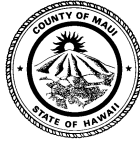


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Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

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

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

April 4, 2026

Mr. Shayne Agawa, Director  
Department of Environmental Management  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Agawa:

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE  
COUNTY OF MAUI** (BFED-1) (EM-02)

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the Council's Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee meeting of **April 14, 2026\***. This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2027 Budget.

May I further request that you transmit your response to [bfed.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:bfed.committee@mauicounty.us) by 4:30 p.m. on **April 13, 2026**. *\*Date is subject to change without notice.*

**Overall**

1. Under Solid Waste Administration Program, Goal #1, does the Department use personnel from the Department of Public Works for refuse collection in East Maui? If yes, does the Department plan to transfer this responsibility to the Solid Waste Division in the future? And will refuse trucks with an automated arm be used? (Page 226, Program Budget) (SS)
2. Are the Environmental Protection and Sustainability Division's Environmental Protection Grants and Green Grants Program competitive grants? Please advise. (Page 246, Program Budget) (SS)

3. For FY 2027, the Department is moving the Solid Waste Alternatives Section from the EP&S Division to Solid Waste Division. (Pages 42, 208 & 250, Program Budget)
  - a. Please explain the rationale for this transfer. (YLS)
  - b. How does this change impact the EP&S Program? (TC)
  - c. Please confirm if the four EP&S Division grants with zero proposed dollars were moved to Solid Waste Division because of the section transfer. (TP)
4. If projects for waste diversion under the Recycling Grants Program are successful, how does the Department continue, support, or fund these programs in future FYs? Would the Department provide additional funding or support? (Page 237, Program Budget) (GJ)
5. The following relate to Administration Program, Goal #1: (Page 209, Program Budget) (NUH)
  - a. For item 1, the estimated number of meetings to ensure mid- and long-term goals are progressing is 72. The FY 2026 Q2 Budget Implementation Report notes that 19 meetings have been conducted. Is the Department on track to meet its goal by the end of FY 2026? If no, please explain why.
  - b. For item 2, does the Department plan on initiating new programs to promote sustainability, considering there were zero programs initiated in FYs 2024 and 2025? If yes, please explain the new program that will help to promote sustainability.
6. Under Administration Program, Goal #2, item 1, the estimated number of meetings to review and evaluate fiscal management of projects and programs annually is 72. The FY 2026 Q2 Budget Implementation Report notes that 19 meetings have been conducted. Is the Department on track to meet its goal by the end of FY 2026? If no, please explain why. (Page 209, Program Budget) (NUH)

7. Under Administration Program, Goal #3, item 1, the estimated number of meetings to review and update personnel needs and actions annually is 72. The FY 2026 Q2 Budget Implementation Report notes that 20 meetings have been conducted. Is the Department on track to meet its goal by the end of FY 2026? If no, please explain why. (Page 209, Program Budget) (NUH)
8. The following relate to Wastewater Administration Program, Goal #2: (Page 213, Program Budget)
  - a. For item 3, how are public presentations conducted to maintain public awareness? (NUH)
  - b. For item 4, how many public information requests were for information relating to available sewer capacity before applying for a building permit? (KB)
9. Under Wastewater Operations Program Goal #1, item 2, please explain the steps that the Department takes to mitigate the number of non-compliance days. (Page 219, Program Budget) (NUH)
10. Under Wastewater Operations Program, Goal #3, item 2, are the safety training classes mandatory for each employee? Please explain. (Page 220, Program Budget) (NUH)
11. Under Solid Waste Operations Program, Goal #1, item 2, the Central Maui Landfill is slated to be decommissioned in about 4.5 years. (Page 230, Program Budget)
  - a. According to the State Department of Health, the County must provide 30 years of post-closure care and maintenance. Does the Department have clear plans and goals on how they will maintain and staff the post-closure care period? Please explain. (NUH)
  - b. Has the Department started planning for either an expansion of the current site or identifying alternative locations? If no, should the Council consider an additional appropriation for professional services to study Central Maui Landfill's future? Please explain why or why not. (KB)

12. The following relate to EP&S Division, Goal #1: (Pages 240 & 241, Program Budget)
  - a. For item 1, are abandoned and derelict vehicles only removed from public roadways or does this also include County properties such as Ukumehame and Hamakualoa? Are County parks and recreational facilities excluded? Please explain. (TP)
  - b. For item 2, does the Department have an estimate on the number of vehicles destroyed in the recent Kona Low storms? Please explain. (NUH)
  - c. For item 3:
    - i. There have been an increased number of abandoned vehicles appearing around the County. What other ways can the Department incentivize its services for residents to properly dispose their vehicles? (NUH)
    - ii. As of February 17, 2026, the EP&S Division's Tow and Scrap vehicle recycling program no longer accepts hybrid or electric vehicles. Please explain the disposal limitations for these types of vehicles—is this because of the lithium-ion batteries? Has the County considered establishing an additional location for lithium-ion battery collection to reduce the possibility of illegal dumping and potential fire hazards? Please advise. (TP)
  - d. For item 6, where does the Department find the illegally dumped material? Are there particular locations in the County where the Department finds illegally dumped material more frequently? (NUH)
13. Malama Hamakua Maui has been experiencing difficulties with people illegally dumping their waste onto Hamakualoa Open Space Preserve. Is the Department able to assist Malama Hamakua Maui with removing illegally dumped material in the preserve area? Why or why not? (Page 248, Program Budget) (NUH)

14. In the FY 2026 Council Adopted Budget, there were \$250,000 and \$300,000 grants to Ka'ehu and West Maui Green Cycle LLC, respectively. However, the FY 2027 Budget notes that Ka'ehu received \$300,000 and West Maui Green Cycle LLC received \$0. Please explain this discrepancy. How much has been released to each entity, to date? (Page 247, Program Budget) (TP)
15. Please provide a list of all grant applicants who applied to the Department for funding in FYs 2026 and FY 2027 for the following:
  - a. Environmental Protection Grants.
  - b. Green Grants Program.
  - c. Green Building and Resilient Housing Grants.
  - d. Maui County Wetlands Grants.
  - e. Maui Soil/Water Conservation District.
  - f. Soil/Water Conservation Molokai and Lānaʻi.
  - g. Recycling Grants Program.

Please include the organization's name, program name, amount requested, and amount recommended or approved by the Department. (Pages 5-7, Budget Bill) (GJ)

16. During the Kona Low storms, a refuse truck fell into a sinkhole on Kuialua Place in Lahaina. If the refuse truck was damaged, what amount of funds are needed for repairs? (TP)
17. What amount of Federal Emergency Management Agency funds did the County receive for the Permanent Disposal Site? Were the funds reserved for the Department for landfill tipping fees? Did FEMA pay any other fees relating to the PDS? If yes, please describe the fee and the amount collected. (KB)

**Salaries and Wages (Category “A”)**

1. Will transferring the P-31484 Grant Coordinator position to the Wastewater Operation Program require a reorganization? Has the position been created and posted for recruitment? (Pages 210 & 211, Program Budget) (TP)
2. How does Executive Order 2025-02 provide authority for salary increases? (Pages 7-11, 7-18, and 7-45, Budget Details) (TC)
3. Will the two Recycling Specialist II expansion positions in FY 2027 and the Recycling Specialist III expansion position from FY 2026 require a reorganization? Has the Recycling Specialist III position been created and is it ready to post for recruitment? The Department’s FY 2026 Q2 Budget Implementation Report notes that there were three recycling positions vacant for 90 days or more with two of those positions having unknown anticipated fill dates. Is it premature to add more positions when there are existing vacancies? Please explain. (Page 245, Program Budget) (TP)
4. For Index Code 919000A-5250 Salary adjustments, please explain why the Department is requesting to reinstate the Council cut from FY 2026. (Page 7-4, Budget Details) (TC)

**Operations and Equipment (Category “B”)**

1. For Index Code 919000C-7043 Office Furniture, please explain the deletion of equipment. Since the Grant Coordinator and Information and Education Specialist positions are being transferred from the Administration Program to the Wastewater Operations Program, was the office furniture already purchased? (Page 211, Program Budget) (TP)
2. The following relate to Index Code 919053B-6317 County grant subsidy, for Maalaea Village Association: (Page 211, Program Budget)
  - a. Please provide a status update on the Mā‘alaea Village injection well elimination project. (TP)
  - b. Provide the status of the FY 2026 appropriation. Does the Department anticipate Maalaea Village Association expending the full FY 2026 amount? Please explain. (TC) (TP)

- c. Please explain what the FY 2027 appropriation will be used for. (TC)
  - d. Should this project be considered a CIP? Please explain why or why not. (TP)
  - e. Please provide a detailed project timeline. (TC)
3. For Index Code 919500B-6132 Professional Services, what were the results of the rate fee study for landfill and refuse collection fees? Did the consultant consider that not all Hawai'i counties charge for residential waste disposal? Are the two refuse collection fee increases under Account 3431 a result from the study? (Page 228, Program Budget; Page 9, Appendix B) (TP)
4. For Index Code 919509B-6132 Professional Services, does the Department not have an operations plan, closure plan, or storm water plan, or is the service specific to a new site or project? Please explain. (Page 236, Program Budget) (TP)
5. For Index Code 919534B-6112 Contractual Service, please confirm if "HHW" stands for "household hazardous waste." (Page 236, Program Budget) (TP)
6. For the Recycling Grants Program, it notes that preferred projects remanufacture waste materials into local resources. Does the Department consider the volume of waste diverted as a preference? Please explain. (Page 237, Program Budget) (TP)
7. What efforts are being made to require manufacturers or collection services to participate in County programs or make their programs more convenient? Where do collection services, such as ReThink Center or E-Opala Recycling, fit into the County's Electronic Waste Recycling Program? (Pages 238 & 239, Program Budget) (TP)
8. How has the Green Building and Resilient Housing grant been dispersed in previous FYs? Please explain whether there is coordination or consultation with the Department of Housing or the Department of Housing and Human Concerns in the past. (Page 246, Program Budget) (TP)

9. For Index Code 919005B-6110 Computer Services, please explain the additional funding needed for increases in “DWS Billing System services for sewer billing.” Why are services being increased? Will customers see changes or improvements to the billing process? Please explain. (Page 7-14, Budget Details) (YLS)
10. Can any of your requested motor vehicle or heavy equipment purchases be delayed to FY 2028 or be considered as a budget amendment in FY 2027, such as the replacement \$110,000 front loader or the new \$550,000 refuse collections truck? Please explain. (Pages 224 & page 236, Program Budget) (GJ)
11. The Finance Director’s Quarterly Report for Q2 FY 2026 via County Communication 43-26 notes that the Department’s Environmental Management Administration Program has only spent \$218,132 of the \$2,105,492 budget under the General Fund. Does the Department expect it can spend \$3,349,596 in FY 2027? Will the Department be able to spend down \$2.1 million in FY 2026? Please explain. (Page 7-1, Budget Details) (TP)
12. Since FY 2023, there have been user fee increases ranging from two to nine percent for wastewater. The Carryover/Savings for the Sewer Fund appear to have exponentially increased from previous FYs. In FY 2027, there is a proposed nine percent increase in user fees. Please explain why rates have increased but there is still a large amount of Carryover/Savings each FY. (Page 7-9, Budget Details) (TP)
13. For Index Code 919500B-6132 Professional Services, is the \$180,000 expansion request a one-time fee for routing software or is there an annual subscription fee these services? (Page 7-47, Budget Details) (NUH)
14. In FY 2026, \$300,000 was allocated for a stray tire recycling pilot project. What was the outcome of the pilot project? (TP)
15. For Index Code 919509C-7044 Other Equipment, where does the Department intend to use the replacement landfill dozer, landfill compactor, and automatic tarping system? (Page 236, Program Budget) (SS)

16. For Index Codes 919523B-6031 and 919524B-6031 Repairs & Maintenance Supplies, please confirm whether the replacement refuse trucks are still scheduled to arrive in April 2026 or whether they will be delayed. (Page 234, Program Budget) (TP)

### **Capital Improvement Projects**

1. For CBS-3206 Central Maui Regional WWRF (Waikapū), please provide a cost schedule and updated timeline for this CIP and milestones per year. Further, please provide an estimated timeline for the land purchase and acquisition of entitlements. (Page 894, Program Budget) (YLS)
2. For CBS-3570 Kihei Wastewater Pump Station No. 7 Relocation, have other locations further mauka been explored for the proposed relocation? If this is infeasible, please explain why. (Page 871, Program Budget) (YLS)
3. For CBS-5494 Central Maui Landfill Supplement to Primary Litter Screen, there are occasions when litter and other debris get past the litter control barrier and end up on Pūlehu Road. What mitigation efforts does the Department have to clean up Pūlehu Road when this occurs? Please explain. (Page 884, Program Budget) (NUH)
4. The following relate to CBS-8915 FOG Recycling and Composting at the Organics Processing Facility: (Page 861, Program Budget) (TP)
  - a. Was it premature for the County to purchase the decanting equipment in FY 2025 when the design, permitting, and construction of the cement slab, electrical work, and renovations will not happen until FY 2027? Please explain.
  - b. Where is the decanting equipment currently being stored and if there is a warranty, how long is it for?
  - c. Has the compost operations service contract been drafted? Is there a target date in FY 2026 when this will go out to bid?
5. The following relate to CBS-5504 Hāna Landfill Office Trailer and Photovoltaic Expansion and CBS-8394 Prefabricated Building with Solar Power at Central Maui Landfill: (Pages 867 & 888, Program Budget) (TP)

- a. Why did the Department choose to go with modular or prefabricated buildings instead of the traditional stick-built construction for these projects?
  - b. It appears that the anticipated life expectancy for these buildings is 20 years. Would this require another replacement in 20 years or could renovations to the buildings increase its life expectancy?
6. The following relate to CBS-9479 Lānaʻi Landfill Office Trailer Replacement and CBS-5497 Molokai Landfill Scalehouse Replacement: (Pages 878 & 880, Program Budget) (TP)
  - a. What will the office trailer and scalehouse be replaced with? Would it be a modular or prefabricated building similar to CBS-5504 and CBS-8394?
  - b. It appears that the life expectancy for these structures is 20 years. Would this require another replacement in 20 years or could renovations to the structure increase its life expectancy?
7. The following relate to CBS-9508 Collection and Materials Management Infrastructure for Recycling in West Maui: (Pages 238 & 898, Program Budget)
  - a. Is the \$2,150,000 United States Environmental Protection Agency grant secured or proposed? (TP)
  - b. The project description notes that the County will acquire two “strategically located” parcels. Please provide the parcels’ location and Tax Map Keys and explain the Department’s criteria for determining the location. (TP)
  - c. Are there specific land use changes that are required or could land use entitlements be completed after parcel acquisition? (TP)
  - d. Provide a timeline for the parcel acquisitions. (YLS)

### **Appendix A, Part I**

1. In FY 2027, the Department is no longer receiving the EPA State and Tribal Assistance Grant. Has the Department completed design and permitting for new R-1 water distribution lines in North Kīhei using STAG grant funds? Please provide a project update. (Page 217, Program Budget) (TP)
2. The Department is proposed to receive a State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (Air Curtain Burner) grant for \$200,000. Please describe what an "air curtain burner" is and how it will be used. Where will this be stored? (Page 250, Program Budget) (TP)

### **Appendix B**

1. For Account 3736, Highway Beautification Fund, please elaborate on the administrative fee for "litter removal" and when this fee is applied. How much has the Department collected from this fee? (Page 11) (KB)
2. For Account 3433, Molokai Landfill, please explain why Molokai is subject to a \$40 greenwaste disposal fee. (Page 9) (KB)
3. How often are 96-gallon refuse carts replaced? What is the main reason for replacement? How often is the replacement fee charged to the property owner? Do carts still have a 10-year warranty? If so, how many carts are replaced by the manufacturer each year? (Page 9) (KB) (YLS)

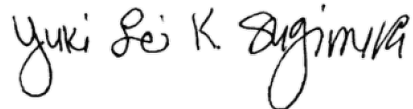
May I also request that you restate each question followed by your corresponding response. Include any attachments or exhibits. Please ensure your response is clear and legible by using a minimum 12-point font throughout so Committee members and the public can easily read the document once it is posted.

To ensure efficient processing, please duplicate the coding in the subject line above for easy reference.

Mr. Shayne Agawa  
April 4, 2026  
Page 12

Thank you for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact me or 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).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei K. Sugimura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

bfed:2027bgt:260401aem01:jpp

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

## BFED Committee

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**From:** BFED Committee  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 4, 2026 3:27 PM  
**To:** 'Shayne Agawa'  
**Cc:** 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; 'Lesley Milner'; 'Kristina Cabbat'; 'Tiare P. Horner'; shirley.blackburn@co.maui.hi.us; 'Janina Agapay'; 'michael.petersen@co.maui.hi.us'; 'Nadine Orikasa'  
**Subject:** PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (EM-2)  
**Attachments:** (EM-2) Correspondence to Environmental Management 04-04-2026.pdf