

Dear County Council

I have been a resident of Maui for 40 years and live in Paia. I am a graduate of Seabury Hall and Pepperdine University for Business.

For 8 years I was on the Paia Main Street Board of which I was the Vice-Chair. I have professionally been doing Architectural Design work for the past 30 years. My specialty is preserving and renovating small historic buildings.

I currently own many properties in Paia. Of these 5 are Commercial properties that would be affected by the SID should it pass. I am strongly opposed to this mandatory tax increase. The tax would have the opposite effect of its intended use. It would discourage both owners and merchants from making improvements to the small towns. It would put hard earned money into a town association that has no experience whatsoever in administering these funds and use it to help their own special interest group.

The Paia Town Association, who has made the presentation for why we need a Sid, is not qualified as a voice for our Community. They have voted themselves into position and have had meetings that members are not allowed to attend. In fact 4 of the Directors have personally issued complaints to the County against local small business owners and property owners in the town of Paia based on their own personal bias. The President has even filed 5 lawsuits against local Maui residents and has filed Appeals against the County for issuing permit, that he deemed improper. You can **NOT** help fund an organization that will use its funding against local businesses and property owners for their own discretion.

RECEIVED AT EAK MEETING ON 11/11/16

I have spoken to many other property owners and we believe that it is in the best interest to allow the owners to decide how we will make improvements to the town. The tax would also trickle down to the Tenants through the CAM fees, which Tenants are unaware of. This mandatory tax would only increase their lease payments. I believe that this Bill which calls itself a Special Improvement District will have the exact opposite effect and will discourage property owners and create community dissention against each other by allowing a special interest group use the funds against the people it is intended to assist.

If you really want to help small communities like Paia have improvements, organize a small town's planner within the County that focuses on **Helping** us to streamline the process of making renovations and repairs and getting after the fact permits for old existing structures that were built before permits existed.

Currently there are are 19 buildings that have already sent in testimony against this from passing which is 21% of the owners in Paia. Many other Owners will join in and vote against this new tax once they are given proper notice. Once merchants understand that this bill will increase their Lease payments they will also be against this Bill.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Baskin', written over the printed name.

Michael Baskin

Paia Commercial Property Owner