

Doha,

RECEIVED AT BHED MEETING ON 04-09-2025

Mahalo for your time. My name is Josh DeSilva. I am a lifelong resident of Maui County. My parents moved here in the late 1960s. I am from the Upcountry/Haiku areas of Maui and have worked in the group event business here for 30 years.

Supporting weddings and events in a community is more than just celebrating special moments—it's an investment in both the cultural and economic vitality of the area.

First, weddings and events bring people together. They foster a sense of community pride and connection. Local traditions are celebrated, stories are shared, and cultural identity is strengthened. These gatherings preserve heritage, build bonds across generations, and create shared memories that tie people to a place emotionally.

On the economic side, the impact is powerful. Weddings and events fuel local businesses—*Dancers* venues, florists, caterers, musicians, photographers, and more. Every celebration can mean thousands of dollars funneled into the local economy. Jobs are created, seasonal income is stabilized, and entrepreneurs get platforms to grow. Even guests contribute—booking hotels, dining at restaurants, and shopping locally.

Think about the local fisherman who caught the fish the wedding or event party are enjoying. Consider the family that has committed to farming the land. Their lettuce, onions, fruits/vegetables or even florals are a part of that event too. The landscapers that manage the event venue have a job...and so does the local lawn equipment company where the landscapers buy or repair their equipment. It is all interconnected.

Another factor is that the people that come here for weddings often have the financial means to get here in the first place, which implies that they have money spend outside of their wedding day...as do their guests. As far as corporate events are concerned, the winners of the incentive trips that come to Maui are, by definition, the top performers in their respective industries. What that means is that they are also educated, well-traveled, high-earners that respect the host culture and bring much needed revenue to our struggling economy.

In short, supporting events isn't just about joy and celebration—it's about sustaining a vibrant, resilient community. It's about choosing to invest in people, culture, and small businesses in a way that creates lasting ripple effects. A thriving event scene means a thriving community.

Supporting events on Maui is supporting Maui's economy, culture and lifestyle.

** Pro Group Business IS pro community **

- less cars on the road w/ large vehicles moving guests
- Guided tours - ~~keep~~ in line w/ community wishes.
 - No trespassing
 - Tours operate within community wish
- Corporate CSR - huge for corp groups
 - Puu Kii Watershed (East Maui fee)