



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

Facsimile Transmittal

To: Joseph Pluta

From: Linda Smith - Policy Office

Co.: West Maui Improvement
Foundation, Inc.

Co.: Office of the Governor, State of Hawaii

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Date: February 17, 2009

Re:

cc:

Message:

We are transmitting a letter from Governor Lingle regarding the CON for establishment of WMHMC by Newport Hospital Corporation

Attachment



EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS
HONOLULU

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

February 17, 2009

Mr. Ronald E. Terry
Administrator
Hawaii State Health Planning and Development Agency
1177 Alakea Street, No. 402
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Certificate of Need Application #08-07 for Establishment of West Maui Hospital and Medical Center (WMHMC) by Newport Hospital Corporation.

Dear Mr. Terry:

I write in support of the Certificate of Need Application #08-07 for Establishment of West Maui Hospital and Medical Center (WMHMC) by Newport Hospital Corporation.

As was noted in the 2007 Maui Health Care Initiative Task Force report, population growth has created a need for an emergency care facility in West Maui. The residents and visitors of West Maui have been aware of and lived with this fact for far too long. The report listed the highest priority infrastructure need as, "Modern Facilities, including long-term care beds, acute care beds, regional emergency facilities and a West Maui Critical Access Hospital." The West Maui Hospital and Medical Center would specifically address those needs.

In emergency situations, minutes can mean the difference between life and death. The people of West Maui need an emergency room. Having a second emergency facility on the island will also benefit all Maui residents. After the October 2006 earthquake off the Kona coast, Kona Community Hospital patients were evacuated immediately to Hilo Medical Center. In a similar situation, Maui residents would have to be transported off the island to receive medical care.

Additionally, in this challenging economic environment, the construction of a new medical facility with private funds will benefit the people of Maui by providing needed jobs. The development of West Maui Hospital and Medical Center will include over \$30 million in construction spending.

I know the people of Maui well. I served them for ten years as a County Council member, eight years as their mayor, and I continue to serve them as their Governor. With the "can-do" attitude that is common on Maui, community volunteers have worked long and hard to bring this project to this point. I trust you will give their application for a Certificate of Need full and serious consideration.

Sincerely,



LINDA LINGLE