

## EDB Committee

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**From:** Sarah D. Pajimola  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 07, 2020 11:43 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** Keani N. Rawlins; Lesley J. Milner  
**Subject:** FW: Maui Equine Tourism Industry Letter to Mayor Victorino and Maui County Budget Committee  
**Attachments:** Maui Equine Tourism Industry Letter to Mayor Victorino and Maui County Budget Committee

**From:** helaine@maui.net <helaine@maui.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 28, 2020 9:29 AM  
**To:** Sarah D. Pajimola <sarah.pajimola@mauicounty.us>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Maui Equine Tourism Industry Letter to Mayor Victorino and Maui County Budget Committee

Hi Sarah, it was great to see you yesterday. This is the email and letter that I was telling you about from the Maui Equine Industry that Paige Deponte sent to the Mayor and cc to Tokie OgawaSidney. Any help would be greatly appreciated by all of us struggling...one company already closed.

She has been communicating with Tokie OgawaSidney who responded:

On Sep 21, 2020, at 11:47 AM, Tokie OgawaSidney <[Tokie.OgawaSidney@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:Tokie.OgawaSidney@co.maui.hi.us)> wrote:

Aloha Paige,

Thank you Triple L Ranch, Mendes Ranch, Maui Mountain Activities, and Makena Stables for the letter.

Since you have not heard from the other ranches, I will forward the letter to the Mayor's office, Mayor's executive assistants, Chief of Staff Tyson Miyake, The Office of Economic Development director JoAnn Inamasu, with the above four companies as addressers.

I hope one of them will get back to you soon. If not, please follow up with me.

Aloha

Tokie

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** SRS0=6111oz=C6=yahoo.com=depontepaige@makenastables.com on behalf of paige Deponte <depontepaige@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 21, 2020 8:47 AM  
**To:** Tokie OgawaSidney  
**Cc:** mauimountainactivities@gmail.com; mendes@maui.net; yodneal@makanioluranch.com; info@ironwoodranch.com; tthompson8@hawaiiintel.net; info@makenastables.com; paige Deponte  
**Subject:** Maui Equine Tourism Industry Letter to Mayor Victorino and Maui County Budget Committee  
**Attachments:** Mayor Victorino Letter 9 20 2020.pdf

Aloha Tokie

On behalf of our industry I have attached a letter to the Mayor and Budget committee. So far I have received approval from four of the seven companies  
Triple L Ranch  
Mendes Ranch  
Maui Mountain Activities  
Makena Stabls

I have not heard back form  
Ironwood  
Makani Olu  
Thompson Ranch

I do not know thier needs at this time but, however I have included them should their be an approval to move forward for discussions the county can contact them I presume for thier details.

Thank you so much for trying your best and tirelessly helping us all during these most difficult times.

You are amazing!  
Mahalo Paige  
Paige De Ponte,  
M:808-280-7070  
EM:depontepaige@yahoo.com  
Triple L Ranch Private Horseback Tours  
www.triplelranchmaui.com

PHOTOGRAPHY & ART GALLERIES:  
<https://www.facebook.com/paigedepontearmist>  
NYC: [www.salomonarts.com](http://www.salomonarts.com)  
MAUI: [www.paigedeponte.com](http://www.paigedeponte.com)

Mayor Victorino

Maui County Budget Committee

Aloha Mayor and Committee

First we would like to thank you for providing many programs for Maui businesses helping to financially assist these business and our community through the Covid-19 pandemic crisis.

Today, over six months into this pandemic there are a few areas we would like to bring to light that still require assistance that may have fallen outside the “normal” small business needs.

As a collective, those of us in the Maui Equine Tourism Industry (Horseback and Trail Rides companies) are reaching out to you for assistance, most specifically for our Horses/ livestock.

Some of us in METI have been able to receive grants; others less fortunate have had to resort to borrowing money to cover operating expenses and substantial income losses including refunding customers during lockdowns and continuing quarantines.

However, these sources of funds are simply not enough to help most of us maintain our primary assets, our horses. Our horses require twice-daily feedings, regular shoeing and often supplements and vet visits. Unlike hotels that can close or boat, helicopter and other excursion activities that can store equipment, our horses are living beings. Their maintenance and upkeep is a daily drain on all our business and personal finances.

These assets, our horses, bring much happiness and joy to our tourist every year. Our industry represents a unique and powerful Maui visitor experience by introducing tourists into some of the most beautiful and inaccessible areas of Maui for real personable experiences. Many of us share our Paniolo and ranching history too as active ranchers, which is deeply ingrained in the Maui life and cultural history.

After reopening the islands from stay-at-home restrictions, we were encouraged, only to be struck down again by the 14-day quarantine requirement, another stroke of disaster for our struggling industry.

We are seeking from you a “Feed Reimbursement” program retroactive beginning from March 15<sup>th</sup> 2020 to present, together with a current grant program for feed through the end of the year. For most of us who engage in cattle ranching and other husbandry, our visitor tours are a primary agriculture asset to keep our Ag businesses going.

These animals are our valuable assets and family. While we have done as much as we can to keep them fed and healthy (feed, shoes, medical and supplements) we face yet another natural disaster, a very bad drought. We implore you and the committee Mayor to help our industry survive.

Thank you for your reviewing this request.

We look forward to a timely response and an opportunity to discuss these matters in detail with you.

Sincerely,

Maui Equine Tourism Industry