

AH Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 9:53 AM
To: AH Committee
Subject: FW: Polanui Workforce Housing

-----Original Message-----

From: Jeri Dean <jmiya1006@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 9:33 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Polanui Workforce Housing

To Whom It May Concern:

Good morning,

As I am unable to appear in person to give my testimony today 6/19/19, I would like it to be submitted via email in hopes for consideration regarding the workforce housing development in West Maui.

Born and raised on Maui in Lahaina, at 50 years of age, I am no stranger to the dire housing situation of our ever growing island. It has been disappointing and saddening to see the developments that have occurred in West Maui over the past few decades. Continued expansion to promote tourism with the lack of attention to infrastructure and housing for those who live there is a disgrace to all who serve in public office.

As an employee of the department of education for the past 26 years, I have seen first hand the detrimental impact lack of affordable housing has had in our educational system, our families and above all, our Keiki. Due to the impossible situation of affording a place to live on a teacher's salary here in Lahaina, we are designated as a "hard to hire and retain" area. As a result, Lahaina has extremely high turnover rates, short term teachers who leave after a year or two, or simply no teachers at all. As a result, our keiki are taught by unqualified, long term substitute teachers....all because they can't afford to live here!

Currently I am an administrator of Lahainaluna high school and I work two other jobs to support myself and my children as a single mom. That's ridiculous! We are in a crisis situation that goes beyond desperation. It is time for our public representatives to make the locals a priority above the tourists. It is a shame that we are required to continually fight for and justify the need for housing for our people. We need an advocate, we need to be heard; if not for us than for our future. Be brave, be our champion and approve the development of the Polanui Workforce Housing.

Mahalo,
Jeri Dean
Wahikuli, Lahaina