

EDB Committee

From: Kevin Chang <kevin@kuahawaii.org>
Sent: Wednesday, May 15, 2019 7:09 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: Shane M. Sinenci; Miwa Tamanaha
Subject: KUA Testimony Regarding EDB-175
Attachments: KUA LOS Kaupo Restoration 5-15-19.pdf

Aloha Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair King and the Maui County Economic Development and Budget Committee;

Attached please find KUA's testimony in support of EDB-175.

Aloha nui!

Kevin

--

Kevin Chang
Co-Director
Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)
Cell: (808) 672-2545
Email: kevin@kuahawaii.org

Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA)
grassroots growing through shared responsibility
www.kuahawaii.org

c/o KEY Project
47-200 Waihe'e Road
Kāne'ohe, HI 96744



May 15, 2019

ATTN: Maui County Council
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
edb.committee@mauicounty.us

SUBJECT: Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo's (KUA) Testimony in Support of Approval of EDB – 175 to fund critical infrastructure for the Kaupō School Restoration Project.

Aloha Council Members;

Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA) submits this letter to urge your support and approval of EDB-175 to fund critical infrastructure for the Kaupō School Restoration Project.

KUA works to empower communities to improve their quality of life through caring for their environmental heritage together. We employ a community-driven approach that currently supports a network of more than 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), over 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a new and growing hui of Limu practitioners all from across our state.

Though this project is not directly connected to an initiative of an organizational member of our networks, we are familiar with the effort. Community members from Kaupō and throughout the moku of East Maui are deeply involved in the networks we facilitate.

A primary function of KUA includes development of the 'auwai, a stream or pathway of resources tools, policy and administrative processes and bridges and networks that help to cultivate and take community-based natural resource management to greater levels of collective impact on how we mālama Hawai'i. We celebrate grassroots kipuka initiatives like this, the advocacy, community empowerment and spirit of place-based community stewardship they engender. Our networks will grow and learn from them.

The Kaupō Community Association worked 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.



We commend the Kaupō Community Association for their grassroots efforts to create a kīpuka for the Kaupō community. The facilities that will be restored and the infrastructure that will be constructed will provide countless opportunities and services for this rural community. This kīpuka will also ensure the community has a place to gather and mobilize to find real solutions to the issues that threaten Kaupō's natural and cultural resources.

It is important that our rural communities hold on to and protect Hawai'i's remaining cultural landscapes for present and future generations. Your support of EDB-175 will increase the Kaupō community's ability to steward this unique place.

Pūpūkahi i holomua e ho'okanaka
(Let's unite to better the human condition)

Kevin K.J. Chang
Co-Director

Miwa Tamanaha
Co-Director