

**GET Committee**

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**From:** Don Couch <don@doncouch.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 24, 2019 9:19 PM  
**To:** GET Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony in support of Michele McLean for Director of the Department of Planning

Aloha Chair Molina and committee members,

Mahalo for taking the time to read this testimony.

I support Mayor Victorino's appointment of Michele McLean as the director of the Department of Planning. As the chair of the Maui County Council Planning Committee from 2011 through 2016, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Ms. McLean on almost every issue that came before the committee. She has always - ALWAYS - had the people of Maui County as her highest priority. She was not afraid to question me when we had our offline discussions. She was open and honest with her assessments of situations. She would not hesitate to point out potential strengths or weaknesses in a certain piece of language in a bill nor pitfalls or benefits in a policy that the committee was considering.

She also made sure that the community plans and the Maui Island Plan were part of the discussions when we worked on Title 19 (Zoning) issues.

As you are all aware, you cannot please everyone all the time with decisions that you make. The same goes with whomever is the Director of the Planning Department. There may have been a decision that someone or some group did not like but - from my experience in dealing with her - she would always guide me/us in the direction that would benefit the County as a whole and a community(ies) in particular.

In my opinion, Michele McLean would make an excellent director for the Department of Planning.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Don Couch