

PSLU Committee

From: dreamers@maui.net
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2019 10:48 AM
To: PSLU Committee
Cc: Tamara A. Paltin
Subject: FW: For tonight's meeting at Paia Community Center
Attachments: PAIA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION LETTER.docx

Mahalo for your consideration!
Sharyn Stone

From: dreamers@maui.net <dreamers@maui.net>
Sent: Wednesday, August 7, 2019 10:36 AM
To: 'PSLU.committee@mauicouty.us' <PSLU.committee@mauicouty.us>
Cc: 'Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us' <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>;
'Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us' <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>
Subject: For tonight's meeting at Paia Community Center

8/7/19

TO: PLANNING & SUSTAINABLE LAND USE MEETING

FROM: SHARYN STONE, PO BOX 790117, PAIA, HI 96779

‘Aloha’ County Council members – I would like to express my concern with regards to Bill 145 and 146, in that the original B&B and STR legislation was carefully designed with ‘caps’ in order to have little to no impact on surrounding communities.

After applying for my own B&B permit in 2001, I FINALLY received it in 2011 – AFTER having fought for it since 1997, when the County introduced their first (inadequate) B&B bill. The permit process was daunting. First, we had to work for reasonable legislation. What we ended up with wasn’t ideal, but at least it was something that was workable. I even went over to Oahu to testify about how good it was that Maui County had finally started to address an unregulated industry in a reasonable fashion. BUT – every year since I’ve gotten my permit, I have felt the need to defend my existence. What we worked so hard for in the original B&B bill is slowly being pared away. NOW, you’re talking about reducing the already small caps. I don’t think this is reasonable or fair.

I think we can all agree our island is becoming over-developed and the impact of that is especially obvious this year, when the tourist population is approximately half of the permanent population! I’ve always heard you say ‘We don’t want to turn Maui into another Oahu.’ Well, it’s almost too late. NOT, may I add, because of a few B&B and STR owners who have worked hard to ‘do the right thing’ and be legal. NO. Part of the B&B bill talked about followup ENFORCEMENT so the bill would be effective. The County of Maui has sat on its hands for the last ten years and not bothered to enforce against illegal vacation rentals – and THOSE are the ones who have major impacts on our neighborhoods! Yet WE are the ones being punished. WE are the ones who are legal and work in community with our neighbors! NO FAIR.

At the same time, the County seems to give carte blanche to heavy development of hotels, condos, luxury housing that residents can’t afford to live in on the west and south sides of the island. Haiku also – I attended

several Haiku Community Association meetings where the huge new housing development just up from the school was discussed. I continuously heard about no community discussion or input being taken into account. And, I note, no new infrastructure has been built to cop with extra traffic which will be generated. And you wonder why our beaches and small towns are losing their character?

Maui Council Members: Please stop rubber stamping big development, take responsibility for your lack of enforcement, and stop using our very small industry as a whipping boy. Don't kill off our LEGAL small industry that provides work for residents and business for our small towns! Or we'll ALL end up driving over to the west and south sides for work. And we'll be just like Oahu.

MAHALO!

SHARYN STONE