

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on

2024-04-10 1:00 PM

Manage Public Comments and Requests To Speak for Agenda Items [Hide/Show](#)

All Agenda Items A G E N D A BFED-1 Bill 60 (2024) PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025... All User Locations

[Download PDF](#) [Download CSV](#) [This Meeting Settings](#)
[eComments Stats](#) [Hide/Show](#)

- 1 Meetings
- 2 Agenda Items
- 27 Comments
- 15 Support
- 0 Oppose
- 1 Neutral

[eComments Charts](#) [Hide/Show](#)

Overall Sentiment

[eComments](#) [Hide/Show](#)

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
Guest User	<p>My name is Katie Whiticar. I humbly write to you in strong support of reinstating Adaptations Dance Theater's (ADT) funding in 2025. I have been a dancer with Adaptations Dance Theater since 2016 and have directed community youth programs with the company. I grew up in Wailuku, dancing at Maui Academy of Performing Arts (MAPA), where fellow ADT company members, Ali McKeon Pineo, Emily McKeon and Madi McGain grew up dancing as well.</p> <p>After graduating from Kihei Charter School on Maui, I studied dance at California State University Long Beach where I received my B.A in Dance. Post degree, I continued to work as a dancer in Los Angeles, California. I was torn</p>	Support		04-17-2024 05:46 pm

Name

Comment

Position

Attachments

Submitted At

about the fact that my career kept me away from home. During my time in LA, ADT started a program called Bring it Home where they flew me back home to perform on Maui.

My first Bring it Home (2016) was one of the best experiences. The environment that ADT established was healthy, friendly, and professional, and as an artist that can be hard to come by. The true icing on the cake was that I was dancing in a project that mirrored professional work in LA and I was HOME! Continuing to live in LA, I got asked to do another Bring it Home. Fast forward to the day I realized that I could actually move back home due to the fact that ADT was able to provide professional contemporary dance work on Maui for the first time.

Dear committee, THANK YOU so much for funding ADT's Bring it Home concert in 2023 and 2024. ADT's programming truly changed my life and my career. Not only can I find work as a professional dancer on Maui but it has also led me to reconnect with my community in ways I have always dreamed of. Since moving back I have taught at MAPA as an alumni, directed new programs that brought professionals from around the world to teach our upcoming young dance artists here, work with other arts organizations on community projects (i.e. Small Town Big Art), and continue to teach at Momentum Dance Maui where I have directed their competition program and more. Working with young and pre-professional dancers here on the island is a full circle moment. These types of opportunities were not here in my own youth. I am not the only dance artist that had this dream growing up and who is now able to live it because of ADT's existence. Please strongly consider continuing to fund ADT. It will make opportunities possible for art to change

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
	<p>lives, young artists to have opportunities, and provide more events within our community.</p> <p>ADT continues to raise the caliber of contemporary dance on Maui bringing opportunities for professional Maui artists and aspiring youth. Their genuine, uplifting, supportive and active energy expands beyond.</p> <p>Mahalo for your time. Sincerely, Katie Whiticar -ADT Dancer, Momentum Dance Maui Teacher, B.A Dance California State University LB</p>			
Susan Browne	<p>I am writing regarding the 2025 Maui County Budget in support of Adaptations Dance Theater (ADT). I understand that this line item has been taken out of the mayor's budget. I humbly request that it be reinstated. I know it is a tough year for Maui, but we need the arts in order to heal from the tragedies and the difficult times. We all appreciate what you have done for ADT in the past. Please reconsider and help us all move to a healthier tomorrow. Susan Browne</p>	Support		04-17-2024 10:43 am
Guest User	<p>Dear Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of Adaptations Dance Theater (ADT). I am humbly asking for our funding for FY 2025 to be reinstated.</p> <p>My name is Emily McKeon and I was born and raised in the heart of Wailuku. I began dancing at the age of 4, at the Maui Academy of Performing Arts (MAPA) and I spent my summers in between highschool traveling across the country to study with prestigious ballet and contemporary companies in California, Boston, North Carolina, and Salt Lake City, in hopes of one day becoming a professional dancer.</p> <p>I graduated from the University of California, Irvine having received two degrees in Dance and</p>	Support		04-17-2024 08:02 am

Name

Comment

Position

Attachments

Submitted At

Education. And currently, I reside in Salt Lake City, Utah, dancing professionally for SALT Contemporary Dance.

I was first welcomed into the ADT community for their inaugural Bring it Home concert during the summer of 2016. I was a rising senior in highschool at the time and was ecstatic to be a part of a new and exciting project on Maui. Little did I know, this small but mighty project would become one of the most influential parts of my upbringing as an aspiring dancer. During the 5 summers I spent with ADT during Bring it Home, I was able to experience the professionalism of company life and performance, as well as challenge my artistry and intellect as a young dancer. Each summer I walked away from the program a more professional, generous, and mature dancer.

Now that I have graduated college and am dancing professionally, I have been able to come back home and perform as a guest dancer with ADT as well as teach masterclasses/workshops for the new generation of aspiring dancers on Maui. This has been some of the most fulfilling work I have done thus far as a dancer. I am now in the position to give back to the young community of dancers who also aspire to dance professionally or in college, and be their support system as they navigate their dance career.

Bring it Home allows young and aspiring dancers, like myself, to learn from and connect with a community of Maui-bred dancers who are pursuing professional careers across the country, as well as gives these dancers a place to come home to, to share their knowledge and passion for dance with a community that raised them. I am so grateful to be a part of the ADT community and am grateful for the role they played in helping me achieve my aspirations in dance.

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
Guest User	<p data-bbox="380 197 672 224">Sincerely, Emily McKeon</p> <p data-bbox="380 275 954 1894">County of Maui Officials, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for the tremendous support you bestowed upon us by including Bring it Home in last year's budget. It was a true honor to be recognized and included in your vision for our community. I understand the challenging decisions you face in budget allocation, and I write with humility to request the reinstatement of our funding. Throughout my work with various arts organizations on Maui, including ADT, Alexander Academy of Performing Arts, MAPA, Momentum Dance Maui, and Seabury Hall, I have witnessed the profound impact of arts programs on our youth. It is my passion to advocate for these young artists and provide them with the tools they need to flourish in the arts, whether here on our island or beyond. The reasons for sustaining funding for Bring it Home within the County of Maui's budget are compelling and far-reaching:</p> <p data-bbox="380 1073 954 1142">Supporting Local Artists: Bring it Home nurtures Maui-trained artists by providing professional contemporary dance opportunities. Continuing to support this program allows us to showcase and foster local talent.</p> <p data-bbox="380 1268 954 1337">Boosting the Arts Economy: The arts industry is a significant contributor to our local economy, creating jobs and economic growth. Supporting Bring it Home will further develop this sector, benefitting our entire community.</p> <p data-bbox="380 1425 954 1495">Community Engagement: Bring it Home performances enrich our community by promoting the arts and offering residents the chance to enjoy live theater experiences. Supporting this program helps cultivate a vibrant contemporary dance community.</p> <p data-bbox="380 1667 954 1736">Educational Opportunities: Bring it Home offers workshops, intensives, and masterclasses for local students, enhancing their confidence and professionalism in dance. These experiences prepare them for future careers in the arts. Exposure to Professional</p>	Support		04-17-2024 08:01 am

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

Performances: Attending Bring it Home performances exposes young dancers to professional artists, inspiring them to pursue dance as a career and enriching their artistic development. In summary, maintaining funding for Bring it Home demonstrates the County of Maui's dedication to supporting local talent, boosting our arts economy, enriching our community, engaging residents, and providing invaluable educational experiences for our students. I express my sincere appreciation for your time and consideration. Your continued support will allow us to sustain and expand the impact of Bring it Home for the benefit of our community. Mahalo nui loa for your consideration. With warm regards, Hallie Hunt Co-Artistic Director and Co-Founder Adaptations Dance Theater

Guest User

To whom it may concern:

Support

04-16-2024
01:21 pm

Hello, my name is Kathleen McKeon. I have been a dance artist here on Maui for over 40 years having started my teaching and choreographic career at the Maui Youth Theater which then evolved into the Maui Academy of Performing Arts. I am presently teaching and choreographing at Momentum Dance Maui.

My involvement with Bring It Home from its inception has been through my daughters ,Ali McKeon Pineo and Emily McKeon, who have performed in every Bring It Home concert. It was gratifying to have my daughters who grew up dancing on Maui, go to college and dance professionally on the mainland, then come back to Maui to share their talents. Having been in the dance community for over 40 years on Maui, I have seen many of my students move away to pursue art and dance. Bring It Home is their avenue to return to the islands to practice their art in an accepting and collaborative environment. This in itself opens the door to welcome back many "Maui- bred" youngsters

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

who feel they have to move away to pursue their art.

Dance and art brings people together for creative purposes. Creativity leads to innovation. Maui needs innovation and creativity to continue the path to a higher quality of life. The Bring It Home Concert will do that for the Maui community.

Best regards, Momentum Dance Maui -Teaching artist/choreographer Kathleen McKeon M.Ed.

Guest User

My name is Ali McKeon Pineo and I am the co-artistic director for Adaptations Dance Theater (ADT) and I am writing in strong support of Adaptations Dance Theater being included in the Mayor's Budget. We are grateful for the county's support for our Bring it Home programming the past two years and hope to be supported once again this year.

I am a born and raised Wailuku girl who has recently returned back home after 13 years of living in California. I moved off island in 2007 to attend university and to later, dance professionally with a ballet company in the Bay Area. I visited home often, in large part due to the opportunities provided by ADT and their signature Bring it Home vision, which aims to provide a professional dance home to contemporary dancers on Maui and to literally, bring home Maui-bred dancers and choreographers currently pursuing professional dance careers on the mainland. Choreographing new works and performing for the Bring it Home concert has been the highlight of my professional career. Those experiences affirmed my deep yearning to move back home, to be near family, and to continue making art with and for the vibrant, ever-evolving Maui community that raised me.

One year after moving back, I was asked to join the artistic team as co-artistic director, and

Support

04-16-2024
10:21 am

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

hope to perpetuate this company's mission to cultivate a space for high level contemporary dance work on Maui. As ADT comes up on its ten year anniversary, we strive to continue to bring compelling, meaningful dance work and educational programming to the diverse Maui community. We remain grounded in and inspired by our mission to bring Maui dancers home in hopes that someday, they too can envision moving back, knowing their artistic lives will flourish here. Thank you for supporting our work to keep our community in-tact through dancemaking.

Sincerely, Ali McKeon Pineo Co-Artistic Director, Adaptations Dance Theater

Guest User

My name is Katie Whiticar. I humbly write to you in strong support of reinstating Adaptations Dance Theater's (ADT) funding in 2025. I have been a dancer with Adaptations Dance Theater since 2016 and have directed community youth programs with the company. I grew up in Wailuku, dancing at Maui Academy of Performing Arts (MAPA), where fellow ADT company members, Ali McKeon Pineo, Emily McKeon and Madi McGain grew up dancing as well.

After graduating from Kihei Charter School on Maui, I studied dance at California State University Long Beach where I received my B.A in Dance. Post degree, I continued to work as a dancer in Los Angeles, California. I was torn about the fact that my career kept me away from home. During my time in LA, ADT started a program called Bring it Home where they flew me back home to perform on Maui.

My first Bring it Home (2016) was one of the best experiences. The environment that ADT established was healthy, friendly, and professional, and as an artist that can be hard to come by. The true icing on the cake was that

Support

04-17-2024
05:47 pm

Name

Comment

Position

Attachments

Submitted At

I was dancing in a project that mirrored professional work in LA and I was HOME! Continuing to live in LA, I got asked to do another Bring it Home. Fast forward to the day I realized that I could actually move back home due to the fact that ADT was able to provide professional contemporary dance work on Maui for the first time.

Dear committee, THANK YOU so much for funding ADT's Bring it Home concert in 2023 and 2024. ADT's programming truly changed my life and my career. Not only can I find work as a professional dancer on Maui but it has also led me to reconnect with my community in ways I have always dreamed of. Since moving back I have taught at MAPA as an alumni, directed new programs that brought professionals from around the world to teach our upcoming young dance artists here, work with other arts organizations on community projects (i.e. Small Town Big Art), and continue to teach at Momentum Dance Maui where I have directed their competition program and more. Working with young and pre-professional dancers here on the island is a full circle moment. These types of opportunities were not here in my own youth.

I am not the only dance artist that had this dream growing up and who is now able to live it because of ADT's existence. Please strongly consider continuing to fund ADT. It will make opportunities possible for art to change lives, young artists to have opportunities, and provide more events within our community.

ADT continues to raise the caliber of contemporary dance on Maui bringing opportunities for professional Maui artists and aspiring youth. Their genuine, uplifting, supportive and active energy expands beyond.

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
	<p>Mahalo for your time. Sincerely, Katie Whitarcar -ADT Dancer, Momentum Dance Maui Teacher, B.A Dance California State University LB</p>			
Guest User	<p>My name is Ali McKeon Pineo and I am the co-artistic director for Adaptations Dance Theater (ADT) and I am writing in strong support of Adaptations Dance Theater being included in the Mayor's Budget. We are grateful for the county's support for our Bring it Home programming the past two years and hope to be supported once again this year.</p> <p>I am a born and raised Wailuku girl who has recently returned back home after 13 years of living in California. I moved off island in 2007 to attend university and to later, dance professionally with a ballet company in the Bay Area. I visited home often, in large part due to the opportunities provided by ADT and their signature Bring it Home vision, which aims to provide a professional dance home to contemporary dancers on Maui and to literally, bring home Maui-bred dancers and choreographers currently pursuing professional dance careers on the mainland. Choreographing new works and performing for the Bring it Home concert has been the highlight of my professional career. Those experiences affirmed my deep yearning to move back home, to be near family, and to continue making art with and for the vibrant, ever-evolving Maui community that raised me.</p> <p>One year after moving back, I was asked to join the artistic team as co-artistic director, and hope to perpetuate this company's mission to cultivate a space for high level contemporary dance work on Maui. As ADT comes up on its ten year anniversary, we strive to continue to bring compelling, meaningful dance work and educational programming to the diverse Maui community. We remain grounded in and inspired by our mission to bring Maui dancers</p>	Support		04-16-2024 01:23 pm

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

home in hopes that someday, they too can envision moving back, knowing their artistic lives will flourish here. Thank you for supporting our work to keep our community in-tact through dancemaking.

Sincerely, Ali McKeon Pineo Co-Artistic Director, Adaptations Dance Theater

Guest User

To whom it may concern: Hello, my name is Kathleen McKeon. I have been a dance artist here on Maui for over 40 years having started my teaching and choreographic career at the Maui Youth Theater which then evolved into the Maui Academy of Performing Arts. I am presently teaching and choreographing at Momentum Dance Maui.

My involvement with Bring It Home from its inception has been through my daughters ,Ali McKeon Pineo and Emily McKeon, who have performed in every Bring It Home concert. It was gratifying to have my daughters who grew up dancing on Maui, go to college and dance professionally on the mainland, then come back to Maui to share their talents. Having been in the dance community for over 40 years on Maui, I have seen many of my students move away to pursue art and dance. Bring It Home is their avenue to return to the islands to practice their art in an accepting and collaborative environment. This in itself opens the door to welcome back many “Maui- bred” youngsters who feel they have to move away to pursue their art. Dance and art brings people together for creative purposes. Creativity leads to innovation. Maui needs innovation and creativity to continue the path to a higher quality of life. The Bring It Home Concert will do that for the Maui community. Best regards, Momentum Dance Maui -Teaching artist/choreographer Kathleen McKeon M.Ed.

Support

04-16-2024
01:22 pm

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
------	---------	----------	-------------	--------------

Guest User

Dear County of Maui Officials,

Support

04-16-2024
10:17 am

My name is Hallie Hunt, and I am writing to you as the Co-Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Adaptations Dance Theater. I am filled with immense gratitude for the wonderful support you extended to us by including Bring it Home in the budget last year. It was an honor for us to be included, and we are hopeful to receive your support again this year.

Over the past 13 years, I have been deeply involved with multiple arts organizations on Maui, including ADT, Alexander Academy of Performing Arts, MAPA, Momentum Dance Maui, and Seabury Hall. Throughout my career, I have remained committed to advocating for the youth in dance and nurturing their talents towards a professional career in the arts. Witnessing the exceptional talents within our schools, I strongly believe in providing these young artists with the necessary support to further their journeys in dance, ensuring they remain an integral part of our community or have the opportunity to return and share their remarkable talents with their island home.

There are compelling reasons why maintaining funding for Bring it Home within the County of Maui's budget is crucial:

1. Supporting Local Artists: Bring it Home offers Maui-trained artists professional contemporary dance opportunities. By continuing to support this program, the county can foster and showcase local talent.
2. Boosting the Arts Economy: The arts industry plays a vital role in our local economy, creating jobs and generating revenue. Supporting Bring it Home will contribute to the growth of this industry, bringing

economic benefits to our community.

3. Community Engagement: Bring it Home performances engage our community and promote the arts. By supporting this program, the county helps cultivate a vibrant contemporary dance community and offers residents opportunities to enjoy live theater experiences.
4. Educational Opportunities: Bring it Home provides educational workshops, intensives, and masterclasses for local students. These experiences build confidence and professionalism in young dancers, preparing them for future pursuits in the arts.
5. Exposure to Professional Performances: Attending Bring it Home performances exposes young dancers to professional artists, inspiring them to pursue dance as a career and enriching their artistic development.

In summary, supporting Bring it Home demonstrates the County of Maui's commitment to promoting local talent, boosting our arts economy, enriching our community, engaging residents, and providing invaluable educational experiences for our students.

Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely, Hallie Hunt^[1] Co-Artistic Director and Co-Founder^[1] Adaptations Dance Theater

BFED Committee	Testimonies received from BFED Committee.		Attachment	04-10-2024 04:29 pm
Guest User	From: roan reinecke Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 1:43:22 PM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony - STRONG			04-10-2024 01:45 pm

SUPPORT for funding Upcountry Winter Fest 2025

Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,

My name is Roan Reinecke and I am testifying in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation's Upcountry Winter Festival 2025. The inaugural Upcountry Winter Fest took place in November 2023. The festival included a craft fair, holiday display, food trucks and booths, non-profit information booths, keiki games, and entertainment - not to mention that Santa and Mrs. Claus graced us with their presence.

Here are a few stats from 2023: • • • 55 Small businesses/vendors participated • • • • 9 Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations participated from 4 of the 7 schools • within the complex • • • • 60 Volunteers came from the Upcountry community to make this festival successful • • • • 9 Non-profit organizations provided information to festival goers on their mission • and impact on the community • • • • 1,096 Attendees were counted!!! •

For the 9 Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations that participated at the food booths and keiki games, they were able to generate almost \$7,000 in sales. These clubs and organizations range from Kaiapuni Class of 2024 to Pukalani Elementary School Robotics to Na Ali'i Boys Soccer. Of the other 55 vendors and small businesses this festival supported, based on our after-festival survey, the vendors were very pleased and are looking forward to coming back this year.

The Kekaulike High School Foundation aims to support the ENTIRE Kekaulike complex, through scholarships for students and grants for teachers. In 2022, their initial year of supporting the community, they have facilitated providing \$8,500 in scholarships to seniors

pursuing higher education and \$1,000 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers. This increased in 2023 to \$9,700 in scholarships, with \$500 of that total coming directly from funds the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to raise, and \$250 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers. Because of the success of the 2023 Upcountry Winter Festival, the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to allocate \$1,000 in scholarships and \$1,500 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers for this year. This event also serves as the Kekaulike High School Foundation's main fundraiser for the year.

The King Kekaulike high school foundation gave me a \$2,750 scholarship that helped me transition from highschool to college. I had unexpectedly lost my dad in March of my senior year which significantly altered my plans for college. It was extremely emotionally difficult. The scholarship gave me the funds for my first semester of College here at UHMC. It was recognition and support of me as a student and would have made my dad very proud of me. This scholarship helped set me up for success as I am set to receive my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts and am transferring to UH Manoa in the fall. The Kekaulike High School Foundation is a source of support and encouragement for me as well as other students in the Kekaulike Community.

Guest User

From: Peter Trunk
 Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 11:07 AM To:
 BFED Committee Subject: Urgent Appeal
 Regarding increase in the Commercialized
 Residential Tax rate that applies exclusively to
 permitted Bed and Breakfast

Aloha Committee Members: I pen this letter to
 you with a heavy heart, burdened by the recent
 news of the proposed increase in the
 Commercialized Residential Tax rate that

04-10-2024
 11:15 am

Name

Comment

Position

Attachments

Submitted At

applies exclusively to permitted Bed and Breakfast by our esteemed mayor. It is with deep concern for part of our community's well-being, especially permitted owners of B&Bs that I implore you to consider the ramifications of such a decision. As you are well aware, our beloved Maui faced a catastrophe of unprecedented proportions on August 8, 2023. The devastation was beyond comprehension, and the reverberations of this tragedy continue to be felt throughout our island. Yet, amidst our efforts to rebuild and recover, we were dealt another blow - a crippling blow to our livelihoods. The governor's decree on August 9, 2023, with the simple yet devastating words, "Don't come to Maui," sent shockwaves through our local businesses that depend on visitors. The ensuing wave of cancellations swept away our means of income, leaving us reeling in despair. While we commend the federal government for their assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic, it pains us to acknowledge that the Lahaina disaster is a local issue, one that demands our local attention and support. In the face of adversity, we resolved to persevere. We made difficult decisions, slashing prices to the bone in a bid for survival. And yet, just as we began to glimpse a ray of hope, we were blindsided by the news of the proposed property tax hike. This increase, which threatens to skyrocket by 50% after factoring in exemptions, strikes at the heart of our permitted and legal operators of B&Bs. I implore you to recognize the injustice inherent in targeting us, the local residents, with such a burden. It is not the mainland investors, who siphon profits out of our island, that will bear the brunt of this increase. Rather, it is us - the very lifeblood of Maui - who will suffer the consequences. As our purchasing power dwindles under the weight of excessive taxation, so too does our ability to support local businesses and sustain our economy. I urge you,

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

esteemed members of the Maui County Council, to heed this plea for fairness and equity. Do not let us, the hardworking residents of Maui, bear the disproportionate burden of this tax increase. Stand with us in solidarity as we strive to rebuild our community and forge a brighter future for generations to come. With sincerest hopes for a just resolution, Peter Trunk

Guest User

From: karl jacobs
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:52 AM To:
BFED Committee Subject: B&B taxes

04-10-2024
11:05 am

Dear committee members:

I will be 85 years old this year, and I have been serving the folks of Maui County as a clinical psychologist for 25 years. Several years ago my wife Rosa and I realized that eventually our health would fail and we looked for a long term plan to retire. We decided to invest our savings into building an Ohana cottage and went through the year long process of going through the county council to be legal as a B&B. We don't make a huge profit, but it keeps us both occupied and helps supplement my income- we were hoping to retire frugally on this when I can't work anymore.

So we were devastated to hear about the proposed increase in property taxes for those of us who have legal B&B licenses. Most of us are in the same situation, trying to find ways to survive in a pricey Maui economy.

We believe that dramatically increasing the tax rates on B&Bs would not help the tax situation very much because there are few of us. We are hopeful that the county council will finalize a fair tax rate increase for us, perhaps in the range of \$3.5 per thousand.

Thank you for considering our petition.

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

Sincerely, Karl Jacobs, Psy.D. and Rosa Paz-Jacobs

Guest User

From: Claudia & Kevin Ledesma
Sent: Wednesday, April 10, 2024 10:40 AM To:
BFED Committee Subject: Proposed increase on
commercialized residential tax rates

04-10-2024
11:04 am

Aloha Maui county council and budget
committee members,

This is Claudia Ledesma and I am writing to you
to ask for fair rates for B&B permit holders. Let
me introduce us briefly. We obtained the very
first permit in Maui county, BBPH 2009/0001
and SUP 2007/0001, after many meetings with
and visits to our property by the majority of
council members in office at that time. Being
on ag land, we also had to go through the
process of the Special Use Permit and were able
to show and prove, that it is possible to conduct
proper agricultural activity, all whilst
welcoming guests on property. My husband is a
landscape contractor and we run a commercial
size nursery on property and have fruit orchards
and a vegetable garden. Our daughter, now 21,
is born and raised here on property and we are
hoping that she will be able to come back to
Maui once she has finished her studies as a
nurse practitioner.

When obtaining the permit, we were stripped of
our \$300,000 homeowners' exemption, despite
the fact that we live and work here. The new
tax rate we fall into, because we run a B&B on
our property, only applies to us, but not our
neighbors, who run their businesses out of their
homes.... Massage therapists, interior
decorators, life coaches, psychiatrists,
mechanics, etc. creating much higher impact
than our activity. Our assessment we just
received increases our land value by 41% from
last year to this year, because of properties in
our area that have sold and resold for

historically high prices driving our value up at an unsustainable rate. Adding to this, the proposed increase of the commercialized residential rate would most likely double our tax bill. But most importantly it is 3 times or more the amount that we would pay without the B&B permit. Despite the fact that we are full time residents, homeowners, conducting proper agricultural activity on our property, wanting to pass this on to our daughter, so she could possibly come back to and live on Maui in a much desired profession. There still are so many people doing whatever they want unpermitted, not collecting or paying taxes like we do and maintaining their homeowner status. Another factor that seems so unfair.

We carefully vet the guests who we welcome, we educate them pre arrival with the many wonderful videos HVCB provides us, invite them to participate in the volunteer programs, we are part of the "Rise above plastics on vacation" program, we educate them personally upon their arrival on how to pay respect to the people, the 'aina and the ocean, give them a tour of our ag activities and gardens, etc etc. Trying to bring a respectful and valuable guest to Maui. Many of our guests are long time repeats, supporting small businesses, allowing us to provide jobs to others and contributing to the state and now Maui TAT.

We are 66 and 60 years old and are hoping to retire at some point from our physically demanding jobs and pass our property on to our daughter.

Given all the factors of our tax classification plus increased property values, we kindly ask you to not raise the tax rate, in fact it would be fair to adjust it down somewhat since we are true homeowners and residents.

Sincerely

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

Claudia Ledesma

Claudia & Kevin Ledesma 279 Pauwela Rd.
Haiku HI 96708 808 575-9610 phone 808 575-
9611 fax 808 264-4205 cell Claudia 808 283-7480
cell Kevin

Guest User

From: Olivia Pascual
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 9:07 PM To: BFED
Committee Subject: Testimony in support of
Maui Economic Development Board's Economic
Development Grant

04-10-2024
08:04 am

Aloha from Lanai! My name is Olivia Pascual and I am in support of the Maui Economic Development Board's grant. I am a mother of 3 girls, two of which have taken advantage of the great opportunities from MEDB. My oldest is now a senior in high school, graduating next month. My second child is an 8th grader. My youngest is just 6 years old, but I look forward to having my youngest get involved with future MEDB events. My older 2 children have greatly benefited from MEDB and their past events. I feel that their passion in STEM is a big influence from MEDBs camps and events they have attended in the past. I strongly urge you to support their mission and vision to continue to provide learning opportunities for the youth. Afterall, they are OUR FUTURE.

I am from the island of Lanai and I can personally tell you that MEDB has provided fun and educational opportunities to our Lanai students. As you may know, living on the island Lanai poses a challenge for our youth in which resources and opportunities may often be limited due to our location. Travel and financial matters are often a barrier to organizations coming over to Lanai and providing learning opportunities for our students. MEDB has been a vital part of our student's learning process. This organization has dedicated so much of their time and energy into promoting growth and

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

professionalism in our youth. Our Lanai kids included!

Last year, my daughter and a friend were able to attend the 3-day Summer Camp for girls. Everyday, these kids came home from their activity and talked about the new friends and connections they've made. They also talked about their travels and fun activities they learned from their teachers. Communication skills and networking are developed through these programs.

For Lanai residents, our means of transportation is either via ferry or the plane ride. Both means of transportation can be costly and also time consuming for travelers. With MEDBs funding, the youth of Lanai, along with their chaperones have been sponsored so that they are included in these Maui events. I am tearful as I am typing this testimony because I have seen the wonderful blessings and opportunities it has provided not only to my daughters but also to other youth on Lanai.

I strongly believe that every youth has a potential to do something great. But greatness also requires guidance and development from those who are successful in their field of work. This is what MEDB offers to our children—guidance, education, and development of our children. Please consider AND APPROVE Maui Economic Development Board's grant.

Thank you for your time.

Aloha,

Olivia Pascual

Guest User

From: Kaitlin Kitagawa
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 8:19 PM To: BFED
Committee Subject: Testimony - STRONG
SUPPORT for funding Upcountry Winter Fest
2025

04-10-2024
08:04 am

Name

Comment

Position

Attachments

Submitted At

Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,

My name is Kaitlin Kitagawa and I am an alumni of King Kekaulike High School, as well as a recipient of a scholarship offered by the Kekaulike High School Foundation.

I am testifying in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation's Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.

The inaugural Upcountry Winter Fest took place in November 2023. The festival included a craft fair, holiday display, food trucks and booths, non-profit information booths, keiki games, and entertainment - not to mention that Santa and Mrs. Claus graced us with their presence!

Here are a few stats from 2023: 55 - Small businesses/vendors participated 9 - Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations participated from 4 of the 7 schools within the complex 60 - Volunteers came from the Upcountry community to make this festival successful 9 - Non-profit organizations provided information to festival goers on their mission and impact on the community 1,096 - Attendees were counted!!!

For the 9 Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations that participated at the food booths and keiki games, they were able to generate almost \$7,000 in sales. These clubs and organizations range from Kaiapuni Class of 2024 to Pukalani Elementary School Robotics to Na Ali'i Boys Soccer. The other 55 vendors and small businesses at this festival also indicated that they were very pleased and look forward to participating in the next event.

The Kekaulike High School Foundation aims to support the ENTIRE Kekaulike complex, through scholarships for students and grants for teachers. In 2022, their initial year of supporting the community, they have facilitated providing \$8,500 in scholarships to seniors

pursuing higher education and \$1,000 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers. This increased in 2023 to \$9,700 in scholarships, with \$500 of that total coming directly from funds the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to raise, and \$250 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers.

Because of the success of the 2023 Upcountry Winter Festival, the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to allocate \$1,000 in scholarships and \$1,500 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers for this year. This event also serves as the Kekaulike High School Foundation's main fundraiser for the year.

Last year, I was awarded the Debbie Hisashima Scholarship for my work in STEM and my goal to pursue a STEM-based career as a bioengineer. This scholarship honors the late Maui teacher Debbie Hisashima, who dedicated her life to introducing students to the world of STEM. She was an influential person in both my little brother's and my lives. Her efforts, among those of King Kekaulike staff, are what led me to pursue my major and career. It fills me with joy to know that her legacy lives on in this scholarship administered by the Kekaulike High School Foundation, so she will continue to help students pursue STEM.

Receiving this scholarship was also crucial to my academic plans. Biomedical Engineering is not a major offered at Hawaii's colleges, so I was forced to attend a school in the continental US, which increased the cost of my education. The total cost of tuition, housing, and supplies at my college, Santa Clara University, ranges from \$70,000 to \$85,000. Even though my parents have stable jobs, the cost is still overwhelming for my family. This scholarship allowed me to fund my education at Santa Clara University, where I plan to earn both a bachelor's and master's in biomedical engineering.

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

Overall, I believe that the efforts of the Kekaulike High School Foundation are exemplary and deserve support. I highly recommend them for your consideration.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation and Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.

Kaitlin Kitagawa KKHS Alumni and Scholarship Recipient (808) 868-9753 kkitagawa868@gmail.com

Guest User

From: Carrie DeMott
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:00 PM To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant

04-10-2024
08:03 am

Aloha,

My name is Carrie DeMott and I am enthusiastically in support of the Maui Economic Development Board's grant programs. Through the years I, as a teacher, have benefited from programs designed to help me educate our keiki and now, my 6th grade son is fully engaged in STEMWorks programs at Lokelani.

My son has struggled in school, from the time he was quite young. Finding an adult mentor and classes of interest have been challenging to say the least. As he prepared for middle school, I worried. Fortunately, Lokelani has an amazing afterschool STEMWorks program, which he looks forward to every day. My child is excited about what he is learning and looks up to the talented teachers/coaches that run these programs.

Having opportunities for middle school students, with passionate educators and mentors, is vital for our kids. At this age they are in desperate need for positive role models who take an interest in who they are. They are searching for connections and need to find things they are excited about learning and

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

doing. Without these opportunities, our kids will become apathetic about learning and look elsewhere for outside connections. We all know what that can lead to.

Please continue to fund these worthwhile programs. For kids like my son, who don't find a lot of purpose or connection with traditional academics, it is just so incredibly important. Our public school students deserve these opportunities and the payoff to our community, having young people who are passionate and who have found purpose in STEM, will be exponential! We cannot afford not to support programs like this.

Mahalo for your time and continued support,
Carrie DeMott

808-344-5164

Jackie Keefe	Aloha councilmembers, My name is Jackie Keefe and I've been having a lot of discussions with people about the budget and proposed tax rates, including with the state and others in the community. The working people are fed up with our high income taxes, and that will never change if we keep our property taxes so low. This is something that only the county can do something about. We are in desperate need of more revenue, and we must avoid making cuts to important programs at all costs. We must implement a ladder tax system for property ownership. If there is a way to only do this for those who are out-of-state owners or through an LLC, we should. Those who have no owner-occupied properties should absolutely start at a higher rate, but they should also pay a higher rate for each subsequent property. This is one of the only ways to take steps back from our lands being owned so significantly by people who are not invested in our community for any reason aside from profiting off of them.	Neutral	04-10-2024 12:22 am
--------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------	------------------------

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

I hope that you will take this into consideration.
I am disappointed that I am unable to attend any budget meetings as they are all taking place in the evenings, which is when I work now.
Mahalo for your time. Jackie Keefe Lahaina

Guest User

From: Kyla Vega Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 5:09:43 PM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic

04-09-2024 05:24 pm

I am Kyla Vega, a current sophomore at Lanai High and Elementary School, and I am testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development.

The Maui Economic Development Board has helped me discover my passion and what career I want to pursue. With a partnership through STEMworks, I was able to develop my interest in food science by working hands-on with where all our food comes from by working on local farms in Lanai through the Maui County Agriculture Business and Technology Internship. By working with Kumu Ola Farms for 10 weeks, I learned all the valuable skills of farming that a rookie farmer or anyone who wants to get into agriculture should know such as transplanting, harvesting, preparing the crop for selling (which means how to wash it properly) and even the technology behind how an aquaponics farm works. As one of my co-workers had mentioned, Hawaii is running out of farmers and they rely on the next generation to keep the business running. If the next generation won't help to grow food for the islands and the people who inhabit it, then my question to you is who will? Programs like these and others that the Maui Economic Development Board help the keiki of Hawaii to understand the different career paths that are available to them while making money

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

that they can use towards college. Some kids after their programs even go on to work at a company part-time through Maui Economic Development Board's programs preparing them for the real world by equipping them with communication skills, problem-solving skills, and working as a team. That's why I believe you should support the Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant to help the children of Hawaii on their journey of what they're going to do after graduation.

Guest User

Dear Councilmembers,

Support

04-09-2024
11:00 am

My name is Tracy Goodpaster. I am writing to request that you add \$285,000 to the Lāna'i Feral Animal Control line item in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget and award it to the Lanai Cat Sanctuary so they can continue to provide feral cat services on the island.

The Lanai Cat Sanctuary has not only reduced the feral cat population on Lāna'i, but they are a leader in the industry for their progressive approach to saving endangered birds by providing humane solutions for cats predated in protected areas.

Unsterilized female cats in Hawaii that are 6 months or older can have up to 3 litters a year, with 3-5 kittens per litter. Without the Lanai Cat Sanctuary, feral cats would overrun the island of Lāna'i.

If the Lanai Cat Sanctuary does not receive the funding needed to continue accepting all feral and unwanted cats, it will severely impact the progress the island of Lāna'i has made in controlling the feral cat population and protecting the native and endangered birds on the island.

Thank you,

Tracy Goodpaster

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
Guest User	<p>From: Patty Copperfield Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 8:15 AM To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony in support of Ka Ipu Kukui Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Ka Ipu Kukui program funded through OED. I am part of the 2023 cohort that graduated in May 2023. This program is necessary for the next generation of leadership in Maui Nui. The layout of each topic whether it be Water, Land, Ag, Science, or even Medical - is done in a way where participants can see many perspectives so that we can come to terms with where we stand on any critical issue that our community faces. I love that it's encouraged that if you need more information from a speaker, the program provides you with their direct contact. Many of the presenters welcome deeper conversations that are open and honest.</p> <p>Anyone in a leadership role in this County would highly benefit from being in this program. It not only makes for better leaders but also better stewards in the community. Please continue to fund and support this vital program through OED.</p> <p>Mahalo,</p> <p>Patty Copperfield</p>	Support		04-09-2024 09:04 am
Guest User	<p>From: Bailey Spry Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 8:06 AM To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony in support of Ka Ipu Kukui Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>I am writing in support of Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows (KIK). My name is Bailey Spry, I am the grants manager for East Maui non-profit Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike and am also in the current KIK cohort. My</p>	Support		04-09-2024 09:03 am

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

experience with KIK this past year has been invaluable. The knowledge I have gained about the inner workings of Maui County has empowered me to take on a more meaningful role in civic engagement. Perhaps the most powerful aspect of the program is the social capital I have built. The connections, friendships, and knowledge sharing have made this fellowship one of the most valuable experiences of my adult life. Mahalo to the County for sustaining KIK as a line item.

Bailey

Mahalo, Bailey Spry Grants Manager, Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike Phone: (808) 268-4734 Email: bailey@hanabuild.org Website: hanabuild.org

Guest User	<p>From: Ryley Jackson Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:54 AM To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony-STRONG SUPPORT for funding Upcountry Winter Fest 2025</p> <p>“Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Ryley Jackson and I am an alumnus of King Kekaulike High School!</p> <p>I am testifying in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation’s Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.</p> <p>The inaugural Upcountry Winter Fest took place in November 2023. The festival included a craft fair, holiday display, food trucks and booths, non-profit information booths, keiki games, and entertainment - not to mention that Santa and Mrs. Claus graced us with their presence! Here are a few stats from 2023: 55 - Small businesses/vendors participated 9 - Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations participated from 4 of the 7 schools within the complex 60 - Volunteers came from the Upcountry community to make this festival successful 9 -</p>	Support	04-09-2024 09:02 am
------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------	---------------------

Name

Comment

Position

Attachments

Submitted At

Non-profit organizations provided information to festival goers on their mission and impact on the community 1,096 - Attendees were counted!!! For the 9 Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations that participated at the food booths and keiki games, they were able to generate almost \$7,000 in sales. These clubs and organizations range from Kaiapuni Class of 2024 to Pukalani Elementary School Robotics to Na Ali'i Boys Soccer. Of the other 55 vendors and small businesses this festival supported, based on our after-festival survey, the vendors were very pleased and are looking forward to coming back this year.

The Kekaulike High School Foundation aims to support the ENTIRE Kekaulike complex, through scholarships for students and grants for teachers. In 2022, their initial year of supporting the community, they have facilitated providing \$8,500 in scholarships to seniors pursuing higher education and \$1,000 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers. This increased in 2023 to \$9,700 in scholarships, with \$500 of that total coming directly from funds the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to raise, and \$250 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers.

Because of the success of the 2023 Upcountry Winter Festival, the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to allocate \$1,000 in scholarships and \$1,500 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers for this year. This event also serves as the Kekaulike High School Foundation's main fundraiser for the year.

The Kekaulike High School Foundation means a lot to me, as I was a recipient of one of the scholarships last year. Because of this scholarship, I was able to pursue my higher education at Pacific University. I come from a low-income family, with no financial support from my parents, so getting this scholarship

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
------	---------	----------	-------------	--------------

immensely impacted my ability to attend college at all. I think that scholarships are extremely important to King Kekaulike students, as there are many other low-income students much like myself who attend the high school. This event will allow others like myself to pursue higher education!

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation and Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.

Ryley Jackson ryleysheajackson@gmail.com

Guest User	<p>From: Becky Lind Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:53 AM To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony in support of Ka Ipu Kukui Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>My name is Becky Lind and I wanted to offer testimony in support of Ka Ipu Kukui, in addition to the oral testimony I provided in Hāna.</p> <p>Mahalo, Becky Lind</p>	Support		04-09-2024 09:01 am
----------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------	--	---------------------

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
------	---------	----------	-------------	--------------

Guest User	<p>From: Sterling Higa Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 7:35 AM To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony in support of Ka Ipu Kukui Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development</p> <p>As a Ka Ipu Kukui Fellow, I can attest to the value of this program in preparing the next generation of leaders for Maui County.</p> <p>We need leaders that understand the challenges facing Maui County and can work together to solve them.</p> <p>Please continue to support this program.</p> <p>Best, Sterling</p>			04-09-2024 09:00 am
----------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--	--	---------------------

Name

Comment

Position

Attachments

Submitted At

[Guest User](#)

From: Maja S. Sent: Monday, April 8, 2024 11:55:15 PM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony - STRONG SUPPORT for funding Upcountry Winter Fest 2025

Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,

My name is Maja Szpunar and I am part of the King Kekaulike High School graduating class of 2023. I am currently a freshman at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a recipient of the 2023 Susan Scofield and Debbie Hisashima Memorial Scholarships by the Kekaulike High School Foundation.

I am testifying in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation's Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.

The inaugural Upcountry Winter Fest took place in November 2023. The festival included a craft fair, holiday display, food trucks and booths, non-profit information booths, keiki games, and entertainment - not to mention that Santa and Mrs. Claus graced us with their presence! Here are a few stats from 2023: 55 - Small businesses/vendors participated 9 - Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations participated from 4 of the 7 schools within the complex 60 - Volunteers came from the Upcountry community to make this festival successful 9 - Non-profit organizations provided information to festival goers on their mission and impact on the community 1,096 - Attendees were counted!!! For the 9 Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations that participated at the food booths and keiki games, they were able to generate almost \$7,000 in sales. These clubs and organizations range from Kaiapuni Class of 2024 to Pukalani Elementary School Robotics to Na Ali'i Boys Soccer. Of the other 55 vendors and small businesses this festival supported, based on our after-festival survey, the vendors

Name

Comment

Position

Attachments

Submitted At

were very pleased and are looking forward to coming back this year.

The Kekaulike High School Foundation aims to support the ENTIRE Kekaulike complex, through scholarships for students and grants for teachers. In 2022, their initial year of supporting the community, they have facilitated providing \$8,500 in scholarships to seniors pursuing higher education and \$1,000 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers. This increased in 2023 to \$9,700 in scholarships, with \$500 of that total coming directly from funds the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to raise, and \$250 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers.

Because of the success of the 2023 Upcountry Winter Festival, the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to allocate \$1,000 in scholarships and \$1,500 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers for this year. This event also serves as the Kekaulike High School Foundation's main fundraiser for the year.

Personally, the KKHS foundation has vitally impacted my higher education. As with many students coming from low income families, scholarships and grants are what determine how far we can take our education journeys. As someone who has always wanted to attend university, the stress of the cost of attendance was nerve racking. The KKHS Foundation scholarships I received therefore allowed me to begin my education goals. Scholarships such as those provided by the Foundation can give many students hope to attend the schools of their choice. Encouraging the next generation to pursue their college and trade goals is important to the futures and successes of the students of Hawai'i. My KKHS Foundation scholarships helped me to start my journey at UH Mānoa, with goals to give back to my community in the future. I hope that one day I

Name

Comment

Position

Attachments

Submitted At

can provide to the KKHS foundation through donations, to support other students such as myself, as the foundation once did for me. Because I understand the importance and security this scholarship has provided to myself and fellow classmates.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation and Upcountry Winter Festival 2025. Have an amazing day.

Maja Szpunar majamonkeybrains2@gmail.com

Dear Members of the Maui County Council:

My name is Naomi McCall and I am the new treasurer for the King Kekaulike Foundation and a parent of twins who will be graduating from King Kekaulike High School in a month.

I am testifying in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation's Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.

The inaugural Upcountry Winter Fest took place in November 2023. The festival included a craft fair, holiday display, food trucks and booths, non-profit information booths, keiki games, and entertainment – not to mention that Santa and Mrs. Claus graced us with their presence!

Here are a few stats from 2023:

- 55 - Small businesses/vendors participated
- 9 - Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations participated from 4 of the 7 schools within the complex
- 60 - Volunteers came from the Upcountry community to make this festival successful
- 9 - Non-profit organizations provided information to festival goers on their mission and impact on the community
- 1,096 - Attendees were counted

For the nine Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations that participated at the food booths and keiki games, they were able to generate almost \$7,000 in sales. These clubs and organizations range from Kaiapuni Class of 2024 to Pukalani Elementary School Robotics to Na Ali'i Boys Soccer. Of the other 55 vendors and small businesses this festival supported, based on our after-festival survey, the vendors were very pleased and are looking forward to coming back this year.

The Kekaulike High School Foundation aims to support the ENTIRE Kekaulike complex, through scholarships for students and grants for teachers. In 2022, their initial year of supporting the community, they have facilitated providing \$8,500 in scholarships to seniors pursuing higher education and \$1,000 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers. This increased in 2023 to \$9,700 in scholarships, with \$500 of that total coming directly from funds the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to raise, and \$250 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers.

Because of the success of the 2023 Upcountry Winter Festival, the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to allocate \$1,000 in scholarships and \$1,500 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers for this year. This event also serves as the Kekaulike High School Foundation's main fundraiser for the year.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation and Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.

Sincerely,

Naomi McCall
KKHS Parent
Treasurer, Kekaulike High School Foundation
Kula, HI

BFED Committee

From: Naomi McCall (via Google Docs) <naomi.mccall@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 5:38 PM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Testimony: Strong Support for Funding Upcountry Winterfest 2025
Attachments: Testimony Strong Support for Funding Upcountry Winterfest 2025.pdf

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

Naomi McCall attached a document

Naomi McCall (naomi.mccall@gmail.com) has attached the following document:

Please see attached testimony in support of the KKHS Foundation's Upcountry Winterfest 2025

 Testimony: Strong Support for Funding Upcountry Winterfest 2025

Google LLC, 1600 Amphitheatre Parkway, Mountain View, CA 94043, USA
You have received this email because naomi.mccall@gmail.com shared a document with you from Google Docs.



Helping Hawai'i Live Well

**Maui County Council
Budget, Finance and Economic
Development Committee
April 11th, 2024, 9:00am**

ADVISORY BOARD

John Boyd
Peter S. Ho
Timothy Johns
Edward Kubo
Patti Lyons
Sherry Menor-McNamara
Jerry Rauckhorst
Roy Sakuma
Jeffrey Watanabe

PRO BONO LEGAL COUNSEL

Paul Alston

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Phyllis Dendle,
President
Mary Pat Waterhouse,
Vice President
Andy Downes,
Secretary
Kimberly Miyoshi,
Treasurer
Maricel Blackwell
Adam Coles
Nolan Hong
Laura Brucia Hamm
Ryan Kusumoto
Mary Beth Lohman
Ann Mahi
Elizabeth Naholowa'a Murph
Sherry King Niethammer
Andrew Park
Sandra Simms

Aloha Committee Chair Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Vice-Chair Taska Kama and Committee members.

The Mental Health Association in Hawai'i, dba Mental Health America of Hawai'i (MHAH), is a highly regarded Hawai'i 501(c)(3) non-profit organization serving the State of Hawai'i. For 81 years, MHAH has been fulfilling its mission "to promote mental health & wellness through education, advocacy, service, and access to care" through its vision of 'mental wellness for all.' We endeavor to reduce the shame and stigma of mental illness and improve the overall care, treatment, and empowerment of those with or at risk for mental health challenges across all stages of life in Hawai'i. Through our leadership, we've been expanding mental health awareness, preparedness, understanding, and action through training, education, and advocacy since 1942. We are a statewide organization with offices on the islands of O'ahu and Maui. Since 1972, MHAH has had a physical presence in Maui County, where its current office is based in Wailuku with one full-time Maui Community Coordinator who receives further support from our statewide office, a Maui Advisory Board, and a number of resident volunteers.

The purpose of the proposed program is to provide youth and adults within the county with quality mental health resilience, suicide prevention, and evidence informed resilience and wellness trainings; connect help-seeking individuals to appropriate community resources for the support they need; and decrease the stigma and shame associated with mental health and illness to reduce barriers to care.

In 2023, services in the county were provided at no cost to any individual, due to the generous support of the County of Maui. Evidence of our impact includes serving 402 students through our Youth Suicide and Bullying Prevention program. Of these, there was a 36.1% increase in knowledge and understanding in bullying presentation, and a 35.4% increased knowledge and understanding of suicide prevention. An additional 530 youth were trained in our evidence informed Self-Care for Youth. Of these, 30.5 % realized an increase in knowledge of self-care;

Helping Hawai'i Live Well

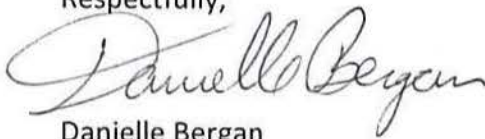
85.7 % reported the ability to name the negative outcomes of stress and anxiety; and 84.5% reported knowing the resources to get help if a friend is having a crisis or is thinking about suicide. Our Mental Health First Aid certification trainings program trained 96 community members in the 8-hour training, 87 (91%) of which completed post-training, earning a three-year mental health first aid certification.

When the Maui County fires occurred, MHAH's statewide efforts pivoted immediately, redirecting efforts to fire response which included providing resources, grief, and resilience wellness trainings for partners like HECO, the Hawaii State Teacher's Association, ABC Stores, the Maui Non-Profit Directors and more. Because it's contraindicated at a time of trauma, much of MHAH's suicide prevention efforts were delayed until the end of the year. Our 4th Annual, Maui Suicide Prevention Conference, typically scheduled for September, was rescheduled to January where focus was shifted to Resilience, Renewal, and Recovery. As part of our efforts, MHAH was able to provide 25 scholarships for Maui County residents who were impacted by the fires and who would otherwise not be able to pay the registration fees. Additionally, and part of our pivot, MHAH immediately began partnering with NAMI Hawaii, co-hosting non-clinical support groups for those struggling because of the disaster. Since then, a permanent location in Lahaiana has been secured and groups will be ongoing the last Wednesday of each month. During this time, we also prioritized Maui County Youth. Since August, MHAH has trained more than 500 youth in its evidence informed Self-Care for Youth program which includes significant protective factors for suicide prevention and resilience building.

We continue to prioritize collaborative efforts with partners like Maui Non-Profit Directors, the Maui Homeless Alliance, the Ho'oikaika Partnership, the State Community Children's Council, Maui Fire Department, NAMI Hawaii, and Maui Police Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to request your support for MHAH's Mental Health Education, Prevention, and Support Program.

Respectfully,



Danielle Bergan

Maui Community Coordinator

Self-Care Trainings

LIVE YOUR LIFE WELL

Provides an opportunity to reflect on our self-care routines. Utilizes 10 proven tools to help better cope with stress, improve one's outlook on life, and have healthy relationships.

TIPS & STRATEGIES FOR SURVIVING AND THRIVING

Focuses on self-care tips, mental health strategies, and resources for community members. Discusses how to help our most vulnerable that need additional support.

MANAGING COMPLEX EMOTIONS IN A COMPLEX WORLD

Discusses the negative effects of stress and anxiety, identifies healthy ways to keep balance, reviews warning signs, and outlines community resources.

A PRACTICE IN COPING SKILLS

Reviews the importance of self-care and coping skills to manage anxiety, in three distinct ranges. Coping skills for self, others, and keiki will be reviewed. Community resources shared.

Other Trainings

- Addressing Anxiety and Stress for Direct Service Providers
- Healing Gardens: How to De-Stress
- Healing & Grief
- Waiting for Change: A Direct Service Providers Guide to Self-Care and Grief Literacy

For more information regarding these trainings, contact info@mentalhealthhawaii.org



Oahu: (808)521-1846
Maui: (808)242-6461



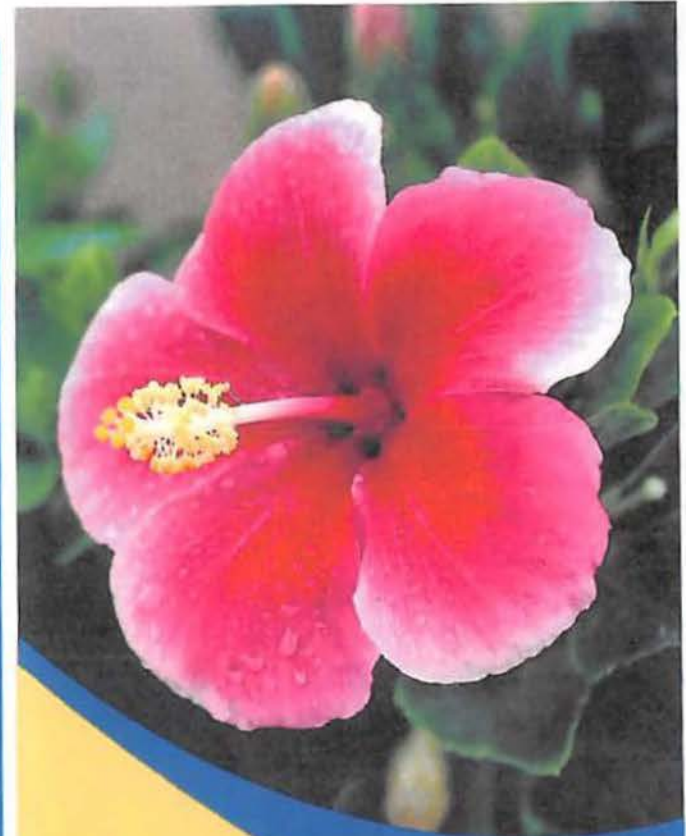
info@mentalhealthhawaii.org



mentalhealthhawaii.org
noshamegethelp.org



Mental Health America of Hawai'i
1136 Union Mall #208
Honolulu, HI 96813



2024 Mental Health Trainings

MHA
Mental Health America
of Hawai'i

Community Trainings

COLLEGE: DOING EVERYTHING, EVERYWHERE, ALL AT ONCE

College students have a lot on their plate. In this webinar, you will learn to acknowledge sources of stress and anxiety, practice coping skills, and gain ways to improve mental health.

SCHIZOPHRENIA EDUCATION & ADVOCACY (S.E.A.)

One hour education program on schizophrenia to help identify early signs, symptoms of psychosis, strategies to intervene, awareness of available resources, and how to seek help, includes NAMI Hawai'i's Ending the Silence training. Adult or Youth version.

REST WELL: SLEEP HYGIENE

This training will review the statistics around sleep and its impact on mental and physical health. Along with providing tools and tips to help you get better sleep.

MENTAL HEALTH IOI

Our IOI courses cover current statistics of mental health, in Hawai'i, for specific groups including but not limited to youth, adult, and military. 30 minutes.

SEXUAL & GENDER MINORITY IOI

Overview of SGM-related terminology, the differences between gender identity and sexual orientation, some of the struggles of SGM individuals, and ways to be a supportive ally.

SUICIDE PREVENTION IOI

This is a foundational suicide prevention training. Participants will be introduced to the landscape of the issue of suicide, risk/protective factors, warning signs, best practices for connecting with someone who may be suicidal, safe messaging, and community resources. Cameras must be on during session. Meets ACT 270.

MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a 7.5 hour training that teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders. Virtual, Blended, and In-Person options.

Youth MHFA, Adult MHFA, and Public Safety available.

SAFETALK

LivingWorks safeTalk is a 4 hour training that equips people to be more alert of someone thinking of suicide, how to reach out and help them keep safe by promptly connecting them to further support. Using a simple yet effective model, LivingWorks safeTalk empowers everyone to make a difference

ASIST

LivingWorks ASIST is a two-day in-person workshop featuring powerful audiovisuals, discussion, and simulations. You will learn how to recognize when someone may be thinking about suicide and how to provide a skilled intervention and develop a safety plan with the person to connect them to further support. This workshop will increase your willingness, confidence, and capacity to provide suicide first aid.

Youth Trainings

YOUTH SUICIDE & BULLYING PREVENTION

Ideal for middle school and high school aged youth, increases knowledge of bullying and suicide, identifies risk factors and warning signs, and provides skills and resources to help prevent or intervene.

BECOME A DEFENDER

Interactive training that introduces older elementary students to the subject of bullying, how to prevent it, and how to talk about dealing with difficult emotions. Tailored to 5th grade students. Limited to 50 youth per group.

KEIKI SELF-CARE

This presentation discusses how keiki express and experience emotions. Practice skills to help your keiki build their own emotional toolboxes and learn mindfulness exercises.

SELF-CARE FOR YOUTH

Designed to teach youth tools to help them feel stronger, more hopeful, and able to cope with stress. Ideal for: High school-aged youth and young adults who want to learn tools to take care of their mental health and wellness.

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH IN HAWAI'I

Provides an overview of the state of youth mental health in Hawai'i, shares possible solutions and resources available both locally and nationally.

Tanya Hosoda - Humane Enforcement

Aloha. My name is Tanya Hosoda, and I am the Interim Director of Humane Enforcement for Maui Humane Society. I would like to thank the members of the County Council for your continued support of Maui Humane Society granting us the ability to serve the animals in our community.

Maui Humane Society is contracted by Maui County to provide animal control and humane enforcement services to the community. In 2023, our officers responded to more than 4,000 calls for services, brought in 673 stray animals, and conducted 451 cruelty investigations. Additionally, we logged a mileage increase of 26% in response to calls for service for animals in distress or victims of suspected animal cruelty. We expect the need of our services in rescuing sick and injured animals, as well as those who are victims of animal cruelty, to continue to increase. As the only open-intake shelter on Maui and the agency of humane enforcement, the animals of our community need our services, and they deserve our very best.

We asked the County for \$1.14M to cover these costs for FY25, before knowing how much more work the humane enforcement team would be called upon to provide due to the fires. The Mayor's budget falls short by \$81K, which will hinder our officers' ability to perform their duties. We respectfully request an additional \$81K so that we can meet our humane enforcement contractual obligations.

Maui Police Department recently asked MHS to take over animal control services on Molokai, including management and oversight of the Animal Control Officer (ACO) who currently works for MPD. \$90,000 was removed from our FY24 budget when the ACO decided to continue working for MPD, but we respectfully request for that amount to be added back into the FY24 award, as MPD agreed that it is best for MHS to manage and oversee Molokai animal control and the \$90,000 is now needed to cover the costs of salary, vehicle, equipment and training for the animal control officer. For the FY25 Humane Enforcement contract we ask for \$140,000 so we can continue providing veterinary services to the animals on Molokai that desperately need them.

Mahalo.

BFED

4-11-24

Laurie Gaines - Spay/Neuter & Molokai

Aloha council members, my name is Dr. Laurie Gaines and I am the Chief Veterinarian at Maui Humane Society. I've worked at MHS for 3 years and I'm here as a representative of the organization and as a representative for the animals in our community who need help.

I urge you to approve the \$40,000 increase for our spay/neuter budget, for a total of \$165,000. As you know, pet overpopulation is an issue in our community. This year we will spay and neuter between 7000 and 8000 animals and the County contract funded approximately one quarter of those surgeries. Our spay and neuter numbers are slightly lower than we planned, as the fires caused us to postpone routine surgeries while the entire veterinary team shifted to support those affected by the fires. We worked around the clock to save severely burned animals. The only two veterinary clinics on the West Side were lost in the fire, so we set up free temporary vet clinics in multiple locations to help the community. We have opened the Lahaina Pet Resource Center where we assist families affected by the fires each week. These services were obviously not planned, but we saw the need and have been doing everything possible to help the community. Our surgery appointments are in high demand (especially dog spay/neuter appointments) and in response to input from community members, we have increased our appointment availability by 40%.

I also want to tell you about animal welfare on Molokai. We were awarded a contract last year to support animal control, provide medical care for Molokai's animals, and replace the dangerously unsafe animal control kennels that have resulted in death or injury to multiple dogs.

MHS is working with Molokai Humane Society to improve access to veterinary care, including spay/neuter surgeries for animals on Molokai. We are still awaiting authorization from the County to move forward on this project and have been using other funding to pay for the veterinary care we are providing to Molokai animals.

Thank you, council members, for considering our requests. I hope the health and wellbeing of animals in Maui County is as important to you as it is to me.

RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 4-11-24



April 11, 2024

Alice Lee, Council Chair
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Subject: Department of Housing and Human Concerns
Animal Management Program – Animal Care and Sheltering Program
FY 2025 Budget

Aloha Council Chair Lee,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Dawn Pfendler, and I am the Chief Executive Officer at Hawaii Pet Network Inc. dba Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation (HARF), a non-profit organization committed to enhancing the welfare of animals in Maui County. We are contacting you to reacquaint you with our Animal Care and Sheltering Program, an initiative designed to address the urgent needs of our community's animals through comprehensive care, support, and education. This program was initially approved in the County's FY 2024 budget for \$150,000. Regarding FY 2025, our funding application was submitted past the deadline due to our Maui Wildfire response, resulting in our absence from the FY 2025 budget. With your help, we can reinstate this critical line item.

Our program doubles the lifesaving capacity of dogs in Maui County. It aims to significantly improve the lives of distressed animals by providing rescue, veterinary care, sheltering, and adoption services. Additionally, we are dedicated to fostering a culture of compassion and responsibility toward animals through community outreach and education.

Our program aligns with Maui County's values of community care and sustainability, and we are eager to collaborate with the county council to make a meaningful impact. A detailed description of the program is attached.

Thank you very much for considering our initiative. I look forward to speaking with you and answering any questions you may have about our program and its benefits for Maui County.

Yours for a humane world,

Dawn Pfendler
CEO, Co-Founder

RECORDED BY **BFED** MEETING ON **4-11-24**

Hawaii Pet Network, Inc.
Animal Care and Sheltering Program
Performance Period: FY25

Program Proposal

I. Executive Summary:

HARF's Animal Care and Sheltering Program is a comprehensive initiative designed to address the critical needs of animals in Maui County. With rising rescue cases and a clear lack of resources, our program aims to provide holistic care, including rescue operations, veterinary services, and community education. Our request for \$150,000 from Maui County will enable us to nearly double the county's kenneling capacity, significantly impacting animal welfare in the region.

Key Components Include:

Rescue and Intake Operations:

Identification and rescue of animals from various situations, including abuse, neglect, and abandonment. Collaboration with local authorities, animal control agencies, animal transfer partners, and volunteers to ensure swift and effective rescues. Implement protocols for the humane intake of animals into the HARF Animal Center.

Comprehensive Veterinary Care:

Implement regular health assessments, vaccinations, and preventive care for all sheltered animals. Collaboration with veterinary professionals to address medical issues promptly and ensure the overall health of animals. Promotion of spaying and neutering programs to control the animal population.

Safe and Supportive Sheltering:

Provision of a clean, comfortable, and safe shelter center for animals in transition. Development of enrichment programs and socialization activities to improve the mental well-being of sheltered animals. Collaboration with foster care networks to provide temporary homes for animals, particularly those with special needs.

Community Outreach and Education:

Implement educational programs on responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, and the importance of spaying/neutering. Engagement with schools, community organizations, and local businesses to raise awareness and promote a culture of compassion toward animals.

Adoption Initiatives:

Streamlined adoption processes with a thorough screening of potential adopters to ensure responsible placement. Adoption events, online platforms, and partnerships with local businesses to increase visibility and accessibility. Post-adoption support and resources to facilitate a smooth transition for adopted animals and their new families.

Emergency Response and Disaster Preparedness:

HARF is deeply committed to animal welfare, extending its mission to include critical disaster relief efforts essential for Maui County's emergency readiness. Our focused activities in disaster relief demonstrate our adaptability and comprehensive approach to animal welfare, especially during crises.

HARF's adept team is prepared to swiftly address emergencies, offering rescue, medical care, and immediate shelter to animals affected by disasters. Post-disaster, we provide essential shelter and care for displaced animals, exemplified by our response to the Maui Wildfire Disaster, showcasing our capacity to support community recovery. We work with local authorities and organizations to ensure a coordinated disaster response, emphasizing our integral role in enhancing Maui County's emergency preparedness.

Impact:

Our disaster relief actions fortify Maui County's ability to safeguard animals in emergencies, building community trust and demonstrating HARF's pivotal role in emergency response and animal welfare.

Collaboration and Sustainability:

Partnerships with other animal welfare organizations, veterinary clinics, and governmental bodies to maximize resources and expertise. Implementation of fundraising initiatives, grant applications, and community-driven support to ensure the program's long-term sustainability.

Outcomes and Impact

Increased Adoption Rates:

The addition of this program will increase the lifesaving rate in Maui County by 91%, almost doubling the County's capacity. Currently, the Maui Humane Society has 24 dog kennels. Recently, with the completion of Phase I of the HARF Center, HARF added an additional 22 dog kennels. The program's success will be measured by the number of animals successfully adopted into caring homes.

Health and Well-being Improvements:

Tracking improvements in the physical health and mental well-being of sheltered animals will increase positive outcomes for orphaned pets.

Community Awareness and Engagement:

Periodic assessment of the program's success in raising awareness and fostering community engagement in animal welfare. The geographic area served by this program is the County of Maui.

Emergency Response Effectiveness:

Evaluation of the program's ability to respond effectively to emergencies and crises.

By implementing this comprehensive Animal Care and Sheltering Program, we aim to positively impact the lives of animals in distress, promote responsible pet ownership, and build a compassionate community committed to the welfare of all living beings.

II. Background:

Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation (HARF) was established in 2011 with our primary focus on pet adoption and humane education. Over the years, our scope of work expanded to include partnerships with statewide animal welfare organizations, the Department of Education, and numerous youth-at-risk organizations, such as the Friends of the Children's Justice Center of Maui and the Second Circuit Courts. We also provide no-cost and low-cost spay and neuter services to the community. We are currently the only organization on the island rescuing and rehabilitating livestock in need. Over the years, we grew from a small foster-based organization to the agency we are today. We own 10 acres in Waihe'e, purchased in 2017, and recently completed Phase I of the HARF Education and Animal Center.

The need for additional Animal Care and Sheltering in our community arises from a complex interplay of factors related to human-animal interactions, societal challenges, and the well-being of individual animals.

Dogs have been companions to humans for centuries, forming strong emotional bonds. However, shifts in lifestyle, economic factors, and societal changes contribute to increased cases where dogs are abandoned or neglected. The ongoing housing crisis and lack of pet-friendly rentals have exacerbated the problem, with few solutions for pet owners. The county shelter, aka the Maui Humane Society, has been at capacity for years. HARF's addition of 22 dog kennels will help elevate the shortfall in sheltering resources and help fill the gap in service.

The target population served by this program is the County of Maui, which includes the islands of Molokai and Lanai. HARF has a long-standing relationship with the Molokai Humane Society, taking hundreds of transferred dogs and puppies over the years, reducing the burden on the county shelter, their only other resource. Additionally, we provide medical teams periodically to the island of Lanai, where services are limited. HARF has been a transfer partner with the Maui Humane Society since 2011, transferring countless animals to us.

In conclusion, the background, purpose, and need for additional Animal Care and Sheltering underscore the multifaceted challenges dogs face in distress and the societal responsibility to address these challenges through structured and compassionate initiatives.

III. Program Description:

Executing the Animal Care and Sheltering Program requires a systematic and compassionate approach. We have established a program team of dedicated individuals with animal care, veterinary services, shelter management, community outreach, and administration expertise. This is an existing program that supports the human and animal residents of Maui County.

A detailed budget for the program, including expenses for shelter facilities, veterinary care, staff salaries, and outreach efforts, has been established and included in this grant submission. Funding sources have been identified/committed through grants, donations, partnerships with local businesses, and community fundraising initiatives.

Facility development/construction has been ongoing over the past five years. We recently completed the construction of Phase I of our Community Education and Animal Center in

Waihe'e. We created separate areas for different purposes, such as quarantine, medical care, general housing of animals, 22 dog kennels, and enrichment areas.

Veterinary care and health protocols are established. We collaborate with veterinary professionals to establish health protocols for animals in the shelter and provide regular health check-ups, vaccinations, and spaying/neutering services. We have an established software system that allows for the recording and monitoring of each animal's health.

We have designed an efficient and transparent adoption process, including thorough screening of potential adopters. We have implemented online platforms and organized adoption events to increase visibility and accessibility. We have also developed post-adoption support services to ensure a smooth transition for both the animals and their new families.

Community Outreach and Education are part of our core values. Over the years, we have created educational programs on responsible pet ownership, animal welfare, and the importance of spaying/neutering, all of which are STEM-based and age-appropriate curricula in Maui schools. We engage with schools, community organizations, and local businesses to raise awareness and promote a culture of compassion.

A thriving foster care network is essential to creating positive outcomes for orphaned pets in need. We have an established network of foster caregivers who provide temporary homes for animals, especially those with special needs or behavioral challenges. We train and support our foster caregivers to ensure the well-being of the animals in their care.

We are a data-driven organization that implements a robust tracking system to monitor each animal's progress in the program. We also regularly evaluate the program's effectiveness, making adjustments based on lessons learned and changing community needs.

Collaboration and networking are essential to ensuring successful outcomes. We have established partnerships with veterinary clinics, other animal welfare organizations, governmental bodies, and businesses to maximize resources and expertise, and we engage in networking opportunities to share best practices and support each other's initiatives.

We have developed a solid public relations and communication strategy to inform the community about the program's activities, successes, and ongoing needs. Utilizing social media, press releases, and community events to maintain visibility and support. With the implementation of this program, we will increase our lifesaving efforts for dogs in Maui County by 91%.

In addition, we ensure that staff members receive adequate training in animal care, shelter management, and customer service, and we provide opportunities for professional development to enhance the skills of the program team.

By carefully implementing these steps, we can continue to execute a successful Animal Care and Sheltering Program that addresses the immediate needs of animals and contributes to building a compassionate and responsible community. Regular evaluation and adaptability are vital in sustaining the program's impact over the long term.

IV. Collaboration in Providing Services – Table I:

Projected Collaboration in Providing Services			
Agency, service or community resource	Type of coordinated activities	Number of persons to be served	Outcomes to be supported by this collaboration
Maui Humane Society	Transfer of overflow dogs in need of rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming. Partnered with the Greater Good Charities to hold mass spay/neuter clinics for the public.	1,500	Increase live release rates for animals = saving more lives. Reduce the burden on an already overcrowded shelter.
Molokai Humane Society	Transfer of overflow dogs in need of rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming	100	Increase live release rates for animals = saving more lives. Reduce the burden on an already overcrowded shelter.
Kitty Charm Farm	Transfer of overflow cats in need of rescue, rehabilitation, and rehoming	200	Increase live release rates for animals = saving more lives. Reduce the burden on an already overcrowded rescue.
Collaboration is essential to the success of this program. Fortunately, the above-mentioned agencies have a long-standing relationship with HARF. No one agency can address the needs of the community alone. The Animal Care and Sheltering Program helps to address the growing needs of the community and is not an overlap or unnecessary duplication of services.			

V. Cost Effectiveness

The Animal Care and Sheltering Program is a cost-effective program for several reasons, each contributing to the overall efficiency and sustainability of the program:

- Prevention of Overpopulation
- Reduced Strain on Public Services
- Community Health Benefits
- Preventive Healthcare for Animals:
- Behavioral Rehabilitation
- Community Engagement and Responsibility
- Adoption over Long-term Sheltering:
- Utilizing a Foster Care Network
- Community Volunteerism
- Data-Driven Decision-Making

A well-designed and efficiently managed Animal Care and Sheltering Program is cost-effective because it addresses the root causes of animal welfare issues, prevents future problems, and optimizes the use of resources to provide effective care for animals in need.

VI. Other Funding Resources:

In addition to our funding request for \$150,000 toward the Animal Care and Sheltering Program, we have an established fundraising plan to meet our annual goals. This includes grants, annual and community fundraising events, business partnerships, fee-for-service programs, workplace giving programs, and planned giving. Our request for county funds is 18.75% of our annual budget, a small percentage of our overall costs.

VII. Program Evaluation – Table II:

Annual Program Evaluation	ANNUAL GOAL	Data Source
Total Unduplicated Persons Served:		
Outcome 1: Rescue, rehabilitate & rehome/adopt	360 dogs	Animal tracking through database
Output 1a: Dogs placed in forever homes	360 dogs	Animal tracking through database
Output 1b: Reduces dog intakes at County Shelter	360 dogs	Animal tracking through database
Outcome 2: Provide humane education to Maui schools	215 classrooms	Teacher survey & school tracking
Output 2a: STEM based curriculum taught to students	5,160 students	Teacher survey & student tracking
Output 2b: Increased awareness of animal issues and needs	5,160 students	Teacher survey
Outcome 3: In collaboration with the County Shelter & the Greater Good Charities provide spay/neuter MASH clinics to the public	1,000 dogs & cats	Animal tracking through Greater Good Charities database
Output 3a: Prevent unwanted litters of dogs & cats	100's of unwanted litters	National statistics

VIII. Conclusion:

HARF's Animal Care and Sheltering Program represents a vital step forward in addressing the urgent needs of Maui County's animal population. With the County's support, we can significantly expand our capacity to rescue, care for, and rehome animals while also enhancing community education and disaster response readiness.

Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation

Proposed Budget January - December 2025

Revenue	
Donations	300,000
Grants	350,000
Government Funding - DHHC	150,000
Total Revenue	\$800,000
GROSS PROFITS	\$800,000
Expenditures	
Adoption Supplies	7,658
Auto Expense	17,357
Bank Fees	306
Business Expense	3,880
Business Registration Fees	25
Total Business Expense	3,905
Business Licensing	82
Credit Card Processing Fees	3,982
Dog Boarding	0
Dog Food	25,525
Livestock/Other Animal Feed	5,102
Total Food/Feed	30,630
Dog Transport	1,532
Facility and Equipment	
Rent, Parking, Utilities	135
Phone	4,595
Trash	1,828
Water	1,322
Yard Service	2,859
Total Rent, Parking, Utilities	10,739
Total Facilities and Equipment	10,739
Fundraising	12,252
Insurance - Business	842
Insurance - Liability	4,921
Total Insurance - Business	5,763

	TOTAL
Internet	2,205
Marketing	1,532
Marketing/Advertising	919
Meetings	500
Membership Dues	490
Mortgage Payment	58,740
Office Supplies	9,189
Operations	
Postage, Mailing Services	8,985
Telecommunications	155
Total Operations	9,140
Payroll Expenses	497,993
Property Tax	664
Software System	3,063
Tax Service	5,820
Travel and Meetings	
Conference, Convention, Meeting	12,380
Total Travel and Meetings	12,380
Vet/Medical Expense	102,100
Volunteer Expense	7,494
Web Hosting	388
Total Expenditures	\$796,823
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$3,177



Aloha Council members,

I am Dr. Lisa Labrecque, the CEO of Maui Humane Society, and I am here today to thank the County for more than three decades of partnership serving the animals of Maui County and their families.

All of our lives were forever changed by the devastating fires last August, and we were called upon to serve as first responders working alongside MPD, FEMA, the National Guard, and other agencies. To date, we have:

- Rescued 887 animals from the Lahaina burn zone
- Reunited 237 of those with their families
- Adopted out an additional 244 into new homes
- Transferred 258 animals to partner agencies, rescue groups, and sanctuaries
- and sadly, recovered the remains of 371 deceased animals

In the weeks following the fires, our veterinary team treated dozens of animals for severe burns, smoke inhalation, and other injuries sustained in the fires.

Between August and December, we provided more than 531,000 lbs of free pet food, 7,000 lbs of cat litter, and 15,000 pet supplies to displaced residents.

We began hosting free mobile veterinary clinics immediately after the fires, as the only two veterinary clinics on the West side were lost. To date, more than 2,000 animals have received care through these clinics.

Sadly, there is still a long road ahead. We expect that displaced families will continue to make the difficult decision to surrender. Our shelter population is higher than it has been in years, and the average length of stay for an animal has increased by 30%.

We are contracted by Maui County to provide animal sheltering, humane enforcement, and spay/neuter services for Maui County. Our budget requests for FY25 are essential for us to meet these contractual obligations. The amounts included in the Mayor's budget fall short by \$200K for animal sheltering and \$81K for humane enforcement. I respectfully request that these amounts be added back in, so that we are able to perform the duties outlined in our County contracts.

Mahalo,

Lisa M. Labrecque, DVM

PROGRAM BUDGET

Agency Name: Maui Humane Society

Program Title: Animal Sheltering

Period: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

(*Budget must be for only one year. A separate set of budget tables is required for each year)

EXPENSE CATEGORIES	(a) Amount Requested	(b) *Other Resources	(c) Total Budget
A. Personnel			
Salaries	1,324,010.00	633,416.00	2,007,426.00
<i>Personnel Total</i>	<i>1,324,010.00</i>	<i>633,416.00</i>	<i>2,007,426.00</i>
B. Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits			
Payroll Taxes & Assessments	168,944.00	87,203.00	256,147.00
Fringe Benefits (Medical/Dental)	170,097.00	87,622.00	257,719.00
<i>Taxes and Fringe Total</i>	<i>339,035.00</i>	<i>174,825.00</i>	<i>513,860.00</i>
C. Equipment			
Computer/computer supplies	-	6,090.00	6,090.00
Copier lease	-	8,046.00	8,046.00
Maintenance	-	8,732.00	8,732.00
<i>Equipment Total</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>22,868.00</i>	<i>22,868.00</i>
D. Supplies			
Animal care & feeding	104,417.00	53,791.00	158,208.00
Cleaning supplies	-	6,438.00	6,438.00
Euthanasia & cremation	-	9,203.00	9,203.00
Office supplies	-	9,098.00	9,098.00
Printing (program material)	-	16,298.00	16,298.00
Uniforms	-	13,063.00	13,063.00
Veterinary supplies - shelter	107,979.00	55,626.00	163,605.00
Veterinary supplies - surgery	47,682.00	24,564.00	72,246.00
<i>Supplies Total</i>	<i>260,078.00</i>	<i>186,081.00</i>	<i>448,159.00</i>
E. Staff Training & Travel			
Airfare/airfare	-	2,850.00	2,850.00
Per diem/wedging	-	4,530.00	4,530.00
Ground transport, gas purchase, parking	-	250.00	250.00
Registration fees	-	1,155.00	1,155.00
<i>Training and Travel Total</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>8,785.00</i>	<i>8,785.00</i>
F. Other Expenses			
Advertising	-	33,240.00	33,240.00
Maintenance facility	14,667.00	7,711.00	22,678.00
Security	-	5,104.00	5,104.00
Telecom	15,883.00	8,182.00	24,065.00
Utilities	49,305.00	25,399.00	74,704.00
Vehicle operation	-	7,050.00	7,050.00
<i>Other Total</i>	<i>99,155.00</i>	<i>86,686.00</i>	<i>166,841.00</i>
G. Administrative Cost (12% maximum)			
Insurance (auto, c. liability, property, volunteer, etc)	-	9,961.00	9,961.00
IT services	-	6,996.00	6,996.00
Janitorial services	-	5,220.00	5,220.00
Payroll & HR services	29,756.00	15,329.00	45,085.00
Wages & benefits - administration	125,104.00	97,470.00	222,574.00
Wages & benefits - facilities	77,862.00	40,111.00	117,973.00
<i>Admin Cost Total</i>	<i>232,722.00</i>	<i>175,097.00</i>	<i>407,869.00</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	2,236,000.00	1,339,748.00	3,575,748.00
List *Other funding sources to be applied to this specific program. Note: Total column (b), must match the total below.		List all other County of Maui grants and include the Department, Grant #, and full grant amount.	
Source(s)	\$ Amount(s)	County Dept. - Title - Grant no.	\$ Grant Amount
Service revenue	334,937.00	DHHC-Sheltering-G5620	2,033,000.00
Public donations	1,004,811.00	DHHC-Enforcement-G5619	1,111,000.00
		DHHC-Spay Neuter-G5621	125,000.00
		DHHC-Molokai (in process)	282,000.00
Total Other Resources	1,339,748.00		

PROGRAM BUDGET

Agency Name: Maui Humane Society

Program Title: Humane Enforcement

Period*: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

(*Budget must be for only one year. A separate set of budget tables is required for each year)

EXPENSE CATEGORIES	(a) Amount Requested	(b) *Other Resources	(c) Total Budget
A. Personnel			
Salaries	669,176.00	84,754.00	753,930.00
<i>Personnel Total:</i>	<i>669,176.00</i>	<i>84,754.00</i>	<i>753,930.00</i>
B. Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits			
Payroll Taxes & Assessments	85,387.00	10,815.00	96,202.00
Fringe Benefits (Medical/Dental)	77,728.00	12,334.00	90,062.00
<i>Taxes and Fringe Total:</i>	<i>163,115.00</i>	<i>23,149.00</i>	<i>186,264.00</i>
C. Equipment			
Computer/computer supplies	-	2,700.00	2,700.00
Copier lease	2,109.00	111.00	2,220.00
Maintenance	1,441.00	76.00	1,517.00
Enforcement vehicles (per proviso)	60,000.00	-	60,000.00
Vehicle service & operation	74,575.00	3,925.00	78,500.00
<i>Equipment Total:</i>	<i>138,125.00</i>	<i>6,812.00</i>	<i>144,937.00</i>
D. Supplies			
Cleaning supplies	1,687.00	89.00	1,776.00
Enforcement supplies	9,405.00	495.00	9,900.00
Office supplies	2,278.00	120.00	2,398.00
Uniforms	2,375.00	125.00	2,500.00
<i>Supplies Total:</i>	<i>15,745.00</i>	<i>829.00</i>	<i>16,574.00</i>
E. Staff Training & Travel			
Airfare/ferry		800.00	800.00
Per diem w/lodging		1,210.00	1,210.00
Ground transport, gas purchase, parking		100.00	100.00
Registration fees	1,319.00	304.00	1,623.00
<i>Training and Travel Total:</i>	<i>1,319.00</i>	<i>2,414.00</i>	<i>3,733.00</i>
F. Other Expenses			
Maintenance/facility	5,943.00	313.00	6,256.00
Printing	3,291.00	173.00	3,464.00
Security	2,114.00	111.00	2,225.00
Telecom	22,871.00	1,204.00	24,075.00
Utilities	20,073.00	1,056.00	21,129.00
<i>Other Total:</i>	<i>54,292.00</i>	<i>2,857.00</i>	<i>57,149.00</i>
G. Administrative Cost (12% maximum)			
Insurance (auto, g. liability, property, volunteer, d	1,718.00	1,637.00	3,355.00
IT services	1,834.00	96.00	1,930.00
Janitorial services	1,368.00	72.00	1,440.00
Payroll & HR services	13,892.00	731.00	14,623.00
Wages & benefits - administration	50,499.00	10,901.00	61,400.00
Wages & benefits - facilities	30,917.00	1,627.00	32,544.00
<i>Admin Cost Total:</i>	<i>100,228.00</i>	<i>15,064.00</i>	<i>115,292.00</i>
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,142,000.00	135,879.00	1,277,879.00
List *Other funding sources to be applied to this specific program. Note: Total column (b), must match the total below.		List all other County of Maui grants and include the Department, Grant #, and full grant amount.	
Source(s)	\$ Amount(s)	County Dept. - Title - Grant no.	\$ Grant Amount
Service revenue	33,970.00	DHHC-Sheltering-G5620	2,033,000.00
Public donations	101,909.00	DHHC-Enforcement-G5619	1,111,000.00
		DHHC-Spay Neuter-G5621	125,000.00
		DHHC-Molokai (in process)	282,000.00
Total Other Resources	135,879.00		

PROGRAM BUDGET

Agency Name: Maui Humane Society
 Program Title: Molokai Animal Services
 Period*: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

(*Budget must be for only one year. A separate set of budget tables is required for each year)

EXPENSE CATEGORIES	(a) Amount Requested	(b) *Other Resources	(c) Total Budget
A. Personnel			
Salaries	45,233.00	2,381.00	47,614.00
<i>Personnel Total:</i>	45,233.00	2,381.00	47,614.00
B. Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits			
Payroll Taxes & Assessments	5,319.00	280.00	5,599.00
Fringe Benefits (Medical/Dental)	5,673.00	760.00	6,433.00
<i>Taxes and Fringe Total:</i>	10,992.00	1,040.00	12,032.00
C. Equipment			
	-	-	-
<i>Equipment Total:</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
D. Supplies			
Animal care & feeding	19,920.00	1,048.00	20,968.00
Cleaning supplies	2,488.00	131.00	2,619.00
Office supplies	475.00	25.00	500.00
Veterinary supplies - shelter	18,924.00	996.00	19,920.00
<i>Supplies Total:</i>	41,807.00	2,200.00	44,007.00
E. Staff Training & Travel			
Airfare/ferry	-	-	-
Per diem w/lodging	-	-	-
Ground transport, gas purchase, parking	-	-	-
Registration fees	-	-	-
<i>Training and Travel Total:</i>	0.00	0.00	0.00
F. Other Expenses			
Animal transportation	26,250.00	26,250.00	52,500.00
Maintenance - facility	1,305.00	69.00	1,374.00
Telecom	958.00	50.00	1,008.00
Travel	6,639.00	349.00	6,988.00
Utilities	1,140.00	60.00	1,200.00
<i>Other Total:</i>	36,292.00	26,778.00	63,070.00
G. Administrative Cost (12% maximum)			
Insurance	549.00	29.00	578.00
Payroll & HR services	1,069.00	56.00	1,125.00
Wages & benefits - administration	4,058.00	547.00	4,605.00
		-	-
		-	-
<i>Admin Cost Total:</i>	5,676.00	632.00	6,308.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	140,000.00	33,031.00	173,031.00
List *Other funding sources to be applied to this specific program. Note: Total column (b), must match the total below.		List all other County of Maui grants and include the Department, Grant #, and full grant amount.	
Source(s)	\$ Amount(s)	County Dept. - Title - Grant no.	\$ Grant Amount
Service revenue	8,258.00	DHHC-Sheltering-G5620	2,033,000.00
Public donations	24,773.00	DHHC-Enforcement-G5619	1,111,000.00
		DHHC-Spay Neuter-G5621	125,000.00
Total Other Resources	33,031.00		

PROGRAM BUDGET

Agency Name: Maui Humane Society
 Program Title: Spay & Neuter
 Period: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

(*Budget must be for only one year. A separate set of budget tables is required for each year)

EXPENSE CATEGORIES	(a) Amount Requested	(b) *Other Resources	(c) Total Budget
A. Personnel			
Salaries	120,006.00	222,865.00	342,871.00
<i>Personnel Total:</i>	<i>120,006.00</i>	<i>222,865.00</i>	<i>342,871.00</i>
B. Payroll Taxes and Fringe Benefits			
Payroll Taxes & Assessments	15,312.00	28,438.00	43,750.00
Fringe Benefits (Medical/Dental)	11,821.00	21,952.00	33,773.00
<i>Taxes and Fringe Total:</i>	<i>27,133.00</i>	<i>50,390.00</i>	<i>77,523.00</i>
C. Equipment			
<i>Equipment Total:</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
D. Supplies			
Veterinary Supplies - Surgery	15,504.00	28,794.00	44,298.00
<i>Supplies Total:</i>	<i>15,504.00</i>	<i>28,794.00</i>	<i>44,298.00</i>
E. Staff Training & Travel			
Airfare/ferry	-	-	-
Per diem/wlodging	-	-	-
Ground transport, gas purchase, parking	-	-	-
Registration fees	-	-	-
<i>Training and Travel Total:</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
F. Other Expenses			
<i>Other Total:</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>0.00</i>
G. Administrative Cost (12% maximum)			
Payroll & HR services	2,357.00	3,942.00	6,299.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	165,000.00	302,049.00	464,692.00
List *Other funding sources to be applied to this specific program. Note:	List all other County of Maui grants and include the Department, Grant #, and full grant amount.		
Total column (b), must match the total below.			
Source(s)	\$ Amount(s)	County Dept. - Title - Grant no.	\$ Grant Amount
Service revenue	75,512.00	DHHC-Sheltering-G5620	2,033,000.00
Public donations	226,537.00	DHHC-Enforcement-G5619	1,111,000.00
		DHHC-Spay Neuter-G5621	125,000.00
		DHHC-Molokai (in process)	282,000.00
Total Other Resources	302,049.00		

Nikki Russell - Animal Sheltering

Aloha. I'm Nikki Russell, Chief of Operations for Maui Humane Society. Thank you to the entire council for the ongoing support which allows us to care for the homeless and abandoned animals of Maui.

As you are aware, MHS is contracted by Maui County to take in all animals in need and provide them with shelter, food and medical care. As the only open-intake animal shelter on Maui, we take in nearly 5,000 animals a year, and we anticipate the number to be higher this year and next, due to the effects of the August wildfires. We typically take in about 400 animals each month, which already stretches our capacity and resources.

From the single event of the Lahaina fires, we took in more than 880 additional animals from the burn zone alone, which does not include those surrendered to us as a result of the fires and lack of pet-friendly housing. Fire response took a great toll on the MHS team. I can't imagine where we would be today without the amazing work of our incredible rescue partners in Maui County. And still the impact of fires has increased our shelter population more than it has been in years and our animals' length of stay has drastically increased. This is especially true for dogs, which are becoming increasingly difficult to place due to rental restrictions on Maui. At times, we needed to call on the community to care for nearly 60% of our dog population in foster homes. This shows why our need for support from the County is so dire for animal sheltering, as well as spay/neuter funding, as the increased need for sheltering is directly related to the number of unaltered animals in our community.

Those of you who have pets of your own can understand that the human-animal bond is like no other. We need support from Maui County in order to continue supporting those who need us most. We asked the County for \$2.2M to cover these Animal Sheltering costs for FY25, and those were our estimated costs before the impacts of the fires would be known. This Mayor's budget falls short of this by \$200K, which will not be sufficient to meet our contractual obligations. Therefore, we respectfully ask for an additional \$200K to meet the proposed Sheltering budget.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

RECEIVED BY B.FED MEETING ON 4-11-24

April 10, 2024

**To: Economic Development and Budget Committee
Maui County Council**

**From: Bevanne J. Bowers, Executive Director
Mediation Services of Maui, Inc.**

Testimony in support of FY 24-25 funding for Mediation Services of Maui, Inc.

My name is Bevanne Bowers, and on May 15, 2024, I will mark nine years serving as Executive Director of Mediation Services of Maui, Inc., doing business as Maui Mediation Services (MSM). In previous years, I have had the privilege to stand before you and thank you for the consistent support you have given us in the past for our Mediation and Conflict Resolution Services and Education Program. I have been able to report data such as during the last fiscal year, Maui Mediation Services served more than 1,221 persons across Maui County, including residents on Molokai and Lanai. Also during that same year we served 536 cases, of which 39% were referred from Maui's district and Family Courts.

But this year, my request for your continued support is different. Our staff and our volunteer mediators, are all seeing something different in the clientele that we serve – our County is hurting. Reeling from the blows of unforeseen catastrophic fires, a long-existing affordable housing shortage, businesses struggling to get and keep good employees, and the remnants of COVID, just to name a few. The reactions to these stresses manifest as heightened frustration and rage. The conflicts are getting nastier and seemingly more mean-spirited. Yet, these are the participants that our mediators facilitate. We are seeing an increased demand for workplace trainings, including from County departments, so managers are better equipped to deal with disputes in the job place, as well as an increase in employee conflict. A recent study of Workplace Conflict Statistics updated for 2023 found that employees spend approximately 2.8 hours each week in conflict – a full day of productivity each month.

We currently receive funding from Maui County's Housing and Human Concerns Department as one of its Food, Shelter, and Safety grantees in the amount of \$90,000. These funds provide essential support, without which we would be unable to meet personnel, rent, and auditing expenses, and we ask that this support continues in the fiscal year ending 2025.

MSM began 42 years ago as the Neighborhood Justice Center, focusing on neighbor-neighbor disputes. Today, we assist with all types of disputes – from auto accidents to TROs and most in between. At the end of our mediation sessions, we ask the participants to complete a

feedback form. Consistently, 90% of those who answered reported that they were satisfied with our process, and in the cases where applicable, 50% reported they felt some positive change in the relationship.

Again, we sincerely thank you for your grant support and request that it continue at the same level of \$90,000 for FY 24-25.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Bevanne J. Bowers, Esq.
Executive Director
Mediation Services of Maui, Inc.