



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 2, 2012
TESTIMONY BY THE WAIKAPŪ 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

Dear Chair Baisa and Committee Members,

The Waikapū Community Association (WCA) is pleased to have this opportunity to present its views on this very important component of the Maui Island Plan.

The Association had prepared testimony that was largely supportive of the concepts and ideas as reflected in the Directed Growth Area goals and policies, the guiding principles and the Types of Growth Boundaries included in the GPAC recommended and the Director's December 2010 published versions of the draft Maui Island Plan. The Association did, however, disagree with the implementation of those concepts as described in the discussion of the Wailuku/Kahului Region and as was shown in the associated directed growth map.

Subsequently, the Waikapū Community Association learned that last Thursday a revised version of the first half of Chapter 8, crucial to the implementation of the essence of the Maui Island Plan, was posted as part of the materials for today's meeting. Then the Association learned that it was only half a chapter's worth of revisions, without the part that describes the consequences of these revisions for the Wailuku/Kahului Region, which includes our Country Town community of Waikapū.

A preliminary review of the revisions suggests that the rural community of Waikapū is now faced with a substantial,

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even radical philosophical change in the character of the Maui Island Plan. Without the ability to review the full revision of the Chapter, one cannot escape the impression that the notion of preservation and protection of Maui's unique and valued small town communities has been abandoned.

Also gone seems the ability to use valuable growth control tools such as green belts, greenways, and sensitive lands, apparently replaced with the notion that fewer hard edges and boundaries between existing communities, and that the implementation of comprehensive zoning within an Urban Growth Boundary area, will suffice as long term planning tools to implement community plans. For the rural town of Waikapū, with its rich and varied history of agricultural activity in a vibrant community, this may mean the end of its existence as a recognizable, separate entity, the last historical small rural town in Central Maui.

Without those controls tools within an Urban Region, one must fear for the preservation of the last remaining intact sand dunes in Central Maui. Located in the Waikapū area, with the numerous burials known to be contained there, they are a critical natural, cultural, and historical resource already threatened by planned development.

Again, with only half of the proposed revisions to Chapter 8 published, and with only a week at most to analyze and review these major revised recommendations, community organizations such as the Waikapū Community Association, are at a tragic disadvantage in the critical discussion of the Directed Growth component of the Maui Island Plan.

The Waikapū Community Association asks the Chair of the General Plan Committee to allow more time between the publication of such significant revisions and the time of Committee discussion and decision making. If years of community input effort are going to be written out of the Plan, the community must have a chance to understand the long term impact on the small towns that still form the link between Maui's past and its future. After all, these communities were identified time and again by Maui residents and community associations as essential to the character of Maui and worthy of protection and preservation. The Waikapū Community Association feels strongly that at least 2 weeks must be allowed between the publication of these revisions and their inclusion on the Committee's meeting agenda.

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The community must have a chance to fully participate in the discussion that must follow the introduction of these profound revisions. Without such participation, we may not have anything to look back on after the completion of the Maui Island Plan but a cynical capitulation to short term development interests, at the expense of the essence of Maui: its history of small rural towns as the pillars for future well-planned communities.

The Waikapū Community Association, as representative of the Waikapū Community is grateful for this opportunity to present its thoughts and concerns to the General Plan Committee. It asks for support for and serious consideration of its efforts to protect this special community in Central Maui. The Association stands ready to participate in any way with the Committee and other interests in the expectation that the community of Waikapū will have the opportunity to thrive in the knowledge of its importance and value to the preservation of the Maui we love and need to protect.

Mahalo.

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