

South Kohala Traffic Safety Committee  
P.O. Box 383375  
Waikoloa, HI 96738

Director Warren H.W. Lee, P. E.  
County of Hawaii Department of Public Works  
Aupuni Center  
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 7,  
Hilo, HI 96720-4224

August 26, 2010

Aloha, Director Lee,

I received your letter dated August 25, 2010 regarding the South Kohala Traffic Safety Committee request for records. SKTSC appreciates the breakdown of costs to date and future plan for the "\$10 Million bond to relieve traffic congestion through Waimea". However some of this information is contradictory to previous statements. Item "a." Waimea Circulation Study by PBR Americas is listed as costing only \$50,000. Larry Brown of the Planning Department reported cost of \$235,000 at a meeting in Waimea in about 2009. Is the correct cost \$50,000? Are the other costs correct?

At the beginning of the Lalamilo Connector Road EA (AKA Mamalahoa Highway – Kawaihae Road Connector Project) Belt Collins Project Manager Jane Dwell and then DPW Director Bruce McClure held a public meeting in Waimea explaining the project and that public input and review would be included in the project process. That has been the only public meeting regarding this project for over 2 years. In contrast the Waimea Circulation Study by PBR Americas project had several public meetings and then the draft report was released for comment and review by the public. The State of Hawaii EA and EIS projects always include several public hearings and comment periods as standard practice. This has been past practice of Hawaii County also. How do you determine what the community really wants without obtaining their input? The decision to not release this draft and not have public comment is very disappointing.

DPW continuing effort to avoid public comment and review of this Lalamilo Connector Road EA (AKA Mamalahoa Highway – Kawaihae Road Connector Project) draft shows a lack of transparency in the process and raises suspicions in the community as to just what the County of Hawaii administration's agenda is for a Mamalahoa Highway – Kawaihae Road Connector. We are well aware of the past DPW audit report critical of the lack of processes, procedures and accountability in the Department. We are not attorneys, and leave the legal requirements and interpretations of a proper EA process up to Ms. Joesting – OIP and the State Legislature to determine. By copy of this letter we ask Ms. Joesting to investigate the legalities of your refusal to release the Lalamilo Connector Road EA (AKA Mamalahoa Highway – Kawaihae Road Connector Project) draft report by Belt Collins

Thank you for disclosing the cost breakdown as requested. Please verify the individual costs listed for accuracy. Please reconsider the release of the Lalamilo Connector Road EA (AKA Mamalahoa Highway – Kawaihae Road Connector Project) draft and hold a public meeting for comment and input.

Sincerely,



Mike Price-Chair South Kohala Traffic Safety Committee

CC: SKTSC  
Ms. Linden Joesting – Hawaii State Office of Information Practices  
Mayor William Kenoi  
Councilman Pete Hoffmann – Hawaii County Council