

EDB Committee

From: Erika Lechuga Disalvo <erika.lechugadisalvo@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2019 4:47 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Opposition to the Wailuku Civic Complex

Aloha,

My name is Erika Lechuga DiSalvo and I am a full time tax paying resident in Haiku with a 4 year old child. I am sending in my testimony in opposition to the Wailuku Civic Complex moving forward. I feel that the extravagance of this project is out of place at this time.

I know that this has been a controversial project and that there are voices of course in support for both sides of this project. At this time, I find it absolutely critical that this project be halted and that the exorbitant amount of money that has been allocated to build it, be funneled toward a more dire need of our island community.

Maui has been in an affordable housing crisis for what feels like an eternity. We know that with AirBNB and the increase of vacation rentals in residential neighborhoods, it has only gotten worse. If this project was to be put on hold and the funding allocated towards housing, this would make a huge impact for Maui Nuis young families.

I have recently seen that the County Budget allots 14 Million for affordable housing and that the budget for this parking garage and civic center is 84 million plus 6 million annually. That is a 70 million dollar difference. For 1 project in 1 town, for shops, parking and business/retail space. Where are our and this Councils priorities? With all due respect, this feels like a slap in the face to tax payers and I do not approve of my tax dollars being used to fund it. I have also seen that this project was over budget before it even broke ground. This is concerning. Will Maui County have to allot more money towards this project to sustain its building? Where will that extra money be pulled from to provide for the project? A'ole.

On a personal note, my daughter goes to a small home school near us. Recently the school has had a hard time retaining teachers. One of the reasons is because there is no affordable housing. This is a real problem. When the people who contribute so much to our society cannot afford to live here, how does a society function? We need affordable housing for our teachers, our policemen, our firemen, our industry workers. Maui County needs to put forth a strong hand to provide a foundation for young families to stay and live here on Maui; not be forced to leave because the basic need for housing cannot be provided for.

I implore you to halt this project and reassess how and where our community could truly benefit from such a large sum of funding. Mahalo nui for your willingness to consider the larger more critical needs of our community.

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With Aloha,

Erika Lechuga DiSalvo
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