

Kauai Planning Commission
4444 Rice Street, Suite A473
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January 30, 2017

Aloha Planning Commissioners,

My name is Anne Walton. I have over twenty years experience in policy and planning in natural resource management. I have been following this process closely.

As a representative of the Kauai Community Coalition, I would like to commend the Planning Department staff on developing a plan that represents great strides since the 2000 update.

We also recognize that critical foundational pieces that typically bookend any type of planning document are missing from or inadequate in the Departmental Draft. Specifically, there has been no commitment to: 1) the **model** (or framework) for the plan 2) binding **policies**; 3) clear **milestones** for measuring progress; 4) measureable **targets** to be achieved by 2035; and 5) a robust monitoring and evaluation plan with a focus on **measuring results**.

To better understand the importance of the foundational pieces, an analogy that mirrors what it takes to build a sound General Plan is that of building a house.

The first decision in building a house is to determine what **model** best serves the builder's needs – a mcmansion with high building and maintenance costs; a LEED certified green house that may require significant upfront investments, but pays off and is more sustainable over the long run; or, a beach shack that is inexpensive to construct and maintain, but won't survive the next Iniki. We have yet to identify the

model the General Plan is working under that is best suited to Kauai – such as a “Green Growth”, “Ahupua’a” or even a “Climate Smart” model.

After selecting the model comes the **blueprint** which addresses the basic infrastructure of the house determining where to place the walls, plumbing, electrical, etc., all in an integrated fashion. The blueprint should reflect the intention of the model whether a mcmansion. LEED certified house, or beach shack Or in our case, a “Green Growth”, “Ahupua’a” or a “Climate Smart” or other kind of model.

Then the **foundation** is poured – and that is where the commitment is made to build according to the model. Our foundation is represented by a complete and agreed upon Final General Plan.

The house is framed and **inspected** to meet the established standards. The plumbing is **inspected** to meet the established standards, as is the electrical. The house is not inspected for the wallpaper, the light fixtures or the door knobs, but rather for the soundness of the foundational components. And the house is not just inspected after it is completed, but rather along ever step of the construction process. And likewise, a General Plan requires regular monitoring and evaluation, preferably every 6 months.

We don’t have the model or the blueprint for the new General Plan.

In order to strengthen these critical foundational pieces that ensures the General Plan directs us towards the future we collectively desire, we recommend that:

- 1. The Planning Commission pushes the pause button.**
- 2. The Planning Department goes back and strengthens the foundational components of the plan.**
- 3. The Planning Department streamlines the plan by selecting and prioritizing those actions that help us build the model we want.**
- 4. The Planning Department builds a monitoring and evaluation plan that recognizes the importance of accountability and the need to achieve results.**

Whole countries, island states, counties and communities have dared to push the pause button, identify a new model and make the commitment. If we all do this together, it will happen. We can either apply duct tape to this old house, patching up the holes or build a new more sustainable model for our remote island community as a legacy to the generations who will follow us, just as others have chosen to do around the world.

Mahalo for your courage to do the right thing.

Anne Walton