

AH Committee

From: Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez <tominmaui@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 04, 2019 7:41 AM
To: AH Committee
Subject: Makila Farms Support Testimony--Joan E. Martin
Attachments: Joan Martin Testimony 9-4-19.docx

Good afternoon Chair and County Council Members. My name is Joan Martin, I live in Kihei, and I'm testifying today as an individual citizen in support of the Makila Farms project.

I've been concerned with the need for affordable housing in Maui County for the past 15 years. For many years I was in the Maui Nui Housing Task Force and had the opportunity to learn what a complex issue housing can be.

While there are numerous details to debate, the real issue is that hard working people here in Maui County want to stay here to be close to their families and the market has priced them out of the opportunity to buy their own homes. It seems like every week we hear the heartbreaking news of a friend or family member moving to the mainland and many times it's because they can't buy their own home here. Rents are also increasing at the same time.

I've seen a lot of projects proposed over the years and I believe that Makila Farms has more to offer our community than most.

The proposed workforce homes start at \$161,700. This is truly affordable. I haven't seen another project that provides homes for single workers or that has the ability to add additional bedrooms and bathrooms as families grow and their needs change.

The homes will be affordable for 30 years. People won't be able to buy and flip the homes pocketing the profit.

The homes are on 2 acre lots. This will provide people with room for children to play and space for neighbors to get together and nurture a community.

The development will have its own well, fire hydrants placed every 350 feet and multiple existing emergency routes. These are all important for a well-planned neighborhood.

But please keep in mind what you have the opportunity to do here today and that is to keep families near each other, give children the chance to know and love their grandparents and siblings the ability to stay close throughout their lives.

I hesitate to make predictions but, in this case, I guarantee that the people you put into homes today will come back and thank you for many years – not just with their words but with their hearts.

Respectfully, I ask that you support the Makila Farms project.

Thank you.

Good afternoon Chair and County Council Members. My name is Joan Martin, I live in Kihei, and I'm testifying today as an individual citizen in support of the Makila Farms project.

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