

AH Committee

From: jennahia@yahoo.com
Sent: Sunday, June 23, 2019 6:40 PM
To: AH Committee; County Clerk
Subject: Testimony
Attachments: Testimony Makila 201h.docx

Aloha,

Please find my attached testimony.
Me ke aloha,
Noelani

Aloha, Jennifer Noelani Ahia L.Ac.

Testimony
Noelani Ahia
Sunday June 23, 2019
AH 1 (1)
AH 1 (2)
AH 27
AH 28

Aloha e Council Members,

The following is the testimony I wanted to give in person on Wednesday June 19, but had to leave to go to work.. Mahalo for taking the time to consider this mana'o.

I left the council chambers incredibly upset last Wednesday after witnessing the exchange between Snake Ah hee and Ke`eaumoku Kapu. In fact I'm still upset. These men have both made amazing contributions to our lahui. The difference is, one has the support of Peter Martin and one does not. The prevalence of developers who are paying kanaka maoli to sign off on and support development projects is increasing and getting out of hand. These developers, including Peter Martin, are dividing our community. I don't even blame the kanaka who take the money. I don't condone it, but when seen through the lens of settler colonialism and the illegal occupation, it is not uncommon for oppressed populations to seek relief for themselves and their families any way they can. And it causes them to turn their back on their people and culture by prostituting our culture. This is often known as the "house slave" syndrome. On a plantation, if one slave was elevated to a middle management position and was no longer suffering the slave fate, he would often align with the slave owner and repeat the same horrific treatment on others that he was once victim too. This is a common consequence of colonization and occupation.

There are a handful of "cultural advisors" who are known in the community as "sell outs" and while some would like to publicly shame them, I would rather find solutions to help our people heal and transform the systemic issues which caused the circumstance that led to that kind of behavior in the first place. We can start by not rewarding developers who have a history of mafia like behavior in our community. The developer for the project in question has a history of making threats and paying people off to get what he wants. Is that the kind of foundation for housing we want on Maui?

In addition, the 201h process is NOT affordable housing. Anything that can go back to market rate is not real affordable housing. I met a lovely couple who just moved here six months ago. They live in the Waikapu Gardens subdivision. They just moved here, because they could afford it, they know nothing about where they are, and they paid MARKET PRICE for a home that WAS "affordable". That means, this 201h process just displaced another local family who might have been able to afford it if it wasn't a 201h project. That means, potentially, all 201h houses could go back to market, and then what? We find ourselves in the same mess in ten years that you all

are working so hard to get us out of? We live on an island. There is only so much space to build. We need to get our people into homes in a pono way that respects the aina and the generational families who are pilina to Ko Hawaii Pae Aina.

Mahalo nui, a me me ke aloha,
Noelani