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

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 22, 2026

Ms. Gina Young, Director
East Maui Water Authority
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Young:

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI** (BFED-1) (EWA-01)

May I please request you submit your response to the following questions by **April 6, 2026**. This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2027 Budget.

Please restate each question followed by the corresponding response. Please also ensure the response is clear and legible using a minimum 12-point font, including any attachments or exhibits. This formatting allows Members and the community to clearly read the document once posted.

1. Please outline the major changes in your Department's budget from FYs 2026 to 2027. If your budget will decrease, how will this impact your Department's operations and ability to serve the public?
2. How many vacant positions currently exist within your Department?
 - a. For each vacancy, please include the position ID, job title, the date the position became vacant, and the anticipated hire date.
 - b. What are the consequences, if any, for removing funding for these vacant positions from the FY 2027 Budget?
 - c. Please use the following format to respond:

Position ID	Department	Program	Job Title	Date of Vacancy	Anticipated Hire Date	Impact of Removing or Reducing Funding
[insert]	[insert]	[insert]	[insert]	[insert]	[insert]	[insert]

3. If your Department’s FY 2026 Budget contained expansion positions, please provide the following:
 - a. A list of the expansion positions.
 - b. For each expansion position that has not been filled, please indicate whether the position is included in the FY 2027 Budget.
 - c. For each unfilled expansion position included in the FY 2027 Budget:
 - i. Please state how many months of funding are being requested.
 - ii. Please identify where the position is in the hiring process — position creation; Administration, Department of Personnel Services, or union review; recruitment; interview; or other stage.
 - d. Please use the following format to respond:

Position ID	Job Title	Department	Program	Filled?	Date Filled	Included in Fiscal Year 2027 Budget?	Months of Funding Requested in Fiscal Year 2027	Current Stage in Hiring Process
[insert]	[insert]	[insert]	[insert]	[Yes/No]	[insert or N/A]	[Yes/No]	[insert or N/A]	[insert]

4. If your Department is proposing expansion positions in the FY 2027 Budget, how do you plan to fill those positions? Please also identify whether there are any similar positions within the same division, section, or Department that are currently vacant. If so, please state how long each similar position has been vacant.
5. How many positions were filled in FY 2026 that were not expansion positions?
6. How did your Department recruit to fill vacancies and what were the most effective methods for attracting candidates?

7. The following questions are related to overtime payments:
 - a. How much OT has been paid in FY 2026, to date, and what was the reason for the overtime?
 - b. What is the Department's process for authorizing, approving, and reviewing OT worked and OT paid to employees?
 - c. Were any of these OT costs attributed to the number of vacant positions in your Department?
 - d. Do you anticipate that OT costs in FY 2027 will increase or decrease and what are the reasons for your assumption?
8. The following questions are related to your Department's program and activities for FY 2027:
 - a. Identify the programs and activities conducted by your Department because of a Federal or State mandate. Indicate the amount of Federal or State funding your Department anticipates receiving and the amount of County funding your Department is requesting.
 - b. Identify the programs and activities conducted solely because of a Maui County Code mandate and indicate the amount your Department is requesting.
9. If your Department had Capital Improvement Projects in FY 2026:
 - a. Provide the status of each CIP if it is different from the information provided in the FY 2026 2nd Quarter CIP Report.
 - b. Provide information on how much funding has been encumbered or expended to date for each project.
10. If your Department has proposed Capital Improvement Projects for FY 2027:
 - a. Rank your proposed CIPs, by priority.

- b. Will CIP funding included in the FY 2027 Budget be encumbered by June 30, 2027? If not, how much do you anticipate will be encumbered by that date?
11. How many contracts did your Department execute in FY 2026? Please provide the total number and total dollar value of contracts awarded through each of the following procurement methods:
 - a. Request for Proposals.
 - b. Invitation for Bids.
 - c. Sole-Source Procurement.
12. If your Department manages a revolving fund:
 - a. Explain whether the revolving fund is still needed and why.
 - b. Provide the current balance.
13. If your Department manages grants:
 - a. Please provide a master list of all executed grants and all grants held up in review, including the reason each is being held.
 - b. For each grant line item not designated for a specific recipient (e.g., Small Business Promotion; Youth Programs), provide a breakdown of the grants that will be funded by the line item.
 - c. Provide a breakdown of all grants that will be funded by your Department under Sub-object Code 6317, County grant subsidy.
14. What are your top three Department priorities for FY 2027? How does your Department's budget reflect those priorities?
15. Did your Department apply for any grant funding in FY 2026? If yes, how much was received?
16. How much has your Department spent on Professional Services in FY 2026? What projects and consultants were funded under this line item?

17. How much of your Department's expenditures in FY 2026 will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the August 2023 Maui Wildfires? What amount of FY 2027 expenditures are expected to be reimbursed?
18. If your Department is receiving Federal grants, including pass-through grants:
 - a. Provide the amount your Department is receiving for routine operations.
 - b. Provide the amount your Department is receiving for August 2023 Maui Wildfires disaster recovery.
 - c. Explain any factors that could jeopardize the receipt of Federal grants, including changes in Federal policies, compliance requirements, or expiration dates.
 - d. Explain whether any Federal grants your Department has received or anticipates receiving have been reduced, suspended, terminated, or otherwise cut by the awarding agency.
 - i. For each affected grant, provide the amount affected, the effective date, the stated reason, and the impact on your Department.
 - e. Explain how your Department will adjust if it does not receive the anticipated Federal grant funding.
19. If your Department received funding to repair or replace equipment, locations, and structures destroyed in the wildfires, provide the current status for each. If there are items still pending repair or replacement, provide the estimated cost and timeline for the repair or replacement.
20. If your Department is managing a Council-initiated condition or appropriation in FY 2026, explain any challenges your Department faced in implementing the condition or appropriation and what information would have assisted you.

Ms. Gina Young
March 22, 2026
Page 6

The Department is not currently scheduled to present in person to the Committee. The schedule is subject to change and Committee staff will reach out if there are any changes to the schedule.

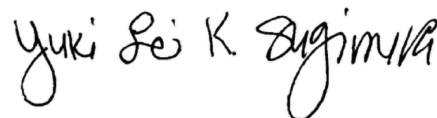
Please be prepared to give a presentation of up to 10 minutes on changes to your Department's budget from Fiscal Year 2026 to Fiscal Year 2027, addressing the following:

- Operations
- CIPs, if any
- Grants awarded by the Department, if any
- Grants received by the Department, if any
- Revolving funds, if any
- Rates and fees, including any estimated increase or decrease in revenue as a result of the changes

Please transmit your response to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by **April 6, 2026**. To ensure efficient processing, please include the Committee item number in the subject line.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Kirsten Szabo at ext. 7662, James Krueger at ext. 7661, or Pauline Martins at ext. 8039).

Sincerely,



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

bfed:2027bgt:260319aewa01:kes

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Budget Director

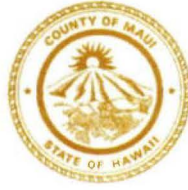
BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 10:11 PM
To: Gina.Young@co.maui.hi.us
Cc: 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; 'Lesley Milner'; 'Kristina Cabbat'; 'Tiare P. Horner'; 'Janina Agapay'; Cory-Lynn
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (EWA-01)
Attachments: 260319aewa01 (EWA-01).pdf

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor


JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

GINA M. YOUNG
Director



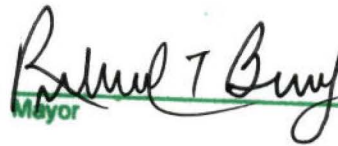

EAST MAUI WATER AUTHORITY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

April 5, 2026

 Ms. Lesley Milner
Budget Director, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

 
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
and Members of the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Sugimura and Members:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (EWA-01)

Aloha Chair Sugimura and Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide information on our Department's proposed budget. This letter is in response to your correspondence dated March 22, 2026 and the specific questions provided. Please see below for responses to your questions.

1. Please outline the major changes in your Department's budget from FYs 2026 to 2027. If your budget will decrease, how will this impact your Department's operations and ability to serve the public?

Response: In FY 2027, the Department will be in its second year of full operations. Increases to the proposed FY 2027 budget are reflected in three main areas: an increase in personnel to develop operational capacity, professional services funding for strategic and operational planning, and funding related to the development of the watershed planning program, including base yard and equipment funding.

2. How many vacant positions currently exist within your Department?

Response: We only have one vacancy; however that is due to the position having been just created. We have begun the recruitment process for a Water Resource Program Specialist and understand that a list is being developed with qualified applicants. We plan to receive the list of candidates in April and begin interviewing.

- a. For each vacancy, please include the position ID, job title, the date the position became vacant, and the anticipated hire date.

Response: Please see the chart below as requested:

Position ID	Department	Program	Job Title	Date of Vacancy	Anticipated Hiring Date	Impact of Removing or Reducing Funding
P-00641	East Maui Water Authority	Administration	Water Resources Program Specialist	Position was posted in March. We are in recruitment and will receive list from DPS this month.	June 2026	This position is required to develop and implement watershed planning program

- b. What are the consequences, if any, for removing funding for these vacant positions from the FY 2027 Budget?

Response: Removal of funding for this position would be detrimental to department. This position has just been created and we anticipate hiring for the position prior to adoption of the FY 2027 budget.

3. If your Department’s FY 2026 Budget contained expansion positions, please provide the following:

- a. A list of the expansion positions.
- b. For each expansion position that has not been filled, please indicate whether the position is included in the FY 2027 Budget.
- c. For each unfilled expansion position included in the FY 2027 Budget:

- d. Please state how many months of funding are being requested.
- e. Please identify where the position is in the hiring process — position creation; Administration,
- f. Department of Personnel Services, or union review; recruitment; interview; or other stage.

Response: Please see the chart below as requested:

Position ID	Job Title	Department	Program	Filled?	Date Filled	Included in Fiscal Year 2027 Budget?	Months of Funding Requested in Fiscal Year 2027	Current Stage in Hiring Process
P-00640	Planner II	EMWA	Admin	Yes	2/16/26	Yes	12	Filled
	Forestry & Wildfire Tech IV	EMWA	Admin	No	N/A	Yes	12	3 mos funding for FY2026 Creating position with DPS.
	Forestry & Wildfire Worker IV	EMWA	Admin	No	N/A	Yes	12	3 mos funding for FY2026 Creating position with DPS.

4. If your Department is proposing expansion positions in the FY 2027 Budget, how do you plan to fill those positions? Please also identify whether there are any similar positions within the same division, section, or Department that are currently vacant. If so, please state how long each similar position has been vacant.

Response: We plan to work with DPS, use job fair and DPS social media. We will also create job flyer and share with related organizations, at community and Board meetings and use word of mouth. We regularly have people inquire about job opportunities with the Department.

5. How many positions were filled in FY 2026 that were not expansion positions?

Response: None

6. How did your Department recruit to fill vacancies and what were the most effective methods for attracting candidates?

Response: We worked with the Department of Personnel Services to maximize outreach through social media and also created job posting flyers and sent them out to relevant parties to increase the visibility of job postings.

7. The following questions are related to overtime payments:
- a. How much OT has been paid in FY 2026, to date, and what was the reason for the overtime?

Response: 12 hours of OT was granted for work by an employee in an emergency shelter for the March 19 storm. The time was authorized by Managing Director Nishita, as the Director was off island and unable to staff the shelter.

- b. What is the Department's process for authorizing, approving, and reviewing OT worked and OT paid to employees?

Response: Employees are required to obtain prior approval from the Director and explain the work and need for overtime to complete. The Director holds weekly meetings with each employee where projects and overtime or CTO requests are discussed and reviewed.

- c. Were any of these OT costs attributed to the number of vacant positions in your Department?

Response: No

- d. Do you anticipate that OT costs in FY 2027 will increase or decrease and what are the reasons for your assumption?

Response: We anticipate costs to remain the same.

8. The following questions are related to your Department's program and activities for FY 2027:

- a. Identify the programs and activities conducted by your Department because of a Federal or State mandate. Indicate the amount of Federal or State funding your Department anticipates receiving and the amount of County funding your Department is requesting.

Response: There are no federal or state mandates affecting the work of the department at this time.

- b. Identify the programs and activities conducted solely because of a Maui County Code mandate and indicate the amount your Department is requesting.

Response: Maui County Charter Section 8-19.5(8) requires the Department to develop and implement a watershed management plan. We requested \$175,000 in watershed planning funding which is reflected in the FY 2027 proposed budget.

9. If your Department had Capital Improvement Projects in FY 2026:
- a. Provide the status of each CIP if it is different from the information provided in the FY 2026 2nd Quarter CIP Report.
 - b. Provide information on how much funding has been encumbered or expended to date for each project.

Response: Our Department did not have an Capital Improvement Projects in FY2026.

10. If your Department has proposed Capital Improvement Projects for FY 2027:
- a. Rank your proposed CIPs, by priority.
 - b. Will CIP funding included in the FY 2027 Budget be encumbered by June 30, 2027? If not, how much do you anticipate will be encumbered by that date?

Response: Our department does not have any Capital Improvement Projects for FY 2027

11. How many contracts did your Department execute in FY 2026? Please provide the total number and total dollar value of contracts awarded through each of the following procurement methods:

- a. Request for Proposals.

Response: None

- b. Invitation for Bids.

Response: None

- c. Sole-Source Procurement.

Response: The Department had one sole source procurement to Maui Office Machines for \$50,712 for space planning, workstations and office furniture.

12. If your Department manages a revolving fund:

- a. Explain whether the revolving fund is still needed and why.
- b. Provide the current balance.

Response: The Department does not have a revolving fund.

13. If your Department manages grants:

- a. Please provide a master list of all executed grants and all grants held up in review, including the reason each is being held.

Response: In the FY 2026 budget, the department received grant subsidy funding in the amount of \$75,000. In December the Department completed its grant application program and announced five recipients. We are in the process of working with the Department of Finance to execute the grant contracts.

- b. For each grant line item not designated for a specific recipient (e.g., Small Business Promotion; Youth Programs), provide a breakdown of the grants that will be funded by the line item.

Response: The EMWA grant program does not have any line item grants designated for specific recipients. All are awarded through a competitive awards process. Below are the grants to be funded by our grant subsidy.

Grant Recipient	Project	Amount
East Maui Farm	Honomanu Lo‘i Restoration project. The initiative will conduct stream and shoreline monitoring to track the impacts of water diversion and drought, while documenting ecological improvements resulting from restored stream flow and expanded wetland kalo patches. The project is described as a comprehensive, community-led ahupua‘a restoration effort.	\$20,000
Na Moku Aupuni ‘o Ko‘olau Hui	Ke‘anae Lo‘i and ‘Auwai Restoration Project. The project aims to restore traditional water infrastructure that supports food sovereignty, cultural continuity and ecological health in one of East Maui’s most historically significant wetland taro regions.	\$20,000
Friends of Twin Falls	Kupu Wai o Ho‘olawa, a yearlong youth and community education program. The cohort will bring together students, cultural practitioners and scientists to study the Ho‘olawa Hydrological Unit through place-based learning, water testing and mapping.	\$19,000
Okada Design	Mizu-Wai Story Weaving Kit, a community weaving and oral history exchange project that uses lauhala workshops and an online toolkit to strengthen connections between people, place and water.	\$8,000
Kahu Aina: Earth Guardian Network	The project expands an outdoor education program for children in Huelo, emphasizing intergenerational knowledge-sharing, stream stewardship and cultural and scientific observation.	\$8,000

- c. Provide a breakdown of all grants that will be funded by your Department under Sub-object Code 6317, County grant subsidy.

Response: Please refer to the above table of grants awarded. The Department's grant program is solely funded through the County grant subsidy Sub-object Code 6317.

14. What are your top three Department priorities for FY 2027? How does your Department's budget reflect those priorities?

Response:

Priority	Budget
1. Establish Watershed Planning program and base yard	Full-year funding for Water Resources Program Specialist and 2 field workers Base yard rent provided Equipment funding provided Watershed planning funding provided
2. Complete strategic and operational planning and work to acquire and manage the East Maui water system	Professional services funding provided
3. Expand Department capacity and operational efficiency	Funding provided for an Administrative Officer to handle Department personnel and financial matters

15. Did your Department apply for any grant funding in FY 2026? If yes, how much was received?

Response: The Department applied to three grant programs this year and were fortunate to receive funding or technical assistance from all of them. Please refer to the chart below.

Organization and Grant Program	Received	Amount
Hawaii Community Foundation Fresh Water Fund	Yes	\$40,000 total Half of funding received in FY2026 and second half will be rec'd in FY2027
Public Finance Initiative (PFI) Rural and Small Cities Program	Yes	In kind pro bono community engagement services and reporting
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Water Investment Strategy	Yes	TBD –Dept just notified that we will receive funding but amount has not been announced yet.

16. How much has your Department spent on Professional Services in FY 2026? What projects and consultants were funded under this line item?

Response: Please see table below.

Project	Organization	Funding Amount
Ke'anae Facility Rentals for community meetings in Sept, Oct, April	Na Moku Aupuni O Koolau Hui	\$942
Wailuku Facility Rental	J. Walter Cameron Center	\$135
Meeting filming and airing	Akaku Maui Community Television	\$2,114
Planning and organization of library services and data	Summer Wong	\$2,568
Community meeting preparation and reporting of engagement summaries for 7 meetings	Read/Write Community, LLC	\$24,866
Catering for community meetings in Ke'anae	Gary Chow	\$810
Mapping and East Maui data	Kumu Pono Associates	In process
Department Needs Assessment	Stantec	In process

17. How much of your Department's expenditures in FY 2026 will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the August 2023 Maui Wildfires? What amount of FY 2027 expenditures are expected to be reimbursed?

Response: None of our Department's FY 2026 expenditures will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the August 2023 Maui Wildfires.

18. If your Department is receiving Federal grants, including passthrough grants:
- a. Provide the amount your Department is receiving for routine operations.
 - b. Provide the amount your Department is receiving for August 2023 Maui Wildfires disaster recovery.
 - c. Explain any factors that could jeopardize the receipt of Federal grants, including changes in Federal policies, compliance requirements, or expiration dates.
 - d. Explain whether any Federal grants your Department has received or anticipates receiving have been reduced, suspended, terminated, or otherwise cut by the awarding agency.
 - e. For each affected grant, provide the amount affected, the effective date, the stated reason, and the impact on your Department.
 - f. Explain how your Department will adjust if it does not receive the anticipated Federal grant funding.

Response: Our Department is not receiving federal grants.

19. If your Department received funding to repair or replace equipment, locations, and structures destroyed in the wildfires, provide the current status for each. If there are items still pending repair or replacement, provide the estimated cost and timeline for the repair or replacement.

Response: Our Department is not receiving funding to repair or replace equipment, locations, and structures destroyed in the wildfires.

20. If your Department is managing a Council-initiated condition or appropriation in FY 2026, explain any challenges your Department faced in implementing the condition or appropriation and what information would have assisted you.

Response: The Department is grateful for the Council-initiated funding for 2 expansion field worker employee positions with 3 months funding and for small equipment for watershed work. We are currently working with the Department of Personnel Services to create these positions, and they should be completed soon. We are waiting for our Water Resources Program Specialist to be hired prior to ordering the equipment to ensure the proper equipment is purchased.

Thank you for this opportunity. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding additional questions at gina.young@co.maui.hi.us.

Mahalo,



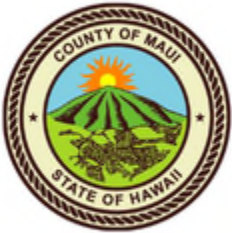
GINA YOUNG

cc: Janina E. Agapay (Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us)

BFED Committee

From: Lesley J. Milner <lesley.j.milner@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 6:07 PM
To: BFED Committee; Gina M. Young
Cc: Michelle L. Santos; Ezekiel I. Kalua; Kristina Angeline C. Cabbat; Tiare P. Horner; Janina E. Agapay; Cory Lynn M. Vicens
Subject: RE: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (EWA-01)
Attachments: (BFED-1)(EWA-01).pdf

Aloha,
Please see attached correspondence. Thank you.
-Lesley



Lesley J.C. Milner

Budget Director

Office of the Mayor

808-270-8239

Lesley.j.milner@co.maui.hi.us

From: BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Sent: Monday, March 23, 2026 10:11 PM
To: Gina M. Young <gina.young@co.maui.hi.us>
Cc: Michelle L. Santos <michelle.santos@co.maui.hi.us>; Ezekiel I. Kalua <zeke.kalua@co.maui.hi.us>; Lesley J. Milner <lesley.j.milner@co.maui.hi.us>; Kristina Angeline C. Cabbat <kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us>; Tiare P. Horner <tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us>; Janina E. Agapay <janina.e.agapay@co.maui.hi.us>; Cory Lynn M. Vicens <cory-lynn.vicens@co.maui.hi.us>
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (EWA-01)