

## AH Committee

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**From:** Rose Valle <loke13hi@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 02, 2019 7:37 AM  
**To:** AH Committee  
**Subject:** Affordable Housing Project (Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of Makila Farms; Lahaina) AH-1(3) Sub(3)

Tasha Kama, Chair – Housing Committee  
Maui County Council  
Kalana O Maui Building, Eight Floor  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

RE: Support Makila Farms AH-1 (3)

Dear Tasha Kama, Chair - Housing Committee

I have testified three times for affordable homes on Maui. I have three grown children. When I first testified, two of my three kids were still on Maui. This time, only one of three is still living here. She's getting married next week and her and her future husband already have plans to move to the mainland within the year. They realize, as my other children did, that it is just too expensive to stay here.

There are many large, luxury homes on the west side and less and less affordable housing.

A longstanding Lahaina restaurant was in business for 43 years! The newspaper reported that it closed due to a “lack of business”. There are plenty of people – locals and tourists – to keep restaurants going so why the lack of business? Why, after 43 years does a restaurant have to close? They obviously knew what they were doing all those years. My bet is that the quality and service declined because there are not enough good, qualified workers to hire who can afford to live on a server, cook or bartender's salary. And that is due to a lack of affordable housing on this side of the island!

All the people who live in the big expensive homes over here are going to be the first to complain when the service at a restaurant is bad – never considering the reasons why that could be. And it's only going to get worse.

People are just a paycheck or two away from homelessness on this island. *Families* are that close! Many of them live in the shelters already. When I first moved here, there was one homeless person I would see walking around Kihei. Then, a few years later, I noticed more. Now! Now Kahului is starting to look like San Francisco! You can't go anywhere without seeing shopping carts and makeshift homes - Hansen Road, Dairy Road, Alamaha St, Ross' parking lot!

Here's something I found on Facebook the other day:

*Stephen Vecchiotti*

*We visited Maui a couple of months ago for an extended period and were astounded by how the island has changed. Homeless people everywhere, creepy, rude locals and shady characters all over the place. Kauai on the other hand is a dream island. What a difference. We will not be returning anytime soon to Maui..*

We've all seen that. I've seen couples, pregnant women and kids sitting near shopping carts or holding cardboard signs for money in Kahului.

Something has to be done NOW to provide homes for lower income people before they become either homeless or leave the islands altogether. What happens when more businesses close down? What happens when more tourists decide not to come back? It will be too late then, when there is no one left to service the rich people, no good restaurants left for them to go to, and no tourists paying high prices and taxes to offset costs that they will realize – far too late – that we simply needed to provide affordable home options.

I support Makila Farms 100% and urge you to pass this NOW for the hard-working families of Maui!

Sincerely,  
Rose Valle