

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-04-07 10:00 AM

Meeting Time: 04-07-26 10:00

eComments Report

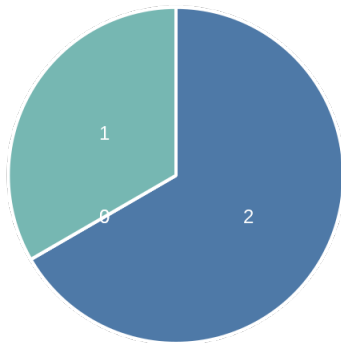
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-04-07 10:00 AM	04-07-26 10:00	2	3	2	0	0

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 (66%) Oppose (0%) Neutral (0%)
No Response (33%)



Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-04-07 10:00 AM
04-07-26 10:00

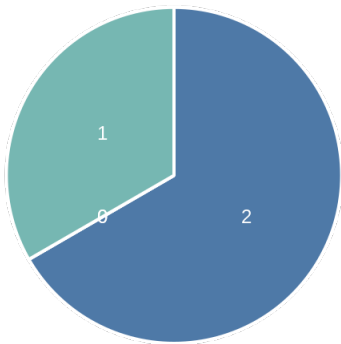
Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
BFED-1 PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)	3	2	0	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

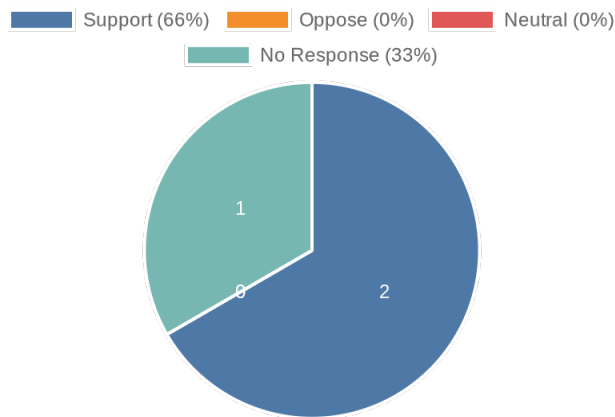
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment

Support (66%) Oppose (0%) Neutral (0%)
No Response (33%)



Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:25pm 04-07-26

Aloha,

My name is Matthew Lugo, and I am testifying in support of the Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development.

I am an aerospace engineer at Privateer, a technology company headquartered here on Maui. I have been a participant in MEDB's EMER-GEN program — hosted annually at the Advanced Maui Optical and Space Surveillance Technologies (AMOS) Conference — since 2022, returning again in 2024 and 2025. In 2024, I also joined the EMER-GEN planning committee, where I gained hands-on experience organizing the program and presenting in front of technical audiences.

EMER-GEN has had a direct and measurable impact on both my professional growth and on Privateer's business. Early in my career, the program connected me with experienced mentors who offered guidance I couldn't easily find elsewhere in Hawaii. That confidence has been lasting. One experience in particular stands out: during EMER-GEN, I had the opportunity to spend several hours speaking with a customer from the SDA TAP LAB — a professional originally from Oahu — about our shared passion for growing the technology industry in Hawaii despite the very real challenges that come with building a tech sector here. That conversation was genuine, grounded in a love for these islands, and it mattered. In the months that followed, Privateer was able to secure contracts with that organization. That is a direct line from MEDB's program to economic activity on Maui.

Beyond my own experience, I have watched EMER-GEN create meaningful opportunities for University of Hawai'i students or working professionals already in-state, who would otherwise have limited access to aerospace and defense professionals. The program gives them the chance to meet mentors, explore career paths, and pursue employment in a high-growth industry. It also includes a cultural component, with guest speakers who thoughtfully connect Hawai'i's unique history and culture to the aerospace and technology fields. This is not something you find at most technical conferences, and it reflects a genuine investment in ensuring that

the growth of this industry is relevant and respectful to the community it calls home.

I am proud to support MEDB's continued funding and strongly encourage the Council to do the same. The EMER-GEN program is building careers, supporting local businesses, and strengthening Hawai'i's place in the global technology community, all from right here on Maui.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Matthew Lugo

Aerospace Engineer

+1.808.250.2996

privateer.com

BFED Committee

Location:

Submitted At: 10:00am 04-07-26

Testimonies received from BFED Committee as of 4/7 10:00 a.m.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:04pm 04-06-26

It is an honor for me to offer testimony and support for the Cycle Strong program.

By way of introduction, I was the founder of the XTERRA World Championship (off-road triathlon) which took place on Maui for over twenty years.

Part of our program of events included offering introduction and training for Maui youth in the areas of cycling, running and fitness. We were honored to work with Maui cycling shops, running clubs, etc during those years. As a result we could see at close range the benefits of introducing young people to cycling. Fitness, health, traffic reduction, pollution reduction.... Etc.

From the seed of one small event in 1996, a global endurance sport spread around the globe to 30+ countries. One of the major reasons for that growth is based on introducing young people to cycling. Maui was the leader that started all of this... and it is my recommendation that Maui continues to be a leader in the area of youth sports/fitness with the Cycle Strong program.

Thank you and Aloha,

Tom Kiely

808-428-0869 mobile

Tkiely8888@gmail.com

www.KielyCap.com

Www.RwandaStories.com

BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 7:58 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Fw: Stem works: Lokelani

From: Stacey Pilarca <tibz732@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 7:50 PM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Cc: lalaine@medb.org <lalaine@medb.org>; Stacey Pilarca <tibz732@yahoo.com>
Subject: Stem works: Lokelani

You don't often get email from tibz732@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi there,

I am a parent from Lokelani intermediate and I have a child who goes to stem works after school and it being in the stem made him more developed his interests towards gaming, 3d printing, robotics, and also I believe by being in that org it helps him to be more disciplined, attentive and it also helps his social skills especially my son is not too sociable so these kind organization after school helps not only my child but as a parent cause I know my son likes to go to stem cause he enjoys what they do plus they have a very friendly, knowledge instructor Mr Sean Yannel and I do hope and wish that county of Maui will never stop supporting these kind of organization. It's really beneficial for the school , kids and parents these kind of after work activity, thank you .,

BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 7:59 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Fw: Written testimony for MEO - Core Four Program.
Attachments: DMattos. County of Maui. Budget Testimony for MEO. 4.06.2026 signed.pdf

From: David Kawika Mattos <alakaina.consultinghawaii@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 6, 2026 4:22 PM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Written testimony for MEO - Core Four Program.

You don't often get email from alakaina.consultinghawaii@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)
To whom it may concern:

Please accept my attached written testimony for the MEO - Core Four Program.

If you have any questions or concerns, please email me or call me at 808-281-6682.

Regards,

David "Kawika" Mattos
dba Alaka'ina Consulting Hawai'i, LLC

David "Kawika" Mattos
Dbā Alaka'ina Consulting Hawai'i, LLC
86C Pilikana Place
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

April 6, 2026

**RE: Testimony in Strong Support of the FY 2027 Budget – Office of Economic Development
(MEO Core Four – Small Business Planning Program)**

I am writing this personal testimony to urge the County of Maui to continue its vital funding and support for the MEO Core Four Small Business Planning Program.

While I serve the community professionally as a Program Supervisor at Maui Family Support Services (MFSS) leading the Kāne Connections Program, I am writing today as a grateful graduate and a recipient of a \$5,000 business planning award through the Core Four program.

In the past, I attempted several small business ventures but always felt I lacked a thorough business plan and the foundational knowledge of business structures. This gap in expertise kept me hesitant to move forward with new ideas. After completing the Core Four course in August 2025, that hesitation was replaced by confidence.

The curriculum, engaging class discussions, and the direct mentorship of David Daly, Director of the Business Development Center, made a profound difference in my strategic planning. David's experience provided me with a defined roadmap for the new business I am currently launching. I now feel fully prepared to step into this venture and continue contributing to our local community.

Small businesses are the heart of Maui's economy. Programs like Core Four ensure that local entrepreneurs have the solid foundation and the technical roadmap to succeed, rather than just an idea. I am deeply grateful for the knowledge I received, and I strongly hope the County of Maui will continue to invest in this program so other local residents can turn their visions into reality.

Thank you for your time and for your continued support of our local workforce.

Sincerely,



David "Kawika" Mattos
808-281-6682
Owner, Alaka'ina Consulting Hawai'i, LLC