

AH Committee

From: Van Fischer <vanfischer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 10, 2019 7:58 AM
To: AH Committee
Subject: Affordable Housing Projects Makila Farms A H 1-3

Tasha Kama, Chair – Housing Committee
Maui County Council
Kalana O Maui Building, Eight Floor
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

RE: Makila Farms AH-1 (3)

Dear Tasha Kama, Chair - Housing Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to speak at the prior hearing for Makila Farms. There were so many great speakers sharing their stories and their dream of owning a home on acreage in West Maui. As I shared in my testimony, I am one of the Realtors that will be working with the applicants should Makila Farms be approved. I have been involved since the prior application and have spent over 2 years talking to potential applicants and I have become painfully aware of the crisis facing these families. With the revisions the developer has made, there is no doubt that he has resolved all of the concerns of the prior project. No one can argue that this is not a great offering. So the question then is, why would you not approve it. Fire danger: This community will be as safe as any other community that will be constructed on the Westside. Leilani Parkway, Puukoolii Village and Pulelehua are all surrounded by fallow Ag lands and we are just going to have to work on a way to require the Ag land owners to put their land into production to reduce the fire danger. Traffic: This project will not cause any noticeable change in the volume of traffic in the area as many of these people are already commuting to the Westside. Water: No longer an issue. The most common comment I heard was wrong place. I disagree! This is not a urban project and is not urban sprawl. This is an infill of an existing Ag community with additional Ag parcels and will be surrounded on all sides by similar sized parcels. The difference is, this community will have 19 homes where local workforce families can live the dream of owning a home on the hillside overlooking the ocean with room for the kids to run and to grow their own food. It appears to me the only folks opposed to this workforce community are some of those that live in Launiupoko and don't want any change to their enclave of mansions. Launiupoko was originally envisioned as a farming community of full time residents and somehow morphed into the sea of 2nd homes and vacation rentals it is. To be clear, there are many great families living in Launiupoko, raising their kids and supporting the community. You may not see them because they are not out fighting Makila Farms. The families of Makila Farms would be a positive addition to this neighborhood and their dreams deserve your support.

Please vote yes and approve Makila Farms.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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Thanks,
Van

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