

## LETTERS

### Just say no

**Editor:**

To all those who despair that our opposition to Governor Waihee's proposed rocket launch facility will not be heard — take heart.

Do not be discouraged by the apparent arrogance of former admiral Hayward. His long and illustrious career in the military has prepared him to give orders, not to listen to the people. He is ill at ease in situations where people want to know the truth and all the details of his activities, preferring instead that we follow orders and leave the strategy to him. The good news is that his power is extremely limited, and those politicians who control him have heard us.

We were very fortunate to have had the opportunity to hear William Paty speak at a meeting of the Greater Kona Community Council on the evening of March 26. Paty serves as chairman of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, and also as chairman of Governor Waihee's re-election campaign. Many questions concerning the rocket launching facility were asked of Paty that night. He let us know that Gov. Waihee was aware of our strong and broad-based opposition to that project.

Then Councilman Harry Ruddle brought the loudest applause of the night when he announced that he and Helene Hale had spoken to U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye and U.S. Representative Daniel Akaka to let them know that Hawaii County would prefer not to have a rocket launch facility developed here. He further informed us that the facility was not Waihee's idea, that he had "inherited" it. It's starting to sound as if he wished it would disappear. If he would just say no, it would.

Let's all continue to encourage Gov. Waihee to re-evaluate his position, as he certainly shouldn't feel obligated to realize someone else's bad idea. Call 1-800-468-4644. Helene Hale and Harry Ruddle have heard the people and have taken action. Governor Waihee should do the same and withdraw his support from this project.

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