



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: dbedt.hawaii.gov

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES**

Monday, March 29, 2021

3:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of

SCR 34/SR 23

**REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
AND TOURISM AND THE COUNTY OF HAWAII OFFICE OF AGING TO CONDUCT A
STUDY ON THE NECESSITY AND FEASIBILITY OF A SENIOR LIVING CENTER IN
THE KA'U DISTRICT.**

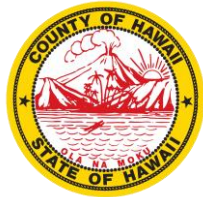
Chairs Wakai and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Misalucha and Ihara, and members of the Committees.

The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) provides comments on SCR34/SR23, which requests that DBEDT, in coordination and cooperation with the County of Hawai'i Office of Aging complete a study regarding the necessity and feasibility of a senior living center to support the population of the Ka'u district and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Legislature and the County of Hawai'i Office of the Mayor no later than July 1, 2021.

DBEDT would like to point out that the data availability, timing, and the limited resources of DBEDT make it difficult to complete the study as required by the resolution. First, the 2020 Decennial Census data would be the most recent and accurate data for the requested study; however, this data is not expected to be released until October 2021. Second, the allotted time-period for the study is only three months (from May to July 2021), and this does not allow enough time for a comprehensive study of this kind. Third, the feasibility portion of the study may include areas beyond economics such as environmental, traffic, and management that DBEDT does not have the required expertise in and does not have the resources to hire consultants to conduct the study.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Maile Medeiros David
Council Chair
Council District 6
(Portion N. S. Kona/Ka'ū /Volcano)



Phone: (808) 323-4277
Fax: (808) 329-4786
Email: maile.david@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

County of Hawai'i
West Hawai'i Civic Center, Bldg. A
74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy.
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740

March 26, 2021

Honorable Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair
Honorable Less Ihara, Jr., Vice Chair
Committee on Human Services
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: SCR34/SR23 – Requesting the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism and the County of Hawai'i Office of Aging to Conduct a Study on the Necessity and Feasibility of a Senior Living Center in the Ka'ū District

Honorable Chair San Buenaventura and Vice Chair Ihara:

Aloha, my name is Maile David, Councilmember representing Council District 6, comprising the rural districts of South Kona, Ka'ū, and Volcano Village. Mahalo a nui loa for this opportunity to express my wholehearted support SCR34/SR23.

My strong support is premised on personal relationships and experiences in serving the Ka'ū community and my belief that a feasibility study is the appropriate first step in determining, and ultimately confirming, that a Senior Living Center in the Ka'ū District is absolutely justified and a community benefit that is long overdue.

With respect to significance, I would also note and express my sincere mahalo a nui loa to O Ka'ū Kakou, a non-profit community organization, spearheaded by Wayne Kawachi, for their collective dedication and commitment to the Ka'ū community and their personal efforts in advocating for need and importance of a Senior Living Center in Ka'ū.

Mahalo a nui loa for your favorable consideration.

Very truly yours,

Maile David, Council Member
Council District 6, S. Kona, Ka'ū, and Volcano Village

SCR-34

Submitted on: 3/27/2021 3:40:41 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/29/2021 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadine Ebert	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Nadine Ebert. I am a member of 'O Ka'u Kakou. I am in favor of this bill as there is a need for Senior Housing in Na'alehu. I know members of this community that would welcome this housing in their own Community. They were born and raised in Na'alehu and would like to stay in Na'alehu. There are some who would like to move to an "easier" living situation but do not want to move out of their community. At least a study would be able to identify some of these needs. 'O Ka'u Kakou now owns land that was originally for Senior Housing. So a study would be most welcome