

HFC Committee

From: Felicitas B Livaudais <Felicitas.B.Livaudais@kp.org>
Sent: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 6:01 PM
To: Yukilei Sugimura; Riki Hokama; Maui_County Council_mailbox; HFC Committee
Cc: Karen Worthington
Subject: Position: Maui County should provide financial and other resources to support families and children suffering from negative social and economic impacts of Coronavirus

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Position: Maui County should provide financial and other resources to support families and children suffering from negative social and economic impacts of Coronavirus

Dear Committee Chair Riki Hokama, Vice Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura, and Committee Members:

As a pediatrician of almost 20 years in Maui, I have seen the negative impacts of the pandemic in the families I serve. I believe with resources and creativity, we can find ways safe ways to develop community resilience and truly embody the spirit of aloha.

Please re-open schools. Schools are not only a place for education but can be the social safety net for many of our families. We live in a great climate which would make outdoor schools feasible, even in winter. So many families are stressed about virtual school, poor internet connection, and children unable to pay attention. I care for a family with seven kids, five of them trying to study virtually, 2 toddlers at home... can you imagine? The other day, I saw a patient in foster care who was painfully thin. He said his foster mom lost their SNAP card, but he was happy since he got a bag of groceries from the food distribution the other day, so they would have something to eat. The social worker told me she would take care of it, but she seemed surprised and unknowing of his challenges. Schools can provide nourishing meals to our keikis who we need to invest in. It sounds cliché, but **they are our future**. The nobel laureate in economics , Dr. Heckman, analyzed investing in disadvantaged children yields a 13% return on investment per child, per anum through better education, economic, health and social outcomes. That is better than the stock market. Perhaps we can have unemployed chefs and people in the food industry create meals for the kids at school and allow them to bring home food for their ohanas. Or help our unemployed adults become contact tracers, etc.. there are so many possibilities for supporting our families. Since I am making a wish list, please support our local non-profits and re-train people so we are not so reliant on the tourist economy.

I know you are all being thoughtful and many people are reaching out to you. I truly appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,

Felicitas B. Livaudais MD

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