

DRIP Committee

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To: DRIP Committee
Subject: South Maui Community Plan

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Dear Councilmembers:

The Kihei-Wailea area is the drainage basin for the southwest face of Haleakala. It has always been subject to flooding. Unfortunately, since the 1970's many wetlands have been built over, putting humans and the environment at risk. When I was on the Maui Planning Commission several years ago, I voted against a project off South Kihei Road now called Kamalii Alayna. I pointed out the obvious that this spot would be subject to flooding. During the March 2026 Kona Low storms, residents of this development were trapped in their homes for 5 days first by rushing waters and then by mud.

There should be no further loss of wetlands in South Maui. Climate change will make storms more severe and resilience means mitigating disasters before they happen. Not only are people affected by storms, but the mud flows into the ocean impacting our reefs. For weeks after big storms the ocean is loaded with sediment and our marine environment is already in peril.

Consider that at some point, the county will start losing lawsuits brought by those losing homes, businesses, or loved ones due to bad planning decisions by county officials.

Aloha, Diane Shepherd DVM

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Sent from my iPad