

Friends of Puna's Future

P.O. Box 1959, Pahoehoa, HI 96778

May 2, 2008

Larry Brown, Planner
County of Hawai'i Planning Dept.
101 Pauahi St., Suite 3
Hilo, HI 96720

Re: Testimony to Planning Commission on Puna Community Development Plan

Dear Larry:

Please accept this letter as documentation supporting the enclosed testimony before the Planning Commission regarding passage of the Puna Community Development Plan.

On April 30, 2008, the Friends of Puna's Future Board of Directors met and voted to submit the enclosed testimony to the Planning Commission, subject to approval by our membership. Our membership has since ratified the enclosed testimony.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bett Bidleman".

Bett Bidleman, Secretary
FoPF Board of Directors
Encl.

Friends of Puna's Future

P.O. Box 1959, Pahoia, HI 96778

To: Hawaii County Planning Commission

Re: Puna Community Development Plan - Testimony in favor

This testimony is provided in the name of Friends of Puna's Future (FoPF). Our Board of Directors has been authorized by our membership to offer our support in favor of the Puna Community Development Plan (PCDP) with two proposed revisions which we ask you to consider.

We understand that a broad based community effort cannot draft language which will be perfectly acceptable to everyone all the time. We do recognize and appreciate the PCDP as the summation of community interests which a number of our members participated in directly.

The two revisions we ask you to consider are intended to clarify, improve and make more forceful the full intent of the PCDP. The revisions are:

Revision 1: Add language: The role of County Ecologist and timelines for completion in the mapping of native forest will be provided in the Implementation Table.

Revision 2: The PCDP shall be extended for one year by the County of Hawaii Planning Department to acquire direct community input on each individual Village Center proposed in the PCDP from the residents of each Village Center. This Village Center Planning shall be completed by June 1, 2009.

I have spoken to Jon Olson, Steering Committee Chairman on these subjects. He has told me the SC decided to keep some areas a bit vague. While we respect the SC's work we think that vague is not a good manner with which to implement the PCDP.

Revision 1 is based in our concern that the PCDP's intended process of mapping forest and other land for potential preservation, left vague, could take unknown years to take place and we feel that new grading ordinances are needed and achievable on a more specific timeline. Otherwise there will always be the available excuse that "the mapping needs to be started someday first".

Revision 2 concerns the most central theme of Growth Management in the PCDP. Village Centers. I myself participated in the Land Use Working Group (LUWG) on this topic. While the sense and need for a Village Center (VC)

model of growth was determined within the LUWG the members were aware that a district wide point of view had it's limits and it's excesses.

While it was practical to identify the VC locations and relative scale of such in the district it was intended by the LUWG that further work would be needed to conceptualize each village center and that that work should be done very concisely and closely with the local village center areas. Simply put: While I, as a resident of Pahoia Village might feel entitled to speak to the design of Pahoia Village I should let the residents of Volcano Village or Hawaiian Paradise Park address their own needs and keep out of it. So we feel a specific expression of the work still needed to be done must be included.

The County Planning Department's talk of "floating zones" did not come from the community. The VC maps provided in the Final Draft of the PCDP did not come from the community.

Let the individual citizens of the proposed village centers be brought in to determine what zoning needs they have. The CDP process needs to enter the next phase.

I have been told by Larry Brown that the Planning Commission is the last opportunity to revise this plan before it goes to council. Friends of Puna's Future asks you to make two revisions in favor of more community planning.

Mahalo,

Rob Tucker, president
965-1555