

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy., Bldg C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 18, 2019

Senator Kaiuli'i Kahele, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
Committee on Water and Land

Dear Chair Kahele, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Committee Members:

RE: HB 910, HD1 Relating to Banyan Drive

Thank you for addressing an issue of great importance to the economic well-being of Hawai'i County, the redevelopment of Banyan Drive. We support all legislation that will help the revitalization of Banyan Drive; and HB 910, HD1 offers a somewhat different, but nonetheless welcome, approach to achieving that goal.

Banyan Drive is underutilized and in disrepair. It is the center of tourism in East Hawai'i, but it is a jewel that is quite tarnished at the present time.

Hawai'i County has taken the first steps toward revitalizing the Banyan Drive peninsula. The administration, Council, community, and Big Island legislators have found common purpose; the redevelopment area has been defined; and a conceptual master plan has been created as a starting point. Now funds are needed to conduct the environmental impact statements necessary to complete the redevelopment plan and move forward.

The comprehensive review of infrastructure called for in HB 910, HD1 would surely be valuable as a stand-alone study, or could generate valuable information for the EIS. In either case it would be a positive step forward.

Please give HB 910, HD1 your favorable consideration.

Respectfully Submitted,


Harry Kim
MAYOR