PLANNING COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

May 3, 2001

Council Chamber

CONVENE: 1:31 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Charmaine Tavares, Chair

Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Vice-Chair

Councilmember Alan M. Arakawa, Member (In 1:32 p.m.)

Councilmember Robert Carroll, Member Councilmember G. Riki Hokama, Member Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson, Member Councilmember Dain P. Kane, Member Councilmember Patrick S. Kawano, Member

Councilmember Wayne K. Nishiki, Member (Out 1:54 p.m.)

STAFF: Wayne A. Boteilho, Legislative Analyst

Camille Sakamoto, Committee Secretary

Kelly Arbor, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson James Johnson, Executive Assistant to Councilmember

Jo Anne Johnson

ADMIN.: John E. Min, Director, Department of Planning

Daren Suzuki, Planner, Department of Planning

Brian T. Moto, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the

Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Ron McOmber

Bob Nichols

Elliott Krash

James and Lucille Lawrence Additional attendees (2)

PRESS: ?

CHAIR TAVARES: ...(gavel)... Will the Planning Committee please come to order? We have with us this afternoon Members of the Planning Committee: Mr. Kane; Mr. Carroll; Mr. Hokama; Ms. Johnson; Mr. Molina; Mr. Nishiki...and our Chair, Mr. Kawano. Thank you for being here. Excused for the moment is Mr. Arakawa. From the Planning Department we have...John Min and

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Daren Suzuki. From the Corporation Counsel, we have. . .Brian Moto. Our Committee Staff: our Analyst Wayne Boteilho, and our Secretary Camille Sakamoto. Members, this afternoon we are gathered . . .

. . . mostly to discuss the process by which we are going to . . .

. . . address this item, which is. . .I guess for the record we should say what item it is. . .Item Number 8, the community planning process.

ITEM NO. 8: IMPROVING THE PROCESS FOR UPDATING THE GENERAL AND COMMUNITY PLANS (C.C. No. 98-51)

CHAIR TAVARES: In your binders, the second to the last . . .

. . . page, that's dated April 24th, 2001. . .and this is the subject for today--the proposed informal workshops regarding the General and community plan processes. This meeting today is to set up. . .the, the method by which we are going to get input from the community. It needs to come before this body for approval first. . .and then we can go forward there. I see, thank you, Mr. Arakawa, he's here. Members of the public who came to testify, since you are here, please come and testify, but know that we will be coming to each of the communities to get input. . .later on should this method that we're proposing today be approved. So at this time, I'll take public testimony. You'll have three minutes. . .you know, the usual. . .everybody who's here has testified before. So the same . . .same sort of process. So, Mr. McOmber. . .thank you for coming all the way from Lanai to participate with us this afternoon. And then just say your name for the record.

...BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

MR. McOMBER: My name is Ron McOmber. I'm a resident of Lanai.

... And I wish I had just come just for this, but I... I sit on the Liquor Adjudication Board. So the County paid my way over...so I'm giving 'em a little extra money for their dollars.

CHAIR TAVARES: Hey . . .

?: . . . (laughter). . .

CHAIR TAVARES: . . . thank you.

NAD NACONDED I conduct the conduct to the conduct that the

MR. McOMBER: I read on the agenda, in the newspaper that this item was coming up.

And because I was Co-Chair of the Lanai CAC. . .this is near and dear to my

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heart. First of all, I'd like to say something, and I'm sure you've heard this a thousand times--the process that we went through in the last community plan. . .and there's no other word for it, but it sucks. It's a terrible process. It takes the community--and you're asking 11 people to come out and participate in a community plan--and then take five years to finalize that. It's an awful thing to do the. . .citizens that put their time in and give an honest effort to try to shape and try to show what their community should look like.

. . . What it does, in my opinion--you know I'm. . . I'm very opinionated about how developers like to step in and do this--but it gave our particular case, it gave the developer and the landowner, the major landowner an opportunity to negate three-quarters of what the community asked for and how they had it designated. And it might have been even worse if the Council hadn't stepped in and gave us some conservation lands and some, and did some things that, open space areas that, even more than what we originally asked for. I just want you folks to understand that we need to have a process. And however you do it in your wisdom. . .we need to do it so that the community is a partnership. . .not just a, a squeaky little voice off in the side somewhere. They are part of that community. The grassroots starts in the community, folks. It doesn't start here in the Chamber. And it doesn't start with the developer. And we always talk about grassroots in this community, in, in Maui County. Grassroots is for the folks that pay your taxes. And we're the ones that are most affected by it. So we, whatever your process is and however you do it--and I appreciate Charmaine. . .saying that she's gonna come over there. . .and talk to the communities, all the communities. I hope we have a good turnout.

... I think you will hear, if the people come out, that they're...you probably won't hear too much frustration 'cause there was only 11 of us, I think, that participated in it. And, and about five of those were Company officials. So they were kind of pleased with how it finally turned out. But the rest of us were kind of frustrated by it. It's a frustrating process. I don't believe it should take five years. In some cases, taken longer than that in some communities. We were the first ones to get ours done.

CHAIR TAVARES: Uh-huh.

MR. McOMBER: . . . And I think we got shafted. So keep that in mind. Listen to the people. And, and I will bend to your wisdom. And thank you very much for allowing me to speak. Um. . .again, it wasn't just because of this item, but I still thought, I was here, I'm gonna be here to 4:45, I thought I'd give you a little bit of Ron McOmber's mouth. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: . . . (laughter). . .

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CHAIR TAVARES: Thank you, Ron. Any questions for Ron?

. . . Just to, to assure you that the . . the wisdom is gonna be a collective

wisdom. . .not just the wisdom in this Chamber. It's gonna be--

MR. McOMBER: Well, I understand that--

CHAIR TAVARES: --a collective wisdom.

MR. McOMBER: --and that's what we're asking for, just a fair shake across the board. Because if you're gonna ask people in the community to come out and participate in government--and how many times have we asked people to do that, be on boards and commissions and do...get involved with your County--and then to have it negated . . .

CHAIR TAVARES: Right.

MR. McOMBER: . . . doesn't send a very good message to everyone of us that are trying to get people to do that. Okay?

CHAIR TAVARES: Thank you.

MR. McOMBER: Thank you.

CHAIR TAVARES: Thank you, Ron.

. . . Mr. Nichols. . .you're up. And he's the last person to testify, unless there's someone else. . .who wishes to come forward.

NOTE: Pause while Mr. Nichols approached the podium.

MR. NICHOLS: . . . Bob Nichols from Kihei. Watching you people on television. . .I, I wonder sometime about your sanity for having applied for this job.

ALL: ...(laughter)...

MR. NICHOLS: I mean . . . (laughter). . . all the various things that you go through and do. Uh . . .

ALL: ...(laughter)...

MR. NICHOLS: My...contribution is that good planning is a continuous and coordinated process. In Maui County, our ... (laughter)... process is neither coordinated. . .or continuous. The Maui... Charter assigns the planning

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legislative process to the Planning Department. Their prime input is that of working with community groups to update their vision of Maui's future. However, other County agencies have water, sewer, road, park, and personal plans that have a major impact on Maui residents. They are rarely added to the specific community plans or the General County Plan. Planning admin. . .administration is given to the Department of Public Works. And rather than one coordinated source, this function is split among many desks and individuals. This price, process makes life very difficult for all those concerned. In addition, various State and Federal agencies exercise their administration as they see fit. Planning's judicial arm has been assigned to the Board of Variances and Appeals of the Planning Department. In *practice*, this process takes up 90 percent or more of the Planning Department's time. Some items for your consideration.

. . . . Each Maui community should have a continuous *core*--and I . . . (inaudible). . . the word core--active planning committee. Each Maui community should have an assigned life and a decade for a complete review of their community plan with a scheduled five-year update. County departments that have individual plans should be required to meet with the community core groups at least once each year. County departments should present their proposed plan changes with cost estimates to the communities involved and/or complete County before they are submitted for approval.

. . . Each Maui community should have its own Board of Variances and Appeals. The department of Public Works should assign an individual to each development request. And this individual should provide all the required items and coordinate any needed department reviews.

... After the community plan is updated--and this is a major fault that I think we have in Maui--the Corporate Counsel should provide a list of required ordinances that need to be added, amended, or eliminated to implement the revised plan. These revisions should be submitted to the community review before the upgraded plan and ordinances are sent to the County. . .for consider, Council for consideration. The County Council needs to pass a *down*-zoning ordinance. If I read your agenda. . .material properly. . .you have a couple things that you're gonna be thinking about. One of 'em is a community plan schedule that assigns a specific year for each community. I strongly recommend that you approve this as soon as possible. I would make some technical adjustments.

. . . You have, the West Maui five-year review and Waikaluku [sic] . . .(cough). . . excuse me, Kahului plan, prime plan in the same year. This is not good for the staff.

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. . . The starts, completes, and the five-year review plans should have a specific decade year, not a specific year date. As proposed, it gives specific days, but at the end of this decade, you'd be having to start all over again. Since the County has several years--physical [sic], election, and calendar--it might be well to assign a month for each activity or to declare a year. Let me give you an example. My bias is that you should get...the plans on a fiscal year. This would mean the County Council would receive the two plans in the month of June. They would have all summer to discuss them and, and do what they're gonna do with it. If you go to a counter. . .calendar year, there are two major problems. First, you have an election year. . . somebody takes a minor part of the plan. . . blows it up and you're, and you're not talking about the plan, you're talking about some minor thing in the election and the plan is, gets lost. The other problem with a calendar year is that a new Council, probably--every other year or so and possibly even a new Administration--and a new group is being asked to review these after January 1st. And you guys have a lot on your plate...on January 1st. Whereas, if you have the, the year that you're gonna specify end in June. . .you'll have a whole summer with which to play for. As to the review pro, proposal that, that was in your material. . . I would suggest that this be delayed. And the reason I suggest this to be delayed, because I think you need a complete schedule of what the planning process should be done and by the various parties involved. Let me give you an example.

. . . If a five-year. . . review plan would, it was decided that it's an 18-month process. . . last January, a members of the Planning Department would have been assigned to a district. The members of the committee would have been selected, and they would have started their work. By this time, they would have met with all the County departments and had an idea where they were going and they would have started some community meetings.

... By this time next year, May of next year. . . they would have had the report of the Corporate Counsel saying these are the ordinance that you need. And the community, committee and the. . . could get together in the community, show the people the final plan, show them the ordinances that have to be passed, and they'd be able to give. . . the community could give their opinion of what the heck was going on. At that point, the, the thing could be wrapped up and handed to the Council in June. Now that does, may not seem important to you. But if you accept the schedule here. . . Kihei and South Maui is assigned to have theirs ready like next June. We're already six months a. . . behind. Now, you're lucky. We, we, we've done some of our homework and we're doing some things already.

CHAIR TAVARES: Right.

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MR. NICHOLS: So we could probably make up that six months. But the sooner. . . the act is gotten together by whoever has to be done, the, the. . . and, and even if, even if you just approve the schedule and say hey, Kihei, you gotta do this by such and such a time. . . and Wailuku you gotta do it by such and such a time. . . the easier it'll be on, be on all of us. I assume that you're going to work on the whole. . . planning ordinance. And I would hope that you'd get people from the Planning Department, the community and this Council to sit down and write it up because some of it archaic, some of it needs definitely to be changed (inaudible). . . Thank you for a long three minutes.

CHAIR TAVARES: Yes, thank you . . . (laughter). . .

MR. NICHOLS: ... (laughter). . .

CHAIR TAVARES: Since you were the last one, we gave you the other, additional minutes.

MR. NICHOLS: Thank you.

CHAIR TAVARES: Mr. Arakawa?

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: ... Uh. . . Bob . . .

... I really like what you're saying, and I just wanna confirm what you're saying. In looking at each of the departments--for instance, during the planning process, you would ask something like the Parks Department. ..what is your plan for the next ten years. ..and you'd go to the Water Department, what is your plan for water in the next ten years. That, that's what you're intending--each of the department, department-by-department or . . .

MR. NICHOLS: Right. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: ... process-by-process.

MR. NICHOLS: What I'm saying is like. . .in South Maui, if we're going to plan in South Maui as a community, we gotta know what the Water Department's gonna have available. We'll have to know what the road department's gonna have avail. . .uh. . .what does the Parks Department gonna have available. And I hate to say it, but you talk to 'em, they say well, we don't. . .have a plan. Uh. . .where are our parks going to be. . .what parks are you planning for us in 10 years, 20 years, 30 years? There is no plan. What roads are gonna be done? Well, we'd like to do this that and the other. But you say what water you're gonna have? Well, that's a good question. And they're two or three kinds of water you

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appreciate. And. . .if a community plan is gonna be done realistically, all those things are gotta be known.

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: Okay. I think that's a very good point. Thank you very much.

CHAIR TAVARES: Thank you. Any other questions? Jo Anne?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I just have one. When you referred, Bob, to the core group or the. . .I guess citizens advisory committee. . .could you also . . .

. . . I guess include maybe in that. . .the possibility of neighborhood boards? Is that kind of what I'm hearing from you?

MR. NICHOLS: Well, my idea of a, of a core group. . .you, you'd, you have the larger group that does the, the community plan. Probably a representative-elect from the community, from like the builders, maybe from business and others like, like four or five. . .maybe even six people, whatever it might be for a specific community that would meet fairly regularly. . .be updating on. As of now, things happen in between the five-year and the ten-year review and nobody is looking at it. And what happens is . . .

... the community comes up with a brilliant idea ...

. . . they're disbanded. . .circumstances change, people change and somebody comes in that says I wanna do this. And their logic is good, but they have forgotten the logic that the community has given. And it is lost. . .in the process. And, and the idea is that support of the plan, the community's, is completely lost. Whereas, if you have a continuous flow of groups that say, wait a minute, wait, wait, wait a minute. . .we did that for this reason. . .and then you have somebody to talk to. And then the other big thing is. . .if, if roads suddenly decides to build a, a double-decker bridge someplace, the community . . .(laughter). . . would like to know it now. . .not when they bring it up to, for the SMA approval. You, you. . .so it, it, it would. . .I would say it'd have to be a fairly represented group. . .and necessariably [sic] not have any particular. . .powers to do except other than give advice and, but to hear. And. . .let the community know. They might say hey, this project that this guy is thinking about, we should have a community meeting on it right now.

CHAIR TAVARES: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So I--

MR. NICHOLS: But--

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: --the re, the reason I asked that, Bob, was because in some situations the neighborhood boards have actually taken upon some of those responsibilities. We don't really have any powers, but I, I understand what you're saying. And that continuity is what you're trying to achieve.

MR. NICHOLS: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, great.

MR. NICHOLS: Now, I'm a member of community board, but I don't think the community board should do it. And I'll say for this reason. . .the, the. . .group I'm talking about would be. . .be picked from the various, if it's bus, lot of businesses don't involve themselves in the community board. And lot of developers don't. And lot of others. Whereas, they would in something like this. Or. . .uh. . .I'm not saying that, the community boards should have that, be one of those people, but to give it strictly to the community board I think would be. . .would not be a good idea.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, great. Thanks so much, Bob.

CHAIR TAVARES: Mr. Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you. Mr. Nichols...maybe you need a Ron McOmber in Kihei.

MR. NICHOLS: What's this?

MR. McOMBER, FROM THE AUDIENCE: Oh . . . (laughter). . .

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Because I have a Ron McOmber on Lanai. And...having served with him on the CAC...I can appreciate your comments. And, and that's why people, for us on Lanai...you know, we, I appreciate a Ron because he helps to bring back some of the rationale that the CAC use to promote certain things in the community plan update process...and how we reached certain conclusions. And I think that's important to have as decision-makers make a...a determination on any issue that affects a specific community. So I just...I just thought I'd share that with you...'cause I work with Mr. McOmber a lot and...it helps to have that historic background or institutional--

MR. NICHOLS: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: --knowledge.

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MR. NICHOLS: A cont, what I would call a continuity.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Correct.

MR. NICHOLS: You, you need that continuity.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Correct, sir. Uh . . .

. . . on Item Number 8, where. . .you recommend passing a down-zoning ordinance. . .you know most of the times we, we're caught in a sit, situation of trying to eliminate Interim zoning. And so we're trying to just zone properties that have never had any designation. . .in the past. . .except the so-called phrase "Interim". And . . .

. . . this down-zoning ordinance, is it. . .uh. . .well, I don't wanna assume. Let me ask you. Your intention is. . .use it or lose it. . .the permitted use?

MR. NICHOLS: No, what, what a down-zoning ordinance is, let, let's say, for example, a plot of land is, is listed for a Hotel or R-1 or something like that. Uh...the community planners say, no, this should be a park or this, not, instead of being a Hotel, this should be R-1. Well, when you. . . if you accept the community plan as law or, or change it into a zoning ordinance as law, the, the owner of that property can say, look, when I bought it, it said Hotel and I don't, and I'm paying taxes on Hotel, I, I don't wanna, you know, I, I don't wanna be R-1. If you have a down-zoning ordinance, what they usually do...and there, there are several process. The most common is you say, okay, as of the day this is down-zoned, his taxes are rated down...to like R-1. And they may even abate taxes for a period of years, based on what they consider is the. . .the loss in property value that that individual has. So if he takes you to court, he can. . .he would win. . .if he had Hotel and you wanted to give him R-1 or something like that. Because when he bought it, it was Hotel. No matter what you did after. If you have a down-zoning ordinance--which in some way, shape, or form by tax relief or, or anything else...vou can appreciate now, if you give a guy ten years tax relief on his property. . .it, that's a value. . .that increases the value of his property if he tries to sell it. So it's a win-win situation on both sides. But you don't have anything like that now. All you do now is you say...oh, this would be nice as R-1. You make it R-1, he goes to court and it's still. . .a hotel. So you need that type of ordinance...to cover those situations. Without it...you can talk all day that you don't want it one thing, and it's, and the courts are gonna tell you so bad. sorry fellas. . .when he bought it, it was that, that's what he's gonna get.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Madam Chair?

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CHAIR TAVARES: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: You know, Mr. Nichols, stay right there. Mr. Moto. . .you've heard Mr. Nichols' suggestion to this Committee this afternoon. You have anything to, to add? Is his. . .analysis. . .pretty. . .pretty accurate if the Council should consider a down-zoning ordinance for the Code?

MR. MOTO: . . . Uh, Mister. . . Madam Chair. . . the matter of down-zoning will . . .

. . . and its affect on. . .individual properties will depend upon the property involved. And the fact that the Council has in previous cases down-zoned property. . .and the, the legal consequences or aspects of any down-zoning action will depend upon. . .the nature of the property--whether it was. . .how long it's been. . .was zoned in its previous classification, whether it was actually developed to any extent. The, the it will also depend on what the new proposed zoning classification will, is proposed to be. . .what kinds of uses will be allowed and not allowed under that new proposed zoning classification, et cetera. So it, it's rather difficult to make a blanket statement. Although the mere fact of down-zoning by itself does not necessarily mean that there is a . . .a taking if, if that is of concern.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Moto. Thank you very much--

MR. NICHOLS: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: --Mr. Nichols.

MR. NICHOLS: Thank you. If you want an example of down-zoning, look what happened to the Kamaole Point. Uh. . .it was zoned, essentially, Park and we end up paying, I think, hotel prices for it to. . .to pick it up.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you, Mr. Nichols.

CHAIR TAVARES: Thank you, Mr. Nichols. Any other questions for Bob? Mr. Molina?

VICE-CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah, thank you, Madam Chair. Mr. Nichols, suggestion Number 5 is an interesting one you have--where each Maui community should have its own Board of Variances and Appeals. How would you propose. ..getting each community its own Board of. ..Variances and Appeals?

MR. NICHOLS: That, to me, is an ideal--just as I feel each community should have its own little planning . . .

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. . . if, if we got the planning first, I'd be very happy. Most of the time the plan, current Planning Department is spending in . . .

. . . boards of. . . of variances and appeals and things like that. I'm from South Maui. If you asked me. . .to, to sit on a board that was discussing things from Hana or La. . . Lanai or someplace else, I'd be lost, completely lost. And, and I don't think I could do a fair job in any of those. I think the people who live in that community can do a better job of saying this is how this should be worked out. They can probably come up with solutions that we would not even think of. . .in a Countywide board. So I think eventually the ideal thing--and you could probably start with some of the larger population sections in the County--where they have their own separate board to, to hear variances and things like that. Because with that, they know their community, they know their people, they know all the. . .the dead bodies and where everybody is buried and everything else like that. And, and...they can do a better job. Uh...now I can appreciate that that may be the last thing that will happen. But...I, I think it's something that...would better serve the . . . (inaudible). . . I think the other thing, too. . . and, and I'm not saying the County is bad ... (laughter)... I might say the State is bad. decentralized government is probably the best government. . .as opposed--the closer you are to the people who are doing things, the better off you are. They're the ones that'll have to live with it. I came from a state where every little department, every parks were elected people; schools were elected people ... (inaudible)... and if you did something wrong, the person walking down the street would catch you and let you know. You didn't have to walk to Honolulu to have, tell some guy, hey. . .you, you screwed up last week. You knew.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: . . . (laughter). . .

MR. NICHOLS: So in all your decisions and everything you did, you were very conscious of, of your locale. And that's why I think we've gotta...not only...I would not only say with Planning, but several other departments--we've gotta decentralize and get some of these things back into the communities where they're...now I...I know you guys wanna build buildings...and all this sort of thing. We'll be glad to rent you some or something like that in South Maui. But...I think that's the trend you've gotta go to...is ...(inaudible)... to decentralize rather than centralize.

VICE-CHAIR MOLINA: Okay, thank you.

MR. NICHOLS: Thank you.

CHAIR TAVARES: Thank you. Any other questions? Mr. Kawano?

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COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: Thank you, Madam Chairman. Sorry, I was so late to your meeting. Mr. Nicholas [sic], can I ask you, where, where do you come from?

MR. NICHOLS: Where do I come from?

COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: Yeah.

MR. NICHOLS: Well, I, I was born on the east coast, spent most of life in Illinois. And, and Illinois, there's a, it's a, it's an archaic state. Practically everything, every de, everything is elected by individuals. Uh. ..community has its own school board, its on park board, its own library board, its own sanitary board. None of these guys get paid. ..and, and what, what they have the advantage of is we would levy our own taxes and spend 'em. But all we could spend it on was like parks and recreation and that was it. Now we did cooperate with the police and the fire and everything else like that. But at the same time, if, if we goofed up, we knew it fast. And we didn't have much, much. ..much chance, too, either way ...(laughter). .. But, but that's primarily my background. And of course in Illinois. ..you think politics are something here, you should be in Illinois, that was, that was ...(laughter). .. that is a great state for politics ...(laughter). ..

COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: No wonder. I like your thinking and. . .I thought you came from Molokai or something.

ALL: ...(laughter)...

COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: But, thank you, sir.

ALL: ...(laughter)...

MR. NICHOLS: I have been to Molokai--

ALL: ...(laughter)...

MR. NICHOLS: --the first time we ever came to Maui. . .to Hawaii, we went to Molokai and we had a very enjoyable time over there. My . . .

. . . I think it was called the Hop Inn or something like that. . . or . . .

?: . . . (laughter). . .

MR. NICHOLS: . . . it was, was a . . . quick, it was, it was Chinese restaurant and we, we went in there and they handed us a 100-page menu, I swear. And, and the place was so small, I think it had five tables in there . . . (inaudible). . . get into. And my wife and I are looking through--we didn't wanna go to the other place, it was an

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Italian restaurant. We can get that back home. So, so we're looking through this thing. . . and finally we find on the last page. . . sampler dish. And it was real cheap. Says, okay, oh, we'll get that. But that doesn't look like enough to eat, so we then we ordered an order of shrimp on the side. That was our mistake. They brought us two huge platters of a sampler feast. Why we, we didn't even finish those. We took the fried shrimp home, back with us. But we never forgot Molokai. We never--

ALL: ...(laughter)...

MR. NICHOLS: It was delightful, delightful place.

CHAIR TAVARES: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: Thank you.

MR. NICHOLS: Thank you.

CHAIR TAVARES: Any other questions? Thank you, Mr. Nichols.

...END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY...

CHAIR TAVARES: Uh. . . Members. . . if you'll turn to that second to the last page now, there's a memo from me to the Members, dated April 24th. And it explains the proposal...of having these informal workshops regarding the General and community plan processes. We did find out that...if you see in the second paragraph there, the State Sunshine Law provides. . .that two or more members of a board, but less than a number of members that would constitute a guorum. may be assigned to investigate a matter relating to official business of their board...and with the provisos down there. What we're trying to do here...if I can just back up. If we were to use the normal process that we have in committees to investigate or to get input from the community. . .if we meet twice a month--like usually the Planning Committee meets twice a month--to cover the eight communities, it would take us four months...unless we have special meetings in between. So what I...what I hope to do is something like what we do in the Budget Committee, where we just set aside a schedule where we go out to all the communities. And even though we do that as a full committee, in this case. . .trying to. . .hear from the communities, I think, and get input from them, I don't believe we need to have a formal Planning Committee meeting in each community, but to have this sort of, what I'm calling a "workshop", an informal workshop where we can actually have. . .almost a roundtable discussion with. . . with the folks in the community and get some of their input regarding these two planning processes.

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. . . We would not be making any decisions at these meetings, the informal meetings, or deliberating. It would be merely to get information and clarification. . .from the community and to get their input, like I said. We would have it structured, it's not like a free-for-all where you just come in and, you know, some people were. .a little bit leery that this would just turn into a...complaint session about how this planning process doesn't work and this and that, but to actually sit down and get some meaningful discussion structured around. . .what the Charter says. . .right now. . .what our County Code says, and what has been in practice in the past few years, and to try to come up with a recommendation or recommendations that could then be implemented by the appropriate body. If some of the recommendations come out that we accept later on, would require a Charter amendment, then we need to work on that. And we'll be on a...a time frame right now to be able to do that in time for the next Charter election. And because we've had iust the Commission. . . commissioned. . . it's timely for us to be talking about this. So, anyway, that, that is the intent. The caution is . . .

. . . that. . . if we have more than five or. . . more than four members, we cannot have this meeting because it hasn't been duly posted. If we have more, five or more members who wanna attend any of the...community meetings, then we will post it as a regular Committee meeting. . .not to discourage anyone from attending. So what this means to everyone--and I'm sorry...Mr. Nishiki had to leave, but I did talk to him about this--if you do make a commitment that you wanna go. . .to a certain meeting and that makes five people, we will post it. If one person doesn't show up, we have to cancel the meeting because we won't So that's why it's very important if you're gonna make a have quorum. commitment to go to a meeting, that you go to it. If you commit to go to a meeting, we have less than a. . .the guorum and you aren't able to attend, then we can let the other members know who might have been interested in going to, you know, to that meeting if, if they wanted to. But I think we have to be cautious about setting ourselves up for a meeting we can't have. So we're trying to be as flexible as possible. Our, our main objective is to get out into the communities and to have discussions with them regarding the, these two processes--the General Plan and the community plan process. Are there any questions so far about. . .what, what. . .is being proposed?

... Mr. Hokama?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Can we assume, Chair, that the Department is in...accord with your, your intentions?

CHAIR TAVARES: The Planning Department?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Yes, ma'am.

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CHAIR TAVARES: Well, actually, the Planning Department can come if they want to. I don't...necessarily...I don't think it's necessary that they do attend these meetings--

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay.

CHAIR TAVARES: --because we'll be getting input from them. The end result is after the last meeting, well, which is the central meeting, that Staff would be getting together and we would...collate or...yeah, collate all of the suggestions and recommendations that have come out, and then present that back to this full Committee. At that time, I think the Planning Department would be available to discuss. But I'm certainly welcoming anyone from the Planning Department who wishes to attend any of these meetings. But I'm not making that a requirement...because it is an informal workshop type of thing. If they would like to come, that's fine. If I think we're gonna run into some problems explaining things, then I'll ask Mr. Min to either come himself or to send a representative...to help us through some of these community meetings. And, maybe, you know, they'd wanna come at least to the first couple of ones and see how we're...we're doing or what, what the feelings are in the community. And we may be able to head off some of the concerns that the committee members might have. . . need clarification on certain . . .

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Uh-huh.

CHAIR TAVARES: ... issues.

NOTE: Silence.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: ... Madam, Madam Chair--

CHAIR TAVARES: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: --may I ask Mr. Min a question?

CHAIR TAVARES: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: ... John ...

. . . can you tell us at this time if you are prepared. . .how you were planning now to approach the General Plan update process?

... John, you know, I'm just trying to see if there's something that we can ...

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CHAIR TAVARES: Well, you know, maybe I need to clarify something. The general. . .it says general. . .General and community plan process, but actually in the General Plan portion of it. . .it was more to. . .get input from the community about. . .what they think should be in the General Plan. . .not necessarily the process of the General Plan.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay.

CHAIR TAVARES: Because the community plan process, I think, covers both General and community plan. If that helps a little bit.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Okay.

CHAIR TAVARES: Let's, John can go ahead and answer that, your question.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay.

MR. MIN: Well, first of all, in terms of. . .the. . .general planning program, we've. . .you know, we are in the process as I mentioned before. . .of retaining a consultant to help us with our population forecast. Uh. . .what. . .we are intending to do very soon is to convene a committee. . .or a task force to look at the issue of smart growth. Because I think it has a lot of implications for our General Plan. And I think we need to begin the process of defining what smart growth means. Okay? Um. . .you know. . I wanna, you know, work with the Chair in, in, in discussing this. I mean, this is something that—in fact I, we just had a staff meeting this morning and just discussed it. But what I'd like to do in a general sense. . .is to incorporate smart growth concepts, smart growth into our general planning process. Um. . .and like I said, I would like, you know, to work with. . .Charmaine in further articulating that. Okay? Um . . .

. . . that, you know, is kind of the . . .

. . . the point where we are today.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Uh-huh.

MR. MIN: You know, we haven't really laid out a specific process that we're gonna follow yet, you know, to. . .update the, the General Plan. I'd like to kinda take a step back. . .and look at this broader issue first.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Okay. Okay.

CHAIR TAVARES: . . . Thank you. And that's kind of the. . .what I feel--even though we haven't said it here--when we do out, go out to those communities, I think a

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lot of discussion is gonna be revolving around a definition of smart growth. And I think it ties in very. . .nicely with what John is proposing, too.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR TAVARES: Mr. Arakawa?

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: Yes. Um. . . I can support what you're doing. I think it's a good idea. Despite whatever phraseology we wanna use--whether we call it smart growth or planned. . .better planning, the, the bottom line on all these. . .of this process is to create better planning system. I'd be willing to say that. . .for me, it's okay to not have everybody involved in the entire process all the way through because in the end result, what we're trying to do is look at conclusions and how we can put all of this together as a package. And that's really what you're gonna do. . .when we get done with it. . .direct the Planning Department to, to use as a planning tool. Now . . .

. . . I just wanna, one, one clarification for you because I, I believe that even if you have more than five people and you don't schedule a, a formal meeting. . .if the, the overage is part of the general public and does not participate as part of the *panel*, I believe that's also allowable. So. . .if you can check with Brian, I, I think--

CHAIR TAVARES: Yeah, right.

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: --you, you can get away from that part, too.

CHAIR TAVARES: Brian, do you wanna address that?

. . . If more than four show up--

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: You can just participate--

CHAIR TAVARES: --at a meeting--

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: --as regular audience, you don't participate as

member--

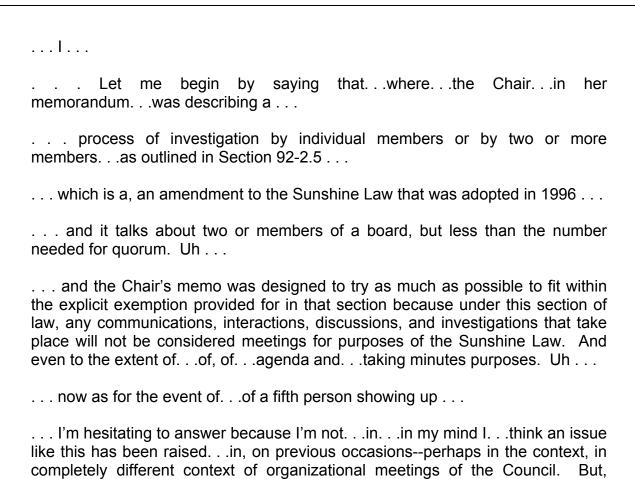
MR. MOTO: Uh--

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: --of the panel.

MR. MOTO: ... Uh, Madam Chair ...

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frankly, at this time, we are trying as much as possible to--and we, we do hereby advise the Committee and have...advised the Committee Chair in this way--that...as much as possible, the Committee should try to remain within the

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: Okay.

explicit exemption set forth in 92-2.5.

MR. MOTO: And we're not really comfortable in saying that if a fifth person showed up, that it would not constitute a meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: No. And, and I'm gonna very clear on this. If, if a fifth person showed up as a member of the general public, did not become a member of the board that is there. . .the. . .organizing board, I believe that is possible. You can check on that. Uh. . .if, if the fifth person comes in and. . .is a member of the Council, sits down as a member of the group, then I believe it's a clear violation. But if you, if you just. . .as an observer, you don't participate in the discussion, I think it's, I think it's allowable. But, again, check to make sure. Just for clarification and. . .that way if. . .if that is true, then that person doesn't have to go home.

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CHAIR TAVARES: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: And that, that's all it is in the, in case of that happening.

. . . But you cannot participate as a member of the organizing board. . .have more than four

CHAIR TAVARES: Mr. Mo--

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: ...(inaudible)...

CHAIR TAVARES: Mr. Moto, can, can you go back and, and discuss that...with Mr. Takayesu?

MR. MOTO: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: Yeah.

CHAIR TAVARES: And . . .

. . . you know, we have some time before we start our first meeting, so we can let the Members know what the outcome of that is.

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: But I would definitely support what you're trying to do.

CHAIR TAVARES: Okay. Thank you. Any other questions about the proposal? As it's set up now. . .I think what's been suggested or what is being suggested is that the Chair. . .of the Committee and the Council Member who lives in that district would be the two people who. . .would be the. . .the heads of this, this particular. . .wherever that district is. And then others may attend, like the Vice-Chair of the Committee and any others. And we'll have it on a, on a sign up basis. And we will be sending a memo around to get your . . .

COUNCILMEMBER KANE: ... Commitment.

CHAIR TAVARES: ... choices, I guess ... (laughter). ...

COUNCILMEMBER KANE: Commitment.

CHAIR TAVARES: Your commitment and your choices. On the back, on Page 2 of that memo, the backside of it, it lists the. . .the schedule meeting dates. They're all to start at 7 p.m. And hopefully that gives people time to eat dinner and, and not feel like it's infringing upon their family time. So just make it a little more open for

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the public. . . . (inaudible). . . the only change in here is the last meeting where it says June. . . Tuesday, June 12th at the Council Chamber. That meeting has been changed to June 11th. . . and it will be at Kahului Community Center.

. . . We're trying to get sort of a roundtable kind of thing. And there aren't very many roundtables in this room. So. . .trying to do it at community center where we can put some tables together and actually have discussion rather than having the formal meeting type of set up. So that will be at Kahului Community Center on June 11th. And also to let you know in case you don't remember, that date doesn't. . .jump out at you, that is Kamehameha Day. It is a holiday.

. . . And. . .so if Members . . .

. . . you know, have other commitments, you know, we certainly will understand. But I know that for sure that I will be there. And probably Mr. Molina as Vice-Chair and just. . .whatever you folks wanna do.

. . . Any questions about the schedule?

... Yes, Mr. Molina?

VICE-CHAIR MOLINA: Madam Chair, not so much about the schedule, but something else to add to the--

CHAIR TAVARES: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR MOLINA: --Corp. Counsel. . . Mr. Arakawa mentioned "as an observer". Now. . . also if. . . that Council Member, that fifth Council Member decides to give input--not as a, of course, a member of the panel, but as, you know. . .participant in the audience . . .

. . . you know, you could give us clarification on that. You don't, it doesn't have to be today, but just when you go . . .

MR. MOTO: Right.

VICE-CHAIR MOLINA: . . . talk to Mr. Takayesu--something else for you to look into.

CHAIR TAVARES: . . . Yeah, Mr. Moto, I'm not sure that we can separate ourselves from being members of the public and being Council Members when we're in public.

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: Yeah.

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?: Yeah.
MR. MOTO: Madam Chair, thethe comment I would make at this time is that the
you can create ina number of different scenarios or fact situations. Andit's very hard to analyze this thing because if a fifth person shows up and is completely passive, let's say. Let's assume for the sake of argument that the
and the question will be is thatis that sufficient, is that
is, is that sufficient to treat a person as if he were in, or she were invisible.
?:(laughter)
MR. MOTO: Uh
and, and one way of analyzing it, too, is to say that, well, actually, you know, you could have a meeting where all nine showed up and alland eight were completely passive.
So, but it still definitely would be considered a meeting.
CHAIR TAVARES: Right.
MR. MOTO: Soinin one sense whether someone says anything or not is not necessarily what makes the meeting a meeting. Because if it <i>were</i> if that were the rule, then there would be many formal meetings that would not be "meetings" because there are many occasions when very fewmembers say anything or do anything. Uhalso, the other comment I would make is that theexception that the Chair has identified for operating under refers toinvestigation of matters. And that tends to suggest you're there to study, to learn, to research.
And that can be done completely passively as well. I meanand, and you would have to ask, well, if that fifth person showed up, why are they there to begin with.
Presumably to learn.
And, and if that's the case, then
CHAIR TAVARES: Uh-huh.

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MR. MOTO: . . . that probably falls within the. . . or at least might reasonably be determined to be an investigation being conducted--at least by that fifth member as well. So, again, you run into the problem of, well, maybe we should not treat that fifth person as if he were. . . or she, or she were invisible, but really count them as part of a guorum . . . (end of tape, start 1B). . .

CHAIR TAVARES: Mr. Carroll?

COUNCILMEMBER CARROLL: ... Thank you, Chair.

. . . I feel that. . .we should not even consider this. We are looking for ways to circumvent. . .the law. Period. You can coach it in whatever words you want. But we are looking for ways to circumvent the law. The four members--it's very clear we can do this. By trying to find a way to circumvent that, that's all we are doing--trying to circumvent the Sunshine Law. I don't think it's appropriate for this Council to pursue that type of action. I think we need to be setting the example for other groups. And I don't think we should even pursue this. Thank you.

CHAIR TAVARES: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Carroll. Mr. Arakawa?

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: Madam Chairman, and, again, you know, this is going along with what you're doing, just if somebody showed up. . .uh. . .and you, you had that problem. Now, the, the only reason I bring that up is I know that when we have forums that are sponsored. . .we can have all nine members present and it not be a meeting if we're not calling the meeting. At the same time, if only certain number of members are invited are a meeting or supposed to show up, that's the intent of the meeting. Therefore, that. . .I'm asking Brian to check into that.

. . . Um . . .

- ... Because there are, there are many instances where we're, we're invited and more than a majority of us show up to an event. And some of us even speak at the, those events. And at the same time...or we participate in the eve, in the speaking of the event or the discussion, but we're not the ...
- ... we're not considered in violation of the Sunshine Law because of **how** it's organized. And that's why I'm asking him to check to that. Okay? If, if, if he finds that it's...not proper or there's even a question of it, then we don't do it.

CHAIR TAVARES: Uh-huh.

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COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: It, it's that clear. But I, I wouldn't want to have to cancel an event just because somebody showed up.

. . . And. . .and that's why I'm asking him to check.

CHAIR TAVARES: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: But more than likely you're not gonna run into that problem anyway . . . (laughter). . .

CHAIR TAVARES: Probably not. I, you know, Members, the, the reason that I didn't want to make this a Planning Committee meeting in every district. ..was because we've just come of a very. ..arduous schedule of meetings. And I think that the information is what we want to get--the information from the public. And if some of us can represent the entire. ..body, this Planning Committee to receive that information, I think we can satisfy what your needs might be to get complete information. I just. ..I think when we send the. ..questionnaire around. ..like I said, if there's five people or more that indicate that they want to go a particular meeting, we will schedule it as a Planning Committee meeting. And it's. ..so it's not trying to get around anything in particular. I'm trying to get us out into the public, into the different districts so that we can receive information from the public. That was, that was the intent without causing undue hardship on the Members who have just come off this. ..invigorating season of budget deliberation . . .(laughter). . .

?: . . . (laughter). . .

CHAIR TAVARES: So we'll kind of see how, how it goes with the sign ups. And. . .as, if you just remember that when you sign up, you are *committing* to go to that meeting because we will post accordingly. Jo Anne?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I. . . I just wanted to know, for example, if I signed up for something and then. . . I got ill or there was an emergency--

CHAIR TAVARES: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: --or something and I asked another Member to go in my place, is that permissible?

CHAIR TAVARES: Oh, that's fine. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR TAVARES: That's fine.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR TAVARES: That would be . . .that would be wonderful.

COUNCILMEMBER HOKAMA: No, you cannot get sick. Nah . . . (laughter). . .

CHAIR TAVARES: No more. You, you used your allowance . . . (inaudible). . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Not planning. Not planning it.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: ...(laughter)...

CHAIR TAVARES: Also, just as part of the information for the...who, whoever might be listening or reading the minutes or that's here now. . .the intent is to send a letter announcing the schedule to every member of the CAC...the past, the former CAC so that we would at least get that input. And I also am. . .just off the top of my head, if we're in a particular district...we're only gonna have one meeting there for this purpose. But if there's a group that gets so fired up about this and so involved and they wanna continue meeting, they could do so. . . and then send the recommendations to us or present it to us as a full body later. Because it might...uh...stimulate some other discussion by just having the meeting that night. And then so if subsequent meetings occur from members of the community where we're. . .we were at or wherever, they could still. . .meet on their own and then send recommendations to us. I think that would. . .also get us more information. So it's not just a one-shot, that's it, that's your last chance. That isn't it at all. I mean, this is gonna be an ongoing process. Uh...I would like very much to have, you know, firm recommendations in hand so that Mr. Min would be able to comment and incorporate or whatever. And if we need to change some laws, that we have time to do that. And hopefully before the General Plan process starts and he's not too far into the General Plan process. So that, that is the intention. So if we have the flexibility by being able to set this type of investigative...work...as part of our Committee, and we still can fall back on having a full-blown Committee meeting, then we can, I think, kill all the birds. . .oh, maybe I shouldn't use that phrase. . .we can handle--

?: . . . (laughter). . .

CHAIR TAVARES: --all of the different scenarios . . . (laughter). . . that may arise.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: . . . (laughter). . .

CHAIR TAVARES: So. . . any, any other questions or comments at this time?

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VICE-CHAIR MOLINA: Uh . . .

CHAIR TAVARES: Mr. Molina?

VICE-CHAIR MOLINA: Yeah. Thank you, Madam Chair. I appreciate you doing this. . .I think it's real good. Keeps us in touch with the community. And I'm sure many members of the. . .various community associations will appreciate this. So this is a one big step to resolving all these issues re, regards to community plan. So I wanna thank you for putting the effort and time into this.

CHAIR TAVARES: Okay. So. . .my recommendation is that this body. . .authorize the Chair to set up informal workshops in each of the community plan regions.

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: So moved.

VICE-CHAIR MOLINA: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR TAVARES: It's been moved by Mr. Arakawa, second by Mr. Molina. Any discussion on the matter?

. . . Okay, the, the. . .questionnaire will be coming around to sign your life away. And. . .appreciate your . . .(laughter). . .

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: All in favor . . .

CHAIR TAVARES: ... cooperation and volunteering.

COUNCILMEMBER KAWANO: . . . (inaudible). . . vote.

COUNCILMEMBER ARAKAWA: All in favor say "aye".

CHAIR TAVARES: Okay, all in favor say "aye".

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR TAVARES: Those opposed? Motion carried.

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VOTE: AYES: Councilmembers Arakawa, Carroll, Hokama, Johnson,

Kane, Kawano, Vice-Chair Molina, and Chair Tavares.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Nishiki.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: AUTHORIZING the Planning Committee Chair to schedule

informal public workshops to obtain community input regarding improving the County's general and community

plan processes.

CHAIR TAVARES: I thank you very much. Any announcements, Members?

... No? If not, this meeting is adjourned ... (gavel)...

COUNCIL MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (AA, RC, GH, JJ, DK, PK, MM, CT)

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 2:24 p.m.

APPROVED:

CHARMAINE TAVARES, Chair Planning Committee

pc:min:010503:cs Transcribed by: Camille Sakamoto