



From: [Masunaga, Margaret](#)
To: [WAM Testimony](#)
Subject: Strong Support from Margaret Masunaga for Kona Courthouse - HB1638, HD2, SD1 (SCR3073) Comm. on Ways & Means 3/27/14 @10:35 a.m. Rm 211
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2014 9:38:37 AM

Dear Chair David Ige, Vice Chair Michelle Kidani,
and Members of the Committee on Ways & Means:

My name is Margaret K. Masunaga and I have been a resident of Kona for over 35 years. I write in STRONG SUPPORT of 100% funding for the Kona Judiciary Complex in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

Since I became a lawyer in 1987, I have been involved in the West Hawaii Bar Association, Hawaii State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. I am proud to be a lawyer in Hawaii. However, it is an embarrassment to practice in the existing substandard courtrooms in Kona. I have helped with the Kona Kids First divorce education program in the Keakealani building in Kealakekua, where the Kona District Court is located. Just this year, Judge Strance was concerned for the safety of the children attending the program every month. So we decided to move the program in July to the West Hawaii Civic Center, the beautiful County of Hawaii facilities on the corner of the Ane Keohokalole Hwy and Kealakehe Parkway.

Please, please, please, fully fund the Judiciary's request for the Kona Judiciary Complex. Kona is the step-child in the State, and we are the only place in the entire state that is without a facility that has the Circuit Court, District Court, and Family Court in one location.

My dream is that my children, Colette and Jana Masunaga, will grow up with a Kona Courthouse in their community that they can be proud of, and I hope I will be at the blessing of the Kona courthouse before I die. (I would love if it would be named the Mark E. Recktenwald Judiciary Complex!)

Thank you for your consideration in my testimony. I apologize for the delay in submitting this email testimony to you.

Mahalo nui loa,

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