

To: Rita Barreras, Chairman, Maui Health Care Initiative Task Force

From: Peter Durkson, Chairman, Maui County Council on Aging

Subject: The Maui County Lifespan Building Code Amendment Initiative.

- 1. We wish to bring to your attention that the Maui County Council on Aging is advocating a bill for an ordinance amending Chapter 16.26, Maui County Code, relating to Building Code. The purpose of the proposed amendment is to require builders of new, for-sale single family residential units to provide buyers with a list of specific "Lifespan Home Design" accessibility features which are intended to make a home safer and easier for persons who are aging or frail, or who plan on aging in place in the future, or who have certain temporary or permanent activity limitations or disabilities.**

- 2. We believe that this amendment will directly assist any Maui Citizens who may someday be in the market for a new home. Furthermore, upon the successful adoption of our proposed amendment, the Maui County Council on Aging will be advocating that a Remodeling Hotline/Website clearinghouse of information and assistance be created as soon as possible to help existing homeowners retrofit their homes with urgently needed accessibility features. This Hotline will benefit any Maui resident who needs a more accessible home environment.**

- 3. We hope that the Maui Health Care Initiative Task Force will support the Maui Lifespan Building Code Amendment initiative. Recently, Mayor Tavares embraced our initiative and she has offered the services of her office in preparing and presenting this amendment proposal to the Maui County Council.**

- 4. We believe that it is likely that a successful Maui County Lifespan Building Code Amendment will be replicated in other counties in Hawaii, and, therefore, be of benefit to persons of all ages, abilities and incomes who wish to live at home safely, comfortably and independently during all the seasons of life.**

- 5. Thank you for this opportunity to make this Public Testimony.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Durkson, Chairman

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