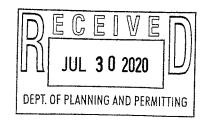
Law Office of Lance D. Collins Lance D. Collins 8246 Post Office Box 782 Makawao, Hawai'i 96768 808.243.9292

Law Office of Bianca Isaki Bianca K. Isaki 9977 1720 Huna Street, 401B Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96837 (808) 927-5606

Attorneys for THE KAHUKU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION & KEEP THE NORTH SHORE COUNTRY



# BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

In the Matter of the Petitions of Case No. 2019/ZBA-7 (Consolidated) KEEP THE NORTH SHORE COUNTRY, a APPELLANTS' CONSOLIDATED nonprofit corporation, and THE KAHUKU MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION TO NA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, a nonprofit PUA MAKANI POWER PARTNERS, LLC corporation, concerning the Na Pua Makani AND DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF Wind Project - Subprojects A & B, 56-668 PLANNING AND PERMITTING, CITY Kamehameha Highway, Kahuku, Oʻahu, Tax AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU'S Map Key (1) 5-6-008:006 & 5-6-006:018 MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE REPLY: CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE From the Actions of the Director of Planning and Permitting, dated October 24, 2016 (2016/CUP-49); January 20, 2017 (2016/CUP-69) & 2016/W-63), & June 7, 2019 (2019/MOD-34, ) -35 & -36)

APPELLANTS' CONSOLIDATED MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION TO NA PUA MAKANI POWER PARTNERS, LLC AND DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE REPLY

Appellants KEEP THE NORTH SHORE COUNTRY, a nonprofit corporation, and THE KAHUKU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, a nonprofit corporation (collectively, "Appellants"),

by and through their undersigned counsel, respectfully submit their Surreply to Intervenor NA PUA MAKANI POWER PARTNERS, LLC (NPM) and Respondent DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU's (Director) (collectively, "NPM") reply to Appellants' memoranda in opposition to NPM's Motions to Dismiss the Kahuku Community Association's Application to Appeal Director's Approvals of Conditional Use Permits, Waiver, and Modifications and Keep the North Shore Country's Petition to Appeal,, filed July 23, 2020 (NPM mtn). At its June 25, 2020 meeting, the Board orally denied in part and granted in part Appellants' Consolidated Memorandum in Opposition to Na Pua Makani Power Partners, LLC and Director of Department of Planning and Permitting, City and County of Honolulu's Motion for Leave to File Reply, filed May 27, 2020 by granting Appellants' alternative relief consisting in leave to file the instant surreply.

This memorandum is filed pursuant to ZBA Rules §§ 22-4(e) and 22-7.

### I. ARGUMENT

A. Appellants' have property interests in their constitutional rights to a clean and healthful environment and their traditional and customary practices.

NPM contends Appellants' lack property interests because "general environmental interest[s]" were deemed not "property" for due process purposes under Sandy Beach Defense Fund v. City Council of Honolulu, 70 Haw. 361, 377, 773 P.2d 250, 261 (1989) and article XI, §9 of the Hawai'i Constitution because neither the City and County of Honolulu Land Use Ordinance (LUO) (LUO) nor the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Department of Planning and Permitting (Department Rules) is a "law relating to environmental quality." NPM mtn. at 3-4. In regard to the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NPM is silent on property rights conferred under article XII, §7, which require the Department and the Board to identify: native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices that may be affected by the waiver and modifications of setbacks; impacts of the setback waivers and modifications may impact those traditional and customary practices; and feasible protections that could be implemented for those practices. See Ka Pa'akai v. Land Use Comm'n, 94 Hawai'i 31, 7 P.3d 1068 (2000).

latter, NPM characterizes Appellants' claim as one in which it is the "absence of" notice protections in Department Rules and the LUO are what violates their right to a clean and healthful environment. NPM mtn. at 5. These contentions lack merit.

Appellants' memorandum in opposition to dismissal specified that they hold property rights in their rights to a clean and healthy environment as defined by laws of environmental quality, including LUO §§21-2.40-1, 21-2.90 et seq., 21-5.700, and 21-4.60. The stated purpose of the City's LUO:

is to regulate land use in a manner that will encourage orderly development in accordance with adopted land use policies, including the city's general plan, and development and sustainable communities plans, and, as may be appropriate, adopted neighborhood plans, and to promote and protect the public health, safety and welfare by, more particularly:

- (1) Minimizing adverse effects resulting from the inappropriate location, use or design of sites and structures;
- (2) Conserving the city's natural, historic and scenic resources and encouraging design that enhances the physical form of the city; and
- (3) Assisting the public in identifying and understanding regulations affecting the development and use of land.

LUO §21-1.20(a); Cnty. of Hawai'i v. Ala Loop Homeowners, 123 Hawai'i 391, 409, 235 P.3d 1103, 1121-22 (2010) (reviewing legislative history in enacting HRS chapter 205 as a land use law "relating to environmental quality). The location and siting of NPM's project impacts Appellants' members public health, safety and welfare and is thereby a law relating to environmental quality that implements Appellants' constitutional rights to a clean and healthy environment. Hawai'i Const., art. XI §9. The right to a clean and healthful environment defined by laws relating to environmental quality "is a property interest protected by due process, as it is a substantive right guaranteed by the Hawai'i Constitution." In re Hawai'i Elec. Light Co. (HELCO), 145 Hawai'i 1, 16, 445 P.3d 673, 688 (2019) (emphasis in original); citing In re Application of Mani Elec. Co. (MECO), 141 Hawai'i 249, 260-61, 408 P.3d 1, 12-13 (2017). Appellants seek to enforce protections of LUO §21-1.20(a) as is their actionable right under article IX, §9 of the Hawai'i Constitution.

NPM cites no authority for its contention that a "law relating to environmental quality" ceases to be actionable to define a right to a clean and healthful environment where that law is implemented in tandem with rules that violate due process rights. NPM mtn. at 5 ("The Appellants' rights are established by and limited to the procedures created by DPP and ZBA's Rules; they have no legitimate claim of entitlement to any other benefits or procedure."). The LUO relates to environmental quality, rendering Appellants' constitutional rights to a clean and healthful environment actionable. Hawai'i Const. art. IX, §9. The LUO receives its authority from HRS §46-4 (relating to county zoning), which is also a law relating to environmental quality and conferring on Appellants a private right of action that must be first raised for administrative determination. See Pausek v. Sandvold, 127 Hawai'i 390, 279 P.3d 55 (App. 2012) (holding HRS § 46-4(a) creates a private right of action but requiring claimant to seek an administrative determination under the doctrine of primary jurisdiction).

The constitutionality of procedural rules requiring appeal from the time the Director types out her unannounced decision, mails it to the applicant, and/ or places it into the Department files remains in question separate from that right. To this end, Appellants' oppositional memorandum identified how their property rights in a clean and healthful environment are impacted by the permitted activities and that the permits were issued in excess of the Director's authority.

B. Department rules violate Appellants' due process because they fail to provide notice NPM contends Department Rules reasonably limit appeals to a thirty-day period. NPM mtn at 5-6. This contention is unresponsive to the lack of notice to interested persons and consequent due process violations. The Director was, or should have been aware, of Appellants' interests in the NPM project setbacks. See Exhibits "01" to "10" attached to Appellants' memorandum in opposition to dismissal, filed April 2, 2020.

Under the circumstances, the rules NPM relies on for dismissal violate Appellants due process rights include LUO §21-1.40, which requires appeals from the Director's decisions to be filed within 30 days of the mailing or service of the director's decision. NPM relies on the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA Rules), which provides in relevant part:

§ 22-2 Mandatory appeal filing deadline. (a) A written petition appealing an action of the director must be received at the department of land utilization within 30 days of the date of mailing or personal service of the director's written decision; except that in the case of an appeal relating to the administration of the subdivision ordinance, the petition must be received within 15 days after receipt of the notice of the action.

(b) If the appeal is not timely filed, it shall be dismissed by the board upon the board's own motion or the motion of any party to the proceeding.

NPM also cites Department Rule §6-2, which provides:

The director shall mail the written decision to the applicant and, upon request, shall give notice of the decision to other interested persons. The decision shall be available for review by the public at the department of planning and permitting.

Id. When interested persons, including Appellants, are not given notice that an appealable administrative decision was made in the first instance, even the most sophisticated party who is aware of the appeals process would be precluded from any opportunity to timely appeal the decision.

It would appear self-evident that a party lacks an effective administrative remedy in a situation where the party is time-barred from appealing an administrative decision that the party was never appropriately made aware of until after the time for appeals had ended. If the party is not given notice that an appealable administrative decision was made in the first instance, then even the most sophisticated party who is aware of the appeals process would be precluded from any opportunity to timely appeal the decision.

Kellberg v. Yuen, 131 Hawai'i 513, 531-32, 319 P.3d 432, 450-51 (2014) citing Michael Asimow, Judicial Review: Standing and Timing, 27 Judicial Review of Agency Action 269 (1997) ("Where a litigant failed to exhaust a remedy because he was not appropriately notified of its availability in time to use the remedy, the failure to exhaust is excused."). That Appellants were not formally "parties" to the permit application does not preclude the Director's need to notify them of her decision. See Unite

Here! Local 5 v. Dep't of Planning & Permitting, \_\_ Hawai'i \_\_, 454 P.3d 394, 397 (2019) (non-party's due process rights were violated where the Director took action on a permit without notice).

Acts in excess of authority necessarily violate due process because the procedures due to Appellants, and others of the public, did not authorize the Director's actions. No "magic words" are required to secure due process rights. See Credit Associates of Mani, Limited v. Montilliano, 51 Haw. 325, 327, 460 P.2d 762, 764 (1969) (rejecting the "mechanical" position that "an appeal, which involves only a question of law, stands or falls, depending on the presence or absence of the magic words, 'this appeal is taken on a point of law,' or their equivalent"). This approach is particularly appropriate where the context required that each of Appellants' statements be read as part of a petition seeking a contested case hearing, defined to be "a hearing in which the legal rights, duties or privileges of specific parties to the proceeding are determined, and which is held immediately prior to judicial review." ZBA Rule § 21-1; see Henry Waterhouse Trust Co. v. Vicars, 28 Haw. 232, 243 (1925) (interpretation of laws considers what the context requires).

### C. NPM incorrectly applies the due process analysis in MECO.

NPM incorrectly applies the due process analysis employed in *In re Application of Mani Elec.*Co., Ltd., 141 Haw. 249, 261, 408 P.3d 1, 13 (2017) (MECO). Procedures satisfying constitutional due process are determined by considering: (1) the private interest which will be affected; (2) the risk of an erroneous deprivation of such interest through the procedures actually used, and the probable value, if any, of additional or alternative procedural safeguards; and (3) the governmental interest, including the burden that additional procedural safeguards would entail.

NPM contends Appellants' "private" interests would not be affected because their interests are not "private" as they are not distinct from "every other member of the North Shore community." NPM mtn. at 6-7. Akan v. Olohana Corp., 65 Haw. 383, 652 P.2d 1130 (1982) counters NPM's contention:

a member of the public has standing to enforce the rights of the public even though his injury is not different in kind from the public's generally, if he can show that he has suffered an injury in fact, and that the concerns of a multiplicity of suits are satisfied by any means, including a class action.

Id. (an injury to a recreational interest is an injury in fact sufficient to constitute standing to assert the rights of the public for purposes of declaratory and injunctive relief) cited by Citizens v. County of Hawai'i, 91 Hawai'i 94, 101, 979 P.2d 1120, 1127 (1999).

NPM contends the "risk of erroneous deprivation" and "probable value, if any, of additional or alternative procedural safeguards" are "small" and "zero" respectively. NPM mtn. at 7. NPM relies on Appellants' robust engagement in environmental impact review processes for its assumption that, because these processes "considered" the "alleged concerns of the Appellants, including the siting of the wind turbines[,]" there was no risk of erroneous deprivation. This equation is illogical in that it is the notoriety of Appellants' concern with the wind turbine siting that put the reasonable onus of notice of the waiver or modification of setback siting requirements on the Department.

Similarly, NPM fails to substantiate its claim that it would be "meaningless" to have provided Appellants' notice of the conditional use permit (CUP) application approvals because Appellants knew the project required CUPs. NPM mtn. at 7. As stated *supra* Part I.B, <u>knowledge</u> of the CUP requirement and <u>notice</u> of the Director's action of filing and mailing her decision to NPM are separate and did not suffice to apprise Appellants of the Director's actions.

Finally, NPM's contention that mere compliance with HRS chapter 92F, requiring that agency records be available for public inspection, is the same as "constructive notice" lacks merit. NPM mtn. at 9. All agencies are subject to this requirement and to construe this as "constructive notice" and absolve all of them of any notice by publication or otherwise would defeat the purpose of HRS chapter 92F (Uniform Information Practices Act). "It is axiomatic that service of process is

a fundamental requirement of due process of law and personal service is preferred to constructive service[.]" *Hustace v. Kapuni*, 6 Haw. App. 241, 248, 718 P.2d 1109, 1114 (App. 1986).

### II. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Appellants request that this Board deny NPM's motions to dismiss filed March 27, 2020.

DATED:

Honolulu, Hawai'i

July 30, 2020

Brinca Isali

# BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

In the Matter of the Application of	)	Case No. 2019/ZBA-7
KEEP THE NORTH SHORE COUNTRY, a nonprofit corporation,	)	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
	)	

## **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT a true and correct copy of the above was duly served upon the following parties by e-mail or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid on this date as follows:

Jodi S. Yamamoto Wil K. Yamamoto Bradly S. Dixon 1100 Alakea Street, Suite 3100 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 jyamamoto@ychawaii.com bdixon@ychawaii.com

Attorneys for NA PUA MAKANI POWER PARTNERS, LLC Brad Saito, Corporation Counsel City & County of Honolulu 530 South King Street, Room 110 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 bsaito@honolulu.gov

Attorney for DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & PERMITTING

Dawn D.M. Spurlin dspurlin@honolulu.gov

Counsel for ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

DATED:

Honolulu, Hawai'i

July 30, 2020

Branca Isali

Law Office of Lance D. Collins Lance D. Collins 8246 Post Office Box 782 Makawao, Hawai'i 96768 808.243.9292 2023 JUL 3U PM 4: 16

Law Office of Bianca Isaki Bianca K. Isaki 9977 1720 Huna Street, 401B Honolulu, Hawai'i 96837 (808) 927-5606

Attorneys for THE KAHUKU COMMÚNITY ASSOCIATION & KEEP THE NORTH SHORE COUNTRY

# BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

In the Matter of the Petitions of	) Case No. 2019/ZBA-7 (Consolidated)
KEEP THE NORTH SHORE COUNTRY, a	) APPELLANTS' CONSOLIDATED
nonprofit corporation, and THE KAHUKU	) MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION TO NA
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, a nonprofit	) PUA MAKANI POWER PARTNERS, LLC
corporation, concerning the Na Pua Makani	AND DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF
Wind Project - Subprojects A & B, 56-668	PLANNING AND PERMITTING, CITY
Kamehameha Highway, Kahuku, Oʻahu, Tax	AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU'S
Map Key (1) 5-6-008:006 & 5-6-006:018	MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE REPLY;
	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
From the Actions of the Director of Planning	).
and Permitting, dated October 24, 2016	
(2016/CUP-49); January 20, 2017 (2016/CUP-69)	
& 2016/W-63), & June 7, 2019 (2019/MOD-34,	
-35 & -36)	

APPELLANTS' CONSOLIDATED MEMORANDUM IN OPPOSITION TO NA PUA MAKANI POWER PARTNERS, LLC AND DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU'S MOTION FOR LEAVE TO FILE REPLY

Appellants KEEP THE NORTH SHORE COUNTRY, a nonprofit corporation, and THE KAHUKU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, a nonprofit corporation (collectively, "Appellants"),

by and through their undersigned counsel, respectfully submit their Surreply to Intervenor NA PUA MAKANI POWER PARTNERS, LLC (NPM) and Respondent DIRECTOR OF DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING AND PERMITTING, CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU's (Director) (collectively, "NPM") reply to Appellants' memoranda in opposition to NPM's Motions to Dismiss the Kahuku Community Association's Application to Appeal Director's Approvals of Conditional Use Permits, Waiver, and Modifications and Keep the North Shore Country's Petition to Appeal,, filed July 23, 2020 (NPM mtn). At its June 25, 2020 meeting, the Board orally denied in part and granted in part Appellants' Consolidated Memorandum in Opposition to Na Pua Makani Power Partners, LLC and Director of Department of Planning and Permitting, City and County of Honolulu's Motion for Leave to File Reply, filed May 27, 2020 by granting Appellants' alternative relief consisting in leave to file the instant surreply.

This memorandum is filed pursuant to ZBA Rules §§ 22-4(e) and 22-7.

#### I. ARGUMENT

A. Appellants' have property interests in their constitutional rights to a clean and healthful environment and their traditional and customary practices.

NPM contends Appellants' lack property interests because "general environmental interest[s]" were deemed not "property" for due process purposes under Sandy Beach Defense Fund v. City Council of Honolulu, 70 Haw. 361, 377, 773 P.2d 250, 261 (1989) and article XI, §9 of the Hawai'i Constitution because neither the City and County of Honolulu Land Use Ordinance (LUO) (LUO) nor the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Department of Planning and Permitting (Department Rules) is a "law relating to environmental quality." NPM mtn. at 3-4. In regard to the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> NPM is silent on property rights conferred under article XII, §7, which require the Department and the Board to identify: native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices that may be affected by the waiver and modifications of setbacks; impacts of the setback waivers and modifications may impact those traditional and customary practices; and feasible protections that could be implemented for those practices. See Ka Pa'akai v. Land Use Comm'n, 94 Hawai'i 31, 7 P.3d 1068 (2000).

latter, NPM characterizes Appellants' claim as one in which it is the "absence of" notice protections in Department Rules and the LUO are what violates their right to a clean and healthful environment. NPM mtn. at 5. These contentions lack merit.

Appellants' memorandum in opposition to dismissal specified that they hold property rights in their rights to a clean and healthy environment as defined by laws of environmental quality, including LUO §§21-2.40-1, 21-2.90 et seq., 21-5.700, and 21-4.60. The stated purpose of the City's LUO:

is to regulate land use in a manner that will encourage orderly development in accordance with adopted land use policies, including the city's general plan, and development and sustainable communities plans, and, as may be appropriate, adopted neighborhood plans, and to promote and protect the public health, safety and welfare by, more particularly:

- (1) Minimizing adverse effects resulting from the inappropriate location, use or design of sites and structures;
- (2) Conserving the city's natural, historic and scenic resources and encouraging design that enhances the physical form of the city; and
- (3) Assisting the public in identifying and understanding regulations affecting the development and use of land.

LUO §21-1.20(a); Cnty. of Hawai'i v. Ala Loop Homeowners, 123 Hawai'i 391, 409, 235 P.3d 1103, 1121-22 (2010) (reviewing legislative history in enacting HRS chapter 205 as a land use law "relating to environmental quality). The location and siting of NPM's project impacts Appellants' members public health, safety and welfare and is thereby a law relating to environmental quality that implements Appellants' constitutional rights to a clean and healthy environment. Hawai'i Const., art. XI §9. The right to a clean and healthful environment defined by laws relating to environmental quality "is a property interest protected by due process, as it is a substantive right guaranteed by the Hawai'i Constitution." In re Hawai'i Elec. Light Co. (HELCO), 145 Hawai'i 1, 16, 445 P.3d 673, 688 (2019) (emphasis in original); citing In re Application of Mani Elec. Co. (MECO), 141 Hawai'i 249, 260-61, 408 P.3d 1, 12-13 (2017). Appellants seek to enforce protections of LUO §21-1.20(a) as is their actionable right under article IX, §9 of the Hawai'i Constitution.

NPM cites no authority for its contention that a "law relating to environmental quality" ceases to be actionable to define a right to a clean and healthful environment where that law is implemented in tandem with rules that violate due process rights. NPM mtn. at 5 ("The Appellants' rights are established by and limited to the procedures created by DPP and ZBA's Rules; they have no legitimate claim of entitlement to any other benefits or procedure."). The LUO relates to environmental quality, rendering Appellants' constitutional rights to a clean and healthful environment actionable. Hawai'i Const. art. IX, \$9. The LUO receives its authority from HRS \$46-4 (relating to county zoning), which is also a law relating to environmental quality and conferring on Appellants a private right of action that must be first raised for administrative determination. See Pavsek v. Sandvold, 127 Hawai'i 390, 279 P.3d 55 (App. 2012) (holding HRS § 46–4(a) creates a private right of action but requiring claimant to seek an administrative determination under the doctrine of primary jurisdiction).

The constitutionality of procedural rules requiring appeal from the time the Director types out her unannounced decision, mails it to the applicant, and/ or places it into the Department files remains in question separate from that right. To this end, Appellants' oppositional memorandum identified how their property rights in a clean and healthful environment are impacted by the permitted activities and that the permits were issued in excess of the Director's authority.

B. Department rules violate Appellants' due process because they fail to provide notice NPM contends Department Rules reasonably limit appeals to a thirty-day period. NPM mtn at 5-6. This contention is unresponsive to the lack of notice to interested persons and consequent due process violations. The Director was, or should have been aware, of Appellants' interests in the NPM project setbacks. See Exhibits "01" to "10" attached to Appellants' memorandum in opposition to dismissal, filed April 2, 2020.

Under the circumstances, the rules NPM relies on for dismissal violate Appellants due process rights include LUO §21-1.40, which requires appeals from the Director's decisions to be filed within 30 days of the mailing or service of the director's decision. NPM relies on the Rules of Practice and Procedure of the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA Rules), which provides in relevant part:

§ 22-2 Mandatory appeal filing deadline. (a) A written petition appealing an action of the director must be received at the department of land utilization within 30 days of the date of mailing or personal service of the director's written decision; except that in the case of an appeal relating to the administration of the subdivision ordinance, the petition must be received within 15 days after receipt of the notice of the action.

(b) If the appeal is not timely filed, it shall be dismissed by the board upon the board's own motion or the motion of any party to the proceeding.

NPM also cites Department Rule §6-2, which provides:

The director shall mail the written decision to the applicant and, upon request, shall give notice of the decision to other interested persons. The decision shall be available for review by the public at the department of planning and permitting.

Id. When interested persons, including Appellants, are not given notice that an appealable administrative decision was made in the first instance, even the most sophisticated party who is aware of the appeals process would be precluded from any opportunity to timely appeal the decision.

It would appear self-evident that a party lacks an effective administrative remedy in a situation where the party is time-barred from appealing an administrative decision that the party was never appropriately made aware of until after the time for appeals had ended. If the party is not given notice that an appealable administrative decision was made in the first instance, then even the most sophisticated party who is aware of the appeals process would be precluded from any opportunity to timely appeal the decision.

Kellberg v. Yuen, 131 Hawai'i 513, 531-32, 319 P.3d 432, 450-51 (2014) citing Michael Asimow, Judicial Review: Standing and Timing, 27 Judicial Review of Agency Action 269 (1997) ("Where a litigant failed to exhaust a remedy because he was not appropriately notified of its availability in time to use the remedy, the failure to exhaust is excused."). That Appellants were not formally "parties" to the permit application does not preclude the Director's need to notify them of her decision. See Unite

Here! Local 5 v. Dep't of Planning & Permitting, \_\_ Hawai'i \_\_, 454 P.3d 394, 397 (2019) (non-party's due process rights were violated where the Director took action on a permit without notice).

Acts in excess of authority necessarily violate due process because the procedures due to Appellants, and others of the public, did not authorize the Director's actions. No "magic words" are required to secure due process rights. See Credit Associates of Maui, Limited v. Montilliano, 51 Haw. 325, 327, 460 P.2d 762, 764 (1969) (rejecting the "mechanical" position that "an appeal, which involves only a question of law, stands or falls, depending on the presence or absence of the magic words, 'this appeal is taken on a point of law,' or their equivalent"). This approach is particularly appropriate where the context required that each of Appellants' statements be read as part of a petition seeking a contested case hearing, defined to be "a hearing in which the legal rights, duties or privileges of specific parties to the proceeding are determined, and which is held immediately prior to judicial review." ZBA Rule § 21-1; see Henry Waterhouse Trust Co. v. Vicars, 28 Haw. 232, 243 (1925) (interpretation of laws considers what the context requires).

## C. NPM incorrectly applies the due process analysis in MECO.

NPM incorrectly applies the due process analysis employed in *In re Application of Maui Elec.*Co., Ltd., 141 Haw. 249, 261, 408 P.3d 1, 13 (2017) (MECO). Procedures satisfying constitutional due process are determined by considering: (1) the private interest which will be affected; (2) the risk of an erroneous deprivation of such interest through the procedures actually used, and the probable value, if any, of additional or alternative procedural safeguards; and (3) the governmental interest, including the burden that additional procedural safeguards would entail.

NPM contends Appellants' "private" interests would not be affected because their interests are not "private" as they are not distinct from "every other member of the North Shore community." NPM mtn. at 6-7. *Akan v. Olohana Corp.*, 65 Haw. 383, 652 P.2d 1130 (1982) counters NPM's contention:

a member of the public has standing to enforce the rights of the public even though his injury is not different in kind from the public's generally, if he can show that he has suffered an injury in fact, and that the concerns of a multiplicity of suits are satisfied by any means, including a class action.

Id. (an injury to a recreational interest is an injury in fact sufficient to constitute standing to assert the rights of the public for purposes of declaratory and injunctive relief) cited by Citizens v. County of Hawai'i, 91 Hawai'i 94, 101, 979 P.2d 1120, 1127 (1999).

NPM contends the "risk of erroneous deprivation" and "probable value, if any, of additional or alternative procedural safeguards" are "small" and "zero" respectively. NPM mtn. at 7. NPM relies on Appellants' robust engagement in environmental impact review processes for its assumption that, because these processes "considered" the "alleged concerns of the Appellants, including the siting of the wind turbines[,]" there was no risk of erroneous deprivation. This equation is illogical in that it is the notoriety of Appellants' concern with the wind turbine siting that put the reasonable onus of notice of the waiver or modification of setback siting requirements on the Department.

Similarly, NPM fails to substantiate its claim that it would be "meaningless" to have provided Appellants' notice of the conditional use permit (CUP) application approvals because Appellants knew the project required CUPs. NPM mtn. at 7. As stated *supra* Part I.B, <u>knowledge</u> of the CUP requirement and <u>notice</u> of the Director's action of filing and mailing her decision to NPM are separate and did not suffice to apprise Appellants of the Director's actions.

Finally, NPM's contention that mere compliance with HRS chapter 92F, requiring that agency records be available for public inspection, is the same as "constructive notice" lacks merit.

NPM mtn. at 9. All agencies are subject to this requirement and to construe this as "constructive notice" and absolve all of them of any notice by publication or otherwise would defeat the purpose of HRS chapter 92F (Uniform Information Practices Act). "It is axiomatic that service of process is

a fundamental requirement of due process of law and personal service is preferred to constructive service[.]" *Hustace v. Kapuni*, 6 Haw. App. 241, 248, 718 P.2d 1109, 1114 (App. 1986).

### II. CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Appellants request that this Board deny NPM's motions to dismiss filed March 27, 2020.

DATED:

Honolulu, Hawai'i

July 30, 2020

Branca Isali

# BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

In the Matter of the Application of	)	Case No. 2019/ZBA-7
KEEP THE NORTH SHORE COUNTRY, a	)	CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE
nonprofit corporation,	)	
	)	

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT a true and correct copy of the above was duly served upon the following parties by e-mail or U.S. Mail, postage prepaid on this date as follows:

Jodi S. Yamamoto Wil K. Yamamoto Bradly S. Dixon 1100 Alakea Street, Suite 3100 Honolulu, Hawaiʻi 96813 jyamamoto@ychawaii.com bdixon@ychawaii.com

Attorneys for NA PUA MAKANI POWER PARTNERS, LLC Brad Saito, Corporation Counsel City & County of Honolulu 530 South King Street, Room 110 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813 bsaito@honolulu.gov

Attorney for DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & PERMITTING

Dawn D.M. Spurlin dspurlin@honolulu.gov

Counsel for ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

DATED:

Honolulu, Hawai'i

July 30, 2020

Branca Sali