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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

April 8, 2019

Ms. Lori Tsuhako, Acting Director
Department of Housing and Human Concerns
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Tsuhako:

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2020 BUDGET (HC-5) (EDB-1)

May I please request you respond to the following:

1. Please explain the selection criteria for the County Grant Subsidy – Human Concerns Program.
2. Please explain the monitoring and follow up procedures employed by the Department of Housing and Human Concerns for grant recipients.
3. Has the Department conducted a community needs assessment?
 - a. If so, please provide the findings of the most recent community needs assessment.
 - b. If not, please explain.
4. Relating to the Immigrant Services Division:
 - a. Goal #4, Objective #1, is to increase the number of individuals served. However, for FY 2020 a decrease is estimated over FY 2019 (Program Budget, page 322). Please explain.
 - b. Please provide documentation of outreach conducted for FY 2019 (Program Budget, page 322).

- c. How does the Immigrant Services Division calculate the number of individuals served? (Program Budget, page 322.)
- d. The Department identifies one of its strategies as assisting immigrants with tools needed to become tax-paying citizens of the United States (Program Budget, page 273).
 - i. Please explain that strategy considering the statistics below.

As a report from the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy (ITEP) points out, “The best evidence suggests that at least 50 percent of undocumented immigrant households currently file income tax returns using Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITINs), and many who do not file income tax returns still have taxes deducted from their paychecks.” According to ITEP’s estimates, which do not count federal taxes, “undocumented immigrants in the United States pay an estimated total of \$11.64 billion in state and local taxes a year [footnote omitted]. This includes more than \$6.9 billion in sales and excise taxes, \$3.6 billion in property taxes, and just under \$1.1 billion in personal income taxes.” “Undocumented Immigrants’ State & Local Tax Contributions,” Gee, L. C. (Feb. 2016). <https://itep.org/wp-content/uploads/immigration2016.pdf>

- 5. Relating to the Department Summary (Program Budget, page 276), please explain the significant changes in the amounts of other premium pay.
- 6. Relating to the Human Concerns Program, Continuation Budget Changes (Program Budget, page 295):
 - a. Please provide the job description for the Enhance Fitness Instructor.
 - b. Please explain the need for an increase in the amount of \$24,000 for the Enhance Fitness Instructor.
 - c. Please explain the overtime request for Index Code 914325A-5205.

7. Relating to the Human Concerns Program, Volunteer Center (Program Budget, page 329), Goal #1, Objectives #1-#3, are to increase public awareness. However, for FY 2020 a decrease is estimated over FY 2019. Please explain.
8. Relating to the Human Concerns Program, Expenditures Summary by Character & Object - Grant Revenue Fund (Program Budget, page 331), please explain the increase by 1300.8 percent for other premium pay.
9. Relating to the Affordable Housing Fund (Budget Details, page 8-82, Index Code 101001), what amount has been used from the Fund from its inception to date, and on what programs or services?
10. In 2015, the Research and Economic Analysis Division (READ) of the State Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism projected that Maui County will need 13,949 additional housing units by 2025 to meet demand. Does the Department have a current assessment or estimate of the total number of housing units needed by FY 2025, and if so, what is the estimate? What about for FY 2020?
11. Has the Department updated a more complete list of County-owned lands that are available for potential development for affordable housing purposes? If so, please provide the updated list for reference.
12. Please outline the program areas and corresponding amounts that County housing services are funded or augmented by funding from state and federal sources.
13. Relating to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, how many renters and how many landlords are currently participating in the program? What is the average rent paid by renters, the average subsidy amount from the program, and the average total rent paid to landlords?
14. Relating to the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program, what is the estimated percentage of work time spent by non-Housing Choice Voucher Program staff on matters related to the Section 8 program?

15. Please provide a list of Department-funded programs and services, and corresponding amounts, that directly address mental health services for (a) the general population and (b) persons experiencing homelessness.
16. Please provide a list of Department-funded programs and services, and corresponding funding amounts, that directly address alcohol and substance abuse prevention and treatment.
17. Relating to the Immigrant Service (Budget Details, page 8-13, Index Code 914143A), what is the total immigrant population on (a) Molokai, (b) Lanai, and (c) Maui island that the Department provides or targets for services.
18. Please provide details about the \$50,000 "Analysis of Impediments" (Budget Details page 8-10, Index Code 914457B, Sub-Object Code 6112, Contractual Service).
19. Please provide details about the \$66,910 for Contractual Service (Budget Details, page 8-82, Index Code 101001, Sub-Object Code 6112).
20. The HHC Maui Senior Center Leisure electricity amount of \$98,855 is significantly higher than all other line items for electricity in the Department's proposed budget (Budget Details, page 8-29, Index Code 914366B, Sub-Object Code 6120). Please explain if there are extenuating circumstances for the expense and if any energy-saving measures are being taken or considered.
21. The Acculturation Program Grant Subsidy of \$25,000 (Budget Details 8-24, Index Code 914147B) is listed under unencumbered funds in FY 2019 in the Department's pre-budget presentation. Has this amount already been captured in "carryover savings" reflected in the proposed FY 2020 Budget? Is the Department seeking funding for this program in FY 2020? If so, explain why the funds were not used in FY 2019 and how the funds will be used in FY 2020.
22. Relating to the Department's pre-budget presentation, Strategic Goal 1 relates to increasing the affordable housing inventory, but the measure cited for the Human Concerns Division is "# of units

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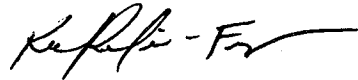
created,” whereas the measure for the Housing Division is cited as: “\$ amount of outside funding brought into Maui County for every \$ of ours.” Please explain the discrepancy, specifically as it relates to the Housing Program’s priorities?

May I further request that you transmit your response **no later than April 15, 2019**, to enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2020 Budget.

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

Thank you for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Leslee Matthews at ext. 7662, Shelly Espeleta at ext. 7134, Christy Chung at ext. 7137, or Yvette Bouthillier at ext. 7758).

Sincerely,



KEANI RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, Chair
Economic Development and Budget
Committee

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cc: Mayor Michael P. Victorino
Budget Director