

Stephen K. Yamashiro  
Mayor



Virginia Goldstein  
Director

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Deputy Director

## County of Hawaii

CERTIFIED MAIL

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**PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

25 Aupuni Street, Room 109 • Hilo, Hawaii 96720-4252  
(808) 961-8288 • Fax (808) 961-8742

December 22, 1999

Mr. Klaus D. Conventz  
P.O. Box 2308  
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96745-2308

Dear Mr. Conventz:

Variance Application WH(VAR 99-091)  
Variance No. 1081  
Applicant: KLAUS D. CONVENTZ  
Owners: SAM D. GIMBEL  
Request: Variance From Minimum Front Yard Requirements  
Tax Map Key: 6-5-002: 052

After reviewing your application and the additional information submitted, the Planning Director certifies the approval of your variance request to allow a two story single family dwelling and garage with a 23.73 to 23.81 feet front yard in lieu of the minimum 25 feet front yard as required by Ordinance 96-160, Chapter 25, Article 5, Division 5, Section 25-5-56(1), Ordinance 97-88.

Please accept our sincere apologies for this tardy confirmation of the approval granted to allow the requested variance. At the present time there is a shortage of staff. This personnel shortage will be resolved and result in more timely responses to future applications. Your patience is appreciated.

The subject property is located at Lot 6, being a subdivision of Lot 1, Grant 10923 to George Marvin, at Waimea Homesteads, South Kohala, Hawaii, Tax Map Key: 6-5-002: 052.

SPECIAL AND UNUSUAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. The subject property consists of 21,780 square feet of land area.
2. The subject single family dwelling was issued the following building permits:

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- a. Building Permit No. 885924 opened on September 30, 1988 and closed on January 18, 1990 for the construction of a single family dwelling.
  - b. Building Permit No. 995512 opened on May 10, 1999 and closed on June 15, 1999 to repair front wall and joists.
3. A survey map prepared by Blaine W. Ito on October 13, 1999 shows the two story single family dwelling and garage with a 23.73 to 23.81 feet front yard in lieu of the minimum 25 feet front yard. As such, the dwelling and garage encroach 1 foot 2-1/4 inches to 1 foot 3-1/4 inches into the required 25 feet front yard.
  4. When the building permits were approved, the owner received all of the necessary Department of Public Works, Building Division approvals for the dwelling and garage.
  5. When approved by the Planning Department, the plans would have had to have shown that all minimum required setbacks were going to be adhered to for the dwelling and garage in 1988.
  6. There appears to have been a construction staking error in the siting of the structure on the property. This occurred in 1988 when the dwelling and garage were constructed. There also appears to have been a very minor siting error made at the time of construction with the encroachment. No other evidence has been found to show otherwise.
  7. It has been over 10 years since the construction of the existing dwelling and garage were approved by the County, and the applicant is trying to resolve a situation which he had no control over and has honestly conducted a certified survey to ensure the disclosure of all facts concerning the dwelling and improvements.
  8. The variance application was filed with the Planning Department on October 18, 1999.

There were no objections from any adjacent or surrounding property owners.

Therefore, considering the foregoing facts, the Planning Director has determined that there are special or unusual circumstances applying to the subject property which exist either to a degree which deprives the owner or applicant 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

1. The owner on his own volition is honestly trying to resolve this long standing problem which was not created by him. The investigation of this particular matter has not revealed any deliberate or intentional grounds in allowing the encroachments to occur.
2. Any architectural alterations or design changes to the dwelling and garage to conform with the minimum setbacks would create undue and excessive hardships for the applicant when other more reasonable options are available.

Based on the above cited considerations, there are no reasonable solutions available without excessive demands being placed on the owners when a more reasonable alternative is available by the granting of this variance application.

### INTENT AND PURPOSE

The intent and purpose of requiring building setbacks within a subdivision is to assure that adequate air and light circulation is available between structures and property lines. As such, the dwelling and garage 1 foot 2-1/4 inches to 1 foot 3-1/4 inches into the required 25 feet front yard. This encroachment into the front yard will not diminish the ability for adequate light and air to circulate and will still provide adequate open space. Therefore, while the Zoning Code requires a minimum 25 feet front yard in this particular case, the encroachment will not visually or physically impact or be adverse to any adjacent properties or development with the granting of this variance. The rest of the existing dwelling complies with the minimum yard requirements of the Zoning Code.

Based on the foregoing findings, this variance request would be consistent with the general purpose of the zoning district and the intents and purposes of the Zoning Code, Subdivision Code and the County General Plan. Furthermore, this variance 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:

1. The owner, assigns or successors shall be responsible for complying with all stated conditions of approval.
2. The approval of this variance shall be included in the conveyance document for the subject property and a copy of the recorded conveyance document shall be submitted to the Planning Department within a year from the effective date of approval of this variance.

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3. All other applicable State and County rules and regulations shall be complied with.

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

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Eleanor Mirikitani of this department.

Sincerely,



VIRGINIA GOLDSTEIN  
Planning Director

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xc: West Hawaii Office