



P.O. Box 792047 • 49 Baldwin Ave. • Paia, HI 96779 • Ph: 808-579-6137 • Fax: 808-579-9404

Dear Maui County Council:

I oppose Bill EAR-36 to all for Special Improvement Districts (SIDs) in Maui. As written, the Bill would increase commercial property taxes. The burden will then fall upon the merchants in Paia as it is likely it will be passed on as CAM to the merchant.

For property owners this bill will place liens against those unable or unwilling to pay this new tax. This bill requires only 25% of the commercial property owners in the district to start County Council action on creating a SID, while the national standard is 60%. The money received from the new tax is to be given to a non-profit with the only qualification being that they are in "Good Standing," which is not defined in the bill.

It also must include County officials as voting members on the SID nonprofit board. This board may not be qualified and also may not support the community's best interest. It will simply put money in the hands of people pursuing their own narrow interests. Those who pay will not have a voice as to how and why it is spent.

Property owners and merchants are already capable of organizing their own efforts to improve their communities without the need for a mandatory tax increase, liens, and increased government regulation. I am strongly opposed to this bill as it will certainly affect my business.

Sincerely,

Edward Thielk
President, Mana Health Foods Inc.
Owner, 49 Baldwin Ave., Paia, HI

RECEIVED AT EAR MEETING ON 11/1/2016