

General Plan draft has faulty data

The next General Plan, the blueprint for what Kauai will be like out to 2035, is being finalized by the Planning Commission. If testimony from the public is not heard and included, a document greenlighting unrestrained population growth and consequent deterioration of our rural quality of life will be forwarded to the County Council and mayor for approval. This General Plan draft bases conclusions on grossly misinformed data. For example, tourism grew at an annual rate of 4.6 percent per year from 2010 to 2015. Yet the plan draft predicts it will grow at only four-tenths of 1 percent from 2015 to 2035. Using an accurate figure, Kauai will reach the plan's 2035 forecasted number of visitors on a given day not in 2035 but next year, in 2018.

Why does the Planning Department willfully accept this grossly inaccurate data? Because entrenched interests are suborning, for the purpose of enriching themselves, the will of all those who want to manage population growth and preserve for the next generation a clean, healthy, rural Kauai. Inaccurate data about water, housing and sea level rise are found in their respective sections of the General Plan draft too. The data is being fixed around predetermined conclusions.

We're being provided a moment of exposure to longstanding inequities in Kauai's governance. How many former Planning Department directors are now lawyers and lobbyists for the development and tourism industries? There will be a Planning Commission meeting on Tuesday at 9 a.m., Meeting Room 2A/2B, Office of Boards and Commissions, 4444 Rice St., Lihue.

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