

EDB Committee

From: Ann Smith-Kaukini <Ann.Smith-Kaukini@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 2:19 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Testimony for Wakiu Habitat for Humanity Affordable Housing Project

Aloha,

My name is Laurie Smith-Kaukini and a native of Hana. I am a mother of 3 young adults and grandmother to 6 keiki. I want to testify on behalf of my keiki and mo'opuna and for all the young families in Hana who can't testify for themselves due to their work schedule. I also testified at the last hearing EDB-52 in Hana.

It is very important to build affordable housing in Hana:

- 1 Multiple families living together
- 2 High rental prices
- 3 Lack of HUD rentals
- 4 Young families need a chance to become productive, responsible people of their community
- 5 the need to practice and live their culture, perpetuate culture for generations
- 6 Keep Hana's economy alive
- 7 Need more Hana born & raised people to keep Hana the way it is - culture, heritage
- 8 Young families will not qualify for bank loans
- 9 A long term goal to pass down to their keiki
- 10 Will not have to move away from family

The last affordable housing the county help fund was back in late 2000 with Self-Help Housing. It was hard work but so rewarding. The joy of owning a home is the ultimate dream! The only other subdivision built in Hana was back in the late 70's. The owners are either in their 80's or in heaven! Imagine being 80 years old with 2 or 4 of your adult kids and their 5 kids plus their 4 kids all living together with you. Different style of living, music, food, water, electricity, yard cleaning, cars park along the street (broken down cars too)! This is why our kids need their own homes so they can make their own life, live close to their families so they can take care of Mom or Dad, Papa or Grandma instead of putting them in expensive care homes. They want to live and die at home and if their families are nearby they can be their caregivers. It goes hand in hand but bottom line, the need for affordable housing in Hana is real. We are not just an item on the agenda. We are people who need help. We are people who believe that our county government will listen, give us a chance. Please help our community. Mahalo for your time.

Respectfully,

Laurie Smith-Kaukini
22 Kawai Ola Place
P.O. Box 387
Hana, HI 96713
lauriesmithkaukini@gmail.com