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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i Hawati County Bullding 25 Aupuni Street Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

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The Honorable Harry Kim Mayor, Hawaii County 25 Aupuni Street Hilo, HI 96720

Aloha Mayor Kim:

As Councilmember representing Council District 1, the mud land issue is extremely important to me and my constituents. The goal of this letter is to make clear my hope and intention in helping to resolve this matter and achieve a win-win situation.

I recently took it upon myself to walk the trail, and I am convinced that we need to preserve the trail in question. Regardless of the findings of SHPD, we need to preserve this section of mud lane and keep it for the recreational enjoyment for our people.

Let me make it clear that my office is not recommending disallowing 660LLC to connect to mud lane. Instead, I strongly recommend that a compromise take place which would realign the proposed gravel roadway to connect to mud lane without disturbing the integrity of the existing trail. It is my understanding that 660LLC has been in discussion with a private land owner to possibly create an easement agreement. This would be an excellent winwin situation and I strongly support this effort.

I need your support Mayor Kim in providing the community the opportunity to allow this process to proceed. Regardless of the historic findings of SHPD, I seek a commitment from your administration that the stop work order shall remain in place until such time that the community is able to bring forth solutions to this issue. I am committed to lead that effort at the community level, and I am convinced that we can achieve a solution whereby everyone walks away as one chana.

If I have your commitment to leave the stop work order in place, I will begin facilitating the process with the community and the developer. Without that commitment, my concern is that the developer would be allowed to proceed should SHPD find the trail to be of no historical significance. As I stated earlier, we need to preserve this trail for recreational enjoyment irrespective of the SHPD findings. After walking the trail, I am convinced that preserving this trail segment of mud land is the pone thing to do. Thank you very much for your consideration. I look forward to your response.