

From: [Mantz, Jordyn](#)
To: [Planning LPC Testimony](#)
Cc: [Volpe, Daniel](#); [Williamson, Lauren M.K.](#)
Subject: HFD: Submitting Written Testimony
Date: Monday, April 20, 2026 3:26:50 PM
Attachments: [260420 Site M Letter of Support.pdf](#)

Good afternoon Leeward Planning Commission,

Please see attached written testimony I am submitting on behalf of Temporary Fire Chief Daniel Volpe. This is regarding the requested amendment to SMA Use Permit No. 07-000019 for the Mauna Lani development.

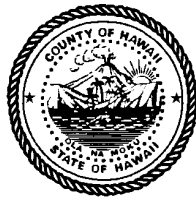
Mahalo,

Jordyn Mantz

Clerk III, Administration
Hawaii Fire Department
808-932-2900

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor

William V. Brilhante, Jr.
Managing Director



Daniel J. Volpe
Temporary Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

April 20, 2026

Leeward Planning Commission
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Aloha Leeward Planning Commission members:

I am submitting this letter in support of the requested amendment to SMA Use Permit No. 07-000019, which, if approved, would require the construction of an emergency evacuation road for the Mauna Lani development.

The Mauna Lani Resort is presently served by a single access point to the State's Queen Ka'ahumanu Highway via a primary two-lane undivided roadway with one inbound and one outbound lane. Single-access developments such as Mauna Lani are especially vulnerable during emergency situations. The lack of a secondary roadway is therefore a significant public safety concern. Should an evacuation ever be necessary, traffic congestion at the existing access point could cause substantial delays, complicate overall evacuation efforts, and jeopardize the safety of residents, guests, and responding first responders.

Additionally, if the existing entrance were ever blocked during a fire, natural disaster, or other emergency event, evacuation efforts would be further complicated, and Hawai'i Fire Department personnel could be prevented from responding, or significantly delayed in responding, to emergencies and providing lifesaving assistance. For this reason, any emergency evacuation road developed for Mauna Lani should take into consideration the need for unimpeded access for fire apparatus to respond to emergencies and return to the station. The roadway should be of sufficient width to accommodate both exiting traffic and responding fire apparatus so that emergency operations are not hindered during a critical incident.

The Hawai'i Fire Department supports the requested amendment to SMA Use Permit No. 07-000019 to require the development of the proposed emergency evacuation road for Mauna Lani in connection with the Site M project.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 932-2903 or by email at daniel.volpe@hawaiiicounty.gov.

Sincerely,

DANIEL J. VOLPE
Temporary Fire Chief, Hawai'i Fire Department

