

## AH Committee

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**From:** Stan Franco <stanfranco9114@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 08, 2021 7:55 PM  
**To:** AH Committee  
**Cc:** John Crewe; Danette Kong; John A. H. Tomoso; Denise Boswell; Joyce Afalla; Lucienne de Naie; Lawrence P. Carnicelli; Michael Williams; Vince Bagoyo; Kevin Carney; Thelma Kealoha; Stan Franco; Dwayne Betsill; Keisa Liu  
**Subject:** Housing is a Human Right  
**Attachments:** LetteronHousingisarighttoAHC09-08-21.docx

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

I asked that my comments in support of the Right to Housing and Shelter be included in written testimony on your September 13th agenda items - AH-14 (2) and AH-14 (1). Thank you.

Stan Franco  
205-1442 (temporary number)

September 8, 2021

To: The Affordable Housing Committee of the Maui County Council

Re: Housing is a Human Right

In relationship to your continued deliberations on September 13, 2021 on the issue of housing as a human right, I want to share my history with this idea. During my Catholic education from St. Joseph Elementary School, Sacred Hearts Seminary, and Chaminade University of Honolulu, I have heard that the right to housing is a core concept of social justice. Saint Pope John XXIII said in the early 1960's that "all people have a right to life, food, clothing, shelter, rest, medical care, education and employment." This concept was reaffirmed in the US Catholic Bishops Pastoral Letter "Right to A Decent Home: A Pastoral Response to the Crisis in Housing (1975), Economic Justice for All (1986), and Homelessness and Housing: A Human Tragedy, A Moral Challenge (1988). In his encyclical, Laudato Si': Our Care for Our Common Home (2015), Pope Francis wrote "lack of housing is a grave problem...not only (for) the poor of the world, but many other members of society as well, find it difficult to own a home. Having a home has much to do with a personal dignity and the growth of families."

In November 1986, I quit my secure job as a Personnel Officer for the County Department of Public Works to join Fr. Bob Turner in starting a homeless shelter in the cane fields of Puunene in the old Holy Family Catholic Church, the precursor of homeless shelters in Wailuku and Lahaina. Over the past 35 years, I have joined with many others calling for affordable housing for all of our residents. My call has gone unanswered until you, the Maui County Council, took the courageous

step of contracting a non-profit, Hawaiian Community Assets, to create a comprehensive affordable housing plan, an initiative of Face Maui and now Stand Up Maui. Hawaiian Community Assets has found in their research that the greatest need for housing is for folks earning from 0% to 50% and 60% to 100% of Area Median Income.

From my roots as a student of Catholic social teaching, Catholic Bishops, former Popes and currently Pope Francis have been calling us to bring dignity to people by providing decent and affordable housing for them. We now have an opportunity to do that by making a right to housing (shelter) for all Maui County residents a reality on September 13, 2021.

As a senior deacon in the Catholic Church of Hawaii, I support your approval of AH-14(2) and AH-14(1) because all Maui County residents deserve to have dignity and hope in securing a home (shelter) where they can be safe, find rest, and build family.

Sincerely in Christ,

Stan Franco, Senior Deacon of the Catholic Diocese of Honolulu

Cc: Rev. John Crewe

Rev. Danette Kong

Rev. John Tomoso

Rev. Monsignor Terrence Watanabe

Stand Up Maui Board