

## AH Committee

---

**From:** Surina Shankar <surinashankar808teacher@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 30, 2019 5:16 PM  
**To:** AH Committee  
**Subject:** Affordable Housing Project (Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of Makila Farms PROJECT (LAHAINA)) (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)

Dear Tasha Kama, Chair - Housing Committee

I have been living in the Hawaiian Islands for 15 years. In my first career, as a Social Worker, I worked for multiple non-profits serving Hawaii's families and youth on Oahu and Maui, including Family Programs Hawaii, Easter Seals, and Imua Family Services. Five years ago, I changed careers and became a full-time-teacher at Maui High School. I continue to serve our youth and their families. However, like many working-class residents, I frequently consider the overwhelming challenges of buying a home on Maui. With median home prices well over 700,000, I continuously have to consider returning to the mainland where the cost of living and income are not so sadly misaligned. PLEASE, West Maui Community Planning Action Committee (CPAC), DO NOT DELAY this or any other project that has any affordable housing in West Maui. We are in a housing crisis, and the workforce of Maui need affordable housing NOW.

Please support Makila Farms to help address the critical lack of workforce homes on Maui. Makila Farms is a one-of-a-kind project that will provide workforce housing to buyers earning 50 to 100 percent of the median income. Buyers like myself, teachers, police officers, firefighters will be able to afford these homes. The homes will be on two-acre lots allowing for simultaneous improvements regarding Maui's agricultural

needs and workforce housing needs. Additionally, these homes will be affordable for 30 years, which goes above and beyond the code requirements of 5-10 years. Nineteen lucky recipients will be able to choose the size of their home so that they can afford one no matter their family size.

Makila Farms has addressed former community concerns and is no longer requesting exemptions to existing land use designations or boundary amendments. The development conforms with agricultural zoning development standards, and it will not use any stream water or conventional septic tanks. Makila Farms has considered both fire safety and drainage and protection of ocean water. They are maintaining 80 percent open space, preserving views by only building single-story homes, and will not allow short term rentals or further subdivision.

Makila Farms is the development made for the workforce of Maui. It provides homes on agricultural lots, meeting both the need for workforce housing and the need for diversified agriculture on Maui. Once again, I plead with the Maui County Council to continue to support Makila Farms so that the workforce of Maui can afford to stay on Maui.

Mahalo,

Surina Shankar