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The State Land Use Commission has again scheduled a hearing for Defend Oahu Coalition's motion requesting the reclassification of urban-zoned land back to agriculture at Turtle Bay Resort. The last time the coalition went before the LUC was February 2009. The motion specifically requests the issuance of a show cause order to the developer at Turtle Bay, who seeks to build five hotels and one thousand additional resort condominiums along Turtle, Kawela and Kuilima Bays. The case focuses on a portion of resort property that the commission had upzoned from agriculture to urban/resort in 1986. Nearly two years ago Defend Oahu Coalition asked the LUC to require the developer at Turtle Bay to explain why, after twenty five years of inaction by various speculators and would-be developers, the property should not revert back to its original agricultural classification. Since the request was initially filed (April 2008) the commission has conducted *five separate meetings* pertaining to the motion, but has yet to make a decision. Meanwhile, interim Kuilima Development Company head Stanford Carr has been pushing forward with permitting for the outdated plan.

Locals have grown increasingly frustrated with elected and appointed officials who seem to be dragging their feet. "It's time for the LUC to do something," Kahuku resident Margaret Primacio said, adding "If they issued the order, it would allow residents who would be most impacted (by the massive expansion) to voice their concerns."

Retired North Shore lifeguard Mark Cunningham agreed, "I find it hard to believe that the Land Use Commission is unable to reach a decision on this motion when all we are asking is for a chance to bring contested case hearings to the Country so that neighbors of the resort can find out what is going on. This developer has shown insufficient progress on the decades-old project thus far," he said "so enough already...we need the LUC to take a stand."

Defend Oahu Coalition members have been heartened by recent LUC decisions in which the commission ruled that developer's requests for urbanization were insufficient due to various issues regarding timing ([West Hawai'i Today 5/1/09](#), [Honolulu Advertiser 8/29/09](#)). However, DOC is also concerned with the slow progress and secretive nature of commission business as witnessed in another recent case on Lanai ([The Maui News 1/22/10](#)).

Supporters of the motion feel that if the land were reverted back to agriculture it would not ruin the project altogether, but would instead force the developer to change the size and scope of the expansion plan, sending a message to speculators that untimely and unsustainable development plans can indeed expire.

The hearing takes place next Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 9:30 a.m. in the Leiopapa A Kamehameha Building (235 S. Beretania St.), Conference Room 204, Second Floor.

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**Background on the fight to Keep the Country COUNTRY!, [including a timeline of Defend Oahu Coalition's case before the LUC and the "Call to Action" for elected officials is available online at: \[www.DefendOahuCoalition.org\]\(http://www.DefendOahuCoalition.org\)](#)**