

## EDB Committee

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**From:** Courtney Walsh <courtneywalsh86@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 19, 2020 7:12 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** Melanie Padgett  
**Subject:** The Maui County Child Care Subsidy Program

To Whom It May Concern:

There truly aren't enough words to convey how thankful our family is for the aid we've received from the Maui County Child Care Subsidy. I wish I could tell you in person what an incredible gift this program has been for our family, especially for our daughter Lucy. This was Lucy's last year in preschool and I do hope the program continues next year, so other families might get to experience this wonderful blessing.

This year, we have seen Lucy develop into an enthusiastic learner with a lively spirit. She has integrity and takes pride in having responsibilities. She is growing beautifully, and this program has played a very large role in allowing her to do so. My husband works for Trilogy Excursions as the Captain for their Discover Lanai'i trips. This means he is on Lanai'i 5 days a week with VERY early check-in times. I am a part time bookkeeper for Leilani's on the Beach while caring full-time during the week for our second daughter Piper (3). Even with both of us working, there really was no way we could afford to provide Lucy with this opportunity. This aid has allowed us to not go into any further debt. It has helped greatly with carrying the financial burden of trying to live here on Maui, where my husband was born and raised and still provide Lucy with opportunities to learn and grow. This program has been the most incredible blessing for our family, and again I cannot thank you enough!

Warmest Aloha,  
Courtney Walsh

## EDB Committee

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**From:** Executive Director <edirector@mauionstage.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2020 8:22 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** EDB-1 Proposed FY2021 Budget, Maui County - Support for the Performing Arts on Maui

Aloha,

I am the Executive Director for Maui OnStage at the Historic Iao Theater. Maui OnStage is also a member of the Wailuku Performing Arts Alliance (WPAA).

I am writing in to request in the deliberation process for the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Budget that the performing arts community here in Maui County is remembered and monies allotted.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been a financial disaster for all the performing arts organizations here in Maui County. While “extras” such as theater, dance, music are often the first to go for people when things get tight, the importance of the performing arts to the psyche and soul of a community is immeasurable.

The arts is what makes us HUMAN.

In 2021, Maui County will have entered into our “new normal”. I would like to see that our vitally important performing arts community is not forgotten.

Mahalo,

**Luana Whitford-Mitchell**

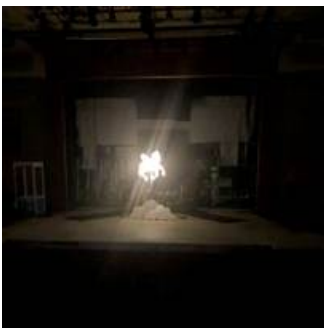
*Executive Director*

Maui OnStage at the Historic Iao Theater

68 N. Market St., Wailuku, HI 96793

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## EDB Committee

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**From:** Lin McEwan <lin@proartsmaui.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 22, 2020 12:58 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** E-Testimony for Maui County Fiscal Year 2021 Budget deliberations

Aloha,

Due to an internet issue upcountry, I was unable to virtually attend the MEDB meeting yesterday morning. For that reason, I would like to introduce myself and offer testimony via email. My name is Lin McEwan, and I am the Executive Director of ProArts Playhouse in Kihei.

I am writing in order to advocate for the consideration of the arts during the budget celebrations for the coming fiscal year. Maui is blessed with an unusually rich and diverse artistic community and scene. It is one of the characteristics that makes our island home so loved by those who live here and our long-term visitors.

As the economic recovery process begins, we recognize of course that priority must be placed on human services and other essential businesses. However, as we attempt to reinvigorate the economy of this island, the arts has played and will play a large role in allowing our community to process and deal with the unprecedented crisis that has befallen us. The arts offer hope as well as catharsis, a means to stay sane in an insane situation. Who among us hasn't binge watched a show, read a book, or watched a streaming event or play during this crisis? Perhaps more importantly, the arts is an economic force in this country, albeit a commonly overlooked one. For example, within our place of business, our theater significantly stimulates revenue at many of the other surrounding businesses, particularly restaurants and bars.

Although the arts community is standing strong and receiving the support of the community, a full recovery may not be possible without the support and assistance of our government. We therefore humbly request that you remember and consider the vital role of the arts when making your deliberations, so that we can continue to do our part in helping Maui to come out of this crisis as strong and well-rounded as ever.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,

Lin McEwan, Executive Director

**ProArts Playhouse, Maui**

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