

## Friends of Old Maui High School at Hamakuapoko

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August 02, 2016

Honorable Don S. Guzman, Chair, and Committee Members Economic Development, Energy, Agriculture and Recreation Committee Council of The County of Maui 200 South High Street Wailuku, HI 96773

Subject: Proposed Lease Agreement for the Use and Repurposing of the Old Maui High School Campus at Hamakuapoko

Aloha Chairman Guzman and Members:

The Board of Directors of Friends of Old Maui High School requests your favorable consideration and support for the Lease Agreement between the County of Maui (Lessor) and TEACH Development, LLC, (Lessee) for the use and repurposing of Old Maui High School, and implementation of their proposal to establish and operate an environmental education and demonstration center at the historic campus.

Friends supports the TEACH proposal for the following reasons:

1. We believe the TEACH Development, LLC is uniquely qualified to successfully develop and operate their proposed project. The group's experience, capability and expertise can overcome the challenges of the site. TEACH's proposal recognizes the legacy and significance of the OMHS campus, enhances and preserves its historic features and fulfills the school's early motto: "Onward to a Better Tomorrow."

2. Enlarging upon recommendations of the 2008 OMHS Master Plan (developed for Friends by Chris Hart & Partners), TEACH Center expands the functionality and benefits of that Plan, to better serve our island community, the State, and the Nation. Its innovative programs will produce beneficial results and will be a source of pride and leadership in the future.

TEACH's proposal is worthy of the site, and will be a landmark example of adaptive reuse of the century-old campus. This includes the renovation of the Administration Building as the Patsy Takemoto Mink Reception Center, and the Old Maui High School Museum.

Friends looks forward to assisting TEACH Development, LLC, in their development of the TEACH Center, and their vision for repurposing the campus and structures. We ask you to approve this Lease Agreement, and transmit it to the full Council without delay.

RECEIVED AT <u>EAR</u> MEETING ON <u>8/2/16</u> Rich Lucas

Preserving the Past to Enhance the Future

Mahalo and Aloha,

Friends of Old Maui High School Board of Directors

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