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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 28, 2025

Mr. Richard E. "Remi" Mitchell, Director
Department of Housing
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

SUBJECT: BILL 90 (2023), UTILITY LINES AND FACILITIES
(WAI-12)

Bill 90's purpose is to amend Section 18.20.140, Maui County Code, to expand the requirements for the undergrounding of utility lines in all subdivisions, with limited exceptions.

May I please request your written response to the following as it relates to Bill 90's potential impacts on subdivisions, particularly on workforce housing developments:

1. Will the mandatory undergrounding of utility lines increase development costs for workforce housing projects? If so, are there any anticipated mitigation strategies or financial assistance programs to offset these costs?
2. If approved, how might Bill 90 affect the approval process for developers who are working within budget constraints to provide affordable housing?
3. What is the Department's plan to have discussions with public utility companies regarding the feasibility of implementing underground requirements in a timely and cost-effective manner, specifically in existing and planned workforce housing developments?

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4. Please provide a list of exemptions or alternatives for workforce housing projects in cases where the undergrounding of utility lines may not be feasible due to financial or infrastructural constraints.

Additionally, I will ensure that your Department is invited to participate in future Committee meeting discussions on Bill 90.

May I further request you transmit your response to wai.committee@mauicounty.us by **March 13, 2025**. To ensure efficient processing, please include WAI-12 in the subject line.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Keone Hurdle at ext. 7659, or Lori Ann Tengan at ext. 7147).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Cook".

TOM COOK, Chair
Water and Infrastructure Committee

wai:ltr:012aho01:kjh

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Deputy Director of Housing