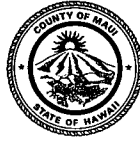


Council Chair
Mike White

Vice-Chair
Don S. Guzman

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Michael P. Victorino

Councilmembers
Gladys C. Baisa
Robert Carroll
Elle Cochran
Don Couch
Stacy Crivello
Riki Hokama



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

April 15, 2016

RECEIVED
2016 APR 15 PM 5:14
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Honorable Mike White, Chair
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair White:

SUBJECT: Community Plan Update Process

During our prolonged discussion of the proposed Lanai Community Plan update, we considered many of the important issues facing this special island community as it undergoes another change in ownership. The Community Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC) spent a great deal of time and energy on their revisions to the draft that was presented to them. Subsequently, the Lanai Planning Commission (LPC) spent a great deal of time and energy on their revisions to draft forwarded to them from the CPAC. The Planning Committee devoted an even greater period of time on our revisions to the draft forwarded to us from the LPC.

Let's be clear – the Planning Department did not make any revisions to the documents after the CPAC's final vote, did not make any revisions to the document after the LPC's final vote, and did not make any changes to the document during the Planning Committee's deliberations. The Planning Department made recommendations all along – to the CPAC, the LPC and the Planning Committee – and those recommendations were appropriately considered by each body. The only changes made to the document were those approved by the CPAC, the LPC and the Planning Committee. That is how the process was designed in Chapter 2.80B, Maui County Code; all requirements were followed. The substantive content did not significantly change throughout, except for the land use designations for the proposed new resort, which were ultimately removed.

COUNTY COMMUNICATION NO. 16-85

April 15, 2016
Page 2

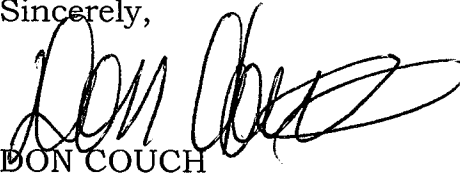
Nonetheless, the Council has needed four meetings to pass the plan on first reading. *THIS IS DUE TO PROBLEMS WITH THE PROCESS, NOT PROBLEMS WITH THE PLAN.* The proposed Lanai Community Plan update is a good plan. The CPAC, LPC and Planning Committee are justifiably proud of their work. People literally died working on this plan. The plan should be passed on first (and second) reading, and not be held up due to concerns with the process.

The process needs to be discussed in an open, thoughtful dialogue with the Council, the Planning Department and the community. We need to share concerns and ideas, and find common solutions, rather than holding a good plan hostage to an unsatisfactory process. There are no proposed bills to consider at this time, no draft language, no specific changes – ideally, all issues will be on the table and all minds will be open. Together we can agree on key revisions to the process, and prepare a consensus bill that could be in effect by the time the first Maui Island community plan is drafted. As chair of the Planning Committee, I request that this matter be referred so that we can begin this important discussion as soon as possible.

May I respectfully request that the matter relating to community plan update process be referred to the appropriate committee for discussion. If the matter is referred to the Planning Committee, I pledge to schedule it for discussion at the first available meeting after the Council concludes deliberations on the proposed Fiscal Year 2017 budget.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



DON COUCH

Councilmember, South Maui

CM:SM:Comm_plan_itr_Council:grs

cc: William Spence, Director of Planning