

AH Committee

From: Cassandra Abdul <cassandra@nahaleomaui.org>
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2020 9:02 AM
To: AH Committee
Subject: Support Lihau'ula (AH-1(7))-Owner-Occupied Affordable Housing .pdf
Attachments: 2020-09-22_Lihau'ula (AH-1(7)).pdf

Aloha,
We herewith transmit testimony in support of owner occupied affordable workforce housing at Lihau'ula for the Affordable Housing Committee hearing on AH-1(7.) Please call with any questions.
Mahalo,
Cassandra

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Changing lives, one home at a time.

Mission: To secure and preserve a permanent supply of affordable housing alternatives for low and moderate income households in Maui County.

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September 22, 2020

Honorable Tasha Kama, Chair
Affordable Housing Committee
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Subject: Lihau`ula Workforce Housing Project (AH-1(7))

Dear Chair Kama and Committee Members:

No one disputes the critical need for affordable housing for Maui's workforce. It takes a community to find and agree on the optimal ways to increase affordable and workforce housing opportunities for our island families. The failure to provide affordable and attainable housing accelerates the loss of island families – our children, grandchildren, family and life-long friends - forced to move to mainland cities with lower costs of living and attainable housing opportunities.

Housing and Land Enterprise of Maui, dba Nā Hale O Maui (NHOM) is a grassroots, membership-based Nonprofit 501 (c) 3 organization established *to secure and preserve a permanent supply of affordable housing alternatives for low- and moderate-income households in Maui County.*

West Maui Land (WML) offered 22 finished lots to Habitat for Humanity (10 lots) and Nā Hale O Maui (12 lots) in their Kahoma Homes project in Lahaina. Their generous underwriting and selling the properties to nonprofit organizations at below-market prices, are the heart of the affordability delivered to qualified homebuyers.

The County of Maui is a critical partner in the development of affordable and workforce housing. NHOM's Kahoma project received crucial Affordable Housing Funds that resulted in the successful buildout of 12 new single-family homes that are now happily occupied by income-qualified workforce families who work and/or live in West Maui!

Nā Hale O Maui strongly supports affordable and workforce housing initiatives and developments. We realized that we must continue to collaborate and work together as a community to deliver as many homes as quickly as possible, to make inroads in the pent-up and future housing needs in Maui County.

The Lihau`ula Workforce Housing Project in Olowalu will advance this important objective. The homes will be affordable for Maui's workforce and 100% owner occupied, key goals we can all agree on. Nā Hale O Maui looks forward to an opportunity to "partner" with Lihau`ula LLC to and repeat the success at Kahoma, by providing truly affordable homes for workforce families.

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We respectfully request your favorable consideration of the Lihau`ula Workforce Housing Project in Olowalu and increase the number of affordable and workforce homes in Maui County. Nonprofit organizations in collaboration with for-profit developers and the County of Maui will deliver more affordable workforce housing across a broad spectrum of need for island families. Together, we will support our families and their desire for truly affordable housing.

Mahalo piha for your support of affordable workforce housing!



Cassandra Abdul
Executive Director

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