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**To:** wearewestmaui <wearewestmaui@mauicounty.gov>  
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**Subject:** Testimony to the West Maui CPAC

Ms. Kai Nishiki, Chair  
West Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee  
C/O County of Maui Department of Planning  
Long Range Division  
Submitted via email:  
[wearewestmaui@mauicounty.gov](mailto:wearewestmaui@mauicounty.gov)

Aloha Chair Nishiki and Members of the West Maui CPAC:

First off. Thank you all very much for your advisory efforts in the West Maui Community Plan Update process. Our Island is a better community with folks like you willing to dedicate your time for an important effort like this.

I write to you in support of affordable housing on Maui. And at this particular juncture, affordable housing projects proposed by Hope Builders in Olowalu and Makila.

I understand and can relate to the many arguments both for and against housing in these two areas. Many of the same arguments for and against these projects are consistent with development projects throughout the larger Maui community. But please allow me to share two simple beliefs that I value, both which support local housing opportunities in Olowalu and Makila.

First, local families deserve to live in beautiful areas. We have the technology and capabilities with modern development practices to minimize adverse impacts to the natural environment. Utilizing modern development methods (ie stormwater management, drainage retention, water use conservation, etc.) we can dramatically reduce negative impacts that have historically plagued earlier developments. There is great potential to educate and ingrain in future residents the importance of living in daily balance with the natural environment and protecting the natural resources that surround us. Requiring developers to build responsible, efficient, modern projects will allow local families the opportunity to live and coexist responsibly in our most cherished natural environments.

Second, in this day and age, lack of infrastructure is a terrible reason to vote down proposed developments. Anywhere on this Island. One of the main reasons for voting against projects in Olowalu and Makila is proximity to existing infrastructure. Lets take wastewater as an example. The justification is to keep West Maui development centralized to existing facilities like the West Maui Wastewater Treatment Plant, where we have a serious issue with injection wells and an inability to adequately handle excess effluent. Why force projects to connect to an antiquated system when you can require developers to implement modern, self-contained treatment units that are capable of recycling nearly 100% of wastewater? This is a far better option than adding more sewage to an already overburdened system. Lack of infrastructure is not an excuse to vote down a project when newer, more efficient infrastructure systems can be implemented.

As you move forward with your very difficult decision making process, I ask that you keep in mind the many modern development techniques that are emerging and available, techniques that can facilitate a cleaner, more responsible way of development. Utilizing these new standards can allow for a world in which local families can live in balance with our natural environment.

Thank you all very much for your time and dedication in this effort to improve our Island community.

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