

AH Committee

From: Donna Poseley <donnaPoseley@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 21, 2020 8:18 PM
To: AH Committee
Subject: WE SUPPORT OLOWALU HOUSING FOR OWNER OCCUPANTS

> My husband and I have been home owners on the west side for decades and understand the resistant of our neighbors that oppose the work force housing projects, those who fear change as negative.

> Doug, who has lived on Maui since 1962, and I since 1982, have seen many changes. As the sugar plantation era came to an end, the once green fields became dry and desolate. We recall initial talk about developers buying large parcels of land and making available for long time Maui residents. We were excited that we may be able to live on a property larger than those of a typical neighborhood, to have a greenhouse and use the area to grow food, plants and raise animals. The opposition at that time for development was equal to what we are seeing today, 20 years later. I can't think that many Mauians would now say that the development of Launiupoko, Makila, Puanoa, and Olowalu has made a negative impact on Maui life. The land is being loved by its owners and well taken care of. I thank the planning commission that with all the controversy, they were able to see that this project filled a need on West Maui and approved it.

> Now, I believe we can all see that the need for work force housing is critical for west Maui. My family, consisting of parents, siblings, nieces and nephews have all had to leave the west side, even though they still work here. They all travel the Pali twice a day and impact the traffic, because there are no options for rent or purchase here.

> The naysayers agree that we need work force housing, but all say it should be elsewhere. They believe that Lahaina is the answer. Isn't it understood that Lahaina is pretty much developed, and the only option there would be to go up? I can't imagine a more terrible scenario than having high rise buildings in Lahaina to house our workers. We have been able to keep the character and charm of a historic town, but that would certainly ruin it. I would ask the opposition, what do they suggest as a solution to the housing shortage here? Home values and property taxes will continue to soar as supply and demand will make it impossible for the worker to own on this side. In addition, I fear that it could make it harder for the ones of us who have worked multiple jobs our entire life to be able to live as we do.

> I see how the work force projects in Wailuku have succeeded, with the owners proud to finally have a place of their own. They take care of their property and seem to have a close knit community of like minded people. I can't think it would be any different in Olowalu and therefore support the project.

> Sincerely, Doug and Donna Poseley