

DRAFT – TO BE PRINTED ON ACTION COMMITTEE LETTERHEAD

July 12, 2011

RE: SUPPORT LETTER

To Whom It May Concern:

The Puna Community Development Plan (PCDP), which was passed by ordinance by the Hawaii County Council in August, 2008, included the formation of an Action Committee to oversee the implementation of the plan. This letter has been approved by said committee.

The PCDP, with input from over 1,300 residents, recognized the need for access to medical care in this rural, underserved area, and the first Action listed in the Managing Growth – Social Services and Housing section, is “Develop a centrally-located, 24-hour, full-service medical facility, with trauma care, in Puna.” Even prior to the passage of the plan, a group of residents involved in the creation of the PCDP had already begun the process to implement this, by forming the non-profit Puna Community Medical Center (PCMC).

PCMC is developing in phases, with the first phase being an acute care clinic at the Pahoia Marketplace. It opened its doors in February, 2009 and to date has provided health care services, 7 days a week, no appointment needed, to more than 5,700 individuals and over 10,000 patient visits. They care for almost 500 patients a month, about 18% of whom have no medical coverage or ability to pay. They are now ready to expand their services to meet the need of a rapidly growing population.

The PCDP Action Committee is in full support of the PCMC and its vision, and hereby informs potential future funders, as well as planners and permitting agencies, that the incremental expansion of PCMC is in conformance with the PCDP and the Hawaii County General Plan. We believe that a medical facility such as is planned, will be an appropriate addition to the Pahoia Village Center area.

Sincerely,

Dan Taylor
Chair

Communication No. 2011-11