

EDB Committee

From: MW <mike@kiheiice.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2019 9:18 AM
To: EDB Committee
Subject: Testimony on amending Civic Center Project

Aloha Maui County Budget Committee,

I am writing in support of amending the Wailuku Civic Center Project for several reasons including these.

1. Opportunity cost

As many businesses are wrecked by too much investment as too much debt. When too much of your capital is invested in one project you inevitably miss out on other opportunities necessary for overall success. The project may be a completed failure because of the other unmet needs around it. How much more could be done for the community with \$66 million?

2. Cost v Benefits

The plan is to establish a free shuttle during construction so local businesses and workers will not suffer. If a free shuttle is sufficient why not start there? \$5 million would fund a robust, sustainable free shuttle program for ten years that would benefit everyone living and visiting Wailuku. We may discover a better use for the heart of Maui's county seat than parking cars.

3. Scope of benefits

The WCC will directly benefit a small number of property owners while using 9% of the counties budget, assuming it's on time and on budget. West side, Hana, Molokai, Lanai, Kula and Kula Makai really do not benefit at all from this project.

4. Purpose of government

Providing infrastructure for the safety and benefit of citizens is local government's primary purpose. Encouraging development at the tax payers expense is not. Fund local infrastructure and let the private sector build at their own expense.

Mahalo
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