

CAR.Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 10:37 AM
To: CAR.Committee
Subject: FW: Testimony for 5/18 CAR Committee meeting
Attachments: counciltestimonymeeting51520.docx

From: Jeff Stark <jstark@maui.net>
Sent: Friday, May 15, 2020 10:36 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Testimony for 5/18 CAR Committee meeting

Aloha:

Please forward the attached file to the CAR Committee.

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Testimony for Maui County Council Climate Action and Resiliency meeting – 5/18/20

Aloha Maui County Council Members:

I am writing to request that you support the establishment of the Office of *Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency*, which is on today's agenda.

I believe that this position in the Mayor's office is absolutely vital to the continued development of an aggressive and effective program to combat many of the environmental issues which are now afflicting Maui. The fact is that the negative changes in our global climate are becoming more numerous, more serious and more interrelated. Indeed, it is virtually impossible to address one issue without also touching on many other associated issues. This is one of the main reasons that I, and most of my , have been working for many years, in some cases decades, towards a coordinated and effective selection of campaigns to highlight and attack issues that include marine, terrestrial, agricultural atmospheric and many other categories of environmental alarm.

In many cases developing a campaign to deal with a particular issue can be rendered less effective than it should be when more than one organization is devoted to working on an issue which is also the focus of another organization. This parallel but not connected phenomenon often leads to duplicative work, difficulties in hiring qualified investigators and administrators and difficulties in obtaining adequate funding from both government and private funding sources. I believe that if the phenomenon embodied in the Office of Climate Change is established here it will give us, as a community, an enviable ability to focus our collective energy and knowledge on environmental problems that are now global.

With all of this in mind I urge you to support this important new tool which will enable us all to continue our work to keep Maui a powerful example of effective environmentalism.