## **Travis O. Thompson**

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January 25, 2013

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Honorable Chair Kyle Chock State of Hawaii Land Use Commission DBEDT	82 NVF EID	AND USE CONSTATE OF
PO Box 2359	Þ	HAWA
Honolulu, HI 96804-2359	ц Ц	NII

Re: Kahoma Project – Lahaina, Maui

Aloha – the purpose of this letter is to request the Land Use Commission reconsider it's recent decision made by the Commission to not authorize the project to proceed.

Just about everything we do in life involves trade-offs. Do we retain open space, or do we provide much needed housing? Do we authorize a project that will provide homes for 68 families, including 10 homes for those who earn 80% or less of median income within Maui County, or do we maintain an area used to walk dogs, and as a play area for children?

There are no easy answers to these questions. However, in your deliberations, please consider the impact your decision will have on 68 families, who will otherwise not have a place to live in the Lahaina area. By integrating into this project homes for 10 low income families, which will be developed by Habitat for Humanity - Maui; the project will gain an instant sense of community. Prospective residents will see people working together to realize their dream of home ownership.

The people qualifying for the 10 homes will have been educated in the responsibilities of home ownership. Financial responsibility, including credit counseling and budgeting; goes hand in hand with the 'sweat equity' required to produce a home at an affordable cost. Envision the model community that will result. One has to believe that the Commission is faced with the opportunity to select the highest and best possible use for this property. I urge your reconsideration, and a decision to authorize this project.

Sincerely,

Travis O. Thompson Treasurer, Habitat for Humanity- Maui