

My name is Jo-Ann Texeira Ridaao.

My father, Joseph Texeira, was born in Waihee and moved to Wailuku as a child. My grandparents had purchased almost an entire block on Central Avenue and Vineyard Street and moved their family there. I moved to Wailuku town in my early teens. We lived at the corner of Central Avenue and Vineyard Street which was the former Dr. Tofuguchi's office currently Attorney Diane Ho Law Offices. Prior to that we lived in Mill Camp, Wailuku, just down the road from Wailuku Town.

My experience growing up in and around Waiuku is very different from what Wailuku is today. As the County seat, Wailuku was the pride of Maui, full of things to do and places to eat.

We had two theaters, two markets, two bakeries, two florists, even two hotels. We had Kress and National Dollar Stores, doctors, dentists and attorneys. There was no lack of places to eat.

Currently, studies show that Wailuku is under served when it comes to places to eat. According to studies, Wailuku Town was the HUB of Maui.

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Being that Wailuku is also our County seat, everyone had to come to Wailuku for business, for shopping, for doctor appointments and to go to Wakamatsu Fish Market.

What I am trying to share with you is that in reality, at that time, Wailuku was way more of a vibrant town than it is today. A town in its glory. We need to bring that vibrancy back. I support the Wailuku Civic Complex improvements in its entirety and ask that appropriations are NOT decreased.

This improvement is vital to bringing the residents back to Wailuku. This Civic Complex will provide opportunities for attracting businesses to Wailuku, attracting the possible development of a housing complex in Wailuku town and the facilities and means to provide educational and entertainment activities. A means to include nearby Lao and Wailuku Elementary Schools. A means to showcase our Maui culture and talents.

This Wailuku Civic Complex plan has been in the works since 1999, we've had many, many meetings

and many, many opportunities for public input. This plan is a grass roots plan by the Wailuku community. Don't you think it's time that we honor this work and implement the plan that will double the number of parking stalls in a parking structure, provide a festival plaza, a covered lanai for activities, and a covered area for a public market. This complex will allow for the expansion of our First Fridays and provide for daily activities and educational opportunities.

Please, let's bring back the vibrancy and pride to Wailuku, our County Seat.

Thank you.