

EDB Committee

From: Alana Yurkanin <alana.yurkanin@TNC.ORG>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 6:14 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: EDB-1 Written Testimony - Alana Yurkanin

Aloha,

Regarding EDB-1 Fiscal Year 20-20 Budget Deliberations, I am writing to **STRONGLY SUPPORT** continued County financial aid for the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellowship program.

As a current Fellow nearing program completion, I have experienced first-hand the benefits of participating in this Fellowship - including but not limited to better understanding the complexity of affordable housing, transportation infrastructure, healthcare, law-making and the Legislature, sustainable agriculture, water rights, and habitat restoration. With a better understanding of these subjects, I feel more compelled and confident to participate in my government, sharing my voice via public testimonies (having submitting more public testimonies in the last year alone than ever before in my life), getting involved on Boards of organization I believe in, and empowering others to do the same. For instance, because of Ka Ipu Kukui I was inspired to join The Maui Huliau Foundation's effort to host the first ever zero-waste festival on Maui within the next year, a group which also has the potential to grow into Maui's very own zero-waste coalition.

I've learned that leadership isn't just about leading, it's also being brave enough to follow something you believe in. All the complex aforementioned issues will need creative solutions and people to support them and see them through. Ka Ipu Kukui is raising humble, brave, informed leaders with diverse perspectives and with a Network of friends and Fellows who are gearing up to make those solutions happen - together. The County's continued financial support for Ka Ipu Kukui is for the benefit of all those in Maui County who wish to live in a better world with a bright future.

I **STRONGLY SUPPORT** continued County financial aid for the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellowship program.

Mahalo nui loa,
Alana Yurkanin

EDB Committee

From: Bob Alessandrelli <RLA921@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 5:41 PM
To: EDB Committee; Keani N. Rawlins; Kelly King; Riki Hokama; Tasha A. Kama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Property Tax Rate for Short-term Rentals

Aloha,

First, thank you for your service to Maui. Being a part of local government is not easy and I appreciate your time.

My wife and I own a lovely condo on Maui. We've enjoyed visiting more frequently since purchasing it in January 2014 and we also short-term rent our property via Maui Condo & Home. We remodeled our unit upon purchasing it and completely re-furnished it. This brought dollars to the Maui economy via a local contractor and various stores. We maintain it to high standards and spend money, again in the local economy, whenever we visit.

Our ocean-front property is experiencing some ocean-related problems and we're doing some major restoration that will protect and enhance our property. Due to this, our association fees are close to *triple* what they were when we purchased our condo just 5 years ago. An additional huge property tax will burden us even further.

We want to support Maui and its economy but hope that there may another way or at least a greatly reduced rate than what is currently being being suggested in this tax increase.

I wholeheartedly endorse the fine letter that Lisa H. Paulson, Executive Director of the Maui Hotel & Lodging Association, has submitted to you. Please carefully review her points.

Mahalo.

Bob Alessandrelli
Kahana Reef

AI

EDB Committee

From: Carla Ritte-Hanchett <carlaleolani@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 1:49 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Molokai Testimony

Aloha Council Members,

I appreciate this opportunity to say mahalo for your support of the Maui Food Bank which works closely with our Molokai Agencies, Churches and Organizations (currently 22) to kokua and malama our families in need.

I'm grateful to have been a part of the early years (25yrs ago?) and though I left the island for a long season when I returned to see the 'service' still going strong is a testament to the saying "Team work makes the Dream work"!

Having been 'active' in community 'concerns' I know first hand how passionately our beloved Moloka'i can be seriously divided. Our partnership with the Maui Food Bank has proven how beautifully our community can work together side by side in love, love, love.

Again THANK YOU for your support, we would not have been able to successfully serve our island for over two decades with out your kokua!

Mahalo Plenty,

Carla Ritte-Hanchett

(Kaunakakai Baptist Church)

EDB Committee

From: Cathy Howe Schmitz <caschmitzj@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 5:33 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Tax increase

Please reject the proposed tax increases on short term and condo rentals. I am a recent purchaser of what I consider very expensive property. The only way to make ownership affordable for me is to rent it out on a short term basis. These increasing taxes will make it difficult, if not impossible for me to own property in Maui.

This will deter home buying and investing in Maui. In the long run, that only hurts Maui and the tourist industry. Most taxes are passed on to the consumers. That only deters tourism.

Please vote no. Thanks for your time.

Cathy Howe Schmitz
738 South Kihei Road
Muai Hawaii

Sent from my iPad

EDB Committee

From: Alice L. Lee
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 1:19 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: FW: Property Tax Increase on Short-term vacation Rentals and Hotels

From: Debra Kaihani <dkaihani@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 11:09 AM
To: Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>; Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Property Tax Increase on Short-term vacation Rentals and Hotels

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

Increasing the property tax paid by owners, who are an essential component of the tourism business, is a bad idea. It will have a bewildering affect on property values, as it will greatly discourage buyers from participating in Maui's vacation and real estate market. Instead, they may well look elsewhere to invest their money.

Maui property tax has benefited by increasing property values, but this will no longer be the case. In addition, owners will be forced to raise their lodging prices which will have a huge, negative impact on the tourism business. It's easy to raise taxes on nonresidents, but I ask you to responsibly think about the consequences of your actions.

Respectfully,
Debra J. Kaihani

EDB Committee

From: Diane. pejkovich <diane.pejkovich@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 4:39 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Proposed Property Tax Increase for ShortbTerm Rentals

Ladies and Gentlemen

My name is Diane Pejkovich and I own a condo on Maui that I rent when I am not on island. I am writing to you to express my concern over the proposed drastic increase in property tax rates and the impact it would have on owners such as myself. I worked hard my entire life and saved for decades to buy a property on Maui that I could enjoy and offer to others to enjoy as well. As you know, hotel rates are cost prohibitive for many visitors and condo rentals are the only way that many people can visit Hawaii. Likewise, many of us owners depend on rentals to assist with paying the mortgage, taxes and other expenses. Increasing the property tax rates would have a devastating effect on me as well as most other owners. While we don't live on island, our property already generates significant tax revenue for the state in the form of General Excise and Transient Accommodations taxes. Raising the property taxes would most likely force me to sell my dream that I worked so hard for my whole life. I ask you to please reconsider your proposal and think of the people that would be impacted in such a devastating way. Certainly there are other ways to generate income for the state that are not designed to impact a small segment of the population in such a big way. I respectfully request you consider how harmful this would be to the condo owners that share their dream with others while trying to make ends meet.

Respectfully,

Diane and Mark Pejkovich

Sent from my iPhone

EDB Committee

From: Duffy Deardeuff <duffy.sharon@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 2:12 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Tax increase

The 64% proposed tax increase is obscene to apply to our hard working owners trying to maintain a good value rental.
I own one vacation rental and can't afford more price increases Jim Deardeuff 2191 South Kihei Rd

Sent from my iPad

EDB Committee

From: Eriko Dowd <eriko@zelleeorganic.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 6:18 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: EDB-1 Support for Maui Food Technology Center

Dear Maui County Council Members,

My name is Eriko Dowd, and I'm the founder of Zellee Organic LLC, a Maui-based food product company. I am writing to share with you my experiences with the Maui Food Technology Center (MFTC), which has been a great resource for my business. Luana Mahi and Linn Nishikawa of the MFTC provide numerous services, opportunities, and support to local small businesses in the food arena. My company has benefited greatly from Luana's guidance in selling my products to Hawaii retailers, including the military commissaries on Oahu, which would not have been possible without her assistance. In addition, MFTC has provided export training for my company and guided me in having my products showcased at a trade show in Japan.

I believe that MFTC is an invaluable asset to Maui's thriving food community, and I ask that Maui County continue to support this wonderful organization. Thank you very much.

Warmly,
Eriko Dowd

Eriko Dowd - Founder
Zellee Organic
PO Box 1329
Makawao, HI 96768
808-283-8386
www.zelleeorganic.com
join us on [facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)!

EDB Committee

From: Frances Duberstein <fduberstein@aloha-house.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 2:09 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: EDB-1 Written Testimony
Attachments: EDB-1 Written Testimony from Frances Duberstein.docx

Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,

My name is Frances Duberstein and I work for the nonprofit umbrella that includes Aloha House, Maui Youth & Family Services and Malama Na Makua A Keiki (Malama Family Recovery Center). Although our agencies share a central administration and have an interlocking Board of Directors, each agency still has its own funding stream and each receives critical funding from the County to help our community.

I am writing to voice my support for continued funding for all three agencies through Maui County's Department of Housing and Human Concerns.

Aloha House

Mission: To promote recovery and healthy lifestyles to individuals and families by providing compassionate, effective and comprehensive behavioral health services with the spirit of excellence and aloha.

We are requesting continued funding of:

- \$136,350/year for our Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program. It is a structured living environment for those who need a real "time-out" from their daily lives in order to recover from substance use disorder. The program provides screening, assessment, nursing care, counseling, psychological services, case management, recovery education, discharge planning and assistance in developing sober support in the community. It is the **ONLY** residential substance abuse treatment program on Maui that is accessible to very low income individuals.

- \$125,000/year for our Medically Monitored Detoxification Program. This program helps individuals recover from substance dependence and acute symptoms of detoxification and helps them access the most appropriate treatment needed. The program provides 24/7 nursing services and medications to facilitate a safe detoxification as well as screening, assessment, counseling, treatment and discharge planning. It is the **ONLY** medically-monitored detoxification facility on Maui.

Maui Youth & Family Services

Mission: To empower youth and families challenged with behavioral health issues to become responsible, self-fulfilled and contributing members of the community.

We are requesting continued funding of \$60,000/year for our Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Program for Adolescents. It provides individualized treatment for 12-17 year-olds that includes clinical supervision, individual and family counseling, group therapy, education about addiction as well as activities and recreational excursions that reflect Hawaiian cultural values. It is the **ONLY** substance abuse treatment option for adolescents on Maui. We find that many young people who deal with substance abuse and addiction issues lack interests outside of their chemically

dependent lifestyle and/or come from families that lack the time or financial means to provide such experiences. Thus, increasing opportunities to develop new interests, stir passions, and build connections, particularly activities that require physical exertion, are extremely important. Our staff provides transportation to/from treatment for youth, removing that as a barrier for our community's youth and their families.

Malama Na Makua A Keiki (Malama Family Recovery Center)

Mission: To provide caring, holistic substance abuse treatment to women and children so families can live safe, independent and healthy lives.

We are requesting continued funding of \$172,000/year for our Substance Abuse Treatment Program for Women, which is targeted at pregnant and parenting women. Malama is Maui's **ONLY** women-specific addiction treatment center and the **ONLY** place on the island where babies and young children can stay with their mothers while they get help. Because the women we serve are a high needs and difficult-to-reach population, we need to eliminate the most common barriers to treatment that women in recovery face. We eliminate these barriers by not requiring clients have insurance in order to get help, providing transportation (to and from our facility, medical appointments, AA/NA meetings, mother-child visitations as part of the reunification process, pre-delivery tours at the hospital, etc.) and offering free childcare. Women also gain access to parenting resources and classes.

Thank you very much for working with us to help those in need in our community. We deeply appreciate the County's support and your considering our requests. I have attached a Word document that has the content of this email. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Mahalo,
Frances

--
Frances Duberstein
Development Coordinator
Aloha House, Inc.
Maui Youth and Family Services, Inc.
Malama Family Recovery Center, Inc.
Work: 808-579-8414 x8102

Cell: 808-359-4684

Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,

My name is Frances Duberstein and I work for the nonprofit umbrella that includes Aloha House, Maui Youth & Family Services and Malama Na Makua A Keiki (Malama Family Recovery Center). Although our agencies share a central administration and have an interlocking Board of Directors, each agency still has its own funding stream and each receives critical funding from the County to help our community.

I am writing to voice my support for continued funding for all three agencies through Maui County's Department of Housing and Human Concerns.

Aloha House

Mission: To promote recovery and healthy lifestyles to individuals and families by providing compassionate, effective and comprehensive behavioral health services with the spirit of excellence and aloha.

We are requesting continued funding of:

- \$136,350/year for our Residential Substance Abuse Treatment Program. It is a structured living environment for those who need a real “time-out” from their daily lives in order to recover from substance use disorder. The program provides screening, assessment, nursing care, counseling, psychological services, case management, recovery education, discharge planning and assistance in developing sober support in the community. It is the **ONLY** residential substance abuse treatment program on Maui that is accessible to very low income individuals.

- \$125,000/year for our Medically Monitored Detoxification Program. This program helps individuals recover from substance dependence and acute symptoms of detoxification and helps them access the most appropriate treatment needed. The program provides 24/7 nursing services and medications to facilitate a safe detoxification as well as screening, assessment, counseling, treatment and discharge planning. It is the **ONLY** medically-monitored detoxification facility on Maui.

Maui Youth & Family Services

Mission: To empower youth and families challenged with behavioral health issues to become responsible, self-fulfilled and contributing members of the community.

We are requesting continued funding of \$60,000/year for our Intensive Outpatient Substance Abuse Treatment Program for Adolescents. It provides individualized treatment for 12-17 year-olds that includes clinical supervision, individual and family counseling, group therapy, education about addiction as well as activities and recreational excursions that reflect Hawaiian cultural values. It is the **ONLY** substance abuse treatment option for adolescents on Maui. We find that many young people who deal with substance abuse and addiction issues lack interests outside of their chemically dependent lifestyle and/or come from families that lack the time or financial means to provide such experiences. Thus, increasing opportunities to develop new interests, stir passions, and build connections, particularly activities that require physical

exertion, are extremely important. Our staff provides transportation to/from treatment for youth, removing that as a barrier for our community's youth and their families.

Malama Na Makua A Keiki (Malama Family Recovery Center)

Mission: To provide caring, holistic substance abuse treatment to women and children so families can live safe, independent and healthy lives.

We are requesting continued funding of \$172,000/year for our Substance Abuse Treatment Program for Women, which is targeted at pregnant and parenting women. Malama is Maui's **ONLY** women-specific addiction treatment center and the **ONLY** place on the island where babies and young children can stay with their mothers while they get help. Because the women we serve are a high needs and difficult-to-reach population, we need to eliminate the most common barriers to treatment that women in recovery face. We eliminate these barriers by not requiring clients have insurance in order to get help, providing transportation (to and from our facility, medical appointments, AA/NA meetings, mother-child visitations as part of the reunification process, pre-delivery tours at the hospital, etc.) and offering free childcare. Women also gain access to parenting resources and classes.

Thank you very much for working with us to help those in need in our community. We deeply appreciate the County's support and your considering our requests. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions.

Mahalo,
Frances

--

Frances Duberstein

Development Coordinator

Aloha House, Inc.

Maui Youth and Family Services, Inc.

Malama Family Recovery Center, Inc.

Work: 808-579-8414 x8102

Cell: 808-359-4684

EDB Committee

From: gaburk@aol.com
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 5:34 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: Keani N. Rawlins; Kelly King
Subject: Proposed Tax Hike on Short Term Rental properties

We currently pay approximately \$5000 in property taxes every year, and about \$9000 in TOT and GET taxes every year. We understand you are proposing a tax increase from 9% to 15%. Why would you place such a burden on individual owners who are paying their taxes every year (in our case, we already pay a total of \$14000 in taxes), and with our renters, many tens of thousands of dollars into the Maui economy? Are you trying to dissuade people from owning short-term rentals on Maui? Do you wish to have large hotel chains move in instead to take up the demand and put the individual owners out of business? Our guests appreciate the community of individual condos rather than large chain hotels, so please do not hit us even harder and force us to sell our properties to people never rent and therefore do not have the tourists to feed more money into the local economy. And if we can't sell, property values will drop again.

We ask that you reconsider this unbelievably large increase in taxes.

Thank You,

Gary Burkhardt
Brian Goldshlack

EDB Committee

From: Harry Kahunanui <alaemaui@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 7:31 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Concerns over Mayors Budget proposal

Aloha Committee Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and fellow council members,

My name is Harry Kahunanui and I am a county employee working at Central Maui Landfill.

I want to voice my concerns on some items in the mayor's FY 20 budget proposal. The Solid Waste Division of the Department of Environmental Management has over \$100 million dollars in heavy rolling equipment and infrastructure, and over \$470,000/yr spent on maintenance and repairs annually. With no dedicated maintenance/asset management staff these duties have been outsourced to contractors and consultants.

To improve efficiency and effectiveness, I understand the Division requested an expansion position for a Maintenance Coordinator for the FY20 budget to handle maintenance planning, tracking, coordination and asset management. This was reduced in the current mayor's submittal. However I am requesting that Council consider adding this to the FY20 budget.

Having a dedicated coordinator will help move us from a reactive "run to failure" mode to a more proactive plan. Benefits include reducing landfill downtime(due to lack of sufficient equipment), extend equipment life, less unplanned failures, improve efficiency, lower cost and improve community service. This position would cost \$72,500/yr plus fringe and overhead, as compared to the current outsourcing of these services at over \$270,000 per year, saving over 197,000/yr, and assist with compliance with the Konno Decision.

Another area of concern I have is regards to the mayor's idea of opening Central Maui Landfill one Sunday a month. We are already open 6 days out of the week from 6am to 3pm. We are open on all the holidays from 6am to 12pm including Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. All other landfills in Maui County are closed for most holidays and I believe are open 5 days a week. It doesn't seem fair that the employees at Central Maui Landfill don't share a similar schedule. Closing on most of the holidays would cut down on premium pay.

The mayor came down to the landfill to meet with the employees to see if they would be willing to volunteer to work overtime one Sunday a month. It was unanimously voted down. To operate one Sunday a month would require additional equipment(bull dozers, compactor, roll-off trucks), additional manpower. Negotiations with the unions would probably have to take place as work schedules would have to be changed. I believe the cost to operate 6 Sundays in 2020 would be about \$100,000 while the normal cost per landfill day operation is around \$20,000. It would take around 8 months to get a new landfill dozer in from when the bid would be awarded as it has to be built to specs. I hope you will vote down this proposal to open on 6 Sundays as I believe it will be of greater cost than benefit to us taxpayers.

Mahalo all for your time and consideration,

Harry Kahunanui
Cell# (808)264-0004

EDB Committee

From: Heidi Dollinger <heidi.dollinger@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 2:05 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Support Third Saturday Recycling in Lahaina

Aloha,

I am writing in support of Third Saturday Recycling in Lahaina. With the funding in the mayor's proposal, the program will only be held every other month. If Third Saturday Recycling isn't held every other month, we expect to see an increase in illegal dumping of appliances, electronics, scrap metal and vehicle tires in West Maui. Third Saturday Recycling is cost-effective: according to Malama Maui Nui, it costs three times as much to collect illegally dumped items as it does to receive them at Third Saturday Recycling. Please increase the budget for Third Saturday Recycling to the full amount requested by Malama Maui Nui: \$118,200.

Heidi

[View Our Collection of Listings](#)

Heidi E Dollinger, R(S)

Island Sotheby's International Realty

5095 Napilihau St., Suite 113A

Lahaina, HI 96761

www.islandsothebysrealty.com

Cell: [808.359.4245](tel:808.359.4245)

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Island Sotheby's International Realty](#) | [Sotheby's International Realty](#)

EDB Committee

From: James Fahnstock <mauijimf@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 4:42 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: Brooke Moore
Subject: Fwd: Email to the county council to extend 3rd Saturday, of every month for recycling!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Brooke Moore** <bmoore.519@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Apr 16, 2019 at 2:47 PM
Subject: Re: Email to the county council to extend 3rd Saturday, of every month for recycling!
To: James Fahnstock <mauijimf@gmail.com>
Cc: Heidi Dollinger <heidi.dollinger@gmail.com>

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to the county council to ask them to extend the third Saturday recycling event, put on every month by the Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset. I am not a member of the club, but find this event very beneficial to the Westside of Maui, and obviously very efficient for the residents, instead of dumping their appliances on the side of the road.

With funding in the mayor's proposed budget, the monthly Third Saturday Recycling program will only be held every other month next fiscal year.

Please increase the budget for Third Saturday Recycling to the full amount requested by Malama Maui Nui of \$118K.

Thank you very much for your consideration and support!

Mr. Brooke H. Moore
(808) 214-8444 C.#
4465 Honoapiilani Hwy,
Apt. #116
Lahaina, HI 96761

EDB Committee

From: JENNIFER OBERG <jenniferoberg1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 8:38 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: EDB-1 Testimony
Attachments: TESTIMONY FOR MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL.pdf

Aloha Vice-Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez,

Please find attached my testimony for the 2020 Budget Meeting. I hope to attend, but in case I cannot make it, I wanted to submit my testimony via email.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Oberg
Haiku

Jennifer Oberg
808.757.5915

**TESTIMONY FOR MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2020
April 17, 2019**

Aloha. My name is Jennifer Oberg. My husband Craig Mullins and I live in Haiku. We have two teenage daughters. Molly is a sophomore at King Kekaulike High School and Sara will be a freshman next year. I'm a dressmaker with a shop in Makawao, and Craig is a concept designer for film and games.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak. I am here to talk about the proposed funds in the budget for the King Kekaulike Performing Arts Center. I, along with many others, think this is a GREAT idea. I have some professional experience that is relevant to this topic.

I have a background in costuming for theater, opera, film, and television. Throughout the 1990s, I worked in the costume shops at the Washington Opera in Washington, DC, the Shakespeare Theater at the Folger (also in DC), the Old Globe Theater in San Diego, and on numerous films and television productions in Hollywood, California. I am member of the Motion Picture Costumers Union Local 705 in Los Angeles. My husband Craig designs backgrounds, scenery, set pieces and so forth for film and games. He's worked on dozens of projects over the past 30 years. The most recent was creating backgrounds for the movie Spider-Verse, which just won the Oscar for best animated film. We have a strong interest in the performing arts.

I first saw the King Kekaulike Performing Arts Center last year during the show "The Lady Pirates of Captain Bree", by the King Kekaulike Dramaaticans. I was extremely impressed with the show and the center. When I compare the center to theaters that I have worked in on the mainland, it stands up to the best of them. FABULOUS. The building, the box office, the lobby, the theater, the seats, the stage, the fly system, the dressing rooms, the scene shop, the costume shop, even the bathrooms are terrific. During intermission, I approached Principal Mark Elliott to find out there was foundation to support the new center. You see, six years ago I was the PCNC, the Parent-Community Networking Coordinator, at Haiku Elementary School. While I was there, a group of community members started the Haiku Elementary School Foundation. I became the first president. We raised approximately \$200,000 to support the facilities of the school. So, I was thinking about this that night at the theater. I was happy to find out from Mark that a foundation had just been started.

He invited me to attend a board meeting and eventually I became a board member. My focus is on fundraising. I am also a former development director at Roots School in Haiku. I have experience with grant writing and fundraising events. I co-chaired the Haiku Ho'olaule'a and Flower Festival for three years, volunteer for various non-profits events around the island, and have served on the PTA at Haiku School and the PTO at the Montessori School of Maui.

The King Kekaulike Performing Arts Center is AMAZING. I also think the performing arts program at the high school is TOP NOTCH. Theater Director Chris Kepler and Music Director Casey Nagata are highly trained, professional and bring out the best in the kids. Their program is on par with the best high school programs on the mainland. The recent production of "Annie" was WONDERFUL. I believe it was sold out every night. Representative Kyle Yamashita showed up to the Saturday night performance to purchase a ticket at the box office, and was

turned away because it was sold out. He went home, purchased tickets online, and returned for the Sunday matinee. He was thrilled for the success of the show.

The theater program at King Kekaulike also has an arrangement with the Old Globe Theater in San Diego, where one of our tech students can receive a scholarship to attend a 10-day theater tech internship. Being that I worked at the Old Globe, I know what a fantastic opportunity it is. There are plans in the works to develop a technical theater academy within the high school, whereby students would learn all the technical elements of running a top-of-the-line performing arts center. This includes lighting, sound, rigging, set design and construction, and costume design and construction. I'd be happy to volunteer my time with the costuming, and my husband would love to volunteer to create custom backgrounds for productions.

The Performing Arts Center is terrific for the students, AND it also has the ability to become terrific for the COMMUNITY. Ever since it opened, the school has been inundated with requests from Theater, Music, and Dance organizations from Maui, all over Hawaii and the mainland to use the center. At the moment, it is not possible because there is not a full-time Technical Director to oversee such a large expansion of the use of the facility. The Performing Arts Center is also a big addition to the responsibilities of the school administration. It is highly technical, with complicated equipment that requires special maintenance and cleaning. This is not in the school's budget, and the school staff and students are struggling to keep the building going. Not that they are complaining! They are thrilled to have the building. They just need help for the ongoing operational support. Part of the mission of the King Kekaulike Foundation for the Performing Arts is to find funding for these needs.

As a former development director, I know that many funders want to know that they're not the only one being asked. I'm here to assure you that the County is not the only entity we are asking for support. We have a list of foundations and private donors to ask for funding. I'm preparing a grant request right now to ask for equipment for orchestra performances. However, it takes time to write grants, submit them, and get responses. So in the meantime, the \$160,000 in the proposed County budget would be a wonderful kickstart to getting the Performing Arts Center heading in the right direction.

If I may put my PCNC hat back on for a moment - on behalf of the students, parents, and community members of the Upcountry and North Shore community, and the student, parents and community members beyond, and all the performing arts actors, dancers, musicians of Maui, I respectfully ask the Council to consider including the \$160,000 for the King Kekaulike Performing Arts Center in the 2020 Maui County Budget.

Mahalo for your kind consideration.

Jennifer Oberg
100 Uaoa Loop
Haiku, HI 96708
808-757-5915
love@jenniferoberg.com
www.jenniferoberg.com

EDB Committee

From: Helli H. <hellihiga@msn.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 3:09 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Proposed Property Tax Rate Increase for Short Term Rentals

Attn: Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Members of the Committee:

Our names are Ken & Helli Higa, we are owners of only one condo at Kamaole Sands. As long term Maui condo owners, **we strongly oppose the proposed drastic short-term rental rate increase from the current \$9.55 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$15.41 per \$1,000.** The current rate already punishes owners that provide affordable vacation rentals by being assessed a higher rate than resident owners.

This proposed property tax increase of 61% might make it impossible for owners to continue to afford the condo.

We already pay higher property taxes as a result of increased property value. Instead of increasing revenues, this proposed property tax increase for short term rentals might eventually result in declining property values due to slowed real estate sales for condos.

On a small scale, we help the Maui economy by providing employment for cleaners and on island rental managers.

We also offer an affordable alternative for families to enjoy Maui on their vacation. All this provides income to the County of Maui and the State.

Also consider that we help the state by paying the transient accommodation taxes, as well as sales taxes.

We are requesting a more equitable tax structure be considered. **Please do not raise the property tax rates for short-term rentals!**

Respectfully,
Ken & Helli Higa
Kamaole Sands Owners
Condo 4-312

EDB Committee

From: Maui Sugar Mamas <mauisugarmamas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 8:07 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: EDB-1 SUPPORT FOR MAUI FOOD TECHNOLOGY CENTER
Attachments: MFTCSupport.pdf

Aloha Honorable Mayor Victorino and County Council Members,

We are Leanne Ohta and Ana Magarin and we are the Maui Sugar Mamas. On behalf of Maui Food Technology Center, we want to share on how Luana Mahi and MFTC has helped us with our growing business. We have used MFTC's services and want to support the continued funding for MFTC so they are able to help businesses like us continue to move forward and thrive here on Maui and beyond.

Our company was established in August of 2016 in hopes to provide Maui with a new cookie option for snacks, gifts and omiyage. We are moms, who are Dental Professionals and business women who have a passion for baking. We knew that not only having a good product was going to help our company grow but to also have a better understanding of our business. This involves learning about ingredient and nutritional labels, compliance with state and federal laws, marketing from people like Luana Mahi and staff, who have been dedicated and around to the industry for many years.

We were introduced to MFTC, as well as Luana Mahi and the team, when we took the Maui Innovation Exceleator Program at UHMC. Luana was there to give us information on services that they provide as well the importance of food labeling, nutritional information, food testing for shelf life and many other components that are important for production and manufacturing of our products. We were very fortunate to have met up with Luana and she was willing to answer any questions we had and provide us with valuable tips and information. Leanne and I also have become better business partners because of the information MFTC and Luana have provided. MFTC (Luana and Linn Nishikawa) is also a part of the Maui Sunday Market that has given us and other local businesses a venue to promote our products weekly. MFTC has also collaborated with organizations like MEDB and the Made in Maui County Festival to give the local businesses of Maui, a chance to showcase our products to many wholesalers and hotels here on our island as well as national and international markets.

MFTC and Luana has been outstanding and has always been available to help us with any questions we may have as well as meeting up numerous times to see our progress. MFTC is such a valuable resource not only to us, but to other businesses who want to start and need guidance to succeed here on Maui. They also encourage others to see the potential in national or international markets such as Japan. We are very fortunate to have MFTC here on Maui so please continue support and fund MFTC so they may continue to provide this amazing service, support and to empower our Entrepreneurs here on Maui! We are so grateful and blessed!

Mahalo for giving us the opportunity to share.

Leanne Ohta and Ana Magarin,
Maui Sugar Mamas

--

-Over the past 5 years Tri-Isle R,C,&D has repeatedly raised it's administrative fee to the point where, this past year, it took 19% of the \$25,000 budget for MSGN as an administrative fee. Oh, yes, and the set-up fee is \$100.00 per grant. Grow Some Good charges an 8% administrative fee which is the lowest I know of and they do not put a fee on donations that MSGN brings in.

Finally, our work together is synergistic. We do not work in silos. We now have a presence in all our Maui and Lana'i DOE schools K-12.

I concluded my response to Council Member Rawlins' question by saying:

“When it comes to garden learning we are your boots on the ground!”

We don't just put out a curriculum, we are there to teach it... in outdoor “classrooms”...

Mahalo Nui for All You Do. It is very much appreciated!

Lehn Huff, Director
Maui School Garden Network
PO Box 458
Haiku, Hawaii 96708
(808) 250-8323 Cell
msgn@hawaii.rr.com

Facebook: Maui School Garden Network

EDB Committee

From: Liz May <liz5a@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 3:45 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Third Saturday Recycling Budget
Attachments: THIRD SATURDAY RECYCLING.pdf

April 16, 2019

Aloha County Council Members,

It takes a Village to be have a successful community AAAAA Rent 3rd Saturday Recycling at Lahaina Cannery Mall we have partner Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset, Malama Maui Nui, Lahaina Canne

This remarkable program began four years ago, in July 2015. Ea The Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset and many community volunte recyclable materials -- appliances, electronic devices, scrap meta did not provide this free service to our Westside Community wh

Third Saturday Recycling has collected a huge milestone: 500 to diverted from the landfill.

Many West Maui residents have told us about the importance of **Third Saturday Recycling**, we're told, some residents loaded a trucks, drove them into the West Maui mountains, and dumped t taxes why don't they have a place to bring their items on the We:

Thanks to the **Third Saturday Recycling** program – and the det community volunteers in so many community programs – our st cleanest part of our beautiful island. We believe this is due to pr can bring their goods.

M. Elizabeth May
General Manager
AAAAA Rent A Space
3600 Lower Honoapiilani Rd.
Lahaina HI 96761
Office 808-669-5200
Fax 808-669-7041
Cell 808-721-5909
liz5a@aol.com
www.5aspace.com

April 16, 2019

Aloha County Council Members,

It takes a Village to be have a successful community AAAAA Rent A Space is a proud sponsor of the 3rd Saturday Recycling at Lahaina Cannery Mall we have partnered with The Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset, Malama Maui Nui, Lahaina Cannery Mall and The County of Maui,

This remarkable program began four years ago, in July 2015. Each month Malama Maui Nui staff, The Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset and many community volunteers collect an average of 12 tons of recyclable materials -- appliances, electronic devices, scrap metal, vehicle tires and batteries. If we did not provide this free service to our Westside Community where would it go?

Third Saturday Recycling has collected a huge milestone: 500 tons – **that's 1,000,000 pounds** – diverted from the landfill.

Many West Maui residents have told us about the importance of continuing this program. Before **Third Saturday Recycling**, we're told, some residents loaded appliances and tires on the back of trucks, drove them into the West Maui mountains, and dumped them. The West Maui Residents pay taxes why don't they have a place to bring their items on the West side.

Thanks to the **Third Saturday Recycling** program – and the determined efforts of so many community volunteers in so many community programs – our staff reports that West Maui is now the cleanest part of our beautiful island. We believe this is due to providing a place that our residents can bring their goods.

But the **Third Saturday Recycling** program can only continue with your support. The County of Maui has given Malama Maui Nui a grant to operate Third Saturday Recycling this year, July 2018 through June 2019. Despite our reliance on volunteers, the actual cost of these 12 monthly events is \$104,000. We're short and the budget for the New Year has been cut which would only allow us to do the 3rd Saturday Recycling every other month.

Please increase the budget for Third Saturday Recycling to the full amount requested by Malama Maui Nui: \$118,220.00

We are honored to be able to partner with this organization Mālama Maui Nui a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to educate, inspire, and empower individuals and communities to beautify and maintain Maui Nui's environment, thereby supporting its economy, quality of life, and unique Hawaiian culture. MMN brings individual volunteers, local businesses, community organizations, and government agencies together to promote the environmental health of Maui County.

We're making a difference on Maui. With your help, we can do even more.

Best Regards,

Liz May
AAAAA Rent A Space
VP GM Hawaiian Operations

Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset
Past President
Community Service

Go Green Keep Our Island Clean

EDB Committee

From: Alice L. Lee
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 1:54 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: FW: Proposed property tax increase

From: Maureen Berry <Maureen@caz95421.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 1:35 PM
To: 'Kelly.King@mauicounty.us'; 'Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us'; 'Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us'; 'Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us'; 'Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us'; 'Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us'; 'Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us'; 'Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us'; 'Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us'
Subject: Proposed property tax increase

To: 'Kelly.King@mauicounty.us'; 'Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us'; 'Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us'; 'Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us'; 'Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us'; 'Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us'; 'Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us'; 'Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us'; 'Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us'

Subject: Proposed Property Tax Increase

Dear Committee Members.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed increase in property taxes for condo-hotels from \$9.38 per \$1,000 to \$15.41 per \$1,000, a 64% increase.

Tourism is a major industry in Hawaii and, in particular, in Maui. Almost doubling property taxes will depress property values, discourage property purchases, potentially send the Maui real estate market into recession and ultimately hurt tourism.

With GET and TAT taxes continually increasing, a huge increase in property taxes could devastate tourism. In addition, it would put a tremendous financial burden on condo owners who depend on rental income to be able to afford the high real estate prices.

I purchased my first condo-hotel unit in 2005 and my second unit in January of this year. I took on a hefty mortgage in order to purchase my second unit, and I based my ability to repay the loan upon the current property tax rates, along with anticipated rental income. If my property taxes increase by 64% and my rental income drops, that would certainly jeopardize my ability to repay my loan, particularly since I am near retirement age.

As a non-resident owner, I spend significant money on Maui keeping my two condos in prime rental condition, and my guests spend money in restaurants, retail outlets, and on activities while visiting the island.

I ask that you reconsider this enormous tax increase.

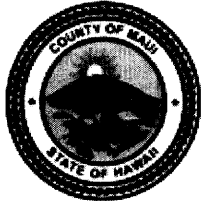
Sincerely,

Maureen Berry
Owner of Units 413 & 417 at the Mahana at Kaanapali
PO Box 71
Cazadero, CA 95421
(707) 865-9455
maureen@caz95421.com

EDB Committee

From: Kelly King
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 11:54 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Fw: Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget

With Aloha,



Office of Council Chair Kelly T. King
South Maui Residency
Office: 808.270.7108
200 South High Street, 7th Fl
Wailuku HI 96793
mauicounty.us

From: MeiLee Dowling <Meilee@dowlingco.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 11:08 AM
To: Kelly King
Subject: Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget

Aloha Council Chair King,

How are you? I haven't since you have been selected as Council Chair congratulations! I know you're busy but I wanted to reach out to you regarding the budget for fiscal year 2020. I'm currently serving on the Boys and Girls Club of Maui and the board has requested an increase to our funding. Our clubhouses have grown to 8 this summer to accommodate more kids island wide and the club has been able to provide great resources for the keiki of Maui. Some of the stories and background of these kids are just heartbreaking and the club with its mentors and programs have been able to greatly help these kids rise above their adversities.

I am asking you humbly to please support the budget increase for the Boys and Girls Club of Maui.

Thank you,
Mei Lee Wong Dowling

EDB Committee

From: Alice L. Lee
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 1:54 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: FW: Property tax increase proposal on short-term and vacation rentals

From: Michelle Samis <ainasam54@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 1:17 PM
To: Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>; Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Property tax increase proposal on short-term and vacation rentals

Honorable Mayor and City Council,

Increasing real estate taxes on short-term and vacation rentals will have an immediate, negative effect on the tourist industry. Owners will necessarily have to raise their pricing to offset this additional expense. Additionally, it will likely discourage buyers from participating in the vacation real estate market. This does not mean a priori that these units will become long term rentals. I am not sure how exactly such an initiative will effect property values. It seems that Maui County is already benefiting from increased tax revenue due to increases in property values.

I suggest this initiative requires substantial research as to consequences and effects prior to calling a vote. Additionally, if there has been, or currently is, any legal action pending that could further inform this decision, I suggest those actions be fully adjudicated prior to any vote, in case the results further inform this initiative.

Respectfully,
Michelle Samis

EDB Committee

From: Mitzi Toro <themaucookie lady@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 12:32 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: Gerry Smith
Subject: EDB-1 Support for Maui Economic Development Board.

Aloha County Council,

My name is Mitzi Toro, and I am the Maui Cookie Lady. I would like to submit testimony today in support of the Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB). MEDB creates jobs in Maui County and I support their continued funding. I am proud to say that I have been working with MEDB for over four years. When I first met MEDB, I had just started my Cookie Company. I was baking and selling cookies all by myself at First Friday events. Now, in just five years since I started the business and four short years, I have a staff of four full time employees and six part time employees. I am able to offer the full time staff health benefits and have given several small raises as we grow.

MEDB has been there for me every step of the way. I remember sitting in the MEDB office early on to discuss growing my business and coming to the decision that I wanted to keep my time, talent and treasure here on Maui. I was determined to hire local and also find local contracted professional services. I hired a Maui based business lawyer, Maui based bookkeeper and switched from a mainland CPA to a Maui based CPA. We also decided to use a local based HR Company when outsourcing payroll.

MEDB helped me recognize what I was good at and what I was not so good at and helped me focus on fixing what I needed help with. MEDB helped me sort out some early accounting issues and to recognize that in order to grow, I needed to hire an office manager, which I did.

When my product was accepted into Sak's Fifth Avenue, I realized that I needed to quickly set up an Electronic Data Interchange or the deal would fall through. As a baker, I did not have any experience with IT like this, but MEDB stepped up, researched how to help me and I had my EDI in time to seal the deal. MEDB helped me with many other things too, Barcodes and UPC labels are complicated.

My point is that MEDB is doing really important work in the community. They provide a service that gives entrepreneurs like me an edge. MEDB gives small businesses a better chance of surviving and growing. MEDB creates jobs on Maui and I support funding them now and into the future.

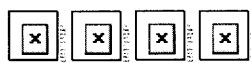
Mitzi Toro
MCL



Mitzi Toro

Owner & Founder
The Maui Cookie Lady

www.themaucookie.com



[Hawaii Business Magazine](#) | [SBA Success Story](#) | [Entrepreneur of the Year](#)

2016 Hawaii SBDC (Small Business Development Center) - SBA Success Story

2016 Hawai'i Business Magazine- Start-Up Entrepreneur of the Year- Finalist



EDB Committee

From: Mitzi Toro <themaucookielady@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 12:47 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: info
Subject: EDB-1 Support for Maui Food Technology Center

Aloha County Council,

My name is Mitzi Toro, and I am the Maui Cookie Lady. I would like to submit testimony today in support of the Maui Food Technology Center (MFTC). MFTC was first introduced to me when I took the class at the UH MCC Maui Food Innovation Center. They came to speak to budding food entrepreneurs about compliance laws, food safety, labeling requirements and exporting. We continue to use their services by purchasing barcodes for our manufactured items, seeking consultation on compliance standards to pass for FSMA (Food Safety Modernization Act requirements and also took their Japan Export Readiness Workshop. We are attending our first show in Japan this summer for the Hankyu Umeda Hawaii Fair. We also signed our first licensing agreement with a bakery in Osaka to help us prepare for the summer show in Japan.

MFTC was the organization that introduced us to a distributor on Oahu named Neal Arakake. This contact, also involved with the Japan Export Class, was instrumental in helping us prepare our first pitch to the Department Store of Saks Fifth Avenue. MFTC provided us example line sheets, merchandising floor examples and what a proposal should include.

MFTC has the knowledge, expertise in growing food business from market crafters, which is where we started to the next level of retail. They were able to explain to us the "next steps" and deliverables needed to expand into the retail gourmet food market.

We have referred many other food start ups to the staff at MFTC as they were helpful for us to grow.

Mahalo for you time.

Mitzi Toro
MCL

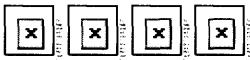


Mitzi Toro

Owner & Founder

The Maui Cookie Lady

www.themaucookielady.com | 808.241.2222 | 808.241.2222



2016 Hawaii SBDC (Small Business Development Center) - SBA Success Story
2016 Hawai'i Business Magazine- Start-Up Entrepreneur of the Year- Finalist



EDB Committee

From: Trish Alexander <talexander03@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 4:26 PM
To: EDB Committee; Keani N. Rawlins; Kelly King; Riki Hokama; Tasha A. Kama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Opposition to increase property tax rate for vacation rental owners

Dear Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Members of the Committee:

My name is Patricia Alexander and I have owned a condominium home in Kihei since 2005. I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the proposal to raise, by 66.1%, the current property tax rate from \$9.28 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$15.41 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

I have owned my home on Maui for 14 years and purchased it as a step toward moving to Maui long-term. I am 69 years old and working part-time while I care for my 94 year-old mother. I pay Maui property taxes of \$4,469 per year, and I also pay taxes in the form of the General Excise Tax (\$2,052 in 2018) and the Transient Accommodations Tax (\$5,048 in 2018) because I use my home as a vacation rental when I can't be there. If this property tax proposal passes, my property tax burden will increase substantially.

I believe that this bill unfairly discriminates against a minority of taxpayers (vacation rental owners), who make an important contribution to the Hawai'i tourism economy. If this proposal passes, it would add an additional tax burden such that I may have to sell my condominium. Clearly such a tax would have a negative impact on the value of Maui real estate possibly resulting in decreased investment in Maui and unanticipated negative effects on the economy in the long run.

Maui County's economy is powered in large part by a strong visitor industry. This visitor industry, which competes nationally and internationally against lower-priced destinations, cannot continue to pass on tax increases to our visitors. Hawai'i consistently ranks among the locations with the highest tax rates for accommodations. Any actions that adversely affect my ability to attract visitors, such as having to pass along higher taxes, also impacts Maui's appeal as a visitor destination. Small retail shops and restaurants near my condominium complex may also be negatively impacted by this tax increase if the number of visitors to Maui drops due to increased rates.

Conclusion: Remaining cost-competitive is most important if Maui is to maintain its status as a prime destination for visitors in future years. In addition, while maintaining my vacation rental, I employ individuals who are your constituents, who are very dependent on the visitor industry to support themselves and their families. I ask that you consider a more equitable tax structure for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Patricia Alexander

Maui Kamaole Condominium Owner

EDB Committee

From: Penny <pennysfh@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 2:22 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: info@mnbg.org
Subject: testimony for MNBG FY2020 budget
Attachments: EKKA letter of support_MNBG_15Apr2019.pdf

Aloha Council Members;
Attached please find testimony in support of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens budget request for FY2020.
They are a true gem of a resource for Maui!

Mahalo
Penny Levin, Coordinator
E kūpaku ka 'āina



E KŪPAKU KA ĀINA

THE HAWAIIAN LAND RESTORATION INSTITUTE

bringing severely degraded lands back... to places of ecological health and abundance

E KŪPAKU KA ĀINA – THE HAWAII LAND RESTORATION INSTITUTE

bringing severely degraded lands back... to places of ecological health and abundance



15 April 2019

Aloha mai kakou;

Board of Directors

Anna Palomino,
President

Michelle Cockett, VP

Deborah Ward, Secretary

Juenlee Brown, Treasurer

E kūpaku ka ‘āina – the Hawai‘i Land Restoration Institute (EKKA) is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit whose mission is *bringing severely degraded lands back to places of ecological health and abundance*. We are dedicated to fostering an economy of abundance through the critical business of land restoration and the art of traditional cultural practice. We do so by assisting agencies, organizations, landowners and communities to develop practical skills and affordable strategies for degraded lands and native ecosystems recovery, and agriculture fit to the land...because if the ‘āina is not well, neither are we.

Project Coordinator

Penny Levin

As a partner and supporter of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, E kūpaku ka ‘āina would like to express our wholehearted support for MNBG’s budget request to the County of Maui.

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens’ role in maintaining one of the most complete collections of traditional Hawaiian food crops from Hawai‘i and the Pacific continues to grow each year. Their collections of kalo, mai‘a, ‘awa, kō and ‘uala, along with ‘ulu, kukui, wauke, numerous cordage and dye plants, and a number of Maui Nui’s native and endangered species are a fabulous resource for learning. This is an exceptional gathering of important heritage plants that are used daily to connect teachers, schools, residents and visitors alike to Hawaiian culture. Cultural practitioners and hālau are regularly able to learn from and gather resource materials from the Gardens to perpetuate their own craft. The Gardens is developing the only seed bank on Maui as a step towards increasing protections for endangered and core native species specific to Maui in the face of such threats as Rapid Ohia Death and climate change. The MNBG is an important part of the network protecting traditional Hawaiian kalo varieties and their nursery is a critical bridge facility to grow out tiny plantlets from the Lyon Arboretum Rare Plant Micropropagation Lab to sufficient size for EKKA’s Waihe‘e kalo collection.

The Gardens are increasingly a desirable location for cultural events, such as Ho‘omau and Arbor Day, as well as, a successful workshop and small event host on its own. Ho‘omau, a celebration of Hawaiian language in support of the Punana Leo program, and La Ulu, all about breadfruit, attract between 2,000-4,000 visitors and residents annually. The Gardens hosts educational events and workshops geared toward increasing knowledge of Hawaiian cultural foods, native plants and endangered species in our local communities. It provides training workshops on the resources available at the Gardens for teachers to incorporate in school curriculum. ‘Ohana gatherings, organizational fundraisers and even business meetings are a regular occurrence at the Gardens.

The County's support for the day-to-day management of the MNBG provides critical leverage for other grants and a great group of volunteers that support all these uses and events.

EKKA continues to encourage collaboration and sponsorship of MNBG's work to maintain these collections, bring them to life through education, and increase community and visitor exposure to them.

Please join me in supporting Maui Nui Botanical Gardens so that this jewel of a resource within Central Maui, so accessible to our schools and community, and so close to many of our visitor access points, can continue to be enjoyed in more ways, by more people, in the future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Penny Levin', with a stylized, flowing script.

Penny Levin
Project Coordinator

EDB Committee

From: Scott Fisher <scott@hilt.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 1:10 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Testimony of Support for Ke Ao Hali'i Budget FY 2020
Attachments: Signed Letter of Support for Ke Ao Hali'i.pdf

Aloha Economic Development and Budget Committee,

Please accept this letter from the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust in support of Ke Ao Hali'i's Budget request for \$750,000 to protect lands along the Hana Coast. I also intend to provide oral testimony at the budget hearing on the 17th of April.

Mahalo

Scott Fisher

Scott Fisher, Ph.D.

*Associate Executive Director of Conservation
Hawaiian Islands Land Trust*

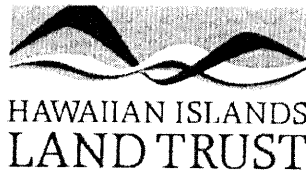
Direct: 808-357-7739

www.hilt.org

scott@hilt.org



Our Mission: To protect the lands that sustain us for current and future generations.



April 15, 2019

To: Maui County Council, Budget Committee

200 South High Street,

Kalana o Maui Building, #708

Wailuku, HI. 96793;

From: Hawaiian Islands Land Trust

P.O. Box 965

Wailuku, HI. 96793;

Re: Open Space Funding for Ke Ao Hali'i to Acquire title to lands along the Hana Coast.

Aloha Members of the Maui County Council,

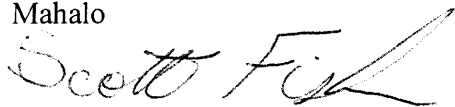
Please accept this letter as an indication of the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust's (HILT) support for the allocation of funds to Ke Ao Hali'i in order to protect 26 acres of important coastal lands along the Hana Coast. Protecting these lands will ensure that the character and integrity of Hana will remain intact for generations to come. The threat of development along this coast is real, and keeping these lands open and available to the public, through Ke Ao Hali'i's community based management will realize substantial benefits to the community. The time has come to protect these lands, and Ke Ao Hali'i has demonstrated that they have both the knowledge, wisdom and passion to do this.

The Hawaiian Islands Land Trust has been working with Ke Ao Hali'i since their formative stages when they came together as a group of passionate kama'aina, dedicated to protecting the special places and wahi pana of Hana. Over the course of the past several years, the staff of the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust has observed the passion and commitment of Ke Ao Hali'i to ensure the cultural and ecological integrity of these lands. Their comprehensive understanding of the dynamics and complexities of the Hana community make them an ideal candidate for this funding. The incredible people of Ke Ao Hali'i have consistently and repeatedly demonstrated they have the knowledge and commitment to undertake the management of this land in a way that benefits all of Maui's citizens. Because HILT has been working closely with Ke Ao Hali'i for many years, HILT is ready to assist Ke Ao Hali'i in any way that we can, should they make such a request.

The commitment to Hana that Ke Ao Hali'i has shown can serve as a model of how the power of a group of committed people can effect change for the benefit of the entire community. Funding this grant request will help to protect the ecological integrity and health of a substantial

area of the Hana Coast. If you have any questions, or if I can help in any other way, please do not hesitate to contact me at scott@hilt.org; or (808) 357-7739.

Mahalo

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Fisher". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Scott Fisher, Ph. D.

Chief Conservation Officer

EDB Committee

From: Sid Rubin <sidrubin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 6:13 PM
To: EDB Committee; Keani N. Rawlins; Kelly King; Riki Hokama; Tasha A. Kama; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Re: Opposition to increase property tax rate for vacation rental owners

Dear Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sidney Rubin and I have owned a condominium home in Kihei since 1989. Had originally purchased the home to reside in for approximately one half a year during my upcoming retirement years but family situation has modified that plan and now rent it out to cover the costs until able to spend more time on Maui.

If the county truly wants to fairly ensure proper taxes are paid it is strongly suggested that the County's computers are linked with the state computers for a comparison of which owners are categorized by the county as short term rental and the databases of those who pay the HI State Transient Accommodations Tax and General Excise Tax as believe they would probably reveal significant discrepancies.

I am writing to express my strong concern and opposition to the proposal to raise, by 66.1%, the current property tax rate from \$9.28 per \$1,000 of assessed value to \$15.41 per \$1,000 of assessed value. This is also very striking in consideration of the relatively recent 1% tax increase specifically targeted against the minority owners that rent out their individual homes. I feel confident this tax has been passed onto the travelling public increasing their vacation expenditures.

If this property tax proposal passes, my property tax burden will increase substantially.

I believe that this bill unfairly discriminates against a minority of taxpayers (vacation rental owners), who make an important contribution to the Hawai'i tourism economy. If this proposal passes, it would add an additional tax burden which would have to be passed on to the travelling public via higher nightly rates. It is felt the majority of other owners would follow suit thus making Maui a less desirable vacation destination when compared to other locations. Maui already has a significant reputation of being a very expensive destination.

Maui County's economy is powered in large part by a strong visitor industry. This visitor industry, which competes nationally and internationally against lower-priced destinations, cannot continue to pass on tax increases to our visitors. Hawai'i consistently ranks among the locations with the highest tax rates for accommodations. Any actions that adversely affect the ability to attract visitors, such as having to pass along higher taxes, also impacts Maui's appeal as a visitor destination. Small retail shops and restaurants near my condominium complex may also be negatively impacted by this tax increase if the number of visitors to Maui drops due to increased rates.

In addition, while maintaining my vacation rental, I employ individuals who are your constituents, who are very dependent on the visitor industry to support themselves and their families

Conclusion: Remaining cost-competitive is most important if Maui is to maintain its status as a prime destination for visitors in future years. I ask that you consider a more equitable tax structure for all.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Sidney Rubin
Maui Kamaole Condominium Owner

EDB Committee

From: Stacy Downs <malibuhi@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 11:43 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Kula Park Playground

Dear EDB Committee Members,

I am a Kula resident, and a parent of two children, who would like submit testimony in favour of funding the Kula Park Playground structures. The Kula community is far from town making a simple trip to a park with a play structure a considerable undertaking. The playground in Keokea has been cordoned off and was also inadequate for children over the age of 5. The parks in Pukalani and Haiku are often overcrowded, and are still not convenient for many of us.

Kula Park is an ideal setting for a much needed playground structure, and also a convenient gathering spot for our Kula Ohana. I would like to extend my sincere gratitude for your time and consideration of funding the proposed Kula Park playground structures.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Mahalo & Aloha,

Stacy Downs

EDB Committee

From: Tara Apo <tara.apo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 3:26 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Support for Kaupo Community Association Funding
Attachments: KCA Funding.docx

Aloha,

Attached is a letter of support for requests from Kaupo Community Association for funding towards the historic Kaupo School Restoration.

Mahalo,

Tara Apo-Priest

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: April 16, 2019

From: Tara Apo-Priest

SUBJECT: Support for Funding for Kaupo Community Association, Restoration of Old Kaupo School

Aloha,

I am writing in support of the Kaupo Community Association's request for funds in order to complete the restoration of the historic Kaupo School. These funds will be used towards infrastructure. The restored property will provide a central meeting place for us to gather, promote cultural and educational opportunities for the community, and may be used as a resource center. It is so important for our community to have this central place and would be a huge benefit to us, being so isolated and mostly self reliant. Please support our efforts towards community development and enrichment in our beloved Kaupo. We are so appreciative of this.

Mahalo,

The Apo Family

EDB Committee

From: Vijak Ayasanonda <vijak1@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 11:22 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Maui 2020 budget testimony/comment

Aloha Maui County Council,

I am a resident of Kaanapali and would like to provide input about the budget plans for Maui in 2020. I believe the entire island could benefit from appropriate spending of funds to enhance the lives of the residents and visitors. It seems that currently Maui has far more visitors on island than can be comfortably accommodated. First and foremost funds should be cut for advertising to attract more visitors and would be better spent on educating visitors about caring for our environment and safety. It has gotten to a point that residents are no longer able to enjoy the beaches and public areas due to the large amount of visitors. Driving has become difficult and often dangerous. Our parks are in need of some serious upkeep and are in need of caretakers. Trash containers have been removed from parks which only leads to more trash scattered around the parks and eventually ending up in the ocean. The trash containers need lids as well as recycling bins. My family and I spend our time at the beaches picking up trash or educating visitors about caring for the environment and sea life rather than enjoying ourselves. Picnic tables are crumbling and others are taken up by homeless. The beach showers often leak water and the bathrooms are plain scary to enter.

We need housing alternatives for the homeless. Residents, hotels, and visitors need to be educated and encouraged to recycle. Please do not cut funding for electronic recycling. I have gone to the recycling center on the 3rd Saturday of the month and have seen that the containers fill up before the set end time. Taking away this service will only lead to further dumping on roadways. We need to expand home recycling services, especially on the West side where there is a large amount of visitors or part time residents who do not take the time to recycle and are buying single use items including beach equipment. Crime is increasing as well as the amount of brush fires. It seems that there is not enough police presence across Maui, especially the West side. We need education on preventing fires including removing abandoned cars which are often set fire leading to possible brush fires. There are more and more cars on the roads and with it increased car accidents. The opening of the bypass continuing to Keawe street in Lahaina has made for a dangerous situation with accidents inevitable. This area is in dire need of proper crosswalks and traffic lights so to avoid serious accidents. There are many roadways that are in need of repaving that are not just in tourist areas.

Maui's largest source of income comes from tourism and visitors are attracted by the beauty of the island. Please make it a priority in the budget to preserve what attracts the visitors to Maui and keep Maui a great place for residents to thrive. Housing is a must. Please find funds to make Maui safer, whether it is finding homeless places to live, increasing police presence, or educating and encouraging the public to participate.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

--
Vijak Ayasanonda

What you do, matters
-Mel Herbert

EDB Committee

From: Chad Miller <info@grandpajoesandycompany.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 12:37 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: EDB-1 Support for Maui Economic Development Board

EDB-1 Support for Maui Economic Development Board

Aloha,

Thank you for your time. I would like to express my deepest support of the MEDB. The Board has helped our small business Grandpa Joe's Candy Company, to grow and expand as an up and coming small business here on Maui. It was brought to our attention when we first started 4 years ago by a now dear friend of ours that owns the "Maui Cookie Lady". The assistance we have received with cost analysis, cost and revenue spread sheets and the numerous business educational classes offered by MEDB have been so valuable to our success. I am a huge advocate for the funding of this department and the programs within as they are the backbone to survival for small businesses here on Maui!! I always know where to turn when we need a bit of advice for our ever expanding business. It is from this foundation that we can one day offer many local jobs here in Hawai'i. We have also been able to give back in a small way in the form of product donations for the STEM program the past 3 years. Again thank you for your time and your continued support of programs like these that support our local small businesses here on Maui!!

Mahalo,

Chad Miller
Co-Owner
Grandpa Joe's Candy Company
Kihei, Maui, Hawaii
808-385-5412

EDB Committee

From: Chad Miller <info@grandpajoescandycompany.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 12:55 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: EDB-1 Support for Maui Food Technology Center

EDB-1 Support for Maui Food Technology Center

Aloha,

Thank you for your time. I would like to express my gratitude towards the Maui Food Technology Center and all they have done for our small business Grandpa Joe's Candy Company. We participated in our first "Made in Maui" event last year 2018 and were completely overwhelmed by the support by the Maui Chamber of Commerce, the Maui Economic Development Board and Maui Food Technology Center. The collaboration of assistance has allowed our business to leap into another level!! We are currently working with the Maui Food Technology Center's food scientist on our product preservation for longer shelf life in our local wholesale accounts as well development of improved products and packaging that we can test live in the local market each Sunday at the Maui Sunday Market. The Maui Sunday Market is a vital part of small local food businesses here on Maui as it provides us with a stage to sell our products with very reasonable entry costs involved. The exposure we get every week is incredible and really helps market our products via live exposure and social media thanks to Luana Mahi and Linn Nishikawa. They have been so attentive and supportive and believe in our small local businesses. Please continue to fund this program as it is vital for the survival and success of so many new small food businesses here on Maui that will continue to provide meaningful jobs for local people for years to come.

Mahalo,

Chad Miller
Co-Owner
Grandpa Joe's Candy Company
Kihei, Maui, Hawaii
808-385-5412

EDB Committee

From: Chris Speere <speere@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 7:26 AM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: Chris Speere
Subject: EDB-1 Support for Maui Economic Development Board

Aloha Maui Council,

Please allow this correspondence serve as a letter of support for continued funding for MEDB and the numerous community based activities they create and sponsor to expand and strengthen Maui Nui.

I can speak to the direct impact MEDB has played over the last 4 years in expanding a successful entrepreneurial landscape in Maui County's food space through the following support:

Active recruitment, coaching and mentorship in the Maui Food Innovation Center programs
1. Maui Food Industry X-celerator Program (coaching in finance, price point setting and break even determination, active guest at each MFIC Pitch event)
2. Concept to Consumer Incubator Program (introduction to MEDB and the services they provide to business Start Ups, active guest at each CCIP Taste event)
3. Food Akamai " Listen & Learn Workshops" (help in recruitment and promotion of program, guest speaker and judge in Food Launch event)

In addition, MEDB's "Start Up Weekend" offers groundbreaking support and an inspiring opportunity to gather Maui's best and brightest entrepreneurial minds in an open working space over the course of a weekend to develop and launch business concepts that eventually are judged for market viability. The process of ideation, working in a small group environment, learning to receive constructive insights and the ability to "pivot" and adapt to change are all hallmarks of this successful event.

In closing, as an island community, it is vital that we work together in respectful and nurturing partnerships that create win-win outcomes for our local residents. The ability to embrace a wholistic vision for Maui County that includes all segments of our population, all economic sectors, all localities and all sensibilities is necessary for advancement of all over a few. I believe MEDB stands in the forefront of leading this endeavor and in doing so will continue to elevate economic growth and inspire the untapped potential that lives within our island and its unique and special residents.

Sent from my iPad

EDB Committee

From: Alice L. Lee
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 7:56 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: FW: Increased Property Tax

From: Dave Goldson <fscrooner@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 6:11 PM
To: Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Increased Property Tax

Dear council members,

Increasing the property tax paid by owners, who are an essential component of the tourism business, is a bad idea. It will have a bewildering affect on property values as it will greatly discourage buyers from participating in Maui's vacation, real estate market. Instead, they may well look elsewhere to invest their money.

Maui property tax has benefited by increasing property values, but this will no longer be the case. In addition, owners will be forced to raise their lodging prices which will have a huge, negative impact on the tourism business.

It's easy to raise taxes on nonresidents, but I ask you to responsibly think about the consequences of your actions.

Respectfully, David Goldson

Kaanapali Shores #830

EDB Committee

From: Alice L. Lee
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 7:58 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: FW: Proposed Property Tax Increase

From: dorsey melton <dorseymelton@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 6:12 AM
To: Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Proposed Property Tax Increase

Dear Committee Members.

I write to you today to voice my opposition to the proposed raise in property taxes for condo-hotels from \$9.38 per \$1,000 to \$15.41 per \$1,000, a 64% increase.

Tourism is a major industry in Hawaii and, in particular, in Maui. Almost doubling property taxes will depress property values, discourage property purchases, potentially send the Maui real estate market into recession and ultimately hurt tourism.

With TAT taxes continually increasing, a huge increase in property taxes could devastate tourism. Condo owners, in many cases, depend on rental income to be able to afford the high real estate prices.

I hope you realize that non-resident owners spend significant money on the island keeping our condos in prime rental condition, and our guests spend money in restaurants, retail outlets, and on activities while visiting the island.

I ask that you reconsider this enormous tax increase keeping in mind how this will negatively impact tourism and ultimately property values.

Sincerely,
Dorsey B. Melton
Owner at Mahana

Sent from Mail for Windows 10

EDB Committee

From: Alice L. Lee
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 7:57 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: FW: Proposed Tax Hike

From: Lynne Mayer <lynnemayer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 4:52 AM
To: Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Proposed Tax Hike

Dear Committee Members.

We write to you today to voice our opposition to the proposed raise in property taxes for condo-hotels from \$9.38 per \$1,000 to \$15.41 per \$1,000, a 64% increase.

Tourism is a major industry in Hawaii and, in particular, in Maui. Almost doubling property taxes will depress property values, discourage property purchases, potentially send the Maui real estate market into recession and ultimately hurt tourism.

With GET and TAT taxes continually increasing, a huge increase in property taxes could devastate tourism. Condo owners, in many cases, depend on rental income to be able to afford the high real estate prices.

We hope you realize that non-resident owners spend significant money on the island keeping our condos in prime rental condition, and our guests spend money in restaurants, retail outlets, and on activities while visiting the island.

As condo owners since 1985, we've enjoyed our home away from home many times. We've also been able to share our slice of paradise with our guests. We ask that you reconsider this enormous tax increase keeping in mind how this will hurt tourism and ultimately property values.

Sincerely,
Lynne and Bill Mayer
Aston Mahana Owners

EDB Committee

From: Alice L. Lee
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 8:22 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: FW: Property Tax Increase

From: Pam Potter <luvmaui@tx.rr.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 12:55 PM
To: Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Property Tax Increase

As I understand it, tourism is a major industry in Hawaii and, in particular, in Maui. Almost doubling property taxes will hurt property values, discourage property purchases, potentially send the Maui real estate market into recession, and ultimately hurt tourism. We've visited our property in Maui 3-4 times a year for the past 30 years. We spend a lot of money on the island keeping our condo in prime rental condition. With GET and TAT taxes continually increasing, a huge increase in property taxes could devastate tourism for renters who, in some cases, depend on rental income to afford the high real estate prices. I hope you'll realize that non-resident owners cannot continue forever to be unlimited cash cows.

Pam Potter
Maui owner since 1986

RECEIVED

15 APR 19

To the Mayor and Council Budget committee

From Paul Laub, re 1007 Front street, Lahaina, HI 96761 16 PM 1: 43

mauilaub@aol.com, phone 442-2450

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL

Punishing the successful and honest and rewarding the non pono:

The proposed tax increase for Short Term Rental Owners does not compute.

If one follows all the rules one is penalized by increased property taxes.

It has been shown that those who did not follow the rules to obtain the requisite permits have been skating on their good luck and not paying tax increases. This is obviously illogical while it would be much better if the pono were rewarded with a reduced rate and that would provide incentive for the non-ponos to get pono.

2nd problem: Houses that are used as vacation rentals tend to be the expensive homes that would NOT be used as long term workforce housing if the short term Rental was used as a "180" day rental. The regular working family would not be able to pay the \$10,000 a month average mortgage for a million dollar home. Therefore, the owner loses his income, and ability to pay his bills which includes numerous outside companies as the method of updating the condition of the home is thru maintenance, gardener, new furniture, etc. There by reducing the income of numerous people and negatively affecting the economy all without providing benefit to the society.

Another interesting part is the current inability for the Short Term Rental to pursue some of the hotel's methodology to earn funds with their property. Examples are Hotels can, but Short Term Rentals cannot, sell souvenirs nor anything else for that matter. One egregious thing is weddings, blessings and family gatherings are not allowed.

It seems righteous and fair that if a Short Term Rental has to pay the piper he should be allowed to accompany him in his music.

The data on taxes on this property are: 2007 -\$13,137.20, 2018 - \$16,410.76, Proposed tax for 2019 \$28,388.70. Don't you feel that the 2018 rate was high enough? This is for a 1,100 sq foot house on a 7,500 sq. ft. lot. Please!

Thank you,

Paul Laub

EDB Committee

From: Alice L. Lee
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 7:57 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: FW: Proposed Tax Increase

From: Rick Feldman <1lastrodeo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 5:17 AM
To: Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Tamara.Paltrin@mauicounty.us; Shane.Sineci@mauicounty.us; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Proposed Tax Increase

Dear Committee Members.

I write to you today to voice our opposition to the proposed raise in property taxes for condo-hotels from \$9.38 per \$1,000 to \$15.41 per \$1,000, a 64% increase.

Tourism is a major industry in Hawaii and, in particular, in Maui. Almost doubling property taxes will depress property values, discourage property purchases, potentially send the Maui real estate market into recession and ultimately hurt tourism.

On a personal note, My wife and I have been actively looking to purchase another unit, which we will immediately. Stop doing. Also we come over twice a year to check on our unit, which we would continue to do until we sell our unit.

With GET and TAT taxes continually increasing, a huge increase in property taxes could devastate tourism. Condo owners, in many cases, depend on rental income to be able to afford the high real estate prices.

I hope you realize that non-resident owners spend significant money on the island keeping our condos in prime rental condition, and our guests spend money in restaurants, retail outlets, and on activities while visiting the island.

I ask that you reconsider this enormous tax increase keeping in mind how this will hurt tourism and ultimately property values.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Feldman
Rancho Murieta, CA
Lahaina, HI

EDB Committee

From: Alice L. Lee
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 7:58 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: FW: Subject: Proposed Property Tax Increase

From: ronald halter <rhalter@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 7:58 AM
To: Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>
Cc: Doug & Pam Potter <luvmaui@tx.rr.com>
Subject: Subject: Proposed Property Tax Increase

Dear Committee Members.

We have been condo owners in Lahaina for 22 years. We understand that the committee has proposed a raise in property taxes for condo-hotels from \$9.38 per \$1,000 to \$15.41 per \$1,000. If your aim is to devastate the condo real estate market this proposal should do it. It will devastate condo values. The Assessors office will be flooded with demands to re-assess their condo values in light of this huge increase in tax rate. The courts will be clogged with appeals and the net effect on County revenue will be negligible to highly negative as the assessed values plummet.

Many lenders have conditions in their loan documents that require a certain net operating income or "Debt Service Coverage Ratio". Generally this ratio is about 1.5. In other words, the bank says that if your payment is, for example, \$1000/month then your net income after all expenses except the loan payment must be at least \$1,500 or one and a half times the debt service. If it falls below that, your loan is in default and subject to cancellation. I urge you to talk to local bankers and mortgage brokers about this.

The proposed increase is wildly unwise and will have far reaching negative consequences for Maui County and for its thousands of condo owners.

We know that you are acutely aware of the contribution of tourism to the Islands' economies. Agricultural income has been essentially eliminated in Maui County. There is no manufacturing economy. There is no natural resource economy. There is only RETAIL and SERVICES. The income that drives the retail and service economy is hugely TOURISM dependent. Depress Tourism and the GAT and TAT tax revenue will fall dramatically further offsetting the phantom gains of the proposed rate increase.

Please kill this terrible proposal before even the possibility of it does further damage to our beloved Maui County.

Sincerely,

Ron Halter

EDB Committee

From: Alice L. Lee
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 7:59 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: FW: Maui County Property Tax Increase

From: Sherri Morgan <sherrimrgn@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 7:26 AM
To: Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Re: Maui County Property Tax Increase

Dear Councilmembers,

My husband and I own a condo at Kahana Outrigger on Maui. We love the property, but would not be able to afford it if we could not use it as a vacation rental. The income we receive from short-term vacation rentals helps us to cover our expenses while providing a wonderful place to visit for our guests.

It has been brought to my attention that the council is considering raising the property tax rate for short term vacation rentals. Vacation rentals are a huge source of revenue for the county. Our visitors buy groceries, dine out, take part in all kinds of activities and pay hefty sums in TAT.

They contribute to the overall well-being of the county through not only their financial support but also by creating a multitude of jobs in the tourist industry for the residents of Maui. In other words, they keep businesses open and create jobs.

The increase in property taxes makes it necessary for vacation owners to pass that increase on to our guests, you may just "price yourselves out of the market" with the increase that is being proposed and reduce a very important part of Maui's revenue source. In addition if occupancy decreases due to rising costs, it would create additional hardships on the small business owners who rely on the rental income to maintain their property on Maui.

The proposal to raise property taxes on short term rentals while reducing other property tax rates is not only punitive but appears to be discriminatory against the short term vacation owners. It is very disheartening to believe the council members would so blatantly disregard a large portion of the population on Maui.

Please consider voting against such an increase.

Thank you,
Sherri and Steve Morgan

EDB Committee

From: Alice L. Lee
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 8:21 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: FW: Opposition to proposed increases in property taxes for vacation rental property

From: Trevor Alt <trevoralt@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2019 3:26 PM
To: Kelly King <Kelly.King@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Riki Hokama <Riki.Hokama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Mike J. Molina <Mike.Molina@mauicounty.us>; amara.Paltin@mauicounty.us; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>
Cc: stevane@mauigateway.com
Subject: Opposition to proposed increases in property taxes for vacation rental property

Dear Council Members:

I am very dismayed to hear that you are considering a drastic and onerous increase in my property tax bill. I'm a firefighter in Reno, Nevada and I earn \$25.40 per hour. By some miracle of compound interest, I managed to save \$300,000 to purchase a condominium at a resort in Kaanapali. I pay more than \$10,000 per year in property taxes now, in addition to recently increased Transient Accommodations Tax and the General Excise Tax. Each month I have a "nut" of close to \$9,000, a course of considerable stress.

I understand that my property tax rate is already many times higher than full time resident rates, and similar to hotel rates. I have no idea why you would "pick on" investors like me who employ Maui residents and already contribute much more in property taxes than any of my or my guests' activities consume. This is a misguided strategy and if it was implemented, would certainly reduce property values and drive investors away - biting the hand that feeds you. It is only fair that those who consume the services should pay proportionately, but that has already been distorted and this proposed increase would stand equity on its head.

This would also have a chilling effect on tourism, the number one industry in the state and county. Don't kill the golden goose.

I urge you to look for other sources of revenue other than already overburdened vacation rental owner/operators.

Sincerely,

Trevor Alt

EDB Committee

From: Walter Enomoto <walter.enomoto@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 7:16 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Testimony in support of MEDB Funding - Item EDB-1
Attachments: W ENOMOTO FY 2020 COM EDB-1 Testimony.pdf

Aloha EDB Committee Staff,

Please add my attached testimony to the record for the EDB Meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2019 at 9:00am in the Council Chambers.

Can you also email me back to confirm receipt of this testimony and that it will be included into the record of this meeting?

Aloha and Mahalo,
Walter Enomoto
293 S. Mokapu St.
Kahului, HI 96732

walter.enomoto@hawaiiantel.net

April 16, 2019

Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Economic Development and Budget Committee Chair
County of Maui
200 S. High St.
Wailuku, HI 96793

Aloha | Committee Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice Chair King and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members and staff.

I would like to testify in support of Maui Economic Development Board's budget request in the proposed FY 2020 budget, item "EDB-1".

I would respectfully ask that you support this budget request proposed in this budget so that the ongoing work and mission of the Maui Economic Development Board can continue to provide the many benefits to the community of Maui County.

The many programs the Maui Economic Development Board offers such as STEM, High Tech Maui, Women in Technology, Ka Alahela Education Fund, Hawaii Small Business Conference and Focus Maui Nui are just a few of the many shining examples of their work to help develop a diversified economy for Maui.

I have had the privilege and honor of working with them on various endeavors over the years and their passion and enthusiasm continues to be a source of inspiration for me. Their invaluable efforts helped to create, sustain and grow the Hawaii Energy Conference (formerly the Maui Energy Conference) last month. This event was not only the talk of the island, but the state and internationally as well.

In relation to that, please support any funding request by the Office of Economic Development to continue supporting the Hawaii Energy Conference into the next fiscal year. As a professional in the energy field in Maui County for more than 15yrs, I see these past energy conferences as a way for Maui County to remain a leader in the push towards a 100% clean energy future. The amount of energy, utility and regulatory expertise that attended this past year's conference was incredible and necessitates that a follow up conference be held to continue to address the many energy related issues facing not only the County of Maui, but the State of Hawaii and beyond.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on these items and I thank you for your support of Maui Economic Development Board and their many worthwhile projects.

Aloha and Mahalo,
Walter Enomoto
293 S. Mokapu St.
Kahului, HI 96732

orig ✓



The Nature Conservancy
Maui Program
P.O. Box 1716
Makawao, HI 96768

Tel(808) 572-7849
Fax(808) 572-1375
nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Maui County Council Meeting on Mayor's Proposed FY 2020 Budget
April 16, 2019, 11:30am, Maui County Council Chambers

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i strongly supports the County of Maui's watershed grant program. This funding allows the continuation of essential watershed protection programs that have taken decades to develop and are greatly benefitting our intact native-forested watersheds. The funding directly protects our most important watershed areas that county residents, businesses, and visitors rely on for fresh water, biodiversity, beauty, recreation, and are especially significant to native Hawaiian culture. These forests and the vital services they provide are under enormous threat from non-native invasive animals and weeds that severely degrade the absorption, flow, and recharge of our surface water source. Without healthy forests our abundant rainfall would quickly run off into the sea, reducing groundwater recharge and stream flow, and clogging our already stressed coral reefs with sediment. Our work is critical to maintain healthy forests and the headwaters of the major streams that feed water systems, and to ensure our forests continue to sustain current and future generations in Hawai'i.

Since the inception of the East Maui Watershed Partnership in 1991, Maui County has played a leading role in forming and supporting the watershed partnerships and invasive species committees. Maui County's watershed partnerships have been successful in protecting and preserving over 200,000 acres of native forested watershed areas. County grants over the past 15 years, particularly from the Department of Water Supply, have enabled Maui County's watershed partnerships to leverage millions of dollars in Federal, State, and private funding.

Critical funding from the Maui County Department of Water Supply grant program will help protect our precious watersheds, agriculture, and Maui citizens' quality of life for future generations. Climate change is already greatly impacting Hawai'i and our water supply – in recent decades, the number of tradewind days has dropped 28 percent, and rainfall has decreased 22 percent. At the same time, we are facing population growth and increased tourism numbers. It is urgent that we maintain the current integrity of our water resources and the systems that create them to enhance Maui County's sustainability options. We respectfully request your continued and as necessary increased support for this Department's work load managing the grant program to achieve the maximum benefit for Maui County's residents.

Thoughtful investments now will ultimately save money in the future. We hope you will continue to support County funding for our watershed partnerships so they can continue to actively protect and improve Maui County's watersheds.

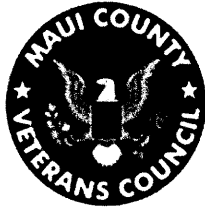
RECEIVED AT FDB MEETING ON APR 16 2019

Alison Cohan

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark E. Agne Duke E. Ah Moo Paul D. Alston Dr. C. Tana Burkert Richard A. Cooke III Ka'iulani de Silva Brian J. Doyle
Robert J. Dzielak Dr. Alan M. Friedlander James J.C. Haynes III Sean A. Hehir Brett MacNaughton Kathy M. Matsui
Janet Montag Alicia Moy James C. Polk Dustin E. Sellers Nathan E. Smith (Chair) Peter K. Tomozawa Richard N. Zwern

Ihupani Advisory Council: Christopher J. Benjamin Kenton T. Eldridge Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose
Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle



April 16, 2019
TO: COUNTY OF MAUI
RE: GRANT FY 2020

Good Morning Members of the County Council,

My name is Elena Walker and I'm the Treasurer and Events Coordinator for the Maui County Veterans Council.

U.S. Navy, 1974-1978, Nakon Kehila Wahiwa

M. Lily Wong

On behalf of the Maui County Veterans Council (MCVC), we are here today to **THANK YOU** for your generous support of our Organization and the Maui County Veterans. We have several "Veteran Organizations", approximately (20) that are a part of MCVC Membership. As a group, we provide Program's & Event's to honor, create awareness & outreach to our Maui County Veterans & Families and to the Maui Community.

To further describe our financial needs and the use of the County of Maui Grant funds for the upcoming FY 2020, WE support our Veterans in the Maui Community as follows.

- a) WE HONOR our Maui County Veterans on **Memorial Day** and **Veterans Day** by hosting ceremonies at the Makawao Veteran's Cemetery and provide refreshments, flowers, flags, guest speakers and police for traffic and pedestrian safety. For Memorial Day, we host various Maui High School bands and provide their transportation. **Memorial Day**, is on Monday, May 27th Each year we have a Program theme, this year's theme is "**THE FORGOTTEN WAR**" also known as the "**Korean War**" We want to encourage ALL of the Korean War Veterans and Families to attend. Last year we Dedicated the **VIETNAM WAR MONUMENT** and had a special ceremony.
- b) WE HONOR our Maui County Veterans by hosting **Candlelight Services** at the War Memorial, in RECOGNITION of those that fought in the Korean War and Vietnam War
- c) We assist **Maui Sons & Daughters of the Nisei Veterans 100TH & 442ND Memorial** through funding.
- d) We assist with the funding of the **VFW Luau** and on **Veteran's Day** after the ceremony, we provide our **Annual Picnic** at Kalama Beach Park to support our Maui County Veterans and their Families
- e) Through the **Maui County Fair**, we provide outreach and awareness to the Maui Community regarding services that are available through various Veterans Organizations
- f) We host "**Wounded Warriors**" programs for Veterans that come from the Mainland; by meeting and greeting them and their families at the Airport arriving to Maui on Vacation. We want to promote a "Spirit of Aloha".
- g) We provide **Post VA Outreach Benefits** with donations and sponsorships to various Organizations through our Kokua Fund.
- h) We provide funding for the **Beautification** and **Maintenance** of our **Monuments** at the Veterans Cemetery in Makawao (Please note the Korean War Veterans Association are volunteering their time)

In close, we greatly appreciate the County Council supporting us and providing us funding for our financial needs. We look forward to working with the **Managing Director and Staff** to further assist us with the Grant Process for our Veterans of Maui County. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND CONSIDERATION.**

Prepared by: Elena P. Walker, MCVC Treasurer

P.O. Box 330137 Kahului, Hawaii 96733

Tel: (808) 357-0274 email: elena.walker@aol.com

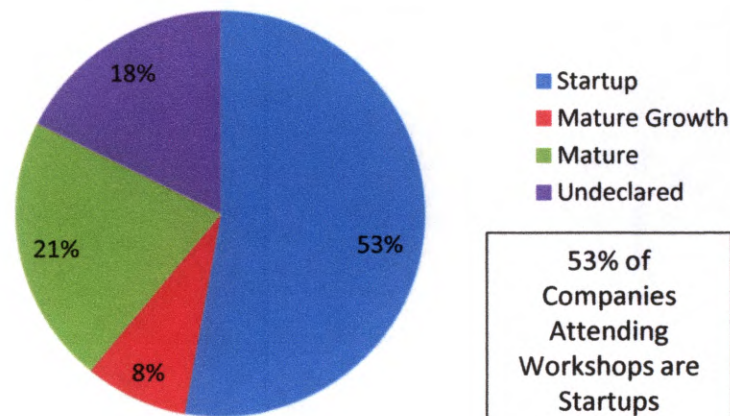
RECEIVED AT EDB MEETING ON 4/16/19

MEDB Dashboard FY2018

Through 9/30/18

MEDB Workshops Business Participation	
Goal (per Grant)	100
Actual	
Startup	156
Mature Growth	24
Mature	63
Undeclared	52
Actual Total	295

Business Status of Companies Attending Workshops



53% of Companies Attending Workshops are Startups

Attendance at Technical Assistance Workshops Delivered by MEDB

Pitch Boot Camp – Project Weekend	17
Lanai Board Savvy	11
Patents	35
Going Beyond Your Brand – Delivering WOW Service	53
Tax Strategies for Small Business	40
Intellectual Property and Branding	28
Social Media Management	59
Lanai Board Savvy	10
TechOhana with David Ai	32
Research and Development Tax Credits	10
Total	295

295 Total Participants FY18

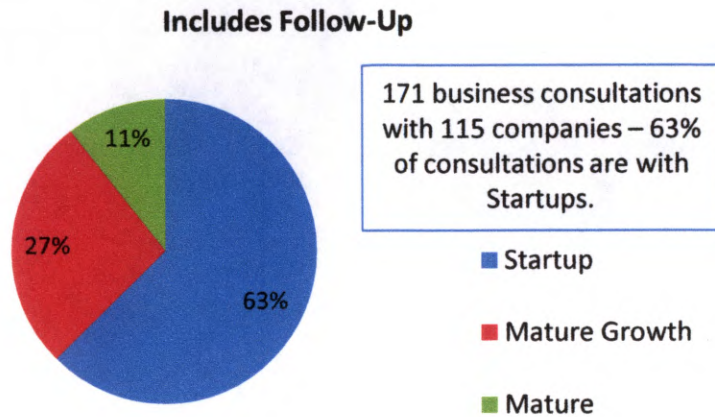
FRANK DeRosa

RECEIVED AT FEB MEETING ON APR 16 2019

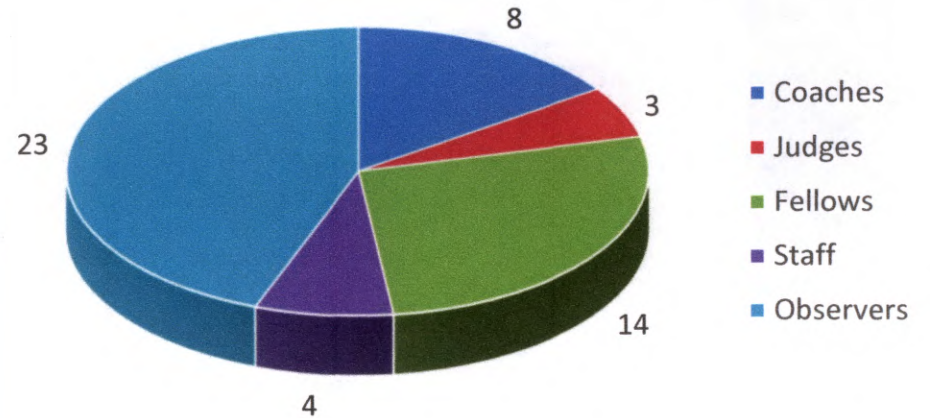
MEDB Dashboard FY2018

Through 9/30/18

One on One Business Consultations



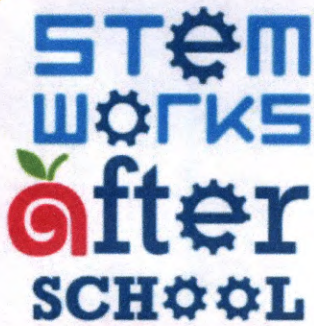
Project Weekend Participation



1 on 1 Business Interactions by US Census NAICS Code

43% of Business Consultations are from the Professional, Scientific & Technical Services (IT) Sector, 22% are from Accommodation and Food Services and 12% are from Manufacturing

Accommodation and Food Services	36	Health Care & Social Assistance	5
Administrative Support / Waste Management	3	Construction	1
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	5	Manufacturing	20
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	18	Professional, Scientific and Technical Services	74
Educational Services	5	Real Estate and Rental Leasing	2
Finance and Insurance	2	Total	171



BY THE NUMBERS 2017-18

- Coding • Digital Media • Engineering
- Robotics • Math Tutoring • GIS sUAS/ Drones
- 3-D Printing CAD • Broadcasting
- Agriculture • Language Arts Tutoring

SCHOOL YEAR

Presented by:



TOTAL SERVED

464:5 Maui County Schools Served

Lahaina Intermediate	57
Lanai High & Elementary	6
Lokelani Intermediate	131
Pukalani Elementary	123
Maui Waena Intermediate	147

TEACHERS REPORTED IMPROVEMENTS IN



70%

MATH



70%

SCIENCE



72%

LANGUAGE ARTS

Lahaina Inter.	80%	73%	78%
Lanai High & Elem.	100%	83%	100%
Lokelani Inter.	63%	60%	71%
Maui Waena	46%	50%	48%
Pukalani Elem.	100%	100%	96%

PROGRAM LAUNCHED IN 2015

100% PARTICIPATED AT NO COST

HIGH SCHOOL & INDUSTRY

1,117+ VOLUNTEER HOURS

392 Parents Attended STEM Family Engagements

86% Served underrepresented minority students

91% Students identified STEM career pathway of interest

STEMworks™ IS A SUCCESS BECAUSE OF YOU!

85% of students talk to their families about STEM projects/activities

89% of parents gave feedback for program focus in Fall 2017

84% of parents attended hands-on STEM engagements with student presentations

STEMworks™ AFTERSchool students said "I AM MORE SUCCESSFUL IN....."

COMMUNICATION **65%**

RESPONSIBILITY **86%**

PROBLEM SOLVING **86%**

TEAMWORK **74%**

COLLABORATION **88%**

ACTIVE LISTENING **80%**

GOAL-ORIENTATED **78%**

LEADERSHIP **72%**



STEMworks AFTERSchool is a program of MEDB's Women in Technology Project to address the need to stimulate interest and skills in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education and apply it to real world issues. It hopes to nurture student interest in order to prepare them to meet the 21st century workforce needs of their communities. Funded by Department of Education and the 21st Century Community Learning Centers.

