

Public Testimony and/or agency comments received by the Planning Department less than 24 hours prior to the August 8, 2023, Planning Commission Meeting regarding the following item:

- F.2.c. CLASS IV ZONING PERMIT (Z-IV-2023-12) and USE PERMIT (U-2023-9) to construct a new gymnasium on the Waimea High School campus in Waimea Town, and VARIANCE PERMIT (V-2023-3) to deviate from the height requirement within the Residential zoning district, situated approximately 550 feet mauka of the Ola Road/Kaumuali'i Highway intersection, further identified as 9707 Tsuchiya Road, Tax Map Keys: 1-6-010:004 and 1-6-009:023, and containing a total area of 11.11 acres = **STATE OF HAWAII, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**. [Director's Report Received July 25, 2023].



Kristi Sumida <kristi@designpartnersinc.com>

Fwd: Support for WHS New Gym

1 message

Mahina Anguay <mahina.anguay@k12.hi.us>
To: Kristi Sumida <kristi@designpartnersinc.com>

Fri, Aug 4, 2023 at 7:19 AM

Another one!

----- Forwarded message -----
From: **Alden Pablo** <fufusufu@gmail.com>
Date: Fri, Aug 4, 2023 at 6:26 AM
Subject: Fwd: Support for WHS New Gym
To: Waimea High School <mahina.anguay@k12.hi.us>

Mahina

Here is one from Uilani and Josh Yorkman.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Sasily Corr <sasilyc@yahoo.com>
Date: August 3, 2023 at 9:38:28 PM HST
To: Alden Pablo <fufusufu@gmail.com>
Subject: Support for WHS New Gym

Aloha,
We are writing in support on behalf of the Waimea High School new gym. We have been in business for 10 years at Haloalaunuiakea Early Learning Center in `Ele`ele. Many of our students are currently in attendance at Waimea High School. We are also going to be sending many more students to Waimea High School. The current gym is extremely outdated and in many areas, in disarray. Our students deserve much better and we are in full support for the new project. We look forward to working with and sending new students to Waimea High School. We look forward to supporting this endeavor and future endeavors at Waimea High School.

Mahalo,
U`ilani Corr-Yorkman
Executive Director
Haloalaunuiakea Early Learning Center

Joshua Yorkman
Board of Directors President
Haloalaunuiakea Early Learning Center

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Mahina Anguay
Principal, Waimea High School
PO Box 339
Waimea, HI . 96796
808-338-6800

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8/1/2023

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to advocate for the construction of a new gym facility at Waimea High School. Although the current gym has generations of history behind it, due to its worn-down state, I personally feel that it no longer meets the needs of the students and community members, and strongly believe that a new, modern, and well-equipped gym will bring numerous benefits to the school, its athletes, and the local community.

The current gym with outdated infrastructure, equipment, and structural issues compromises the overall well-being of users. A new gym would provide a safe and secure environment for students to participate in various physical activities, including sports practices, physical education classes, and community events.

Furthermore, a new gym facility would substantially enhance the quality of the athletic program at Waimea High School. With improved amenities, the athletes would have access to state-of-the-art locker rooms and modern facilities. This upgrade will help elevate the level of training and performance among the athletes, boosting their confidence and sense of pride in representing Waimea High School.

A modern gym will also attract more students to participate in sports and physical activities. By providing an inviting and well-maintained space, faculty and staff can encourage greater involvement in extracurricular activities, leading to healthier lifestyles, and improved academic performance. Regular physical activity has been proven to enhance concentration, reduce stress, and promote overall well-being, positively impacting students' academic achievements.

Additionally, a new gym facility would benefit the local community in various ways. As the high school serves as a focal point in Waimea, the new gym can be utilized as a community center for events, workshops, and other recreational activities. This will foster stronger ties between the school and the community, promoting a sense of unity and collaboration.

Moreover, hosting sporting events and tournaments in a well-equipped, up-to-date gym will draw visitors from neighboring communities, stimulating local business, and boosting the local economy.

In conclusion, the construction of a new gym facility at Waimea High School is an essential investment in the well-being and development of the students and community members. It will not only provide a safe and conducive environment for physical activities, but also enhance the athletic program, benefitting the school and local community in multiple ways.

I am in support of building a new gym at Waimea High School and kindly request your support and cooperation in making this vision a reality. Building this new gym will create a positive impact on the lives of the students and build a stronger, more resilient community.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Jayson Pablo

August 3, 2023

Re: Waimea High School Gymnasium

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Alden Pablo, Waimea High School Class of 1998. I am writing today in support of a new gymnasium for Waimea High School.

In a hard-working low to middle class area like the westside of Kaua'i, WHS sports is everything and is often the highlight of the week for many people. The success of WHS sports can lift the spirits of the entire West Side community. When Waimea is winning, you can feel the menehune pride in Eleele Big Save, on the sidewalks of Waimea, and on the beaches in Kekaha.

I did not play basketball, volleyball or any other sports held in the gymnasium, but I have attended numerous games as a student, fan, supporter and recently as a parent. I have seen firsthand how a packed gym in a tight-knit community can not only be a place for pride to gather, but a source of pride in itself.

That being said, depending on the state of the gym, the opposite could be true. Despite all the history and generations of Menehune pride and family legacy within the walls of Clem Gomes, if a gym is out-of-date, infrastructure is unstable, or maybe it is aesthetically unappealing - it then does nothing for school pride. Furthermore, if the deterioration is allowed to continue, it could slide into becoming a source of embarrassment for the school.

Fortunately, it is not yet at that point. For the most part, the actual court is in decent condition. But the locker rooms need to be improved. It has not been updated at least since I was a student, and likely longer. The locker rooms are definitely not a source of pride for WHS. Especially when hosting teams from off-island or out-of-state, you want facilities that the WHS student-athletes can be proud of and not ashamed of.

A new gym that is up to current standards would ignite pride not only on campus, but in the westside community that desperately needs it. For those student-athletes on the fence about playing gym sports or not, a modern gym with adequate facilities and more fans in the stands could be the difference. Stronger turnout means a greater proportion of our youth have a purpose, something to work and strive for, and something to be proud of. This strengthens the westside community - present and future.

A huge part of any athletic program's success is the athletic facilities available to the student-athletes. The students at Waimea High School deserve it. All of the westside community deserve it.

On behalf of Waimea High School and the westside community, I thank you for taking the time to read my statement. Go Waimea!

Sincerely,

Alden Pablo