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Subject: [EXTERNAL] Land Use Commission Meeting 10-18-23 - Item A07-773 (A) & (B)
Date: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 6:17:34 PM
Attachments: [LUC Testimony for ELC & WDV Waikapu Project.pdf](#)



Aloha,

Please see the attached written testimony in support of the Affordable Housing Project being pursued by Emanuel Lutheran Church and Waikapu Development Venture, identified on the LUC Agenda for Wednesday, October 18, 2023, as Item A07-773 (A) "Emmanuel Lutheran Church & (B) Waikapu Development Venture – Status Report".

Mahalo!

Dave

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TAKITANI, AGARAN, JORGENSEN & WILDMAN

A Limited Liability Law Partnership

October 17, 2023

VIA E-MAIL: dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov

TO: Chair Dan Giovanni
Members of the State of Hawaii Land Use Commission

RE: Item A07-773 (A) Emmanuel Lutheran Church & (B) Waikapu Development Venture

Aloha Chair Giovanni and Members of the State Land Use Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony in full support of the Affordable Housing Project being pursued by Emanuel Lutheran Church and Waikapu Development Venture, identified on the LUC Agenda as Item A07-773 (A) "Emmanuel Lutheran Church & (B) Waikapu Development Venture – Status Report".

As a resident of Maui for over 30 years, a practicing attorney, an active member of several community organizations, and the father of two and grandfather of one amazing almost-7-year old, it is increasingly evident that something has to be done by someone to create, develop and build affordable housing if our children are ever going to be able to live and work on Maui. There are several projects currently in the works and, as we all know, each faces enormous hurdles before they can be completed and occupied by our families, especially after CoVid and the recent Wildfires in Kula and Lahaina.

I am not involved in this project but I have been observing its progress as well as its setbacks and I want to commend the developers for persevering in their efforts. As they have met obstacles, some nearly fatal to the project, they have taken what I consider to be very reasonable steps to address all concerns and get the project back on track. They have made many concessions in order to move the development forward and I request that the Land Use Commission acknowledge those efforts and approve of the new direction the project has taken and needs to take in order to succeed.

I am aware of the support, vocal as well as financial, received by the developers from the County and the public. Especially in light of the impacts of CoVid and now the wildfires on Maui and its people, this project is sorely needed and much anticipated. I hereby respectfully request that the Commission approve the status of the project and offer further encouragement and support for its progress towards completion. Maui needs it, now more than ever.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,



DAVID M. JORGENSEN

Dave/Letters/ELC/Land Use Commission – Waikapu Development