

HHT Committee

From: Mariah Gill <mgill.336@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2017 12:59 PM
To: HHT Committee; Autumn R. Ness; Elle Cochran
Subject: Testimony March 23- HHT-4 and HHT-6

Aloha,

Please accept my testimony supporting HHT-4 "The One-Stop Shop" item and HHT-6 "Expediting Building Plan Review Process by Developing a Catalog of Pre-approved Plans" on today's HHT agenda. Both these measures would make home building more accessible, affordable and approachable for Maui's people. I know from experience that getting a building permit is an arduous, expensive, and confusing process. Last year, I was getting a building permit for a client using "registered" home plans. Even though these plans were supposed to be registered with the County of Maui DSA, I was still required to run around and get architect stamps for the plans costing the client time and money. The building permit took about 6 months after the plans were stamped again. This was for a 3 bedroom single family home using "registered plans", I've heard that this was a pretty short turnaround and that the process has been known to take longer. It would make much more sense to have representatives from each branch responsible for signing off on building permits present in one place to discuss, comment and make a decision on building permits within a day or two. There is no reason it should take months of the plans traveling from office to office to get approved. The one stop shop will correct this inefficiency making it more affordable to get a home legally permitted--ultimately making Maui dwellings and homes safer as people become more willing to get a permit rather than not to avoid the arduous and expensive process. HHT-6 will hopefully correct the issue of "registered" plans by creating an actual catalog of approved plans that someone could look at, download (for a fee probably) and very quickly get a building permit for. This will save the average person thousands as they will be able to avoid architect fees for drafting and stamping. Homes should be organized in a way that people understand and have renderings that allow for interested parties to "see" the home before deciding on plans. I think a book of simple addition and home improvement actions should also be included in a catalog of "approved" actions.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify on HHT-4 and HHT-6. I hope you consider accepting these recommendations as they will make home building more affordable, less cumbersome and ultimately Maui homes will be safer as I believe it will help reduce the number of illegal building projects (additions and accessory dwellings come to mind).

Mahalo,
Mariah

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