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2017 AUG 14 A 10:53

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August 9, 2017

State of Hawai'i
Department of Land and Natural Resources
State Historic Preservation Division
Kakuhihewa Building
601 Kamokila Boulevard, Suite 555
Kapolei, HI 96707

Dear State Historic Preservation Division Hawaii Historic Places Review Board:

This letter is in support of the nomination of the Waimalu Shopping Center to be designated in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Waimalu Shopping Center is located in Council District 8 at 98-109 Hekaha Street and TMK 9-8-022:074.

The Waimalu Shopping Center is a Mid-Century Modern retail development that has been an 'Aiea community landmark for the past 57 years. The shopping center was built in two phases—1959 and 1962. While the setting has changed, its continued commercial use has allowed the shopping center to maintain its integrity of feeling and association with its surroundings.

The property is eligible under two distinct Criterion of the NRHP. Criterion A means the property "is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history." The Waimalu Shopping Center fulfills Criterion A as a successful example of Japanese American entrepreneurship, providing evidence of Asian American businesses and investors adapting U.S. mainland development patterns for use in Hawai'i.

Criterion C means the property "embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction." The Waimalu Shopping Center is one of six existing examples of an Early Modern shopping center that has retained its sufficient architectural integrity to be eligible for listing in the Register.

Based on the above, I am in full support of designating the Waimalu Shopping Center in the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

Brandon Elefante
Councilmember, District 8