

Mercado, Keiko

2017 APR 21 PM 4:30

From: Heidi_Meeker/FacilDev/HIDOE@notes.k12.hi.us
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 4:15 PM
To: Mercado, Keiko
Subject: DOE comments on Hamakua CDP

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF HAWAII

Keiko, thank you for all your assistance these last 2 days.

Le Ana Gloor, Planner
County of Hawai'i Planning Department
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

Dear Ms. Gloor,

The Department of Education (DOE) had limited ability to access the Hamakua Community Development Plan for review. It was difficult to access the report on line, navigate within the report, and print out pages.
We appreciated the opportunity to review the document and would like to offer just a few comments.

It is gratifying that the Hamakua community is interested in developing and improving educational opportunities. DOE supports the 5.12.3 Kokua Action requested of the department, but wishes there had been some acknowledgment of DOE's responsibility to maintain a safe and healthy environment for its students. The sharing of school facilities with the County and community groups has to come after educational priorities are met. Schools have to provide a safe environment which is not always compatible with wide open public access, particularly during school hours. Schools cannot always be expected to provide maintenance and repair of facilities being heavily used by the public. Schools are also required to follow administrative rules regarding public use of school facilities.

In regard to 5.13.3 Kokua Action, DOE is currently working with the Hakalau community concerning the eventual return of the Hakalau school campus to the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources. DOE cannot maintain, police, and be liable for property that is no longer an operating public school.

If you have any questions, please contact Heidi Meeker of the Facilities Development Branch at (808) 784-5095.

Kenneth G. Masden
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Planning Section - Facilities Development Branch
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