

April 22, 2025

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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: **COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING ON THE FISCAL YEAR 2026  
BUDGET** (BFED-1)

On April 17, 2025, the Council held a public hearing in the Council Chamber and on Teams regarding the proposed FY 2026 Budget, which also served as the Kahului and Wailuku-Waihe'e-Waikapū residency areas' evening meeting. The public hearing was called to order at 6:04 p.m. and adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

The Council received oral testimony from 57 people in support of funding for a variety of organizations, programs, and projects.

Twelve people testified in support of Maui Economic Development Board, Inc. and STEMworks Hawai'i.

One person testified in support of improvements to Coach Spencer Shiraishi Memorial Pool.

Twelve people testified in support of environmental, cultural, and historic preservation.

Six people testified in support of programs to train youth on automotive mechanics.

Six people testified in support of Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.'s BEST Reintegration program. Five other people testified in support of other MEO programs.

Five people testified in support of Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui.

Six people testified in support of other youth and family programs.

Four people testified in support of housing initiatives.

The full list of testifiers is as follows:

1. Austin Nishida – Baldwin High School automotive program
2. Lakota Kamaka – Baldwin High School automotive program
3. La‘akea Wells – MEO Youth Services
4. Megan Medley – MEDB and STEMworks Hawai‘i
5. Malia Gaspar - MEDB and STEMworks Hawai‘i
6. Lauren Andaya - MEDB and STEMworks Hawai‘i; improvements to Coach Spencer Shiraishi Memorial Pool
7. Ryli Fukushima - MEDB and STEMworks Hawai‘i
8. Eliana Viernes - MEDB and STEMworks Hawai‘i
9. Quinn Takatani - MEDB and STEMworks Hawai‘i
10. Jayson Acoba - MEDB and STEMworks Hawai‘i
11. Andrea Taganap - MEDB and STEMworks Hawai‘i
12. Aleizay Angel - MEDB and STEMworks Hawai‘i
13. Keani Kina - MEDB and STEMworks Hawai‘i
14. Bryce Carvalho - MEDB and STEMworks Hawai‘i
15. Dezmond Seegmiller – Maui High School automotive program
16. Davey Arias - Maui High School automotive program
17. Jailey Tabon - Maui High School automotive program
18. Darnell Akima - Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui
19. Tytan Castillo - MEDB and STEMworks Hawai‘i
20. Sherlynn Kaniho – Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui
21. Makana Anzai - Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui
22. Wai Taufa - Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui
23. Kelly Maluo-Pearson - Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui
24. Breeze Carvalho - Malama Family Recovery Center
25. Krystle Aikala - Malama Family Recovery Center
26. Debbie Mahuna – Ka‘ahumanu Church restoration
27. Sara Sugidono – Maui Nui Marine Resource Council
28. David Daly – MEO Business Development Center
29. Nolan Clark - Maui Nui Marine Resource Council
30. Marlynn Tanji - Hale Mahaolu’s Homeownership/Housing Counseling Program
31. Liz Yannell - Hui O Ka Wai Ola
32. Edeluisa Baguio-Larena - Maui Family Support Services, Inc.
33. Terah Tsuyako Summers - Hawai‘i Keiki: Healthy & Ready to Learn Program
34. Deb Marois - Ho‘oikaika Partnership
35. Connie Meekhoff - Ho‘oikaika Partnership
36. Mary Smith – MEO Head Start

37. Kameaiomakamae Smith – MEO Head Start
38. Kari Auld – MEO Head Start
39. Uakea Dela Rosa – MEDB automotive pathways
40. David Whitney – Oni Foundation
41. Tiare Escobar - MEO Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST)
42. Ululani Theodore - MEO Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST)
43. Jennifer Berberian - MEO Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST)
44. Matthew Momoa - MEO Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST)
45. Manuel Luera - MEO Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST)
46. Uilani Ah Chan - MEO Being Empowered and Safe Together (BEST)
47. Jordan Hocker - Maui Housing Hui
48. Walter Kanamu – cultural and historic preservation
49. Clare Apana - cultural and historic preservation
50. Pomaikai Kaniaupio-Crozier – Pu‘u Kukui Watershed Preserve
51. Jen Mather – Na Hale O Maui; cultural and historic preservation
52. Alana Yurkanin - Hui O Ka Wai Ola
53. Jeremy Elliott-Engel – University of Hawai‘i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience
54. Jacky Takakura - Classification and compensation study for positions within HGEA Bargaining Units 3, 4, and 13
55. Stoph Kasak – Maui Tenants and Workers Association
56. Lucienne de Naie – youth and environmental programs
57. Tom Croly – mahalo

For questions on the public hearing, please contact OCS staff (David Raatz at ext. 7664 or Richelle Kawasaki at ext. 7137).

If you have any questions on the FY 2026 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.