



PLANNING COMMISSION

KAAINA S. HULL, CLERK OF COMMISSION

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FRANCIS DEGRACIA, VICE CHAIR
GERALD AKO, MEMBER
DONNA APISA, MEMBER
LORI OTSUKA, MEMBER
JERRY ORNELLAS, MEMBER

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 14, 2022

TO: Planning Commission

FROM: Clerk of the Commission

SUBJECT: 1st Addition to the November 15, 2022 Planning Commission Meeting Agenda

F. HEARINGS AND PUBLIC COMMENT

2. New Agency Hearing

- e. CLASS IV ZONING PERMIT (Z-IV-2023-7), USE PERMIT (U-2023-5), and SPECIAL PERMIT (SP-2023-1) to allow operation of a gymnastics academy on a parcel along the western side of Kawaihau Road in Kapahi, further identified as 5859 Kawaihau Road, Tax Map Key: (4) 4-6-011 :061, affecting a portion of a parcel containing 43,560 square feet = **GARDEN ISLAND GYMNASTICS LLC**. [Director's report received 10/25/2022].

- 1. Memorandum (11/14/2022) from Kaaina Hull, Director of Planning.

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

KA'ĀINA HULL, DIRECTOR

JODI A. HIGUCHI SAYEGUSA, DEPUTY DIRECTOR



DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR
MICHAEL A. DAHLIG, MANAGING DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 14, 2022

TO: Honorable Planning Commission Chair Helen Cox and Members of the Kauai Planning Commission

FROM: Ka'aina S. Hull, Director of Planning 

RE: Public Testimony
Class IV Zoning Permit Z-IV-2023-7, Use Permit U-2023-5, and
Special Permit SP-2023-1
Applicant: Garden Island Gymnastics

Attached for the Planning Commission's consideration are:

1. Public Testimony from community members (Refer to Exhibit 'A')
 - Email dated November 10, 2022 from Ele Jones
 - Email/Letter dated November 11, 2022 from Molly McGee
 - Email dated November 11, 2022 from Dawn Worley
 - Email dated November 11, 2022 from Nicolette Karleen
 - Email/Letter dated November 12, 2022 from Amy Winters
 - Email dated November 12, 2022 from Gisele Gardner & David Vincent
 - Email/Letter dated November 12, 2022 from Karen Duncan
 - Email dated November 12, 2022 from Danielle Frascino
 - Email/Letter dated November 11, 2022 from Olga Murillo
 - Email dated November 12, 2022 from Tim Feutz
 - Email dated November 12, 2022 from Aliseya Wright
 - Email dated November 12, 2022 from Uyeda Ohana
 - Email dated November 12, 2022 from Pat Cunningham-Lee
 - Email dated November 13, 2022 from Heather Cornell
 - Email dated November 13, 2022 from Jennifer Veeck
 - Email dated November 13, 2022 from Madison Thomas
 - Email dated November 13, 2022 from Anne Eulalio
 - Email dated November 13, 2022 from Tess Shimabukuro, President/CEO (Gather FCU)
 - Email dated November 14, 2022 from Sean Kaley

EXHIBIT “A”

(Public Testimony)

From: Ele Jones <elekauai@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 10, 2022 4:42 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: In re: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the County of Kauai. Do not click links or open attachments even if the sender is known to you unless it is something you were expecting.

Aloha,

I am writing to you to support Garden Island Gymnastics' application for a special use permit. My daughter, Audrey Jones, has been going to Garden Island Gymnastics since she was 3 years old. She is now 11. I have watched her, and so many others, grow up in the incredibly supportive environment Karla and her team have created. Audrey has learned so many valuable lessons such as how to be strong in the face of adversity, how to be a team member and support others, and the skills and strength she has developed are phenomenal. She will have lifelong friends and mentors she never would have had without Garden Island Gymnastics.

Garden Island Gymnastics is a true gem in our community and I hope that you will support them in continuing to give our kids a safe space to learn, grow, and develop their athleticism.

Mahalo,

Ele Jones

From: Molly McGee <mcgeemol@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 1:17 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit
Attachments: Plea_for_GIG_permit.docx

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Kauai County Planning Department please find the attached letter to show my support for granting Garden Island Gymnastics a special use permit.

Mahalo!
-Molly McGee
808-639-2654

November 11, 2022

To whom it may concern,

My name is Molly McGee and I am a former coach of Garden Island Gymnastics. I worked at GIG from fall of 2020 to fall of 2022. I have seen first hand the positive impact that gymnastics and more specifically Coach Karla's program has had on the keiki of Kauai. From the parent-tot class all the way up to GIG's Junior Olympic competitive gymnastics team I have seen kids grow immensely. In GIG's recreational gymnastics program kids are learning the basics of gymnastics that help them with flexibility, strength, confidence, discipline, motor skills, respect, responsibility, and most importantly a safe environment to play and have fun. Coach Karla and her team of staff are trained in the guidelines of the United States Gymnastics Association and are held to a standard of excellence. The coaches have yearly classes on safety and take the job of being a good role model very seriously.

Besides all of the obvious benefits of kids engaging in a disciplined and difficult sport, I feel the need to point out that Coach Karla has gone above and beyond to make sure that the kids on Kauai have the ability to compete in the same gymnastics atmosphere as kids on the mainland. In her career she has seen the life changing benefits that being a competitive gymnast can have on a child and she has made sure to provide those same opportunities to the kids on Kauai. Garden Island Gymnastics is the first and only gymnastics facility on Kauai that belongs to USAG and offers competitive gymnastics in a junior olympic level. Once a gymnast works their way up to level 10 in the junior olympics they have the opportunity to do college level gymnastics or become an elite gymnast. Elite gymnasts are the gymnasts that train to be chosen for the Olympics. The USAG Junior Olympic Team is not a gimmick-y name that sounds cute—it is actually the path to becoming a world class athlete, also known as an olympian. Last year, one of Coach Karla's highest level gymnasts was able to fly to Oregon and compete in the Regional Championships and be a part of a group of three gymnasts that represented the best in their level for the entire state of Hawaii. That is a huge accomplishment and a memory of a lifetime for that gymnast.

Each year Garden Island Gymnastics grows as the culture of competitive gymnastics on Kauai grows too. I would love to see GIG continue to grow if they are permitted in this new space. Coach Karla works everyday to help make her gymnasts' dreams come true, it would really be great to have her dream of owning her own gymnastics facility come true too.

Sincerely,
Molly McGee

From: Dawn <dawnamie@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 5:02 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: re: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing you today in behalf of Garden Island Gymnastics. My daughters have been taking gymnastics off and on from coach Karla since she started her program at the red barn gym/church. Coach Karla is such an amazing, uplifting, positive influence for Kauai's youth. Both my daughters have been on Karla's competitive gymnastics team. They have learned so much from Karla's gymnastic program about being part of a team and the hard work it takes to be a gymnast.

It would be amazing if coach Karla had a place of her own where she could continue building and shaping Kauai's youth in a positive way. Kauai is such a very small island and there are not a lot of programs that provide a positive, safe, uplifting environment.

If you approve the use permit Karla will be able to build facility our youth so desperately need. Having a permanent facility where she can expand and have room to run a thriving gymnastics program would do nothing but add to the community and Kauai's youth.

Sincerely,

Dawn Worley
808-634-8900

Sent from my iPhone

From: Nicolette Karleen <karleennicolette@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 11, 2022 7:31 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit

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To Whom it may concern,

I'm writing this letter to talk about Karla from garden island gymnastics. I have known Karla for many years. Not only is Karla a great family friend but she is also an amazing gymnastics coach, and great member of the community. She offers so much to the island of Kauai.

All 3 of my children go to garden island gymnastics. They love Karla, her gymnastics program, and the ohana environment. When Karla is coaching you can see her love and passion for gymnastics. She offers so much with her gymnastics program to the keiki of Kauai. It would be a shame to not permit her new location.

Thanks for your time,
Nicolette

Sent from my iPhone

From: Amy Winters <amyjowinters@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 7:47 AM
To: Planning Department
Cc: Garden Island Gymnastics
Subject: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit
Attachments: Untitled document.pdf

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Dear Sir or Ma'am,

Please find my letter of support for granting a special use permit to Garden Island Gymnastics attached to this email.

Thank you,
Amy Winters
Kapaa, Kauai

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Amy Winters. My daughter, Abby, is a gymnast at Garden Island Gymnastics (GIG). Before 2020, she was a theater kid, but Covid closed theater doors so we had to redirect. At the time, we thought it would be a temporary switch and gaining some gymnastic skills is always a plus for theater. Instead, Abby flourished at gym and fell in love with the sport.

As Abby's skills have grown, so too has GIG. They need more space! Not only to be able to accommodate more students, but to add features that will help our gymnasts advance further in the sport of gymnastics. Last year Abby represented Kauai at States and took first place all-around for her level, Excel Silver. She has since advanced to Excel Platinum and hopes to do her gym and Kauai proud again.

GIG offers a safe, healthy space for children and teens to spend their time doing what they love. My family and our GIG family will be so grateful if you grant them the permit required to move into the new space in Kapahi.

Thank you for your consideration,
Amy Winters
4881 Hauaala Rd
Kapaa, HI 96746
808-635-6191

From: Gisele Gardner <gardnergisele@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 8:03 AM
To: Planning Department; Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit

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To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Mia Vincent's ohana , we are here to express our full support to GIG on their process to obtain the permit that allows them to operate at a new location.

We have been with GIG since Mia is 1.5 yrs old and can't express enough how much we love this community / space / sport!

Coach Karla and her staff have an immense role on my daughters and life as well in all the other gymnasts .

A great place where they learn discipline, they can socialize safely and learn skills for life, 6 days a week !

Can't wait to see GIG striving for many more years to come in the new location!

Sincerely,

Gisele Gardner and David Vincent

From: Karen Duncan <karenduncan1@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 8:15 AM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Support for Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the County of Kauai. Do not click links or open attachments even if the sender is known to you unless it is something you were expecting.

Re: Support for Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit

I apologize up front for this long story and explanation but I feel the background info is important for you to realize just how much GIG (Garden Island Gymnastics) means to us and how it has changed our lives.

We first joined the GIG family in 2014. I say "family" because that's just how one feels when involved with GIG.

My granddaughter (L.A.S.) was born in May of 2013. She was a four pound preemie with listeria, a bacterial infection, that caused her premature birth. She was delivered by cesarean section and the surgeon said 95% or more of babies who got listeria were miscarried, still born, or died shortly after birth from the infection. She was my first and only grandchild.

When she was born, she was so weak that her heart stopped beating. SEVEN MINUTES of CPR brought her back to life. As a result of the loss of oxygen she ended up with brain damage. No one knew to what extent it would affect her as she grew. Easter Seals stepped in right away. One of the activities they did after she learned to walk was have her walk on a very low balance beam. We happened upon GIG only a few blocks from our home in Kapahi. It was very important to us that it was close because LAS had sensory issues and driving anywhere was an ordeal.

When she started gymnastics with GIG, she had severe balance issues. She won over everyone's heart with her smile and willingness to try any thing. We watched her very closely because in addition to the balance issues, she would simply let go of the bars, forgetting to hang on.

When she was still quite small, Coach Karla said her goal was to see LAS go to a competition. I laughed out loud. Our family had serious doubts LAS would ever progress that far. We just wanted to continue the physical therapy started by Easter Seals in a fun and exciting environment. She did progress and it became obvious that the coaches were a big part of that. They had to physically move her body to do what they wanted her to do as there was a disconnect that was assumed to be attributed to the birth trauma.

LAS progressed from Parent/Tot, to Kindergym, level 1, level 2 and finally to Team level 3. She progressed much more slowly than her peers but she did get it eventually. All the coaches were so patient with her and were willing to include the suggestions I brought from the Easter Seals therapists. Never did my granddaughter feel bad because her friends moved on. Each accomplishment was celebrated by all the coaches and she was made to feel proud of herself. The best was when she got to demonstrate to others in her group or younger gymnasts.

As Coronavirus subsided and inter island competitions began again, I still had my doubts that she would ever compete. Coach Karla held mock meets at the gym so all the gymnasts would get use to being in the lime light. She kept encouraging us to attend competitions but we felt my granddaughter was not performing cleanly enough and she still lacked at least one skill in every event.

October 29th of this year found us at her first competition even though she needed Coach Karla to assist to give her confidence in two of her skills. When she entered that gym on Oahu and walked across the floor to do her first event, she did so with confidence and grace. Her mom and I were fighting back tears because we truly never thought she'd be at a competition. Her coaches were in tears because their dream for her was becoming a reality..... competing in a gymnastics competition. I am at the gym everyday and have watched her grow in skill and confidence under the guidance of the coaches at GIG. So even though her parents and I had our doubts, she believed in her coaches and believed she could do it. And she did. She took 6th place on the bars and no, she didn't let go! She earned 10th all around for 9-10 year olds. It was the best I have ever seen her do. She qualified to go to the State Championships as well. She is totally thrilled and has gone back into the gym with renewed vigor.

But her experiences, training and confidence building at GIG doesn't end there. She is also a competitive boogie boarder and took 5th in her division at the Garden Island Boogie Board contest this year. She caught waves by herself and her gymnastics skills helped her attempt a roll and spin. She is also a competitive swimmer on Swim Kauai Aquatics and her beautiful dives and turns are a direct result of her time at GIG.

She sees herself as capable of doing whatever she sets her mind to and she knows that with hard work she can accomplish just about anything. I can't tell you how many times I have used the example of her efforts in gymnastics and reminded her how she achieved her goals there with hard work and time, and that with the same hard work and time she would achieve her current goals. It has worked time and time again to renew her efforts that have led to her continued successes in other areas of her life as well.

The current location of GIG is the second one since we joined and the 3rd or 4th since Karla started GIG. With each move Coach Karla has been able to get additional equipment to help further the skills needed by the gymnasts. All gymnasts have benefited, especially those much higher level gymnasts. The new location will be bigger yet and we are all dreaming of the equipment we will be able to fit into the new space that will take the gymnasts even farther.

The added space around the building will make parking so very much better. We won't have to park on people's yards or take spaces from surrounding businesses, or walk blocks after locating a parking space. I have been growing backyard bananas for years and have been sharing them with the GIG coaches. We are planning on planting some of my keiki banana trees along the property to grow bananas that the girls can sell as a fundraiser to support their travel to competitions. We have plans to expand the gardens to include other fruit trees in the future.

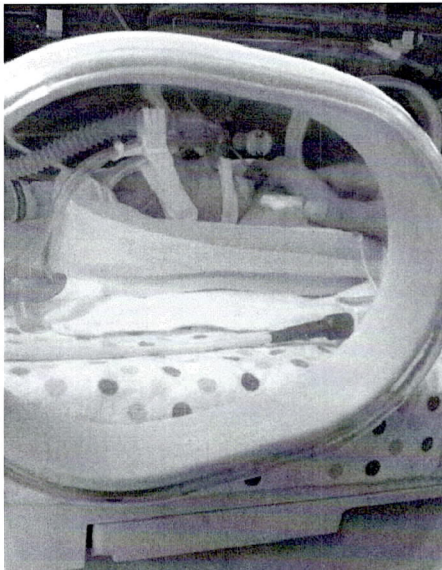
In addition to their hard work to attend competitions, we want to help the girls participate in contributing to financing their way so they will learn all that it takes to make these experiences possible. The garden will be a pretty easy way the gymnasts can accomplish that with minimal adult assistance. Such a project will allow them to take ownership of it and its success and subsequently their ability to attend more competitions.

The Kapahi location of GIG is so important to those of us on the East Side. With the Kapahi location we don't have to add to the congestion headed toward Lihue each day after school. We for one would not make that commute. Gymnasts from the North Shore can come to Kapahi and also not have to go all the way to Lihue. Having GIG in Kapahi gives three locations for gymnastics on Kauai thus serving North, East and South Kauai.

Please allow GIG to operate their much beloved gym at the new Kawaihau Road location. From the elite gymnasts down to the babies in Parent/Tot, the opportunities the new location would provide will help them each reach their fullest potential. We can't imagine the limitations my granddaughter would have faced without the experiences she had at GIG, and as a member of the GIG family. My own children were competitive swimmers so we know first hand how cutthroat sports can be on the athlete and the parents. The coaches at GIG have guided us parents to also appreciate our gymnasts' accomplishments in a loving environment where being a part of the GIG "family" wins out every day over intense rivalry for being the best. I witness every day interactions between other gymnasts that show the loving impact GIG has had on their lives as well..

Coach Karla has created this gym environment and in today's world, all of us need her and her gym more than ever.

Most Sincerely,
Karen A Duncan
5159 Kome St.
Kapa'a HI 96746
karenduncan1@me.com



Very sick 4 pound preemie.
May 2013



Ready to Compete on the balance beam.
October 2022

From: danielle Frascino <bodybydanielle@outlook.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 8:24 AM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislegymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: Special permit garden isle gymnastics

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To who it may concern at the planning department

I'm writing this email In support of garden isle gymnastics to hold a special permit for their new location in order to use their new building for the continuation of teaching all the gymnasts and expanding their school.

Thank you
Danielle Frascino
808-631-9329

Sent from my iPhone


From: Olga Murillo (via Google Docs) <olgaomurillo@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 1:04 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: Gymnastics Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit
Attachments: Gymnastics support letter .pdf

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Olga Murillo attached a document



Olga Murillo (olgaomurillo@gmail.com) has attached the following document: [Learn more](#).

 Gymnastics support letter

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You have received this email because olgaomurillo@gmail.com shared a document with you from Google Docs.
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To whom it may concern,

Throughout my life Gymnastics has been a big part of my development, not only physically but mentally. It kept me physically in shape and grew my confidence. Gymnastics can bring athleticism, confidence and the opportunities for college gymnastics. If we continue to grow the way I suspect we will, college scholarships will also be an option for the children. Gymnastics is a sport that brings commitment, hard work, and team bonding. The bonds that are made in gymnastics last a lifetime. This sport is extremely hard, not only do you need to be strong but also flexible and have amazing body control. Growing the gymnastics community on the island will give the children opportunities of a lifetime. The skills that these children will learn in gymnastics will be life long skills. Anything these children set their mind on they can do, no matter how big of an obstacle they face. Fear is also something that they face constantly. Making your body do certain skills is scary. Showing these kids how to push through the fear and how capable they are will last a lifetime. That is how we build confidence in our gym. Bringing Gymnastics to our community will benefit our youth in many ways and there is nothing that can change that. Thank you for this wonderful opportunity.

Coach Olguita (Olga Murillo)

From: Tim Feutz <timfeutz@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 1:26 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: Garden island Gymnastics special use permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the County of Kauai. Do not click links or open attachments even if the sender is known to you unless it is something you were expecting.

Aloha!

I would like to voice my approval of Garden Island Gymnastics application for this special use permit.

Garden island gymnastics is not only an upstanding locally owned business but a Pillar of our community. They provide an excellent service to our keiki and their families.

I ask that you approve this special use permit

Mahalo
Tim Feutz
Wailua

Sent from my iPhone

From: Aliseya Wright <aliseya@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 2:01 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: Coach Karla
Subject: In re: Garden Island Gymnastics' Special Use Permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the County of Kauai. Do not click links or open attachments even if the sender is known to you unless it is something you were expecting.

Aloha,

This letter is to express my family's support for Garden Island Gymnastics' new space. Our daughter Mikaela has been training in USA gymnastics for the last 7 years. She found a supportive and strong gymnastics home in GIG. Coach Karla provides a nurturing environment where Mikaela is encouraged to grow as an athlete, but she is not subjected to any of the potential negative issues that can come with such an intense and competitive sport. Because of the support of her coaches and team, Mikaela has developed confidence and poise - which has helped her navigate her early teenage years gracefully.

We are grateful to have found GIG and have seen first hand the positive impact GIG has on our keiki. I also want to mention that it's not just about the gymnastics. I see how Karla and the other coaches work tirelessly to keep this sport affordable for the families they serve. The coaches and booster club parents really do work hard to make this not just a sport, but a community and I think that the new space will allow GIG to grow and continue to support our island.

Mahalo,
Aliseya Wright
3664 Omao Rd,
Koloa HI 96756

From: SnS Sisters <kalenshawn24@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 5:07 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: "Garden Island Gymnastic Special Use Permit"

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the County of Kauai. Do not click links or open attachments even if the sender is known to you unless it is something you were expecting.

To whom it may concern,

We are writing this letter regarding the Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit.

We've known Karla for many years now and it had always been her goal/dream to have a "home" Gymnastics location to call her own. Gymnastics is a very competitive sport that results in athletes competing against each other but Karla and her team of coaches create such a positive atmosphere in supporting and celebrating one another's accomplishments. They are the only competitive Gym on island giving girls an opportunity to represent not only the island of Kauai but the State of Hawaii in Gymnastics competitions that are held on the neighbor islands and the Mainland continent.

With this permit, It will allow Garden Island Gymnastics to grow and reach out to more kids with dreams of pursuing the Olympics, Collegiate Gymnastics Or even just experiencing something different.

As for my own experience, it has given my older daughter the strength and confidence in herself mentally and physically. I also have her younger sister that is also in gymnastics that has big dreams of making it big and going to college for gymnastics.

In Conclusion, granting Garden Island Gymnastics this permit will benefit the community at its highest.

Mahalo nui loa ia'oe,

Uyeda Ohana

From: Pat Cunningham-Lee <pat@cunningham-lee.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 12, 2022 10:56 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: re: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit

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To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you to ask you to please approve Garden Island Gymnastics' permit to operate in their new facility in Kapahi.

I support their program and know it already has had and will continue to have a positive effect on many people's lives here on Kauai.

Thank you in advance for considering my opinion!

Mahalo!

Pat Cunningham-Lee

From: Heather Cornell <heatherskauaiart@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2022 7:34 AM
To: Planning Department
Cc: Karla Villanueva-Bernal
Subject: in re: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the County of Kauai. Do not click links or open attachments even if the sender is known to you unless it is something you were expecting.

Aloha Kauai Planning Department,

I am writing a letter of support for Garden Island Gymnastics to obtain a special use permit.

Garden Island Gymnastics (GIG) is a positive, safe, and nurturing environment. Coaches teach, train, and guide gymnasts to be the best they can be by building confidence, courage, and instilling core values. Gymnasts work on setting goals, and achieving success through a healthy growth mindset. They know that mistakes and failure are an opportunity to learn and grow, which deepens their sense of purpose and well being. Most importantly, GIG is an "Ohana", and an important part of our island community.

This special use purpose would allow:

- GIG to have a "larger" space for equipment that gymnasts of all ages "need" to excel/ compete (as they grow)
- improvement of parking
- improvement of flow of parking
- a healthy, safe, environment that our keiki, teens, and coaches all deserve

My 14 year old daughter has been part of the GIG Ohana since she was 2 1/2 years old.

"I love going to Garden Island Gymnastics, learning new skills, and working with my coaches and team. They care and help me to be the best I can be. Also, I see my friends there too!"

Nayah Cornell

"Garden Island Gymnastics supports our dreams and lives because gymnastics is our life."

Zaylee Desmairus

Thank you for your time and consideration reading through this letter of support.

Heather Cornell

Parent and 2nd Grade Teacher Kilauea School

From: Jennifer Veeck <jennveeck@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2022 4:50 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the County of Kauai. Do not click links or open attachments even if the sender is known to you unless it is something you were expecting.

To: Planning Department of Kauai
Re: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit

I am writing to this email to convey not only my support for Garden Island Gymnastics(GIG) but also the need for this program on the east side of Kauai. I have been privileged to live in Kapahi for nearly 20 years. I have also spent most of that time working as an educator for Kapa`a Elementary. I see on a daily basis the struggles that the keiki on the east side have to endure; the adversity that they must overcome in order to succeed in today's global society. I have watched many educators and programs abandon our keiki in order to move to a more affluent neighborhood. Once again subjecting our keiki to the trauma of loss; a loss that our keiki cannot afford to be subjected to.

GIG plays such a vital role in our community. It is not about building athletes; although they do a tremendous job of that. It is about the values that they instill in the keiki that they work with. As an educator, I have seen the changes that have occurred in the students. They foster a sense of dedication, hard work and accomplishment. They help the keiki to set goals, practice hard, reach those goals and then set new ones all while encouraging their teammates and even competitors to do their best. These athletes not only cheer for each other's victories but they comfort each other during defeat. These are the types of values and empathy that need to foster in our youth and GIG provides that opportunity.

As a mom, I have seen the confidence that they have fostered in my daughter. I have watched the outpouring of unconditional love they give to each of their athletes. You see, these keiki know that when they are at Garden Island Gymnastics they are part of a family. They know that they will receive support and encouragement all while being held to the highest expectations. Our keiki are learning so many valuable life skills when they are at GIG. One of the first lessons that they taught my daughter was how to fall and get back up again. The lesson resonated with me because in life we will fall(miss the mark) that's a given. What is important is how we respond to that failure. I tell students that every failure is a learning opportunity and if you aren't failing, you probably aren't learning. Our keiki need to learn how to be risk takers in life and how to get back up after failure. GIG gives them a safe environment to practice that very skill.

Garden Island Gymnastics has been serving our families for about 15 years. During that time, they could have moved to another part of the island but they saw a need in the community and committed themselves to staying on the east side. I hope that you see the value of what Garden Island Gymnastics brings to our community and allow them to move forward with the Special Use Permit. They will be a good steward of the land and provide a tremendous service to the keiki. We have so few places on Kauai for our youth to go to and even fewer that will influence and shape them into the type of adults Kauai needs.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,
Jennifer Veeck

From: Madison Thomas <happydaughter2@icloud.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2022 6:09 PM
To: Planning Department
Subject: In re: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit

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Garden Island Gymnastics is a very big and important part of my life. It would be an amazing opportunity to continue to expand our program. As a gymnast and young volunteer coach, being able to expand into a bigger building would not only mean more space, but also more opportunity for my team and I to advance as gymnasts.

Thank you,
Madison Thomas
Garden Island Gymnastics Gymnast

From: Anne Eulalio <anneandcal@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2022 8:41 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: re: GARDEN ISLAND GYMNASTICS - SPECIAL USE PERMIT

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Dear Planning Commission:

Thank you in advance, for considering my insights and request. I appreciate it.

I am sending this email in support of Garden Island Gymnastics being able to do business in their recently acquired facility in Kapahi. Please allow them the Special Use Permit they need in order for them to open there.

My name is Anne Eulalio. I was raised on Oahu, but have lived on Kauai for over 40 years. I am a coach at Garden Island Gymnastics and have been working for Karla 8 years now. I can attest to her integrity, honest love, and incredible vision. Personally, working with Karla, and at Garden Island Gymnastics, has effected and developed me for the better.

Karla Villanueva-Bernal, owner and head coach of Garden Island Gymnastics, has decades of experience as a gymnastics coach, and chose the island of Kauai to share her expertise and big heart with. She is amazing with people and she loves all of the kids, from toddlers to teenagers, that attend the gym. She Loves teaching them and being with them. This is her love.

Karla has purposefully created her gym culture so children have a safe, caring, challenging environment. In this crazy world, I see and feel first hand how great a blessing it is for kids to be at our gym.

Her coaching philosophy is not only about safety first and acquiring & improving gymnastics skills. She also integrates life lessons and tries to instill good values to grow strong, confident, happy people.

Garden Island Gymnastics, Karla, has also made history for Kauai by creating the first USA Gymnastics sanctioned gym here on the island. Being USAG sanctioned means it is a Junior Olympic program that opens the doors for local kids to participate in an international sport, be able to earn college gymnastics scholarships, with eventual options to try out for the US Olympic Gymnastics Team.

At this point in time, especially as we recover from these past years of COVID, we know how important it is to keep our children and youth engaged and active in good things. Gymnastics at Garden Island Gymnastics is definitely one of them.

I hope you will support this small business, and the youth of Kauai, and allow Garden Island Gymnastics to receive any and all permits, and other things necessary, to get their new facility up and running as soon as possible.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.

Gratefully,

Anne Eulalio
GIG Coach

From: Tess Shimabukuro <tshimabukuro@gatherfcu.org>
Sent: Sunday, November 13, 2022 8:50 PM
To: Planning Department
Subject: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit

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Dear Sirs,

I am in support of the special use permit for Garden Island Gymnastics. Our youth need a place where they can feel safe and develop more than ever before. I had the privilege of working with Karla many years ago at the credit union. She was very dedicated to the credit mission of "people helping people" and a very good role model to everyone around her.

These values along with her unmatched coaching skills are evidenced by her success in her entrepreneurial business. Granting the special use permit will allow her to continue positively influencing our youth.

Thank you for your time.

Tess Shimabukuro
President/CEO
Gather Federal Credit Union
4493 Pahe'e Street Lihue, HI 96766-2032
Email: tshimabukuro@gatherfcu.org
Phone: (808)246-1226 Fax: (808)245-5648
www.gatherfcu.org

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From: Sean Kaley <seankaley3@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 14, 2022 12:08 PM
To: Planning Department
Cc: gardenislandgymnastics@gmail.com
Subject: Garden Island Gymnastics Special Use Permit
Attachments: Garden Island Gymnastics Support Letter.pdf

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the County of Kauai. Do not click links or open attachments even if the sender is known to you unless it is something you were expecting.

I am writing in support of the special use permit requested by Garden Island Gymnastics for the operation of a gymnastics academy located at 5859 Kawaihau Road. I am the Executive Vice President/Chief Operations Officer at Kauai Federal Credit Union, where I have been since 2018. Prior to that, I was in a member-facing role at Gather Federal Credit Union (Kauai Community FCU) for 15 years. Although I am not representing either credit union with this testimony, I share this information for context. I have worked with Garden Island Gymnastics both professionally and as the parent of a gymnast since its inception over a decade ago when Karla first rented space in the All Saints gymnasium on a part-time basis. From day-one, as Karla hauled mats and equipment back and forth from her house to All Saints to set up her temporary gym, she had a clear vision of bringing a first-class full-service academy to the island of Kauai. Since then, she has been laser focused on achieving that goal.

Today, Garden Island Gymnastics' presence on Kauai is a true gift to our community. By having a USA Gymnastics member academy on the island, our kids now have the opportunity to participate in state-wide competitions and achieve a higher level in the sport than has ever been possible before. Additionally, for each kid who chooses to compete there are dozens more who do not and still benefit by mere association with the gym. Skills learned at the gym cannot be replicated anywhere else. Karla and her coaches are committed not only to developing strong gymnasts, but also to imparting good character and strong life skills on a broad swath of our island's youth.

I can personally attest to the character of Karla and Danny Bernal. They have always operated with the utmost respect for their neighbors and the island as a whole. You can trust that whatever they have presented to you as their plan for the property will be carried out fully and with great care. I can assure you that they will be the best possible stewards for this land. The benefits to the community will be many.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration. A PDF copy of this testimony is attached.

Aloha,
Sean Kaley
285 Huina Street
Kapaa, HI 96746
(808) 652-9878