

GO MAUI INC. 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

The mission of Go Maui, Inc. is to empower local residents to obtain housing, educational opportunities and employment in a healthy environment and vibrant economy while respecting our diverse cultures.

INTRODUCTION

2017 saw the launch through Go Maui of the face book site “We Are Maui Nui” which highlights local values and their importance to Maui. The site can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/WeAreMauiNui/>. It contains a number of short videos by local people speaking about local values and how they express them in their daily lives and other local stories. It reminds folks to register and to vote. We can also be found on the Internet at GoMauiInc.org

Go Maui was directly involved in successfully advocating with the Board of Land and Natural Resources and the State Commission on Water Resources Management for an extension of A&B water leases for central Maui. That testimony was successful in supporting a distribution of water to allow HC&S to continue make the transition from sugar to diversified agriculture.

Go Maui also testified in support of development to meet Maui’s growing needs before the Maui Planning Commission, the Board of Water Supply, the Urban Design Review Board, the Maui County Council and council committees on issues of budgeting, land use policy, water issues, agriculture and affordable housing.

We were often the only voice on these issues for local values and a strong and balanced economy.

As in previous years, our advocacy was to further our mission of supporting affordable workforce housing, access to water, economic development and growth that provides good well-paying jobs for our local residents. The success of Go Maui in this regard continues to be is due to our board, our supporters and our donors.

Go Maui’s successful policy advocacy in 2017 included the following areas and activities.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING ADVOCACY

- Successfully supported building 250 affordable housing units with 125 units being ownership units and 125 being rentals at Kaonoula (formerly Wailea 670). It should be noted that the affordable units must be built and

occupied before the sale of any market-priced units. Opposed by Kihei Community Association and South Maui Citizens for Responsible Growth.

- Provided budget testimony supporting Maui County Department of Housing and Human Concerns (DHHC) allocations for projects from Affordable Housing Fund. Outcome: Item passed Budget and Finance Committee and full Council.
- Attend and testified at Maui County Council Budget & Finance Committee meeting on legislation to classify property not used for residential purposes at their highest and best use. We raised issue of potential impact on availability of rental units. Measure was deferred.
- Successfully testified against effort by councilmember Elle Cochran to pass a law requiring all affordable housing supported by the County to be affordable in perpetuity. Our opposition was based on information provided by nonprofit housing developers and advocates who pointed out that such a mandate is a “one size fits all approach” that ignores the work of Habitat for Humanity, Lokahi Pacific and Hale Mahaolu. All of them have a different model. Na Hale O Maui who develops housing affordable in perpetuity agreed with our position and opposed the measure.
- Attended and made panel presentations to the Maui County Affordable Housing Conference. “Where is the Affordable Housing?” was a presentation by Alice Lee and Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez moderated “What Tools Are Needed and Kellie Cruz presented on “The Mortgage World Today. “Wrote a lengthy article on “Affordable Housing Summit” for Maui News.
- Attended Department of Water Supply (DWS) public hearing and testified on behalf of DWS backflow proposed legislation with recommendation that timeline for new requirements be realistic and that costs are considered for residential and commercial building.
- Monitored Planning Committee meeting on adoption of Molokai Community Plan. Anti-growth elements were trying to get in language that infers community plans are superior to zoning when it comes to land use. This would be a disaster for property values if implemented. The item was deferred.
- Attended State Land Use Commission (SLUC) 2-day meeting on Piilani Promenade in Kihei. Testified in favor of project.
- Attended Housing and Human Services and Transportation, committee meeting and testified in favor of extending developer-housing credits to rental projects.

- Testified at the Maui Planning Commission for approval of the SMA application for a 164-unit affordable housing rental complex for low and very low-income seniors. The project is being built by Catholic Charities and is expected to take 30-32 months to complete. The project is located across the street from the Foodland at Queen Ka’ahumanu Center. FACE Maui also testified in favor. The project was approved unanimously.
- Attended meeting of the Planning Commission and testified in favor of homeless camp in West Maui. It is a 1-year pilot project. Needs to go now to council for conditional use permit. Project passed commission 5-0.

WATER & AGRICULTURE ADVOCACY

- Go Maui taped a half-hour TV-show at AKAKU titled “East Maui Streams. Serving over 35,000 Residents & Diversified Agriculture.” Guests were Warren Watanabe and Darren Strand. It has been broadcast numerous times on channel 55 on AKAKU.
- Go Maui participated in and played a leadership role under the direction of Mae Nakahata in successful advocacy before the Board of Land and Natural Resources in their decision to grant a second year lease in the “Holdover of Revocable Permits to Alexander and Baldwin, Inc., and to the East Maui Irrigation Company, Limited, for Water Use on the Island of Maui.” Individuals including Go Maui’s Kay Fukumoto testified and a Maui support petition generated 300 signatures that were presented to the Board at their November meeting. Congratulations on a major victory. But don’t let your guard down.
- Go Maui testified at hearings to gather information from the public on the Environmental Impact Statement that was being prepared for the A&B water allocation application to the Commission on Water Resources Management.
- Go Maui supported Maui Farm Bureau opposition to Maui County Council’s Water Resources Committee proposal that shorten the period within which agricultural consumers are required to implement restrictions or mandates imposed by water shortage declarations from 90 to 30 days following publication. Bureau said this bill would put farmers out of business. The bill was deferred.

PLANNING AND LAND USE ADVOCACY

- Go Maui participated in a scoping meeting by Planning Department consultants for proposals to reform the Title 19 Zoning Code, bring it up to date, reduce its size and simplify the planning process. This project will affect every property owner in Maui County. The consultant report is

completed and was sent to Go Maui board members and supporters. There are two more phases planned in the update project.

- Attended Policy, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee meeting on topic of A&B Diversified Agriculture Plans. Testified in favor of A&B plans.
- Submitted Go Maui testimony to state legislature in support of private bonds approval by the legislature for Maui Grown Coffee to expand into former HC&S cane land, urged others to do the same.
- Go Maui met with MECO representatives President Sharon Suzuki and Planning Director Mike Ito who presented a PowerPoint presentation on MECO's history and its plans to move forward to help our state achieve 100% renewable energy for electricity by 2045.
- Go Maui opposed Sand Mining moratorium legislation when first introduced as overly broad affecting many unsuspecting property owners and the definitions were not precise and clear. We urged community outreach to property owners potentially affected and more study on the issue.
- Go Maui supported the efforts of DLNR to develop a Light Industrial and Business Park at Pulehunui as an opportunity to expand the use of State lands to generate economic development and job opportunities for Maui residents in an area identified for future growth and to meet the demand for light industrial space.

GOVERNANCE ADVOCACY

In 2017 Go Maui Appeared and Testified Before the Following:

- Maui Planning Commission
- Maui County Urban Design and Review Board
- Maui County Council
- Maui County Council Budget & Finance Committee
- Maui County Council Water Resources Committee
- Maui County Council Housing, Human Services and Transportation Committee
- Maui County Council Infrastructure and Environmental Management
- Maui County Council Land Use Committee
- Maui County Council Planning Committee
- State Board of Land and Natural Resources
- State Commission on Water Resources Management

- Go Maui met with Planning Director Will Spence to examine planning issues, adoption of community plans, affordable housing, water and discuss anti-growth efforts and their impact on county planning.
- Met with Representative Kyle Yamashita, Representative Isaac Chu and John Roberts, an economist with the state of Hawaii. Discussed TAT tax, housing sales to off-island individuals, and property tax reform.
- Go Maui met with Maui County Councilmembers to educate them about Go Maui and to advocate for affordable housing, a healthy economy, good paying jobs, needed growth and water issues.
- Go Maui interacted journalists with The Maui News, The Lahaina News, MauiNow.com, MauiWatch.com, Maui Time, and radio stations Mana'o Radio, KAOI and Pacific Digital Media.