

## EDB Committee

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**From:** Richard Dulcich <rdulcich@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 29, 2020 2:54 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** Mayors.Office@co.maui.hi.us; Budget.office@co.maui.hi.us; Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Tasha A. Kama; Riki Hokama; Kelly King; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura  
**Subject:** "Budget and Proposed Tax Rates"

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Budget and Proposed Tax Rates  
Pages

Sent from my iPad

RE: Budget and Proposed Tax Rates

The article in "The Maui News" on Thursday 3/26/20 titled "Covid-19 funding, tax cuts in mayor's budget" contains several inequities. One of the primary changes the article states, "is geared toward resident relief during the coronavirus crisis includes decreased property taxes."

The proposed rates and lowering of rates do not address all categories that affects residents, like residents who own short term rentals. The short term rental category has not been lowered and if you happen to own a short term rental over \$900,000 assessment you are subject to a tiered rate increase. A side note, when the Council was discussing tiered rates it was said they wanted a tiered system in place, but they could keep the same initial rate for tier(s) in a category.

I am a resident and owner of short term rentals and I'm not getting property tax relief. These short term rentals are my retirement income. My income has gone to ZERO for April and for how many more months to follow? I, like the hotels and resorts are suffering, no revenue. We are both in the same business, providing the same service, accommodations for visitors. We, hotels/resorts and legal short term rentals have to maintain our fixed monthly expenses (ie: property taxes, maintenance fees, insurance, utilities, etc.). The noticeable difference on the proposed tax rates schedule is that the proposed tax rate for hotel and resort has been decreased from \$11.00 to \$9.37 or a decrease of \$1.63 per thousand and absent of any tiers. Hotels and Resorts are not a resident, but corporate owned and getting tax relief. This is not equitable to short term rentals who are providing the same service and in many cases are owned by residents like me. Instead the proposed rate remains the same \$10.75 for appraised value under \$900,000 then goes to the tiered rate of \$11.00.

I am requesting a decrease in the short term rental property tax rate equivalent to the percentage (14.8%) decrease given to the hotel and resort category. I realize many of the short terms rentals are owned by non-residents, just like hotel and resort corporations, but they, and all of us are suffering the same loss of revenue with the same fixed expenses. We are all brothers and sisters and covid-19 is affecting all of us no matter where we reside on this planet. You might also reconsider the property tax rate on the Non Owner-Occupied category.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Dulcich  
808-707-4559

## EDB Committee

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**From:** Chelsie Evans <chelsie@mauihui.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2020 1:06 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Fwd: Maui Hui Malama  
**Attachments:** Screen Shot 2020-04-01 at 11.04.21 AM.png

Aloha,

This past year we have served youth across the island within the school systems, those who have not been able to thrive in a school system, those who need additional support afterschool, and families across the island that need support in basic needs in order to even begin supporting their youth in academics.

Our programs are not just programs that are run out of our facility. We help the most vulnerable in all geographic areas.

I have sent over the following information to all council members via email:

I hope you and your 'ohana are well during these trying times. We appreciate all the work being done to keep our communities safe and going. During this time Maui Hui Malama has been doing food basket drop off to our youths' homes because over 90% of them fall in to the poverty guidelines. We are also adding some educational support and activities in those baskets while doing online tutoring for many of our participants. Feels good to have a community and agency willing to pivot as needs change.

We appreciate you working on next year's budget and coming out to see us at our talk story session at MEO and meeting with all of our non profits. Here's just an overview of what we talked about that day.

Yes, we did ask for over 415k more than we usually do! We know at first glimpse this looks outrageous. But on behalf of our community we have asked and here's why:

A community assessment has shown these results:

Parents and children with **learning differences** have emotionally shared that they feel lost, unsupported, and often ignored. Learning differences includes dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, and are often paired with ADHD. This population takes up 20% of our students. According to DOE 2019-20 enrollment numbers, Maui has approximately 3790 students who are struggling with learning differences. Current DOE support are minimum and does not focus on the way the brains of these diagnosis work. DOE staff and our larger community do not have access to trainings and education this population needs to thrive.

"If left untreated, dyslexia can affect an individual's ability to meet their full potential at work or school", says [Kimberly R. Freeman, PhD](#), the executive associate chair of social work and social ecology at Loma Linda University in San Bernardino, California.

Currently the only “treatment” that families can look for cost over \$65 per hour leaving our low income and ALICE level families with no options.

I can't do it ...



The numbers of youth who are **failing in school or identified for being at risk** for failing keep climbing up. Assessment from our community including educators and families are consistent in saying there are just not enough resources for these youth to overcome the barriers they face in order to catch up in areas they are falling behind.

[Click Here: Video of At Risk Outcomes](#)

**Teen parents** have been put on the wayside since Maui High School’s closure of their teen parent support program. Due to the inability to have child care support on site the drop out rate of teen parents have increase by over 50%. This leaves our teen parent population even more vulnerable for life long poverty. Maui Hui Malama was founded in 1973 for teen moms by our founder, Diane Ho. It is Maui Hui Malama’s responsibility to ensure this population does not get forgotten.



**JUST 38%**  
OF TEEN GIRLS WHO HAVE A  
CHILD BEFORE AGE 18 GET A  
**HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA**



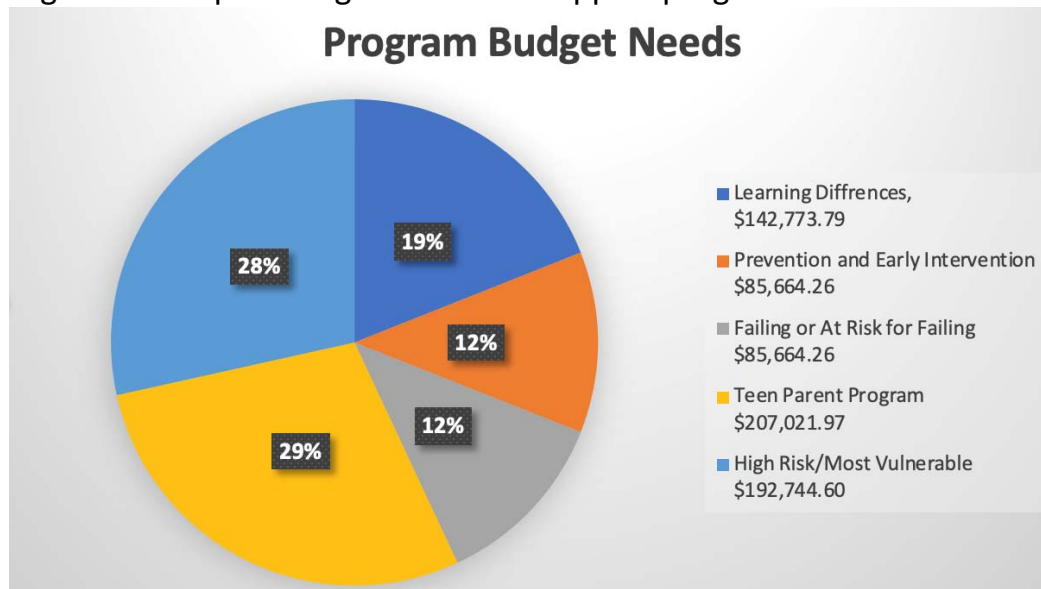
**Youth who are identified as high risk**, those who are not allowed on school campuses but are doing work at home, those who are on long term suspensions, those who have escaped the DOE system out of fear of being reported to DHS for truancy through a homeschool exemption but are not actively doing homeschool has been Maui Hui Malama’s primary focus for years and are one of the highest needs populations in our community. This population falls in to the most vulnerable and it is imperative to support them before they follow the expected statistics of incarceration, poverty, domestic violence and more.

[Hear Kelo's Story here](#)

Lower school keiki are supposed to love learning and yet many of them start to become frustrated with school work at a young age. **Prevention and early intervention** are imperative at this age. It minimizes the future needs and risks for a child. The outcomes we have gotten with this population shows an increase in a desire to learn in 96% of participants. Families are asking for more program like our pilot Welcome Wednesdays.

[See how we expand learning for prevention and early intervention](#)

We have placed different programs into 1 grant application versus various applications for a single program therefore the increase in ask. Each population is in dire need and there are no other organizations providing educational support programs for each of these populations.



We appreciate your willingness to view these populations independently.

*Mahalo*



**Chelsie Evans**  
Executive Director, Maui Hui Malama  
(808) 244-5911 | [chelsie@mauihui.org](mailto:chelsie@mauihui.org)  
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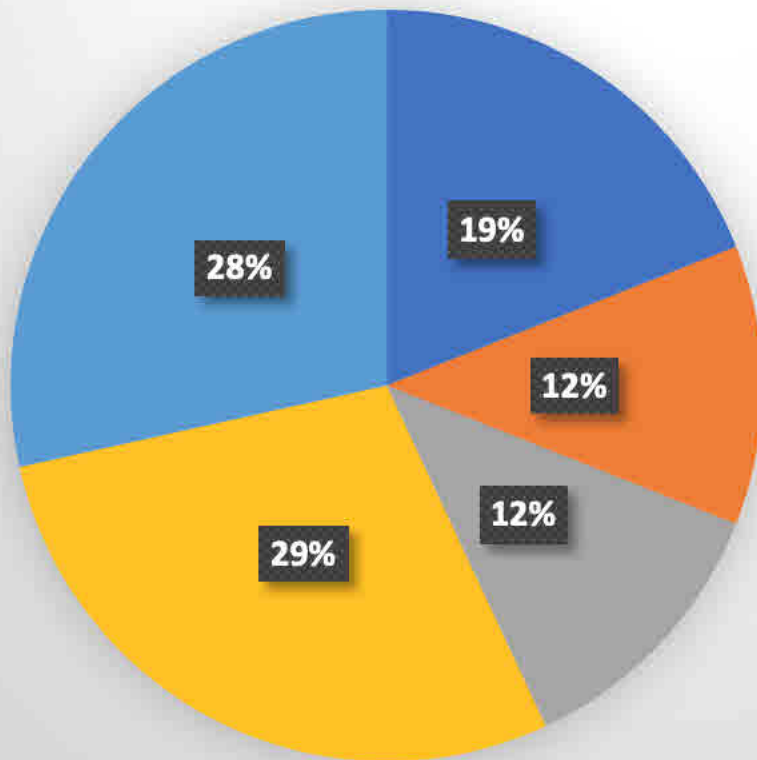




You  
Tube Hero for Keiki

Maui Hui Malama is committed to the equality of educational opportunity and does not discriminate in offering access to its educational programs and activities on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national origin, religion, creed, disability, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression.

# Program Budget Needs



- Learning Diffrences,  
\$142,773.79
- Prevention and Early Intervention  
\$85,664.26
- Failing or At Risk for Failing  
\$85,664.26
- Teen Parent Program  
\$207,021.97
- High Risk/Most Vulnerable  
\$192,744.60

## EDB Committee

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**From:** Punahale Welch <punagirlmaui@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 01, 2020 3:21 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** PYCC funding

Aloha,

My name is Punahale Welch. I have 2 children that attend Paia Youth & Cultural Center. My daughter Milan is 12 & my son Elijah is 9. I'm writing to ask that the funding for the PYCC maintain the same budget. My children have really blossomed since attending PYCC over the past 5 months. When I enrolled them, I did so with the hopes that they would get a chance to step out of their comfort zone of being in the house on their electronics all day. Since joining PYCC my daughter has participated in artistic programs with her favorite being the PYCC radio station. My son has especially shown growth making lots of friends, breaking out of his introverted ways by playing pool with other keiki, & he especially loves cooking in the PYCC kitchen with the staff! I was fortunate enough to go to PYCC when I was in middle school & know the value of the center. I loved attending & am so happy my children get to experience it as well as make life long memories there. Again, please continue turning the Paia youth & cultural center with the same budget so all the keiki on the north shore have a fun, safe place to hang out.

Mahalo Nui loa,  
Punahale Welch  
Sent from my iPhone



## EDB Committee

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**From:** Seth Sherman <magicofseth@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 02, 2020 9:18 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** PYCC Testimony

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

To Whom It May Concern,

This testimony is to request that the funding levels remain the same for the Pa`ia Youth & Cultural Center as they have been or increased.

The PYCC is an important part of our family and has been a key resource for making Maui our home. Our child attends an online school and our immediate neighborhood does not have many children the same age. This has not only provided challenges in his ability to make new friends, but also added stressors to our entire family.

The PYCC was highly recommended to us from multiple groups of people wherever we went. Upon our first time there we were warmly welcomed, kids our son's age asked him to go play, and we instantly felt at ease with leadership, surroundings, activities, and safety the PYCC provided. We truly appreciate their guidelines and rules when it comes to language, behavior, video games, skateboarding, and community involvement.

Since we have been coming to the PYCC, we have seen rules enforced, children cooperating together, several different activities being participated in, and overall happy kids doing fun activities. We cannot thank the staff at PYCC or this Committee enough for this amazing outlet for our child. It honestly has been the best thing Maui has offered for our child AND our family.

Thank you for supporting this important community resource!

—Seth, Miriah, and Davek

## EDB Committee

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**From:** carrie driftwoodmaui.com <carrie@driftwoodmaui.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 02, 2020 11:00 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** RE: PYCC

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Aloha,

PYCC provides a valuable service to the youth of our community. Please continue with funding levels to keep this beloved accept of our community alive.

PYCC provides a safe and positive place for kids to hang out with each other and it's wonderful staff. There are so many fantastic activities to keep the kids engaged, like - cooking, crafting, videography, editing and design, the list goes on. The Hero's Project also provides the kids with valuable insight to being Pono and giving back.

I can not say enough good things about the PYCC. It is an essential part of life for many of Maui's youth.

Best,

DRIFTWOOD  
MAUI

Carrie Gebb | Owner

1152 Makawao AVE  
Makawao HI 96768  
808-573-1152



## EDB Committee

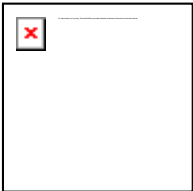
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**From:** Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā <huionawai4@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 03, 2020 11:58 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Fwd: Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā Testimony re Mayor Victorino FY2021 Budget Proposal - WWC System Infrastructure  
**Attachments:** Hui Testimony re Maui County FY20-21 Budget Proposal - WWC Repairs-Maintenance (4-3-2020).pdf

Aloha e Budget Chair and County Council Members,  
attached is our Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā testimony regarding Mayor Victorino's FY2021 Budget Proposal - WWC System Infrastructure Upgrades. Please let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

me ke aloha,  
Hōkūao (President)

Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā  
213 West Waikō Road  
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[Huionawai4@gmail.com](mailto:Huionawai4@gmail.com)  
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[www.restorestreamflow.org](http://www.restorestreamflow.org)



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# Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā

*Ola i kapa wai* [WWW.HUIONAWAIEHA.ORG](http://WWW.HUIONAWAIEHA.ORG)

## Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā Board of Directors

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Kōnane Awo DelaNux  
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## Maui Tomorrow (Collaborator)

Albert Perez  
(Executive Director)

## Legal Counsel

Isaac Moriwake  
(Earthjustice)

Pamela W. Bunn  
(Dentons for OHA)

April 3, 2020

Aloha e Maui County Council Budget Chair, Council Members and Staff,

Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā was recently made aware that Mayor Victorino is proposing \$2.5 million dollars towards the improvement of the Wailuku Water Company System in his FY-2021 Budget.

Since our establishment in 2003, Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā is a well-respected and engaged community non-profit organization on Maui. The Hui represents over 50 predominantly Native Hawaiian kuleana land owners, wetland/dryland kalo and diversified farmers from Waihe'e to Waikapū, many of whom are solely dependent on the Wailuku Water Co. water distribution system. We also have a membership of over 700 community members throughout Maui, most of which are in the Wailuku/Nā Wai 'Ehā area and utilize potable water that derives from the Maui County 'Īao Water Treatment Facility which is fed by the WWC 'Īao-Waikapū Ditch. For these reasons and many others, we are considered a major stakeholder in this WWC system and decisions and projects around infrastructural maintenance, upgrades and overall distribution.

The current administration has not formerly and directly engaged with Hui leadership in any of its dealings with WWC and/or State over the acquisition of said watershed lands and water distribution system with the exception of a single brief meeting with Managing Director Sandy Baz in 2019. We are concerned that we are being left out of key discussions and decision making as it relates to the future of this system, especially if the County and/or State acquires it. While we have supported the acquisition of the WWC by the County, we have stated on numerous occasions that as a major community stakeholder, the Hui needs to be engaged with by the County administration over key details regarding the current state of the system, something that Wailuku Water Co. has been unwilling to provide to the County in a transparent manner.

It is imperative that there is consistent engagement with the Hui due to the fact that we have extensive insight, on the ground water resource management knowledge and expertise as to where infrastructural repairs and upgrades are best suited. This is why we were surprised to hear of this \$2.5 million dollar proposal with very little to no details or a plan. A major concern that Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā has, is that the WWC watershed lands and water distribution acquisition by the County and/or State has not transpired and will not likely happen within the next 6 months to a year. With that said, it is unclear as to whether or not this \$2.5 million dollars being proposed by Mayor Victorino is going to be procured directly to WWC for them to initiate infrastructural upgrades/repairs. If this is so, Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā

Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā (501c3) • 213 West Waikō Road, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793  
(808) 430-4534 • [Huionawai4@gmail.com](mailto:Huionawai4@gmail.com) • [www.huionawaieha.org](http://www.huionawaieha.org) •  

*The Mission of Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā is to advocate for the restoration and stewardship of mauka to makai streamflow in Waikapū, Wailuku, Waiehu, Waihe'e Streams (Nā Wai 'Ehā), to protect cultural and natural resources pertaining to traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiian kuleana kalo farmers and to engage the Maui community in water resource management education outreach programs.*

**strongly objects** to any and all funds for infrastructural upgrades to be distributed directly to WWC. Wailuku Water Co. does not have the where with all, staff, funds, etc.. to conduct these upgrades and have rarely if ever, since their inception, collaborated or engaged with the 50 plus users that we represent and rely on their distribution and to address their critical needs. For example, the South Waihe'e kalo farmers and kuleana users experience their water distribution system being impacted on a regular basis, in which their water gets cut off or there is insufficient flow. Never is their communication whatsoever to these 20 plus users on the status of water interruption. Water users along Kalua Drive in Wailuku constantly see minimal to no flow in their kuleana 'auwai system. The same happens for users in Waikapū who receive water off of the 'Īao-Waikapū system. These are just a few example of what is currently happening. Furthermore, while their system is dilapidated from Waihe'e to Waikapū, Wailuku Water Co. is illegally dumping water from the Waihe'e Ditch into dry gulches in Pale'a'ahu Gulch. See - <https://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2020/02/company-faces-25k-fine-over-alleged-water-wasting/>

Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā completely acknowledges that certain infrastructural upgrades of the Wailuku Water Company system is needed, however we **will not support** any and all proposed funds for the County to be transferred over to WWC to conduct these improvements themselves. Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā **will support** a County water system infrastructural budget proposal that will:

- 1) Ensure that all funds are retaining by the County and not procured to Wailuku Water Co.
- 2) development of a comprehensive Nā Wai 'Ehā water distribution system management plan that includes Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā as a major stakeholder and consultant in the process and includes but is not limited to: community engagement, in-stream and ditch monitoring systems, kuleana 'auwai maintenance – management - upgrades, innovative engineering/infrastructural system upgrades that ensure in-stream mauka to makai connectivity, traditional and customary rights access, native eco-system improvements and increase habitat of native aquatic species.

Mahalo nui for your time and we hope that the County Council and especially that of the Maui County Administration will work with Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā on these important matters moving forward. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Hōkūao Pellegrino  
(President)

Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā (501c3) • 213 West Waikō Road, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793  
(808) 430-4534 • Huionawai4@gmail.com • [www.huionawaieha.org](http://www.huionawaieha.org) •  

*The Mission of Hui o Nā Wai 'Ehā is to advocate for the restoration and stewardship of mauka to makai streamflow in Waikapū, Wailuku, Waiehu, Waihe'e Streams (Nā Wai 'Ehā), to protect cultural and natural resources pertaining to traditional and customary practices of Native Hawaiian kuleana kalo farmers and to engage the Maui community in water resource management education outreach programs.*

## EDB Committee

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**From:** grace pretre <gracelovemaui@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 03, 2020 2:16 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony for the FAM2020 program

Aloha,

Thank you for your time to read my testimony and for the opportunity to share my concern & request.

My name is Grace Pretre, I live in the Moku of Hana, in the Ahupua'a of Kaeleku and I am a beginning farmer. So far I have planted many fruit trees, pineapples, kalo, ulu, uala, medicinal herbs & vegetables. I also have bees and plan on making herbal medicinal products for my community and the world. Contributing to the conservation of native species & culture is of great importance to me. My vision is to create an educational center on my farm, a place of learning for the next generation of farmers.

I was lucky to find out about the FAM program last summer, from dear friends who graduated from it and raved about how life changing and amazing it was. They have since started their own farm and are totally motivated to grow organic food for our island.

Being in the FAM program has been life changing and so valuable, I cannot thank Phyllis & Georgia enough. The flow of this program is so beautiful and the mentors are amazing. I have learned so much and have been able to implement a lot of it on my farm, where I am quickly noticing the difference! I truly did not know how important soil building is, the role of the micro-organisms in the soil, composting, worm castings and all.

I love both the class time and the hands on learning on the various farms, including the Hawaiian cultural aspects that are beautifully interwoven and bring more awareness into this program.

To be part of this FAM network of farmers has made all the difference and I believe a program like this needs full support here in Maui County and on all islands. This is the key to food security & sustainability of our islands economy.

Unfortunately, our FAM2020 program came to a halt because of the corona virus, but also because of a conflict between HFUU and the 2 beautiful & hardworking leaders of the program, Phyllis & Georgia. We all received an email from Vincent Mina via Anabella Bruch, letting us know that they fired Phyllis & Georgia. That was very upsetting to our entire cohort and such a shock. I feel it is a very unfair & wrong decision.

HFUU, which claims to own this program, has not been involved at all since FAM started. Instead, because of their own inner conflicts and lack of collaboration, they have made funds unavailable to support the expansion of FAM to Molokai, as Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez requested, therefore leaving the program understaffed. HFUU has refused all communication & mediation requests from Phyllis & Georgia and have handled this conflict very unprofessionally.

Therefore I am in full support of FAM becoming it's own program, independent from HFUU and run by it's own 501(c)3. FAM has a strong network in our community and will be more supported by all as it's own organization, since many have left HFUU for various reasons.

Thank you for considering both my concern & my request, as something very wrong is happening that needs correcting. I hope you can help us, mahalo.

With much aloha,

Grace Pretre