

July 11, 2017 - CONDITIONAL PERMIT FOR 355 HAIKU ROAD, LLC (HAIKU) (LU-18)

Good afternoon Council and Chair Carroll,

My name is Sydney Smith and I own Maliko Estate Coffee Farm between Makawao and Haiku. Most of you know me, from the many times I've been here testifying as an advocate for farmers and agriculture issues. I'm testifying today on behalf of myself and community.

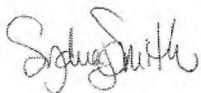
Peter and Erica, the owners of Baldwin Manor have become friends of mine. I'm very pleased with their care and appreciation of this historic property. I've lived in this area for over 30 years, and I'm familiar with the property. I've seen it cared for and I've seen it neglected. I remember one owner that carpeted over the entire upstairs hardwood floors with AstroTurf. It's beautifully restored now. It's a treasure for all of us here in Maui County but especially for those of us who live in the neighborhood. Many of you may not know that the first telephone installed in Hawaii went between the Haiku Mill across the street and this house, Baldwin Manor, H. P. Baldwin's home. It's the location of a beautiful collection of trees and wonderfully preserved plantation era cottages, many of them over a century old.

They have an amazing working farm and orchards on their adjoining parcel. They want to add a coffee orchard to their farm. They've become members of the Maui Coffee Association and I'm working with them to choose the right varietal for their elevation.

With these owners many people will have the opportunity to enjoy this beautiful location. The property is 40 acres and the impacts to the neighborhood will be minimal. They are very compassionate people and would never want to negatively impact their home or community. They did not purchase this property to sell it. They purchased it to become a part of our community and to raise their children here.

My farm is nearby and I have similar era buildings, a historic site and important trees along with my coffee orchard. The expense of properly maintaining all these things is tremendous. I was able to get my vacation rental permit and Special Use Permit in 2014. The income has helped my family, created good paying jobs and has never created a problem for my neighbors.

Peter and Erica are employing local families, many of whom have worked on this property for multiple generations. I absolutely support their request to operate a vacation rental in Baldwin Manor and I also support them in their request to have events there.



Sydney Smith
Maliko Estate Coffee
365 Kaluanui Rd.
Makawao, Maui, Hawaii 96768
808-268-3646

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