

Testimony for County Council Budget meeting
From Maui Ki Aikido

July 24, 2018

Good morning,

My name is Joni Jackson. I am a Maui Ki Aikido Instructor and the secretary on the Board. I am one of the Instructors for youths and adults at the Hannibal Tavares Community Center in Pukalani where we have been holding classes for over 20 years.

Every Tuesday evening we have an hour class for young children, starting at age 6, followed by an hour teen class for 12 to 18 year olds and finishing with an hour and a half adult class. For years we paid \$5.00 a class, \$10.00 a night as we are there for three and a half hours. A few years ago there was a rate increase in the County classes which brought our fee up to \$12.00 a class, or \$24.00 a night.

This alone was a substantial cost increase for us as we are a fully non-profit organization. We charge a small dues fee twice a year. Much of this goes to the Headquarters in Japan and the rest goes to upkeep for our main Dojo on Market Street in Wailuku.

None of our instructors get any recompense for their teaching; they actually also pay yearly dues to the Dojo.

If the present increase stays in effect, our costs would nearly triple.

It would go from \$12 a class to \$32.00 a class, or \$64.00 a night.

Right now we charge our youth students \$25.00 a month which comes to \$6.25 a night.

Once a student becomes a member, they are able to attend any of our offered classes. Many of our members, adults and youths, attend two or three different classes a week.

For youths this comes to \$6.25 a week; for adults, \$10.50.

We have been established in Pukalani for many years now. Many of our youths start at 6 years old and stay with us until they go to college.

A price increase of this magnitude would make it very difficult for us to continue.

Thank you for your time.

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