

Protect O‘okala Ad Hoc Steering Committee
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Members:

Kenneth Bugado, Susie Collins (records), Scott Enright, Violet Ishikawa, Akie Ita, Walter Ita (co-facilitator), Tawn Keeney, Bobby LaBrie, and Robbie Pagliai (co-facilitator)

September 16, 2006

Dear Members of the O‘okala Community,

Election season is here! This year, the O‘okala community has a major stake in the outcome of the Hawai‘i County Council race in our district, and we’d like to help you sort out the information so that you can make an informed decision when you vote.

Simply put, our current councilman Fred Holschuh supports Tradewinds Forest Product’s plans to build a veneer mill and power plant in O‘okala, and challenger Dominic Yagong does NOT support the building of this heavy industrial business in our residential community.

Given that 71% of the homeowners in O‘okala have willingly signed a petition in opposition to Tradewinds coming into our community, we are very disappointed that Holschuh supports the developers of this industrial venture rather than supporting the people he currently represents.

In his campaign material, Yagong states that, “Despite the overwhelming plea by the majority of O‘okala residents, Holschuh chooses to go against the wishes of the people, and supports the mill in the proposed O‘okala site.” While Yagong supports building a veneer mill in an “appropriate location,” he does NOT support it being located in “any residential community.”

Further, Yagong states that “the quality of life must be protected and sustained for families living in a residential community,” and that he will “stand up” for us and other communities who may find themselves with a similar fight on their hands. This is someone who understands that this project would drastically change the quality of life now enjoyed by the residents of our community. What’s more, this is someone who understands the concept of public service.

Yagong’s position is in stark contrast to Holschuh’s. In Holschuh’s monthly column in the *Hamakua Times*, he has written about his support of Tradewinds coming into the O‘okala residential community. “I know some people will be upset, but I am in favor of Tradewinds’ plans for the O‘okala mill site,” he writes. Further, not only does he write of his support despite our community’s opposition, but he also gets crucial facts WRONG when explaining the situation.

In Holshuh’s July 2006 *Hamakua Times* column, he states, “If [Tradewinds] is unable to do the mill [in O‘okala], the eucalyptus trees, which could be used for value added veneer, will almost certainly be chipped.” This statement is nonsense; of course those trees are going to be chipped, they are CHIP QUALITY TREES AND LESS THAN 15% WILL PRODUCE VENEER QUALITY WOOD. Additionally, it is important to note that Tradewinds does not have a contract to log the trees on Kamehameha Schools' Hamakua lands and it is highly unlikely that they will be securing one—the trees are not suitable for producing veneer!

The Protect O'okala Ad Hoc Steering Committee has done extensive research into the feasibility of a veneer mill in O'okala. We consulted local forestry experts at the State Department of Forestry and Wildlife and the Hawai'i Agriculture Research Center, all of whom have either conducted the seminal research and market studies on the island's tree inventory or are well versed in the data. Not one of these experts has faith in Don Bryan's business strategy. Not one believes that there is an economy of scale of veneer quality trees on the island to sustain a veneer mill.

If Holschuh had bothered to do his homework on behalf of the people who elected him to office, he would have discovered this information. Further, he would know that the only logging lease that Tradewinds holds is for the trees at the Waiakea Timber Management Area south of Hilo, outside of our district, a STATE asset Bryan has tied up for seven years due to lack of financing and performance.

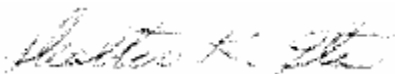
It has also been brought to our attention that Holschuh is posturing himself as the "negotiator" between the community and Don Bryan regarding "mitigating community concerns." More on this can be found in Holschuh's September *Hamakua Times* column. We would like to make it perfectly clear that Holschuh does NOT represent the people of O'okala in these communications with Don Bryan. As stated in our Opposition Statement,

The Protect O'okala Ad Hoc Steering Committee is not interested in negotiating with Tradewinds on the minutia of the project such as noise levels or amount of truck traffic or deal sweeteners such as mentoring projects or building of a library and café. Simply put, we hold the position that it is unacceptable for an industrial project of any size or scope to be located in the middle of the O'okala residential community.

And that's the heart of it: AN INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS HAS NO PLACE IN A RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY.

Therefore, because Holschuh has completely let us down by supporting Tradewinds' plans to build in our residential community, and because Dominic Yagong has put his critical thinking skills to work and come out strongly against this plan, the Protect O'okala Ad Hoc Steering Committee **ENDORSES DOMINIC YAGONG FOR DISTRICT 1 COUNTY COUNCILMAN**. Please note that the winner of this race will be decided in the PRIMARY ELECTION ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, and we urge you to vote in the primary for Yagong and to call all your friends and relatives in the district to be sure they will cast a vote for Yagong, too!

Aloha,



Walter Ita
Co-facilitator



Robbie Pagliai
Co-facilitator

cc: Fred Holschuh
Dominic Yagong
Attachments