



**Hanalei-to-Ha'ena Community Association
Post Office Box 1072
Hanalei, HI 96714**

June 13, 2017

Kauai Planning Commission
4444 Rice Street, Suite 473
Lihue, HI 96766

Re: Hanalei-to-Ha'ena Community Association Comments on Draft General Plan

Aloha Planning Commissioners,

The Hanalei-to-Ha'ena Community Association submitted detailed testimony - approved unanimously by the Hanalei-to-Ha'ena Community Association's Board of Directors - to you on January 31, 2017 and again on March 14, 2017 and March 28, 2017. The serious concerns that we expressed in our testimony remain unaddressed.

1. Our testimony noted that we are drowning in an ever-expanding sea of tourists, and that excessive tourism growth is overwhelming our roads, parking capacity, parks and beaches, neighborhoods and lives; it is crowding us out at parks and beaches; and it has put us into danger because the large increase in the number of tourist vehicles has made rapid evacuation of the tsunami zone impossible.

Our testimony documented that the Draft General Plan's tourism projections are impossibly low, concealing the magnitude of the existential threats we face.

Our testimony provided detailed recommendations for a vision, goals, policies and concrete actions to slow the increase in tourism and to mitigate its harmful impacts on our communities and lives.

But nothing substantive was changed in the successive drafts of the General Plan in regard to controlling tourism growth... except to delete the paragraph that admitted that on a regular basis, the high tourist count creates a noticeable decline in residents' quality of life,¹ and to delete the policy of not expanding

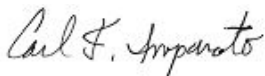
¹ The deleted language: "The *Kaua'i Tourism Strategic Plan 2016 – 2018 Update (2015)* (KTSP) noted that when ADVC exceeds 25,000, there is a noticeable decline to both the visitor experience and the residential quality of life. As shown in Table 2-3, this now happens on a regular basis. The daily visitor count surpassed 26,000 in December 2014, and triggered visitor complaints. In July of 2016 the visitor count was nearly 30,000 per day." (January 2017 Draft General Plan, page 2-80)

the VDA!² These actions to further conceal and deny the problems associated with excessive, uncontrolled growth in tourism are unconscionable.

2. We also requested that the General Plan acknowledge the importance of viewplanes looking mauka from our beaches, and include in its list of examples the iconic Hanalei River ridge viewplane. Our requests were ignored.
3. We requested that the General Plan include statements encouraging the state to: work with the County and residents for traffic calming on state highways; not expand commercial activities at state parks and beaches, seriously enforce regulations on state-jurisdictional lands and waters; and implement the County Council's 2014 resolution to protect Hanalei Bay from mega-yachts and floating vacation rentals. All of these requests were ignored.
4. We requested that all Permitting Actions and Partnership Needs related to the encouragement of development include the important condition that they should not encourage additional growth in hazard evacuation areas. Our request was ignored.
5. We requested that the General Plan clearly acknowledge that deference should be given to local communities' concerns and visions on local matters including proposed land use designations, visions, goals and actions, parking lots in our communities, bicycle facilities, and "shared used paths"; and that the General Plan's proposals in all of these areas be revised to acknowledge that they are simply ideas for future discussion unless and until they have been endorsed by the affected local communities. Our request was ignored.

Lastly, we stated our desire to work collaboratively to ensure that the final General Plan includes a meaningful set of policies and actions to protect our communities. Nothing came of that. To the contrary, the current Draft of the General Plan almost guarantees that county government will be the primary obstacle to genuine progress, rather than an ally in addressing the difficult issues that lie ahead.

Please: send this draft back to the drawing board with the directives that: (i) the County must work with Kauai's communities rather than dictate to them; and (ii) the General Plan must acknowledge and address Kauai's tourism growth problem rather than conceal and avoid it.



Carl Imperato, President
Hanalei-to-Ha'ena Community Association

² The deleted language: "The resulting policy is not in favor of expanding Visitor Destination Areas (VDA's), even if such action was recommended in a previous plan." (January 2017 Draft General Plan, page 2-81)