

From: [Tiffany Edwards Hunt](#)
To: [Planning WPC Testimony](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]; [Kierkiewicz, Ashley](#); [Darrow, Jeffrey W.](#); [Council Testimony](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of Bill 124 and Bill 126 – Pahoa Revitalization
Date: Sunday, March 29, 2026 5:59:58 PM

To: Windward Planning Commission

From: Tiffany Edwards Hunt & Jeff Hunt

Date: March 29, 2026

Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of **Bill 124** and **Bill 126** – Pahoa Revitalization

Chair and Members of the Windward Planning Commission,

My name is Tiffany Edwards Hunt, and I am submitting this testimony on behalf of myself and my husband, Jeff Hunt. We have owned commercially zoned property in Pahoa for a couple of decades. We stand in strong support of Bill 124 and its companion, Bill 126, which together will establish and govern the new Downtown Pahoa Commercial District.

We are heartened to see this district described as a way to encourage a "dynamic town where environment, culture, commerce and community co-exist harmoniously." As long-time stakeholders, we have seen Pahoa suffer tremendously over the years:

- We witnessed the devastating Luquin's Mexican Restaurant fire.
- We felt the economic toll when lava threatened to cross Pahoa Village Road in 2014-2015.
- We saw the 2018 Kilauea lava flow wipe out 700 homes in our surrounding area, and we were among those with homes that were inundated.
- We endured the COVID-19 pandemic and tried to continue to operate our business despite the challenge of a government shutdown.

Our regional town center, as outlined in the Puna Community Development Plan, is in great need of revitalization. We believe the zoning changes in Bill 124 and the updated standards in Bill 126 are vital steps toward that recovery.

Beyond zoning, we hope the County will use this momentum to address the significant challenges of homelessness and vagrancy. We ask that the County proactively work with community partners to reinvigorate the "Weed and Seed" program that thrived here more than a decade ago.

Furthermore, we suggest the County prioritize the revitalization of the old Pahoa Council Office. We urge the County to pursue whatever renovations are necessary to make that building habitable and work with a social service partner to inhabit the space. Having a dedicated service provider located in the heart of the village would be a transformative step for our community's well-being.

We are in desperate need of parking options. Because on-street parking is minimal and many Pahoa lots are small and logistically challenging, we urge the County to:

- Widen hours of operation and remove restrictive fencing for the Pahoa District Park and the Pahoa Swimming Pool.
- Open the back area of the old Pahoa Council Office (the former Pahoa Police Substation) for public parking.

We thank our elected officials for the clear communication regarding these bills, specifically Councilwoman Ashley Kierkiewicz, who did a significant amount of "front-loading" to support Pahoa property owners.

Note on Mailing Address Change: Finally, please note that our mailing address has changed. We request that the Planning Department update its records for our correspondence to: **15-1682 Second Avenue, Keaau, HI 96749.**

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Sincerely,

Tiffany Edwards Hunt & Jeff Hunt

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Tiffany Edwards Hunt
(808) 938-8592

[REDACTED]

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Big Island Press Club Past President
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&

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