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OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

RE: APPOINTMENT OF PLANNING DIRECTOR. GET-1.

Aloha Council Chair and Members,

I am the Administrator of the Planning Department's Zoning Administration and Enforcement Division (ZAED), and I give my unconditional support of your confirmation of Michele McLean as Planning Director.

I was a Maui Deputy Corporation Counsel in the 1990s, advising primarily on Planning issues, and then in private law practice until 2013, again focusing on planning issues, and interacting regularly with the Planning Department. In 2013 I returned to public service, joining the Planning Department as ZAED administrator. In my 28 years of working in Maui land use, I have dealt with seven Planning Directors. Without a doubt, the Planning Department has functioned the best, served the community the best and has improved the most under Michele's leadership during the last eight years as Deputy Director and as Director.

As Deputy and as Director, Michele has been a thoughtful, decisive and effective administrator, handling budget, human resources, internal processes, interdepartmental issues, and legislative matters, and the other countless matters needing oversight in a 75-person department. While her general approach is structured and analytical, she is also flexible, creative and empathetic in seeking solutions. Michele works with the department to identify and prioritize required code and rule revisions; seeks broad input and welcomes opposing views on policy matters, and persistently pursues the legislative and administrative processes that ultimately result in improved planning regulations. Michele acts with integrity, transparency and fairness, and she is always striving to improve her own, the department's and the County government's service to the public.

In my opinion, the Council will best serve the people of Maui by retaining Michele McLean as director. This will allow her to continue her leadership and her work on so many of her ongoing initiatives, and to continue improving the planning department and the regulations it administers.

Thank you for considering my input.

John S. Rapacz

