

PSLU Committee

From: Leila Monroe <leilamonroe@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 06, 2019 4:34 PM
To: Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Kelly King; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Keani N. Rawlins; Yukilei Sugimura; PSLU Committee
Subject: Letter of Support for Bill 145

Aloha Planning and Sustainable Land Use Committee Members,

Having grown up on Maui, my husband and I recently purchased a home on the same street in Haiku as my sister - East Kuiaha - and a short drive from the homes of my mother, brother, aunt, uncle and cousins. While our jobs do not permit us to return to Maui at this time, it is important for us to be able to visit family frequently, and to stay for longer periods of time, especially as loved ones are aging and ailing.

We purchased a home that was a long-time permitted STRH, "Hale Hiluhilu", and we spent thousands of dollars to apply to continue the short term rental in one of the two buildings on the property, so that we could enjoy our home, spend time with family, but then share the space (and cost) with visitors when we are not present. We have rented the ohana to a full-time tenant family of five.

We have been very frustrated that mid-way through the review of the application for our previously fully-permitted STRH to continue with this use, the process suddenly changed, with the decision to stop reviewing applications until the Haiku Community Plan was made consistent with the Countywide Ordinance. This decision was confounding, because the review of such applications had been occurring for years, despite this inconsistency, and the Countywide Ordinance would seem to take legal precedence over the Plan.

We are therefore pleased that Bill 145 is now being considered to make the Community Plan consistent with the Ordinance, and we urge you to adopt it on August 7th.

The limited, restrictive STRH Ordinance is a fair and careful approach to allowing some visitor accommodation, while also preserving full-time rentals, which is critically important. Closely regulated visitor lodging distributed throughout the Island is good for small businesses, and its good for local residences, as it allows for more affordable lodging for visiting family and friends. In the 9 months since our application has stalled, we have received many inquiries for our rental, which we have not been able to fulfill, from Maui locals who are looking for a place for their family to stay when they travel long distances and wish to stay longer than would be feasible in a hotel. It's also difficult to visit and spend time with family on the North Shore if you have to stay in Kihei or even farther away.

We are concerned that Bill 146 is inconsistent with the STRH Ordinance and undermines that Countywide rule, so we do not support that bill as written, but we kindly ask you to adopt Bill 145 without delay.

Respectfully,

Leila Monroe