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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

April 11, 2026

Ms. Margaret Willis, Director
Department of Human Concerns
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Willis:

**SUBJECT: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (HC-03)**

Thank you for participating in the Council's Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee meeting of April 7, 2026. The Committee respectfully submits the follow-up questions below.

May I further request that you transmit your response to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by **4:30 p.m. on April 16, 2026.**

1. Please provide an update on the current situation and future plans for the homeless individuals situated on Pulehu Road, including which departments are involved and when the community can expect next steps. (YLS)
2. Is the Department able to fund existing staff with grant revenue to reduce the use of General Funds? Please advise. (TP)
3. For FYs 2025 and 2026, the Department funded Project Vision – Hele for Health & Homeless Outreach. Please clarify whether the Department still supports this initiative. (SS)

Ms. Margaret Willis
April 11, 2026
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4. Relating to your Department's response to HC-01 dated March 31, 2026:
 - a. In Attachment 1, under the Anticipated Hire Date column, please clarify the meanings of "N/A" and "TBD" for each Position ID.
 - i. Why is P-26038 Senior Services Program Assistant III marked as "N/A" even though the position has sufficient funding? (Pages 1 and 2, Attachment 1) (TP)

5. Relating to your Department's response to HC-02 dated April 6, 2026:
 - a. Please clarify if a reorganization with union consultation will be needed for the following vacant expansion positions:
 - i. P-00762 Grants Management Program Specialist IV, Index Code 925006A; and
 - ii. P-00763 Program Specialist I, Index Code 925040A. (Pages 22 and 23) (TP)

 - b. In your response, you noted Ho'olehua Homesteaders Association did not apply for funding. Please explain why the Department carried forward funds despite not receiving an application. Has the Department been in contact with the organization? (Page 26) (TP)

 - c. In your response, you noted that Molokai Rural Health and Molokai Community Health Center applied for FY 2026 funding. Have the grant agreements been fully executed? If so, are they retroactive to July 1, 2025? Please explain. (Pages 32 and 33) (YLS)

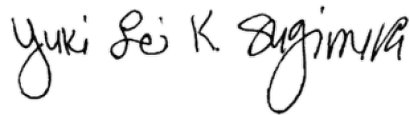
May I also request that you restate each question followed by your corresponding response. Include any attachments or exhibits. Please ensure your response is clear and legible by using a minimum 12-point font throughout so Committee Members and the public can easily read the document once it is posted.

Ms. Margaret Willis
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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 (Kirsten Szabo at ext. 7662, James Krueger at ext. 7761, Jarret Pascual at ext. 7141, Clarissa MacDonald at ext. 7135, or Pauline Martins at ext. 8039).

Sincerely,

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

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

bfed:2027bgt:260407ahc01:clm

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

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2026 8:25 PM
To: 'Margaret.Y.Willis@co.maui.hi.us'
Cc: 'Kimberly.Ferguson@co.maui.hi.us'; 'vanessajoy.domingo@co.maui.hi.us'; 'Zeke Kalua'; 'Lesley Milner'; 'Kristina Cabbat'; 'Tiare P. Horner'; 'Shirley Blackburn'; 'Janina Agapay'; jessica.crouse@co.maui.hi.us
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (HC-3)
Attachments: (HC-3) Correspondence to Human Concerns 04-11-2026.pdf

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

MARGARET WILLIS
Director

JESSICA CROUSE
Deputy Director



DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN CONCERNS
COUNTY OF MAUI
2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 546
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
PHONE: (808) 270-7805

April 16, 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Lesley Milner".

Ms. Lesley Milner
Budget Director, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Richard T. Bissen, Jr.", written over a green horizontal line.
Mayor
4-16-26
Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Sugimura:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (HC-03)

Thank you for your correspondence of March 29, 2026. Please see the Department's responses below.

- 1. Please provide an update on the current situation and future plans for the homeless individuals situated on Pulehu Road, including which departments are involved and when the community can expect next steps. (YLS)**

Consistent with concerns raised during the Department's budget hearing on April 7, 2026, the Department of Human Concerns has worked with

outreach providers to ensure that supportive services, shelter options, and housing case management are offered to individuals inhabiting Pulehu Road on a regular basis.

A recurring challenge noted in departmental operations is the refusal of assistance by individuals at such sites. When individuals directly refuse offers of assistance, providers are limited in the work they can perform, though they often continue outreach attempts to build trust and encourage participation in the Coordinated Entry System (CES).

Addressing complex encampments requires a collaborative approach across multiple County agencies. Departments that have been involved in response and discussions regarding Pulehu Road within the current fiscal year include but may not be limited to: Department of Human Concerns, Maui Police Department, Department of Public Works, and Department of Environmental Management.

The Department is moving forward with the following actions:

- **Partner Meetings:** Director Willis will be scheduling meetings with both internal and external partners to review previous efforts at the Pulehu Road encampment and identify where those efforts can be expanded within legal and resource constraints.
- **Enhanced Interventions:** For FY 2027, the Department has requested a \$251,500 expansion for property storage and debris removal specifically to support interventions during homeless encampment response efforts.
- **Proactive Engagement:** The Department remains committed to proactive engagement and assistance with recommending enforcement actions when outreach service offerings have been exhausted.

2. Is the Department able to fund existing staff with grant revenue to reduce the use of General Funds? Please advise. (TP)

No. Four out of the six expansion positions requested are a direct result of a significant reduction in grant funding. The proposed budget will provide the funding necessary to stabilize positions filled with current employees as well as to enable the Department to continue recruitment for positions within the Department.

3. For FYs 2025 and 2026, the Department funding Project Vision – Hele for Health & Homeless Outreach. Please clarify whether the Department still supports this initiative. (SS)

The Department has worked with Project Vision throughout FYs 2025 and 2026 to provide ongoing implementation support and technical assistance consistent across all grantees. For the FY 2027-2028 grant cycle, the Department's 'Invitation to Apply' introduced sharpened criteria requiring all homelessness-related proposals to demonstrate a direct and measurable intention to help clients exit homelessness.

While Project Vision continues to provide services to the community, their specific proposal for this cycle did not align as strongly with the Department's current system-level goals of data-driven permanent housing placement compared to other highly competitive applications. This decision reflects the Department's commitment to financial stewardship and the prioritization of programs that directly address the core need for housing stability. The Department remains willing to provide further technical assistance to Project Vision to help them align future proposals with these evolving community standards and performance benchmarks.

4. Relating to your Department's response to HC-01 dated March 31, 2026:

a. In Attachment 1, under the Anticipated Hire Date column, please clarify the meanings of "N/A" and "TBD" for each position ID.

Positions listed as N/A reflect insufficient grant funding, and positions listed as TBD include positions that are currently vacant that are engaged with a Departmental administrative process and not yet ready for recruitment, such as positions that are under redescription review, re-organization, or that have a current temporary assignment in place that meets the operational needs of the position.

i. Why is P-26038 Senior Services Program Assistant III marked as "N/A" even though the position has sufficient funding? (Pages 1 and 2, Attachment 1) (TP)

Yes, the position is funded through general funds and currently the position is filled through temporary assignment. The Department has held off on permanently filling due to the potential elimination of the federal RSVP program, which would necessitate utilizing P-26038 to retain existing staff that are funded through the RSVP grant funds.

5. Relating to your Department's response to HC-02 dated April 6, 2026:

a. Please clarify if a reorganization with union consultation will be needed for the following vacant expansion positions:

- i. **P-00762 Grants Management Program Specialist IV, Index Code 925006A; and**
- ii. **P-00763 Program Specialist I, Index Code 925040A. (Pages 22 and 23) (TP)**

Yes, a reorganization with union consultation will be needed for both P-00762 and P-00763.

- b. **In your response, you noted Ho'olehua Homesteaders Association did not apply for funding. Please explain why the Department carried forward funds despite not receiving an application. Has the Department been in contact with the organization? (page 26) (TP)**

The Department carried forward funds for all veterans' grants, including the Ho'olehua Homesteaders Association program. The Department has contacted the organization to request an application but has not received a response from the organization to date. For administrative consistency, these funds were carried forward as smaller award allocations rather than full grant awards. This approach was applied uniformly across all veterans' grant programs

- c. **In your response, you noted that Molokai Rural Health and Molokai Community Health Center applied for FY 2026 funding. Have the grant agreements been fully executed? If so, are they retroactive to July 1, 2025? Please explain. (Pages 32 and 33) (YLS)**

The Molokai Rural Health grant agreement is currently routing for execution and will be issued a notice to proceed once fully executed. This grant agreement is for one year of funding and will end in April 2027. The Molokai Community Health Center grant is fully executed and is retroactive to July 1, 2025.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ext. 7146.

Sincerely,



JESSICA CROUSE
Deputy Director of Human Concerns

BFED Committee

From: Tiare P. Horner <tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 1:35 PM
To: BFED Committee; Margaret Y. Willis
Cc: kimberly.ferguson@co.maui.hi.us; Vanessa Joy B. Domingo; Ezekiel I. Kalua; Lesley J. Milner; Kristina Angeline C. Cabbat; Shirley Blackburn; Janina E. Agapay; Jessica C. Crouse
Subject: RE: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (HC-3)
Attachments: (BFED-1) (HC-03).pdf

Aloha,

Please see attached correspondence.

Mahalo,

Tiare P. Horner
Budget Specialist
Phone: 808.270.7517

From: BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2026 20:25
To: Margaret Y. Willis <Margaret.Y.Willis@co.maui.hi.us>
Cc: Kimberly A. Ferguson <kimberly.ferguson@co.maui.hi.us>; Vanessa Joy B. Domingo <vanessajoy.domingo@co.maui.hi.us>; Ezekiel I. Kalua <zeke.kalua@co.maui.hi.us>; Lesley J. Milner <lesley.j.milner@co.maui.hi.us>; Kristina Angeline C. Cabbat <kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us>; Tiare P. Horner <tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us>; Shirley Blackburn <shirley.blackburn@co.maui.hi.us>; Janina E. Agapay <janina.e.agapay@co.maui.hi.us>; Jessica C. Crouse <jessica.crouse@co.maui.hi.us>
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (HC-3)