

EAR Committee

From: Avis Teshima-Wong <Avis.Teshima-Wong@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, November 15, 2016 8:35 AM
To: EAR Committee
Cc: Michele McLean
Subject: TESTIMONY for EAR-36 - 11/15/16 Meeting
Attachments: Scanned from the County of Maui Planning Admin office.pdf

Aloha~

Attached, for your review, is testimony submitted by Deputy Planning Director Michele McLean for this afternoon's meeting of the Economic Development, Energy, Agriculture, and Recreation Committee, Item EAR-36.

Thank you very much!

From: <plan315xrx@mauicounty.gov>
To: "Avis " <avis.teshima-wong@mauicounty.gov>
Date: 11/15/2016 8:25 AM
Subject: Scanned from the County of Maui Planning Admin office

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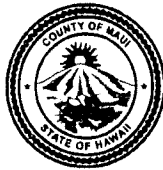
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ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Mayor

WILLIAM R. SPENCE
Director

MICHELE CHOUTEAU McLEAN
Deputy Director



COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

November 15, 2016

Honorable Don S. Guzman, Chair
and Members of the Economic Development, Energy,
Agriculture and Recreation Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Guzman and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS (EAR-36)

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments on the proposed bill to allow the establishment of Special Improvement Districts (SIDs). Like Council Chair Mike White, I serve as a County representative on the Paia Town Association; I am also a resident of Paia.

The Department of Planning (Department) supports the proposed SID bill. The Paia Town Association also supports the proposed bill. It is just the first step in creating a SID, an "enabling ordinance" as we say, so this bill itself does not create a SID or establish assessments or define projects that will be financed. That will come with the next step. The Paia Town Association is anxious to take that next step, which we will do once an enabling ordinance is enacted.

In Fiscal Year 2013, the Council approved funding for a one-year "small town grant" program and, in the years since, the Council has funded similar grant programs for our small towns. While this funding has been generous, and well spent, it is not enough for an organization like the Paia Town Association to fully function and coordinate the services and events that Paia really needs, even with the membership drives and other grants that we pursue. One solution would be to increase County funding, but we think that it is time for these activities to be self-funded. The SID will accomplish this.

The Department's Small Town Planner, Erin Wade, submitted written testimony to the Committee when you last met on this bill, providing further information and support for this effort. She mentions other initiatives that could be funded through a SID, such as regional beach nourishment. You recall discussing the Kahana Bay erosion problem, and the Council has supported funding to see if beach nourishment is a viable option for this region; if beach nourishment is undertaken, a SID would be a great mechanism for it to be self-funded by the owners of property at Kahana Bay.

Again, on behalf of the Department of Planning and the Paia Town Association, please support the proposed bill. Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michele McLean".

MICHELE CHOUTEAU McLEAN
Deputy Planning Director