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Teena Rasmussen
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To: South Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee

Testimony Re: Kihei Mauka Urban Growth Boundary

Aloha Committee Members,

My name is Teena Rasmussen, I am a 46-year resident of Maui. I do not live in Kihei but have been working extensively with the Kihei community on a variety of projects over the last 4 years. This work has led the firm that I am a partner in, to conduct over two hundred interviews and focus groups in Kihei for our projects. I am submitting this testimony to share with you one of the themes that was common throughout our interviews regardless of which project we were working on.

The theme centered around residents' frustration with living in a community that was so haphazardly planned. They mentioned that infrastructure was sorely lacking in many neighborhoods namely sidewalks, effective drainage ways, safe intersections, crosswalks, bike paths etc. They mentioned that major infrastructure like roads and schools were decades behind the need—as evidenced by the long-delayed North-South collector road and the not yet open Kulanihako'i High School—over 20 years in the making.

I felt compelled to share this with you because I believe in long-range planning and in master-planned communities. When these long-term visions and plans have been allowed to be carried out on our island, it is a beautiful thing. Maui Lani, a community 40 years in the making and still building out, is one of the best examples where, proper infrastructure, sidewalks, parks, schools, convenience shopping, and housing for our working families are integrated to create exceptional quality of life.

I was pleased to see that the Dept of Planning under their new leadership has included the entire Kihei mauka area within the urban growth boundary for this updated South Maui Plan. This puts it in line with the Maui Island Plan and will allow for forward-thinking long-range planning to provide the kind of growth that Kihei deserves... well-designed, resident focused, small town designation. By including this in today's long range South Maui plan without being overly specific, you will provide future generations with the ability and flexibility to design the kind of community they need.

Whether it be the Parks department looking at where new Parks will be needed, or Public Works looking at where the next highway corridors should be, or home builders wanting to build workforce housing, putting these growth boundaries on a map is critically important if the community wants to be proactive about their needs and more importantly the needs of the next generations who will be here 30 years from now.

I urge this committee to support the Planning Director in preserving the Kihei mauka urban growth boundary.