

saturday

H O M E S

Reasons to buy property on Maui

By **JOAN MARTIN**

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Dear Joan,

We have been visiting Maui for almost 15 years and we are finally ready to buy a second home and want to figure out the best time to do it. Can you give us some reasons why buying property on Maui is a good idea?

*Signed,
Almost Ready*

Dear Ready,

Wow! Can I. Forget that it's a buyer's market and there are plenty of motivated sellers who are pricing their property to sell. Forget that the baby boomers are retiring and the echo boomers are beginning to enter the market. You can even forget current interest rates at historic lows.

Maui is a worldwide destination and has been described by Lt. Governor Duke Aiona as a "brand within a brand," meaning that Maui is seen as both a part of Hawaii and as an island destination that stands on its own.

Maui real estate is a good value simply because it is on Maui. If you are wondering why you find yourself drawn here each year, but can't decide if this is the right move for you, here are a few of the many things that brought and keep me here. Cut them out and put them in a place where you can read them every day. Then, make your final deci-



sion.

I love the sunshine, trade winds, waterfalls, breathtaking sunsets and sunrises, blooming Jacaranda trees, the Maui Film Festival, the Maui Arts and Cultural Center and Haleakala National Park.

I smile each day when I think about the West Maui Mountains, 100 percent Maui Mokka Coffee, Ka'anapali Beach, Okazuya Deli, the road to Hana, Hana, the Hana Hotel, Ke'anae Peninsula, Keawakapu Beach and Molokini.

My mind and body are at peace when I spend my birthday at the Spa at the Grand Wailea, look out over Honokohua Bay, visit the Iao Valley, Lealia Ponds Wildlife Refuge, Big Beach, Little Beach, Ulua Beach Park, Poli Poli Springs State Park, the Seven Pools at Kipahulu, Twin Falls, and stop for a meal at Kula Lodge and restaurant.

What to do on Maui if the natural beauty is not enough?

I like to visit the Old Lahaina Luau, the Slack Key Guitar Festival, listen to the Small Town Maui radio show each Friday morning on KAOI at 7 a.m., stop by a club and hear Joe Cano sing, spend an evening at the Summer Nights Tennis Tournament, drop by the Maui Ocean Center or walk to a Farmer's Market for fresh, locally grown produce.

I like sunset cruises, watching the windsurfers, the surfers, the kite surfers and children discovering the ocean for the first time. Add to that beachfront dining, the Banyan Tree, 4th of July fireworks in Lahaina, morning walks on Kamaole III beach as the sun is rising, the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, Tide Pools after Dark, Aloha shirts, stargazing at sea and the Kapalua Wine & Food Festival.

Maui brings many pleasures and responsibilities. We are given this beauty and have to be responsible stewards of what

we have received and what we will leave for others to also enjoy. That is a small effort for all that we are given including, deep sea fishing, Grandma's Coffee House in Keokea, Sea Turtles, the Tedeschi Winery, Maui Gold Pineapple, tropical flowers and native plants, Orchid leis, Eco Adventures, Warren & Annabelle's Magic Show, ATV Adventures, Ulalena, Hula, and diving unexplored territory.

But, the best reason to live on Maui is her people and the spirit of aloha. Our diverse and vibrant cultures are the envy of the world. Maui has a tradition of small towns and of neighbor helping neighbor. Come to Maui and make the decision to be a contributing member of the community. In no time at all, you will have more friends than you can count on your fingers and toes.

Yes, Maui has perfect weather, art galleries, romantic beauty, pink skies, whales dancing in the sea, moon bows at night, rainbows during the day, and even Mulligan's on the Blue. Now, all it needs is you and your love for this island that I am blessed to call home. Why wait?

"Open House" is a factual and sometimes lighthearted look at real estate concerns on Maui. If you have a question you want answered contact Joan Martin at Joanm@firsthawaii.com.