

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor

WILLIAM R. SPENCE
Director

MICHELE CHOUTEAU McLEAN
Deputy Director



COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

October 5, 2017

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OFFICE OF THE MAYOR


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2017 OCT -6 PM 2:30
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COUNTY CLERK

Honorable Alan M. Arakawa
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Mike White, Chair
and Members of the Maui County Council
County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair White and Members of the Council:

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

Mayor 10/5/17
Date

SUBJECT: PUBLIC DISCOURSE

We are writing to you in the hope that we can encourage and foster greater civility in the working relationship between the Department of Planning (Department) and the County Council.

Within the last week, in two separate incidents, members of the Council made loud, hostile, accusatory, disrespectful, unwarranted and incorrect comments to Planning Department staff at public meetings. We insist that this kind of conduct stop immediately.

Please keep in mind that our staff members are civil servants, not political appointees. They serve the public at the direction of the Mayor and Director, not the Council. If any Council member is unhappy or dissatisfied with how our staff are performing their duties, then the matter should be raised with the Director at an appropriate time and in an appropriate manner.

The lack of civility in public discourse may be common with some of our leaders in Washington; please do not let us fall into this pattern in Maui County. It will simply not be tolerated by this Department.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of and attention to this letter. If you wish to discuss further, please feel free to contact me at Ext. 7735.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM SPENCE
Planning Director

xc: Keith Regan, Managing Director (pdf)
All Planning Department Employees (pdf)
WRS:MCM:atw
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COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 17-419