

County Clerk

From: Buck Joiner <buck@tiki.net>
Sent: Monday, February 26, 2024 8:07 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Council meeting February 28th, Bill 41, support

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3443 Malina Place, Kihei, HI 96753 DEAF no phone calls buck@tiki.net November 26, 2024

Bill 41 (2024) Support

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Dear Council Members

I encourage you to approve Bill 41 which will allow for the removal of 30,000 cubic yards of dirt/silt from the Kulanihakoi drain way mauka of South Kihei Road. This should dramatically improve the repetitive flooding of that area at a fraction of the total cost of the task.

Yours truly

Buck Joiner

Lifetime motto and commitment
Here to Help
Principles: Integrity, Commitment, Energy, Vision



REALTORS® ASSOCIATION
OF MAUI, INC.

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Council Chair Alice Lee
and Members of the Maui County Council
200 South High Street, Council Chamber
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Aloha Council Chair Lee and Councilmembers:

My comments today are on behalf of the Realtors Association of Maui, regarding Bill 21, CD1 (2024), (Bill 21) the purpose, in summary, is to consolidate and expedite the applications of electrical, plumbing, driveway and grading for emergency building permits.

Any effort to expedite the processing of building permits is a very positive step in the recovery efforts. Providing survivors the opportunity to move forward with getting their lives back in order will help the healing process.

Accordingly, Bill 21, attached to Committee Report 24-28, from the Water and Infrastructure Committee focuses on building permits for electrical, plumbing, driveway and grading permits, in Title 16, Maui County Code (MCC). Which presents the question, what about planning, zoning, water, solid waste and wastewater applications? These are all processes that will potentially add to the review time for construction permits. The bill allows the building official to approve the "application without sending it to other reviewing departments." Furthermore, the bill defines "reviewing departments" as "any state or county department referenced in Section 16.25.105.3.1," which does not include Titles 19 or 20 of MCC, planning, zoning, solid waste and wastewater.

May I call to your attention a Civil Beat article dated February 22, 2024, regarding the Ohana Hope Village project, consisting of 88 units of modular homes built to house approximately 350 wildfire survivors. The project is impressive in that the modular units were expedited to Maui from Hungary with construction starting days after the fires, but the units have yet to be occupied. The article further states that "the project has been bogged down in mundane details, namely permitting obstacles and access to water."

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The project being "bogged down by permitting and access to water" is not the perception we wish to project as a County. A preferred scenario should have been that the County is an integral partner in resolving the issues facing the project.

So, even though we support Bill 21 and its intent, we ask the question: does it go far enough? It appears that the matters facing the Ohana Hope Village Project would not be resolved by Bill 21, because it does not address waste, wastewater or water issues.

Therefore, what are we doing to expedite the processing of planning, zoning, water, or wastewater applications and related issues? We realize issues like water are based on availability and wastewater may hinge on access or capacity, the County's role should not be the bearer of bad news, the County should take an active role to be part of the solution, especially as it relates to helping our wildfire survivors.

Accordingly, we support the passage of Bill 21 on first reading and applaud its intent. Furthermore, we respectfully request the Council and the Administration take the necessary steps to legislate and administer expediting the planning, zoning, water, solid waste and wastewater applications, inclusive of assisting in water and wastewater access issues. Now more than ever, it's time to expedite all aspects of the rebuilding process, especially as more and more properties are being cleaned and cleared in Lahaina. Let's take the lead as a County to assist families in expediting the rebuilding of their homes.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. Should you have any questions please contact me at 808 243-8585 or gary@ramauai.com

Sincerely,



Gary Saldana

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2024 FEB 27 AM 10:10
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Feb. 28, 2024, 9 a.m.

Maui County Council Chamber

To: Maui County Council

Alice Lee, Chair

Yuki Lei Sugimura, Vice-Chair

From: Joe Kent, Executive vice president

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

RE: COMMENTS IN SUPPORT of Bill 21, Draft 2 — RELATING TO SECTION 105 PERMITS OF THE BUILDING CODE
ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

Aloha Chair Cook, Vice-Chair Sugimura and Council Members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its support for [Bill 21, Draft 2](#), which if enacted would reform the County's emergency housing permitting policies to help facilitate a quicker recovery for the residents of Lahaina and elsewhere on Maui who were affected by the disastrous wildfires of Aug. 8, 2023.

Overall, Bill 21 accords with the [policy memo](#) that Grassroot President and CEO Keli'i Akina sent last month to Gov. Josh Green, Mayor Richard Bissen and other state, county and federal officials, including each of you on the Maui County Council.

The memo recommended that Maui officials "amend the County's emergency permitting statute to speed up approval times, waive building permit fees and expand the types of structures to which the statute applies."¹

Thus, the Institute supports Bill 21, which indeed would expand the types of structures to which Subsection 105.2.2 of the Maui County Code applies.

Under Bill 21, the County's emergency permitting code would be broadened to cover not only the "alteration and repairs of one- and-two family dwellings and accessory structures" in disaster-affected areas, but also the "reconstruction and new construction" of other types of residential structures, as well as other types of structures, such as commercial buildings — even if they were completely destroyed.

¹ Keli'i Akina, "[Re: Maui Interim Housing Plan](#)," Grassroot Institute of Hawaii, Jan. 18, 2023, p. 3.

On the downside, Bill 21 would extend the emergency approval process from seven to 15 days, and would continue to allow only deferral rather than waiver of permit fees for residential structures.

In particular, Paragraph E of Subsection 105.2.2 currently says county building officials “may defer” all plan review and building permit fees for one- and two-family dwellings “on written request by the applicant.”²

Bill 21 would keep that language mostly intact, but would add that “permit fees for commercial structures may not be deferred,” and that “the permit fee for the reconstruction of recently built residential structures or commercial structures using previously approved construction plans may be assessed at 50% of the permit fee.”

We thank the Council for considering this bill and welcome any dialogue with you about this topic.

Joe Kent
Executive vice president
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

² Maui County Code, [Chapter 16.25, Article 1, Section 105, Subsection 105.2.2](#), accessed Jan. 24, 2024.