

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** David Litman <david@nvcnextgen.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 10, 2020 3:32 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony for LEGISLATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE EFFECT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, RULES, CARES ACT, AND RELATED ISSUES (EDB-85)  
**Attachments:** Litman testimony for Sept2020 Maui budget mtg.docx

Please see letter attached in relation to LEGISLATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE EFFECT OF THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, RULES, CARES ACT, AND RELATED ISSUES (EDB-85)

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September 10, 2020

**Maui County Economic Development and Budget Committee**

Testimony submitted via email to: [edb.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:edb.committee@mauicounty.us)

**Position:** Use Federal Covid-19 Relief Funds to support Maui County families

Dear Committee Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair Kelly Takaya King, and Committee Members:

My name is David Litman, and I am a registered voter who lives in Kihei, 96753. I am writing to you as a private citizen and my work as a therapist and as a director for a Maui nonprofit supporting youth informs my testimony. In my work, I have seen first-hand the devastating effects of this pandemic in Maui County.

I know that Hawai'i must spend about \$320 million in federal funds by December 30, 2020. I want Maui County to request and use some of that money to support families. Some of the most pressing needs I see are

- A lack of affordable, accessible childcare
- A need for help with elementary-school-age children who are participating in distance learning through DOE and need constant supervision and help while parents need to be at work or working from home
- Stable, affordable housing without facing a big bill of past rent or past mortgage payments due when the emergency protections and housing assistance funds end
- Cash in families' pockets so they can pay for their families' basic needs, for example, families below the median income line receiving \$1500 per month until economic recovery is achieved.
- Nonprofits serving families are facing cuts in their state contracts and are being asked to serve more families in new ways with fewer resources—this is unsustainable—nonprofits need financial help

In addition to requesting your help in spending the federal money on Maui, please make the following information public on the county website:

- How much federal and state money has been allocated for Maui County because of the pandemic
- How much of that has been spent and what it has been spent on

- What the plans are for any remaining amounts
- Who is informing the County's decisions about these funds, and the best ways for families to get involved in the process.

Please continue to hold public meetings on this topic and make all documents related to these issues accessible to the public.

Thank you for your service to the County and your attention to my testimony.

Sincerely,

David Litman  
Director, Programs and Training  
Hale Pono Youth Shelter  
NVCNextGen  
[www.nvcnextgen.org](http://www.nvcnextgen.org)