

Mike J. Molina

From: Gina Castaneda <gina@mnhawaii.net>
Sent: Monday, January 21, 2019 2:50 PM
To: Mike J. Molina
Cc: Kent Smith; Gina Castaneda
Subject: Appointment of Planning Director, GET-1
Attachments: KRS Letter_M. Molina 01-21-19.pdf

Dear Mr. Molina,

Please see the attached letter from Mr. Kent R. Smith.

Thank you,
Gina

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January 21, 2019

VIA E-MAIL (Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us)

GET Chair Mike Molina
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Subject: Appointment of Planning Director, GET-1

Dear Mr. Molina,

This letter is sent to you and all Council Members indicating my strong endorsement of Michele McLean being confirmed by the Maui County Council to her appointment by our new Mayor Victorino as County Planning Director.

I have known and worked with Michele for nearly 20 years here on Maui. She has worked with me as an independent, private sector planning consultant, an employee of KRS Development Inc. ("KRSD"), deputy director of Kahoolawe Island Reserve Commission ("KIRC"), and her years with the Maui County Planning Department.

Our professional involvements have included multiple affordable and gap group single and multi-family housing projects in South, West, Northshore, East and upcountry Maui. As an employee of KRSD (the founders, developers, and owner-operators of the Kaheawa Windfarm), Michele was involved in planning and managing all County & State land use entitlements, environmental permits, archeological survey and State DLNR approvals, endangered species protection approvals (Federal and State) and the community interface on all these matters. The aforementioned were extremely complex and vital aspects of this successful renewable energy project, benefiting the future of Maui.

Now, as County Planning Director, I have observed her public service dedication to Maui, without any hint of partisanship or favoritism in her policy planning and advice to the Mayor and Council, and in her department decisions and enforcement.

Michele's commitment to our Community was shown to me when she resigned as my KRSD employee, with real opportunity for her to grow with my company professionally and financially, to assume a position at KIRC and then with the Maui County Planning Department.



She said then, *"I love the challenge and success of my job here, but my heart is in public service to my community."* She has subsequently shown she meant it!

Michele is intelligent, articulate, and knowledgeable in her field, fair, ethical and non-partisan. She is exactly what Maui needs in a Planning Director. I compliment Mayor Victorino for appreciating these attributes by re-appointing her.

I sincerely hope our Maui County Council, in its new responsibility for confirming department head appointments, and after close review of Michele's qualifications and performance, will confirm her....so she can get on with her good work for our Maui community!!

Mahalo Nui for considering my perspective.

Kent R. Smith

KRS Development Inc., President
Hawaii Energy Strategists LLC, Majority Partner