



Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

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October 21, 2020

Councilmember Mike Molina
Maui County Council
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

RE: Social Host Liability Regulations

Dear Councilmember Molina:


I am writing in response to your October 8, 2020 correspondence regarding the community impact of alcohol-free Project Graduation events.

The Project Graduation grant funds are used to subsidize alcohol-free events that are held on graduation night for graduating high school students throughout Maui County. These events are intended to keep graduates safe and sober, and prevent drinking and driving. Similar events are held in numerous communities throughout the United States.

In 2015, the County of Maui Housing and Human Concerns Department approached MEO to administer the Project Graduation grant. The student participation rate has increased over the past four years. Unfortunately, we do not have any statistics to show there has been a decrease in drunk driving incidents as a result of Project Graduation events. Perhaps that is information you can get from the Maui Police Department.

I can say, as a parent and former Project Grad Committee member and chair for Maui High School from 2002-2009, I saw firsthand the positive impact of this event. I remember one young man who didn't really seem to have a group of close friends attending, but he got caught up in the excitement and interacted with classmates that he didn't know that well. The next morning while waiting for his ride home, he told me that this was the best night of his life, and was a very different way for him to "party". That made an impression on me as a parent and community member. So much of celebrating anything is tied to alcohol. Project Grad events teach graduates that you don't need alcohol to have fun. The hope is, this message will stay with them into the future.

Please let me know if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

Debbie Cabebe, SPHR
Chief Executive Officer

The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.

