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**NEWS ARTICLE: Gainesville Times on January 28, 2014**

## **Oakwood road application hearing draws no comments**

A handful of people showed, but no one commented, at a public hearing Monday on an Oakwood grant application for a road project that could ease traffic stemming from King's Hawaiian's planned expansion.

The South Hall city plans to seek a \$500,000 Community Development Block Grant through the Georgia Department of Community Affairs' Employment Incentive Program to go toward realigning M. Stringer Road.

Oakwood held the hearing at City Hall to fulfill a legal requirement in that process.

The incentive program can help pay for a variety of projects, but those "creating opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons to advance themselves by obtaining employment, greater job security, better working conditions, job training, enhancement of workplace skills and advancement opportunities receive the greatest consideration," states the DCA website.

California-based bakery King's Hawaiian, which has been operating in a 120,000-square-foot plant since the fall of 2011, plans to double production at its current plant at 5420 H.F. Reed Industrial Parkway and build a neighboring 120,000-square-foot facility over the next year, creating more than 400 jobs by 2016, officials have said.

Officials expect that when the expansion is completed, King's Hawaiian will have invested \$100 million into its Hall County operations.