

EDB Committee

From: Amber Coutsos <officemgr@mauichamber.com>
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2019 11:37 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: 8/22 EDB-76 Testimony
Attachments: Testimony on EDB-76 Wailuku Civic Complex 082219.pdf

Aloha,

Please see attached testimony from Maui Chamber of Commerce President Pamela Tumpap on EDB-76 for the Wailuku Civic Complex for Thursday, August 22.

Mahalo,



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MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**Testimony on EDB-76
Wailuku Civic Complex
Thursday, August 22, 2019**

Dear Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair King and
Members of the Economic Development and Budget Committee,

The Maui Chamber of Commerce opposes the current proposed bill EDB-76 and strongly supports full funding for the Wailuku Civic Complex project.

We are disappointed to see a project that has been years in the making, with significant County funding already spent on planning and outreach, have the funding decreased to this extent.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce has continuously testified in support of fully funding this important community project. The Wailuku Civic Complex is more than a parking garage. It is a gathering space with a public market, lanai and plaza and a revitalization project for Wailuku that ties into a larger regional planning initiative. It will benefit residents, visitors and the businesses who call Wailuku home. Many Wailuku businesses have already made significant investments and others were hoping to expand to this area with the understanding that this project is moving forward. It is an important project to our entire community and central to regional planning. Therefore, we support full funding for the Wailuku Civic Complex.

However, if the Council should decide to reduce funding on this project and provide additional information as to why, we would appreciate appropriate funding be left to build the parking garage. Additional parking is desperately needed in Wailuku and the current parking situation often deters people from visiting the area and the local businesses who reside there. There is wide agreement that additional parking is necessary and nothing should stop that phase of the project.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and ask that this bill be deferred.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.