

AH Committee

From: Tiare Parsons <snosraprose@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, August 29, 2019 9:41 AM
To: AH Committee
Subject: Affordable Housing Project (Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of Makila Farms; Lahaina) AH-1(3) Sub(3)

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

RE: Support Makila Farms!

Dear Chair Kama,

My name is Tiare and I am in support of the Makila Farms program.

I was born and raised here on Maui. As a single mom with a good job earning a decent wage, I have had extreme difficulty in the last 5+ years finding an affordable, clean and kid friendly place to live. In the last 5 years I have moved 7 times. Many landlords are charging outrageous prices that they are constantly raising and pack as many people on to one property as possible which can easily turn into an unhealthy environment for any one, much less a family raising kids.

I grew up on a half-acre lot that my grandparents owned in North Kihei. We had many fruit trees and a small herb and vegetable garden along with several pets including a couple that were raised for food. It is very important to me to teach my son the same way of life I was raised with. It gives a family a sense of accomplishment and security to be able to provide these small things for yourself and it teaches children responsibly and discipline.

Four years ago, I was forced to give up my 12-year-old dog that I had since he was born because I was unable to find an affordable rental that allowed pets. My son and I were devastated at this loss as this dog was part of our family. But, even if we were able to keep the dog, none of the houses or apartments we found had any type of outdoor living space or yards for people or animals. Living on such a beautiful island and not being able to enjoy the outdoors at your own home is not fair. The fact that these homes will be on 2 acre lots that allows for agricultural activity is incredible!

I think the Makila Farms Project is a great step in the right direction to providing the families of Maui the opportunity to raise our kids the way we were raised. It will teach them the importance of self-sufficiency and give them the freedom to run around in their own backyards instead of cooped up in small apartment.

I have been following this project since its beginning and listening to both sides for and against the project. In my opinion it seems that Brown Development has been listening the concerns of the community and is taking great measures to ensure their plan not only addresses these concerns but also takes it a step further to improve upon all systems. The don't want to take the water from the streams so they are digging their own well. They want to prevent run off into the oceans so they are building large retention basins. They don't want to pollute the ground with typical septic systems so they are installing "Clean Systems" that treat the waste to the standards of non-potable water. They do not want a fire hazard so they are providing more hydrants than are required.

This project gives people like me hope that I can be a homeowner and raise my family in a safe space without the threat of cost of rent rising and being forced to leave. Id like to see the people of Maui thrive here... on Maui!

Thank You,

Tiare Parsons