

September 1, 2021

From: Danette Kong

To: Councilman Gabe Johnson, Chair
Affordable Housing Committee
Kalana 'o Maui Bldg.
200 South High Street, 8th floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

2021 SEP -8 PM 12:15

RECEIVED

Re: Public Right to Housing AH-14 (2), and
Public Right to Shelter AH-14 (1)

Dear Councilman Johnson,

Thank you for your work as chair of the Affordable Housing Committee on our Maui County Council. I know you are very concerned about the people of Maui and their mounting desperation as the prospects for decent, affordable housing seem to be fading with each passing year.

As a retired minister (former lead chaplain at Maui Memorial Medical Center and an active member at Keawala'i Congregational Church in Makena), I am renting a little cottage in Kula, and (cont.)

(cont.) wondering how much longer I can afford to do so. But I am more concerned for the young families I know, a large percentage of whom have moved elsewhere in order to survive financially. Those who remain on Maui include my nephew, whose baby boy was born just last Christmas. My son on O'ahu has a toddler, and is preparing for the birth of a son next month. What will the next five to ten years hold for their young families? We have been losing our future leadership and 'ohana to the high cost of living.

I know there is a lot for you to consider, especially with Covid as a huge factor in all decisions the Council must encounter. The specter of high eviction rates looms tragically before us - something which is also part of the swirling concerns regarding affordable housing.

(cont.)

(cont.)

Please do not allow the Affordable Housing Plan to take a back seat to other pressing issues. Thank you for placing Public Right to Housing AH-14 (2) and Public Right to Shelter AH-14 (1) on your agenda for discussion and action. And please -- get that policy moved from words on paper and in policy into ACTION.

Mahalo nui -

Danette Kong, 788 Upper Kimo Dr.
Kula, HI 96790

cc: Alice L. Lee, Chair, Maui County Council
Michael P. Victorino, Mayor