

## AH Committee

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**From:** Trisha Higashi <tlyh808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 29, 2019 8:11 AM  
**To:** AH Committee  
**Subject:** Affordable Housing Project (Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of Makila Farms; Lahaina) AH-1(3) Sub(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 are in dire need of affordable housing. 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.

I personally am unable to afford a home as a single mother. The cost of living is very 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. I currently live paycheck to paycheck. My mother has dementia and I rent from her because I cannot afford to live on my own. I live in fear that my mom will completely lose it and I will have no place to live. This is my reality. It is extremely stressful and impacts my ability to perform my job duties on many days. Saving for a downpayment has been the biggest challenge with the cost of rent, food and preschool tuition as I do not qualify for subsidy. 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