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"SERVING THOSE WHO SERVED"

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November 29, 2021

Hawaii Community Development Authority
Kalaeloa Authority
547 Queen Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Development Permit Application for Ka'ulu Residential Community

Dear Chair Todani and Members of the Kalaeloa Authority:

My name is Kim Cook and I currently serve as the Vice President of Clinical Services for U.S.VETS, a national non-profit organization that provides comprehensive support services to homeless and at-risk veterans across the nation. We have 2 sites here in Hawai'i – one in Barber's Point in Kalaeloa and one in Wai'anae. I have been the honored former Executive Director of the Barber's Point location from 2012-2021 and for the Wai'anae location from 2018 – 2021. I recently transitioned in to my new role, in September, and still provide leadership support to our Hawai'i sites. I am also a resident of the West O'ahu community and am particularly interested and supportive of the development of our community initiatives.

Besides the apparent economic opportunities new developments provide, I specifically support the Ka'ulu for the following reasons:

1. **Improved infrastructure:** As the first new residential development in decades in our community that will enable more people to live, work and learn in Kalaeloa, we have anecdotally experienced the improvement of infrastructure when new developments arise in our community. The last development that we benefitted from was when the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) headquarters was built. After years of advocating for streetlights and bus lines to support the veterans in our program, with no success, our veterans now get to benefit from the streetlights and access to bus lines that they didn't have prior. We know that a development of this size will bring much needed infrastructure to Kalaeloa.
2. **Improving healthcare access:** With the future VA clinic that is being currently developed, this housing location will allow for more residential options for people to live closer to where they get healthcare. As a homeless service agency, we understand the importance of healthcare as a social determinant of health for the

veterans we are honored to serve and any veterans who need care at the VA. This option will maximize the opportunity to improve the access to healthcare of the people in our community.

3. **Mālama 'Āina:** It is important to us that new developments are also Earth conscious. The newest development will contain energy-efficient, green-built homes that will provide a number of energy-saving equipment to support long term sustainability. In addition, Gentry will be using native plants in its sustainable site design and will be planting a native tree for every Ka'ulu home sold under the Hawaiian Legacy Hardwoods program. These efforts help to promote the health of our community at large, while keeping our 'āina top of mind.

Your support of Gentry's development will help to meet several needs in our community, to include addressing the housing demand. Thank you for including my testimony for this project and for your consideration of its impact for our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Cook, Psy.D.

Kim Cook, Psy.D.
Vice President of Clinical Services
U.S.VETS – National