

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers
Kauanoë Batangan
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

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

April 9, 2026

Mr. Marc Takamori, Director
Department of Transportation
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Takamori:

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI** (BFED-1) (TD-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. What is the Department's anticipated timeline for commencing ferry service to Molokai? Please provide the following:
 - a. Project timeline;
 - b. Key prerequisites; and
 - c. Factors that could accelerate or delay implementation of the ferry service. (KRF)

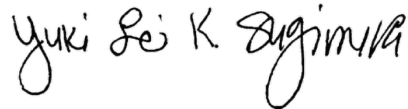
May I also request that you restate each question followed by your corresponding response. Include any attachments or exhibits. Please ensure your response is clear and legible by using a minimum 12-point font throughout so Committee Members and the public can easily read the document once it is posted.

Mr. Marc Takamori
April 9, 2026
Page 2

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 style with a large, looped "Y" and "S".

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

bfed:2027bgt:260407atd01:clm

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

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Friday, April 10, 2026 9:02 AM
To: Marc Takamori
Cc: Zeke Kalua; Lesley Milner; Kristina Cabbat; Tiare P. Horner; Shirley Blackburn; Janina Agapay; Diane.Yogi@co.maui.hi.us; Coralyn Dumlao
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (TD-3)
Attachments: (TD-3) Correspondence to Transportation 04-09-2026.pdf
Importance: High

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director



MARC I. TAKAMORI
Director


DIANE C. YOGI
Deputy Director

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793

TELEPHONE: (808) 270-7511
FAX: (808) 270-7505

April 14, 2026

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

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

 Richard T. Bissen, Jr. 4-14-26
Mayor Date

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

For Transmittal to:

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

Dear Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura:

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

The Department of Transportation (DOT) hereby transmit the following response to your letter dated April 9, 2026, regarding the Proposed Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for the County of Maui (BFED-1) (TD-03).

Question 1: What is the Department's anticipated timeline for commencing ferry service to Molokai? Please provide the following:

a. Project Timeline

Response:

- The timeline for the Ferry Service Program is currently tied to the completion of the environmental assessment process. The Department anticipates concluding this study and obtaining a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in FY 2027.
- The Department is currently collaborating with its contractor to prepare a federal grant application for FFY 2026 funding. These funds are specifically intended for the procurement of new ferry vessels for the Molokai route.
- Technical specifications, vessel drawings, and procurement deliverables are on track for completion in FY 2027. Once a procurement contract is executed, the typical lead time for vessel delivery is approximately one to two years.
- Provided that federal funding is secured and there are no unforeseen regulatory delays, the Department projects that ferry service to Molokai will commence in calendar year 2029.

b. Key Prerequisites

Response:

- The primary prerequisite is the successful completion of the environmental review process. This is required to ensure all potential impacts are mitigated and to satisfy the requirements for utilizing federal funds for the program.
- The Department must procure vessels specifically designed with the technical specifications required to safely and reliably navigate the Pailolo Channel. These vessels must meet all U.S. Coast Guard safety and stability standards for this specific maritime corridor.
- Service commencement depends on securing necessary agreements and permits from state and federal agencies. This includes authorizations for mooring the vessels and using harbor facilities for passenger boarding on both islands.

Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura

April 14, 2026

Page 3

- c. Factors that could accelerate or delay implementation of the ferry service.
(KRF)

Response:

The most significant factors impacting the Molokai ferry timeline are the successful completion of the environmental review and the procurement of specialized vessels. The project's progress is largely dependent on federal grant cycles and the timely approval of state and federal regulatory partners. While the Department is working toward a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), any requirements for additional environmental studies would extend the current timeline. Similarly, the availability of federal funding and maritime supply chain stability will dictate how quickly vessel construction can begin. Because this program requires active coordination with multiple agencies for permits and harbor use agreements, the speed of these inter-agency approvals remains the primary variable that could either accelerate or delay the projected 2029 service launch.

Sincerely,



Marc Takamori
Director of Transportation

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.

BFED Committee

From: Tiare P. Horner <tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 1:54 PM
To: BFED Committee; Marc I. Takamori
Cc: Ezekiel I. Kalua; Lesley J. Milner; Kristina Angeline C. Cabbat; Shirley Blackburn; Janina E. Agapay; Diane C. Yogi; Cora-Lyn Dumlao
Subject: RE: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (TD-3)
Attachments: (BFED-1) (TD-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: Friday, April 10, 2026 09:02
To: Marc I. Takamori <marc.takamori@co.maui.hi.us>
Cc: 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>; Diane C. Yogi <diane.yogi@co.maui.hi.us>; Cora-Lyn Dumlao <coralyn.dumlao@co.maui.hi.us>
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (TD-3)
Importance: High