Protesters picket Hawaiian conference

HONOLULU — About 20 students and senior citizens protesting golf course development in Hawaii picketed the recent International Conference on Resorts and Golf here.

Protesters focused on issues of water use and quality, fertilizer and pesticide applications, souring property values, foreign investments and cultural dilution.

Dr. Michael Hurdzan, a conference speaker and golf course architect from Columbus, Ohio, met with the protesters to discuss their viewpoints and present alternative opinions.

He said he suggested their arguments were founded in emotion, not fact or logic. "I think the older protesters sincerely listened to my counterpoints and may have softened. The younger ones, on the other hand, simply redirected their frustration at me personally," said Hurdzan.

The protesters recognize that golf is just one small factor changing the social and economic face of Hawaii, but one that can be easily isolated and attacked, he pointed out.

Poll: Hawaiians oppose building more courses

KAILUA, Hawaii — Residents here don’t want to see any more golf courses built in their community.

That’s the conclusion of a recent poll of more than 12,800 households, by the Kailua Neighborhood Board.

Nearly 80 percent of those who responded to the informal survey oppose additional golf course development in the area. Almost 90 percent do not feel drinking water should be used to irrigate golf courses in Windward Oahu, but 85 percent favor using treated wastewater for that purpose.

Results of the survey will be sent to each of Kailua’s state and country elected officials. Other citizen opinions gleaned in the poll include a thumbs-down on major growth, downtown high rises and guns, and thumbs-up for recycling, and a park-and-ride lot.

Slow Pa. market delays project

WHITPAIN TOWNSHIP, Pa. — A proposed deluxe housing complex and golf course here has been stalled by a tough real estate market.

The developer of the proposed Ballenrose property, Horsham-based Hansen Properties, Inc., is offering other developers a chance to buy and develop parts of the 500-acre site. While initial plans called for 851 housing units, so far only four model homes have been built.

Even though other developers can buy into the housing plans, Hansen Properties intends to build the 18-hole golf course, which is designed by Arnold Palmer’s Palmer Course Design Corp.

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