

Name: Michele Lincoln

Agenda Item: C. Goal 2.5 Safe, Healthy, Livable Communities for All, # 2 and #3

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Please include more parks and open space in the community plan with public access mauka to makai. Kahoma's county access road along the flood channel could be extended with walking paths further up the mountain along the stream.

Other gulches could be considered for nature trails since they will be undevelopable. As every community group expressed, use old cane roads for connectivity along the coast for non-motorized uses.

West Maui's golf courses, beach parks, small neighborhood parks, and ball fields are wonderful but we lack a major community park able to host larger events in Lahaina.

Considering the high volume of visitors as well as the local community, West Maui is lacking in recreational areas.

Central Maui and Kihei have large parks with picnic pavilions, play grounds, dog parks, ball fields and extensive paths. Some have skate parks, roller skating arenas, volley ball pits and other recreational options.

Even rural communities throughout the U.S. that get limited seasonal use have better park facilities than Lahaina. Lahaina's weather and historical significance are two good reasons for developing a massive park for the local community and visitor industry.

Cruise ships are visiting Lahaina more frequently than they did in the past. Having a historical park on the west side of the island is more conducive for limited shore excursions.

With compromise and resolutions from the Maui County Council, Kahoma's ahupua'a lost many acres of park and open space designated in the 1996 West Maui Community Plan. Please designate park and open space in Kahoma.

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE: In 1979, a "Cultural History Overview of the Kahoma Stream Flood Control Project Lahaina, Maui" was prepared for the Army Corps of Engineers. The following are highlights of that report:

"Adjacent to Kahoma Stream and bisected by the Mala Wharf approach road are the remains of an inland fishpond called 'Alamihi. Shortly before Western contact, 'Alamihi was the site of a battle between two great chiefs, Kauhi'aimokuakama and Kamehameha the Great.

During the rebellion Kauhi "seized all the food at 'Alamihi ahupua'a." According to Kamakau, enough food was collected to support the needs of his army for a march across the island.

In the Great Mahale (land division) of 1848 Kamehameha III kept the ahupua'a of 'Alamihi, including the fishpond, as Crown Land. Mauka (inland) of the pond and adjacent to it, David Malo (c. 1793-1853), a well-known Hawaiian historian, was awarded a parcel of land approximately eleven acres in area. Malo's parcel extended from the fishpond.

It was reported by Kamakau (c. 1866) that there was a breadfruit tree "on which the first victim of the battle was laid." The tree was "near the house of David Malo." Moreover Inez Ashdown stated that the lower part of Kahoma Stream was in fact called "Kapa'ulu," or enclosure of breadfruit, and it was from Kapa'ulu that fresh water was fed into 'Alamihi fishpond.

Kamehameha III and Malo were the only two recorded land owners in 'Alamihi ahupua'a for some time. Until the revolution of 1893, 'Alamihi Fishpond was part of the Crown Lands, the personal property of Kamehameha III and his heir, Kamehameha IV.

With important historic events (the battle between Kamehameha and Kauhi), prominent historic individuals (David Malo and Kamehameha), and its likelihood to yield information important to prehistory, it is our opinion that 'Alamihi Fishpond is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places.

Physical evidence exists to establish that significant sub-surface prehistoric cultural remains are probably present within and immediately surrounding the 'Alamihi Fishpond at Kahoma Stream.

The prehistoric political and economic importance of fishponds and aquaculture has been increasingly emphasized in recent research. Because of the political and economic importance traditionally associated with the Lahaina area, both historically and prehistorically, this fishpond is significant in terms of its probable association with those cultural developments."

Developing a historical park for public use is appropriate for the Kahoma ahupua'a.

New York City's Central Park is operated by a conservancy. City/County insured for public use, many of the park's amenities and free events are a result of generous donors. West Maui hotels, restaurants, businesses, and private residents have the resources to create a beautiful and well maintained park.

Several groups in Lahaina have expressed an interest in developing and maintaining park features. Benches, picnic pavilions, playground, amphitheater, water features, trees, and restrooms could be made available for the public to donate in memory of loved ones or to represent their family or company.

Depending on the space available, the following are ideas for a historical park.

1) Navigating by stars, first Hawaiians discover the islands:

Outrigger canoe, like at Mama's Fish House, for kids to play on and photo-op. Motion sensor splash pad zone like at the Maui Mall and Whaler's Village. Large boulders to represent the islands for kids to crawl on like at Iao Valley Park.

2) Ancient Hawaiians were smaller in stature compared to Tahitian invaders, origins of the Menehune legends:

Toddler play area like at the Queen Kaahumanu Mall.

3) Typical Hawaiian Village:

Native looking structure with thatched roof for covered playground, like Tom Sawyer's Island at Disneyland. Wheelchair accessible, slides, swings, mini zip-lines, game and craft table, and a puppet theater.

4) In remembrance of the famous battle between the High Chief of Maui and Kamehameha the Great that took place in Kahoma:

Feature competitive play areas for all ages to enjoy. Include a basketball court, tennis court, pickle-ball court, volley ball, horse shoe pit/corn-hole game, shuffle board, bocce' ball court, and other competitive activities.

5) Lahaina was the first capitol of the Kingdom of Hawaii:

Build a replica of the Iolani Palace Gazebo. Ceiling murals depicting the Hawaiian monarchy could include pertinent details and famous quotes.

6) Honor David Malo's Homestead LCA 3702 gifted by Kamehameha III and Malo's burial site on the mountain above Kahoma:

An amphitheater would be an appropriate tribute to David Malo's memory. Malo was a famous Hawaiian historian, Hawaii's first superintendent of schools, important political figure, industrious, ordained minister, and passionate about learning. He helped draft Hawaii's first Declaration of Rights.

The exterior of the amphitheater could have a mural depicting Hawaii's history. An amphitheater provides a stage for historical reenactments, hula, mele, plays, lectures, concerts, movies, and community entertainment. What better way to honor Malo's legacy, than to provide a platform to carry on his love of learning.

7) Plantation Days:

Picnic Pavilion with traditional architecture represented in that era. Like the Chapel Bridge in Lucerne Switzerland, rafter panels could have paintings depicting the history of immigrants to Hawaii.

8) Lahaina was the whaling capitol of the Pacific:

Display whaler artifacts in a structure that looks nautical. Use it as an office, information station, a meeting place for guided tours, bookstore, and/or rental kiosk for park uses.

Like Chicago's historic architect river cruises, volunteers provide historical information for paying customers. West Maui's community has many qualified individuals that could be volunteer docents for income producing guided tours.

9) Missionaries and Hawaii's Great Awakening:

A Royal Wayside Chapel with symbolic narrative stained-glass windows would be an inspirational place to reflect and learn about God's hand in Hawaii's history.

Influenced by Henry Opukaha'ia, missionaries traveled across the globe to the most remote islands in the world. Many stories of faith from the proclaimers of the Good News and the radical changes that occurred during these thirty-three years must be told.

Honor the memory of prominent figures, like Queen Keopuolani proclaiming this edict: "The Life of the Land is perpetuated in the righteousness of Jesus Christ" to Queen Lili'uokalani, that exemplified the heart of Christ by her response to the illegal overthrow— forgiveness and love.

10) Dog Park, Bird Sanctuary, and Horse Trails

Included with a large fenced dog area to allow for unleashed pets, a historical display would explain how animals originated on the islands. Horse trails could have the history of Hawaiian cowboys posted. Bird sanctuaries made up of native trees and protected nesting grounds would encourage bird watching, which is one of the fastest growing hobbies in North America.

11) Agriculture

Restored loi terraces and community gardens growing other fruits and vegetables could be part of the agriculture historical display.

12) Mala Wharf in World War II and Remember Lahaina's Veterans:

Restrooms! Restrooms are something everyone needs but often taken for granted and underappreciated. Clean and orderly, the restroom facility's exterior would have a mural of Mala Wharf's Glory Days.

As a tribute to our Westside veterans, along with a personal memorabilia display, place names on the wall by the drinking fountain and water-bottle filling station. Paver bricks around the exterior could also commemorate veterans.

CONCLUSION:

Location! Location! Location! Proximity to tourist accommodations, cruise ship day visitors, and a densely populated residential area gives it great potential for success. Ideal weather conditions would allow maximum use for planning outdoor events as well.

A privately operated public-use historical park in Lahaina would be a huge asset.