

AH Committee

From: manutea09 <mapuanas@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, August 31, 2019 10:03 AM
To: AH Committee
Subject: Affordable Housing Project (Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of Makila Farms; Lahaina) AH-1(3) Sub(3)
Attachments: Makila Farms Testimony letter.pdf

Aloha!

Please see attached my testimony letter in support of the Makila Farms project!

Mahalo,
Mapuana Samonte

August 31, 2019

Aloha,

My name is Mapuana Samonte, I am a small business owner/ and Kumu Hula.

Mahalo for the opportunity to enter my testimony today in support of the Makila Farms Residential Workforce Housing Project.

Born and raised in the town of Lahaina. I was a resident (Renting) there for more than 32 years. I currently reside in Wailuku, due to the lack of inventory and fair cost of rental housing, I was forced to move to Central Maui for the past 5 years since then because it is substantially more affordable for me.

I am the sole provider for my family.

I have a unique situation that I would like to share, as a person of part Hawaiian Ancestry. And I would like to speak on behalf of those that DO NOT qualify for the 50% blood quantum to acquire DHHL, or Hawaiian Homelands. 2 years ago, my elderly mother, 86 years of age and 48.5% Hawaiian mother passed away on the DHHL list, which was our only chance to acquire affordable home ownership at the time. We were kept on that waitlist in case the laws change where the blood quantum is LESS than 50%. She was 86 years old and had been on the waitlist since **1982!**

Unfortunately, we will not be able to remain as candidates on the list as beneficiaries since her death.

Makila Farms is an opportunity for Hawaiian families like ours to acquire affordable homes in West Maui where we grew up and would like to continue to grow our genealogy and to reside in the area of the island that we know as home.

I like all the features of this project and feel the developer has revised their plan to comply with the components that were challenged before.

Please pass Makila Farms!

Aloha & Mahalo for your consideration,

Mapuana Samonte

Kapehehula.com