

Eric A. Knudsen Trust
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May 18, 2020

The Honorable Elaine Chao
US Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington DC 20590

RE: POIPU ROAD SAFETY AND MOBILITY PROJECT – County of Kauai BUILD Application

Dear Secretary Chao:

The Eric A. Knudsen Trust (Knudsen Trust) is the largest landowner on Kauai's south shore. It has been the steward of these lands since 1870 and takes great interest in the community in which we live. As the Executive Trust Manager and one of the four co-trustees of the Knudsen Trust, I am intimately involved in everything from the day to day operations of the trust to the long-term planning for the south shore. I strongly support the County of Kauai's BUILD application for the Poipu Road Safety and Mobility Project. This project has been a long time in the making, and the County has collaborated on the design with property and business owners from the beginning.

Tourism is Kauai's largest industry, and Koloa-Poipu is Kauai's most important visitor destination. During COVID-19, tourism has been brought to a standstill, severely impacting the economy of Kauai and Hawaii. This project will not only provide an improved transportation network for local residents and visitors alike, it will provide a much-needed boost for the island's most important industry by serving as a catalyst for private investment in new businesses and jobs.

I am currently serving as part of a leadership team representing Poipu property owners and resort managers exploring mechanisms for long-term maintenance of the project's enhanced landscape. Poipu Road serves as the main gateway and thoroughfare for the Poipu resort district. Sharing in the long-term maintenance of the public right-of-way through public-private partnership is a win-win for government and the private sector.

I am also developing plans to institute a transportation service including shuttles from the airport to the resort district, shuttles within Koloa-Poipu, and short-term car rental at resorts. This will be private implementation of the County's plan to reduce the island's traffic congestion and improve the visitor experience. The Poipu Road Safety and Mobility Project provides the needed transportation infrastructure, including safe bike, pedestrian, and transit facilities, to support this shift in travel for both visitors and employees who may seek more affordable means to get to and from work.

Co-Trustees

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The Poipu Road Safety and Mobility Project is a great example of government and the private sector working together to improve the safety, economic vitality, and quality of life for all who visit or live on Kauai.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,



John Horwitz