

June 19, 2019

Maui Council Members

Subject: Support for Workforce Housing

Aloha, Council Members,

I am Lori Gomez-Karinen, a retired educator for three years after being a teacher, curriculum specialist for 47 and 1/2 years. I am a product of Lahaina, born and bred, growing up during the Plantation Era. It is from this vantage point that I give testimony for affordable housing.

I grew up in the Plantation homes which were provided by Pioneer Mill Inc. for their workers in the field, offices, and mill at rental fees that matched their modest wages. As Tourism and Hospitality grew to be the robust industry it is today, the need for affordable homes became more and more pronounced. The hotels as a hui, a group, did provide some land for affordable homes to be built.

Unfortunately, the need for affordable housing is still of dire urgency. I am speaking also today for the teachers, the educators, who elect to teach in Hawaii and who find it difficult to make a living here in Hawaii. We have lost so many excellent teachers/educators from the 70's to our current times. In addition, we have lost so many of our children who have had to leave their beloved homeland in order to make a living. There are so many who are living on the mainland with deeds to their own homes. Homes they could not afford here in Lahaina.

We are taught, spiritually, that affliction produces endurance; endurance produces character; and character produces hope. Hope does not disappoint. It is with great hope and prayers that you consider supporting ~~our Workforce Housing~~. Affordable Housing^{which} will keep the workforce from the Hotels, Businesses, Education, Healthcare, Police, and many more who make up our community the ability to remain here on Maui ~~No Kūʻōi~~.

I implore ^{you to} ~~you to~~ Malama pono: →

Thank you for your time and consideration. "Malama pono": Do what is right. *Let the process follow the law of the land. ~~Malama pono~~ and Hawai. culture.*

Warm aloha,

Lori Gomez-Karinen
Lori

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~~Avoid fast-tracking!~~ *Do what is pono.*

and engage in smart planning.

Mahalo!

~~and fast-track~~ Malama pono.