

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Duane Kanuha
Director

Bobby Command
Deputy Director

West Hawai'i Office
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy
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County of Hawai'i
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

East Hawai'i Office
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
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Fax (808) 961-8742

December 31, 2013

Mr. Klaus Conventz
Baumeister Consulting
P. O. Box 2308
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

Dear Mr. Conventz:

SUBJECT: VARIANCE APPLICATION – VAR-13-000174

Applicant: KLAUS D. CONVENTZ/BAUMEISTER CONSULTING
Owners: MARK FUJIMOTO & CHRYSYAL THOMAS YAMASAKI
Request: Variance from Chapter 25, Zoning, Article 5, Division 1, Section 25-5-7, Minimum Yards and Article 4, division 4, Section 25-4-44(a), Permitted Projections into Yards and Open Space Requirements (Encroachment into West Front Yard and East Rear Yard Setback)
TMK: 7-4-009:091, Lot C-14

After reviewing your variance application, the Planning Director certifies the **approval** of VAR-13-000174, subject to variance conditions. The variance will allow portion of the single-family dwelling with covered lanai and 2-car garage to remain “as built” with a 15.8-foot front (west) yard setback with associated 7.5 feet to 12.70 feet open space. It also allows for the rear (east) corner of the garage to remain with a minimum of 16.5-foot to a minimum 17.7 rear (east) yard setback. These exceptions are in lieu of the required 20-foot front and rear yard setback and 14-foot open space, as required by the Hawaii County Code, Chapter 25, Zoning, Section 25-5-7, Minimum yards.

BACKGROUND AND FINDINGS

1. **Location.** The subject property, consisting of approximately 12,094 square feet of land, is located in the Kealakehe Heights, Increment 2, Subdivision and is situated at Kealakehe, North Kona, Hawai'i. The subject property's street address is 74-5079 Lana Place.
2. **Zoning.** Single-Family Residential –10,000 square feet (RS-10).
3. **State Land Use.** Urban (U)

4. **Required Setback.** 20-foot front and rear yard; 10-foot side yard.
5. **Variance Application-Site Plan.** The applicant submitted the variance application, attachments, and filing fee on October 8, 2013, and other submittals related to the variance application. The variance application's site plan map is drawn to scale and was prepared by Nicolas K. Yamasaki, L.P.L.S (Wes Thomas Associates). The map denotes portions of the single-family dwelling built into the north front yard setback and south side yard setback.

The owner/applicant submitted the variance application to address or resolve the encroachment of the single-family dwelling and garage into the 20-foot west front yard and east rear yard setback, as required by the Zoning Code.

The survey map shows that portions of the single-family dwelling encroaches 4.2 feet into the front (west) yard setback and 1.4 to 6.1 feet into the 14-foot front (west) yard open space. It also shows that the garage intrudes 2.3 feet to 3.5 feet into the rear (east) yard setback.

6. **County Building Records.** Hawaii County Real Property Tax Division records indicate that a building permit (895584) was issued on May 11, 1989, for the construction of a 3-bedroom and 3-bath single-family dwelling. An additional building permit (895664) was issued on May 31, 1989 for an addition to the existing garage.
7. **Agency Comments and Requirements.**
 - a. The State Department of Health (DOH) memorandum, dated October 31, 2013. (See attached memorandum)
 - b. No comments were received from the Department of Public Works–Building Division.
8. **Notice to Surrounding Property Owners.** The applicant submitted a copy of notice mailed to surrounding property owners (including affidavits) by U.S.P.S. According to these submittals, the first and second notice(s) were mailed on October 8, 2013 and October 22, 2013, respectively. Notice of this application was published in the Hawaii Tribune Herald and West Hawaii Today on October 23, 2013.
9. **Time Extension.** The applicant's variance application was received on September 4, 2013 and additional time to review the application was required. The applicant granted the Planning Director an extension of time to issue a decision on the Variance Application until December 31, 2013.
10. **Comments from Surrounding Property Owners or Public.** No written comments or

objections from surrounding property owners or general public were received by the Planning Department.

ANALYSIS OF GROUNDS FOR VARIANCE

No variance will be granted unless it is found that:

- (a) *There are special or unusual circumstances applying to the subject real 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 property.*

The variance application meets criteria (a) for the following reasons:

The owner/applicant submitted the variance application to address or resolve the encroachment of the single-family dwelling into the 8-foot side (south) yard setback and the carport's bathroom and laundry room enclosure into the 8-foot side (north) yard setback as required by the Zoning Code.

The survey map prepared by Nicolas K. Yamasaki, L.P.L.S. (Wes Thomas Associates) shows that portion of the single-family dwelling encroaches 4.2 feet into the front (west) yard setback with an associated 1.4 feet to 6.1 feet into the front (east) yard open space. It also shows that the garage intrudes 2.3 feet to 3.5 feet into the rear (east) yard setback. .

The applicant has stated:

"It appears that the encroachment was caused by an honest staking error due to the irregular size of the parcel. In fact, the dwelling and subsequently approved garage addition could not have fitted the lot, even if the foot print would have been located further northwest. This was obviously overlooked in the design and approval phase by architect and county."

No evidence has been found to show indifference or premeditation by the past owners or builders to deliberately create or intentionally allow the building encroachment problems to occur.

It appears that the original dwelling improvements constructed nearly 24 years ago were constructed under valid building permits and other construction permits issued by the County. It also appears that past building permit inspections of the premises by the agencies during construction of the dwelling improvements did not disclose any building encroachment issues or building setback irregularities at that time.

The above special and unusual circumstance determines the current owner was not at fault in creating the encroachment violation and requiring them to fix the encroachments would interfere with the best use and development of the property.

(b) *There are no other reasonable alternatives that would resolve the difficulty.*

The variance application meets criterion (b) for the following reasons:

Alternatives available to the current owners to correct and/or address the building encroachments constructed into the affected northern front yard setback and southern side yard setback of the subject property include the following actions:

Remove the building encroachments and/or redesign or relocate the single-story dwelling and garage constructed upon the subject property to fit within the correct building envelope denoted on the recent survey map as prescribed by the Zoning Code. Any structural or design correction of the single-family dwelling to meet setback requirement would leave unattractive reconstruction scars.

Because the encroachment is within the front yard setback, to consolidate the subject property with the roadway and re-subdivide the property to modify property lines and adjust minimum front yard setbacks are not viable options. Also, to consolidate the subject's rear (east) boundary with the adjoining rear property which is owned by another party, and re-subdivide to modify property lines and adjust minimum rear yard setback is not feasible options. Therefore, there are no reasonable alternatives to resolve the encroachment issue.

(c) *The variance is consistent with the general purpose of the district, the intent and purpose of this chapter, and the general plan, and will not be materially detrimental to the public's welfare or cause substantial, adverse impact to an area's character or to adjoining properties.*

The variance application meets criteria (c) for the following reasons:

The intent and purpose of requiring building setbacks on a lot are to assure that adequate air circulation and exposure to light are available between permitted structure(s)/uses and boundary/property lines.

Based on the foregoing findings and unusual circumstances, the applicant's request for variance would be consistent with the general purpose of the zoning district and the intent and purpose of the Zoning Code, Subdivision Code and the County General Plan.

Furthermore, the variance request 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 can be substantiated, to some degree, by the fact that this office did not

receive any complaints from surrounding property owners during the roughly 24 years since the single-family dwelling with garage was constructed.

Further, objections were not received from the surrounding property owners or general public in response to the Notification of Surrounding Property Owners. As such, it is felt that the issuance of this variance will not depreciate or detract from the character of the immediately surrounding properties.

Based on the above findings, granting of the variance would be consistent with the criteria and intent of approving a variance.

PLANNING DIRECTOR'S DECISION AND VARIANCE CONDITIONS

This variance request is **approved** subject to the following conditions:

1. The applicant/owner, their assigns or successors shall be responsible for complying with all stated conditions of approval.
2. The applicant/owner(s), successors or assigns shall indemnify and hold the County of Hawaii harmless from and against any loss, liability, claim, or demand for the property damage, personal injury, or death arising out of any act or omission of the applicants/owners, their successors or assigns, officers, employees, contractors, or agents under this variance or relating to or connected with the granting of this variance.
3. No permit shall be granted to allow an ohana or farm dwelling upon the subject property, subject to provisions of the Zoning Code or State law which may be changed from time to time.
4. Portion of the single-family residence with garage built upon the subject property ("LOT C-14) will not meet the minimum front and rear yard setback and associated open space requirements pursuant to Hawai'i County Code, Chapter 25, (Zoning Code), in accordance to the site map dated October 3, 2013.
5. Should the single-family dwelling and garage (footprint) on the subject property be destroyed by fire or other natural causes, the replacement structure shall comply with the Hawai'i County Code, Chapter 25, (Zoning) and be subject to State law and County ordinances and regulations pertaining to building construction occupancy.
6. Future or new building improvements and permitted uses shall be subject to State law and County ordinances and regulations pertaining to building construction and occupancy.

Klaus D. Conventz
Baumeister Consulting
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Should any of the foregoing variance conditions not be complied with, the Planning Director may proceed to declare subject Variance VAR-13-000174 null and void.

Sincerely,



DUANE KANUHA
Planning Director

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xc: Planning Department (Kona)
Real Property Tax Division (Kona)
Gilbert Bailado, Planning GIS

Klaus D. Conventz
Baumeister Consulting
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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

PLANNING DEPARTMENT
2013 NOV 11 AM 8:22



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. BOX 916
HILO, HAWAII 96721-0916

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 31, 2013

TO: Duane Kanuha
Planning Director, County of Hawaii

FROM: Newton Inouye ✎
District Environmental Health Program Chief

SUBJECT: Application: Variance – VAR 13-000174
Applicant: KLAUS D. CONVENTZ/BAUMEISTER CONSULTING
Owner: MARK FUJIMOTO
Request: Variance from Chapter 25, zoning, Article 5, Division 1,
Section 25-5-7 Minimum Yards and Section 25-4-44(a),
Permitted Projections into Yards and Open Space
Requirements (Encroachment into the West Front Yard
Setback and East Rear Yard Setback)
Tax Map Key: 7-4-009:091, Lot C-14

The Health Department found no environmental health concerns with regulatory implications in the submittals.

Klaus D. Conventz
Baumeister Consulting
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NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR'S DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

2013 SEP 27 AM 11:05



LORETTA J. FUDDY, A.C.S.W., M.P.H.
Director of Health

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P.O. BOX 916
HILO, HAWAII 96721-0916

MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 26, 2013

TO: Duane Kanuha
Planning Director, County of Hawaii

FROM: Newton Inouye *NI*
District Environmental Health Program Chief

SUBJECT: Application: Variance - VAR 13-000170
Applicant: KLAUS D. CONVENTZ/BAUMEISTERCONSULTING
Owner: CLAYTON D. TREMAINE, JR. AND MARY ANN P.L.
TREMAINE
Request: Variance from Chapter 25, Zoning, Article 5, Division 1,
Section 25-5-7 Minimum Yards and Section 25-4-44(a);
Permitted Projections into Yards and Open Space
Requirements (Encroachment into the North and South
Side Yard Setback)
Tax Map Key: 7-3-057:007, Lot 27

The Health Department found no environmental health concerns with regulatory implications in the submittals.

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