

EDB Committee

From: Stephanie Ohigashi <sohigash@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2020 3:38 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Testimony on EDB-85
Attachments: UHMCtestimonyEDB85.pdf

Aloha Chair Rawlins Fernandez,

Attached is my brief testimony. Sorry so late.

Mahalo and stay safe,
Stephanie Ohigashi
UH Maui College
Regional Partnerships Coordinator
281-4535

University of Hawai'i
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International & Regional Partnerships
310 W. Kaahumanu Avenue
Kahului, Hawai'i 96732
9/10/2020
Maui County Council
Economic Development and Budget Committee
Chair Keani Rawlins Fernandez
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, Hawai'i 97693

Aloha Chair and members of the Economic Development and
Budget Committee:
RE:EDB 85

I am writing to you today in regards to an innovative virtual job fair site the Office of Economic Development created to address Maui County's growing unemployment numbers. You all represent communities that have been crushed by the coronavirus and know full well, the jobs that our local people counted on for decades may be gone forever. This was one of the main reasons the virtual job fair was created.

The site is still in it's infancy, but after launching in August, there were more than 20,000 hits and 4000 users. UH Maui College enrollment experienced a bump as students used this site to register for classes and even apply for financial aid.

You might ask, why is this site useful? Is it worth the money? I think so for many reasons but the most important one, is because it's a partnership of business, government and non-profits. In these days with shrinking budgets, partnerships are successful models to keep our economy going.

UH Maui College is honored to be a partner, we look forward to create training opportunities for laid off workers and to prepare the workforce for the new normal. If you have not seen the site for yourself, please go to www.mauicountyvirtualjobfair.com.

Thank you for reviewing the important funds needed for programs that help the community during Covid19.

Mahalo,
Stephanie Ohigashi
UH Maui College
281-4535

