

EDB Committee

From: Teresa Cartwright <tess@mewe-creations.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 12:27 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: Tess Cartwright; info@mnbg.org
Subject: My Letter of Support for Maui Botanical Garden
Attachments: TCartwright MNBG Letter of Support.docx

Dear Maui County Council,

Please see my letter attached.

Sincerely,

Teresa (aka Tess) Cartwright

03/21/2019

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

Honorable Members of the Council:

I am writing to urge you to support Mayor Victorino's FY2020 budget request for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.

My experience with the Garden has been that they teach people of all ages how we are connected to nature.

I care about the work the Gardens does because without the knowledge of what grows on Maui we will be lost.

MNBG is the best place on Maui for visitors and residents to learn the cultural history of Maui County's unique plants.

MNBG provides a place for students of botany and Hawaiian culture to learn plant identification and experiment with traditional uses. They host more than 1,500 Maui students each year in educational activities that teach native Hawaiian plants and their uses.

This organization has consistently more than doubled the funding provided by the County.

Sincerely,

Teresa Cartwright

50 Nohea Kai Drive 3336
Lahaina, Hawaii 96761

EDB Committee

From: Amy Tamura Muramatsu <amy.muramatsu5@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 2:14 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: EDB-1: in support of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens
Attachments: EDB-1- in support of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens -Amy Muramatsu 2019.pdf

Amy Muramatsu

84 Ala Apapa Pl.
Pukalani, Maui, HI 96768
Phone: (808) 572-7654



March 21, 2019

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

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Sincerely,



Amy Muramatsu

EDB Committee

From: Courtney Turner <makena42@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 3:48 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: info@mnbg.org
Subject: Letter in support of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

Hi,

I'm emailing in support of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens receiving continued funding from the County of Maui. MNBG does a lot of public education and awareness through their festivals and workshops throughout the year. The Gardens are not just for plant lovers and scholars. Last fall, their Breadfruit Festival drew a lot of families and visitors and highlighted the importance of breadfruit as a local, sustainable food crop. Also, they had some interesting chefs prepare breadfruit recipes that are easy to make for the home cook. They had booths like Blue Zones Hawaii which provided information about staying healthy throughout one's lifetime. At other MNBG festivals, I've participated in pounding kapa, making lei, throwing Hawaiian weapons. MNBG is a good resource for perpetuating Hawaiian culture and making it more accessible to residents here. Also, it's important to keep Hawaiian culture alive in Hawaii, or else Hawaii will become more and more like California.

I recently took a Hawaiian Ethnobotany class at UH Maui with Kumu Ikaika and one of our field trips was to MNBG. We helped plant kalo and learned about Hawaiian rock wall building. He also showed us the traditional Hawaiian hale he helped construct. Even though I grew up in Hawaii and went to public school, at the time, Hawaiian culture wasn't very popular and Hawaiian studies classes were very boring. Through the class, I found out many aspects of Hawaiian culture that I didn't know about. Because the Hawaiians did not have metal or glass or pottery, they made everything out of plants – their medicine, clothing, housing, transportation, musical instruments, tools, weapons... It's a valuable resource to have a garden which is centrally located and offers so many opportunities to learn about Hawaiian culture through their plants.

The Gardens also save native seeds and propagate native plants, helping keep them alive, especially the ones that are more rare or endangered. In short, I recommend that the County continue funding for the MNBG.

Mahalo, Courtney Turner

EDB Committee

From: Geary Mizuno <geary.mizuno@rcn.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 21, 2019 8:58 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: info@mnbjg.org
Subject: EDB-1: in support of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

Maui County Council Members:

Please approve funding for Maui Nui Botanical Garden, as set forth in the Mayor's proposed budget. If I were on Maui, I would testify in favor of this funding, but I am temporarily on Oahu, and will soon return to Maryland. Of course, you would think, "why should I care about the views of a non-voting individual who is not even a constituent." Some matters, however, transcend local concerns and should be viewed from the light of the greater public good.

I have been supporting Maui Nui Botanical Gardens with substantial financial contributions for at least 15 years now. The Gardens are a tremendous resource for Maui residents of all ages and ethnicities - a place to learn about native Hawaiian plants, Polynesian Hawaiian culture and material history. Whenever I read about the educational programs and special events taking place at Maui Nui Botanical Garden, I cannot help but be excited by the love and energy of the workers and volunteers.

If we are talking about leveraging government monies to obtain the most effective outcomes, surely the Maui County funds appropriated for the Maui Nui Botanical Garden are high on the list of government-sponsored activities with a high level of success. If we are talking about volunteerism and community support, again, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens has a demonstrated history of volunteerism - of individuals contributing their time, effort and money. This is a stark contrast to many requests for government funding, where the individuals are simply accepting government largesse as opposed to giving back to the local community (and in the case of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens - the State of Hawaii and indeed the rest of the planet).

For these reasons, I urge you to approve the full budget for the Maui Nui Botanic Gardens.

Geary S. Mizuno

geary.mizuno@rcn.com

cell: 301-848-9428

until April 28, 2019: 652 Pepeekeo Street, Honolulu HI 96825

after April 28, 2019: 7812 Glenbrook Road, Bethesda MD. 20814