

Dear Chair Couch and members of the Planning Committee,

My name is Stan Franco. I am a co-chair of the Face Maui's Housing Committee. We believe that affordable housing is the biggest problem facing Maui County. So we support this proposal to allow ohana units on 5000 square foot lots. There may be objections that this allows overcrowding in residential communities. Families are currently struggling when their loved ones cannot afford to rent or buy housing and ask to move in with mom and dad or grandpa and grandma. This will allow families to make room for their family members who cannot afford to rent or buy because of our high housing costs.

We all have been talking about finding multiple approaches to affordable housing for our people. Developers have complained that developing vacant land is too costly and therefore they cannot build affordable housing because it does not pencil out.

So allowing the building of ohana units on 5000 square foot lots on already developed properties is one of the solutions to the affordable housing problem in Maui County.

My question is why should we not take this step for our people?

Thank you.