

OPINION

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Letters to the Editor

HO'OPILI

NEW NEIGHBORHOOD A MODEL FOR DEVELOPMENT

New neighborhoods have sprung up all over Leeward O'ahu. Seemingly, with no planning — no connectivity, one way in and out, no parking, no schools, no open spaces, no concern for traffic. Ho'opili will be developed over a number of years. It provides for multiple ways in and out, pedestrian traffic, neighborhood shopping, a combination of high-end and affordable housing and much more. It is leading the way in Hawai'i by being the first development to take advantage of our coming rail system.

It's enticing to want to leave things "as they are" and stop development. There is a part of me that also laments the continuous growth. But I have come to recognize that tendency as selfish. What of our children? Where are they to live, work and play? Should we just buy them one-way tickets to the Mainland? Must they live three or four generations to a household?

Through the Kapolei Foundation scholarship program, we have had the opportunity to work with many Leeward students — great kids who, given the chance, will do our state proud. Let's keep them at home. Let's provide places for them to live, work and play. Let's create opportunities for them. Let's work with our developers instead of fighting them. Let's open our eyes and see Ho'opili for what it truly is, a model for future development.

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