

AH Committee

From: Stan Franco <stanfranco9114@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, August 30, 2021 6:37 AM
To: AH Committee
Cc: Lucienne de Naie; Michael Williams; Lawrence P. Carnicelli; Vince Bagoyo; Thelma Kealoha; Joyce Afalla; Denise Boswell; Kevin Carney; Danette Kong; John A. H. Tomoso; John Crewe; Watanabe, Msgr. Terry; Tino Cordova; jack.belsom@gmail.com; Kahu Wayne & Debi Higa; Faith Chase; Lisa Darcy
Subject: AH Committee Meeting on 9-2-21
Attachments: Housing is a human right template letter 08-06-21.docx

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I am attaching comments that I have sent out previously on the public right to housing. This is in reference to your agenda items - Public Right to Housing AH-14 (2) and Public Right to Shelter AH-14 (1). Thank you for placing these items on your agenda for discussion and action.

Stan Franco
214-3575

Housing is a Human Right

On July 19, 2021, Stand Up Maui, Maui Tomorrow and Share Your Mana rallied in Kahului and Wailuku in support of the Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan developed by Hawaiian Community Assets (HCA) under contract with the County of Maui. That plan is being currently being discussed in the Affordable Housing Committee of the Maui County Council. HCA found that housing is needed most critically for residents earning from 0% to 50% and 60% to 100% of Area Median Income. These residents are at the lowest income levels include the homeless, disabled, ex-inmates, veterans, abused women, low-income workers, and those without a support system to meet their housing needs.

Gabe Johnson, chair of the Affordable Housing Committee, has proposed that the Maui County Council approve a housing plan of action based on the concept that Housing is a Human Right regardless of income levels. The United Nations Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights has underlined that the right to adequate housing should not be interpreted narrowly. Rather, it should be seen as the “right to live somewhere in security, peace, and dignity.” Monsignor Terrence Watanabe, writing in the Civil Beat on July 24, 2014, stated “I believe we can build housing that our families can afford, and as a Catholic priest, I know we have an obligation to do so.”

I, Stan Franco, Senior Deacon of the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu, therefore call on Chair Alice Lee and the Maui County Council to come together by the end of 2021 as a body to create a housing policy that housing is made available to all residents. And, in addition, that Mayor

Mike Victorino and the County Administration implement the new housing policy within three months from its receipt from the Maui County Council. I ask Maui County church pastors from all faiths and their membership to send your emails to Gabe.Johnson@mauicounty.us, Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us, Michael.Victorino@mauicounty.gov affirming a County housing policy based on “Housing is a Human Right” for all residents regardless of their level of income. Thank you for everyone’s work for the people.

Stan Franco, President of Stand Up Maui

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