

Water and Infrastructure Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-02-08 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 02-08-24 09:00

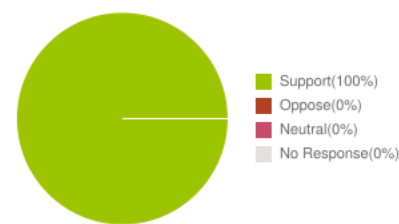
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Water and Infrastructure Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-02-08 9:00 AM	02-08-24 09:00	3	3	3	0	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment

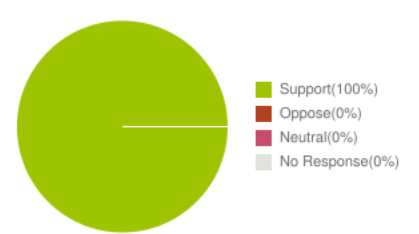


Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
WAI-1(15) PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN 2023 WILDFIRE BURN AREAS (WAI-1(15))	1	1	0	0
WAI-19 Bill 21 (2024) BILL 21 (2024), AMENDING CHAPTER 16.25, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO SECTION 105 PERMITS OF THE BUILDING CODE ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS (WAI-19)	2	2	0	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

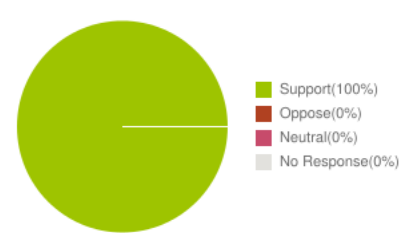
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for WAI-1(15) PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN 2023 WILDFIRE BURN AREAS (WAI-1(15))

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 7:57pm 02-06-24

Lahaina is for Sale.

If building permits for residents are not expedited, fire victims will be forced to sell. Everyone knows plan reviews take a long time. Once approved, the actual building takes a good while. And the number of builders is limited. Seniors like myself, or middle aged people will have no choice but to sell if permits are not expedited.

In this age of instant gratification people will not wait. I know of people making mortgage payments on properties that cannot be occupied. And they are paying rent. They are getting assistance, but that will not last forever,

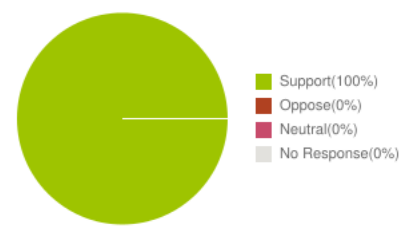
especially if there is a Republican president. If folks stop paying mortgages, the banks will repossess properties and sell them to the highest bidder.

I thank all of you for your efforts to expedite permitting and building.

Aloha,
Dominick Marino

Agenda Item: eComments for WAI-19 Bill 21 (2024) BILL 21 (2024), AMENDING CHAPTER 16.25, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO SECTION 105 PERMITS OF THE BUILDING CODE ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS (WAI-19)

Overall Sentiment



Jonathan Helton

Location:
Submitted At: 12:14pm 02-06-24

Please see attached.

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 4:20pm 02-04-24

Aloha. Please consider making owner-occupied permits the highest priority.

Feb. 8, 2024, 9 a.m.

To: Maui County Council's Committee on Water and Infrastructure

Tom Cook, Chair

Yuki Lei Sugimura, Vice-Chair

From: Joe Kent, Executive vice president

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

RE: COMMENTS IN SUPPORT of Bill 21 — RELATING TO SECTION 105 PERMITS OF THE BUILDING CODE
ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

Aloha Chair Cook, Vice-Chair Sugimura and Councilmembers,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its support for [Bill 21](#), which if enacted would reform the County's emergency housing permitting policies to help facilitate a quicker recovery for the residents of Lahaina and elsewhere on Maui who were affected by the disastrous wildfires of Aug. 8, 2023.

Overall, Bill 21 accords with the [policy memo](#) that Grassroot President and CEO Keli'i Akina sent last month to Gov. Josh Green, Mayor Richard Bissen and other state, county and federal officials, including each of you on the Maui County Council.

The memo recommended that Maui officials "amend the County's emergency permitting statute to speed up approval times, waive building permit fees and expand the types of structures to which the statute applies."¹

Thus, the Institute supports Bill 21, which indeed would expand the types of structures to which Subsection 105.2.2 of the Maui County Code applies.

Under Bill 21, the County's emergency permitting code would be broadened to cover not only the "alteration and repairs of one- and two family dwellings and accessory structures" in disaster-affected areas, but also the "reconstruction and new construction" of other types of residential structures, as well as other types of structures, such as commercial buildings — even if they were completely destroyed.

¹ Keli'i Akina, "[Re: Maui Interim Housing Plan](#)," Jan. 18, 2023, p. 3.

On the downside, Bill 21 would extend the emergency approval process from seven to 15 days, and would continue to allow only deferral rather than waiver of permit fees for residential structures.

In particular, Paragraph E of Subsection 105.2.2 currently says county building officials “may defer” all plan review and building permit fees for one- and two-family dwellings “on written request by the applicant.”²

Bill 21 would keep that language mostly intact, but would add that “permit fees for commercial structures may not be deferred,” and that “the permit fee for the reconstruction of recently built residential structures or commercial structures using previously approved construction plans may be assessed at 50% of the permit fee.”

To these points, we recommend that Paragraph E be amended to simply read:

Permit fees. The building official shall [may] waive [defer] all plan review and [building] permit fees on written request by the applicant.

As reported in Honolulu Civil Beat, many Maui residents and business owners did not have adequate insurance coverage to cover their fire-related losses, and it will be a financial struggle for them to rebuild their homes and businesses.³

Waiving all permit fees would advance the goal of reducing barriers to the construction of temporary shelters, long-term housing and businesses in Maui’s disaster-affected areas.

We thank the Council for considering this bill and welcome any dialogue with you about this topic.

Joe Kent
Executive vice president
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

² Maui County Code, [Chapter 16.25, Article 1, Section 105, Subsection 105.2.2](#), accessed Jan. 24, 2024.

³ Kristin Downey, “[Maui’s Fire Victims Are Frustrated By Insurance Hassles, Financial Delays](#),” Honolulu Civil Beat, Sept. 28, 2023.