

AH Committee

From: Ali Martin <Ali@westmauland.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 1:55 PM
To: AH Committee
Subject: Support for Housing in Olowalu - Lihau'ula Project

Aloha Affordable Housing Committee,

I am writing to you to ask you to support the Lihau'ula Workforce Housing project. I am born and raised on Maui, and grateful to live in Olowalu. I live here with my husband, and two young daughters ages 7 months and 2 years. For our family, Olowalu is the best place in the world to live and raise our girls. I want more families to live here. It's a short drive into Lahaina Town for groceries and school. It's also a short 15 minute drive to Central Maui. My husband works construction so he drives to all parts of Maui for work, and Olowalu is a great central location for him. We would love to have more local families live in Olowalu and enjoy this special place, so I ask you to support the Lihau'ula Project.

I have also been involved with other Workforce Housing projects with this developer: Kahoma Homes, Pauwela Homes, Waiale Elua and The Heritage at Maui Lani. I assisted the buyers through the home buying process, and I saw first hand what it means to someone to own a home. One of our buyers in Pauwela Homes told me "I'm just a local girl, I never thought it would be possible to buy a home." So especially for those born and raised here who thought homeownership would never be possible for them, the council can help them with supporting the Lihau'ula Project. Financial benefits of homeownership include a good long term investment, rents will continue to increase, but a mortgage is fixed and a predictable monthly payment. Then there's the intangible benefits like stability, belonging to a community, and pride of ownership. The council can help more families benefit from home ownership by supporting the Lihau'ula Project.

In full disclosure, the developer Peter Martin is my dad. To say he is passionate about building homes for local families is an understatement. I have the same passion to see local families own a home - and even more so to own a home in Olowalu, where they will be my neighbors. This is a good project. It is a thoughtfully designed project. **I know the council members also want to see local families own their own home, and by supporting the Lihau'ula Project council members have the opportunity to help local families become a homeowner.**

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