

April 20, 2026

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MEMO TO: Members of the Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

F R O M: Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair *Yuki Lei K. Sugimura*
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

SUBJECT: **KAHULUI AND WAILUKU-WAIHE'E-WAIKAPU RESIDENCY AREA
MEETING REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET**
(BFED-1)

On April 16, 2026, the Council's Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee held a public hearing at the Council Chamber, Kalana O Maui Building, Wailuku, regarding the proposed FY 2027 Budget. Present for the meeting were: Committee Chair Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan, and members Tom Cook, Gabe Johnson, Alice L. Lee, Tamara Paltin, Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Shane M. Sinenci, and Nohelani U'u-Hodgins. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. and adjourned at 7:51 p.m.

The Committee received oral testimony from 25 individuals. Unless otherwise indicated, the following testimony was received in support of funding for the organization, program, or project noted:

1. Hina Wells testified in support of Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.'s Youth Services programs, specifically on the impact of the M.A.U.I. Kanaktion Teen Task Force, which provides leadership opportunities and addresses critical youth issues such as suicide awareness, underage drinking, and vaping.
2. Clark Johnson and Victoria Gladden supported MEO's comprehensive programs. Mr. Johnson specifically requested that the Department of Transportation provide fare-free bus service for veterans and active-duty members of the armed forces.
3. Valerie Monson, Executive Director of Ka 'Ohana O Kalaupapa, requested \$500,000 for the Kalaupapa Memorial, an amount representing \$250 for each of the 2,000 Maui County residents forcibly relocated to the settlement.
4. DeGray Vanderbilt also testified to support funding for the Kalaupapa Memorial. He emphasized that administrative delays

have increased the memorial's construction costs by \$3.5 million over the past three years.

5. Georgia Pinsky, Director of Maui Farmer Support Network; Kayla Simpson, and Dr. Janine Holstein advocated for a \$140,000 allocation for the organization, highlighting its success in leveraging USDA funding and its essential role in regenerative agriculture education.
6. Sara Gilligan and Rob Bence testified in support of the Hawaii Farmers Union United Farm Apprentice Mentorship program, noting its success with 207 graduates and current enrollment of 33 students across Maui, Molokai, and Lānaʻi.
7. Kasey Moher supported the Maui Police Department's budget request for modernization, specifically the development of a real-time Operation Center and camera feed integration to improve investigative efficiency and officer safety.
8. Emily Erickson, Executive Director of The Maui Farm, Inc., and Natalia Barboza requested a \$40,000 increase for farm-based residential programs serving families displaced by domestic violence and economic hardship.
9. Edel Baguio-Larena, CEO of Maui Family Support Services, Inc., and Deb Marois, Coordinator for Hoʻoikaika Partnership, testified in support of sustained organizational funding for child abuse prevention and family stability services.
10. Scott Crawford, Maui Marine Director for The Nature Conservancy, requested \$200,000 to \$250,000 to develop a “greenprint” for Maui County to enhance coastal resilience and community-based management.
11. Brooke Mahnken, Maui Invasive Species Committee, highlighted the urgent threat of the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle and noted that future eradication efforts may require funding exceeding \$200,000.
12. Claire Apana expressed concerns regarding the shift from grants to contracts for community-led work. She also supported funding for the Mālama Kakanilua project, including \$200,000 for planning and \$500,000 for land preservation in the Waiale area.

13. Nettie Aquino, Executive Director of Nā Kia'i O Maui, requested \$250,000 to sustain the operations of the Lahaina Resource Center.
14. Lisa Darcy, Founder of Share Your Mana, urged the Committee to implement "safe-sleeping" solutions for the homeless population and noted that the \$200,000 allocation for bus shelters was insufficient for the needs of seniors and the transit-dependent.
15. Martin Hamilton, representing the Democratic Socialists of Maui, proposed increasing Real Property Tax rates on Non-Owner-Occupied properties (specifically Tier 3 for properties over \$3 million) from \$17.00 to \$28.75 to bolster the County's social safety net.
16. Lauren Cheong, Rusty MauiCat Collective, advocated for feline welfare resources and funding for Trap-Neuter-Return clinics to manage community cat populations.

Your Committee also received the attached written testimony.

For questions relating to the Kahului and Wailuku-Waihe'e-Waikapu residency area meeting, please contact OCS staff (Keone Hurdle at ext. 7659).

If you have any questions relating to the FY 2027 Budget, please contact the Committee staff (Kirsten Szabo at ext. 7662, James Krueger at ext. 7761, Jarret Pascual at ext. 7141, Clarissa MacDonald at ext. 7135, or Pauline Martins at ext. 8039). Thank you for your cooperation.

bfed:2027bgt:Residency area meetings:260416Kahului-Wailuku:kjh

Attachments

mailto:lalaine@medb.org2026 APR -8 PM 1: 40

From Joy Gerry <joygerry1@gmail.com>

Date Wed 4/8/2026 1:25 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from joygerry1@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha

I want to thank you for the STEMWORKS classes that are offered at Lokelani Middle School. My son, who went to Kihei El until 4 th grade and had an IEP, is now in a homeschool hybrid program. He has attended Lokelani's STEM classes after school for the last 2 years. This program is essential to his maturity and education. He is able to be a part of public school, engage with peers, participate in a larger classroom environment until he is mature enough to return to a public school format full time. This county program is so important to the students attending Lokelani, but the fact that it is available to students not attending public school makes it even more advantageous to Maui communities. The professionalism of the teachers is a positive benefit to the program. With all the struggles teens go through today, we need programs like this to continue.

Thank you so much,

Joy Gerry

Sent from my iPhone

County Clerk

RECEIVED

From: chris@rainbowridgewest.com
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 10:12 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: 2027 Budget Testmony

2026 APR -8 PM 12: 04

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from chris@rainbowridgewest.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

I am writing to request the Maui County Council include funding to upgrade the Lower Nahiku water system. In the past 2 1/2 years we have not had water service more often than we've had it. For those of us who live at the top of the system our water goes out first and often takes weeks to be restored. It takes a while for folks at the bottom of the road to lose their service.

I have learned from the local water department that one issue is broken water lines that are becoming a more frequent problem as the system ages. Another is the pump at the water storage tank not working due to power outages.

The best option for addressing the aging water line is to replace it with ductile iron pipe, which is very strong and has a lifespan of 50-75 years. I estimate the installed cost to be about \$2M.

I am also asking that a backup generator be installed to power the pump at the water tank so service is not interrupted due to power outages.

Another fix to consider is to add auxiliary tanks and pumps along the system to more quickly recharge it when there is an outage.

Mahalo,

Chris Gaarder
808-318-3063



Outlook

Testimony in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development

From Matthew Lugo <matthew@privateer.com>

Date Tue 4/7/2026 3:08 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

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2026 APR -7 PM 3:25
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COUNTY CLERK

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Aloha,

My name is Matthew Lugo, and I am testifying in support of the Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development.

I am an aerospace engineer at Privateer, a technology company headquartered here on Maui. I have been a participant in MEDB's EMER-GEN program — hosted annually at the Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance Technologies (AMOS) Conference — since 2022, returning again in 2024 and 2025. In 2024, I also joined the EMER-GEN planning committee, where I gained hands-on experience organizing the program and presenting in front of technical audiences.

EMER-GEN has had a direct and measurable impact on both my professional growth and on Privateer's business. Early in my career, the program connected me with experienced mentors who offered guidance I couldn't easily find elsewhere in Hawaii. That confidence has been lasting. One experience in particular stands out: during EMER-GEN, I had the opportunity to spend several hours speaking with a customer from the SDA TAP LAB — a professional originally from Oahu — about our shared passion for growing the technology industry in Hawaii despite the very real challenges that come with building a tech sector here. That conversation was genuine, grounded in a love for these islands, and it mattered. In the months that followed, Privateer was able to secure contracts with that organization. That is a direct line from MEDB's program to economic activity on Maui.

Beyond my own experience, I have watched EMER-GEN create meaningful opportunities for University of Hawai'i students or working professionals already in-state, who would otherwise have limited access to aerospace and defense professionals. The program gives them the chance to meet mentors, explore career paths, and pursue employment in a high-growth industry. It also includes a cultural component, with guest speakers who thoughtfully connect Hawai'i's unique history and culture to the aerospace and technology fields. This is not something you find at most technical conferences, and it reflects a genuine investment in ensuring that the growth of this industry is relevant and respectful to the community it calls home.

I am proud to support MEDB's continued funding and strongly encourage the Council to do the same. The EMER-GEN program is building careers, supporting local businesses, and strengthening Hawai'i's place in the global technology community, all from right here on Maui.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Matthew Lugo

Aerospace Engineer

+1.808.250.2996

privateer.com



PRIVATEER

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2026 APR -7 AM 8:01

Edward Codelia
Maui Resident
Agenda item (FY2027 Mayor's Proposed Budget)
Date of hearing: April 16, 2026

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Chair Lee and Members of the Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget for the County of Maui.

I submit this testimony in opposition to the proposed budget as currently structured. My concerns are not simply about the size of the budget itself, but about what the budget reveals regarding the direction, priorities, and performance of county government at a time when many residents feel the conditions of daily life on Maui are not improving.

The proposed county budget totals approximately **\$1.6 billion** for a county of roughly **165,000 residents**. In practical terms, that equates to roughly **\$10,000 per resident per year flowing through county government**. When government operates at that scale, residents reasonably expect to see meaningful improvements in the fundamental systems that support life on this island.

Instead, many residents feel the opposite is occurring.

Housing remains out of reach for many local families. The cost of living continues to rise. Infrastructure failures during major storms have exposed weaknesses in drainage systems, roads, and water systems. Employers regularly report difficulty finding a trained and reliable workforce. Communities across the island continue to struggle with homelessness, drug abuse, and property crime.

These are not abstract policy discussions. These are conditions that residents experience every day.

It is also important to recognize that Maui has experienced a series of extraordinary challenges in a very short period of time. The island has endured the pandemic, devastating wildfires, repeated flooding events, economic instability in tourism, and workforce disruption across nearly every sector.

During times like these, residents expect government to become more focused, more disciplined, and more responsive to the basic systems that support community stability.

Yet the structure of this budget suggests the opposite.

Nearly **\$390 million** is categorized as **"countywide costs,"** representing the internal cost of maintaining the government system itself. The budget also spreads hundreds of millions of dollars across special funds, revolving accounts, and restricted programs that make the overall financial structure increasingly complicated and difficult for the public to understand.

Even more concerning, recent committee discussions revealed that the administration is proposing **more than ninety new county positions while roughly ninety positions are already vacant**, and the County is carrying **well over \$170 million in unused funds**.

When residents see those numbers, a very simple question arises: if government cannot fill the positions it already has and is sitting on that much unspent money, why is the solution to expand government even further?

This raises a deeper structural question about how the County evaluates its own performance.

If the goal is to determine whether this budget is functioning effectively, it can be evaluated using three simple but meaningful tests.

The first is the **Staffing Reality Test**. A responsible government fills the positions it already has before expanding the size of the workforce. Yet the administration proposes adding more than ninety new positions while roughly the same number of positions remain vacant. That suggests the government is attempting to grow before it can manage the staff it already has.

The second is the **Unused Money Test**. Government should not expand spending while large amounts of public money remain unspent. The County currently holds well over one hundred million dollars in carryover funds. When government retains that much unused money while simultaneously proposing budget growth, it raises serious questions about financial discipline and resource management.

The third is the **Outcome Test**. The purpose of a budget is to improve conditions in the community. Residents measure success by outcomes, not by the size of government spending. When a county budget reaches roughly **\$1.6 billion**, the public expects measurable improvements in housing availability, infrastructure reliability, public safety, emergency preparedness, and economic stability. Yet many of these conditions remain strained.

Another issue that deserves attention is the policy discussion around “**devaluing real estate**” as a strategy for improving housing affordability.

Some policymakers have suggested that reducing property values could make housing more accessible. On paper, that argument appears simple. But on Maui the reality is far more complex.

Real estate forms the **foundation of the island’s economy and tax base**. Property taxes represent the largest single source of county revenue. Tourism investment, construction activity, lending, small business development, and retirement savings are all connected to the value of land and property.

When policymakers discuss intentionally reducing property values, they are effectively discussing weakening the primary economic engine that supports the county government itself.

The housing challenge on Maui is not simply about land availability. It is about **execution capacity**.

Limited water infrastructure, aging wastewater systems, road capacity constraints, permitting delays, financing uncertainty, and shortages of skilled construction labor all affect the ability to build housing. When these systems stall, housing projects that already exist in the pipeline remain unfinished or delayed for years.

For that reason, increasing housing supply on Maui does not necessarily mean expanding development into new land areas or dramatically increasing density across the island. Instead, it means **delivering the projects that are already in the pipeline.**

Many housing developments stall because infrastructure connections are incomplete, financing conditions become uncertain, or regulatory processes take too long. A county budget focused on infrastructure investment and permitting efficiency could move many of these projects forward.

The County cannot manufacture new land, and it must respect the island's environmental limits. What it can do is prioritize the infrastructure and administrative capacity needed to move existing housing projects from planning to completion.

Maui is not a large mainland city. It is an island community with physical limits, environmental risks, and a fragile economic balance. Government policy and budgeting should reflect that reality.

The County's primary focus should be on the systems that keep the island functioning: reliable water infrastructure, safe roads and drainage systems, wildfire preparedness and disaster resilience, housing delivery supported by infrastructure and efficient permitting, public safety and properly staffed emergency services, and a functioning local economy that allows families to remain on the island.

Instead, year after year residents see budgets that grow larger while the conditions that matter most to their daily lives remain largely unchanged. In fact, looking back at the **last three county budgets**, many residents would struggle to identify meaningful improvements delivered to the people of this island. Government spending has increased, but the results experienced by residents have not kept pace.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Council conduct a detailed review of countywide administrative costs and identify opportunities to reduce overhead, reevaluate the proposal to add new positions while existing positions remain vacant, prioritize capital spending that directly supports infrastructure, housing delivery, and disaster resilience, review the use of carryover funds and determine whether some should be returned to taxpayers through relief or redirected toward infrastructure priorities, and ensure that budget decisions strengthen the long-term economic stability of Maui rather than destabilize the island's primary economic sectors.

Finally, I would like to ask two direct questions of both the administration and the Council.

If the County of Maui is effectively spending about \$10,000 per resident every year, where exactly are residents seeing \$10,000 worth of measurable improvements in their daily lives?

And equally important:

After the pandemic, after the fires, after the flooding, and after years of rising costs of living, how does this budget fundamentally change the trajectory of life on Maui for the people who actually live here?

Until those questions can be answered clearly and convincingly, expanding the size of government should not be the default response.

The size of a government budget should not be the measure of success. The measure should be whether life on Maui is actually improving.

And that leads to a final point.

Budgets are ultimately statements of values and priorities. They reveal what leaders choose to protect, what they choose to fund, and what they choose to ignore. When residents look at the past three county budgets and struggle to see meaningful improvements in housing, infrastructure, public safety, or economic stability, it raises a difficult but necessary question: **who is government actually working for?** Until residents can clearly see that county government is working first and foremost for the people who live on this island, confidence in both the budget and the direction of this administration will remain deeply strained.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Edward Codelia
Maui Resident

RECEIVED

2026 APR -7 AM 8:01

Stem works: Lokelani

From Stacey Pilarca <tibz732@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 7:51 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

Cc lalaine@medb.org <lalaine@medb.org>; Stacey Pilarca <tibz732@yahoo.com>

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Hi there,

I am a parent from Lokelani intermediate and I have a child who goes to stem works after school and it being in the stem made him

More developed his interests towards gaming, 3d printing, robotics, and also I believe by being in that org it helps him to be more disciplined, attentive and it also helps his social skills especially my son is not too sociable so these kind organization after school helps not only my child but as a parent cause I know my son likes to go to stem cause he enjoys what they do plus they have a very friendly, knowledge instructor Mr Sean Yannel and I do hope and wish that county of Maui will never stop supporting these kind of organization. It's really beneficial for the school , kids and parents these kind of after work activity, thank you .,

**David "Kawika" Mattos
Dba Alaka'ina Consulting Hawai'i, LLC
86C Pilikana Place
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793**

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2026 APR -7 AM 8:01

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

April 6, 2026

**RE: Testimony in Strong Support of the FY 2027 Budget – Office of Economic Development
(MEO Core Four – Small Business Planning Program)**

I am writing this personal testimony to urge the County of Maui to continue its vital funding and support for the MEO Core Four Small Business Planning Program.

While I serve the community professionally as a Program Supervisor at Maui Family Support Services (MFSS) leading the Kāne Connections Program, I am writing today as a grateful graduate and a recipient of a \$5,000 business planning award through the Core Four program.

In the past, I attempted several small business ventures but always felt I lacked a thorough business plan and the foundational knowledge of business structures. This gap in expertise kept me hesitant to move forward with new ideas. After completing the Core Four course in August 2025, that hesitation was replaced by confidence.

The curriculum, engaging class discussions, and the direct mentorship of David Daly, Director of the Business Development Center, made a profound difference in my strategic planning. David's experience provided me with a defined roadmap for the new business I am currently launching. I now feel fully prepared to step into this venture and continue contributing to our local community.

Small businesses are the heart of Maui's economy. Programs like Core Four ensure that local entrepreneurs have the solid foundation and the technical roadmap to succeed, rather than just an idea. I am deeply grateful for the knowledge I received, and I strongly hope the County of Maui will continue to invest in this program so other local residents can turn their visions into reality.

Thank you for your time and for your continued support of our local workforce.

Sincerely,



**David "Kawika" Mattos
808-281-6682
Owner, Alaka'ina Consulting Hawai'i, LLC**

Support Cycle Strong2026 APR -6 PM 1: 19

From Tom Kiely <tkiely8888@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 12:01 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

Cc mountainbikemaui@gmail.com <mountainbikemaui@gmail.com>

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It is an honor for me to offer testimony and support for the Cycle Strong program.

By way of introduction, I was the founder of the XTERRA World Championship (off-road triathlon) which took place on Maui for over twenty years.

Part of our program of events included offering introduction and training for Maui youth in the areas of cycling, running and fitness. We were honored to work with Maui cycling shops, running clubs, etc during those years. As a result we could see at close range the benefits of introducing young people to cycling. Fitness, health, traffic reduction, pollution reduction.... Etc.

From the seed of one small event in 1996, a global endurance sport spread around the globe to 30+ countries. One of the major reasons for that growth is based on introducing young people to cycling. Maui was the leader that started all of this... and it is my recommendation that Maui continues to be a leader in the area of youth sports/fitness with the Cycle Strong program.

Thank you and Aloha,

Tom Kiely

808-428-0869 mobile

Tkiely8888@gmail.com

www.KielyCap.com

Www.RwandaStories.com

Bill 55 section 6 item 12: Funding needs for Pa'ia Youth Council, Inc. / PYCC

From Billy Jalbert <billy@mauirealestate.com>

Date Mon 4/6/2026 9:41 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

Cc Dean Wong <dwong@discoverimua.com>; K. Kauanoe Batangan <k.kauanoe.batangan@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>; Thomas M. Cook <Thomas.Cook@mauicounty.us>; Gabe Johnson <Gabe.Johnson@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins <Nohe.Uu-Hodgins@mauicounty.us>

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Aloha County Council Members,

Mahalo for your service and support to Maui County. My name is Billy Jalbert, I am the President of the Board of the Pa'ia Youth & Cultural Center. I have served PYCC for 24 years because I care deeply about our community and believe that PYCC's mission of Building Community Through Our Youth helps make a better Maui for all of us.

PYCC serves Maui's youth in a facility that sits right on the ocean adjacent to Baldwin Beach park – which is both a blessing and a challenge. Besides providing a safe haven for youth PYCC provides a place where our young members connect, learn life skills in radio broadcasting, the multimedia arts, culinary training, the skate park and of course the ocean. But that salt air? It's tough on everything...

We have requested an increase in County support for FY27 and FY 28 to \$554,976.94 Let me break down why this investment matters and why we need your help now more than ever. Simply stated every single line item in our budget costs more than before.

This budget supports 10 positions – seven full-time youth specialists and three part-timers. These aren't just staff members; they're mentors, role models, and sometimes the only stable adults in these kids' lives. Running our radio station, skate park, culinary program, multimedia lab, the girl's club – keeping kids engaged, learning life skills, and staying out of trouble. Our staff are all underpaid and overworked. Their passion and commitment to our mission and youth keeps the doors open. It's been several years since we requested an increase in support.

But here's the thing – your \$554,976.94 investment only covers 60% of our actual costs. We have to raise the other 40% – nearly \$386,000 – through private donations and fundraising. So, this isn't a handout; it's a partnership and we work hard to deliver real results for Maui.

Now, about timing. Our long-term Executive Director, Susun White retired at the end of 2024. We were fortunate that we had Benjamin Rachunas ready to step up. He's been with us for 20 years and knows this organization inside and out. Ben knows how to run PYCC and serve our youth. What we

need now is stability and time to build those external funding relationships. **Without stable County support during this transition, we risk losing other funding sources** because donors get nervous when they see instability.

After our former ED retired we discovered gaps in our administrative systems – things managed informally, processes not documented, financial controls that needed strengthening. That's when Imua Family Services stepped in to support us.

The \$43,869 in administrative costs from the County – that's our partnership with Imua. They handle financial reconciliations, payroll processing, tax compliance, audit preparation, grant monitoring and reporting, fundraising support – all the critical infrastructure that keeps programs running legally and effectively. **Without Imua's support, we honestly don't know if PYCC would still be operating at full capacity today.** They created a solid foundation so Ben can focus on leading programs and building funding relationships.

Let me put it simply: COVID hit us hard. The wildfires hit us hard. Rising maintenance costs hit us hard. Losing our ED created uncertainty. **But our kids? They keep showing up. Every day that we are open!** They still need us. They count on PYCC to be their safe haven.

Without this investment right now, we face a domino effect where reduced County support signals to other funders that maybe PYCC isn't stable, maybe they should pull back too. And then where are our kids?

This budget isn't padding – it's what it actually costs to run quality youth programs in an oceanfront facility on Maui in 2027. Every dollar goes toward either the people serving our youth or the infrastructure keeping those programs running.

I'm asking you to continue to invest in Maui's future by investing in PYCC. Give us the stability to transition leadership successfully. Give us the foundation to continue serving the young people who need us most.

Our kids are counting on us. And we are counting on you.

Mahalo for your consideration and support,

Billy Jalbert
Board President
Pa'ia Youth Council Inc. (DBA Pa'ia Youth & Cultural Center).

County Clerk

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From: Crystal Henkel <crystal.henkel.ms@gmail.com> **2026 APR -8 PM 3: 07**
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 1:48 PM
To: County Clerk; Lalaine Pasion
Cc: Janelle Tamayose
Subject: Strong Support for Continued MEDB STEMworks funding

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April 8, 2026

Re: Strong Support for Continued MEDB STEMworks Funding

My name is Crystal Henkel, and I am a parent of a student at Pukalani Elementary School on Maui. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the continued funding of the MEDB STEMworks program.

STEMworks is not simply an extracurricular enrichment activity — it is a transformative educational experience that is shaping how our children see themselves and their futures. Programs like this one are rare, and the impact they leave on young learners is immeasurable.

My daughter, Eliana, is a living example of what STEMworks makes possible. Through this program, she discovered a genuine interest for science, developed a real understanding of coding, and experienced firsthand what it takes to build and control a robot. Watching her come home energized and eager to talk about what she had created and how it worked was something I truly value. That kind of spark — ignited at an early age — is truly priceless.

But beyond the hands-on technical skills, what has moved me most is the message Eliana and her classmates have received: that all careers are possible and accessible to them. For young girls growing up in Maui, hearing that message in an environment where they are actively doing science and engineering — not just reading about it — is powerful and lasting.

I respectfully urge you to continue investing in the STEMworks program. Our keiki deserve every opportunity to discover what they are truly capable of, and this program delivers exactly that. The future of our Maui community depends on young people who are curious, skilled, and confident — and STEMworks is helping build that future, one student at a time.

Thank you for your time and continued commitment to our children.

Sincerely,
Crystal Henkel
Parent, Pukalani Elementary School

County Clerk

RECEIVED

From: Crystal Henkel <crystal.henkel.ms@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 2:21 PM
To: County Clerk; Lalaine Pasion
Subject: Support for Krank Cycle

2026 APR -8 PM 3:07

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from crystal.henkel.ms@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
April 8, 2026

Re: Letter of Support – Krank Cycles Keiki Bicycle Program

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the funding proposal championed by Krank Cycles to provide bicycles to keiki in our community. This initiative represents exactly the kind of investment in our children's futures that Maui so greatly needs, and I urge the Council to fund it fully.

Krank Cycles has put forward a thoughtful, comprehensive program. Each child who receives a bicycle will also receive a properly fitted helmet and road safety training. This holistic approach ensures that our keiki are not only given an opportunity to ride, but are equipped with the knowledge and tools to do so safely.

Beyond the physical gift of a bicycle, this program opens doors. When children discover an activity they are good at and enjoy, it builds confidence and a sense of identity. Cycling has a wonderful way of bringing young people together, and programs like this create the kind of supportive friend communities that help keiki thrive — socially and emotionally. Every child deserves the chance to find their passion and belong to a community that lifts them up.

Providing bicycles to children also encourages them to get outside, stay active, and develop healthy habits that can last a lifetime. At a time when youth physical activity is more important than ever, the Krank Cycles program promotes an active, healthy lifestyle in a way that is joyful and accessible. This is the kind of positive, preventive investment in community health that pays dividends for generations.

I stand fully in support of this program and strongly encourage the Maui County Council to provide the funding necessary for Krank Cycles to bring this vision to life. Our keiki are Maui's greatest treasure, and this program is a meaningful step toward ensuring they grow up healthy, connected, and empowered.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Thank you,

Crystal Henkel
(808) 439-7539

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budget testimony in support of Feed My Sheep

2026 APR -9 AM 9: 42

From Bill McLaughlin <billmcl2@mindspring.com>

Date Thu 4/9/2026 9:34 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

Cc scott@feedmysheepmaui.com <scott@feedmysheepmaui.com>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from billmcl2@mindspring.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

This letter is being written as testimony in support of Feed My Sheep and the contribution they make to the community.

Not only do they distribute high quality food but they also provide a friendly and caring feeling. The impact that they have

on the community is huge. We are in total support of Feed My Sheep and their concern for a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Bill & Laura McLaughlin

Support of the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program

2026 APR 10 AM 7:45

From Justin Allen <allenjc511@gmail.com>
Date Thu 4/9/2026 9:19 PM
To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Cc MFSS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS <subsidy@mfss.org>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from allenjc511@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear County Council,

My name is Justin Allen and I am a participant in the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program. My wife and I are both employees of the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE).

This program has helped my family by providing financial support for childcare of our son and daughter.

Because of the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program, my family has been able to help educate and serve keiki in the public education system of Kihei, Wailuku, and Kahului communities. Additionally, we have been able to give our children a highly valued and stable child care system that allows stability for our family and the families we serve.

Please continue funding this program so it can support more parents, children, and families across Maui County.

Sincerely,
Justin Allen

Support for STEMworks at Lokelani – Parent Testimony

2026 APR 10 AM 7:45

From Kaz Sato <kazoontherobot@gmail.com>
Date Thu 4/9/2026 6:34 PM
To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Cc lalaine@medb.org <lalaine@medb.org>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from kazoontherobot@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To whom it may concern,

My name is Kazuyo Sato, and I am a parent of a student at Lokelani. I am writing to express my strong support for the STEMworks program, which has had a profound impact on my son, Halu.

Currently, Halu is thoroughly enjoying Mr. Yannell's STEM class, where he has been exploring the world of 3D printing. He has progressed to handling quite complex tasks and is now using a software called "Blender" to create a 3D model of the Tokyo Skytree. It is truly exciting to see his progress and anticipation for the finished project.

I am incredibly grateful that our children have access to such high-quality, hands-on learning opportunities. I sincerely hope that these programs continue to receive the necessary support so that even more students can benefit from these life-changing experiences in the future.

Thank you to everyone involved in making this program possible.

Mahalo,

Kazuyo Sato

.....✿.....

Kazuyo Sato

+1 (310) 622-3623

kazoontherobot@gmail.com

.....✿.....



Childcare Testimony

From Magdalena <magdawal93@gmail.com>

Date Fri 4/10/2026 9:20 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

Cc MFSS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS <Subsidy@mfss.org>

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2026 APR 10 AM 9:28
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Aloha,

I'd like to share my story about how Maui Family Support Services has helped my family tremendously.

As many of us know, childcare on Maui is extremely expensive. I'm a mom of 2-year-old twins, and the tuition for both of them is close to \$3,500 per month. For many families, including mine, that cost would be impossible to manage without support.

I'm incredibly grateful that we found Maui Family Support Services. Their assistance has made a huge difference for our family and allowed us to access the childcare our children need. Because of the impact it has had on families like mine, I strongly believe that continued funding for this program is essential.

Warm regards,

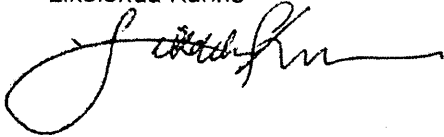
Magdalena ODonnell

April 10, 2026

Dear County Council,

My name is Likolehua Kuhns and I am a participant in the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program. This program has helped my family by covering my daughter's preschool tuition. Because of the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program, my family has been able to continue going to work, providing for our family and made it possible for my child to attend preschool. Please continue funding this program so it can support more parents, children, and families across Maui County.

Thank you,
Likolehua Kuhns

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Likolehua Kuhns', written over the printed name.

RECEIVED
2026 APR 10 PM 1:40
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Maui County Child Care Subsidy Testimony

2026 APR 10 PM 1:28

From Jenna Yanos <jennayanos@gmail.com>

Date Fri 4/10/2026 12:33 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

Cc MFSS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS <Subsidy@mfss.org>

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COUNTY CLERK

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Good morning,

Please find my testimony in support of the Maui County Child Care Subsidy Program below:

Dear County Council,

My name is Jenna Yanos, and I am a participant in the Maui County Child Care Subsidy Program.

This program has helped my family immensely. When I became a mother, I was overwhelmed with stress about how I would financially support my family while also ensuring my child had the opportunity to grow and develop. Because of this program, I am able to work full time to support my family while knowing my child is in a safe, nurturing environment.

While I am at work, I have peace of mind knowing my child is being cared for by qualified professionals and is engaged in meaningful, developmentally appropriate activities. My child is happy, growing, and learning so much through his preschool experience. At the same time, I am able to continue working without carrying the full financial burden on my own.

I respectfully ask that you continue funding this vital program. It plays an essential role in supporting local families, fostering early childhood development, and allowing parents to remain in the workforce and thrive. This support is not only important for our children, but for the future of our entire community.

Public Comment Submission

2026 APR 13 AM 7:38

From No Reply <noreply@civicplus.com>

Date Fri 4/10/2026 10:00 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Submitted by: CHERYL TIPTON

Email Address: CTIPTON1@EARTHLINK.NET

Commented on event: <https://mauicounty.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1366/overview>

If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: I support the two line items in the Mayor's proposed budget (Bill 55) that continue funding to the Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center - \$50,000 for the Art with Aloha program and \$75,000 for the Youth and Family Arts Education and Outreach. These programs have been successfully reaching many adults and children (often in rural and underserved areas) on the islands of Maui County over the past few years and the demand for the programs continue.

Support for MEDB STEMworks Funding

2026 APR 13 AM 7:38

From Asia Thompson <asiat@hawaii.edu>

Date Fri 4/10/2026 5:48 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

Cc lalaine@medb.org <lalaine@medb.org>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

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<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is Asia and I have three kids. One at Kalama and two at Pukalani Elementary. My older kids have attended STEM programs. My son is currently attending 3D Printing and E Games. Please continue to support MEDB STEMWorks funding. Having these classes help children grow and learn new/other skills to help them decide what types of activities they like. They are learning new things in fun ways. My son always reminds me the days he has STEM because he is so excited to attend these classes. I appreciate the classes also because we don't have too much money to sign my children up for after school activities. It is so amazing to offer these at no cost and is a huge thing for us because my children are able to try new things by attending these classes.

Mahalo,

Asia

2027 Maui County Budget Submission - Testimony from the Hana Business Council

From Heidi Lea <hbc@hanabusinesscouncil.com>

Date Fri 4/10/2026 5:57 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

 3 attachments (4 MB)

26_O4_06-HBC FY27 Budget Meeting Acknowledgments.docx.pdf; HBC _ EMR Mayor FY27 Budget Meeting Topics.docx;
26_03_27-Hāna Hub 'Āina Acquisition.pdf;

You don't often get email from hbc@hanabusinesscouncil.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

RE: **FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET SESSION** Comments by the HBC

Aloha e Maui County Councilmembers,

Please find the attached information from the Hana Business Council which is the testimony that was shared on Monday, April 6, along with support for funding for our Hāna Police department staffing needs.

Mahalo nui!

Heidi Lea
Hāna Business Council

Executive Director

hbc@hanabusinesscouncil.com

iPhone (406) 600-4300

www.HanaMaui.com

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2026 APR 13 AM 7:38
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COUNTY CLERK



Hāna Business Council

P.O. Box 856, Hāna, HI 96713

Email: hbc@hanabusinesscouncil.com

www.HanaMaui.com

Phone: (808) 435-2755

April 6, 2026

2025-26 Board Members

Gary Chow, President

Marc Sanders,
Vice-President

Sean Storm, Treasurer

Susie Pu, Secretary

Grace Pretre

Merry Henig

Randy Orozco

Executive Director

Heidi Lea

RE: FY27 Maui County Council Community Budget Meeting

Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,

On behalf of the Hāna Business Council, mahalo for the support from multiple departments of the County of Maui.

- To the Department of Agriculture for granting funding towards the development of the Hāna Hub project, successfully bringing us to completion of the acquisition of property to move this project forward. Additionally, it was Director Kali Arce who recommended the HBC and this project for Congressional Earmark funding that was approved for FY26.
- We thank the Mayor's office and Councilmembers for supporting earmark funding to cover the purchase of the 14.57 acres next to Hāna airport as the location for this project, and the Grants Management Program Manager of the Office of Recovery, Lyle Kobashigawa for taking the purchase over the finish line on March 27, 2026.
- As the fiscal sponsor for Ho'omākaukau Maui Hikina - East Maui Ready anticipates working on building the resilience of East Maui's communities with the earmark funding that was allocated in the FY26 budget under the Maui Emergency Management Agency. And we look forward to ongoing planning and building a facility and the network of support that better prepares us for future incidents affecting our 'ohana and infrastructure.
- And from our East Maui discretionary funding through the Office of Economic Development we are grateful for ongoing program support for the HānaMaui.com website, and community outreach to inform and grow engagement in areas like a community pathway and cesspool conversions using 'āina based solutions addressing environmental and health concerns for our district's future.

Mahalo Nui,

Heidi Lea

Executive Director of the Hāna Business Council

The HBC Mission Statement: *Hāna Business Council exists to support business endeavors, create business and employment opportunities within the special culture and traditions of aloha, for the health and welfare of our East Maui area.*

Hāna Business Council is a nonprofit tax-exempt IRS 501(c)(3) organization. Federal Tax ID #99-0313784.
Your donation is U.S. tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.



Hāna Business Council

P.O. Box 856, Hāna, HI 96713

Email: hbc@hanabusinesscouncil.com

www.HanaMaui.com

Phone: (808) 435-2755

FY27 Budget Requests and Support Topics,
presented by the

Hāna Business Council (HBC) and Ho‘omakaukau Maui Hikina - East Maui Ready (EMR)

Mahalo to Maui County for Your Support!

1. OED grants support the Hāna Business Council program areas of:
 - a. Social Web Care & Community/Visitor Messaging and Communications
 - i. HānaMaui! Website
 - ii. Hāna Community News Email List
 - b. Hāna Pathway / Sidewalk Improvements
 - c. HBC Adopt-a-Highway Designation in Hāna Town
 - d. Broadband Committee
 - i. Middle Mile Construction
 - ii. Digital Equity
2. MDOA grants support the Hāna Hub Project - Community Agricultural Aggregation and Value-added Food Production Center, and Resilience Hub development.
3. Community residents and first responders along with funding from OED & MEMA support Ho‘omakaukau Maui Hikina / East Maui Ready (EMR) and district emergency preparedness
 - a. MEMA Community Specialist position with Gale Notestone
 - b. Visitor / Community Safety Messaging
 - i. Monthly meetings with updates from area leaders and ahupua‘a
 1. SEE PAGE 2 of Requested Support Areas for Hāna Police
 - ii. “Hot Spot” Location and Visitor/Resident Safety Messaging
 - iii. Ham Radio Promotion
 - iv. Resilience Hub Networking & Development
4. District Support for Maui County Departments and funded entities expanding workforce development with living wage jobs located in East Maui, examples of main areas to grow:
 - a. Maui Economic Opportunity as a first line of transportation support
 - b. Maui Department of Agriculture we would like to see an expansion of personnel to be able to assist with East Maui ‘āina, farmers and permitting/use support, and alignment with Food and Nutrition Security Planning
 - c. East Maui Water Authority site allocation in the Ke‘anae area, emphasizing workforce development and location support for development of the engineering needed for water monitoring and reparation.
 - d. Hāna Police Department - SEE PAGE 2 of Requested Support Areas for Hāna Police



As we discussed during the Hana Business Council meeting on Tuesday, September 23, 2025, this outline from Lt. Krau reinforces three proposed personnel expansions for next fiscal year rooted in both community needs and the unique challenges of the Hana Patrol District.

1. Community Police Officer (East Maui)

- Currently, Molokai, Wailuku, Kihei, and Lahaina patrol districts each have designated Community Police Officers. East Maui lacks one.
- East Maui covers a large portion of Maui yet has one of the lowest population densities (approximately 10 people per square mile) this makes community engagement, visibility, and response more difficult.
- A locally based, long-term Community Police Officer (ideally a Hana resident) would serve as the primary liaison for community events and concerns, build trust over time, and coordinate crime prevention strategies directly with residents and community groups.
- In other districts, Community Policing has proven effective for addressing quality-of-life issues, improving responsiveness to local concerns, and enhancing public trust and community problem-solving.
- This community police officer would also help establish and enhance the community watch programs in East Maui.

2. Public Safety Aid (Support Position)

- Our Hana station currently struggles to maintain consistent office staff coverage, especially evenings and weekends, with just one support role (Joanna Paman).
- Adding a second Public Safety Aid would allow us to keep the station staffed 7 days a week and during off-peak hours, reducing “back-of-house” burdens on sworn officers and improving community access and service.
- This position is key to preserving continuity of operations and enabling sworn staff to focus on public safety duties rather than administrative gaps.

3. Additional Patrol Officer (Total: 8 Officers)

- The Hana Patrol District now has 7 officer positions: 4 on day shift, 3 on night shift.
- We propose 4 day shift and 4 night shift officers, enabling **two officers per shift**, then structurally dividing Hana into two sectors to improve coverage, reduce response times, and prevent overextending a single officer.
- Under current staffing, often only one officer is on duty over the entire district. This not only delays response but also poses serious safety and workload risks.
- Especially in a large, remote district like Hana, response time is critical.
- We will also be able to increase our proactive patrols and cover more ground during these patrols.

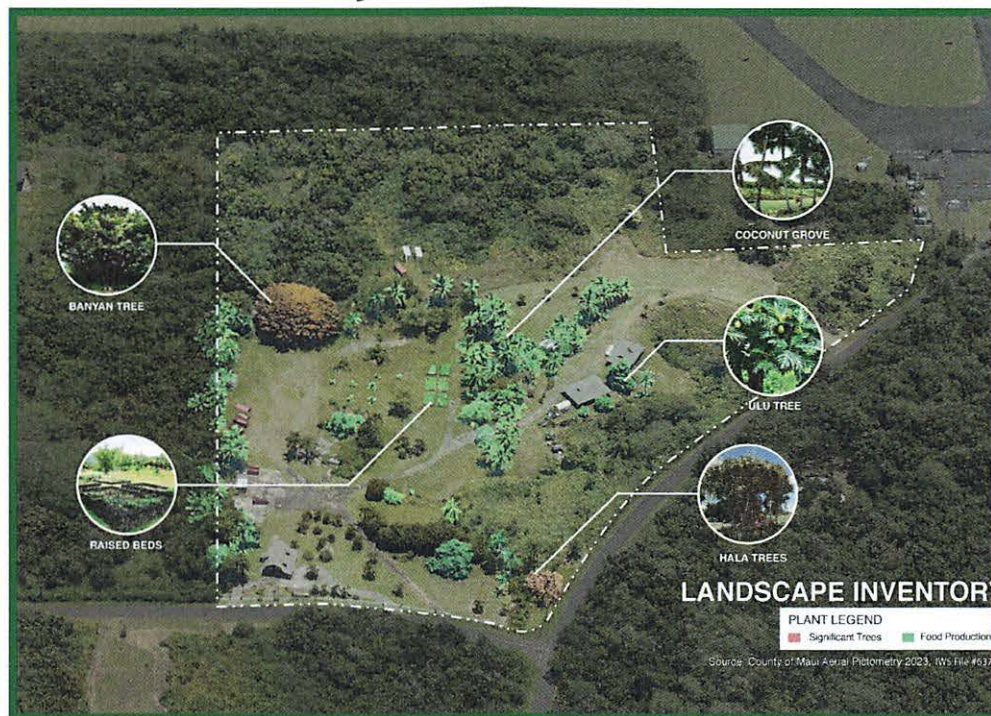
Summary & Justification

- The vast geography and sparse population of East Maui demand **dispersed and proactive policing**, not just reactive patrol.
- Community policing has demonstrated strong return on investment, through improved trust, better crime prevention outcomes, and reduced burden on patrol resources.
- Supporting staff increases ensures that sworn officers are utilized efficiently, rather than stretched thin by administrative or station operations.
- A fully staffed patrol team enhances officer safety, reduces response gaps, and strengthens public confidence.

Thank you for your continued support of the Hana Police. We firmly agree adding to our district force will significantly improve our service to East Maui residents and better align policing resources with the unique challenges and trust-building needs of our community.

Hāna Hub 'Āina - HBC Acquisition Completed

Friday, March 27, 2026



Building a Foundation in Agriculture and Resilience

March 27, 2026 marked the successful transfer of the title of the land at 20 Uwala Road to the Hāna Business Council for the Hāna Hub project! This acquisition is rooted in the effort to solidify a location for a food aggregation and shared-use community kitchen central to the Hāna district, and now that a site has been secured the work can solidly move forward towards that aim!

For all who have put thought and work towards this endeavor congratulations! Mahalo nui to the County of Maui Mayor's Office, Department of Agriculture, Office of Recovery, and our local representatives at the East Maui Council Office for their guidance and dedication to work in partnership with community nonprofits towards food security and building resilience for our residents.

Visit HanaHub.org for the latest updates on the Hāna Hub Project, and HanaMaui.com for East Maui Community News, Directory Listings, Events Calendar, and Community Resources.

The HBC Mission Statement: Hāna Business Council exists to support business endeavors, create business and employment opportunities within the special culture and traditions of aloha, for the health and welfare of our East Maui area.

Hāna Business Council is a nonprofit tax-exempt IRS 501(c)(3) organization. Federal Tax ID #99-0313784.
Your donation is U.S. tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

County Clerk

From: No Reply <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 2:34 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Public Comment Submission

RECEIVED

2026 APR 13 PM 3:33

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Submitted by: Zack Stein
Email Address: zack@hifoc.us

Commented on event: <https://mauicounty.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1366/overview>
If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: Support for Continued Funding of the Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB) Dear Members of the Maui County Council, I am writing to express my strong support for the Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB). Over the past five years, I have experienced firsthand how MEDB serves as a cornerstone for both STEM education and the growth of scientific enterprises on Maui. Empowering the Next Generation: EMER-GEN My involvement with MEDB began with EMER-GEN, a premier young professionals and students conference held in conjunction with the AMOS Conference. This program is truly unique; it integrates Hawaiian cultural foundations—such as celestial navigation and the restoration of Kaho’olawe—with career development. This environment allows local students to engage directly with global peers, fostering collaborations and job opportunities that keep our local talent connected to the worldwide technology sector. Mentorship and Community Impact As an expert in aerospace systems integration living on Maui, MEDB has frequently bridged the gap between my professional expertise and the local student body. Through their various STEM initiatives, I have had the privilege of mentoring multiple students and volunteering at numerous STEM events. Fostering Local Innovation Beyond education, MEDB is instrumental in diversifying Maui’s economy by supporting local startups. My recently incorporated business, HIFOCUS Enterprises, was accepted into one of MEDB’s small business incubators. This program provides technology-focused businesses with the essential guidance and financial support needed to flourish. Their mentorship has been critical as my company navigates early, high-stakes milestones. MEDB’s tireless support for strengthening and diversifying Maui’s economy has profoundly impacted my career and my company. I respectfully ask that the Council continues to fund their vital efforts. Sincerely, Zack Stein Founder, HIFOCUS Enterprises

County Clerk

RECEIVED

From: Shayne Keo <keo.kekai@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 1:42 PM
To: County Clerk; MFSS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS
Subject: Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program

2026 APR 13 PM 3:33

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Dear County Council,

My name is Kekai Keo and I am a participant in the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program.

This program has helped my family by giving me the ability to afford safe, reliable childcare during one of the most difficult times in our lives. As a single mother, trying to rebuild after the devastating Maui fires, I have faced many challenges, especially when it comes to finding stable work and supporting my children on my own.

Because of the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program, my family has been able to keep a sense of stability and routine. It has allowed me to actively search for employment, attend interviews, and take steps toward rebuilding our lives, knowing my children are in a safe and caring environment. Without this support, it would be nearly impossible for me to move forward and provide the future my children deserve.

Please continue funding this program so it can support more parents, children, and families across Maui County who are going through similar hardships.

Mahalo Nunui

Kekai Keo

Testimony2026 APR 13 PM 4:27

From Melody Villamor <killaksmom808@icloud.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 4:21 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

Cc Subsidy@mfss.org <Subsidy@mfss.org>

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Dear County Council,

My name is Melody Villamor, and I am a participant in the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program.

This program has helped my family by giving me the chance to provide for my four children while also continuing my college education. As a mom, balancing school and raising my kids is not easy, but this support has made it possible.

Because of the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program, I've been able to stay consistent in school and work toward completing my teaching degree in Hawaiian Studies. This program is helping me build a better future for my children and our community.

Please continue funding this program so it can support more families like mine across Maui County.

With gratitude,
Melody Villamor



Outlook

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:38

From Ane Takaha <bhaktirocks@earthlink.net>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 6:16 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha,

My name is Ane Takaha, and I live in Kihei. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,

Ane Takaha



Outlook

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Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:38

From Beth Kelly <bethkellyconsult@aol.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 1:47 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>; john richardson <jdr@space.mit.edu>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

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Aloha, My name is Beth Kelly and I live in Concord, MA. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Thank you,

Beth Kelly



Outlook

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Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:38

From Robert Mitchell <rmitchell@aditfunds.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 12:24 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

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Aloha,

My name is Robert Mitchell and I live in Haiku. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,
Robert Mitchell

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Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:38

From Evelyn Billington <aukai.tutu@gmail.com>
Date Mon 4/13/2026 11:52 PM
To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
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Aloha,

My name is Evelyn Billington and I live in Wailuku. I 100% support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, our water quality, and our community.

We are familiar with the work that the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council does and have participated in their activities. One of the most valuable services they provide, in addition to protecting our reefs and the quality of our ocean water, is education. This education is accessible to both residents and to visitors who come here, as evidenced by their excellent informational displays in the airport.

Please keep this funding in place--and if at all possible, increase it!.

Mahalo,
[Evelyn Billington]

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

From Ember <saraemberhawk@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 9:53 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

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Aloha,

My name is Ember Behrendt , and I live in Haiku. My family cares deeply about the health of our reefs, ocean and beaches. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. The work they do is critical for Maui's ocean ecosystems. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,

Ember Behrendt



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2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

Testimony for County Budget 2027

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

From Riccio <ricciomaui@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 9:49 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

You don't often get email from ricciomaui@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

My name is Ronald Riccio, and I live in Kibei. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place. They deserve the support and we need the work they are doing.

Mahalo,

Ronald Riccio



RECEIVED

2024 APR 14 AM 7:39

Testimony for County Budget 2027

From Mary Sendrey <mauibab@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 9:30 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

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Aloha,

My name is Mary Jane Sendrey, and I live in Kihei. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Thank you,
MJ Sendrey



Outlook

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

From Cybil Moran <cybilmoran@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 9:21 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

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Aloha,

My name is Cybil and I live in Lahaina. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place, with all of these storms we need it more now than ever!! Thanks for your time and consideration.

Mahalo nui loa

Cybil Moran



Outlook

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

From Carla Snyder <carlajsnyder@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 9:19 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from carlajsnyder@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is Carla Snyder and I live in Wailuku. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,
Carla Snyder

Sent from my iPhone

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7: 39

From lfstevens@earthlink.net <lfstevens@earthlink.net>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 9:03 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from lfstevens@earthlink.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

I live in South Maui. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, fish, water quality, and community. They operate with incredibly low overhead and always deliver on their commitments, with no drama.

Their water quality testing program (46 sites across Maui and Moloka'i) is more important then ever given the incredible storms we have seen in recent years, especially 2026. They monitor reef health so we can observe changes and work to keep them healthy and protecting Maui's shorelines. MNMRC operate Hawaii's first reef-friendly landscaping program, which teaches landscapers how to modify their practices to protect our reefs.

They also work on coral restoration in South and West Maui, helping damaged corals survive after storms break them, giving them a second chance to protect our shorelines.

Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,

Larry Stevens



RECEIVED

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

Testimony for County Budget 2027

From GMom <mongoosekope@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 8:50 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from mongoosekope@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

Please fund reef and water protection in the 2027 budget.

It is hard to believe that this is not top priority for you politicians. You should know that the reef is very important to our tourist economy. You can show you care for Maui Nui by voting for this funding to stay in place.

My name is Patsy Pitts, and I live in Haiku. I strongly support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,
Patsy Pitts



Outlook

RECEIVED

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

Testimony for County Budget 2027

From Lee Cutler <leeshelm@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 7:17 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from leeshelm@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at
<https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is Lee Cutler and I live in Waiiluku I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.,,,

I am a 50 year resident and have witnessed,,, Tramatic Changes in our Shorelines ,,,,,, Lets start to make a Difference,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,

Mahalo,
[NAME]

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

From Anne A <onehiker4fun@mykolab.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 6:49 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from onehiker4fun@mykolab.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is Anne Allison, and I live in Kihei. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

As a frequent snorkeler on Maui, I have seen changes in reef health. There seems to be less fish and less healthy corals. We need scientific documentation to look at what is causing these changes and what we can do to help keep the reefs healthy. The ocean and ocean activities are a major draw for tourists and locals and one of our most precious resources!!! Over fishing, hot el nino summers, poaching, close water developments, brown water run off from storms, especially recent Kona Low storms and pesticide use, are among real burdens on the reefs.

Mahalo,
Anne

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

From Robin Reinhart <robinreinhart1@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 6:43 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from robinreinhart1@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

I'm Robin Reinhart and I live in Haiku. My favorite part of Maui is getting into the water. And seeing fish, and clean beaches. Now is the time that we need to support Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the budget.

The maintenance of beautiful, clean, safe water and beaches is essential on Maui for both locals and visitors.

Taking action to ensure the environmental quality of the ocean is essential to the well-being of the planet, as well as each of us.

Maui Nui MRC has shown itself to be a steward of good practices and works to reverse the wide spread damage that has been done in the past

We have no time to waste to restore and enhance the ocean and the quality of the fish, the reefs and the water.

Please fund Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the next budget.

Mahalo,

Robin Reinhart



Outlook

RECEIVED

Testimony for Maui County's 2027 Budget

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

From Tia Lanzetta <tialanzetta@yahoo.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 6:25 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from tialanzetta@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

As a resident of Kihei in Maui County, I am writing to express my support for the continued funding of the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the 2027 fiscal year budget. Their work protects essential resources including our reefs and water quality. The community relies on these resources for its way of life as well as our all-important tourist trade. I urge you to keep this funding in place.

Sincerely,

Teresa Ann "Tia" Lanzetta
P.O. Box 532550, Kihei, HI 96753-2550

858-523-1772



RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

From M. Katherine Shepherd <m.katherine.jordan@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 6:18 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from m.katherine.jordan@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha, My name is Katherine Shepherd, and I live in Kihei . I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place. Mahalo, Katherine

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

From Bill Nelson <orangejello@sbcglobal.net>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 6:16 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from orangejello@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha, My name is Bill Nelson, and I live in Kaanapali. I have volunteered with Maui Nui Marine. I believe I'm what they are doing and I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Clean water is critical for a healthy island and a healthy planet.

Please keep this funding in place. Mahalo,

Bill Nelson
707-688-7187



RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

From Janet Chin <janetchin2003@gmail.com>
Date Mon 4/13/2026 6:16 PM
To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from janetchin2003@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is Janet Chin and I live in Oakland, CA. I come to Maui most every year the past 35 years. I really enjoy snorkeling so I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,
Janet Chin



Outlook

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

From Konnie Fox <konniekfox@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 6:00 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from konniekfox@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is Konnie Fox, and I live in Kihei and Massachusetts. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Maui's special marine environment is why you choose to be here every winter for the last 16 years.

Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,

Konnie Fox



Outlook

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

From Rob Gibson <robgibson1031@gmail.com>

Date Mon 4/13/2026 5:53 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from robgibson1031@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is Rob Gibson, and I live in Ashland, Oregon. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

As a former resident of Maui, I still take an annual vacation on Maui to enjoy swimming in the ocean and appreciating the splendor of the reefs, fish & water quality. I know Maui Nui Marine Resource Council does good work to protect these valuable assets.

I hope they continue to receive the funding they truly deserve. Mahalo. Rob Gibson.



Outlook

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:39

From Linda Lyerly <lindalyerly100@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 7:32 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from lindalyerly100@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is Linda Lyerly and I live in north Lahaina. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place. The programs are especially important for keeping our reefs alive and healthy, especially the new coral restoration projects!!

Mahalo FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY to be heard.

Linda Lyerly, Lahaina

RECEIVED

To: county.clerk@mauicounty.us

2026 APR 14 AM 11: 29

CC: subsidy@mfss.org

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

April 14, 2026

Dear County Council,

My name is Melodie Starmer (Chavez), and I am a participant in the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program.

This program has been an incredible support for my family over the years. The tuition assistance has allowed my children, ages 4, 4, and 1, to attend a safe, structured environment where they are surrounded by caring adults and positive peer relationships. It has given them the opportunity to learn, grow, and stay engaged in meaningful activities during such important developmental years.

Because of the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program, my family has been able to maintain both emotional and financial stability. As a parent, this support has greatly improved my mental health and overall well-being, knowing my children are in a nurturing and supportive environment. Without this program, childcare outside of the home would not be affordable for us.

At this time, my youngest child is currently waitlisted due to a lack of funding, and we are facing the difficult reality of having to withdraw him from school because we are unable to cover the cost. We currently owe \$7,500 in tuition, which is not something we can sustain. This situation has been incredibly stressful, and it highlights just how essential this program is for families like mine.

Despite this hardship, I am deeply grateful for the support we have received through this program in previous years. It has made a meaningful difference in our lives, and I truly hope it continues so that other families—and ours—can have access to reliable, affordable childcare.

Please continue funding this program so it can support more parents, children, and families across Maui County. Programs like this are vital to the health and stability of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melodie Starmer (Chavez)

(808)268-2090

Melodie.chavez@gmail.com

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 11:11

From KimHarterIMAP <kim@kimharter.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 10:52 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from kim@kimharter.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Maui County Council Members,

My name is Kim Harter, and I live in Haiku. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

I care about the health of the land and sea, and the people that use it - but it must be tended and cared for - there must be oversight and ready action when needed. The Maui Nui Marine Resource Council has been working towards that goal, and that work needs to continue.

I have been swimming regularly at South Maluaka Beach Park for the past 30 years, and have seen that the reef is dying and the numbers of fish and sea life are declining precipitously. If protecting and fostering the health of the aina and sea does not become a priority for the people of Maui County - to make changes that will do that - the trend will continue, and we will be living in a desert, not a flourishing tropical paradise.

Please make this your priority, and fund the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kim Harter



Outlook

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 10:02

From sulara@mind.net <sulara@mind.net>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 9:49 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from sulara@mind.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

My name is Sulara James, and I live in Wailuku. My husband and I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,

Sulara James & Genesis Young

County Clerk

RECEIVED

From: Petra Bertilsson-Friedman <petrabertilsson@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 8:54 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: County Budget 2027 Testimony

2026 APR 14 AM 10:01

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

 You don't often get email from petrabertilsson@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Council,

My name is Petra Bertilsson, and I am a resident of Kēōkea. I am writing to strongly urge the County to support and fund the vital work of the Marine Institute at Maui Ocean Center.

MOCMI and its dedicated volunteers provide year-round, 365-day response across Maui's shorelines. Their work includes responding to monk seal haul-outs, rescuing entangled and hooked honu, restoring and planting coral reefs, and conducting essential outreach to both residents and visitors.

They work closely with lifeguards, hotels, fishers, surfers, and other ocean users, serving as a trusted partner in protecting marine life. Their hotlines receives daily calls from across the island requesting assistance with monk seal response and honu rescues.

Without MOCMI's presence, hundreds of monk seal haul-outs would go unprotected, countless honu would remain entangled in fishing line, and coral restoration efforts would be significantly diminished. Just as importantly, both residents and visitors would have fewer opportunities to learn about and care for Hawai'i's fragile marine ecosystem.

As our coastlines face increasing pressure, the need for this work continues to grow. As a Maui resident of over 30 years, I respectfully urge the Council to invest in and fund MOCMI's efforts, which directly support the wellbeing of our communities—both human and marine.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Petra Bertilsson

County Clerk

RECEIVED

From: Cailin Goodier <cailin@counselingwithcailin.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:16 AM
To: County Clerk
Cc: mountainbikemaui@gmail.com
Subject: in support of Cycle Strong Program & Eddie Tam Bike Park

2026 APR 14 AM 10:01

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from cailin@counselingwithcailin.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

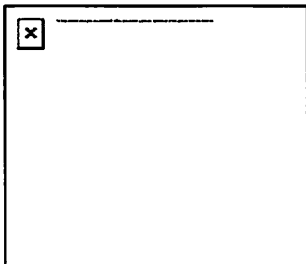
Aloha,

Please find this email in strong support of Cycle Strong Program, MMBC. Nearly all of the research preformed about after school activities notes that youth who participate are significantly less likely to skipp classes, experiment with drugs and engage in sexual activities, than those who have no structured after school programming. Activities like the biking program would offer youth opprotunitites to develop relationships with other youth as well as healthy adult role models, which serves as a protective social barrier to things like initiating substance use.

The proposed Eddie Tam Bike Park, would also offer youth a safe, healthy and fun option to engage in after school and on the evenings. The Social Bonding Theory notes that adolescents with strong bonds to community groups are far less likely to engage in risk taking behavior. Involvement in activities like biking is shown to improve mental health, as well as self esteem and optimism.

With Maui's significant rise in substance use issues, these options are easy, healthy and preventatitve steps to ensuring we are doing our best for the upcoming generations success.

Please support these initiatives.



Cailin Goodier, LCSW
CMG Consulting LLC,
dba Counseling with Cailin
o. 285 Hana Highway Paia HI 96779
m. PO Box 880104 Pukalani HI 96788
808-633-3148
www.CounselingwithCailin.com
Love is Love

County Clerk

From: cameo kaahanui-han <cameokaahanui@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 9:27 AM
To: County Clerk
Cc: subsidy@mfss.org
Subject: Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program

RECEIVED

2026 APR 14 AM 10:01

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

 You don't often get email from cameokaahanui@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear County Council,

My name is Cameo Kaahanui, and I am a participant in the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program.

This program has helped my ohana by making it possible for my son to attend Montessori School of Maui, which we otherwise would not have been able to afford.

Because of the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program, my ohana has been able to give our son a quality early education close to home, in an environment that aligns with the values and learning experience we want for him. It has also allowed my husband and I to continue working during the day to keep up with the rising cost of living on the island.

Please continue funding this program so it can support more parents, keiki, and families across Maui County. This support has truly been a blessing for our ohana.

Mahalo nui,
Cameo Kaahanui

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 8:00

From whaleszone@gmail.com <whaleszone@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 7:56 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from whaleszone@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Aloha,

My name is Jo Alexander and I live in Kihei. I am here/I am writing to **strongly support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget**. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place. No words can adequately express how critical it is to continue funding for the health and protection of our reefs, our community and our water quality.

Key Programs Funding Will Support:

- Monitor water-quality at 46 beaches across Maui and Moloka'i so we know when our ocean is healthy and when it's at risk.
 - Track reef health so we know when and how our reefs are changing and where help is needed.
 - Hawaii's first reef-friendly landscaping program which teaches landscaping methods that are safer for our reefs.
 - New coral restoration areas in South and West Maui, giving damaged corals a second chance at survival and protecting our shorelines. Sincerely Jo
- Sincerely



RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 AM 7:46

From Audrey Billups <audreybillups@outlook.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 7:40 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from audreybillups@outlook.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

My name is Audrey, and I live in Haiku. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,
Audrey Billups



RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 PM 12: 48

From Eileen Gillen <etgmaui@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 11:38 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from etgmaui@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is [eillen gillen], and I live in [Olowalu]. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,
[eileen Gillen]

Sent from my iPhone

RECEIVED

KA'EHU

2026 APR 14 PM 12:48

Paukūkalo, Maui, Hawai'i

April 13, 2026
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i 96793

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Re: Letter of Support — KA'EHU FY27 County Budget Proviso, \$500,000

Aloha,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of KA'EHU, I write in strong support of the \$500,000 FY27 County budget proviso line item for KA'EHU. We respectfully urge the Maui County Council to approve this critical investment in the health of our 'āina, wai, and our community.

KA'EHU is a Native Hawaiian-led nonprofit stewarding a 64-acre coastal wetland in Paukūkalo/Wai'ehu since 2014 — caretaking a critical point in our watershed and a place of heritage for Maui. For over a decade, KA'EHU has served as a cultural resource for groups, a living classroom for our keiki, a place of healing, and a community anchor, delivering cultural education, native habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, and coastal resilience programming to thousands of Maui residents each year. In 2025 alone, our programs reached over 5,100 participants across 104 events — a 254% growth in community engagement over the previous year's numbers.

The requested \$500,000 proviso will directly support KA'EHU's capacity to sustain and expand its core operations, including coastal restoration, community-based environmental stewardship, wildfire resilience programming, and cultural education for Maui's keiki and 'ohana. This funding is not simply operational support — it is an investment in the long-term ecological and cultural resilience of our island. KA'EHU's work sits at the intersection of land, water, community, and heritage, and contributes to both the social and environmental ecologies of Maui, at large.

Indeed, in the aftermath of the 2023 Lahaina wildfires and the 2026 Kona Low flooding, the need for community-rooted organizations like KA'EHU has never been greater. We have stood with our community through every crisis, and we remain committed to doing so. The Board of Directors of KA'EHU stands united in our commitment to this 'āina and to the people of Maui. We are honored to have the County of Maui as a partner in this work, and we humbly ask for your continued support through the approval of this proviso.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Nicole Hokoana
Digitally signed by Nicole Hokoana
DN: cn=Nicole Hokoana, o=ou,
email=nhokoana@aloha-house.org, c=US
Date: 2026.04.13 09:52:44 -10'00'

Nicole Hokoana
Vice President
KA'EHU

County Clerk

RECEIVED

From: Pat Lindquist <pblindquist@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 1:05 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Testimony for County Budget 2027

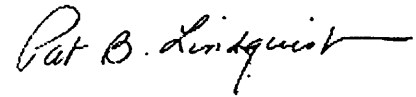
2026 APR 14 PM 2: 29

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

 You don't often get email from pblindquist@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
Aloha,

My name is Pat B. Lindquist and I have run an environmental non-profit, Napili Bay and Beach Foundation for 20 years. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community and is more essential than ever given changes to our climate. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,



Pat B. Lindquist

President, Napili Bay & Beach Foundation, Inc.
PO Box 10823
Lahaina, HI 96761
<http://www.napilibayfoundation.org>

Mobile: 650-303-3150

NAPILI
Bay and Beach Foundation

"Our mission is to protect and improve the health of Napili beach and bay"

P Please consider the environment before printing this e-mail.

County Clerk

RECEIVED

From: Laurie Appling <lbappling@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 1:11 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 PM 2: 29

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

|| You don't often get email from lbappling@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha, My name is Lauren Appling and I live in Kihei. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place. Mahalo, Lauren

County Clerk

From: Breon Michel <breon.michel@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 3:25 PM
To: County Clerk
Cc: mountainbikemaui@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for Cycle Strong Program & Eddie Tam Bike Park

RECEIVED
2026 APR 14 PM 3:49

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from breon.michel@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

We are writing to share our support for the Cycle Strong Program & Eddie Tam bike park.

Bikes are a crucial part of supporting Keiki to be mentally and physically healthy. Having greater access to biking opportunities in the community will make it easier for all Keiki to experience the benefits of biking, which is of benefit to the community as a whole.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Breon Michel
Kula HI
Sent from my iPhone

County Clerk

RECEIVED

From: Mr.Lewis <mr.lewis@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 4:24 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 14 PM 4:33

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from mr.lewis@hawaii.rr.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is William Lewis, and I live in Lahaina. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.'

Mahalo,
William Lewis

Sent from my phone.

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 15 AM 8:34

From Patti <luv2biketoo@aol.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 7:35 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from luv2biketoo@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha, My name is Patricia Moore and I live in Maalaea. I support new funding for Maui Ocean Center Marine Institute in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our sea turtles, Monks seals, coral reefs and educates the public and visitors to the importance of conservation and respect

Mahalo, Patricia Moore (I am a current volunteer with MOCMI) 🙏



RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 15 AM 8:34

From Patti <luv2biketoo@aol.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 7:22 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from luv2biketoo@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha, My name is Patricia Moore and I live in Maalaea . I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place. Mahalo, Patricia Moore

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 15 AM 8:35

From Mr.Lewis <mr.lewis@hawaii.rr.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 4:25 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from mr.lewis@hawaii.rr.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is William Lewis, and I live in Lahaina. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

My wife and I, residents of Lahaina, are active users of the ocean and beaches. We sail and snorkel regularly. A healthy ocean benefits us, the residents of Maui Nui, and the visitors to our islands.

Maintaining healthy reefs helps to protect the shoreline homes, beaches and roadways. Visitors from around the world come to Maui to enjoy the ocean and experience the underwater environment.

We wholeheartedly support the work of the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council and request that their funding be approved.

Sincerely,
William Lewis

Re: Strong Support for Continued Funding of the Farmers Apprenticeship Mentoring (FAM) Program – Maui County Budget FY2027

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

From Ronald Kaea-Medley <ronald.kaea.medley@gmail.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 12:33 AM

To BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>; County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

Cc Christina Kaea-Medley <christina.kaea.medley@gmail.com>

You don't often get email from ronald.kaea.medley@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Maui County Council,

I echo my wife Christina's testimony (*below*) in strong support of continued funding for the Farmers Apprenticeship Mentoring (FAM) Program. I am also part of FAM Cohort 11. This program has been a huge part of helping our family go from talking about farming to actually getting started. The mix of classroom learning, hands-on farm days, and support from the mentors has made a real difference for us. FAM is helping grow the next generation of farmers, and we're grateful to be part of it. I respectfully ask for your continued support and funding for this program.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Ronald Kaea-Medley, Cohort 11

On Wed, Apr 15, 2026 at 12:26 AM Christina Kaea-Medley <christina.kaea.medley@gmail.com> wrote:

Subject: Strong Support for Continued Funding of the Farmers Apprenticeship Mentoring (FAM) Program – Maui County Budget FY2027

Aloha Chair and Members of the Maui County Council,

I am writing in strong support of continued funding for the Farmers Apprenticeship Mentoring (FAM) Program through the Hawai'i Farmers Union. I am currently a participant in FAM Cohort 11 with Maui County.

Participating in the FAM program has been a truly foundational experience in my family's journey to build a small, regenerative farm here on Maui. As new farmers, there is no substitute for guidance, mentorship, and education that is both practical and rooted in local knowledge...and FAM provides exactly that!!

One of the most impactful aspects of this program is its structure. FAM combines a classroom-style learning environment where we gain a strong foundation in agricultural principles as well as hands-on training at real farm operations. This approach allows us to immediately apply what we are learning in real-world settings, building both skill and confidence.

The farmer mentors are truly exceptional. They share their knowledge generously and lead with passion, creating an environment where we feel supported and inspired. Their genuine investment in our success makes a lasting impact and helps ensure that new farmers like us have a real chance to succeed.

Through this program, we have gained not only technical skills, but also the confidence to take meaningful steps forward: planting with intention, restoring our land, and working toward a future that contributes to local food resilience and community well-being. From managing invasive species to

understanding soil health and crop planning, the lessons we are learning directly shape the success and sustainability of our farm.

For six years, my husband and I talked about starting a small farm on our property. The FAM program gave us the knowledge, skills, and confidence to finally begin that journey. Thanks to FAM, we are now finally, actively working to establish a diverse orchard, support native plant restoration, and create opportunities for cultural education through farming. None of this progress would be possible without the support and structure that the FAM program provides.

Programs like FAM are critical to the future of agriculture on Maui. They empower new farmers, strengthen local food systems, and help ensure that knowledge is passed on in a way that is accessible and community-centered. Investing in FAM is an investment in the next generation of farmers and in the long-term resilience of our island.

As a mother of three raising the next generation on this land, this program is not just education, it is shaping our family's future and our ability to steward this 'āina responsibly. My children have helped plant every fruit tree at our family farm including bananas, avocados, mango, guava, 'ulu, and more—along with nearly a dozen native Hawaiian plants, with the hope of one day helping restore native Hawaiian ecosystems.

I respectfully urge the Maui County Council to continue funding the FAM program for FY2027.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and continued support of Maui's farming community.

With gratitude,
Christina Kaea-Medley

FAM Cohort 11
Maui, Hawai'i

E mālama i ka 'āina, a e mālama ka 'āina iā kākou.
Care for the land, and the land will care for us.



Outlook

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 15 AM 8:20

From LIZ STAHL <lovethesea99801@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 8:39 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from lovethesea99801@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha, My name is Liz Stahl and I live in Kihei. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place. Mahalo, Liz



RECEIVED

Protection of the reefs and ocean's health on Maui

2026 APR 15 AM 8:20

From Mary Groode <dechenmaui@gmail.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 4:59 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from dechenmaui@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Friends,

Please provide money in the county budget to continue to test the water at Maui's beaches. We need to know about contaminants and bacterial counts especially after the type of rains we have had this Spring.

Our reefs are treasures that deserve protection. Many people come to Maui to swim at our beaches and see the fish and creatures that live on our reefs. This is a source of income for Maui County and our state of Hawaii.

It is common sense to protect our aina and ocean.

Thank you,

Mary (Dechen) Groode

3371 A Kaha Drive, Kihei, HI 96753

dechenmaui@gmail.com



RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 15 AM 8:20

From Kristy Gund <kgund01@yahoo.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 4:42 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from kgund01@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is Kristy, and I live in Lahaina. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. I have been a volunteer with the Hui O Ka Wai Ola program since 2019, collecting samples and testing water quality to help build a robust databank that provides reliable and valuable aggregate data over the last decade vital to understanding how our human activities are contributing to the health of our reefs. This data is used to educate and inform behaviors and practices that can be linked directly to reef health, fish abundance and community enjoyment of our nearshore waters. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,
Kristy Gund

Sent from my iPad



Outlook

Testimony for County Budget 2027

RECEIVED

2026 APR 15 AM 8:20

From Mr.Lewis <mr.lewis@hawaii.rr.com>

Date Tue 4/14/2026 4:25 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from mr.lewis@hawaii.rr.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha,

My name is William Lewis, and I live in Lahaina. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,
William Lewis

Sent from my phone.

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 15 AM 9: 58

From Margo Juarez <margojuarez@gmail.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 9:31 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from margojuarez@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

My name is Margo Juarez , and I live in Kihei. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place. We need healthy reefs to support coral growth and a place for fish to live and breed along with all the other inhabitants of this delicate ecosystem. We need to improve runoff issues and continue water quality checks.

Mahalo,

Margo Juarez

RECEIVED

2026 APR 15 AM 9:58



Friends

of the Children's
Justice Center of Maui

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

2103 Wells Street, Suite 101, Wailuku, HI 96793

Phone: (808) 986-8634

Email: info@mauicjc.org ~ Website: www.mauicjc.org

April 15, 2026

Re: Support for Ho'oikaika – Maui County FY2026 Budget

Aloha Chair and Members of the Maui County Council,

Through Ho'oikaika, our organization is better able to collaborate with other providers and connect families to resources across Maui County. This partnership has become an essential backbone for our island's child- and family-serving network. Ho'oikaika strengthens communication between agencies, reduces duplication of services, and ensures that families, especially those navigating trauma, crisis, or displacement, receive coordinated, culturally grounded support.

County investment in Ho'oikaika directly improves outcomes for keiki and caregivers. The partnership provides training, shared tools, and a trusted space for service providers to learn from one another, address system gaps, and respond collectively to emerging community needs. In a time when our workforce is stretched thin, Ho'oikaika helps stabilize agencies by offering resources like Healing the Healers, which supports staff wellness and reduces burnout.

Funding Ho'oikaika is not just an investment in one program—it is an investment in the entire network of organizations serving Maui's children and families. It strengthens collaboration, builds capacity, and ensures that our community can respond with unity, compassion, and effectiveness.

Mahalo, Paul Tonnessen

Farm Apprenticeship Mentorship - FAM program - written testimony

From Dominique Linden <linden.dominique@yahoo.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 10:19 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>; BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>

You don't often get email from linden.dominique@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

To whom it may concern, I would like to share my sincere testimony of how much I have gotten out of the FAM program. The materials, hands on learning, and community in action activities have been truly wonderful and enriching.

I will be able to grow food to feed myself, family and community. I have made connections for being able to give my compost to a farm mentor's pigs, mentor with a permaculture designer and move to a farmer's property to help create even more food to share.

I feel with the state of the world this program is critical, and am sending this in the hopes the program will continue.

Thank you,

Dominique Linden

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

RECEIVED
2026 APR 15 AM 10:30
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 15 PM 12: 04

From Patricia B Cadiz <pb5@mac.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 11:55 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from pb5@mac.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

My name is Patricia Cadiz. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Key Programs Funding Will Support:

- Monitor water-quality at 46 beaches across Maui and Moloka'i so we know when our ocean is healthy and when it's at risk.
- Track reef health so we know when and how our reefs are changing and where help is needed.
- Hawaii's first reef-friendly landscaping program which teaches landscaping methods that are safer for our reefs.
- New coral restoration areas in South and West Maui, giving damaged corals a second chance at survival and protecting our shorelines.

Reefs are our first line of defense against rising seas. A healthy reef is the source of sand for tropical beaches. *The importance of our reefs and beaches is no less important than any other public infrastructure.* Your funding of Maui Nui Marine Resource Council demonstrates to all that you understand the key role that reefs and beaches play in the health of our shores and our community.

Mahalo,
Patricia Cadiz
Paia, Maui

Public Comment Submission

2026 APR 15 AM 11: 47

From No Reply <noreply@civicplus.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 10:54 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Submitted by: Kanani Higbee

Email Address: khigbee1037@gmail.com

Commented on event: <https://mauicounty.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1366/overview>

If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: Aloha, I am a Maui 'oiwi and Lahaina fire survivor. I am testifying in support of the line item grant with County Department of Agriculture for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. I feel this garden has healing therapy in that it has a vast amount of Native Hawaiian endemic plants that help heal us Kanaka Maoli by connecting us to our 'āina and identity. We learn about these plants and how our ancestors used them. We use them today in contemporary ways and even reconstructing items our ancestors made in the past. We also perpetuate our culture by learning to make the material needed to properly give our kupuna proper burials when their iwi are found in the beaches from erosion of the 'āina. We also learn how to traditionally cook food in an imu in case we ever want to do it with our ohana. We learn how to make cordage that can be used in so many endless ways. This is a space where we accomplish so many goals by working together. We have successful fundraisers to perpetuate Hawaiian language among the kamali'i, children. We have events that honor important plants that help us grow native and traditional foods that live in harmony with our 'Āina. It's a way of healing so kanaka maoli can reconnect to our āina and identity. We learn how to grow endemic and native plants as well as a source of buying them at reasonable cost. I feel this Maui Nui Botanical Garden is one way we can continue to heal. Us kanaka maoli still need things like proper housing (not temporary nor apartments, but Hawaiian homes, Kuleana lands etc). This garden doesn't replace our needs, like housing. The garden doesn't replace the answers we need to find our missing family members, like my brother Kainalu Higbee. However, the lōkahi, or knowledge, learned at Maui Nui Botanical garden help us as we heal from the past and holomua, ie work together to move forward. Mahalo for reading my testimony. Me ke aloha, Kanani Higbee



RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 15 AM 11: 47

From Steven Williams <williamsmaui@gmail.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 11:45 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from williamsmaui@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

My name is Dr Steven Williams], and I live in Kihei]. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place. Our reefs are important for our islands in many ways, including ECONOMIC. for all of us,for tourists and residents, please protect our reefs

Mahalo,
Steven Williams

County Clerk

From: Samantha Clements <smclemen@ucsd.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 12:09 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Testimony for County Budget 2027

 You don't often get email from smclemen@ucsd.edu. [Learn why this is important](#)
Aloha,

My name is Samantha Clements, and I live in Lahaina. I support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Mahalo,
Samantha Clements

RECEIVED
2026 APR 15 PM 12:44
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

County Clerk

From: Malia Davidson <malia@kumukahikealoha.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 12:12 PM
To: BFED Committee; County Clerk
Cc: Sara Gilligan; Paulo Faleafine
Subject: Budget Testimony Support for FAM program

RECEIVED
2026 APR 15 PM 12:44
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

 You don't often get email from malia@kumukahikealoha.org. [Learn why this is important](#)
Aloha Chair Sugimura and Members of the Maui County Council,

I am writing in strong support of the Farmer Apprentice Mentoring (FAM) Program offered by the Hawaii Farmers Union United. As a participant in the 11th cohort, I can say with confidence that this program provides one of the most comprehensive and grounded pathways for individuals committed to building successful and sustainable small farms in Hawai'i.

The FAM Program delivers practical, real-world education that extends far beyond theory. From soil development to harvest, and from navigating wind, rain, and sun to managing weeds, animals, and insects, we are trained to work within the full reality of our island environment. This program does not romanticize farming—it prepares us for it with honesty, depth, and care.

What makes this cohort especially powerful is the diversity of its participants. Approximately half of our cohort are new to farming. Many come with a love for gardening, a desire to care for animals, or simply a deep internal calling to this work—often with little to no prior experience. The other half bring years of experience, generational knowledge, established relationships with land, and in some cases, access to land itself.

This range creates a highly dynamic and effective learning environment. We actively support one another. Each gathering reveals who carries specific expertise, who asks the questions shaped by lived experience, and who introduces new ways of thinking. There are questions asked in this space that some of us would not yet know to ask on our own. This is where real growth happens.

Our cohort reflects the broader fabric of Maui. It includes individuals who have lived here their entire lives and those who have come from away and now call Maui home. There are those who have traveled globally and those deeply rooted in place-based knowledge who are working to sustain and expand their farms. Together, we form a network grounded in shared purpose, mutual respect, and collective responsibility.

This experience directly informs and strengthens the work my ohana is building in Waiohuli Homestead through *Malama Nā Pua program* an agricultural and wellness initiative under the nonprofit Kumukahi Ke Aloha. Our focus is not only on food production, but on cultivating relationships—between people, land, and community. The FAM Program reinforces this approach by connecting us with experienced farmers and area experts whose mentorship is essential. These relationships are not supplemental—they are foundational to success.

Farming is a labor of love and service. It requires resilience, adaptability, and long-term commitment. The early years are particularly challenging, and the likelihood of success without proper guidance is low. Programs like FAM significantly increase the chances of success by providing access to mentorship, shared knowledge, and a supportive network that helps farmers think critically, solve problems effectively, and remain inspired.

We must also acknowledge the environmental realities of farming in Hawai'i. The conditions we face—shifting weather patterns, strong winds, variable rainfall, pests, and regional microclimates—require constant observation and adaptation. The ability to share insights across districts, to understand what others are experiencing, and to learn collectively is essential to our long-term viability.

This program benefits far beyond the individual participant. It strengthens families, builds community resilience, and contributes directly to local food security. It is a critical piece of ensuring that Hawai'i can sustain itself.

We must also consider our geographic limitations. There are only so many barges that can reach our shores, yet we live in one of the most fertile and abundant environments in the world. Investing in local agriculture is not optional—it is necessary.

We are all in this together. I respectfully ask for the Council's support in nurturing this work—not only for current participants, but as part of a broader succession plan for future generations. Only through hands-on experience—working the land, caring for animals, and engaging in holistic, place-based practices—will we be able to navigate the challenges ahead.

Programs like FAM are essential to building that future. They cultivate knowledge, strengthen networks, and empower individuals to contribute meaningfully to our communities.

I strongly urge continued and increased support for the FAM Program. Supporting our farmers is an investment in the health, resilience, and sustainability of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

O wau me ka ha'aha'a,
Malia Davidson-Faleafine

County Clerk

From: No Reply <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 12:16 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Public Comment Submission

RECEIVED
2026 APR 15 PM 12:44
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Submitted by: CHRISTINA KAEA-MEDLEY
Email Address: christina.kaea.medley@gmail.com

Commented on event: <https://mauicounty.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1366/overview>
If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: I would like to express support in continuing financial support in the Maui County Council budget to include the FAM program through Hawai'i Farmers Union. Teh Farm Apprentice Mentoring program is the only free farmer training and mentorship program and helps educate and support new and emerging agricultural producers on all 3 Maui County islands! In a more extensive comment, see below email that was sent to council committee: Aloha, I am currently a participant in FAM Cohort 11 with Maui County. Participating in the FAM program has been a truly foundational experience in my family's journey to build a small, regenerative farm here on Maui. As new farmers, there is no substitute for guidance, mentorship, and education that is both practical and rooted in local knowledge...and FAM provides exactly that!! One of the most impactful aspects of this program is its structure. FAM combines a classroom-style learning environment where we gain a strong foundation in agricultural principles as well as hands-on training at real farm operations. This approach allows us to immediately apply what we are learning in real-world settings, building both skill and confidence. The farmer mentors are truly exceptional. They share their knowledge generously and lead with passion, creating an environment where we feel supported and inspired. Their genuine investment in our success makes a lasting impact and helps ensure that new farmers like us have a real chance to succeed. Through this program, we have gained not only technical skills, but also the confidence to take meaningful steps forward: planting with intention, restoring our land, and working toward a future that contributes to local food resilience and community well-being. From managing invasive species to understanding soil health and crop planning, the lessons we are learning directly shape the success and sustainability of our farm. For six years, my husband and I talked about starting a small farm on our property. The FAM program gave us the knowledge, skills, and confidence to finally begin that journey. Thanks to FAM, we are now finally, actively working to establish a diverse orchard, support native plant restoration, and create opportunities for cultural education through farming. None of this progress would be possible without the support and structure that the FAM program provides. Programs like FAM are critical to the future of agriculture on Maui. They empower new farmers, strengthen local food systems, and help ensure that knowledge is passed on in a way that is accessible and community-centered. Investing in FAM is an investment in the next generation of farmers and in the long-term resilience of our island. As a mother of three raising the next generation on this land, this program is not just education, it is shaping our family's future and our ability to steward this 'āina responsibly. My children have helped plant every fruit tree at our family farm including bananas, avocados, mango, guava, 'ulu, and more—along with nearly a dozen native Hawaiian plants, with the hope of one day helping restore native Hawaiian ecosystems. I respectfully urge the Maui County Council to continue funding the FAM program for FY2027. Mahalo for your time, consideration, and continued support of Maui's farming community. With gratitude, Christina Kaea-Medley FAM Cohort 11 Maui, Hawai'i

RECEIVED

Testimony for County Budget 2027

2026 APR 15 PM 3:05

From Charlene Griffin <charonmaui@yahoo.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 2:58 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from charonmaui@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Council,

My name is Charlene Griffin, and I am writing in strong support of continued funding for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 Maui County budget.

Maui Nui Marine Resource Council provides critical services that directly benefit our island, including protecting coral reefs, improving coastal water quality, and addressing land-based sources of pollution. Their work helps preserve Maui's natural resources, supports our local economy, and safeguards public health for residents and visitors alike.

As someone who values Maui's ocean resources and the role they play in our daily lives—from recreation to food security—I believe protecting our reefs and water quality is essential to maintaining the health and future of our community.

I respectfully urge the Council to continue funding this important work in the FY27 budget.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Charlene Griffin

RECEIVED

Request for funding for MOMCI from Tracy Craig, Napili - Turtle Rehab Volunteer

2026 APR 15 PM 3:45

From TJ Craig <99tjcraig@gmail.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 3:28 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from 99tjcraig@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Council,

Imagine a Maui where our reefs fall silent.

Where the shoreline no longer teems with life, but instead erodes year by year, unprotected. Where honu become rare sightings and monk seals no longer rest on our beaches.

In Hawai'i, the ocean is not separate from the community. It's the thread that binds us. It shapes our traditions, feeds our families, teaches our keiki, and connects us to everything we are.

And when that disappears, we lose something essential in ourselves.

For a decade, the Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center has stood in the path of that outcome, supported by a dedicated volunteer team that provides year-round, 365-day response across Maui's shorelines. Our impact is not measured only in honu saved or corals outplanted, but in the people our work reaches and the kuleana it awakens in them.

We see it in the volunteer who sacrifices their morning to search for an entangled turtle that will not survive without intervention. In the student removing thousands of pieces of marine debris, beginning to see themselves not just as someone who lives here, but as a steward of the island. In the hotel staff, the families, and the neighbors who, through education and shared experience, rediscover pride in protecting the spaces that define Maui. And in the keiki, who grow up watching this work and come to understand that caring for their home is not optional, but part of who they are.

Now, as federal funding that once sustained these programs diminishes and grants expire, we face a gap that threatens our ability to continue. What's at stake is more than just environmental decline. It means losing the dedicated people behind this work, individuals who chose service to this island over more secure paths and may soon be forced to leave. We risk losing our connection to place, our kuleana to one another, and the legacy we leave for the next generation.

Maui County has the opportunity to change this trajectory. Your support would not simply fund an organization. It would sustain a community, ensuring that when a call comes in, someone answers, that reefs still have a path to recovery, and that our keiki inherit a living, thriving ocean shaped by those who chose to protect it.

Without this support, the question is no longer how much more we can do.

It is what kind of Maui we leave behind. I know what Maui I want to spend my future in.

Tracy Craig

Thursday AM Turtle Rehab Volunteer

RECEIVED

2026 APR 15 PM 4: 09

Aloha Chair and Members of the Council,

My name is Dr. Jane Schumacher and I am a resident of Ha'iku. I am writing to strongly urge the County to support and fund the vital work of the Marine Institute at Maui Ocean Center. I have volunteered to work with the Marine Institute in its work with honu and Hawaiian monk seals for over 20 years. I answer the monk seal hotline, respond to monk seal haulouts, monitor monk seal health and wellness, and provide educational information to residents and visitors alike.

The work of the Marine Institute and its dedicated staff and volunteers protect our marine ecosystems and vulnerable wildlife through programs such as:

- Sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation
- Coral reef restoration
- Hawaiian monk seal response
- Marine education and outreach

Imagine a Maui where our reefs fall silent.

Where the shoreline no longer teems with life, but instead erodes year by year, unprotected. Where honu become rare sightings and monk seals no longer rest on our beaches.

In Hawai'i, the ocean is not separate from the community. It's the thread that binds us. It shapes our traditions, feeds our families, teaches our keiki, and connects us to everything we are.

And when that disappears, we lose something essential in ourselves.

For a decade, the Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center has stood in the path of that outcome, supported by a dedicated volunteer team that provides year-round, 365-day response across Maui's shorelines. Our impact is not measured only in honu saved or corals out planted, but in the people our work reaches and the kuleana it awakens in them.

We see it in the volunteer who sacrifices their morning to search for an entangled turtle that will not survive without intervention. We see it in the volunteers who are dedicated to educating the public on the Hawaiian monk seals that are found only here in the Hawaiian Islands. We see students removing thousands of pieces of marine debris, beginning to see themselves not just as someone who lives here, but as a steward of the island. We see hotel staff partnering with the Marine Institute and we see families and our neighbors, through education and shared experience, rediscover pride in protecting the spaces that define Maui. And in the keiki, who grow up watching this work and come to understand that caring for their home is not optional, but part of who they are.

Now, as federal funding that once sustained these programs diminishes and grants expire, we face a gap that threatens our ability to continue. What's at stake is more than just environmental decline. It means losing the dedicated people behind this work, individuals who chose service to this island over more secure paths and may soon be forced to leave. We risk losing our connection to place, our kuleana to one another, and the legacy we leave for the next generation.

Maui County could change this trajectory. Your support would not simply fund an organization. It would sustain a community, ensuring that when a call comes in, someone answers, that reefs still have a path to recovery, and that our keiki inherit a living, thriving ocean shaped by those who chose to protect it.

Without this support, the question is no longer how much more we can do. It is what kind of Maui we leave behind.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

With aloha,

Jane A. Schumacher Ed.D.

Jane A. Schumacher Ed.D.

780 East Kuiaha Road, Ha'iku, HI 96708

Email: drjaneonmaui@gmail.com

Phone: 808-633-6676

County Clerk

RECEIVED

From: Mike Mc Kenna <devlmike@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 15, 2026 4:09 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Funding support for the Maui Ocean Center Marine Institute

2026 APR 15 PM 4:12

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from devlmike@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
Aloha Chair and Members of the Council,

My name is Michael McKenna, and I am a resident of Ma'alaea and a volunteer for the Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center. I am writing to strongly urge the County to support and fund the vital work of the Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center. Our efforts protect our marine ecosystems and vulnerable wildlife through programs such as:

- Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation
- Coral Reef Restoration
- Hawaiian Monk Seal Response
- Marine Education and Outreach

For a decade, the Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center has been supported by a dedicated volunteer team that provides year-round, 365-day response across Maui's shorelines. Their impact is measured not only by the honu saved or corals outplanted but also by the people our work reaches and the kuleana it awakens within them.

Now, as federal funding that once sustained these programs diminishes and grants expire, we face a gap that threatens our ability to continue. What is at stake is more than just environmental decline; it means losing the dedicated individuals behind this work—people who chose service to this island over more secure paths and may soon be forced to leave. We risk losing our connection to this place, our kuleana to one another, and the legacy we leave for the next generation.

Your support would not merely fund an organization; it would sustain a community—ensuring that when a call comes in, someone answers, that reefs still have a path to recovery, and that our keiki inherit a living, thriving ocean shaped by those who choose to protect it.

Mahalo nui loa for your kind consideration.

Michael McKenna



Virus-free. www.avast.com

RECEIVED

Public Comment Submission2026 APR 15 PM 4:16

From No Reply <noreply@civicplus.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 4:13 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Submitted by: Merrill RANKEN

Email Address: merrill.ranken@gmail.com

Commented on event: <https://mauicounty.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1366/overview>

If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: I am testifying in support of the line item grant with County Department of Agriculture for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens (MNBG). The garden is a valued community resource- providing educational and cultural activities, supporting many conservation non-profits and serving as a peaceful and restorative oasis right in central Maui. As a retired teacher, I can report that MNBG is an important place for teachers where we can show our students the variety and diversity of native plants and begin to connect them with the unique adaptations and resilience of our native flora. So many kids don't get a chance to go to the mountains or other places where native plants can readily be found- MNBG shows us all what is possible. Mahalo for supporting them with this vital funding.



Outlook

RECEIVED

2027 Budget - Please prioritize MOC Marine Institute funding

2026 APR 16 AM 7:40

From Suparna Vashisht <suparnavashisht@yahoo.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 4:39 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from suparnavashisht@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Council,

My name is Suparna Vashisht, and I am a resident of Kihei. I volunteer on the Turtle Rescue team of MOC Marine Institute and I see first hand the positive impact of their work. I am writing to strongly urge the County to support and fund the critical work of the Marine Institute at Maui Ocean Center. Their work protects our marine ecosystems and vulnerable wildlife through programs such as:

- Sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation
- Coral reef restoration
- Hawaiian monk seal response
- Marine education and outreach

Mahalo for your consideration.

Malama Pono!

Suparna Vashisht

[Project Reuse](#) Working together to replace disposables

Zero Waste: [30 day challenge](#) and [100 Tips](#)

"Almost everything you do will seem insignificant, but it is of the utmost importance that you do it"

Mahatma Gandhi

"Realize that everything connects to everything else" Leonardo Da Vinci

Budget 2027 - please fund landfill diversion

2026 APR 16 AM 7:41

From Suparna Vashisht <suparnavashisht@yahoo.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 4:47 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from suparnavashisht@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Council,

My name is Suparna Vashisht, and I am a resident of Kihei. I am deeply concerned about the amount of waste that goes to our landfill and the waste that escapes into our environment, harming our precious wildlife and aina.

Please fund better curbside collection of yard waste and recyclables (especially glass and cans) so that these can be prevented from going to landfill. Many housing complexes do not offer curbside collection of yard waste or recyclables. Everything goes into one bin which is taken to landfill. Yard waste can easily be collected separately and taken to the many composting facilities on the island. Apart from reducing landfill it will also help improve the health of the soil.

The county budget needs to fund this separate collection and pick up.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Malama Pono!

Suparna Vashisht

[Project Reuse](#) Working together to replace disposables

Zero Waste: [30 day challenge](#) and [100 Tips](#)

"Almost everything you do will seem insignificant, but it is of the utmost importance that you do it"

Mahatma Gandhi

"Realize that everything connects to everything else" Leonardo Da Vinci

Budget

2026 APR 16 AM 7:41

From Patti <luv2biketoo@aol.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 6:22 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from luv2biketoo@aol.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Council,

Imagine a Maui where our reefs fall silent.

Where the shoreline no longer teems with life, but instead erodes year by year, unprotected. Where honu become rare sightings and monk seals no longer rest on our beaches.

In Hawai'i, the ocean is not separate from the community. It's the thread that binds us. It shapes our traditions, feeds our families, teaches our keiki, and connects us to everything we are.

And when that disappears, we lose something essential in ourselves.

For a decade, the Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center has stood in the path of that outcome, supported by a dedicated volunteer team that provides year-round, 365-day response across Maui's shorelines. Our impact is not measured only in honu saved or corals outplanted, but in the people our work reaches and the kuleana it awakens in them.

We see it in the volunteer who sacrifices their morning to search for an entangled turtle that will not survive without intervention. In the student removing thousands of pieces of marine debris, beginning to see themselves not just as someone who lives here, but as a steward of the island. In the hotel staff, the families, and the neighbors who, through education and shared experience, rediscover pride in protecting the spaces that define Maui. And in the keiki, who grow up watching this work and come to understand that caring for their home is not optional, but part of who they are.

Now, as federal funding that once sustained these programs diminishes and grants expire, we face a gap that threatens our ability to continue. What's at stake is more than just environmental decline. It means losing the dedicated people behind this work, individuals who chose service to this island over more secure paths and may soon be forced to leave. We risk losing our connection to place, our kuleana to one another, and the legacy we leave for the next generation.

Maui County has the opportunity to change this trajectory. Your support would not simply fund an organization. It would sustain a community, ensuring that when a call comes in, someone answers, that reefs still have a path to recovery, and that our keiki inherit a living, thriving ocean shaped by those who chose to protect it.

Without this support, the question is no longer how much more we can do.

It is what kind of Maui we leave behind.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Patricia Moore.
30 Hauoli st
Maalaea

Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS

2027 Budget support request for MOC Marine Institute2026 APR 16 AM 7: 41

From GERALD RICE <glrice@comcast.net>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 8:17 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from glrice@comcast.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Council,

My name is Jerry Rice, and I am a resident of Wailuku writing to strongly urge the County to support and fund the vital work of the Marine Institute at Maui Ocean Center. Our work protects our marine ecosystems and vulnerable wildlife through programs such as:

- Sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation
- Coral reef restoration
- Hawaiian monk seal response
- Marine education and outreach

In Hawai'i, the ocean is not separate from the community. It's the thread that binds us. It shapes our traditions, feeds our families, teaches our keiki, and connects us to everything we are.

For a decade, the Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center has endeavored to protect our marine ecosystems, supported by a dedicated volunteer team that provides year-round, 365-day response across Maui's shorelines. Our impact is not measured only in honu saved or corals outplanted, but in the people our work reaches and the kuleana it awakens in them.

We see it in the volunteer who sacrifices their morning to search for an entangled turtle that will not survive without intervention. In the student removing thousands of pieces of marine debris, beginning to see themselves not just as someone who lives here, but as a steward of the island. In the hotel staff, the families, and the neighbors who, through education and shared experience, rediscover pride in protecting the spaces that define Maui. And in the keiki, who grow up watching this work and come to understand that caring for their home is not optional, but part of who they are.

I am one of the volunteers that walks our beaches looking for entangled turtles. I have called in over 7 rescue requests in the last 12 months, and responded to 9 rescue calls in the last 4 months since joining the In Field Response Team. This is incredibly meaningful work.

Now, as federal funding that once sustained these programs diminishes and grants expire, we face a gap that threatens our ability to continue. What's at stake is more than just environmental decline. It means losing the dedicated people behind this work, individuals who chose service to this island over more secure paths and may soon be forced to leave. We risk losing our connection to place, our kuleana to one another, and the legacy we leave for the next generation.

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answers, that reefs still have a path to recovery, and that our keiki inherit a living, thriving ocean shaped by those who chose to protect it.

Without this support, the question is no longer how much more we can do.

It is what kind of Maui we leave behind.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Jerry Rice

Public Comment Submission

2026 APR 16 AM 7:41

From No Reply <noreply@civicplus.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 8:30 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Submitted by: L Smith

Email Address: lbsmith328@gmail.com

Commented on event: <https://mauicounty.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1366/overview>

If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: I am testifying in support of the line-item grant with County Department of Agriculture for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. This is an essential community space where workshops and events bring residents together to celebrate Hawaii's incredible natural beauty. Through the Gardens I have learned about the history of the islands, and how the local flora is such an integral part of the culture. I have also discovered dozens of local organizations working to keep the land beautiful and accessible to everyone. Please keep these programs running!

Please fund the Marine Institute at MOC

2026 APR 16 AM 7:41

From Kerry Miller <kerrymiller@me.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 9:15 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from kerrymiller@me.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Council,

My name is Kerry Miller. I am writing to strongly urge the County to support and fund the vital work of the Marine Institute at Maui Ocean Center. Their programs are essential to protecting the marine ecosystems and vulnerable wildlife that make Maui such a special place to call home.

As a Kihei resident and proud volunteer at MIMOC, I see firsthand how much our community values and depends on the health of our ocean. The Marine Institute's programs not only protect our native wildlife but also support the broader environmental and economic wellbeing of Maui. I respectfully ask that the Council prioritise funding for this important work.

Mahalo for your time and for your service to our community.

Kerry Miller

Fwd: proposed bumps on Haneoo Rd

2026 APR 16 AM 7:41

From Doris Buckley <hanadobuckle@gmail.com>
Date Wed 4/15/2026 9:22 PM
To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from hanadobuckle@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Doris Buckley** <hanadobuckle@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Apr 15, 2026 at 10:28 PM
Subject: proposed bumps on Haneoo Rd
To: <county.clerk@mauicounty.us>

Aloha ,

I am a resident on Haneoo Road in Hana. As you might know, a portion of this road is a straight away for drivers. Oftentimes drivers take advantage of this and speed up to 40 or so miles an hour. We have 16 children on this road and that isn't counting friends of theirs who come over to play.

The other day, something I dreaded happened. My grandson got hit by a car. Fortunately this car wasn't speeding and my grandson wasn't seriously hurt.

I feel the residents are needing a few bumps on the road to keep the motorists driving at the posted speed.

Mahalo for presenting this to the budget committee.

My best,
Doris Buckley
hanadobuckle@gmail.com
808 268-9611

bumps for Haneoo Rd

2026 APR 16 AM 7:41

From Doris Buckley <hanadobuckle@gmail.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 9:30 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from hanadobuckle@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha ,

I am a resident on Haneoo Road in Hana. As you might know, a portion of this road is a straight away for drivers. Oftentimes drivers take advantage of this and speed up to 40 or so miles an hour. We have 16 children on this road and that isn't counting friends of theirs who come over to play.

The other day, something I dreaded happened. My grandson got hit by a car. Fortunately this car wasn't speeding and my grandson wasn't seriously hurt.

I feel the residents are needing a few bumps on the road to keep the motorists driving at the posted speed.

Mahalo for presenting this to the budget committee.

My best,

Doris Buckley

hanadobuckle@gmail.com

808 268-9611

2026 APR 16 AM 7:41

Public Comment Submission

From No Reply <noreply@civicplus.com>

Date Wed 4/15/2026 9:37 PM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Submitted by: dukengin dukengin

Email Address: dukengin@gmail.com

Commented on event: <https://mauicounty.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1366/overview>

If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: I am testifying in support of the line-item grant with county department of agriculture for maui nui botanical gardens. I think supporting them is great because they keep many of the endemic and indigenous plants alive and available for the public and serve as a educational platform to the public to bring awareness of these plants and how important they are for us kanaka and our environment.

2027 Budget funding request for The Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center

2026 APR 16 AM 7:41

From email butchnbabe.net <email@butchnbabe.net>

Date Thu 4/16/2026 7:06 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from email@butchnbabe.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha and Mahalo Chair and Members of the Maui Council,

My name is Bruce Weyermann a resident of Kihei. I was present at the recent budget meeting at the Kihei community center and I thank you for the time and attention you took to listen to the members in your community and mine.

I am a founding volunteer (one of the first volunteers) with the Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center. If you never had a chance to visit the humble facilities, I hope you do one day. I know first hand the challenges that this non profit goes through in finding funding. I sincerely hope you kindly consider funding for this one of a kind organization that is community based and working hard to protect the environment and preserve what we can for future generations on Maui. While I listened to many passionate speakers thank you for the benefits and support they received from this council, I am inspired and grateful for what you can do.

We have a limited time to impact the Hawaiian Monk seals with such a small surviving group of animals. I am sure you understand how vital our coral reefs are to shore impacts and how vital it is to maintain a balanced ecosystem. How sea turtles are such an iconic species for Hawaiians culture and tourists. It makes my heart sing to know that the Marine Institute takes the time to teach the keiki and community how to understand how important these ecosystems are, so we can carry on our kuleana to our Maui community. The Marine Institute has stepped in to help maintain and improve these ecosystems like no other organization and they always seeks out to work with others that share a common goal for the benefit of Maui. This is so important to those of us who live on Maui. With limited funding, I know first hand that I would donate supplies and my time so that they could continue to do this work and I hope the Maui County can help support the Marine Institute. I am proud to support this organization and hope you will too.

Mahalo for being good stewards for the Maui community and for your consideration of the Marine Institutes request for consideration for the 2027 Budget and beyond.

Best Regards,

Bruce Weyermann

RECEIVED

Support of vital funding for the Marine Institute at Maui Ocean Center.2026 APR 16 AM 7:41

From Holly Robilliard <holly@mocmarineinstitute.org>

Date Thu 4/16/2026 7:28 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from holly@mocmarineinstitute.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Chair and Members of the Council,

My name is Holly Robilliard, the marketing manager for the Marine Institute at Maui Ocean Center, and I am writing to strongly urge the County to support and fund the vital work that we do at our organization.

Imagine a Maui where our reefs fall silent.

Where the shoreline no longer teems with life, but instead erodes year by year, unprotected. Where honu become rare sightings and monk seals no longer rest on our beaches.

In Hawai'i, the ocean is not separate from the community. It's the thread that binds us. It shapes our traditions, feeds our families, teaches our keiki, and connects us to everything we are.

And when that disappears, we lose something essential in ourselves.

For a decade, the Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center has stood in the path of that outcome, supported by a dedicated volunteer team that provides year-round, 365-day response across Maui's shorelines. Our impact is not measured only in honu saved or corals outplanted, but in the people our work reaches and the kuleana it awakens in them.

We see it in the volunteer who sacrifices their morning to search for an entangled turtle that will not survive without intervention. In the student removing thousands of pieces of marine debris, beginning to see themselves not just as someone who lives here, but as a steward of the island. In the hotel staff, the families, and the neighbors who, through education and shared experience, rediscover pride in protecting the spaces that define Maui. And in the keiki, who grow up watching this work and come to understand that caring for their home is not optional, but part of who they are.

Now, as federal funding that once sustained these programs diminishes and grants expire, we face a gap that threatens our ability to continue. What's at stake is more than just environmental decline. It means losing the dedicated people behind this work, individuals who chose service to this island over more secure paths and may soon be forced to leave. We risk losing our connection to place, our kuleana to one another, and the legacy we leave for the next generation.

Maui County has the opportunity to change this trajectory. Your support would not simply fund an organization. It would sustain a community, ensuring that when a call comes in, someone answers, that reefs still have a path to recovery, and that our keiki inherit a living, thriving ocean shaped by those who chose to protect it.

Without this support, the question is no longer how much more we can do.

It is what kind of Maui we leave behind.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration, and your dedication to a better future to all.

Holly Robilliard



HOLLY ROBILLIARD

MARKETING MANAGER

O: 808-830-1536 | C: 586-850-1301

MOCMarineInstitute.org

192 Ma'alaea Road, Walluku, Hawai'i, 96793

Sea turtle response line: 808-286-2549

Hawaiian monk seal response line: 808-292-2372

Hoʻoikaika Partnership – FY27 County Budget Proposal

Fiscal Sponsor: Maui Family Support Services, Inc.

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns

Funding Request: \$199,202

Purpose and Countywide Relevance

Hoʻoikaika Partnership (HP) is a countywide coalition that brings together health and human service providers, community organizations, and public agencies to prevent child abuse and build a stronger, more coordinated system of support for 'ohana across Maui County. Founded in 2008, HP is led by a 10-member Leadership Hui and engages more than 75 organizations annually. HP operates under a collective impact model, coordinating cross-sector collaboration, public education, workforce support, and direct family services under one umbrella.

In April 2025, this Council unanimously approved \$175,000 for HP's work; the first time County funding was appropriated through a Council line item. That investment made a measurable difference and we are grateful for the Council's support. In 2025, HP assisted 161 families through Navigation Services, reached 3,827 individuals through 13 community events, convened 190 providers at the annual conference, and delivered monthly Healing the Healers sessions to 54 child-serving professionals from 23 agencies. HP also expanded its public education campaign to Maui County buses, policymakers, and statewide media.

HP's work aligns directly with County priorities for building a healthy, thriving, and livable community and with DHC strategies for capacity building, data-driven service delivery, and cross-sector collaboration. Nearly 1 in 5 adults in Maui County report having four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences before age 18 and that was a statistic measured before the 2023 wildfires. Two-plus years later, families are still struggling, providers are stretched thin, and federal funding is contracting. County investment in HP provides the stable, local foundation that keeps the system of care connected and functioning.

For FY27, HP humbly requests \$199,202. This is a modest increase of \$24,202 that reflects restored full-year program delivery, a dedicated concrete support line for at-risk families, and an evaluation investment that accurately reflects the scope of County-funded activities. This request is part of a larger program budget supported by other grants and contracts.

Key Activities: July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027: HP Coordinator, Leadership Hui and other partners facilitate collaboration with 75+ agencies through meetings, committees, and shared projects.

1. Navigation Services and Community Engagement

- "Guide by the side" Navigation Services and concrete support for 15–20 families/month, including referrals and concrete support such as diapers, hygiene kits, and other essentials
- Coordinate 'Ohana Fest and participate in 5–7 community outreach events, including Hāna, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i

Impact: Families increase awareness of protective factors, access services more easily, and build stronger connections to community resources.

2. Public Education and Policy Advocacy

- Develop, print, and distribute public education materials including Kalo Boy books, activity cards, and protective factors resources
- Continue the Talking is Teaching: Talk, Read, Sing campaign with partners; expand protective factor messaging through social media, website, and other channels

Ho‘oikaika Partnership – FY27 County Budget Proposal

- Educate families, providers, and policymakers about preventing ACEs, available community resources, and policies impacting children and families

Impact: Families, providers, and decision-makers expand awareness of protective factors, resources that reduce stress and strengthen resilience, and policies that help prevent child abuse and neglect.

3. Cross-Sector Collaboration and Workforce Support

- Host monthly partner meetings and convene standing committees, engaging approximately 75 providers annually for networking, collaborative projects, information sharing, and training
- Offer annual conference for up to 200 health and human service professionals
- Continue Healing the Healers monthly peer support sessions for child-serving providers
- Maintain website, newsletter, and partner communications

Impact: Providers gain tools, support, and partnerships to apply trauma-informed, culturally relevant practices and reduce burnout.

Proposed Budget: This request is part of a larger program budget supported by other grants and contracts. FY26 figures reflect the original approved annual budget. For comparison purposes, Public Education and Outreach Materials combines printing/program materials and outreach event supplies.

Category	FY26 Approved	FY27 Requested	Key Changes from FY26 to FY27
Personnel			Navigator (75% County, down from 100%): A 3% cost-of-living adjustment is applied. The County covered 100% of this position in FY26; FY27 shares the cost with other funders at 75%.
Family Navigator – Salary and Benefits	\$63,967	\$50,934	
Direct Family Services			
Concrete Support for Families	—	\$15,000	Concrete Support for Families (new): Dedicated funding for ~150 families. This line was absent from the FY26 original County budget.
Program Delivery			
Healing the Healers	\$20,000	\$25,200	
Public Education and Outreach Materials	\$18,708	\$21,000	Healing the Healers (+\$5,200): Moved to a flat monthly fee of \$2,100 covering all facilitation, supplies, facility, travel, and GET.
Coordination and Infrastructure			
Coalition Coordination	\$40,000	\$41,389	
Communications	\$12,000	\$11,286	Evaluation (+\$5,362): County share increased from 25% to 67%, correcting a prior undercount.
Evaluation	\$3,000	\$8,362	
Travel (client services) and Telephone	\$1,033	\$2,127	
Administrative Overhead			Coordination (+\$1,389): County share increased slightly from ~38.5% to ~40% of the annual contract. Coordination remains the highest-priority line item for HP’s Leadership Hui
Administration (MFSS, 12% of total)	\$16,292	\$23,904	
Total County Request	\$175,000	\$199,202	

Submitted by Deb Marois, Coordinator on behalf of Ho‘oikaika Partnership
 info@hooikaikapartnership.com | (808) 765-7254 | www.hooikaikapartnership.com

County Clerk

RECEIVED

From: Joanne Rively <jorively@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 7:59 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Budget 2027 Considerations Maui Institute at Maui Ocean Center

2026 APR 16 AM 8:23

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from jorively@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear County Council members,

My name is Jo-Anne Rively and I am a resident of Wailuku. I am writing to strongly urge the County to support and fund the vital work of the Marine Institute at Maui Ocean Center. Their work protects our marine ecosystems and vulnerable wildlife through programs such as:

- Sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation
- Coral reef restoration
- Hawaiian monk seal response
- Marine education and outreach

I am a volunteer with both the turtle program as well as the Hawaiian monk seal response team. In 2017 I retired to Maui and one of my priorities was to find volunteer positions that would preserve and protect our beautiful ocean life. I celebrate my 10th year with the turtle nesting program as well as 4 years with the Hawaiian monk seal response team.

I can't imagine a Maui where our reefs fall silent, where the shoreline no longer gives our endangered Hawaiian monk seal a resting place, and our beautiful Honu cannot bask, and lay their eggs.

When that disappears we lose something essential in ourselves.

For over a decade, the Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center has stood in the path of that outcome, supported by a dedicated volunteer team that provides year-round, 365 day response across Maui's shorelines. Their impact is not only measured in honu saved or corals out planted, but in the people our work reaches and the kuleana it awakens in them.

I see it in the volunteer who sacrifices their morning to search for an entangled turtle that will not survive without intervention. In the student removing thousands of pieces of marine debris, beginning to see themselves not just as someone who lives here, but as a steward of the island.

In the hotel staff, the families, and the neighbors who, through education and shared experience, rediscover pride in protecting the spaces that define Maui. And in the keiki, who grow up watching this work and come to understand that caring for their home is not optional, but part of who they are.

I have the privilege of speaking with many visitors to our beautiful Islands. They all express how seeing the basking turtles and the rare treat of a sleeping monk seal on our shores lift their spirits. These reasons are on many of their bucket lists for why they visit our beautiful home, Hawaii.

Now, as federal funding that once sustained these programs diminishes and grants expire, we face a gap that threatens our ability to continue. What's at stake is more than just environmental decline. It means losing the dedicated people behind this work, individuals who chose service to this island over more secure paths and may soon be forced to leave. We risk losing our connection to place, our kuleana to one another, and the legacy we leave for the next generation.

Maui County has the opportunity to change this trajectory. Your support would not simply fund an organization. It would sustain a community, ensuring that when a call comes in, someone answers, that reefs still have a path to recovery, and that our keiki inherit a living, thriving ocean shaped by those who chose to protect it.

Without this support, the question is no longer how much more we can do.

It is what kind of Maui we leave behind.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.

Jo-Anne Rively

County Clerk

RECEIVED

From: No Reply <noreply@civicplus.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 8:12 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Public Comment Submission

2026 APR 16 AM 8:24

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Submitted by: Luana HueSing-Ammasi
Email Address: luanaonmaui@gmail.com

Commented on event: <https://mauicounty.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1366/overview>
If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: Aloha Chair and Councilmembers, My name is Luana HueSing-Ammasi, and I serve as the Program Supervisor for the Early Childhood Resource Center and Literacy Program (ECRCLP). We are a proud partner of the Ho'ōikaika Partnership. Through Ho'ōikaika Partnership, our program has strengthened collaboration with a wide network of providers across Maui County. This coordination has made a meaningful difference in how we support families by helping us connect them more efficiently to literacy resources, early childhood services, and other critical supports. For example, through relationships built within Ho'ōikaika Partnership, we are better able to align our Reach Out and Read and Dolly Parton's Imagination Library efforts with community partners. This means families are not only receiving books, but are also being connected to a broader system of care that supports early development and family well-being. This collaboration reduces duplication, strengthens prevention efforts, and leads to better outcomes for our keiki and families. We respectfully ask that you continue your support by including Ho'ōikaika Partnership in the FY27 budget. Continued investment in prevention and coordinated systems like this is essential to building a stronger, healthier Maui County. Mahalo for your leadership and commitment to our community.

Public Comment Submission

2026 APR 16 AM 9:38

From No Reply <noreply@civicplus.com>

Date Thu 4/16/2026 9:34 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Submitted by: Erin O'Kief

Email Address: erin@huinoeau.com

Commented on event: <https://mauicounty.portal.civicclerk.com/event/1366/overview>

If you are having trouble viewing the URL above, cut and paste the string into your browser window.

User comment: Aloha Maui County Council Members, Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center respectfully requests the County of Maui's continued support for two important arts education programs that continue to expand in reach and impact every year: - Art with Aloha - Grants Division Program, \$50,000 Art with Aloha offers a wide range of cultural programming, including hands-on workshops, classes, and free cultural presentations for the public. Participants in the program include kama'āina of all ages and visitors to the island, thereby fostering authentic cultural exchange between residents and tourists. With support from the County of Maui, Art with Aloha has grown significantly in recent years as the Maui community seeks connection to culture, 'āina, and with one another for mental health and healing. I would like to share some stories about the impact this program has on our community: Practitioners Kumulā'au and Haunani Sing share: "[Hui No'eau's Ka Ulana 'le Maui Junior] cohort was a healing journey for our three student junior practitioners. We noticed over time how their weaving made a positive impact in their personal lives and in their families. It was such a blessing to hear from their parents how proud they were of their students and how this weaving experience helped their children open up socially and emotionally. We hope to offer another Ulana 'le Junior cohort at the Hui in the near future that will be longer in duration to allow deeper dives into our culture, 'ike kūpuna that will allow the students to connect with their culture, build stronger interpersonal relationships with others, and grow and mature to be positive contributing members in our communities." A recent student in Koral Gill's Ulana Lauhala Series shares: "I have participated in three Ulana Lauhala classes with Koral Gill. Each were exceptional in guiding myself and fellow students to understanding the cultural, practical and historical aspects of Lauhala, the plant, and Ulana, the weaving practice. Kumu Koral Gill provided equitable, hands on, complete attention to every participant, attending to questions, trouble shooting and encouraging through difficulties. She has the knowledge, patience and true love of the craft to carry the class through devoted sessions so that no one wants to stop for lunch! The classes have resulted in a beautiful outcomes respectively -- Apo Lima (I took twice) weaving a bracelet, and Kuka'a, harvesting and processing lauhala. What Kumu Koral passed along to each of us was truly valuable; practical implementation of the creating process, integrity of the sources and Hawaiian spirit of art. What could be a better way to spend your day?" - Hui No'eau Youth and Family Arts Education & Outreach Programs - Department of Human Concerns, \$75,000 Hui No'eau Youth and Family Arts Education & Outreach Programs fill gaps in arts education for Maui County youth through the delivery of free, year-round, and accessible arts programs led by the Hui's professional Teaching Artists. Programs eliminate cost and logistical barriers to arts engagement for Maui County children who lack access to the arts because of geography, financial constraints, or other

barriers. I would like to share some stories about the profound impact these programs have on keiki across Maui County: A parent of a Nā keiki No'eau afterschool outreach program student at Puakalani Elementary School (3rd Grade) shares: "It is always a joy to see the creative and thoughtful art experiences my son is offered through the Hui No'eau program afterschool at Pukalani El. My son said they always have the COOLEST projects and stuff to be creative. He has such a sense of pride in what he does and it is clear to see the teachers are thoughtful in all their planning. It is such an amazing creative outlet and opportunity. There is no visual arts offered during the school, so this program gives kids the opportunity to shine in ways they don't get to during the day!! Art is essential for children!!! Thank you for all you do!!" YMCA West Side Center Director Jaylou Cabrera shares: "Art with Heart serves youth ages 6 and older as well as seniors, creating a welcoming, intergenerational space where creativity, connection, and healing can take place. This program has become a meaningful part of our community, offering participants the opportunity to express themselves, build confidence, and find joy through art in a safe and supportive environment. In a community that continues to navigate recovery and rebuilding, Art with Heart provides more than art instruction. It offers a sense of normalcy, belonging, and emotional well-being. We have seen youth gain confidence and self-expression, while seniors find connection, purpose, and moments of peace through creative engagement. Bringing these generations together through art has strengthened relationships and reinforced the importance of shared community spaces. Hui No'eau has been an outstanding partner throughout this collaboration. Their team brings professionalism, compassion, and deep respect for our community into every class. Their commitment to accessible and culturally meaningful arts education aligns seamlessly with our mission to support local nonprofits and provide opportunities that uplift Lahaina residents. The impact of this program is clear, and we are proud to stand alongside Hui No'eau in using art as a tool for healing, connection, and community well-being." Tutu & Me Traveling Preschool shares this about their recent field trip to Hui No'eau: "It was great to have an age-appropriate activity for our keiki to engage in that ties in with the nature and cultural identity of our student body." I am honored to submit this testimony in favor of Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center's line items in the Mayor's Proposed Budget for FY27. Mahalo nui for your consideration. Sincerely, Erin O'Kief
erin@huinoeau.com 808-572-6560 x22

Aloha Chair Sugimura and County Council Members,

O Lala Johnson kou inoa O waiehu.

Mahalo for taking this time to read my testimony about the impact of private security contracts on our community, based on what we have directly experienced.

At Kuhimana, where a nonprofit claimed possessory control, we were denied access to 'āina by private security, known as Aegaeon Security. We ended up sleeping in our vehicles outside the gate, unable to access land we have ties to.

While we were being kept out, security personnel were on the 'āina not acting professionally, and when we tried to report it, the Maui Police Department would not even take a report.

We also witnessed private security working alongside police, and in one situation, they assisted in the arrest of one of our lāhui who was there to protect iwi through cultural practice.

So what we experienced was:

- Being kept off our 'āina
- Private security acting with authority but no accountability
- And no way to report what was happening

Then during the Kona low storm, we saw the same pattern in a different setting.

Private security was placed at an emergency shelter, but community organizations were already there—providing food, blankets, and care, making people feel safe. The security presence was not needed, and it raised concerns about why resources are going toward enforcement instead of supporting the community.

Across both situations, the pattern is clear:

- Public money is funding private security
- Their role is not clearly defined
- And there is no transparency or accountability to the community

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2026 APR 16 AM 10:16
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

I ask the Council:

- Why are we funding private enforcement that can deny access to 'āina?
- Why are these contracts not clearly broken out in the budget?
- And what authority are these contractors actually operating under?

I respectfully ask you to:

1. Pause future private security contracts until there is full transparency and oversight
2. Require public disclosure of all vendors, costs, and roles
3. And prioritize community-led care and recovery efforts over enforcement

We have shown that our community can take care of each other with dignity and aloha.

What we experienced was not safety—it was exclusion without accountability.

Mahalo for your time,

Lala Johnson

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2026 APR 16 AM 10:47

April 16, 2026

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

To: Maui County Council Chair
Re: Nomination of Toni Rojas for Police Commission

I have known and worked with Toni Rojas for over 20 years. She is professional, fair, intelligent and trustworthy.

She has an extensive network within our Maui community, and is able to work with and communicate with people from all walks of life.

Toni is truly invested in our community and its well-being.

I highly recommend her to serve on the Maui Police Commission.

Lisa Varde
Director of Development
Roots School

(No subject)

2026 APR 16 AM 11: 03

From Mark Brewer <mabrewer7@gmail.com>

Date Thu 4/16/2026 10:51 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from mabrewer7@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Members of the Council,

I am a Maui resident and active volunteer at the Maui Ocean Center Marine Institute.

My love and Kuleana for Hawai'i is the ocean and all its flora and fauna. The ocean is not separate from the land, but part of the whole. It is what makes Hawaii so desired as a place to visit.

I write this because I am concerned the funding for MOCMI will be compromised resulting in marine wildlife and the ecosystem suffering. We volunteers contribute our time freely to ensure that visitors are educated and inspired for pono solutions to ensuring our marine ecosystem and its residents thrives.

I am proud to be a part of MOCMI's good works here on Maui. I hope that the Members ensure that it continues.

Mahalo nui loa

- Mark Brewer

RECEIVED

2026 APR 16 AM 11:15

Jill and Scott Maclay
140 Uwapo Road, Unit 11-106
Kihei, Hawai'i 96753

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK
16 April 2026

Aloha Members of the Council –

After visiting Hawai'i for years and falling in love with its culture, land and people, my wife Jill and I retired full-time to Kihei nearly two years ago. At first it was all about the amazing snorkeling – then it became so much more . . .

We are blessed to be involved and volunteer with Hope Chapel, Ocean Friendly Gardens, Hale Kau Kau, Keālia Pond, Friend of Haleakalā, Surfrider Maui, Sharkastic and our newest passion, **the Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center**.

We are active participants in their year-round in-field Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation program. To date, MOCMI has saved over 1,600 turtles! In addition to their education and outreach programs, the Institute's Coral Reef Restoration and Hawaiian Monk Seal response is working tirelessly to protect our marine ecosystems and vulnerable wildlife. Our oceans and reefs are invaluable and we cannot risk losing another step in its health and protection – *our work literally reaches millions of people across the globe!*

Hawai'i is defined by the Pacific Ocean and the spaces that our islands quietly reveal. What the Marine Institute does is vital to preserving not only Maui's culture and connection to the ocean and land – but our communities as a whole, our children and grandchildren and, of course, the ever-important tourists that visit our beloved islands. Caring for and protecting our shorelines and great ocean is not optional – it is our responsibility to generations that follow.

Jill and I have learned and come to believe that the ocean is part of our being and that we are stewards of its life and health – it beats in our hearts and fills our souls – and without it we are empty. We are so very, very proud to be able to do our small part and are desperate for your support and funding for the hard, great work that the entire MOCMI Team is doing.

Mahalo nui loa for your service and your support of the Marine Institute at the Maui Ocean Center!

Jill and Scott Maclay
reachscottmaclay@gmail.com
reachjillmaclay@gmail.com

RECEIVED

MOCMI funding

2026 APR 16 PM 1:44

From peyton@birdsquare.com <peyton@birdsquare.com>

Date Thu 4/16/2026 11:41 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

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Aloha!

My name is Peyton, and I am a resident of Wailuku. I am writing to strongly urge the County to support and fund the vital work of the Marine Institute at Maui Ocean Center. Their work protects our marine ecosystems and vulnerable wildlife through programs such as:

- Sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation
- Coral reef restoration
- Hawaiian monk seal response
- Marine education and outreach

Mahalo!

-Peyton Hoge
Birdsquare Carpentry, LLC
502-553-6992

Maui reefs

2026 APR 16 PM 1:44

From Karima Morgan <karimamorgan16@gmail.com>

Date Thu 4/16/2026 11:44 AM

To County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

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COUNTY CLERK

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Aloha,

My name is Katharyn Morgan, and I live in [Kihei. I snorkel regularly at many South Maui beaches and sometimes on the Westside and am fiercely protective of the reefs and all the creatures who live there. I especially enjoy swimming at Ahihi Kinau reserve where the fish and coral are the healthiest. I want that kind of environment for all our coastal reefs.

I am writing to **strongly support continued funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the FY27 budget**. Their work protects our reefs, water quality, and community. Please keep this funding in place.

Key Programs Funding Will Support:

- Monitor water-quality at 46 beaches across Maui and Moloka'i so we know when our ocean is healthy and when it's at risk.
- Track reef health so we know when and how our reefs are changing and where help is needed.
- Hawaii's first reef-friendly landscaping program which

teaches landscaping methods that are safer for our reefs.

- New coral restoration areas in South and West Maui, giving damaged corals a second chance at survival and protecting our shorelines.

In appreciation for your attention and action on this matter.

Katharyn Morgan

Kihei