ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor

MICHELE CHOUTEAU MCLEAN
Director

JOSEPH W. ALUETA
Deputy Director



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COUNTY OF MAUI DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

October 15, 2018

Honorable Alan M. Arakawa Mayor, County of Maui 200 South High Street Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Stacy Crivello, Chair and Members of the Housing, Human Services and Transportation Committee Maui County Council 200 South High Street Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 Colo Cut Iolis/N Mayor Date

Dear Chair Crivello and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE MAUI COUNTY CODE RELATING TO EXPEDITING THE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR WORKFORCE HOUSING PROJECTS (HHT-52)

Thank you for asking for our comments on the proposed bill.

As you know, earlier this year, the Mayor issued a directive for county departments to prioritize the review of permits for workforce housing projects. The proposed bill mirrors that policy; it would codify this policy in the Maui County Code rather than it being an administrative directive.

The Planning Department reviewed and commented on the drafting of the policy, and helped to expand it to include projects that require discretionary approval by one of the planning commissions or the County Council to ensure that those decision-making bodies could review eligible projects in an expeditious manner.

We support the proposed bill but make this observation: it seems incongruous that all departments "shall" begin their review process no later than two working days after receiving all required application forms and information, while the Council "will" schedule its initial meeting within six months and "will" vote to approve or deny within one year of the referral to committee. While the Mayor's directive could not and did not establish times for the Council to act, it would seem appropriate for the Council to impose requirements on itself that are mandatory and that are truly fast track, much like the process established by Chapter 201H, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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Again, thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on the proposed bill. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

MICHELE MCLEAN Planning Director

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Joseph Alueta, Deputy Director (pdf)
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