April 23, 2025

Aloha Budget Committee Members,

My name is Susana Browne, and I proudly serve as a Board Member of Adaptations Dance Theater (ADT), Maui’s only professional contemporary dance company.

I’m writing to urge your support for ADT’s $90,000 line item in the FY26 Mayor’s budget. This funding will allow us to expand our flagship Bring it Home (BiH) program into two full seasons per year—greatly enhancing our impact on the Maui community.

ADT is more than a dance company—we are a cultural institution committed to building an arts ecosystem that is by Maui, for Maui. Our programming supports local dancers, activates community venues like the ʻĪao Theater, creates jobs for photographers, videographers, and printers, and brings high-quality, affordable performances to kūpuna, families, and youth.

As a board member, I’ve seen how ADT brings people together through art, education, and storytelling. We’re not importing art—we’re cultivating it from within the community. That’s rare and worth supporting, especially in these difficult times. With federal cuts to the arts and everything else we value, we must be self-sufficient on Maui. The expanded BiH season will offer over 43 paid contracts for artists and arts workers, educational programming and residencies that serve young dancers and emerging professionals, and an estimated $93,000 in economic impact, directly benefiting local vendors and businesses.

This is the kind of thoughtful, community-rooted programming that helps Maui not only recover—but flourish. With the County’s support, we can continue to make contemporary dance accessible, relevant, and empowering for all.

Please approve ADT’s $90,000 line item in the FY26 budget so we can continue this important work.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Susana Browne
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Board Member, Adaptations Dance Theater