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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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April 4, 2025

Mr. Shayne Agawa, Director
Department of Environmental Management
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Agawa:

SUBJECT: **FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET** (BFED-1) (EM-02)

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the BFED Committee meeting on **April 15, 2025**.^{*} This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2026 Budget.

May I further request that, after approval by the Office of the Mayor, you transmit your answer to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by the end of the day on **April 15, 2025**. **Date subject to change without notice.*

Overall

1. The following relate to the Environmental Protection and Sustainability Division's grant subsidies: (Pages 233-236; Program Budget) (GJ) (TP) (YLS)
 - a. Does the Division have sufficient staff to distribute grants in a timely manner, including the grants that were transferred from the Office of Economic Development in FY 2025? (TP)
 - b. For FY 2025 and to the extent possible for FY 2026, please provide the following for all grant subsidies administered by the Division: the amount requested, the name of each applicant, the project's title, the amount approved, and the funding source index code and title. (GJ)

- c. Please provide a breakdown of how the Division plans to disburse the monies in the Grant Subsidy Detail for FY 2026. Please also explain how they were disbursed in FY 2025. (TP)
 - d. Why are Recycling Grants not listed and tallied in the EP&S Fund Grant Subsidy Detail? If this was inadvertently omitted, please provide the details. (GJ)
 - e. With the high demand for environmental protection and wetland grants, coupled with Federal cuts to environmental initiatives, is there a reason funding was not increased in FY 2026 for these grants? (GJ)
 - f. Please provide a breakdown of all grants administered in FY2025 under Environmental Protection Grants and Green Building and Resilient Housing Grants. (Page 233, Program Budget) (YLS)
 - g. On the proposed \$600,000 increase to the Recycling Grants Program to include grants that pilot on-island recycling processes, does infrastructure exist within the County to process this type of recycling? (Page 234, Program Budget) (YLS)
 - h. How much funding did the Maui Invasive Species Committee request and how much are they anticipated to receive? (TP)
2. The Electronic Waste Recycling Program grant is reduced for FY 2026. Has the program experienced a smaller volume of materials being recycled over the past few years or is it because there is less money available? (Page 237, Program Budget) (TP)
 3. How can residents learn more about the County of Maui Green Waste Container and Hauling Pilot program? (Page 238, Program Budget) (TP)
 4. Under Goal #1, item 1 for the Solid Waste Administration Program, please explain the proposed increase in cost per ton processed at the Hāna Landfill. Are there efforts to divert instead of bury the waste? (Page 216, Program Budget) (SS)

5. Under Goal #2, item 1 for the EP&S Division, the Department estimates removing 1300 abandoned and derelict vehicles in FY 2026. Is this service free for residents and is there a quota of total vehicles towed from each residency area? (Page 228, Program Budget) (SS)
6. For Goal #1, item 2 for the Administration Program, does the Department have plans to create a new program since the number has remained at zero since FY 2023? (Page 199, Program Budget) (NUH)
7. For Goals #2 and #3, item 1 for the Administration Program, the number of meetings conducted with the different divisions has dropped drastically from 75 meetings in FY 2023, to seven in the second quarter of FY 2025. (Page 199, Program Budget) (NUH)
 - a. For Goal #2, how does the decrease in meetings impact the different divisions?
 - b. For Goal #3, are seven meetings enough to review and update personnel needs and actions with the Department's divisions?
 - c. Does the Department have plans to bring the number of meetings held back up to FY 2023 levels?
8. Under Goal #2, item 1 for the Wastewater Administration Program, the Department lists the percentage of CIP projects completed in a timely manner as 100 percent in FY 2024, and estimated as 100 percent in FYs 2025 and 2026. The FY 2025 Second Quarter Budget Implementation Report notes a 25-percent decrease. Please explain the discrepancy. (Page 202, Program Budget) (NUH)
9. Under Goal #3, items 1 and 2 for the Wastewater Operations Program, the Department estimates a total of 12 sessions in FY 2026, including professional development sessions and safety training classes. (Page 210, Program Budget) (NUH)
 - a. The FY 2025 Second Quarter Budget Implementation Report notes that one session and one safety training class have been conducted. How does the Department plan on achieving its goal of conducting 12 sessions each by the end of the fiscal year?

10. Under Goal #3 for the Solid Waste Administration Program, the FY 2025 Second Quarter Budget Implementation Report indicates a decline in the number of safety courses offered by the Department. Please explain. (Page 216, Program Budget) (NUH)
11. For Goal #1, item #3 for the Solid Waste Operations Program, the FY 2025 Second Quarter Budget Implementation Report notes there were two State Department of Health notices of violation. Please explain what the violations were and how they were rectified. (Page 221, Program Budget) (NUH)
12. For Goal #2, item 1 for the EP&S Division, the Department estimates an increase in the number of vehicles towed from public roadways. Please provide a breakdown of the locations and the number of vehicles the Department expects to tow in FY 2026. (Page 228, Program Budget) (NUH)
13. What progress has been made on Lahaina's R-1 water expansion in FY 2025? Please elaborate. (TP)
14. Can General Excise Tax Funds be used for Sewer Interfund Transfers? Please explain. (TP)
15. Please confirm if Maui is the only county in the State that charges residents for refuse disposal. If yes, please provide the rationale for the County's charges. What would it take to eliminate the fee? (TP)
16. The County of Hawai'i has a diversion area before you reach the solid waste facility. It serves as a thrift store where individuals can drop off or shop for stuff they might need. With the Central Maui Landfill expansion, is it possible that our County could establish something similar? (TP)
17. The FY 2025 Second Quarter Budget Implementation Report notes four vacancies in the EP&S Division as of December 31, 2024. What are the Department's plans for this division? Have you considered hiring a team of people? (TP)
18. Twenty-two percent of County households have cesspools on their properties. Act 125, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, requires all

cesspools be converted by 2050, although the Cesspool Conversion Working Group suggests the deadline should be 2030. What is the Department's plan for cesspool conversions to septic systems? (YLS)

Salaries and Wages (Category "A")

1. For the expansion positions funded in FY 2025 that are requesting full year salaries in FY 2026, how many have been filled? (TP)
2. The Wastewater Operations Program is proposing an additional Electronic Technician. Has this position been filled? If not, when do you anticipate filling this position? (Page 214, Program Budget) (YLS)

Operations and Equipment (Category "B")

1. Can the Steel Wheeled Landfill Compactor under Index Code 919509C-7044 Other Equipment, Solid Waste Operations Program, be delayed until FY 2027? Please explain why or why not. (Page 226, Program Budget) (GJ)
2. What was the outcome of the Community Facilities District creation to expand R-1 water use in South Maui and Wailea? (Page 201, Program Budget) (TP)
3. For Index Code 919730C-7044 Other Equipment for the EP&S Division, where will the machinery be located and who will operate it? (Page 233, Program Budget) (TP)
4. The following relate to Index Code 919521B-6235 Rentals: (Page 7-44, Budget Details) (YLS) (NUH)
 - a. Please explain why \$345,000 is needed and what moving Refuse Collection Operations off the County Highway's baseyards entail? (NUH)
 - b. Where is Refuse Collection Operations being relocated to? (YLS)
5. The following relates to Index Code 919053B-6137 County grant subsidy: (Page 201, Program Budget) (YLS)

- a. Why is the County funding the Ma‘alaea Village Association project?
 - b. What is the total cost of this project?
 - c. What is the amount of funding being contributed by Ma‘alaea Village Association, if any?
6. As it relates to Index Code 919730B-6317 Count grant subsidy for the EP&S Division, what is the demand of the Recycling Grants Program? What was the total amount applied for in FY 2025, and is the proposed \$1,000,000 amount expected to meet the demand? (Page 7-17, Budget Details) (GJ)
7. For Index Code 919730B-6112 Contractual Service, please provide a breakdown of the budget for recycling services. (Page 7-16, Budget Details) (GJ)
8. For Index Code 919500B-6132 Professional Services for the Solid Waste Administration Program, please elaborate on the \$150,000 request for the rate fee study for landfill and refuse collection fees. Further, how often does the Department conduct a rate fee study for landfill and refuse collection fees? When was the most recent rate fee study conducted? (Page 7-27, Budget Details) (NUH) (YLS)
9. For Index Code 919509B-6233 Rental of machinery & equipment for the Solid Waste Operations Program, how long does the Department anticipate needing the heavy equipment rental? What type of equipment is being rented and does the Department have plans to purchase the equipment in the future instead of renting? (Page 7-38, Budget Details) (NUH)
10. For Index Code 919521B-6032 Refuse Cart Expenses for the Solid Waste Operations Program, how many carts does the Department anticipate replacing? Please provide a chart of the total carts in service by residency area, their lifespan, and their replacement schedule. (Page 7-43, Budget Details) (NUH)
11. Relating to Index Code 919726B-6132 Professional Services for the EP&S Division, please provide a breakdown of the services that will be provided by the Climate Action & Resiliency Plan program. (Page 7-16, Budget Details) (NUH)

12. Relating to Index Code 919730B-6235 Rentals for the EP&S Division, when did the Division relocate to One Main Plaza? Is this be an annual expense? (Page 7-17, Budget Details) (NUH)
13. Relating to Index Code 919023B-6137 R&M Machinery/Equipment for the Wastewater Reclamation Program, please provide a detailed breakdown of the equipment that require repair and the anticipated costs. (Page 7-68, Budget Details) (NUH)

Capital Improvement Projects

1. For CBS-1124 West Maui Recycled Water System Expansion, what is the estimated amount of R-1 treated recycled water that will be available for use when this project is completed? (Page 893, Program Budget) (TP)
2. For CBS-1146 West Maui Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Compliance Sewer Rehabilitation, is there a list of the major gravity sewer lines that will be inspected or investigated as part of this program? If yes, please provide the list. If no, how will the results of the investigations be accessible for public viewing? (Page 895, Program Budget) (TP)
3. How did the Department prioritize and determine which CIPs to use General Excise Tax Funds on? (YLS)
4. Are there any CIPs funded by the General Excise Tax Fund that can be postponed to FY 2027? (Page 57, Budget bill) (GJ)
5. The Council adopted Resolution 24-157, CD1, which set aside additional land for the Hāna Landfill expansion. The Deputy Director said the Department may expand solid waste uses, recycle diversion activities, and establish alternative technologies on the parcel. As it relates to CBS-8914 Solid Waste Master Plans for County Landfills and Solid Waste Facilities: (Page 836, Program Budget) (SS)
 - a. Are there ongoing plans for expansion or improvements at the Hāna Landfill? Are green waste materials being hauled out or can the Department manage green waste at the Landfill?

- b. Is there a Master Plan for the Hāna Landfill or any plans for a wastewater treatment facility in Hāna?
6. For CBS-3207 Pā'ia Wastewater Pump Station Modifications, please provide an update on the renovation status. Will the \$300,000 budgeted for FY 2026 be sufficient to complete the project? (Page 867, Program Budget) (NUH)

Appendix A, Part II

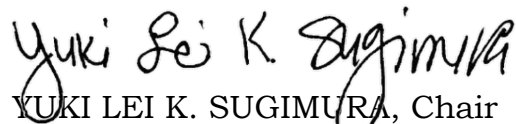
1. Can the Mālama Maui Nui – Highway Beautification grant be moved to the Highway Beautification, Abandoned Vehicle, and Tourism-related Traffic Congestion Revolving Fund under the line item for the EP&S Division? Are there other departmental costs or operations paid for out of the EP&S Fund that could be moved to the Revolving Fund to free up EP&S funding for grants? (Page 233, Program Budget; Page 48, Budget bill) (GJ)
2. Please provide a breakdown of expenditures that have used funds from the Vehicle Disposal Fee Fund in FY 2025 and planned expenditures using the fund for FY 2026. (Page 56, Budget bill) (YLS)
3. Please provide a timeline for executing the Upcountry Wastewater Treatment Facility Assessment Study included under the General Excise Tax Fund. (Page 57, Budget bill) (YLS)
4. The Sewer Fund subfund total in the FY 2024 Council Adopted Budget was about \$8,462,136 higher than the FY 2024 Actual, approximately a 15-percent difference. Please identify cuts that would limit the sewer fee increases to no more than 5 percent. (Page 7-51, Budget Details) (TP)

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

Mr. Shayne Agawa
April 4, 2025
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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,



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

bfed:2026bgt:250402aem01:jpp

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Budget Director
Deputy Director of Environmental Management

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Friday, April 4, 2025 9:00 PM
To: 'Shayne.Agawa@co.maui.hi.us'
Cc: BFED Committee; Robert Schmidt; Nadine Orikasa; 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; Lesley Milner; kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us; tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us; Janina Agapay
Subject: FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (BFED-1) (EM-02); reply by 0=4/15/25
Attachments: (EM-2) Correspondence to Environmental Management 04-04-2025.pdf