Stephen K. Yamashiro Mayor



Virginia Goldstein Director

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## County of Hawaii PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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CERTIFIED MAIL P 364 305 165

October 2, 1996

Mr. Raymond Glory, Jr. P.O. Box 995
Volcano, HI 96785

Dear Mr. Glory:

Variance Permit No. VAR 782 (VAR 96-52)
Applicant: Raymond Glory, Jr.
Request: Variance From Chapter 23, Subdivisions, Article
Division 2, Improvements Required, Section 23-843,
Water Supply
Tax Map Key: 1-9-017:015

WATER VARIANCE: After reviewing your application and the information submitted on behalf of it, the Planning Director certifies the approval of your variance request to allow the creation of a two (2) lot subdivision without a water system meeting with the minimum requirements of the Department of Water Supply (DWS) as required by Division 2, Section 23-84 (1) of the Subdivision Code.

The Planning Director has concluded that the variance from the minimum subdivision water requirements be approved based on the following findings.

## SPECIAL AND UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

There are special and unusual circumstances that exist which would warrant consideration of and necessitate a variance from the minimum water requirements to the proposed subdivision of the subject property:

1. The subject property is Lot 22-A, Grant 10,069 to Hisashi Takaki, Kilauea Settlement Association Lots, Olaa, Puna, Island and County of Hawaii. The subject

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property is more commonly identified by the tax map key (TMK) parcel number (TMK: (3) 1-9-017:015) consisting of 11.569 acres.

- 2. The subject parcel is zoned Agricultural (A-5a) by the County and designated Agriculture "A" by the State Land Use Commission (LUC).
- 3. The applicants/owners submitted the subject variance application on July 19, 1996. The applicants/owners of the subject property, prior to the submission of the variance application, had submitted a subdivision application (SUB 87-073) and preliminary plat map showing a proposed 2-lot subdivision of Lot 22, containing 11.57 acres into LOT "22-A-1" and "22-A-2" containing 6.31 acres and 5.257 acres, respectively. Further action on the proposed 2-lot subdivision application is being deferred pending consideration of the subject water variance application.

The Department of Water Supply (DWS) memorandum dated May 7, 1987 in file (SUB 87-73) states:

"Please be informed that the proposed subdivision is not within the service limits of the Department's water system facilities."

And, a second memorandum dated December 21, 1995 in file (SUB 87-73) states in part:

"The subject property is not within the service limits of the Department of Water Supply's existing water system facility. The nearest water system is the end of a 4-inch water line that supplies water to a 50,000-gallon concrete reservoir along the Volcano Highway approximately 8 miles from the property."

4. The State Department of Health (DOH) memorandum dated October 1, 1996 in file (VAR 96-52) states in part:

"The Department of Health's authority on drinking water quality is based on the definition of a "public water system". A "public water system" means a system for

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the provision to the public of piped water for human consumption, if such system has at least fifteen (15) service connections or regularly serves an average of at least sixty (60) days out of the year.

Past episodes of water quality concerns for lead, copper, algae and microbial contaminations in private rain catchment systems have identified the need for design standards. Without these control standards the Department of Health would not be able to support the use of these private rain catchment systems for drinking purposes."

- 5. The Department of Finance-Real Property Tax records and comments dated September 26, 1996 in file (VAR 96-52) indicate the current taxes as of September 30, 1996, \$3711.41 are delinquent and further subdivision of the existing 10.57 acres currently "pasture use" in the agricultural use program may be subject to rollback taxes.
- 6. The following is extracted from the "ATTACHMENT TO" in variance file (VAR 96-52) which states in part:

"The analysis of published public information and calculations submitted herewith appear to indicate that there is adequate rainfall within the subject property to support a private roof water catchment system for potable uses.

The subject property contains 11.569 Acres and is located in an Agricultural Zoned District.

The proposed subdivision conforms to the Zoning Code.

The requested variance would allow the property to be accorded the same treatment as other adjacent and nearly (sic) properties."

Therefore, considering the above facts and information submitted with the applicant's variance application, the Planning Director has determined that there are special or unusual circumstances applying to the subject property which exist either to a degree which deprive the applicant or owner/subdivider of substantial property rights that would otherwise be available, or to a degree which obviously interferes with the best use or manner of development of the subject property.

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## **ALTERNATIVES**

There are no other reasonable alternatives in resolving the difficulty of the petitioner. The first alternative, requires the petitioner/subdivider/owner of the proposed subdivision application to pay appropriate facilities charges and fees to the DWS and improve the existing water system and provide the necessary dedicable water system improvement in accordance with the Rules and Regulations and the Standards prescribed by DWS. The second alternative would be to plan, explore, design, and drill private wells and install the necessary water system improvements in accordance with the Rules and Regulations and the Standards prescribed by the DWS.

The prorata cost per lot for the water system design and construction of an approved dedicable or private water system is economically cost prohibitive. As such, the imposition of requiring a public or private water system for the proposed subdivision would be putting excessive demands upon the petitioner/subdivider/owner when a more reasonable alternative is available.

## INTENT AND PURPOSE

The intent and purpose of requiring a water system within a subdivision is to assure that adequate water is available for human consumption and fire protection.

The analysis of existing site conditions and rainfall data information submitted by the applicants and official maps and rainfall summaries in the DWS and the Planning Department appear to support the information submitted by the applicants/owners/subdividers. The analysis of available private and public information appears to indicate there is adequate rainfall within the subject property and the surrounding areas to support a private roof water catchment system(s) for portable uses. The State Department of Health has no building regulations, specific rules or regulations relating to the utilization and construction of private water catchment systems, and inspection of private roof catchment water systems.

The analysis of the applicant's statements and proposed land uses within the proposed subdivision and the analysis of the rainfall information submitted for the subject property appear to indicate that there is adequate rainfall within the subject property to support a private roof water catchment system for emergency and fire fighting uses. Provisions for fire protection will be privately addressed by the petitioner/owner/ subdivider and

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provided by the petitioner/owner/subdivider on the subject property.

No objections were received from the surrounding property owners and the participating government agencies.

The subject variance application was deemed complete by the Planning Department on July 19, 1996 and by subsequent discussion with the applicant, Mr. Raymond Glory, Jr., the decision date by the Planning Director on the subject variance would be extended to October 4, 1996.

Based on the foregoing findings, this variance request would be consistent with the general purpose of the zoning district, the intent and purpose of the Zoning and Subdivision Codes and the County General Plan; will not be materially detrimental to the public's welfare; and will not cause substantial adverse impact to the area's character and to adjoining properties.

This variance request is approved subject to the following conditions:

- The applicant/owner/subdividers, his assigns or successors shall be responsible for complying with all stated conditions of variance application (VAR 96-52) and the conditions of tentative subdivision approval in file (SUB 87-73).
- The applicant/owner/ subdividers, his assigns or successors shall contact the County's Real Property Office and pay all delinquent real property taxes, penalties and interest, and any other fees due the County.
- 3. The applicant/owner/subdivider, his assigns, or successors shall file a written agreement or approved written document with the Planning Department within one (1) year from the issuance of tentative subdivision approval and prior to receipt of final subdivision approval of SUB 87-73 containing the following deed language, being covenants, condition, and restrictions which affect the entire property and/or the proposed lots arising from the approval of pending subdivision (SUB 87-73) and shall be duly recorded at the Bureau of Conveyances of the State of Hawaii by the Planning Department at the cost and expense of the applicant/owner/subdivider:

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- a. The applicant/owner/subdivider agrees and accepts the fact that a County dedicable public water system is not now or in the foreseeable future able to service the existing property or the proposed lots created by subdivision application (SUB 87-73).
- b. The applicant/owner/subdivider agrees and accepts the fact that the County will not, at any time, bear the responsibility of supplying public water to those lots created by SUB 87-73.
- c. The permitted dwellings, accessory structures and permitted uses not serviced by a County water system constructed on the existing property or lots or portions thereof, shall consist of a private potable catchment system which includes a minimum 6,000-gallon water storage tank or equivalent facility for domestic consumption or potable uses. The potable or private water catchment system shall adhere to the Department of Public Works, Building Division's "Guidelines for Owners of Rain Catchment Water Systems" as well as the State Department or Health requirements related to water testing and water purifying devices.
- d. For each permitted dwelling or farm dwelling, provide and maintain a private water supply system which includes a separate water storage tank containing a minimum of 6,000 gallons of water for fire fighting and emergency purposes. The design and location of the separate water storage tank shall meet with the approval of Hawaii County Fire Department.
- e. In the event that there are any amendments or changes to the subdivision after the agreement is signed, the petitioner/owner/subdivider shall be responsible for informing the County Planning Department of the amendments or changes so that the agreement can reflect the amendments or changes. Further, the written agreement shall be considered as a condition and covenant running with the land and shall be binding upon the applicants/owners/ subdividers, his successors, and assigns and shall be incorporated as an exhibit and made part of each agreement of sale,

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> deed, lease, or other similar documents affecting the title or ownership of the subject property or the subdivided lot.

- f. In the event that any lots created by SUB 87-73 are provided by a water service (individual meter) from the Department of Water Supply or an approved private water system, the recorded conditions and covenants will no longer be in effect.
- g. All lots shall comply with all other applicable State and County rules and regulations.
- 4. All other applicable State and County rules and regulations shall be complied with.

Thank you for understanding and patience during our review.

Should any of the foregoing stated conditions not be complied with, the Planning Director may proceed to declare this Variance Permit null and void.

Sincerely,

Planning Director

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xc: SUB 87-73