

**Koloa Community Association  
PO Box 1313  
Koloa, HI 96756**

February 12, 2008

Kauai County Arborist Advisory Committee  
4444 Rice Street, Suite A473  
Lihue, Hawaii 96766

RE: Existing monkeypod trees located on the parcels of land in Koloa (identified as Kauai Tax Map Keys 2-8-04, parcels 3 and 55) proposed for development by Koloa Marketplace, LLC.

Committee Members,

The Koloa Community Association supports the petition by Ted Erum Jr. requesting designation of a grove of Koloa's monkeypod trees as exceptional trees.

As President of the Koloa Community Association, I can tell you, as well as members of the community who are here today will tell you, that these trees are of major importance to our Community.

By the County's definition, "Exceptional Trees" means a tree or group of trees with historical or cultural value, or which by its age, rarity, location, size, aesthetic quality or endemic status. This grove meets this definition

Koloa, the first sugar plantation town in Hawaii, is a Historic Town. The first of two trees in the Sandwich Islands were planted in Koloa. It is from this first tree that Koloa's monkey pods have descended. Historic Koloa Town has become identified with not only its unique building style but its monkeypod trees. The Monkeypod tree has become a symbol Old Koloa Town. It has been pointed out that Koloa is about the only town on Kauai with as heavy a concentration of large trees along its streets. monkeypod trees line Koloa, Weliweli, Waikomo and Poipu Roads. They enhance and define the character and atmosphere of Hawai'i's first plantation town.

The monkeypod trees on this site are a minimum of 50 years old and most are older. Community members have a supporting photo of Kauai artists holding an exhibition 40 years ago among these large magnificent trees and I just received from a community member a photo taken around 1913 of the monkeypod trees lining the road in Koloa.

There are many examples of how these trees define our town.

First is our Kauai Planning Department in their staff recommendation to the Planning Commission in September 2006. They commented on this property by writing:

"ST-C District, General Plan and KPK-DP Considerations - Currently visible from the main gateway to old Koloa Town, the property's open stream vista and numerous

monkeypods strongly contribute to the Town's historic character and sense of place. The site's location at the center of Koloa Town, with substantial frontage along its two major streets, also primes the project for great effect on the character of historic Koloa Town. Pursuant to KCC Section 10-6.3(d), *Koloa Town Core, Special Treatment-Cultural/Historic (ST-C) District*, the creation of this Special Treatment District is intended to provide a mechanism to maintain and enhance the character and charm of this historic plantation community."

"Further, according to the General Plan Heritage Maps, Maluhia Road is designated as a Scenic Roadway Corridor along from the property's mauka edge to the railroad berm. Pursuant to Section 5.5.1(b) of the General Plan, the Policy regarding Scenic Corridors where they occur in Urban Districts and towns is to promote setbacks, landscaping and views of scenic features."

The description of Koloa Town in the official brochure handed out in Koloa Town is as follows: "Quaint old plantation buildings have been carefully renovated and restored and are now home to unique Shops and Restaurants. Take a leisurely stroll under the canopy of monkeypod trees. Experience Koloa's vibrant past. Visit Old Koloa Town's Koloa History Center and learn about life in the plantation era."


The Kauai Outdoor Circle states: " For more than two decades the community and the County of Kauai have recognized the importance of these trees. They are within the Poipu-Koloa - Kalaheo Development Plan Ordinance that identifies the historic significance of Koloa Town and, more specifically, it recognizes the importance of the large canopy trees in providing a sense character and historic charm."

We could go on and on about this magnificent grove of monkeypod trees and what they mean to this community. Community members will provide you today with photos of this grove. I hope you will see the importance of declaring them exceptional.

Designating them "exceptional" should have happened long ago. Our Community has come to realize that by not designating our most prized trees, they run the risk of being subject to a legal system that could cause them to be cut down. We intend to work with this committee in evaluating our many important trees to see if they would be considered exceptional.

But today you need to put all else aside and evaluate this grove on the merits of what you hear and see. I am confident you would consider them exceptional.

We thank you for your consideration and especially thank Mr. Erum for his effort to bring this petition to you.

  
Louie Abrams, President  
Koloa Community Association

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