

HFC Committee

From: Baum/Inouye <ozland@ozlandmaui.com>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 7:40 PM
To: Yukilei Sugimura; Riki Hokama; Maui_County Council_mailbox; HFC Committee
Subject: Testimony for Healthy Families and Communities Committee on 10/22/2020
Attachments: CARES Money.docx

Please find attached my testimony to use Federal COVID-19 Relief Funds to support families. Thank you.
Colleen F Inouye MD MS-PopH MMM FAAPL FACOG

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October 20, 2020

Maui County Council Healthy Families and Communities Committee

Position: Maui County should provide financial and other resources to support families and children suffering from negative social and economic impacts of Coronavirus

Dear Committee Chair Riki Hokama, Vice Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura, and Committee Members:

My name is Colleen Inouye and I am a registered voter who lives in Makawao and has a business in Kahului. I am writing to you as a private citizen and my work as a physician. In my practice I have seen the devastating effects of COVID-19.

Many of my patients are the employees of hotels, the employees of restaurants, the employees of tourist-related businesses, the owners of small businesses, and the owners of restaurants. Many of them are furloughed or have been told they have no job, or they have stopped their business. Also, I have many patients whose dreams have been crushed due to the nature of colleges around the globe and the lack of employment after obtaining that much sought-after college degree.

I know that Hawaii must spend about \$320 million in federal funds by the end of this year. I would like to see Maui County request and use some of that money to support these families. Some of the most pressing needs are:

- A lack of food security
- Stable, affordable housing without facing a large rent or mortgage payment when the emergency assistance funds end
- Cash in families' pockets to pay medical bills when their health insurance ends, and they do not qualify for Medicaid
- Non-profits that are stepping up to the plate to serve Maui's population
- Covering all hotel costs that are incurred when a positive COVID patient needs/should isolate/quarantine for 14 days at a local hotel. This would decrease our transmission between family members in any/multi-generational households if we "pulled" this person out of this situation.

In addition to requesting your help in spending the federal money on Maui, please make the following information public on the county website:

- How much federal and state money has been allocated for Maui County due to the pandemic
- How much of that has been spent and what it has been spent on
- What are the plans for the remaining amounts?
- Who is informing the County's decisions about these funds, and the best ways for families to get involved in the process?

Please continue to hold public meetings on this topic and make all documents related to these issues accessible to the public.

Thank you for your kind attention to my testimony.

Sincerely,

Colleen F Inouye MD, MS-Population Health, MMM, FAAPL, FACOG