

## BFED Committee

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**From:** Tasha A. Kama  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 13, 2022 11:35 AM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Cc:** Andrew Martin - Prosecuting Attorney  
**Subject:** Priority Justification - CM Kama's Priority #6 (#86 in Combined Table)  
**Attachments:** 2022-04-12 CM Kama Priority Justification - Prosecuting Attorney.docx

BFED Committee:

On behalf of Councilmember Kama, please find attached Councilmember Kama's justification for her budget priority #6 (#86 in the combined matrix) for posting.

Thank you.

**Senior Executive Assistant Evan Dust *for***  
**Councilmember Tasha Kama**  
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**NOTE: We are following Chair Lee's directive to work remotely during the current COVID-19 emergency.** Our public-facing office phone is answered by voice mail. Email is monitored and responded to as quickly as possible. Short inquiries can be made via Microsoft Teams.

## CM Kama Priority #6 (#86 in Combined Table) – Additional Line-Item Appropriation -- Professional Services for Maui Community Outreach Court

This proposal would add \$90,000 to the professional services appropriation for the Prosecuting Attorney, General Prosecution Program (Page 17-14 of the Budget Details, Index 906158B, Sub-object 6132/Professional Services).

As discussed in the Human Concerns and Parks Committee, the Community Outreach Court provides an opportunity for those with non-violent offenses, like many in our unsheltered population, to seek a restorative, cooperative approach to the adjudication of those offenses. The Community Outreach Court is a team effort between the Judiciary, the Prosecutor, the Public Defender, and social service agencies. The Community Outreach Court sessions are typically held in atypical settings for the court – libraries, community centers, parks, and other locations. Those appearing to have their cases adjudicated are not called “offenders” but “participants.” The Community Outreach Court has the power to clear stoppers on driver licenses and to connect participants with the social services they need. I have been advocating for the establishment of a Maui Community Outreach Court since the early days of my first term in office; now we are almost ready to embark on this new approach.

The Prosecuting Attorney plans to launch the Maui Community Outreach Court in July 2022. All of the participating agencies and departments – Prosecuting Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, and the Judiciary – are agreeable to the proposed launch date, but there needs to be a case coordinator to manage the interactions between the participants, the court and the social service agencies. For the Oahu Community Outreach Court that case coordinator is housed in the Office of the Public Defender.

The original proposal provided an additional appropriation in the professional services line item so that the Prosecuting Attorney could provide funding to the Office of the Public Defender for the needed case coordinator. Since making this proposal, it is apparent that the State budget would need to be amended by the Legislature for the Office of the Public Defender to accept the county’s funding of the case coordinator position. Such an amendment could not be executed in a timely manner. In consultation with the Budget Office and the Prosecuting Attorney, I would like to amend my proposal so that this professional service appropriation is available for any non-profit entity that can provide the service needed.

Members, I believe the Maui Community Court is a key step in addressing permanent solutions for our unsheltered community. As such I ask for your support of my priority proposal.