

AH Committee

From: Ben Castillon <b.castillon@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 31, 2019 2:33 PM
To: AH Committee
Subject: Affordable Housing Projects (Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of the Makila Farms Project (Lahaina)) Agenda Item AH-1 (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)

Aloha,

My name is Benjamin Castillon Junior. I was born and raised in Hawaii as well as my 8 children. I have been in the masonry and swimming pool business since I was a teenager. Growing up my parents would jump back and forth between islands. Basically moving where ever there was work and they could afford to live. After living on Oahu for many years we finally moved back to Maui for good before I started high school. Almost 50 years later I am blessed to be still living on Maui today.

Here on Maui I own a swimming pool business with my oldest daughter. 3 of my sons work for me as well as my son in law and my youngest brother. 2 of my other children work for different construction companies on Maui. Work has been busier then ever and we are so grateful for all the job opportunities that come our way. As I am sure you can imagine majority of our work comes from higher end homes and brand new builds.

50 years in this business and it hurts me to say that we still rent our house we live in. Out of all my 8 children, none of them own their own house. My son Travis is the first and only to be paying mortgage on a place he just got this past year. \$700,000 later he will own it. Until then he is paying ridiculous mortgage and working his butt of to make sure he can afford his payments. My other 7 children all rent their homes or live with family. After all these years I finally got a chance to purchase a piece of property in Wailuku. The down fall... there is NO house. So until we pay off our massive mortgage for the land, we are not able to build in this community.

This opportunity that Mikila Farms would be offering for workforce homes is something that we feel should be required in areas like these. I work in Lahaina in these subdivisions every single week building pools and spas for luxury homes in this area. There is NO chance any of my children would be able to purchase a place like this. But we all work, every single day, building for who? Mainland people who can afford it... and majority of them they purchase for their personal vacation rentals. My company is grateful for the work but I would be forever grateful knowing EVERY SINGLE ONE OF MY CHILDREN would qualify to apply for these work force homes. Not one, but all 8. Also my employees would all qualify to apply as well! Out of my 10+ employees, only 1 own their own home.

I have worked for Brown Development for many years. I know Greg personally. When I got my swimming pool license he flourished my company with work. He could have looked elsewhere, shopped around or hired a cheaper company from the mainland. Instead he hired us, a trusted local & family operated company to build all his swimming pools. He provided and continues to provide so much work for my family and my crew. He supports local companies! I can name a dozen developers who DO NOT!

If there was anyone that could make this happen it's Greg Brown with Brown Development. I fully support Mikila Farms and pray that there will be many more opportunities for hard working families to thrive and get what they deserve!

Thank you
Ben C