNESS: Good morning.
- 16 MARK TRAVALINO
- 17 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 18 and testified as follows:
- 19 THE WITNESS: I certainly do.
- 20 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Name and address please.
- 21 THE WITNESS: My name is Mark Travalino,
- 22 17-1228 Hina Lani Street, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i. I'll
- 23 make this brief because I know it's lunchtime. I'm a
- 24 statewide organizer for a labor union, okay, speaking
- 25 of behalf of Hawai'i Labor Union local 368.

- 1 There are over 400 active members and
- 2 retirees that reside here on the Big Island. We do
- 3 support the AO-774 North Kona Village LLC 'O'oma
- 4 Kaloko North Kona Hawai'i request to reconsider
- 5 reclassification of the 181.169 acres of land in the
- 6 Conservation District into the Urban District.
- 7 Actually right now during this time of
- 8 economic hardship we have a lot of our members out of
- 9 work. Things are really slow. Their unemployment's
- 10 running out. This development will create much needed
- 11 jobs for our members on the Big Island. And the jobs
- 12 created with this development I believe myself
- 13 personally will boost the island construction
- 14 industry. That's all I have.
- 15 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Questions,
- 16 Petitioner?
- MS. BENCK: No questions thank you.
- 18 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 20 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State?
- MR. YEE: No questions.
- 22 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Park Service?
- MR. LIND: No questions.
- 24 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. Commissioners?
- 25 Okay. Thank you. We've got one more here and then

- 1 we'll take a break for lunch. Michelle Tomas.
- 2 MICHELLE TOMAS
- 3 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 4 and testified as follows:
- 5 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 6 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: You have some new testimony
- 7 for us, right?
- 8 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Make it brief. Your name
- 10 and address, please.
- 11 THE WITNESS: I'm sorry. My name is
- 12 Michelle Tomas, P. O. Box 337, Kailua-Kona 96845.
- 13 First off I'd like to say that the information given
- 14 by the Petitioner's expert witness Mr. Ebisu regarding
- 15 noise levels was confusing for me, just a lay person.
- According to him the noise-sensitive uses,
- 17 residences and school align inside the 60 DNL line
- 18 while non-sensitive, the makai commercial and
- 19 recreational sites fall between the 60 and 65 DNL
- 20 contours.
- 21 Just as a reminder, DNL is a measure of the
- 22 average noise over a 24-hour period in decibels with
- 23 nighttime noise carrying a slightly higher weight than
- 24 daytime noise.
- 25 You have to understand I work at the

- 1 airport. This just flashed in my mind as I got off
- 2 work last night. So I had to quickly put this down.
- 3 My thoughts may be jumbled but I have all my paperwork
- 4 you guys can look at.
- 5 With this in mind are you aware that
- 6 according to the Airport Noise and Capacity or ANCA
- 7 Act of 1990 a ban was placed on stage 2 airplanes in
- 8 the contiguous United States after December 31st,
- 9 1991? Only in Alaska and Hawai'i can these airplanes
- 10 be operated.
- 11 If you're familiar with Aloha Airlines their
- 12 planes were loud. They operated Boeing 737-200 series
- 13 or stage 2 airplanes. Aloha Airlines went out of
- 14 business. And the profitable side of the business,
- 15 the cargo division, was sold to Saltchuk Resources out
- 16 of Seattle.
- 17 These stage two airplanes, which is now
- 18 Aloha Air Cargo, operate out of Kona Airport. They're
- 19 located on the south side of the airport closer to
- 20 'O'oma than, you know, the north side. Aloha Air
- 21 Cargo runs daily operations. Their arrival times into
- 22 Kona Airport are at 2:45 a.m.; 2:50 a.m; 9:15 p.m. and
- 23 10:52 p.m. depending on the day of the week. Their
- 24 departure from Kona Airport ranges from 3:55 a.m;
- 25 10:25 p.m. and 11:04 p.m. depending on the day of the

- 1 week.
- 2 So taking into consideration that these
- 3 flights operate during the nighttime hours I would say
- 4 that the DNL lines located on the map provided by
- 5 Mr. Ebisu are an average. But the actual sound level
- 6 at nighttime would be at a higher DNL due to stage 2
- 7 aircraft.
- According to the airport regulations for
- 9 Kona International Airports there's no airport curfews
- 10 that would redistrict operation of Aloha Air Cargo at
- 11 this time.
- 12 I would also like to submit the Airport
- 13 Noise and Capacity Act, the Aloha Air Cargo
- 14 information which states that they use these
- 15 airplanes, the Aloha Air Cargo schedule stating their
- 16 times, hours of operation and also the airport noise
- 17 regulations for Kona International Airport as well as
- 18 Hilo International Airport. Okay.
- 19 On that note I would also like to add in
- 20 2008 there was a pilot program for the Hilo Airport.
- 21 Two homes were sound insulated along the 65 DNL line
- 22 in the Keaukaha community. Cost of the program was
- 23 \$513. The Noise Mitigation Land Use Planning Program
- 24 that Hilo Airport is dealing with are what we will
- 25 have to deal with in Kona if this Project goes forth.

- 1 That was stage 1.
- Okay. Yesterday during testimony air
- 3 pollution was brought up. And I heard that water
- 4 would be used as a means to control the dust caused by
- 5 construction. During this time I assume all water
- 6 from this measure would seep into the ground and go
- 7 into the anchialine ponds, then into the ocean
- 8 creating potential water quality issues.
- 9 As your expert witness Tom Schnell testified
- 10 yesterday that native praying shrimp, which he said
- 11 there's a rating of five, occupied ponds along the
- 12 coast at 'O'oma. Along with that shrimp there's 'opae
- 13 ula. That's not acceptable.
- 14 According to your expert witness Tom Schnell
- 15 from O'ahu he said the time has come, it's appropriate
- 16 to reclassify 'O'oma. Well, according to public
- 17 testimony from the Kona community the majority of
- 18 people don't want 'O'oma reclassified from
- 19 conservation to urban development.
- 20 My last thing. (Addressing Mr. Moresco) I
- 21 met you yesterday. Very nice to meet you. But I need
- 22 to make comments. Regarding your testimony -- oh, in
- 23 response to Mr. Moresco's testimony yesterday you said
- 24 you just don't get it. You're not sure what the
- 25 community concern is.

- 1 Well, during the site visit we did not go
- 2 from Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway to the ocean. We went
- 3 from the ocean to the setback. We cannot go from
- 4 Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway to the ocean because he has a
- 5 chain across it. He has this nice beautiful sign
- 6 (showing photos) and then a chain. He's wondering why
- 7 we don't respect this plan. He doesn't respect us.
- 8 Before he came along this Project was used.
- 9 He said it's just an empty piece of property right now
- 10 where people dump their trash. My friends and I, we
- 11 walk the property. We pick up trash. (Displaying a
- 12 picture) This is a cave. We did not go in. We said
- 13 our chants. We said our aloha in case it's bulldozed.
- 14 This is the Mamalahoa Trail. And while they
- 15 plan to protect it, parts of it will be demolished or
- 16 damaged for road access.
- 17 This is another cave. This is where the
- 18 cave is located. In this area (using map). This is
- 19 what we see from the ocean. This is Hualalai. This
- 20 is where I live. This is where a lot of us in the
- 21 community live.
- This is what we see when we go down to the
- 23 ocean and we have fun with our kids, our families, our
- 24 friends. That's going to be blocked. The view is
- 25 going to be blocked.

- We have the same goals as Mr. Moresco. Um,
- 2 but he said he wants to provide for his family.
- 3 That's what this Project means to him. He wants to
- 4 provide for his son. But we want to provide a
- 5 cultural background for our children which would
- 6 include 'O'oma, one of the few shoreline open spaces
- 7 left in Kona.
- 8 I know you want to provide for your family
- 9 but aren't you a millionaire? Correct me if I'm
- 10 wrong. (addressing Mr. Moresco)
- 11 He also talked about his investment which is
- 12 a hundred percent monetary. Our investment is much
- 13 more than monetary. It's our sense of history, our
- 14 connections to our family, our neighborhoods, our
- 15 friends. That's 'ohana. Locals had a lot of
- 16 tolerance. Everyone is welcome to the land. We get
- 17 along.
- 18 As you can see we have come together from
- 19 all walks of life to stand up to you because you, in
- 20 effect, want to change our way of life. That's not
- 21 acceptable. (addressing Mr. Moresco.) That's it.
- 22 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Petitioner?
- 23 MR. LIM: I just have a question on one
- 24 aspect of the testimony, Ms. Tomas. Thank you. With
- 25 respect to the statement about the objection to

- 1 chaining off of the mauka jeep road that goes through
- 2 the 'O'oma Project.
- 3 Are you aware that the reason for doing that
- 4 was that the -- we don't know who it was -- but
- 5 someone from the public was coming in to dump rubbish,
- 6 old cars, batteries.
- 7 And that Mr. Moresco and his group was
- 8 responsible with Ron Mitchell's help, to remove one of
- 9 those big Rolloff containers worth of rubbish and
- 10 tossing materials from the 'O'oma property?
- 11 THE WITNESS: I beg to differ. If you go
- 12 there -- this picture was taken this morning at
- 13 6:49 p.m. (sic) Just a little bit makai the trash is
- 14 still there. My friends and I, who are pictured in
- 15 here, we picked up what we could with our hands with
- 16 our trash bag. We're not getting paid.
- 17 As far as really malama the 'aina we're
- 18 doing the best we can. But there's those of us we're
- 19 willing to do more but you make it impossible.
- 20 (addressing Mr. Moresco)
- 21 MR. LIM: I think that Mr. Moresco would
- 22 welcome the opportunity. And now you've met him
- 23 please follow that up. Thank you.
- 24 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. County?
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.

- 1 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State?
- 2 MR. YEE: No questions.
- 3 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Park Service?
- 4 MR. LIND: No questions.
- 5 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Petitioners? We're going
- 6 to take a recess for lunch. We'll be back at 1:30.
- 7 (Recess was held. 1:35)
- 8 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: We'll hear public
- 9 testimony. Again, I remind you that we'll enforce the
- 10 three minute rule. We have a timer set for two
- 11 minutes. After you hear the button or the sound you
- 12 have one minute to conclude. And I will slam the
- 13 gavel at the end of three minutes.
- 14 So we have -- we are scheduled to leave at 3
- 15 o'clock from here. So please understand our timing is
- 16 short. This Commission will return again at another
- 17 time. So I think we're in good shape as far as
- 18 testimony.
- 19 So let me get the first one. All right
- 20 Subhadra Corcoran. (no response) Ted Leaf?
- UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He's not here yet,
- 22 Commissioners. He's coming.
- 23 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Robert Frettas?
- 24 ROBERT FRETTAS,
- 25 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined

- 1 and testified as follows:
- 2 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 3 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Would you state your name
- 4 and address.
- 5 THE WITNESS: Robert Frettas, Jr.
- 6 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: And your address, Sir?
- 7 THE WITNESS: 74-369 Ahiahi Street, Kona
- 8 Acres.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: And your testimony today is
- 10 all new testimony for us?
- 11 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 12 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. Go ahead.
- 13 THE WITNESS: I participated in the onsite
- 14 viewing of the area. And it appeared that everything
- 15 that we were being told was not really what's going to
- 16 happen. A lot of people don't really know what the
- 17 place looked like. And I been going there since a
- 18 little boy down the old 'O'oma Trail.
- 19 (addressing Mr. Moresco) So I know that when
- 20 you're telling that you're gonna do this, you're gonna
- 21 do that and when I asked the very simple question: So
- 22 that means it's going to stay the way it is?
- 23 Oh, no. We are going to change this. We're
- 24 going to change that. There will be no traffic going
- 25 through so you'll not be able to drive. So actually

- 1 there's no camping.
- 2 A lot of things they were saying was not
- 3 true. And you asked me, "Where does this trail end?"
- 4 It ended on my grandfather's porch 'cause that's where
- 5 the horse stopped and the donkeys stopped. The thing
- 6 is that their beach home was at Keahole Point. They
- 7 used that trail as their highway all the way up the
- 8 mountain, past the Kula house which is where we live
- 9 on Ahiahi. That was their middle home. And it ended
- 10 up at their mauka house which is above Matsuyama
- 11 Store. That's where the trail ended, 'O'oma Kalaoa.
- The thing is that our family's presence that
- 13 trail is an historical trail. It was our highway. It
- 14 is not to be damaged. It is not to be disrupted. It
- 15 is not to do anything. The thing is our family's
- 16 presence has always been there and it's still there.
- 17 The thing is that your development is not true. What
- 18 you're saying is not true. Definitely a lot of things
- 19 that will be happening is you're saying --
- 20 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: One minute.
- 21 THE WITNESS: -- you're saying is not going
- 22 to happen. So a lot of promises and things that you
- 23 made to us is not true. So I believe that this
- 24 development should not happen. And that it should
- 25 remain conservation. And if you want to try again you

- 1 can try again later but not now. Thank you very much.
- 2 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Petitioner?
- 3 MR. LIM: No questions.
- 4 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State?
- 5 MR. YEE: No questions.
- 6 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
- 7 MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 8 MR. LIND: No questions.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Commissioners? Okay. Next
- 10 person Jeff Middleton followed by Wayne Mahi.
- 11 JEFF MIDDLETON
- 12 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 13 and testified as follows:
- 14 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 15 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State your name and
- 16 address.
- 17 THE WITNESS: Jeff Middleton. P. O. Box 367
- 18 Holualoa 96725. This is new testimony. Mr. Freitas
- 19 mentioned the trail. We have laws in place. I don't
- 20 know if the laws have been considered at this point.
- 21 Or I'm afraid maybe the developers aren't aware of
- 22 laws. And if they are aware then they could probably
- 23 stay within the law. But they're not aware of the
- 24 law.
- 25 Chapter 264 Hawaii Revised Statutes

- 1 regarding all trails and non-vehicular rights-of-way
- 2 in the state shall be declared to the public
- 3 rights-of-way the Hawai'i Act of 1892. All state
- 4 trails once established shall continue on until
- 5 lawfully disposed of pursuant to Chapter 171 HRS.
- 6 That means it has to be -- these trails, if
- 7 they have been established before 1892, are historical
- 8 and they're protected by the laws unless it's
- 9 abandoned by due process of law. Due process of law
- 10 is pursuant to Chapter 171. The state can document
- 11 the existence of a trail -- (inaudible)
- MS. ERICKSON: Excuse me. Can you slow,
- 13 please, for the court reporter.
- 14 THE WITNESS: Okay. If you can document the
- 15 trail exists pursuant to 1892, which this trail can,
- 16 the trail is not just the one that he mentioned up the
- 17 mauka to his grandfather's place and the house in
- 18 between. That's an established trail -- excuse me?
- 19 But the trail from OTEC to Kohanaiki was also the
- 20 trail.
- 21 That has to be protected. What's going on
- 22 in the development plans there's totally disregard of
- 23 these laws and these trails. I'll show you where the
- 24 trail is being stopped and being ignored, right here.
- 25 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: You have one minute.

- 1 THE WITNESS: (off mic at exhibit) Thank
- 2 you. The existing Jeep trail that goes all the way up
- 3 mauka to his grandfather's house and their house right
- 4 here, it's stopped, going to be bulldozed all the way
- 5 through here.
- 6 The subdivision would be fine if you would
- 7 recognize this, pay attention to it and stayed within
- 8 the law.
- 9 (back on mic) Unless it's taken out by
- 10 Chapter 171 it's illegal to do it. Therefore at this
- 11 time without the -- it's just the education -- without
- 12 the education of what we need to do in order to
- 13 preserve these. It's not just fishing rights along
- 14 the ocean. It's the use, the tradition, the
- 15 historical rights as well.
- 16 So there's two things that I think makes it
- 17 at this point in time an unfavorable granting to give
- 18 to change to conservation of these properties.
- 19 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you, Jeff.
- THE WITNESS: Any questions?
- 21 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Any questions?
- MR. LIM: No questions from Petitioner.
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- MR. YEE: No questions.
- MR. LIND: No questions.

- 1 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Wayne Mahi
- 2 followed by Kathleen McMillen.
- 3 WAYNE MAHI
- 4 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 5 and testified as follows:
- 6 THE WITNESS: Yeah.
- 7 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. Please have a seat.
- 8 State your name and address.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Wayne Mahi. My street address
- 10 is 73-4273 Kalaoa, Highway 190.
- 11 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Go ahead.
- 12 THE WITNESS: I'm here to keep 'O'oma
- 13 conservation. I don't want no development on that
- 14 property 'cause it's the only access we have to go to
- 15 the beach. Everyone else in Kona, the whole island
- 16 goes there. And I'm a descendant and also a
- 17 descendant of Kohanaiki. They call it Kohanaiki but
- 18 we call it Koneki.
- 19 Some of the descendants sold out to the
- 20 developers. That's how they got through to go
- 21 through. Now I'm asking the land Commission to watch
- 22 these people, these developers trying to buy out our
- 23 descendants' signature. There were about eight of
- 24 them.
- 25 But I didn't sell out to them. And neither

- 1 did about 30 of us. But that's another way a
- 2 developer can do it.
- 3 If they want to develop any subdivision or
- 4 condos, do it above the highway at Queen Ka'ahumanu.
- 5 That's where Costco is. That's where Wal-Mart and
- 6 Kmart is. And Sports Authority is about over a mile
- 7 away from the shoreline.
- 8 You know, they should build mauka of the
- 9 highway not makai. They should leave it all for the
- 10 public use only. That's all. Leave it in
- 11 conservation.
- 12 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Petitioner,
- 13 questions.
- MR. LIM: No questions.
- 15 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 17 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State?
- MR. YEE: No questions.
- MR. LIND: No questions.
- 20 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Anyone here? Kathleen
- 21 McMillen followed by Ulrich Bonne.
- 22 KATHLEEN McMILLEN,
- 23 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 24 and testified as follows:
- THE WITNESS: I do.

- 1 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Address and name, please.
- THE WITNESS: Kathleen McMillen, 75-5768
- 3 Makalena Place, Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i.
- 4 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: All right.
- 5 THE WITNESS: Okay. This is my third time
- 6 coming before you with testimony about the impact of
- 7 noise from Kona Airport. I also have comments to add
- 8 about traffic problems.
- 9 I want to start by commenting on the
- 10 testimony presented by 'O'oma's noise consultant at
- 11 the last meeting. Almost all his testimony was based
- 12 on what's supposed to happen long term at Kona
- 13 Airport, particularly a second or third runway being
- 14 built.
- 15 Given the budget constraints that we have in
- 16 the past and particularly now I want to give an
- 17 example from a practical point of view. An entire new
- 18 international terminal was supposed to have been built
- 19 at the Kona Airport in the early 1990s. Preliminary
- 20 plans were done. It was cut from the budget in 1991.
- 21 And as of today there are still no concrete
- 22 plans for it to be built, nor is there anywhere near
- 23 the infrastructure to support it.
- 24 So I question the timing of long-term plans
- 25 for future runways. They will have to happen

- 1 eventually, but I think it's much longer term than any
- 2 of us expect. If anything I think we will have a lot
- 3 more traffic on the existing runway which only makes
- 4 the noise problem worse.
- 5 Quite frankly, I am frustrated that State
- 6 Airports Division has not had a strong, forceful
- 7 presence at these meetings. They are clearly mandated
- 8 by the FAA to protect the airport from encroaching
- 9 development.
- 10 But then I realized after reading more of
- 11 the noise compatibility study in the master plan
- 12 that's in the draft form, and that's where this
- 13 exhibit comes from, we do not presently have enough
- 14 strong measures in place to tie DOT-A and the Hawai'i
- 15 County Planning Department when inappropriate
- 16 development like 'O'oma gets on the local agendas.
- 17 However, when the noise study is approved
- 18 there are recommendations to help revolve that weak
- 19 link between the county and the State DOT-A. I'm
- 20 going to quote the recommendations from the noise
- 21 study that comes right out of the master plan
- 22 document.
- 23 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: One minute.
- 24 THE WITNESS: These are, quote "DOT-A should
- 25 encourage Hawai'i County to amend its General Plan to

- 1 include land use compatibility thresholds based on DOT
- 2 compatibility guidelines.
- 3 DOT-A should encourage Hawai'i County to
- 4 adopt an Airport Influence Area, which is shown in
- 5 green which 'O'oma is completely contained within that
- 6 Airport Influence Area. DOT-A should encourage
- 7 Hawai'i County to adopt an airport compatibility
- 8 checklist for discretionary review of projects within
- 9 the vicinity of the airport. DOT-A should encourage
- 10 Hawai'i county to discourage rezoning parcels within
- 11 the 2013 60 DNL Noise Contour," unquote.
- 12 The 60 DLN contour I drew in is the pink
- 13 line going across that parcel. Note in Exhibit D
- 14 that's provided in my written testimony that if this
- 15 last recommendation was implemented today, DOT-A
- 16 should then be asking the County Planning Office to be
- 17 against the rezoning action now before you since over
- 18 half of 'O'oma is in the designated are. (Beeper
- 19 sounding)
- 20 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you.
- 21 THE WITNESS: I have more to say but...
- 22 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: We will be back. Thank
- 23 you. I'm sorry. We do have your written testimony
- 24 here. It's on the record. So thank you very much.
- 25 Questions?

- 1 MR. LIM: No questions from the Petitioner.
- 2 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
- 3 MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 4 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State?
- 5 MR. YEE: No questions.
- 6 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Park Service?
- 7 MR. LIND: No questions.
- 8 COMMISSIONER JUDGE: One question.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Go ahead, Commissioner.
- 10 COMMISSIONER JUDGE: Can you tell me what
- 11 document you were referring to? You were stating
- 12 proposals from some document. Which document are you
- 13 referring to, referencing, rather?
- 14 THE WITNESS: In draft form there's the Kona
- 15 Master Plan document. It has not been fully
- 16 completed. However, it's available online with what
- 17 has been done so far. Part of that document includes
- 18 the noise compatibility study. That's where this
- 19 comes from. And the quotes were recommendations from
- 20 that study that should be implemented. They are not
- 21 implemented yet.
- 22 My concern is they have all these
- 23 recommendations. We are going to have all these
- 24 encroaching developments before it's implemented.
- 25 In other words, the mechanism for the state

- 1 to talk better with the county, the airports division
- 2 to get all their airport influence area and all the
- 3 recommendations that are now in that master plan but
- 4 haven't been implemented yet. The timing is just,
- 5 it's not compatible.
- 6 COMMISSIONER JUDGE: Whose study is this?
- 7 THE WITNESS: It is done by the state
- 8 airports division.
- 9 COMMISSIONER JUDGE: The state, state of
- 10 Hawai'i Airports Division.
- 11 THE WITNESS: The state is contracted to do
- 12 this, yes.
- 13 COMMISSIONER JUDGE: Okay. It's their
- 14 study.
- 15 THE WITNESS: Yes. If you look up Kona
- 16 Master Plan, Google it you'll find it online.
- 17 COMMISSIONER JUDGE: Thank you.
- 18 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Next person is
- 19 Ulrich Bonne followed by David Carlson.
- 20 ULRICH BONNE
- 21 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 22 and testified as follows:
- THE WITNESS: I do.
- 24 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State your name and address
- 25 for the record and continue.

- THE WITNESS: By name is Ulrich Bonne. And
- 2 I live in Kailua-Kona.
- 3 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Go ahead.
- 4 THE WITNESS: I'm a chemical physicist
- 5 semi-retired and with a group of Friends of NELHA we
- 6 are in the process of writing a proposal to
- 7 demonstrate on a bench scale the feasibility of energy
- 8 storage based on air source ammonia.
- 9 We plan to rent space at NELHA. And I'm
- 10 concerned that if there is a high density community
- 11 next door that we may get more complaints than we
- 12 would if the land was still in the conservation
- 13 status.
- So I'm here to simply plead that there is
- 15 enough buffer space if this development goes forward
- 16 so that we can still do our energy storage research
- 17 without inconveniencing people nextdoor. Thank you.
- 18 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Petitioner?
- MR. LIM: No questions.
- 20 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 22 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State?
- 23 MR. YEE: Just to be clear. The Friends of
- 24 NELHA is associated with but is a separate and private
- 25 entity from NELHA, correct?

- 1 THE WITNESS: Correct.
- 2 MR. YEE: Thank you. That's all.
- 3 THE WITNESS: We plan to rent space at NELHA
- 4 so we can set up the bench scale demonstration.
- 5 MR. YEE: Thank you.
- 6 MR. LIND: No questions.
- 7 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Lisa. One question. Lisa.
- 8 COMMISSIONER JUDGE: When you mentioned
- 9 buffer space, in your mind what is that buffer space?
- 10 Do you have an idea in your head what that is?
- 11 THE WITNESS: Enough space to provide enough
- 12 dilution to any unplanned leak of ammonia. And that I
- 13 suppose could mean anywhere from a thousand to
- 14 2,000 feet approximately.
- 15 COMMISSIONER JUDGE: A thousand to
- 16 2,000 feet. Okay. Thank you.
- 17 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: David Carlson followed by
- 18 Winfield Chang.
- 19 DAVID CARLSON,
- 20 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 21 and testified as follows:
- THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 23 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State your name and address
- 24 for the record.
- THE WITNESS: David Carlson, 73-1422 Kaloko

- 1 Drive, Kona, Hawai'i.
- 2 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Go ahead.
- 3 THE WITNESS: I'm going to speak strictly to
- 4 the airport thing. I'm an ex-Air Force pilot and a
- 5 retired United Airlines captain. And had a lot of
- 6 experience in flying in Europe, Asia all over the
- 7 United States.
- 8 And I've seen, since I started flying in
- 9 1959, what happens is going on here. We moved the
- 10 airport from here in town, right out here, and moved
- 11 it 8 miles out. Now, even that, we're talking bigger
- 12 and bigger aircraft. And there's going to be bigger
- 13 ones. The 747 is going to be a smaller one here
- 14 fairly soon.
- They're going to be coming into Kona and
- 16 leaving Kona soon to further destinations. Flying to
- 17 the West Coast from here does not require a plane to
- 18 be very full. And they're not very big. These are
- 19 757, 767s out of here.
- When they start putting in a 747 fairly full
- 21 going to Sydney or Asia somewhere, even on to Europe,
- 22 we're going to be talking an 800,000-pound aircraft or
- 23 greater. And the sound level, of course, increases
- 24 greatly as these aircraft become bigger and bigger and
- 25 heavier and heavier.

- 1 Even at today's level, I live up Kaloko at
- 2 the 2,000 foot elevation, on a day when the west wind
- 3 a little overcast I can hear the aircraft up there.
- 4 And it's going to be continually worse.
- 5 I first started flying in 1959 to Las Vegas.
- 6 At the time Nellis Air Force base was six miles from
- 7 town. No houses. These hotels were just two-story
- 8 little hotels out with big billboards in those days.
- 9 Pretty soon Nellis is ready to be closed because it's
- 10 too much noise.
- 11 Los Angeles Airport was built out in the
- 12 rice fields. Pretty soon the City of Los Angeles had
- 13 to buy the houses back around the airport because it
- 14 got noisier and noisier and people complained so much
- 15 all that's left there is commercial dwellings.
- 16 Here the Air Force is going to put in soon a
- 17 short runway so that they can do heavy commercial --
- 18 heavy aircraft test landings, short field landings.
- 19 And those are extremely noisy. They put out every
- 20 device they can to make it require a high power
- 21 settings for landing.
- When they come in at a high power setting,
- 23 as soon as they touch down they throw everything into
- 24 reverse at the high speed and high power. And it's
- 25 noisy. This is going to be our legacy out here at

- 1 Keahole. And we cannot allow homes to be built near
- 2 that. It's just going to be a constant mess. Thank
- 3 you.
- 4 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Petitioner?
- 5 MR. LIM: No questions.
- 6 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
- 7 MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 8 MR. LIND: No questions.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Anyone here? Okay. Thank
- 10 you, Mr. Carlson. Winfield Chang followed by Roy
- 11 Beckland.
- 12 WINFIELD CHANG
- 13 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 14 and testified as follows:
- 15 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 16 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State your name and address
- 17 for the record.
- 18 THE WITNESS: My name is Winfield Chang.
- 19 And I reside at 73-1432 Kaloko Drive in North Kona.
- 20 I'm, again, testifying for the third time as an
- 21 extremely concerned private citizen and a Native
- 22 Hawaiian.
- I would first like to commend the legal
- 24 counsel for the Petitioner for her excellent
- 25 preparation yesterday parading expert witnesses to

- 1 elicit the desired response. Regardless of whether it
- 2 contained their personal opinion or personal
- 3 recommendation to support the proposed development of
- 4 the lands of 'O'oma was skillfully executed.
- 5 It was fascinating to hear the kind of
- 6 responses by paid consultants and her line of
- 7 questioning in an effort to convince the LUC to
- 8 reclassify conservation lands to a change from
- 9 conservation to urban use for the specific purpose of
- 10 high-density development.
- 11 Perhaps the most telling testimony was from
- 12 the Petitioner who repeated the ridiculous sound byte
- 13 that this is the right development at the right time
- 14 and the right place. This was echoed by Ross Wilson
- 15 of Current Events at the last hearing.
- This would be a most laughable public
- 17 relations sound byte if it weren't so desperate.
- 18 Continuing to repeat it will never make it true.
- Any casual observer would recognize how
- 20 those assumptions are riddled with inaccuracies and
- 21 untruths. This is perhaps the most ill-conceived
- 22 development at the wrong place at the wrong time in
- 23 the current economic turn-down and the present
- 24 inventory of homes available.
- 25 What developer with the litany of

- 1 award-winning accolades suggests that a residential
- 2 development under the flight pattern of the Kona
- 3 International Airport was desirable?
- 4 The proposed expansion of the airport to
- 5 accommodate touch-and-go future exercises by the Air
- 6 Force will only accelerate the decibel levels
- 7 currently present and supposedly not a concern by the
- 8 Petitioner.
- 9 As to the timing of the development, nothing
- 10 has changed since Mayor Kim rejected the proposed
- 11 development. Queen Ka'ahumanu is still the major
- 12 infrastructure along 'O'oma and we as a community know
- 13 full well the speed of which improvements are
- 14 concluded. (beeper sounding)
- 15 If the first phase of the expansion --
- 16 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: One minute.
- 17 THE WITNESS: -- is any indicator will be
- 18 years before we can expect the second phase to be
- 19 completed, particularly in light of the monumental
- 20 deficit position of both the state and the county.
- In testimony given by your expert Warren
- 22 Yamamoto reporting on the Traffic Input Analysis (sic)
- 23 was most telling to suggest that the infrastructure
- 24 provided by the developer and its mixed-use plan would
- 25 be self sustainable.

- 1 His claim that 500-600 homes proposed,
- 2 quote, "should have a minimal effect" was most
- 3 fascinating. If the current proposed plan of 500-600
- 4 homes, and assuming two cars per unit, it would render
- 5 this analysis grossly inaccurate.
- 6 It is inconceivable to me that residents of
- 7 this community would not shop at Costco or fill their
- 8 cars up with gas. Then there is Macy's, Lowe's, Home
- 9 Depot, Safeway, et cetera.
- 10 However, the testimony provided by the
- 11 Petitioner himself was far more revealing than the
- 12 testimony that preceded him. (beeper going off)
- When asked by an astute Commissioner how he
- 14 would respond to the overwhelming opposition provided
- 15 by members of the community in prior public hearings,
- 16 he states that the process thus far that required
- 17 years of thoughtful consideration and the pride with
- 18 which he worked with the community, he was completely
- 19 dismayed by the overwhelming negative attitude.
- 20 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you, Mr. Chang.
- 21 THE WITNESS: You're welcome. You do have
- 22 copies of that?
- 23 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Yes, we do. Questions
- 24 anyone upfront?
- MR. LIM: No questions.

- 1 MR. YEE: No questions.
- 2 MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 3 MR. LIND: No questions.
- 4 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Anyone, questions back
- 5 here? Okay. Thank you. The next person is Roy
- 6 Beckland followed by Cheryl King.
- 7 ROY BECKLAND,
- 8 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 9 and testified as follows:
- 10 THE WITNESS: Yes I do. My name is Roy
- 11 Beckland. I live at 73-4341 Eole Place, Kailua-Kona.
- 12 First of all let me state I'm not a public speaker.
- 13 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Have a seat. That's okay.
- 14 THE WITNESS: This is the first I've ever
- 15 done anything like this. But I feel compelled that I
- 16 have to do this because I've seen the coastlines of
- 17 Kona just being eaten up. And this is one of the last
- 18 places and use it frequently.
- So I know that the beach is where the local
- 20 people that live here can go with their families and
- 21 have a good time, have privacy. Nobody's staring at
- 22 them. Nobody's judging them. It's one of our last
- 23 places. You have to draw the line somewhere.
- 24 My grandmother was from Kalapana in Hilo.
- 25 She was pure Hawaiian from ali'i class. When she got

- 1 married her husband told her after the overthrow that,
- 2 "The ali'i is no more. This is the ali'i, the
- 3 dollar." I don't want to see that happen here. I
- 4 don't want to see all the coastline of Kona gone
- 5 because this, the dollar.
- 6 You know, it's all the local people don't
- 7 have anywhere to go anymore to enjoy. You can still
- 8 camp there sometimes. I'm sure the camping would be
- 9 gone after this.
- 10 So I'm just kind of appealing to the heart
- 11 aspect. I don't have the facts like everybody else.
- 12 It's just that I know that I use that area and I know
- 13 a lot of good people that do. And I hate to see it
- 14 spoiled.
- In the past I've seen local people, they get
- 16 very uncomfortable when developments like this move in
- 17 and it's bought up by wealthy people in other places.
- 18 And they come in and they're judgmental. They're
- 19 judgmental to local people the way they act, the
- 20 things they do. I'm not being racist here. I'm not
- 21 talking Hawaiian. I'm talking local people, the
- 22 people that live here. That's all I have to say.
- 23 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Any questions?
- MR. LIM: No questions.
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.

- 1 MR. YEE: No questions.
- 2 MR. LIND: No questions.
- 3 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. Anyone here? Thank
- 4 you. Cheryl King followed by Charles Flaherty.
- 5 CHERYL KING
- 6 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 7 and testified as follows:
- 8 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Name and address for the
- 10 record.
- 11 THE WITNESS: My name is Cheryl King. I
- 12 live at 77-645 Ono Road in Kailua-Kona. I have been
- 13 in front of you before. I don't need to repeat
- 14 everything I said before. I mentioned I feel this is
- 15 conservation land. It should stay that way.
- 16 We don't need the individual dwellings in a
- 17 hot area. It's not energy efficient. It's near an
- 18 airport. It will have negative impacts on the
- 19 airport, the National Park and NELHA. Water problems,
- 20 traffic congestion. There's no compelling need to
- 21 rezone this property.
- 22 What I especially wanted to relate is that I
- 23 happened to sit next to Mr. Moresco and his son at the
- 24 last Land Use Commission meeting in Waikoloa on this
- 25 subject.

- 1 After hearing all the negative testimony I
- 2 asked him what possessed him to purchase conservation
- 3 land for development. He said it was a principle of
- 4 good development to fill in around existing
- 5 development. In other words, fill in the holes.
- I strongly disagree with this assessment as
- 7 it applies to conservation land. I hope you do too.
- 8 Thank you.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Questions, Petitioner?
- 10 MR. LIM: No questions.
- 11 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- MR. YEE: No questions.
- MR. LIND: No questions.
- 15 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: None here. Thank you. We
- 16 have Charles Flaherty followed by Claire Bajo.
- 17 CHARLES FLAHERTY
- 18 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 19 and testified as follows:
- THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.
- 21 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State your name and address
- 22 for the record.
- THE WITNESS: Charles Flaherty, 79-7460
- 24 Mamalahoa Highway, Suite 207, Kealakekua, Hawai'i
- 25 96750. On the maps I had handed around I'd like to

- 1 have those back. It took a Freedom of Information Act
- 2 request, kind of an act of God. Those are maps that
- 3 the community used during a public charrette.
- 4 What I would like for you to notice is that
- 5 the area that it contains, this Project Area, does not
- 6 have the conservation, the area designated as
- 7 conservation. Only it basically reflects the current
- 8 application even though that charrette was done three
- 9 years ago.
- 10 So during the Kona Community Development
- 11 Plan process we were led to believe that that was not
- 12 conservation land.
- 13 I'm going to skip part of my testimony for
- 14 time because there's only three minutes. There is a
- 15 report in here that I would like for you to read. The
- 16 results of sampling of wastewater tracers at, near
- 17 Kealakehe Wastewater Treatment Plant in Kona. It's a
- 18 51-page report. We spent about \$750 printing that
- 19 report for you, so please read it. It explains to you
- 20 why injection wells pollute the ocean, how they
- 21 pollute the ocean and pollute up to one mile of
- 22 shoreline per injection well.
- 23 Since it's being represented in the media,
- 24 if you refer to Exhibit A of the testimony I
- 25 presented, that the Moku O Kona Royal Order of

- 1 Kamehameha I supports this petition via letter to the
- 2 editor of West Hawai'i Today, from Mr. Alika Desha
- 3 which you see in Exhibit B, I would like to show
- 4 documentation of prior and existing relationships
- 5 between 'O'oma Beachside Village, Peter Young of OBV
- 6 consultant, Ho'okuleana, Ross Wilson of OVB consultant
- 7 Current Events, and the Moku O Kona chapter of the
- 8 Royal Order of Kamehameha I.
- 9 If you'll refer to Exhibit C you'll see that
- 10 Moku O Kona formed a non-profit organization on June
- 11 27, 2006 called Hale Mua Cultural Group. Two months
- 12 then-Chair of the Board of Land and Natural Resources,
- 13 Peter Young, placed on the Board of Land and Natural
- 14 Resources' agenda a request to approve a curatorship
- 15 agreement between the State Department of Land and
- 16 Natural Resources and Hale Mua for Ka'awaloa Village
- 17 in Kealakekua Bay State Park, Exhibit D.
- 18 Alika Desha, Mahealani Pai and Gordon Leslie
- 19 testified that they were for Moku O Kona and Hale Mua.
- 20 The only two members of the public who attended the
- 21 O'ahu meeting were Betsy Morgan and Geoff Hand, each
- 22 of whom owns a kayak company that operates in
- 23 Kealakekua Bay.
- 24 Coincidentally these two companies are the
- 25 only ones --

- 1 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: One minute.
- 2 THE WITNESS: -- have been able to obtain
- 3 permits from the DLNR to land kayaks at Ka'awaloa. As
- 4 you know, Peter Young is now a consultant for OVB.
- 5 Prior to becoming head of DLNR he was a deputy
- 6 managing director for the county of Hawai'i under
- 7 Mayor Kim. Mayor Kenoi's current deputy managing
- 8 director, Wally Lau is listed as director of Hale Mua
- 9 in Exhibit C.
- 10 If you refer to Exhibit E you will see that
- 11 Moku O Kona is also assisting with the restoration of
- 12 the Ahuena He'iau located just outside this hotel.
- 13 Exhibit F lists Ross Wilson as the director of Ahuena
- 14 He'iau, Inc. which is currently restoring that he'iau.
- 15 The minutes of the March 3rd LUC meeting state that
- 16 Mr. Wilson read Mr. Desha's testimony into the record
- 17 in his absence.
- 18 If you'll refer to Exhibit G you'll see that
- 19 the Archaeological Inventory Survey shows that 'O'oma
- 20 Beachside Village property was the property of the
- 21 Kingdom of Hawai'i at the time of the overthrow.
- In 1899 a Mr. J.A. Maguire acquired a land
- 23 grant. And in 1907 -- well, the bottom line with that
- 24 is that the Archaeological Inventory Survey shows that
- 25 this land was -- it is ceded lands.

- 1 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. Just to let you know
- 2 that we do have a copy of your testimony, your written
- 3 testimony. It is on the record.
- 4 THE WITNESS: I'll be following with the
- 5 other items I was not able to cover in my testimony.
- 6 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Questions by Petitioner?
- 7 MR. LIM: I just have one question. It's
- 8 kind of a sensitive issue. Mr. Flaherty, are you --
- 9 because the Royal Order of Kamehameha through Alika
- 10 Desha has supported the Project, are you alleging that
- 11 Mr. Alika Desha and the Royal Order of Kamehameha was
- 12 somehow bribed or bought, that their testimony
- 13 supporting this Project was somehow bribed or bought?
- 14 THE WITNESS: First of all, when I read
- 15 Mr. Desha's letter I didn't think it was supporting
- 16 the Project. I thought he was supporting the process
- 17 that the developer was going through in consulting
- 18 with the community. I did not think that it did.
- 19 However, since that time the consultants and
- 20 media for some reason have portrayed his letter as
- 21 support. What I'm trying to point out is that there
- 22 are relationships between all these individuals. And
- 23 when you're dealing with -- well, even a nonprofit
- 24 organization there's conflict of interest policies.
- MR. LIM: My question is pretty simple. Are

- 1 you alleging that somehow Mr. Alika Desha or the Royal
- 2 Order of Kamehameha was somehow bought out for the
- 3 issuance of that letter?
- 4 THE WITNESS: I have no knowledge of that so
- 5 I would not make that statement.
- 6 MR. LIM: Okay.
- 7 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County, any questions?
- 8 MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State?
- MR. YEE: No questions.
- 11 MR. LIND: No questions.
- 12 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Commissioners? Thank you,
- 13 Charles. Next person is Claire Bajo followed by
- 14 Subhadra Corcoran. Claire?
- 15 CLAIRE BAJO,
- 16 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 17 and testified as follows:
- 18 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 19 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Name and address please.
- THE WITNESS: My name a Claire Bajo, P. O.
- 21 Box 302 Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96745. I have spoken in
- 22 front of you in the March meeting. And I would just
- 23 like to add to that.
- I have since slept at the Pine Trees beach
- 25 area in the last two months and did monitor the air

- 1 traffic noise from 7:00 at night to 7:00 or 8:00 in
- 2 the morning. It was very minimal noise. I slept on
- 3 the beach without any tents or, you know, any kind of
- 4 vehicles around it. It was very peaceful. I slept
- 5 till morning. I appreciated the quietness of the land
- 6 even though there was traffic, air traffic flying by.
- 7 I'm also a realtor and business owner in
- 8 West Hawai'i. I've seen how developers can approach
- 9 the Land Use Commission or not.
- I respect 'O'oma coming through the front
- 11 door as opposed to Hokulia trying to come through the
- 12 back door with an elite development that didn't
- 13 appease the local people at all.
- To me the integrity of Mr. Moresco coming
- 15 forward receiving public scrutingy and also
- 16 integrating what the public has given him is very
- 17 respectful. And I appreciate that as a Hawaiian and
- 18 local person in the community.
- 19 I also utilized the law of the aloha spirit
- 20 which is Hawaii Revised Statutes 5-7.5 which is that,
- 21 you know, we must be kind to others without expecting
- 22 anything in return.
- 23 It seems that Mr. Moresco has reciprocated
- 24 that input, citizen scrutiny and citizen input adding
- 25 it to his development. And I can only support it

- 1 because of that. There's good reciprocation. And he
- 2 has been able to preserve the parks as we had
- 3 requested. Also I would love to see more of the land
- 4 utilized.
- 5 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: One minute.
- 6 THE WITNESS: Like the old airport where we
- 7 have areas that the public can use. And I would
- 8 appreciate that if it's true that the development as
- 9 it stands has to be true to what they present to you,
- 10 then I would appreciate that it would come through as
- 11 he says. Thank you.
- 12 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Petitioner, questions?
- MR. LIM: No questions.
- 14 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 16 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Bryan?
- MR. YEE: No questions.
- 18 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Park Service?
- MR. LIND: No questions.
- 20 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Anyone at the Commission?
- 21 Subhadra Corcoran? No. Ted Leaf? (No response).
- 22 Okay. Shannon Rudolph.
- THE WITNESS: Aloha.
- 24 SHANNON RUDOLPH,
- 25 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined

- 1 and testified as follows:
- 2 THE WITNESS: Absolutely. I didn't bring my
- 3 glasses so bear with me. I was reading the comments
- 4 in West Hawai'i Today an article today and it said
- 5 that Mr. Modesto didn't understand -- Moresco,
- 6 sorry -- doesn't understand the opposition to his
- 7 project and isn't sure what the complaints of the
- 8 community are.
- 9 Well, I guess like many corporations these
- 10 days he wasn't listening to the people who have spent
- 11 thousands of hours trying to get him to listen. I
- 12 don't know what community he spend time engaging but
- 13 it certainly wasn't any of my friends. Now, I
- 14 testified before and I just want to make two points
- 15 here.
- He mentions that the issue of the rezoning
- 17 and the resale keeps popping up. That's because
- 18 that's what we're used to. As for him taking the
- 19 long-term view, well, he's right when he said he has a
- 20 lot to learn about Hawai'i.
- 21 This is the last of the conservation areas
- 22 between town and the airport. And the community needs
- 23 this last piece of open space. You heard them
- 24 yourselves. Our area is going to grow and keep
- 25 growing.

- 1 And we need a few spaces close to town where
- 2 we don't have to look at a big development. That's
- 3 why we have been fighting for this land for decades.
- 4 The county needs to buy it.
- 5 Yesterday I overheard a Commissioner say,
- 6 "Why does the community only come out to these
- 7 meetings to testify and not listen?" Well, when
- 8 residents hear something like that they think that the
- 9 deal has already been done. And it's upsetting.
- 10 I'll tell you the reason why they don't come
- 11 to these middle-of-the-day meetings is because they
- 12 have to work for a living. And they've heard all this
- 13 before and they're sick of it.
- 14 Many believe this issue has already been
- 15 decided because the economy is bad that you will okay
- 16 anything. Is that my time or do I have a minute?
- 17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: A minute.
- 18 THE WITNESS: Let me tell you the local
- 19 paper's poll says the community overwhelmingly opposes
- 20 this rezone, and have had for decades. If you can't
- 21 hear them it's because you aren't listening either. I
- 22 think Mr. Moresco has been duped by his partners and
- 23 it's not up to the community to make him whole. He
- 24 knew what he was buying. Thank you.
- 25 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Shannon, could you give us

- 1 your name and address for the record.
- THE WITNESS: Yes. Shannon Rudolph, P. O.
- 3 Box 243 Holualoa, Hawai'i, 96725.
- 4 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Questions by the
- 5 Petitioner?
- 6 MR. LIM: Just a couple questions.
- 7 Ms. Rudolph, you were familiar with the 'O'oma
- 8 property. You've gone there before.
- 9 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 10 MR. LIM: Can you go to the drawing back
- 11 there behind you on your left, which is the
- 12 Petitioner's Exhibit 3A figure 1 to the Final EIS, and
- 13 show on the map where it is that you've been on the
- 14 property in terms of your use of the property?
- 15 THE WITNESS: All over the whole beach. Not
- 16 inland.
- 17 MR. LIM: Okay. So let's say fair --
- 18 makai -- is it fair to say it's makai of the proposed
- 19 setback?
- 20 THE WITNESS: I'm talking about the whole
- 21 development.
- MR. LIM: Yes.
- 23 THE WITNESS: I think it's in the wrong
- 24 place.
- MR. LIM: But to answer my question you were

- 1 only down at the beach. That's the only place you
- 2 used the property.
- 3 THE WITNESS: Right. It's private property.
- 4 MR. LIM: Okay. No further questions.
- 5 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. County, questions?
- 6 MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 7 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State?
- 8 THE WITNESS: But it should be owned by the
- 9 county.
- 10 (Audience laughter)
- MR. YEE: No questions.
- MR. LIND: No questions.
- 13 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. Anyone here? Thank
- 14 you. Who do we have here? Mr. Leaf, Ted Leaf, are
- 15 you here?
- DR. THEODORE LEAF
- 17 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 18 and testified as follows:
- 19 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 20 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Name and address for the
- 21 record.
- 22 THE WITNESS: Yeah, I'm kinda loud anyway
- 23 because I'm a little hard of hearing so we talk loud.
- 24 Dr. Theodore N. Leaf. P.O. Box 45, Kailua-Kona,
- 25 Hawai'i 96745. And I'm known in the community as Ted

- 1 so you can call me Ted. Thank you.
- Dear State Use Land Commissioners: I have
- 3 been in support of the proposed 'O'oma development for
- 4 some time and have heard people talking about how bad
- 5 it will be to live in 'O'oma because of the airplane
- 6 noise. And would like to comment on that.
- 7 I've been at 'O'oma several times at
- 8 different times of the day and most recently last
- 9 month when the Commissioners toured the land. I
- 10 stayed for sometime afterwards to specifically listen
- 11 for noise from the airplanes and did not hear annoying
- 12 sounds that I've heard others testify about.
- The flight path is compass bearing 17
- 14 degrees. Again, 17 degrees which is far out over the
- 15 war. And the planes don't come over the land until
- 16 they are on the NELHA property. As the planes come in
- 17 for landing I continued to talk to others and carry on
- 18 a normal conversation without raising my voice.
- 19 I don't believe there will be noise issues
- 20 for the residents of 'O'oma. And I'd like to take my
- 21 ruler and go to the map and point that out to you, if
- 22 I may.
- 23 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: You may. And would you
- 24 take the microphone with you.
- THE WITNESS: Pardon?

- 1 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Take the microphone with
- 2 you.
- 3 THE WITNESS: I'm looking for the airport
- 4 here. The runway is -- I don't know why I don't see
- 5 it. Can I have some help? It's not on here, is it?
- 6 (audience speaking) Yeah, well, it's not on here.
- 7 But anyway I checked it out on the flight
- 8 map that you, I guess you call it the airplane flight
- 9 map, flight chart. They call it chart. The planes
- 10 are far out on that 17 degrees.
- 11 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay.
- 12 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 13 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: All right. Petitioner?
- MR. LIM: No questions.
- 15 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 17 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State?
- MR. MITSUDA: No questions.
- MR. LIND: No questions.
- THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 21 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you, Ted. Is
- 22 Subhadra Corcoran --
- 23 THE WITNESS: It's probably on that map
- 24 there. May I look at it?
- 25 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: That's okay. I think we

- 1 know where the airport is on several different maps.
- 2 Thank you.
- 3 THE WITNESS: Thank you.
- 4 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Is there anyone else here
- 5 in the audience that would like to testify that
- 6 hasn't? Okay. Commissioners? Okay. Young man, come
- 7 on up.
- 8 MELVIN G. MASON, JR.
- 9 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 10 and testified as follows:
- 11 THE WITNESS: 'Ae.
- 12 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Pardon?
- 13 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 14 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. State your name and
- 15 address for the record.
- 16 THE WITNESS: My name, English name is
- 17 Melvin G. Mason, Jr. My inoa is Ha Makuaki E Moku. I
- 18 reside on the island of Hawai'i, moku e Hawai'i. It's
- 19 really interesting to share like many have shared
- 20 their mana'o, their thoughts and their feelings about
- 21 development and how it carries out concerns in holding
- 22 due process. As the Commission, as a board, is who
- 23 you are to exist. It's interesting to see.
- I just came back from New York City. And
- 25 the value of life is pretty depleted there. No

- 1 'ohana, family values. Granted, most of the money is
- 2 zoned, developed there.
- 3 This Federal Reserve note, the dollar.
- 4 Semantics is that Hawai'i is a unique place, very
- 5 unique. Most of you have experienced, have not
- 6 experienced Hawai'i in its own true meaning. We have
- 7 to all survive. We gotta live. We gotta eat. But
- 8 until you know how to malama ika 'aina o Hawai'i.
- 9 Take care the land and the sea of Hawai'i, then maybe
- 10 you guys can consider doing business.
- 11 I'm also a businessman. But the character
- 12 of it all I expressed with some elders and kupuna -- I
- 13 want to commend Ted to standing up as much as he
- 14 feels, to be laughed at, to be mocked. Shame on you
- 15 all. I'm here to speak for those that cannot speak,
- 16 the kupuna and the keiki, the future of Hawai'i.
- 17 The values is that when you go on top of the
- 18 mountain, Hualalai, and you look down below you look a
- 19 hundred years ago, 300, 400, even a thousand years ago
- 20 what this land was and is still the true aloha, a real
- 21 kind of aloha.
- You know, sharing my moku o hau where I come
- 23 from it's interesting, you know. My great great
- 24 grandmother sister's Tutu Liliuokalani. That close.
- 25 But yet I'm also related to the white man with the

- 1 guns who took over Hawai'i. (Beeper sounding)
- I know we need to live in harmony, to be
- 3 pono, to be righteous, but yet what do you value? Who
- 4 do you value? Many things we waha nui, only talk,
- 5 talk, talk. No action. You know there are many ways
- 6 we can actually signify Hawai'i to make that yuan,
- 7 that dollar, the real aloha 'cause most of the world
- 8 does not have it.
- 9 And if we keep on developing it shall be
- 10 like New York City, then the values of your 'ohana and
- 11 your family values where then? And where would be our
- 12 children's children's children's children?
- How will you value this 'aina? I know the
- 14 semantics of the ceded lands, the layout, the Akaka
- 15 Bill, what's going on. Everybody fear. There is so
- 16 much fear going on right now you guys don't even value
- 17 anything yet. You have to look into yourselves
- 18 understanding who you are. Mahalo.
- 19 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Petitioner,
- 20 questions?
- MR. LIM: No questions.
- 22 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 24 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State?
- MR. YEE: No questions.

- 1 MR. LIND: No questions.
- 2 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Commissioners? Thank you
- 3 for your testimony. Do we have any other person that
- 4 would like to testify? Yes, would you please come
- 5 forward.
- 6 SOLOMON K. AKAU
- 7 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 8 and testified as follows:
- 9 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 10 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Would you have a seat and
- 11 state your name and address for the record?
- THE WITNESS: 23-744 Kailua, Hawai'i.
- 13 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: And your name is?
- 14 THE WITNESS: Solomon K. Akau.
- 15 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Go ahead, Mr. Akau.
- 16 THE WITNESS: In 1960s -- my dad is William
- 17 Akau. He was the wharfinger, jack-of-all-trade in
- 18 Kawaihae. And as I listen to the committee and all
- 19 the inputs for and against I'm very happy because my
- 20 dad started this whole thing with Mr. Rockefeller.
- 21 When he came here he bought up the land from
- 22 Parker Ranch and he started the Mauna Kea Beach Hotel,
- 23 one of the first in that area. So my father fought
- 24 Rockefeller 1960. He died in 1973.
- Then my brother William Aiu Akau continued

- 1 the case and he won the Ala Ka'akai Trail. There are
- 2 things that I see that needs to be done a lot more
- 3 thorough. For example, a lot of places in here in
- 4 Kona there's access trails from the main road that
- 5 goes out to the ocean front.
- 6 Of course that time they didn't have any
- 7 planning in this area. So everything is so close on
- 8 top of the pahoehoe in front of all the what you call
- 9 the area that has businesses here in Kona. So they
- 10 make small accesses to go out there.
- 11 You know, Mr. Rockefeller when he left, and
- 12 he told my father that he was very honored to meet him
- 13 because my dad was well versed in all of the rules and
- 14 regulations of the queen and the kings at that time.
- 15 He could point out on a map -- I'm telling you my dad
- 16 is, his mind is like a tape recorder.
- 17 He used to ride around with Mr. Carter on a
- 18 horse and he could tell Mr. Carter all the names of
- 19 the various places on this island from one side to the
- 20 next. This is how well he understood it.
- 21 So whenever you have developers come into
- 22 the area, you know, progress is fine because it brings
- 23 more jobs for the people. And that is good. But
- 24 sometimes they forget. You know, they forget to go to
- 25 the kupunas and ask questions, sit down, talk to the

- 1 kupunas. They will tell you all the conditions in
- 2 various areas before you develop and you build.
- 3 Because when the Hawaiians give a certain name for
- 4 areas it has a very thorough meaning, meaning of that.
- 5 And the meaning sometimes is good, sometimes it's bad.
- 6 So especially when you had -- my dad said
- 7 there was over 400,000 Hawaiians here at one time from
- 8 the north down to the south according to his kupunas
- 9 what they told him. And there was many, many
- 10 Hawaiians.
- 11 You know, the Hawaiian kupunas they were
- 12 like doctors, they understood it, they knew, their
- 13 degrees is from hard work, hard work and understanding
- 14 what their kupunas told them. And this way it carried
- 15 on because your genealogy is very important.
- 16 The 'aina is very important. So it behooves
- 17 you who are leaders here whenever you come into the
- 18 area or whoever's in charge of selling any parcels you
- 19 should come and ask.
- You see, when my father cut that chain, the
- 21 road that came from Kawaihae to Puako, his friend told
- 22 him, he says, "Bill, when was the last time you been
- 23 down to Spencer Park?" My dad says, "Maybe two weeks
- 24 ago." He says, "You better go down check." My dad
- 25 ask him, "Why?"

- 1 "There's a cement pole with a chain-link
- 2 fence going around."
- 3 My dad walked up into his tool shed, came
- 4 out with a bolt cutter, got in his truck, went down to
- 5 Spencer Park and he dropped it. When he dropped the
- 6 chain, there is a Filipino guy that works security for
- 7 Mr. Rockefeller, says, "Hey, Mr. Rockefeller going to
- 8 take you to court."
- 9 My dad told him, he say, "You tell
- 10 Mr. Rockefeller I will see you in court." Yep. And
- 11 my dad fought him from 1960 to 1973 when he died in
- 12 March. And my brother Bill won that case. So the Ala
- 13 ka'akai and all the trails that I notice lot of people
- 14 talking there's several kinds of trails here from the
- 15 ocean to the land.
- 16 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: One minute.
- 17 THE WITNESS: Around the island. See? Then
- 18 they made other new ones. So you have to understand
- 19 before you do anything, before you plan anything you
- 20 should talk to the kupunas in the area. You know,
- 21 Corps of Engineers gave may dad plenty books for my
- 22 dad to read, we got it at home, about these plans they
- 23 were going to do.
- But did you do your homework? You have to
- 25 do your homework. You cannot sit in your office. You

- 1 have to go out. You have to meet the people. People
- 2 have a lot of pros and cons like today. Lot of 'em
- 3 have their interest, telling you about their
- 4 interests, giving you their inputs. And I think it's
- 5 time that we should listen.
- 6 Open the ears and listen, listen because the
- 7 people that lives in this area, they know. Like our
- 8 kupuna they know. Because they gave it the name of
- 9 this particular -- every name they give that
- 10 particular place has a meaning. And you have to
- 11 understand it.
- 12 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Mahalo. Thank you very
- 13 much. Let me ask if they have some questions for you.
- 14 Petitioner?
- MR. LIM: No questions.
- 16 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
- MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- 18 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: State?
- MR. YEE: No questions.
- 20 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Park Service?
- MR. LIND: No questions.
- 22 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Mahalo. Anyone else in the
- 23 audience? Yes.
- 24 NOVA LEE
- 25 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined

- 1 and testified as follows:
- THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 3 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Repeat your name and
- 4 address for the record.
- 5 THE WITNESS: Nova Lee, 76-5985 Mamalahoa
- 6 Highway, Holualoa, Hawai'i, 96725.
- 7 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Go ahead.
- 8 THE WITNESS: So just to compare where the
- 9 most popular places are to live in the world.
- 10 Boulder, Colorado just got voted the best city to live
- 11 in. Just to give you a contrast of the 43 (inaudible)
- 12 acres that is the township, 13,433 acres are habitat
- 13 conservation areas, 14,145 acres are natural areas.
- 14 4,220 acres are passive recreation areas, 3,291 acres
- 15 are agricultural areas. They maintain over 125 miles
- 16 of trails. These are the sort of places that people
- 17 all over the world want to live.
- 18 In addition, the response to the comment
- 19 that the inland areas are not used by the public, only
- 20 the makai areas, I'd like to state that every single
- 21 day when people drive down the highway they gaze upon
- 22 the ocean and they feel a peace of mind. They use it
- 23 every single day.
- 24 Because if it is developed they will see
- 25 nothing but a row of houses which will be housing like

- 1 LA or New York or an undesirable place. The more you
- 2 develop there will be no need for houses because
- 3 people will go up elsewhere. That's not what we want.
- 4 We want to make this place desirable. Why would
- 5 anybody want to live here if it is completely
- 6 developed? Thank you.
- 7 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Petitioner, questions?
- 8 MR. LIM: No questions.
- 9 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
- 10 MR. GONZALEZ: No questions.
- MR. YEE: No questions.
- MR. LIND: No questions.
- 13 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Commissioners? Okay.
- 14 Thank you. Anybody else. Okay.
- JOHN HATCHIE,
- 16 being first duly sworn to tell the truth, was examined
- 17 and testified as follows:
- 18 THE WITNESS: I do.
- 19 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Your name and address for
- 20 the records.
- 21 THE WITNESS: My name John Hatchie. My
- 22 address is 74-941 Kealakehe Street, apartment A13
- 23 Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i.
- 24 CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Go ahead.
- 25 THE WITNESS: Um, I just heard about this

- 1 that you're going to develop more, which is good. We
- 2 need the economy to roll. We need more jobs. I was
- 3 part of that machine that started building five, six
- 4 years ago down here in Hualalai and Kukio. And just
- 5 saw it balloon, the traffic from over here all the way
- 6 down there.
- 7 And I see the work on the roads are way
- 8 behind. You gotta keep up with. So the planning has
- 9 always been bad.
- 10 I was born and raised in Papakolea. That's
- 11 the first Hawaiian homestead they gave to the
- 12 Hawaiians. When they gave us the land they thought
- 13 they'd breed us out. They just about did. We're all
- 14 mixed now, most of us. We have very few pure
- 15 Hawaiians left.
- 16 And like Uncle was saying you have lands
- 17 from the mountain to the sea. And they have names.
- 18 And we went and we gathered swamp tomatoes where Ala
- 19 Moana Center is today. And my grandfather would catch
- 20 fish and the kids would pick swamp tomatoes. That was
- 21 our dinner and because we knew where to find 'em.
- The Filipinos would eat watercress in their
- 23 food. They would throw it into the stream up in the
- 24 cane fields. And the wild watercress would grow on
- 25 the sides of these streams that the Chinese laborers,

- 1 Portuguese, Filipinos dug holes in tunnels all the way
- 2 through the mountain up in 'Iao, towards 'Iao Valley,
- 3 the west side.
- 4 So I've lived in Maui for ten years. I got
- 5 to Maui in 1978. There was one traffic light on that
- 6 island. It was beautiful. It was up there in Wailuku
- 7 by the courthouse. I lived there ten years. And when
- 8 I left there was 30.
- 9 Lahaina, Ka'anapali everything just -- Kihei
- 10 just ballooned. In ten years we went from one traffic
- 11 light to 30. Traffic was -- they had to build another
- 12 highway, way behind planning. They should have built
- 13 the highway before they built the houses. You see
- 14 what I'm saying?
- 15 And then Native Americans -- or Native
- 16 Hawaiian we have never been recognized. Everybody
- 17 else seems to get theirs. But like Uncle said, you
- 18 have guys don't come in and don't talk to the locals
- 19 about what we get from the ocean in this part of the
- 20 island, what we gather from the mountains. And then
- 21 we keep getting locked out.
- 22 That's the big -- my biggest problem is the
- 23 public access. You guys call it public access. Well,
- 24 all of a sudden we can't even go through this little
- 25 stretch by the old airport. They have a security

- 1 guard these multimillion dollar homes there. If
- 2 you're going to take the public access you better be
- 3 on that and off of it. They don't want you walkin'
- 4 the shoreline. They don't want you in there.
- 5 They locked us out of the mountains where
- 6 the fresh watercress were, where there was fresh,
- 7 there was pumpkin patches, squash patches. They keep
- 8 putting gates, locks up. And they never asked. Next
- 9 thing you know it's open, it's free then they start
- 10 putting locks down and locking us out.
- 11 That's what makes me mad. When they develop
- 12 all of a sudden no trespassing. They forget that we
- 13 use this ocean to feed our families. This is our
- 14 subsistence. We don't depend on everything from the
- 15 grocery store. Our culture, our kupunas taught us how
- 16 to live off this land, how to take care of it.
- 17 They didn't have to come here and teach us
- 18 conservation. We called it kapu system. We knew when
- 19 the fish were breeding. We didn't take the fish. We
- 20 knew when lobsters were breeding we don't take
- 21 lobsters between June and September.
- 22 So when you guys think and you plan we had a
- 23 plan. Okay? And the plan was good. And it fed us.
- 24 The ocean was clean. I've seen reefs die all the way
- 25 down in Maui from the time I got there. And I could

- 1 dive in these areas. Within five years the whole reef
- 2 is dead. As a diver nothing's there. It's a
- 3 graveyard. It's like a no man's land. It's just like
- 4 untouchable. Nothing will grow. It becomes silt and
- 5 just like the bottom of a river that's got that mucky
- 6 black stuff but this is white.
- 7 And it's the runoff from the cane fields and
- 8 all the DDT and all the pesticides they put in there
- 9 when they did the cane it finally got to the system.
- Now, we've got buildings here on the
- 11 shoreline. When the pipes break through what does it
- 12 leak out; underground pipes, underground utilities
- 13 leaks right back to the ocean. Everything that's
- 14 there. Then the tides rise and lower and it's just
- 15 flushed right back into the ocean. Kills that part of
- 16 the ocean.
- 17 So when you guys do this planning, plan it
- 18 well. Like Uncle said, talk to the locals because
- 19 we've taken care of this land and that's why it's
- 20 still here. It's not bombed out. It's not fished out
- 21 because we have taken care of it the best we could.
- We need some more laws. We need to tighten
- 23 up some of this overfishing we've got because there's
- 24 nothing out there anymore hardly. You don't ever see
- 25 thousand pound marlins come in. It's ridiculous, you

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1 know? So think about the planning. Plan it well if
 2 you're going to develop it and stop locking us out.
 3
             CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Thank you. Questions?
 4
             MR. LIM: No questions.
 5
             CHAIRMAN PILTZ: County?
 6
             MR. GONZALEZ: County, no questions.
 7
             MR. YEE: No questions.
 8
             MR. LIND: No questions.
 9
             CHAIRMAN PILTZ: Okay. Commissioners?
   Anyone else in the audience like to testify at this
11
    time? Okay. Seeing none, we're adjourned.
12
13
        (The proceedings were adjourned at 2:40 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE					
2						
3	I, HOLLY HACKETT, CSR, RPR, in and for the State					
4	of Hawai'i, do hereby certify;					
5	That I was acting as court reporter in the					
6	foregoing LUC matter on the 17th day of June 2010;					
7	That the proceedings were taken down in					
8	computerized machine shorthand by me and were					
9	thereafter reduced to print by me;					
10	That the foregoing represents, to the best					
11	of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the					
12	proceedings had in the foregoing matter.					
13						
14	DATED: This day of2010					
15						
16						
17						
18						
19	HOLLY M. HACKETT, CSR #130, RPR Certified Shorthand Reporter					
20	ceretified bhorehand reporter					
21						
22						
23						
24						
25						