

July 19, 2017

Land Use Committee
Kalana O Maui Building, 8th Floor
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

RE: Support of Lona Ridge Conditional Permit Application

I would like to thank the members of the committee for allowing me to provide input on such an important matter.

My name is Rebecca Armato. I've just retired as the administrator of the Pacific Cancer Institute, a Rotarian for over 30 years, and was voted Vice President of the Board of the Wailuku Heights 2 Homeowners Association but stepped down last year after I received a written threat of physical harm if I supported Lona Ridge's CUP application. More importantly, I live at [589 Kulaiwi Drive](#). I am the immediate next door neighbor of Lona Ridge, As you face her gate I'm the house on the left and the only property who has Lona Ridge's driveway winding up alongside and around behind my house. Lona Ridge's driveway runs just over 30 feet from windows on 3 sides of my bedroom. I am here in support of granting Lona Ridge's Conditional Permit to conduct special events.

I've been visiting Maui for 35 years and knew from my first visit I would retire here. Thirty months ago I bought my house and moved here with my parents from the mainland. I spent the first year at home 24 hours a day, 7 days a week as caregiver for my parents and haven't heard any noise from Lona Ridge's farm tours or family gatherings. I don't have an air conditioner and my windows are always open.

I've heard neighbors playing basketball until midnight , garage poker parties until [2am](#) ; dogs barking at feral cat fights, neighbor's getting home from work [at 3am](#), motorcycles revving their engines; and cars driving around the circle in front of my house at all hours day and night just to take in the phenomenal view from the cul-de-sac! I also hear the concerts at the MACC and drag racing off in the valley.

I am also awakened by roosters competing to be first, the songs of birds - too many to count; owls screeching, deer butting antlers, and kept up at night by geckos taunting me - but those are the sounds of Wailuku Heights alive with life - animals and people - I wouldn't complain about any one of them- All have a right to be here! What I don't 'hear' are cars heading up alongside and behind my house.

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I do wish that neighbors would walk on the beautiful sidewalks we have and not up the middle of the street to the cul-de-sac I live on - I worry about accidents in the neighborhood – not because of traffic at Lona Ridge, but from all cars that come to enjoy the view from the highest public spot – right in front of my house. Believe me there are over 50+ cars a day that just drive up and stop in front of my house to take in the spectacular view of the valley– and I’m happy to share it!

I don't believe that we should sit in our homes, oblivious and uncaring to the needs of the land, animals and people around us. I believe we have an obligation to wake up each day and give without expectation of receiving; inspire & encourage the dreams of others - young and old; educate the youth on the rich history of Maui; honor and cherish those who came before us; essentially leave the world better than we found it and treat everyone with warmth and compassion. That's the Aloha spirit I fell in love with on Maui when I started coming here 35 years ago. That's the Aloha Spirit I've experienced at Lona Ridge.

Who am I to say what a neighbor can or can't do with their property, even if to make money? Especially when the money is used to respect and care for the land and give back to the community - sharing Maui's rich history and beauty with residents and visitors the way I've personally experienced at Lona Ridge?

I saw my 89 year old father, a WWII vet and Physician brought to tears by not just the awe inspiring view of Maui from Lona Ridge, but by the warmth he felt and the excitement & wonder he witnessed in the eyes of children who were seeing their Maui from Lona Ridge, a view they never imagined. He wanted to be here today to speak in support of her application, but sadly he passed away last year at this time. He told me to tell you how much he loved it here, a Maui he never would have known without Lona Ridge, Leona and Richard as our neighbors. “Tell them spending time at Lona Ridge made an old man feel young again.”

Every man, woman and child on Maui should have the opportunity to experience the Maui my parents fell in love with from Lona Ridge. Think of the dreams and the Maui future it could inspire! You can't go back and make a new beginning, but you can start right now and inspire a brand new ending.

That is why I support Lona Ridge's conditional permit application. I hope it is granted so residents and visitors will continue to be reminded why they love Maui; inspire them to pay forward; be responsible stewards of the land, be kind neighbor's and leave our little piece of heaven on earth better than we found it. I also support her expanding her already approved farm tours – since collecting fees for an increased number of farm tours gives her the ability to offset her cost for the free tours she provides to seniors, schools and children of Maui. Thank you for allowing me to provide input.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Armato
589 Kulaiwi Drive, Wailuku, HI 96793

My House

Bedroom

Lona Ridge

