

From: Susan Matsushima [mailto:alluvio@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, May 25, 2013 9:50 PM
To: Office of Councilmember Stanley Chang
Subject: Council Meeting Testimony Grant-In-Aid amendment, Bill 11 (2013), CD2
Dear Budget Chair Kobayashi, Co-chair Chang and member of the Budget Committee,

The North Shore Chamber of Commerce has been very concerned about the number of visitors we received each year. In a recent study by BYU, indications are that 2 to 3 million of the 7 million visitors come to the North Shore. As Chair of the NSCC and one of the founding members of the North Shore Economic Vitality Partnership Committee, we ask for your support for the Grant-in-Aid Amendment, Bill 11 (2013), CD2 for \$25,000 to support the Strategic Plan for the North Shore Economic Clusters of Opportunities.

The North Shore in addition to servicing the number of visitors to our area, needs to assess the opportunities for those living in the area. The Cluster study will help us identify areas which may show increases in good paying jobs for residents and assist those homeless to become productive citizens in our community. At this time there is no data available.

The members of the community have seen the need for this strategic plan. The donors big and small have come forth with pledges from \$1000 to \$25,000 to assist in this process. Our goal had been \$160,000 but pledges now only total \$95,000. We have gotten the Cluster Study started by doing just two clusters until additional funds are received. We continue to seek pledges from others in the community that have the vision for a progressive North Shore. We would like to keep agriculture as a major focus for the project and the other industries that make up the North Shore. We hope that the City will assist us in getting to the next level.

As a business owner in Haleiwa of Alluvion, Inc., we are interested in the results of this study that will help make the North Shore a stronger community where visitors and local residents can build a strong region for our Hawaii.

We ask for your support of Bill 11 (2013), CD2.

Please feel free to contact me with questions.

Mahalo,

Susan Matsushima
Alluvion, Inc.
P.O. Box 820
Haleiwa, Hi 96712
808-637-8835 or cell: 225-5777

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