

## AH Committee

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**From:** Laurent Joly <ljoly54@outlook.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 02, 2019 10:24 AM  
**To:** AH Committee  
**Subject:** Affordable Housing Projects (Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of the Manila Farms Project - Lahaina - Agenda Item AH-1 (3))

To all members of the Committee

We are writing this letter following the recent publication of your Upcoming agenda. We are opposed to this project.

There is no adequate water supply for this development given the existing water shortages for nearby agricultural developments, as evidence by recent ongoing water shortages, the changes by the Water Commission and last summer wild fires. With already approved Makila lots not fully sold or developed yet, we all know water shortages are a challenging reality. The proposed new development will very significantly augment the demand for water: where would it come from, given that existing property owners already face water shortfall issues.

These lots should remain under an Ag designation, and therefore lower home density.

The soil in our Makila Rural Community area is mostly designated as good soil. The well advised policy of the state of Hawaii is not to remove good soil areas from agricultural use. It is not because farm land is not being farmed that it cannot be farmed. Maui already imports way too much of its food supply. It is prudent for the island to cherish and protect its better soil areas for future generations. Hawaiians had been promised that the Launiupoko area would remain Ag, and this promise should be honored.

Sewage treatment is another major concern. The Plan calls for a sewage treatment plant on the property. How will smell wafting up to the neighboring development be avoided? And what plan is in place to prevent sewage from flooding and overflowing during storms and who would monitor these issues in the future. Property developers are good at making promises and letting people down in the future.

We have chosen to live on agricultural land and are working hard to respect the land designation, by farming our land. Our investments in money, time and labor have been made because of the Ag designation. The designation of part of our area should not be changed for the convenience and financial gain of developers, who already have made tremendous financial gains by selling us the land which we are now trying to protect.

We must all work together to preserve Maui agricultural lands and the character of our community.

Let common sense prevail for the good of Maui and its people, and of its future. Once Ag land is gone, it is gone forever. Who wants that?

No changes in zoning should be considered outside the upcoming West Maui Zoning Plan. The Committee and the Council should not let developers skip our democratic process and values. No more attempts please of “piecemeal re-zoning rethink” only driven by developers and their friends.

Sincerely,

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