

My name is Carl Imparato, and I am speaking on behalf of Hanalei-to-Ha'ena Community Association and the Kauai Community Coalition.

We all know that tourism is lifeblood of Kauai's economy. But it is also true that the greatest threat to Kauai's character, communities and quality of life is **too much** tourism.

In 2008, Kauai's residents voted by a two-to-one margin to slow the expansion of tourism. But since then, county government has done nothing to slow the tide. It simply encourages more and more.

Here we are, 8 years later:

- The Draft General Plan refuses to acknowledge the tremendous amount of future tourism growth that imperils Kauai. The Draft cooks the books, sweeping growth problems under the rug by assuming that for the next 20 years, the tourism growth rate will plummet to less than 1/10 the growth rate of the past 5 years. At the 2015 growth rate, ADVC will exceed the Plan's 2035 projection in 2018 (just 2 years from now).
- There is no consideration given to what level of tourism growth won't exceed Kauai's infrastructure, won't undermine the character of Kauai's communities, and won't degrade residents' quality of life.
- There are no policies or actions to try to keep tourism growth below that level, or for what to do when the growth exceeds the unrealistically-low level projected in the Plan.
- There is absolutely no attempt to manage the amount of tourism growth. Instead of providing policies to limit tourism to an appropriate, manageable level, it is **business as usual**: sweep the problem under the rug, and facilitate as much tourism growth as the outside world creates.

The situation is particularly bad for Hanalei through Ha'ena, where:

- Residents are already far outnumbered by tourists;
- Tourist traffic already overwhelms our roads, bridges and parking capacity;
- Ever-expanding tourist activities are crowding out residents at parks and beaches; and
- Safe evacuation of the tsunami zone is no longer possible due to the large and ever-increasing number of tourists and tourist vehicles.

The Plan is also very deficient in terms of public safety: it proposes that its development incentives should apply even in tsunami evacuation zones; and it even refuses to give priority to traffic calming and local safety in our neighborhoods.

Finally, the Plan refuses to acknowledge that local communities' concerns and visions should be paramount, on issues from community development and character, to bike paths that would impact the taro lo'i, to protection of important viewplanes.

There is a critical need to restore balance on Kauai. But the Draft General Plan does not do that.

In our groups' written comments, we have proposed close to two-dozen policies and actions to restore balance, to manage growth, to protect the character of Kauai's communities, to increase public safety, to protect quality of life, and to respect local communities' desires.

I urge the Commissioners to read these comments and to direct changes to the Draft General Plan.

Thank you.