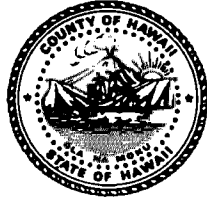


Harry Kim
Mayor

Roy Takemoto
Managing Director

West Hawai'i Office
74-5044 Ane Keohokālole Hwy
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
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County of Hawai'i
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Michael Yee
Director

April Surprenant
Acting Deputy Director

East Hawai'i Office
101 Pauahi Street, Suite 3
Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Phone (808) 961-8288
Fax (808) 961-8742

April 27, 2020

Zendo Kern
Planning Consultant, LLC
194 Wiwoole Street
Hilo, HI 96720

Dear Mr. Kern:

SUBJECT: VARIANCE DECISION - VARIANCE - VAR- VAR-20-000578
Applicant: ZENDO KERN, PLANNING CONSULTANT, LLC
Owners: CAROLINE K. SMITH/KANUHA 'OHANA, LLC
Request: Variance from Article 3, Division 4, Street Design, Section 23-41, Minimum Right-of-Way and Pavement Widths; Article 6, Division 2, Improvements Required, Sections 23-86, Requirements for Dedicable Street
Tax Map Key: (3) 7-5-003:005 (SUB-03-000167)

Upon review of the variance application, and re-review of the Tentative Approval (TA) of the subdivision dated July 11, 2007, and the Amended TA dated June 24, 2009, the Planning Director has determined that the variance application be **approved** with variance conditions. Although the road is compliant with Amended Tentative Approval (TA), it is still noncompliant to the Subdivision Code, therefore, this decision requirement.

The variance request is from the proposed subdivision's minimum requirements pursuant to HCC, Chapter 23 (Subdivisions), Article 3, Division 4, Street Design, Section 23-41, Minimum Right-of-way (r-o-w) and Pavement Widths, Article 6, Division 2, Improvements Required, Sections 23-86, Standard for Dedicable Street, 23-93, Street Lights, & 23-95, Right-of-way Improvement as stated in the original TA. The Amended TA gave alternate relief from the roadway requirements as such:

Amended TA Condition "3)c) [~~For proposed access to Lots 5 and 6, construct 20 ft. wide minimum agricultural pavement within a 50 ft. wide right-of-way~~] Within Lot 46 (TMK: 7-5-039: 046) construct minimum 12-foot nondedicable pavement within a minimum 16-foot wide right-of-way conforming to Section 23-88, nondedicable street and DPW Standard Detail R-39. Where grades are 8% or greater, the roadway section shall be paved per DPW Standard Detail R-34."

The applicant has shown that the existing 30-foot wide access easement with 12-foot wide pavement crossing TMK (3) 7-039:046 follows said condition.

Therefore, this variance application is deemed unnecessary.

BACKGROUND

1. **Location.** The referenced property, A Portion of Land Commission Award 11216, Apana 39, containing approximately 69.360 acres, is situated in Ke ʻōpū 1st, North Kona, Hawai‘i.
2. **County Zoning.** Agricultural, 5 acres (A-5a).
3. **State Land Use.** Agricultural (A).
4. **General Plan.** Land Use Pattern Allocation Guide (LUPAG) map designates the property as Urban Expansion (ue).
5. **Subdivision Code Requirements.** The subdivision code requires that subdivisions in the A-5a zoning district be served by minimum r-o-w and paving widths of 50-feet and 20-feet, respectively, in compliance with the Department of Public Works (DPW) Standard Detail (Std. Det.) R-39 (now R-25, 2017 Edition).
6. **Subdivision Request/PPM.** Subdivision application SUB-03-000167 was submitted to subdivide the subject TMK property into 5 lots, with only 2 of the lots to be served by the roadway in question. Further action on the subdivision application has been deferred pursuant to this variance application.
7. **Variance Application.** The variance request from road improvements for the two (2) lots was acknowledged by Planning Department letter dated March 13, 2020. This variance application includes background history and circumstances and information regarding the pending subdivision application. Please be informed that the lots in question are presently served by an existing easement with 12-foot wide pavement.
8. **Agency Comments and Requirements.**
 - a. County of Hawai‘i Fire Department (HFD): See attached memoranda dated April 14, 2020. **(Exhibit A)**
 - b. No other agency comments were solicited, and none were received.

9. **Notice to Surrounding Owners/Posted Sign.** The applicant submitted evidence, dated March 4, 2020, regarding the posting of a public notification sign on the subject property pursuant to Section 23-17(c) of the Hawai'i County Code (HCC). A picture of the posted sign was also submitted. The evidence also indicates that a notice of the application was sent to the surrounding property owners as required by Section 23-17(a).
10. **Comments from Surrounding Property Owners or Public.** There were no comments received from any neighbors or the public.

DETERMINATION-VARIANCE CONDITIONS

The variance to permit the proposed 2-lots of the subdivision of the subject TMK property without providing code compliant roadway improvements meeting DPW standards, is hereby subject to the following variance conditions:

1. The applicant, owners, their assigns, or successors shall be responsible for complying with all stated conditions of approval.
2. Should the Council adopt a Unified Impact Fees Ordinance setting forth criteria for the imposition of exactions or the assessment of impact fees, conditions included herein shall be credited towards the requirements of the Unified Impact Fees Ordinance.
3. The owners, their assigns, or successors shall file a written agreement document with the Planning Department within one (1) year from the issuance of tentative subdivision approval. This written agreement shall contain deed language, being covenants, conditions, and restrictions affecting the two (2) of the five (5) lots created by the proposed subdivision which are not serviced by a dedicable roadway system. The agreement shall specify that if a Homeowners' or Maintenance Association is created for purposes of upkeep of, and required repairs to the roadway improvements, that the owners of the subdivided lots shall participate in said association.

The agreement shall be duly recorded at the State of Hawai'i Bureau of Conveyances by and at the cost and expense of the owners. A copy of the recorded document shall be supplied to the Planning Department for our files.

In the event that there are any amendments or changes to the subdivision after the agreement is signed, the applicant shall be responsible for informing the County Planning Department of such amendments or changes so that the agreement can be amended concomitantly. Further, the recorded agreement shall be binding upon the owner(s), their successors or assigns and shall be incorporated as an exhibit and made part of each agreement of sale, deed,

lease, or similar documents affecting the title of the existing property or approved subdivided lots.

4. The subdivider and all grantees, successors, and assigns acknowledge that the parcels were created by a variance, from the normal subdivision requirements of Hawai‘i County, and that there are no longer any special or unusual circumstances applying to the property, and hence, no grounds exist or will exist for another variance, from the Subdivision Code to permit further subdivision of the properties, unless County code compliant roadway system requirements and other requirements of HCC Chapter 23, Subdivisions, are met.

It is also understood that they will use and maintain the privately-owned roadway on their own without any expectation of governmental assistance to maintain the improvements. They shall also indemnify and defend the State of Hawai‘i or County of Hawai‘i from any and all liability arising out of vehicular access to and from the subject properties utilizing the private r-o-w.

5. Upon written demand of the County of Hawai‘i, the applicant and/or owners, their assigns, or successors shall agree to participate and pay their fair share percentage of any improvement district adopted for the purpose of roadway improvements serving the proposed lots. Should the improvement district require acquisition of any privately owned right-of-ways fronting the lots, such right-of-ways shall be dedicated to the County without cost and the value of the dedication credited to the fair share contribution of the respective lot owner(s).
6. No condominium property regime will be allowed, nor will an ‘Ohana Dwelling Unit be permitted or allowed.
7. In the event that the County notifies the owner(s) of the lot(s) created that the County water system has been upgraded or an improvement district initiated to enable service to the lots, the owner(s) of the lots shall participate in such improvement district or shall pay their pro-rata share of the upgrade and installation of laterals, as determined by the DWS.
8. The pending subdivision application’s (SUB-03-000167) final plat map shall meet all the requirements of the Hawai‘i County Zoning Code and the Subdivision Code that are not covered by this variance.
9. The subdivider, owner(s), their assigns or successors shall pay any outstanding real property taxes and comply with all other applicable State statutes and County ordinances pertaining to building improvements, land use and the public’s health, safety and welfare.

Zendo Kern
Planning Consultant, LLC
April 27, 2020
Page 5

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

Sincerely,



MICHAEL YEE
Planning Director

JRH:jaa

\\coh33\planning\public\Admin Permits Division\Variance\2020\VAR-20-000578 Kern Road\APVL.docx

Enclosures: Agency Comment, Exhibit A

xc: DPW-Engineering Division
HFD
SUB-03-000167
R. Whitmore, KCDP PPM (via e-mail)

Chrystal Thomas Yamasaki, LPLS
Wes Thomas Associates
75-5749 Kalawa Street
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740

xc w/encls: G. Bailado, GIS Section (via email)

Caroline K. Smith
P.O. Box 1082
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

Stephen J. Arnett
Kanuha 'Ohana, LLC
P.O. Box 1082
Kailua-Kona, HI 96745

Harry Kim
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Lance S. Uchida
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAI'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

PLANNING DEPT
APR 16 2020 AM 9:24
REC'D BY EMAIL

April 14, 2020

TO: MICHAEL YEE, PLANNING DIRECTOR

FROM: DARREN J. ROSARIO, FIRE CHIEF

SUBJECT: Application: Variance – VAR-20-000578
Applicant: Zendo Kern, Planning Consultant, LLC
Owners: Caroline K. Smith/Kanuha Ohana LLC
Request: Variance from Article 3, Division 4, Street Design, Section 23-41,
Minimum Right-of-Way and Pavement Widths; Article 6, Division 2
Improvements required, Section 23-86, requirements for decidable
street
Tax Map Key: (3) 7-5-003:005 (SUB 03-000167)

In regards to the above-mentioned Variance application, the following shall be in accordance:

NFPA 1, UNIFORM FIRE CODE, 2006 EDITION

Note: Hawai'i State Fire Code, National Fire Protection Association 2006 version, with County of Hawai'i amendments. County amendments are identified with a preceding "C~" of the reference code.

Chapter 18 Fire Department Access and Water Supply

18.1 General. Fire department access and water supplies shall comply with this chapter.

For occupancies of an especially hazardous nature, or where special hazards exist in addition to the normal hazard of the occupancy, or where access for fire apparatus is unduly difficult, or areas where there is an inadequate fire flow, or inadequate fire hydrant spacing, and the AHJ may require additional safeguards including, but not limited to, additional fire appliance units, more than one type of appliance, or special systems suitable for the protection of the hazard involved.

18.1.1 Plans.

18.1.1.1 Fire Apparatus Access. Plans for fire apparatus access roads shall be submitted to the fire department for review and approval prior to construction.

EXHIBIT
A

Hawai'i County is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.



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18.1.1.2 Fire Hydrant Systems. Plans and specifications for fire hydrant systems shall be submitted to the fire department for review and approval prior to construction.

C~ 18.1.1.2.1 Fire Hydrant use and Restrictions. No unauthorized person shall use or operate any Fire hydrant unless such person first secures permission or a permit from the owner or representative of the department, or company that owns or governs that water supply or system. Exception: Fire Department personnel conducting firefighting operations, hydrant testing, and/or maintenance, and the flushing and acceptance of hydrants witnessed by Fire Prevention Bureau personnel.

18.2 Fire Department Access.

18.2.1 Fire department access and fire department access roads shall be provided and maintained in accordance with Section 18.2.

18.2.2* Access to Structures or Areas.

18.2.2.1 Access Box(es). The AHJ shall have the authority to require an access box(es) to be installed in an accessible location where access to or within a structure or area is difficult because of security.

18.2.2.2 Access to Gated Subdivisions or Developments. The AHJ shall have the authority to require fire department access be provided to gated subdivisions or developments through the use of an approved device or system.

18.2.2.3 Access Maintenance. The owner or occupant of a structure or area, with required fire department access as specified in 18.2.2.1 or 18.2.2.2, shall notify the AHJ when the access is modified in a manner that could prevent fire department access.

18.2.3 Fire Department Access Roads. (*may be referred as FDAR)

18.2.3.1 Required Access.

18.2.3.1.1 Approved fire department access roads shall be provided for every facility, building, or portion of a building hereafter constructed or relocated.

18.2.3.1.2 Fire Department access roads shall consist of roadways, fire lanes, parking lots lanes, or a combination thereof.

18.2.3.1.3* When not more than two one- and two-family dwellings or private garages, carports, sheds, agricultural buildings, and detached buildings or structures 400ft² (37 m²) or less are present, the requirements of 18.2.3.1 through 18.2.3.2.1 shall be permitted to be modified by the AHJ.

18.2.3.1.4 When fire department access roads cannot be installed due to location on property, topography, waterways, nonnegotiable grades, or other similar conditions, the AHJ shall be authorized to require additional fire protection features.

18.2.3.2 Access to Building.

18.2.3.2.1 A fire department access road shall extend to within in 50 ft (15 m) of at least one exterior door that can be opened from the outside that provides access to the interior of the building. Exception: 1 and 2 single-family dwellings.

18.2.3.2.1.1 When buildings are protected throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system that is installed in accordance with NFPA 13, NFPA 13D, or NFPA 13R, the distance in 18.2.3.2.1 shall be permitted to be increased to 300 feet.

18.2.3.2.2 Fire department access roads shall be provided such that any portion of the facility or any portion of an exterior wall of the first story of the building is located not more than 150 ft (46 m) from fire department access roads as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the building or facility.

18.2.3.2.2.1 When buildings are protected throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system that is installed in accordance with NFPA 13, NFPA 13D, or NFPA 13R, the distance in 18.2.3.2.2 shall be permitted to be increased to 450 ft (137 m).

18.2.3.3 Multiple Access Roads. More than one fire department access road shall be provided when it is determined by the AHJ that access by a single road could be impaired by vehicle congestion, condition of terrain, climatic conditions, or other factors that could limit access.

18.2.3.4 Specifications.

18.2.3.4.1 Dimensions.

C~ 18.2.3.4.1.1 FDAR shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20ft with an approved turn around area if the FDAR exceeds 150 feet. **Exception:** FDAR for one and two family dwellings shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 15 feet, with an area of not less than 20 feet wide within 150 feet of the structure being protected. An approved turn around area shall be provided if the FDAR exceeds 250 feet.

C~ 18.2.3.4.1.2 FDAR shall have an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less then 13ft 6 in.

C~ 18.2.3.4.1.2.1 Vertical clearances may be increased or reduced by the AHJ, provided such increase or reduction does not impair access by the fire apparatus, and approved signs are installed and maintained indicating such approved changes.

18.2.3.4.1.2.2 Vertical clearances shall be increased when vertical clearances or widths are not adequate to accommodate fire apparatus.

C~ 18.2.3.4.2 Surface. Fire department access roads and bridges shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads (25 Tons) of the fire apparatus. Such FDAR and shall be comprised of an all-weather driving surface.

18.2.3.4.3 Turning Radius.

C~ 18.2.3.4.3.1 Fire department access roads shall have a minimum inside turning radius of 30 feet, and a minimum outside turning radius of 60 feet.

18.2.3.4.3.2 Turns in fire department access road shall maintain the minimum road width.

18.2.3.4.4 Dead Ends. Dead-end fire department access roads in excess of 150 ft (46 m) in length shall be provided with approved provisions for the fire apparatus to turn around.

18.2.3.4.5 Bridges.

18.2.3.4.5.1 When a bridge is required to be used as part of a fire department access road, it shall be constructed and maintained in accordance with county requirements.

18.2.3.4.5.2 The bridge shall be designed for a live load sufficient to carry the imposed loads of fire apparatus.

18.2.3.4.5.3 Vehicle load limits shall be posted at both entrances to bridges where required by the AHJ.

18.2.3.4.6 Grade.

C~ 18.2.3.4.6.1The maximum gradient of a Fire department access road shall not exceed 12 percent for unpaved surfaces and 15 percent for paved surfaces. In areas of the FDAR where a Fire apparatus would connect to a Fire hydrant or Fire Department Connection, the maximum gradient of such area(s) shall not exceed 10 percent.

18.2.3.4.6.2* The angle of approach and departure for any means of fire department access road shall not exceed 1 ft drop in 20 ft (0.3 m drop in 6 m) or the design limitations of the fire apparatus of the fire department, and shall be subject to approval by the AHJ.

18.2.3.4.6.3 Fire department access roads connecting to roadways shall be provided with curb cuts extending at least 2 ft (0.61 m) beyond each edge of the fire lane.

18.2.3.4.7 Traffic Calming Devices. The design and use of traffic calming devices shall be approved the AHJ.

18.2.3.5 Marking of Fire Apparatus Access Road.

18.2.3.5.1 Where required by the AHJ, approved signs or other approved notices shall be provided and maintained to identify fire department access roads or to prohibit the obstruction thereof of both.

18.2.3.5.2 A marked fire apparatus access road shall also be known as a fire lane.

18.2.4* Obstruction and Control of Fire Department Access Road.

18.2.4.1 General.

18.2.4.1.1 The required width of a fire department access road shall not be obstructed in any manner, including by the parking of vehicles.

18.2.4.1.2 Minimum required widths and clearances established under 18.2.3.4 shall be maintained at all times.

18.2.4.1.3* Facilities and structures shall be maintained in a manner that does not impair or impede accessibility for fire department operations.

18.2.4.1.4 Entrances to fire departments access roads that have been closed with gates and barriers in accordance with 18.2.4.2.1 shall not be obstructed by parked vehicles.

18.2.4.2 Closure of Accessways.

18.2.4.2.1 The AHJ shall be authorized to require the installation and maintenance of gates or other approved barricades across roads, trails, or other accessways not including public streets, alleys, or highways.

18.2.4.2.2 Where required, gates and barricades shall be secured in an approved manner.

18.2.4.2.3 Roads, trails, and other access ways that have been closed and obstructed in the manner prescribed by 18.2.4.2.1 shall not be trespassed upon or used unless authorized by the owner and the AHJ.

18.2.4.2.4 Public officers acting within their scope of duty shall be permitted to access restricted property identified in 18.2.4.2.1.

18.2.4.2.5 Locks, gates, doors, barricades, chains, enclosures, signs, tags, or seals that have been installed by the fire department or by its order or under its control shall not be removed, unlocked, destroyed, tampered with, or otherwise vandalized in any manner.

18.3 Water Supplies and Fire Hydrants

18.3.1* A water supply approved by the county, capable of supplying the required fire flow for fire protection shall be provided to all premises upon which facilities or buildings, or portions thereof, are hereafter constructed, or moved into or within the county. When any portion of the facility or building is in excess of 150 feet (45 720 mm) from a water supply on a fire apparatus access road, as measured by an approved route around the exterior of the facility or building, on-site fire hydrants and mains capable of supplying the required fire flow shall be provided when required by the AHJ. For on-site fire hydrant requirements see section 18.3.3.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. When facilities or buildings, or portions thereof, are completely protected with an approved automatic fire sprinkler system the provisions of section 18.3.1 may be modified by the AHJ.
2. When water supply requirements cannot be installed due to topography or other conditions, the AHJ may require additional fire protection as specified in section 18.3.2 as amended in the code.
3. When there are not more than two dwellings, or two private garage, carports, sheds and agricultural. Occupancies, the requirements of section 18.3.1 may be modified by AHJ.

18.3.2* Where no adequate or reliable water distribution system exists, approved reservoirs, pressure tanks, elevated tanks, fire department tanker shuttles, or other approved systems capable of providing the required fire flow shall be permitted.

18.3.3* The location, number and type of fire hydrants connected to a water supply capable of delivering the required fire flow shall be provided on a fire apparatus access road on the site of the premises or both, in accordance with the appropriate county water requirements.

18.3.4 Fire Hydrants and connections to other approved water supplies shall be accessible to the fire department.

18.3.5 Private water supply systems shall be tested and maintained in accordance with NFPA 25 or county requirements as determined by the AHJ.

18.3.6 Where required by the AHJ, fire hydrants subject to vehicular damage shall be protected unless located within a public right of way.

18.3.7 The AHJ shall be notified whenever any fire hydrant is placed out of service or returned to service. Owners of private property required to have hydrants shall maintain hydrant records of approval, testing, and maintenance, in accordance with the respective county water requirements. Records shall be made available for review by the AHJ upon request.

C~ 18.3.8 Minimum water supply for buildings that do not meet the minimum County water standards:

Buildings up to 2000 square feet, shall have a minimum of 3,000 gallons of water available for Firefighting.

Buildings 2001- 3000 square feet, shall have a minimum of 6,000 gallons of water available for Firefighting.

Buildings, 3001- 6000 square feet, shall have a minimum of 12,000 gallons of water available for Firefighting.

Buildings, greater than 6000 square feet, shall meet the minimum County water and fire flow requirements.

Multiple story buildings shall multiply the square feet by the amount of stories when determining the minimum water supply.

Commercial buildings requiring a minimum fire flow of 2000gpm per the Department of Water standards shall double the minimum water supply reserved for firefighting.

Fire Department Connections (FDC) to alternative water supplies shall comply with 18.3.8 (1)-(6) of *this code*.

NOTE: In that water catchment systems are being used as a means of water supply for firefighting, such systems shall meet the following requirements:

- 1) In that a single water tank is used for both domestic and firefighting water, the water for domestic use shall not be capable of being drawn from the water reserved for firefighting;
- 2) Minimum pipe diameter sizes from the water supply to the Fire Department Connection (FDC) shall be as follows:
 - a) 4" for C900 PVC pipe;
 - b) 4" for C906 PE pipe;
 - c) 3" for ductile Iron;
 - d) 3' for galvanized steel.

- 3) The Fire Department Connection (FDC) shall:
 - a) be made of galvanized steel;
 - b) have a gated valve with 2-1/2 inch, National Standard Thread male fitting and cap;
 - c) be located between 8 ft and 16 ft from the Fire department access. The location shall be approved by the AHJ;
 - d) not be located less than 24 inches, and no higher than 36 inches from finish grade, as measured from the center of the FDC orifice;
 - e) be secure and capable of withstanding drafting operations. Engineered stamped plans may be required;
 - f) not be located more than 150 feet of the most remote part, but not less than 20 feet, of the structure being protected;
 - g) also comply with section 13.1.3 and 18.2.3.4.6.1 of *this code*.
- 4) Commercial buildings requiring a fire flow of 2000gpm shall be provided with a second FDC. Each FDC shall be independent of each other, with each FDC being capable of flowing 500gpm by engineered design standards. The second FDC shall be located in an area approved by the AHJ with the idea of multiple Fire apparatus' conducting drafting operations at once, in mind.
- 5) Inspection and maintenance shall be in accordance to NFPA 25.
- 6) The owner or lessee of the property shall be responsible for maintaining the water level, quality, and appurtenances of the system.

EXCEPTIONS TO SECTION 18.3.8:

- 1) Agricultural buildings, storage sheds, and shade houses with no combustible or equipment storage.
- 2) Buildings less than 800 square feet in size that meets the minimum Fire Department Access Road requirements.
- 3) For one and two family dwellings, agricultural buildings, storage sheds, and detached garages 800 to 2000 square feet in size, and meets the minimum Fire Department Access Road requirements, the distance to the Fire Department Connection may be increased to 1000 feet.
- 4) For one and two family dwellings, agricultural buildings, and storage sheds greater than 2000square feet, but less than 3000 square feet and meets the minimum Fire Department Access Road requirements, the distance to the Fire Department Connection may be increased to 500 feet.

Michael Yee
April 14, 2020
Page 9

- 5) For buildings with an approved automatic sprinkler system, the minimum water supply required may be modified.

If there are any questions regarding these requirements, please contact the Fire Prevention Bureau at (808) 932-2911.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darren J. Rosario".

DARREN J. ROSARIO
Fire Chief

CB:ds