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September 16, 1991

Mr. Alec McBarnet, Chair
Maui County School Advisory Committee
Department Of Education
Wailuku, Maui, HI 96793

Dear Mr. McBarnet,

I am writing to request that the Maui County School Advisory Committee discuss, and if necessary investigate, the manner in which the final site for the proposed Upcountry High School was selected.

Three years ago (October 1988) a committee of concerned PTA leaders and DOE administrators began meeting to establish an upcountry high school. This meant that we would have to lobby the Board of Education and the State Legislature to appropriate funds for the new upcountry high school.

From the beginning, our committee received excellent support from District Superintendent Lokelani Lindsey. Our efforts were so successful that within a year (Spring 1989) we were able to get the support of the Board of Education and the State Legislature. Funds were appropriated for land acquisition and the master planning of the campus. Subsequently (Spring 1991), funds were appropriated for the design and construction of the campus and many of the buildings.

The site selection process was initiated when the state government selected a consultant to investigate potential sites and to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS). The consultant met with representatives of the above-mentioned committee and also with the general public to identify potential sites. Most of the sites selected were in the Pukalani/Makawao area on lands owned by Maui Land and Pineapple Company (MLP).

MLP was kept informed of the potential sites during the process and had ample opportunity to respond as to the impact of the site selection on their company's operations. To my knowledge, they made no substantive effort during the subsequent two years to supply any input to the site selection considerations. The Maui Land and Pineapple Company was well aware of the location of the five sites which were comprehensively reviewed during the draft and final environmental impact statement process. Again, they made no effort to indicate their special concerns until the final public meeting was held by the consultants in

June of 1991. At that time, they came to a meeting held in Kalama School to say that they did not favor the particular Apana Street site which was the first choice of three significant entities: a) the final draft of the EIS statement favored the Apana Street site; b) District Superintendent Lokelani Lindsey publicly had acknowledged it to be her preference; and c) perhaps most importantly, the vast majority of the community and the members of the committee which had lobbied for the school, had endorsed the Apana Street site.

During this time, there had been numerous articles in the Maui News to inform the general public and potential land owners as to the status of the site selection process. Maui Land and Pineapple Company was on the mailing list to receive copies of the draft and final EIS. They certainly had adequate opportunity to give input on the costs and benefits of the various sites to their company.

Furthermore, to my knowledge, and despite all the publicity concerning the upcountry high school, Sports Shinko, a major land owner and potential developer in the upcountry area, never presented any input into the site selection process.

AFTER the June meeting at Kalama School to discuss the final EIS and to allow the general public to give its FINAL input to the DOE, the Maui District Board of Education Member, Mr. Meyer Ueoka, apparently met privately with Maui Land and Pineapple Company and Sports Shinko. Exactly what happened and who met with whom is unclear to me. However, according to conversations which I had with Mr. Ueoka, he was able to reach an agreement with those two private companies which would allow the school site to be moved to an alternate site mauka of the site preferred by the EIS, District Superintendent and the community. In exchange the two companies would apparently provide certain unspecified benefits.

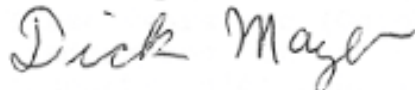
As a community member, I feel it is necessary to have in writing what "deal" (if any) has been struck which would permit a change in the site selection. To date, we are unclear as to exactly what the future students, the upcountry community, and/or State will gain by moving to the lower ranked mauka site.

I urge the Maui County School Advisory Committee to request that a formal written agreement be obtained from both Maui Land and Pineapple Company and from Sports Shinko acknowledging their contributions (if any) to the State and/or the community to compensate for the change in location. For example, will they provide a \$5 million water system, a new science building, a sports facility, etc. In my opinion the mere donation of a piece of land by MLP would be inadequate since the land could be obtained at relatively low cost by the State since it is valued at agricultural tax rates.

The general concern for the mauka site is the increased traffic that will result along Makawao Avenue if the mauka site is selected. Traffic will either be backed up to Makawao or expensive traffic signals will have to be constructed on the new Pukalani by-pass highway to handle the two left-hand turns that would need to be made by Makawao and Haiku students who are going to the mauka site.

I am truly sorry that I cannot be with you this evening to discuss this matter in person. I wish to assure you that I have no intention to delay the start of construction of the new upcountry high school. After all, I have worked hard for three years to get this needed school built. However, if the process of site selection has been subverted by secret deals, I feel our community and our students need to be protected.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dick Mayer".

Dick Mayer, Instructor
Maui Community College