

Derrickson, Scott A

From: Lori Sablas <sablasl001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 11:59 AM
To: DBEDT LUC
Cc: Tamara A. Paltin; tasha.kama@mauicounty.us; Yuki Lei Sugimura
Subject: #A04-75I Pulelehua

Aloha kakou,

My name is Lori Sablas, sending in this testimony in **full support** of the above proposed project. I am a 76 year- old resident of Maui. I have spent 46 years of my working career in Ka'anapali; 12 years at the Sheraton-Maui Hotel from when it first opened in 1963, 10 years at the Ka'anapali Beach Operators Association (the marketing arm of the resort) and the last 23 as the Director of Po'okela, a Hawaiian cultural training program for its employees at the Ka'anapali Beach Hotel. I give this as my background because having worked in the visitor industry on Maui for as long as I have, I feel I have an intimate knowledge of our workforce.

During the first half of this year, I took the initiative of convening four meetings with various Human Resources and financial professionals from the West side with the goal of developing a survey to assess the needs of the workforce from the **bottom up vs top down**. The survey was deployed over a period of four months by Maui Economic Development Board, resulting in **361 respondents**.

Let me share some of the more interesting results:

- 82.24% commute to work by car; 40.19% from West Maui
- 53.65% currently rent, 37.13% have a current monthly rental range of \$1,000 to \$1,500
- 81.33% have never owned a home or condo
- 84% who currently rent reported that if affordable homes were available, they would like to buy one
- Almost two-thirds of respondents have lived on Maui at least 15 years (19% are lifetime residents)
- 42% live in a multiple-generation home
- Almost 25% are considering a move to the Mainland - which has serious implications for our economy and the visitor industry in particular. 79% of these specifically cite **lack of affordable housing as a reason**.
- A recent study, the ALICE report published by Hawaii United Way, estimates that 52% of Maui households are living paycheck to paycheck.

I share this information with you as it represents the **voice of our workforce**, the backbone of our community! For full details on the survey, you can go to MEDB's website at www.medb.org/wm-survey.

I was happy to learn that the developer, Paul Cheng, has reached out to various members of the community and has been very responsive and wants to contribute to the West side community in a positive way. This is good! I also know that there are so many positive aspects of this proposal which others will cover. I especially like that a covered bus stop will be included which will hopefully reduce the need to commute by car. If there is one thing that I would like to propose for this project, that is to **provide more affordable homes to buy for the workforce**.

For those who oppose this project, I say, with respect...."**shame on you**". **Please don't deny our workforce the ability to own or rent homes close to work!**

Mahalo,

Lori Sablas