

HLU Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Monday, June 2, 2025 8:33 AM
To: HLU Committee
Subject: FW: Short term vacation rentals

From: Linda Stirling <lindastirling@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, May 31, 2025 3:15 PM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Short term vacation rentals

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My name is Linda Stirling. Thank you for the opportunity to give my testimony about the proposed phasing out of short term vacation rental units on Maui. My husband and I own one short term vacation rental unit in Kihei at Maui Kamaole [2777 South Kihei Road](#). We hope for more affordable housing to be built on the island of Maui. We strongly oppose the proposed solution of phasing out the short term rental units like those at Maui Kamaole that were built with short term visitors in mind.

Each month our unit hosts on average three families who come to Maui. Those families eat at Fred's, the 808 deli, and other local restaurants. They start the day walking down to Beach Street shave ice for breakfast. On the weekend they buy produce and locally made crafts at the farmers markets in Kihei and Kahului. We suggest all these activities and get feedback from our guests about how much they enjoy doing these things, how welcome they are made to feel at the farmers markets, and enjoy knowing they are buying local rather than "corporate".

One of my concerns with the reduction of short term rental units in my area is the significant reduction of purchases that will be made here locally. That will mean less jobs, and probably young people moving off island to find employment opportunities on the main land or elsewhere.

Each month our unit pays local maintenance people (plumbers, electricians, painters, independent cleaners) on average \$650 per month. Our property maintenance fees which pay grounds keepers, managers, assistant managers, etc is \$1325 per month. Our property tax rate is \$833 per month. The GET/TAT/MCTAT monthly payment averages \$1255. So every month one unit like ours is contributing \$4063 locally. That doesn't take into account the money spent locally by each vacationer (boat tours, dinners out, etc)

Our unit as a permanent home is big enough for 3 people at most (that's with one of those people not having a closet or a bedroom). One parking space. If that family has any belongings other than clothing (camping gear, fishing gear, art supplies, sports equipment) good luck finding a place to store it. There is one closet that's in the one bedroom.

I think new construction of units with families' needs in mind is the solution to the current housing shortfall. Build thoughtful units that make families feel comfortably at home. It's not surprising that

families offered units for free in the Maui Kamaole complex declined with the response “this does not meet our needs”. Our unit, and many other units in Kihei were built with other uses in mind, for a short term guest bringing very few belongings in a small living space.

Please accept my testimony as being strongly opposed to the elimination of short term rentals on properties such as Maui Kamaole that were not built with the needs of local families in mind. I don’t want to see future visitors to Maui only staying out in the Wailea/Makena hotels, eating in the corporate run restaurants, shopping in the hotel gift shops, lining the pockets of Blackstone Real Estate Corporation.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my opinions and concerns. I know your task is challenging and often thankless. It is so important that as the people chosen to guide Maui’s future you make wise decisions and I thank you.

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Linda