Name: Maʻalaea Village Association
Agenda Item: B.1 Goal 2.4 | Mauka
to makai watershed management
Received: 1/9/23 via email

January 9, 2023

To: South Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee Members

RE: 2.4 (and 2.5) GOAL: MAUKA TO MAKAI WATERSHED

Aloha Chair Weltman and SMCPAC Members:

Ma'alaea Village Association (MVA) has worked diligently with leading community groups including MNMRC, KCA, Sierra Club Maui and Maui Tomorrow toward the purchase of the entire 257-acre Maalaea Mauka/Pohakea lands above Ma'alaea. The MNMRC Pohakea Stormwater Management Plan established the vital role these lands play in capturing sedimentation flowing into Ma'alaea Bay, along with wildfire reduction.

MVA and community groups were successful in obtaining over $6 million from the County Open Space fund, and an additional $1 million from the state Legacy Lands Conservation fund. Plans include ownership and management by the state DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife to create a forest reserve with the surrounding 4,000 acres of watershed lands to address erosion caused by sedimentation and wildfire, and provide additional opportunities for rest and recreation including bike paths and expansion of the Lahaina Pali Trail at this main access point to West Maui.

The purchase is at a standstill due to an unwilling landowner who has refused to negotiate with the Trust for Public Land for purchase of the property. Mayor Victorino initiated eminent domain proceedings last year, which now await our new Mayor's support. Eminent domain is a legal process that requires proof of 'public purpose' for the purchase. Community support is critical to achieving our goals of protecting these vital lands above Ma'alaea Bay.

At this time, we support specific policies 2.4.5, 2.4.6,2,5.4,2.5.6. I would suggest adding policy statements to include protecting the ocean environment and ecosystems.

Mahalo for your tireless efforts on behalf of the communities of South Maui.

Lynn Britton

Lynn Britton, Co-Founder, and Immediate Past President, MVA