



July 8, 2020

Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
Chair, Budget Committee, Maui County Council

Aloha Chair Rawlins-Fernandez:

I am president of the new Maui Hub, a nonprofit online food market featuring fresh local produce and products. Please view our website, mauihub.org.

Our primary mission is to provide fresh local produce to low-income and food-insecure families. We will give SNAP families discounts and give-away boxes. Also, we donate produce to Maui Food Bank, schools, meal kitchens, and provide sponsorships for families. Maui Hub supports local farmers and works to increase local food production.

Maui Hub was started in late March 2020 by HFUU chapter president John Dobovan, with help from Common Ground Collective, HFUU's Vincent Mina and Keith Ranney, Cindy Giebink (webmaster), Autumn Ness (community activist, fundraiser), and others. Sun Fresh Hawai'i has donated its chiller facility, trucks, utilities, fuel, and management. We have had more than three months of success, growing every week.

With net income from sales and some outside funding, Maui Hub has leased employees from Sun Fresh, helping to re-employ 6-8 people. They handle deliveries, pick/pack orders, load orders, and drive trucks. However, we should be paying our operations and bookkeeping managers for their work and Sun Fresh for its facilities. We cannot sustain operations without subsidies from the county and philanthropists.

We respectfully request that you and your committee urge Mayor Victorino to consider providing a grant from the CARES Act funds to Maui Hub to help with these operational costs and the capital expenses we will incur when we leave Sun Fresh. When the economy reopens, Sun Fresh's business will resume, and Maui Hub will be looking for a chiller distribution facility, trucks, picker/packers, truck drivers, and a produce manager. Please see the attached Maui Hub Business Plan July 2020 and the Maui Hub Feasibility Study.

Mahalo for your consideration. Linda Love

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Love". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

EDB Committee

From: Linda Love <lindalove@pueofarm.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 08, 2020 9:58 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Maui Hub Cover Letter
Attachments: Epon_07082020115038.pdf; ATT00001.htm