



Jason A. Economou
Government Affairs Director

441 Ala Makani Pl • Kahului, HI 96732
phone 808-243-8585 • fax 808-873-8585
Jason@RAMaui.com • www.ramaui.com

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Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

Council of the County of Maui
Kalana O Maui Building
200 South High Street, 8th Floor
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

**RE: Resolutions 22-84 & 22-85, Relating to Disposition of Real Property and
Waiver of Outstanding Real Property Taxes (BFED-102 & 103)**

Aloha Committee Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair Paltin, and Committee Members,

I am submitting the following testimony on behalf of the REALTORS Association of Maui and our 1,900+ members **in strong support of both resolutions**. Our community clearly needs more affordable housing opportunities, and we also need more experienced healthcare professionals within our community. These resolutions represent a means of providing both.

Resolution 22-84 will allow Na Hale O Maui to greatly expand their ability to provide homes to low and moderate income families for generations to come. The 17 Fairway at Maui Lani house lots and 2 driveways in question represent multigenerational affordable housing for no less than 17 families in our community. That is an opportunity of much higher value than the outstanding property taxes being waived, and well worth the expense. Na Hale O Maui has continually demonstrated the value they bring to our community when given the opportunity, and we strongly encourage the council to empower them to provide more housing through Resolution 22-84.

Resolution 22-85 provides a practical solution to addressing our dire lack of housing opportunities for experienced professionals. In the aftermath of a once in a generation global health emergency, we cannot afford to let shortages of vital medical personnel at our local hospitals become the norm. Resolution 22-85 may be exactly what is necessary to ensure Maui's ability to bring in the educated and talented medical staff that we need most. It is our hope that this can also serve as an opportunity for Maui Health Foundation to demonstrate the flexibility of the land trust housing model, to ensure that housing opportunities can continue beyond the first owner.

Mahalo,

Jason A. Economou
Government Affairs Director
REALTORS Association of Maui