



Mission: The J. Walter Cameron Center serves to incubate, support, and accelerate social good in our community

## **TESTIMONY –Maui County Council Economic Dev and Budget Committee**

March 14, 2019

Good Morning Budget Chair and Council members, my name is Cesar Gaxiola.

As the Executive Director of the J. Walter Cameron Center I represent a 12member Board of Directors that is comprised of a diverse group of community-minded Maui residents who volunteer their time and expertise to help guide the management of the Center and ensure that it continues to benefit the overall community by providing low-cost office and program space for non-profits and flexible meeting space for many public service programs, workshops and special events. Currently there are 17 agencies located at the Center and each year over 30,000 people benefit from the services provided and the meetings conducted at this unique one-stop community service facility.

Over the past several years the Center's Board of Directors and staff have faced the challenge of securing the resources necessary to accomplish major improvements projects in order to ensure the continued viability of the Center's facility and complex. We are proud to report that over the last 8 years the Center has been able to secure over \$7 million in grant funds to support facility improvements. Some of the funding sources are: \$2.85 million from State GIA, \$1.5 million from the Weinberg Foundation, the USDA Rural Development and many more grants from State and local private foundations. We are also proud to acknowledge that the County has been a key funding source with the allocation of funds from the CDBG program and annual line-items to help fill funding gaps.

Every year the Center actively pursues and has been very successful in securing funding resources from non-County sources to support our Improvement Program, but we also continue to rely on the County as our principal partner in ensuring that the Center continues to benefit the community we serve. When the County invests in the Center, you are helping us maintain low monthly assessments that enable 17 agencies to operate more efficiently and provide critical services to thousands of Maui residents each year. The grant we are requesting this year represents an investment in the future by helping to ensure the continued viability of this important community service facility. Thank you for your support.

**J. Walter Cameron Center Resident Agencies:** Alu Like, American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, ARC of Maui County, Best Buddies International, Hui No Ke Ola Pono, Inc., Ka Lima O Maui, Maui Chamber of Commerce, Maui Community Mental Health, Maui County Office on Aging, Maui Mediation Services, Maui Pops Orchestra, Maui United Way, Mental Health Association of America, MEO Kāhi Kamali'i, Na Keiki O Emalia and Pacific Cancer Foundation.

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