

## **Makena development stirs up more concern**

**By VALERIE MONSON, Staff Writer**

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WAILUKU – The Makena Resort development resurfaced Monday when its cultural resources management plan came before the Maui County Cultural Resources Commission, and the project showed no signs of being any less controversial than it was last year during hearings for rezoning.

Not ready to offer comments on the archaeological report that has been questioned by members of the public, the commission deferred making its official remarks to the State Historic Preservation Division until after a site visit and meeting in Makena tentatively scheduled for Dec. 1.

The biggest challenge could be getting resort officials to sit down with their harshest critics. Roy Figueroa, vice president of Makena Resort, indicated he would have "a difficult time personally" dealing with those that he felt were "disrespectful of others."

Although he did not name anyone, Figueroa clearly was referring to vocal members of Maui Tomorrow who were, once again, raising red flags about the thoroughness of the archaeology report.

Last month, Maui Tomorrow was proved correct after insisting that many historic sites had not been identified in a survey of a parcel sold by the resort to developer Everett Dowling. That revelation prompted Dowling to put a hold on his luxury condominium project until additional research by an independent archaeologist could be done.

Figueroa said he was upset at how the archaeologist originally hired by Dowling was described when the mistake came out. "I have problems with people who label the work of others as shoddy or unprofessional," said Figueroa.

Maile Lu'uwai, a lineal descendent of Makena who long has claimed that too many features have been overlooked in the area, was surprised by Figueroa's comments. In a news release last month, Lu'uwai called the work on the Dowling project "substandard."

After Monday's meeting, Lu'uwai said she and other Maui Tomorrow members would "love to work" with Figueroa. "I don't consider my words disrespectful," she said. "I disagree (with the report). I have questioned some of their work. I feel disrespected."

Figueroa said his company would continue to consult with residents of Makena and Na Kupuna O Maui, a group of Native Hawaiian elders.

The crux of the debate centers on whether enough of the historic features on 1,200 acres of the South Maui property will be preserved. Aki Sinoto, the archaeological consultant for the resort, said 15 sites containing 303 features will be saved and 46 others will have data recovered before destruction with the approval of the state.

"It's a reality that we can't preserve everything we came across," said Sinoto, who based the management plan on more than a dozen archaeological studies of the area done in the last 30 years. Lu'uwai, pointing out that a fishing shrine important to her family on the Makena shoreline already has been destroyed, wondered who gets to decide what sites are worthy of saving.

"Who is determining the significance?" she asked, fearing that when profits are involved, only a handful of sites will make the preservation list and end up as "crumbs thrown to the Hawaiian people." "If you preserve these sites, they will be in the way of condos, (swimming) pools and parking lots," she said.

There was other testimony that focused on too much growth taking place in Makena and of developers creating a "building imbalance," a twist on Dowling's company theme of "building in balance."

Last year, supporters of the resort accused members of Maui Tomorrow of using the archaeology as a way to stop the project. Figueroa said Makena Resort wanted to keep "the story of our past alive" by saving key sites. He said the company would "welcome" commissioners walking the area to see for themselves what has been slated for preservation. Members should wear good shoes: The hike could take up to four hours.

County planner Ann Cua noted that a Maui County Council committee added a condition to Makena Resort's rezoning request that the Cultural Resources Commission offer comments on the management plan to be forwarded to state historic preservation officials. Although the change in zoning has not been acted upon by the full council, the management plan was completed in September for review.

Cua also noted that not only does the State Historic Preservation Division have the authority to accept the final management plan, but it will review individual parcels that will need special management area permits when they're scheduled for development. Even though the rezoning would allow Makena Resort to build an estimated 3,300 units, the company has said its 20-year plan would include only 1,100 luxury homes, condominiums, apartments and a time-share hotel.

Dowling purchased about 11 acres from the resort to construct 71 condominiums that will sell for more than \$3 million each.