

STATE OF HAWAII
LAND USE COMMISSION
P.O. BOX 2359
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

RE: Lima Ola Workforce Housing

Dear MEMBERS OF THE LAND USE COMMISSION,

I am writing this letter to express my support for the proposed Lima Ola affordable housing project in Eleele.

Lima Ola is being proposed in a great location – next to schools, shops, services, and jobs. The energy efficient design; and a “green” concept will make Lima Ola a great place to live. We also appreciate the “land banking” concept - preparing land with a plan for future generations seeking affordable housing.

Eleele Elementary School is excited about the many possibilities afforded by the potential increase in student enrollment that this project could bring. Students and their families are our most valuable resource. The increase in funding that could come with the added children from The Lima Ola affordable housing project would support new programs to better prepare our students for a life as 21 century learners. Not to mention the new family partnerships that would be added to our school ohana. Those school family partnerships that are at the core of so many county programs would grow at our school and the broader west side community.

The county has put a good deal of effort in keeping the community involved in the process of bringing Lima Ola to realization. We value this effort of working together and would like to extend our commitment to helping this process move forward.

I enthusiastically support Lima Ola and look forward to the benefits it will have on our community. I urge you to approve legislation promoting the development of this project at your earliest opportunity.

With discerning hope for our school and west side community,



Paul Zina
Principal, Eleele Elementary School

Keith Perry

From: Melissa_Speetjens/WAIMEAC/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 9:15 AM
To: Steven Franco
Subject: Re: WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR LIMA OLA PROJECT IN ELEELE

Dear State of Hawaii, Land Use Commission,

As the public middle school principal on the West Side of Kauai, I am not able to physically be at your hearing today but did want to submit this email.

This email represents my full support of the Lima Ola project in Eleele.

Waimea Canyon Middle School is the smallest public middle school on Kauai - my current population is 410. In real terms, this means that I have less money to work with as far as electives, no academic coach, and limited general offerings to the students on the West Side. We are losing students every year to Kamehameha in Oahu (10 this year) as well as 15 families this year for economic reasons (families moving off island for employment). This is monumental for a small secondary school; I was under enrolled as of the August 12th enrollment count.

The Lime Ola project represents opportunity for housing on the West Side- it offers the opportunity of building a stable West Side community and numerous associated jobs.

The passion among the West Side educators is to build, grow and excel; let's make this a reality together by supporting the Lima Ola project and even the playing field for public education of Kauai.

Thank you.

Melissa Speetjens
Principal

Waimea Canyon Middle School
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"Show your Minihune pride"

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August 15, 2016

To Honorable Chair Mr. Mel Rapozo,

I write this letter in support of the Lima Ola Affordable Housing Project in Eleele.

As the principal of Waimea High School, this project is extremely important to me for several reasons. First of all, it will allow many of our families to finally own their own home. They won't have to double up with their family members and they can move away from being life-time renters. There's pride in homeownership, which cements ties to our community. Home ownership offers our families several financial benefits -- costs are more predictable and stable than renting, the interest and property tax on their mortgage payment is a tax deduction, and since homes typically increase in value, build equity and provide a nest egg for the future. In the long run, this will promote more families being able to plan for and send their children to college, which is key to changing the culture of the westside.

Another major reason the Lima Ola Affordable Housing Project in Eleele is important is because if more families have access to purchasing a home on the westside, the number of students in our schools will increase. Schools are funded by the number of students enrolled. Over the last 12 years, the number of students at Waimea High has dropped by over a third which has meant that we have had to abolish faculty and staff positions, eliminate courses and programs, which leads to our students not having the same access to classes and activities that larger schools are able to provide. Having affordable homes for young families to purchase and move into is a necessity for the westside schools of Kauai.

Thank you very much. If you have any questions or concerns about my testimony, my phone number is 338-6800.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mahina Anguay".

Mahina Anguay

Principal, Waimea High School

rc. Bes# 2016-53
8/17/2016
Housing