

County of Kauai  
Planning Department  
4444 Rice Street, A-473  
Lihue, HI 96766

May 9, 2016

Dear CAC Members and Planning Dept.:

9:00 am Saturday morning. My weekly run to Kapa'a and already there is gridlock. I would avoid it like the plague like I do the rest of the week, but *have* to buy groceries. As I speak of this today, it already sounds like an old story. Imagine five years from now with 6 new "planned projects" completed.

I strongly urge you not to allow for any new development ("planned", "permitted" or otherwise) or changes in zoning to take place until we have a comprehensive, clearly articulated, and community-supported twenty year vision and plan for Kauai.

This plan should consider and be responsive to meeting current needs, while anticipating future needs (based on this vision for the future). It should be an integrated approach whereby a zoning scheme, infrastructure, transportation and quality of life factors are complementary and not treated as "stove piped" considerations. Planning should be based on a proactive paradigm, directing us towards that desired future state, rather than a reactive model and only responding to a current situation that seems to have gotten away from us. Band aids don't work when you're hemorrhaging, and particularly when the problem is systemic.

In the interim, I urge you to push the pause button. Let's recalibrate where we are today, determine if proposed actions on the books (aka development and so called transportation plans) are really serving the community. Then, let's start the work towards creating a future that is truly sustainable in terms of quality of life, food security, energy independence, conserving open space, conserving precious resources and maintaining opportunities to adapt to changing climate and associated impacts such as the need for sea level rise retreat. Let's show that we have learned from the mistakes of the past, and make a course correction in county planning before we lose the opportunity to do so. Sound, forward looking and visionary planning is the last bargaining chip we have to make Kauai a better place to live.

Thank you for your consideration and willingness to take on the difficult challenges that lie ahead.

Respectfully,  
Anne & Bart Walton  
Wailua Homesteads

