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Developers: We can't meet 'all' demands

by Rachel Gehrlein - The Garden Island The developers of The Shops at Koloa announced yesterday that they will be moving ahead soon with the construction of the shopping center in Koloa.

Most of the large monkeypod trees on the property will remain untouched, according to a statement released by Stacey Wong, trustee of the Knudsen Trust, which owns the land where the shops will be located, and developer David Nelson. The beginning phase of construction will consist of the removal and replanting of more than two dozen trees.

"We have heard and considered the comments of some members of the Koloa community regarding the trees on the site," Wong said in the statement. "The plan for dealing with this issue is as comprehensive as possible. There is simply no way to accommodate all of the demands people are making as we proceed with the construction of the center."

Wong added that the trees are on private property and do not fall under the County's Exceptional Tree Ordinance.

"Even so, we have tried several times in the past to move the healthy trees to nearby locations or donate them to county parks or other developments," Wong said. "But those efforts, and others, have met opposition from people not willing to compromise."

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