

EDB Committee

From: Store Manager <manager@dragonsdenhawaii.com>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 2:59 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Not supporting this budget

To Whom it May Concern,

I think the budget of 2.5 million for coqui eradication plus another 1.5 million for invasive species is insane. I appreciate that these invasive creatures are a problem but a bigger problem is development and overpopulation on the island without proper infrastructure.

As a tax paying citizen I reject these disbursements for the coqui and invasive species. I believe it to be a waste of time and taxpayer money.

Is it truly realistic that you will ever eradicate an introduced species?

Stop wasting our tax dollars.

Sincerely,
Nicole Busto

Nicole Busto - Manager
The Dragon's Den Herb Shop
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EDB Committee

From: Chuck Spence <Chuck@mauisunseeker.com>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 3:17 PM
To: EDB Committee
Cc: mayors.office@mauicounty.gov
Subject: TESTIMONY IN FAVOR: Victorino Budget for Invasive Species Protection & Coqui Frog Eradication

Aloha mai,

I wholeheartedly ask that **Mike Victorino's budget request of \$2.5 mln for Coqui Frog eradication and another \$1.5 mln for environmental protection BE APPROVED IN FULL AMOUNT OR CANCEL ALL SPENDING FOR MISC.**

If serious monies are not provided THIS YEAR, the battle is over. So, either approve it all, or remove all funding and let the island go to the pests! It is that serious!

We live in Haiku about 7 miles eastward from Maliko Gulch and already neighbors have caught and rid the community of two Coqui frogs on our street. The problem is getting out of hand and if we do not stand up strong this year, the battle is over.

There is already a report of a Coqui that was found in Wailea. Do you know how bad this island will be if they spread unchecked? Have you thought about the economic impact if they do?

I encourage you to drive down Kokomo Road one evening, just after dusk. You can keep your windows rolled up and your radio on loud and you will still hear the Coqui frogs on BOTH SIDES of Kokomo screeching through the enclosed cabin of your vehicle.

Now imagine thousands of them surrounding your home while you try to sleep with your windows open.

Imagine thousands of them surrounding the resorts and vacation condos in Wailea, Kihei, Lahaina, Kaanapali, Napili.

Maui will fall drastically from the top travel destination to the bottom of the list so fast, we will need to cut back on funding for County Council pay as the tax revenue will plummet.

PLEASE APPROVE MIKE VICTORINO'S BUDGET IN FULL FOR COQUI FROG ERADICATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION.

Vote like your job depends on it, because it does!

Mahalo nui loa
Chuck Spence
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Cell: 917-825-4205

EDB Committee

From: Sarah Calasa <calasatrucking@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, March 29, 2019 4:23 PM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Testimony for New Road Tax
Attachments: Testimony For New Road Tax Proposal.docx

Dear Maui County Council Members,

My name is Sarah Calasa. I have attached my testimony on the proposed new road tax.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email me. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sarah K. Calasa

Testimony for New Road Tax Proposal

My name is Sarah Calasa. I was born and raised on the island of Maui.

For more than 30 years, my family and I have owned and operated a small trucking business on the island of Maui. I have several questions for the Maui County Council regarding the recently proposed road tax that would require everyone who drives a motor vehicle to pay a per-mile tax to use the roads.

1. Is this proposed tax intended for everyone including State, County and City employees?
2. Is anyone such as State, County or City employees, exempt from paying this tax?
3. If there are people who are exempt, are we the tax payers required to pay their portion of the tax?
4. Are the 2,744,994* tourists visiting Maui each year required to pay this tax as well? (*according to the Hawai'i Tourism Authority's 2017 Annual Visitor Research Report)
5. When will we have clarification about who will have to pay?

As a lifelong Maui resident and established business owner, I do not understand why the County of Maui would need to enforce such a tax as we already pay a lot of money to register our personal and business vehicles. Each year, it seems that the registration fees increase and sometimes new "fees" are added as well. I was under the impression that the money that is being collected from yearly registrations was being applied to road improvement. As a tax paying resident of Maui County, I want to know where that money is being spent.

My concern is that if this tax passes and we have to pay per mile, it will kill small businesses like us who are just trying to make ends meet. In fact, if this new road tax initiative is passed in the state legislature, not only will I have to pay to drive to work, I also have to pay to work. I will have no choice but to charge my customers a higher rate for their haul to cover the cost of a per-mile tax which will damage our business relationships and put my company at risk for losing customers.

In closing, it seems like we are starting to become more and more like the mainland every day. These tactics are not what Hawaii is about. We, the local people are slowly being pushed out of our own home state because the cost of living is already so high. We are basically working to pay bills with little left over to spend on necessities such as rent/mortgage, food, and gas.

Just my mana'o, this tax is going to put many smaller businesses out of business which is sad and is not the Hawaii I know.