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PO Box 957 – Volcano, Hawaii – 96785

Date: 2008 May 08

To: County of Hawaii Planning Commission, Planning Director, Planning Department, Council Members

Re: In SUPPORT of the Puna Community Development Plan;
with comments on Planning Director's Background Report and Recommendation

Greetings Planning Commissioners,

I was a member of the 2007-2008 Puna CDP Natural Resources Working Group. I have valued the opportunity to be included in a challenging and active community process. While I am supportive of the Plan and grateful to all who put in hours of work on the current draft, I am concerned about the process that has occurred since the Planning Director has added his adjustments.

I ask the Planning Commission for an affirmative vote to accept the Puna CDP March 2008 draft, with the following concerns and requests:

While I am grateful that the Current PCD Plan includes the community voice in it's goals and objectives, I am confused and saddened about the loss of community voice in the

implementation part of the current Plan. I am curious as to why we were encouraged by the County, the Mayor, facilitators from the Planning Department and Plan Pacific Consultant to spend hours of time in Working Groups to create and present Working Group Reports to the consultant and Steering Committee and why the consultant himself spent hours creating a Working Paper to support community input, as an attempt to co-create a "community development" process and then the Planning Director can ^{recommend to} delete parts of the community voice before it even gets to the Planning Commission and County Council.

I am concerned that that process will not assure that the "community voice" as been fully included and heard by those in positions of responsibility for decision making implementation.

Please note that the December Draft included a number of implementation provisions that would make the whole process more reflective of the community who live and work in Puna and those who were active in the Small Groups and on the Working Groups. I would request that the December draft be reviewed for community recommendations for implementation as you forward your affirmative vote for the 2008 Puna Community Development plan to the County Council.

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Aloha,
Kathleen

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malama i ka Aina
Chapter 5 Implementation Guidelines
5.1. Natural and Cultural Resources Protection
5.1.2. Revised Grubbing and Grading Controls