

EDB Committee

From: Andrea Dean <andrea@hokunui.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 12:02 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Public Testimony- in support of SWCD
Attachments: SWCD Support- HN.pdf

Aloha! Submitting testimony from Hoku Nui Farms. Please confirm receipt.

--

Andrea Dean, MBA
Strategic and Community Partnerships Manager

Hōkūnui Maui
Regenerative Farming Community
Cell: 808-960-3727
PO Box 1347 Makawao, HI 96768
www.hokunui.com
[Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#)



April 9, 2019

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

SUBJECT: Funding for the Maui Soil & Water Conservation Districts—Fiscal Year 2020
Budget Meeting

We are cooperators of one of the Soil & Water Conservation Districts on Maui and receive conservation planning assistance for our farm in Makawao.

I cannot overstate the importance of the support we get from Hannah Lutgen in developing our conservation plans and helping us with technical assistance and to receive federal assistance from the USDA-NRCS Farm Bill Program.

Hannah and the Maui SWCD supports us with our native forestation, livestock, composting, slaughter and water conservation programs.

We fully support continued funding for this important program for our Maui farms.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrea Dean". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrea Dean

EDB Committee

From: Maui Green & Beautiful <mauigreenbeautiful@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 9:53 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: EDB-1: in support of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
Attachments: April 9.docx MNBG.docx

Aloha & Mahalo,
Support testimony attached from Maui Green & Beautiful



Maui Green & Beautiful

*Caring for the Aina
Through Preservation, Protection & Education*

April 9, 2019

Budget and Finance Committee, Maui County Council
Budget Chairwoman, Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
200 South High St., 8th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

Honorable Members of the Council:

Maui Green & Beautiful is writing to urge you to support Mayor Victorino's FY2020 budget request for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.

We have seen MNBG grow into an amazing living classroom for our community and our visitors. Every time we visit or participate in events at MNBG there are always good changes happening. The staff is dedicated & knowledgeable.

One of our favorite events to participate in is the MNBG is the La' Ula (Breadfruit Day) celebration in September. This is one of the best outreach events to the community for us. Celebrating a tree that has history and importance in the Hawaiian culture and its new resurgence of use not only to the community but beyond our islands is just amazing. MNBG is the best place on Maui for visitors and residents to learn the cultural history of Maui County's unique plants.

We also participate in the annual Arbor Day event "The Hawaiian Tree Give Away" in November. MG&B promotes the importance of trees and their proper care and on this day what better way than to see all ages of the community treasure their new "green" members of their families carrying them home to be planted.

We have worked on several projects with MNBG and appreciate the support of this special place and the willingness to make things happen.

Please support Maui Nui Botanical Gardens that teaches us so much.

Sincerely & Mahalo,
Elaine Malina *Board President*
Maui Green & Beautiful
PO Box 402, Kahului, HI 96733

www.mauibeautiful.org
mauigreenbeautiful@gmail.com

EDB Committee

From: Pete Jalbert <pete@mauirealestate.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 4:57 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: 2019/2020 Maui County Budget

Aloha,

My name is Pete Jalbert. I have been a member of the board of directors for the Paia Youth Council, Inc since 2008. The Paia Youth Council is the board for the Paia Youth and Cultural Center (PYCC). It has been an honor and privilege to help support the Youth Center's mission of "Building Community Through Youth."

PYCC depends upon the financial support of private donors, foundations, county and state funding. I want to thank the County Council for their past generosity towards the PYCC. It has been integral to the growth of the center. PYCC currently serves 75-80 youth a day. It has a positive impact on each on every one of the 9-18 year old Maui residents who step through its doors each day.

I am asking that the council budget for the next fiscal year include \$270,978.00 for general funding for PYCC. Additionally, I hope that the budget will include \$50,000 for continued support for Malama Pono Project Venture (MPPV) for Underage Drinking Prevention. These are both high return investments in the Maui Community.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Best,

Joseph "Pete" Jalbert
22 Auoli St.
Makawao, HI 96768

EDB Committee

From: ozzyozbrn <ozzyozbrn@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 9:12 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: The Kihei Youth Center

Dear Budget Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Budget Committee members,

Supporting The Kihei Youth Center's request of \$276,054 for the upcoming 2020 fiscal year budget would be greatly appreciated. They are currently a recipient of this amount and have been a good steward of any and all funding from the County of Maui. It is vital that they received this grant as it will allow them to continue the good work they do and have done since 1983. For over 36 years, The Kihei Youth Center has been the only youth center in Kihei and they will continue to be a safe place for our kids, both after school and during vacation periods.

Thank you

Lawrence Arevalo
Treasurer,
Street Bikers United

EDB Committee

From: Ethan Grant <grantet@kalama.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 4:34 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: after school

thanks for your funding for the program. I have learned a lot and I wish to have this program next year.

Thanks! Russell Bowden

EDB Committee

From: Stacy Sakamoto <hokuhorse@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 7:11 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: West Maui Off-Leash Dog Park

Aloha,

I am writing in support of an Off-Leash Dog Park in West Maui.

I've always owned dogs, but have never utilized any dog parks until last year when I adopted a Whippet mix from the Humane Society. Whippets are small Greyhound looking dogs that are bred to run. He definitely has that trait. He also loves other dogs and loves to run and play with them. When I researched Whippets, it said not to let them off leash as they have a high prey drive and no car sense.

I take him for walks and have a big yard, but it's not quite the same as running and playing with other dogs. In my search of a safe place to take him, I discovered the dog parks in Kahului and Makawao. I also found a large community of dog owners who utilize these parks everyday.

Dog parks are a great way to socialize, exercise, and have a safe place for owners and dogs to interact and enjoy a sense of community.

I hope you will strongly consider elevating the lives of dogs and owners alike by providing an Off-Leash Dog Park in West Maui.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Stacy Sakamoto

EDB Committee

From: Ane Takaha <bhaktirocks@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 7:55 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: DefundMCVB

Aloha

I am an 11 year resident of South Maui homeowner and a 40+ year visitor for months at a time before that.

I am writing concerning the amount of tourism and cars and congestion I find everyday on our island.

It is so noticeable - like a tipping point has been reached. Everyday when we try to go to the beach there is no where to park. Then the same at the stores and restaurants no matter the time of day. South Kihei Road is a perpetual traffic jam AND forget trying to make a left turn onto South Kihei Road. We call Kihei "no left turn".

More and more the county makes development decisions that have nothing to do with those of us who live here favoring the tourists that "drive the economy". It is so short sighted. Without us there would be no tourists!!!

Last week we took a staycation to Napili. I am amazed (and appalled) a the number of people on the beach! It was like one of those pictures of Europe or Brazil where you see wall to wall people. We could not even swim without bumping into people and paddle boards. Most of the reefs are devastated and it's not just global warming!!!

Please take that money you use to promote tourism and put it towards healing the damage that all the people and cars have done.

Thank you
Ane (& Marc) Takaha
Maui Meadows

EDB Committee

From: Lynn Gottwald <lynngottwald@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 5:40 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Maui County Council Meeting - April 10
Attachments: Recycling Funding.pdf

Please see attached letter.

Lynn Gottwald
406 Monarch Place
Lahaina, HI 96761

Maui County Council
Fiscal Year 2020 Budget
Budget and Finance Committee
West Maui Community Meeting
April 10, 2019

Dear Committee Members:

I am a full-time resident of the West Side of Maui. I am grateful to the Council for funding the Third Saturday Recycling program at Lahaina Cannery Mall, and hope you will consider continuing to do so.

I know that the County provided grants to Malama Maui Nui to pay some of the costs of this great recycling project, which has been so beneficial to the community, the island and the state. I also know from experience that a great number of volunteers provide the necessary labor to conduct this project from month to month.

I realize that Lahaina has an expanded recycling center on Lahainaluna Road, but they do not accept everything and many of things they won't accept, the Third Saturday Recycling will. This program has done so much to prevent the many dumpings that were significantly in view just a few short years ago. At the end of the day, the Council can support the program upfront to decrease the dumpings or they will pay the higher cost of county clean ups, pollution and unsightly views on streets, parks, vacant lots, gulches, rivers, etc. on the back end. The Council will pay one way or the other- I hope you stay in front of it!

The proposed budget presented provides less than half the funds needed by Malama Maui Nui. Unless the Council increases the funding, these events will be cut in half next year and so much of the progress made by this program will be reversed and the number of dumpings will start to increase again.

I urge the Council to increase the proposed funding and continue to support the monthly recycling events in West Maui, for everyone's sake.

Thank you.

Lynn Gottwald

EDB Committee

From: Mark Hyde <HYDEM001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 9:33 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Comment on Proposed County Budget - Transparency re Unfunded Retirement Benefits Owing

The proposed budget includes a chapter entitled "Long Term Financial Plan" but it makes no mention of **two of the county's largest long term liabilities:**

- **unfunded pension/retirement benefits and**
- **unfunded health care benefits promised to retirees.**

Note the comment below from George Mason University's 2018 report on the fiscal health of each state, placing Hawaii near the bottom quartile compared to all states.

Visibility, quantification and discussion of Maui's share of unfunded pension/retiree benefits + unfunded health care benefits guaranteed to retirees should be included in this chapter with progress toward better funding identified and tracked over time.

38
th (Among all 50 states)

"HAWAII SUMMARY

On the basis of its solvency in five separate categories, Hawaii ranks 38th among the US states for fiscal health. Hawaii has between 2.22 and 2.91 times the cash needed to cover short-term obligations. Revenues exceed expenses by 5 percent, with an improving net position of \$332 per capita. In the long run, Hawaii has a net asset ratio of -0.16. **Long-term liabilities are higher than the national average, at 84 percent of total assets, or \$12,056 per capita. Total unfunded pension liabilities that are guaranteed to be paid are \$44.01 billion, or 61 percent of state personal income.** OPEB are \$9.07 billion, or 13 percent of state personal income."

Mark Hyde
4320 E. Waiola Loop
Kihei, HI 96753
(808) 874-3839

EDB Committee

From: Roxie Syla <hanalei525@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 09, 2019 9:12 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Budget Testimony

Aloha Council Members.

I would like to request your support in allotting \$2.25M proposed by the mayor from the Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources and Scenic Views Preservation Fund as a grant to Ke Ao Hali'i for land acquisition in Hana. Land in our islands need to be protected instead of developed, which destroys the land and our oceans natural resources.

Mahalo for your time.
Roxie K. Syla

orig. ✓

Aloha Council Member Sinenci,

The Mauna Kahalawai chapter request that we can receive county funding to create a community driven HFUU farmers market booth which would have components of aggregating fruits and vegetables from the residential and agricultural community in our region, This includes farmers and home owners that have fruit trees and vegetables to glean from. This would also have a professional story board of the educational outreach for those to learn more about who we are and what value we bring to our agricultural and community region.

We as a chapter want to broaden our outreach to include educational workshops that lead up to our state wide convention, which brings in experts in their field of regenerative agriculture to assist in support of our farmers continuing education of living Aloha Aina Malama Aina. We already are doing this to some degree through our chapter gatherings each month that are open to the public and our existing members.

Our chapter has been in existence since 2014 and in that time we have made a name for ourselves through the support of our state organization and the community who are proud members of HFUU. Our meetings are currently held the 2nd Thursday of each month at the chef table of the Maui Tropical Plantation and we invite and encourage all of our county officials to come and be part of the abundant agricultural presence we provide as a service to our community in raising the awareness of the importance of our local food supply.

Mahalo Nui for your consideration,
Bobby Pahia,
Commercial Taro Farmer and President of HFUU Mauna Kahalawai Chapter

RECEIVED AT EDB MEETING ON APR 09 2019

Aloha Council Member Sinenci,

The Haleakala chapter of HFUU would like to request County funding for several initiatives, as follows:

- Support for an HFUU booth at local farmer’s markets. Farmers are already overworked without having to staff a booth several times a week just to sell their produce. This is particularly true of smaller farms that only grow a limited number of crops. We would like to see support in the form of a coordinator who would aggregate produce and take it to market on behalf of farmers. In my opinion, this would be best done at existing markets in town and possibly in cooperation with the Mauna Kahalawai chapter. This would also create an excellent opportunity to raise funds for the Union and grow our membership, while expanding market opportunities for farmers and making nutritious, locally grown food more available to residents.
- Create a farm labor clearinghouse, where workers can register according to their abilities and experience and be rated and certified by HFUU. Farmers who need extra help from time to time could easily locate and confidently hire available workers with the required skills. This may be online only or include a physical location. HFUU might consider offering payroll services as an adjunct.
- Direct support for each Maui chapter. This could aid in helping cover the cost of speakers brought in from outside Maui. It could also help support new programs, like the Junior Farmer’s Program of the Haleakala chapter.
- Support for the 2019 HFUU State Convention. Our annual convention has grown in quality each year and last year’s was the best yet. But the comments heard most frequently have been regarding the cost. We are providing an immense value to the farming and general community but if people cannot afford to attend much of that value is being wasted. County support of this event would be a concrete demonstration of its commitment to our farming community.

Thank you for our time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Dobovan
 President
 Haleakala Chapter
 Hawai’i Farmer’s Union United

Aloha Council Member Sinenci,

My name is Kaipo Kekona, President of the HFUU Lahaina Chapter. I strongly seek your support in our Chapters goal to provide our small farmers, community consumers, and our visitors access to educational and produce opportunities.

Our Lahaina Chapter has been actively engaging with schools in our region providing educational formats on, regenerative agriculture, soil health, hydrology, and food security.

We are also hoping to establish a form of management for a farmers co-operative market venue. Providing a system to pickup farmers produce and market it in farmers markets established in our community. We are also looking at possibly establishing a market of our own in Lahaina.

With your support it would help us tremendously meet these goals in our region. I thank you for your time and ask for your strong consideration in supporting our mission! Mahalo nui 'oukou!

Kaipo Kekona

APR 09 2019

Aloha Council Member Sinenci,

Thank you for considering our request for county funding. Our chapter, as well as all Maui chapters would benefit from county funding in regards to starting farmers markets in our regions to help support local farmers and the community. Also we would appreciate funding to help educate the community and other farmers with specific workshops that are available to everyone.

In addition the Hana chapter would like to do research and steps into serving the needs and opportunities of East Maui agricultural producers with mini food hubs and the cooperative transport of produce to markets on the other side of the island. Most small growers don't have the economy of scale to make it worthwhile to drive their harvest to central Maui for sale, but would be able to contribute to a regular cooperative shipment. Certain sites with existing chillers could serve as drop off locations. Refrigerator trucks that are currently bringing goods into Hana but going out empty could deliver East Maui produce to markets with relatively little additional cost, just some coordination. Another option we will research is partnering with the Mokulele airlines and Ampaire for air cargo using the hybrid-electric airplane that they will be testing in Hana.

The Hana Chapter would like to continue our Rat Lungworm Disease prevention outreach efforts. We received a grant from the Hawaii Community Foundation through the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation in 2017, to do outreach and education with farmers and provide education for our residents. While we are fortunate that no new cases of the disease have been recently confirmed in East Maui, the disease and its vectors are here to stay and require a permanent lifestyle change. To make sure our community doesn't become complacent, we want to continue offering current education, awareness and tools for our farmers, residents and visitors regarding vector control, safe food handling, and diagnosis and treatment. We also want to be available to support other communities who may look to East Maui as a model of community-and farmer- driven response to this critical health and agricultural issue.

Thank you for your time and consideration on these issues.

Matthew Van Paepeghem, President
Hana Chapter, Hawaii Farmers Union United