

Date: 3/15/2022

Maui County Council
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Re: Grant of 18 Lots in Central Maui to Housing and Land Enterprise of Maui, dba Na Hale O Maui

Dear Honorable Council,

My name is Tad Luckey of Lahaina and I am writing to ask that you support Na Hale O Maui's request for the Grant of 18 lots in Central Maui, for the purpose of building homes for low- and moderate-income workforce households who have completed the Na Hale O Maui 4 Step Program. Growing up in Lahaina, I was taught to be mindful of the past, engaged in the present, and capable for the future. I hope what I share will encourage support for affordable housing and show why Na Hale O Maui's program is so critical.

After graduating at Lahainaluna in 2000, I went to the mainland to earn a degree in Electrical Engineering and gained experience in the high-tech and aerospace industries. After 12 years, I moved back to Maui. Housing was immediately an issue as rent in 2012 was already high. Even with a good engineering job, I was only comfortable paying for a one-room shared house in Lahaina. Fee-simple houses were selling for over half-a-million and seemed unattainable. I didn't realize how much further the gap would grow.

Changing careers, I've spent the past 8 years bringing my engineering knowledge to Lahainaluna High School. I am proud to serve my community in this role as an alumni and professional from industry. Housing prices continued to go up and my family grew. We are expecting our fifth member soon and until recently, we were in the same one-room rental. Despite doing everything I was taught, there was no way to ensure being part of Lahaina. I have had to face the possibility of leaving teaching or even leaving Hawaii to make ends meet.

Na Hale O Maui's program provided a way for us to stay on Maui (in Lahaina!) which will allow us to maintain our roles in the community. There are so many more families in our lives every day that should have the same support. Our teachers, first-responders, coaches, social workers, and others are overlooked in the roles they provide. Their efforts reflect what we have been taught in remembering our past, contributing to our present, and we are trying to develop for our future. To do so, we need a place. We need affordable housing. Na Hale O Maui works to give local families this basic need.

I urge you to give Na Hale O Maui's request sincere consideration.

Tad "T.C." Luckey



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