

Council Chair  
Gladys C. Baisa

Vice-Chair  
Robert Carroll

Council Members  
Elle Cochran  
Donald G. Couch, Jr.  
Stacy Crivello  
Don S. Guzman  
G. Riki Hokama  
Michael P. Victorino  
Mike White



Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov/council](http://www.mauicounty.gov/council)

March 1, 2013

Pono Project  
535 Kahua Place  
Paia, Hawai'i 96779

To Whom It May Concern:

**SUBJECT: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR PONO PROJECT**

I strongly support the Pono Project, Doing Right by Conservation. The Hawaiian word "Pono" means to "do what is right." It means being thoughtful, and giving back to the land and people.

The Pono Project will create long-term sustainable jobs statewide by providing an additional funding mechanism to local conservation organizations and provide neighbor islands increased fairness in decision-making priorities. The Pono Project will create jobs that can allow our keiki to live, work and play in Hawai'i, instead of taking their education elsewhere.

Governor Abercrombie's *A New Day in Hawai'i* plan calls for the stewardship of the natural resources that our survival, economy and quality of life depend on. Priority actions of the plan include managing invasive species, increasing Hawaii's ability to withstand impact from climate change, and restoring capabilities of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) by finding additional sources of funding. The Pono Project, as a new supplemental source of funding outside of government and politics, can provide a stable support network to address the key issues.

Most federal and state grants require a 1:1 non-federal match in order to meet the requirements of the funding agencies. This is becoming increasingly difficult. The Pono Project will create a solution to this funding restriction.

Conservation will continue to be a priority for us here in Hawai'i, as we grow our population and our tourism industry, but it will be important to mediate that growth with comparable protections for our natural areas. Building local and international partnerships to protect some of the rarest ecosystems on the Earth will allow Hawai'i to be a model for other eco-friendly tourist destinations.

March 1, 2013

Page 2

The Pono Project's reliable and consistent stream of funding will create or maintain local jobs, provide educational opportunities for our communities and visitors, and preserve the functions of our natural environment that keep our water, land and air clean and inviting.

Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gladys C. Baisa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gladys" being more prominent than the last name "Baisa".

GLADYS C. BAISA

Council Chair

GCB:amm