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Aloha CPAC Members

Testimony on Transportation Planning: Action Items

I recommend strengthening and prioritizing Action 1.13 which currently reads:

Action 1.13. Identify a new multimodal transportation corridor through South Maui to Central Maui mauka of (above) Pi`ilani Highway.

Some people have referred to this idea as a mauka byass. The concept of a mauka bypass has been floated for some time. The existing community plan language recommends a mauka bypass and the Maui Island Plan conceptually envisions a mauka bypass, separated from mauka development areas, spanning from Maui Meadows to Veterans Highway.

At first glance, this seems like a great idea, a bypass which would allow unimpeded traffic flow all the way to the Wailea Makena area, bypassing nearly all of Pi'ilani Highway. However, the reality of such a project is very questionable, mainly due to costs.

State and Federal Transportation programs have been de-emphasizing bypass type projects and new highway corridors. The costs for such a project would be formidable.

A more realistic option has surfaced which would call for enhanced north south connectivity within the future communities to be developed mauka of Pi`ilani. This would allow coordination with long-term development of *mauka* lands would facilitate phasing and funding of portions of the roadway by adjacent land developers.

The concept of a transportation corridor within the future growth areas is supported by Jim Challier, a nationally renowned transportation planner who emphasizes the importance of transportation connectivity and circulation within development areas as opposed to around or separate from communities.

The State Department of Transportation's recently adopted South Maui Transportation Plan recommends a more realistic version of a "bypass" project, which I would more accurately call a mauka north-south collector. See attached handout. The conceptual corridor, which has yet to be finalized, would run through portions of the Maui Research and Technology Park and the Kihei Mauka Urban Growth Boundary.

The first step to making this a reality would be to get the government agencies, community and land owners to agree upon a route.

I recommend the following language:

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Action 1.13. Prioritize the identification a new multimodal transportation corridor through South Maui to Central Maui mauka of (above) Pi'ilani Highway as recommended by the South Maui Transportation Plan.

I also recommend moving this item to the CIP portion of the action list.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify. Please let me know clarification is necessary.

Rory Frampton