

# MINUTES

of the

## PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON

APRIL 17, 2020

THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII, CONVENED A PUBLIC HEARING ON FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2020 AT 6:32 P.M., VIA BLUEJEANS EVENTS, WITH CHAIR ALICE L. LEE PRESIDING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2020 TO JUNE 30, 2021.

## ROLL CALL

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS G. RIKI HOKAMA, NATALIE A. KAMA, KELLY T. KING, MICHAEL J. MOLINA, TAMARA A.M. PALTIN, SHANE M. SINENCI, YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, VICE-CHAIR KEANI N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ AND CHAIR ALICE L. LEE.

CHAIR ALICE L. LEE: And I'm here with all my chickadees. We leave nobody behind. Okay, so we have a number of people here ready to testify.

So, Madam Clerk, will you please explain the rules.

COUNTY CLERK KATHY L. KAOHU: Okay, prior to that I just want to announce that there are nine Members present, and a quorum is present to conduct the business of the Council.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. or Madam Clerk, for the record, was the hearing notice for this meeting published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County.

COUNTY CLERK: Yes, Madam Chair, the Hearing Notice was published in the Maui News on March 31, and April 7, 2020.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Madam Clerk. Please proceed with public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chair, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, excuse me, we have a question.

Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, I just got a text from, there's some people waiting on BlueJeans but they're in the wrong meeting and they said Yuki is with them. So there's some people, the wrong site and, that need help. So I don't know if we can put something up on the screen and have, show where they should link into or if I can just forward these people to James.

CHAIR LEE: Alright, thank you for letting us know. James will take care of it.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Madam Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you, Chair. Proceeding with the presentation of testimony. Members of the public may testify by connecting to the Council's online meeting by phone or video conference through the information posted on the hearing notice.

Individuals connected to the Council's online meeting will be called on to testify. If you are connected by video conference, staff will send you a request to interact live when it comes close to your time to testify. Clicking on that request will prompt you to download the BlueJeans Events application if you do not have it. If you do not have it installed, please download the application and install it. Once it is installed you can accept the request to interact live, which will allow you to testify.

Individuals intending to testify by video conference can prepare now by downloading and installing the BlueJeans Event application from [BlueJeans.com/downloads](https://bluejeans.com/downloads). Individuals intending to testimony by phone are currently mute. Staff will unmute you when it is your turn to testimony.

After your testimony is completed, we ask that you disconnect and view the remainder of the meeting on [mauicounty.us](https://mauicounty.us) or on Akaku Channel 53. Testifiers utilizing video conference will be demoted back to attendee status after their testimony is completed. Testifiers calling in will be muted after their testimony is completed as well.

We also ask testifiers who do not intend to testify, to disconnect from the meeting and watch it on Akaku Channel 53 or on [mauicounty.us](https://mauicounty.us).

Testimony is limited to the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 Budget and Capital Program. When testifying, please state your name and the name of any organization you represent. Please also, please also identify to the Council, if you are a paid lobbyist.

Chair, based on the individuals currently connected to the meeting, we have ten testifiers. And the first person to testify in the chambers is Shay Chan Hodges, to be followed by RJ Salacup.

CHAIR LEE: Not in the chamber, yeah.

COUNTY CLERK: The virtual chambers.

CHAIR LEE: The virtual chamber, right.

### PRESENTATION OF TESTIMONY

MS. SHAY CHAN HODGES:

Am I on?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. CHAN HODGES: Hello, am I on?

CHAIR LEE: Yes, you are.

MS. CHAN HODGES: Oh, sorry. Okay, aloha my name is Shay Chan Hodges, and I am the co-organizer of the Maui ESG Project. I am asking for your support for projects, the projects phase 2 connecting capital deployment to community need. The goal of this phase is to diversify Maui's economy and create jobs that pay a living wage, which is a significant need for the people of Maui County in the wake of COVID-19.

To achieve these goals, the Maui ESG Project will take immediate concrete actions that support the deployment of capital into identified investment projects within Maui County that address community needs, particularly job creation and integrate ESG, environmental, social and good governance standards and ahupua`a values.

On January 31, and February 1, over 120 participants gathered at UH Maui College for the Ahupua`a Investment Summit. The Summit was very successful in terms of building up knowledge and skill sets for the residents, and ESG and investment

practitioners who attended, attended, and for building vital ongoing relationships between community members and investment experts who now have firsthand understanding of Maui's challenges and opportunities, and who have a personal interest in our success.

Maui County is facing unprecedented economic stressors in addition to the immediate unemployment and loss of revenues resulting from the COVID-19 crisis. Even when the State is able to open the economy to tourist, there will be a drastic reduction in revenues as millions of potential visitors cut back on leisure spending such as vacations.

The Maui ESG Project is therefore developing strategies to address the following needs: short to medium term economic activity that is compliant to COVID-19 mitigation strategies; creation of jobs not reliant on outside discretionary spending; increased local control over productive assets to build community wealth; and long-term economic viability for working family.

In order to implement these strategies, the project will establish a capital deployment for community needs task force which will include Ahupua`a Investment Summit participants as well as additional community members, institutional investors, business leaders, foundations, entrepreneurs, and ESG investment practitioners. The task force will provide expert identification and analysis of investment opportunities in agriculture, renewable energy, technology, and other areas that can result in the creation of good jobs and meet other community needs while upholding ahupua`a values and ESG standards.

Identification of sources of capital that can be invested in these opportunities to meet community needs, and rapid responses to questions from policy makers and issues raised by the community related to local, national, and international policies and economic trends, particularly those resulting from COVID-19.

I believe that every Member of this Council knows how critical it is to begin diversifying Maui County's economy. Phase 2 of the Maui ESG Project will help you to achieve this objective. Thank you for your consideration. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Are there any questions?

Yes, Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How much are you asking for Ms. Chan Hodges?

MS. CHAN HODGES: \$150,000.



COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thank you.

MS. CHAN HODGES: You're welcome.

CHAIR LEE: Anyone else?

Yes, Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you. Is this already in the Mayor's Budget?

MS. CHAN HODGES: No, it is not.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Did you get, is it requested by one of the other Councilmembers?  
Do you know?

MS. CHAN HODGES: Yes, it is.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, thank you.

MS. CHAN HODGES: You're welcome.

CHAIR LEE: Anybody else? If not, Madam Clerk?

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you, Chair. Next up to testify is RJ Salacup, followed by Jay Wright.

CHAIR LEE: Could you repeat that name, Madam Clerk?

COUNTY CLERK: RJ Salacup.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, let's move on to the next one.

COUNTY CLERK: Okay, Jay Wright, followed by Leonard Nakoa.

MR. JAY WRIGHT:

Aloha, Council. It's an honor to join you. My name is Jay Wright, I live in Lahaina and I pastor Lahaina Baptist Church. The reason for my testimony this evening before you is in concern with the Mayor's proposed \$3.5 million for the tourist bureau. What's especially concerning to me, particularly in reference as the Mayor did share is the quickest way for us to bounce back. What is of concern to me is we've been working

as a church for the last month doing everything we can to scrape monies, to provide food for families, our kupuna, and shut-ins during this pandemic.

I've recently learned an incredible lesson, and let me explain it to you. When we first started this, there was an abundance of food made available to us at a steep discount because of the closure of so many restaurant and resorts. Since that food has passed its use time, I'm now ordering food for families. And mind you just this past week we served over 450 boxes of food in just one day, and delivered up to 100 boxes on Tuesday.

As of today and this morning, my recent conversations with food suppliers, they're looking at what is available on our island and I'm told from every resource, it's low. Furthermore I am told to understand that I need to start preparing to pay market prices because the food needs to be shipped in. What's of concern to me, particular in reference to the increase, the 3.5 million in particular, I think he's requesting 500,000 additionally.

What's of concern to me, is the lack of focus on agriculture here in Maui. We clearly don't have enough food that's available or perhaps, I could be in error and there is plenty of food and just those people who are providing it, supplying it, are not known to me. However, what's of tremendous concern is I see a lot of households, too many that really, they're greatest need is not someone flying to this island to visit and spend a tourist dollar. Their greatest need is looking at their family and putting a meal on the table.

So I humbly request this Council do all that you can to look within the budget, whether it's this item for the Visitor Bureau, or any other item and seriously consider investing in the wonderful families that are here, that have the space and the land that's available to provide food for the people that live on this island that are so wonderful. And I thank God for the privilege to serve and to live amongst. Thank you very much.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any questions? If not, thank you very much for coming.

Madam Clerk?

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you, Chair. Next to testify is Leonard Nakoa, followed by--

MR. LEONARD NAKOA:

Can you hear me.

COUNTY CLERK: Sorry, followed by phone number, last four digits 8919, 8919. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Leonard, are you there?

MR. NAKOA: I ready. Okay, you ready?

CHAIR LEE: Ready.

MR. NAKOA: Yeah, same thing with that, the, the pastor guy. Yeah, um, the \$3.5 million for tourism, we should look for the thing going to farming and all that stuff cause that's what, that's what the local people doing right now. You know, they getting into growing their own stuff here in their, their yards like that, but if we can get more of our qualified farmers to take care us here on Maui, we no need ship the buggah in.

And then, I was doing travel agent stuff online and I when stop my travel on March 13, and my team, they all when stop too, cause when they . . . I told them kind of like eh, we no like um here on Maui blah, blah, blah, they stop um. So they kind of when follow suit. But what I'm saying is the \$3.5 million no need go to tourism for advertising for get the people for come back because I going tell you right now, I get, online they all cannot wait to come back. So soon as, somebody tell um that this is open, we don't need, you know what I mean, they going come.

Even get that other site, the Maui Bound, go look, go look on top that, they all waiting for come. So that \$3.5 million, we don't need put um into this, this area of tourism, where they going use um for advertisement for people for come, they coming. We got to be ready, we, Maui people got to get ready. You guys got to make um slow they come. Take it, you know, take um in small phases so we no get one heart attack, you know, Maui no get one heart attack.

Right now, our, the, the roads is like our vains, they flowing, they get to, they doing good. But, with all that cars coming again is going be a heart attack. Just do um slow, no need put money to tourism right now, let's put um into farming, taking care of like pastor's church, small businesses that feed the people. Also, put um into education for our kids from either the, when they, before they go to the kindergarten to, to they graduate. My kids graduate so I pau, I no need worry. Okay, mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any questions? If not thank you very much, Leonard.

Madam Clerk.

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you, Chair. I've just been informed that 8919 is Member Sinenci.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, he's not going to testify.

COUNTY CLERK: So, our next testifier is phone caller with the last four digits of 0147, 0147.

CHAIR LEE: Do we have someone out there with the last four digits of your phone number 0147. If not, Madam Chair *[sic]*, proceed.

COUNTY CLERK: Okay, we'll, continuing on. Next up to testify is--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: RJ Salacup came back in.

COUNTY CLERK: --Mike Wildberger.

CHAIR LEE: Could you repeat the name, please.

COUNTY CLERK: Mike Wildberger, followed by Debbie Hisashima.

MS. LUCIENNE DE NAIE:

Can you hear me.

CHAIR LEE: Yes. Could you say your name?

MS. DE NAIE: Can you hear me? This is Lucienne de Naie, can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. DE NAIE: Alright, can you, can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: We may as well take her. Yeah, go ahead, Lucienne.

MS. DE NAIE: Can you, can you guys hear me now?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. DE NAIE: Alright, yes, thank you. And I'll speak into my phone here. Thank you for your, yes, I can hear you fine. Yeah, yes, we can hear you. I can hear you. Alright, I'm testifying on behalf of the, of the Haiku Community Association and we . . .

CHAIR LEE: Could you speak louder. Lucienne, we can't hear you anymore.

MS. DE NAIE: --say that, you can't hear me anymore.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, now we can.

MS. DE NAIE: Okay, well I'll try from my phone. I was trying through the computer too. I'm testifying on behalf of the, yes I'm testifying on behalf of the Haiku Community Association. And we appreciate the hard work that the Council and the budget, and the Mayor have done on the budget. And we support a number . . . I'm testifying on behalf of, can you hear me now? I'm testifying on behalf of the . . .

CHAIR LEE: Lucienne, can you hear us?

MS. DE NAIE: I can hear you fine.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, the only time we can hear you is when you say, can you hear me now. And then we don't hear anything after that.

MS. DE NAIE: Wow, well we're getting a lost echo in here. I'm, I have a computer and the cell phone on. Let me move away from the computer. Can you hear now?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. DE NAIE: Can you hear me now.

CHAIR LEE: Can't she just call in?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: There's an echo on our side and so maybe Kathy needs to mute hers and her microphone in between.

COUNTY CLERK: What is that?

MS. DE NAIE: Oh, and I haven't spoken for a while because it's a time lag when I speak into the phone, it's already speaking on the screen and the computer. Yeah, can you guys hear at all?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mute your computer.

MS. DE NAIE: You hear my computer. Well, maybe I should just send in a written testimony, I hate to take up all your time here. But we, we support things for the Paia-Haiku community that had been added to the budget by our Councilmember Mike Molina. And we also support things that have been added to the budget by our East Maui

representative Shane Sinenci to battle invasive species and help take care of our environment.

And we really appreciate your consideration of listening to the folks from the community about the needs of the community. And we know you have very hard decisions to make because there is a lot of economic needs right now. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Okay, Kathy?

Mike Wildberger.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It looks like Mike Wildberger may have left. He said he got a date so just wanted to say you are doing great and as a business owner that has seen 60 percent drop in business due to lack of tourist, I say keep them out and plan for self-sufficiency.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you. So after Mike Wildberger was Debbie--

COUNTY CLERK: Debbie Hisashima.

CHAIR LEE: Hisashima.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And RJ Salacup also returned.

CHAIR LEE: Who returned?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He was the second or third testifier, RJ Salacup.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, Debbie. Well Debbie's on the screen right now. So we'll take Debbie first.

MS. DEBBIE HISASHIMA:

Okay. Okay, I'll go ahead and start. Can you all hear?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. HISASHIMA: Aloha, Maui Council. I am Debbie Hisashima, I am a teacher at Pukalani School and I'm here to testify on behalf of MEDB. Every school day I have the privilege to seeing the effects of MEDB's support on our children. But rather than me tell you

about it, would it be okay to share my screen and let you see a video collaboration of nine of our students on our Robotics team?

CHAIR LEE: Alright.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No objections.

MS. HISASHIMA: What's that? I'll give it a go, I hope it works. Oh shucks, it's saying add BlueJeans extension. Oh, my goodness, I don't think it's going to work. I need a special extension. So maybe I'm going to have to just send it in.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, that, that will be fine. That'll be fine.

MS. HISASHIMA: Yeah. Yeah, thanks for always supporting MEDB. Our students really do get a lot out of MEDB's support of their, of our students. Really, I see them becoming self-directed learners and complex thinkers, which really are the DOE's desired outcomes for all students.

We are sincerely thankful for your efforts and we hope to keep STEMworks, STEMworks Program in place at our school. It's our fourth year now and we want it to continue. So I'll send you that video later and you can all see that it's so cute. It's just about five minutes.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, great. Thank you. Are there any questions for Debbie? If not, thank you again.

MS. HISASHIMA: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Next. RJ Salacup. RJ are you there?

MR. RJ SALACUP:

Yes, I'm here.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, oh, it's your turn. Welcome.

MR. SALACUP: Good evening, Chairwoman Alice Lee and other County Councilmembers. My name is RJ Salacup, Maui High School, I'm a senior. I'm here to testify the importance that MEDB has given our Robotics club the chance to like take place in engineering. With the fund that MEDB has on our club is that we get to travel, it pays for like travel fees, our materials. It also helps us to grow like as a team.

I think that Debbie said MEDB Robotics, we participated in Ke Alahele, which we showcased our robot in STEMworks. We also use MEDB's funds for, to host our own robotics competition, which is VEX at our Maui High School gym, which gathers like the VEX teams around the State, helping them interact with one another, communicating, getting along. Just building the community around STEM field. And yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Very good. Thank you.

MR. SALACUP: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Any questions? If not, thank you very much, RJ for joining us.

MR. SALACUP: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Madam Clerk.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You're muted.

CHAIR LEE: 9980? Okay, next.

MS. RITA RYAN:

This, this is Rita Ryan. Am I being heard?

CHAIR LEE: Oh, well.

MS. RYAN: I was given video and audio so I'm not sure what's going on, if I'm next or.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, did you put your phone number down?

MS. RYAN: No, no, I came into BlueJeans with my name.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, that's fine, Rita, why don't you just go ahead and give your testimony.

MS. RYAN: Okay. Hi, I'm Rita Ryan, I'm with the Climate Reality, Hawaii, the Hawaii Chapter of the Climate Reality Project and 350Hawaii.org. I'm going to thank everybody for working late tonight to listen to public testimony on the budget items. And with that being said, what the hell with this BlueJeans, we had the wrong link, we had a bunch of testifiers on the wrong link. What was posted on the County website was for some



old meeting, EACP meeting and we had dozens of people over on the wrong call. A lot of them fell off so we are low on testifiers tonight that, that really should have been given a voice.

So that being said, I'll move on to what's going on here as far as what I would like to say to the County. So we're in a, you know, this pandemic economic situation right now which is killing our economy and tourism. This is a dress rehearsal for the climate crisis and what we're going to be experiencing in the climate crisis. It's now time to really reassess our economics here in Maui County and look at Maui County green new deal, where we can shift our economy instead of sending all of this money off of the island for food, all of this money off of the island for fossil fuel.

Let's keep that money. Let's invest in renewable energy projects. Let's invest in farming and agriculture here so we have food security. We need it now more than ever; we've got the pandemic and we've got the climate crisis situations coming right behind that. So I'm in support of the, sorry about that, I'm in support of the Food Security Hawaii, the Ohana Garden Project. I'm in support of the Emergency Management salaries which we are going to need these professionals. And we need to keep them because we won't be able to find them if we don't catch them now, and paying them an internship salary is not okay.

I'm also, I don't, I have item numbers, but I don't know the numbers because we weren't given the paperwork before the meeting but 90, 9183B, the \$175,000 and the additional \$50,000 for the shoreline management, we either pay now or we pay exponentially later for that. As far as the South Maui wetlands, you, you don't get your wetlands back once you use them. So 325,000 is a very small investment in the future, and in the future, and the future generations to save those wetlands and to save our environment.

The Mayor's \$3.5 million for tourism, no. Let's, tourism is not going to be our economy going forward for a long time. Let's reinvent our economy, put that money into renewable energy and agriculture.

As far as the HILT funding for the open space in Maalaea, \$500,000 for HILT, we are in support of that as well. We need to keep this space open, and that space is getting hit by wildfires and choking out the reefs. We need to prevent that.

So I think I've got it all wrapped up here, all of the items. But right now, we really have to look to this new economy, and this new economy in face of pandemics and climate crisis means keeping our, the money we have here on Maui, and keeping the economy self-sufficient and stop throwing our money away at fossil fuel and outside imported food when we're living in this paradise and we can grow our own food and feed our own people here. Thank you so much for your time tonight.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. And we apologize to you and everybody else who had a hard time joining us. This is our first time using this particular app and I appreciate your understanding. Are there any questions? If not, please call the next testifier.

I do have a message that there's no broadcasting on maucounty.us. Maybe James you can check on this while Kathy calls the next testifier, please.

COUNTY CLERK: Next to testify is telephone number, last four digits 6276. Followed by Tiare Lawrence. Telephone number 6276.

MS. MARISA FILLAZAR:

Hello, am I being heard?

CHAIR LEE: Yes, you are.

MS. FILLAZAR: Awesome, hello my name is Marisa Fillazar. I'm testifying on behalf of MEDB.

CHAIR LEE: Excuse me, what is your name again.

MS. FILLAZAR: My name is Marisa Fillazar.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Alright.

MS. FILLAZAR: Okay, good. Good evening. I'm a senior at Maui High School and a four-year Documenter of first robotics competition Team 2443 also known as Blue Thunder. Throughout the years MEDB has supported this team financially. During our FRC season, MEDB's funding has allowed us to pay for competition and robot shipping fees, travel, transportation and lodging. Because of this, our team can attend one regional competition in California and our home regional in Oahu annually. We are ever so fortunate enough last year we participate in the Houston World Championship. These competitions are an essential part of the FRC experience. At Regionals members can interact with peers from all over the world who have the same love and passion for STEM.

Using our FRC successes, Blue Thunder can appeal to potential new members at our feeder schools by showing them all the things we do in Robotics. They can decide if they would like to stay with STEM. Skills they learn include, but are not limited to learning the coding language JAVA, how to wire a robot, how to use basic machinery,

public speaking, and graphic design. Whether they follow through with the STEM field or take on a different path, our members are set with life skills to excel in any occupation.

MEDB provides us a separate grant, specifically for VEX. This grant allows us to hold and host the annual Maui VEX Tournament in our school's gym, where VEX teams from all over the State can compete for a spot at the championship. Unlike FRC, VEX is for the intermediate and high school students. Many of our high school members mentor the middle school teams, and intermediate school members have the chance to gain knowledge and experience from their high school superiors.

In contrast the high schoolers have an opportunity to practice their leadership skills. Our high school has also have been hosting a VEX IQ League for the past three years. VEX IQ is for elementary and intermediate school students. This league operates over a few months and is run by members of Blue Thunder on competition days. Some of their jobs include being referees, scorekeepers, manning the tournament manager system, and seeing and field . . . On behalf of 2443, and MEDB, I would like to say thank you for your continued support of MEDB's STEMworks program.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you very much for joining us. Are there any questions? If not, please call the next testifier.

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you, Chair. Next to testify is Tiare Lawrence. Tiare Lawrence is followed by telephone 9980.

MS. TIARE LAWRENCE:

Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Aloha.

MS. LAWRENCE: This time using BlueJeans. Aloha everybody, thank you so much for all the work that you guys have been putting. I know this is unprecedented times and just mahalo for all your guys hard work. I just wanted to come, I'm speaking on my own personal behalf and just share my manao.

I think you heard in previous testimony the need for us to really diversify our economy, and let's face it, right, tourism clearly is an unsustainable industry here in Hawaii. And right now is a perfect time for us to really take things serious and really look to diversifying our economy. With that being said, I would really urge the County Council to really look at agriculture as, as a means to diversifying our economy. And I would

say that, you know, in, in my experience talking to farmers and small businesses across Maui, the need truly is like the access to commercial kitchens and cold storage.

I would highly encourage Maui County to invest in a food, a food hub or a coop and marketing campaigns to eat local. To really help, you know, get locals to support, you know, people think eating local is like a loco moco and a spam musubi. But we really need to flip that switch and really encourage people to just really, you know, think differently and just starting to eat more `ai pono.

I think the County would see more of a return economically in supporting a food hub or a cooperative over a food security garden initiative. That's my own personal thinking because a lot of people on Maui don't have access to backyard farms or their experience in farming. And I would also just like to highlight the potential for value added food products on Maui, the, the potential to build, growing building materials and fruits and vegetables and seed crops, medicines, cosmetics, biofuels.

You know, and it is my hope that one day we all can fly over Maui in 20 years and see a mosaic of small family farms. And so I just would really highly encourage you folks to just kind of, you know, listen to the community. Climate change is a serious issue and I would really like to see us diversify our economy and learn from this pandemic and just, you know, take this as growing pains and make the changes needed to holomua and create a better future for our keiki. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Tiare. Are there any questions? If not, thank you for joining us.

MS. LAWRENCE: Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Aloha.

COUNTY CLERK: Next to testify is telephone last four digits, 9980, 9980.

MS. CHASITY CADAOS:

Aloha, can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Alright, your name.

MS. CADAOS: Hello.

CHAIR LEE: Hello, what is your name?

MS. CADAOS: Oh aloha, my name is Chasity Cadaos.

CHAIR LEE: Cassidy *[sic]*, could you speak a little louder please?

MS. CADAOS: Sure, can you guys hear me now?

CHAIR LEE: A little bit better.

MS. CADAOS: Hello. Better now?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. CADAOS: Okay. Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Chasity Cadaos and I'm testifying on behalf of Maui AIDS Foundation. Thank you for all of your hard work and for taking the time to hear my testimony tonight. I'm the Executive Director of Maui AIDS Foundation which is the only Aids service organization in Maui County. In our current environment, we continue to provide direct services to our clients with HIV by providing them with essential needs such as food and hygiene supplies, housing assistance, and medical care coordination to ensure they keep safe and healthy.

During normal working conditions, Maui AIDS Foundation with the support of the County of Maui provides free services to thousands in our community. Those services include no cost testing and education for HIV, Hepatitis C, and syphilis. We provide outreach services to some of our underserved populations, such as incarcerated individuals and intravenous drug users. We're also able to provide services to our rural communities in Hana and Molokai.

With the support of the County of Maui, we provide unique intervention programs that both support and empower our youth and men and women at risk for HIV. I truly believe the services and programs provided by Maui AIDS Foundation play a vital role in the overall health of our community. On behalf of Maui AIDS Foundation's clients, staff, and volunteers, I humbly ask that you strongly consider continuing your support of Maui AIDS Foundation. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, we have a question for you. Member King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair, for being here. I'm sorry I didn't catch your name?

MS. CADAOS: It's Chasity.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Chelsey [sic], but I, thank you for what you're doing for the Maui AIDS Foundation. I just wondered if, I heard that you were doing a lot of testing. Is it possible that you guys could develop the capacity to test for COVID-19 locally?

MS. CADAOS: It is a possibility; we work closely with Department of Health and we have been on their list.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, cause I would encourage you, we're, you know, we're so far behind on that, I would encourage you to maybe check in with the Department of Health and see if that's an area too, that we can give mutual support.

MS. CADAOS: I'll definitely do that, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chelsey [sic]. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Any other questions? If not, can we call the next testifier.

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you, Chair. Next testifier is last four digits of telephone number 1665, 1665. Followed by telephone last four digits 7637.

CHAIR LEE: Repeat.

COUNTY CLERK: Telephone 1665.

MS. VALERIE LASCIACK:

Can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. LASCIACK: Okay, I'm calling. Thank you for being there, thank you for working so late on a Friday night. But it's a very important question, how should we spend our money locally? And what's our best use of our money? I'm, I'm definitely in favor of saving this island from any kind of disaster when Matson or any of the shipping industries cannot provide the essentials that we need. And so I'm looking to rearrange our budget to accommodate the needs of our, our island so that we never face that disaster.

And I feel that the Ohana Garden is a very wonderful expression of how we can help provide for others and for ourselves, and I would encourage that part of your budget go to them so that we can become self-sufficient, more self-sufficient.

CHAIR LEE: Very good. Any, any questions?

Yes, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, I didn't, I didn't catch the testifier's name and if her item was on the Mayor's budget?

MS. LASCIACK: My name is Valerie Lasciack. I live in Wailuku.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And do you, do you know if you're--

MS. LASCIACK: I'm calling, is the Ohana Gardens, Ohana Gardens are on the budget. I've heard several people mention it, but I'm afraid I don't know whether, I'm not familiar with the items on the budget. I just wanted to let everybody know how important feeding ourselves and, and providing help so that we can be self-sufficient is, how important that is.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And did you know how much they are requesting?

MS. LASCIACK: I'm sorry, I don't. I heard something like \$150,000, but I don't, I'm not, I can't be quoted as that being a reality.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, thank you for joining us.

MS. LASCIACK: Thank you. Thank you for being there.

COUNTY CLERK: Next up to testimony is telephone 7637, 7637. Followed by Richard. 7637, last call 7637. 7637 you're unmuted now.

MS. FRANCINE AARONA :

Yes, can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. AARONA: Okay.

CHAIR LEE: Your name?

MS. AARONA: Yes, I can hear you now. Okay, okay. Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair and Councilmembers.

CHAIR LEE: Hi.

MS. AARONA: This is Auntie Mopsy.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, haven't heard from you in a while.

MS. AARONA: Yes. Well I want to say mahalo for your dedication in providing the community the opportunity to share their manao regarding our taxpayer's money and the budget. I am in opposition of this 3.5 million being earmarked for the Visitor's Bureau. Whether it's hearsay or just can't see all the line details to show that specific amount, I trust that our leaders, the information on social media which is the best way to find things if we want to research instead of the agenda.

But we have gone through almost a month of how it feels to downsize. It's like, cleaning house. You start to give away things that you haven't used within the year and share it with, with others in need. We have lived without the tourist industry for almost a month and it feels kind of nice. The rains has poured on us cleansing us, not only of our bodies and property, but also our minds. The cobwebs have been cleaned out so that we can think better to move forward.

That money that you want to give to the visitor industry can go to our community, our first responders, our teachers, our soon to be homeless, jobless and the list goes on. Now is the time to hang on to our money and use it for emergency purposes. I'm sure everyone has made a budget sheet as to how much money they are spending daily. My husband and I are retired, living on a fixed budget, but we have Ke Akua's blessings. We believe that we together will survive. Our families will survive because they believe.

My kuleana in my testimony is to convince you to believe. Do what is right for the community who put you in office. Listen to their testimony, but believe that your decision will get us through our new look and how we do business from now on. Mahalo for allowing me to share. Together we will rise again. Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Aloha, thank you for those inspiring words. Thank you.

Kathy.

COUNTY CLERK: Next to testify is Robert [sic], followed by anonymous. Richard?



CHAIR LEE: Okay, I think we need to hear from the next testifier.

COUNTY CLERK: Next testifier is listed in as anonymous.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think he left the call.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNTY CLERK: Next one.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah.

COUNTY CLERK: Next testifier is telephone last four digits 6559, I'm sorry 6659. Telephone 6659.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aunty Mopsy is not muted either. Somebody want to mute Aunty Mopsy?

CHAIR LEE: Can you mute from where you are? Okay. No just, just Aunty Mopsy, that's all. Okay, we still need to hear the next one.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK JAMES KRUEGER: What's her phone number.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, I have no idea. Okay, who's the next person?

COUNTY CLERK: Next in the lineup is Kaipo Kekona. Kaipo Kekona.

MR. KAIPO KEKONA:

Yeah, howzit, can you guys hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. KEKONA: Okay, awesome. Aloha mai kakou, Kaipo Kekona from Lahaina. I sit on the Hawaii Farmers Union, I'm the Chair for the Lahaina Chapter. I also am the management of KAEC in Lahaina, we are a educational farm site located on the lands, the legacy lands of Kamehameha Schools. We are 12 acres in size, a little bit bigger, 12 and a half acres in size, and we not only educate on multiple different farming practices, but we also provide an incubator site for interested farming or gardening people in our community.

We currently have four acres available with irrigation in place for people to come and take a, take a spot, take a space and, and give it a go and try to provide some food for your own household, your community, your families, however in whatever capacity you can feel capable of doing with the, with the understanding of working within the environment that we are. But that is above and beyond the subject.

I just think that the budget should be mainly focused towards all of the essential businesses or, or avenues that we have that we're acknowledging today and recognizing as, as an importance. And if we could take money towards that and expand those, those avenues or, or venues in, in ways that would increase employment. I'm still working now currently as a farmer. We could all still be having a lot of people still at work in the case of an event like this happening again.

We, we are on the budgets, on the Mayor's budget list I believe, and I would like to ask for your support in, in giving us, or supporting us in providing more for our communities. We just opened up two food hubs through our Union with Hana and the Haleakala Chapter. We already are at capacity where we cannot keep up with the people who want to demand for boxes. We just opened up our pilot, or just opened up this, this food hub system. We've been doing it at a farmer's market scale for a while.

We're looking at the infrastructure, like some of the testimony stated earlier is one of the biggest trouble we have now in this experience. A lot of the restaurants have opened up and, and are allowing us to utilize their freezer space, refrigerator space. So there's a lot of need in, in that area. I think just overall, housing, health, education is the prime things that we should be focusing on at the moment.

And tourism, I believe will, will, our name already sells itself, just Hawaii, Maui. People are lined up to come back. I don't expect them to come back right away. We all are in a hard time right now, but I don't believe we need to put too much effort into trying to make us an attraction again. And in, even limiting that would be a great idea if we could somehow figure that out. I know that's not a budget issue.

But I would full support pouring all the budget into just those types of venues, you know, our teachers, our, from, from elementary all the way up to college, all the way around, they all need that support. Our first responders most definitely. And a hospital that we been asking for in Lahaina would have been sweet. If it was on the west side that would have been, I call us the, the ground zero, cause it started off in Lahaina and we could have at least had it kept into Lahaina at that point, you know, not that I'm proud to say that we had it here first. But, just to know, potentially I know it would have got everywhere, it's inevitable but we could have slowed the curve a little even faster--

So that's just where I'm at with that stuff. Yeah, agriculture is big. We got a lot of land, our, our, our community plan was just pushed hard. They were a lot in support of agricultural land, open space. Like, I think that's all prime to consider. Getting some equipment together where we can encourage and assist other farms and other places, that's just kind of what we need to be focusing on I think at the moment. That's about it, I think I . . . out as much of my brain as I could at the moment.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, well thank you very much for sharing. We have a question.

Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair Lee. Mahalo, Kaipo. We haven't seen you since cool rising. But my question was for those farmers out in the west side. Have you guys established a process for farm to table where, where you've got your small farmers, you're able to take your produce, produce it, and get your produce out to, to the communities, the kupuna, the schools?

MR. KEKONA: So I'm not sure if I'm still being heard. But yeah, we, we have made numerous efforts and we've been successful at talking to a lot of different farmers that aren't only involved in our Union, just me knowing them growing up here. A lot of them are definitely poured out into the community. We don't have a centralized food hub so to say. We do have multiple farmers markets that are still open and operating. A lot of produce is funneling out of those, we can't even keep up with the demand.

And we have some places like Choice, it's a health food bar and what's that noodle house up in area, they, they opened up their, their freezer space allowing us to store stuff in there for a short-term, very small spaces though, not, not a lot. So most of our produce that's going through our food hub systems with our, our current plan right now for our West Maui establishment is going into Kahului, they, they gather all our produce from our farms, go into Kahului, get processed and held in a freezer there, and then brought back like the next two days later and delivered out to our places or picked up. There's two options that we're doing. So, that's kind of how we're making it work right now in the, in the, in a flash bang situation that we're in.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, mahalo, Mr. Kekona.

CHAIR LEE: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to clarify with Mr. Kekona. Your item is the one, was my priority proposal not in the Mayor's but, proposal, right?

MR. KEKONA: Yes, we wanted to, that's what I was trying to refer to, sorry I didn't, I was worried about the three-minute thing, trying to get everything out there, did a little bit of rambling. But anyway, yes, our Ohana First program, Ohana First Farming at KAEC is what we're trying to get support for in, in Lahaina. It's basically just providing space, irrigation systems, materials for our farm project there.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, no other questions. Thank you very much, Mr. Kekona.

MR. KEKONA: Mahalo, a hui hou.

COUNTY CLERK: Madam Chair, next to testify is Jenny. Jenny is followed by Jennifer Mather. Jenny?

CHAIR LEE: I see Mr. Sheehan?

COUNTY CLERK: How do I--

CHAIR LEE: Is Jenny on, on the line?

MS. JENNY PELL:

Yes.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, you're next, Jenny.

MS. PELL: Aloha. Okay, thanks so much. Thank you all for working so late tonight, I really appreciate it. I'm here to respectfully plead with the County to defund the Maui Visitors Bureau and redirect that \$3.5 million into local projects, particularly local food production and organizations dedicated to indigenous farming, regenerative agriculture, food security and in the case of our project, backyard gardens.

I'm specifically asking the County to fund the Food Security Hawaii 50(c), 501(c)(3) nonprofit with our Ohana Gardens initiative for \$75,000, helping people to grow food and provide for their families. Backyard gardens can provide as much as 40% of households' fruits and vegetable within a year if people have the right support; seedlings, materials, expertise, etc. We're teaming up with Maui Sustainable Solutions and are in conversations with many other Maui County gardening organizations.

I ask also that you fund the Common Ground Collective. This organization has worked so hard and set up an excellent program that should be funded so they can expand their services.

Finally, please don't forget that the climate crisis has not gone away. Protecting our reefs, our watersheds, and our wetlands that are vital community resources. Please fund the Pohakea Watershed and the South Kihei Wetlands Project.

I sit on the Climate Advisory Committee and there are several items in there that need to be included in the budget this year even while you're taking funds away from other things. Coastal protections, funding positions that are going to support at capacity to take care of these vital resources. Thank you very much.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any questions? If not thank you very much for coming. Thank you for coming.

MS. PELL: You're welcome.

CHAIR LEE: Next.

COUNTY CLERK: Next up to testify is Jennifer Mather. Jennifer Mather will be followed by Deb Kaiwi. Jennifer.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: She said she wasn't on; Ms. Mather wasn't planning to testify. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Alright, she's not going to testify.

COUNTY CLERK: Okay, next is Deb Kaiwi, followed by telephone number, or number 8229. Deb Kaiwi.

MS. DEB KAIWI:

Aloha, Members.

CHAIR LEE: Hi.

MS. KAIWI: Mahalo for the time. I, I really wasn't planning on testifying, but mahalo Kathy for allowing me this moment. I strongly, strongly would like for us to consider to defund the Maui Visitor Bureau, and put all that money into helping, helping our most vulnerable community members. There comes a time when we need to level off the playing field where we can all thrive. Right now, only those who are employed are thriving. We have so many people who are unemployed, who are shelterless, who are

foodless as a result of this pandemic. Much of that money also needs to go into sustainable agriculture, regenerative agriculture. That's my ten cents.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, thank you so much for coming. Are there any questions?

MS. KAIWI: Mahalo.

COUNTY CLERK: Our next testifier is identified as number 8229, number 8229. And 8229 will be followed by Sesame. Number 8229 you're up.

MR. ALBERT PEREZ:

Hello, this is 8229. This is 8229, otherwise known as Albert Perez. Can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Hello, Albert.

MR. PEREZ: Hi, hi, I'm just a little confused because the video is like 30 seconds behind the phone. So anyway, I'm testifying as the Executive Director of Maui Tomorrow and I'd like to just start off by saying, as Mr. Nakoa said, we don't need to advertise Maui to get tourist to come here.

And at this moment we can really use that \$3.5 million for other things. We need to rethink tourism to be high quality, high end, and low impact on Maui residents. So instead I would like to urge the Council to fund the \$500,000 to the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust to negotiate the purchase of 257 acres at Maalaea Mauka, along with the 225,000 for coastal water quality monitoring projects at Olowalu and Maalaea. These are related projects that are important to protecting the water quality of Maalaea Bay, which is important to humpback whales and public recreation.

Maui County's 2006 scenic and historic resources inventory identified the views across this 257 acres as being of high value, and I think we should pay attention to the studies that have been done in the past. In past years, much destruction has been caused by large storm flows passing through these lands. Culverts are clogged and the mud ends up on the highway. There's major brown water events that have had a detrimental impact on the costal water, Maalaea Bay.

But Maui Nui Marine Resource Council and the State DLNR which manages thousands of acres of neighboring lands and strategies, they put together strategies for the Pohakea Watershed to mitigate those problems. They've also secured a grant to work on reducing the higher fire hazards and understanding those drainage impacts.

Another Federal grant is being proposed to allow storm water sufficient space to be absorbed mauka of the highway and prevent siltation of the Maalaea Bay. But it's difficult to plan these types of long-term projects when there's a chance that a large area of land will be broken into a series of privately-owned agricultural parcels. It would be far simpler and more likely to be successful if this land, which is wonderful for open space and other purposes would be under public ownership. We urge you folks to support the, the County acquisition of this land.

Also, related to water quality is \$325,000 for wetland preservation in South Maui. There used to be 100, 111 acres there and it's down to 24 acres. Wetlands provide flood storage and they filter storm sediment that protects water quality offshore. If we don't preserve the wetlands, the flooding will get worse and we'll have to pay those impacts as well.

There, finally there are some important positions in the Planning Department that I would like to see preserved to deal with the ongoing impacts of climate change. And these I think are Sea Grant positions and another shoreline planner position. So I urge you to keep an eye out for that. If you're tempted to cut things, please don't cut those positions. These people in the Planning Department are important to identifying options other than shoreline hardening before it becomes urgent, so that we can preserve our beaches. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Perfect timing. Any questions for Albert? If not, thank you for coming.

MR. PEREZ: Okay, aloha.

COUNTY CLERK: Next up to testify is Sesame. Sesame, will be followed by Mark. Sesame, you're up.

MS. SESAME SHIM:

Aloha mai kakou. I wasn't really expecting to testify. But I do feel that I want to share my manao as far as the \$3.5 million budget that would be allotted to the tourism industry. I think due to the current COVID-19 circumstances, we see that Maui needs a change. We, and we can do that change. It's a drastic change for sure to changeover an entire economic system to something else. However it's, I mean look at how much rental cars are on land, vacant land that could be used to house homeless. Like there's so much that we do as a, as Hawaii as a State, to support the tourism economy.

And meanwhile it's, it's killing our island, it's killing our lifestyle. We're, even for like, you know, I mean, as simple as like, the price of food, it's so much cheaper now

because there's not a bunch of tourist here buying all of our, our food. Like in the sense like the tourism, you know, giving money to support tourism to bring back money into Maui. It's, it's kind of, it's really not really helping us. It's more, it's harming us more than it's helping us.

And we are seeing that essential workers are the ones that need all the support, our nurses, we need more hospitals. It's ridiculous that we have only one hospital. Our teachers, farming, there are so many small farms out there that are looking for support and wanting to grow, and I support that. And I understand that, that the whole shift in, in mentality for people who want to work for, to get people to work in farming. But to just see that the County is supporting that over tourism I think is something that will help everybody understand the value that's behind that.

You know, cause right now, it's like even with the tourism industry and what farmers that we do have, all of their food is going to the tourist. So it's like, it's, I think it's detrimental that we need, we need to start making change and it's not going to be easy and we all understand that we see that. But we see that it's possible because, the circumstances today. But that's all. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Alright. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you for coming. Who is our next testifier?

COUNTY CLERK: Next testifier is Mark. Mark is going to be followed number 9293. Mark?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

MR. MARK SHEEHAN: Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MR. SHEEHAN: Councilmembers.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, can we get Sesame's name please.

MR. SHEEHAN: My name is Mark Sheehan.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Previous testifier.

CHAIR LEE: The pre, previous--



MS. SHIM: Sesame Shim. My name is Sesame Shim.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Shim. Okay. Well, thank you very much Sesame. Mark, are you there?

MR. MARK SHEEHAN:

I am and I'm ready to testify. Can I proceed.

CHAIR LEE: Ready, yes.

MR. SHEEHAN: Thank you. Alright, I grew up during second world war, when everybody in my neighborhood had a victory garden. When I arrived in Hawaii, the first thing I started thinking about is how remote we were, and how food was an issue. So food security has been on my mind for a very long time.

I bought land in Haiku 35 years ago and I immediately set up an organic farm that has been training farmers for the last 15 years. For the last five years, we worked with the Farm Apprentice Mentoring program, Dr. Robinson's program and has been very successful to see that we're training new farmers.

When I realized that we're in the biggest . . . shift that this planet has ever seen, we're never going to go back to the old normal. The tourism, we would like to have it come back, but it will never come back the way it's been, because the world has changed so radically.

I've been on a Google Food Security Group, monitoring news for the last seven years, and the food security issues have been mounting because of the climate change issues that we all are aware of, droughts and famines, mass migrations, crop failures, and those issues that are happening elsewhere, are going to be affecting us in the delivery system.

So as a, in the Food Security Hawaii Group, we realize that probably the most effective thing we can do is to train people, as many people as possible to plant their own gardens, know what to plant, how to take care of it, know where to find the tools. And so I want to first of all ask for support for the Ohana Garden program, \$75,000. But urge that we repurpose that money that's been going into tourism to support local farming and getting the food from the farms to the people who need it. We're going to

have, with 25 to 30,000 unemployed people on this island, we are going to have a lot of stress on the food system and the delivery of the system.

I'm hoping and I reached out to the State, Tina Wildberger and Josh Green to start using . . . as food hubs, they have the refrigeration, they have the facilities. We've got to figure out now how to deliver food. But right now, one of the things that people can do, many people can do is to go into their backyard, dig it up, front yard, and get seedlings. We're going to be producing the seedlings to make it easier for people, not just to buy the seeds . . . \$1500 worth of seeds to be able distribute. But to grow the seedlings to make it easy for people to get the food that they need.

And this, the quicker we can do this and to support other groups, Common Ground Collective, all, there's a wide variety of food . . . they all need supporting because food is the number one issue. And food will get us through times of no money better than money will get us through times of no food. That's the crisis that we're facing. And so I'm going to urge you to do everything you can to support the Food Security Hawaii's request and the other farm groups that are looking for support to be able to get money as Reverend Wright said, to get it from the sources to people who need that. So, thank you for considering this, and please consider the urgency of the food security situation and thank you for your time.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mark. Are there any questions? If not, may we ask for the next testifier.

COUNTY CLERK: Our next testifier is identified by number 9293. Testifier 9293, will be followed by Pamela Tumpap. Testifier 9293.

MS. MADGE SCHAEFER:

Hello I'm here.

CHAIR LEE: James.

MS. SCHAEFER: Hello.

CHAIR LEE: You can start.

MS. SCHAEFER: Okay, my name is Madge Schaefer. I have some particular comments to make about the budget, probably more appropriate after I see the five percent cuts that the department heads are going to present to you, I think on Monday. These are just a few things that I would like to point out to the Council.

1. In the Corp. Counsel budget in Risk Management, I believe that the Council should delete the \$466,000 for security of the County Building. The second issue I think that should be deleted in Risk Management budget is Health and Wellness for \$21,250. I'm going very quickly through these, but I do have details.

2. In Council Services, delete the Sergeant at Arms funding; delete increases for Council Office budgets; delete \$8400 for East Maui office computers. I, it's not that I don't think that they need computers, I'm just questioning \$8400 for computers seems like a lot money. And I think in view of the unemployment on this island, that to give the staff a 12.2% increase is probably not a good idea.

3. Environmental Management, contractual services. I would like to see the delete of funding for the three-can plan which serves 1500 properties and cost \$450,000. Maui Meadows was the pilot project and residents were not given a choice to join. They are charged an additional \$121 a year in fees. This program pays \$930 per ton versus \$103 per ton at the landfill. It is subsidized . . . recycling when there is a recycling center approximately two miles away. Many properties have green waste removed by lawn service providers. No, no glass recycling, no magazine, County receives nothing back for the recycled materials that are supplied.

4. On Economic Development on the Maui Visitors Bureau, I believe now is not the time to remove funding from this agency. Last year there was much discussion about reducing tourism, now we know what that looks like. Their funding from Hawaiian tourism will surely be cut as the inevitable reduction in TAT. If they receive no County funding, the County has no say in their message or mission. All these families that have been impacted by this shutdown will conclude this Council is not concerned about bringing jobs back. Cut back if you must, and put them on notice that future reductions may be likely.

Just a quirky thing that I found in reading the budget regarding Emergency Management. This department's number one goal is to quote "insure professional growth and well-being of our staff". The number 2 goal is "development of Countywide emergency response capabilities to provide for the effective use of resources and personnel, the restoration of County services and the greatest possible reimbursement through Federal assistance". Don't you think that ought to be number 1?

6. The Special Purpose Revenues, it appears that over \$2 million is spent on disposal . . . Maui Cruisers. Can some of that money be spent to bill those who litter and leave.

In comparison to the overall budget, these are manini items, but as some wise guy once said, a million here, a million there, and pretty soon it adds up to real money. Never forget who's money that is. Thank you very much.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, thank you, Madge. Any questions? If not thank you for your patience.

MS. SCHAEFER: And by the way . . . not working on, on maucounty.us.

CHAIR LEE: Alright, thank you. Next.

COUNTY CLERK: Next up to testify is Pamela Tumpap. Pamela Tumpap will be followed by Cliff Libed. Pamela Tumpap.

CHAIR LEE: Pam, are you there?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You gotta--

COUNTY CLERK: Chair, um--

CHAIR LEE: Did you unmute her? Okay. Next.

COUNTY CLERK: Next up to testify is Cliff Libed, followed by Rob Weltman. Cliff Libed.

CHAIR LEE: Members, I'm not sure, do you want to take a break? We have about 30 more. You want to keep going? Break? Okay, how about a ten-minute break? Ten, alright, ten minutes. Come back at 8:05. Recess.

(THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS RECESSED BY THE CHAIR AT 7:55 P.M., AND WAS RECONVENED AT 8:06 P.M., WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT. DUE TO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTIES, APPROXIMATELY 15 SECONDS OF THE MEETING WAS NOT RECORDED.)

MS. PAMELA TUMPAP:

And the trickle-down effect from the visitor industry is about 75% to all local businesses. So this is evidenced by the unemployment stats which tell that story because you're seeing massive layoffs to the tune of about 30,000 people, and that doesn't count this week's numbers, and more are coming. Not only restaurants, but small retail shops, activities businesses, wedding and event businesses, farmers who are struggling, farm tours that can't operate, manufacturers who leverage off of the visitor industry, support companies like Maui Linens and Maui Rents, it goes on and on. Many businesses

don't know if they're going to survive the shut down, and then if they do, can they survive the time it will take to rebuild the visitor industry.

So there's deep concerns about how long this is going to go. We know this because our microbusiness loan program that can give up to \$25,000 almost all of the applicants, not all, but probably 80% of the applicants right now have applied for the \$25,000 amount, which is the maximum. And we are seeing deeper in their applications of, you know, mounting rent when they are not able to use their retail space or their store front. And other bills that are committed to. So they just don't have the resources. Even after laying off employees, the expenses loom. And so when they go back and can reopen, they're coming back on day one without any income and yet, huge expenses to cover their operations. So they're hurting and seeking help.

The challenge is really, where are the jobs going to come from when you have all of these people currently laid off from many different industries, but primarily the visitor industry and those directly related to them. If we don't help bring back this industry, I'm not saying in the same way, I'm saying in a new way, and I'll tell you why. Is the County going to subsidize them? Isn't it better that we bring back an industry where people can be gainfully employed and take care of their families versus constantly looking for assistance program because things are going to run out?

In this global crisis, all of the economists say no historical data is relevant. We have to look at new projections based on COVID-19. That means the visitor industry, from the fear that's been built up for the serious health concerns and for the, the massive loss of wealth, not just across the country, but the across the globe. The visitor industry is already going to have to pivot and change, and that doesn't happen easily. By the way nor does building a new industry very quickly, that takes time.

So the industry is already looking at reinventing ourselves. We already knew we had challenges. We wanted our visitors to learn more about our island, to be more respectful, to better protect our, our resources. This is the time when we need to invest in that industry, reshape, and rebuild. We need to create new messaging and new campaigns.

Many economist, bankers, and industry experts realize that you need to invest and invest now to rebuild the industry and bring back jobs, or we're going to have a world of hurt. So it's also important to note that when you look at the World Health Organization whose combined with the International Monetary Fund, they understand that you have to build both, you have to deal with the health issues and deal with the economic issues together to survive this very difficult time.

And we don't have the other resources like other Counties. We don't have a military installation. We don't have University, you know a direct University, we have UHMC which is spectacular. But we don't have the same size of a University presence and other specialized schools. We don't have a mature ag industry of size, we're rebuilding. And so we need to look at all these things.

Further we need to look at the Cost of Government Commission report and understand that they used a very basic calculation to come up with a return on investment that doesn't account for other signification economic and social impacts the visitor industry generates. Other jobs, other business and industry support, cultural programs, social services and much more. When you look at--

CHAIR LEE: Okay, Pam can, can you sort of summarize please.

MS. TUMPAP: I will, thank you. Lastly sustainability is built on the triple bottom line, economy, environment and social wellbeing. And right now our economy is dependent on the visitor industry, as is our social wellbeing. We need to bring that back, and then while we continue to diversify and broaden our economy. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Pam. Are there any questions for Pam?

Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Tumpap for all the things that you're doing to help all the people in the business community.

MS. TUMPAP: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to clarify, you know when you're talking about investing and you're testifying to us and you saw the certifications, can you clarify what you mean by investing? Like is there a specific item or items that you support?

MS. TUMPAP: Specifically, I think now is the time, I know many people are saying, it's not the time to support visitor industry funding. We support the budgeted amount for the visitor industry in the budget. And we realize that it needs to change, the amount needs to be used for very specific things to market Maui. When we had Maui funded, we came out of 911 better than other counties. And while there's some criticism in a report that says the economic return on investment is not significant enough. There are other ways to look at that report, we question that data. So we want to support the funding in the budget, the Mayor's budget, the \$3.5 million.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, you answered my question halfway through. But the other question I had so 3.5 million and, and you're saying that the other industries aren't established like farming and education at the university. But my question is, if we gave them 4 million every year, maybe they would be established. And social media, the way it is for marketing, maybe the general public can do a better job marketing Maui themselves without paying somebody \$3.5 million.

MS. TUMPAP: Well I think, you know, I agree with part of what you're saying, which is that we need to look at a systemic plan to bring back to our community. But right now, I don't think either the university nor the . . . farmers are ready to employ all those people who are now unemployed by the visitor industry. And we are going to have a world of hurt when unemployment ends for people.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Same, I mean same thing can be said about the visitor industry, you know. I mean it's not ready for \$3.5 million of marketing, it's, I mean we're not ready for that.

MS. TUMPAP: I think we're ready for the money to be used for planning on a reinvestment campaign on how we need to reposition ourself after this global pandemic, the likes of which we've never seen before.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, clarifying question. Who are we paying \$3.5 million to do this?

MS. TUMPAP: Well currently the funding is going to Maui Visitors Bureau.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So we're going to pay Maui Visitors Bureau 3.5 million to figure out how to sell Maui better.

MS. TUMPAP: To, how to work within the industry to reposition the new offerings, the new way of promoting Maui that's been different from what we've done before because what, it's not going work the same. And if you--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just got to ask, you saw the Mayor's certification \$30 million less, \$5 million less, but you still, you still, I just clarifying you still want to pay 3.5 million for somebody to repurpose how we're going to sell ourself. Just clarifying that's what you're saying.

MS. TUMPAP: I view it as broader than just sell ourselves. I view it as repromoting an industry that has the best opportunity to employ people currently, while we continue to diversify our economy.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. TUMPAP: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, thank you, Ms. Pamela Tumpap for being here. My question with the, the visitor industry is, you know, we haven't seen them invest or, or purchase ag, you know, I get agriculture from Maui. A lot of the agriculture, they're shipping in everything for, for the tourism industry, and they haven't been investing into Maui's agriculture economy. And we've got that potential to, to generate our agriculture here on Maui, yet we're not seeing the, the tourism industry investing in that market. They are shipping everything in for their operation.

MS. TUMPAP: If, well . . . two things, I, I, first of all I agree that anytime that we can support our local industries, particularly farming and we all have wanted to build sustainable farming for many years. You know, I think that that's very important. I have heard though from many farmers who when, when the hotels shut down, they were selling a lot of produce into the hotels. So when the hotels shut down, they lost that income. They have been taking their produce and struggling to find community programs who can benefit from it. So now not only did the farmers lose their income, but they're working to get that produce that they farmed and watered and, and you know, cultivated to keep it from being just tilled into the ground, into community programs.

So I believe, you know, the visitor industry is buying a lot of local produce. Is it, is it as much as we would like to see, and I hear what you're saying? We, we would like to always see more, I would agree with that. I think again, this part of what we're looking at with the industry is we all now understand that our worst fears have come about, we all understand we need to look at things in a different way. We're going to have a lot of businesses who are shut down and a lot of what they do now may not be relevant.

A lot of the, you know we have had such pride in our restaurant industry as well in our multi-cultural cuisine. But if we don't have the same amount of visitors coming through, are we going to be able to sustain all of those restaurants locally? That's a big challenge and, and that also is going to impact the farmers as well. But anything we can do to promote more businesses buying local, the Maui Chamber of Commerce back since the 80's has been all about "Buy Maui First" and "Made in Maui". So we, and that by the way includes "Grown in Maui", although that's under the Farm Bureau's label. So we absolutely support. But we do know that they were buying quite a bit because we're hearing from the farmers who were hurt by not having those orders.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. King.



COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, thank you, Chair.

MS TUMPAP: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thanks for being here, Ms. Tumpap.

MS TUMPAP: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I . . . heard, we had, I just wanted to ask you since you're talking about the recovery. We had heard . . .

CHAIR LEE: Feedback. People, mute yourselves.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: We had heard from the Mayor's Office that he was putting together; they were putting together an economic recovery committee or task force. And I just wondered if you guys were part of that? The Chamber of Commerce was part of that. Do you know anything about that? Is it going yet?

MS. TUMPAP: There, if, if what we're talking about, there is a, a economic group that is looking at economic recovery. We're having weekly meetings right now and I do sit on that.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, that's a County.

MS. TUMPAP: Yes, it's a County, there's many County teleconferences on different segments. This is about economic recovery but there's others I sit on, like the tourism group and there's a business group that's also going on.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, no I appreciate that because I think that's the purview of a group like that, not necessarily tourist bureau to, you know, to determine economic recovery. But I'm glad you're keeping in touch with that. So, thank you.

MS. TUMPAP: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Any other questions. If not, thank you, Pam for coming and appreciate your testimony.

MS. TUMPAP: My pleasure, thank you very much for all your service. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Kathy.

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you, Chair. Next up is Mr. Rob Weltman. And Rob will be followed by Trinette. Rob Welton, Weltman, sorry.

MR. ROB WELTMAN:

For Sierra Club, Rob Weltman and I just wanted to talk very briefly about three specific items in the budget. And they have been discussed earlier this, in this meeting so I won't spend a lot of time on them. First one is the use of Open Space Funds to purchase the Maalaea Mauka or Pohakea, the extension of the Pohakea Preserve. I saw that in the Mayor's budget, he, he points out that there's \$3.7 million for Open Space acquisition this year, and I think some of that could be used for, for this area.

The second one is the South Maui wetlands and as Albert pointed out, and actually several other people pointed out too, we used to have a lot of wetlands. As a matter of fact all of Kihei used to be wetlands, and we have almost nothing left. And the wetlands are what protect the ocean from stormwater runoff, from flooding, and we really need to preserve what we have left. And I think we could preserve them in such a way that if, there's some secondary benefits too, like, like as parks and other things as I've seen, I love that area.

Third one is the Maui Nui Marine Council's project where they have citizen, science people doing water testing. And I don't think it really is the intention to abolish that program but the, in the Mayor's budget it's no longer called out as a specific line item and instead is part of this, I think environmental projects category. And I just wanted to be sure it doesn't get lost because that's so very important.

And I just, maybe, okay, and I just wanted to point out that these type of project where you have a whole lot of volunteers doing a huge amount of unpaid work is a tremendous return on investment. And that's already the case for the Maui Nui Marine Council's water testing. We have one employee for all the Department of Health doing all the testing of our water quality and having all these volunteers doing water quality to Department of Health standards means that we're able to test along all of West Maui and currently all along South Maui too. That's really, really important data for knowing when something's going wrong as well as to determine what we need to do to preserve the quality of the water in the future.

And I think there are similar possibilities for the Pohakea Water Preserve because Maui Nui Marine Reserve Council wants to do planting there as well to, to bind the soil so you don't get the kind of runoff that we're seeing right now into Maalaea Bay, and as well as in the South Maui wetlands where we have the Kihei Delta Project which is all the property owners in that area.

And many other people also want to contribute to preserving that area and making it serve as its traditional purpose, which is slowing down the storm waters running into, into the water, into the ocean. I think all three of those are well worth funding. Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you very much. Are there any questions for Mr. Weltman?

Yes, Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Weltman. I just wanted to clarify you're talking about the Hui O Ka Wai Ola project, right?

MR. WELTMAN: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, just, just wanted to read that into the record.

MR. WELTMAN: Yes.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, any more questions? If not, thank you very much for coming.

MR. WELTMAN: Thank you.

COUNTY CLERK: Chair, next up is Trinette. And Trinette will be followed by Kai Nishiki. Testifier Trinette.

MS. TRINETTE FURTADO:

Aloha mai kakou. Members can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes we can. Yes.

MS. FURTADO: Thank you for the opportunity to testify and thank you so much for the very long day that you all have put in. I have been following every single step of the meetings today so I really appreciate, you know, you guys being here and listening to all of us and offering everyone an alternative to the public meetings that we could not have. That being said, my name is Trinette Furtado and I am from Kula, Maui and I'm speaking on my own behalf.

First off, I want to talk about when the Maui Visitors Bureau was first . . . its inception, advertising travel to Hawaii was a necessity of sorts. You know, we obviously had needed to bring more visitors in and entice them with the beauty of our place and, and

our love for this place. But that was an awfully long time ago. And as we can see throughout the years with the rise in visitor numbers and spending, the length of time they spend here, advertising at this level to me is, is unnecessary.

As this crisis has shown us and has shown that it necessitates, we look at and practice prudent planning and diversification of our spending and, and what we spend it on obviously because as we are seeing, the visitor industry has taken a hit and so have we, because we have spent a portion, a good portion of our time placing the emphasis on that one industry.

You know, I looked at the visitor stats for February 2020 and I realize that's a few months ago, but the arrivals, just for Maui County were up. The average daily census for Maui was up and we can see that that's the case with all of those rent-a-cars that are parked alongside our airports, which might have been filled with the over, let's see, for February the total count for Maui, Molokai, and Lanai was 246,102 residents, I mean, excuse me, visitors per day. And just Maui alone, 234,773 year to date, I guess.

My point here is that if advertising really did create jobs or keep jobs, we'd see that would be the case, we'd see our hotel workers who work very hard in that industry being paid more. We don't see that that's the case. You know, I hope that, that you'll think critically about the funding that is given to the Maui Visitors Bureau and if you do not reduce it by 3 million, three, nine, or what have you, that you consider the Cost of Government's, Cost of Government Commission's report to you on what they recommend, which is reducing the grant to 500,000. And I also ask and suggest that as a caveat of that, that the Visitors Bureau put together a new business model and reapply for a grant just like all of the other grantees must do when asking the County for funds.

In closing, you know, I believe that some of these funds very definitely could be used to diversify our economy to put more emphasis on our agriculture, not just to feed ourselves, but to feed every, to feed others. During the gold rush Hawaii did feed the West Coast, we were able to do that and it wasn't because of advertising dollars to our visitors bureau.

I want to also just very briefly say that I do support the purchase of Maalaea Mauka. I hope you will, as a whole look into that and look at investing our money in agricultural endeavors that support our local farmers. And, you know, as one person said earlier, we must never forget where the funding for County programs and services come from. It comes from us and if you're listening to the people and you hear very loudly, many people are asking . . . they're demanding that we look at those funds for more diversified interests. So I thank you for allowing me to testify and I hope that after this meeting, you all have a wonderful weekend.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Trinette. Good to see you. Do we have any questions for Trinette?  
No, no questions. You did a great job.

MS. FURTADO: Thank you, aloha, have a good evening.

CHAIR LEE: You too.

COUNTY CLERK: Our next testifier, Chair, is Kai Nishiki. And following Kai Nishiki will be Phyllis Robinson. Kai Nishiki.

MS. KAI NISHIKI:

Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Hi.

MS. NISHIKI: No better place I'd rather spend my Friday evening.

CHAIR LEE: Right.

MS. NISHIKI: Aloha. So tourism has been our primary economic driver and it has been sold to us as a savior. However instead of enabling . . . imposter . . . a weakness, a vulnerability and actually a liability. The recently released University of Hawaii COVID Response briefing agrees. Amongst our vulnerability is our continued . . . connectivity to numerous hot zones . . . dependent on tourism . . . and large multi general, generational . . . Honestly, I've got to say, that it, it feels like Hawaii is in a relationship with the tourism industry.

During this pandemic, we ask for a little space, just a bit of, to get healthy and back on our feet, keep our kupuna safe and our children well. . . . even our government leaders have asked visitors to stay away? So what have we seen, visitors continue to stream . . . The desire to consume our culture and their entitlement to just let Hawaii happen, endangering themselves and our vulnerable communities. This has been encouraged by the visitor industry with cheap air fares and cheap hotel rooms and almost zero self-regulation, which is the most shocking thing to me.

I thought we were supposed to be in some sort of relationship that is equal, but if we're saying please stay away and you won't even respect that, I don't understand why we're going to just continue to give them our money. And now they're going to say trust us,

we'll take care of you, this won't happen again, just give us millions once again. It's a crisis, you need us, you can't live without us, we pay your bills?

But what are we going back to? Systemic abuse. However, like Haena on Kauai, we have had time to see what life is like, just a little bit of time, free from the constant oppressive pressure of entertaining, of needing to maintain that smile while we surf. Our waters are clear, our reef are happy, there are more fish in the sea. Traffic is manageable and we can find a parking spot to take our kids to the beach.

Even leaders in the visitor agency, visitor industry see the writing on the wall in regards to tourist management. Mufi Hannemann, the President and CEO of Hawaii Lodging and Tourism Association, presented before the West Maui CPAC . . . regards to . . . at Hanauma Bay and brought up the point. . . . address a problem, be proactive, not reactive, and make sure there are transparency for the public to see. . . . industry cannot self-regulate and show some respect.

Please stop giving them our money. we need to remember, tourism works for us, not us for tourism . . . support microgrants to farm . . . capacity . . . all of our shoreline areas so that we know how many visitors we want to invite here. And on coastal zone management . . . Thank you very much, mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Thank you, Kai. Are there any questions?

Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. I had to find the little button. Thanks for being Kai, I hope your dad is doing better. Give him my best.

MS. NISHIKI: Oh, thank you. He is.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Oh, that's so good to hear. So I wanted to ask you, you were breaking up a lot. And I didn't hear, you said something about even Mufi Hannemann made the point, and then I didn't hear what the point was?

MS. NISHIKI: Oh, so sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's okay, it wasn't your fault.

MS. NISHIKI: Before, he presented before the West Maui CPAC and he was talking about tourism management at Hanauma Bay and he brought up the point, do not wait for a crisis to occur before you address the problem. Be proactive and not reactive, and make sure there's transparency for the public to see. And here's his little handout that we had and that's what he said, actually it's probably going to be backwards but anyway.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That was good.

MS. NISHIKI: Thank you, Kelly, for, for, thank you for leading the way in, in regards to climate resiliency. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, I look forward to working with you when you get done with the CPAC.

MS. NISHIKI: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Any other questions for Kai.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Yes, yes, I don't see you but, is that you Keani?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It is. Mahalo Chair. I just wanted, mahalo Ms., Ms. Nishiki for your testimony this evening or tonight. Because there was such bad connection, would you be able to provide your testimony in writing to us?

MS. NISHIKI: Oh yes, absolutely. I'm so sorry, send it over.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Will you please send it to [EDB.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:EDB.committee@mauicounty.us).

MS. NISHIKI: Yes, mam.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Have a good night.

MS. NISHIKI: Mahalo. Bye.

CHAIR LEE: Any other questions? If, oh, you have. Tamara, Tamara are you waving?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, no, I was waving a hui hou.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Kai, see you later.

CHAIR LEE: Alright Kai, thank you Kai for visiting with us. Thank you.

Kathy.

COUNTY CLERK: Chair, our next testifier is Phyllis Robinson. And Phyllis Robinson will be followed by Noelani Ahia. Phyllis Robinson.

DR. PHYLLIS ROBINSON:

Can everybody hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

DR. ROBINSON: Oh, wonderful. Well aloha . . . and County Councilmembers. I am very grateful to all of you for making it possible for us to testify during this crisis. And thank you for your very hard work and your devotion to making Maui County a true democracy.

I wish to begin by saying that funding a program called Ohana Gardens under the Food Security Hawaii will provide a thousand citizens across the County with their own backyard gardens. I think this would be such a good decision to fund this program.

This morning, Food Security Hawaii got an email from another organization called Maui Sustainable Solutions who are doing the same thing. The email was saying they want to partner and not compete. I felt my heart sing. We do not need to, we do need to come together and collaborate during these times making it possible for our people to grow their own food. And if we look directly at, at the solutions for super food security, it will begin to not just look like an unreachable goal, but a reality. There is so much support in the community for this project.

And now onto something very near and dear to my heart and I think to your hearts as well, which is growing new farmers in Maui County. And I'm suggesting that instead of funding just one farmer training program, what if we create an ongoing fund under the Office of Economic Development and hopefully someday under the Maui County Department of Agriculture for beginning farmer training with an emphasis on



collaborative partnerships. For example I want to see a bridge created to establish farmer training programs like FAM for all the high schools so they too can benefit from this fund.

Farmer education isn't new here in the County. The Future Farmers of America programs, and the 4-H programs, and MEO's youth program when Alike Atay would take troubled youth out into the lo'i or in the fields. And when Glen Teves on Molokai got a beginning farmer and rancher program grant for the USDA and created an amazing learning environment with an emphasis on harvesting ungulates, oh excuse me on Molokai. Lanai has their Pulama Lanai program and they have an emphasis on harvesting ungulates like deer and mouflon sheep.

And then there's GoFarm at the college. Two years ago I noticed their emphasis on the business and marketing side of farming and they now provide our FAM program with a two-day intensive during the first phase, and a one on one coaching during their second phase as they build their farm plans, especially their marketing plans.

Listening to testimony in this year's budget, I realize that Maui County has a plethora beginning farmer training programs. And each one deserves a shot at some funding. Each of you have money for growing farmers in your district. What if OED with the help of GoFarm, FAM founders, Maui Family Farming Training Networks, Sustainable Molokai, the Maui Farm, Pulama Lanai, Kamehameha Schools new ag program with Hokuau Pellegrino, the . . . project with Kaipo Kekona on the west side all got to weigh in on an RFP that would be offered to them for the purposes of growing new farmers in Maui County.

Please consider setting up what I would like to call "It takes a village to grow a farmer". A fund that would have all the amazing programs that grow farmers be recognized for what they can offer. Thank you so much for your time.

CHAIR LEE: And thank you. Do we have any questions?

Ms. King?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Thanks for being here Dr. Robinson and for all your hard work. Did you, I just wanted to know if you, in your years of running FAM, if you guys ever had a target number of farmers that you were trying to get to, you know, like how many farmers do we need in Maui County to grow all of our own food. Because everybody is trying to talk about how many acres do we need. But did you guys ever discuss how many farmers we need across the County.

DR. ROBINSON: Well it was interesting when Bill Greenleaf, one of the founders of FAM first got involved. He had a wonderful goal, I wish I could remember it, but it was, it was lofty. And now as I see the numbers coming out of FAM, this year we will have graduated 95 apprentices in five years. And so I think it may have been 100 over five years. But what that was based on, I'm not sure.

But it's certainly an interesting question, Kelly, that we should consider because, you know, we do have existing farmers. And those existing farmers are our mentors for the next generation. And so, they, combined with our apprentices make up the farming population of Maui. And so maybe there is a way to figure out how to create enough yield to be able to feed our people, which is very important in these times. And we have to believe that it's possible.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, thank you. I just wondered, you know, because I'm a great goal setter and, and I do know that we have an aging population of farmers. My own husband who is now, considers himself a farmer, and he's over 60 so that, that age that we were talking of retiring farmers trying to grow young farmers. I just thought if we could come up with what we think is a reasonable number though, you really need to shoot for, to get to that food sustainability, that might be a, a good goal to aim for. And what age group they need to be in to sustain us.

DR. ROBINSON: Yes, well I think that--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, sorry . . . more years.

DR. ROBINSON: Well I think that, that having a fund like this, suddenly more of these farmer training programs are gaining support from the County and that way goals might be able to be set as we see how many are graduating from these programs. What are they going on to do? We've been surveying our FAM apprentices this past year. That's how we came up with the number that 78%, or 62 graduates are still farming. So we need to keep those surveys coming.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thanks, Phyllis.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, any other questions? If not, thank you very much for coming.

DR. ROBINSON: You're welcome. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Kathy?

COUNTY CLERK: Our next testifier is Noelani Ahia. Noelani Ahia will be followed by Kevin Watkins. Noelani.

MS. NOELANI AHIA:

Aloha mai kakou. Noelani Ahia. Can you guys hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes, yes.

MS. AHIA: Okay, mahalo. Mahalo for being here and providing this opportunity to testimony in this new and unique way. I want to first say no to the \$3.5 million for the Maui Visitors Bureau. You know, we keep talking about industry and economy, but I think we, we are seeing now that we need to shift back, we need to shift back to the old world thinking of kanaka maoli. We need to shift in consciousness to go back to He ali'i ka 'aina, he kauwa ke kanaka. The land is the chief, man is the servant.

And we need to start looking at the ways that we can survive here regardless of what kind of crisis is thrown at us. Cause right now it's infectious disease, but tomorrow it could be climate change, it could be North Korea. We're, we're going to be faced with challenges and our people were able to survive here for over a thousand years with no industry and no economy. And they did that through relationship. They did that through pilina, through connection with to the aina. We've planted our ancestors back into the aina knowing that their mana would nourish us for generations.

And the main reason I wanted to testimony tonight is about that in particular. I would like to say a'ole to the proposal for the A&B Waiale lands that the Mayor would like to purchase for affordable housing. As you folks know this land is in the Puuone Sand Dune complex of Central Maui that is known to have high concentrations of burials. And I have to say, with all the work that our community has been doing over the last few years, we still cannot get remedy.

The Waiko Light Industrial project has unearthed nine iwi kupuna since February 27 of this year. They're still digging up our ancestors and I don't trust that if this project goes forward, this Waiale Project from A&B, that it's not going to disturb our ancestors. And so one of the things that we are trying to do to get remedy is we've reached out to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination at the United Nations. We received a response from them and, you know, that committee, the United States has a treaty obligation with, because the United States signed that, that treaty in that Committee.

And so the Federal government, the State, and the County is held responsible for, for the contents of that, of that document. And one of those things is ensuring the right to . . . and free prior and informed consent to the kanaka maoli people regarding current

and future projects on their traditional lands and territories including their burial sites, in particular the Puuone Sand Dunes complex in Central Maui.

And so I sent you folks this letter on March 9 along with some requests that we have as a community group, one of which is to have a moratorium on any disturbance in the Puuone Sand Dune complex of Central Maui, until we have laws in place that can adequately protect our burials. And when we do that, maybe we can consider a project in that area. But right now, you know, I'm all for affordable housing, but I'm not about to go put houses on a cemetery or in anybody else's burials. And I don't think it's right that the County should be funding a project to put houses on kanaka maoli burials.

We have to go back to He ali'i ka `aina, he kauwa ke kanaka if we want to have, have more than just survival, but really to thrive as a community. So mahalo for your time, hope you folks have a good night.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Are there any questions? If not, thank you very much for coming.

Kathy.

COUNTY CLERK: Chair, our next testifier is Kevin Watkins. Mr. Watkins will be followed by Georgia Pinsky. Kevin?

CHAIR LEE: Kevin are you there?

MR. KEVIN WATKINS:

Can you hear me now?

CHAIR LEE: Oh, yeah, we can hear you, but we can't see you.

MR. WATKINS: Hello. Oh, turn it on. One second. How's that? Is that better?

CHAIR LEE: Yes, okay, we can see you.

MR. WATKINS: One more light, it's a little dark. It keeps, I'm turning everything off. Alright, are we good?

CHAIR LEE: Good.

MR. WATKINS: There we go. I just got an, hello.

CHAIR LEE: We see you.

MR. WATKINS: Hello.

CHAIR LEE: Can you unmute him?

MR. WATKINS: How about now?

CHAIR LEE: We can see you and hear you.

MR. WATKINS: Wonderful. So first of all, thank you, it's getting late and you guys have doing, been doing wonderful things today. Also thank you on the unanimous vote on Bill 52 for banning single use plastics, that is amazing. We're excited for collaborating with businesses, with that moving forward. So big thank you.

I'm going to try to be quick about things, I've got a lot of things I want to go over. The 3.5 million for tourism, a lot of people articulated that very well. I don't think I really need to, to testify much on that any more other than I agree that those money are better spent investing into different industries to help create a new economy that's not rely on tourism.

For Hawaii Food Security and their Ohana Garden program, which is synonymous with our project, the Maui Garden project, and so we've been working together with them to figure out how to best move forward. A lot of the things that people have testified on today, my company when, when we had, about six months ago, we started an app in development, and we had actually, as part of Plastic Free Maui looked at part of the, a big component of the plastic problem was that we import 90% of our food.

Now with this crisis here, it's more important now than ever that we are making our own food here and becoming agriculturally independent. What we have started designing six months ago, which is now in its second stage of review is an, an app that's in development and it covers the entire supply chain of farm to table, green jobs, transportation, logistics, geolocation services. I've got a really big list, different things that it does.

So everything they're talking about with the, the CSA boxes, you know, and all of these volunteer efforts as, you know, part of the, we put, we created a centralized hub for everything sustainability. And that is something I'd like to put in for a line item in the budget and I, in terms of the returns and what it's going to enable for our new economy. It's actually only \$50,000 to have it fully developed . . . to 12-week window. That could be fully up and running. And so with all of these different things, the garden projects

right where we're, we're right now work . . . pallets and distributing them to the community so people can start their own garden.

We're working together with Hawaii Food Security . . . big barriers we've had is findings, you know, where to get soil from. And you sort of how to centralize all of this information in a way that makes it really easy for our community to, to get engaged and have all . . . their fingertips. A lot of people are being, you know, pretty resilient and spunky and, you know, using, using the internet, YouTube, and Google and they're so many people that I know in the community are really diversifying and adapting as quick as they can in light of this crisis.

And so the, the people are, are here are willing to work and see the big picture. And so that's why we have, you know, this app in development is, and will want to put it in as a line item again is because we really believed, still believe, do believe that this is a pivotal tool in developing the kind of economy that we do want to see, that's not 70% reliant of tourism and importing 90% of our food, our own food. Even getting to the point of exporting it to the other islands.

CHAIR LEE: Kevin, can you, can you wrap it up, Kevin.

MR. WATKINS: Yeah, yeah, I didn't know where I was at. Thank you. So yeah, we have that app in development. And so I just wanted to let you guys know about that and submit that for line item, it's only 50,000 eight to twelve weeks to have it fully launched and ready here for most smart devices.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, very good. Any questions, for Kevin? If not, thank you Kevin for coming. Thank you.

MR. WATKINS: Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: I just want to mention that Yuki, Yuki Lei Sugimura has been on the, on the program. Okay, so Yuki, just ask questions whenever you need to.

Kathy.

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you, Chair. Our next testifier is Georgia Pinsky. Georgia will be followed by Nicole Ferguson. Georgia Pinsky you're up.

MS. GEORGIA PINSKY:

Hi there guys, can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Hi, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay, I'm listening.

MS. PINSKY: Are we ready?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. PINSKY: Okay. Hi there, aloha, my name is Georgia Pinsky and I'm coming to you this evening from Piihola, it's nice and chilly up here this evening.

And I wanted to share that I had recently read a report from the Brookings Institute that Maui County is expected to be the second hardest hit in unemployment in the entire United States. That unemployment here in Maui County will be second only to Midland, Texas, and that our unemployment rate could reach as high as 47%.

With this in mind, I wanted to ask you to please fund all food related programs that you see in the budget at this time. I want to support Food Security Hawaii; the name says it all. Food security is what we need. Feeding the people here should be our number one priority when it comes to the budget. I want to support Common Ground Collective. They harvested more than 650 pounds of avocados and oranges today, and they're being distributed to families who are hungry.

I want to support all six beginning farmer training programs across Maui County, and I ask that they get all the funding they need to continue growing more farmers so that we have enough food . . . I want you to support all the foodbanks and the Meals on Wheels programs and look for and support families who rely on the school lunch programs. You need to fund all programs that are focused on food.

So I'm asking for your support in all farming, garden related projects and programs. As County Councilmembers during this crazy time in the world, you have this opportunity that COVID has provided you. You now find yourself in a position to make right the focus of our island economy. To change permanently the way that Maui families eat, where our food comes from, how it's grown, and how it's purchased.

Eat local, that we hear that all the time. But this is hard to do when there is limited supply and most farmers are supplying hotels primarily. We need to change not only the basis of how food is grown, but how it is distributed. We need food hubs, and we need . . . consumer communication lines.

Ohana Gardens is asking for \$75,000 and this can produce a significant percentage of the family fruit and vegetable needs for our island residents within just a few months. So thank you for considering very highly all food and farm and garden related programs in this year's budget, and taking the money from where it needs to be taken. And that's up to you, I don't need to pooh pooh on the visitor industry, but the money is there, and our people need to eat.

Thank you so much for this incredibly long day that you've put in today, I know you're in your 12th hour and I appreciate all of the time and patience you have to listen to the people in this new interesting creative venue. Aloha and a hui hou.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you very much. Thank you for joining us all the way from Piiholo. Are there any questions? If not--

MS. PINSKY: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Our next testifier.

COUNTY CLERK: Our next testifier is Nicole Ferguson. Nicole will be followed Tara Grace. Nicole Ferguson.

MS. NICOLE FERGUSON:

Hi there everybody. Aloha, Councilmembers. Thank you for the opportunity to testimony this evening and for all your hard work. I'll just introduce myself briefly. My background is in biology, research, and teaching. I've done so in a couple different capacities, most recently in Maui College teaching Microbiology and Human Biology.

The reason I'm here today as part of the budget meeting is because I've recently pivoted efforts towards helping with the COVID-19 response. This has taken a couple different forms. One of the things that I've been doing is helping Scott Miscovich's team with testing people on Maui, both last week and this week. We've had really great success in terms of how many people have come through the free testing sites. These are the drive-thru testing sites that have been set up.

We're now transitioning to a model where it's actually led by Maui folks so that we don't rely on Scott Miscovich's team flying back and forth between Oahu and Maui. The great team that's been set up here with Dr. Kai Matthes and Stephanie Yan who have really stepped up to the plate are going to help move this forward, moving in the next couple of weeks, and as necessary.



One of the things that we're seeing is that people are still having barriers to getting hotel rooms to protect their families from bringing the transmission of COVID-19 from Maui Memorial back to their families. We know that Hawaii has so much hotel capacity including here on Maui, and it's the number one tool that we can use to break the chain of transmission, right. We, we have this amazing inventory of empty rooms, and by separating out healthcare members from their families, even though that may seem cruel to isolate them that way, it's actually isolation to protect them.

We have been in conversation with Dan Ross, the President of Hawaii Nurses Association with approximately 4,000 members. And he also agrees that there is not enough being done to connect healthcare workers to hotels at this time. Because there's not enough happening through Hotels for Hero under Mufi Hannemann, we have, here on Maui reached out to Maui Visitors Bureau and Sherry Duong. Sherry and I have been in conversation over the last week about how MVB funds can best be used to connect healthcare workers with those empty rooms that are still there at the moment. It's still a conversation that's evolving.

And I think that my point here is that we need to scrutinize how MVB is using it's, it's current existing funds for this fiscal year in order to inform our decisions as to what we do moving forward with MVB funds. Do they show to us that they step up to the plate and help us deal with COVID by using hotel rooms and using their budget in this way that's so important? Or do they decide not to use the funds to protect healthcare workers and their families.

I think we're at a critical point right now, we know the Maui Memorial cluster. I, I had some of those people come through the test site last week and this week. I also had some of my former students that we had to screen, which is something that no teacher wants to do.

And we, as exciting as it is to learn new technology and to learn swabbing techniques and to setup these test sites, I don't want to be doing this for any longer than we have to. And I don't think anyone here on Maui wants to see healthcare workers getting their families sick. So I will wrap up here and just ask that we please keep on scrutinizing how MVB uses their funds in order to either supplement or build upon the existing Hotels for Heroes program. Thank you so much.

CHAIR LEE: Well, thank you, Nicole. Are there any questions? Yes, Ms. King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Thanks so much Ms. Ferguson for all the work that you're doing. Just really warms my heart to see that you're focusing on testing. And I just wanted to, I just wondered if you're working with the Maui AIDS Foundation

because they came before us earlier in the evening talking about all the testing that they do and saying that they might be a partner in this kind of work.

MS. FERGUSON: Great question. We have not reached out to the Maui AIDS Foundation. I think that could be a really good partner in the community. So I'll take note of that and have our, one of our coordinators reach out to them. Thank you for the suggestion.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, and good luck in all your good work. Thank you.

MS. FERGUSON: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Are there any other questions? Thank you for your work and, and for joining us.

MS. FERGUSON: Thank you, Member Lee.

COUNTY CLERK: Chair, our next testifier is Tara Grace. Tara Grace will be followed by Kecia Joy. Tara Grace.

MS. TARA GRACE:

Aloha. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Hi.

MS. GRACE: Can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. GRACE: Okay, aloha Council. Thank you so much for staying up this late. It's late for me, past my bedtime. I'm calling and testifying here in Maha Road, Makawao community in support of the Food Security Hawaii and the Ohana Gardens initiative. We're really excited to be working on this project and supporting local families all over the place, all over, countywide. We're getting calls from everywhere, when can we start getting those seedlings, we're ready, we want to be ready, we'd like to be ready. So we're getting a lot of positive feedback from the whole community in many different areas, and people are stepping up and wanting to help and volunteer.

And we have some real experts on our team, and we feel really good about being a part of the solution for feeding our people here. And so thank you very much for considering that line item and the Food Security Hawaii project.

Regarding the tourist money, I've been hearing daily, and on these budget hearings how much we want to redirect those funds into more local economy and supporting local economies in the green, new deal for Hawaii. You know, there's so much talent here, and so many experts that are super intelligent and wanting to help. This is the time, it's now.

Alternative renewable energy, yes, it's past time. Regenerative agriculture, yes. Backyard gardens, yes. Like Georgia mentioned, supporting all things agriculture. This is the time. You'll get a lot of positive feedback and many mahalos for considering feeding the people. And you can tell by the foodbank demands and the miles long images that we're seeing from the mainland, it's coming, it's here. So it's good to prepare.

And regarding the crisis . . . on these islands, I've been here 42 years, started in Hana and Kipahulu and Kaupo when I was very young. And it feels like that now, those days. It feels like that quiet. I cry it's so quiet. It, I remember how it used to be. And so I hope that we can find new ways to be here with this many people and this much energy.

And the young people who are volunteering, god bless their hearts and souls. They need money like all the rest of us, but they are volunteering their time. Young man, Kevin, very impressive, he's planting gardens for our local community. It's a beautiful thing. And he's got lots of help. And so that's why he even offered to help us and we are raising a farm here so, mahalo, again. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: And thank you very much. Are there any questions? If not, thank you Tara.

COUNTY CLERK: Our next testifier is Kecia Joy. Kecia Joy will be followed by Clifford Libed. Kecia Joy?

MS. KECIA JOY:

Hello. Hello. Can anybody hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Hi, Kecia?

MS. JOY: Hi.

CHAIR LEE: You can start, you can start now.

MS. JOY: Aloha, wow, I've been with you guys all day. Holy cow, what you've been through with your frustration with Corp. Counsel, you passed a plastic ban. I've been like this is more exciting than a sport event or something happening. And, it's just, sorry about my dogs. Of course they got to bark right now. This is just an amazing time. I really am enjoying actually seeing some of you in your homes and some of you know, our reactions and, and discussions and openness is, is, is far more forthcoming in this sort of crisis. We get to see who we really are in these types of situations.

And you know, who knows, maybe we have more to come with the climate crisis or what have you. I'm going to keep it really brief, but I just thank you for the last person's testimony, like the island is a very different place now. And now more than ever is the time to prioritize with a very clear vision. Anything that is going to create a living model for the rest of the world of how we can do things differently now. And the new normal, I mean because the old normal was, was not working. I don't want to go back to the old normal. We can create the new normal right now.

And we have a real chance here. And I just see all of you doing such amazing work and feeling that in your own hearts, in your own soul, in your own understanding of where we are as human beings, and the choices that we're making. Each of us, our choices in our own homes, to our choices on our island, to our choices on the planet. And so I just want to say that I'm hoping we make those choices for, for our health of not only ourselves and family, and our ability to thrive. And not just drive ourselves into the ground, but to really actually thrive, and we have a real chance here.

So I support so many things. I support the Maui AIDS Foundation. Thank goodness for you guys connecting them to be a testing site, that's beautiful. Anything health related.

I support funding for the Maui Nui Resource Council to be able to continue their 42 water testing sites because that is an amazing program, again, run by volunteers. It's a great return on investment like Rob said earlier. And I enjoy the presentations that they give to the community. They just did a beautiful presentation on Zoom, you now, this week and they're continuing to do that. And keep protecting our oceans and reef life.

As a marine biologist for almost 30 years, I understand the importance of water quality, so I completely support the purchase of Maalaea Mauka, Pohakea Watershed with the Open Space Funds that are already there. And I know you guys are making very tough decisions on, you know, how, how to deal with the five million over budget and, and what not. And I think we have a real chance here to save the open spaces, fund the farmers, and not put money into the same old thing that we've always done.

The Visitors Bureau, you know, I, there's a lot of good points, but I think with social media, we've been voted the number one island for how many years now because we are amazing. We don't really need to promote Maui, they're going to come. We almost had to beat um with a stick to get them off while we could recover here. So, you know, I'm opposed of giving that 3.5 billion *[sic]*.

Somebody said, you know, they can apply for grants like all the other good beautiful non-profits that are doing so much for the community, for the Hawaiian culture, for the environment, the waters, for the aina, for the kai, for the wai. You know, let us be the true blueprint of how living sustainable and in alignment with nature can be done. Let us be that. And thank you guys so much. I'm with you, I love you and bless you. Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Tamara, you have a question.

Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes, please, just clarifying you're talking about the Hui O Ka Wai Ola water testing program.

MS. JOY: Yes, with the Maui Nui Resource Council.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thank you.

MS JOY: I don't know what its name is, but yes, I think that's the name.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hui O Ka Wai Ola. Thank you.

MS. JOY: Yeah, I feel that's critical.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, any other? Yes, Ms. King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I just wanted to clarify with Kecia, you're that you're, are you representing the Sierra Club today?

MS. JOY: You know, on this, I'm speaking for myself. Rob's already been on. Lucienne's been on a million times. I just, this is from Kecia Joy in Kihei as a marine biologist, as a lover of humanity and, and a higher consciousness, and as just a very concerned beautiful citizen that's with you in this ride of life.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you. Okay, that's great.

MS. JOY: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: All right, any more questions? If not, thank you, Kecia.

MS. JOY: Mahalo nui. Keep on keeping on.

CHAIR LEE: Take care.

Kathy.

COUNTY CLERK: Our next testifier is Clifford Libed. And Clifford will be followed by Leinaala. Clifford Libed?

CHAIR LEE: Try the next one. Oh, I hear a voice.

MR. CLIFFORD LIBED:

Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Clifford.

MR. LIBED: Yeah, you got it?

CHAIR LEE: Okay, you're on.

MR. LIBED: Okay, sorry about that. My concern is that we should take a total different approach on how we are talking about the budgeting. The, the immediate, the immediate situation is now. You, we've all heard about the high unemployment, the jobs to come back. And I have yet to, I, I wonder why can't we follow Kristi Noem from South Dakota, as a Governor, who refused to shut down. And because they refused to shut down, she trusts her community to do the right thing, to teach the social distancing, etc.

I believe that we have a perfect wall around Maui. And we should just shut it down. Shut that down and put the visitor money that you're talking about, the \$3 million or less into educating our community how to react in a positive way in this pandemic, if it is a pandemic. The models are not accurate, which is amazing to me. It has been fights along the Democratic lines and Republican lines about what is correct, and it's confusing.

So unless we take a proactive approach and just say to people, hey look, we're going to shut the island down, we want to get you guys back into the work field and teach our resident it's okay to shop locally, which they don't. It's amazing to me, that only one store in the island, Costco, people line up for two blocks. I went to Foodland, no more line. You go to Longs, no line. We are so brainwashed that we even hoarded toilet paper. For what?

The reality is is that Council people do, as I interpret it, our leaders, lead us into, us to another plain. Get together with the visitor industry to create a different marketing program. We do have to market Maui. I've been in the visitor industry for a while and I know that as far as marketing is concern, we're in competition with Mexico, we're in competition with other destinations, and we just cannot say oh because everybody knows us. The reality is limit the amount of rental cars you have on the island. Make use of public transportation that's on the island. Have these things, we have proposed it years ago and we just got continually refuse and turn down.

When I walk, when I swam in Kihei Canoe, Kihei Canoe Club, five condominiums. I walked back a half a mile back, quarter mile back to the club site, every single patio was vacant. I swam in Maalaea Bay today, I agree, preserve the watershed so that fish comes back, very little fish cause I'm in the water swimming, snorkeling, seeing it, seeing it right there up front and close.

What you need to provide is leadership. You need to get together with the, the Visitors Bureau and say hey, market Maui, that we are clean, we are practicing good habits. When you come back to us, we'll have these things in place. Educate the local community to shop locally, spend the money in your local restaurants. We are going to lose some, we realize that. But the ones that survive should not be just chain restaurants. Emphasis should be on the Mom and Pop stores, and the Mom and Pop organizations that are trying to survive. . . . the lunch wagons, that's who you support.

But you need to provide leadership to train our community that way. Without that kind of assistance, you go back and talking about the same things, oh what we're going to do next, how we going to do this? Take a proactive approach. She, she did not shut down the entire state of South Dakota because she trusted her community to do the right thing.

I hope you guys would have the same attitude, that you can trust your community to do the right thing. Coming from where I came from and working in Happy Valley and also at, in, in the visitor industry, I saw a spread of diverse communities. And we need leadership here. Not just spinning around bean counters, you are not bean counters. Provide the leadership we require; I appeal to you. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Clifford. Are there any questions? If not, thank you again.

Kathy, our next testifier.

COUNTY CLERK: Our next testifier is registered as Leinaala. Leinaala will be followed by Niles. Leinaala. Leinaala.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, if there are no objections, we need to take a five-minute break for technical reasons. Okay, five minutes. 9:30, recess.

(THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS RECESSED BY THE CHAIR AT 9:25 P.M., AND WAS RECONVENED AT 9:40 P.M., WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT.)

CHAIR LEE: You can announce.

COUNTY CLERK: Chair, our next testifier is identified by telephone number last four digits 7770. And will be followed by telephone number 6859. 7770 is up.

MR. NICHOLAS TIMPONE:

Hello.

CHAIR LEE: Hello.

MR. TIMPONE: Hello.

CHAIR LEE: Hi, we can hear you.

MR. TIMPONE: Hello. Hello.

CHAIR LEE: Yes, please start talking. You can start with your testimony.

MR. TIMPONE: Okay, thank you. Good evening, thank you guys for staying up so late and taking care of everything that the, the community is throwing at you with all of these testimonies. I'm just one of many that you guys have had to listen to and I first and foremost want to thank you for passing the plastic ban. That is a huge win for our island in general.

But my name is Nicholas Timpone, I'm a resident of Haiku, Maui and I serve on the board of Common Ground Collective, which is a local nonprofit here on Maui. Our



main goal is increase in local food security and getting our community healthier and more educated and connected with the land.

So I'm in, I'm calling and testifying in support of our proposal that we sent in for the sum of \$100,000. These funds will go towards, we have two programs currently right now that this will fund, and one is our foster farming harvest, which we have been taking part in since the beginning of last year. And the other part will go towards installations which we're all seeing now is this . . . massive need, not only in the islands but everywhere right now considering the times.

So originally, you know, we had submitted just to get some funding for our foster farming harvesting program where we've been currently, weekly harvesting local produce from community members that we've met and attached ourselves with. And we've been able to bring, since we started the program, just about 11,000 pounds of produce to market. Again, that's 11,000 pounds of produce that was never hitting the marketplace to begin with. And that's just through our harvesting program.

You know, we've been set up since day one, since the inception of Common Ground Collective in 2017, our dream was to do installs. Installs in people's small yards, but also do acreage. You know, right now our, what we have listed under the proposal, we're set to do anywhere from ready to go box garden beds in people's yards to installation of orchard size, up to four acres. This is something that we've been working on, like I said since the inception in 2017 of Common Ground Collective.

And we look forward to getting the opportunity to ramp up. We've just been grassroots fundraising. We got a couple small grants to begin with, but we have not received any large funding, and that has been holding us back to achieve our greater, you know, goals that we have, which is to increase local food security here on the island. Without passing over, over the harvesting through . . . installation is definitely needed. And we're going to need more food as, as time goes on, and we're starting to see that.

We're seeing a lot of people voicing their opinions about that and showing the need for this service. You know, we've been ready for that since day one. And like I said we're, we're just really looking forward to getting the opportunity to not only plant and grow out people's yard in the communities to provide food, but also we can't overlook our foster farming harvest program, which since the inception, since, or sorry, since we implemented at the beginning of the last year, we have been bringing hundreds of pounds of produce on a weekly basis to market. And we're going to continue to do that every week. I believe just this week, we harvested around 650 pounds that's going to a local market, that's also going to other nonprofits that distribute it to feed people in need. And we could really use the support from the County, and you know, just to perpetuate what we've been doing and what we will continue to do.

We're, you know, metaphorically and literally, you know, we already have boots on the ground and shovels in the dirt when it comes to installation and actually getting food to market. And so again, I just would like to thank you guys for putting in the long hours today. And thank you for hearing me out. And, you know, everything that's been said, that I've heard tonight has, has a, is under the umbrella of sustainability, whether it's economic, cultural, in society, and obviously our environment.

Everyone is very concerned with increasing our sustainability and supporting farming programs and organizations that are working hard at increasing our food security here. That's just another step in the right direction and I know the community appreciates that. And again we all appreciate your guys work, you're not in a easy position. And thank you so much for hearing me out.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you very much. Are there any questions for the testifier? Mr. Deneti?

MR. TIMPONE: Timpone.

CHAIR LEE: No, I mean. Thank you, thanks for coming. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

MR. TIMPONE: Okay, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Timpone. Yes, we received the Common Ground Collective organization chart from Ms. . . . And she was able to show how, you know, matching funds \$30,000 could increase your organization's productivity with some sales as well as garnering some donations to increase your, your productivity. So I think some of the Members were asking, with the increase, would you have a farther reach throughout the island?

MR. TIMPONE: Correct, yeah, I believe we increased our proposal from \$30,000 to \$100,000. That would cover the original \$30,000 to help keep our harvesting program going with \$70,000 being used to spearhead installations. And like I was saying that's anywhere from garden beds in people's yards to acreage of orchard planting.

When that happens, you know, we, we are, the way we're set up and modeled is stick with the planting, from installation to however, however long the landowner wants us to be involved. So whether that's into perpetuity or they want us to install and walk away. You know, our main goal is that we want to increase the amount of land that is productive and, be able to provide a product from that land in the, in the form of food,

which is bottom line. You know, we all know how important that is. And so that's where the 70,000 would be going.

And the way that we have it structured is that if, you know, when we get, three, so our, we would operate on a sliding scale, those who can afford to pay for it out-of-pocket would. And for three installations that can afford a full price, that will cover one installation for a family in need complete basically, you know, a free installation. And so we hope, you know, in the future that when that really gets rolling, we can become self-sustaining just on people, you know, paying for the installs, allowing us to then take that extra money and cover people that are in need, you know.

We're asking for this funding to really get the ball rolling. We've been working at it since 2017. And we're, every day, we're just getting, reaching its pinnacle as far as the necessity and as far as people calling, you know, asking for us to help. And so here we are, you know, asking for your guys help as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Timpone.

MR. TIMPONE: Mahalo, thank you very much. Have a wonderful evening.

CHAIR LEE: Next.

COUNTY CLERK: Thank you, Chair. We have up next to testify telephone number, last four digits, 6659. And that testifier would be followed by last four digits, 4411. Testifier 6659, you're up.

MS. ROBIN KNOX:

Aloha, this is Robin Knox. Thank you for working with me to get me through the technology loop. Chair Lee, I think you're doing a wonderful job--

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

MS. KNOX: --managing all this technology trial and error. I just want to affirm what other testifiers have said about the importance of food security and in the budget supporting anything that increases our ability to provide food locally and to support our local farmers and, and other businesses that are related to their farming.

With regard to the Maui Visitors Bureau funding, I think that that needs to be severely cut. We don't need to be spending any money on advertising. However, I do think we should try to preserve the jobs of the people that work in that bureau and put them to

work planning how to revamp tourism. I don't think we want it to go away completely, but I think we have this unique opportunity right now to see what it really is and what the impacts are to our environment as well as our economy and to really reassess all of that. So I think that, you know, we could take three million away and still get some work done there toward our future with tourism.

And then I'd also just say, I, you know that I think the reality is that all the budgets are going to have to be looked at, and from . . . and you know rather than cutting off an entire arm or leg, it might be better to ask everybody to reduce some instead of completely eliminating things. And you know, one example that I can think of is, you know, everybody really loves the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council's work, and they have a lot of neat projects going on. But we could assess those projects and say, do we really need data from every one of these sites every month? Or do we really need to do the oysters right now? You know, so that we can trim back budgets.

I think it's really important to do the ones like the Pohakea Watershed, where that sediment is going to come down whether there's a pandemic or not, so you don't want to delay something like that. And that also had a grant associated with it that brought money from outside the County and put people to work doing the hard, you know, work with the heavy equipment or whatever needs to be done up there. So that's just one example.

I think all of the budgets can be looked at in that light. Like what of these things that we were planning to do next year could be put on hold, and us be able to decrease our budget, you know in order to take care of some other things that have come up due to this pandemic that we need to address. So that's all I have. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Very good. Any questions? If not, thank you very much for waiting so long.

MS. KNOX: You're welcome.

CHAIR LEE: Appreciate it.

COUNTY CLERK: Chair, our next testifier is last four digits of the telephone 4411. Testifier 4411.

MS. CLARE APANA:

Thank you for hearing my words today. This is Clare Apana. Thank you for letting me be the last testifier, maybe. I am so impressed with all the people who have testified

tonight in coming together for our community. And I will go straight to what I want to relay to you tonight.

And as we sit in this place of really, fighting for our lives some of us, I will say that my son is an emergency room doctor in Washington DC. And he said to me, you know mom, I'm watching people die and there's nothing we can do about it. But I'm watching people die. Because he's always been the high-tech person who could always find some miracle medicine or machine to use.

But we sit here trying to protect our island and at the same time, I am in the same place fighting for our iwi kupuna. And now, more than anytime, I have to say that it is so important that we give them the respect because they are here with us protecting us, guiding us in this place as they were meant to be. We malama kakanilua other friends, we don't do the . . . for no reason. We don't stay in this for decades for no reason. Our kupuna are so important to bringing our land back, bringing our life, preserving it.

And you have a proposal to buy the Waiale land. I testified for three years about those lands with one thought, we must protect the burials that are there. They are in the sand dune. I do not know if you know how much you really could build on. How much of that is not sand dune, but they are tall sand dunes still there and there you will find burial and you will find our kupuna. Have you given that a very good thought?

I tried to help Mayor, but I could not get a map of what was proposed. So I could not give an answer about whether the kupuna would be impacted. And I say you must be very careful and know what you're actually buying. I do not believe that we should pay anything. This, this company has sand mined my ancestors for decades. They've gone through hundreds and hundreds, thousands of burials and what did they pay for it? Nothing. They could at least give this to our County. I don't think you should pay this amount of money for it. I think it should be given to us, it should be given to the people for all the damage that has been done before it.

And about the Maui Lani Parkway, as I've seen it come through the Planning Commissions and the different various places, it was always Maui Lani's responsibility, and they started to build the road, ran into many, many, many burials, and so the road was never opened. There are many burials as you have outlined and there are more burials that will be impacted as you try to connect that road.

In the previous testimony in the Planning Commission, you will see discussions about how much will the road actually contribute to decreasing traffic because where it connects, you're already again on a busy road. I am not sure this is the right solution. I know that I wouldn't want to have heavy traffic on that road because there are burials

all around it, and where the two well stations are, there were burial found. They were actually, I believe 92 burials found building that short section of road.

CHAIR LEE: Clare, can you, can you conclude, please.

MS. APANA: I can.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

MS. APANA: Thank you very much. I thank you for hearing me. I want to reiterate that we need to go back to the spirit and the aina and what feeds all of us here, and that starts with our kupuna and honoring them. And no matter what nationality you are, whether you practice your traditions or not, it is the same. We need to respect those who came before us and who stay with us to see that we continue to thrive. Mahalo. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Are there any questions for Ms. Apana? If not, take care Clare--

MS. APANA: Okay, mahalo nui.

CHAIR LEE: --and we'll talk to you again.

MS. APANA: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, so are there any more testifiers.

COUNTY CLERK: Chair, we do not have any other testifiers noted. If you are connected to the meeting and have not testified but wish to do so, please indicate to staff now via the meeting chat. Individuals can also send moderators a request to interact live if they wish to testify. Repeating, last call for testifiers. Please indicate if you would like to testify in the chat or please send a request to interact live now.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, if there are no objections, Councilmembers, I'm going to close public testimony.

MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTION.

CHAIR LEE: So ordered.

COUNTY CLERK: Chair. We have received written testimony as well.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, any objections to accepting written testimony.

MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTION.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, WRITTEN TESTIMONY  
RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING WERE MADE A PART OF  
THE RECORD OF THIS PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Lucienne de Naie;
2. Paula Alcoseba;
3. Monica Alexandra;
4. Anne Allison;
5. Edward Aloï;
6. Alike Atay;
7. Eliza C. Baltazar, Nick Sado, Zenaida Cruz, Christopher Barut, Gemma Cruz, Kristine Lee Villon, Ivyneil Feig, Darren Lopez, and Mark Miranda;
8. Kerry A. Beane;
9. Meredith Beeson;
10. Lisa Berg;
11. Marjorie Bonar;
12. Lynn Britton, Ma`alaea Village Association;
13. Tova Callender, West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative;
14. Peter Cannnon and Tapani Vuori;
15. Jud R. Cunningham;
16. Mary Jo Durrand;
17. Alexis Eaton;
18. Susan Elias;
19. Leslie Farnel;
20. Michael Fogarty, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council;
21. Jen Fordyce;
22. Andrew Fox;
23. Gary Ganoot;
24. Ron Gess;
25. Scott S. Graves;
26. Michelle Griffoul;
27. Serene Gunnison;
28. Haiku Community Association;
29. Cynthia Hehemann;
30. Cheryl Hendrickson;
31. Nikta Houston;
32. Lieutenant Steven Howard, The Salvation Army;
33. Mark Hyde;
34. Lyndon and Janyce Ibele;

35. Neil Irwin;
36. Sulara James;
37. Brenda Jarmakani;
38. Carolee and Ralph Jones;
39. Quentin Koch, Blue Hawaiian Helicopters;
40. Arnie Koss;
41. Michele Lincoln;
42. Pat B. Lindquist, Napili Bay and Beach Foundation, Inc.;
43. James Lumpkin;
44. Michael McCormick;
45. Elizabeth McDonald;
46. Jennifer McNally, Wailea Golf Club;
47. Makenna Mecsey;
48. Phillip Milne;
49. Shannah Milstead;
50. Trent Minor;
51. Nancy Minuto;
52. Karima Morgan;
53. Alex Nakajima, Kapalua Golf & Tennis;
54. Robin Newbold, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council;
55. James Padgett;
56. Gilbert A. Pan;
57. Cody Pueo Pata;
58. Kristine Peterson;
59. Jim Petrus;
60. Carol and Ron Riccio;
61. Anne Rillero;
62. Andrew C. Rogers, The Ritz-Carlton Kapalua;
63. Paul Romero;
64. Benjamin Shih;
65. Stephanie Smythe;
66. Samuel Spurrier;
67. Larry Stevens;
68. Patricia and Jefferson Stillwell;
69. Shannon VanderHeuvel, Lauloa Condominiums;
70. Tapani Vuori, Maui Ocean Center;
71. Aerie Waters;
72. John D. White, Kaanapali Beach Hotel;
73. Alfred Wolf;
74. Rick Woodford;
75. Scott Young; and
76. Leina`ala Kuloloio Vedder.



CHAIR LEE: So ordered. Anything else? Well you all have a nice evening. You still have time to go dancing and enjoy music. So you guys have fun and take care, please take good care of yourselves and we'll see you on the other side of this weekend. Okay. Meeting adjourned.

### ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing of *APRIL 17, 2020*, was adjourned by the Chair at 10:01 p.m.



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KATHY KAOHU, COUNTY CLERK  
COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII

## County Clerk

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**From:** Lucienne de naie <laluzmaui@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 7:42 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Cc:** Haiku Community  
**Subject:** Testimony from Haiku Community Association on Mayors budget

Aloha Chair Lee and Council Members

Haiku Community Association appreciates the many long hours all of the Council members have dedicated to the FY20-21 budget process.

While the Mayor's Budget Draft has many worthwhile community priorities included, we also appreciate the important budget items that all of you have added to the budget, reflecting the needs of your districts.

HCA supports the projects our Paia-Haiku Council member Mike Molina asked to be included in the FY20-21 budget. These are important priorities to the health and safety of our community.

- Increase funds in the Parks/Admin budget to remove abandoned vehicles from Hamakualoa Open Space
- Funds for study of alternative sites for the Ha'iku Fire Station that could save the County money due to more accessible water supplies
- Funds in the Planning Department budget to staff the proposed Community Advisory Committees
- Funds to purchase trash receptacles and commence the Clean and Safe Program in Pa'ia Town
- A new slide for Maui's very popular keiki park at Giggle Hill in Ha'iku
- Improvements to Baldwin Ave public parking lot
- Northshore Greenway safety fencing
- Review or study of our planning operations to determine how best to enhance permit review and customer service
- increase in funding for Maui's affordable rental housing program
- maintain dedicated funding levels To MISC and others for eradication of Little Fire Ants, eradication of Miconia, invasive ugulants and Coqui frogs
- Mayors HELP office to assist local families
- Support to continue the good work of Common Ground Coolective helping provide fresh food to Maui food distribution agencies and now offer support to those have land and want to grow more food for our communities.
- Support a dedicated liason on Hawaiian affairs and cultural preservation and burial issues
- support for continuation of ESG Summit to help diversify our economy

Other very needed projects:

County wide safety improvements on public roads- re-stripping crosswalks/ adding stop signs, repaving, etc.

Additional programs to support local farmers- small grants, expanded ag park opportunities

Safety net programs for Maui's families: Grants to help rural businesses and families as proposed by Councilmember Hokama

Water refill stations for Community centers

Support for the Programs to support young farmers and farm families Islandwide

Support for new affordable rental projects in Kahului and additional beds, food distribution and programs for unsheltered residents

West Maui Green cycle project

Preservation of the 257-acre Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed lands

Mahalo for all your hard work on this very challenging budget process.

Ha'iku Community Association

PO Box 1036, Haiku, HI 96708

Lucienne de Naie

President

Lucienne de Naie

[laluzmaui@gmail.com](mailto:laluzmaui@gmail.com)

808 214-0147

## County Clerk

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**From:** Paula Alcosoba <paula33@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2020 6:19 PM  
**To:** County Clerk; Maui\_County Council\_mailbox; Tasha A. Kama; Tamara A. Paltin; Kelly King; Shane M. Sinenci; Alice L. Lee; Keani N. Rawlins; Riki Hokama; Mike J. Molina; Yukilei Sugimura  
**Subject:** Support for putting water refill stations in each district

Aloha pumehana,

My name is Paula Alcosoba and I am currently a student at UHMC. I would like to submit testimony regarding the setting up of water refill stations in each district. I strongly support this project, it is a step in the right direction and will provide several solutions to problems Maui is facing today. It will lessen the amount of single-use plastic bottles being purchased and thrown away. People are more likely to refill their containers if water refill stations are more accessible. It would be nice if we could refill larger containers as well. It is important that we have several sources for clean alkaline water which is better for overall health. It is the duty of the governing body of Maui to find more ways of providing residents affordable access to clean drinking water. According to the United Nations Resolution 64/292, "The Resolution calls upon States and international organizations to provide financial resources, help capacity-building and technology transfer to help countries [...] provide safe, clean, accessible and affordable drinking water and sanitation for all." Implementing water refill stations will increase our island's resilience.

I would like to mention that while it is important to provide access to clean water, it is even more important to implement measures to conserve the island's freshwater resources.

Generating more funding for the County's Water Conservation Program is critical to preserving our freshwater on Maui. The current programs are not widely known by constituents. We know that a lot of funding is unnecessarily spent on marketing for tourism, but we don't need to market tourism on Maui. A lot of that money can be redirected elsewhere. Getting more rain catchment barrels, high-efficiency toilets, and other water conservation supplies to the public would be a great help.

It would be a good idea to implement a water auditing program for households, commercial and institutional facilities. Many facilities are wasting water without even knowing it, and current infrastructure and technology must be updated to meet water conservation standards. It is essential to preserve as much open space as possible for groundwater recharge. We need to analyze our stormwater run-off and redirect these into swales. We need to plant more native vegetation and stabilize the functioning of the watershed. We need to look into increasing the amount of pervious surfaces when constructing. These are just a few measures that can be done to help conserve water.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

RECEIVED  
2020 APR -9 AM 7:57  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

## County Clerk

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**From:** Monica Alexandra <monicalex100@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2020 12:05 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Water refill stations

Aloha!

To whom it may concern, I am sending this email as a request for water refill stations to be placed in every district of Maui. Clean, healthy water is essential for all and on top of that, it will eliminate the use of plastic bottles over time.

Mahalo!  
-Monica A.  
831.869.2606

RECEIVED  
2020 APR -8 PM 3:37  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

## County Clerk

**From:** Anne Allison <onehiker4fun@mykolab.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 8:25 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** testimony in favor of MNMR

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 13 AM 7:53  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

To the Council Members,

Please fund MNMR!! This is imperative to monitor, gather data, continue established working projects, protect the reefs, fish. Our economy runs mostly on tourism and have to have healthy reefs to attract the fish and the tourists.

- In 2020, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council was included in the County budget for its **Water and Environmental Resource Protection and Conservation Program**.
- **This funding (\$225,000) was DROPPED from the proposed 2021 budget.** Please **REINSTATE** it to continue Maui Nui Marine Resource Council's important work for clean ocean water, healthy coral reefs and abundant native fish in 2021.
- One of the programs that needs County funding support is the Hui O Ka Wai Ola ocean water quality monitoring program.
- This program provides scientific data, readily accepted by the State of Hawaii Department of Health, from 41 sites in South and West Maui. Data is the key to finding the causes of water quality impairment, so these problems can be addressed by our community.
- Other Maui Nui Marine Resource Council programs that need County support include the oyster project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay, the work to implement the Pohakea Stormwater Management Plan to prevent sediment run-off into the ocean, scientific research to identify resilient corals, the Know Your Ocean monthly speaker series, and visitor/resident education about coral reefs.

- Starting in 2020, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council is helping to put Maui residents to work, thanks to a two year grant award from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that pays for local contractors and their employees to work in the Pohakea watershed, to install fire breaks to suppress wildfires. **Matching funds are required to secure this NFWF funding through 2021. Please urge the County to include funds for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the 2021 budget to support this match. Anne Allison, Kihei resident and volunteer**

## County Clerk

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**From:** Edward Aloï <ealoi@hawaii.edu>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:33 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee; County Clerk  
**Subject:** Please fund Maui Nui Marine Resource council

MNMRC protects valuable resources that are the backbone of local culture and economy. Please fund their efforts at the same levels as last year. Thank you.

Aloha,  
Ed Aloï  
Lahaina Resident

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 14 AM 9:46  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK



## County Clerk

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**From:** Alika Atay <alikaatay@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:21 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Budget

RECEIVED

2020 APR 16 AM 11:13

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha Nā,

There was a time in the 60's & 70's that an "Investment in the Marketing of Maui as a Visitor Destination" was needed to support a "New Industry of Tourism" and to boost the local economy. Fast forward 50-60 years, MISSION ACCOMPLISHED. The marketing brand of "MAUI" has gone global and is recognized worldwide. We are currently in the "Period of The Great Pause", a time to "Re-Set". We no longer can go back to what was normal. Maui County must also do its part in the "Re-Set. They must make bold moves and decisions and change the focus of the County Budget. It's time to re-direct those visitor focused marketing funds to Invest and put financial Support into another Industry; so that we do not "Have All of Our Eggs in one Industry". Maui County, it's time to Invest into Hemp & the Agricultural Industry so that we can take the lead in providing FOOD & MEDICINE for the People.

Aloha,  
Alika Atay  
alikaatay@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhone

## County Clerk

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**From:** Emmanuel Baltazar <emanbaltazar74@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 8:27 PM  
**To:** County Clerk; edb.committee@mauicounty.gov  
**Subject:** STATEMENT OF HOTEL WORKERS REGARDING MAUI VISITORS BUREAU

As one FAMILY working in hotel industry we STRONGLY supports the full funding of Maui Visitors Bureau to revive the Maui County Economy.

Hotel and golf courses workers are struggling for sometime and quite long because of the crisis brought by COVID 19 that affects tourism that such time will come back. Our family have been totally affected with this crisis that our experience is beyond compare. We need to get back to work wherein thousands of hotel employees even golf courses have been temporary laid off.

Tourism is the highest revenue earning of Maui County... we need to understand that tourism will come back in its full swing with the help of MAUI VISITORS BUREAU. Hotel industry and golf courses provide good benefits and high paying job that benefited our whole family that includes thousands of Maui constituents.

Our OHANA and other families urges and ask the Maui Council to allocate full funding for Maui Visitors Bureau. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Grand Wailea Resort Employees

Eliza C. Baltazar  
Nick Sado  
Zenaida Cruz  
Christopher Barut

Four Seasons Resort

Gemma Cruz  
Kristine Lee Villon  
Ivyneil Feig  
Darren Lopez

Andaz Maui

Mark Miranda

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

## County Clerk

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**From:** Kerry Beane <krsnakumari@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 1:34 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Reef Protection - Council 2021 Budget

RECEIVED

2020 APR 13 AM 7:54

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Thank you, County Council for your leadership in these challenging times!

I support and strongly request that the County Council fund Maui Nui Marine Resource Council for the 2021 budget at the same level as 2020. The continuance of the following programs are critical for ocean and reef protection, and will assure that these priceless environmental resources continue to thrive for the benefit of all nature and future generations. Mahalo nui loa for your continuing support of these essential programs.

- Community-based Hui O Ka Wai Ola ocean water quality monitoring program at 41 sites in South and West Maui
- Oyster bioremediation project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay
- Work to implement the Pohakea Stormwater Management Plan to prevent sediment run-off into the ocean
- Scientific research to identify corals that are most resilient to adverse conditions and climate change
- The Know Your Ocean monthly speaker series and education programs about reef protection
- Helping with matching funds for a two-year grant award from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that is paying local contractors and their employees to work in the Pohakea watershed, to install fire breaks to suppress wildfires

Kerry A Beane, MS  
Kihei, 916-704-6483

Testimony by Meredith Beeson  
Administrative Assistant  
Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

04/10/20

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2020 APR 13 AM 7:52

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha Economic Development and Budget Committee,

During this time of uncertainty in our world, I believe people are realizing what is most important to them. I think most of us would agree it is quality time with family and friends, and the environment we surround ourselves with.

Everywhere you go on Maui, there are families and friends hanging out on the beach. Whether they are using the ocean as a food source, a place for exercise, snorkeling or a way to cool off in the island heat, clean ocean water is vital for our community's health. This, along with abundant native fish and healthy coral reefs, are what drive Maui Nui Marine Resource Council's work.

I would first like to thank you for including funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in your budget in the past. I ask that you include funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the 2021 budget. This funding helps the nonprofit conduct research to improve water quality in South and West Maui by keeping the Hui O Ka Wai Ola community program in place which collects water quality data at 41 different locations to be used by many organizations and departments. This funding also supports the installation and maintenance of the oyster project in Maalaea Harbor which is helping improve the water quality in and around the harbor for all sorts of recreational and food industries. Lastly, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council improves the Pohakea watershed to reduce the risk of uncontrollable wildfires, and thus, the amount of sediment reaching the ocean.

Funding from you in the past has helped support these necessary projects as well as spreading awareness about coral reef health and educating the public on all sorts of oceanic and terrestrial topics through monthly speakers held at the Maui Ocean Center.

Thank you for your continued hard work, especially during this time when many of our friends and family are able to rest. It does not go unnoticed. Thank you for your consideration.

Best,  
Meredith Beeson  
meredith@mauireefs.org



## County Clerk

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**From:** Lisa Berg <maunalisa5@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 9:45 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Funding for Hui O Ka Wai Ola

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 14 AM 9:55  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha and mahalo for reading my testimony.

I am one of the many volunteers for the Hui O Ka Wai Ola water testing program. Every three weeks my team and I go to five sites from Honolulu Bay to Kahana to test the water.

We have been well trained and are providing our services for free as there aren't adequate resources.

I urge the Committee to include funds for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the 2021 budget. Information is listed below.

I will not break the stay in home order to personally testify but I hope this is as powerful as me being there. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Lisa

Lisa Berg  
3691 Lower Honoapiilani Rd 116  
Lahaina Hi. 96761-4303  
808-633-6281

The Hui O Ka Wai Ola program provides quality assured ocean water quality monitoring at 41 locations in South and West Maui.

We also provide enterococcus testing at most of our South Maui locations.

We work in close partnership with the State of Hawaii Department of Health Clean Water Branch.

Our data is readily accepted by DOH and EPA, and used by local agencies and nonprofits.

The data helps us pinpoint specific water quality problems such as too much nitrogen from fertilizers or wastewater, too much sediment from runoff, etc. so our community can identify the causes and develop solutions.

The funding for MNMRC will also support:

- Our oyster project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay
- Implementing the Pohakea stormwater management program including work to suppress wildfires in the Pohakea watershed across from Ma'alaea Bay
- Important studies of corals that are most resilient to climate change and adverse conditions in Ma'alaea and Olowalu
- Community education programs, including our monthly speaker series

County funding will also help match a two year grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that is helping us put Maui residents to work to install firebreaks in the Pohakea watershed,

Sent from my iPhone

**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** Marge Bonar <margebonar@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2020 11:17 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee; County Clerk  
**Subject:** Support for reinstating MNMRC funding in fiscal 2021

2020 APR -8 AM 11: 26

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

MNMRC has been proactive in protecting our near shore waters for years. Currently it has supported, among others, the following programs:

Ocean water quality monitoring at 41 locations in South and West Maui through our Hui O Ka Wai Ola program

Oyster project researching the feasibility of using not for consumption oysters to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay through bio-filtration.

Implementing the Pohakea stormwater management program including work to suppress wildfires in the Pohahea watershed across from Ma'alaea Bay, County funding will help match a two year grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that is helping us put Maui residents to work to install firebreaks in the Pohakea watershed,

Scientifically valid studies of corals that are most resilient to climate change and adverse conditions in Ma'alaea and Olowalu

Community education programs, including our over flow attendance at the monthly speaker series presented at Maui Ocean Center

The ocean is our most valuable asset. The current crisis in the tourist industry has affected our island more than any other. The lure of a clean ocean is shown by the people who are risking their lives by coming here when all reasonable cautions should be observed.

MNMRC has been providing services that should be government function, but due to the State still viewing neighbor islands as less important than Oahu, we have not seen the level of action here. MNMRC has stepped into this breach.

Please find funding, especially for the matching grant that shows we can do it ourselves.

Marjorie Bonar, Pukalani 573-1960

## County Clerk

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**From:** Maalaea Village Association <maalaeavillageassociation@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 11:36 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee; County Clerk  
**Cc:** B. Lynn Britton; Lyndon Ibele; Lucienne de naie  
**Subject:** Testimony for April 17 budget hearing  
**Attachments:** Save Maalaea Mauka Petition and Signatures.pdf; Sign on Letter from Orgs and businesses for Ma'alaea\_Pohakea Purchase .pdf

Please find attached budget testimony in support of using available, dedicated, "Open Space" funds to purchase Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed lands.

The testimony is supported by Ma'alaea Village Association, Kihei Community Association, Ma'alaea General Store, Maui Ocean Center, and the Sierra Club-Maui Chapter.

Included is a petition that is supported by over 200 concerned Maui residents, non-resident Maui property owners, and Maui visitors.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lynn Britton, President, MVA

With Warmest Aloha!  
Ma'alaea Village Association (MVA)  
P.O. Box 2122  
Wailuku, HI 96793

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 16 PM 12:37  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

From: Maui Community Organizations and Businesses

April 16, 2020

**To: Maui County Council Economic Development and Budget Committee (EDB)  
Maui County Council**

Aloha Council and Committee Chairs and Members:

Our organizations and businesses appreciate the EDB Committee's consideration of including funds in the FY 2021 County Budget to purchase the 257 acres of Pohakea watershed commonly known as "Ma'alaea Mauka," and the inclusion of additional funding for a 5 year plan of conservation management to reverse the years of erosion and wildfire hazard in this special place.

The Pohakea/Ma'alaea Mauka lands are part of South Maui's "**Conservation Corridor**": Kealia National Wildlife Refuge; National Marine Humpback Whale Sanctuary; Ma'alaea Harbor-home of Maui Ocean Center and Pacific Whale Foundation, and the Lahaina Pali Trail, which traditionally and currently has its Central Maui trail head on the 257-acre parcel.

We request funding from the **Maui County Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund** to purchase the Pohakea/Ma'alaea Mauka lands. We believe that these lands are a good fit for the intent of this fund, with numerous conservation values that define just the types of land the Fund seeks to protect-  
**open space, natural and cultural resources and scenic views:**

- They are rated by the State of Hawaii as Prime Agricultural land and were farmed for generations;
- According to a 2015 flora and fauna survey, the lands provide native wildlife habitat for endangered Nene Geese, Ope'ape'a (endangered native Hoary Bat), and the endangered Blackburn Sphinx Moth, as well as native Wiliwili trees and other native species;
- The Pohakea/ Ma'alaeaMauka lands are culturally and historically important due to the presence of the 500-year-old Lahaina Pali Trail, the traditional Waikapu-Ukumehame Ahupua'a Boundary, and the historically important Pohakea gulch, which drains to Kealia Pond;
- The site has been designated as a future transportation corridor in the Maui Island Plan;
- The Pohakea/Ma'alaeaMauka lands meet the goals of the Maui Island Plan, with outstanding scenic vistas, mauka and makai, and are very popular with local and visiting hikers for recreational use due the presence of the Old Lahaina Trail.

**South Maui, and the Ma'alaea area, is an important economic asset to all of Maui County. It has been 20 years since a park or open space parcel of any significant size has been protected in the South Maui District through applying funds from the Maui County Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund.**

As community organizations and businesses providing support and advocacy in Maui County, we strongly feel this is an opportunity to protect these open space lands at the gateway to West Maui, Central Maui and South Maui that will continue to sustain and nourish the residents and visitors of Maui for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration.

**Kihei Community Association**

**Ma'alaea General Store**

**Ma'alaea Village Association**

**Maui Ocean Center**

**With the support of the Sierra Club, Maui Chapter**



## **"Save Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed" Petition**

We, the residents of Maui, in partnership with concerned visitors, request the Maui County Council include funds in the upcoming Maui County budget to purchase the 257-acre Ma'alaea Mauka lands, as part of the Pohakea Watershed, so that it can be managed with the surrounding State Pohakea Watershed lands for the benefit and safety of all. The lands should remain in agricultural/open space use, free from ANY development for the following reasons:

- 1) Ma'alaea is the gateway to Lahaina and the connection between Wailuku, Kahului, Kihei and West Maui;
- 2) The 257-acre Ma'alaea Mauka parcel offers iconic views and provides habitat for rare and endangered native animals;
- 3) With frequent road closures due to wildfires and traffic accidents, Maui residents and visitors need a safe place to stop and rest, and turn around if necessary;
- 4) Ma'alaea Bay restoration efforts depend on addressing drainage from Pohakea Watershed State Conservation Lands above Ma'alaea that flow through Ma'alaea Mauka lands;
- 5) Preserving Ma'alaea's 'Conservation Corridor'- Kealia National Wildlife Refuge, Lahaina Pali Trail, Ma'alaea Harbor, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, and Maui Ocean Center - will benefit future generations;
- 6) Ma'alaea Mauka lands are identified as the site of a future transit corridor which would benefit future traffic reduction efforts;
- 7) Ma'alaea Mauka lands include the historic Lahaina Pali Trail. Trailhead and parking for this popular recreational landmark should be expanded for hiking and enjoying Maui's scenic vistas.

Count	First	Last	Maui Resident	Non-res. Maui property owner	Concerned Visitor
1	Ayesha	Andrews			x
2	Bob	Arboit		x	
3	Jan	Arboit		x	
4	Noelani	Balai	x		
5	William	Battles	x		
6	Pam	Bello	x		
7	Lars	Bjornson	x		
8	Ann-Marie	Bjornson	x		
9	shazara	bloomfield	x		
10	Susan	Brainin		x	
11	Bruce	Brandt		x	
12	Lesley	Brey		x	
13	Lynn	Britton	x		
14	Barbara	Bromley		x	
15	Brian	Burd	x		

Count	First	Last	Maui Resident	Non-res. Maui property owner	Concerned Visitor
16	Nicole	Busto	x		
17	Russell	Butler	x		
18	Karl R	Byers		x	
19	Jo Anne	Byers		x	
20	Tracy	Cannon	x		
21	Peter W.	Cannon	x		
22	Gayle	Carter	x		
23	Nick	Cattell		x	
24	Sucheng	Chan		x	
25	Kim	Christfort		x	
26	Edwin	Clarke		x	
27	Wendall	Clarkson		x	
28	Sally	Clarkson		x	
29	Lance D	Collins	x		
30	Karen J	Comcowich	x		
31	Mark	Conley		x	
32	Teri	Corpuz	x		
33	Thomas	Craig	x		
34	Megan	Crouse	x		
35	Nakota	Crumbo	x		
36	Michael	Dahlberg	x		
37	Stan	Dahlin		x	
38	Debbie	Dahlin		x	
39	Shellyne	Darst		x	
40	Carol	Daum	x		
41	Bryan	Devore	x		
42	Susan	Dils	x		
43	Mark	Dils	x		
44	Richard	Dobbin		x	
45	Elizabeth	Dobbin		x	
46	Rick	Doremus			x
47	Mary	Doremus			x
48	Jeanne	Doty		x	
49	Dan	Dowdall	x		
50	Jerry	Eisenberg	x		
51	Isela	Esquer	x		
52	Rudy	Esquer	x		
53	William	Fereira		x	

Count	First	Last	Maui Resident	Non-res. Maui property owner	Concerned Visitor
54	Susan	Fereira		x	
55	Fred	Ferguson-Brey	x		
56	Barbara Halai	Fernandez	x		
57	Amy	Fonarow			x
58	Susan	Fox			x
59	Linda	Friedenberg	x		
60	Carl	Gann		x	
61	Kimberly	Godin	x		
62	Joel	Goldman		x	
63	Chris	Gossett	x		
64	Steve	Gould		x	
65	Peter	Graham			x
66	Noella	Graham			x
67	Roger	Greene	x		
68	William	Greenleaf	x		
69	Cindy	Greenup		x	
70	Gary	Gunderson		x	
71	Betty	Gunderson		x	
72	Tim	Hailey	x		
73	Vicky	Hailey	x		
74	Lori	Hamilton	x		
75	Ron	Hansen		x	
76	Noboru H	Hara		x	
77	Lora	Harbo		x	
78	Natalie	Harcrow	x		
79	Richard	Harr		x	
80	Dianne	Harr		x	
81	Bill	Hawkins	x		
82	Cheryl	Hawkins	x		
83	Jeff	Hedges			x
84	Jordan	Hocker	x		
85	Joy	Hosseinian	x		
86	Emily	hosseinnian	x		
87	Nikta	Houston	x		
88	Corrine	Houston		x	
89	Ron	Hurley			x
90	Mary	Hurley			x
91	Spencer	Hyde	x		

Count	First	Last	Maui Resident	Non-res. Maui property owner	Concerned Visitor
92	Lyndon	Ibele		x	
93	Janyce	Ibele		x	
94	Rungtiwa	Ide	x		
95	Sharie	Johnson		x	
96	Steven	Josefsberg		x	
97	Kecia	Joy	x		
98	Noreen J	Joyce	x		
99	Mark	Juergensmeyer		x	
100	Randall K	Kam	x		
101	Jennifer	Karaca	x		
102	Nathan	Kellogg	x		
103	Mark	Knodle		x	
104	Laurie	Knodle		x	
105	Mille	Kohl	x		
106	Barbara	Kozan		x	
107	Doug	Kozan		x	
108	Larry	Laird	x		
109	Joanne	Laird	x		
110	Bill	Lamkin	x		
111	Matthew L	Langa	x		
112	Chuck	Langer	x		
113	Carol	Langer	x		
114	Tony	Lawson		x	
115	Julie	Lewis	x		
116	Clifford R	Libed		x	
117	David	Liebersbach		x	
118	travis	Liggett	x		
119	Mara	Lockwood	x		
120	Kahad	lynch	x		
121	Maurice	MacColl		x	
122	Elaine	Malina	x		
123	Matthew	Mano	x		
124	Gregory	Martin		x	
125	Douglas	McBride	x		
126	Kelli	Medeiros	x		
127	Todd	Meeker		x	
128	Scott	Metcalf	x		
129	Jobi	Miguel	x		

Count	First	Last	Maui Resident	Non-res. Maui property owner	Concerned Visitor
130	Gerald P.	Moniz	x		
131	Diana S.	Moniz	x		
132	Charles	Montgomery		x	
133	Joan	Moore	x		
134	Mike	Moran	x		
135	Karima	Morgan	x		
136	Lisa	Murphy		x	
137	Dennis	Murphy		x	
138	David	Myerson		x	
139	Patricia	Nations	x		
140	Joy	Nelson	x		
141	Don	Nelson	x		
142	John	Norman		x	
143	Nancy	Norman		x	
144	Gary	Pason			
145	Phil	Peacock	x		
146	Cris	Peacock	x		
147	Mary	Pedretti		x	
148	HARAO	Pellegrino	x		
149	Kristine	Peterson	x		
150	Elena	Pray	x		
151	Ron	Racia		x	
152	Dianne	Racia		x	
153	Gerald P.	Rafson		x	
154	Lynne	Reddy			x
155	Paul	Reynolds	x		
156	Diana	Reynolds	x		
157	Andrea	Reynolds		x	
158	Renee	Richardson	x		
159	Rob	Riebling	x		
160	Shelly	Riebling	x		
161	Anne	Rillero	x		
162	Christine	Roberson	x		
163	Ted	Roberts		x	
164	Adele	Rugg	x		
165	Robert	Sader		x	
166	Deanna	Salse	x		
167	Walter	Schibli		x	

Count	First	Last	Maui Resident	Non-res. Maui property owner	Concerned Visitor
168	Dennis	Scott		x	
169	Nora	Scott		x	
170	Luna	Siciliani			x
171	Rick	Smith		x	
172	Debbie	Smith		x	
173	Shirley	Smith-Baker			x
174	Richard	Sonnichsen		x	
175	Barbara	Stetson		x	
176	John	Stewart		x	
177	Vicki	Stewart		x	
178	Patricia	Stillwell	x		
179	Jefferson	Stillwell	x		
180	Frank	Story			x
181	Terri	Strack		x	
182	Gail	Swanson	x		
183	Craig	Swift	x		
184	Sara	Tekula	x		
185	Lucy	Thayer	x		
186	Wendy	Thayer		x	
187	Rich	Thayer		x	
188	Bruce	Thompson	x		
189	Pam	Thompson	x		
190	Bruce	Thompson		x	
191	Pam	Thompson		x	
192	Michele	Torrey		x	
193	Larissa	Treese	x		
194	Robert	Treese	x		
195	Lauren	Tyler	x		
196	Kamalani	Uehara	x		
197	Steve	Uhl		x	
198	Gale	Uhl		x	
199	John	Uhl		x	
200	John	Urbanowski	x		
201	Gilbert	Van Valkenburg		x	
202	Todd	Vanderheuvel	x		
203	Shannon	Vanderheuvel	x		
204	Phillip	Vulliet		x	
205	Tapani	Vuori	x		

Count	First	Last	Maui Resident	Non-res. Maui property owner	Concerned Visitor
206	Steve	Weber		x	
207	Rob	Weltman	x	x	
208	Helena	Weltman		x	
209	Michael	Werner	x		
210	Heather	Werner	x		
211	Sylvia	Whelchel	x		
212	Molly	Whitaker	x		
213	Dray	Wilson	x		
214	Cathy	Windmiller		x	
215	Pam	Wohl		x	
216	Curtis	Wong		x	
217	Stephanie	Workman		x	
218	Gary	Wright		x	
219	Sharon	Wright		x	
220	Gary	Wright		x	
221	Andrea	Zeiner		x	

**Total Counts:      113                  94                  14**



RECEIVED

2020 APR 16 AM 11:14

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK  
April 16, 2020

To: [edb.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:edb.committee@mauicounty.us)  
[county.clerk@mauicounty.us](mailto:county.clerk@mauicounty.us)

**Aloha Committee and Council Chair and Members,**

The Ma'alaea Village Association (MVA), with over 150 individual and business members, appreciates this opportunity to support the following items on the FY 2021 budget:

**1. County Purchase of Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Lands with Open Space Funds**

For many years, Ma'alaea Village Association, its predecessor, Ma'alaea Community Association, the Kihei Community Association, Sierra Club, Maui Tomorrow and every county planning director have expressed concerns about development on the 257-acre parcel due to its location at the gateway to West Maui, proximity to Ma'alaea Bay, vast scenic and cultural resources, and wildfires that frequent the site.

We request the parcel be purchased for public ownership and managed as part of the Pohakea Watershed Plan and other public purposes, which include expansion of the Lahaina Pali Trailhead, park/rest/greenspace, and emergency parking during road closures.

MVA has submitted an application for Legacy Land Conservation funds to match possible County open space funds for site purchase. Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (HILT) may be willing to "moderate" for a commitment to the purchase, and participate in future planning.

**2. Ma'alaea Coastal Erosion Study**

Over 150 people attended the MVA Town Hall on Coastal Erosion held in February, 2020. This Coastal Erosion Study is the next step in addressing the severe erosion facing Ma'alaea. Along with this request, we support continued funding for Tara Owens' Sea Grant position.

**3. Maui Nui Marine Resource Council**

The Maui Nui Marine Resource Council "Pohakea Watershed Stormwater Management Plan" and other environmental programs are critical to restoring Ma'alaea Bay. County match to their federal grants expands MNMRC outreach and benefits for Maui's future sustainability.

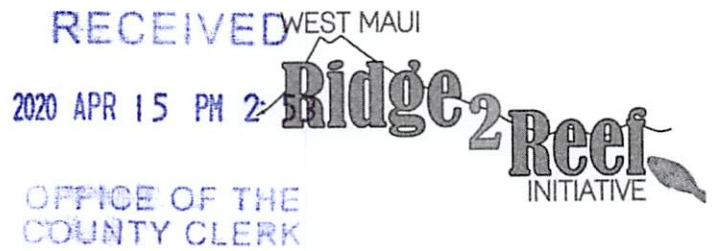
**4. Include Ma'alaea in CIP for new Central Maui Wastewater Facility**

The Ma'alaea community has proactively pursued alternatives to individual wastewater treatment plants and injection wells. The most cost effective and timely option is pumping to a private facility at Waikapu Country Town. If that is not a reality, we request that Ma'alaea be included in County CIP plans for a new wastewater facility in Central Maui.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Lynn Britton, MVA President





April 15, 2020

County of Maui County Council

**Re: Support for funding Maui Nui Marine Resource Council to enable critical work including coastal water quality monitoring**

Dear distinguished Members of our Maui County Council,  
On behalf of the West Maui Ridge to Reef Initiative, I am writing in support of including funding for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council (MNMRC) in the proposed budget for FY2021. Ideally, this would be at the past level of \$225,000.

The West Maui Ridge to Reef (R2R) Initiative is an all-encompassing approach across multiple agencies and organizations to address adverse impacts to coral reefs in West Maui. Utilizing established efforts underway and leveraging resources across a number of agencies and community groups, R2R seeks to implement actions to reduce one of the key sources of reef decline—land-based sources of pollution.

One of the partnerships we hold central to our success in making informed management decisions and understanding impact, is the coalition we have with The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and MNMRC that resulted in our creation and ongoing management of Hui O Ka Wai Ola. Hui O Ka Wai Ola is our community based, quality controlled coastal water quality monitoring program, through which, we now have more data points on key parameters than ever before to allow us to understand where we, as a community, have cause for concern, and where action is needed to address pollution.

Each organization in our coalition plays a key role in the Hui, and by acting as the fiscal agent for our program, MNMRC's function is critical. In addition to helping to support MNMRC's other efforts in protecting our marine environment and educating the public, County funding to MNMRC helps to ensure there are no interruptions in our ability to continue water quality sampling through Hui O Ka Wai Ola.

We can only manage what we measure. This is why it is essential that we continue to monitor our coastal waters so that groups like R2R, MNMRC, TNC and our networks of conservation partners can take informed actions to prevent further degradation of coastal waters and the marine ecosystems therein.

Thank you for considering funding this important work by supporting MNMRC. Please do not hesitate to be in touch with further questions.

Best regards,

Tova Callender  
West Maui Watershed & Coastal Management Coordinator  
808-214-4239 tova@westmauir2r.com

To: Economic Development and Budget Committee, Maui County Council

RECEIVED

2020 APR 15 PM 1:28

**RE: CIP budget for new Central Maui Wastewater Plant**

The Maalaea community has pursued alternatives to our private treatment facilities and injection wells over the last 18 months. Although we met with the Mayor several times, we are not mentioned in the CIP budget detail for a new Central Maui wastewater treatment plant. If Council approves the funding for the new Central Maui plant we ask you to include Maalaea in future plans.

**Background:**

Maalaea Village Association (MVA) held its first Town Hall on October, 2018. The subject was the need for wastewater treatment options due to mandates for replacement of several private wastewater treatment plants and the plausibility of a regional Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP).

The Panel included a Clean Water Expert, Representatives from the State Department of Health Wastewater Branch, the State Attorney General's Office, and a Wastewater Expert. 56 people attended, 25% (14 people) signed up to be on a wastewater task force. A Steering Committee was named with individuals from the Hono Kai and Lauloa Condominiums which were both under orders by the DOH to correct their WWTP to a tune of approximately \$1 million each, Maui Ocean Center, and Maui Harbor Shops. MVA was represented on the committee. The Committee met numerous times since October of 2018.

Brown and Caldwell was hired to conduct a study on the feasibility of a modern regional WWTP for the immediate Maalaea Village Community, thereby replacing the 23 injection wells utilized by the ten condominium properties and Maui Harbor Shops.

South Maui County Councilmember Kelly King requested that we add the possibility of building a delivery system for Maalaea sewerage to be pumped to the planned Waikapu Country Town (WCT) WWTP as a part of the study as a more cost effective alternative. This portion of the study was funded by an OED grant to MVA.

Brown and Caldwell completed the feasibility study for concept plans with primary cost estimates on a regional WWTP and on the WCT pump station delivery system. Brown and Caldwell produced specific engineering for building a regional WWTP in Maalaea, provided conclusions for building a regional WWTP in Maalaea (Section 9), the concept of pumping toward the new Waikapu Country Town(WCT)(Section 10), and the comparison of the two methods (Section 11). Pumping to Waikapu proved to be half the cost and more timely.

We have met several times with Waikapu Country Town developer Mike Atherton, who has assured the Steering Committee that he will include Maalaea when he builds his wastewater treatment plant. Maalaea water and effluent will be invaluable in helping him get the development built in the near future. The Maalaea community would pay Public Utility Commission (PUC) defined rates for the treatment services.

The steering committee presented the study to Mayor Mike Victorino, several Maui County Council representatives, Senator Roz Baker, Representative Angus McKelvey, and Senator Gil Keith-Agaran. We have also met with Department of Environmental Management Director Eric Nakagawa and his staff. The goal was to ask for support in funding a public private partnership of state and county government and Maalaea property owners.

In the meantime, the Supreme Court of the United States has heard arguments on Maui County's appeal of Federal court rulings regarding violations of the Clean Water Act. The final ruling could affect the status of injection wells on Maui. We do not know how Maalaea might be affected by this court decision or what the changes might be with the Supreme Court decision.

The Maalaea community has been proactive by looking for positive solutions to improving upon the use of injections wells for our sewer effluent. We feel that whatever the results of the court decision, we will be in a better place by having studied the options. Recent efforts by Maui Nui Marine Resource Council and other entities to restore Maalaea Bay will benefit by eliminating injection wells in Maalaea.

It is a known fact that Maui County must find alternatives to its Kahului WWTP. The Administration's budget includes CIP funding for this new facility to begin making the move. Although the Mayor has assured us several times that Maalaea could hook up to the new Central Maui facility we are not mentioned in the budget details.

We are unsure how Mr. Atherton's plans for Waikapu Country Town will materialize. At this point we ask that Maalaea be included in the County's long range plans with possible construction by 2025.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Peter Cannon and Tapani Vuori, Co-Chairs  
Maalaea Wastewater Steering Committee



## County Clerk

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**From:** Peter <peter@hawaiianresources.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:08 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee; County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony for April 17 budget meeting

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 15 AM 8:26  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Dear Maui County Council,

I support the purchase of Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed with Open Space funds.

I have deep personal experience with Maalaea and its environmental issues. I was born in Paia in 1946 and raised in Maalaea. My family has lived in Maalaea for generations. Have a lifetime of personal experience with Maalaea.

I support having the County of Maui purchase the Maalaea Mauka Pohakea lands for the following reasons:

- 1) It fits the purpose for the use of these funds. It will provide open space for a beautiful area of Maui.
- 2) The land can be used to mitigate drainage and sedimentation problems into Maalaea Bay from the Pohakea Watershed.
- 3) The property can be used for emergency parking as a way side holding area with bathrooms for cars and people who are held up by road closures on the way to Lahaina.
- 4) the property can be used to expand the Lahaina Pali Trailhead.
- 5) the land can be use for a future bypass for the current pali road to Lahaina.
- 6) The land could be used a a park in coordination with all of the above.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter W. Cannon

## County Clerk

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**From:** Jud Cunningham <jcunningham@aloha-house.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 4:24 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony on 2021 Maui County budget

RECEIVED

2020 APR 14 PM 4:39

(This email is being submitted for Maui County Council consideration pursuant to instructions provided in the Maui News on Monday, April 13, 2020.)

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

TO: Maui County Council

FROM: Jud R. Cunningham, Chief Executive Officer  
Aloha House, Inc./Malama Family Recovery Center/Maui Youth and Family Services

Aloha Members of the Maui County Council:

Drug and alcohol abuse and addiction continue to be among the most serious issues adversely affecting the citizens and families of Maui County, and, therefore, should be considered a high priority for use of public funds. Aloha House, Inc., now in its 43rd year, is the principal provider of both residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment for Maui County. With our partner agencies, Maui Youth and Family Services and Malama Family Recovery Center, we provide residential and outpatient services for thousands of individuals annually. The majority of our clients are with very limited financial resources. Many are homeless or have unsafe living conditions. Many have co-occurring mental disorders.

Maui County helped Aloha House many years ago to establish the only medically-monitored detox facility in the state and has continued to provide financial support, along with Maui Memorial Medical Center for this critically-needed service. Malama Family Recovery Center is Maui's only gender-specific substance abuse treatment program for women, especially those who are pregnant or parenting babies and toddlers in a residential setting. Maui Youth and Family Services operates Maui's only Intensive Outpatient Program (substance abuse) for adolescents.

The continued support of these critically-needed services for Maui residents by Maui County government has been essential to our success. We have not requested increases in funding from Maui County for many years, choosing instead to reach out to private revenue sources(fundraising, MedQuest, etc.) to address the continuously rising cost of providing services. The current COVID-19 crisis is causing a significant decline in revenues as we remain open as an "essential" healthcare service.

The Mayor's budget includes appropriations for our three nonprofit entities for the programs previously referenced. We ask for your support again for FY 2021 as you weigh community needs in preparing the County's budget. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or we can assist you in any way.

Mahalo nui loa for your tireless efforts on behalf of the Maui community.

Jud R. Cunningham

Chief Executive Officer  
Aloha House/Maui Youth and Family Services/Malama Na Makua A Keiki  
P.O. Box 791749  
Paia, HI 96779  
Tel. 808-442-6555  
Mob. 808-276-2919  
Fax 808-579-8426  
[jcunningham@aloha-house.org](mailto:jcunningham@aloha-house.org)

## County Clerk

---

**From:** mary jo durand <mjwa@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 10:31 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Fwd: funding for Maui Nui Marine Research Council

----- Original Message -----

**From:** mary jo durand <mjwa@comcast.net>  
**To:** edb.committee@mauicounty.us, countyclerk@mauicounty.us  
**Date:** April 14, 2020 at 5:33 PM  
**Subject:** funding for Maui Nui Marine Research Council

Dear Committee,

I whole heartedly support the work of Maui Nui Research and recommend that you continue funding to them in your budget, equaling \$ in 2019 or better. Their various projects are important to the island and oceans life here. The clean ocean program, oyster bioremediation and storm water runoff and our coral condition are imperative to a growing healthy environment.

The Know your ocean monthly speaker series is so important, to relaying the information they have learned, to the public !

Please continue the support!

Thank you

MJ Durrand

660 Meakanu Ln. #1502

Wailuku, HI. 96793

## County Clerk

---

**From:** Eaton, Alexis (KEA) <Alexis.Eaton@Fairmont.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 6:10 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee; County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony in favor of MVB Funding

Aloha,

Please allow me to offer my steadfast support of Maui Visitors Bureau and the funding necessary to maintain their essential and critical functions in our community. This support is critically important to our island's recovery from COVID 19 and the restoration of our visitor industry. It has become more evident than ever before how this industry is a lifeline for our community.

As the Director of Public Relations for the Fairmont Kea Lani, I have seen directly the very important work that MVB does within the travel community. I cannot stress how important their active presence within this community is for us to remain relevant and keep our local economy strong. We compete daily against numerous destinations across the globe. The moment this virus comes under control and our doors open back up, we will need MVB to be fully charged to promote our destination.

Maui is my home of the last 10+ years and where my husband and I are raising our 2 children. Reallocating MVB funds away from supporting tourism will severely harm our local economy and my family's ability to earn a living.

Mahalo nui loa,

Alexis Eaton  
Director of Public Relations  
Fairmont Kea Lani

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## County Clerk

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**From:** Susan Elias <eliassn13@msn.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 12, 2020 10:24 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Water Refill Stations

RECEIVED

2020 APR 13 AM 7:56

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha Maui County Council,

Clean water available to the public would be great for the community. Having water refill stations in ever district would benefit the health and wellness of the local residents and visitors of Maui. Water refill stations would also help reduce the single use plastic problem, by offering an eco friendly alternative that is better for the ocean, islands and earth.

Mahalo,

Susan Elias

## County Clerk

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**From:** tailwind . <shyaura@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 10:36 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Budget

RECEIVED

2020 APR 14 AM 7: 50

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

This is a time for healing. Healing of the people healing of the aina. To this end while I refrain from specifics for the 2020/21 budget there should be some emphasis on what makes this healing happen. So rather than budgeting money for tourism for example which we can all agree destroys what we all love about Hawaii I feel money would be more wisely spent on things for the people and things for the land. Make sure there is quality health care for those in need and unable to afford it. Take care our kapuna with existing programs that might be expanded. Make sure transportation is available and affordable and we can all afford to live in our homes and not be forced to camp along the side of the road. Save the oceans streams and forests from over use and pollution with clean programs to restore that which is damaged and keep that which is still pristine. Think of maui first and greed should be way down on the list. And if that means haole millenials that came here for a short good time and have no investment in the land and way of life need to go home aloha to you. Enough of people using and abusing the island. This is the time to change that with solid restorative programs that are Maui first.

Leslie Farnel  
PO box 1309  
Kihei 96753



Michael Fogarty  
Maui Nui Marine Resource Council  
PO Box 331204  
Kahului, HI 96733  
April 14, 2020

Economic Development and Budget Committee  
County of Maui County Council  
[edb.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:edb.committee@mauicounty.us)

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 15 PM 1:28  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Dear Committee Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice Chair King and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

As Executive Director of Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, I am presenting my testimony in support of funding to protect Maui County's coral reefs and nearshore ocean water quality in the County 2021 budget.

Before COVID-19, one of the biggest concerns for our island community was the declining state of our coral reefs and impaired ocean water quality. Our community recognized that coral reefs are more than fascinating undersea ecosystems. Without healthy coral reefs, our beaches will be eroded quickly by storms and big waves, our coastal infrastructure will be undermined and homes/buildings will be lost. Looking forward, our coral reefs will play a critical role in rebuilding tourism, the largest employment sector on Maui. Clean ocean water is also an important part of Maui's economic well-being; just think of the revenues associated with surfing and other watersports. Clean ocean water is also essential for the survival of our coral reefs and native fish populations.

During 2020, the County of Maui supported Maui Nui Marine Resource Council's work for healthy coral reefs, clean ocean water and abundant native fish with \$225,000 for our **Water and Environmental Resource Protection and Conservation Program**. Unfortunately, this funding is absent from Mayor Victorino's proposed 2021 budget. We urge the Economic Development and Budget Committee to restore this funding as an investment in Maui's future.

The funding that Maui Nui Marine Resource Council requests will support our unique community based ocean water quality monitoring at 41 monitoring leeward Maui, our oyster bioremediation project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay, our Pohakea stormwater management program, coral reef studies in Ma'alaea and Olowalu, and coral reef education programs.

Funding Maui Nui Marine Resource Council will also help to bring Federal money to Maui to support jobs for our residents. As you may know, MNMRC has received a multi-year \$300,000 grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) which will allow us to pay local contractors to install fire breaks to help suppress wildfires in the Pohakea watershed during 2020 and 2021.

We are also applying to NFWF's National Coastal Resilience Fund to support assessment and preliminary design of projects in South Maui that will reduce flooding and sediment runoff onto Kihei's reefs, to

protect the reefs so they can better protect our community's coastline. This grant is the first step in a series of NFWF grants that could provide funding in subsequent years for final design and permitting of some of these flood-control and runoff prevention projects, and ultimately provide millions of dollars for project implementation.

Matching funds are required to secure these NFWF grants, which is why Maui County's funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in 2021 is both critically needed and potentially valuable to support jobs and community improvement.

Perhaps you have viewed marine environmental protection programs as something extra – like “icing” on the cake – but please remember that in reality, our ocean environment is “the cake” -- the foundation upon which our well-being as an island community is based. Let's not ignore this important foundation. Please include Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in Maui County's 2021 budget.

I would also like to offer Maui Nui Marine Resource Council's Programs and Projects Manager Amy Hodges ([amy@mauireefs.org](mailto:amy@mauireefs.org)) and our Communications and Outreach Manager Anne Rillero ([anne@mauireefs.org](mailto:anne@mauireefs.org)) as expert witnesses to help with any questions you might have about our programs and projects. I'm also here to answer any questions that may arise.

Thank you for your time today. Please be safe and stay healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Fogarty", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mike Fogarty  
Executive Director



## County Clerk

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**From:** Jen Fordyce <jen\_fordyce@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 3:45 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Budget testimony

RECEIVED  
2020 APR -9 PM 4:01

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha e County Council,

I first want to express my sincere mahalo to all of you and to the staff for working so hard to keep our county government transparent and accessible for all who wish to participate.

Of course, the proposed budget will need some work since we are in a completely different reality from the time it was drafted. This can be seen as both a challenge and a blessing, depending on how we look at it.

It is well-documented that Maui once had a thriving agricultural "economy" if you will, and not only supported more than a million Hawaiians, but also exported food to other nations. Now, centuries later, here we are with one of the highest unemployment rates in the nation and a near panic about what happens to our resources if shipping is interrupted. It is a time of crisis, but also a great opportunity.

I have been thinking a lot about what we can do at this time to course-correct our canoe into a healthier, more vibrant path...away from our dependence on outside corporations for resources and jobs -- even if it's just small steps in the beginning. Here are some suggestions:

- STOP spending millions to support advertising Maui as a destination for travel. Maui will always have this reputation, and we are seeing first-hand the problems that it causes. Give the tourism association restricted resources for educating visitors on issues of safety and respect for local culture and environments.
- Limit tourism significantly to reprioritize resources for Maui County residents and to allow the island to recover from decades of abuse.
- Create an emergency fund for those who have suffered losses -- family, jobs, homes, etc. due to COVID-19.
- Similar to the project on O'ahu, create a central location where homeless can access showers, computers, phones, social and medical supports, and even access donated job interview clothes, work clothes, food, whatever is needed.
- Create a re-training fund for those who would like to change careers away from tourism. This idea is inspired by the funds available for workers after HC&S closed. They could commit to working within Maui County for 5+ years after retraining, and training could be made available for Maui's hard-to-fill positions (police, teachers, medical personnel, skilled labor county positions, etc.)
- Support local agriculture by providing "scale up" grants or low-interest loans to local farmers. They are keeping us healthy right now, and it is the best way forward for Maui's 'aina and residents to have healthy, affordable foods available.

Of course, there are many more issues that can be addressed and changes that can be made, but these are my suggestions for beginning our course-correction and moving toward a healthier environment, economy, and community overall.

**Mahalo nui loa to all of you for listening and for all of your hard work!**

**Jen Fordyce**

**Waikapū**

**808.268.6452**

## County Clerk

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**From:** Beth Fox <alohafoxes@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 12:44 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee; County Clerk; Meredith Beeson  
**Subject:** Maui Nui Marine Resource Council funding in County budget for 2021

RECEIVED

2020 APR 13 AM 7:52

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha kakou!

Please continue to fund Maui Nui Marine Resource Council at the same level as 2020, in order to maintain support for these vital programs:

Community-based Hui O Ka Wai Ola ocean water quality monitoring program at 41 sites in South and West Maui

Oyster bioremediation project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay

Work to urgently implement the Pohakea Stormwater Management Plan to prevent sediment run-off into the ocean

Scientific research to identify corals that are most resilient to adverse conditions and climate change and promote their growth

My personal favorite-the Know Your Ocean monthly speaker series and education programs about reef protection

Provide matching funds for their two-year grant award from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that is paying local contractors and their employees to work in the Pohakea watershed, to install fire breaks to suppress wildfires and develop 'greenbreaks' of native plants for fire prevention and erosion control.

Mahalo!

Andrew Fox

Maui County resident since 1998

1300 Haliimaile Road, Makawao

(808) 283-3720

## County Clerk

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**From:** Gary Ganoot <garydoubleg808@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 9:16 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Tourist Industry

As a Unit Chairman of Montage Kapalua Bay and all employees I STRONGLY SUPPORT the full funding of Maui Visitors Bureau to help us bring back tourism in the limelight in Maui County.

The COVID 19 crisis affected my family, co workers and thousands of hotel employees... the experience at this time is tremendous and stressful to everyone. I want tourism to go back to bring back to work thousands of hotel workers.

I know and I firmly believe that MAUI VISITORS BUREAU will full the trigger to bring back tourism in Maui County. Thousands of employees are longing to back work and be in normal situation as before. Hotel industry provide jobs with good benefits and pay that benefited our family and the community as well.

I ask the Maui Council to give consideration to give full funds for MAUI VISITORS BUREAU to help thousands of people and bring back Maui economy.

Thank you.

Gary Ganoot  
Unit Chairman  
Montage Kapalua Bay

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



## County Clerk

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**From:** Ron Gess <ron.gess@pwchawaii.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 12:43 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Cc:** info@mauihla.org  
**Subject:** MVB funding

Aloha Legislators,

It is very important to continue the Maui Visitors Bureau funding. In the first quarter of 2020 we had a wonderful business going and on March 26, 75% of it dropped out. Maui was closed for business. Maui is a wonderful place and we definitely need to fund the Maui Visitors Bureau so they can advertise how wonderful the island is and get the tourists interested and their business back in here after the COVID19 pandemic resides. Do not defund the Maui Visitors Bureau. This would be devastating to all businesses and the 120 employees that lost their job at PWC.

Stay safe - Ron

Ron Gess  
General Manager-Vice President  
PWC Hawaii Corp.  
PO Box 785  
Lahaina, HI 96761  
808-276-2406 (cell)  
808-446-7208 ( direct line)  
[www.peoplewhoclean.com](http://www.peoplewhoclean.com)  
[ron.gess@pwchawaii](mailto:ron.gess@pwchawaii)

## County Clerk

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**From:** Scott Graves <scttgraves@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 1:18 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee; County Clerk  
**Subject:** Funding Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

Dear Committee Members;

This letter is to request funding for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the 2021 b budget.

I am a Ph.D. scientist with a background in marine biology currently living on Maui. I am SCUBA diver and have dived in Maui County waters for the past 20 years. During this period, I have seen a decay in the quality of the marine ecosystem off the coast of South Maui. There are fewer fish and significant coral bleaching. Sediment coats the coral and significantly impacts its survival. Additionally, I have worked as a volunteer on a regular basis for the past few years to support the Hui O Ka Wai Ola program to assess the water quality off South Maui locations. My time and automobile have been given freely in this support. With my 30 years as a scientist, I can testify that the procedures used to test our water quality are done correctly, with controls in place to assure readings are accurate.

The Hui O Ka Wai Ola program is critical for the future of Maui as a vacation paradise. When we are out testing, on almost every occasion, people come up to our team and ask us if the water is safe. *Residents and visitors alike are informed and concerned about the safety of our beaches and water.*

It is imperative that the testing continues for three reasons:

One, testing tells the public that Maui is concerned about the water quality and is doing something productive about it. Second, our data analysis has the ability to pinpoint problems of sediment, nutrient runoff, and temperature changes so vital to the existence of reef ecosystem. Third, the climate is changing and the testing we are doing is being done in real time with these changes so as to identify problems that may benefit with intervention.

Funding will also support:

Our oyster farming project to improve water quality in Ma'alaea Bay. Oysters can filter up to 50 gallons of sea water a day. Water filtration by oysters has shown remarkable success in clarifying bays in other sites.

A monthly lecture series that educates the community on the projects designed to improve Maui inshore waters.

Storm water runoff management.

Think of Maui without its healthy in shore waters, vibrant reefs and diverse sea life. *Will tourists continue to visit Maui in the numbers we have come to expect if we fail to protect our waters?* Please continue to fund the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the 2021 budget. The work being done is important for maintaining and improving the health of our inshore waters.

Sincerely,  
Scott S. Graves, Ph.D.

**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** michelle griffoul <ellietile@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 11, 2020 7:35 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Maui Nui marine Resource Council

2020 APR 13 AM 7: 54

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Dear Committee,

As a board member of the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council I am requesting that you please fund the MNMNC to the maximum of our request.

We are:

- Community-based Hui O Ka Wai Ola ocean water quality monitoring program at 41 sites in South and West Maui
- Oyster bioremediation project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay
- Work to implement the Pohakea Stormwater Management Plan to prevent sediment run-off into the ocean
- Scientific research to identify corals that are most resilient to adverse conditions and climate change
- The Know Your Ocean monthly speaker series and education programs about reef protection
- Helping with matching funds for a two-year grant award from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that is paying local contractors and their employees to work in the Pohakea watershed, to install fire breaks to suppress wildfires

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Have a wonderful day!

**Michelle Griffoul**

mailing address:  
910 Honoapiilani Hwy.  
ste 7-241  
Lahaina, HI 96761  
808-866-2629

## County Clerk

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**From:** Serene Gunnison <serenegunnison@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 12:28 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Maui County Budget Testimony - MVB FUNDING

RECEIVED

2020 APR 16 PM 12:37

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha Maui County Council,

Thank you in advance for taking the time to go over my testimony.

I am asking for the county budget to not allocate \$3.5 million in funding to the Maui Visitors Bureau. I know Maui has taken a severe hit due to COVID-19, but I do not think advertising our island would be beneficial or practical. Most visitors already know we are here and many visitors who had to cancel their trips are planning to return once things are more stable.

I was born and raised here and I also believe Maui has reached its maximum occupancy for visitors. Maui has become absolutely saturated with tourists, and I feel as though the overwhelming visitor numbers contribute to negative social, environmental, cultural, and economic impacts (as we are seeing now amid the COVID-19 pandemic).

I do not say these things lightly. My entire family's income relies on the hospitality and tourism industry- myself included. However I think there has never been a more important time to begin to shift our economy into one that is not so reliant on visitors, possibly one that involves agriculture, farming, and/or clean energy.

I am hopeful that funds for the Maui Visitors Bureau will be spent on rebuilding Maui's economy into one that is more resilient.

Thank you,  
Serene Gunnison  
Haiku

Ha'iku Community Association  
PO Box 1036 Haiku, HI 96708

April 8, 2020

To: Maui County Council Economic Development and Budget Committee

Aloha Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Committee Members

The Ha'iku Community Association appreciates the hundreds of Maui residents who supported our community when we asked the Council to purchase the stunning and historically important Hamakua coastal lands in 2016. In turn, we would like to support the request of the South Maui community for the purchase of the 257-acre Ma'alaea mauka lands in this years budget, through Maui County Open Space Funds.

This is a location where every person on their way to West Maui has marveled at the views of Mauna Kahalawai and the ocean beyond. The Ma'alaea lands are also very historically important. With their deep, rich soils, and numerous stream gulches, they were likely farmed for centuries by residents of the 15th-century Hawaiian village that once covered the adjoining State lands. The Ma'alaea mauka lands were an important destination in far away days, when every person who travelled by foot from West Maui to the central plains emerged from Chief Pi'ilani's old Lahaina Pali Trail onto the Ma'alaea mauka parcel to see the shining expanse of Kealia pond and the sacred crest of Pu'u Hele cinder cone.

We understand that this will be a difficult year to make budget decisions, with Maui's economy disrupted and so many of our residents without places to work. These legacy lands of Ma'alaea are a good investment, not only for their scenic beauty and historical value, but their strategic location, between West Maui and Central Maui would provide our whole community with some very important future planning options.

Community groups are interested in working with the Ma'alaea mauka lands to help manage wildfires and storm erosion. They have acquired funding and are seeking more through Federal programs designed to help protect coastal communities from the impacts of storms, floods, and other natural hazards and enable them to recover more quickly, and enhance habitats for fish and wildlife.

Please support the South Maui community and help preserve these iconic lands.

We are grateful for your consideration,

Haiku Community Association

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 14 AM 7:51  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

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**From:** Cynthia Hehemann <chehemann@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 18, 2020 3:57 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony to Support Fundng for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council 2021 Budget

Aloha County Council Members:

I am writing to ask the County to continue to support funding for Maui Nui Resource Council in the 2021 budget. I feel this organization is a valuable asset to Maui's natural resources (the ocean, the coral reefs, etc.) This is what attracts many of us to live here as well as the many tourists that visit Maui each year. This non-profit organization helps create culturally appropriate and effective science based solutions to the serious local threats facing our reefs and ocean use. The Hui O Kai Wai Ola arm of the organization identifies run-off issues and potential pathogens in our oceans through on going water quality ocean sampling. As a user of Maui's ocean, it's important to know of any health issues/concerns occurring in the water.

Please continue important funding in the 2021 budget for this organization as they implement many important programs such as the Pohakea Stormwater management plan, oyster bioremediation at Ma'alaea Bay, etc.

Thank you,

Cynthia Hehemann



## County Clerk

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**From:** cheryl hendrickson <chermcmaui@gmail.com> on behalf of chermcmaui@aol.com  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 2:58 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Maui county budget

Aloha-

I am writing to submit testimony that no money should be allotted to the Hawaiian Tourism Authority.

Maui has been over run with tourists these last few years. We no longer seem to have an off season. I have lived here for 33 years and have never seen such a gross over abundance of tourists on our island. As evidenced by the amount of stored rental cars around the airport. The incoming flights to Kahului are constant now. They have widened their approach path over Haiku and Upcountry.

Our quality of life has been ruined. We no longer have areas free of tourists. The amount of rubbish seen is at an all time high. Parking at our beach parks and many other locations is scarce. Illegal short term rentals are spreading into agricultural areas. Tempers are flaring. It is just too much.

Until we have established a sustainable cap to the amount tourists allowed on Maui, I fear we are headed into a serious environmental and social decline.

Mahalo,  
Cheryl Hendrickson  
Haiku, HI

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 13 PM 4:21  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** Nikta Houston <unikta@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 10:37 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony for April 17 budget meeting

2020 APR 16 AM 11:14

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Dear Maui County Council,

I support the purchase of Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed with Open Space funds.  
I am a full time resident and have owned and operate a business in Ma'alaea for past 30 years.

I support having the County of Maui purchase the Maalaea Mauka Pohakea lands for the following reasons:

- 1) It fits the purpose for the use of these funds. It will provide open space for a beautiful area of Maui.
- 2) The land can be used to mitigate drainage and sedimentation problems into Maalaea Bay from the Pohakea Watershed.
- 3) The property can be used for emergency parking as a way side holding area with bathrooms for cars and people who are held up by road closures on the way to Lahaina.
- 4) the property can be used to expand the Lahaina Pali Trailhead.
- 5) the land can be use for a future bypass for the current pali road to Lahaina.
- 6) The land could be used a a park in coordination with all of the above.

Respectfully submitted,

**Mahalo Nui Loa,**  
Nikta Houston R (S)

Unikta Vacations  
(808) 633-3515





# *The Salvation Army*

*Hawaiian & Pacific Islands Division*

RECEIVED

2020 APR 16 PM 3:40

Testimony of  
**Lieutenant Steven Howard**  
Kahului Corps Officer

The Salvation Army, Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Division

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Founded in 1865

William Booth  
*Founder*

Brian Peddle  
*General*

Kenneth G. Hodder  
*Territorial Commander*

Jeffrey Martin  
Eloisa Martin  
*Divisional Leaders*

Before the  
**COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI**  
April 17, 2020, 6:00 pm

In consideration of  
the PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET for FY 2021 and CAPITAL PROGRAM

Dear Maui County Council Members:

The Kahului Corps of The Salvation Army, Hawaiian and Pacific Islands Division, supports the Mayor's Proposed Operating Budget for FY 2021. More specifically, we support funding in the amount of \$180,000 for The Salvation Army's Homeless Outreach Program included in the Mayor's Budget.

The Salvation Army – Maui County Homeless Outreach Program was first established in 1991 and has great potential for continued success in FY2021. Our purpose and goal are to be a front-line provider for the homeless population of Maui County, and to provide an avenue of hope and change leading to greater stability, self-sufficiency and housing. We work to accomplish these goals through productive case management, assessment, referrals, ID assistance and collaboration with other agencies. We also provide access to basic needs such as food, clothing, showers, laundry, thrift store vouchers and more.

The Salvation Army's Homeless Outreach Program is prepared to serve approximately 900 unduplicated individuals, with a total of over 3,500 case management sessions and 20,000 service encounters each year.

The Salvation Army has been caring for the homeless on Maui since 1991, when we set up our Care-a-Van Homeless Outreach. In the following years we set up homeless drop-in centers in Kahului and Lahaina. This model of mobile outreach combined with drop-in centers serves as the cornerstone for our Homeless Outreach Program. We also partner with other agencies and programs that provide additional services to our clientele, such as UH Maui nursing students who ride along with our outreach workers to provide information on health-related issues, and our annual Homeless Resource Fair which connects those who are experiencing homelessness to services which are available to them.

We are grateful to the Mayor and the Department of Housing and Human Concerns for their support, and request passage of the Mayor's Proposed Budget.

Thank you.



Aloha United Way  
Hawaii Island United Way  
Kauai United Way  
Maui United Way  
Our AUW Designation  
Number is 96450

P.O. Box 620 • Honolulu, Hawai'i 96809-0620 • Tel: (808) 988-2136 • Fax: (808) 988-5285  
Visit us at: [Hawaii.SalvationArmy.org](http://Hawaii.SalvationArmy.org)

## County Clerk

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**From:** Mark Hyde <HYDEM001@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:44 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** April 17 Council Meeting/Budget Meeting @ 6 PM

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 15 AM 8:51  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

From everything I read, local revenue sources across the country are going to be severely reduced in the near term, including that for Maui County. Will revenue sources itemized in the draft budget be realized? While real estate tax revenue may be accurately projected based on that which is due, to what extent will delinquencies affect cash flow and to what extent might declining real property values affect tax receipts going forward?

I don't know the answers to these questions but I believe the council should approach budgeting using different revenue assumptions and corresponding expense adjustments. This will not be easy, but a good plan will take the situation on the ground into account. Perhaps county budgeting and implementation through the 2008-2009 financial collapse could provide a useful guide to your work.

Mark Hyde  
4320 E. Waiola Loop  
Kihei, HI 96753

## County Clerk

---

**From:** Lyndon Ibele <akibele75@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 6:47 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** I support funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

RECEIVED

2020 APR 13 AM 7:56

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

I am a nonresident with ownership of a condo in Ma'alaea for 20 years. I have watched as the water quality in Ma'alaea Bay has degraded, year after year, and as wildfires have ravaged the Pohakea Watershed, contributing to silt run-off and creating a hazard to life and property.

For these reasons, I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, for all the important work they are doing to address these serious problems. The County's investment in this organization is supplemented by grants and other funding that the organization raises, but the County's funding is nonetheless critical.

Please consider the valuable work that MNMRC does and continue funding this critical cause.

Sincerely,  
Lyndon Ibele  
907-787-9113

## County Clerk

---

**From:** Lyndon Ibele <akibele75@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 8:43 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee; County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony for April 17 budget meeting

**We support the purchase of Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed with Open Space funds.**

We are 20-year non-resident property owners, with a condo in Ma'alaea, and regular visitors to Maui. We have watched as poorly-considered development proposals for the Ma'alaea Mauka property have come and gone over the past two decades.

This property needs to be preserved as open space and protected from private development for the health of Ma'alaea Bay and for future public needs.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Lyndon & Janyce Ibele

Anchorage, AK

907-787-9113

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 14 AM 9:16  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK



## County Clerk

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RECEIVED

**From:** Neil Irwin <irwin.neil@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 12:09 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Free re-fill stations in each district

2020 APR 13 PM 12: 39

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha Maui County Council-

I am writing to you in support of getting free water re-fill stations put into each district and hopefully as many places as possible.

The more I pick up trash from our beaches and the sides of our roads, the more I wonder why we haven't as a county begun to make the alternatives more available to everyone.

The more re-fill stations, the easier it will be to no longer buy bottled water in single use plastic containers for those of us who live here as well as the visitors.

While the tourism is at a stand still, there is no better time to re-start how we will allow people to use this land when they come to visit.

Mahalo,

Neil Irwin

County Clerk

RECEIVED

**From:** Sulara James <sulara@mind.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 9:25 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony IN FAVOR OF MNMRC IN THE 2021 BUDGET

2020 APR -9 PM 3:00

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha,

Please reinstate the funding for MNMRC in the 2021 budget so that they can continue their important, unique and invaluable work for our ocean and waters and all of life within them, our islands, our community, and the entire planet.

They deserve and need your support. I support them because I have found their work and organization to be one of the most important, essential and effective on all of Maui.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sulara James

---

**From:** Brenda Jarmakani <bjarmak@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 11:50 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Hui O Wai Ola Funding

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 13 AM 11: 58

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Dear Sir:

As a volunteer for and on behalf of Hui O Wai Ola program, I am asking for continued funding in 2021 budget. This program is valuable in Maui for water quality, coral reef research and over all health of environment as noted below:

The Hui O Ka Wai Ola program provides quality assured ocean water quality monitoring at 41 locations in South and West Maui

We also provide enterococcus testing at most of our South Maui locations

We work in close partnership with the State of Hawaii Department of Health Clean Water Branch.

Our data is readily accepted by DOH and EPA, and used by local agencies and nonprofits.

The data helps us pinpoint specific water quality problems such as too much nitrogen from fertilizers or wastewater, too much sediment from runoff, etc. so our community can identify the causes and develop solutions.

The funding for MNMRC will also support:

- Our oyster project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay
- Implementing the Pohakea stormwater management program including work to suppress wildfires in the Pohahea watershed across from Ma'alaea Bay
- Important studies of corals that are most resilient to climate change and adverse conditions in Ma'alaea and Olowalu
- Community education programs, including our monthly speaker series.

I encourage your support,

Brenda Jarmakani  
Kahana, Maui

## County Clerk

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**From:** Carolee-Ralph Jones <rcjon@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 4:51 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Continue funds for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

RECEIVED

2020 APR 13 AM 7: 53

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

**Please continue funding at the same level for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.**

Here are their programs that need to be continued to keep Maui a home to beautiful beaches and oceans:

- Community-based Hui O Ka Wai Ola ocean water quality monitoring program at 41 sites in South and West Maui
- Oyster bioremediation project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay
- Work to implement the Pohakea Stormwater Management Plan to prevent sediment run-off into the ocean
- Scientific research to identify corals that are most resilient to adverse conditions and climate change
- The Know Your Ocean monthly speaker series and education programs about reef protection
- Helping with matching funds for a two-year grant award from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that is paying local contractors and their employees to work in the Pohakea watershed, to install fire breaks to suppress wildfires

**Mahalo,**

**Carolee and Ralph Jones  
Part-time residents Kihei Maui**





April 17, 2020

1:00 p.m. Economic Development and Budget Committee – Council of the County of Maui

6:00 p.m. Council of the County of Maui General Meeting

Re: Funding for Maui Visitors Bureau

Testimony in Support of Maui Visitors Bureau Funding by Quentin Koch, President,  
Blue Hawaiian Helicopters

Aloha!

Blue Hawaiian is Hawaii's first air tour operator, founded in 1985, and is the only air tour operator to offer tours and employ Hawaiian residents on Oahu, Kauai, Maui and the Big Island. Based in Maui, we firmly believe that our tours are more than just sightseeing, they function as "flying classrooms" for our passengers to learn about the rich history of Hawaii, its culture, and its diverse geography. Our 300 employees' and their families' livelihood depends to a large degree on the health of Maui's economy and that of the visitor industry. While we also serve our local community, visitors comprise a substantial portion of our customers and our employees' salaries have a multiplier effect throughout the Maui economy.

We support funding the Maui Visitors Bureau to promote Maui worldwide as a safe tourist destination for bookings after the COVID19 crisis. Destinations around the world are partnering with their primary attractions such as museums, parks and recreational activities to communicate to the public that booking now for travel after the pandemic will be beneficial to them in cost savings while at the same time averting an economic collapse. The pandemic should not be used by those testifying against Maui Visitors Bureau funding as a reason to irreparably harm Maui's economy.

We respectfully request your support for the Maui Visitors Bureau and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

## County Clerk

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**From:** Lilly Ho <lho@hawaiiublicpolicy.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 11:15 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Cc:** Melissa Pavlicek  
**Subject:** Testimony for Council of the County of Maui, Apr 17, 2020  
**Attachments:** 20200417 BHH Maui CC MVB.pdf

Aloha Councilmembers of the County of Maui,

Please accept the attached testimony in support of the Maui Visitors Bureau Funding from Quentin Koch, President of Blue Hawaiian Helicopters.

Mahalo!

--

**Lilly Ho, SHRM-CP**  
*Vice President of Operations*

**Hawai'i Public Policy Advocates, LLC**  
1099 Alakea Street, Suite 2530  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
P: (808) 447-1840  
E: LHO@hawaiiublicpolicy.com

TESTIMONY BY ARNIE KOSS  
104 Malapua Place, Kula 96790

RECEIVED

2020 APR -9 PM 3:00

Dear Chairperson Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice Chair King and members of the Maui County Council  
Economic Development and Budget Committee,

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

I am writing in SUPPORT of repeating the 2020 funding that Maui Nui Marine Resource Council had received in the 2021 budget that you are preparing.

I say this because I believe that the most important asset that we have on Maui is the ocean that surrounds us. Without a clean, healthy ocean, Maui would not be a desirable place to live.

Our coral reefs also protect our shorelines from storms and big waves – and they also provide recreational opportunities and fish for our people.

Maui Nui Marine Resource Council has a solid 12 year track record of successfully working in our community on science-based, culturally appropriate projects to protect our reefs and help us achieve clean ocean water.

In 2020, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council was included in the County budget for its Water and Environmental Resource Protection and Conservation Program. This funding (\$225,000) appears to have been DROPPED from the proposed 2021 budget. Please REINSTATE it to continue Maui Nui Marine Resource Council's important work for clean ocean water, healthy coral reefs and abundant native fish in 2021.

Please provide the funding so that Maui Nui Marine Resource Council can continue its Hui O Ka Wai Ola ocean water quality monitoring program at 41 sites in South and West Maui, the oyster project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay, the work to implement the Pohakea Stormwater Management Plan to prevent sediment run-off into the ocean, scientific research to identify resilient corals, the Know Your Ocean monthly speaker series, some matching funds for a two year grant award from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that is paying local contractors and their employees to work in the Pohakea watershed, to install fire breaks to suppress wildfires.

Let's not shortchange our ocean environment. Please provide support for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in 2021's budget.

Thank you.  
Arnie

## County Clerk

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**From:** Michele Lincoln <lincolnmichele@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 07, 2020 11:20 AM  
**To:** County Clerk; County Clerk  
**Subject:** 2021 Budget

RECEIVED

2020 APR -7 PM 3:44

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Testimony for 2021 Budget:

- 1) Funding to facilitate joint efforts of federal, state, county and private landholders for hazard mitigation in Lahaina.
- 2) Funding for reinstated irrigation wells, ditch system, reservoirs, and LWRF's treated wastewater to be used for public safety and environmental protection.
- 3) Funding to help facilitate a public-use park on Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate's private property.

Located in Lahaina adjacent to Lahaina-luna Road, Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate (KS/BE) has approximately 1,000 acres above the bypass and 200 acres below it. Proximity to schools, residential and commercial properties, electrical infrastructure and potable water-supply makes this fire-prone region and flood zone a priority.

Recently, the West Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee designated a large portion of the area be developed into a community park. A public-use park on private land is a viable solution to mitigate hazardous conditions.

Hurricane Lane's wildfire could have sustained greater devastation. Thanks to first-responder heroic efforts and extra personnel on duty, the public utility infrastructure and schools were saved. However, the majority of the homes that burned down were located in this area. The United States Army Corp of Engineers has phase two of the Kahoma Flood Control Project to complete in this area as well.

Before the budget is finalized, please contact KS/BE to see if they are agreeable to a public-use park on their private property. A private park would allow for commercial enterprises including recreational rentals, tours, native plant nursery, reforestation, food trucks, community gardens, food hub, farmer's markets, educational opportunities, and other appropriate uses.

Park operation and maintenance costs along with 24 hour security could be funded through these income producing entities. Operated by KS/BE or a Park Conservancy, the public would enjoy the benefits of a community park without using county resources.

The federal USACE's flood control project is compatible with a public park. It could incorporate walkways and bike paths along the banks of the flood channel for public enjoyment. Safely connecting the upper portion to the lower region, underground public access could be included when the flood control is constructed under the Lahaina Bypass.

Consider the County actions necessary for the state and federal agencies to comply. The State controls a large portion of land here also. Hurricane Lane's wildfire helped identify this area at risk. Is the Hazard Mitigation Task Force funded adequately to help facilitate a joint effort to address this hazardous region? Are they the right agency for this job?

To ensure public safety, irrigate the open spaces from Kaanapali to Lahaina (KS/BE property). Irrigating the slopes far from the ocean will protect coral reefs, prevent erosion, recharge the groundwater, help prevent wildfires and promote reforestation and agriculture. Utilizing the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility infrastructure, pump treated water to reinstated reservoirs, update former irrigation wells and the Honokohau Ditch system to irrigate this area prone to wildfires.

If Kamehameha Schools/Bishop Estate is willing to develop a huge community public park on their private property, what could the County of Maui do to help? KS/BE has issues related to a reliable supply of water to irrigate this arid region. How about funding for water resources in exchange for a privately operated public-use community park?

Michele Lincoln

452 Aki Street Lahaina HI 96761

(808) 385-3157 cellular

(808) 667-6652 home





*Bay and Beach Foundation*

P.O Box 10823  
Lahaina, HI 96761

RECEIVED

2020 APR 14 AM 8:13

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

April 13, 2020

To: Maui County Council Economic Development and Budget Committee

From: Pat B. Lindquist, President, Napili Bay and Beach Foundation, Inc.

**Subject: Testimony in Support of Maui Nui Marine Resource Council projects vital to Ocean Health**

Dear Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members:

I am writing to request your continued financial support of these essential projects of the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, at the same level as 2020:

- Community-based Hui O Ka Wai Ola ocean water quality monitoring program at 41 sites in South and West Maui
- Oyster bioremediation project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay
- Work to implement the Pohakea Stormwater Management Plan
- Scientific research to identify corals that are most resilient to adverse conditions and climate change
- The Know Your Ocean monthly speaker series and education programs about reef protection
- Helping with matching funds for a two-year grant award from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that is paying local contractors and their employees to work in the Pohakea watershed, to install fire breaks to suppress wildfires

Napili Bay and Beach Foundation (NBBF) has benefitted greatly from the consistent and highly effective Hui O Ka Wai Ola Water Quality monitoring program, which has given us a much better understanding of Water Quality in our bay, and potential sources of pollution. We have also benefitted from consultations regarding resilient corals and oyster bioremediation.

Though this year's pandemic is making a serious impact on Maui's economy, we firmly believe that supporting MNMRC's programs now to ensure clean ocean water for our beaches and nearshore areas, healthy coral reefs that protect our shorelines and are valued for their beauty and natural wonder is going to be a vital part of bringing the economy back to health as well.

Sincerely,

*Pat B. Lindquist*

*We are a non-profit organization formed to protect and improve the health of Napili beach and bay.*

## County Clerk

---

RECEIVED

**From:** james <james@mauisustainableolutions.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2020 9:55 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** FloWater

2020 APR -8 AM 10: 26

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha,

I saw a notice to give support for the project Kevin Watkins II is working on to get filtered water refill stations put into each district of Maui. I wanted to write a quick mention of my support to have Refill stations for our communities, that supply filtered water that is free of contaminants and replenished with minerals that we need.

Thank you,  
James Lumpkin

## County Clerk

---

**From:** preco92184@aol.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 1:34 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Cc:** chriswierzbowski@bestbuddies.org; KarenGlasser@bestbuddies.org  
**Subject:** FY2021 Budget Testimony on Behalf of Best Buddies

Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,

Best Buddies is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose mission is to provide friends, leadership training, jobs, and inclusive living to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I am a Maui County resident and I am a member of the Best Buddies Hawaii Advisory Board.

Best Buddies is important to me because not only do I have a family member with a disability but as the former state director of Best Buddies Hawaii I personally witnessed how our programs positively changed the lives of students with and without disabilities. Now as Best Buddies Maui board chair I continue to volunteer for this important program on Maui.

Even in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, Best Buddies staff continue to work with volunteer student and faculty leadership teams to deliver essential social inclusion services to 222 participants with and without IDD through Best Buddies chapters in eight Maui County schools.

We are grateful that Mayor Victorino kept our funding level in his FY21 budget at \$85,000. The critical funds Best Buddies receives through the Department of Housing and Human Concerns helps us deliver school and community-based inclusion services to students with and without intellectual and developmental disabilities throughout the County. I respectfully request that you keep Best Buddies level funded in the Council's FY21 budget.

Thank you very much.  
Michael McCormick  
Best Buddies Advisory Board Chair



RECEIVED  
2020 APR 14 PM 1:59  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK



## County Clerk

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**From:** Elizabeth McDonald <sweettreats808@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 4:54 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Maui Visitors bureau budget

Aloha.

This is my testimony for the MVB budget. In future years this budget needs to be drastically reduced. In "regular" times we have an over crowding if visitors on our island. It takes away from residents enjoyment and use of the island and it undermines the tourist experience as well.

Monies this year should be used as grants to local small businesses affected by the closure of our economy that need help to stay in business. This is helping future tourism bu insuring they have restaurants and activities when they return.

In the future the money we earn for tourism over \$500k-750k should be used to improve infrastructure. The road systems, like finishing the west side by pass. Making sure water/sewer/and our shorelines are kept up and protected. Use this money on eco projects. Our tourism is heavily based on the environment. Let use the budget to protect and save our hikes/parks/shoreline.

Thanks

Elizabeth (Betty) McDonald  
Owner/Pastry Chef  
B3 "A Beach Bunny Bakery"  
b3abeachbunnybakery.com  
(808)866-8930



100 Wailea Golf Club Drive, Wailea, Hawaii 96753-4000 • Tel: 808-875-7450 • Fax: 808-875-5114

DATE: April 17, 2020

TO: Maui County Council

RE: Please support funding for the Maui Visitors Bureau

Aloha Honorable Maui County Councilmembers:

My name is Jennifer McNally of the Wailea Golf Club, where I've been employed for the last 15 years and am currently serving as its Director of Sales and Marketing. I'm writing to ask for your support of continued funding for the Maui Visitors Bureau and its critical mission of marketing our beautiful island to the world.

The Wailea Golf Club is a small business founded more than 50 years ago, completely owned and managed independently of any of Maui's hotels and resorts. We operate three golf courses and a tennis facility, and employ about 160 residents.

As a small business, we keep a very close eye on our operating costs and we simply do not have the resources to support huge marketing budgets. As such, we rely on the Maui Visitors Bureau to provide much-needed marketing support for our island destination, and to help us stretch our limited dollars through joint promotions and collaborative marketing opportunities.

Our employees are our ohana. We have 20-, 30- and even-40-year "veterans" still working for us. Together, we've weathered other hardships in the past, including 9/11 and the great recession. We've been able to survive those difficult times in large part by the continuous efforts of the MVB and other industry partners. This latest crisis, the COVID-19 pandemic, has been difficult if not devastating for many small businesses. We are praying for the day we are allowed to re-open and re-hire our employees.

Our future viability depends greatly upon getting Maui's visitor industry back on its feet. Successfully marketing Maui's re-opening is more important than ever before, and defunding the Maui Visitors Bureau now would be like defunding all the small businesses that depend in part on a healthy visitor industry.

On behalf of our company – and on behalf of my 160 fellow employees – please support continued funding for the Maui Visitors Bureau. Mahalo!

## County Clerk

---

**From:** Makenna M <makennamecsey17@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 08, 2020 4:14 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Water refill stations

Aloha,

I am emailing about the Flowater refill stations that are going to be put in at least every district here on Maui. I think this is a great idea, and the more we have the better. This will help mitigate plastic waste issues and encourage our community to utilize reusable containers.

I am also aware that more and more people are becoming conscious of the type of water we are consuming. The fact that clean, alkaline, toxin-free water that still has trace minerals can be available to the public is amazing. I see that is what Flowater is all about. Their mission is inspiring and provides hope for positive changes here on Maui.

Mahalo for your time,

Makenna Mecsey  
makennamecsey17@gmail.com

RECEIVED  
2020 APR -8 PM 4:18  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

## County Clerk

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**From:** P Milne <pmilne@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 10, 2020 2:15 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Help our reefs

RECEIVED

2020 APR 13 AM 7: 52

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

I ask the Committee to fund Maui Nui Marine Resource Council at the same level as 2020.  
Several reasons...

- Hui O Ka Wai Ola ocean water quality monitoring program
- Oyster project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay
- Stormwater Management Plan to prevent sediment run-off into the ocean
- Scientific research to identify corals that are most resilient to adverse conditions and climate change
- The Know Your Ocean monthly speaker series and education programs about reef protection. This has been excellent!
- Helping with matching funds for a two-year grant award from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that is paying local contractors and their employees to work in the Pohakea watershed, to install fire breaks to suppress wildfires

Much Aloha,  
Phillip Milne

## County Clerk

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**From:** Milstead, Shannah (KEA) <Shannah.Milstead@Fairmont.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 3:41 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee; County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony in FAVOR of FUNDING MVB

**Importance:** High

Aloha kākou,

Please allow me to expressly offer my sincere and earnest **support of the MVB and, more particularly, the funding necessary to maintain their essential and critical function in our community.** I have been a Hospitality Professional working domestically and internationally for over 30 years. During these past 9 years, it has been a blessing to plant strong roots and call Maui (and Fairmont Kea Lani) my home. I only mentioned this tenure as relative to my overall experience with regards to hospitality (and destination) marketing, as well as my personal ties to this particular island community.

A Visitors Bureau, in any community, is essential to promoting a healthy tourism economy. It's no wonder that Cvent, a leading SAAS service for meeting planners, lists over 400 bureaus in the United States alone. And as far as competition for business into Hawaii, as an example, there are another 84 bureaus listed in the Caribbean and nearly 1400 in Europe! Every bureau is tasked with similar mandates: Promote tourism through marketing strategies; Provide Convention and Conference Meeting planning and support; Provide visitors with information (including such things as Responsible Tourism). These are *essential and necessary activities* to keep our own economy (whose "primary source of income is the visitor sector", as noted by the DBEDT) both strong and vibrant.

As such, we must ensure that our island stays relevant and highly visible in the global marketplace. It is both shortsighted and arrogant to believe having done such a great job so far – as exemplified by outstanding hotel occupancies and strong visitor arrival stats – that we no longer need to continue with a proven-successful marketing momentum. That would be like telling a competitive racecar driver to strive to get to top speed and then just take their foot off the gas. If we were to let up now, *especially now*, we will lose our momentum and simply coast while getting passed by other destinations who most certainly are doing the opposite (by investing in their futures).

I can completely appreciate the desire to provide enhanced financial support to any number of various worthwhile industries, including Sustainable Agriculture. But doing so at the expense of an industry that provides over \$2B to the State in tax revenue (over \$20M generated from Maui Nui TAT), as well as tens of thousands of local jobs (16% of which are Native Hawaiian, as stated in an April 2017 DBEDT report) is irresponsible. Prior to COVID-19, Hawaii proudly boasted one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country (2.6%)—now, with Tourism shut-down, we are amongst the highest (projected to soar to 25%). You do the math. When safe and able, we need to get everyone back to work and that means ensuring a strong Tourism industry...supported by the vital efforts of our Visitor Bureau.

From a purely personal perspective, I rely 100% on tourism to sustain my life here on Maui. This is where I proudly own a home; where I adopted Maka (my furry friend); where I serve on the Board of a local Canoe Club; where I give back as a volunteer in the community. Please, do not take away the very thing that allows me to continue to be a productive member of this island 'ohana.

*Me ke aloha pumehana,*  
Shannah

**SHANNAH MILSTEAD**  
DIRECTOR, SALES & MARKETING

**Fairmont Kea Lani, Maui**

4100 Wailea Alanui

Maui, Hawai'i

USA 96753

T + 808 891 3821

M + 808 214 0990

F + 808 875 2247

[shannah.milstead@fairmont.com](mailto:shannah.milstead@fairmont.com)

<https://www.fairmont-kea-lani.com/>



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## County Clerk

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**From:** Trent Minor <tstyles777@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 2:15 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Cc:** emmanuel.baltazar@ilwulocal142.org  
**Subject:** Full funding of Maui Visitors Bureau

Aloha. My name is Trent Minor and I work for Troon Golf at Kapalua Plantation Course. I have been working there for 25 years and I am the unit chair. On behalf of the guest service staff at kapalua,, hotel workers, restaurant workers and other golf course workers, I strongly urge the full funding of the Maui Visitors Bureau to help Maui return to the top tourism destination in the world. Now is not the time to cut funding. Now is the time to ramp up so we can return to the lifestyle we all enjoyed.

Thank you for attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Trent Minor .



Virus-free. [www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

## County Clerk

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**From:** Nancy Minuto <nancyminuto2015@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 5:29 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee; County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony in Support of KEEPING Funds for the Maui Visitors Bureau

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to speak in support of keeping funds for the Maui Visitors Bureau.

I'm a 20+ year resident of Maui County and have worked in the hospitality industry since moving here from Oahu. I have seen this industry grow into what it is today prior to this epidemic. Reallocating funds away from MVB right now would be detrimental to the industry and all the other industries that intertwine and depend on it. Marketing funds are vital to getting tourist coming back here again soon! We want them to select Maui instead of Mexico, the Caribbean, Asia or Europe.

The faster we get our visitors back here, the sooner we can all get back to work. The hotels will thrive, our suppliers for the hotel will thrive, our activities vendors will thrive, our restaurants will thrive, our retailers will thrive, and our local economy can get back on track.

Taking funds away from the number one industry that feeds business to the rest of our smaller industries would only slow down our recovery. In fact, it would make more sense to add more money to the MVB budget to speed up the process and promote growth.

Please reconsider any notion of reallocating funds away from the Maui Visitors Bureau.

Mahalo nui loa,  
Nancy Minuto



## County Clerk

**From:** Karima Morgan <karimamorgan16@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:38 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Funding for Maui Nui Resource Council

RECEIVED

2020 APR 15 PM 2: 09

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

**It is imperative to reinstate funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the 2020 budget, and with the added advantage to access matching funds from a two year grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that is helping put Maui residents to work to install firebreaks in the Pohakea watershed.**

This funding is needed to support important pro for healthy coral reefs, clean ocean water and abundant native fish, including:

- Ocean water quality monitoring at 41 locations in South and West Maui through our Hui O Ka Wai Ola program
- Oyster project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay
- Implementing the Pohakea stormwater management program including work to suppress wildfires in the Pohakea watershed across from Ma'alaea Bay
- Important studies of corals that are most resilient to climate change and adverse conditions in Ma'alaea and Olowalu
- Community education programs, including our monthly speaker series

Thank you for your consideration of this important organization on Maui.

Karima Morgan  
Kihei, HI, 96753

## County Clerk

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**From:** Karima Morgan <karimamorgan16@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 1:46 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony for April 17 budget meeting

RECEIVED

2020 APR 15 PM 2:10

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

*I am a resident of Kihei. I support County of Maui use of Open Space funds for purchasing the Maalaea Mauka/Pohakea lands for the following reasons:*

- 1. Firebreak*
- 2. Water quality in the Ma'alea harbor*

*Karima Morgan*

Friday, April 17, 2020



## *Kapalua Golf & Tennis*

Dear EDB Committee members,

On behalf of TY Management dba Kapalua Golf & Tennis, we would like to vocalize and underscore the critical importance of our partnership with the Maui Visitor's Bureau, and the funding supported by the MVB.

Kapalua Golf & Tennis has 140 employees who work throughout our golf, tennis, retail, operations and maintenance departments. Many of these employees have worked for Kapalua for more than 10 years and are integral to the fabric of the West Maui Community. These employees rely on the strength of the visitor industry providing customers and guests to experience our world-class resort.

In addition, Kapalua Golf is the proud host of the PGA TOUR's Sentry Tournament of Champions; an event with one of the largest reach in the state of Hawaii. We have hosted this event for 22 years and have relied heavily on our dedicated partners like MVB to make this event a continued success and bring fans, visitors and residents to enjoy one of Maui's only international sporting events.

The title sponsor, Sentry Insurance has committed 10 years to this event (through 2030). Kapalua Golf's owner (TY Management) has invested nearly 20 million dollars into the golf course and resort this past year with substantial renovations. Other partners include the PGA Tour, Golf Channel, and many local businesses. The MVB has supported the event in countless ways with bringing in key media to cover the event and providing necessary PR through television showcasing Maui to 226 countries. We simply cannot bring this event together without the funding and support that the Maui Visitor's Bureau provides. More importantly, the reason that we can have these dedicated sponsors is because of the outreach that the MVB provides. The event has raised nearly 7 million dollars for Maui Nonprofits since it started at the Kapalua Plantation Course in 1999.

Our resort relies heavily on our MVB partnership. As our hoteliers are separately owned and managed, we rely on the Maui Visitor's Bureau as our leader with our resort marketing initiatives on a national and international level. The critical marketing support that MVB provides helps to leverage and expand our messaging way beyond what our limited budget would allow. Taking away funding will significantly impact our operations and will be detrimental to our efforts in recovering from the Covid-19 global pandemic.

Now, more than ever, we need to work as a community to re-inforce our local economy by marketing Maui as a safe and attractive destination. We cannot do this without the support of the Maui Visitor's Bureau and funding.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration with this very important matter.

Regards,

*Alex Nakajima*

Alex Nakajima, PGA  
General Manager  
Kapalua Golf & Tennis





RECEIVED

2020 APR -8 AM 8:03

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Maui Nui Marine Resource Council  
PO Box 331204  
Kahului, HI 96733  
April 7, 2020

Economic Development and Budget Committee  
County of Maui County Council  
[edb.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:edb.committee@mauicounty.us)

Dear Committee Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice Chair King and Economic Development and Budget Committee Members,

On behalf of Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, I am writing to urge you to reinstate the **\$225,000** for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council's **Water and Environmental Resource Protection and Conservation Program - Environmental Protection** in the 2021 Maui County Budget.

This funding was part of the 2020 budget, and is necessary to continue our important work for clean ocean water and healthy coral reefs in 2021. This funding will support ongoing ocean water quality monitoring at 41 monitoring leeward Maui locations through our Hui O Ka Wai Ola program, the ongoing oyster bioremediation project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay, our Pohakea stormwater management program, coral reef studies in Ma'alaea and Olowalu, and visitor/resident education programs.

We urge the Economic Development and Budget Committee to restore the funding to these programs to the 2021 budget to support this essential work, as an investment in Maui's future as a desirable place to live and visit.

When the current COVID-19 crisis is over, the residents and visitors of Maui will all be eager to return to their favorite local beaches. As before, clean ocean water and healthy coral reefs will be essential for ocean recreation and an important contributor to our island's appeal as a place to live and visit. Healthy coral reefs are needed to protect our shorelines from storm surges and waves.

Please note that the Maui County 2020 budget includes \$100,000 for education programs for visitors and residents. We believe that these education programs are valuable in helping to educate the public about ways to protect our local coral reefs. This same level of funding (\$100,000) is included in the Mayor's 2021 budget under Grants and Disbursements for Visitors Industry.

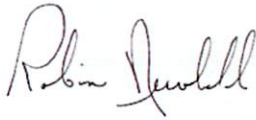
However, in 2021, we believe that jobs and economic development for our residents will play a more critical role. We are pleased to report that MNMRC has received a multi-year \$300,000 grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) which is paying for local contractors to install fire breaks to help suppress wildfires in the Pohakea watershed during 2020 and 2021. This will allow us to put Maui residents to work with these federal funds. **Matching funds are required to secure this and any**

new NFWF grants through 2021, which is why we request that the \$100,000 currently under “Grants and Disbursements for Visitors Industry” in the Mayor’s 2021 budget be transferred to support matching funds for the NFWF grant.

Thank you for your hard work on the 2021 budget and the leadership and guidance you are showing during this time of crisis – and for the future of Maui, once this crisis has ended.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact me at [Robin@mauireefs.org](mailto:Robin@mauireefs.org). I am always happy to talk with you about our important work and our goals for restoring our nearshore ocean areas, so that all Maui residents may have the benefit of clean ocean water and healthy coral reefs with an abundance of native fish.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Robin Newbold".

Robin Newbold  
Co-founder and Chair

## County Clerk

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**From:** ajp@maui.net  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 1:17 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony - County Budget 2021

To whom it may concern,

The Covid 19 recovery is going to depend upon many things, one being the ability for parents of young children to get back to work. Childcare is a necessity for these families and is why I am requesting that the County of Maui fully fund Early Childhood Programs "Maui County Childcare Subsidy".

Mahalo, James Padgett

James Padgett 189 Makaena Place Pukalani, HI 96768 email: ajp@maui.net Phone: (808) 268-1030

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 13 PM 2:28  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK



## County Clerk

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**From:** pang002@twc.com  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 7:15 PM  
**To:** County Clerk; 'edb.committe@mauicounty.gov'  
**Subject:** Eliminating of funds from the Maui Visitors Bureau (MVB)

Aloha,

How ever did your committee come up with this idea to strike the Maui Visitors Bureau funds down, and redirect these funds to go to "sustainable agriculture".

How did you measure the profitability comparison between the 2 (two) entities.

The hotels and resorts has been the "Bread Winner" for the County of Maui, since Amfac, Baldwin Packers and Wailuku Sugar closed for business, through their own demise in Maui and the State of Hawaii by producing the same crops else where in the world where the labor per hour is cheaper and dropping the Hawaii market prices to where it became "unprofitable" to do business in the State of Hawaii.

The early 1900 cane field worker of the these plantations were paid \$1.00 a Maui countyfor 10-12 hours of work a day, and they were provided with housing and medical benefits.

Till the Union became to the aid of these workers and bettering their pay standard that took decades to what it is to this day.

Your plan to redistribute MVB funds to else where, because of the "Corona Virus pandemic", is not the workers fault, it is every bodies nightmare, but no reason to divert these funds, and will take all of the communities efforts to hold on till all is safe and secure

To compare the dollar value of MVB and sustainable agriculture is simple as how it affects the County of Maui personal tax revenue structure.

1- Sustainable agriculture will employ how many employees, say 100 on the work force, of this 100 employees how much tax revenue will go to the County of Maui,

2- Sustainable agriculture will offer have the "place to visit" drive.

3- Hotels and Resorts with say 10,000 on the work force, by this measure how much personal tax revenue will be generated to the County of Maui.

4- MVB funding promoting the hotels and resorts will drive a place to visit, and it's the repeat comebacks of the travelers spurned by the advertisement projected by the MVB will and has been exciting the on-looker traveler to come to Maui and Hawaii.

Hotel & resorts are a viable industry within itself, as was the sugar and pineapple back then.

And the hotel & resorts are a "spring board" for countless of businesses, food distribution, trucking, gift shops, ocean activity business such as para- sailing, dinner cruises, whale watching, tours for snorkeling & diving, biking down Mount Haleakala, restaurants.

MVB supported Maui and Hawaii, we should not take away the pulse of the hotel and resorts industry, rather we should support them.

respectfully,,

Gilbert A. Pan

i



## County Clerk

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**From:** Cody Pata <pupata75@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 11:26 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Public Hearing Testimony, Fri 4/17, 6pm

RECEIVED

2020 APR 16 AM 8:00

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Dear Mayor and Members of the Maui County Council—

Aloha kākou.

My name is Cody Pueo Pata, and I write to you regarding the \$3.5M budgeting proposal for the Maui Visitors Bureau.

I am a kumu hula, an educator, a private consultant for Hawaiian language and cultural issues, as well as an entertainer. My family and I reside in Pukalani.

Formerly, I used to contract my services regularly to the Maui Visitors Bureau over a period of several years. I'm so grateful that I got to travel all over the US continent, Puerto Rico, Canada, and across Oceania with them. After Keli'i Brown passed away, I haven't been contacted by them since. Keli'i was my "protector" of sorts, and always made sure that I felt pono with whatever project he contracted me for, and made sure that I, and my mana'o, were always valued.

Throughout that period, I guess I always had a bit of an internal conflict, though. But I was confident that I presented ONLY what I thought malihini should know, our expectations of them, and to steer them away from sensitive sites, etc.

I have lots of friends who also work for the different visitors bureaus and associations across that State, and certainly for the Maui Visitors Bureau—some of these friends are also Native Hawaiian. Through my numerous experiences with the Bureau, I know that Maui consistently got a lot of money in ratio to the size of our resident population. In fact, I have seen when the various tourism "numbers" for Maui were touted as usually the highest in Hawai'i, how our revPAR is comparable to NY or LA, and how "easy" it is for malihini to vacation on Maui.

Over the past several years, I have always returned to the question in my head, "How do 'they'—the various properties and stakeholders in tourism—benefit our culture, us as practitioners, and the integrity of our culture *for us*...not for malihini?" And, honestly, there has never truly been a clear answer.

Sure, some properties host events and make donations in support of Hawaiian culture. And, don't get me wrong, I'm truly appreciative of that. But, should we, as cultural practitioners and lineage bearers, really be depending on these properties so that our culture can flourish? I think it's an obvious "no, we should no longer have to do that."

In fact, why isn't it expected that these properties and tourism stakeholders--the vast majority of whom are actually guests here themselves--do things in support of our culture through their own volition?

My own experience includes me inheriting my kumu's hālau after she passed away suddenly in 2002. Prior to her passing, we practiced weekly at one of these properties for years. After she passed, I took over teaching, and we were "hosted" on the same property. I had a wonderful relationship with their cultural advisor, as well. Part of our agreement was that we perform at various property-sponsored events, that we let passers-by watch our practices, and that we teach the odd malihini that wanted to learn during our class time. But, when their cultural advisor passed away, a representative from the hotel called me in soon after for a meeting wherein she told me that the property no longer wanted to host us...that the extent of culture that the management of the time wanted on property was "pineapple carving and whale watching"...literally.

So, for me, that was when I realized that our culture is simply a selling point for the vast majority--but not all--of them. For a while, I gigged at other properties, and had no problem getting paid...but, it wasn't my sole livelihood. It was extra cash that, although pretty consistent, was so easy to make.

Which brings me to my next point that it IS easy for us to make money from these properties as entertainers, as well as for some cultural practitioners...but who is actually reaping the most benefit? The money we make is so manini compared to the amount these properties can bring in in just one night of a restaurant's sittings, or at an event for malihini where we're brought in really to just entertain them, or to just add ambiance in the background.

I mean no disrespect to my colleagues who are dependent on tourism dollars for their livelihoods. I am expressing MY OWN doubts that that much money--\$3.5M during a pandemic in which the State is actually considering cutting DOE teachers' pay by 20%, and other "essential" govt workers' pay by 10%; and, in which so many LOCAL businesses and families are now in dire straits financially--should go to tourism...which, by the way, I personally believe should be shut down until antibody tests can prove that ALL travelers are uninfected, that safety and sanitary measures are stringent and widespread on airplanes, in the airports, and in all public venues---ESPECIALLY where malihini frequent, and when a vaccination finally becomes mandatory, or freely available, to all.

What actually justifies \$3.5M going to boost an industry when it's us locals who actually NEED it right now?

I personally would rather see the taxes that we pay go to something else right now.

If this industry is such a boost to our economy, then perhaps the stakeholders should be the ones giving us a break during these financially difficult times. That would help us by saving these tax dollars. They should front the majority of these monies themselves--FOR themselves--right now. That, to me, is only one proper way, of many, through which they can show mahalo to our community for using our culture, our lands, and our precious resources (like water) for their financial gain.

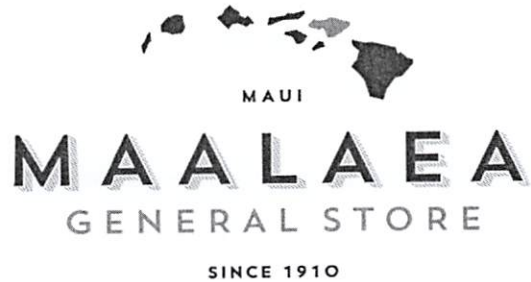
I thank you for your time.

Me ka 'oia'i'o,  
na Cody Pueo Pata

RECEIVED

2020 APR 16 AM 7: 58

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK



Aloha Chair & Members,

I support the purchase of Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed with Open Space Funds.

I've owned Ma'alaea General Store for over 5 years and I have lived in Ma'alaea for over a decade, I love this community and I am personally concerned with the ongoing and upcoming issues here.

I support The County of Maui purchase of Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea land for the following reasons

- a) It can be used for emergency parking, road closures, turnarounds which are greatly needed during times of emergencies
- b) It can help with the ongoing sediment problems going into our bay which are still a huge issue
- c) It can be used to keep our island beautiful as a blank space
- d) Needed fire breaks
- e) Safer Pali Trail parking
- f) With all of the housing on the way it can help with future road planning which we will need

The owner is willing to sell, this is a smart move for all of us.

Thank you for your consideration

Kristine Peterson

Aloha and good morning.

Yesterday I learned that you are considering a decrease and potential removal of funding for the Maui Visitors Bureau. While I understand the reasons listed for this action, I would encourage you to not only consider keeping the full amount, but also thoroughly evaluate increasing their funds as Maui needs the support now more than ever.

While the data reviewed in the Commission's report may have been relevant at the time, we must take into account how much the world has shifted since then and that we are now embarking into the unknown. There is no blueprint to follow for tourism's recovery from this global pandemic and now is not the time to cut funding for an entity whose sole purpose is to promote our island destination and drive tourism to our island – and thus getting our hospitality industry back to work. We must be diligent in our approach and focus on the long-term future to ensure do not risk the livelihood of our hospitality workers and thus the health of our economy.

While it is true that Maui is a “well-known” destination, this is due in large part to the success of MVB's marketing and public relations efforts, and now more than ever, it will be imperative that these campaigns continue. As recovery begins our island will be competing with global destinations all fighting for the same tourism dollars to infuse back into their economy. MVB will need to be aggressive in marketing to differentiate from other destinations like Mexico and the Caribbean that are closer to the mainland and typically much less expensive than Maui.

To lessen or completely deplete these marketing efforts now will put Maui at a severe disadvantage when tourism demand returns. It is important now to remain consistent and top of mind in our messaging while people have the time to consume it and daydream of where they will spend their next vacation. If MVB marketing efforts go dark now, this will allow other destinations to be in a position to take that valuable marketshare from us, putting Maui severely behind the recovery curve. By maintaining our strong branding and messaging, we will be much better positioned to recover once demand returns – thus getting all of us back to work more quickly.

In fact, now is the perfect time to build on the momentum from our Kuleana campaign so that when visitors do return, they are more educated and aware. We can benefit from these campaigns and show how Maui will be waiting to welcome travelers back with the spirit of aloha for which we are known. As I'm sure you've seen many big brands are pivoting their advertising messages to those of support and hope for the future. Through MVB, we can do the same and encourage travelers to dream now and visit later.

As we are all aware, there is no drive market for our destination. If not marketed or managed properly, this can put Maui at a severe disadvantage as states and counties begin reopening and non-essential travel resumes. Travelers may still be hesitant to jump on a plane when they have destination locations within driving range as an alternative in the short-term. As we look ahead and plan for the future, we must be realistic in our understanding that travelers may be wary of flying until a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19 is discovered. And with Cruise ship operations ceasing, our local businesses will need to recoup that lost revenue through visitors that are willing to fly to visit our island before a vaccine or treatment is widely available.

It is important to remember that MVB is also vital to the signature events hosted island-wide. Kapalua and Wailea are home to six of those signature events that would not be possible without MVB's support.

These events not only provide millions of dollars in revenue and global visibility for our island, but they also generate significant financial support to many of Maui's non-profit organizations.

As the owner representative for our two hotels on the island of Maui and the largest private employer on the island, I have the responsibility to get our team members back to work as soon as possible for their families and our community. It could take 18 months for a vaccine or treatment to be developed for COVID-19 to make people feel safe to fly again. We cannot wait that long to get back to work so I feel it is imperative to keep if not increase MVB's funding so that we are in a better position to recover quickly. I appreciate your time to consider my testimony and please remember that your support will not only help us get our doors back open again but will get our employees back to work and contributing to our local economy to the benefit of us all.

I hope that we can count on your support to make the right decision to keep the tourism industry strong on our great island and to fund the MVB at the 3.5m level.

With great appreciation,

Jim Petrus  
SVP BRE Hotels Hawaii



## County Clerk

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**From:** Carol Riccio <cer100960@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 14, 2020 3:07 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Please support Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 14 PM 4:19  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

To The Maui County Council Economic Development and Budget Committee:

We are asking you to please fund the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council at or above level that support was given for 2020. It is so important to protect our beaches, ocean, reefs, as they provide the beauty and natural wonder for residents and tourists, provide a place for exercise and relaxation, feed us, and protect us from storms and waves. Maui no ka oi, and MNMRC understands this and strives to maintain this.

MNMRC's programs that are vital and need support include:

- Community-based Hui O Ka Wai Ola ocean water quality monitoring program at 41 sites in South and West Maui
- Oyster bioremediation project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay
- Work to implement the Pohakea Stormwater Management Plan to prevent sediment run-off into the ocean
- Scientific research to identify corals that are most resilient to adverse conditions and climate change
- The Know Your Ocean monthly speaker series and education programs about reef protection
- Helping with matching funds for a two-year grant award from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that is paying local contractors and their employees to work in the Pohakea watershed, to install fire breaks to suppress wildfires

Maui community is counting on you!  
Thank you,

Carol & Ron Riccio  
8 Kilolani Lane Apt 302  
Kihei, HI 96753

RECEIVED

2020 APR -9 PM 3:00

Testimony by Anne Rillero  
Communications, Community Outreach and Development Manager  
Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha Members of the Economic Development and Budget Committee,

I thank you for being here during this time when the Coronavirus has turned our ordinary world upside down.

Someday, and hopefully soon, COVID-19 will no longer be a pandemic. And when that day comes, the people of Maui County will be stepping outdoors and looking at what's really important to them.

Clean ocean water has been and will continue to be right among the items at the top of the list. We want clean ocean water at the beaches where our keiki and families will play, where our surfers will ride the waves, where our people will fish, where swimmers, snorkelers, kayakers, divers, paddlers and others will find joy in ocean recreation.

Healthy coral reefs will also be at the top of the list – our communities need the reefs to protect our shorelines from erosion, beach loss, sea level rise, big waves and pounding storms. And we cherish the reefs for recreation, exploration, delight.

That's why I am here today to ask you to include funding for the nonprofit Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in your 2021 budget – the level of funding that was provided in the 2020 budget. It is needed to support ocean water quality monitoring by the unique community based Hui O Ka Wai Ola program, which gathers quality-assured data at 41 locations in South and West Maui – data that's readily accepted by the State of Hawaii Department of Health. It will also support work in the Pohakea watershed above Ma'alaea, where we are working to suppress wildfires by installing firebreaks, which will help reduce sediment-laden runoff from flowing into Ma'alaea Bay. It will support the oyster project in Ma'alaea Harbor where we've installed caged, nonreproductive oysters in the water to improve water quality there. It will also support research into corals that are resilient to warming ocean water and pollution. And it will support education programs about our ocean for our community.

By funding Maui Nui Marine Resource Council you'll also be helping to put Maui residents to work. Hui O Ka Wai Ola has one full time and three part-time staff. Our organization has one full time and one part time staff.

And because we've been able to draw in Federal money through grants from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, we're able to employ Maui residents to help us work in the Pohakea watershed. This Federal money comes with a catch however: it needs matching funds, which is where County funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council makes such a difference. It helps provide the match that allows this Federal money to come to Maui.

Thank you for your support of Maui Nui Marine Resource Council and for the work that you're doing. Be safe and be well, everyone.

[anne@mauireefs.org](mailto:anne@mauireefs.org)





## THE RITZ-CARLTON

KAPALUA

Friday, April 17, 2020

Aloha and Good Evening,

Yesterday I learned that you are considering a decrease and potential removal of funding for the Maui Visitors Bureau. While I understand the reasons listed for this action, I would encourage you to not only consider keeping the full amount, but also thoroughly evaluate increasing their funds as Maui needs the support now more than ever.

As The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua begins our fourth week of closure, and following a temporary layoff of 96% of our employees, we would like to get them back to work as quickly as possible so they can once again contribute to the economy of Maui.

While the data reviewed in the Commission's report may have been relevant at the time, we must take into account how much the world has shifted since then and that we are now embarking into the unknown. There is no blueprint to follow for tourism's recovery from this global pandemic and now is not the time to cut funding for an entity whose sole purpose is to promote our island destination and drive tourism to our island – and thus getting our hospitality industry back to work. We must be diligent in our approach and focus on the long-term future to ensure do not risk the livelihood of our hospitality workers and thus the health of our economy.

While it is true that Maui is a "well-known" destination, this is due in large part to the success of MVB's marketing and public relations efforts, and now more than ever, it will be imperative that these campaigns continue. As recovery begins our island will be competing with global destinations all fighting for the same tourism dollars to infuse back into their economy. MVB will need to be aggressive in marketing to differentiate from other destinations like Mexico and the Caribbean that are closer to the mainland and typically much less expensive than Maui.

To lessen or completely deplete these marketing efforts now will put Maui at a severe disadvantage when tourism demand returns. It is important now to remain consistent and top of mind in our messaging while people have the time to consume it and daydream of where they will spend their next vacation. If MVB marketing efforts go dark now, this will allow other destinations to be in a position to take that valuable marketshare from us, putting Maui severely behind the recovery curve. By maintaining our strong branding and messaging, we will be much better positioned to recover once demand returns – thus getting all of us back to work more quickly.

In fact, now is the perfect time to build on the momentum from our Kuleana campaign so that when visitors do return, they are more educated and aware. We can benefit from these campaigns and show how Maui will be waiting to welcome travelers back with the spirit of aloha for which we are known. As I'm sure you've seen many big brands are pivoting their advertising messages to those of support and hope for the future. Through MVB, we can do the same and encourage travelers to dream now and visit later.



## THE RITZ-CARLTON

KAPALUA

As we are all aware, there is no drive market for our destination. If not marketed or managed properly, this can put Maui at a severe disadvantage as states and counties begin reopening and non-essential travel resumes. Travelers may still be hesitant to jump on a plane when they have destination locations within driving range as an alternative in the short-term. As we look ahead and plan for the future, we must be realistic in our understanding that travelers may be wary of flying until a vaccine or treatment for COVID-19 is discovered. And with Cruise ship operations ceasing, our local businesses will need to recoup that lost revenue through visitors that are willing to fly to visit our island before a vaccine or treatment is widely available.

It is important to remember that MVB is also vital to the signature events hosted island-wide. Kapalua is home to six of those signature events that would not be possible without MVB's support. These events not only provide millions of dollars in revenue and global visibility for our island, but they also generate significant financial support to many of Maui's non-profit organizations.

As the General Manager for The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, I have the responsibility to get my employees back to work as soon as possible for their families and our community. It could take 18 months for a vaccine or treatment to be developed for COVID-19 to make people feel safe to fly again. We cannot wait that long to get back to work so I feel it is imperative to keep if not increase MVB's funding so that we are in a better position to recover quickly. I appreciate your time to consider my testimony and please remember that your support will not only help us get our doors back open again, but will get our employees back to work and contributing to our local economy to the benefit of us all.

Me Ke Aloha Pumehana,

Andrew C. Rogers  
General Manager  
The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua

## County Clerk

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**From:** Paul Romero <pandjromero@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 09, 2020 6:38 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Water refill

RECEIVED

2020 APR -9 AM 7: 57

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Please please provide water refill stations everywhere!!

FlowWater!!!!!!

Serve the community with water!!!!!!

Paul Romero  
The Gym Maui/Makena CrossFit  
IG @thegmmaui @makenacrossfit  
8082053013  
Www.thegymmaui.com

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**From:** Shih, Benjamin (KEA) <Benjamin.Shih@Fairmont.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2020 5:29 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee; County Clerk  
**Subject:** RE: Testimony in FAVOR of FUNDING MVB

Aloha kākou,

Please allow me to expressly offer my sincere and earnest **support of the MVB and, more particularly, the funding necessary to maintain their essential and critical function in our community.** I have been a Hospitality Professional working domestically and internationally for over 30 years. During these past 9 years, it has been a blessing to plant strong roots and call Maui (and Fairmont Kea Lani) my home. I only mentioned this tenure as relative to my overall experience with regards to hospitality (and destination) marketing, as well as my personal ties to this particular island community.

A Visitors Bureau, in any community, is essential to promoting a healthy tourism economy. It's no wonder that Cvent, a leading SAAS service for meeting planners, lists over 400 bureaus in the United States alone. And as far as competition for business into Hawaii, as an example, there are another 84 bureaus listed in the Caribbean and nearly 1400 in Europe! Every bureau is tasked with similar mandates: Promote tourism through marketing strategies; Provide Convention and Conference Meeting planning and support; Provide visitors with information (including such things as Responsible Tourism). These are *essential and necessary activities* to keep our own economy (whose "primary source of income is the visitor sector", as noted by the DBEDT) both strong and vibrant.

As such, we must ensure that our island stays relevant and highly visible in the global marketplace. It is both shortsighted and arrogant to believe having done such a great job so far – as exemplified by outstanding hotel occupancies and strong visitor arrival stats – that we no longer need to continue with a proven-successful marketing momentum. That would be like telling a competitive racecar driver to strive to get to top speed and then just take their foot off the gas. If we were to let up now, *especially now*, we will lose our momentum and simply coast while getting passed by other destinations who most certainly are doing the opposite (by investing in their futures).

I can completely appreciate the desire to provide enhanced financial support to any number of various worthwhile industries, including Sustainable Agriculture. But doing so at the expense of an industry that provides over \$2B to the State in tax revenue (over \$20M generated from Maui Nui TAT), as well as tens of thousands of local jobs (16% of which are Native Hawaiian, as stated in an April 2017 DBEDT report) is irresponsible. Prior to COVID-19, Hawaii proudly boasted one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country (2.6%)—now, with Tourism shut-down, we are amongst the highest (projected to soar to 25%). You to do the math. When safe and able, we need to get everyone back to work and that means ensuring a strong Tourism industry...supported by the vital efforts of our Visitor Bureau.

Please, do not take away the very thing that allows me to continue to be a productive member of this island 'ohana.

*Me ke aloha pumehana,*  
Ben

**BEN SHIH**  
REGIONAL DIRECTOR, LEISURE SALES

Fairmont Kea Lani | Fairmont Orchid | Fairmont Grand Del Mar

2605 Camino Tassajara #2966

Danville, CA 94526

T + 1-415-306-2077

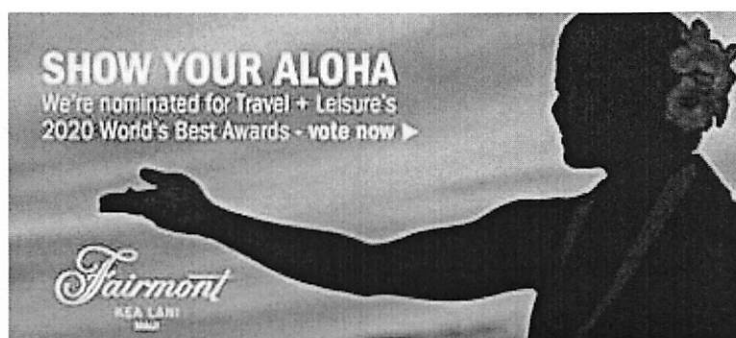
[ben.shih@fairmont.com](mailto:ben.shih@fairmont.com)

*Fairmont*

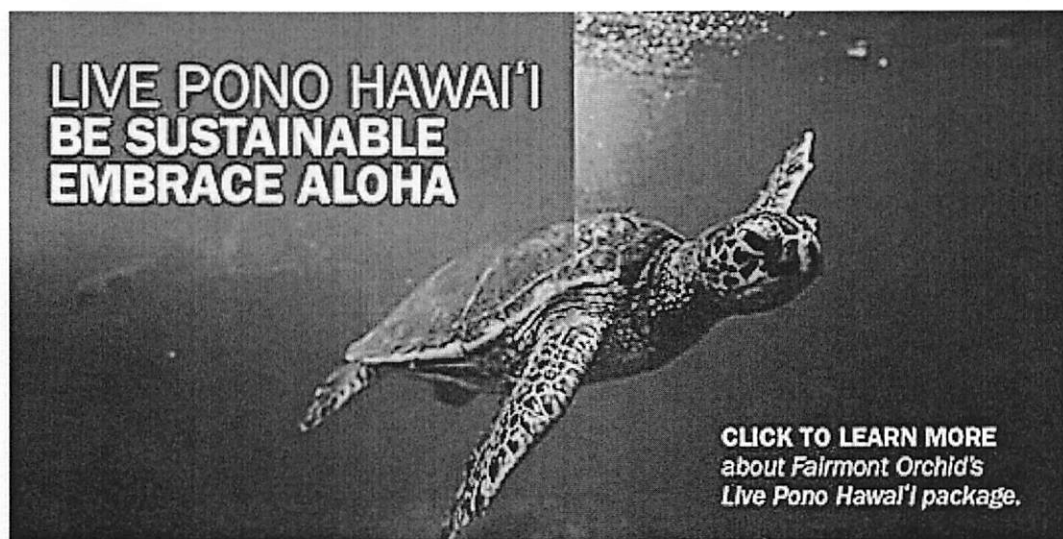


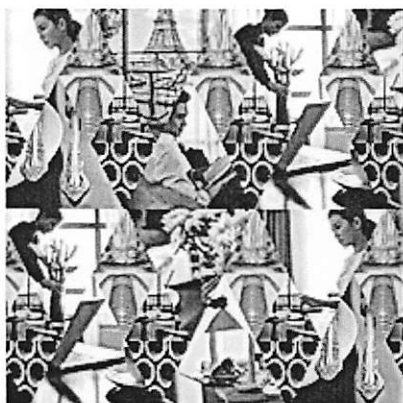
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April 17, 2020

Stephanie Smythe  
Royal Lahaina Resort  
ILWU Local 142  
Unit 2501

Aloha,

My name is Stephanie Smythe. I am the Unit Chairman of the Royal Lahaina Resort. As the Unit Chairman, and with the full support of my membership, I would express our support of the Maui Visitors Bureau, and do strongly recommend and request the FULL funding of the Maui Visitors Bureau.

With the current climate we find ourselves in with regard to the CoVid-19, it is imperative we fully support and fund the Maui Visitors Bureau. As you well know, tourism is our number one industry in our state. We can not afford to defund them at this time. Now more than ever, we need them to actively promote Maui! We need Maui Visitors Bureau to help market Maui as a safe and beautiful destination, for all to enjoy.

With you help in funding Maui Visitors Bureau, and the help of ILWU 142 and it's membership, we can collectively restore our industry and economy back to the number one vacation destination of the world.

On behalf of my membership, their families and myself, Mahalo!  
Stephanie Smythe

## County Clerk

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**From:** Spurrier, Sam <sam.spurrier@wailea beachresort.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** edb.committee@mauicounty.gov; County Clerk  
**Subject:** Written Testimony to oppose the proposed cut and/or reductions to MVB funding!

Aloha Chair Alice Lee, Maui County Council Members, and the Economic Development and Budget Committee,

My name is Sam Spurrier, I am a resident of Kihei, a husband, a father of 4, and I enjoy volunteering within my church, community, and mentoring students. I was born and raised on the Island of Oahu and have been in the hospitality industry for the last 14 years, with 9 of them here in Maui. Currently, I am the Director of Sales at the Wailea Beach Resort and it is a privilege to share testimony on behalf of the Resort and the tourism industry as it relates to the proposed decrease in MVB funding.

Maui is fortunate to have a best in brand position. Although, we have learned that we are not immune to travel perceptions. Just in 2018, we experienced the impact to our islands from the volcano, Hurricane Lane, and Tropical Storm Olivia.

It wasn't many years ago in 2008 when the visitor industry suffered a significant hit which took years to recover. I particularly remember this time as I was finishing college and seeking a career in hospitality. There weren't many opportunities due to the hiring freezes. Today, we find ourselves in unique and interesting times which I believe all will agree are and have the potential to become much more of a challenging and longer recovery than 2008 and even 9-11. As we are experiencing now, majority and almost all of the Hotels are closed or have temporarily suspended operations and were forced to furlough or temporarily lay-off many employees. In addition, the restaurant business who were also forced to close and lay-off their workers. The tourism industry has halted here in Maui. We need to think about RECOVERY and be very cognizant of where and how funds are allocated.

I oppose the proposal to cut and/or reduce any funding for the Maui Visitors Bureau Marketing. I strongly support MVB funding at the 2019 level. Personally, I feel that there are a lot of areas, sectors, etc. that could benefit from the funds. However, we have a responsibility to our people and our residents who make Maui home and many of whom work in the hospitality industry. This is not only about marketing Maui worldwide as a top tourist destination. Rather, this is about employing our residents so that they can support their families and in turn infuse the local economy.

See the link below for consideration of a report from The Brookings Institute that studies the hardest hit communities from a job-loss standpoint. The Lahaina/Wailuku/Kahului community ranks 2nd in the US.

<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/the-avenue/2020/03/17/the-places-a-covid-19-recession-will-likely-hit-hardest/>

Visitors are yearning to hear the word Maui and Aloha. It is our people, our residents that work in the Hospitality industry, their friends and families, and all of our Maui residents that make this place so special as they represent the Aloha Spirit. Most importantly, it is the ability to employ all of these residents in the Tourism industry!

The Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau produced this beautiful video that represents "A message from the people of Hawaii." I feel it very important to include it as a part of this written testimony as the decision to cut and/or reduce MVB funding will have a direct and adverse impact on our residents and especially those and their families that work and rely on the hospitality industry. It will affect each individual and their 'Ohanas as it will delay their return to work and have many other adverse impacts above and beyond just financially.





There are many elements to recovery, but it will be vitally important to have marketing in place and funding once government restrictions have lifted and airline flights to the island resume.

Our hotel occupancy has remained flat for the past 6 years with our number of full-time employees growing by nearly 100 or 20%. This growth came after ownership made a significant multimillion-dollar investment in the resort. Now, we are working through these times in partnership with Marriott International and our Ownership Group to resume operations at the Resort as soon as possible and get our associates back to work. In order to get them back to work, there needs to be demand generation and more than before during this time. MVB marketing is effective and has proven successful over the years as they market our people, our culture, and the place of Maui to each and every visitor.

As we all know, the visitor industry supports many ancillary businesses from construction jobs to restaurants and more. 80% of the dollars made through hotels stays within the island to support businesses, home purchases, and other taxes.

For all the reasons mentioned today, we ask that you carefully consider your recommended cut and/or reductions to the Maui Visitors Bureau so that our industry continues to sustain a thriving community. Mahalo for your time and consideration!

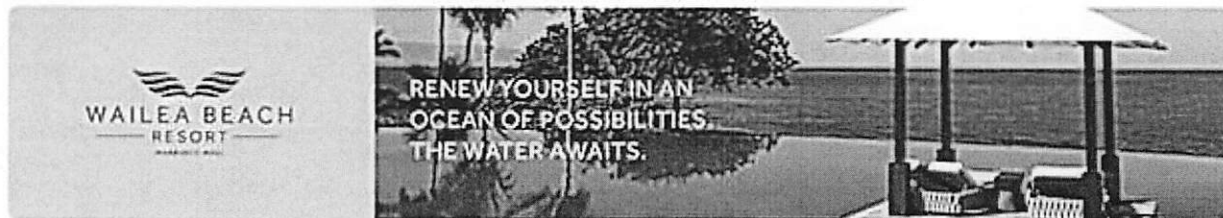
Mahalo,  
Sam

**Samuel Spurrier**

Director of Group Sales | [Wailea Beach Resort](#)

3700 Wailea Alanui Drive | Wailea, HI 96753

[sam.spurrier@waileabeachresort.com](mailto:sam.spurrier@waileabeachresort.com) | 808.874.7845 (O) | 808.214.8046 (M)



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## County Clerk

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**From:** Larry Stevens <lfstevens@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:53 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

RECEIVED

2020 APR 15 AM 9:31

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha Council Members

MNMRC brings new federal dollars to Maui County, putting local people to work. This requires matching funds or the money stops. County funds are critical to providing this match. County funding more generally helps protect our precious environment. MNMRC is mostly a volunteer organization, enabling to provide services at extremely low cost. Here are the important programs we run:

- Hui O Ka Wai Ola provides quality assured ocean water quality monitoring at 41 locations in South and West Maui and has begun enterococcus testing at all of our South Maui locations. Our data is reliable and accepted by DOH Clean Water Branch. The data helps us pinpoint water quality problems such as too much nitrogen from fertilizer or wastewater, too much sediment from runoff, etc. so our community can develop solutions.
- Our Ma'alaea Bay oyster bioremediation project is improving ocean water quality.
- Our Pohakea stormwater management program is working to suppress wildfires in the watershed across from Ma'alaea Bay.
- Important studies to identify corals that are most resilient to changing conditions in Ma'alaea and Olowalu.
- Community education programs, including our monthly speaker series.

Please vote to continue funding this work that brings resources to our community and provides good jobs to local people.

Larry Stevens

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County Clerk

2020 APR 15 AM 9:31

**From:** Stillys <stillys@hawaii.rr.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2020 8:50 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Please support the purchase of Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed lands

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha esteemed council members, We are asking that you support funding for the County of Maui to purchase the Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed lands. South Maui hasn't received funding from Open Space funds for over 20 years. It is time to use Open Space funds to preserve Ma'alaea Mauka. Additionally, MVA applied for a DLNR Legacy Lands Conservation grant of \$1 million toward purchase of the site. This is an important watershed preserve and is not suitable for development without causing further environmental damage to already compromised ocean waters and recreational area. Thank you for your consideration.

Patricia and Jefferson Stillwell  
227 Kamakoi Loop  
Kihei, HI 96753



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To: Economic Development and Budget Committee

From: Lauhoa Condominiums Board of Directors  
100 Hauoli street Wailuku, HI. 96793

RE: CIP budget for a new Central Maui Wastewater Treatment Plant

RECEIVED

2020 APR 16 AM 7:58

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha EDB & Maui County Council Chair and Members

The Ma'alaea community has proactively pursued alternatives to our private treatment facilities and injection wells over the last 18 months. Although we met with the Mayor several times, we are not mentioned in the CIP budget detail for a new Central Maui Wastewater Treatment Plant. If the council approves funding for the new Central Plant, we ask that you include Ma'alaea in future plans.

On April 14, 2020 Lauhoa Condominiums Board of Directors, on behalf of the owners, signed for a loan, close to one million dollars due to mandates by the department of health to replace our current 13,000 gallon Wastewater Treatment Plant to a new 21,000 gallon Wastewater Treatment Plant Mauka side of Hauoli street. The effluent from this plant will flow into injection wells until a county system is available. We are unsure how Mr. Atherton's plans for Waikapu Country Town will materialize, so we ask that Ma'alaea be included in the County's long range plans with possible construction by 2025.

Mahalo for your consideration. Lauhoa Board of Directors Lauhoa Condominiums  
100 Hauoli Street  
Wailuku, HI. 96793

Shannon VanderHeuvel AOA President Lauhoa Condominiums and  
MVA board member



# MAUI OCEAN CENTER

*Our Mission: To foster understanding,  
wonder and respect for Hawaii's marine life.*

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2020 APR 16 PM 12:37

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha Chair & Members,

I support the purchase of Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed with Open Space Funds.

I am the General Manager at Maui Ocean Center. When I became the General Manager here at Maui Ocean Center in September 2015 I immediately learned what operating under the NPDES permit under the Clean Water Act of 1972 meant to us. Shortly afterwards I hired an Environmental Water Quality Team (Robin Knox as the Director of Regulatory and Policy Affairs and Aviad Cahana as the Director of Technical Affairs) to help guide us through the complex requirements of the Department of Health NPDES permit and also more importantly how we here at Maui Ocean Center could be part of the better WQ solution to our community.

Early on it became evident that not only does Maui Ocean Center clean the Ma'alaea Harbor water quality but that the real issue is the watershed management, rather lack thereof, as we have measured several rain events in the harbor with nutrients loads outside the scale of the NPDES permit levels for example issued to us. Sedimentation as well continues to be the real threat to our near shore waters as anyone using the near shore water certainly has observed.

I support The County of Maui purchase of Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea land for the following reasons

- a) It can help with the ongoing sediment problems going into our bay which are still a huge issue
- b) It will help with the excessive nutrient load reduction entering into our near shore waters
- c) It can be used to keep our island beautiful as a blank space
- d) Needed fire breaks
- e) Safer Pali Trail parking
- f) With all of the housing on the way it can help with future road planning which we will need
- g) It can be used for emergency parking, road closures, turnarounds which are greatly needed during times of emergencies

Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha,



Tapani Vuori  
General Manager



192 Ma'alaea Road Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793 • [mauiocenter.com](http://mauiocenter.com) • 808.270.7000

County Clerk

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**From:** aerie waters <aeriewaters@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 8:47 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee; County Clerk  
**Subject:** Please fund Hui O Ka Wai Ola and MNMRC

2020 APR 14 AM 7:50

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

The Hui O Ka Wai Ola program provides quality assured ocean water quality monitoring at 41 locations in South and West Maui  
We also provide enterococcus testing at most of our South Maui locations  
We work in close partnership with the State of Hawaii Department of Health Clean Water Branch.

Our data is readily accepted by DOH and EPA, and used by local agencies and nonprofits.

The data helps us pinpoint specific water quality problems such as too much nitrogen from fertilizers or wastewater, too much sediment from runoff, etc. so our community can identify the causes and develop solutions.

The funding for MNMRC will also support:

- Our oyster project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay
- Implementing the Pohakea stormwater management program including work to suppress wildfires in the Pohakea watershed across from Ma'alaea Bay
- Important studies of corals that are most resilient to climate change and adverse conditions in Ma'alaea and Olowalu
- Community education programs, including our monthly speaker series

County funding will also help match a two year grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation that is helping us put Maui residents to work to install firebreaks in the Pohakea watershed, Please urge the Committee to include funds for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the 2021 budget to support this match.

Our water quality and what will maintain it, is equal to the life of the reef and its creatures.

Please vote to help us protect and heal the living waters that are so much of our life.  
Thank you.

With Aloha,  
Aerie Waters

## County Clerk

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**From:** John White <jwhite@KBHMAUI.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 17, 2020 3:39 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Cc:** EDB Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony for MVCB

Aloha Maui County Council Members,

Mahalo for your consideration of input from the community during these very uncertain times regarding the Maui County Budget. I have been employed by the visitor's industry since my wife and I moved to Maui in 2003. I have worked for Kaanapali Beach Hotel and various activity providers over those years. I have been blessed to serve on past marketing committees for MVCB, HTA Oceania, HTA Canada and HTA Europe. Through my experiences, I have been able to see how tenuous the visitor industry can be over the years, the fierce world wide competition and the importance of working together.

On August 8, 2008, I was laid off from Kapalua Resort at the peak of the Financial crisis and it was the same day my wife and I signed our mortgage on our first home. Fortunately, I was able to secure a \$10/hr retail position at Ulupalakua Ranch Store. The visitor industry really wasn't hiring and the overall economy was very sluggish. It was one of the scariest times in my life (pre-COVID-19). Then the industry became healthier and I was able to secure a salaried position. This experience still haunts my memory and I don't wish this on any of my fellow residents.

Will the visitor industry come back without Maui County financial support of MVCB? It depends on your definition of 'come back' and your strategic metrics. The goal of sustainable tourism is very important to us all and making sure we are attracting the right visitor to our home. It is important to know that MVCB isn't just an advertising agency for Maui County. They work hard to find the right customer, educate them on how to treat/respect our aina and culture and also ensure the visitor experience is a positive one. We need to make sure Maui County remains the place we love and that includes strategically supporting our number one industry especially during this time of need.

The amount of direct jobs and secondary jobs supported by this vital industry is very significant. The tax revenue provided by our industry is also significant. Taking money away from reviving the primary economic driver of our island is difficult to comprehend. Once we get the visitor industry off life support and walking again it will pump necessary economic activity throughout the County.

Please help me bring back my furloughed co-workers at KBH and allow them and many others to return to work with the confidence that Maui County has their back.

Mahalo,  
John



**John D. White, CRME** | Director of Sales & Marketing  
2525 Kaanapali Parkway, Lahaina HI 96761  
p 808.667.0108 | f 808.661.1963  
US & Canada 800.262.8450  
e [jwhite@kbhmaui.com](mailto:jwhite@kbhmaui.com)  
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## County Clerk

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**From:** Alfred Wolf <awilliewolf@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2020 2:21 PM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Water testing

Knowledge of what is happening in our ocean is essential. The Hui water testing is providing this. Please continue it's funding.

Alfred Wolf.

RECEIVED  
2020 APR 13 PM 4: 21  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

RECEIVED

2020 APR 13 AM 7:55

April 11, 2020

Aloha Budget Committee Members,

As a resident and businessman on Maui since 1973, and as a believer in how important our near-shore waters are to all aspects of life in Maui County, and as a contributor to the

Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, I humbly request the Committee seriously consider continued funding of this hard working, involved, and pono group of people so that they may stay on course to achieve the preservation and sustainability of our Coastal Reefs.

Their work continues to include these vital programs:

- Community-based Hui O Ka Wai Ola ocean water quality monitoring program at 41 sites in South and West Maui
- Oyster bioremediation project to improve ocean water quality in Ma'alaea Bay
- Work to implement the Pohakea Stormwater Management Plan to prevent sediment run-off into the ocean
- Scientific research to identify corals that are most resilient to adverse conditions and climate change
- The Know Your Ocean monthly speaker series and education programs about reef protection
- Helping with matching funds for a two-year grant award from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) that is paying local contractors and their employees to work in the Pohakea watershed, to install fire breaks to suppress wildfires

Mahalo,

/Rick Woodford, Co-Founder & President Maui Recycling Group, Inc.

Kealia Pond Docent, Friends Director/Treasurer

MFOL (Friends of the Library) Director/Treasurer

## County Clerk

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**From:** Genesis S. Young <scyoun@mind.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 16, 2020 7:35 AM  
**To:** EDB Committee  
**Cc:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony IN FAVOR OF MNMRC IN THE 2021 BUDGET

RECEIVED

2020 APR 16 AM 8:00

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha,

Please continue the funding for MNMRC in the 2021 budget so that they can continue their important, unique and invaluable work for our ocean and waters and all of life within them, our islands, our community, and the entire planet. We must protect the Reef and Ocean both environmentally and for our Tourist Industry!!!

They deserve and need your support. I support them because I have found their work and organization to be one of the most important, essential and effective on all of Maui.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Scott Young

Testimony of Leinā‘ala Kuloloio Vedder  
County of Maui  
April 17, 2020

Aloha Chair Alice Lee and Maui County Council Members. My name is Leinā‘ala Kuloloio Vedder. I am testifying on the Proposed Operating Budget for FY 2021. I will list several items including my support, concerns, and solutions to this crisis in Maui County.

*He wa‘a he moku. He moku he wa‘a ~ The canoe is an island. The island is a canoe.*

1. Decrease money amount for the Maui Visitors Bureau/Industry:

CONCERN: Many including myself are affected by the closing of establishments and lodging catering to the Tourism Industry because of the COVID virus mandates and restrictions. I performed as a professional hula dancer on Maui and abroad to supplement my income as a teacher. Let us shift the mindset. We are not the *HOST CULTURE*. I also have friends who work for MVB and I do not want to jeopardize their livelihood by displacing them.

SOLUTIONS: Our residents need the money now.

- 1) Decrease the amount (\$400,000+/-) spent on advertisement which includes and is not limited to promotions like entertainment travel outside of Maui and Hawai‘i, paid meetings at restaurants etc, fresh lei spent on tourists and affiliates, commercials, radio announcements, and social media (if there is a cost).
- 2) If advertising is involved, use the expertise of those who are actively employed by MVB and streamline spending like the examples above. Rotate advertising a variety of local restaurants and small business owners.
- 3) Work with the Department of Labor and Unemployment Office and have them provide a list of those who are unemployed because the Tourist Industry was their main income. Create a Support Fund (\$1,000 - \$2,000) for those who worked at hotels and lū‘au productions (ie. Old Lāhaina Lū‘au, Tihati Productions, and other lū‘au production companies) who lost their job and give them an amount that is agreed upon by this council.
- 4) Part of the change in mindset is not to support competitions that promote division of status using Hawaiian culture including hula and singing. Competitions like that divide us as a people. Instead promote having celebrations without the hierarchy of a person or group’s worth and knowledge being scrutinized. Isn’t it sad that the Hawaiian culture and our resources are

degraded by doing competitions, and yet we accept that. Most use that to elevate themselves.

## 2. Increase funds and employment for Social/Emotional Services

CONCERN: We are all affected. This includes race, social class, and age. We need their services now more than ever. We need that face(mask) to face(mask) contact and not be restricted to a call-in Help Line and automated Siri and Alexa counseling.

SOLUTIONS: Our residents need the money now.

1) Work with the Department of Labor and Unemployment Office and have them provide a list of those who are unemployed because the Tourist Industry was their main income. Many of them have degrees and experience in Social Work, Psychology, Education, Business Management, Accounting, Lomilomi/Massage Therapy, Nursing, and other critical certified areas to counsel our people.

2) Work with the Department of Labor and Unemployment Office and have them provide a list of those who are unemployed because the Tourist Industry was their main income. Hire those who worked in Concierge, Landscaping, Food Preparation, Sanitation, Housekeeping, and other needed areas to keep the social services facilities clean and organized.

3) Boys and Girls Clubs and Youth Organizations that care for our keiki after school should have an increase in funding and pay. They mālama and feed our keiki everyday. Many of them spend what little money they have to feed keiki who are hungry after school. Many of our high school students volunteer because they need a safe place after school, pay them too.

4) Provide funding for the MAA-Makahiki Athletic Association who promotes culture, exercise, cooperative friendly competition, sportsmanship, and Hawaiian values for all middle school students in Maui county. Participating middle school students in Maui county come together during Makahiki Season and have fun.

## 3. Increase funds and employment in Dept. of Parks and Recreation, DLNR, DOBAR, and DOCAR

CONCERN: Nature is alive again! I love it! Papahānaumoku, Wākea, Hina, Kanaloa, Kāne, Lono, Laka, and all our elements can breath, give birth, and REST. Mahalo Carla Peters and those who supported locking the entrance to our parks and kahakai.

SOLUTIONS: Think Nature

1) Increase the amount of workers in those specific county and state departments mentioned. Work with the Department of Labor and Unemployment Office and have them provide a list of those who are unemployed because the Tourist

Industry was their main income. Hire those who have degrees in Biology, Oceanography, Archaeology or who worked in Landscaping, Janitorial, Housekeeping, Ocean Activities (CPR certified and Trained), and other related areas.

- 2) Restrict ocean activities at all beaches including Molokini. Except for native gathering rights to feed your family NO COMMERCIAL GATHERING. Now is the time to really mālama ke kai. Many say it, how many actually want it to happen? You want to support Hawaii and our traditional and genealogical values and culture? Do it! Make a difference. This is the Council to DO IT!

a) Close the beaches. Follow our moon and restrict it on Kāloakūlua, Kāloapau, Kāne, Lono, Maui, Muku. NO SURFING, WINDSURFING, PADDLE BOARDING, JET SKIING and MOTORIZED ACTIVITIES 1 mile out from all shorelines on those moon phases. Be specific. Why? Safety. That's when the jellyfish come in and enjoy their space. It's THEIR home not ours.

e) NO SURFING, WINDSURFING, PADDLE BOARDING, JET SKIING and MOTORIZED ACTIVITIES during spawning season of corals and reefs fishes. There's REAL data out there. DLNR, DOBAR, DOCAR, Pacific Whale Foundation, University of Hawaii Oceanography Department, etc. Demand for the REAL data! They use our precious oceanic resources for their research, they need to give back and share the REAL data openly. It's there! No need any more study groups. It's been done. Ask them.

#### 4. Support Hotels for Heroes

CONCERN: Our medical workers and first responders need a safe place. Protect them and their 'ohana.

SOLUTION: Our residents need the money now.

- 1) Work with the Department of Labor and Unemployment Office and have them provide a list of those who are unemployed because the Tourist Industry was their main income. Hire those who can return and continue their positions at the designated hotel(s).
- 2) Hotels as homes for our residents. Enough building condos, hotels, and housing. It's there. Let's use it. Revive our economy that way.

#### 5. Encourage Home Gardens and Hawaiian Farming/Gardens

CONCERN: We need to feed ourselves first. It's our kuleana. Don't expect our youth to be farmers like the plantation days. Not all want to get dirty and work outside! Use our water at home so that we don't get into the issue of water rights, again.

SOLUTIONS: Feed ourselves

- 1) Insist that developers and future developments implement home and community built-in gardens in their design and Homeowners Association rules and regulations. Many Homeowner Associations ban food-gardens for esthetics. Support self-sufficiency and not dependency.
- 2) Include funding for community gardens that follow Hawaiian farming techniques and values. This does not mean they use Hawaiian words in their mission and vision and get away with it. They employ residents who live that lifestyle and not use it only for their profit. Our hands-on youth and residents want to be in nature and connect with others that have an innate embedded belief of aloha 'āina and mālama 'āina. Grow 'ai pono foods. Foods that our ancestors in Hawaii ate. Hire within. Not those that have read about it and speak of it as being the experts.

It is sad to see boarded up shops on Maui. I pray for the owners and their families. However, how many of us residents shop at those stores? Tourists! I pass Pā'ia when I need to go to town. Needs and wants of tourists! Open galleries displaying our children's art or selling it and money go to that child.

I spent the weekend in Mākena with my 'ohana two weeks ago. *It smelled clean. It looked clean* (not counting the EMPTY million dollar homes). *It felt clean. It tasted unadulterated. I heard my kūpuna*. My father's grandchildren and grand nieces and nephew experienced a little of what he experienced as a child walking and swimming in Mākena. *Safe. Clean. Quiet. Peaceful*. If only for a weekend. Why not longer?

Make Maui Great Again

Mahalo nui,  
Leinā'ala Kuloloio Vedder