

DRAFT:DTaylor:Letter of support for Hawaii Sustainable Community Alliance adjustment of building code requirements

To: Planning Director

From: Action Committee, Puna CDP

RE: Support for a proposal for an adjustment of building code requirements

Your Action Committee supports an initiative proposed by the Hawaii Sustainable Community Alliance that would adjust building code requirements for certain owner-builder applicants. We understand the initiative would promote reasonable and affordable structural and design standards, but would enable use of materials and procedures that might help to reduce costs, and thus render some home site and home improvement projects more affordable.

Such a result might enable a higher proportion of home ownership and occupancy among citizens who earn modest incomes, and this would be a desirable consequence for the community at large.

Indeed, the initiative recognizes the indigenous creativity among select owner-builders that might simulate design outcomes that are of benefit to all.

The initiative clearly identifies the risks of degrading health, safety, and general welfare if building codes were to be carelessly relaxed, and there is terminology in the initiative that would mitigate such risk.

Moreover, we find this initiative to be consistent with the spirit of the Puna CDP, particularly in Chapter 3, several sections, which indicate a need to improve housing and self-help situations for persons of modest means, and particularly to enable changes in local rules for building and occupancy.

We convey to you our support for the Hawaii sustainable Community Alliance initiative, known as a Hawaii County Sustainable Habitat Policy, and pray you will forward our recommendation to the proper authorities.

For the Action Committee of the Puna CDP,

Dan Taylor, Chair