

PSLU Committee

From: Jason Economou <jason@ramauai.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2020 5:16 PM
To: PSLU Committee
Cc: Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Tasha A. Kama; Kelly King; Yukilei Sugimura; Riki Hokama; Mike J. Molina; Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins
Subject: RAM Testimony Regarding PSLU-34, PSLU-44, and PSLU-43 Related to Establishing Advisory Committees to the Planning Commission

Aloha Committee Chair Paltin, Vice-Chair Sinenci, and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony on behalf of the REALTORS Association of Maui and its more than 1,700 licensed, professional REALTORS regarding the establishment of Advisory Committees to the Planning Commission, as outlined in PSLU-34, PSLU-44, and PSLU-43. Based on the need for a more streamlined process and a desire for the County to function in a fiscally responsible manner, the REALTORS Association of Maui opposes the proposed measures to create additional advisory committees to the Maui Planning Commission.

The establishment of additional advisory committees to the Maui Planning Commission will serve little purpose other than to increase regulatory hurdles in an already difficult process, and it will come with increased costs related to staffing, securing a venue, recording, transcription, and the various other costs that go into the function of regulatory bodies. Though it makes sense to have a Hana Advisory Committee to allow Hana residents an opportunity to provide feedback in spite of geographical impediments, South Maui and Paia-Haiku are not similarly situated. Residents in these areas have reasonable access to the Planning Commission, and not having advisory committees will not strip these residency districts of fair representation in any way.

For the foregoing reasons, RAM encourages the Planning and Sustainable Land Use Committee to avoid the creation of further regulatory impediments for future housing development, or measures that will increase the County budget without clear benefit to the people of Maui County. As an alternative method to increase public access to the work of the Planning Commission, perhaps you should consider moving Planning Commission meetings to the evening hours when residents are generally not at work.

Mahalo,

Jason A. Economou
Government Affairs Director

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