

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee on 2022-04-11 9:00 AM - End time: 5:38 p.m.

Meeting Time: 04-11-22 09:00

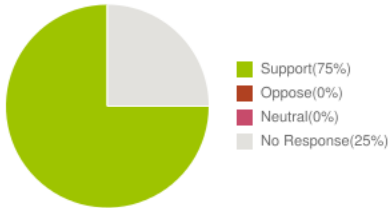
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee on 2022-04-11 9:00 AM - End time: 5:38 p.m.	04-11-22 09:00	2	12	9	0	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee on 2022-04-11 9:00 AM - End time: 5:38 p.m.

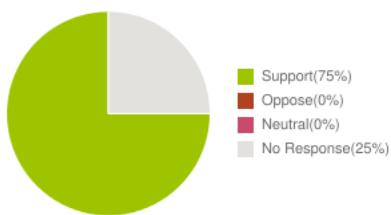
04-11-22 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	2	2	0	0
BFED-1 Reso 22-80 PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2023 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)	10	7	0	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

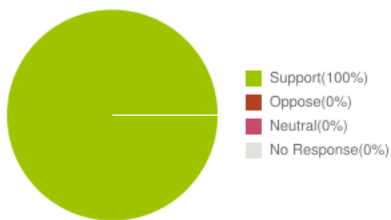
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:42am 04-11-22

Please prioritize the building of a playground at Eddie Tam. The playing fields, courts, and dog park are great, but Makawao needs a structure for young children.

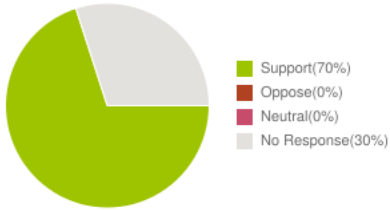
Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:24pm 04-09-22

Please allow and build a toddler playground for Eddie tam in the budget! It is so needed for the upcountry area. I have about 50plus moms who all agree and support this for the budget. We need a safe space for our toddlers to play.

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:41pm 04-11-22

April 11, 2022

To: County of Maui (Maui County Budget, Finance and Economic Development)

As the administrator of a personal care program servicing clients in Maui, including the islands of Molokai and Lana'i, I see first-hand the growing needs of our Kupuna community as well as the growing puka. During the COVID pandemic, the services to help those needs became even more important. I am testifying in support of Lana'i Kina'ole Inc. and its proposal for an Adult Day Care or Day Health Center (BFED Reso 22-80)

Home Care services allow our seniors to be able to live as independently as possible in the comfort of their own homes. Whether providing these services in the home or in a congregate setting, our Kupuna would get not only the services, but the socialization which is just as important. I see so many who continue to live in isolation and who may not even have family or family that live nearby to visit them.

For those who are fortunate to have family members, many times those sons, daughters, grandchildren are working themselves and don't have much time to be able to provide quality caregiving. Many are balancing work with their own family needs as well.

My office happens to be next to a day care center in Kahului and I see adult children dropping off their parent every day in the morning before they go to work and picking them up in the late afternoon. During the day, I hear the sounds of music, laughter, bingo numbers and singing. I've participated in helping select and crown Valentine's Day king and queen and judged costume contests during Halloween. When I go into the center, I see many talking story and others sitting there, but sitting in a safe and watchful environment.

With the limited services available in Lana'i. I see tremendous value in an ADC/ADH Center and I hope one day I can go to Lana'i when I'm visiting a client and come and see the center.

Reuben Ignacio, Director
Hale Mahaolu Personal Care Program

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:58am 04-11-22

Best Buddies in Hawaii Maui County Testimony – Week of April 11, 2022

Aloha, my name is Kathy Bettencourt, and I am the Maui-based program manager for Best Buddies in Hawaii. We are honored to be included in the Mayor's proposed budget at \$85,000 for fiscal year 2023. Mahalo for the opportunity to speak with you today.

Best Buddies is a non-profit organization that creates opportunities for one-to-one friendships and leadership development for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, or IDD. Best Buddies creates and

manages school- and community-based chapters which facilitate and support one-to-one mentoring friendships between participants with IDD and their typical peers, enabling Hawaii youth and adults with IDD to participate in inclusive social activities. Best Buddies is the only organization in Hawaii using this unique peer-to-peer mentoring model that benefits community members with and without IDD.

Best Buddies was established in Maui County in 2008. Since then, we have grown to operate school-based inclusion programs at eight middle schools and high schools and one college on Maui. In 2021, we launched our community-based friendship program for adults with and without IDD.

Our programs are critical to ensuring that youth and adults with IDD have the same opportunities to form social connections and meaningful relationships as their non-disabled peers. There were 1,316 students with intellectual disabilities enrolled in public schools in Hawaii in 2020, and only 14% of these students spent the majority of their day in inclusive settings. This figure indicates that 86% of Hawaii students with intellectual disabilities spend a significant part of their school day separated from their peers.

These last few years have shown us the importance of friendship and community. Studies have shown how critical social relationships are for all people with and without disabilities, with one study concluding that “there is a qualitative difference between being present in a community and having a presence in a community. [The authors] suggest this difference may depend in part on the development of valued relationships and a sense of belonging.”

Best Buddies works to ensure the opportunity for friendship is equal for those with IDD, who experience more isolation and loneliness. Mahalo nui loa for considering our request. Together, we will continue to make Maui a more inclusive place for everyone.

Thank you.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:53am 04-11-22

Support Full Funding for Adaptations Dance Theater (ADT)

Aloha!

Please support the full funding of Adaptations Dance Theater's Bring it Home program.

My name is Katie Istvan. I write in strong support of fully funding Adaptations Dance Theater's Bring it Home program. I have been a dancer with Adaptations Dance Theater since 2016 and currently direct seasonal community youth programs with the company. I grew up in Wailuku, dancing at Maui Academy of Performing Arts after school, where fellow ADT company member, Ali McKeon Pineo grew up dancing as well. After graduating from Kihei Charter School on Maui, I studied dance at California State University Long Beach where I received my B.A in Dance. Post degree, I continued to work as a dancer and fitness instructor in Los Angeles, California.

Living in LA, I was always torn about the fact that my career kept me on the mainland while my heart wanted to be back home. During my time in LA, ADT started a program called Bring it Home and asked me to be a part of it. Little did I know that a door of possibility was opening for me in my life, as a dancer from Maui.

My first Bring it Home (2016) was one of the best experiences of my life. The environment that ADT established was healthy, friendly, and professional. That was great (and as an artist, sometimes hard to come by) but the icing on the cake was that I was dancing in a project that mirrored professional work in LA and I was HOME! At the time I thought to myself that this project was the best project I could ever be a part of. Continuing to live in LA, I got asked to do another Bring it Home. Fast forward to the day I realized that I could move home due to the mere fact that ADT was providing professional contemporary dance work on Maui.

The mission and action of Bring it Home does exactly as it says. It worked so well in fact that not only did I get to come back for projects, but I ended up moving back as a resident in May 2018.

Being a professional dancer from Maui I am so grateful for the door that ADT has opened for me in my life. I never thought it was possible, especially at the age I was (24 years old and now 28) when I moved back home to Maui, to continue my profession in the way that I wanted to.

Since moving back home, I have not only been part of ADT as a performer in various community projects (i.e. Small Town Big Art collaboration), I have also directed multiple educational programs for young dancers on Maui with ADT (ADT Summer Intensive and Winter Workshop). Curating special workshops and intensives for young and pre-professional dancers on the island is a full circle moment for me. These types of programs are opportunities that in my own youth, growing up here, my parents would have to save up for and send me off island to go attend or they couldn't afford it. It is because of Bring it Home that I moved back to Maui and saw the

opportunity to give back to my community.

Because of the inspiration that ADT's Bring it Home project has given me in moving back home, I have also been able to work with the young dancers of our community in many other ways as well. I have taught as an Alumni at Maui Academy of Performing Arts, taught at Carden Academy, and am currently teaching and am the Competition Director with Momentum Dance Maui (prior ADT dancer Alannah Andersen started this studio). ADT continues to raise the caliber of contemporary dance on Maui bringing opportunities for professional Maui artists and aspiring youth. Their genuine, uplifting, supportive and active energy expands beyond. Mahalo for your time reading through this. I greatly appreciate it. Mahalo for considering ADT.

Katie Istvan

MDM Competition Director

ADT Dancer and Summer Intensive/Winter Workshop Director

B.A in Dance California State University Long Beach

BFED Committee

Location:

Submitted At: 8:25am 04-11-22

Testimonies received from BFED Committee

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:18am 04-11-22

Please support Molokai Kupuna

Aloha Maui Council Members,

I write to ask for your continued support of the Molokai Kupuna program. It has been an invaluable service and resource for information for so many of us.

I am 67 and my experience with the program has been 3-fold.

1- Getting help to elderly: I attend Kalaiakamamu Hou Congregational church where the majority of our attendees are quite elderly, several living alone without any on-island support. Because I knew about the program, I was able to connect them and others so they could receive needed food and yard cleaning services.

2- Knowledge: I have been a caregiver to elderly parents (passed) twice in the past and the AARP online webinars offered could have really helped me. As an example I now understand how the body responds differently to medication dosages, etc as it ages. I wish I had this knowledge before parents passed but will be aware as my husband and I now age.

3- Personal Health: Throughout my life I have tried to stay active with exercise so thought back, hip, knee pain I have now we're just part of my aging. After a massage with the program I had no pain which was such a blessing. I felt wonderful! I learned where to stretch regularly and the value of massage for both physical and mental well being.

So appreciate the support in the past and humbly ask for your continued support of Molokai's Kupuna Program. We need it.

Mahalo,

Crystal Egusa

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:16am 04-11-22

KCA testimony for Tuesday 4/12/22 9am regarding DPW

Aloha Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Committee

Mike Moran for the Kihei Community Association

Our testimony concerns Public Works, which we believe you have calendared for this date. We did submit it via ecomments for this date and believe that might have been successful, but failsafe also doing here via email.

Apologize if this is just duplication

KCA testimony to Council Budget Committee April 12 2022 9 AM

Dept of Public Works (DPW)

Aloha Committee Chair Rawlins- Fernandez and Committee.
Mike Moran for the Kihei Community Association (KCA)

For the last decade we have been totally frustrated with the lack of action or progress on multimodal transportation infrastructure. In S Maui, by far the leading concern is any progress filling in the missing segments of the No So Collector Road (NSCR). The next segment is to extend between Kulanihakoi and Waipuilani. The past two directors of DPW advised us design work was progressing on this segment, and now we have a new director just approved. As he is coming aboard we learned that an item will be address in the IT committee at some future date, stating:

“ Warren Unemori= Contract C6099-6: LILOA DRIVE EXTENSION (NAMAUU PLACE TO KAONOULU STREET) NORTH SOUTH (NS) COLLECTOR ROAD, DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS, PW ENG JOB NO. 16-23, QBS NO Q-PW-16-30

You maybe aware that Namauu is about 200 yards north of Waipuilani. Thus this contract indicates that after nearly a decade of supposed contracting for design actions on this half mile our expected roadway, 200 yards have been completed.

We are pleased that this contract includes the next half mile as far north as Kaonoulu, but can we expect this will be done in 200 yard increments?

While the lack of any true progress on the NSCR is far & away the major issue, we will point out another example. Back in 2017 KCA walked along SKR with the then DPW director David Goode from the Post Office at Azeka Plaza north bound to Kulanihakoi to demonstrate the need to fill in the missing segments of the sidewalk. SEE <https://gokihei.org/environment/walking-and-talking-along-south-kihei-road-friday-morning>
The total outcome of that effort after almost 5 years was a single crosswalk painted across SKR.

More recently the Mayor offered a campaign promise as a candidate that one mile of sidewalk in this area would be constructed. In the nearly four years since that commitment not a inch of sidewalk has been constructed.

Of course there are other concerns under DPW kuliana that need attention in our district such as storm water. DPW offered the community the Pre Final Kihei Master Drainage Plan in 2017 by contractor R M Towell, and a more environmentally friendly version of the just the two major rivers by Ecosolutions was finalized in September, 2020 and delivered to DPW, and finally released to the community 14 months later. A month after it was released, Kihei experienced yet another mud flood, to remind our community no mitigation had even begun anywhere, makai to mauka.

But today we are just asking for concern on construction commencement of the NSCR between Waipuilani and Kaonoulu by DPW. We tried regularly for communication with the prior director most of last year, but received no response. We immediately contacted the new director as soon as he was named. He replied he was willing to meet with KCA, but not until he was confirmed and the FY 2023 budget process was completed.

We have unconfirmed data that the department currently has \$14. M of the needed \$24 for this portion of the NSCR, and waiting until at least 2025 to secure the remaining \$10. from the Fed. Yet we see published report quoting Congressman Kahele, “ As part of the federal infrastructure law passed last year, Hawaii is set to receive around \$1.2 billion for highway projects and another \$339 million to build and repair bridges, Kahele told Maui residents during the meeting last week — a “once in a lifetime pot of resources,” he said.
Has DPW looking at getting the funding there?

We ask the committee if they can get info from the Department before the 2023 budget is finalized.
Mahalo

Mike Moran for the Kihei Community Association

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:14am 04-11-22

Maui Soil and Water Conservation District testimony

Due to audio issues I was not able to provide testimony requesting your support of funding for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. I will be submitting a formal written testimony also. Thank you.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Maui Soil and Water Conservation Districts. My name is Mae Nakahata with the Central Maui SWCD, representing our four districts on the island. Today, I am here requesting your support of the Mayor's proposal funding the Districts.

The SWCD is a quasi government organization, created in Federal law and represents a true public private partnership tasked with carrying out soil and water conservation stewardship responsibilities on the land. We leverage Federal capacity, State and County funding with volunteer board members who contribute their time reviewing and approving conservation plans resulting in Federal cost share resources, \$1.4M in 2020, to Maui farmers and ranchers to offset costs associated with carrying out conservation practices as part of their operations. References to the cost share were mentioned in prior testimonies. We also review and approve grading and grubbing plans providing input to manage erosion during soil disturbing activities. Our budget this year exceeds the levels of prior years. With climate change, there is increased needs on Maui. The proposed budget increases the capacity of the districts to better deliver services and increase access to Federal funds.

A large part of our budget change is for salary adjustments. Currently the salary of our conservation specialists who prepare conservation plans needed for clients to receive cost share funds are far below salaries paid by the others for equivalent positions. As a result, we have been on a roller coaster, hiring and losing specialists on a regular basis. This budget will allow us to provide salaries equal to others with similar skills and responsibilities. Our current administrative assistant position is largely clerical. To increase the capacity of our districts to increase much needed services, we are creating an Exec Director position to increase our capacity to seek and manage extramural funding. For example, our Upcountry Drought resiliency project places us as a priority for federal grant funding but we need to apply for the grant and then manage and provide reports on the grant. Maui SWCD respectfully requests your support of this budget item as an investment to our conservation efforts.

Thank you.

Thank you,
Mae Nakahata
2819716

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:21pm 04-09-22

The playground in Lahaina desperately needs repairs, the playground and bounce pad need to be redone for the safety of our children. And a shade needs to be added. The park is unusable from the hours of 11-2 because of how hot the structure gets.

Mahalo for your time.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:01pm 04-09-22

Dear Council Members,

Please KEEP in the budget funding for the design, permitting, and construction of a playground at Eddie Tam in Makawao. Currently, there are no playgrounds in Makawao and none upcountry that are designed for the use of children under 5 years old. The closest playground in Pukalani is heavily used by Pukalani Elementary school every school day morning and Kula school often uses the Kula playground for their pre-K students in the mornings. All the playgrounds upcountry are extremely busy with young children. A playground at Eddie Tam will greatly benefit the children and parents of upcountry. Thank you for KEEPING this in the budget!

Arianna Feinberg
Makawao Resident

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:59am 04-08-22

Maui Nui Marine is instrumental in monitoring good water quality and reef conditions, preserving one of Maui's greatest tourist attractions. Please fund this work! Janet Chin, Leilani Kai 201, Kihei

BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 7:49 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: FW: Budget Committee 4/8/2022
Attachments: Dane Maxwell Hāla of 'Ōiwi Arts Testimony.pdf

From: Dane Maxwell <diggy5451@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 7, 2022 7:36 PM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Budget Committee 4/8/2022

You don't often get email from diggy5451@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I apologize for the late testimony but it is my hope that this will still be received and submitted for tomorrow's BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE agenda. This testimony is related to Hālau of 'Ōiwi Art funding approval.

Mahalo nui,
Dane Maxwell

April 6, 2022

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of Funding for the Hālau of ‘Ōiwi Art (“HOA”)

Aloha nui iā kākou,

My name is Dane Uluwehiokalani Maxwell and I was born and raised on Maui. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of funding for the Hālau of ‘Ōiwi Arts in the proposed FY 2023 budget.

Maui deserves and has long awaited a dedicated space for Hawaiian arts and more specifically hula. Growing up on the slopes of Haleakalā in the area of Pukalani, I had the great privilege of being raised in a hālau hula. Raised by my grandfather, grandmother, aunty, and mother in the home of Pukalani Hula Hale. I have distinct memories of my grandmother's teachings going from her garage to the Pukalani school cafeteria, then over to at that time the newly built Hanabil Tavares community center downstairs rooms. Having a dedicated location for hula at that time could have allowed for much less stress in terms of finding a residence for the hālau and more time for building capacity and the perpetuation of hula itself.

Having served on the Maui Lāna‘i Island Burial Council from 2014 till recently terming out as the chair in March, I have an intimate understanding of the proposed site. I believe that if there is anything to be built within close proximity of this very special and significant area, it must be something that promotes the culture to which it belongs and who’s sacrifice is being made. Without speaking in much detail out of respect for the sensitive nature of this location I will just say that it brings me great joy to see the word ‘ōiwi included in the name for this hālau.

Investing in Hālau of ‘Ōiwi Art will provide Maui with a strong foundation for many generations to come. It is my hope that this will just be phase one for central Maui and in years to come, we will see many more serving the rest of our kaiāulu. In closing, I am in complete support of this Hālau and strongly urge this committee to fully fund HOA.

Ola nā iwi,

Dane Uluwehiokalani Maxwell

BFED Committee

From: Scott Crawford - Kipahulu Ohana <ohana@kipahulu.org>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 11:33 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Support for Open Space Fund I.3. for 'Opelu Point in Kipahulu
Attachments: Opelu Point letter to Budget.pdf

[You don't often get email from ohana@kipahulu.org. Learn why this is important at <http://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>.]

Aloha e Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and member of the Committee,

I are attaching written testimony including enclosed photos to supplement my oral testing in support of the mayor's proposed budget item in the Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund, Item I.3, "Up to \$2,500,000 must be for a grant to Kipahulu Ohana, Inc. for land acquisition and related costs for approximately 9.5 acres identified as TMK: (2) 1-6- 010:005, 'Opelu Point, Kipahulu, Maui, Hawaii."

Please let us know if you have any questions about this request, or would like to come out for a site visit!

Mahalo,

Scott Crawford
Executive Director
Kipahulu Ohana, Inc.
PO Box 454
Hana HI 96713
808-248-8673
ohana@kipahulu.org



KĪPAHULU 'ŌHANA, INC.

PO Box 454, Hana, HI 96713
808-248-8673 • ohana@kipahulu.org

April 8, 2022

Chair Keani Rawlins- Fernandez,
Budget, Finance & Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
bfed.committee@mauicounty.us

Re: Open Space Fund FY23 Budget request for TMK 1-6-010-005, 'Ōpelu Point in Kīpahulu, Maui

Aloha e Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and Members of the Committee,

We are writing to provide information and request your support for the mayor's proposed budget item in the Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund, Item I.3, "Up to \$2,500,000 must be for a grant to Kipahulu Ohana, Inc. for land acquisition and related costs for approximately 9.5 acres identified as TMK: (2) 1-6-010:005, 'Ōpelu Point, Kipahulu, Maui, Hawaii."

This 'Ōpelu Point land is very special, and fits most or all of the criteria for this fund. We would love to have the opportunity to be the caretakers of this 'āina, and feel that it would fit very well with our mālama 'āina programs from mauka to makai.

Because of its location as the prominent southwest facing property along the Kīpahulu coastline, we feel that it can be an important part of our Mālama I Ke Kai programs, for shoreline management and education, including our proposal to designate Kīpahulu Moku as a Community Based Subsistence Fishing Area.

We also have a state lease for the adjacent property to the east of 'Ōpelu Point, a 9-acre parcel in the area of Popoloa, where we manage a productive banana and fruit orchard, field crops, and cattle pasture, so the 'Ōpelu Point parcel would also be well integrated with our overall agricultural management plans.

We have had initial conversations with the land owners through their broker, and they have indicated a willingness to work with us for the sale of the land and are favorable toward it being placed in conservation with a Hawaiian organization with deep roots in the community.

The list price for the parcel is \$2,500,000, so we asked the mayor to place this amount into the Open Space Fund budget, although we will be obtaining an appraisal and also have received

indication from the seller's broker that they are willing to negotiate on the price, so we anticipate that the land may be acquired for less than this amount.


We are enclosing some photos that show the property and the surrounding views.

Please contact us if you have any questions about our request, or if you would like to make a site visit to the property.

Sincerely,



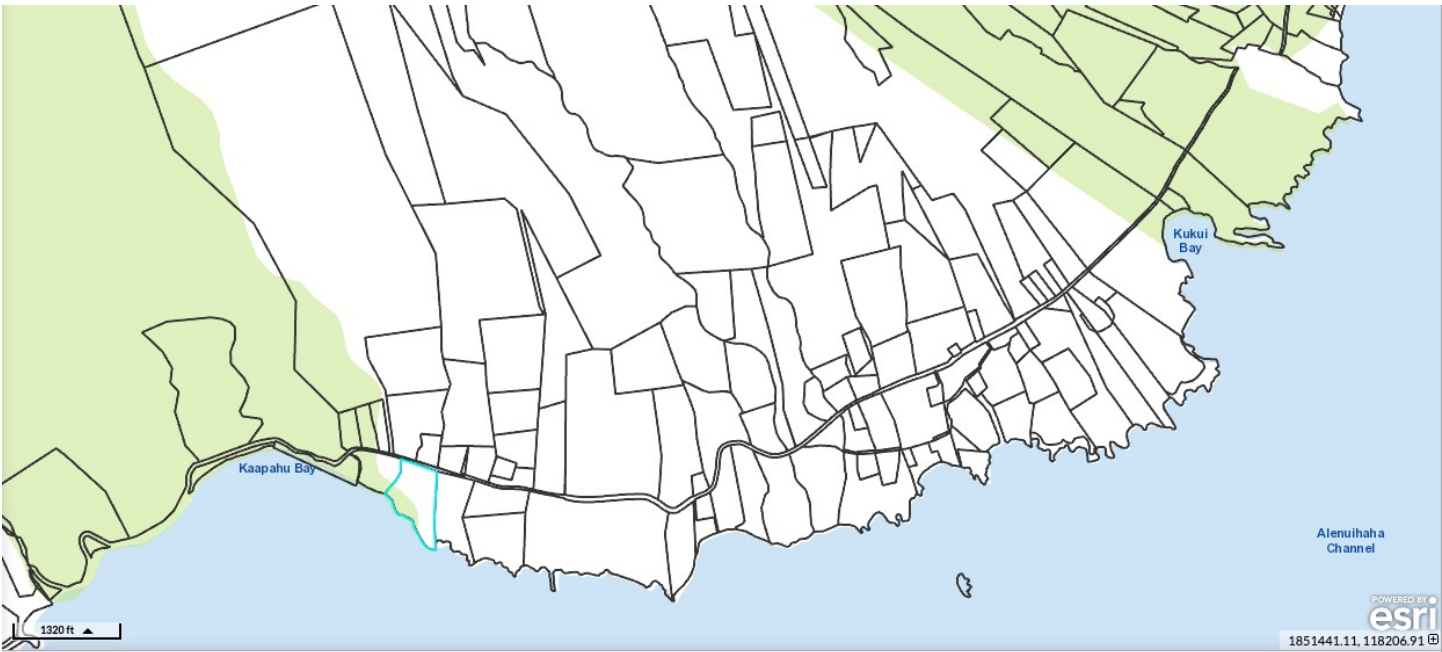
Mike Minn
President



Glenna Ann "Tweetie" Lind
Secretary/Treasurer



Scott Crawford
Executive Director



Parcel ID 160100050000
 Acreage 9.549
 Class NON-OWNER-OCCUPIED/RESIDENTIAL; CONSERVATION

Situs/Physical Address HANA HWY
 Mailing Address LEIDER, JERRY AKA GERALD J & SUSAN TRUST
 22714 E HENDERSON DR
 AURORA CO 80016

Assd Land Value	\$2,736,900	Last 2 Sales			
Assd Building Value	\$111,400	Date	Price Reason	Qual	
Total Assd Value	\$1,018,100	5/11/2017	0	n/a	U
Exempt Value	\$0	8/31/2016	0	Related individuals	U
Taxable Value	\$2,848,300				

Brief Tax Description n/a
 (Note: Not to be used on legal documents)



Parcel ID 160100050000
 Acreage 9.549
 Class NON-OWNER-OCCUPIED/RESIDENTIAL; CONSERVATION

Situs/Physical Address HANA HWY
 Mailing Address LEIDER, JERRY AKA GERALD J & SUSAN TRUST
 22714 E HENDERSON DR
 AURORA CO 80016

Assd Land Value \$2,736,900
 Assd Building Value \$111,400
 Total Assd Value \$1,018,100
 Exempt Value \$0
 Taxable Value \$2,848,300

Last 2 Sales			
Date	Price	Reason	Qual
5/11/2017	0	n/a	U
8/31/2016	0	Related individuals	U

Brief Tax Description n/a
 (Note: Not to be used on legal documents)













BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Monday, April 11, 2022 7:39 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: FW: Testimony in Support of Adaptations Dance Theater's Bring it Home program
Attachments: Testimony in Support of AdaptationsDanceTheater_Jen Cox.pdf

From: ADT Directors <director@adaptationsdancetheater.com>
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 9:55 PM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Testimony in Support of Adaptations Dance Theater's Bring it Home program

You don't often get email from director@adaptationsdancetheater.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

My name is Jen Cox, and I am the executive director for Adaptations Dance Theater. I am submitting a written copy of my testimony provided in person Friday morning, April 8, 2022 in the Council Chambers in support of the Culture, Arts, and Tourism grant under the Office of the Mayor for Adaptations Dance Theater and its Bring it Home program.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jen

--

Jen Cox
Executive Director, Adaptations Dance Theater
[Pronouns:](#) she/her
director@adaptationsdancetheater.com
808-446-2450
www.adaptationsdancetheater.com



Friday, April 8, 2022

RE: Testimony in **Support** of Adaptations Dance Theater's Bring it Home Program

Aloha Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and BFED Committee Members,

My name is Jen Cox and I am the executive director for Adaptations Dance Theater, Maui's contemporary dance company that seeks to inspire and contribute to the culturally-dynamic and continually growing community of dance on Maui through creativity, collaboration and performance.

In the near-decade as a nonprofit organization, we have engaged thousands in education and performance initiatives at various spaces like Ke'opuolani Park, the Maui Arts & Cultural Center, 'A'ali'ikūhonua Creative Arts Center, 'Iao Theater, the multiple dance studios across Maui— and most recently, just on the other side of this building as part of the County's Small Town Big Art program — to build a presence in the places where our community gathers in order to strengthen our mission's reach.

On behalf of ADT, I am here in strong support of the \$25,000 dollar culture, arts, and tourism grant included in the budget by the Office of the Mayor for our Bring it Home program. This month-long artist residency and performance series creates the opportunity for Maui-raised dancers currently pursuing professional careers elsewhere to come home and share their craft with the community that raised them.

By honoring their professionalism and artistry with paid performance opportunities, we can (and are!) building a world-class contemporary dance home here on Maui. No longer will the hundreds of student dancers across Maui be told that they have to leave for years on end, most likely for the duration of their careers, in order to pursue their passion.

Pre-pandemic, Bring it Home brought back at least two guest artists each summer between 2016 and 2018 to join our resident cast in choreographing and sharing compelling, meaningful dance works commissioned for and created by Maui's own.

In 2019, we brought back five homegrown dancers to join a cast of nearly twenty artists for our biggest Bring it Home production to date, enjoyed by over 500 audience members over the course of a three-show weekend. I am proud to report that several of those guest artists have since become Maui residents again, the ultimate achievement and return on investment for this program.

When our contemporary dancers feel confident that they can continue to work in their craft within a company of supportive and inspiring professionals on a consistent basis; they return.



In the words of a Bring it Home audience member, reflecting on why this is an important program for Maui:

“To emphasize what is at stake when a community does not prioritize the arts (losing home grown talent); to exemplify the quality of talent that Maui cultivates; to develop aspiring artists into emerging and professional ones... to bring together a group of people who might not otherwise interact by the common thread of creativity, which fosters exchange, personal and social wellbeing and a sense of belonging.”

We are excited to bring back this signature program, empowered by your belief in the impact we have as role models for Maui’s student dancers, as collaborators for Maui’s working artists, and as the conduit for those we will bring home with your support. Thank you for believing in this work and for allowing me to share our passion for this program with you. I am also grateful to my colleagues and ADT supporters who have likewise submitted written testimony to share their personal experiences with ADT and the Bring it Home program.

Thank you again for your consideration to fund the full \$25,000 request in support of Adaptations Dance Theater.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jen Cox".

Jen Cox
Executive Director
Adaptations Dance Theater