

## AH Committee

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**From:** Trisha Higashi <tlyh808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, October 01, 2019 6:39 AM  
**To:** AH Committee  
**Subject:** Affordable Housing Project (Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of Makila Farms PROJECT (LAHAINA)) (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

The local people of Maui County are in dire need of affordable housing. There is a crisis. If you take a look around there are multi-generations living in the same home. The older generation in their retirement years cannot afford to remain in the community they poured an entire lifetime into and the younger generation cannot afford to live on their own and experience independence as the cost of rent and purchasing a home skyrockets beyond working class persons salary (HUD guidelines). Living in a cramped space is stressful. Living paycheck to paycheck with uncertainty of affording tomorrow if something unexpected happens is like walking on egg shells. How can anyone live with aloha (be productive and contribute to society) under that kind of pressure? I speak for myself and many of my colleagues who are educators/ teachers.

I am born and raised on the island of Maui. Hawaii has been my home for 35 years (birth to present). I have dedicated my life to serving the children in the State of Hawaii with over 10 years of faithful service as a speech language pathologist employed by the Department of Education. I humbly ask that you support the Makila Farms affordable housing project as it is a step in the right direction. We are far behind in the supply of affordable housing and now we are at a crisis level. I know families who are native Hawaiian that move away (at least one a year) because it is unaffordable (staring with a home). With respect: We need housing NOW. No more talk. Do not delay.

I do not want the West Maui Community Planning Action Committee (CPAC) to delay this project. We are in housing crisis mode. Projects that provide affordable homes should not be overlooked.

I personally am unable to afford a home as a single mother. The cost of living is high (including rent) and purchasing a home has not been a possibility for me on my state salary. Maui is my home, culture and identity. I often feel I will need to move to the mainland to afford the security of a stable place to live and raise my child. Saving for a downpayment has been the biggest challenge with the cost of rent (\$1,000 a month for a bedroom which I share with my son), food (\$800 a month for organic non-processed food) and preschool tuition (\$800 a month Saint Anthony) as my biggest expenses. The middle class people are suffering.

As a local person I am being priced out of the housing market with outside buyers who can afford to purchase a home with cash or over asking prices. These people are buying second homes, multiple homes as investments and then renting them for prices that the locals cannot afford. I am asking to purchase one home. A stable place to raise my son in the island home that has been mine for me and family for generations. There is no bigger issue than housing.

Please help me and the local people remain here on Maui. This is our home. We need assistance and the Makila project needs your support, approval and immediate action. If you have any questions for me or need further testimony please feel free to reach out: 808-280-2732 and [tlyh808@gmail.com](mailto:tlyh808@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  
Trisha Higashi