

## AH Committee

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**From:** cndylst@aol.com  
**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2019 1:40 PM  
**To:** AH Committee  
**Subject:** Affordable Housing Project (Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes) (Independent Development of Makila Farms; Lahaina) AH-1(3) Sub(3)

Chair Tasha Kama – Housing Committee  
Maui County Council  
Kalana O Maui Building, Eight Floor  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

RE: Support Makila Farms!

Dear Chair Kama,

My name is Cindy Lester, and I am in full support of the Affordable Housing Project, Makila Farms in Launiupoko. I have followed this project for the past couple of years and have seen the changes and this final plan covers all the issues that have come before. Water, Septic, Road egress and drainage basins have all been included in this new plan. I would hope that the neighborhood would welcome this plan. Affordable home ownership should be available to more Maui residents as they are the backbone to our Tourist Industry.

I am a resident of Maui for over 40 years and have seen this island expand over the years. We do not have enough affordable housing to help the local residents remain here. I have seen friends and family move off island as they just can't find housing.

In 1986, I rented a studio in Kihei for \$300/mo. That same studio now rents for over \$1,800. The rental market is so small and the amount of people trying for these rentals far exceed the availability.

We have open space on Maui that we could utilize for affordable homes, not just in Lahaina, but all over the island.

I was proud to be a part of the Self Help Hawaii program in 2001. 45 families were able to move in to 3 – 4 bedroom homes in Kihei. We had to work hard building these homes but now 18 years later, I am still in my home, along with my daughter and grandson (because they cannot find affordable housing).

Maui needs to open its mind to more affordable housing project. Makila Farms will give 19 LUCKY families the opportunity to live/farm their own property. There is pride in home ownership, some of us just need that chance.

Sincerely,

Cindy Lester