

LU Committee

From: Surina Shankar <sshanka2@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 12:28 PM
To: LU Committee
Subject: Makila Kai Bill 67

Aloha County Council,

I would like to express my gratitude to the County Council for passing the main resolution approving the Makila Kai project in June of this year. I humbly ask that you also approve the district boundary amendment so that development which will benefit the workforce of Maui can proceed.

I have been living in the Hawaiian Islands for 15 years. My initial career was as a Social Worker and I have worked for multiple non-profits serving Hawaii's families and youth on Oahu and Maui, including Imua Family Services. Three years ago, I changed careers and became a full-time-teacher at Maui High School. I continue to serve our youth and their families. I am devoted to Maui and serving its communities. Unfortunately, I, like many working-class residents, frequently consider the overwhelming challenges of buying a home on Maui with median home prices over 700,000 and have to consider returning to the mainland where the cost of living and income are not so sadly misaligned.

I find it discouraging that regressive zoning laws have made it so difficult for developers to build affordable housing on Maui, meanwhile, it is easy to build mansions that the working class families are immediately priced out of. Working class peers and especially teachers are leaving in droves because they cannot afford to live here. We desperately need workforce housing on this island, so that we can keep the diversity of the islands intact and keep the people on Maui who fill the vital careers we all depend on. I do not want to see Makila Kai become another stalled project, especially since it could be a dream-come-true for a luck 25 working class families.

Brown Development is allowing the lottery winner to choose the size of their new home regardless of the income bracket they fall into and in addition, they are providing a \$50,000 financial gift from Brown Development for all workforce homebuyers. Homes will be on ½ acre lots and approximately 50 percent of the area will be in greenbelt, park, open space, and setback areas to foster a rural community character. Makila Kai will have its own non-potable agricultural well and the ability to tank and store its water, so the rest of the valley's water is not affected by the new residents. Makila Kai will not use water from Launiupoko Stream or the Launiupoko Irrigation Company. Potable (drinking) water will be from Launiupoko Water Company, whose source is 3 wells that have more than sufficient capacity for Makila Kai, existing homes, and future users. Brown Development will construct oversized retention basins that will: Catch and retain runoff from both Makila Kai and the mauka subdivision to improve current run-off conditions and protect Launiupoko Beach Park.

I again humbly ask that you approve the district boundary amendment so that this development which will benefit the workforce of Maui can proceed.

Mahalo,

Surina Shankar

LU Committee

From: ryan monico <ryanmonico@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 1:15 PM
To: LU Committee
Subject: Makila Kai Bill 67
Attachments: Makila Kai Testimony_November 1_2017_Ryan Monico.docx

Maui County Council,

Please find attached my written testimony in support of Makila Kai.

Mahalo,

Ryan Monico

Aloha Maui County Council,

My name is Ryan Monico. I was born and raised here in Hawaii. I am originally from Oahu and moved to Maui four years ago when my wife got a job helping children with special needs at Imua Family Services. I am so glad that we made the move because I fell in love with the island right away. My wife always jokes with our friends and family back on Oahu that I became a Maui Boy instantly. It's for good reason. Living here on Maui reminds me of what living in Hawaii used to feel like when I was growing up--you can still sense the aloha spirit.

When we moved here four years ago rent here was much more affordable than Oahu. In fact we thought that we could actually afford to buy a home here, but in four years a lot has changed. Rent and housing prices are through the roof, and we no longer feel like we can afford to live here.

Then we found out about Makila Kai. Finally, a project that we could afford. We were hopeful that Makila Kai would soon be in the works, especially since the main resolution was passed by the County Council in June. We had followed all of the steps needed to be eligible for a home. We even testified in front of the council. We would soon find out if we would be picked to purchase a home that was affordable and where we could grow our family.

Then we waited for the lottery date to be set, but that day never came. Instead, we received devastating news--Makila Kai would be put on hold until the zoning laws could be revisited and another hearing set.

While we waited, we were forced to move after four years because our landlords wanted to renovate and charge more for rent. In fact we are moving this Saturday, November 4, 2017. We were lucky because 4 years ago rent was affordable. Today, finding an affordable place to rent that is decent is like finding a diamond in the rough.

It is discouraging because it seems like many affordable housing projects face steep opposition and hurdles before they can proceed. Meanwhile, market price and multi-million dollar homes are more easily built leaving many working class families priced out of the market.

Maui County Council, I know that I speak for my wife as well when I say this, we humbly ask from the bottom our hearts that you approve the district boundary amendment so that Makila Kai can move forward, and working class families like ours have a chance to have an affordable place to call home.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Ryan Monico

LU Committee

From: Sandrella <sandrella77@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 31, 2017 2:07 PM
To: LU Committee
Subject: Makila Kai Bill 67
Attachments: Makila Kai Bill 67.pdf

For your consideration, council members.

Sent from my iPad

Makila Kai Bill 67

Sandra Rivas
1870 Limahana Circle
G201
Lahaina, HI 96761
sandrella77@aol.com

October 30, 2017

Aloha County of Maui Council Members,

I would like to introduce myself, my name is Sandra Rivas. I am a school teacher at King Kamehameha III Elementary School. I have been teaching for the Hawai'i Department of Education for 10 plus years. I would like for all the council members to please consider approving the Makila Kai workforce project. It is my goal to make the "American Dream" of owning a home a reality. Unfortunately, this dream is not a reality for many residents of Hawai'i, specially teachers. There is a great need for affordable housing in the state of Hawai'i, specifically on the island of Maui, and even more so in Lahaina.

Many residents of Launiupoko are against this project due to the limited water supply and the traffic it will add to the area. I feel that these two arguments are invalid because Makila Kai will not take water from the stream or Launiupoko Irrigation Company. Also, 25 families will no longer need to drive to and from the other side of the island to get to work, and/or these residents, myself included, already live in Lahaina. I would like to prompt the residents of Launiupoko that oppose this project for the reasons previously stated to refocus their arguments on a bill that prohibits short-term vacation rentals and residential pools in the Launiupoko area.

Currently, the requirements for affordable housing developments on Maui have been that they will remain affordable for the duration of 5 to 10 years. As we speak, Spencer homes in Waikapu are reselling for 600,000+, no longer affordable for Maui residents. Brown Development will mandate that these home remain affordable for **30 years!** A win for Maui residents that work on the westside of Maui.

Please note that my profession has a high turnover rate on Maui, mainly because teachers in Hawai'i are paid the lowest when compared to other states, also the cost of living is way above the national average. Please approve this project and keep a dedicated teacher, and resident of Hawai'i on Maui.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sandra Rivas". The script is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and a long, sweeping underline.

Sandra Rivas