

Name: Kanani Higbee
Agenda Item: C
Received: August 15, 2019

Testimony for CPAC August 20, 2019

Aloha,

My name is Kanani Higbee. I am a resident of Lahaina, Maui. I am on the list for Department of Hawaiian Homelands, along with other family members of mine who are also residents of Lahaina, my mom, sister, and two brothers. We are all on the list for residential and agriculture.

I am asking that the Maui Planning department and commission please, approve any water that Department of Hawaiian Homelands requires to prepare lots and get Native Hawaiians on the land. It's a shame that we have to wait so long. I was 6 years old when my mom put herself on the list. And she is still waiting. My grandpa died on the list. I put myself on the list before my daughter was born and they are now about to go to college. We are still waiting.

The biggest hurdle to getting a Hawaiian home, is in fact water. To be able to be approved to use the amount of water required for a large housing and agriculture lot development is challenging. It's not easy to get the approval.

I'm all ready once the lots are available. I have taken two credit classes. Volunteered with Habitat for Humanity. Researched all the resources and non profits to help me afford a home. All I need is the home. And for that, we need to make sure the County of Water approves water to be allowed for these two housing and agriculture phases.

Leialii 1B is scheduled to be ready in 5 years, but that will only be 50-75 lots. And they will continue to try and get more lots built over the years, depending on approval of water. As for, the agriculture lots at Honokowai, it's very behind schedule. They should have been ready in 2025. And Leiali'i 1B should have been ready for turnkey and/or lots by 2015. It looks like Leiali'i 1B will be ready in 2025, but only 50 lots, not the planned 300. And the agriculture lots in Honokowai probably won't be ready for a very long time. My children are hoping they will be ready when they need their own home. They are both very involved in agriculture and earth stewardship. My daughter is secretary of Future Farmers of America at Lahainaluna Highschool. Her and her sister hope to be able to run an agriculture business of native plant nursery from the agriculture lot from DHHL. They already taking on projects of creating rain garden of Native plants around Lahaina. And working with non profits and local mentors to learn about Native plants. It would be great if they could inherit my agriculture lot as they become adults and be earth stewards of these lands they were born and raised in and have ties to.

Thank you for reading my testimony. I hope you will plan for Leiali'i 1B to have enough water for their previously planned 300 lot phase within the next 5 years. Also, please plan to build the agriculture lots at Honokowai soon after, hopefully at least within the next 5-10 years. If the county has water for other housing phases then I don't see why they wouldn't for Native Hawaiians. At the growing rate of DHHL preparing 1,000 lots every 5 years, it will take 150 years to clear the list of 30,000 Native Hawaiians on the list. 150 years. It's no wonder Native Hawaiians are dying on the list. And the largest hurdle for getting these lots ready for homes, is in fact getting approval from the county water department for WATER.