

**Testimony Before Housing Services, and Transportation Committee
Thursday, October 4, 2017
1:30 PM**

**Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez
Go Maui, Inc.**

Chair Crivello and members of the Housing Human Services and Transportation Committee.

My name is Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez, I live in Kihei and I am testifying this afternoon on behalf of Go Maui, Inc. on two items: Amendments to the Residential Workforce Housing Policy, (HHT-2 (1) and (HHT-2 (2)).

Go Maui supports passage of this both of these bills and respectfully asked that they be forwarded to the full Council for its consideration and approval as well.

As Go Maui previously testified in August and I quote:

“It is well known that affordable rentals are sadly lacking in our community contributing to overcrowding in existing rentals with doubling and tripling up to make the rent which continues to increase every year.

Of course, the solution is to build more rentals and affordable housing. So every positive change to encourage more units (that) we can make to existing regulations is a step in the right direction.”

This legislation is not designed to solve the entire problem of affordable workforce rentals but it does demonstrate a willingness to explore all options available to us and we encourage the committee to endorse this course of action.

Finally, Go Maui offers its appreciation to the Committee, the Council, and the Mayor and to Director Reiman and her staff for all of your collective efforts to work on this problem until it is solved.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify this afternoon.

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