

EDB Committee

From: Rick Rutiz <rick@hanabuild.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 1:26 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: Shane M. Sinenci
Subject: Support for EDB-175 Attached
Attachments: RR_KCA Support.pdf

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MA KA HANA KA 'IKE

"In Working, One Learns"

TO: Economic Development and Budget Committee

Chairwoman Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
Vice Chair Kelly King
Council Member Riki Hokoma
Council Member Tasha Kama
Council Member Alice Lee
Council Member Michael Molina
Council Member Tamara Paltin
Council Member Shane Sinenci
Council Member Yuki Lei Sugimura

Date: May 15, 2019

From: Rick Rutiz
PO Box 968
Hāna, HI 96713

SUBJECT: Please approve EDB – 175 to fund critical infrastructure for the Kaupō School Restoration Project.

Aloha Council Members,

I'd like to ask you to please approve EDB – 175 to support infrastructure for the Kaupō School Restoration Project. The Kaupō Community Association has been working for more than two decades to bring this goal to fruition. The project will provide critical services to this rural community, mitigating the risks inherent in geographic isolation and providing a place for people to gather.

As the founder and Executive Director of Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike—a 501(c)3 nonprofit located in Hāna, East Maui—I have had the opportunity firsthand to witness the immense impact of grassroots community efforts. We believe that rural Hawaiian communities, like Hāna and Kaupō, have the inherent capacity to care for their most vulnerable citizens and meet their most basic needs.

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Through their tireless efforts, KCA is realizing an important goal for the Kaupō community that will provide critical emergency and social services for this rural community. As a resident of Kīpahulu, I know what it's like to get completely cut off from the "outside" due to road closures. Indeed, the infrastructure supported by EDB – 175 will ensure that the Kaupō community has a secure and filtered water supply, backup power and telecommunications systems, restroom facilities, and emergency supplies.

Mahalo,



Rick Rutiz
Executive Director
Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike

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