



February 13, 2019

Maui County Council
Planning and Sustainable Land Use Committee
County of Maui
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Subject: Planning Department Public Outreach on Community Plans

Honorable Chair Paltin and Members of the Planning and Sustainable Land Use Committee:

Aloha.

My name is Wayne N. Hedani and I am here before you as President of Kaanapali Operations Association, Inc. and as an individual member of the public speaking in support of the Department of Planning's outreach efforts in the planning process. I have participated in numerous meetings with the Planning Department staff over the past several months on the update of the West Maui Community Plan.

I believe the professional staff engaged in the planning process have done an excellent job in reaching out to the members of the public who will ultimately be affected by changes in the community plan update process for West Maui. I believe that the efforts of the Department have led to a more informed public and has engaged the public in sincere, thoughtful and open discussions on the future of West Maui.

Public engagement at times can be a messy and chaotic process. Embrace the chaos. Individuals can be emotional and aggressive in protecting their interests especially when they feel these interests have been threatened by overdevelopment. Listening to the public is important, especially if and when you do not want to hear what is being said. Providing an opportunity for input by those most affected is the only way to reach true community consensus on the best way forward. We all learn something in the process.

We have had meetings with in excess of 350 individuals present in West Maui and providing heartfelt testimony. I believe that the forums which were presented by the department and in engaging with the public, allowed the community to be heard. That community voice was heard and has already resulted in changes in the trajectory and scale of future growth. Changes for the better. Unwanted overdevelopment has been dropped. Provisions for future sea level rise have been accommodated into long term planning. The process is working.

Thank you for this opportunity for input into your deliberations.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Wayne N. Hedani

President

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