

HHT Committee

From: Jon <soseasick@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 30, 2016 3:45 PM
To: HHT Committee
Subject: FRONT STREET APARTMENTS

Dear Housing Human Services and Transportation Committee,

My name is John Massa and I live at the Front Street Apartments. I have been on Maui for 26 years and have spent most of that time either living in very low standard living rentals or homeless due to lack of rentals. The situations I have endured during my stay have been atrocious. Without any alternatives I have put up with and endured the circumstances. Striving to better my situation and repair the existing rentals I occupied only to be evicted time after time so that the owner could benefit from my improvements by either selling the property or renting it out for an exorbitant amount.

I received a notice today 11-30-2016 at NOON concerning the affordable housing status of the Front Street Apartments. I am aware of the situation from rumors but have also heard rumors of other tenants dismissing this information as here say or false rumors. I noticed that in the letter, the reference email listed to express concern was mistyped on the bottom of the page. I wish I had more time to inform my neighbors but that doesn't seem to be the case.

I have been told by a neighbor who makes cabinets for the complex that a one bedroom apartment here at the Front Street Apartments for new tenants are renting for \$1500.00 a month and the owner wants \$1600.00 from new applicants. Sounds exorbitant to me!!! What will happen to the rest of the complex in two years and eight months? What we will probably see is a big increase in occupancy as tenants sublease their apartments to make rent. Renting out floor space, couches,, hide a beds, dividing rooms, and even bunk beds. Doubling the septic waste and overloading the parking facility and infrastructure of Lahaina. I myself can not rationalize paying more than half of my income towards rent. That formula for living is mathematically infeasible. That is an unhealthy formula for living standards.

As the Front Street Apartments gear up to cater to tenants with an income of \$4800.00 or more a month. They will leave their working class loyal renting patrons of the past to either over crowding or homeless situations. Although the apartment complex is not sub standard at present time. The situation will become that way and create a Slum Lord situation by definition. I myself would very much like to avoid this situation by all cost. Even if it means leaving my home, unfortunately!!!

The Front Street Apartments were originally set up to give back to the community. What has changed in the past fifteen years I can not fathom. But what ever has changed is a terrible tragedy and needs to be corrected.

Sincerely, John Massa