

Maui Community Problems and Issues April – May – June 2019

Dated: July 1, 2019

Problems:

- 1) Divided Local Government
- 2) Local Business Activity Slow Down
- 3) Water Supply
- 4) Traffic Congestion
- 5) Energy
- 6) Affordable Housing

During the preceding Quarter KAOI AM Programming addressed the problems through airing announcements, news coverage and interviews, and live talk shows.

- 1) **Divided Local Government.** The Maui County Council rejected several of the mayors appointees for directorship in what has become a usual 6 to 3 vote. Also, rejected his 2019-20 budget.
- 2) **Local Affordable Employment.** The return of tourist and more airline seats have helped employment even with the cost of travel. Many very part time opportunities have returned, as well as, the ever-increasing higher cost of living. New Box Stores has helped, unemployment is at a low level. HC & S stopped cane harvesting and more than 900 employees let go by last year, most have found work. K-Mart closed, but other local stores have opened. Southwest Airlines hired a staff.
- 3) **Water Supply.** Maui County's water quality and supply continues discussion with the Mayor and county continue the warning for Upcountry Maui, Central, and South Maui, with consumers expected to cut back on their water consumption. The problem is long term including locating any new clean water sources. The Mayor promised on his talk on station KAOI 1110 AM & 96.7 FM to work on solving the problem and now potential for the take over of EMI.
- 4) **Traffic Congestion.** Still continues to be the most voiced issue during our local call-in shows. The solutions to Maui's traffic problems continue to be the focus of weekly programs. Maui Department of Transportation director guests on weekly shows, as well as reports from MPD, MFD and Maui County. The airport expansion road is helping with traffic movement now that it is finally completed. The opening of the Lahaina by-pass while confusing at first has helped. The new rental car facility also helped.
- 5) **Energy.** With the state and the county dependent on oil for its energy, movements, are underway on Maui to provide alternative energy sources, two Wind Farms are in operation and another is in the building stage. Our programs have focused on the cost of energy and its ramifications in the economy, the environment, and our future. We broadcast a program on solar development runs Friday. A new westside solar farm went on line and more are planned.
- 6) **Affordable Housing.** Continues to be a continuing concern, with the price of home ownership still out of the reach of most. Various talk show programs and live interviews on our FM stations focused on the problem and possible solutions. The real estate activity has not helped in the housing market, but helped in the rental area, since Bed & Breakfast and vacation rentals have been reclassified. Old U H housing may be used for the homeless.

KEWE AM – Jack Gist broadcasts three times a day a feature (60 seconds) covering news events on Maui # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
Every Sunday evening 6pm-10pm we air programming directed to the minority community on Maui # 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6