

PEA Committee

From: Maui Chamber Office <office@mauichamber.com>
Sent: Friday, October 12, 2018 5:48 PM
To: PEA Committee
Subject: PEA-71 Testimony
Attachments: PEA-71 Testimony 101518.pdf

Importance: High

Aloha,

Please see attached testimony for the PEA Committee Meeting on Monday, October 15th at 9am. The testimony is on PEA-71 from Pamela Tumpap, President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce.

Mahalo,



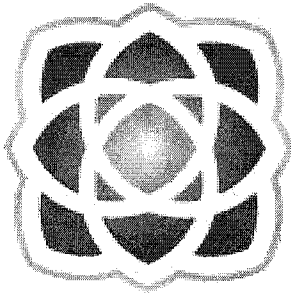
Maui Chamber of Commerce

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MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**Testimony on PEA-71
Approving the Acquisition of Approximately 262 Acres
In Pulehunui and Omaopio
Monday, October 15, 2018**

Dear Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Crivello &
Members of the Policy, Economic Development and Agriculture Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

The Maui Chamber of Commerce supports PEA-71 to approve the acquisition of approximately 262 acres in Pulehunui and Omaopio.

This project is essential as the Kula Ag Park is currently fully leased and other available ag lands available for lease are often very large parcels. Agriculture is an extremely difficult and costly industry to get started in. It requires significant upfront investment, resources and growing time before a profit is even possible and farmers face great uncertainty in future yields due to disasters, pests, etc. Therefore, the smaller parcels that would be made available through the ag park will help new entrepreneurs get started and give opportunities for existing farmers to expand operations on a scale that works well for them.

Spurring and maintaining agriculture is very important to Maui County. Agriculture provides additional resources and jobs for our local community and is a vital industry that we must support. The Maui Chamber of Commerce believes in the triple-bottom line of sustainability (the balance of economy, environment and social well-being) and this project aligns with that goal. The State of Hawaii has a goal to be more self-sustaining for food production and additional agricultural land for small farmers will help to increase local food production for Maui County.

Further, agriculture helps grow our local economy by contributing to value-added manufacturing. With more farming, there are more opportunities for niche manufacturers to create value-added products. Additionally, local manufacturers equate to increased jobs, the availability of more locally made products and increased revenue within our County.

Therefore, we support PEA-71 and ask that the Committee please pass this measure.

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.