

AH Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, July 02, 2019 7:58 AM
To: AH Committee
Subject: FW: Launiupoko affordable housing projects

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From: keytolyf@aol.com <keytolyf@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, July 01, 2019 10:49 AM
To: lahnews@maui.net; cuechi@mauinews.com; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Launiupoko affordable housing projects

I have been reading with great interest the following articles about the proposed subdivisions in Launiupoko: "Council working against the clock to review two Launiupoko affordable housing projects" by Louise Rockett of the Lahaina News, "Housing panel concerned with a lack of water" by Colleen Uechi, Assistant City Editor The Maui News and, of course, "Launiupoko projects to provide affordable housing to local families" by none-other than Peter Martin Himself. The word "NIMBY" (Not In My Back Yard) is often used by those attacking opposition to development. Well, the two proposed projects of Makila Rural East and Polanui Gardens are literally in my back yard. If anyone is to be affected by these subdivisions, it's me. No matter the names of those applying for these subdivisions, they are distinctively Peter Martin.

Yet, I know that Maui desperately needs affordable housing. As a resident of Launiupoko myself, I wholeheartedly agree with Peter Martin in the need for affordable housing. Perhaps that's why for the better part of a decade I've been trying to work with him and the County trying to subdivide without success. Peter knows full well that I've been trying to get his company's, and the County of Maui's, help in subdividing for over a decade to ease the housing crisis without success. As a chiropractor I see the need for housing in the eyes of folks I see every day; from those who can't afford homes to employers who can't find enough workers due to the lack of affordable housing. So many of us living here on Maui struggle everyday just to make ends meet, and it's about time to change that.

After reading Peter's article, I'd like to suggest that instead of viewing people as "opposition," that he try to listen to their concerns, find common ground and implement changes where possible. Having lived through multiple fires and floods and dealing with traffic in the area, I fully understand their concerns. Instead of seeing "wealthy people who recently purchased agricultural lots in Launiupoko" and "some folks living in Kauaula Valley" as the opposition, try working with them for a change. Many of those "wealthy people" work for a living. They work hard to keep up with their bills too and yes, some of these same folks made you rich. The "folks living primarily in Kauaula Valley," mainly Hawaiians are just trying to survive and I hope you and your company for a change begin helping them rebuild their lives, not just their homes. Regarding "houses for our locals," if it's truly about helping ease Maui's housing crisis, get the County Planning Department to reassign Makila Plantation and have it included in the Urban Growth Boundary of the Maui Island Plan. You and the County left us out of those plans in 2012 and now's the change to change that. Remove the impediments you put into our CC&Rs that keep us from subdividing and get the County to do the same. Whether your subdivisions are approved or not, Maui desperately needs more housing in the future and Makila Plantation has the land to do it. Getting us into the mix and by including us in the Urban Growth Boundary/Maui Island Plan will help ease Maui's housing crisis. Let's face it; if it is truly about affordable housing as you say then shouldn't you be helping everyone to do what you're doing? Help us in removing these roadblocks and pave the way for helping us to ease Maui's housing crisis. After all, Maui needs housing, but housing that's done right. Rather than fighting opposition, let's all work together to make Maui a better place for all of us. Our keiki and our future depend upon it.

Greg Owens, D.C.