

PC Committee

From: Wayne Tanaka <waynet@oha.org>
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2018 3:08 PM
To: PC Committee
Subject: OHA Testimony on PC-2 for the Thursday, July 5 Planning Committee Meeting
Attachments: Molokai Community Plan Update Testimony Council Planning Committee 070518.pdf

Aloha Chair King and Members of the Council Planning Committee,

Please find attached the Office of Hawaiian Affairs' administrative testimony on the Moloka'i Community Plan Update being considered by the Committee this Thursday, July 5.

Mahalo nui,

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Administrative Testimony
Testimony of Kamana‘opono Crabbe, Ph.D.
Ka Pouhana, Chief Executive Officer

Planning Committee
Maui County Council

MOLOKAI COMMUNITY PLAN UPDATE (PC-2)

July 5, 2018

9:00 a.m.

Council Chamber

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following comments in **SUPPORT** of moving the most recent Moloka‘i Community Plan Update (Plan) draft to public hearing, and of the Plan’s continued inclusion of the East End Policy Statement, West End Policy Statement, and provisions recognizing the importance of community-based subsistence fishing areas to the subsistence practices and lifestyles of Moloka‘i’s residents.

OHA greatly appreciates the countless hours of dedicated work put into the development of the current Plan draft, and commends the Planning Department, the Moloka‘i Community Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC), the Moloka‘i Planning Commission, and the people of Moloka‘i for their efforts in developing the Plan over the last three years. OHA further appreciates the Plan’s acknowledgement of the importance of maintaining Moloka‘i’s unique rural character, and of the need to protect the island’s natural resources, cultural resources, subsistence opportunities, open spaces, fishponds, and agricultural lands and activities. As a comprehensive reflection of the needs and desires of the communities of Moloka‘i, OHA believes that the Plan will serve as an invaluable guide to future policies, decisions, and actions that can best suit the island and its residents.

As reflected in OHA’s previous testimony on the Plan, OHA particularly supports the Plan’s continued inclusion of the East End Policy Statement in its entirety. OHA emphasizes the continuing importance of the East End Policy Statement to the people of East Moloka‘i, as a detailed and long-standing vision for their place. Originally established in 1981, the East End Policy Statement represents the culmination of a broad-based, community-driven effort to document the Mana‘e community’s vision for its future. The statement was developed over a number of years, with extensive input from the majority of area residents, including respected kūpuna who have since passed on. In the words of the Statement, the mana‘o of these kupuna continue to serve as a guide for the next generation. OHA notes that the enduring relevance and significance of the East End Policy Statement to the communities of Mana‘e and East Moloka‘i are well-evidenced in the many testimonies provided to the CPAC, the Moloka‘i Planning Commission, and to the Planning Committee itself.

Similarly, OHA further supports and urges the Plan's continued inclusion of the West End Policy Statement in its entirety. OHA understands that the West End Policy Statement was developed through numerous meetings and countless hours of research, reflection, and discussion by Maunaloa and Kaluako'i residents over the past two years, and as such captures the highly unique character, needs, challenges, and desires of the people of West Moloka'i. Like the East End Policy Statement, the vision, information, and recommendations in the West End Policy Statement will serve as an invaluable and detailed guide to future policies and actions that can best reflect the mana'o of those most intimately familiar with West Moloka'i's unique resources, sites, and ways of life. **OHA especially appreciates the Statement's high level of specificity and abundance of contextual information, which may prove essential to fully-informed and appropriate decisionmaking for the future of West Moloka'i.**

Finally, OHA supports and urges the Plan's continued support of community-based subsistence fishing areas (CBSFAs) as a key means of protecting and perpetuating the critically important subsistence resources and practices of Moloka'i communities, including the Mo'omomi CBSFA management plan and rules that have been approved for public hearing by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. OHA has long-supported community-led resource management as a means of Native Hawaiian self-determination. CBSFAs in particular provide Native Hawaiian subsistence communities with the opportunity to use their intimate familiarity with and care for their respective places, to guide the management of the specific marine resources upon which their subsistence needs and lifestyles depend. CBSFAs that protect and guide the harvesting of critical subsistence resources also help to ensure the perpetuation of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices and cultural relationships to place. Notably, the concept of CBSFAs originated on Moloka'i, with Mo'omomi serving as the pilot site for the first, temporary CBSFA two decades ago; the concept is now being pursued by Native Hawaiian subsistence communities throughout the islands. OHA understands that the current Mo'omomi CBSFA rules are the result of years of dialogue between the Hui Mālama o Mo'omomi, Moloka'i residents and landowners, state agencies, and other interested parties, and incorporate the intimate traditional ecological knowledge of those who have genealogical ties and an unyielding commitment to their kūlā'iwi, in order to perpetuate Mo'omomi's nearshore fisheries and fishing traditions; the rules have also been tailored to minimize or negate any impact to small commercial and charter fishing businesses, and as such have been unanimously approved for public hearing by the state Small Business Regulatory Review Board. **Accordingly, OHA strongly supports the Plan's recognition and encouragement of CBSFAs, including the Mo'omomi CBSFA, as a critical means of perpetuating Moloka'i's resources and subsistence lifestyles, that any comprehensive Plan for the future of Moloka'i must consider.**

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to **APPROVE** recommending the Plan draft for public hearing. Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this matter.