

HHT Committee

From: Anna Barbeau <annamaui2008@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, December 01, 2016 9:20 AM
To: HHT Committee
Subject: CRISES at Front St. Apartments/Lahaina

Aloha, and please review the following situation. We at Front St. Apts. have been informed that within 3 years there stands a possibility that the voting, tax paying residents here may very well be forced out of our rentals by rental increases beyond our means. We are of the work force for whom this AFFORDABLE HOUSING complex was built (in exchange for the development of the Cannery Mall). Created (Weinberg Foundation) in 2001 for the growing work force as AFFORDABLE HOUSING, it was termed as such for 50 years, thereby allowing the retired tenants to have a secure situation as well. We have been informed that at a 15 year re-negotiation meeting, the leasehold land under the complex (part of the Weinburg Foundation) was offered for purchase to the State/County, it was rejected!!! allowing a private investor access for purchase, who could then began a 'force-out' of the current tenants through rent increases. Then, either sell, or rent to new tenants at costs un-affordable for the average working, voting, tax paying Maui resident. This cannot be allowed. The Weinberg Foundation is foremost about assisting Maui residents. Also, at time of occupancy, it was understood that there stood a 50 year term as AFFORDABLE HOUSING. Alan Arakawa addressed the homeless problem in a Nov. 22, 2016 meeting aired on public television and spoke on getting the homeless into homes and the high cost of services for the un-housed.. this situation will potentially ADD TO THE HOMELESS problem by our own government not purchasing the property from their funds which we all pay into, which would in the long run, be less costly than to have an entire 143 unit complex of families, singles, and retirees be forced out.

At bare minimum, a clear headed rent control must be instituted for this complex, and/or at BEST Grandfather in the current residents, and as a unit is vacated, then, and only then, could the high costs be attached to a new move in. It is unconscionable to do otherwise. Please address this serious concern that has all residents in inner turmoil.