



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

Maui County Council
Alice L. Lee, Chair
Yuki Lei Sugimura, Vice Chair
Members of the Maui County Council

March 8, 2024

SUPPORT Bill 34, CD1 (2024) "AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET: APPENDIX A, PART II, AFFORDABLE HOUSING FUND (HALE PILINA)" (BFED-81)

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Sugimura and members of the Council,

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like to **SUPPORT Bill 34, CD1 (2024)**.

Housing is a top priority for the Maui Chamber of Commerce and continues to be so as the crisis escalates following the wildfires and it directly impacts businesses and our economic revitalization. Before the wildfires, we needed over 10,000 units by 2025, but that number has only increased as 3% of our housing was lost in Lahaina. Urgent funding and strong political support are critical to have units built expeditiously as prices to build are continuing to increase. There is a strong demand for affordable rental housing for working families and this bill will help the development of more rental housing this year.

The Chamber understands the urgent need for housing to be rebuilt in Lahaina and supports projects in that area when they are ready to be funded and built. The project in this bill will be shovel ready by the end of this year and will be located near existing utilities, which is important. The project has already raised significant funding to move this project forward and is only asking the County to help fund under 10% of the overall project costs, while addressing County priorities with the various AMI levels this project will serve. We need affordable housing in all areas of Maui County and there are some projects more ready to go than others. Any housing built will relieve the pressure throughout the island.

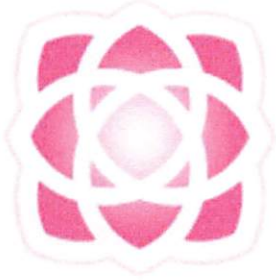
This project will get 177 families into much needed affordable housing in the very near future.

For these reasons we urge that **Bill 34, CD1 (2024) be passed today**.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

Maui County Council
Alice L. Lee, Chair
Yuki Lei Sugimura, Vice Chair
Members of the Maui County Council

March 8, 2024

SUPPORT for BILL 21 (2024), AMENDING CHAPTER 16.25, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO SECTION 105 PERMITS OF THE BUILDING CODE ADMINISTRATIVE AND SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice Chair Sugimura and members of the Council,

The Maui Chamber of Commerce would like to **SUPPORT Bill 21 (2024)**.

Housing is a top priority for the Maui Chamber of Commerce and continues to be so as the crisis escalates following the wildfires and it directly impacts businesses and our economic revitalization. Before the wildfires, we needed over 10,000 units by 2025, but that number has only increased as 3% of our housing was lost in Lahaina. Urgent funding and strong political support are critical to have units built expeditiously as prices to build are continuing to increase.

The Chamber notes that following the August 2023 wildfires, the County's permitting agencies formed an Expedited Permitting Working Group to assess their respective permit processing responsibilities and address the needs for rebuilding in Lahaina and Upcountry and that the Director of Public Works said under the emergency repair permit process, a modified application is created to establish a special permit class. This separation enables the Department and other County agencies to track modified applications and make it easier to prioritize reviews.

We feel that this will definitely help to expedite permits needed to repair properties in Lahaina and Kula. Thus, this will help get residents back in their homes and businesses back in their locations sooner than the normal process allows.

For these reasons we urge that **Bill 21 (2024) be passed** as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



Aloha Maui County Council Members,

In considering Bill 34, Lahaina Strong agrees that we are in dire need of affordable housing island wide. While it's very unfortunate that Lahaina wasn't considered this time around given the devastation that occurred on August 8th, 2023, Lahaina Strong understands the importance of continuing with current plans for affordable housing across the island such as Hale Pilina. However we urge the council to consider a few things going into this next budget session:

1. The housing emergency in West Maui must be prioritized and not overlooked. Let's not forget roughly 10,000 people lost their homes in just one day and Lahaina lost 8 government subsidized housing developments.
2. Consider West Maui's affordable housing projects previously proposed North of Lāhainā in the upcoming conversations for the next budget year.

The need for affordable housing in West Maui existed long before the recent fire. Following the fire we've witnessed hundreds of families evicted from hotels, and hundreds more leave Maui. Constructing affordable housing as soon as possible is needed to prevent further displacement. Now more so, the greatest community need lies in providing long-term affordable housing solutions for the residents of West Maui many of whom are still displaced post-fire with no stable housing solutions.

By directing the future affordable housing budget towards addressing this pressing need in West Maui, we can ensure the well-being and stability for not only the Lahaina fire victims but the people of Maui.

Therefore, we firmly believe that West Maui currently holds the greatest need for affordable housing and we hope the next time around Lahaina is prioritized.

Sincerely,

Jordan Ruidas, Courtney Lazo, Pā'ele Kiakona

Lahaina Strong

County Clerk

From: Lei <hulalei24@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 7, 2024 8:15 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Affordable

[You don't often get email from hulalei24@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

To who it may concern,

Due to the future of our islands, being the condition of the West side of Maui. The rents on the area have left and moved to the other side of the island. The North shore, Paia has been very very busy than ever because of tourist have nothing to see in Lahaina at this time. Majority is not in Lahaina. Less jobs and housing in Lahaina. Some families don't want to go back to Lahaina. We need more housing in central been a lot the people are spread out thought the island. Lahaina will not be up and running in five years from now so people need housing now. People from the island and even my family are homeless or leaving the islands. Please pass the affordable housing bill.

Davis Kahakauwila-Cortez.

808 263-3315

Sent from my iPhone