

GET Committee

From: Mike J. Molina
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2019 1:10 PM
To: GET Committee
Subject: FW: Directors approval

From: helaine@maui.net <helaine@maui.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 31, 2019 12:28 PM
To: Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Directors approval

To Maui County Council members:

We would like to just make a statement in opposition to the appointment of two of the proposed Directors, Will Spence for housing & Michele McLean for Planning Department.

We have had experience with both of these persons in our long opposition over the years to a vacation rental property in our neighborhood. Hale Hookipa, owned by Sherri Attix was originally approved in the mid 1990's with Will Spence advocating for her as the Maui County planner. At that time Michele Chouteau McLean was her private advocate helping with the application.

Over the years we repeated problems with the Planning Department behaving as an advocate for this business. One occasion of hearings we had no notifications of hearing and found out in the Maui News, rushing down to testify at final reading (when Ms McLean was her planner). We had our complaints ignored and been repeatedly over the years made out to be the "bad guys" as being unreasonable for being opposed to this vacation rental in our residential neighborhood. We were told we needed to go to Mediation to resolve our opposition to her business. Our view has always been that vacation rentals increase in housing costs, turn our residential neighborhoods into tourist areas and cause a lack of affordable housing & rentals.

These individuals have acted as advocates/consultants for the Vacation Rental businesses in both the private sector & as public officials/employees.

Do we really need the Directors of Housing and Planning to be known advocates for B & B's and Vacation Rentals? We believe Maui County would be better served by a Directors that have our local residents & communities needs for affordable housing as priorities. We can do better.

The approval of the zipline in Haiku is just another example of them putting the business interests over the residential community.

Actions always speak louder than words.

Thank you for listening & serving our community!

Respectfully,

Patrick & Helaine Borge