

Quinones, Natasha A

From: DBEDT LUC
Sent: Tuesday, November 09, 2021 8:41 AM
To: Quinones, Natasha A
Subject: FW: Support of A21-810 Pūlama Lānaʻi-Hōkūao 201H Housing Project on Lānaʻi

add

From: Alice Granito <Alice_Granito@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 8, 2021 3:41 PM
To: DBEDT LUC <dbedt.luc.web@hawaii.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Support of A21-810 Pūlama Lānaʻi-Hōkūao 201H Housing Project on Lānaʻi

Dear LUC Commissioners,

I am writing in support of the Hokuao Affordable Rental Housing Development project on Lanai.

My name is Alice Granito and I have been a resident of Lanai since 2003. I worked at the only licensed preschool on the island for 14 years. Currently, I work for the State of Hawaii - Child Welfare Services.

When I first moved here, I was ok with living with my significant other and his family. As time went on, more family members joined the household. With 8 people, we live in an old plantation home with one bathroom. Usually, this living situation is interesting to say the least, but during this pandemic it has been difficult living in a multi-generational home with one bathroom. We have all had to make extra sacrifices to care for everyone in our household. With only one bathroom there is no option for isolation in the event anyone was to get sick, so we are extra diligent with our contact with people outside of the home.

During my time here I've applied for housing through Castle and Cooke and then Pulama Lanai at various times. I admit that I haven't been aggressive in my search for housing, but when I did, I was left discouraged. The first time I applied, I was called for housing, but at the time I was unable to afford living expenses plus the higher rent on my own versus living at home. Most recently, I applied for housing with Pulama Lanai and my application was accepted. I waited two months for a response before I was finally notified that they were unable to offer me housing. The notice also stated that Pulama Lanai was not accepting any applications until further notice. This was a letdown as it is difficult to live on your own here with limited resources for housing.

Private rentals are expensive and limited, adding to the housing shortage on Lanai. Off-island contractors can pay higher than market rent. I don't blame private homeowners for wanting to take advantage of the extra income, but I would never be able to compete with the off-island contractors that are able to pay thousands of dollars a month for rent.

These factors make it extremely frustrating to live here. I've come to love Lanai and would love to enjoy my life here, but the lack of housing options has me considering life elsewhere. The Hokuao Affordable Rental Housing Development gives me hope for the future. This will ease stress to families living in multi-generational and multi-family homes. I personally look forward to having the option to move into a single-family home on my own.

Thank you,

Alice Granito