

Testimony by Michael Spalding in support of confirmation of Michele McLean as Planning Director – January 23, 2019
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Good morning Chairman Molina and Members of the Council and Staff.

I am Michael Spalding. I have been on Maui for over 40 years. I am here to testify in support of Michele McLean's confirmation as Planning Director.

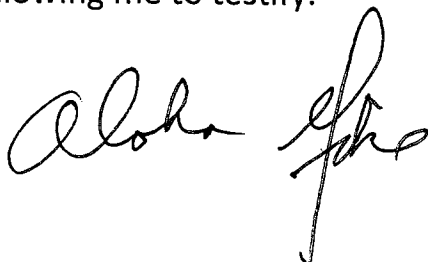
I have known Michele for 8 years and consider her a friend, but more than that, she is a skilled administrator that has been successfully leading the Planning Department. She has extensive experience with Maui and Hawaii land use laws, regulations and policies. She is an experienced planner who has earned the American Institute of Certified Planners Certificate. Michele has a strong work ethic, excellent management skills, is accessible, fair, a problem solver and has integrity. She is also cheerful and easy to work with.

As an example, I took Michele to lunch a few years back and she insisted in paying for her lunch. That was a first. Michele seeks collaboration and consensus but is not afraid of making hard decisions that are "Pono". There are many initiatives that she is working on that are critical to the betterment of Maui. They include: (a) Amending the SMA rules to deal with sea level rising to protect our roads and infrastructure. (b) To better regulate agricultural lands to protect and support true ag. (c) Working to improve the Community Plan update process among other things.

Michele has been working with Maui landowners in identifying strategic properties that would benefit future generations by being purchased by the County before they get developed.

Finding qualified department heads is a challenge. Maui is lucky to have someone of Michele's experience and background and proven track record willing to continue as Planning Director. Keeping Michele as Planning Director is a commitment to good governance for Maui. I am hoping for all of Maui that Michele will be confirmed as Planning Director.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Spalding", written in a cursive style.