



VIA EMAIL (mayor@kauai.gov; councilmembers@kauai.gov)

March 30, 2013

Mayor Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
4444 Rice Street, Suite 235
Lihue, HI 96766

Kauai County Council
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihue, HI 96766

RE: Request to Improve Online Transparency and for Associated Budget Expenditures if Needed

Aloha Mayor Carvalho and Council Chair Furfaro and Councilmembers:

The significant improvements made by Kauai County which were recognized in the 2013 Transparency Report Card are outstanding, particularly the availability of webcast meetings. To continue building on this foundation, the Wailua-Kapa'a Neighborhood Association has two requests to improve online transparency:

- 1) **Webcasts of the Planning Commission Subdivision Committee meetings.** The Subdivision Committee makes decisions on parcels that may be as large as the Kealia's mauka ag-lands (2,000 acres) for example, or as small as a two-lot subdivision. In all cases, these subdivisions are always in someone's "backyard" and the proceedings are no less important than Planning Commission meetings that are currently live-streaming and recorded for future viewing.

We understand from Hoike there would be no additional cost to do this because their staff is already on site, set up, and waiting for the Planning Commission meeting to commence. If additional funds are needed for captioning, we respectfully request that it be included in the upcoming annual budget.

- 2) **Online access to Planning Commission agenda item documentation (prior to meetings).** The time and energy spent by the public trying to obtain documents at the Planning counter and spent by the planning staff providing copies has long been a hindrance to public participation. Embedding links in the online agenda to allow the public to download documents pertaining to meeting agenda items would provide a very valuable service to residents.

Please endeavor to implement these requests so that an informed citizenry can readily participate in government decision-making matters that directly impact them.

Mahalo for your consideration,

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

cc: Michael Dahilig, Planning Director
Planning Commission Chair and Commissioners

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

340 Aina Uka Street, Kapa'a, Hawaii 96746 • 821-2837