



Waikapū Community Association

To enhance the quality of life for the residents of Waikapū through the preservation and appreciation of its history, natural environment, and values of its rural tradition.

FEBRUARY 16, 2012
TESTIMONY BY THE WAILUKU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
TO THE
GENERAL PLAN COMMITTEE OF THE MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON THE
DIRECTED GROWTH PLAN,
CHAPTER 8 OF THE DRAFT MAUI ISLAND PLAN

Good afternoon Chair Baisa and Committee Members,

My name is Jacob Verkerke and I am the president of the Waikapū Community Association. The WCA is pleased to have this opportunity to present its views on this very important component of the Maui Island Plan.

On February 2, 2012 you received testimony from the Waikapū Community Association in reaction to the revisions of the introductory narrative portion of chapter 8, proposed shortly before that date. The Association's reaction was one of alarm.

That alarm was based on our analysis of the impact of the revisions proposed by Planning Director Spence. That analysis was, and continues to be, hindered by the fact that the revisions to the remainder of that chapter and the associated Directed Growth Maps have not been published yet. This makes it hard to fully ascertain the impact of the revisions of the introductory narrative on the subsequent description of the Regional Framework, the Wailuku-Kahului Planning Area, and those all-important Directed Growth Maps.

The Waikapū Community Association had a much appreciated chance on Monday, February 13, to spend a few hours discussing its concerns with Director Spence. That meeting also provided the Director with an opportunity to explain his reasons for the revisions, which appear to be founded

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in his desire to improve the utility of the Maui Island Plan by simplifying it and by delegating to the process of developing the respective community plans the work of developing the sticky details of directed growth within the growth boundaries, and the creation of tools to control that growth in accordance with the affected communities' preferences. I believe it is fair to say that our initial alarm has been replaced by a deep concern.

One source of our concern is the growing public contention by some of the participants in this process of adopting the Maui Island Plan, that the process itself is broken and can be fixed by simplifying the Plan. The time consumed by the process to date is offered as supporting evidence to that notion. It is the Waikapū Community Association's opinion that simplifying the Maui Island Plan at this stage of the game is the wrong fix at the wrong time.

It is the Association's understanding, that the process was initiated with the directive to provide the necessary level of detail in the Maui Island Plan to ensure that Directed Growth on Maui would be in line with, and even constrained by, the wishes of the community. It would appear that the GPAC succeeded in that task admirably.

Perhaps it is more accurate to state that the problems with the process occurred subsequent to the completion by GPAC of its proposed Maui Island Plan. Rather than working to improve the one proposed plan, we now witness this committee working on a fourth version of the plan as the primary focus of the discussions, being the version that includes the present director's proposed revisions. The GPAC and Planning Commission's versions of the Maui Island Plan, and more and more even the December 2010 Director's version, are being relegated to the background of this Committee's deliberations.

Over the years, much work has been done in the development of the Maui Island Plan to facilitate the Community Plan process, precisely through the inclusion of details that are now at risk of being eliminated. Would this not mean that the process is doomed to have to repeat itself during the Community Plan development? This may very well have the opposite effect of the desired time savings in approving the Maui Island Plan—the Community Plan process may have to foot that bill!

In the absence of the proposed revisions to the remainder of Chapter 8, including the maps, it is difficult for the

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Waikapū Community Association to request specific modifications in support of its desire to preserve and protect the unique character of the last remaining small rural town in Central Maui, which is showing a resurgence of agricultural activity. In general terms however, the Waikapū Community Association urges this Committee to return to the proposals as contained in the GPAC draft of the Plan, and specifically to the Directed Growth Maps for this region as proposed by the GPAC. They provide the only realistic opportunity to prevent the absorption of Waikapū into the Wailuku/Kahului urban core.

The Waikapū Community Association will return to offer more detailed testimony on the remainder of Chapter 8 and the Directed Growth Maps when the Director has published his revisions. Until that time, it appears to the Association that even the discussion on the introductory narrative portion of this chapter is rather out of context.

In closing, the Waikapū Community Association, as representative of the Waikapū Community asks for your support for, and serious consideration, of its efforts to protect this special community in Central Maui. The Association remains ready to participate in this effort in any way.

Mahalo.