

Good Morning, HHFDC Members,

My name is Christopher Jungers and I am here today to express my concerns to DHHL's plan to acquire the Courtyards at Waipouli and their bid to use federal funds to this end.

This complex serves as a crucial source of housing for local residents, including many who are part of the workforce essential to Kauai's economy.

DHHL's acquisition of this property would displace these residents, undermining their stability and exacerbating the already severe housing crisis and shortage of workers on Kauai.

I deeply troubled by the lack of transparency and communication surrounding the DHHL's proposed acquisition. It has come to my attention that this acquisition has triggered the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act (URA), a federal law designed to protect the rights of individuals and families affected by such actions.

However, despite the requirements of the URA, none of the residents have been properly informed about their rights, including relocation assistance. This oversight is alarming and raises serious concerns about the DHHL's commitment to upholding the rights of the displaced under federal law.

They deserve to be informed and consulted about decisions that will have such a significant impact on the lives of their children and community.

The residents of the Courtyards at Waipouli stand united in opposition to the DHHL's acquisition plan and in our commitment to protecting the rights and well-being of their community. I urge the HHFDC to stand with with the residents in this endeavor and ensure that justice and fairness prevail.

At the January 26 DHHL meeting, 32 beneficiaries from Kauaʻi who were present—strongly opposed this acquisition.

Their message was clear—They want what is entrusted to them—land.

This lack of transparency and community engagement in the decision-making process further raises concerns about the legality and ethics of this acquisition.

For about a year now, I have been helping the residents of the Courtyards come together to seek other housing options and discovered the cooperative housing model.

And as a show of self determination the tenants are diligently working to convert their apartment complex into Kauai's first workforce housing cooperative.

This cooperative aims to address the housing crisis by providing a stable homeownership environment for local residents, including, essential workers like medical staff, educators, and other members of the community.

By working collaboratively with the county of Kauaiʻi and the National Association of Housing Cooperatives, we believe that we

can make a meaningful impact in addressing this workforce housing crisis and fostering a stronger, more resilient community on Kaua'i.

I urge the HHFDC to listen to the concerns of Waipouli residents and take immediate action to address the lack of transparency and communication surrounding the DHHL's acquisition plan.

I call on the HHFDC to ensure that residents are properly informed about their rights under the URA and provided with the support they need to navigate this challenging process.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Christopher Jungers