



## WAIĀHOLE WAIKĀNE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

7-29-2022

Aloha HHFDC Board of Directors,

Our Council's position remains steadfast. We, the WWCA (Waiahole-Waikane Community Association) Council, are the Voice for its People. We will continue to speak on behalf of our members and will forever hold them Strong at Heart.

The reason for this letter is to respond with an outpour of frustration shared in our council meetings regarding the letter you all approved dated July 8th, sent to us from Chris Woodard, signed by Denise Iseri-Matsubara.

The letter lacked compassion and care for the people in the Valley. It has instilled nothing but fear and has brought undue stress to many of our Kūpuna. Our residents felt bullied after reading this letter. It has made our residents worry about whether they're going to be able to afford the ridiculous rent hike amounts or if they should start downsizing their life belongings, pack up and move into the streets to live as homeless people. We hope none take their lives from the fear and anxiety that we believe you should all feel responsible for.

This proposed increase of our lease rents has made many residents upset and the families are falling apart. They cannot use the land or their homes to secure a simple loan to make necessary important health and safety modifications as they peacefully age, and increasing their rents 6.6x their current rate does not seem like what Hawai'i Housing Finance Development Board should be doing. Is the objective of the HHFDC to raise their rent to save overhead costs? This is simply absurd! This obviously appears like poor planning and financial failures on the HHFDC's part, but other people will be penalized for it. We ask you to give thought to the existing life struggles, post-pandemic effects, and other dramatic changes our community members have faced from death to permanent mental, emotional, medical and physical damages.

We believe that the deadline of August 12th at 4:30PM is unreasonable considering we have until March 2023 to reach an agreement between both parties. We'd like to ask for an extension on this date and instead allow lessees until **December 31, 2022** to make a final decision. We are asking for IMMEDIATE approval of this time extension through a letter and email to the lessee's. It is our goal and desire to resolve the matter sooner rather than later. We've expressed working in "good faith" over and over again. We are heirs of unique affordable leases that were fought for many years ago, when you all weren't around, and we still exist. Our leases are active for years more, and we are sincere to the purpose it was first fought and won victorious for. We ask you to consider our thoughts as if we were your family members threatened with nowhere else to call home.

Shalom.

*Lucy Salas*

President