

Great Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 9:27 AM
To: Great Committee
Subject: FW: Lahaina rebuild

From: Brian Keao Shaw <keao.makaiadventures@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, October 2, 2023 8:42 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Lahaina rebuild

You don't often get email from keao.makaiadventures@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha County of Maui

Thank you for setting up the meeting the other day. Unfortunately I was not able to stay for the entire meeting. I do not envy the shoes you are in on planning to rebuild Lahaina town. It will be a contested matter no matter what you do. From my experience keeping people from Hawaii in Hawaii comes from jobs. No matter what people say most people have or want an iPhone, a car, a roof over their head the ability to feed their loved ones. All of these things in today's world require jobs and money flowing "in" from outside of our economy so that we can buy things from outside of our economy. As much as we all hate it we want to buy shirts clothes appliances all of these things take money, currently our only way to bring in money is via tourism and construction.

Most of my family has left Hawaii because they were not able to find jobs that reflected their college education. My wife and I own and operate Makai Adventures (in Lahaina Harbor), and Kainani Sails (in Kaanapali). What you might not know is we have two kids ages 3 and 5 and we lost our home that we still have a mortgage on with just the shirts on our backs because luckily we were not home at the time. Our good friend Bailey Morris lived in the 'Ohana on our property and our kids went to her house daily to play. She is our lead captain on Kainani. Our other good friend, Kevin Campbell, lived two doors down and he just had his first child on August 25. He is the lead captain for Makai Adventures. Another good friend, Morgan Kraver, lived a block away and was recently married. She was our general manager. Five out of 11 employees lost their homes and all of us have currently lost our jobs. We are struggling to figure out what to do next.

Everyone grieves differently and should be allowed to grieve in their own way. Personally the only thing I know how to do is get up and put my head down and work hard to try and move forward. I want to stand on my own two feet. I do not want hand outs I want to get back and rebuild what I have been working the last 12 years to do. My wife and I have worked together to build out business and don't want to start all over as we are not college educated and do not want to leave Hawaii like so many others have.

Have we not lost enough? We don't want to lose our businesses, our jobs, our ability to put a roof over our heads and food on the table. We are not looking for hand outs. We just want to get back to how things were. We are simply asking for the chance to survive this.

Lahaina will change because of this. I hope it's for the better, every person that rebuilds their house and every business that either rebuilds or starts back up will be different from before.

Thank you for your patience and understanding

Aloha,
Keao Brian Shaw
Makai Adventures | Kainani Sails | Maui Sailing Charters
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