

County of Kauai
Planning Commission
4444 Rice Street, A-473
Lihue, HI 96766

May 27, 2017

Aloha Honorable Planning Commission Chair and Commissioners,

Thank you for your continued interest in hearing from the community on the General Plan Update document. I think I can speak for many community members in saying that your willingness to slow down the process and carefully consider the issues facing our island is greatly appreciated and conveys your deep interest in continuing to work the General Plan until we all “get it right”. Let’s all consider “time” an ally, and continue to use it accordingly and wisely.

In your packet you will find a copy of the significant re-write I have provided the Planning Department on the *Implementation and Monitoring* component of the General Plan. I took the time to carefully scrutinize this section as I believe it is fundamental to the success of the General Plan. I would like to summarize for you the key components of the proposed revised language:

1. A General Plan without a clearly **articulated framework** and intention of where we as a whole community would like to be at the end of the next twenty years simply leaves us at the mercy of the tides of change, a ship with neither a navigation plan, nor a proper sail to get us wherever we may want to go. Growth is the centerpiece of the challenge we face, both in the present and in the future. How we approach, address and manage growth depends on the framework we are using as our reference point. I have suggested an overall framework that includes the revised vision, goals and policies developed by the Kaua’i Community Coalition working group last December.
2. Building off of this revised framework, I have included additional components to ensure successful **implementation** of the General Plan. I believe we should use the Planning Department’s suggested “Kākou Committee” as an organizing body to create working groups for each sector to develop both targets and milestones for each of the ten sectors. **Targets** are specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely (SMART) outcomes that we hope to achieve for each sector by 2035, or earlier as appropriate. They set a standard for what we are aiming for in our Plan and help to align and prioritize activities in the Plan to ensure these activities are **results-based**. **Milestones** serve as indicators along the path, telling us whether we are moving in the right direction at the right pace or if we need to make a course correction in order to achieve our targets. Twenty years is a long span of time to invest in going in the wrong direction – so a General Plan of this duration demands sign posts along the way to make sure we

are headed in the right direction. Targets and milestones also require accountability and timelines if they are going to function in any meaningful way.

3. Regular and routine monitoring and evaluation are the key to ensuring a results-based plan. The *Implementation and Monitoring* component, as revised, lays out three levels of monitoring and evaluation to correspondingly answer the following three questions:

- a. Are the General Plan sector activities and land use components **designed** in accordance with the visions, goals and policies?
- b. Are we actually **implementing the activities** laid out in the Plan according to the schedule – *are we doing what we said we would do?*
- c. Are we getting the kinds of **results** we anticipated in terms of achieving our **milestones** and moving towards our **targets** established for each sector?

The revised Plan suggests regular intervals for monitoring and evaluation for each of the three levels indicated above, as well as reporting mechanisms and adaptive management responses.

4. Finally, and outside of the revised General Plan component on *Implementation and Monitoring*, I would like to recommend that before we move towards finalization of the Plan that we make use of the statewide Aloha+ Challenge to set standards for many of the sectors found in our General Plan. Our Mayor has already signed off on the Aloha+ Challenge and with the next statewide meeting being held on Kaua'i on May 23 and 24, our General Plan may well benefit from the outcomes of this important and timely meeting.

Thank you again for your courage to do the right thing. Many of us have hope that Kaua'i's General Plan can support a sustainable and resilient future for our ohana and serve as a model for all of the Hawaiian islands.

Respectfully,
Anne Walton