

Mike J. Molina

From: jay arakawa <jay.m.arakawa@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 9:44 PM
To: Riki Hokama; Tasha A. Kama; Kelly King; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Keani N. Rawlins; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Confirmation for Planning Director, Michele McLean

Aloha Council Members,

My name is Jay Arakawa and I am a Zoning Inspector III for the Planning Department.

I am emailing you today with a matter that has concerned a large number of employees of the Department. Rumor has it that present Director Michele Mclean does not have your confidence to receive the votes necessary for her confirmation as Director of the Planning Department. Ms. McLean has always been hard working and knowledgeable. She always gets assignments completed efficiently and in a timely manner.

For those who feel she is not deserving of the position, I ask that you speak to people of the Department for their input and not pass judgment according to the recent events that have occurred with some of the high profile projects. Hear what actually happened prior to the determinations of these cases that have left the Department in an unfavorable position. For instance, the case involving the zipline operation in Haiku, Ms. McLean inherited this mess from the previous director. The Department's determination was that the operator was required to secure a Special Use Permit for the zipline operation. At the Planning Commission meeting, the former director went on record to say a Special Use Permit was not necessary. Following this event, the director was reassigned to the Department of Housing. Ms. McLean was left to resolve this problem. Given the circumstances, the only solution was to compromise with the operator or face a lawsuit by the zipline owner. There was no alternative but to allow the operator to continue and place requirement and restrictions for this operation. The requirement set in place now forces future ziplines to secure a Special Use Permit for this type of business.

This is just one instance Ms. McLean was tasked to resolve that was created by the previous director. So, as I previously said, please do not cast your vote until you know all the facts. Find out all of the facts before making your decision. Mahalo and Aloha.