

AH Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 7:52 AM
To: AH Committee
Subject: FW: Workforce Housing projects Polanui Gardens (AH1-1) and Makila Rural East (AH1-2)

From: David <davidelies@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 7:35 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Workforce Housing projects Polanui Gardens (AH1-1) and Makila Rural East (AH1-2)

Aloha,

My name is David Elies and I live at 260 Komo Mai St in Lahaina. I'd like to speak in favor of the additional Workforce Housing developments in West Maui -- Polanui Gardens (AH1-1) and Makila Rural East (AH1-2).

My wife and I are blessed with a home today because of the Workforce Housing program on Maui. We both grew up in Lahaina, and have lived here most of our lives. We work in this community, and have always considered it our home. My wife is a teacher at Princess Nahienaena Elementary School and I am a computer programmer. We saved for years to be able to afford a home in Lahaina -- we lived with my wife's parents in order cut down on living expenses -- but for every bit we saved, it seemed that housing prices continued to rise faster than we could build up a down-payment large enough to ensure an affordable monthly mortgage payment. Homeownership in our community seemed out of reach. I know this is a problem for many families in Lahaina. My brother lives with our Dad in Wailuku, trying to scrape together enough money to one day own a home back in Lahaina, but this seems to be an impossible dream on a single income. Many of our friends have similar stories, but most without the ability to rely on family to reduce their astronomical rental costs.

Thank you for supporting and providing for Affordable and Workforce housing in Maui County. We need to continue to increase the volume of Affordable and Workforce housing in West Maui so homeownership can finally come within reach for so many Lahaina residents and workers. Hopefully, the increase in affordable and owner occupied homes will also keep prices in check by ensuring that these homes will not be purchased specifically to be turned for a profit, or used only as vacation rentals -- indefinitely kept outside the housing pool. Traffic may even be impacted as fewer families must commute to their workplace from all over the island.

Please approve the Polanui Gardens and Makila Rural East Workforce Housing developments.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

David J. Elies
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