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July 24, 2018

Tracy Reasoner
Maui Ki-Aikido
PO Box 724
Wailuku, HI 96793

Riki Hokama
Budget and Finance Committee
Maui County Council

Dear Chair Hokama and members of the Budget and Finance Committee,

I am writing in support of the Department of Parks and Recreation's proposed budget amendment for a 25 percent rate increase for the Community Classes program.

Maui Ki-Aikido has been offering classes at Hannibal Tavares Community Center for more than 25 years. This Upcountry location allows us to serve many adults and children who find it difficult to attend classes at our Wailuku dojo, because of transportation issues.

The current rate increase of \$20 per class would more than double the amount it costs us to use this facility, from \$1,152 per year to \$3,072. We are currently evaluating whether we can afford to continue our Upcountry classes if this increase remains in effect.


For your background information, Aikido is a Japanese martial art that teaches mind-body coordination and nonviolent conflict resolution. Maui Ki-Aikido was founded in 1953, making it the oldest Aikido dojo in the United States. Our instructors provided self-defense training to Maui Police Department cadets for more than 50 years.

We are a 100 percent volunteer dojo; none of our instructors are paid. As a nonprofit organization, we try to keep our dues as affordable as possible to our students.

We understand and support the need for an increase after so many years of flat fees. However, we urge you to consider the Parks Department's proposed alternative, in order to soften the impact on the many nonprofit organizations that participate in the Community Classes program.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony today.

With Aloha,


Tracy Reasoner
President, Maui Ki-Aikido

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