

HLU Committee

From: Eala Burgess <noreply@adv.actionnetwork.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2025 3:04 PM
To: HLU Committee
Subject: Support for Bill 9 to Phase Out the Minatoya List!

Housing Land Use Committee,

Aloha Councilmembers,

I was born and raised on the big island of Hawaii. We lived in poverty, as most other local families do, surviving on WIC and eating spaghetti every night for dinner. My mom would take my brother and I to pick up cans on the side of the road, jumping over rock walls and walking through the bushes, so that we can recycle those cans for a dollar to go for an ice cream treat at McDonald's. We lived in low income housing until our early teens when we ended up having to move out because my mom's cleaning business made just a little bit too much money to qualify us anymore. From that point forward I essentially did not see my mother again because she had to work three jobs to pay the insanely high mortgage payments that were forced upon us. Now I see the same thing happening to many other local families. I moved to the mainland 10 years ago now, and just this past March had the opportunity to return home for the first time, and in that trip I also visited Maui. During the planning I learned about the minatoya bill and was profoundly proud and hopeful to see this. Because it means that our people are starting to be considered. It means that local families might be able to stay in their island home instead of moving off to the mainland to try and find affordable housing and give their children a good life, take care of their elders, or have opportunity for peace. Vacationers have many options with hotels and resorts to be able to come and enjoy the island of Maui. And don't for a second think that they'll stop coming. Because Hawaii is the ultimate destination for travel and weddings and anniversaries and so much more. Getting rid of these condos will not affect tourism. In fact, it will put more money back into our local economy because these tourists will now be paying the appropriate tourism taxes. Because the hotels often do invest back into local communities instead of the money being used by private investors in the mainland. I fully support this cause, and I hope you do too. Put the people of Hawaii first. Take care of the residents before the vacationers. Start supporting the future of our people, and the comfort and livelihood of our families. Please SUPPORT Bill 9 to phase out the short term rentals on the Minatoya list without carveouts or special protections for timeshares.

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