

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** Mike Opgenorth <opgenorth.mike@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 15, 2019 10:40 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** Shane M. Sinenci  
**Subject:** Support for Kaupō School Restoration  
**Attachments:** Testimony for Kaupo EDB 175.pdf

Aloha Maui County Council.

Please see attached testimony in support of The Kaupō School Restoration project.

Mahalo,  
Mike

TO: Economic Development and Budget Committee

Chairwoman Keani Rawlins-Fernandez  
Vice Chair Kelly King  
Council Member Riki Hokoma  
Council Member Tasha Kama  
Council Member Alice Lee  
Council Member Michael Molina  
Council Member Tamara Paltin  
Council Member Shane Sinenci  
Council Member Yuki Lei Sugimura

Date: May 15, 2019

From: Michael Opgenorth

SUBJECT: Please approve EDB – 175 to fund critical infrastructure for the Kaupō School Restoration Project.

Aloha Council Members,

I'd like to ask you to please approve EDB – 175 to support infrastructure for the Kaupō School Restoration Project. The Kaupō Community Association has been working for more than two decades to bring this goal to fruition. The project will provide critical services to this rural community mitigating the risks inherent in geographic isolation, and providing a place for people to gather.

Kaupō's landscape, mauka to makai, is home to many endemic flora and fauna species. Unlike so many other places on Maui, Kaupō has been able to retain its wide-open spaces, natural beauty, and cultural landscapes. The presence of generations past lingers upon the land in the many rock walls and ancient sites that tell stories without words. Protecting and caring for both Kaupō's natural and cultural landscapes is essential to the well-being of Kaupō's families—many who have generational ties to the land—and for the community.

The infrastructure that will be constructed with the support of EDB – 175 will increase the Kaupō community's capacity to gather, meet, mobilize, unify, and respond effectively to natural disasters and other emergencies. This will lead to an increased capacity to steward Kaupō's unique and irreplaceable natural and cultural landscapes and resources.

Mahalo,

Michael Opgenorth  
Hāna Resident, Director of Kahanu Garden of the National Tropical Botanical Garden