

## EDB Committee

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**From:** Art Medeiros <artcmedeiros@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 8:26 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** testimony in support of proposals for FY 2020 grant cycle for MSWCD  
**Attachments:** Medeiros testimony for FY 2020 County Funds.docx

mucu thanks, Art

Arthur C. Medeiros, Ph.D  
Program Manager  
[www.auwahi.org](http://www.auwahi.org)  
Auwahi Forest Restoration Project



Working with `Ulupalakua Ranch to protect Auwahi, one of Hawai'i's last and best sanctuary forests...

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: April 4 2019

From: Dr. Art Medeiros, Auwahi Forest Restoration Project

SUBJECT: Funding for the Maui Soil & Water Conservation Districts  
Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Meeting

The Auwahi Forest Restoration Project works with the Maui Soil & Water Conservation District employee Hannah Lutgen. I will say that based on the bright, community-minded professional behavior of Hannah and all the other employees I have encountered, Maui's Soil & Water Conservation District does important work supporting Maui's natural environment.

Mahalo loa for you attention and the good work you all do for Maui, Art

Arthur C. Medeiros, Ph.D  
Program Manager  
[www.auwahi.org](http://www.auwahi.org)  
Auwahi Forest Restoration Project



Working with `Ulupalakua Ranch to protect Auwahi, one of Hawai'i's last and best sanctuary forests...

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** Chelsea Harder <chelsea@hawaiigreengrowth.org>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 8:27 AM  
**To:** County Clerk; EDB Committee  
**Cc:** tina.silva@mauicounty.gov; Linda Puppolo  
**Subject:** Written testimony for April 5th Council Meeting - Maui County OED grant application 2020 from HGG/OEDB  
**Attachments:** 2020 Maui County Written Testimony - HGG-OEDB.pdf

Aloha,

It is with pleasure that I submit this written testimony for the Maui County Council and Economic and Development Budget Committee meeting Friday, April 5th at 9:00am in support of Maui County Office of Economic Development grant proposals for the FY2020 cycle. Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports the Office of Economic Development programs and grants in the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget and looks forward to our continued partnership.

Very best,  
Chelsea

Attachment:  
- 2020 Maui County written testimony for Hawai'i Green Growth-O'ahu Economic Development Board

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**Chelsea Harder**  
Sustainability Dashboard Coordinator  
Hawai'i Green Growth  
cell: 808.343.6158  
email: [chelsea@hawaiigreengrowth.org](mailto:chelsea@hawaiigreengrowth.org)



<http://www.hawaiigreengrowth.org/>  
<https://dashboard.hawaii.gov/aloha-challenge>



*Hawai'i Green Growth is a public private partnership committed to advancing economic, social and environmental goals, and United Nations Local2030 Islands Hub that scales local solutions for global sustainability challenges.*

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Testimony in Support of the  
O'ahu Economic Development Board/Hawai'i Green Growth application  
For Maui County FY2020 funding for Economic Development project:  
The Aloha+ Challenge: Advancing Local & Global Sustainability Goals

Council of the County of Maui

5 April, 2019, 1:45pm

Kalana O Maui Building, 8th floor, 200 S. High St., Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Aloha Budget Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez and Vice-Chair Kelly T. King:

**Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports the Office of Economic Development programs and grants in the proposed Fiscal Year 2020 Budget.** We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Council for continued support of OED programs that provide a positive impact for the County of Maui.

HGG is a county grantee for projects to support the County of Maui's priorities across environmental, economic, and social sectors through the *Aloha+ Challenge: He Nohona 'Ae'ōia* – Hawai'i's locally and culturally appropriate plan to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Last year, HGG was recognized by the UN as one of the world's first Local2030 sustainability hubs due to statewide collaboration through the *Aloha+ Challenge* and local metrics tracked on the Aloha+ Dashboard.

With Maui County's leadership and support, HGG facilitated a multi-year process with diverse statewide partners to build the Aloha+ Dashboard and measure progress on sustainability and climate commitments. The open-data platform tracks state and county progress, highlights Maui County programs, and supports the county's decision makers and citizens on Hawai'i's sustainability goals.

Through this grant project, HGG continues to work with government, private sector, and civil society partners to develop the Aloha+ Dashboard with new participatory opportunities for community and student engagement; increased county-level metrics, indicators, and resources; and interactive features to both inform data-driven policy and inspire action by citizens. As a result, Hawai'i has earned global recognition for the Aloha+ Dashboard, and this project is being applied as a model from the UN and Commonwealth to Palau and Tasmania.

We appreciate the County Office of Economic Development's continued support for this project, and for the many other community and economic development efforts that contribute greatly to Maui. We strongly support the continued investment in the Office of Economic Development programs and grants, and appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

Breanna Rose  
Director of Operations & Partnerships  
Hawai'i Green Growth Local2030 Islands Hub

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** cynthia johnson <hanamassage@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 1:38 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Support for Hana Arts

Please continue your support for Hana Arts. It is such a valuable asset to our community for years. Keiki to Kupuna use this facility daily .

Mahalo

Cynthia Johnson

Hana Arts member 20 + years

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** Debra Kennedymott <debrakennedymott@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 3:12 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Common ground collective

Dear Councilmembers,

I am submitting testimony to ask you to provide funding in the amount of \$25,000 to the Maui based 501c3 Common Ground Collective. This is a non-profit that was started by Maui residents to help increase food security and economic benefits in Maui County. This organizations works hard to provide education and outreach to community members, they work with the American Heart Association to provide locally grown produce for the Kids Cook with Heart program ensuring that the produce is purchased from our local farmers to support local agriculture.

This organization also spotlights and promotes local businesses that used locally sourced produce for their products and helps connect them with local farmers if they need local produce. On top of this they are also collecting data to increase local connections between farmers and the market as well as inspiring landowners to convert their properties to small passive farms and most recently have become involved in supporting the Maui Food Bank's Give Healthy Challenge to promote healthy donations to the Maui food bank for their recipients and will be launching their Foster Farming upcountry gleaning program very soon.

All of these services are incredibly beneficial to the Maui community and they are only getting started. They have done the majority of this work with very little donations and funding, and they deserve support from the County. This organization is providing much needed assistance and with your help they could continue to grow and thrive and help our community do the same.

I ask that you please support Common Ground Collective and provide them with \$25,000 for their program costs.

Mahalo,Debra Kennedy-Mott

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** whoru@hawaiiantel.net  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 8:33 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** agricultural funds

The amount of funds devoted to agriculture in the current budget will not help the need to establish self-sustainability for Maui County. Act 233 and Important Agricultural Lands (IAL) gave Hawaii counties a directive to develop more agricultural parks; at this point there remains only one, in Kula. Even though the state recently added another piece of land to this park, there are no other places in the County with such parks. If something happens to the harbor on Oahu we only have a week's food supply. If we don't have more agriculture we'll starve.

Dennis F. Lokmer  
7 Kaapeha St.  
Pukalani 96768

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** John and Christel Blumer-Buell <blubu@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 1:46 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** John Blumer-Buell  
**Subject:** TIMELY PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR 2020 HANA BUDGET HEARING APRIL 5, 2019. PLEASE POST, DISTRIBUTE AND CONFIRM RECEIPT. MAHALO!!! JOHN  
**Attachments:** 2020 Council Budget Hearing in Hana 4-5-2019.pdf; 19870730\_Maui News.pdf; NEW 1991 Maui News, Property Tax Reform copy.pdf; Bill Tavares. Maui News Viewpoint. 2-26-2016.pdf

### **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ( 8 PAGES) AND 4 EXHIBITS**

**EXHIBITS 1 AND 2. (DOUBLE SIDED 11"X17")**

**EXHIBIT 3. ONE PAGE 11"X17"**

**EXHIBIT 4. TWO PAGES 8 1/2 X11**



**JOHN BLUMER-BUELL**  
Post Office Box 787, Hana, Hawaii 96713  
Email blubu@hawaii.rr.com Telephone 248-8972

**April 5, 2019, Maui County Council Economic Development and Budget Committee Meeting in Hana Regarding the County of Maui 2020 Budget, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair.**

**Hard Copies to Hana. Email to: [edb.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:edb.committee@mauicounty.us)**

**Aloha Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Council Members,**

**Thanks for coming to Hana. Please contact me if you have any questions.**

**Mahalo!**

**#1 BUDGET PRIORITY FOR THE HANA  
COMMUNITY PLAN DISTRICT.**

**“Prepare a domestic water system master plan and a wastewater system master plan for the Hana region”. Page 25, 1994 Hana Community Plan Ordinance. See link @ <https://www.mauicounty.gov/DocumentView.asp?DID=1710>**

**PLEASE FUND THIS URGENT, DECADES OVERDUE, “PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE GOAL, POLICY, OBJECTIVE AND IMPLEMENTING ACTION”.**

**“GOAL; Timely and environmentally sensitive development and maintenance of infrastructure systems which protect and preserve the safety and health of the Hana region's residents and visitors, including the provision of domestic water, utility and waste disposal services, and effective transportation systems which meet the needs of residents and visitors while protecting the region's rural character.”**

A very brief history:

- \* There are more than a hundred cesspools, an injection well and the unlined-toxic-polluting Hana dump draining into Kapueokahi (Hana Bay). In addition, the entire Hotel Hana-Maui and the County of Maui Hana Community Center are in the Special Management Area (SMA) and are an integral part of the problems that must, by law, be timely resolved.
- \* Dr. Jon Mink detected high levels of coliform bacteria in the area below the injection well on the Waikoloa side of the bay around 1988 while conducting base line studies for the Rosewood Sea Ranch Cottages.
- \* Medical cases of staph infection from the water in Hana Bay are ongoing.
- \* A “low tech” water treatment plan for Kapueokahi (Hana Bay) was discussed and formulated in 1988 between Dr. John Harrison, University of Hawai’i Environmental Center, and the Hana Community Association. This led to the 1994 Hana Community Plan language which has not been implemented in 25 years since 1994. Shameful.
- \* The General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) discussed the Hana landfill situation. In public hearings, County of Maui officials stated the Hana landfill would be closed soon and become a “satellite” landfill. Meaning; Trash not recycled would be hauled to the Central Maui landfill. Landfill closure has not occurred. Aggregate “cover” material for the Hana landfill is now being hauled to Hana from Central Maui in over the legal weight limit trucks. **Please budget and require a forensic audit of the Hana landfill situation, including the previous illegal mining and desecration of Olapawa mountain in Kaeleku for landfill “cover” material.** The County of Maui agreed an Environmental Impact Statement should be done as part of remediation of Olapawa mountain. No Environmental Impact Statement has been produced. The county is

potentially liable for millions of dollars of property damage from the intentional neglect and loss of property from flooding caused by the un permitted mining.

- \* **Solving these problems should be the highest budget priority for the District of Hana. I suggest budgeting \$100,000 as a “start up” six year capital improvement project and referring to the County Council Environmental, Agriculture, and Cultural Preservation Committee as an agenda item. The Hawai’i State Department of Health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the Gates Foundation and others should be included in the committee discussions and solutions. The Queen Ka‘ahumanu Society, Hana Canoe Club, Hana Akule Hui, Travaasa Hana Maui and others should be included in the committee discussions and solutions.**

## **#2 BUDGET PRIORITY FOR THE HANA COMMUNITY PLAN DISTRICT.**

I strongly support purchase of land in Hāna for conservation, recreation, historical, cultural and other values. Mayor Victorino has wisely included 2.25 million dollars in the proposed budget for that purpose. Mahalo Mayor Victorino!

I have worked for over forty years to help toward the acquisition of important lands for the community. The list includes ‘aina located in Kipahulu, Mu’olea Point, Maka’alae, the entire Hotel Hana-Maui and Hana Ranch and approximately 250 acres of culturally important land identified in the 21 “conditions of zoning” in the proposed PK-4 Keola Hana-Maui Golf Course and Country Club.

Attached for your information is the Maui News dated July 30, 1997. The front page story by Jill Engledow is titled “Bright side seen to beach dispute”. Mahalo and God Bless Tom Morrow, Larry Kaikala, Richard Keohuhu and all the

individuals, 'ohana and community groups involved in resolving this dispute.  
'Onipa'a!

**#3 BUDGET PRIORITY FOR THE HANA  
COMMUNITY PLAN DISTRICT.**

Hana should and must have its own Planning Commission. It is long overdue. A Hana Planning Commission will help to be certain important land use decisions are made in Hana by Hana residents. **Besides being a Pono and democratic proposal, implementation will certainly SAVE the County of Maui taxpayers money, avoid unwanted conflict and empower Hana residents.**

The Maui Planning Department and Maui Planning Commission have “dropped the ball” repeatedly over the years with a lack of local knowledge, bad leadership in the planning department, bad “interpretations” of the law and decisions contrary to the wishes of the Hana community.

“Bad decisions” include fraudulent approvals of Special Management Area Permits (SMA). Final approval or disapproval of all future SMA Permits should be made in Hana by Hana residents.

Enclosed for your information is page 2 of the Maui News dated July 30, 1997. The story by Jill Engeldow is titled “Hana apartment plan debated”. The story documents the complete failure of the Maui Planning Commission to hear and respond to the people of Hana. The last paragraphs documents Chair Velma Santos frustration with the situation and her move to create the Hana Advisory Committee to the Maui Planning Commission. Mahalo Velma!

I was appointed by Mayor Hannibal Tavares to serve on the first Hana Advisory Committee to the Maui Planning Commission along with John Akana, Bob Carroll, Roland Chang, Harry Hasegawa, Mathew Kalalau and Lidia Laeha,

Recently, after nearly ten years of conflict, the Hana Advisory Committee to the Maui Planning Commission wisely made the correct and community supported decision to recommend an Environmental Assessment (EA) process for the County of Maui, not community, proposed Nahiku Community Center. This process was required by both the State Land Board “Set Aside” and Hawaii Revised Statute Chapter 343. The Hana and Nahiku Community broke into loud applause when the recommendation passed at the meeting in Hana.

However, Planning Director Michele McLean and the Maui Planning Commission completely ignored the recommendation of the Hana Advisory Committee to the Maui Planning Commission and recommended approval. Shameful. Unethical. Illegal. **I repeat the community based request for a forensic audit of this entire corrupt situation.**

**POSSIBLE HANA DISTRICT PROJECTS**  
**NOT FUNDED IN MAYOR VICTORINO’S BUDGET**

1. The Nahiku Community Center. I support and compliment Mayor Victorino’s decision not to fund this development. The lack of legally required public due process, fraud, misrepresentations, lack of transparency, lack of legal jurisdiction and an unresolved lawsuit support his decision. This two million dollar + project is not supported by the community as proposed. More than a quarter million dollars of taxpayer money has already been wasted in this unwanted and destructive ten year long conflict. **I strongly support a forensic audit of this proposed development as previously requested by community members. I request all the funds previously designated for this corrupt proposal be budgeted and spent toward “cleaning up” and restoring Hana Bay.**

2. Lower Nahiku Bridge. This is an urgent health, safety and liability issue for the County of Maui and the State of Hawaii. The Maui County Council recently passed a very incomplete and uninformed “Resolution” regarding the bridge addressed to Mayor Victorino. The mayor certainly did not have time to fully consider the issue for the budget. However, it remains an important, serious and life threatening issue. Please revisit and fully consider this issue in the near future.

### **#1 BUDGET PRIORITY FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI**

Enclosed for your information is the Maui News front page story dated April 12, 1991, titled “Major property-tax reform proposed”. Please read the entire story by Mark Adams. **This is an important affordable housing issue.**

In the box titled “Highlights of the Tax Proposal” please note; “A study of the current tax system would be completed, with recommendations developed for revamping the system at the end of the three-year period for the proposed reform package. Possibilities for changes include doing away with the “comparable sales” method of assessing properties”.

Tragically, the study has never been done. Today, a study is needed more than ever to insure long-term, perennial, affordable housing is available to kanaka maoli and multi-generational ‘ohana of all cultural and ethnic heritages. The unfair and immoral “market value” property assessment system needs to be reformed to insure those who want to live and die here will not be taxed out of their homes or off their ‘aina.

Please read the enclosed Maui News VIEWPOINT, dated February 26, 2016, by William D. Tavares. It is titled “County Council continues to avoid a comprehensive property-tax study”. This is an important affordable housing issue.

**I simply ask and recommend this issue be referred to the Maui County Council Affordable Housing Committee for consideration. This referral will not require additional spending of taxpayers money. It will require only normal monetary support for the Office of Council Services and Maui County Council Committees.**

**#2 BUDGET PRIORITY FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI**

I served as a dedicated member of the Maui General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC). I diligently studied thousands of pages of information and reports and did my best to collaborate with the other 24 members in the best interests and common good of our community.

**Please budget moving the Kahului sewage treatment plant away from the shoreline. And, please budget moving the dangerous and toxic storage away from the Kahului harbor. This is a dangerous risk to the downwind population. Sea rise issues should make these issues a budget priority.**

Regarding a different budget item; I find Council Member Hokama's statement regarding the expensive proposed 80 million dollar redevelopment of Wailuku confusing or misleading. To paraphrase, "The project will not take money from other projects". I apologize to council member Hokama if the paraphrase is inaccurate. I certainly respect his experience and service.

Regardless, my points are valid.

- \* Every budget item takes money from other possible and possibly more important projects...**unless** you plan to increase the budget and increase taxes to pay for the additional expense.
- \* Every dollar spent is paid by the taxpayers. Federal, state and county tax revenues all come from the same source. We, the people.....

Unfunded county mandates have recently been estimated up to one billion dollars....with more bond debt requested. The administration, council and state have publicly discussed the “unfunded mandates” issues in hopes of resolving the government-created problems. **There are ominous implications for the future stability and well-being of our community.**

Please don't forget the federal “unfunded mandates” debt of tens of trillions of dollars. We have to pay for that debt, too.

It would be prudent, acting with or showing care and thought for the future, to pay down county employees retirement benefits and increase the “rainy day” fund to the maximum allowed by law.

Please carefully consider our values, priorities and spend wisely.

*With ALOHA,*

***John Blumer-Buell***

Postscript:

Following is a list of some of my community service. I offer this simply to show my recommendations are made through experience and community advocacy. These activities have been an important part of my life.

Maui General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC), Hana Advisory Committee to the Maui Planning Commission (3 terms), Hana Community Association Board of Directors (25 years), COMET (Committee for More Equitable Taxation), Founding Board Member of the Hana Community Arts Council, the East-Maui Taro Festival, the Kipahulu 'Ohana, the Hana Community Dialysis Home, Na Mamo o Mu'olea and Ke Ao Hali'i (Save the Hana Coast).



# Pipebomb explodes at shopping

By BRUCE DUNFORD  
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — A powerful pipebomb, similar to one that damaged a Waikiki hotel last week, exploded under a car in a shopping center here yesterday, setting the car on fire and peppering eight other cars with shrapnel, authorities said.

Police officials suspect the two bombings and a series of telephoned bomb threats are related. The motive for the bombings, if known, has not been disclosed.

There were no injuries in the blast

that occurred in an employees parking area of the Ala Moana Center, according to firefighters who extinguished the fire that heavily damaged a late-model car owned by a bank employee.

Minutes after the explosion, a man telephoned the manager of the Ala Moana Professional Building, located on one side of the shopping center, and said there was a bomb planted on the sixth floor.

Hundreds of office workers were evacuated while the 23-story building was searched by a police

bomb squad and dogs trained to sniff out explosives, police said. No bomb was found.

A man also telephoned television station KGMB within four or five minutes of the bomb blast and told News Assignment Editor Janelle Saneishi that he had set off the bomb, according to News Director Jim Manke.

The man suggested KGMB evacuate its building, located near the shopping center, but it was not, Manke said.

On Friday, a homemade pipebomb

exploded in a 22nd floor storage area at the Outrigger Prince Kuhio hotel in Waikiki, causing about \$1,000 damage but no injuries.

That blast was followed by a series of telephone calls to the hotel, warning that other bombs would be going off in the hotel later.

Some 350 hotel guests and employees were evacuated and a search of the hotel turned up no other devices, according to police. On Tuesday night, another series of telephoned threats to the hotel prompted another evacuation and

search.

A former security guard at a hotel was arrested Sunday questioned, but was later released without charges, police said.

The similarity of the two bombings and the telephoned threats to the bombings are the work of the same person, police Maj. Robert told television station KHON.

Detectives are following up on a lead developed in the hotel bombing part of their investigation into a bombing at the shopping center said.

# Hana apartment plan debated In Hawaii



The Maui News / JILL ENGLEADOW photo

By JILL ENGLEADOW  
Staff Writer

HANA — Opposition was strong last night to a plan to build 36 apartment units on land in the Wakiu area owned by Parker and Mary Purdy. Residents requested, and the Purdys agreed, to consider down-scaling the project to reduce the possible impact on the community.

Nearly 200 persons crowded Helene Hall for a meeting of the Planning and Land Use Committee of the County Council, whose main purpose for meeting in Hana was to consider the Purdy request.

The Purdy family wants to change the state's zoning from rural to urban and wants A-1 Apartment zoning from the county. There is no county zoning, because the county does not zone lands designated as rural by the state.

Speakers who opposed the project last night said they like and respect the Purdy family. However, the project is not in the spirit of the Hana Community Plan, would not provide housing local residents could afford and would add undesirable traffic too close to Hana School, they said.

Critics of the plan suggested the Purdys get together with the recently formed Development Steering Committee of the Hana Community Association and try to come up with a compromise plan.

Mary Purdy, replying to some of the criticism and concerns expressed, said since a Planning Commission meeting on the subject in January, no one had come to her to discuss their worries. She said the project already has been reduced from 42 units to 36, and pointed out the proposed zoning would allow 100 units.

Purdy said the project had been developed by legal procedures, that the community needs housing and that her current rental rates for houses on the family property prove that her future rates would be reasonable.

Asked by Council Member Wayne Nishiki if she would be willing to sit down with the steering committee to consider other possibilities, Purdy agreed to do so.

The opposition to the Purdy request was in contrast to the previous Hana meeting on the subject in January, when almost all who spoke to the Planning Commission said they favored the project as a way

to create jobs and housing for Hana.

Last night, some speakers complained that the Planning Commission paid little heed to opposition in the form of a petition signed by nearby neighbors, who feared upzoning might eventually mean higher property values and consequently higher land taxes.

Speaker John Blumer-Buell said it was "an outrage" the way the Planning Commission ignored the petition and approved the Purdy request with no discussion.

Blumer-Buell and others also pointed to the history of the designation of the Purdy land for apartment use by the Hana Community Plan.

Mike Minn, a member of the community advisory council that devised the plan, said Mary Purdy and Alfreda Worst, who owns the Heavenly Hana Inn across from the Purdys, just wanted their operations to be made legal.

At the time, he said, the two were operating visitor rental units illegally. The advisory council's impression was that all they wanted was to be legal and to be allowed to upgrade their facilities, but not to expand.

Minn called for a review of the community plan, which was passed five years ago. Council Planning Committee chair Velma Santos said the final version of the plan called for review within 10 years, and asked the Hana people to wait until the council finishes approving the last two regional plans from the first round before beginning another.

Council Member Tom Morrow said he would support an early review. The Hana plan was the first one done, he said, and provided a learning process for all concerned, including professionals giving advice to the citizens about how to deal with such existing non-conforming uses as the Purdys' and Worst's.

Santos, replying to criticism of the Planning Commission's handling of the request, said she will initiate legislation to create a Hana advisory committee to the Planning Commission, such as those on Molokai and Lanai.

Santos said the Planning and Land Use Committee would defer a decision on the Purdy request for a few weeks until the family can sit down with the steering committee to consider compromises.

Combined news services

JPO program up to state

HONOLULU — State Department of Education officials say they will have to insure junior officers if the program continues.

Officials said the state has been unable to obtain private liability insurance for the estimated 1,000 JPOs in the state's public schools. "We would not be willing under any circumstances, send out there without protection," official Eugene Imai said during a meeting of the Board of Education Discipline and School Safety Committee yesterday.

Since 1973, the state has obtained commercial insurance for the police officers. Last year a consortium of four insurance companies provided coverage.

This year, only one company on the contract, but it could not meet the state's requirement that it provide \$100,000 coverage for \$20,000 less.

Fire burns landfill

KEALAKEHE — Big Island crews were battling a stubborn fire today burning in the county's landfill site.

The fire was in a contained area but crews were having a difficult time extinguishing the flames. Crews began fighting the blaze in abandoned vehicles yard about 8 p.m. yesterday.

Fire officials said they did not know what caused the blaze.

The landfill has been a problem recently for the county. Officials were threatened with a \$1,000 fine by the State Department of Health last year.

State bans paint sales

HONOLULU — The Department of Agriculture stopped the sale and use of paint containing high concentrations of a chemical it says could harm the environment and cause health problems for people who apply it.

The Navy uses the paint, which contains tributyl tin, or TBT, on

Man held a

WAILUKU — Maui police this morning were holding a 30-year-old Kihei man involved in an accident with a stolen car.

Norman K. Kinney was charged with auto theft, failure to render aid at the scene of an accident and not having a driver's license. His bail was set at \$2,080.

Kinney allegedly took a car from the house he was staying at without the owner's permission last night.

Tavares mix

WAILUKU — Mayor Hanu Tavares is in San Francisco, attending a conference of his peers, and will take a brief vacation.

Tavares left yesterday and is scheduled to return to the office

# Bright side seen in beach dispute

Continued from page A1

symbol of their claim to land parcels also claimed by the company that owns the hotel and ranch.

The fence cutters base their actions on evidence they say they have gathered during years of research that shows they or their relatives still have interests in lands that were leased long ago to the predecessors of Rosewood.

Rosewood claims it has quieted title on these lands, and has the right

to erect fences to keep cattle in and trespassers out. Those who want to use the access points must obtain a key and sign a liability waiver.

Several of these disputes are in the courts. Richard Kekohuhu, a relative of the Kaikala family, bolsters his claim with an eight-page poster containing details of land conveyances and genealogy of his family dating back to 1859.

Recent negotiations have brought

these disputing sides together in an effort to resolve the access problem by allowing traditional use of the shoreline while protecting it from being overrun by the thousands of tourists who flock to Hana each year.

Residents who spoke to County Council members in Hana for a meeting last night expressed confidence in current efforts to find a win-win answer to the access problem.

The residents appeared to be worried that the council had come to inspect beach accesses in order to condemn them for public use. Land Use and Planning Committee chair Velma Santos hastened to explain that the committee was visiting only in response to requests from residents to look into the situation.

Council members agreed to "file" the subject and let the community continue to seek its own solution.

# Tie vote halts Kihei planning resolution

# The Maui News

Thursday, July 30, 1987

Four Sections, 46 Pages

35 Cent

## Bright side seen to beach dispute

By JILL ENGLEADOW  
Staff Writer

HANA — A man whose company has been erecting fences across traditional beach access points and a man who has been cutting the fences took visitors on a tour of the disputed sites yesterday.

The tour was a display of cooperation that some residents say offers hope for a harmonious future for Hana.

• A unique convergence of Hana natives and the transplants who have come to call Hana home may provide the answer to land use and beach access issues that have simmered in the community for years.

Members of these two groups have been meeting as the new Development Steering Committee of the Hana Community Association. Several members of that committee and representatives of Rosewood Hotels Inc. took County Council Planning and Land Use Committee members to look at beach access sites yesterday.

Present were Bob Zimmer, president of the corporation that now owns Hana Ranch and Hotel Hana Maui, hotel vice president Carl Lindquist, and several steering committee members. One of these, Larry Kaikala, has been a leader in the move to regain the traditional use of land some Hana residents claim is still partly theirs.

Kaikala is one of several Hana natives who have, in the past year, cut fences blocking trails used by their ancestors to reach favorite fishing sites. The cutting of fences erected by the ranch is a dramatic  
See BRIGHT, page A3



The Maui News / JILL ENGLEADOW

**ON ACCESS** — Hana resident Larry Kaikala discusses beach access with Council Member Tom Morrow during a tour yesterday of several sites that have been subject to dispute between local residents and the corporation that owns Hotel Hana Maui and the Hana Ranch. Kaikala is a member of a community committee now seeking a workable compromise with the corporation to allow local use of traditional access routes to the shoreline.

## Committee to study Kihei vendor issue

By DAVE DeLEON  
Staff Writer

WAILUKU — The County Council Committee of the Whole yesterday approved a plan to set up a study committee aimed at resolving the various issues dealing with roadside vendors in Kihei.

The decision came despite a frequently strident call from the area's retail business leaders for passage of a bill that would have simply removed all "peddling" activity from the South Kihei Road, Wailea Alanui Drive and Makena Alanui Road areas.

The existing bill, which apparently lacks adequate council support, has been about two years in the making. The council put the bill on temporary hold, and might shelve it in favor of a compromise approach.

Also, at the request of the roadside vendors and the urging of Council Member Velma Santos, the committee

See COMMITTEE, page A3

## Shark attack: Big Isle fishermen tell real-life tale that sounds like 'Jaws'

NAALEHU, Hawaii — Three Big Island fishermen, including a 12-year-old boy, escaped injury Tuesday night when their boat sank after a shark attack about nine miles off South Point.

Ka'u commercial fishermen Walter Gay, 27, and Weston Leslie, 40, and Leslie's son, Newton, were fishing for ahi (yellowfin tuna), using hand lines from a 20-foot trailer boat borrowed from Joe Hauanio of Kalapana. Gay told The Maui News this morning. The boat was borrowed because Leslie's boat is under repair.

The trio had chummed the water and hauled in six or seven ahi ranging in size up to 100 pounds when a large shark hit a fish on one of the lines and bit the tuna in half, Gay said. The shark remained near the boat "waiting for us to throw more food in the water," then started "biting on the back of the boat," where a 200-horsepower Mercury outboard was mounted.

"It was a big shark," Gay said. "I'd say 10 or 12 feet long, 700 or 800 pounds. We think it was a great white, because it was so aggressive. Both of us are very experienced fishermen, and we know the difference between sharks. It was a great white."

The shark was "right on the surface" as it tore at the boat's stern, Gay continued, so Leslie was able to prod it hard enough with a 44-caliber "bang stick" to fire a round into the shark. "We just hit it with the bang stick and it rolled off and sank," Gay said.

Once the shark was gone, the trio resumed fishing only to discover after pulling in three more ahi that the boat was rapidly filling with water.

"My partner said, 'hey, there's plenty water coming in this boat,'" Gay said. "We started throwing the tunas back in the ocean, but by the time we had grabbed the second or third fish, we knew we were going down. Within a minute or two the boat had completely sunk. We didn't have time to grab the life jackets or make a Mayday (SOS) call."

Gay said he thinks the shark tore out the boat's drain plug or otherwise pierced the hull, allowing enough sea water to enter so that the boat filled rapidly once three- to four-foot seas started pouring over the damaged stern. The boat capsized and sank almost immediately, Gay said.

Gay and Leslie salvaged a fiberglassed plywood fish box about six feet long, three feet wide and three feet deep, had Newton climb into the box, and started tugging it toward the light of South Point and Naalehu about nine miles distant. The swimmers tore up Gay's raincoat and tied strips of fabric over their hands and feet to "hide the whites" from sharks, Gay said.

Swimming mostly underwater to avoid splashing, the men pulled Newton and the fish box toward shore for about 12 hours before landing near Honuapo, south of Naalehu, about 10 a.m. yesterday. Gay said that once the sun was up, they could see white-tipped sharks in the water beneath them, but drove them off by shouting underwater and banging their hands on the surface.

A fishing boat passed with 200 yards of them shortly after first light, he said, but the swells prevented anyone from spotting them.

The borrowed boat and its equipment, valued at \$20,000, was not recovered.

Gay said he plans to go back out fishing again "in a couple of days."

## upper hand, but next move a mystery

Despite minesweeping efforts now under way, there is concern in the Pentagon that the Iranians may try again to mine the sea lanes or cause other problems for the ships on the

**ALSO SEE...**

■ A heavily armed French aircraft

The incident last week made it clear that Iran is willing to risk confrontation with the United States and, with it, the possibility of

the United States. The incident may have been a one-time signal.

The Iranians may want

# Major property-tax reform proposed

## Council panel offers plan to help residents

By MARK ADAMS  
Staff Writer

WAILUKI — Substantial changes in the current property tax system were approved yesterday by the Maui County Council's Finance Committee, including eliminating taxes on home improvements made after 1987 and repeal of a tax deferral option enacted last year.

Upon final approval, the five-point package passed by the committee would take effect in the last half of the 1991-92 fiscal year.

The reforms would see homeowners who lived on their property in 1987 and qualified for the owner-occupant exemption at that time sent the same property tax bill they paid for that tax year.

Those who bought homes after 1987 would not be eligible for the provision, but would take advantage of a lower tax rate being considered by the council.

The package would allow for increases in the tax bill to be considered in fiscal years 1993 and 1994, but for now a 3 percent hike contained in last year's reform effort would be eliminated.

Improvements made to owner-occupied properties since 1987, including ohana units, would not be taxed.

A "circuit breaker" system, also would be in effect for qualified households where owners are 60 years or older and the property owner and spouse earn less than \$25,000 a year that attempts to hold property taxes to 5 percent or less of income.

Also, the committee recommended commissioning a study of the current property tax system that would recommend ways the entire process of determining property tax rates could be revamped, including the possibility of scrapping the "comparable sales" method of developing tax bills.

Finance Committee Chairman Rick Medina proposed the changes approved by the committee in re-



The Maui News — WAYNE TANAKA photo

Maui County Council Finance Chairman Rick Medina (center) discusses his property tax reform package with colleagues during a break in yesterday's session. The committee ultimately approved the five-point plan, which would provide relief for

qualified property owners whose home serves as their principal residence. The package was developed in response to rapidly escalating property values in the county.

tax values.

But market value of properties sold in a given area are a factor in determining property values, County Finance Director Travis Thompson told the committee that increases this year averaged 128 percent.

Thompson estimated the changes would cost the county about \$5.7 million in lost revenue.

About 25 residents, many of them senior citizens, attended the meeting to support some system of tax reform.

Bill Tavares of Kula, chairman of the county's Committee for More Equitable Taxation (COMET), asked the committee to support elimination of an "arbitrary and cruel" tax system.

"The power to tax is not the power to destroy," he said.

**'The power to tax is not the power to destroy.'**

— Bill Tavares,  
Committee for  
More Equitable Taxation

Tavares said his group was very pleased with the effort, saying it eliminates three years of trying to see some sort of relief enacted.

COMET especially appreciates elimination of the tax deferral, which gave qualified homeowners the ability to delay paying their tax bills until their property was sold, he said.

Critics said the measure amounted

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE TAX PROPOSAL:

Here are highlights of the Maui County Council's Finance Committee proposal for property tax reform:

■ **Homeowners who qualified for the owner-occupant exemption in 1987** would receive the same tax bill they paid for that tax year. Over the three-year life of the plan, the council would have the option of approving annual across-the-board percentage increases above the 1987 bills.

■ **Improvements made to a property after 1987**, such as ohana units, would not be taxed under the plan. That exemption was approved to simplify the process and allow the program to be up and running by December, when tax bills are sent out for the second half of the 1991-92 fiscal year. If property owners are charged too much on their first-half bill, which would be figured using the current method, refunds could be necessary.

■ **The tax deferral system approved last year** that allowed homeowners to delay paying taxes until their property was sold would be repealed. The 447 homeowners who participated in the program in fiscal 1991 would still be responsible for paying the amount they owe upon sale of their property.

■ **A "circuit breaker" system** would be enacted to help homeowners over 60. Household income must be \$25,000 or less, based on the property owner and spouse's earnings only. The plan would see those qualified paying 5 percent of their income in taxes, with a maximum benefit of \$1,250. The amount due would be figured based on the 1987 tax bill for those who qualify.

■ **A study of the current property tax system** would be completed, with recommendations developed for revamping the system at the end of the three-year period for the proposed reform package. Possibilities for changes include doing away with the "comparable sales" method of assessing property.

Tavares gave Thompson and his staff high marks for the work they did developing numbers for the proposal.

Council Member Alice Lee said the committee's action demonstrates the council's seriousness about cutting taxes.

Noting the revenue loss, she asked Thompson to request that Mayor Linda Crockett Lingle identify where in her proposed \$181 million budget now before the council's Budget Committee the \$5.7 million revenue loss could be offset.

Lee also noted that Lingle's proposal to drop the residential tax rate to \$1.50 per \$1,000 of assessed value from the current \$4.50 rate will result in an additional \$4.36 million revenue drop, although the mayor has already figured that loss into the new

Lingle said yesterday that under the charter, she makes the initial budget proposal and the council then makes its adjustments before sending the package back to her.

As far as further cuts go, the mayor said the ball is in the council's court.

Lingle said she has not seen the tax reform package in writing and would reserve comment until it is sent to her office.

The mayor did respond to a proposal to lower the tax rate for homeowners with the owner-occupant exemption to \$3.50 per \$1,000 while leaving the \$4.50 per \$1,000 rate in place for property owners who do not live in a home they own.

Creating two classes of residential property is an idea that she has supported for some time, Lingle said.

On the circuit breaker proposal, Lingle said she believes it should not be restricted to senior citizens, but should be available to all low-income property owners who have been taxed out of their homes.

Also discussed yesterday were ways to raise revenue from other sources, including a proposal for a special tax class for golf courses that would be taxed at a rate higher than the current rate.

Council Member Wayne Hagevo said the council also should be looking at providing relief for renters who will face possible increases from property owners if a do-it-yourself market program is implemented.

The committee's proposal now moves to the Budget Committee for review. Upon approval, it would then be sent to the council for a final vote.

# County Council continues to avoid a comprehensive property-tax study

## Viewpoint

February 26, 2016

By WILLIAM D. TAVARES , For The Maui News

My family and I live in Kuau, one of the most coveted areas of Maui. The property purchased by my late father, Antone F. Tavares, in 1903 has remained in our family's possession for 112 years. Each year we agonize in anticipation of the current property tax amount. This past year we saw an increase of 50 percent with the possibility of another steep increase this fiscal year.

I recently turned 94 and find it increasingly difficult to live under a property tax system that is as unfair, cruel, immoral and absolutely indefensible as Maui County's is. If I were younger you would see my righteous indignation made visible by public resistance to this abominable property tax system.

COMET (Committee for More Equitable Taxation) has proposed since 1988 that the Maui County Council undertake a thorough study of our present property tax system to no avail. This obstinate attitude was recently reaffirmed by the council chairman, who stated the council would not review its gutting of the "circuit breaker" tax credit or study the present system.

An earlier council recognized the need for a comprehensive study. For those who do not remember, COMET worked constructively with the council to enact the "homeowner's exemption" and "circuit breaker" in 1991. Those were implemented as short-term solutions. The "short-term solutions" have been in place for nearly 25 years. Broken promises.

The Maui News headline of April 12, 1991, stated: "Major property tax reform proposed." One of the proposals was "a study of the current property tax system would be completed with recommendations developed for revamping the system at the end of the three-year period for the proposed reform package. Possibilities

*for changes include doing away with the comparative sales (market value) method of assessing property." Broken trust.*

Recently, the County Council authorized the study of a "council-manager" form of government for a possible Maui County Charter amendment. As presented, this form could save taxpayers 10 percent through efficiency and take some of the destructive politics out of the current system. The council-manager form would not eliminate the position of mayor. The council-manager form of government is not new or untested. This study is a worthwhile exercise in democracy but raises a serious question.

Why does the current council so easily authorize the study and cost of changing our fundamental county government structure but continue to refuse to study the Maui County property tax system?

There is no good excuse for the County Council to continue to avoid a comprehensive property-tax study. It is long overdue and more relevant than ever.

It is an extremely sad situation that citizens of this once great nation are enduring. Our political leaders on all levels of government are so engrossed in their own political and personal welfare that the basic needs of society are ignored. Whales, porpoises, seals, turtles and even the lowly loli (sea cucumber) are given much attention but our basic spiritual and human needs are often ignored.

As far as I am concerned, this situation is comparable to the situation in Flint, Mich., where the personal health of thousands of citizens was placed in deadly jeopardy by an uncaring government. The current Maui property tax system is causing destructive stress and damaging the health and welfare of many of our citizens. Everyone, including our honored kupuna, Native Hawaiians and future generations, deserves better.

As I have asserted many times in the past, anyone who insists that our property tax system is a just, fair and moral system, is an unfortunate victim of invincible ignorance.

Aloha ke akua.

\* William D. Tavares is a founding member of COMET and current co-chair. COMET co-Chair John Blumer-Buell contributed to this Viewpoint.

## EDB Committee

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**From:** Kai Nishiki <kai.nishiki@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 12:22 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Funding for Common Ground Collective

Dear Councilmembers,

I am submitting testimony to ask you to provide funding in the amount of \$25,000 to the Maui based 501c3 Common Ground Collective. This is a non-profit that was started by Maui residents to help increase food security and economic benefits in Maui County. This organizations works hard to provide education and outreach to community members, they work with the American Heart Association to provide locally grown produce for the Kids Cook with Heart program ensuring that the produce is purchased from our local farmers to support local agriculture.

This organization also spotlights and promotes local businesses that used locally sourced produce for their products and helps connect them with local farmers if they need local produce. On top of this they are also collecting data to increase local connections between farmers and the market as well as inspiring landowners to convert their properties to small passive farms and most recently have become involved in supporting the Maui Food Bank's Give Healthy Challenge to promote healthy donations to the Maui food bank for their recipients and will be launching their Foster Farming upcountry gleaning program very soon.

All of these services are incredibly beneficial to the Maui community and they are only getting started. They have done the majority of this work with very little donations and funding, and they deserve support from the County. This organization is providing much needed assistance and with your help they could continue to grow and thrive and help our community do the same.

I ask that you please support Common Ground Collective and provide them with \$25,000 for their program costs.

Mahalo,

Kai Nishiki

Sent from my iPhone

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** Laura Civitello <lauracivitello23@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 11:55 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Common Ground Collective

Dear Council Members,

I am submitting testimony to ask you to provide funding in the amount of \$25,000 to the Maui based 501c3 Common Ground Collective. This is a non-profit that was started by Maui residents to help increase food security and economic benefits in Maui County.

Their services are incredibly beneficial to the Maui community and they are only getting started. They have done the majority of this work with very little donations and funding, and they deserve support from the County. I ask that you please support Common Ground Collective and provide them with \$25,000 for their program costs.

Mahalo, Laura Civitello

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** Dr. Marion Ceruti <ceruti@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 4:56 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** Bill  
**Subject:** EDB-1, Maui County FY2020 Budgetary Recommendations  
**Attachments:** Hoover Ceruti Maui FY2020 Budgetary Recommendations.pdf

Mr. William F. Hoover, Jr.  
Dr. Marion Grace Ceruti  
910 Honoapi'ilani HWY, Ste. 7-342, Lahaina, HI 96761  
Tel (808) 665-1139 email ceruti@earthlink.net

Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair  
Economic Development and Budget Committee Maui County Council  
200 S. High St., 7th Floor  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
edb.committee@mauicounty.us

Re: EDB-1, Maui County FY2020 Budget Testimony

Dear Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez,

Mahalo for offering the opportunity to submit testimony recommending priorities for the FY2020 budget. The following high-priority recommendations need to translate into line items in the FY2020 Maui County budget. For your convenience, you may use the attached pdf version of this testimony.

1. The first recommendation is to improve the infrastructure on the Lower Honoapi'ilani Road between Ho'ohui and Omaikai Place. This is the section that was skipped during the last pavement installation. The drainage and pavement need to be upgraded to prevent:

- A. Flooding,
- B. Bicycle accidents, and
- C. Premature wear and tear on motor vehicles.

Bumpy roads with potholes can jar vehicle parts loose and cause mechanical malfunctions. This has already happened to our vehicle. The potholes and bumps on this section of the road impede bicycle safety and pose an unnecessary risk. The lack of adequate drainage during rain storms can result in flooding, not only on the road, but also on the adjacent parking lots of various resorts, such as Kahana Reef.

Specifically, at least one additional drain needs to be installed on the mauka side of the road between the Kahana Reef and Pohailani condominiums. Both sides of the road need concrete curbs to channel rain water into the drains from the middle of the road before the



water accumulates debris, such as sticks and leaves, that can clog the drains. A sidewalk needs to be installed on most of the mauka side of the road. Finally, the road, which is in a state of disrepair, needs to be repaved with a convex shape that channels the water toward the new curbs and into the drains.

2. The second recommendation is to resume building seawalls where they are needed along the Honoapi'ilani Highway (Route 30) to preserve the road, which is so essential to residents and tourists alike. It is the kuleana of Maui County to protect this most essential infrastructure. The K-rails are temporary and the continued viability of the road requires a more long-term solution that only seawalls can provide. No reasonable alternative to the shoreline road is available between the south end of the Lahana bypass and the tunnel. The proposition to move the road mauka is neither practical nor is it economical. The seawall north of Papalaua Beach Park is a good example of the kind of seawall that is needed. Even this specific wall would be much more effective if an array of large rocks were installed on the makai side of the wall between Papalaua and Ukumehama Beach Parks. These rocks would keep ocean water from accumulating on the road as it does now, a situation that is not good for pedestrians and bicyclists. Maui County civil engineers can identify the sections of the road that most urgently need a seawall.

Again, mahalo for asking residents how best to spend our tax money. E hana kakou.

Sincerely,

Mr. William F. Hoover, Jr.  
Dr. Marion G. Ceruti

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** powerpop <powerpop@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 3:13 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** EDB-1 Support for Maui Economic Development Board

Dear committee member or leader,

I moved to Maui almost exactly a year ago after a long career in silicon valley. One of the first things I did upon getting settled was look for entrepreneurial organizations that were doing strong work to support business growth on the island. Fortunately I was able to find Gerry and MEDB through online posts about Startup Weekend 2017 and an upcoming TechOhana gathering. I attended the TechOhana with a great speaker from the U. of Hawaii intellectual property program just a month after arriving. This allowed me to connect with the MEDB leadership as well as the many entrepreneurs established on Maui.

After this initial event I met with Gerry to get insight into how to contribute to the technology and startup business ecosystems on Maui. I signed up as a judge for the 2018 Startup Weekend in November. Startup Weekend was well organized and brought together invaluable resources to help energize and train budding entrepreneurs. The solidness of the ideas and teams during the final weekend was high. Many teams continue to pursue the winning ideas from that weekend and all benefited from the training.

After the Startup Weekend I was given the gracious opportunity to be the speaker at the next upcoming TechOhana. The promotion and support given brought out over 100 attendees. Its been my pleasure to have continuing contact with 20+ of them after the talk and help connect them with resources, funding and giving shape to their ideas for building up new businesses from Maui.

All in all I am writing to shout the praises of MEDB. In my first year the organization and Gerry especially have shown themselves to be the best catalyst for the next generation of business leaders in tech related small and startup businesses. I would highly recommend MEDB as a valuable investment for fostering of tech and new businesses on Maui. They have the momentum and credibility!

Gratefully,  
Michael Powers  
Wailuku

<http://linkedin.com/in/powers>

## EDB Committee

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**From:** Nakota Kai Crumbo <nakotakai@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 2:38 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Budget Testimony

Aloha nō kakou. Mahalo nui for taking my testimony. I would ver quickly like to ask of the budget commission to support the Common Ground Collective NP with a generous sum of money. I truly do believe in this organization, both their goals and the people involved.

If you need my info to verify i am a constituent, my name is Nakota Crumbo and I've lived at 55 Alekanekelo pl. Haiku HI 96708 for the last 15+ years.

Mahalo again,  
A voter

Sent from my iPhone

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** Nani Kaikala <nanikaikala@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 6:15 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Support the Maui County Budget line item to purchase land in Hana for conservation, recreation, historical, cultural and other values 2.25 million

Aloha Kakou,

I am emailing in support of the Maui County Budget line item to purchase land in Hana for Conservation, recreation, historical, cultural and other values for 2.25 million.

I am a lineal descendant to this aina and I know our Kupuna seen and unseen would be so elated to know this aina will be preserved for the next generation. Mahalo so much

for this consideration.

"O ka 'aina ka oiai'o"

Mahalo nui loa,

Nani Park Kaikala  
PO Box 1064  
Hana, HI 96713

## **EDB Committee**

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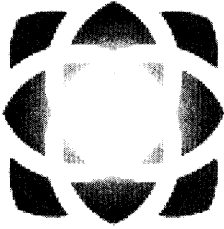
**From:** Maui Chamber Legislation <legislation@mauichamber.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 5:25 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** FY20 Budget Testimony  
**Attachments:** Testimony on FY20 Mayor's Propsed Budget 040419.pdf

Aloha,

Please see testimony from Maui Chamber of Commerce President Pamela Tumpap on the Mayor's proposed FY20 budget.

Mahalo,

Amber Coutsos  
Office & Legislative Manager  
**Maui Chamber of Commerce**  
95 Mahalani St. #22A  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
(808) 244-0081



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**VOICE OF BUSINESS**

Testimony on the Mayor's Proposed FY20 Budget  
Thursday, April 4, 2019

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

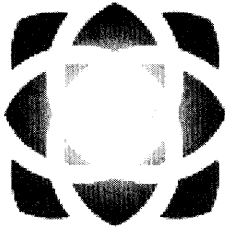
Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on the Mayor's proposed FY20 budget.

### **Made in Maui County Festival**

We support the line item for \$100,000 of grant funding from the Office of Economic Development for the Made in Maui County Festival. As many of you know, the Made in Maui County Festival is an annual event to showcase local manufacturers and their products, held on the first Friday and Saturday in November at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center. Participating vendors must be headquartered in Maui, Molokai or Lanai and meet the 51% value-added product valuation.

The Made in Maui County Festival is not just a 2-day event. It is a year-round effort for overall manufacturing industry development and an economic development initiative. Not only do festival vendors benefit from the surge in revenue and exposure to the community during the 2-day event, they get to connect with wholesale buyers from across the state, county and internationally to make connections and establish new wholesale accounts. Many of our vendors started out as hobby businesses and because of the festival, have grown to expand their product lines, moved to new locations, hired employees and exported their products. This effort to grow our manufacturing industry is helping to build another leg on our sustainability stool to offset our dependence on the visitor industry and agriculture.

Over the last 5 years of holding the Festival, our collective vendors have made over \$2,490,000 in revenue from retail sales during the festival. That is a 498% return on the County's investment. This does not include the additional revenue made from establishing wholesale accounts through the festival and from additional retail sales from customers who learned about the company at the festival. Our vendors success is Maui County's success as their revenue gets recycled back into the local economy and promotes product diversity.



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**VOICE OF BUSINESS**

## Testimony on the Mayor's Proposed FY20 Budget Page 2.

Further, we support the \$50,000 in the Office of Economic Development budget for Small Business Promotion. This includes \$15,000 for the Made in Maui County Marketplace, a year-round one stop shop website for shoppers to find our past and present festival vendors as well as other local manufacturers who meet the requirements. This funding goes towards website hosting and SEO work as well as social media promotion and upkeep. This website is how we continue to promote local manufacturers before and after the festival, so they have a year-round presence.

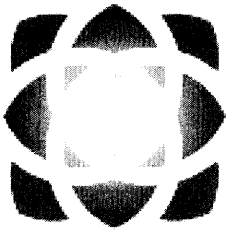
In addition, with the previous administration, we provided stipends to Hana, Lanai and Molokai vendors who are traveling to participate in the festival. For many of our remote area vendors, these stipends are necessary to offset the costs of their travel and shipping to participate in the festival. While we managed the stipends, we received County reimbursement and the funding came from each area's economic funds. We would appreciate if the allocations for stipends is included.

### **Affordable Housing**

We appreciate and support the additional \$3.37M to go to the Affordable Housing Fund from Real Property Tax Revenue. Affordable housing and rentals are a critical need for our community and while we are making some progress, there is still a huge gap and we must get more projects into the pipeline. We need to have a strong housing plan that expedites the use of that money.

### **Maui Visitors Bureau**

We support the \$4M as level funding for the Maui Visitors Bureau. Approximately 75% of our population is employed directly or indirectly by the visitor industry so we must continue to sustain this important industry which is up against world class competition. The Maui Visitors Bureau has made a big shift and are working on ways to better manage tourism while reducing community impacts and protecting the environment. They have introduced new videos to educate visitors on culture, the environment and ways to be respectful to the land, ocean and community when visiting. They are also working with the community to address concerns. Therefore, we support continued funding on their important work.



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
**VOICE OF BUSINESS**

Testimony on the Mayor's Proposed FY20 Budget  
Page 3.

**Invasive Species**

We support the \$4M proposed by the Mayor for coqui frog eradication and environmental protection. However, we would ask that the funding also go toward eradication of Little Fire Ants and Coffee Borer Beetles as these are also big issues for our community. In addition, we would like to form a strong coalition with the County and community partners to protect our island from pests coming in from other areas. This has been on our priority list for the State Legislature for many years and this year Representative Lynn DeCoite introduced bill HB265 to address invasive species, however, the bill died early in the session.

**Real Property Tax Rates**

We have just received the details on the Real Property Tax category rates and proposed changes but are waiting for further information on the rationale for these changes. We will comment on the proposed rate changes once we have received and reviewed the details.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony.

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.



## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** Patrick Ornellas <patrickornellas61@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 05, 2019 9:09 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** Lynn DeCoite  
**Subject:** Testimonial Support of Kaupo Community Association (Favorable) to EDBC

Aloha,

TO: Economic Development and Budget Committee (EDBC):

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

**Vote: YES to fund Kaupo Community Association (KCA) & the restoration of old Kaupo School please!**

Date:  
04/05/2019

From:  
**Patrick Ka'eo Ornellas**  
Iscope Maui Network  
808.633.5233

**SUBJECT: Funding for the restoration of old Kaupo School**

**I am a member of the Kaupo Community Association, volunteer in the Kaupo Community and care-taker for St. Joseph Kaupo Catholic Church but most importantly, a living family member of the Ha'i Ohana (Kaupo residence).**

The Association and it's community has plans to restore the building which will allow future community gatherings and a multitude of options. When school building renovations are done, the building will allow our community to unit and meet to discuss current and future community affairs. We also have plans to invite other Maui County Communities to share in our activities which include a variety of education and outreach programs (many of aloha).

**Most Important:**

When the Kaupo District weather conditions don't permit favorable community gatherings, the building will protect the community gatherings (day and night) from rain, strong winds, heat/cold and more. **Plus the building will be used as a place of refuge in the event of unforeseen natural disasters.**

Please allow funding to the Kaupo Community Association (KCA) & the restoration of old Kaupo School. By funding the Kaupo Community Association, you contribute to their capacity to carry out these tasks.

Mahalo Kakou,

**Patrick Ka'eo Ornellas**  
Iscope Maui Network  
808.633.5233

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** Patrick Ornellas <patrickornellas61@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 05, 2019 8:16 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Testimonial Support of SWCD (Favorable) to EDBC

Aloha,

TO: Economic Development and Budget Committee (EDBC):

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

**Vote: YES to fund SWCD please!**

Date:  
04/052019

From:  
**Patrick Ka'eo Ornellas**  
Iscope Maui Network  
808.633.5233

**SUBJECT: Funding for the Maui Soil & Water Conservation Districts**

Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Meeting

I am the Maui County Farm Bureau Agriculture in the Classroom (AIC) Coordinator.

The Maui Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) is one of many entities that I work with for the Maui County Farm Bureau AIC Program that is geared for 2nd graders.....2019 (16 schools - Private & Public, 1,300 students) across Maui County. The Maui SWCD's portion of this program is about what is in our soils and why are soils important.

I am also a volunteer for the Conservation Awareness Program – Land Judging Contest, sponsored by the SWCD's. The Conservation Awareness Program provides students an opportunity to learn about, appreciate, and understand Hawaiian soil and water resources. It is great to see high school students testing their knowledge through competition. And I believe this program has sparked student interest in continuing their education in the field of natural resources.

While the conservation districts are most often associated with the preparation and approval of conservation plans, their scope of work is much broader. Their activities include a variety of education and outreach programs. **By funding the SWCD's, you contribute to their capacity to carry out these tasks.**

Mahalo Kakou,

**Patrick Ka'eo Ornellas**  
Iscope Maui Network  
808.633.5233

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** Peter Trunk <peter.trunk@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 1:56 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** budget proposal

Aloha Members of the Budget Committee:

As I have learned about the proposed 66% increase in taxes for short-term rentals I ask myself, "Why are the owners treated like the enemies of the county?" or "Why do you bite the hand that feeds you?"

After all, Maui is a tourist destination. Without tourist this island would be a place of wealthy senior citizens from the mainland. These people have their nest egg and don't need tourist.

Many locals and Kama'aina depend on tourism; directly or indirectly. Short-term rentals make up a very large proportion of housing for tourists. Yes, the owners benefit, but so do many other businesses on the island. All of them pay their fair share of taxes. So, why do you target the people who make it possible for the tourist to stay in the first place? Why do you target the short-term rentals? Eliminate short-term rentals; you end up with a lot less visitors. Most visitors can't afford \$800.- plus a night at the fancy hotels.

Let me be brief:

We have many illegal short-term rentals and B&Bs. Most of them get away with it, because the county has no means to catch them. People (the people who have voted for you) are not stupid. They know they can get away with illegal rentals. If you keep on raising their taxes at a ridiculous rate, more of them will submerge and end up under the radar, leaving you with less. Think about it before you raise your hand in favor of the proposal.

If you want to have more budget, enforce the existing law and catch the illegal operations that laugh at us who worked very hard to get permits.

All the Best

Peter Trunk

All the Best  
Peter Trunk  
[peter.trunk@hotmail.com](mailto:peter.trunk@hotmail.com)  
+1-808-829-8164

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** pua hoopai <puakiki@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 7:04 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Support Maui County Budget - land in Hana for conservation, recreation, historical, cultural and other values

I am writing in support to purchase the land in Hana for conservation, recreation, historical, cultural and other values. My grandmother, Ellen Kauimakaole Kaikala

Cooper, was born and raised in Maka'ala'e. She raised her 'ohana here. Each coconut tree by the river mouth represents the birth of her and her siblings. Our kupuna is

also buried there.

I have been able to take my children to the same places in Maka'ala'e as my kupuna. This aina is a part of our lives and is a part of our 'ohana.

We want Hana to stay Hana. We do not want any more buildings destroying our aina. We want this for our future keiki to enjoy, for our 'ohana to fish and feed their

families.

Sincerely

Ellen Puamakamae Kristina Kaikala Hoopai

Sent from Outlook

## EDB Committee

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**From:** Rita Ryan <ritaryan@buzbuz.biz>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 05, 2019 8:43 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** County Funding for Common Ground Collective

Dear Councilmembers,

I am submitting testimony to ask you to provide funding in the amount of \$25,000 to the **Maui-based 501c3 Common Ground Collective**. This is a non-profit that was started by Maui residents to help increase food security and economic benefits in Maui County. **Common Ground Collective** provides education and outreach to community members and works with the **American Heart Association** to provide locally grown produce for the **Kids Cook with Heart** program ensuring that the produce is purchased from our local farmers to support local agriculture.

**Common Ground Collective** also spotlights and promotes local businesses that use locally sourced produce for their products and helps connect them with local Maui Nui farmers. On top of this, **Common Ground Collective** is also collecting data to increase local connections between farmers and the market as well as inspiring landowners to convert their properties to small passive farms. **Common Ground Collective** has most recently have become involved in supporting the **Maui Food Bank's Give Healthy Challenge** to promote healthy donations to the **Maui food bank** for their recipients and will be launching their **Foster Farming Upcountry** gleaning program very soon.

All of these services are incredibly beneficial to the Maui County community and work is only getting started. **CGC** has done the majority of this work through volunteers and small donations and funding, and I feel **Common Ground Collective is deserving of support from the County!** This organization is providing much-needed assistance and only with **your help** they will continue to grow and thrive and help our community do the same.

**I ask that you please support Common Ground Collective and provide them with \$25,000 for their program costs.**

Mahalo,

Rita Ryan  
Makawao

.....  
Rita Ryan  
Mobile/Text: 808.250.5030  
[ritaryan@buzbuz.biz](mailto:ritaryan@buzbuz.biz)  
[ritaryan@ramdass.org](mailto:ritaryan@ramdass.org)  
[ritaryan@350hawaii.org](mailto:ritaryan@350hawaii.org)

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** Robin Kaye <rkayelny@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 05, 2019 6:08 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** Frank De Rego; Riki Hokama  
**Subject:** EDB-1 Support for Maui Economic Development Board

Aloha:

I am writing this note to applaud the community outreach efforts of the Maui Economic Development Board. Their support enabled Lana'i to send two individuals to the recent Hawaii Energy Conference.

This was an important gathering of energy leaders from across the State of Hawaii and the Mainland. The many sessions enabled these two Lanaians to learn about ways in which their island's energy future might be improved, while simultaneously building on personal networks potentially valuable for Lana'i's future.

I applaud their effort to incorporate community participation, and am hopeful that these efforts can continue in future conferences.

Mahalo,

Robin Kaye  
Lana'i Resident  
Spokesperson, Friends of Lana'i

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Robin Kaye  
P.O. Box 631313  
Lana'i City, HI 96763  
808-559-6124 (m)  
[rkayelny@gmail.com](mailto:rkayelny@gmail.com)



## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** ruth mcglumphy <ruthpdx@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 2:55 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony for Budget Hearings

Dear Councilmembers,

I am submitting testimony to ask you to provide funding in the amount of \$25,000 to the Maui based 501c3 Common Ground Collective. This is a non-profit that was started by Maui residents to help increase food security and economic benefits in Maui County. This organizations works hard to provide education and outreach to community members, they work with the American Heart Association to provide locally grown produce for the Kids Cook with Heart program ensuring that the produce is purchased from our local farmers to support local agriculture.

This organization also spotlights and promotes local businesses that used locally sourced produce for their products and helps connect them with local farmers if they need local produce. On top of this they are also collecting data to increase local connections between farmers and the market as well as inspiring landowners to convert their properties to small passive farms and most recently have become involved in supporting the Maui Food Bank's Give Healthy Challenge to promote healthy donations to the Maui food bank for their recipients and will be launching their Foster Farming upcountry gleaning program very soon.

All of these services are incredibly beneficial to the Maui community and they are only getting started. They have done the majority of this work with very little donations and funding, and they deserve support from the County. This organization is providing much needed assistance and with your help they could continue to grow and thrive and help our community do the same.

I ask that you please support Common Ground Collective and provide them with \$25,000 for their program costs.

Mahalo,

Ruth McGlumphy  
Haiku, Hawaii

## EDB Committee

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**From:** Sarah Leal <sarahyogamaui@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 12:05 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee; Jessica Crouse  
**Subject:** Maui County Homebuyers Downpayment Assistance Program Testimony  
**Attachments:** Maui County Homebuyers Downpayment Assistance Program.pdf

Sent from my iPhone

Aloha,

I am writing on behalf of my family who recently completed buying our first home with the help of the Maui County Homebuyers Downpayment Assistance Program.

We have not won anything in our lives. We have four children and good jobs and have lived on Maui 12 years. We have attempted to purchase homes a couple times but never could get the extra money together. We actually had given up and thought we were just meant to rent and live in substandard conditions if we were to stay and raise our children here. The rentals we lived in always had many limitations for large families. We were always forced to make lines to one bathroom or live in moldy environments for cheap rent.

Since our names were drawn on Jan 17th and we started the process to find a home to buy, we have been overwhelmed with gratitude to the county for opening up the possibility for us to build a future on Maui for our children and the next generations. It was truly an alignment of miracles (of which all the details of our whole process are too many to list) that put us in our dream house last week!

From the very moment we walked in the County office and met Jessica Crouse, we felt taken care of. That we were truly getting help. She has been kind, patient, and informative. I can not say enough about how wonderful and easy she worked with our Mortgage Broker and Realtor and Title company to even have us close on our home earlier than expected.

This program has given us a future. Made our whole life shift and spark hope and new belief that there are good people, who with effort to help, can help families who need.

Mahalo.

Sarah and Javier Leal  
& Lucio, Alana, Sarah Kiana, and Silvio  
808-344-8877

## **EDB Committee**

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**From:** Steve Slater <steve@vcasa.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 04, 2019 8:28 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Changing the Rules, More Punishment for the Small, Honest, Eco Businesses

We got the 11th vacation home permit, in 2012. I had talk to the mayor, Arakawa privately add an event in common and how the pending vacation rental laws were geared towards medium and bigger businesses and not towards little family, supplementary income to assist small agricultural nature preserves.

He disagreed and said that's exactly what they wanted they wanted vacation rentals to assist in allowing small agriculture to exist.

We only have the right to rent two bedrooms and a 4 acre parcel of land, to only one family at a time, a high maintenance log home. We are grossing about \$45,000 a year, the remaining 1/3 of our initial mortgage is over \$30,000 a year, electricity is over \$3,000, our property tax on just the vacation home is already over \$5,000 (1/9th of our gross). Now there is the possibility of a substantial increase.

We were promised that the permit would help us keep doing our very special botanical, eco preserve, which both the County & State Ag Inspectors had commented, was some the best ecological ag useage, they had seen. Vacation rentals allowed us to function within the massive handicap of not being able to buy the ditch water that runs near our land and only having catchment. Full time renters require more water.

Why can't there be adjustments based on income and benefit to endangered species, biodiversity,... We are working very hard with a lot of upkeep, giving visitors what they really appreciate and seeing no profit. The 14.42% tax we charge, causes us to be out competed by the huge amount of places which don't pay tax.

Also, this year we had the chance to rent for a 6 month period to a single artist, maybe continuing for years. Now what do we do with the remaining 6 months? We cannot even drop our permit in a timely fashion, the property taxes are a year and a half ahead and there are no clear rules with the planning department. One size does not fit all.