

## Quinones, Natasha A

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**From:** DBEDT LUC  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 09, 2021 8:39 AM  
**To:** Quinones, Natasha A  
**Subject:** FW: written testimony for A21-801 Pūlama Lāna'i-Hōkūao 201H Project  
**Attachments:** Cabiles\_letter to LUC\_Nov. 9\_20211109055508.pdf

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**From:** Nelinia Cabiles <ncabiles@lanaitoday.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 9, 2021 7:30 AM  
**To:** DBEDT LUC <dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] written testimony for A21-801 Pūlama Lāna'i-Hōkūao 201H Project

Aloha,

Attached please find the above-referenced doc.

Thank you for allowing written testimony.

Mahalo,  
Nelinia Cabiles

November 9, 2021

Re: A21-810 Pūlama Lānaʻi-Hōkūao 201H Project (Lānaʻi)

Dear members of the Land Use Commission:

Thank you for taking written testimony re Pūlama Lānaʻi's Hōkūao 201H Project. I am not a lobbyist; I am writing on my own behalf, as a resident of Lānaʻi.

I grew up on Lānaʻi, back in the late seventies to early eighties, and housing on the island then – let alone affordable housing – was scarce. I cannot speak to the situation on other islands in our state, but I am aware that affordable housing is an issue there, as it is here.

The inventory of homes to rent and/or buy on Lānaʻi has always been scarce. There have always been young families arriving from somewhere else, in this case, from the Philippines, and needing to rely on the kindness of their in-laws or relatives fortunate enough to have a home, into whose rooms these families were crammed, while they waited for a house to become available to rent. I was part of that young family from the Philippines. It was a narrative that was as commonplace as it was inescapable.

The housing crisis, the lack of housing, remains the same, then, as now. What has changed is the make-up and skill set of the workforce. Gone are laborers called to Lānaʻi to work in the pineapple fields. Now Lānaʻi's workforce is comprised of teachers and construction crews, new hires for the island's resorts. It is a housing crisis that affects hundreds of individuals and families on this island. The narrative remains largely the same.

But now before you is an opportunity to change the narrative, for our island and its residents.

I fully support the Hōkūao affordable housing project. I fully support amending the agriculture land use district boundaries into the urban land use district for roughly seventy-six acres of land. I cannot think of a better use of land than for constructing affordable homes to rent for our growing workforce. Passage of the Hōkūao affordable housing project would free up other rental units. Approving Hōkūao would mean significantly improving the quality of life for families and couples and individuals who see enough promise and potential to want to settle on Lānaʻi and call this place home.

I wish you all clarity of mind as you discuss and weigh and read testimonies and consider housing and the future of Lānaʻi's residents.

Thank you for your consideration and time.

Nelinia Cabiles  
Lānaʻi, Hawaiʻi

