

AH Committee

From: Rose Valle <loke13hi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 31, 2019 1:01 PM
To: AH Committee
Subject: Affordable Housing Projects (Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of the Makila Farms Project (Lahaina)) Agenda Item AH-1 (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 known Greg Brown for over five years and I have listened to his presentation about Makila Farms. Although I understand the neighbor's concerns about the previous project, Greg and his team have addressed and offered solutions to all of them, in the Makila Farms proposal.

It seems to me the opposition to this project comes from two directions. One is the concern of local families, many who come from generations of Hawaiians, who are rightly concerned about the water issue. With the drilling of a new well, the non-potable water issue is solved and there is no water being pulled from the stream. Therefore, Makila Farms in no way presents a burden on the current water situation.

I particularly like the idea of constructing two retention basins. I have seen brown water plumes after big rains. Having these additional basins constructed will eliminate or at the very least greatly reduce the run-off.

The other opposition comes from homeowners who may have had valid reasons to oppose the previous project, but, although it is not being said, I feel that some of them are concerned with their property value going down. While this is a legitimate concern for any homeowner, it should not weigh into determining if other people can fulfil their dream of owning a home here.

Their previous concerns about fire safety have been addressed in the Makila Farms plan by setting fire hydrants 200' closer than the county requires, with firebreaks all around the neighborhood, plus five exit routes. Right now it is just an open field which seems more of a fire hazard to me.

People on both sides freely admit and agree there is a need for affordable housing on Maui. The county has cracked down on short term vacation rentals, stating that they take away affordable housing for local families. The way I see it is, you can't have it both ways. You can't crack down on short term vacation rentals in Launiupoko, claiming they take away affordable housing, and then turn around and vote no on Makila Farms – which has addressed all the previous concerns and will provide the real affordable housing the county and everyone else agrees we need.

I am in support of Makila Farms.

Sincerely,
Rose Valle