

ELIZABETH A. STRANCE 4715  
Corporation Counsel

DIANA M. MELLON-LACEY 7937  
Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Office of the Corporation Counsel  
County of Hawai'i  
101 Aupuni Street, Suite 325  
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720  
Telephone: (808) 961-8251  
Facsimile (808) 961-8622  
E-mail: [diana.mellon-lacey@hawaiiicounty.gov](mailto:diana.mellon-lacey@hawaiiicounty.gov)



BEFORE THE LAND USE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

In the Matter of the Petition of  
U OF N BENCORP

To Amend the Agricultural Land use District  
to the Urban Land Use District for  
Approximately 62 Acres. Tax Map Key Nos.:  
(3) 7-5-010:085 and 7-5-017:006 situated at  
Wai'aha, North Kona, County and State of  
Hawai'i

DOCKET NO. A02-737

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO  
UNIVERSITY OF THE NATIONS, KONA,  
INC.'S MOTION REQUESTING THE  
LAND USE COMMISSION TO (A) BE THE  
ACCEPTING AUTHORITY FOR AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT AND (B) DETERMINE  
THAT THE PROPOSED ACTION  
WARRANTS THE PREPARATION OF AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT, TO BE INITIATED WITH  
THE PREPARATION OF AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT  
STATEMENT PREPARATION NOTICE;  
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

**COUNTY OF HAWAI'I PLANNING DEPARTMENT'S RESPONSE TO UNIVERSITY  
OF THE NATIONS, KONA, INC.'S MOTION REQUESTING THE LAND USE  
COMMISSION TO (A) BE THE ACCEPTING AUTHORITY FOR AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND (B) DETERMINE THAT THE  
PROPOSED ACTION WARRANTS THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL  
IMPACT STATEMENT, TO BE INITIATED WITH THE PREPARATION OF AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PREPARATION NOTICE**

COMES NOW the County of Hawai'i Planning Department (COH) by and through its

counsel, DIANA M. MELLON-LACEY, and hereby submits its response to UNIVERSITY OF THE NATIONS, KONA, INC.'S MOTION REQUESTING THE LAND USE COMMISSION TO (A) BE THE ACCEPTING AUTHORITY FOR AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AND (B) DETERMINE THAT THE PROPOSED ACTION WARRANTS THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT, TO BE INITIATED WITH THE PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT PREPARATION NOTICE, filed with the State of Hawai'i Land Use Commission on January 21, 2021.

County of Hawai'i has reviewed University of the Nations, Kona, Inc.'s motion and supporting documents, including the Environmental Impact Statement Preparation Notice. COH commends University of the Nations, Kona, Inc., for preparing this proactive, thorough and detailed document which integrates the educational institution's plans within the scope of the wider community. COH supports the requests made by University of the Nations, Kona, Inc. in its memorandum as compliant with the requirements of §343-5 Hawai'i Revised Statutes as amended.

DATED: Hilo, Hawai'i, February 1, 2021

  
DIANA M. MELLON-LACEY  
Deputy Corporation Counsel

Attorney for  
COUNTY OF HAWAI'I PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT

BEFORE THE LAND USE COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of the Petition of

U OF N BENCORP

To Amend the Agricultural Land Use District  
Boundary Into the Urban Land Use District for  
Approximately 62 Acres, Tax Map Key Nos.  
(3) 7-5-002:010:085 and 7-5-017:006, situated  
at Waiaha 1<sup>st</sup>, North Kona, County and State of  
Hawaii

DOCKET NO. A02-737

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing was served upon the following by mailing  
the same, postage prepaid, on February 1, 2021:

MARY ALICE EVANS, Director  
Office of Planning  
P.O. Box 2359  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96804-2359

STEVEN S.C. LIM, Esq.  
KATHERINE A. GARSON, ESQ.  
DEREK B. SIMON, ESQ.  
Carlsmith Ball, LLP  
121 Waiānuenu Avenue  
P.O. Box 686  
Hilo, Hawaii 96721-0686  
Attorney for Petitioner  
University of the Nations, Kona, Inc.,  
as successor-in-interest to U of N Bencorp

ZENDO KERN, Director  
County of Hawaii, Planning Department  
Aupuni Center  
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

BRYAN C. YEE  
Deputy Attorney General  
Department of the Attorney General  
425 Queen Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dated: Hilo, Hawai'i, February 1, 2021

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I, PLANNING  
DEPARTMENT

By   
DIANA MELLON-LACEY  
Deputy Corporation Counsel  
Its attorney