

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-04-20 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 04-20-26 09:00

eComments Report

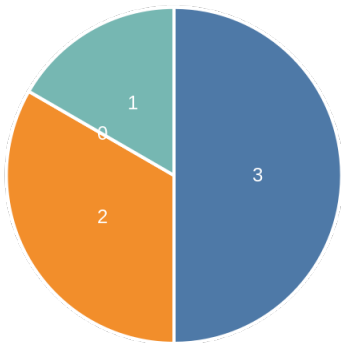
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-04-20 9:00 AM	04-20-26 09:00	2	6	3	2	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment

Support (50%) Oppose (33%) Neutral (0%)
No Response (16%)



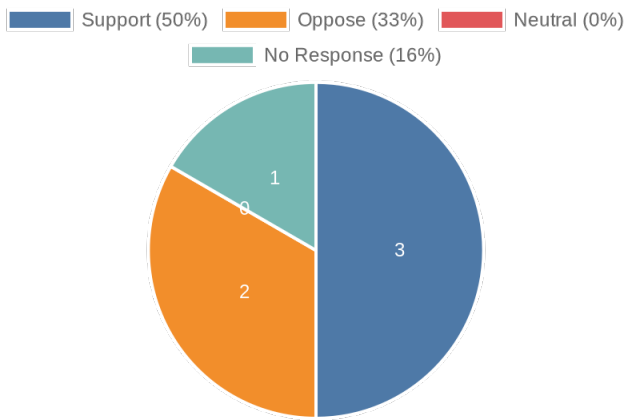
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-04-20 9:00 AM
04-20-26 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	4	3	1	0
BFED-1 PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)	2	0	1	0

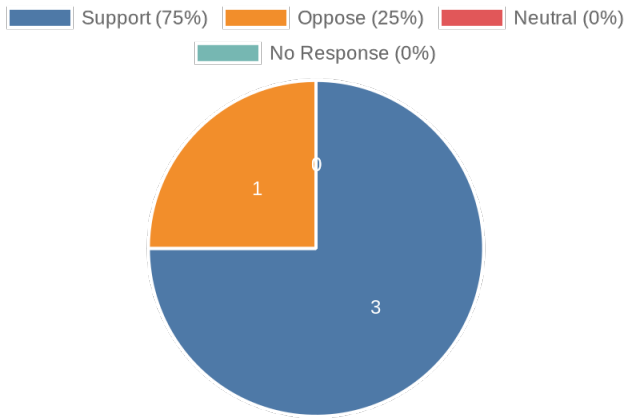
Sentiments for All Agenda Items

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Overall Sentiment



Travis Liggett

Location:

Submitted At: 9:28am 04-20-26

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

April 20, 2026

Aloha Chair and Budget Committee Members,

I am writing again to refile a proposed FY 2027 budget amendment that advances a simple, integrated strategy to wastewater compliance: stop investing in litigation of the Lahaina WWRF NPDES matter by accepting a real nature-based compliance solution, accelerate County UV disinfection infrastructure, and reserve public funds for core municipal obligations.

First, it shifts the County from NPDES litigation to implementation at the Lahaina WWRF with a home-grown, native stream limu-based nutrient polishing solution. Rather than continuing to expend funds contesting the hard-won effluent quality improvements of the 2020 SCOTUS decision, the amendment supports a structured, performance-based compliance pathway that preserves all existing Total Nitrogen limits and achieves them through phased, verifiable deployment. A two-page filing accepts the plan if DOH does.

Second, it recognizes that the Ma'alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System is better suited to private philanthropic delivery rather than public capital allocation. Kai Action Institute 501(c)(3) is specifically structured to complete that project through non-taxpayer funding, allowing the County to prioritize immediate compliance infrastructure.

Third, it redirects those funds to accelerate CBS-1169, expanding Maui North Shore UV disinfection capacity at a municipal scale and advancing R-1 effluent standards that directly protect public health and nearshore waters.

In short, the amendment realigns wastewater spending to stop waste on litigation, invests in proven municipal

disinfection, and enables philanthropic delivery of non-municipal projects, setting a path to compliance, cost control, human health and environmental protection in a single, defensible approach.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis A. Liggett, M.S.
+1 (808) 291-9934
travis.liggett@gmail.com

Maggie Batangan

Location:
Submitted At: 4:03pm 04-18-26

Aloha Chair Sugimura and Members of the BFED Committee. Please see attached testimony submitted on behalf of MEO, relating to Item BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for the County of Maui.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Scott Crawford

Location:
Submitted At: 6:28pm 04-16-26

Aloha Chair Sugimura and Budget Committee Members,

In my role as Maui Marine Director for The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra, I serve as an ex officio member of the County's Conservation Planning Committee.

As you may be aware, the Committee was established in 2018 and was tasked in with preparing a "greenprint" for Maui County, a long-term conservation planning tool to help guide the use of the Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund. However, the Committee has struggled to meet regularly and make progress toward this goal and has twice extended the deadline to produce the greenprint plan.

At a meeting last year, the Committee discussed this lack of progress and concluded a major barrier is the lack dedicated staff. It was mentioned at that time that perhaps CM Sinenci could introduce a budget amendment to provide some staff capacity to support the Committee. While I defer to those better versed in the available mechanisms, I wanted to raise the issue to the Council in hope that you will consider this in your current budget deliberations.

The other budget item that was discussed to support the work of Committee is to hire a consultant with expertise in greenprint development to assist the County with this process. This is the intention of the Committee members, as I understand, and is recognized as the only way that a professional and useful greenprint plan will be developed in a reasonable time frame. In speaking with Budget Director Milner, she indicated a budget amendment could be done later once the Committee had the chance to meet further. I also recognize a budget amendment takes time and effort, and if it is included in the FY27 budget it may move the process along more quickly.

In consulting with some resources who have worked on greenprint plans for other locations, they have provided an estimate of \$200K - \$250K for the County to consider for a contract in the FY27 budget. While the cost of such a plan can vary greatly depending on the scope and depth, this would provide support for the stakeholder process within the committee, community engagement with a cultural component, and a final product with interactive features. (A barebones process could be done for as little as \$150K; a more robust process with more depth of community engagement and more features in the final product could range up to \$350K.)

(Please note that TNC does not intend to bid on the greenprint contract; but we do intend to provide resources and expertise to support the process.)

I encourage you consider including funding for staff and contracting for the Conservation Planning Committee in the FY27 budget, and I'm happy to provide information for questions you may have about the greenprint process.

Mahalo,

Scott Crawford
Maui Marine Director
The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra

Edward Codelia

Location:

Submitted At: 7:15pm 04-14-26

Enough is enough.

Maui residents are watching their government struggle to perform its most basic responsibilities while millions of dollars continue to flow out through grants, subsidies, and handouts to nonprofits, organizations, and special interests. Meanwhile the people who actually fund this government—the residents and taxpayers of Maui County—are left dealing with rising costs, failing infrastructure, crime, slow permitting, and departments that can barely keep up with their core duties.

Ask a simple question: when was the last time you saw an ordinary resident stand in front of the council asking for taxpayer money to pay their bills, tax-free? It doesn't happen. Working families on Maui handle their responsibilities every day without subsidies or special treatment. Yet government seems far more comfortable writing checks to organizations than fixing the systems it directly controls.

The county's responsibility is not to function as a grant-distribution agency. Its responsibility is to run the government—public safety, roads, drainage, permitting, planning, infrastructure, and the departments residents rely on every single day. Those systems should be functioning at a high level before taxpayer money is dispersed elsewhere.

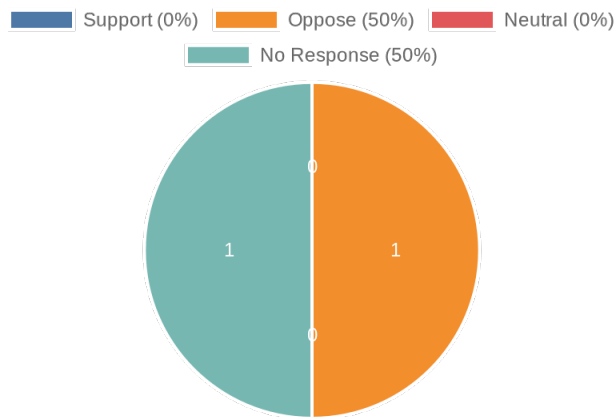
At the same time, residents are being asked to trust leadership despite a record that raises serious concerns. We have seen leadership failures, rising public safety questions, and a government structure that often appears more focused on messaging and programs than on competence and results. Accountability matters, and public officials should always be prepared to answer for the outcomes under their watch.

If Maui residents want things to change, the first step is showing up, paying attention, and demanding accountability. Government should serve the people of this island first—not political priorities, not press releases, and not a network of organizations funded by public money.

Support the departments you are responsible for. Fix the systems that are failing residents. Focus on competence and results.

And if leaders cannot do that, they should step aside and allow people who will.

Overall Sentiment



BFED Committee

Location:

Submitted At: 7:43am 04-21-26

Testimonies received from BFED Committee

Edward Codelia

Location:

Submitted At: 6:01pm 04-16-26

Testimony Opposing the FY-2027 Budget Structure Related to Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT)

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

April 20, 2026

Chair Sugimura and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2027 budget, specifically the increasing reliance on Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) revenue as a funding source for new permanent programs and revolving funds.

At the same time this budget structure is being proposed, Maui County is actively pursuing policies that will significantly reduce the number of visitor accommodations operating on this island. Bill 9 proposes the phased removal of thousands of vacation rental units currently operating in apartment districts. Those units are part of the economic base that generates Transient Accommodations Tax revenue.

This creates a fundamental fiscal contradiction.

On one hand, the County is proposing to dedicate portions of TAT revenue to new programs, including environmental, climate, and other revolving funds that will require ongoing financial support. On the other hand, the County is simultaneously advancing land-use policy that reduces the number of accommodations that

generate that revenue in the first place.

Budgets must be built on stable and predictable revenue assumptions. When government creates permanent spending commitments tied to a revenue stream that it is actively shrinking through policy decisions, the result is predictable: either the programs will become underfunded or the burden will eventually shift onto local taxpayers through other forms of taxation.

Residents should be very concerned about this structure. Tourism taxes are often politically described as “visitor-funded,” but when tourism revenue declines, the programs that depend on those funds do not simply disappear. They are typically maintained through property taxes, fees, or other local revenue sources.

The County should not be creating new dedicated funds that rely heavily on TAT revenue until it clearly demonstrates how those revenues will remain stable in the face of major structural changes to the visitor accommodation market.

At a minimum, before expanding programs tied to tourism tax revenue, the Council should require a transparent fiscal analysis addressing several questions:

How much Transient Accommodations Tax revenue currently comes from the visitor units affected by Bill 9?

What is the projected loss of revenue if those units leave the visitor market?

What portion of that demand will realistically shift to hotels or resort districts?

How will the County fund the programs proposed in this budget if tourism tax revenue declines?

Without answering these questions, the current budget proposal appears to expand spending commitments while ignoring the long-term stability of the revenue source that is expected to fund them.

Responsible budgeting requires aligning policy decisions with financial reality. At present, the proposed FY-2027 budget does not appear to reconcile those two things.

For these reasons, I urge the Council to reconsider the expansion of programs funded by Transient Accommodations Tax revenue until a clear, transparent, and realistic fiscal analysis is presented to the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Edward Codelia, Maui Resident

BFED Committee

From: Scott Crawford <scott.crawford@TNC.ORG>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 8:00 AM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Shane M. Sinenci; Jordan K. Molina; Jody K. Yoshida; Lesley.Milner@mauicounty.us; Elizabeth Benyshek
Subject: FY27 Budget funding for Conservation Planning Committee
Attachments: TNC Testimony Maui County Budget Committee 2026-0420 re Conservation Planning Committee.pdf

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

Aloha Chair Sugimura and Budget Committee Members,

I am attaching testimony to the BFED Committee, re support for the County's Conservation Planning Committee.

This testimony has also been submitted via the eComment function for the April 20 BFED Committee meeting.

Mahalo for your consideration.

--

Scott Crawford

Maui Marine Director | The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra

Email: scott.crawford@tnc.org

Phone: (808) 281-2021



**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Commenting on Proposed FY27 Budget
Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee
April 20, 2026 at 9:00 am
via Videoconference on Teams**

Aloha Chair Sugimura and Budget Committee Members,

In my role as Maui Marine Director for The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra, I serve as an *ex officio* member of the County's Conservation Planning Committee.

As you may be aware, the Committee was established in 2018 and was tasked in with preparing a "greenprint" for Maui County, a long-term conservation planning tool to help guide the use of the Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation fund. However, the Committee has struggled to meet regularly and make progress toward this goal and has twice extended the deadline to produce the greenprint plan.

At a meeting last year, the Committee discussed this lack of progress and concluded a major barrier is the lack dedicated staff. It was mentioned at that time that perhaps CM Sinenci could introduce a budget amendment to provide some staff capacity to support the Committee. While I defer to those better versed in the available mechanisms, I wanted to raise the issue to the Council in hope that you will consider this in your current budget deliberations.

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The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra

April 16, 2026

Page 2

a final product with interactive features. (A barebones process could be done for as little as \$150K; a more robust process with more depth of community engagement and more features in the final product could range up to \$350K.)

(Please note that TNC does not intend to bid on the greenprint contract; but we do intend to provide resources and expertise to support the process.)

I encourage you consider including funding for staff and contracting for the Conservation Planning Committee in the FY27 budget, and I'm happy to provide information for questions you may have about the greenprint process.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Scott Crawford
Maui Marine Director

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 84,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and 18 managed areas and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.

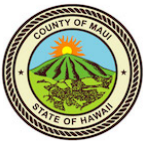
BFED Committee

From: Maui_County Council_mailbox
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 8:52 AM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Michele Lincoln
Subject: FW: FY2027 Park Grant Request
Attachments: Alamihi Fishpond Park David Malo MemorialDocument_20250922_0001.pdf; Park Color Coded Satellite View.pdf

Aloha BFED,

Forwarding the below email from the county.council@mauicounty.us inbox for your processing.

Thank you,



Support Section

County of Maui | Office of Council Services
Email: county.council@mauicounty.us
Phone: (808) 270-7838 | Fax: (808) 270-7686

From: Michele Lincoln <lincolnmichele@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 8:44:35 AM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii
To: Maui_County Council_mailbox <county.council@mauicounty.us>
Subject: FY2027 Park Grant Request

Aloha,

Thank you for listening to the voices of Lahaina's community regarding the FY2027 budget. There is a lot of need for financial assistance with limited funding. In view of that, I appreciate your willingness to allocate some funding for the development of the park parcels promised in the settlement agreement.

In August 2025, the finalization of the Kahoma Village settlement agreed to county parks in the Mala Wharf area and adjacent to Kahoma Village. Kahoma Village was able to rebuild at lightning quick speed. In addition to a grant amount that you deem appropriate, please give the Department of Parks and Recreation permission to expedite the process with SMA waivers, permits, and the like that was afforded Kahoma Village's rebuilding.

I will include two attachments with information. It is not necessary to read everything but please open each one to see where the parcels are located and the features promised for the parks.

Due to the parcels located on both sides of Front Street, I would like to identify the parks by the history that happened there:

David Malo Memorial Park TMK (2) 4-5-008:008 parcel adjacent to Kahoma Village.

'Alamihi Fishpond Park TMK (2) 4-5-004:063, TMK (2) 4-5-004:011, TMK (2) 4-5-004:012 parcels between Mala Wharf and Jodo Mission.

Thank you for your efforts to include a grant for the development of these parcels for public parks in FY2027 budget.

Mahalo,

Michele Lincoln

(808) 385-3157

September 22, 2025

Aloha Maui County Parks and Recreation Department,

We crossed the finish line at the Maui Planning Commission meeting on August 26, 2025, with a settlement agreement that includes the County to use its best efforts to create, develop, and maintain parks in the areas around Mala Wharf and Kahoma Village subdivision. It is exciting to see the area being cleaned up preparing the way for the park. This shows good faith efforts by the County to make good on its promises of "Diligent Pursuit of Parks."

Now we get to start planning the next phase of the parks. I have included the main pages of the settlement for your reference as related to the park development.

Until the parks are officially named, I will refer to the three parcels located by the Mala Wharf restrooms as the 'Alamihi Fishpond Park. The parcel adjacent to Kahoma Village will be referred to as the David Malo Memorial Park.

I have included a map with some suggestions for the park's features that were submitted to the Maui Planning Commission. Of course, they are only ideas based on the history that happened on those parcels. The overall mission is to make up for the loss of the 6-acre park and preservation of the history that happened there.

Included are a few pages from "A Cultural Overview of the Kahoma Stream Flood Control Project." It highlights the 'Alamihi Fishpond and David Malo's LCA3702 history of the area. Perhaps the environment impact statement from the Kahoma Village subdivision could expedite this stage of development as it would encompass the area. Could the Kahoma Village waiver of SMA approval before building be applied to the park's development?

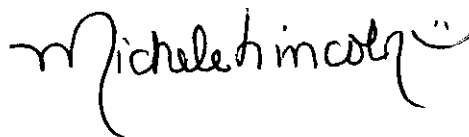
I look forward to working together to develop the parks as outlined in the mediation agreement.

Mahalo,

Michele Lincoln

(808) 385-3157

lincolnmichele@yahoo.com

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Lincoln" with a small smiley face at the end.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement") is made this 5th day of March, 2025, between the PROTECT AND PRESERVE KAHOMA AHUPUAA ASSOCIATION, an unincorporated association, MICHELE LINCOLN, MARK ALLEN, LINDA ALLEN, CONSTANCE B. SUTHERLAND (collectively referred to as the "Intervenors"), and the COUNTY OF MAUI and its MAUI PLANNING COMMISSION (collectively referred to as the "County"), and SCD KAHOMA VILLAGE, LLC, a Hawaii limited liability company (hereinafter, "SCD").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2012, Stanford Carr Development, LLC, on behalf of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc., submitted an Application for a Special Management Area Use Permit ("SMA Application") to the Department of Planning of the County of Maui (the "Planning Department") for the Kahoma Village 201-H affordable housing project and related improvements (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, Stanford Carr Development, LLC has assigned its rights relating to the development of the Project to SCD; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2014, the Intervenors filed a Petition to Intervene (the "Petition") with respect to the SMA Application; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2014, the Maui Planning Commission (the "Commission") held a hearing on the Petition and the SMA Application, wherein the Commission denied the Petition and granted Special Management Area Use Permit SM1-2012/0007 (the "SMA Permit"); and

WHEREAS, the Intervenors appealed the Commission's decision on the Petition and the SMA Permit to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, which denied the Intervenors' appeal on June 19, 2015; and

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2020, the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals vacated the Circuit Court's decision, holding that the Intervenors had demonstrated standing to intervene in the SMA Permit proceedings and that the Commission was required to make findings on the Project's consistency with HRS §205A-26(2)(C); and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2021, the Hawaii Supreme Court upheld the Intermediate Court of Appeals' decision and remanded the matter back to the Commission for further proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Project was completed, and the SMA Permit closed-out, by the time the Hawaii Supreme Court issued its decision; and

WHEREAS, the matter is currently going through the contested case hearing process; and

WHEREAS, central to the contested case hearing is whether the SMA Application conforms with the Open Space and Project District Designations in the West Maui Community Plan, which included a requirement for 6 acres of park land to be located within the Project area; and

WHEREAS, with the support of the parties, the County initiated an amendment to the West Maui Community Plan (the "CPA"), so that the Project conforms to the provisions contained in the West Maui Community Plan; and

WHEREAS, the CPA was approved on December 23, 2024 through Ordinance No. 5748; and

WHEREAS, certain lands have been identified by the parties for development as park and/or parking space; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to fully and finally settle all matters related to the Petition by way of this Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties jointly agree as follows:

1. Amendment to the West Maui Community Plan. The parties agree that with the CPA's deletion of the 6-acre park requirement for the project district where the Project is located, the Project conforms to the West Maui Community Plan.

2. Application and Approval of SMA Permit and Withdrawal of Petition to Intervene. Within thirty (30) days of the execution of this Agreement, the Planning Department shall submit a request to the Commission to reconvene and continue the hearing on the SMA Application for the Project. The Planning Department shall also submit a staff report to the Commission recommending approval of the SMA Permit and providing that as said SMA Permit was previously granted, it should again be approved, but said approval should specifically include a provision that the Project is consistent with the West Maui Community Plan. No later than at the time of the hearing by the Commission, the Intervenors shall withdraw their Petition and any other opposition to the Project and shall support the granting of the SMA Permit.

All of the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be contingent upon the Commission's granting of the SMA Permit upon terms and conditions acceptable to SCD and should said approval not be obtained, the parties agree that the Intervenors shall be allowed to intervene in said hearing on the SMA Application.

3. Diligent Pursuit of Parks. The County will use its best efforts to create, develop, and maintain parks and/or parking on the following parcels:

a. That certain parcel of land owned by the County containing approximately 2.76 acres and identified by the tax map key designation TMK No. (2) 4-5-008:008 ("Parcel 8"), but limited to those areas mauka of Front Street which are not encumbered by United States Army Corps of Engineers easements along the Kahoma Stream; and

b. That certain parcel of land owned by the State of Hawaii and controlled and managed by the County pursuant to Executive Order No. 1314 (1949) containing approximately 0.5492 acres and identified by the tax map key designation TMK No. (2) 4-5-004:011 ("Parcel 11"); and

c. That certain parcel of land owned by the County containing approximately 2.468 acres and identified by the tax map key designation TMK No. (2) 4-5-004-012 (por.) ("Parcel 12"); and

d. That certain parcel of land owned by the State of Hawaii and controlled and managed by the County pursuant to Executive Order No. 3206 (1983) containing approximately 17,720 square feet and identified by the tax map key designation TMK No. (2) 4-5-004:063 ("Parcel 63").

The County will make its best efforts to landscape the park areas and consult with the Intervenor in obtaining community support for historical markers, signage and other park amenities such as covered play area for all ages and abilities and covered tables and a memorial to David Malo as permitted by law. The County also will consider additional park spaces as part of the rebuilding of Lahaina.

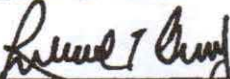
4. SCD Contribution. SCD shall contribute a total of EIGHTY THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (USD \$80,000.00), with SEVENTY THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (USD \$70,000.00) donated to a 501(c)(3)-approved non-profit charity organization (the "Non-Profit Charity") chosen by the Intervenor for the benefit of West Maui, a portion of which is to be used to design and develop park space in the Lahaina district, including but not limited to development of the parcels identified in this Agreement, and TEN THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (USD \$10,000.00) payable to the Lance D. Collins Attorney Client Trust Account. These contributions shall be made within fourteen (14) days of the Commission's granting of the SMA Permit upon terms and conditions acceptable to SCD, provided that the Intervenor shall provide in writing to SCD the name and mailing address of the Non-Profit Charity within seven (7) days of the execution of this Agreement.

5. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Each party in this matter shall bear its own attorneys' fees and costs.

6. Breach of Agreement. The parties agree that if any party shall breach this Agreement, the non-breaching party may pursue legal proceedings in the Second Circuit Court to enforce the terms of this Agreement. In this event, the prevailing party shall be awarded its reasonable expenses sustained on account of such action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

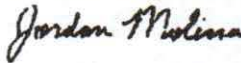
7. Instruments of Further Assurance. The parties agree to execute and deliver any and all further instruments and documents, if necessary, and to take such action as may be reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement.

COUNTY OF MAUI:

By  Date: 3-5-25
RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Its Mayor

By 
MARCY MARTIN
Its Director of Finance

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

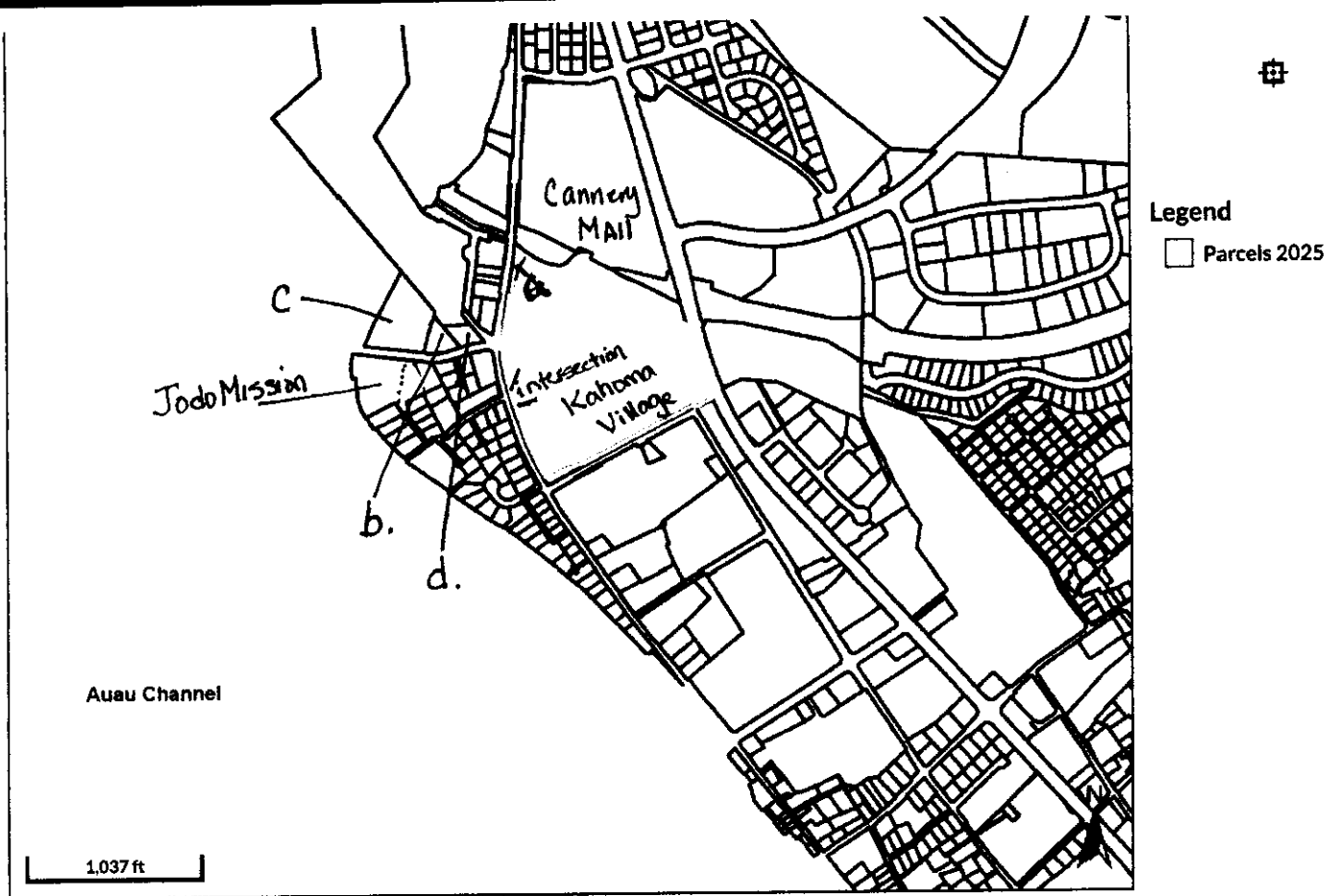
 Digitally signed by Jordan Molina, Director of Public Works
Date: 2025.02.26 10:22:35 -10'00'

JORDAN MOLINA
Director of Public Works


PATRICK MCCALL
Director of Parks and Recreation

**APPROVED AS TO
FORM AND LEGALITY:**


VICTORIA J. TAKAYESU
Corporation Counsel
County of Maui



Protect and Preserve Kahoma Ideas for Park Spaces

Parcel a) Memorial honoring David Malo with a replica of his tomb, which is located above the “L” overlooking Lahaina. Historical signage with his likeness or a bronze bust along with his accomplishments and things he penned and spoke. Include some parking spaces to exclusively access this memorial park and some benches for reflection and enjoyment. This memorial could go on one of the other parcels, but this area is LCA 3702, which was David Malo’s homestead.

Parcel b) and d) are near the public restrooms and showers. A covered playground would be nice in this area with nearby access to restrooms. It is also a good way for parents and caretakers to bribe their children to leave the beach, shower off, and play in the playground closer to the parking lot for a “clean get away.” It would also be a nice place for some picnic tables.

c) This parcel is the largest with access from the Jodo Mission side and Mala Boat Ramp side. It was part of the royal ‘Alamihi Fishpond and is adjacent to the cemetery. This space would be ideal to have a walking pathway with historical signage talking about the fishpond, the battle between Kamehameha the Great and Maui’s high chief, the abundant food source this ahupua’a produced, the capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii, and more recent history of the plantation era pineapple and sugar cane industry and cannery. Then Mala Pier’s glory days built quickly for war time efforts. Research other important historical findings of the area and include those as well.

Envirosigns Interpretive Solutions makes signs for the Lahaina Restoration Foundation and has many choices and experts to help create a historical walk to remember.

If other parcels in the area become available for sale due to rebuilding setback restrictions, it would be nice to consider them for additional space to make up for the loss of the 6-acre park.

TC
423
• P33
1979b
EC

A Cultural History Overview of the Kahoma Stream Flood Control Project, Lahaina, Maui and the Ma'alaea Small Boat Harbor Project, Ma'alaea, Maui, Hawaii

By
Pauline King Joerger
Michael W. Kaschko

Prepared for the
Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division
Department of the Army
Contract No. DACW89-79-C-0012

September 1979

Hawaii Marine Research, Inc., Honolulu

DISCUSSION OF THE SITES

MALA WHARF

Historical Overview. Adjacent to Kahoma Stream and bisected by the Mala Wharf approach road are the remains of an inland fishpond called 'Alamihi. Situated in the ahupua'a (ancient land division) of 'Alamihi, the pond may have been named 'Alamihi in historic times and may have had a different name in ancient times. Shortly before Western contact (1778) 'Alamihi was the site of a battle between two great chiefs, Kauhi'aimokuakama and Kamehameha-nui (known also, as Kamehameha I and Kamehameha the Great). Kauhi, the high chief of Maui, was fighting against the authority of Kamehameha-nui. During the rebellion Kauhi "seized all the food at 'Alamihi ahupua'a" (Kamakau, 1961:73). According to Kamakau, enough food was collected to support the needs of his army for a march across the island (Kamakau, 1961:73).

In the Great Mahale (land division) of 1848 Kamehameha III kept the ahupua'a of 'Alamihi, including the fishpond, as Crown Land (Indices, 1929:26; Nahaolelua, Report). Mauka (inland) of the pond and adjacent to it, David Malo (c. 1793-1853), a well-known Hawaiian historian, was awarded a parcel of land approximately eleven acres in area (Indices, 1929:208; LCA No. 3702). This was one of several parcels owned by Malo. Malo's parcel extended from the fishpond

mauka and across the Ka'anapali Road. It was reported by Kamakau (c. 1866) that there was a breadfruit tree "on which the first victim of the battle was laid." The tree was "near the house of David Malo" (Kamakau, 1961:73-74). Moreover Inez Ashdown stated that the lower part of Kahoma Stream was in fact called "Kapa'ulu," or enclosure of breadfruit, and it was from Kapa'ulu that fresh water was fed into 'Alamihi fishpond (Ashdown, Personal Communication).

Thus, 'Alamihi fishpond was part of an important battle in the latter part of the 18th Century between two great chiefs (ali'i nui) and at least one of the breadfruit trees of the area was still standing in the 1860s.

Kamehameha III and Malo were the only two recorded land owners in 'Alamihi aupua'a for some time.

The fishpond itself was mentioned in government records from time to time. P. Nahaolelua, governor of Maui, reported to the King in 1853 on a survey of the area and referred to the pond and a few coconut trees (Nahaolelua, 1853). Again he reported that he had received six dollars for the fishpond apparently as rent or a fee (Nahaolelua, 1855).

By 1889 Pioneer Mill Company had entered into a 15-year lease for much of the 'Alamihi land. The area was given as nine acres (Iaukea, 1894:79). Until the revolution of 1893 which abrogated the monarchy and replaced the Kingdom of Hawaii with a provisional government, 'Alamihi Fishpond was part of the Crown Lands, the personal property of Kamehameha III and his heir, Kamehameha IV. After 1865 the Crown Lands were administered by a Board of Commissioners of Crown Lands

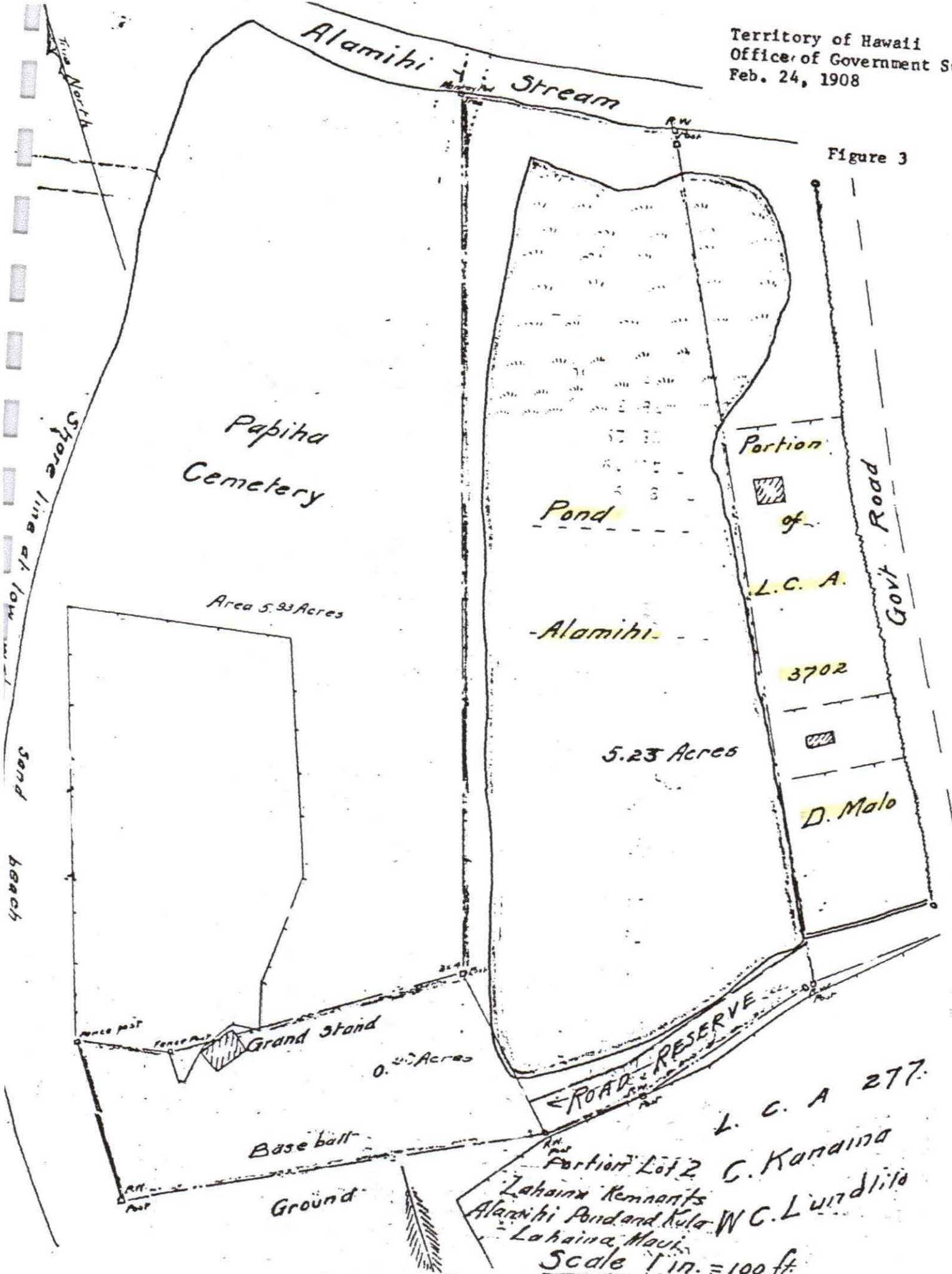
and the income from these lands given to whomever was monarch. 'Alamihi Fishpond, then, remained the property of the Hawaiian monarchy and was administered by a government agency. ★

When the Provisional Government became the Republic of Hawaii in 1894 the Crown Lands became public lands. Then, as indicated in a "Statement of Leases of Public Lands under control of Commissioners of Public Lands as of the date of 31 August 1898," the government of the Republic included the Crown Lands and 'Alamihi fishpond with that of government or public lands (Public Lands Commission, 1898:14). After the Islands were annexed by the United States in 1898, the Commissioner of Public Lands of the Territory of Hawaii reported to the Governor that about 60 acres of land and fishponds, consisting of many "small patches and remnants in and about the town of Lahaina" were all that remained of the Lahaina Crown Lands. He placed the value of the acreage at about \$6,000.

Interest in the fishpond was evinced early in the 20th Century by the Survey Department of the Territory of Hawaii. In 1908 and 1917 two surveys were made (Figures 3 and 4). The pond was described as being 5.23 acres in the earlier survey. Some changes were made to the pond on the end toward Lahaina town to accommodate a government road. By 1917 the pond had been reduced in size to 4.07 acres.

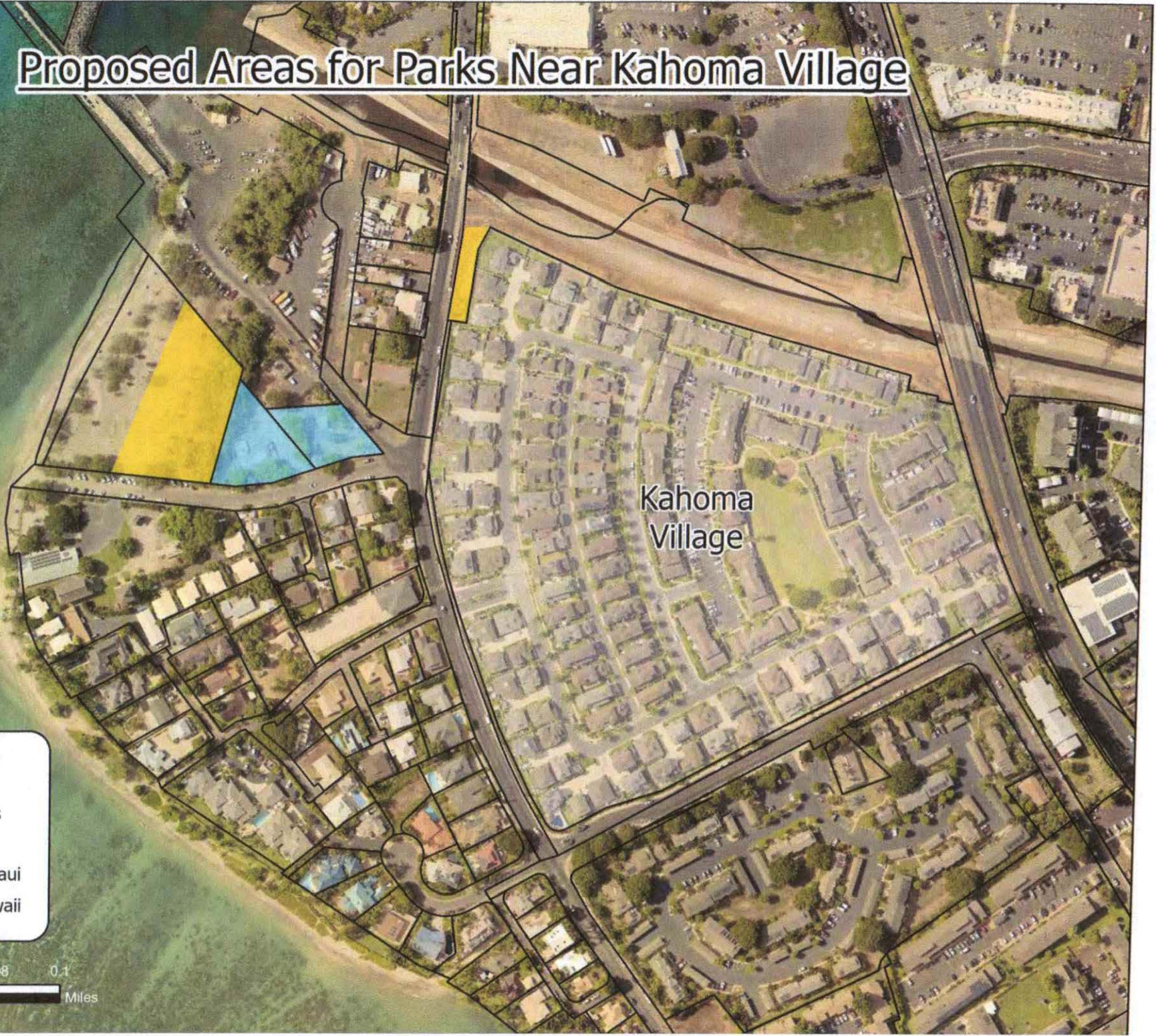
A more dramatic change occurred in the 1920s with the building of Mala Wharf. That structure was completed in 1922 and the approach road to the wharf cut diagonally across the pond dividing the pond into

Figure 3



L. C. A 277.
Partion Lot 2 C. Kanaina
Lahaina Remnants
Alamihiki Pond and Kula W.C. Lundillo
Lahaina Maui
Scale 1 in. = 100 ft.

Proposed Areas for Parks Near Kahoma Village




Kahoma Village


Exhibit 6

LEGEND

 Tax Map Keys

Parcel Owner

 County of Maui

 State of Hawaii



DATE: 4/3/2025

BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 11:10 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: FW: Lauren Aguilar Testimonial
Attachments: MFSS COUNTY SUBSIDY SAMPLE TESTIMONY EMAIL 9.18.25.docx

From: Lauren Aguilar <lauren.wayne@fourseasons.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 11:04 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Cc: MFSS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS <subsidy@mfss.org>
Subject: Lauren Aguilar Testimonial

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

Aloha,

Please find the attached testimonial on how the MFSS grant has helped my family. Please continue to support this wonderful cause!

Mahalo,
Lauren Aguilar

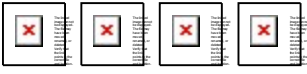
- **Contact us:**
 - **INVOICE SUBMISSION only:** fshinvoiceslanai.ig@capgemini.com. PDF format only, 1 invoice = 1 PDF. Please send invoice only once to avoid duplicate processing.
 - **COMPANY UPDATES, INQUIRIES, or FOLLOW-UPS:** fshhelpdesknam.ig@capgemini.com or call 1-866-363-8810
 - **STATEMENTS:** fshstatements.ig@capgemini.com. Sending your statements every month ensures our account with you stays current.

Lauren Aguilar
Jr. Staff Accountant - Part Time
Four Seasons Resort Lānaʻi
Voice: 808-565-2470 / Mobile: 808-457-7969
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<https://fourseasons.com/sensei>

Need Anything? Click [HERE](#) to Chat with us.





Four Seasons Resort Lānaʻi & Sensei Lānaʻi, A Four Seasons Resort Awards



Elevate your experience. Travel via Oahu on [Lānaʻi Air](#) included with all qualifying reservations arriving on or before December 31, 2024.

To: county.clerk@mauicounty.us
CC: subsidy@mfss.org
Subject: Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program

Dear County Council,

My name is Lauren Aguilar, and I am a participant in the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program for my son, Duke, who was too young to obtain funding from Preschool Open Doors. He is only 2 years old.

This program has helped my family by allowing me to keep my job, so we can afford to live on Lanai. With the rising cost of housing, groceries, and gas, this grant has been instrumental in our lives. I can't imagine what I would have done without this assistance. Finding a babysitter on Lanai is very difficult, as there are not many people on the island. I am glad Duke is going to a full-time preschool, which helps me be a good employee and consistent. I could have never been able to afford Preschool myself, considering I have 2 preschool age kids and 5 kids total.

Because of the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program, my family has been able to keep a consistent schedule and routine for our kids, which is very important in this time in their life. We get to feed our kids healthier food, since we don't have to stress about the cost of childcare. We also got to schedule a vacation to visit our family in San Diego this summer to meet Duke for the first time. We haven't left Lanai for over 3 years because it's so expensive to travel, especially with 5 kids. I'm so grateful for this program that our kids get to experience new things and see family we haven't seen in years (over ever, for Duke!). Travel opens your mind to new experiences, cultures, and lifestyles, which in turn, can change your perspective on your own life.

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

Thank you,

Lauren Aguilar

BFED Committee

From: Joseph Kutney <josephkutney@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 10:03 PM
To: Alice L. Lee; Tamara A. Paltin; Gabe Johnson; Yukilei Sugimura; Keani N. Rawlins; K. Kauanoē Batangan; Thomas M. Cook; Shane M. Sinenci
Cc: BFED Committee
Subject: Written Testimony in support of PID's Tūtū & Me Program

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

Dear Chair and Council Members,

My name is Joseph Kutney, and I am a parent with a direct connection to the Tūtū and Me program, operated by the Partners in Development Foundation, at the Makawao site. My older child previously attended the program, and my younger child is currently enrolled. Unfortunately, all four Tūtū and Me sites in Maui are scheduled to close at the end of August 2026 due to a lack of federal funding.

I respectfully ask for your support in preserving Tūtū and Me sites on Maui. This program is a lifeline for my family and many others in our community. It strengthens bonds between keiki and caregivers while grounding our children in Native Hawaiian values, culture, and a deep sense of belonging.

I am deeply concerned that the Department of Education has proposed a \$0.00 budget for the Native Hawaiian Education Program (NHEP) for fiscal year 2026–27, effectively eliminating it from the federal budget. This loss of funding is directly impacting the Tūtū and Me Traveling Preschool and is forcing the closure of all four Maui sites: Lahaina, Kahului, Makawao, and Kihei.

Without this program, families like mine lose not just access to early education, but a rare and meaningful space where generations learn together and community is built. The impact on Maui will be significant and deeply felt. Programs like this are essential in fostering resilient families and communities, and their long-term benefits far outweigh the cost of sustaining them.

I respectfully urge the County of Maui to consider allocating grant funding to sustain the Tūtū and Me program. According to the Partners in Development Foundation's published FAQs, approximately \$300,000 is required to operate each Maui site. For all four sites, the total funding needed is approximately \$1.2 million. I ask for your support in securing this funding so these vital programs can remain open and continue serving local families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, and for your continued service to our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Joseph Kutney

WRITTEN TESTIMONY

April 20, 2026

Aloha Chair and Budget Committee Members,

I am writing again to refile a proposed FY 2027 budget amendment that advances a simple, integrated strategy to wastewater compliance: stop investing in litigation of the Lahaina WWRF NPDES matter by accepting a real nature-based compliance solution, accelerate County UV disinfection infrastructure, and reserve public funds for core municipal obligations.

First, it shifts the County from NPDES litigation to implementation at the Lahaina WWRF with a home-grown, native stream limu-based nutrient polishing solution. Rather than continuing to expend funds contesting the hard-won effluent quality improvements of the 2020 SCOTUS decision, the amendment supports a structured, performance-based compliance pathway that preserves all existing Total Nitrogen limits and achieves them through phased, verifiable deployment. A two-page filing accepts the plan if DOH does.

Second, it recognizes that the Ma‘alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System is better suited to private philanthropic delivery rather than public capital allocation. Kai Action Institute 501(c)(3) is specifically structured to complete that project through non-taxpayer funding, allowing the County to prioritize immediate compliance infrastructure.

Third, it redirects those funds to accelerate CBS-1169, expanding Maui North Shore UV disinfection capacity at a municipal scale and advancing R-1 effluent standards that directly protect public health and nearshore waters.

In short, the amendment realigns wastewater spending to stop waste on litigation, invests in proven municipal disinfection, and enables philanthropic delivery of non-municipal projects, setting a path to compliance, cost control, human health and environmental protection in a single, defensible approach.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis A. Liggett, M.S.
+1 (808) 291-9934
travis.liggett@gmail.com

Proposed UV Disinfection Acceleration and Lahaina NPDES Resolution Amendment

De-appropriation. All unencumbered and unexpended funds, estimated at \$250,000, previously budgeted or allocated for legal services and related costs for the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility NPDES contested case before the Hawai'i Department of Health are hereby de-appropriated and lapsed.

Re-appropriation to CBS-1169. The sum of \$1,500,000 is hereby appropriated to the Department of Environmental Management, Wastewater Reclamation Division's CBS-1169 (Kahului Wastewater Reclamation Facility UV Disinfection Expansion), consisting of: (i) \$250,000 from subsection (1); and (ii) \$1,250,000 re-appropriated from funds previously budgeted for the Ma'alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System (MRWRS) associated with Ma'alaea Village Association (MVA). Funds shall be used to accelerate design, permitting, and implementation necessary to achieve R-1 effluent standards.

Funding Restriction. No County funds shall be expended in FY2027 for continuation or support of the Lahaina WWRF contested case unless subsequently authorized by Council.

Consistency with Resolution No. 25-121. The Council reaffirms that special counsel was retained for matters arising from the permitting process and associated legal challenges. In light of the availability of a technically supported compliance pathway, continued expenditure of funds on contested litigation shall be evaluated against the Council's duty to minimize legal costs while achieving permit compliance.

Lahaina Limu PRCAF Direction. The Council finds that a Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF), utilizing limu-based algae nutrient polishing, provides a technically supported, performance-referenced compliance pathway based on phased validation, pilot demonstration, and measured performance verification that preserves the Total Nitrogen (TN) effluent limits established under NPDES Permit No. HI 0021848 while enabling phased implementation consistent with recognized compliance schedule mechanisms under 40 C.F.R. §122.47 and EPA NPDES Permit Writers' Manual guidance, and directs the Administration to pursue this approach, and to evaluate whether continuation of the contested case remains necessary given the availability of a technically plausible compliance pathway capable of achieving the permit's TN mass limits without modification of those limits, in coordination with the Hawai'i Department of Health, with appropriate action by the Maui County Department of the Corporation Counsel to foster innovation to enhance effluent quality before ocean discharge. The Council further recognizes that this phased compliance framework reflects technical evidence developed for the administrative record in DOH Docket No. 2025-NPDES-2, including milestone-based implementation, monitoring, and verification structures consistent with 40 C.F.R. §122.47. Nothing herein shall be construed as an admission regarding the validity, feasibility, or enforceability of the contested permit conditions, but rather as a policy direction to prioritize a compliance-based resolution pathway. The Department of the Corporation Counsel is authorized to take all actions necessary to implement this direction, including filings before the Department of Health consistent with this policy.

**County of Maui
Fiscal Year 2026-2031 Capital Improvement Program**

Project Name: Wailuku-Kahului Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WWRF)
 Upgrade to R-1
 Department: Department of Environmental Management
 District: Wailuku-Kahului
 Project Type: Sewer
 Anticipated Life: 30 years



Prior Years Expend/Ench	Appr FY 2025	Ensuing FY 2026	Subsequent Years					Total 6-Year
			FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031	
0	0	0	0	1,800,000	0	18,000,000	0	19,800,000

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Design, permitting and construction to modify the Wailuku-Kahului Wastewater Reclamation Facility to produce a R-1 quality reclaimed water for the Wailuku-Kahului service area. This includes construction of ultraviolet disinfection basins, on-site storage, a pump station and all related piping and electrical to connect to the proposed force main.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

Use of reclaimed water will result in the conservation of potable water resources, preservation of brackish water resources and reduction of treated effluent discharged into injection wells.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

Department's Strategic Plan

Countywide Priority Results

Sustain Reliable Wastewater Infrastructure
 Ensure Facilities Meet Future Needs
 Provide Reliable Wastewater Service

A Suitable Public Infrastructure
 A Strong, Diversified Economy
 An Efficient, Effective, and Responsive Government
 A Prepared, Safe, and Liveable County
 A Healthy and Sustainable Community

Operating Impact Narrative

Addition of this treatment capability will require an additional position to manage the system, and extra costs for electricity and materials to operate the disinfection system and pumps.

FUNDING DETAILS

Phase Description	Fund Code	Appr	Funding Details					FY 2030	FY 2031
			FY 2026	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030		
Design	OG	0	0	0	1,800,000	0	0	0	
New Construction	GB	0	0	0	0	0	18,000,000	0	

Schedule of Activities

Activity	Start	End	Amount	Methods of Financing (Ensuing + 5 Years)					
				Funding Source					Amount
Design	09/01/2027	12/31/2030	1,800,000	General Obligation Fund					18,000,000
New Construction	09/01/2029	12/31/2030	18,000,000	Other Grant Fund					1,800,000
Total Capital Project Costs			19,800,000	Total Funding Requirements					19,800,000

Total O&M Costs 0
 Total Capital & Operating Costs 19,800,000

Submitted by Petitioner:
DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL
County of Maui
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793
Attorneys for Petitioner
COUNTY OF MAUI

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE OF HAWAI'I
HEARINGS OFFICE

County of Maui et al.,)	
Petitioners,)	DOH Docket
)	No. 2025-NPDES-2
v.)	
)	
Department of Health, State of Hawai'i,)	
Respondent.)	
_____)	

PETITIONER COUNTY OF MAUI'S NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL

Petitioner County of Maui, by and through its counsel, hereby provides notice of withdrawal of this contested case proceeding.

The County initiated this contested case to challenge the feasibility and implementation of Total Nitrogen ("TN") effluent limitations established under NPDES Permit No. HI 0021848. Those limitations require substantial reductions in nitrogen discharge, on the order of approximately ninety pounds per day relative to historical loading conditions.

Since initiation of this proceeding, the County has evaluated additional technical information regarding potential compliance pathways. That evaluation now includes consideration of a performance-referenced, phased implementation framework utilizing nutrient polishing technologies capable of achieving TN mass reduction through staged deployment, monitoring, and verification.

This type of phased compliance approach is consistent with established NPDES permitting practice, including the use of compliance schedules tied to

engineering, permitting, construction, and operational milestones where immediate attainment is not feasible.

Based on this updated posture, the County has determined that continued litigation regarding the TN limits is no longer necessary to preserve its interests, provided that a reasonable and technically grounded pathway to compliance has been identified and supported by evidence in the administrative record, subject to phased validation and performance verification.

Accordingly, the County hereby withdraws its request for contested case relief, without prejudice, and respectfully notifies the Hearings Officer that it intends to pursue compliance with the permit through administrative coordination and implementation planning rather than continued adjudication. This withdrawal shall take effect upon adoption and execution of the County of Maui Fiscal Year 2027 budget incorporating Council direction for a performance-referenced compliance pathway for the Lahaina WWRF NPDES matter, or on July 1, 2026, whichever occurs later, unless earlier accepted or acted upon by the Hearings Officer.

This withdrawal is made without admission as to the validity, feasibility, or enforceability of the contested permit conditions, and without waiver of any rights the County may have in future proceedings.

The County further notes that implementation of a phased compliance pathway will require coordination with the Department of Health and may involve subsequent permitting, approvals, or administrative actions consistent with applicable law.

DATED: _____

Respectfully submitted,

DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL
County of Maui

By: _____

Name:

Title: Deputy Corporation Counsel

Attorneys for Petitioner

COUNTY OF MAUI

Submitted by Movant:
Travis A. Liggett, M.S.
President, Kai Action Institute 501(c)(3)
info@kaiaction.org
+1 (808) 866-9320

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
STATE OF HAWAI‘I
HEARINGS OFFICE

County of Maui et al.,)	
Petitioners,)	DOH Docket No. 2025-NPDES-2
)	
v.)	Discovery complete and expert
)	reports due:
)	May 27, 2026
)	
Department of Health, State of Hawai‘i,)	Contested Case Hearing:
Respondent.)	July 20 - 31, 2026

MOTION TO ENTER TECHNICAL EVIDENCE REGARDING A PROPOSED NPDES PHASED REGULATORY COMPLIANCE ATTAINMENT FRAMEWORK (PRCAF)

I. INTRODUCTION

The Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility discharges treated effluent that travels through groundwater to Maui's nearshore coastal waters, which have experienced documented ecological degradation attributable in part to elevated nutrient loading. The current NPDES permit establishes Total Nitrogen ("TN") mass limits requiring reductions of approximately 87–92% relative to current operating conditions, reductions that cannot be achieved instantaneously through existing infrastructure.

Travis A. Liggett, M.S., President of Kai Action Institute ("Movant"), respectfully requests that the Hearings Officer incorporate into the record a proposed Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) providing technical evidence relevant to potential compliance pathways for the Total Nitrogen ("TN") mass discharge limits imposed under the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility NPDES permit. Movant is not a named party to this contested case proceeding and submits this motion to provide technical evidence relevant to potential compliance pathways for the Hearings Officer's consideration under Hawai'i Administrative Rules §11-1-37. Movant submits this motion to enter technical evidence into the record and requests that the

Hearings Officer consider this filing as evidence concerning potential compliance mechanisms, consistent with Hawai'i Administrative Rules §11-1-37 and the Hearings Officer's procedural authority.

The current NPDES permit establishes Total Nitrogen (“TN”) mass limits of 8.25 lb/day (annual average) and 13.51 lb/day (daily maximum); compared to current TN loading on the order of 105 lb/day, attaining these limits requires on the order of 90–97 lb/day of TN mass reduction (approximately 87–92%, depending on the applicable averaging period) (Appendix A, items 3–4). Achieving these reductions using existing wastewater treatment infrastructure may present significant technical and implementation challenges.

However, a technically plausible pathway exists through the phased development and deployment of an Attached Algal Treatment System (“ATS”), also referred to herein as a limu nutrient polishing system, utilizing native Hawai'i freshwater benthic macroalgae (“limu”) cultivated in engineered streambed flowways (see Appendix A).

Accordingly, Movant requests that the Hearings Officer allow evidence regarding a structured seven-year Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) to be entered into the administrative record and consider adoption of such a schedule as a potential compliance framework for achieving the permit's TN mass limits by developing emerging systems that harness native limu species to scale nature's existing solution to polishing excess nutrients from fresh surface waters in the local ecosystem.

II. FACTUAL BACKGROUND

1. Recent operating data summarized in Appendix A indicate approximately 105 lb/day of total nitrogen (TN) discharge from the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility. (See Appendix A, item 4.) The referenced loading value reflects recent operating data summarized in Appendix A and will be confirmed through updated monitoring during the Year 1 validation phase.
2. The current NPDES permit establishes an annual average TN mass limit of 8.25 lb/day and a daily maximum TN mass limit of 13.51 lb/day. (See Appendix A, item 3.)

3. Based on the foregoing, the order-of-magnitude TN mass reduction required is approximately 90–97 lb/day, depending on whether the applicable compliance basis is the permit’s daily maximum (13.51 lb/day) or annual average (8.25 lb/day) mass limit. (See Appendix A, items 3–4.)
4. Attached Algal Treatment Systems (ATS) remove dissolved nitrogen primarily through assimilation into algal biomass during photosynthetic growth; periodic harvesting exports the assimilated nitrogen from the treatment system and can support beneficial reuse pathways for harvested biomass. (See Appendix A, items 8–9 and 20.)
5. Preliminary conceptual modeling suggests that an attached algal treatment system on the order of approximately ten acres may be capable of removing roughly 90 pounds of nitrogen per day under Maui climatic conditions through algal assimilation and biomass harvesting; actual performance and required footprint are site-specific and must be verified through pilot operation and measured productivity under Lahaina WWRF effluent conditions. (See Appendix A, items 15–17 and 23.)
6. Based on the operational precedent, pilot demonstration evidence, and preliminary modeling summarized in Appendix A, ATS nutrient polishing constitutes a technically plausible pathway to reduce Lahaina WWRF TN mass loading to within the permit's TN mass limits, subject to the phased verification steps and adaptive management measures described below. (See Appendix A, items 12–17 and 23.)

III. LEGAL BASIS

Movant proposes the following structured seven-year Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) for achieving the TN daily mass limit through staged implementation of an attached limu nutrient polishing system. For clarity, “TN mass load” in this proposal means TN concentration multiplied by daily effluent flow, expressed in lb/day, and calculated using the equation set forth in Milestone 3; “required TN mass reduction” means the difference between the confirmed baseline TN mass load (to be established using updated monitoring data in Year 1) and the applicable permit TN mass limit(s).

Hearings officers in administrative contested cases may consider procedural motions and supporting technical evidence relating to compliance mechanisms, and possess authority to consider phased compliance frameworks when immediate attainment of regulatory limits requires the construction of treatment infrastructure or the development of emerging technologies. These rules authorize motions practice in contested cases before the Department of Health, including requests for procedural relief and schedule adjustments. See Hawai‘i Administrative Rules §11-1-37 (Motions) and §11-1-28 (Filing of Documents).

Hawai‘i Administrative Rules §11-1-37(a) provides that motions (other than those made during a hearing) “shall be made in writing” and “shall state the relief sought”; Hawai‘i Administrative Rules §11-1-28(f) provides that “[a]ll documents filed afterwards shall contain a certification by the party filing the document that a copy was served on the opposing party.” This motion is submitted and served consistent with those requirements.

40 CFR §122.47 authorizes the inclusion of schedules of compliance in NPDES permits where appropriate. Such schedules must require compliance as soon as possible and, where they extend beyond one year, include interim requirements and reporting. The proposed seven-year staged structure is presented as consistent with these regulatory criteria, including the use of defined interim milestones and periodic reporting. See 40 CFR §122.47(a)(1), (a)(3)–(4).

Federal guidance and permit precedent recognize that such schedules may include project development phases, construction milestones, monitoring programs, and final compliance deadlines.

Within this contested case, the Hearings Officer retains authority to consider and admit structured compliance pathway evidence into the administrative record for purposes of evaluating compliance mechanisms and the evidentiary basis presented by the parties. These authorities permit the Hearings Officer to consider evidence describing technically feasible pathways for achieving permit limits when evaluating the adequacy of compliance mechanisms within the administrative record.

Administrative precedent under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System recognizes that where compliance requires the design, permitting, construction, and startup of treatment infrastructure, a Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) tied to engineering and permitting milestones may be appropriately incorporated into permits, provided that the schedule represents the shortest reasonable time necessary to achieve compliance while maintaining measurable interim progress toward the final effluent limitation.

Guidance documents used by NPDES permit writers describe circumstances in which Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Frameworks may be incorporated into permits, and may include sequential milestones for planning, permitting, construction, and operational startup where immediate compliance is not feasible, provided that the schedule ensures steady progress toward attainment of the final effluent limitation. See U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, NPDES Permit Writers' Manual, EPA-833-K-10-001 (2010), Chapter 9. PRCAs in NPDES permits are authorized under 40 CFR §122.47, which allows phased schedules where infrastructure development is required to meet final effluent limitations.

This principle is particularly relevant here, where the TN mass limits imposed by the permit represent a level of nutrient reduction not previously required at this facility and therefore necessitate the development, demonstration, and scaling of treatment approaches that have not previously been implemented under comparable operating conditions.

The proposed phased schedule reflects the practical timeline associated with permitting, engineering design, construction, and operational startup of wastewater treatment infrastructure. The schedule anticipates completion of the limu nutrient polishing system by approximately Year 6, with a final verification year to confirm sustained compliance with the TN mass limit.

This motion seeks admission of the attached phased schedule and supporting technical summary into the contested case record as evidence to inform the Hearings Officer's evaluation of potential compliance mechanisms; it requests that the Officer

consider a viable PRCAF as an alternative to any waiver or exemption from the applicable TN effluent limitations that may be requested by the County of Maui.

Admission of this evidence will not prejudice any party's due process rights, and all parties retain the opportunity to respond, submit contrary evidence, and cross-examine experts through the contested case process.

This motion seeks admission of technical evidence relevant to compliance feasibility; it does not seek to predetermine the outcome of the permit proceeding, relax the permit's numeric TN limits, or modify permit stringency in any respect.

IV. RESPONSE TO ANTICIPATED OBJECTIONS

The County or other parties may argue that emerging technologies cannot be considered absent demonstrated full-scale implementation, or that adoption of a phased implementation framework is premature at this stage of the proceeding. Neither objection withstands scrutiny.

First, this motion does not ask the Hearings Officer to find that ATS technology will achieve the permit's TN limits. The motion asks only that evidence describing a technically plausible Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) be admitted into the record. Admission of evidence is not adoption of a result. The phased structure of the proposed milestone-based implementation program is specifically designed to require measured pilot performance before any expansion commitment is made, ensuring that full-scale deployment occurs only if and when site-specific validation supports it.

Second, NPDES phased implementation frameworks routinely incorporate technologies that have not yet been deployed at full scale at the specific facility in question. 40 CFR §122.47 authorizes staged attainment pathways precisely because meeting permit limits sometimes requires the design, permitting, construction, and startup of infrastructure that does not yet exist at the facility. Requiring prior full-scale demonstration as a precondition for considering any phased infrastructure deployment program would render the regulatory mechanism meaningless in the exact circumstances it was designed to address.

Third, the ATS technology proposed here is not experimental. Utility-scale ATS facilities have operated continuously for more than a decade in Indian River County, Florida, with documented nutrient removal performance. The technology has been reviewed and designated a Best Management Practice by the State of Maryland. The question before the Hearings Officer is not whether ATS works in principle, as operational data confirm that it does, but whether a phased, pilot-validated incremental attainment framework at this specific facility constitutes a reasonable evidentiary basis for evaluating compliance mechanisms. This motion provides exactly that foundation.

Fourth, the proposed phased implementation framework is not a request for leniency. It does not seek to modify, waive, or reduce the permit's numeric TN limits in any respect. It seeks only a structured timeline for achieving those limits through infrastructure that requires time to design, permit, and build, consistent with the framework Congress authorized in the Clean Water Act and that EPA implemented through 40 CFR §122.47.

Fifth, the Hearings Officer need not resolve the ultimate question of whether ATS will achieve full compliance in order to admit this evidence. The standard for admission is plausibility and relevance, not certainty. The operational record, pilot data, and preliminary engineering modeling submitted herewith satisfy that standard. All parties retain full due process rights to challenge, rebut, or present contrary evidence through the contested case process. Admission of this evidence prejudices no one and forecloses nothing.

V. PROPOSED PHASED REGULATORY COMPLIANCE ATTAINMENT FRAMEWORK

This proposal is presented as a potential Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) for evidentiary consideration and does not preclude evaluation of alternative treatment technologies; Movant further invites the Department of Health to consider adoption of the Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) described herein as a potential administrative model or guidance approach for evaluating staged nutrient-reduction compliance pathways in comparable NPDES permitting contexts.

The schedule reflects the practical engineering and regulatory timeline associated with wastewater treatment infrastructure, including approximately eighteen (18) months of permitting and design review for major construction phases consistent with typical wastewater infrastructure timelines; to maintain alignment with 40 CFR §122.47(a)(3), the interim milestone dates below are structured on a one-year cadence, and where any interim requirement is not readily divisible into stages within a year, progress reporting will be provided during that interval. (See 40 CFR §122.47(a)(3)(ii)–(4).) Permitting and engineering for subsequent expansion phases proceed in parallel with construction and operation of earlier phases to ensure continuous progress toward compliance.

This motion and proposed schedule do not present capital cost, operating cost, lifecycle cost, or funding-pathway analyses; those economic elements will need to be developed and supported with sourceable documentation during the proposed phased program shown in Table 1, and prior to any final decision on full-scale implementation.

Year 1: System Validation and Preliminary Engineering

- Confirm the magnitude of the TN mass reduction gap using available monitoring data
- Develop conceptual engineering design for an attached macroalgal polishing system
- Initiate pilot system design and environmental review
- Begin permitting and regulatory consultation for pilot installation
- Define and document the baseline TN mass load period, data source(s), and analytical method(s) used for TN and flow measurements, so that all milestone calculations are reproducible and traceable to underlying data
- Identify the permitting and approval pathway for pilot installation and subsequent expansions (including any environmental review requirements and any NPDES permit modification or other authorizations needed to construct and operate the ATS modules)

Table 1. Proposed Phased TN Compliance Schedule — Summary

Year	Primary Activities	Milestone	Performance Target
Year 1	Confirm TN baseline; conceptual engineering design; initiate pilot permitting	Milestone 1: Preliminary engineering complete; formal permitting review initiated	Deliverable: Written engineering report demonstrating technically plausible compliance pathway
Year 2	Finalize pilot design; initiate pilot construction	Milestone 2: Pilot module installed; operational testing commenced	Deliverable: Certificate of pilot module installation
Year 3	Pilot operation; TN monitoring; begin Phase I permitting	Milestone 3: Measurable nitrogen mass reduction documented	Rolling 3-month average TN mass reduction demonstrated using EPA-approved methods
Year 4	Phase I expansion; biomass harvest procedures established	Milestone 4: 10% of required TN mass reduction sustained	10% of required reduction sustained for 6 consecutive months
Year 5	Phase II expansion; redundancy systems implemented	Milestone 5: 25% of required TN mass reduction sustained	25% of required reduction sustained for 6 consecutive months
Year 6	Major capacity expansion; monitoring automation	Milestone 6: 50% of required TN mass reduction sustained	50% of required reduction sustained for 6 consecutive months
Year 7	Full system completion; compliance verification	Milestone 7: Full permit compliance demonstrated	12 consecutive months of sustained compliance with TN daily mass limit

Milestone 1

Completion of a preliminary engineering report, submitted to the Department of Health, demonstrating a technically plausible pathway for closing the TN mass gap,

including identification of the proposed pilot installation site, estimated treatment footprint, and applicable permitting pathway.

Year 2: Pilot Permitting and Construction Initiation

- Continue permitting and regulatory review for pilot deployment
- Finalize pilot engineering design and site integration
- Initiate construction of a pilot-scale limu polishing module
- Pilot module sized to treat approximately 1–5% of facility flow

Milestone 2

Completion of pilot module installation, and commencement of operational testing with documented initiation of periodic TN influent and effluent monitoring.

Year 3: Pilot Operation and Performance Verification

- Operate pilot polishing system using R-1 reuse water
- Conduct continuous periodic (daily or weekly) TN monitoring and performance reporting
- Begin engineering design and permitting for Phase I system expansion in parallel

Milestone 3

Document measurable nitrogen mass reduction using rolling three-month averages. Pilot results will be used to evaluate scaling assumptions and to determine whether expansion phases remain technically justified. TN mass load (lb/day) shall be calculated using EPA-approved analytical methods as:

$$TN \text{ mass load (lb/day)} = TN \text{ concentration (mg/L)} \times \text{flow (MGD)} \times 8.34$$

Year 4: Expansion Phase I Deployment

- Construct initial expansion modules increasing macroalgal treatment surface area
- Establish biomass harvest and export procedures
- Continue monitoring and performance reporting

Milestone 4

Target achievement of approximately ten percent (10%) of the required TN mass reduction sustained for six consecutive months. Percentage reductions are measured relative to the “required TN mass reduction” defined above, using the baseline confirmed in Year 1 and the applicable permit TN mass limit(s).

Year 5: Expansion Phase II Deployment

- Expand polishing system capacity to a larger treatment footprint
- Implement redundancy and operational control systems
- Continue parallel permitting and engineering for full system build-out

Milestone 5

Target achievement of approximately twenty-five percent (25%) of required TN mass reduction sustained for six consecutive months. Percentage reductions are measured relative to the “required TN mass reduction” defined above, using the baseline confirmed in Year 1 and the applicable permit TN mass limit(s).

Year 6: Major Capacity Expansion

- Expand system capacity to a majority share of required nutrient removal
- Integrate monitoring automation and operational optimization

Milestone 6

Target achievement of approximately fifty percent (50%) of required TN mass reduction sustained for six consecutive months. Percentage reductions are measured relative to the “required TN mass reduction” defined above, using the baseline confirmed in Year 1 and the applicable permit TN mass limit(s).

Year 7: Compliance Verification and Operational Optimization

- Verify completion of full limu polishing system installation
- Provide engineer certification of installed treatment capacity
- Implement continuous periodic (daily or weekly) TN monitoring and verification of sustained compliance

Milestone 7

Sustained demonstration of full compliance with the TN daily mass limit for twelve consecutive months following system completion. Target achievement and demonstration of compliance with the TN daily mass limit for twelve consecutive months, based on the permit's applicable averaging periods and using the TN mass-load calculation method stated above. (See Appendix A, item 3.)

VI. INTERIM REPORTING STRUCTURE

The proposed schedule includes the following oversight mechanisms:

- Quarterly reporting to the Department of Health documenting (i) effluent TN concentration data, (ii) daily flow data, (iii) calculated TN mass loads (lb/day) with calculation shown, and (iv) rolling three-month averages used for milestone tracking;
- Written notice no later than 14 days following each annual milestone date stating compliance/noncompliance, consistent with 40 CFR §122.47(a)(4);
- Defined corrective-action triggers if milestone performance is not achieved, including identification of cause(s), proposed corrective actions, and a revised near-term workplan within sixty (60) days;
- Adaptive management authority allowing operational adjustments, modular reconfiguration, and design modifications, based on verified performance data (see Appendix A, items 17 and 19).

Movant acknowledges that ATS performance is sensitive to site-specific conditions, including flow, nutrient loading, solar irradiance, and operational management; pilot results may not scale linearly to full build-out. Accordingly, the phased schedule is structured to require measured performance verification before expansion and to maintain transparent reporting of both achievements and limitations. (See Appendix A, items 13, 16–17, and 23.)

VII. BENEFITS OF THE PROPOSED APPROACH

Adoption of a Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) will:

1. Establish a technically grounded pathway for achieving the Lahaina WWRF nitrogen mass limits through phased implementation of a limu nutrient polishing system. The proposed schedule anticipates achieving the required

nitrogen reduction by approximately Year 6, with the final year confirming sustained compliance under operational conditions.

2. Preserve the integrity of the TN limit while recognizing the engineering timeline for implementation.
3. Encourage evaluation of innovative nutrient-removal technologies aligned with Maui's ecological and cultural context.
4. Convert a portion of dissolved nitrogen pollution into harvestable algal biomass through assimilation and harvesting, with potential for beneficial reuse of biomass, while reducing TN discharge to nearshore waters. (See Appendix A, items 8, 20–21.)
5. Provide an enforceable, milestone-based framework for evaluating an emerging effluent nutrient-polishing technology as a potential compliance component, with performance verification and adaptive management before any full-scale build-out.
6. Provide an illustrative timeline for evaluating an emerging nutrient-polishing technology that has received research support from Sandia National Laboratories and other collaborators, with the potential to contribute constructively to the County of Maui's path to compliance with the applicable NPDES TN mass limits with a locally-tailored solution that leverages native limu species. This includes admitting into the record an expert-supported pathway for implementing emerging nutrient-removal technologies, currently under active research and evaluation by Kai Action Institute and collaborators.
7. The proposed framework provides an evidentiary pathway demonstrating a technically plausible method to achieve the permit's existing TN limits without modifying permit stringency. Nitrogen removal through biological assimilation and biomass harvesting permanently removes assimilated nitrogen mass from the treatment train, directly addressing mass-based permit limits. Admission of this pathway does not preclude consideration of alternative treatment technologies, but ensures the record contains at least one technically grounded compliance mechanism for the Hearings Officer's evaluation.

VIII. REQUEST FOR RELIEF

For the foregoing reasons, Movant respectfully requests that the Hearings Officer:

1. Accept into the contested case record evidence describing the limu-based nutrient polishing framework and the associated proposed phased Total Nitrogen Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) as potential compliance pathways for achieving the applicable TN discharge limits.
2. Permit the submission and inclusion of technical and expert evidence supporting the limu nutrient polishing framework and proposed Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) as part of the evidentiary record in advance of the scheduled hearing.
3. Recognize the proposed Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) as a technically plausible compliance pathway for purposes of evidentiary consideration within the administrative record.
4. Consider adoption of the proposed Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) as a potential compliance pathway, without limiting the Hearings Officer's authority to evaluate alternative technologies, compliance mechanisms, or evidence presented in the record.

REFERENCES

- [1] Wallerstein, Mike S. [Procedural Order \(Scheduling Order\), County of Maui et al. v. Department of Health, DOH Docket No. 2025-NPDES-2. Hawai'i Department of Health, Hearings Office.](#) October 31, 2025.
- [2] Wallerstein, Mike S. [Second Procedural Order, County of Maui et al. v. Department of Health, DOH Docket No. 2025-NPDES-2. Hawai'i Department of Health, Hearings Office.](#) February 4, 2026.
- [3] [Hawai'i Department of Health. Hawai'i Administrative Rules, Title 11, Chapter 1, §11-1-37 \(Motions\) and §11-1-28 \(Filing of Documents\).](#) Effective February 14, 2005.
- [4] Liggett, Travis A., M.S.; Calahan, Dean, PhD; Zivojnovich, Mark. [Proposal for a Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility \(WWRF\) Native Limu Streambed Nutrient Polishing and Biomass Production System — 12-Month Collaborative Project. Prepared for Born and Raised Earth LLC.](#) October 8, 2025.
- [5] [A Proposed Application of Algal Turf Scrubbers to Polish Nutrient Pollution from R-1 Reuse Water in the Mā'alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System. Prepared for Sandia National Laboratories by Reef Power LLC, FY2024 Standard Purchase Order #2560924.](#) October 1, 2024.
- [6] [Attached Algal Treatment Systems as a Plausible Pathway for Total Nitrogen Compliance at the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility.](#) Zivojnovich, Mark, 2026.
- [7] [A Green Shield for Lahaina.](#) Calahan, Dean, PhD. 2026.
- [8] APPENDIX A - Technical Fact Sheet, Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility NPDES Permit, Attached Algal Treatment System (ATS) Nutrient Polishing Solution, Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF)

APPENDIX A

Technical Fact Sheet

Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility NPDES Permit Attached Algal Treatment System (ATS) Nutrient Polishing Solution Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF)

This fact sheet summarizes the regulatory requirements, engineering assumptions, and supporting evidence relevant to the proposed Attached Algal Treatment System (ATS) pathway for achieving Total Nitrogen compliance at the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

Note on Modeling Uncertainty: The nitrogen removal estimates presented herein, including the preliminary estimate of approximately 90 lb/day removal capacity from approximately ten acres of ATS treatment surface under Maui climatic conditions, represent conceptual engineering calculations based on operational data from comparable facilities. These estimates are not performance guarantees. The phased pilot structure described in this motion is specifically designed to verify performance under Lahaina-specific hydrologic, climatic, and operational conditions prior to any reliance on these estimates for compliance purposes.

1. Facility:

Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility (Lahaina WWRF), Maui County, Hawai'i

2. Regulatory Framework:

National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued by the Hawai'i Department of Health, 2025

3. Permit Total Nitrogen Daily Mass Discharge Limits:

Annual Average TN Limit: 8.25 lb/day

Daily Maximum TN Limit: 13.51 lb/day

4. Current Nitrogen Loading:

Recent operating data indicate approximately 105 lb/day of total nitrogen discharge from the facility.

5. Required Nitrogen Reduction:

Preliminary conceptual modeling suggests that an attached algal treatment system on the order of approximately ten acres may be capable of removing roughly 90 pounds of nitrogen per day under Maui climatic conditions.

6. Proposed Treatment Concept:

Attached Algal Treatment System (ATS), also referred to as a limu nutrient polishing system, using native Hawai'i freshwater benthic macroalgae cultivated on engineered shallow flowways downstream of existing treatment processes.

7. Technology Classification:

Attached Algal Treatment Systems are a form of nature-based wastewater polishing technology that removes nutrients through algal assimilation and biomass harvesting.

8. Nitrogen Removal Mechanism:

Dissolved nitrogen is assimilated into algal biomass through photosynthetic growth. Periodic harvesting removes the biomass, permanently exporting the assimilated nitrogen from the treatment system.

9. System Configuration:

Shallow engineered flowways supporting attached algal growth under continuous hydraulic loading and solar illumination. Hawai'i's high year-round solar irradiance supports continuous macroalgal productivity relative to temperate climates.

10. Typical Hydraulic Depth:

Water depths of 1–3 inches flowing across gently sloped surfaces designed to promote algal attachment and growth

11. Primary Energy Source:

Solar radiation drives algal photosynthesis, rather than mechanical aeration or high-pressure membrane processes.

12. Operational Precedent:

Utility-scale ATS facilities have operated for more than a decade in Indian River County, Florida. Published operational data from Indian River County ATS facilities include Egret Marsh ATS (approximately 10 MGD capacity, operating since 2010) and Osprey Marsh ATS (approximately 10 MGD capacity, operating since 2013).

13. Observed Performance:

Monitoring at the Osprey Marsh facility recorded mean effluent total nitrogen concentrations of approximately 0.775 mg/L during multi-year operation. Actual performance varied based on flow, nutrient loading, solar irradiance, and operational management.

14. Pilot Demonstration Evidence:

A recycle-mode ATS pilot operated from 2012–2014 achieved sustained effluent TN concentrations below 1 mg/L under continuous field conditions.

15. Preliminary Lahaina System Modeling:

Preliminary engineering modeling indicates that an ATS treatment surface of approximately ten acres under Maui climatic conditions could remove roughly 90 lb/day of nitrogen through algal assimilation and biomass harvesting. These modeling estimates represent conceptual engineering calculations and are not performance guarantees.

16. Estimated Treatment Footprint:

Approximately 10 acres of ATS treatment surface would be required for full-scale nitrogen removal. ATS systems are modular and scalable, allowing treatment surface area to expand incrementally as performance is verified.

17. Implementation Strategy:

Phased deployment will consist of pilot validation, initial modular installation, and expansion of treatment surface area based on verified performance.

18. Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF):

A seven-year Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF) is aligned with typical wastewater infrastructure timelines for engineering design, permitting, construction, and operational startup.

19. Monitoring Method:

Total nitrogen mass load is calculated as TN concentration multiplied by daily effluent flow using EPA-approved analytical methods, with performance tracking based on rolling three-month averages, per:

$$TN \text{ mass load (lb/day)} = TN \text{ concentration (mg/L)} \times \text{flow (MGD)} \times 8.34$$

20. Biomass Management:

Harvested algal biomass removed from the treatment system and available for beneficial reuses that may include, but are not limited to, compost, soil amendments, or other agricultural applications, or as a biomass stock for biofuel production. Periodic harvesting maintains algal growth rates and sustains nutrient uptake capacity.

21. Environmental Benefit:

Dissolved nutrient pollution in municipal effluent is converted into harvestable native freshwater stream limu biomass, while reducing nitrogen discharges into Maui nearshore waters.

22. Engineering Rationale:

ATS systems remove nutrients from effluent through direct biological assimilation and harvesting, rather than relying solely on microbial conversion pathways within conventional treatment reactors.

23. Conclusion:

Operational evidence from long-term ATS facilities and preliminary engineering modeling supports ATS nutrient polishing as a technically plausible pathway capable of addressing the ~90 lb/day nitrogen reduction required for NPDES permit compliance at the Lahaina WWRF in the context of a 7-year Phased Regulatory Compliance Attainment Framework (PRCAF). Actual performance will depend on site-

Technical Brief

Attached Algal Treatment Systems as a Plausible Pathway for Total Nitrogen Compliance at the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility

Prepared by:

Mark Zivojnovich

HydroMentia Technologies, LLC

1. Introduction

The Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit establishes stringent Total Nitrogen (TN) discharge limits requiring substantial reductions relative to current loading conditions. Based on available information, the facility currently discharges approximately 105 pounds of nitrogen per day, while the permit establishes an annual average TN limit of 8.25 lb/day and a daily maximum of 13.51 lb/day at a design flow of 9.0 MGD.

Accordingly, compliance with the permit requires a reduction of approximately 90 lb/day of nitrogen mass loading.

HydroMentia Technologies and related development teams have been involved in the design, construction, and operation of attached algal treatment systems for more than three decades, including both pilot-scale and utility-scale facilities.

Achieving the Lahaina permit limits presents a significant technical challenge for conventional wastewater treatment technologies. Attached algal treatment systems or limu polishing system, commonly referred to as Algal Turf Scrubber (ATS) systems, represent an alternative biological nutrient removal approach with documented field application that removes nitrogen through algal assimilation and biomass harvesting.

The purpose of this brief is to summarize the technical basis for considering ATS-based nutrient polishing as a plausible engineering pathway for achieving substantial TN reductions at the Lahaina facility through a phased implementation approach.

2. Overview of Attached Algal Treatment Systems

Attached algal treatment systems cultivate naturally occurring benthic algae on engineered shallow flowways. Nutrient-rich water flows over these surfaces under controlled hydraulic conditions while algal communities assimilate dissolved nutrients—including nitrogen and phosphorus—into biomass through photosynthetic growth.

Periodic harvesting of the algal biomass permanently removes assimilated nitrogen from the treatment system when exported from the facility.

ATS typically operate as shallow flow systems with water depths of only a few inches, allowing treatment to occur with minimal hydraulic head and relatively low energy input. The primary energy source driving nutrient removal is solar radiation supporting algal growth rather than mechanical aeration or membrane pressure.

Because nutrients are removed through biological assimilation and harvesting rather than solely through microbial conversion pathways, ATS are well suited for use as nutrient polishing systems downstream of conventional wastewater treatment processes.

Because nitrogen discharged from the Lahaina facility is transported to nearshore waters through groundwater pathways, nitrogen mass removed prior to reuse or injection directly reduces loading to coastal receiving waters. Attached algal treatment systems therefore function as tertiary nutrient polishing infrastructure that reduces total nitrogen mass before subsurface transport occurs. This mass-reduction framing aligns ATS deployment with the permit's mass-based limits and places the technology within a compliance-oriented polishing step in the existing treatment train.

3. Operational History of ATS Systems

Attached algae treatment systems have been engineered and deployed for more than three decades in applications including agricultural runoff treatment, watershed restoration, industrial nutrient management, and wastewater polishing.

HydroMentia and related development teams have participated in the design and deployment of ATS systems since the early 1990s. Several systems have operated at substantial scale for extended periods.

Two systems provide examples of long-term operational performance of ATS infrastructure:

Egret Marsh Algal Turf Scrubber – Indian River County, Florida

- 10 MGD treatment capacity
- Operating since 2010

Osprey Marsh Algal Turf Scrubber – Indian River County, Florida

- Approximately 10 MGD treatment capacity
- Operating since 2013

These systems demonstrate that ATS can be constructed and operated as utility-scale treatment infrastructure capable of sustained long-term operation.

Operational monitoring data from the Osprey Marsh facility provide evidence of sustained low nutrient concentrations under continuous operation.

Table 1. Osprey Marsh ATS – Nutrient Performance Summary

Monitoring Period	Mean Outflow TN	Mean Outflow TP
Jan 2022 – Apr 2025	0.775 mg/L	0.079 mg/L

During this monitoring period, many total phosphorus measurements were undetected at the analytical detection limit of 0.070 mg/L, suggesting that the true mean TP outflow concentration may be lower.

Although watershed inflow conditions differ from municipal wastewater effluent, these results demonstrate the ability of large-scale ATS to sustain very low nutrient concentrations over extended operational periods.

4. Industrial Recycle ATS Pilot Demonstration

The closest operational analogue to the Lahaina challenge is a multi-year industrial recycle-mode ATS pilot conducted under controlled field conditions to evaluate low-concentration nutrient polishing. This pilot operated continuously over multiple years and provides insight into ATS performance under sustained hydraulic loading conditions beyond laboratory-scale testing. Additional supporting data from this pilot are available under appropriate confidentiality provisions.

In this pilot configuration, water was recirculated through the ATS in order to reduce effluent nutrient concentrations beyond what would typically be achieved in a single-pass configuration.

Under sustained operation, the recycle-mode ATS achieved low effluent TN concentrations, as summarized below:

Table 2. Recycle ATS Pilot Effluent TN Concentrations

Period	Mean Inflow TN	Mean Outflow TN	TN Reduction
Full period of record	4.34 mg/L	1.45 mg/L	67%
Calendar Year 2014	4.87 mg/L	1.12 mg/L	77%
Final six months of operation	4.60 mg/L	0.85 mg/L	82%

These results indicate that recycle-mode ATS sustained low nitrogen concentrations under the observed operating conditions.

The recycle-mode pilot also illustrates an important engineering consideration. During repeated recirculation across algal flowways, dissolved inorganic carbon is consumed and system pH increases. To address this effect, the pilot incorporated carbon recovery ponds downstream of the ATS flowways to restore carbon chemistry and stabilize pH prior to recirculation.

Full-scale sizing projections from the pilot included both the ATS treatment surface and the associated carbon recovery ponds. Under the CY2014 sizing example, the ATS treatment surface represented approximately 1.6 acres per MGD, while the carbon recovery ponds represented a substantially larger portion of the total recycle-system footprint.

Importantly, analysis indicated that carbon recovery was achieved early within the recovery sequence, suggesting that future optimized designs may require significantly smaller carbon recovery footprints than those used in the conservative pilot configuration.

5. Implications for Lahaina TN Compliance

Taken together, the operational history of ATS systems, the long-term performance of utility-scale facilities such as Egret and Osprey Marsh, and the recycle-mode industrial pilot demonstration provide a technical basis for evaluating that attached algae nutrient polishing represents a plausible pathway for achieving substantial TN reductions. Further site-specific validation would be required to confirm performance under Lahaina-specific operating conditions.

These performance observations are presented as feasibility evidence rather than guaranteed operational outcomes. Full-scale implementation would proceed through pilot validation, incremental expansion, and performance verification prior to reliance for compliance. This phased deployment structure aligns with regulatory expectations for emerging treatment technologies and supports evaluation of ATS as a measurable pathway toward achieving the permit's total nitrogen mass limits.

The industrial pilot results include sustained TN concentrations below 1 mg/L under controlled field conditions. Utility-scale systems demonstrate that ATS infrastructure can operate reliably at large scales for extended periods.

For the Lahaina facility, the primary design objective is to close an approximate 90 lb/day nitrogen mass gap while achieving effluent concentrations approaching natural background levels.

ATS are well suited for this type of application because they remove nutrients through direct biological assimilation and harvesting rather than relying solely on microbial conversion processes within treatment reactors.

Because the Lahaina TN limits are unusually stringent, a phased implementation approach would be appropriate. Such an approach could include:

1. Pilot-scale system validation
2. Initial modular deployment
3. Expansion of treatment surface area based on verified performance

This staged implementation framework is consistent with standard engineering practice when deploying new or site-specific treatment technologies.

These findings are presented to demonstrate technical plausibility and do not constitute a performance guarantee; full-scale applicability would require confirmation through pilot validation and phased performance verification under Lahaina-specific operating conditions.

6. Conclusion

The available operational evidence indicates that attached algal treatment systems represent a technically credible and scalable option for nutrient polishing applications requiring substantial nitrogen reduction.

Decades of ATS engineering experience, long-term operation of utility-scale systems, and the demonstrated performance of recycle-mode ATS pilot systems collectively support the evaluation that a staged ATS-based nutrient polishing system could provide a technically plausible pathway for achieving the Lahaina TN discharge limits.

Accordingly, consideration of a phased compliance schedule incorporating ATS system development and deployment would be technically reasonable and consistent with established engineering practice for infrastructure projects requiring specialized treatment solutions.

This technical brief does not prescribe a compliance schedule, but instead provides engineering information relevant to evaluating whether a phased implementation pathway may constitute a technically plausible compliance mechanism. Any such pathway would require site-specific pilot validation, regulatory review, and performance verification prior to consideration of full-scale deployment, and does not modify or relax the final numeric TN limits established in the Lahaina WWRF NPDES permit.

A Green Shield for Lahaina

Algae Farming to Buffer Human Wastewater Impacts

by Dean Calahan, Ph.D.
2026.04.07

Current regulatory conditions create an opportunity to establish a substantial improvement in municipal wastewater treatment in Lahaina, using ecological engineering methods (Kangas, 2003) to affordably reduce total nitrogen (TN) loading. Specifically, approximately 90 pounds of TN must eventually be removed per day from R-1 reuse water produced at the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WWRF). A specific technology for algae cultivation, known variously as Filamentous Algal Nutrient Scrubbers (Sutherland et al., 2020), Algal Floway Technologies (Bott et al., 2015), and Algal Turf Scrubbing (Adey, 2024) – distinct from algal raceway systems known as Oswald or high-rate ponds – is an established tertiary water treatment practice that can satisfy this requirement (Adey & Goertemiller, 1987; D’Aiuto et al., 2015). Floway systems cultivate captive, attached macroalgae on shallow (inches deep), linear, submerged sloped surfaces with gravity flow, whereas raceway systems cultivate dispersed, suspended microalgae in deeper (feet deep), usually oval channels, usually with paddle-wheel flow.

This process is essentially the farming of indigenous aquatic photosynthetic species (algae, a kind of limu) in “aquatic farm fields”, known as floways. Anyone familiar with aquatic environments knows that unwanted algae are often difficult or impossible to eradicate. This fecundity is an advantage if the algae are instead desired, as algal proliferation is easily facilitated by providing an algae-friendly environment. The fact that the algae cells will simply arrive naturally is a strength of ecologically engineered facilities like an algal floway. An inevitable consequence of rapid algal growth is rapid removal of nutrients from the water feeding the algae, which can be on the order of 1 ppt TN per day. The nutrients from the water, including CO₂, become part of the algal “crop”. This crop is frequently harvested (*e.g.* weekly) to permanently remove nutrients from the system. Hydromentia LLC, a company that specializes in treatment of nutrient-rich water, has built several utility scale ATS facilities, with two of them currently operating in Florida. Floway facilities are built using familiar construction methods.

Hydromentia’s implementation procedure is standardized process. A pilot study is first performed to determine the viability of algae cultivation with effluent from the specific site, providing data needed to design a facility that will satisfy nutrient removal requirements. Upon completion of the pilot, a formal construction and operating proposal can then be arranged. The pilot system itself can be an asset beyond the required data collection, as stakeholders and community members would be able to see a floway in action, and familiarize themselves with how it works and with the bulk algal biomass that is the inevitable product of scrubbing excess nutrients from water using floway systems. Construction can be phased in over time, with each new floway adding treatment capacity and biomass production.

Maui's unwanted algae blooms are nature's response to the excess nutrients introduced by historical practices, including wastewater management. The freshwater stream algae in the captive floway ecosystem react the same way as their marine cousins do, consuming the excess nutrients, but before they reach the shore. All else being equal, a ton of limu biomass grown in floways on land is a ton of unwanted algal bloom avoided in Maui's waters.

The Lahaina WWRF could become the first facility on Maui to scrub its harmful nutrient rich water to ocean-equivalent standards using algal floways. If additional floway facilities were then built throughout Maui and the rest of Hawaii, a "green shield" of limu farms would dot each island, cleansing municipal reuse wastewater of remaining unwanted nutrients as gravity brings it from the island ridges, through watersheds both natural and artificial, to the ocean. Such a network of algal greenfields throughout the islands would act as a natural barrier to human nutrients reaching ocean waters, sparing them and Hawai'i's reefs further damage and allowing them to return to their previous pristine conditions.

Algal floway systems provide a way to systematically and reliably scale up to meet stringent nutrient loading limits, but they also provides a potential source of biomass-derived products of use to local agriculture, from commercial and non-commercial gardening, to farming, to composting or other existing or new business opportunities. This novel source of biomass could encourage sustainable agriculture and food security, further protecting and possibly enhancing watersheds.

Algae floway systems are basic and scalable, implemented with standard components and techniques. A pumping station services one or more floways, each essentially a shallow artificial streambed resembling a sloped concrete parking lot with a roughened, non-slip surface. There are one or more reservoirs for initial storage of influent (*i.e.* R-1 water) before it enters the floway, and another one or more reservoirs for stabilization of the treated effluent before final discharge. Nutrient-rich water is pumped in along the top of the floway and descends by gravity to the bottom, where it is collected and recirculated as needed to complete treatment. Frequent harvesting permanently removes the algal biomass, and thus the accumulated nutrients, from the system.

A floway system is typically self-inoculating, continuously sampling the local environment for new species, increasing in biodiversity over time. Indigenous algae cells settle into the water, blown in on leaves or dust, and brought in by insects or other animals attracted to the water. These cells attach to the floway's roughened concrete surface, growing into filaments that trap additional algal cells as well as other cells and particles in the water (Fig. 1). The algae cells proliferate, removing nutrients from the water and converting them into captive biomass. Once a turf matures, its thin lowest layer remains firmly attached to the concrete, while the bulk of the biomass is easily detached for harvest (Fig. 2). The water is recirculated until it satisfies nutrient removal requirements, spends some time in a stabilization reservoir to restore its CO₂ content from the atmosphere, and is then discharged. Each floway requires periodic harvesting, at most every 5 to 7 days, using simple methods, and the collected biomass is easily air dried. Depending on its composition, the harvested biomass could offer a wide range of beneficial uses, such as composting, pyrolysis, or biofuel production.

The algal turf is composed mainly of filamentous species attached to the flowway's roughened surface, woven together naturally and entrapping additional algal and microbial species as well as various small particles that find their way into the system. The exact algal species profile in a given flowway at a given time will be seasonal and specific to the local ecosystem, but in general, many algal species present in Maui will behave in similar ways. Harvesting is best performed when the algae are growing rapidly, removing the canopy before it maturity leads to slower growth and thus nutrient. Each acre of flowway will produce tons of dried algal biomass per year.

Sampling of water and biomass is straightforward and could be implemented transparently, with automated reporting to regulatory agencies and courts, giving the public easy access to see how the system is working. Local companies or organizations could incorporate harvested algal biomass into their efforts, producing finished compost or simply applying dried biomass as a soil amendment. Algal biomass is rich in the macro- and micro-nutrients needed for high productivity agriculture without importing fertilizers, a key consideration when planning for sustainability and food security on an island ecosystem.

In the 50 years since Dr. Adey invented this technology to control algal growth in a coral reef exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution, more than a hundred peer-reviewed studies of ATS have been performed, and the technology has been used in large-scale water treatment projects (mainly by Hydromentia) and in aquaria large and small around the world. Numerous pilot projects have been conducted using natural waters from rivers and estuaries as the nutrient source, as well as secondary treated municipal waste, agricultural runoff, effluent from confined animal feeding operations (CAFOs), and industrial waste. In almost every case, the flowways self-inoculate from algal cells available in the local environment and form a highly productive captive photosynthetic ecosystem. Rarely, interventions such as placing algae-bearing rocks from nearby streams or lakes have been needed to accelerate the inoculation process, but once inoculated a flowway tends to become more biodiverse as it continues to sample the local environment for new algal strains.

Five decades of experience implementing ATS systems can be brought to bear on this project, from running the pilot study to designing and building the production flowways. "Algal Floway Systems" have been designated a Best Management Practice (BMP) by the State of Maryland. As Lahaina's citizens and government recognize the simplicity and effectiveness of algal flowways, new uses for them may emerge, such as integration with ahupua'a, treatment of other industrial waters, or even hobbyist projects or K-12 educational programs.

By adopting practices that eliminate any issues regarding polluting its waters with excess nutrients, Maui County could position itself as an international leader in adopting filamentous algae nutrient scrubbing. Algal flowways represent a cost-competitive and ecologically aligned treatment option, producing both clean effluent and abundant biomass, relieving stresses on the ecological health of reefs and estuaries around the island, and increasing sustainability and food security.

Figures

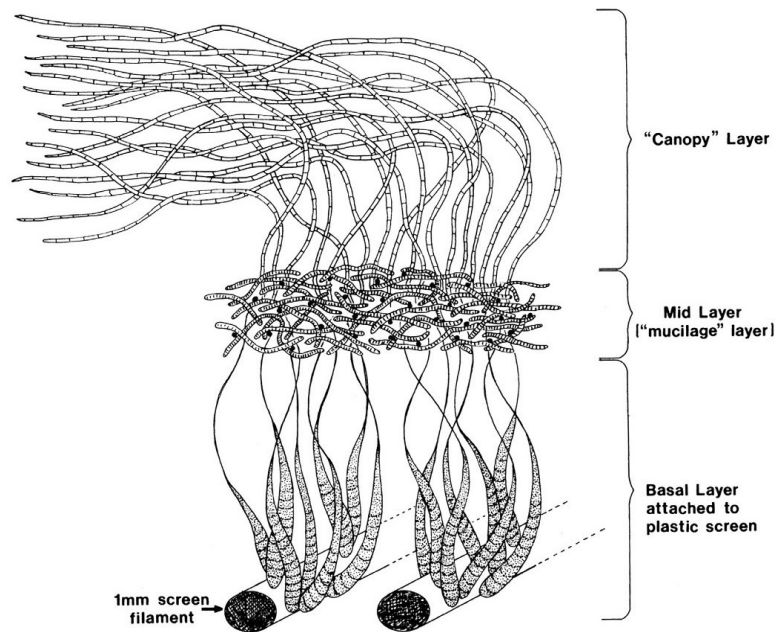


Figure 1. Typical cross-section of an algal turf attached to an algal floway. In this drawing, the filaments are attached to a high surface area screen.



Figure 2. Typical appearance of a mature algal turf within an algal floway.

References

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- Adey, W. H., & Goertemiller, T. (1987). [Coral reef algal turfs: Master producers in nutrient poor seas](https://doi.org/10.2216/i0031-8884-26-3-374.1). *Phycologia*, 26(3), 374–386. <https://doi.org/10.2216/i0031-8884-26-3-374.1>
- Bott, C., Brush, M., Canuel, E., Johnston, M., Kangas, P., Lane, S., May, P., Mulbry, W., Mulholland, M., Sample, D., & others. (2015). [Nutrient and sediment reductions from algal flow-way technologies](#). *Recommendations to the Chesapeake Bay Program's Water Quality Goal Implementation Team from the Algal Flow-Way Technologies BMP Expert Panel: Chesapeake Bay Program, Annapolis MD*.
- D'Aiuto, P. E., Patt, J. M., Albano, J. P., Shatters, R. G., & Evens, T. J. (2015). [Algal turf scrubbers: Periphyton production and nutrient recovery on a South Florida citrus farm](#). *Ecological Engineering*, 75, 404–412. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ecoleng.2014.11.054>
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- Sutherland, D. L., Burke, J., & Ralph, P. J. (2020). [Flow-way water depth affects algal productivity and nutrient uptake in a filamentous algae nutrient scrubber](#). *Journal of Applied Phycology*, 32(6), 4321–4332.



April 15, 2026

Aloha Budget Chair Sugimura and Members of the Maui County Council,

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Patty Copperfield, and I am the Transportation Director at Maui Economic Opportunity. I respectfully request your continued support of our Human Services Transportation programs.

In Fiscal Year 2024–2025, MEO provided over 182,000 rides to residents across Maui, Molokaʻi, and Lānaʻi. These rides connected people to work, medical care, food access, and essential daily needs. Now, just nine months into Fiscal Year 2025–2026, we have already provided more than 122,000 trips, demonstrating that demand for these services remains strong and consistent across our communities.

These numbers represent real people. They represent kūpuna getting to life-sustaining dialysis treatments, individuals with disabilities accessing daily programs that support their independence, residents in rural areas reaching groceries, pharmacies, and medical care, and working individuals getting to their jobs when they have no other transportation option.

Our largest programs reflect the greatest needs. Youth Transportation helps our keiki access after-school programs that support their safety and development. Dialysis and Day Health programs support our aging population and those with ongoing medical needs. Employment Transportation ensures people can get to work and remain financially stable. Rural and Expanded Rural Shuttles connect entire communities where no fixed-route service exists and often serve as the only link to essential services.

As fuel prices rise in our rural areas, we expect demand to grow as families turn to these services to make the most of each dollar and support their ohana.

Just as important are programs that support quality of life. Senior Nutrition brings kūpuna to Kaunoa for meals, social connection, and overall wellness. Senior Services allows them to stay engaged through community gatherings and cultural events such as

The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



the East Maui Taro Festival. Even our smaller programs fill critical gaps and ensure that no community is overlooked.

These services are essential to the daily lives of thousands of Maui County residents. Without them, many individuals would lose access to healthcare, employment, and basic necessities.

I respectfully ask for your continued investment to sustain these services for our community. Mahalo nui loa for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to keeping Maui Nui connected.

Sincerely,

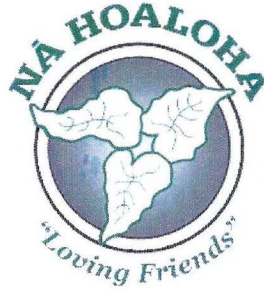


Patty Copperfield,
Director, MEO Transportation

The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.





PO Box 3208 – 1962 E Vineyard Street - Wailuku, HI 96793
Phone: (808) 249-2545 FAX: (808) 249-2547
www.nahoaloha.org info@nahoaloha.org

April 6, 2026

County of Maui
Office of the Mayor & Members of the Maui County Council

RE: Support for Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) Human Services Transportation Program Funding

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

On behalf of Nā Hoaloaha – Maui Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, I am writing in support of continued and increased funding for Maui Economic Opportunity's (MEO) Human Services Transportation Program in the County of Maui FY2027 budget.

Nā Hoaloaha serves older adults and people with disabilities across Maui County, many of whom are homebound, low-income, and without reliable transportation. Access to safe, dependable transportation is one of the most critical factors in maintaining health, independence, and dignity. MEO's transportation services are an essential component of this safety net.

We want to offer an honest perspective as a frontline partner. Like many high-demand systems, MEO's transportation program faces challenges, including long waitlists, limited capacity, and occasional service gaps. These issues can create real hardships for the vulnerable individuals we collectively serve. However, these challenges are not a reflection of lack of value—they are clear indicators of overwhelming need and insufficient resources.

Despite these constraints, MEO provides a vital lifeline for many in our community who would otherwise have no way to access medical care, groceries, and essential services. For many of our kupuna, MEO transportation is the difference between isolation and connection, between missed medical appointments and continuity of care.

Nā Hoaloaha frequently works to bridge service gaps—coordinating volunteer drivers, providing escort transportation, and helping clients navigate available options. Even with these efforts, we cannot meet the full scope of need without a strong, well-funded public transportation partner. MEO's program is foundational to the broader ecosystem of care.

In the wake of the 2023 wildfires and ongoing economic instability, the demand for transportation services has only intensified. As federal funding remains uncertain, it is critical that the County of Maui continues to invest in programs that directly impact on residents' daily lives. Strengthening MEO's capacity will improve reliability, reduce waiting times, and ensure that our most vulnerable residents are not left behind.

We respectfully urge the County to sustain and increase funding for MEO's Human Services Transportation Program. Doing so is an investment in health, equity, and community resilience.

Mahalo for your continued commitment to serving Maui County's most vulnerable residents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'King Van Nostrand', written over a diagonal line that extends from the word 'Sincerely,' down towards the typed name.

King Van Nostrand
Executive Director
Nā Hoaloha – Maui Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers



"Enhancing Lives Through Self-Reliance"

April 1, 2026

To: Maui County Council Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee.

Re: support of MEO transportation

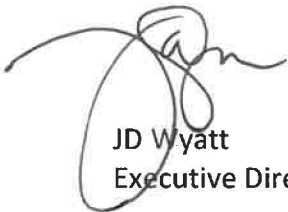
Aloha Council Members,

I know what a busy time of year this is for you all; mahalo for the important work you do in our community. I'm submitting this letter of testimony and support of the MEO transportation budget.

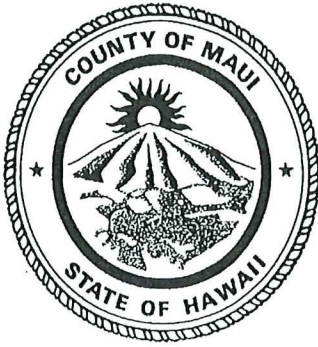
We have maintained a collaborative working relationship with Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) for over 40 years. Ka Lima O Maui's program focus is to provide employment and services necessary to support the training and employment needs of Maui's disabled and disadvantaged employees. Transportation has been identified as one of the most significant barriers to the attainment of employment for our clientele. MEO has developed an array of transportation services that have addressed many of the transportation needs of our clients. MEO's transportation services have enabled the employment of our clients, which in turn has assisted our workers towards becoming more independent and self-sufficient.

If not for the reliability and dependability of MEO transportation, most of our clientele likely would not be able to work, nor come to our adult day health program and receive the critical services we provide. I ask that you fully support the MEO transportation budget, so this vital community service can continue

With aloha.



JD Wyatt
Executive Director



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Aspen Wallwork

Email Address: aspen@arcofmaui.org

Phone: 808.242.5181 x201

Mailing Address: 140 N. MARKET ST. SUITE 202B

City/Zip: Wailuku 96793

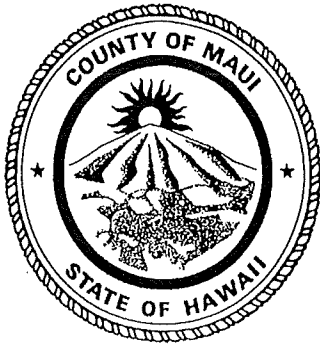
I Represent: Myself

Organization Arc of Maui County

Request/Issue: On behalf of our organization, I respectfully submit a request for the upcoming budget to support continued funding for transportation services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Reliable bus services are essential for our participants to access our day program and the community services we provide. The bus serves a critical link between their homes and our day program, ensuring consistent participation in services and meaningful community engagement. Without this support, many individuals would face significant barriers to independence and inclusion.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Natalie N. Greenleaf

Email Address: noghealani.greenleaf@gmail.com Phone: (808) 357-5190

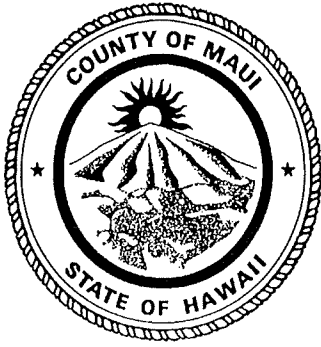
Mailing Address: 5220 Kōhi St. City/Zip: Lahaina HI 96761

I Represent: Myself
 Organization _____

Request/Issue: Paratransit is important for my well being. Having meo to transport me supports my daily life, insures I can attend my programs and work. Please continue funding.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO. _____

PLEASE PRINT

Name: TRAVIS UTAYANZA

Email Address: travis.utayanza@gmail.com Phone: 808 669-0026

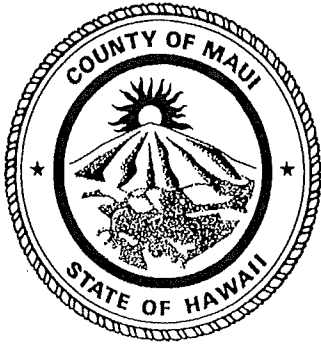
Mailing Address: 5225 Koki St. Lahaina City/Zip: 96761

I Represent: Myself
 Organization _____

Request/Issue: Med services help with my transportation, To go to programs and work. Please continue to fund them.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Ian Carrero

Email Address: ian carrero a1@gmail.com

Phone: (808) 419-1062

Mailing Address: 5220 Kahi St.

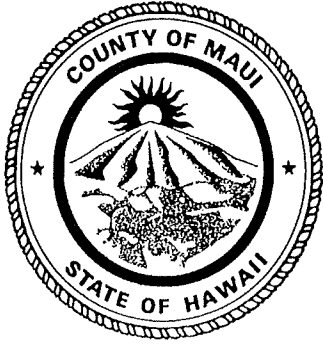
City/Zip: 96761

I Represent: Myself
 Organization

Request/Issue: Keep my MEO bus please
I need it for program, work and to
visit my family

Funding Request (if known): \$

Responsible County Department:



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Veronica Baisa

Email Address: veronobaisa48@gmail.com Phone: _____

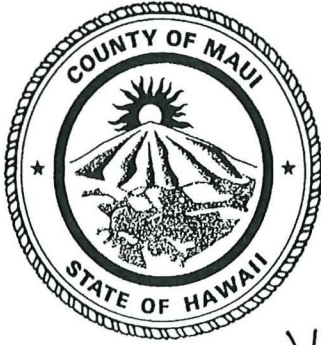
Mailing Address: 935-B Makani Road City/Zip: Makawao, HI 96768

I Represent: Myself
 Organization _____

Request/Issue: Please continue to fund MED transportation services.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Yolanda Patao
GRANDY A. PATAO

Email Address:

Phone:

808 268 0956

Mailing Address:

805 Lono Ave Kah

City/Zip:

96732

I Represent:

Myself

Organization

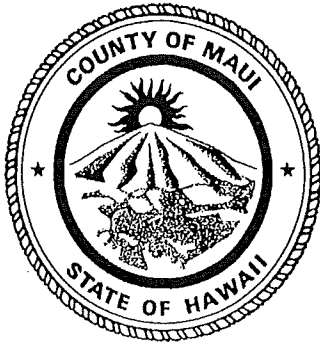
Request/Issue:

Please continue to fund
MED transportation. Its very helpful
to get my grandson with Developmental
and Intellectual disabilities to his
programs, appointments and supports
his continued access to the community

Funding Request (if known): \$

Responsible County Department:

MED



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Anne Bare for Josie Ponce

Email Address: holmesanne24@gmail.com Phone: 808 280 5990

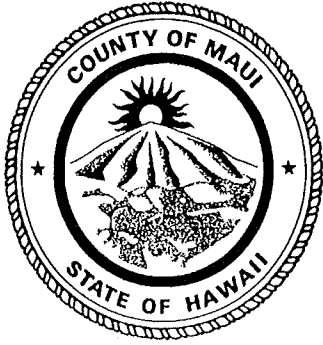
Mailing Address: 1200 Kōkomo Rd City/Zip: Haiku, HI 96708

I Represent: Myself
 Organization _____

Request/Issue: Please continue to Support MED
with funding so they can continue
to transport my child with disabilities
into her community and to her
adult day health program

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Patricia Boettger for James Boettger

Email Address: _____ Phone: 808-891-8122

Mailing Address: 341 Wainohia St, City/Zip: Kihei, HI 96755

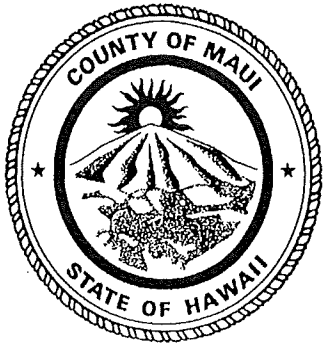
I Represent: Myself

Organization Arc of Maui County

Request/Issue: My disabled son utilizes MEO
for transportation in his community
and to attend his adult day health
program.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO. _____

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Zaria Fears

Email Address: zaria@arcofmaui.org

Phone: (808) 242-5781 ext. 208

Mailing Address: 140 N Market St

City/Zip: Wailuku, 96793

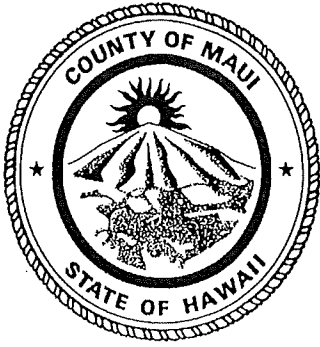
I Represent: Myself

Organization Arc of Maui County

Request/Issue: Me requesting maintained and/or increased MEO Funding. As a non-profit organization, our programs and ability to reach potential clients depends greatly on MEO services.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: VALERIE SUY

Email Address: valerie@arcofmaui.org

Phone: 808 242-5781

Mailing Address: 140 N. MARKETST # 202B

City/Zip: WAILUKO, HI 96793

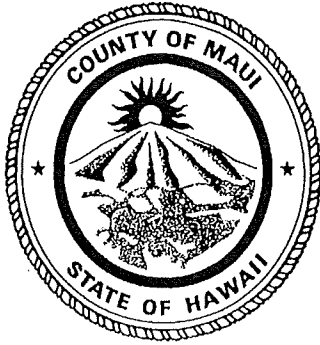
I Represent: Myself

Organization ARC OF MAUI COUNTY

Request/Issue: ARC OF MAUI PARTICIPANTS WITH I/DD DEPEND ON MEO'S
transportation for essential program services. MEO PLAYS A
vital role in the lives of our participants. Any cut in funding
would be extremely detrimental.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF USE ONLY	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Stephanie Kealoha

Email Address: Stephanie@arcofmaui.org

Phone: 808-242-5781

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 602

City/Zip: Kihei, HI 96753

I Represent: Myself

Organization Arc of Maui County

Request/Issue: Arc of Maui participants with Intellectual and Developmental disabilities depend on MEO transportation to access essential program services and many community events. MEO is vital in success and inclusion of persons with disabilities within our community. My request is for an increase in their funding so that they may even better support our community as a whole.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: _____

Dear Members of the Budget Committee,

I am writing to express my sincere support for the continued funding of MEO services. As a recent recipient of assistance, I can confidently say that the support provided has made a meaningful difference in my life and in the well-being of my family.

During a time when I have just welcomed a new addition to my family, MEO services have been especially important. As I am currently out of income, the support I received helped relieve financial stress and ensured that my family's basic needs were still met during this critical period. The resources, guidance, and care provided gave me stability and peace of mind while adjusting to these new responsibilities.

Programs like MEO are essential in strengthening our community by supporting families when they need it most. The impact of these services extends far beyond individual households—they contribute to healthier, more secure communities overall. Continued funding will ensure that other families have access to the same level of care, compassion, and support that I was fortunate to receive.

I strongly encourage you to continue supporting MEO services so they may carry on their vital work and help others in need in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Much Mahalo.



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

DATE	TIME	NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Steve / Kifin Judson

Email Address: lefty2you@yahoo.com

Phone: 740-607-8935

Mailing Address: 1772 Arbor Way, Turlock, CA

City/Zip: 95380

I Represent: **Myself**
 Organization _____

Request/Issue: RE: MEO Rental Assistance Program

Greetings Mayor Bissen and Maui County Leaders,

My wife and I own a condo at Molokai Shores in Kaunakaki. We fell in love with Molokai a number of years ago
and ended up purchasing a small condo on the island. However, we have desired from the beginning
to own on Molokai in a way that gave back and blessed this beautiful island. As a result, we chose to
rent long-term to a resident of the island. We did not want to add to the housing challenges by creating one more
short-term vacation rental. So we were grateful when our renter, Keli'i moved into the condo.
Later last year, when Keli'i lost his job, the MEO Rental Assistance Program was able to come
alongside him as he tried to find other work. Honestly, I don't know how long I could have allowed
Keli'i to continue in the condo while seeking other employment without the MEO assistance.
The MEO Rental Assistance Program is a very worthwhile program to walk with residents of the county
during seasons of reduced income. My hope is that it will continue to serve the county's residents into the future.

Funding Request (if known): \$ For MEO Rent. Assist. Prog.

Responsible County Department: Office of the Mayor

April 16, 2026

MEO Kahului Head Start
615 W Papa Ave
Kahului, Maui Hawaii 96732

Aloha MEO,

As a mama to a student in your class this program has helped immensely for our family of (5) five.

We have seen exponential growth in Hāla'i in everything she does. Our family appreciates the time and effort it takes by her teachers and waders to be where she needs to be academically.

Aside from being able to utilize this special program our family is able to work the hours we need in order to provide for our family. We can't express how much this program has helped us financially with our daughter getting the educational training she needs to continue to grow without the stress of having to pay another bill, as we know this is a tough time to live in Hawaii financially.

This program I feel is essential to our entire community here!

Thank you MEO for all of the support and resources that you provide our community with.

Very Truly Yours,

Kahili and Travis Odell
(Hāla'i O'Dell Mom + Dad)

Earleen Tianio
2101 Makuhau Rd.
Wailuku, HI 96733
808-281-7288

April 16, 2026

Meo Kahului Head Start
615 W. Papa Ave.
Kahului, HI 96732

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing as a proud grand-mother in support of my granddaughter's ⁴-Hālāi Odell^o enrollment in the MEO preschool program on Maui.

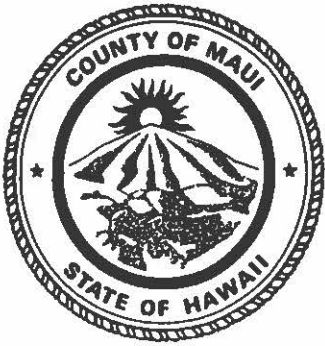
From what I have witnessed, meo preschool has been a true blessing to our/my family. My grand daughter has grown not only academically, but also emotionally and socially. Hālāi is more confident, curious, and eager to learn every day. The structure, care, and encouragement she receives from her teachers have had a lasting impact on her development.

As her grandmother, it brings me great peace to know she is in a safe & nurturing environment

where she is valued and supported. The
MCO program has also been tremendous
help to my family, allowing her parents
to work while knowing their child is
receiving quality early education.

I strongly believe that this
preschool is laying a firm foundation
for her future success.

Thank you,
Earl Davis
Stalai D. dell Howard na ♡



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

NO

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Melicia Orta

Email Address: meliamjorta@gmail.com Phone: 808-795-4029

Mailing Address: 211 Haulani St A City/Zip: 96768

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: Thank you for the county for funding
Head start Program for our children's to continue
To have education at a early age. We ask to
continue funding fiscal year of 2027.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



Debbi Amaral <debbi.amaral@meoinc.org>

Letter of support

Ekolu Ah Yee <ekolu@hawaii.edu>
To: "ecs@meoinc.org" <ecs@meoinc.org>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 7:51 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong support for the continued funding of the MEO Head Start Program serving our Moloka'i community. As a working parent on Moloka'i, I am deeply grateful for the opportunities this program has provided my child and our 'ohana.

Through MEO Head Start, my child has made remarkable personal and academic progress—growth that I truly believe would not have been possible otherwise. The program has created a nurturing, structured, and culturally grounded environment that supports not only early learning, but also confidence, social development, and readiness for the next stage of education.

Today, my child feels excited and prepared to enter what she proudly calls "big school." This readiness is a direct reflection of the dedication, care, and professionalism of the Head Start staff, who consistently go above and beyond for our keiki and families.

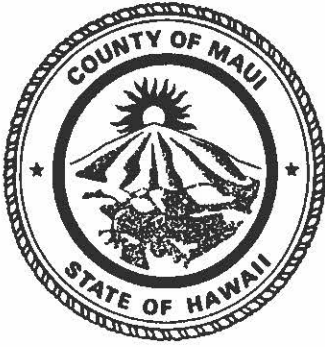
Programs like MEO Head Start are essential for working families like mine. They provide a strong foundation for our children's future success while supporting parents who are striving to provide for their households. I know firsthand that many other families across Moloka'i and Maui County benefit from this program, and it would be a tremendous loss if this vital support were not continued.

I respectfully urge you to continue funding the MEO Head Start Program so that it may keep serving our keiki, strengthening our families, and uplifting our communities for years to come.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,

A Grateful Moloka'i 'Ohana



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR STAFF
USE ONLY NO.

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Danielle Evans

Email Address: danimarie.kalili@gmail.com

Phone: 808-281-5602

Mailing Address: in makawao

City/Zip: 96768

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: On behalf of MEO Head Start, I respectfully submit this request for continued funding consideration and support

in the County of Maui Fiscal Year 2027 budget. Head Start ensures essential services like early learning, health care, and family support,

especially for those facing challenges like housing instability, low income and limited childcare access. This ongoing funding

would help uphold safe high - quality classrooms, recruit and retain qualified educators, and provide comprehensive family

support services including parent education, case management and enhanced health and nutrition programs.

Lastly I would like to request our County of Maui to consider looking into the nutritional quality of meals served to our keiki and

potentially looking into creating a program that can incorporate high quality, fresh and locally grown foods into daily meals and snacks.

This initiative would not only improve the nutritional quality of meals served, but also support Maui Farms, and strengthen

our local food system by keeping food dollars in the local economy, create healthy eating habits, and encourages connections

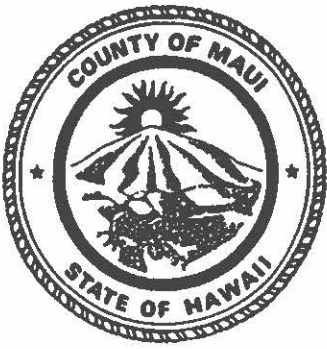
between school, farms, families and culture. The importance of improving nutrition in MEO Head Start programs ensuring the our

keiki receive Healthy, fresh and locally sourced meals that support their growth, learning and long term well being.

Overall our Counties investment in MEO Head Start is an investment in Maui's Future

Funding Request (if known): \$

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Donna Medice

Email Address: Bob.Mered@gmail.com Phone: _____

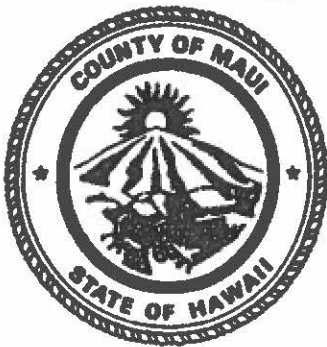
Mailing Address: _____ City/Zip: Pukalani

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: I am requesting that MEO Head Start gets continued funding. They have been one of the main resources for families and Keiki over 50 years. This resource is one that has always been loyal and trustworthy to both parents + Keiki's. Therefore, please continue its funding.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Chynna Helm

Email Address: chynnahelm908@gmail.com Phone: 808-298-9939

Mailing Address: 100 Kōi Alanui Way Apt 104 City/Zip: Kihei, HI 96757
Kihei, HI 96757

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: I would like to request continued funding for the MEO Headstart program. My daughter is part of this school year's' class. Without this program it would not have been possible for her to attend preschool. Throughout the year she has received so much support from her teachers and has progressed better than we could have hoped. I hope that future keiki will have the same opportunity that my family and I have had through MEO Headstart.

Maalo!

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns

Aloha,

My name is Betty Jo Sellers. I am the mother of Ezekiel Sellers who attends MEO Head Start Kihei. The decision to send Ezekiel to school was tough. I endured so many emotions while making the decision. However, I am happy that I decided to apply for the MEO Head Start preschool program. Everything about it was a breeze. From the initial phone call of acceptance, to his enrollment, to his transition into school it was nothing short of easy. He will soon be an alumni of the MEO Head Start Kihei. He has made many friends, learned a lot and he loves it. The teaching staff, the social worker and every other person who played a role in his preschool experience is great. Although Ezekiel will be venturing off to kindergarten. I hope that the MEO Head Start program throughout Maui can continue being funded for the next school year and years to come. The program is beneficial for both parents and children.

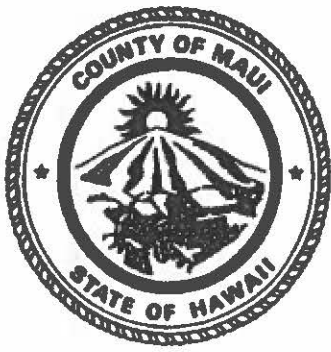
Mahalo for your time!

--

BJ Sellers

bj sellers0721@gmail.com

(808)793-9735



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Heather Roback-de Beest

Email Address: heatherman.c.roback@gmail.com **Phone:** 8087575792

Mailing Address: 396 Kaiolohia St. **City/Zip:** Kihei, HI

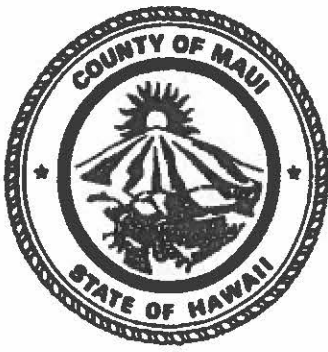
I Represent: Myself Organization MEO Head Start MEO

Request/Issue: -Investing in the future of our Keiki through Headstart-

I am writing to respectfully request for funding to support the continued operation of MEO Headstart for the upcoming 2026-2027 School year. MEO Headstart serves as a cornerstone of early childhood education and family support in our community. This request outlines our need for continued funding to ensure resources for our keiki and families who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford early childhood education. MEO Headstart is more than preschool services, the program provides social & emotional development for our keiki, feeds keiki over the weekends with the help of Alpha Backpack buddies, supplies keiki with supplies & materials to continue education and so much more. Please help fund our keiki's future. Mahalo!

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Alyssa Respicio

Email Address:

lyssacnr@gmail.com

Phone:

8082500750

Mailing Address:

266 Manini PL Kihui, HI

City/Zip:

96753

I Represent:

Myself

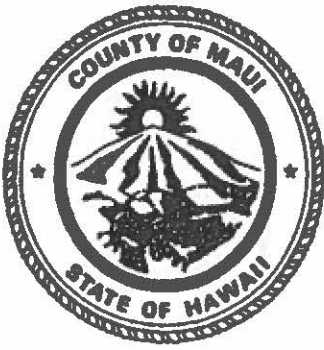
Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue:

Thank you so much for helping MEO head start on behalf of all parents & their children who get to experience MEO head start! We have seen our children grow so much while attending MEO head start. I've seen my children build many skills such as expanding their vocab, learned how to express their needs & feelings, practice listening & following directions, share & take turns, build friendships & confidence. There are so many positive benefits w/ children going to MEO head start, we really hope they are still here to continue this w/ our children in the future for many more years to come. Our children is our future, please consider in continuing to help/fund MEO head start. We appreciate you, THANK YOU!

Funding Request (if known): \$

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: ~~Kim~~ Kim

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

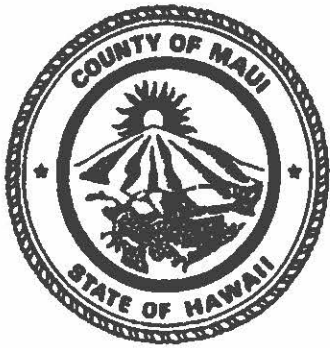
City/Zip: Kihei 96753

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: The Kihei Head start is the best program my kids (Jireh) has attended. He is always so happy to wake up & go to school to see his teachers. He comes home telling me what he loved about his day. It is always something good never bad. What this program my son wouldn't get the interaction w/ other kids before school nor would he have the pre k education w/ fun from his teachers. If it wasn't for this program I wouldn't be able to afford preschool or pre k program.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Kymane Natividad

Email Address: KY.natividad@gmail.com

Phone: (808)344-2471

Mailing Address: _____

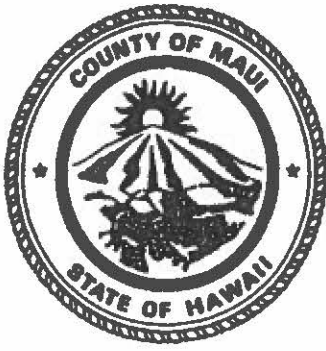
City/Zip: KIHEI 96793

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: MEO HEADSTART has been an amazing organization for my child and the other children who attend or will be attending. MEO has helped my child from when he was 3 years old til now, 5 years. He learned communication, learning how to manage emotion, learning social skills and more. ~~it is~~ it is helping my child get kindergarten-ready.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Elenoa Leota

Email Address: Elenoa.Filikitong922@gmail.com **Phone:** 808.269.7168

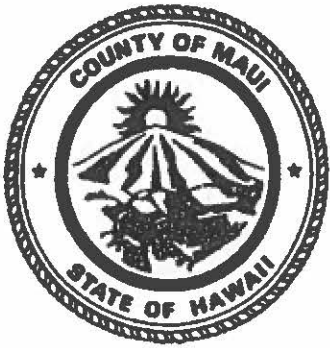
Mailing Address: _____ **City/Zip:** _____

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: MEO head start has been such a great program
for not just my kids but also me as a parent.
I have been able to benefit from this great program
in the best ways. Without head start I feel like
I would still feel lost when it comes to my kids
being in school but also being able to go to work.
I feel that MEO is a great program & they
deserve everything they would need in order
to stay afloat. We love this program & we
wouldnt know what to do without it!

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Aliyah Swartz

Email Address: aliyahswartz168@gmail.com **Phone:** 808 766 6356

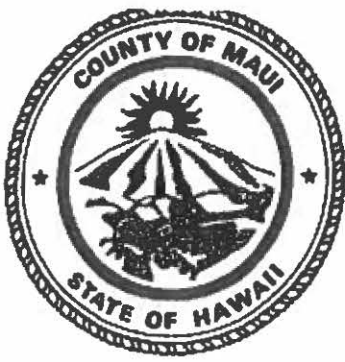
Mailing Address: 76 Waiakoa St **City/Zip:** 96753, Kihei

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: I love head start for my daughter
It changed her for the best where I would
see her acting out had before she
started here her attitude has
changed for the best she has alot of
teachers she loves and relies on we
love head start

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Jenn Pupuki

Email Address: mankaeluamakai@gmail.com Phone: 298-7312

Mailing Address: P.O BOX 1634 City/Zip: Waikeai 96748

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO HEAD START

Request/Issue: Alpha; to whom this may concern,
I would like to start by saying how much we appreciate
MEO Head Start program. ~~Available~~ Both of our older
sons attended this program and it really helped them
get a "head start" on education. We didn't initially enroll
our son here cause we lived Malama, all of the other
schools were beyond full with a long waitlist. We ended
up putting ourselves on every waitlist hoping our
son would get accepted. MEO had a space available
and our son was able to begin his learning journey
in a structured environment with other Kiiki.
I can't explain how much this has helped our son

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: HUMAN CONCERNS

over

prepare for his bright future. In a short time, we have seen so much improvement in his retention, his ability to work and play with others. His social skills are improving and he is learning so much. This school has also helped our ohana with being able to return to work. If the school closed at noon all week, it would really put a damper on our work schedule. I also see how the full days really fill his cup. He seems so excited every day to tell us about what he learned, how much fun he had playing and how much he loves school. Please help keep this center open to ensure our keiki's ability to learn and help build on their most important years.

Mahalo nui loa i ke Kōkua

Jenifer Papuhi



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Janette Taneayo

Email Address:

janetteleani@yahoo.com

Phone:

808-646-1624

Mailing Address:

PO Box 1493

City/Zip:

I Represent:

Myself

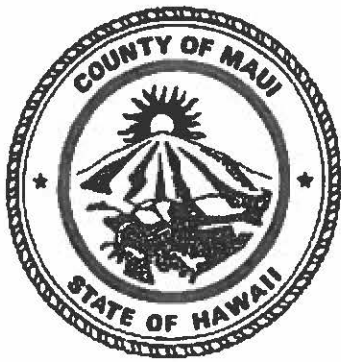
Organization MEO HEAD START

Request/Issue:

Funding is essential. A comprehensive budget act as a financial road map, ensuring the school can sustain a safe environment and provide high quality education. We need ongoing investment for age appropriate books, supplies, educational toys for our children. The funds are needed to provide free and healthy meals for our children. ~~Keeping~~ MEO provides a well structured program, and keeping it open till 3:00 helps out with parents who work a full time job.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: HUMAN CONCERNS



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY EXT: _____

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Ava Morris

Email Address: avamolovai@gmail.com Phone: 8086986170

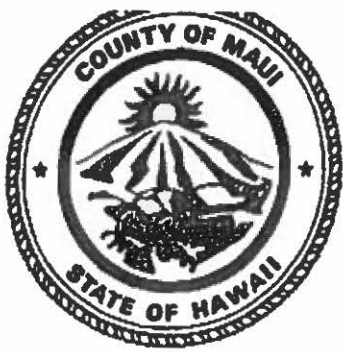
Mailing Address: PO BOX 129 HOOKEHUA HI 96729 City/Zip: _____

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO HEAD START

Request/Issue: I AM WRITING TO MAKE MY APPRECIATION FOR MEO HEADSTART
and to express how meaningful it has been for my family. MEO has
provided my child with access to free preschool, which has been
incredibly valuable in supporting his early learning and development.
the program has also supported us with essential supplies. We
have received items such as books, color pencils, and other
art materials. I am also deeply grateful for additional
support provided to my family, including diapers for my
infant. this kind of assistance goes beyond education
and truly shows the programs commitment to
supporting families as a whole. Overall MEO has made
a positive and lasting impact on our lives, and I sincerely appreciate
the opportunity. Muhalo, Ava Morris

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: HUMAN CONCERNS



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Shanda Kaholoaa

Email Address: shandalynkkaholoaa12@gmail.com Phone: 808-658-9233

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 194 City/Zip: Hobokenua, HI 96729

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO HEAD START

Request/Issue: MEO has been very resourceful and helpful to my children and I for multiple reasons. The first for being a free pre-school my children can attend with exceptional teaching and education. Second, for offering many free things for my children such as learning supplies for my children and also free food, snacks for my children at home. MEO has been very helpful for my family and I still plan on enrolling my next two children into MEO in these next two-three years.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: HUMAN CONCERNS



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Jennine Rojas

Email Address: jennine.rojas93@gmail.com Phone: 8082134055

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1635 City/Zip: KKai 96748

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO HEAD START

Request/Issue: Im requesting funding for a full day of school because
him being in school makes it a lot easier for me considering
I work full time and have four kids. With the prices of
living in Hawaii, its really hard to pay for child care
also. And if its only half-day it'd make it harder to
work.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: HUMAN CONCERNS

Aloha,

My name is Vanalouise Naehu, and I am writing in support of continued funding for MEO Head Start programs, especially the extended hours program, in the Maui County Fiscal Year 2027 budget.

I currently serve as a Parent Council President and am also a member of the community. My child is in his second year with Head Start, and our experience has been nothing but positive. As a single parent who is attending school full-time while also working full-time, this program has been a major support system for my family.

Head Start has given me peace of mind knowing that my child is in a safe, nurturing, and educational environment. The staff truly care about the keiki and their development. My child loves going to school, loves the people around him, and is excited to learn every day. Even during times when he has missed school, the support and care from the program have continued, which shows the level of commitment they have to each child and family.

The resources and services provided go beyond just education. They support the whole family, and for parents like me, that makes a real difference. It allows us to continue working, going to school, and building a better future while knowing our children are being well taken care of.

I respectfully ask that Maui County continue to support and fund MEO Head Start programs, including extended hours, so that families like mine can continue to benefit from these essential services.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Vanalouise Naehu

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanalouise Naehu', written in a cursive style.

Aloha,

April 13,2026

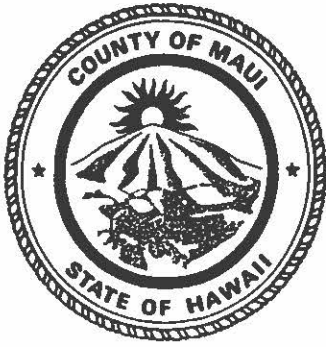
My name is Tessi Hoopii. My daughter attends MEO Headstart in Kahului and prior to that my son attended MEO Headstart in kihei almost 10yrs ago. I am incredibly grateful to have been provided these services from MEO Headstart as I am a single mother of 2. While my daughter is in school, I have the ability to work and have a steady income.

As a single mother it relieves a big burden and stress of not having an income due to not having stable schooling for my daughter.

The activities and knowledge that has been provided from Headstart has truly made my daughter thrive in her academics such as writing, counting, as well as reading. The staff at her location is amazing. I think it's especially important to have this program available to parent who need aid with Headstart education and have the means to provide an income for there family.

Mahalo,

Tessi Hoopii



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Liana Kanno

Email Address:

Lkanno055@gmail.com

Phone:

4158163074

Mailing Address:

P.O. BOX 3008

City/Zip:

Kahului, HI, 96733

I Represent:

Myself

Organization

MEO Head Start

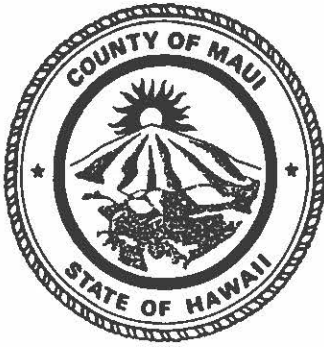
Request/Issue:

MEO Headstart has been a huge blessing in our lives. 3 of my children had the privilege of being able to attend Headstart. Their program has helped my children get ahead of all their milestones. My children are ahead when it comes to development all because of being in headstart from young ages. As a mother who has been going to school full time for the past 6 years, the program has helped me thrive in school and also contributed to my success in getting my college degrees. If I was not for headstart, my children would of never had the chance to go to preschool and I would of not been able to graduate from college with my associate and bachelors degree.

Funding Request (if known): \$

Responsible County Department:

Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

107

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Jada McGuire

Email Address:

jada.mcguire11@gmail.com

Phone:

808-385-6812

Mailing Address:

3525 Burns Pl.

City/Zip:

Makawao, 96768

I Represent:

Myself

Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue:

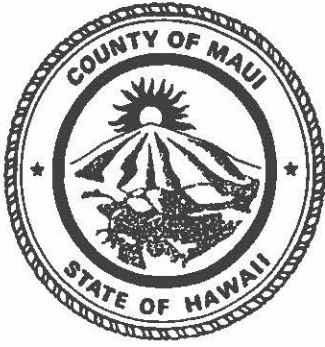
I'd like to begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to the county of Maui for funding MEO Headstart. Your investment has made a meaningful difference in the lives of many families like mine and I am truly grateful for the continued support. In this program my child has been able to access essential services that she would not have. These services provided guidance and opportunities for growth, helping my child make important progress in development mentally & emotionally.

I respectfully ask that you continue funding this program in fiscal year 2027 so that families like mine can keep receiving the support we need. Your continued investment ensures that children have the resources they need to thrive and reach their full potential.

Funding Request (if known): \$

Responsible County Department:

Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

Form No.	NO

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Sunnie Zamora

Email Address: Sunnie.Zamora@gmail.com Phone: 8086332787

Mailing Address: 12 old place waikapu, HI City/Zip: waikapu 96713

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: I think meo should be kept open because
it has really helped my daughter get early exposure to school
that my son didnt get that I didnt have access to &
was unaware of. I use to go to meo head start
as well as my siblings and have good memories.
I hope that more kids we continue to keep having
the same opportunities to have free schooling as well
as jobs for our teachers to be there for our up
coming littles they matter in their upbringing &
community driven back ground it being meo ran program
makes it very awesome. Please keep program
open ♡

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns

Budget Meeting Letter

Thursday, April 16, 2026

They say "Money is the root of all evil", until they have none. They say "Time will heal all things", until the day they leave this earth. Today's society teaches us that if you don't stay in school, graduate with a degree, you will not be successful in life. Well, today I'm here to tell you that is true, to a certain extent. I'm not here to beg you to continue to fund the MEO headstart programs, instead, I'm here to tell you my story & how the budget that greatly helps the MEO headstart families, affected me & my ohana.

It all started about 13 years ago; I recently broke up with my ex & wanted to make a difference in my life. I just started a new job at Hawaiian Airlines, as a ramp agent, & wasn't sure about the choices I was about to make. All I knew is that I wanted better. A better life, a better future, & a better today. With that in mind, I started surrounding myself with a circle of people that would lift me rather than break me, praise me rather than judge me. It was then, I found my future wife.

A family of 7, mom, dad, brother (& his 3 adult kids). Without making this story longer than it has to, my brother-in-law's oldest child has a total of 5 children, which my wife & I are guardians to the 3 oldest. Although the choices their birth mother made wasn't the greatest, it was with open arms that my wife & I decided to raise Keihdyn, Kheri-lyn, & Khalia, as our own. We knew it wasn't going to be easy, we knew we would struggle financially with just 1 income, but with the grace of God & a lot of patience, we are standing here today as a family grateful & appreciative of all the help we can get.

Money IS “the root of all evil”, but spending it wisely & buying the necessary food to keep our family fed, or even purchasing the right size clothes may seem easy to do, but not without a little work. It is important to make sure that we do our research to find the right pre-school program that best fits our budget or the best headstart program that will keep our young ones safe, eager to learn more, and willing to make new friends. So, writing this letter, attending important class meeting, or even making sure our children attend school as healthy as possible, is what we choose to do every day because we love them. I’m not saying our children are the greatest, well-behaved, loving human beings in the world, but in our eyes, they are exactly that.

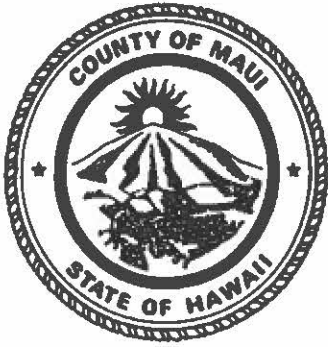
MEO headstart (Kahului) has open up a whole new world of schooling & the idea of what we thought pre-school would be for us. Other than attending a private school & having to pay out of pocket a ton of money, this headstart program has given us some financial freedom & not have to think whether we should keep our children out of school because we cannot afford it. Our children are not just getting free breakfast, lunch, & snack every day, but they get a free chance to make memories. Time spent at the playground with friends, learning to spell their names at the age of 5, & bringing home the very interesting stories of what their friends discussed today is something that money cannot buy.

In closing, the financial help that we receive is not only helpful, but appreciated. We have been able to find help, through MEO headstart, that opens our eyes to a world that is willing to help & not hurt. Giving us the freedom to not have to worry about our child’s first year of schooling is an experience all parents should be involved in. Although each family go through different experiences in life, we believe that if the funding to continue the MEO headstart

comes to a halt, our future generation may struggle with the concept of life & how they should live it.

Mahalo for listening to my story & letting me express my feelings of the funding that supports my child's future.

Sanoe M. Kekahuna



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Kristina Cammille Portugal

Email Address: babyface_cammille@yahoo.com Phone: (808) 268-1015

Mailing Address: 8085 Laalo Pl, Lahaina, HI, 96761 City/Zip: Lahaina, 96761

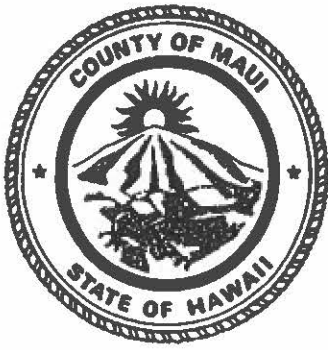
I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue:

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for
having my son Kyler Chase be part of MEO headstart. ~~It~~
Your generosity not only eases our financial burden but also
opens the door for my child to learn, grow and thrive
in a nurturing environment. In preparation for the school
year, I would like to respectfully request consideration
for continuous budget assistance. It helps a lot of
families in so many ways. Thank you once again for
your kindness & support.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: MAY LENH CANETE

Email Address: CANETEMAYLENH@YAHOO.COM Phone: (808) 419-0811

Mailing Address: 148 IPUKULA WAY City/Zip: LAHAINA HI. 96761

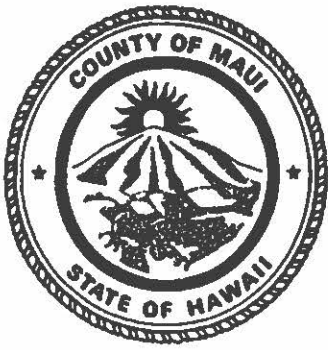
I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: I want to express my sincerest appreciation to the County of Maui for funding MEO Headstart. It has been a huge help to families like ours to be able to bring our keikis to preschool, especially for those who cannot afford it. My child Zach Spade has been attending MEO Headstart for two (2) years now. Our lives have become easier since then. Not only do we have a place we can trust to care for our children while we work, but they also learn so much. It is a big help in shaping our children's characters and minds before they enter elementary school.

I am humbly requesting that the County of Maui keep funding this organization in hopes of continuing full-day / full-year services for our enrolled Head Start families.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Beverlee Wilson

Email Address: justinani96761@yahoo.com Phone: 808.868.6906

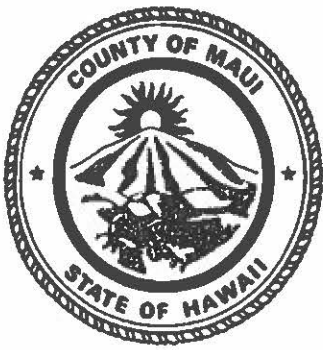
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 12224 Lahaina HI City/Zip: Lahaina 96761

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: We love meo headstart the teachers are
very attentive to our son Jerome. They are the
best place to send your kids. He is learning
everything for education and life. He has learned
amazing social skills and so much more.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name: Amber-Marie Panis

Email Address: ambermariepanis4@gmail.com Phone: 808-793-9193

Mailing Address: 139 Kukuia St. unit 203 City/Zip: Lahaina 96761

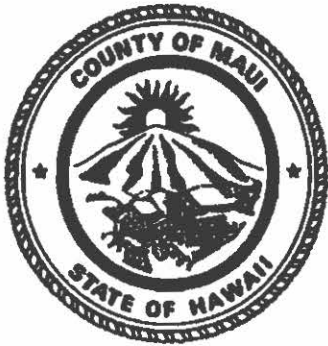
I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: Aloha my name is Amber and my child Bella-Kae goes to MEO head Start in Lahaina. I am so grateful that there is a program that helps parents and children in learning. We need help with funding so other parents and children will be able to have the same opportunity like my child has. Bella loves to learn and this program is a great place. The teachers are loving and they care so much about the children.

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

PS. please help fund MEO head Start program

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request



PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Liana Freitas

Email Address:

freitaslianaK@icloud.com

Phone:

(808) 298-4424

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 396 Wailuku, HI

City/Zip:

Lahaina 96761

96793

I Represent:

Myself

Organization

MEO Head Start

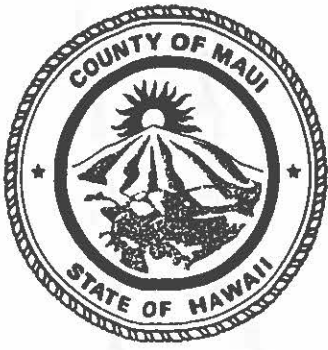
Request/Issue:

Aloha & Mahalo for taking the time to read this testimony. I'd like to give the county of Maui a huge shoutout/appreciation thank you for continuing to fund MEO Head Start, because of this continued funding I as a parent am able to have an extra 3 hours caregiving for my father weather its being able to take that last 2:15 appt or being stuck in traffic coming back from town having that extra time till 3:30pm really helps me. I hope to see the funding continue in the up coming school year as because I believe MEO Head Start is an amazing program for children & ohana's.

Funding Request (if known): \$

Responsible County Department:

Human Concerns



COUNTY OF MAUI
Office of the Mayor
Fiscal Year 2027
Community Budget Request

NO

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Reyshell Magsayo Ricardo

Email Address: yakira0515@yahoo.com

Phone: (808) 269-0613

Mailing Address: 305A Makua St. Wailuku

City/Zip: Wailuku, HI, 96793

I Represent: Myself
 Organization MEO Head Start

Request/Issue: Aloha,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the County of Maui for funding the MEO Head Start program. Thanks to this support, my child has access to a stable and enriching preschool environment. The teachers and staff have been so supportive and understanding, making me feel at ease as I continue to work and provide for my family. We feel so blessed that they continue to support funding for MEO Head Start program, especially as we look ahead to the fiscal year 2027. This has been truly life-changing, and we are deeply appreciative. Thank you!

Funding Request (if known): \$ _____

Responsible County Department: Human Concerns

**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Commenting on Proposed FY27 Budget
Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee
April 20, 2026 at 9:00 am
via Videoconference on Teams**

Aloha Chair Sugimura and Budget Committee Members,

In my role as Maui Marine Director for The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra, I serve as an *ex officio* member of the County's Conservation Planning Committee.

As you may be aware, the Committee was established in 2018 and was tasked in with preparing a "greenprint" for Maui County, a long-term conservation planning tool to help guide the use of the Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation fund. However, the Committee has struggled to meet regularly and make progress toward this goal and has twice extended the deadline to produce the greenprint plan.

At a meeting last year, the Committee discussed this lack of progress and concluded a major barrier is the lack dedicated staff. It was mentioned at that time that perhaps CM Sinenci could introduce a budget amendment to provide some staff capacity to support the Committee. While I defer to those better versed in the available mechanisms, I wanted to raise the issue to the Council in hope that you will consider this in your current budget deliberations.

The other budget item that was discussed to support the work of Committee is to hire a consultant with expertise in greenprint development to assist the County with this process. This is the intention of the Committee members, as I understand, and is recognized as the only way that a professional and useful greenprint plan will be developed in a reasonable time frame. In speaking with Budget Director Milner, she indicated a budget amendment could be done later once the Committee had the chance to meet further. I also recognize a budget amendment takes time and effort, and if it is included in the FY27 budget it may move the process along more quickly.

In consulting with some resources who have worked on greenprint plans for other locations, they have a provided an estimate of \$200K - \$250K for the County to consider for a contract in the FY27 budget. While the cost of such a plan can vary greatly depending on the scope and depth, this would provide support for the stakeholder process within the committee, community engagement with a cultural component, and

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The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra

April 16, 2026

Page 2

a final product with interactive features. (A barebones process could be done for as little as \$150K; a more robust process with more depth of community engagement and more features in the final product could range up to \$350K.)

(Please note that TNC does not intend to bid on the greenprint contract; but we do intend to provide resources and expertise to support the process.)

I encourage you consider including funding for staff and contracting for the Conservation Planning Committee in the FY27 budget, and I'm happy to provide information for questions you may have about the greenprint process.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Scott Crawford
Maui Marine Director

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 84,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and 18 managed areas and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.
