



Paia Town Association

P.O. Box 791333 Paia, HI 96779

www.paiaamaui.com

Date: September 13, 2016

The Honorable Don Guzman, Chair
Economic Development, Energy, Agriculture, and Recreation Committee
2200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

RE: Support for Special Improvement Districts for Maui County EAR 36

Chairperson Guzman and Committee Members:

My name is Noelani Sugata, and I am the Executive Director for the Paia Town Association. We are in strong support for Bill EAR 36 relating to Special Improvement Districts. Currently, four SID's exist: three on Oahu and one Hawaii Island. Paia would like to be the fifth.

Our mission is to preserve the vitality and historic integrity of the Paia Town and provide a unified voice that leads and manages the town center for the benefit of the entire community. Currently, our membership has grown to include businesses, landowners, and residents. We will be having an annual meeting on September 28, 2016. We hope to engage with our community to listen to their concerns and discuss ways to make our town better.

During the last year, with funds from the Office of Economic Development and membership dues, the association started a rubbish removal and maintenance program, sponsored the Paia Mural, purchased a new place marker, partnered with like-minded organizations, and held two annual events. A special improvement district would provide a self-funding mechanism in order to make improvements for our community.

Allowing for SIDs to exist provides small towns like Paia to create self-sufficient long term funding instead of relying on grants that you may or may not get. We are trying to think of creative ways to raise funds in order to continue providing the services we did this past year. However, we feel the best way to do financially support services we all use is for Paia to be a SID.

I humbly ask the EAR committee to support Special Improvement Districts for Maui County.

Mahalo,


Noelani Sugata,
Executive Director

RECEIVED AT EAR MEETING ON 9/13/16