



WAILUA-KAPA'A
NEIGHBORHOOD
ASSOCIATION

February 27, 2020

(via email: blnr.testimony@hawaii.gov)

BLNR Chair and Board Members
Department of Land and Natural Resources
1151 Punchbowl Street, Room 130
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Feb. 28, 2020 Agenda Item D.5 - Hearing to Consent to a Lease between County of Kaua'i & New Hope Church 1326 Inia Street, Kapa'a 96746 TMK (4) 4-5-008-008 and 009

The Wailua-Kapaa Neighborhood Association (W-KNA) is opposed to granting the above referenced Lease. We understand that by Executive Order No. 4566, the state has set aside a .521-acre property for the county, identified for "community needs and social services related purposes" to be under the control and management of the County. However, we want to inform you that, at no time, did the county reach out to other community or faith-based organizations (other than New Hope Church) for proposals.

Although Mayor Derek Kawakami belatedly met with representatives from Kapa'a Business Association, the Royal Coconut Coast Association, and W-KNA on February 5, 2020 (months after the initial request) the following concerns remain unresolved:

- a) The 700+ project supporters who signed a petition and wrote letters only represent the New Hope congregation, and not the broader community.
- b) There are no measurable objectives in the lease agreement to help ensure that the lessee fulfills the required "community needs and social services related purposes." Spiritual guidance "counseling" does not meet this stated goal.
- c) To remedy the omission of a public outreach process and lack of transparency, BLNR can require the county to provide opportunity for community input and proposals.
- d) Any proposed land use must not exacerbate the existing parking and traffic issues. If these lots were designated for public parking instead, the traffic congestion caused by vehicles maneuvering to parallel park along Kuhio Highway and circling in search of parking spaces would be mitigated.
- e) The long-standing need for public parking is identified in the Draft East Kauai Community Plan 2035 as a "critical issue". There is insufficient parking for Kapa'a restaurants and businesses, for events and sporting activities held at Kapa'a Beach Park, and for the coastal multi-use path.
- f) The county has failed to comply with BLNR's mandate for demolition of the seaward building.
- g) Relinquishing this public land for the next 40-years at \$1.00/year is wrong and significantly out-of-step with current DLNR lease rents.

W-KNA respectfully requests that the board defer or deny the Lease and instruct the county to explore other options in a transparent manner that engages broad community input.

Sincerely,

Rayne Regush, Chair
On behalf of the W-KNA Board of Directors

Serving Residents of the Kawaihau District
"We treasure our rural community"

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