

Subject: Re: County Council Meeting Friday, March 18, 2022 / Agenda

Aloha County of Maui,

My name is Justin Hughey and I am speaking in strong support of **Resolution-22-84!**

I am a public school teacher who was lucky enough to purchase the first Na Hale O Maui affordable home.

Dream come true. Making one of the lowest teacher salaries in the country when factored in the cost of living, I found myself working nights at Sansei Seafood Restaurant to be able to afford rent and live paycheck to paycheck.

37 Poniu Circle sold for about 650,000 brand new roughly 30 years ago. It went into foreclosure and Na Hale O Maui purchased it. I bought it for 275,000.

Most developers who promise to provide affordable housing to develop luxury homes don't truly provide affordable homes. My mortgage is 1,300 dollars. I pay less for a three bedroom, three bath, two story house, than what I was paying for a one bedroom apartment.

Hawaii doesn't have a teacher recruitment problem, it has a retention problem. This is because our school district is the only one in the country that doesn't use property taxes to fund public education. In the book Hawaii Pono, the public school system has been suffering from dilapidated building, too few teachers and meager funding since 1911.

Because of Na Hale o Maui I was able to afford to stay here and continue teaching. I met my wife after purchasing the home and now she teaches at Maui High and we have two children.

Please pass this resolution and in the future provide Na Hale O Maui with as much money or land as possible. Developments like Spencer homes are great but those were only affordable for the individuals who bought them. Na Hale O Maui is affordable in Perpetuity, thus if I sell my home it will be affordable to the next family in need. And the need on Maui for affordable housing is overwhelming. Our communities need so much more.

Justin Hughey