

From: Delaney de la Barra <delaneysails@gmail.com>
To: <planning@mauicounty.gov>
Date: 8/8/2020 4:55 PM
Subject: Support for Policy 2.5.16

Dear Members of Maui Planning Commission,

I am writing in support of Policy 2.5.16 due to the lack of available long term rentals on the west side of Maui, zip code 96761. At the time of this writing I believe 78% of residential residences in my area are owned by non residents of Hawaii. Since before 2015, rents in this area have not been affordable to the majority of the people who work, live, and have children in school in this area. I have personally made very good money for the last 5 years, and despite this, on multiple occasions Pre-Covid, I have been forced to rent a vacation rental or stay with other families with my now 7 year old daughter, or else be homeless.

Now with the new normal of social distancing, and significantly less tourists on island, we have a unique opportunity to return many of these vacation rentals back into long term rentals. For the first time in a long time, many non resident owners are renting long term, making some money off of their investments instead of none.

I was recently given a 45 day notice (Illegal during Covid) to vacate my 1 bedroom condo at Napili Ridge. I was paying \$1700 per month, plus utilities, for a 530 square foot place that was less than functional. As long-term rents have been going down in the last 4 months, I was reluctant to sign a long-term lease. So instead I called vacation rentals to see if any were offering monthly rates. I found about 4 available units, and ended up renting an oceanfront 3rd floor corner unit for \$1500, including all utilities with ac. I am saving my family about \$500 per month to live in a unit that is normally rented out for \$7,500-\$12,000 per month, same square footage. The majority of this money goes to the off-island owner.

In closing, I support the policy to convert short term rentals to long term rentals. We need more affordable rentals; this policy helps achieve that.

Sincerely,

Delaney de la Barra
808-298-2135

Delaney