

Kauai Planning Commission
4444 Rice Street, Suite A473
Lihue, Kauai 96766

February 28, 2017

Honorable Chairperson, Honorable Commissioners and fellow residents of Kauai:

My name is Anne Walton, I moved here 12 years ago and am a recently retired natural resource management planner and capacity development trainer for NOAA, now working as an international consultant. I am a concerned citizen and a member of the Kauai Community Coalition.

Through the process of organizing the community to more effectively engage in the General Plan Update process, we have discovered that on Kauai there is a significant amount of community leadership, technical expertise, traditional knowledge and just plain willingness from the community to roll up their sleeves, really learn about and tackle the challenges Kauai is facing.

Additionally, much like what the Planning Department has done, we have looked to other communities and discovered that none of our challenges we are facing today are unique, only the setting makes us different. We have come to realize there are some pretty good “models of practice” out there, worth consideration in terms of their application to Kauai. Most of all, we have learned that the real success stories are a result of collaborations between the community and it’s government.

Instead of just continuing to have this conversation about “collaboration”, I believe we have a team of skilled and knowledgeable volunteers that are willing to make a significant commitment to ensuring this happens. Specifically, we are proposing to work with Planning Department staff on taking the current draft of the General Plan (02/28/17) and spending the next 2-3 months building a model of sustainability for one sector, such as housing for example. The intention is to build off of the accomplishments of the General Plan to date, and take it the next step to ensure that we have absolute clarity about what we want to achieve (aka specific outcomes) by 2035 in regards to a specific sector such as housing. We will work towards ensuring all activities under the housing sector are “results-based activities” and move us towards achieving the stated outcome(s). We will develop milestones along the way as indicators that we are moving in the right direction. And, we will cross-reference the housing sector with the other sectors in the General Plan to ensure we are creating an integrated Plan.

From this point forward, let’s work towards creating a community/County partnership. Let’s recalibrate where we are today, determine if the Draft General Plan is really

addressing the challenges Kauai is facing. Then, let's start the work towards creating a future that is truly sustainable in terms of quality of life, food security, energy independence, conserving open space, conserving precious resources and maintaining opportunities to adapt to a changing world. Let's show that we have learned from the mistakes of our own past and the successes of others, and make a course correction in County planning before we lose the opportunity to do so. Sound, forward looking, collaborative and visionary planning is the last bargaining chip we have to make Kauai a better place to live. We hope you will accept this offer to work collaboratively in taking the next step in this direction.

Thank you for your consideration and willingness to take on the difficult challenges that lie ahead.

Respectfully,
Anne Walton