HLU Committee

From: Brandon Harris <bharris3880@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, October 16, 2025 3:32 PM
To: Alice L. Lee; Yukilei Sugimura; Tasha A. Kama; Thomas M. Cook; Gabe Johnson; Tamara A. Paltin; Keani N. Rawlins; Shane M. Sinenci; Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins; HLU Committee
Subject: Vote NO, NO, NO on Bill 9

Council Members

I am a Maui resident and a local voter. I oppose bill 9.

The county has all the tools it needs to solve the issue of attainable housing without passing legislation that will not address the issue. Further, it will not help local families now. It will take 5 years or more (if Bill 9 even stands up to legal challenges to come) to begin to help. The county has numerous affordable and market rate apartment complexes built specifically for families that sit vacant with 3 and 4 bedroom units. Take the $600,000 you currently have earmarked for purchasing first time homebuyers homes (received from the federal government CBDG) and use it to buy units that you believe are attainable. Charge the recipients affordable rents based on state, federal, and county income limits. Then the county will control the housing and not have to worry about deed restrictions.

Bill 9 will hurt and break our tourism economy (the county and state have NO other income source to make up tourist dollars). It will result in the following based on your own UHERO report.

- Reduced Visitor Spending: Maui could **lose $900M–$1.6B annually**, cutting revenue from restaurants, shops, tours, and services.
- Jobs Lost: Thousands of local jobs are at stake — many held by Maui residents who rely on tourism to support their families. Conservative estimates suggest at least **1,900 jobs could be lost**, though the real number is likely far higher.
- Business Closures: Restaurants, tour companies, and local services could face fewer customers, forcing some to shut down.

- Lower Worker Earnings: Worker income could drop by hundreds of millions annually, making it harder for families to pay bills and mortgages.
- Ripple Effect: Job losses or reduced income mean less money circulating at grocery stores, auto shops, and other local businesses.
- Tax Revenue Loss: Maui County could collect $60M–$137M less each year, reducing resources for schools, parks, and essential services.
- Housing Reality: Despite its intent, this bill offers no assurance that housing will actually be made available to local families. In cities like New York, Lake Tahoe, and O‘ahu, similar phase-outs have failed to make housing more affordable or accessible.

Thank you

Brandon Harris

Sent from my iPhone