

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-22 9:00 AM

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

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- 1 Meetings
- 2 Agenda Items
- 18 Comments
- 10 Support
- 0 Oppose
- 4 Neutral

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Overall Sentiment

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Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
Lei'ohu Ryder	Re: OED - Environmental Protection Grants - Pili Koko Aloha kākou, I am a board member of Pili Koko, and it's crucial work, providing "environmental protections", helping mitigate flooding, that continue to be present. The muliwai, one of the genius designs that were in place, keeps the dirt off the reef. Our reef in Kula Kai today, is brown. Can't even remember when the last hard rain was. I appreciate any monies that come to Pili Koko. Let us dream a fully working stream, from ma'uuka to makai.	Support		04-22-2024 08:50 am
Guest User	Jan Elliott	Neutral		04-21-2024 08:45 am
Malia Hill	Please see the attached comments from the Grassroot Institute of Hawaii.	Neutral	Attachment	04-19-2024 06:14 am
BFED Committee	Testimonies received from BFED Committee.		Attachment	04-23-2024 08:15 am
Guest User	<p>Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee Maui County Council 200 South High Street, 7th Floor Wailuku, HI 96793</p> <p>Subject: Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina Program. To provide local stewardship, visitor management, and Uniformed Community Patrol Programs for East Maui.</p> <p>Aloha BFED Committee Members,</p> <p>My name is Lehualani Park. I am the mother of four boys and twin girls who are lineal descendants of Kaupō, Kipahulu, Hāna, and Nahiku. With the support of residents from Kaupō to Ko'olau, my family and I urge your collaboration in supporting a Community Economic Development Program, Mālama Maui Hikina.</p> <p>With your consideration in supporting this community-led program, I propose the following points. 1. Community Empowerment: This section</p>	Support		04-22-2024 08:10 pm

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
	<p>highlights the importance of empowering local communities to address their needs and challenges through grassroots initiatives. a) Mālama Wailua of Mālama Maui Hikina 2. Tailored Solutions: Emphasize the effectiveness of community-led programs in providing tailored solutions that are responsive to each neighborhood or locality's specific needs and dynamics. a) Funds for Community Transit Safety Officer Program b) Mālama Maui Hikina Stewards receive certified training 3. Resource Allocation: Advocate for allocating a portion of the county budget to support community-led programs, recognizing their potential to achieve meaningful and sustainable outcomes. 4. Partnership Opportunities: Stress the value of forging partnerships between local government agencies and community organizations to leverage resources, expertise, and networks in implementing initiatives that benefit residents. 5. Impact and Accountability: Emphasize the importance of measuring the impact of community-led programs and ensuring accountability in using public funds to maximize their effectiveness and uphold transparency. 6. Long-Term Benefits: Highlight the long-term benefits of investing in community-led programs, such as building social capital, fostering civic engagement, and promoting resilience in the face of challenges.</p> <p>Your support will foster and restore reciprocity relationships between 'aina and Kanaka. Unveiling the potential we hold within.</p> <p>Aloha, Lehualani Park</p>			
Guest User	<p>Re: Budget Hearing</p> <p>Aloha Kākou e Maui County Councilmembers,</p> <p>As a director, and on behalf of Nā Mamo O Mū'olea (NMOM), my testimony is in full support of Councilmember Sinenci's request to allocate \$20,000 of the County's Open Space Fund for ongoing and capital improvements at Mū'olea Point.</p> <p>Through a lease from Maui County, Nā Mamo o Mū'olea has managed this 'āina for over 15 years. In these years many improvements have been made by our all-volunteer board, 'ohana members, and neighbors, but much more is needed. For example: • We need a water system that supplies life giving wai to the far corners of the 73+ acres • Since so much of our time is spent clearing invasive trees and brush, we need the ability to chip and remove cleared brush and trees immediately, so we aren't creating piles of drying green waste that is fuel for brush fires, and/or regrowth of more invasives. • Fences and gates need to be upgraded to provide better security from feral animals • Grading and widening access roads will make it safer for families using the area, and for first responder vehicles in emergencies.</p> <p>Under the terms of the County's ownership, and our lease agreement, we are restricted from performing any kind of commercial activity on the property, so our only source of funding for improvements is from donations and grants. Grant monies for improvements are rare, so we rely heavily on volunteers, the generosity of neighbors, and an occasional project specific grant that allows improvements to the 'āina. We are always in search of opportunities.</p> <p>To honor the pana kaulana of Mū'olea, and the legacy of the Kalākaua dynasty it is so important to restore Mū'olea Point to a maintainable, producing 'aina momona landscape. Bishop Museum pictures from the 1800's shows Mū'olea in full production, installing a Native Plant Garden with canoe plants, food plants, medicinal and other useful plants is a</p>	Support		04-22-2024 11:44 am

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
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dream and would complete our mauka to makai efforts. Unfortunately, the continued battle with invasives are just that...a battle.

Please give favor to Councilmember Sinenci's request on our behalf, and please know you are all welcome to visit us at Mū'olea...anytime. Mahalo!

Claudia Kalaola - Director Nā Mamo o Mū'olea 04/21/2024

Guest User From: Jessie Kapeka Kekiwi-Aweau 04-22-2024
 Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 8:46 PM To: County Clerk Cc: Shane M. Sinenci ; Kauwila Hanchett ; Sunnie Makua ; Jerome Kekiwi Jr. ; Jessie Kapeka Kekiwi-Aweau Subject: Support Letter for the Mālama Maui Hikina Project 09:03 am

Aloha e BFED Committee Members,

My name is Jessie Kekiwi-Aweau and I am in support of the Mālama Maui Hiikina project to provide local stewardship and visitor management at three wahi pana of East Maui (Wailua, Waioka, and Kaihalulu). I believe that this project can help educate visitors and residents on the significance of our historic and cultural wahi pana which are threatened by the impacts of mass tourism and must be protected.

My 'ohana are lineal descendants and generational 'ohana of the Ko'olau moku and we have observed the negative impacts of tourism on our natural environment (mauka to makai), our cultural and subsistence lifestyle, and on our small kalo farming villages of Ke'anae and Wailuanui. There have been crop production impacts resulting from water contamination by visitors swimming upstream, and residents are overwhelmed by the number of visitors in certain areas and by visitor behavior such as trespassing on private property.

There are times when visitors don't listen to the residents' warnings and the visitors need to get help or be rescued by the residents who often risk their own lives to save a stranger's life. I think that the way visitors enter and spend time in our spaces must change to preserve our natural and cultural resources and our 'āina centered way of life for future generations.

Again I urge you to fund the Mālama Maui Hikina Project and support our community-led efforts to restore pono, balance, and natural order, to these treasured wahi pana.

Mahalo for your time. Jessie Kekiwi-Aweau

Guest User From: County Clerk 04-22-2024
 Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 8:56 AM To: BFED Committee Subject: FW: Mālama Maui Hikina Project 09:02 am

From: Jessie Kapeka Kekiwi-Aweau
 Sent: Friday, April 19, 2024 7:09 PM To: County Clerk Cc: Shane M. Sinenci ; Kauwila Hanchett ; Sunnie Makua ; Jerome Kekiwi Jr. ; Jessie Kapeka Kekiwi-Aweau Subject: Mālama Maui Hikina Project

Aloha Everyone,

Jerome Kekiwi, Jr. - President Norman Martin, Vice-President Kupa'a Luat - Hueu - Treasurer Jessie Kekiwi-Aweau - Secretary Radford Ka'auamo - Sgt. at Arms
 Kanani Fredrick Earl Inouye Jennifer Kekiwi-Brown Guy Mahilani Namahoe

DATE: April 19, 2024

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
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Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee Maui County Council 200 South High Street, 7th Floor Wailuku, HI 96793

Subject: FY 2025 Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide local stewardship and visitor management at three wahi pana of East Maui.

Aloha e BFED Committee Members,

On behalf of Na Moku Aupuni o Koʻolau Hui (Na Moku) I would like to urge you to support the Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide community-based tourism management and place-based stewardship for three wahi pana in East Maui. These historically and culturally significant wahi pana are threatened by the impacts of mass tourism and must be protected.

The board and membership of Na Moku are approximately 200 households in Keʻanae and Wailuanui, situated in the middle of a 33,000-acre East Maui watershed. The area was known in ancient times as a breadbasket, a provisioning stop for voyagers and travelers renowned for its loʻi kalo (taro patches). Most residents are native descendants who trace their genealogy before Western contact. Through board leadership and community mobilization over a sustained decades-long effort, Na Moku succeeded in restoring water that had been diverted out of the area for commercial purposes. We also acquired stewardship of Keʻanae Uka, state owned facilities previously managed by the YMCA, and have recently completed a strategic plan.

The lineal descendants and generational ʻohana of the Koʻolau moku have observed the negative impacts of tourism on our natural environment (mauka to makai), our cultural and subsistence lifestyle, and on our small kalo-farming villages of Keʻanae and Wailuanui. Kalo farmers have noticed crop production impacts resulting from water contamination by visitors swimming upstream, and residents are overwhelmed by the number of visitors in certain areas as well as by visitor behavior such as trespassing on private property.

Often in emergency situations, local residents must step in to help, rescue, or even save a visitor in trouble—often risking their own lives. These same residents must live with the visitor-related tragedies that forever remain in our memories and stories and can color our relationships with the places where these tragedies occur. We recognize that the way visitors enter and spend time in our spaces must change to preserve our natural and cultural resources as well as our ʻāina-centered way of life for future generations.

Once again, I urge you to fund the Mālama Maui Hikina project and support our community-led efforts to restore pono, balance and natural order, to this treasured wahi pana. We look forward to the lessons that will be learned from this project and continue to build our foundation for community-based tourism management in the Koʻolau moku.

Sincerely, Jerome Kekiwi, Jr. Jerome Kekiwi, Jr. Board President Na Moku Aupuni o Koʻolau Hui

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
Thomas Croly	<p data-bbox="256 252 630 279">Real Property Tax Certification</p> <p data-bbox="256 311 1097 499">The Budget review by the Council is a great way to learn about all the County does. Every year, I learn more about the responsibilities, staffing and costs of the various County agencies and non profits that the County supports or contracts with to provide services to the community.</p> <p data-bbox="256 532 1110 844">There is no document that is more informative in this Budget review process than the annual report from RPT about the RPT certification. From accurate counts of how many properties are in each district, how the different tax classifications break down across the districts and the County to where the tax revenues come from, that allow the County to operate. This document is required reading for making any well informed decision about tax rates, tax classifications, and tax policy to achieve specific goals.</p> <p data-bbox="256 876 1117 1102">This year’s version is perhaps the most informative that I have ever seen. As it includes important information about the effects of the wildfires on the tax base, such as what properties were affected, how the decisions that have already been made have impacted the tax base, and what properties are now being used as temporary rentals for the fire survivors.</p> <p data-bbox="256 1134 1117 1322">I do hope that the chair will provide enough time for the department to fully present all of the important information contained in this report and that the members will carefully consider this information, not only on the Budget decisions you are in the process of making, but also in assessing the potential impacts of any future policy decisions.</p> <p data-bbox="256 1354 1117 1381">Some of the many observations I make from reading this report include:</p> <p data-bbox="256 1413 1123 1521">Real property tax revenues have increased by 130% over the past 9 years compared to a cumulative rate of inflation of 31.6% over the same period.</p> <p data-bbox="256 1553 1110 1704">That 80% of Maui County tax revenues come from South and West Maui, with 92.5% of those taxes coming from visitor accommodations in these areas, including Short Term Rentals, Non owner occupied second homes, Time Shares, and to a much lesser extent hotels.</p> <p data-bbox="256 1736 1049 1763">10.2% of owner occupied properties pay the minimum tax of \$300.</p> <p data-bbox="256 1795 1091 1865">That 400 homeowners were provided tax relief via the circuit breaker program.</p> <p data-bbox="256 1897 1123 2085">That 26,911 owner occupants were provided with a total of \$174 million in tax relief thru the \$300,000 home owner exemption and lower Owner Occupied tax rate (while only 147 owner occupied property owners were denied any of this relief because they hold a permit to allow them to share their homes with visitors) Why this discrimination?</p> <p data-bbox="256 2118 1010 2188">That Hotel assessed values did not increase from 2023 to 2024. Presumably because there were no hotel sales.</p> <p data-bbox="256 2220 1123 2370">That the Long term rental exemption and lower tax rate established by this Council has been pretty successful with 3880 property owners being granted an average tax reduction of \$4224 each for renting at least one of the dwellings on their properties long term.</p> <p data-bbox="256 2403 1117 2540">There are Four charts showing the distribution of property values in the Owner occupied, non owner occupied, Long term Rental and Short term rental tax classifications. These charts can be very helpful when determining how many property owners would fall into each tax rate</p>	Neutral		04-22-2024 08:46 am

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
Guest User	<p>tier. I have thought on how the tiers could be set to achieve a progressive taxation while negatively impacting the fewest taxpayers.</p> <p>The report on the wildfires is eyeopening and will be very helpful in informing future decisions in this area. The 1902 properties granted a tax abatement for renting long term to fire survivors shows this was successful legislation.</p> <p>The bonus in the report this year is very informed information about the various transient rental properties and hotel units. This information while perhaps not 100% complete, is much more accurate than the uninformed estimates often cited by those attempting to demonize the visitor industry. This information should be thoroughly reviewed before making any future considerations about existing or new visitor accommodations. While this is not immediately relevant to the Budget committee, this information needs to be revisited outside the budget review period.</p>	Support		04-21-2024 09:47 pm
Guest User	<p>Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee Maui County Council 200 South High Street, 7 th Floor Wailuku, HI 96793</p> <p>Subject: FY 2025 Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide local stewardship and visitor management at three wahi pana of East Maui.</p> <p>Aloha e BFED Committee Members,</p> <p>On behalf of Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike (MKHKI) I would like to urge you to support the Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide community-based tourism management and place-based stewardship for three beloved wahi pana of East Maui. These historically and culturally significant places are under threat due to tourism impacts and must be protected.</p> <p>MKHKI was formed in 2001 to provide at-risk youth with a way to learn that makes sense to them, that builds their self-esteem and shows them they have the power to change their future. Over the past 22 years, our work has grown and evolved while remaining centered on restoring our youth's right role as caretakers of their community. In addition to our Building Program, we also now steward Mahele Farm, run a robust program to restore our sacred relationship with Hāloanakalaukapalili called Mālama Hāloa, care for our kūpuna of Maui Hikina through food and poi deliveries, and most recently we've launched our Kahu 'Ai Pono program that engages youth in 'āina-based culinary adventures.</p> <p>MKHKI staff members were able to participate in some of the in-person and zoom meetings of the grassroots hui of residents, lineal descendants, and community leaders from Ko'olau to Kahikinui that have been meeting to find solutions to the issues caused by over tourism in East Maui. Our dialogue acknowledged the benefits of engaging the next generation in our efforts. MKHKI is standing by to see how we can best support this collaborative community-based initiative and exploring ways that our youth can be involved in this important work. Once again, I urge you to fund the Mālama Maui Hikina project and support our community-led efforts to restore pono, balance and natural order, to this treasured wahi pana.</p> <p>Me ka mahalo nui, Lipoa Kahaluahi Executive Director</p>	Support		04-21-2024 09:47 pm
Guest User	<p>April 21, 2024</p> <p>Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee Maui County Council 200 South High Street, 7th Floor Wailuku, HI 96793</p>	Support		04-21-2024 08:18 pm

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
	<p>Subject: FY 2025 Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide local stewardship and visitor management at three wahi pana of East Maui.</p> <p>Aloha e BFED Committee Members,</p> <p>On behalf of the Kīpahulu ‘Ohana, Inc. (KOI) I would like to urge you to support the Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide community-based tourism management and place-based stewardship for Wailua, Waioka, and Kaihalulu. This historically and culturally significant ‘ahupua’a—which has sustained the families of this area for many generations—is under threat due to tourism impacts and must be protected.</p> <p>Founded in 1995, KOI and is dedicated to the cultural sustainability of the Kīpahulu moku through educational programs and partnerships. KOI envisions families working in harmony together to preserve and enhance the traditional cultural practices of the Hawaiian people. KOI conducts cultural demonstrations, restoration projects, self-sufficiency programs, shoreline and ocean resource management initiatives, and biological diversity projects. KOI is currently spearheading the Community-Based Subsistence Fishing Area (CBSFA) designation for the moku of Kīpahulu.</p> <p>The proposed services will reestablish traditional, place-based models of governance that return stewardship of the ‘āina to the lineal descendants, generational ‘ohana, and residents of East Maui while gathering critical data about residents and visitors that will build a strong foundation for ongoing community-based tourism management.</p> <p>Once again, I urge you to fund the Mālama Maui Hikina project and support our community driven efforts to restore pono, balance and natural order, to this treasured ‘ahpua’a.</p> <p>Me ka mahalo,</p> <p>Cheyenne Kamalei Pico</p>			
Guest User	<p>April 21, 2024</p> <p>Re: Open Space Funding for Mu’olea Point</p> <p>To the Council of the County of Maui:</p> <p>Nā Mamo O Mū’olea (“NMOM”) is writing to support the budget item of \$20,000 in FY25 Special Purpose Revenues, Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources and Scenic Views Preservation funds, to be used to support safety and security related to the management of County lands at TMKs 1-5-007-001 and 1-5-007-012.</p> <p>NMOM is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that was established at the request of the County of Maui in 2005 to fulfill the requirement on page 11 of the County’s deed to the Mū’olea Point property that the County should “contract for the management of the Property to a local nonprofit corporation.”</p> <p>NMOM has been managing the Mū’olea Point property on behalf of the County of Maui since 2005. In 2015, the County of Maui granted Nā Mamo o Mū’olea a long-promised 50-year lease. The majority of Nā Mamo o Mū’olea’s Board members are lineal descendants of the original occupants and land-holders of the Mū’olea ahupua’a. Most have spent their entire lives near this land and have a deep and ancestral familiarity with this storied place, and a keep kuleana to care for this special place.</p>	Support		04-21-2024 02:38 pm

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
	<p>NMOM hosts educational programs for local schools and community groups, and also manages access for local families to be able to exercise their traditional and customary practices. In order to ensure that the area is safe for youth and families, improvements need to be made to trails and public areas need to be kept safe. To prevent the risk of fires during drought periods, invasive grasses need to be removed and replaced with native plants and trees, and other improvements for safety and security of the property.</p> <p>Members of Nā Mamo o Mū'olea's Board have expertise in conservation land management and native ecosystem protection, native plants, agriculture, horticulture, ranching, building and construction, fencing, financial management, human resource management, nonprofit management, and Hawaiian language and culture, and have years of experience successfully managing County funds for the care of this land as well as for the Hana Limu Festival.</p> <p>Mahalo,</p> <p>Legario Eharis, President On behalf of the Nā Mamo o Mū'olea Board of Directors</p>			
Guest User	<p>Re: Budget Hearings</p> <p>Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,</p> <p>I am writing in support of Councilmember Sinenci's request to allocate \$20,000 of the County's Open Space Fund for ongoing improvements at Mū'olea Point. Nā Mamo o Mū'olea has been managing this county-owned property for over 15 years. We have made many improvements to it, and many more are needed.</p> <p>By the terms of the County's ownership of Mū'olea Point, we are restricted from performing any kind of commercial activity on the property, so our only source of funding for these improvements is through donations and grants. We raised over \$120,000 last year, but most of this was restricted to our ocean-related programs. We only received \$6000 from the County in 2023, and that was restricted to our annual Limu Festival. Improvements to the property itself are harder to fund and we have been relying on volunteers and the generosity of neighbors, but this is not enough to accomplish the improvements that are needed for public safety and security. Some of these improvements are:</p> <p>Improving fencing and gates to secure the property from invasive animals. Creating new hiking trails. Widening and leveling existing hiking trails and roads for safety and emergency vehicle access. Clearing invasive brush, especially from areas that border neighboring homes. Hauling away piles of dry, cleared brush. Mowing invasive grasses and brush in cleared areas. Planting native trees and shrubs to replace invasive brush. Extending water lines to the replanted areas and to the camping area.</p> <p>I hope you will approve Councilmember Sinenci's request on our behalf, and I encourage you to visit beautiful Mu'olea Point to see what we have accomplished so far!</p> <p>Mahalo!</p> <p>Jan Elliott Nā Mamo o Mū'olea, Treasurer</p> <p>Re: Budget Hearings</p> <p>Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,</p>	Neutral		04-21-2024 08:48 am

Name Comment Position Attachments At

I am writing in support of Councilmember Sinenci's request to allocate \$20,000 of the County's Open Space Fund for ongoing improvements at Mū'olea Point. Nā Mamo o Mū'olea has been managing this county-owned property for over 15 years. We have made many improvements to it, and many more are needed.

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I hope you will approve Councilmember Sinenci's request on our behalf, and I encourage you to visit beautiful Mu'olea Point to see what we have accomplished so far!

Mahalo!

Jan Elliott Nā Mamo o Mū'olea, Treasurer

Re: Budget Hearings

Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,

I am writing in support of Councilmember Sinenci's request to allocate \$20,000 of the County's Open Space Fund for ongoing improvements at Mū'olea Point. Nā Mamo o Mū'olea has been managing this county-owned property for over 15 years. We have made many improvements to it, and many more are needed.

By the terms of the County's ownership of Mū'olea Point, we are restricted from performing any kind of commercial activity on the property, so our only source of funding for these improvements is through donations and grants. We raised over \$120,000 last year, but most of this was restricted to our ocean-related programs. We only received \$6000 from the County in 2023, and that was restricted to our annual Limu Festival. Improvements to the property itself are harder to fund and we have been relying on volunteers and the generosity of neighbors, but this is not enough to accomplish the improvements that are needed for public safety and security. Some of these improvements are:

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	<p>replace invasive brush. Extending water lines to the replanted areas and to the camping area.</p> <p>I hope you will approve Councilmember Sinenci's request on our behalf, and I encourage you to visit beautiful Mu'olea Point to see what we have accomplished so far!</p> <p>Mahalo!</p> <p>Jan Elliott Nā Mamo o Mū'olea, Treasurer</p>			
Guest User	<p>Jerome Kekiwi, Jr. - President Norman Martin, Vice-President Kupa'a Luat - Hueu - Treasurer Jessie Kekiwi-Aweau - Secretary Radford Ka'auamo - Sgt. at Arms</p> <p>Kanani Fredrick Earl Inouye Jennifer Kekiwi-Brown Guy Mahilani Namahoe</p> <p>DATE: April 19, 2024</p> <p>Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee Maui County Council 200 South High Street, 7 th Floor Wailuku, HI 96793</p> <p>Subject: FY 2025 Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide local stewardship and visitor management at three wahi pana of East Maui.</p> <p>Aloha e BFED Committee Members,</p> <p>On behalf of Na Moku Aupuni o Ko'olau Hui (Na Moku) I would like to urge you to support the Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide community-based tourism management and place-based stewardship for three wahi pana in East Maui. These historically and culturally significant wahi pana are threatened by the impacts of mass tourism and must be protected.</p> <p>The board and membership of Na Moku are approximately 200 households in Ke'anae and Wailuanui, situated in the middle of a 33,000-acre East Maui watershed. The area was known in ancient times as a breadbasket, a provisioning stop for voyagers and travelers renowned for its lo'i kalo (taro patches). Most residents are native descendants who trace their genealogy prior to western contact. Through board leadership and community mobilization over a sustained decades-long effort, Na Moku succeeded in restoring water that had been diverted out of the area for commercial purposes. We also acquired stewardship of Ke'anae Uka, state owned facilities previously managed by the YMCA, and have recently completed a strategic plan.</p> <p>The lineal descendants and generational 'ohana of the Ko'olau moku have observed the negative impacts of tourism on our natural environment (mauka to makai), our cultural and subsistence lifestyle, and on our small kalo-farming villages of Ke'anae and Wailuanui. Kalo farmers have noticed crop production impacts resulting from water contamination by visitors swimming upstream, and residents are overwhelmed by the number of visitors in certain areas as well as by visitor behavior such as trespassing on private property.</p> <p>Often in emergency situations, local residents must step in to help, rescue, or even save a visitor in trouble—often risking their own lives. These same residents must live with the visitor-related tragedies that forever remain in our memories and stories and can color our relationships with t</p>	Support		04-19-2024 06:50 pm

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
	<p>he places where these tragedies occur. We recognize that the way visitors enter and spend time in our spaces must change to preserve our natural and cultural resources as well as our 'āina-centered way of life for future generations.</p> <p>Once again, I urge you to fund the Mālama Maui Hikina project and support our community-led efforts to restore pono, balance and natural order, to this treasured wahi pana. We look forward to the lessons that will be learned from this project and continue to build our own foundation for community-based tourism management in the Ko'olau moku.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jerome Kekiwi, Jr. Jerome Kekiwi, Jr. Board President Na Moku Aupuni o Ko'olau Hui</p>			
Guest User	<p>Letter of Support for Malama Maui Hikina project to provide community-based tourist management and place-based stewardship for 3,000 wahi pana in Ease Maui, Wailua Waioka and Kaihalulu. With environmental conditions due to natural disasters and tourism both impact our resources and jeopardizes rural local lives and safety. The Hana Highway which narrow and winding has been over used by vehicular traffic and tourists causing high risks (by parking cars and entering private land to site see and swim) to local residents. Please support the Malama Hikina Project which will continue the stewardship of our beloved aina. As a resident of Kahikinui Hawaiian Homestead we support our East Maui Ohana because we may one day have to steward our land due to the same factors that impact all of us.</p> <p>Mahalo Nui</p> <p>Remember Malama Maui Hikina project is the driving force and the catalyst to malama our aina.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted</p> <p>Donna Sterling Lot 41 Nawini Road Kahikinui, HI. no zip</p>	Support		04-19-2024 06:15 pm
Kauwila Hanchett	<p>Subject: FY 2025 Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide local stewardship and visitor management at three wahi pana of East Maui.</p> <p>Aloha e BFED Committee Members,</p> <p>On behalf of Hōlani Hāna I would like to urge you to support the Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide community-based tourism management and place-based stewardship for three treasured wahi pana in East Maui—Wailua, Waioka, and Kaihalulu. We understand that the wellbeing of our community is inextricably tied to the 'āina (land, that which feeds us) as most East Maui families rely on the land and sea for sustenance. As generational residents, we have watched as our 'āina has been overburdened, our resources diminished, and our beloved and sacred places overwhelmed by Hawai'i's extractive visitor industry. We recognize that the cumulative and ongoing negative impacts of tourism threaten our very way of life as well as the inheritance of future generations.</p> <p>East Maui is accessed by a single road which is narrow and vulnerable to landslides, rock falls, flash flooding, extreme weather events, and wildfires. It is not uncommon for our roads to be closed or unsafe due to these natural hazards, sometimes for prolonged periods of time that can span months or even years. This road provides our community's sole</p>	Support	Attachment	04-19-2024 03:22 pm

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
	<p>access to essential goods, services, and employment opportunities. As visitors have increased, this roadway has become increasingly congested exacerbating local access issues and resulting in visitor/resident conflicts.</p> <p>These natural hazards also impact areas frequented by visitors resulting in numerous visitor injuries and fatalities. Many East Maui residents have stories of dangerous situations they put themselves in to come to the aid of a visitor in trouble. When a visitor is hurt or dies here, the repercussions are felt by residents for many, many years. East Maui has limited emergency personnel and if our first responders are attending to a visitor, they are unavailable to come to the aid of locals—in our isolated community, this can be the difference between life and death.</p> <p>In general, the rural Hawaiian communities of East Maui bear much of the burden of Maui’s tourism industry while receiving very little of its benefits. “Heavenly Hāna” and “The Road to Hāna” are major draws that many visitors come to Maui to experience. However, there is little to no engagement with the local community and little, if any, cultural awareness. We recognize that as a native community rooted in ‘ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge) we are well positioned to help lead Hawai‘i in its shift from extractive tourism—that diminishes Hawai‘i’s natural beauty and residents’ quality of life—to regenerative tourism that restores pono (balance, natural order).</p> <p>Hōlani Hāna is currently supporting lineal descendants and generational ‘ohana of Wailua to implement the Mālama Wailua initiative under the East Maui Tourism Management Pilot Project in partnership with MVCB and HTA.</p> <p>Our kūpuna recognized that each place emitted its own unique pana, beat or vibrational frequency, this pana then informed place-specific pono which instructed kānaka in how they entered, acted, interacted, and moved within this place. Certain places emitted a more powerful pana and thus were recognized as wahi pana, wahi kapu, and wahi kūpuna. Mālama Maui Hikina is founded on this understanding, recognizing that when we as kānaka attune our inner rhythms to the pana of a place, aligning our behavior and actions with its unique pono, then both the land and people flourish. When we are out of alignment with pono, and emit a dissonant beat, the land, the people, and the myriads of expressions of ola (life) that share Hawai‘i as our home are unwell.</p> <p>Once again, I urge you to fund the Mālama Maui Hikina project which will help to restore pono stewardship to three beloved wahi kūpuna in East Maui.</p> <p>Me ka Mahalo, Kauwila Hanchett Executive Director</p>			

Guest User	<p>I support the full \$150,000 line item amount for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens in the FY2025 proposed budget. Although I am submitting this testimony during a different committee discussion, there are multiple areas in which Maui Nui Botanical Gardens (MNBG) contributes to the community. I first learned about the gardens when my husband and I learned about invasive species and made a longterm goal to replace invasive species in our yard with native plants. MNBG became both a valuable educational resource and affordable nursery. Then when I joined the volunteer program, I learned more about how extensive MNBG reaches our community with its event space, plant giveaways, and service programs with students. After the wildfires, the volunteer program has been an outlet for ecotourism with an increase of out-of-</p>	Support	04-18-2024 02:32 pm
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Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
	<p>state volunteers, including families with children. MNBG serves both the local population while also attracting visitors that are respectful and eco-conscious.</p> <p>Thank you, Gina Hsieh Haiku, HI</p>			
Guest User	<p>Dear BFED Committee,</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Recently students from our school on 'Oahu went on a week-long educational experience to both Maui and Lana'i to learn more about the threats to endangered and native birds, the impact of free roaming cats, and how we can collaborate to help BOTH. The Lanai Cat Sanctuary was by far the most well-run organization of all of the organizations we visited. These are some of the impacts the LCS had on our students:</p> <p>Learning about how the Lanai Cat Sanctuary rescues so many cats, as well as maintains care for each and every one of them was very interesting. It was especially impactful to see how every member of the staff contributes so much to the sanctuary, and work so hard for the cats. It is also interesting to think about how a system like that could be when implemented on Oahu.</p> <p>It was impactful to see a cat sanctuary on a large scale. They are the home to over 800 cats. This is a goal that many non-profit organizations hope to reach. This includes the Pōpoki Place Oahu Cat Sanctuary. They take in street cats (and maui fire cats) and provide them with a comfortable home to live and thrive with other cats just like them.</p> <p>It was nice to see what a cat sanctuary on Oahu could be by seeing one on the Lanai on oahu could be by seeing one on lanai. It was good to see how their system works and how they do things with how many cats they have. It was nice to see how all the cats are well fed and cleaned.</p> <p>I was impacted by this i term because it was important as a kid who as always lived with cats either owning or fostering. To see how to prevent cats from affecting the natural world of Hawaii in a bad way and how to help the endangered birds. We not only learning important lessons about cats but also learning in a fun way and seeing how our campus takes part in these precautions for the cats and marsh and taking all that in was impactful for me.</p> <p>Throughout the course of the I-term, I not only learned more about a topic I've always been interested in, but also learned about myself. As a junior, I have recently been thinking about college, and trying to decide what I want to study. I've always had an interest in all animals, so Zoology or Veterinary services were always a choice in my mind, but this trip really cemented my decision, because seeing all of these animals in need made me realize that I could be a part of the solution.</p> <p>The Lanai Cat Sanctuary has not only reduced the feral cat population on Lāna'i, but we saw first hand on our tour of many different organizations that they are the leader in the industry for their progressive approach to saving endangered birds by providing humane solutions for cats predated in protected areas.</p>			04-18-2024 09:27 am

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
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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. Also without this funding, students such as ours will lose a valuable educational resource - we all, and particularly our youth, need to learn about the most effective ways to deal with the free roaming cat crisis on all our islands.

Thank you,

Erin Tseu Secondary Science Teacher

April 22, 2024, 9 a.m.
Council Chamber, Kalana O Maui Building

To: Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

Yuki Lei Sugimura, Chair

Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair

From: Joe Kent, Executive Vice President

Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

RE: COMMENTS ON BILL 60 — A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Sugimura and other Council members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on [Bill 60](#), the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2025.

We are deeply concerned about the effect of significant property tax hikes while Maui residents are already struggling from the effects of continued inflation and economic uncertainty.

The proposed budget includes a wide series of real property tax hikes, especially on owner-occupied homes.

Property tax rates for owner-occupied homes valued at less than \$1 million would go up by 5.3%; for homes valued between \$1 million and \$3 million, by an astounding 25%; and for homes valued at more than \$3 million, by 18.2%.

Tax rates on commercial residential properties would be hiked by 13.6%; transient vacation rentals would see a 2.6% increase across the board; and non-owner occupied homes would see property tax rates go up between 2.6% and 12%.

If enacted, these proposed property tax increases would comprise a heavy burden for local homeowners. The largest increase is aimed at homes valued at between \$1 million and \$3 million. Given that the median sales

price for a single-family home on Maui is \$1.3 million,¹ this means that the largest proposed tax increase is aimed directly at the average Maui family.

Moreover, tax rates are only part of the picture when it comes to property taxes. Property values also help determine the total tax bill for local homeowners. This year alone, Maui single-family home prices have gone up by about 10%, and condominiums by more than 60%.² Thus, Maui homeowners are being squeezed both by rising home prices and rising tax rates.

Even without the proposed tax increases, Maui housing is on track to become even more unaffordable, hastening the exodus of Maui residents to the mainland or elsewhere.

Some might argue that the property tax hikes are needed to offset increased costs this year, especially costs related to the Lahaina response and rebuilding efforts.

However, much of the \$140 million earmarked for an emergency management program is being funded by grants.³ The required county match for those funds is only about \$26.5 million.⁴

Meanwhile, the estimated increase in property tax revenues from fiscal year 2024 is approximately \$51 million.⁵ Add to that an estimated \$45 million in revenue from the county's general excise tax surcharge and a \$260 million increase in grant funds,⁶ and it would appear there is no need to raise property taxes at all.

To make matters worse, we have significant questions about the effectiveness of the county agencies that have been tasked with construction of temporary housing and facilities.

Over the course of the public comment period on this bill, multiple individuals have testified about the delays and obstructions they have experienced at the hands of these agencies while trying to build temporary shelters. There is nothing to indicate that increasing funding for the Office of Recovery or an emergency management program will fix this problem— it could even cause more bureaucracy, delay and obstruction in the rebuilding process.

In short, there is no compelling reason to raise property taxes to fund an effort that has, so far, consistently failed to meet the needs of the community.

¹ ["Monthly Market Overview."](#) Hawaii Realtors, March 2024.

² [Ibid.](#)

³ Richard T. Bissen, Jr., ["County of Maui Budget Proposal, Fiscal Year 2025."](#) County of Maui, Office of the Mayor, March 25, 2024, page 187.

⁴ [Ibid.](#)

⁵ [Ibid.](#), p.7.

⁶ [Ibid.](#)

At the state level, lawmakers are looking for ways to fund Maui relief efforts and have been asking Maui County to cut its budget wherever possible.

But this proposed budget includes only two minor line-item spending cuts: “Highways, streets and transportation” is set to decrease from \$83.6 million to \$82.3 million; and “social welfare” from \$37.5 million to \$34.7 million.⁷

Every other department is seeking an increase in expenditures for the coming year.

In short, there has been virtually no effort to cut spending, ease the burden on taxpayers, or redirect county funds to areas of greater need.

Maui is facing a challenging year as it works to rebuild and recover. Its residents need a break from higher taxes. Adding a massive property tax hike to last year’s GET surcharge would burden residents and the economy far more than any purported benefit to the county.


Rather than adding to the financial challenges of Maui’s residents, the Council should be seeking ways to reduce the budget and provide tax breaks to local families and businesses.

We urge you to remove all property tax hikes in the fiscal 2025 budget.

Mahalo,

Joe Kent
Executive Vice President
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

⁷ Ibid, p. 75.



**MALAMA FAMILY
RECOVERY CENTER**
A Maui Behavioral Health Resources Agency

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**MALAMA NA MAKUA
A KEIKI, INC.**
P.O. Box 791749
Paia, Hawaii 96779
P: (808) 579-8414
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WWW.MBHR.ORG



Mission Statement
*To provide caring,
holistic substance abuse
treatment To women and
children with the goal of
empowering families
to live safe, independent
and healthy lives*

Honorable Council Chair and Councilmembers,

My name is Shevelle "Kai" Hoopai and I am the Lead Program Assistant for the Early Learning Center (ELC) at Malama Family Recovery. This is the most purposeful job I've had and the most rewarding.

The babies and children that come in to Malama are often times, scared, closed up and unsure. we have created a space that is inviting as well as safe. Some of the children have trauma and are afraid to be left in the ELC without mom. As they get comfortable and feel safe and loved, they enjoy coming in. we are consistent in here and the children get into a routine while being with us.

While in the ELC they get to play with toys, we do story time, crafts, quiet time (which they will usually fall asleep). the children stay in here while moms attend classes on site. We also create goals for each child whether it be tummy time, potty training, colors, numbers, flash cards, coloring, etc.

This job is so rewarding as I get to see the children come in shy or afraid and the transition that takes place in this room, this setting is amazing. We get to see the children bloom and thrive. I've had a few challenging children come thru and with time and consistency, love and allowing them to feel safe, I have witnessed a complete turnaround for the children. We get to love on them and encourage them.

The moms can concentrate on being in class while their child is in here with us and we are right down the hallway. There is no other place that I am aware of that will take a mom and her child on Maui in recovery.

One thing being in here is that you get attached to each child and when it's time to leave it can be heartbreaking because they have become family. The blessing in all of this is knowing you made a positive impact on a child and mom while they are here at Malama.

Respectfully,

Shevelle "Kai" Hoopai
shoopai@malamafamilyrecovery.org
808-877-7117

RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 7-12-21

Submitted by
Lisa Poniclato

4/21/24

Honorable Council Chair and Councilmembers,

My name is Spring Taylor, I am 38 years old. I am a single mother with two amazing children ages 16 and 12. I was born on the island of Oahu and moved to Maui when I was 10 years old and been here ever since.

As a young child, I learned early on how to be in survival mode. My father was addicted to methamphetamine (also known as ice) and that was around me as early as I can remember. I was physically and mentally abused by my father, while my mother did everything she could to protect us. She was constantly getting beaten up to save us from getting hit by him. At 5 years old I remember having black and blue eyes and bruises down my tiny little body because my father would stay up for days and when the drugs wore off, he would become a monster.

Living in fear was normal to me. When CPS came and took me away (child protective services), my mother was given an ultimatum. She needed to leave my father or she would lose me and my siblings permanently. My mother finally left, but it was not easy. We flew to the big island, where he would soon locate us and then we would have to make a police report and move again. This went on for several years until we moved to Maui when I was 10 years old.

My life was so unstable from all the moving. I changed schools so much as a child. I remember when I made new friends, it was not too long after that I needed to leave them and then makes new friends again and that was hard for me. When I moved to Maui I felt empty inside. I felt unworthy. I felt abandoned by my father. I did not understand why he chose drugs over his family-but he did! & I never came to accept that. Even though my father was not

stable or safe to be around me, I still needed him. He was always that missing piece in my life. As I got older, I had issues. Mentally and emotionally. I was angry but never dealt with my pain because I didn't know how. My mother did the best that she could and kept me busy through out my teenage years and I became a cheerleader all 4 years of high school which bought me time.

Was not too long after until I started hanging out with the wrong crowd. I started partying and drinking heavily. It started off occasionally and quickly turned into a everyday thing. I would sniff coke to stay up, then smoke weed to come down. At the age of 22, I had my first child with my first baby's father at the time and then left him when my son was only 10 months old to be with a different man. That different man became the father of my second child. During this time I started taking pain killers and soon after I got heavy into Oxi's.

I needed to get help, so I went into treatment. It was my first time in treatment and got admitted into Malama Family recovery Center, which is an all woman's (gender specific) substance abuse treatment center here on Maui that allows us to get treatment while our children lived there with us. I was not mandated by the courts at this time. I successfully graduated MFRC and got a job at Macy's, at the Queen Ka'ahumanu mall as a beauty advisor. I was also trying to mend my relationship with my daughter's father and I found out from other people that he was cheating on me while I was in treatment but he could never tell me the truth. I had to find out for myself and this is ultimately what took me out. It was my choice though, and I take full responsibility for my actions and why my life spiraled out of control after he left me for another woman.

I ended up relapsing but this time, I went out of my way to get methamphetamine's, the same drug that destroyed my childhood and took my father away from me. I became exactly what I told

myself that I would never be. Just like my father. I started smoking meth and heroine and then started shooting it up in my veins with a needle. For me, that was the closest way to die. I was too afraid to take my own life, so I shot up meth & heroine in hopes that I would overdose. Eventually my daughter was taken from me from CPS, then I went on the run until I finally got arrested.

Being incarcerated was the best thing that could have happened for me. I was forced to get clear minded and truly re evaluate my life. I was given the opportunity to voluntarily swear into Family Court Drug Court and be on supervised released into treatment at MFRC. Which would be my second time there but this time, I was mandated by the courts. meaning, if i messed up, I would go straight back to jail and lose my chance of ever having my daughter back in my care.

I was always so grateful because my mother had my daughter and my son was with his dad full time. He kept him away from me due to my actions. What was not good though is my two kids were separated during this time. For years they did not see each other because of my choices. I know that my sons father was just trying to keep him safe and that was the right thing to do.

My life had become a complete mess and I needed to make a change and start healing from the inside out. Being in MFRC the second time around has taught me how to love myself again. MFRC taught me how to deal with my pain from my father. Something I never faced my whole life and instead, I had drowned myself with any kind of substance that I could get my hands on.

MFRC gave me the opportunity to heal from trauma that I never knew how to deal with. They gave me a chance to be a mother again. Slowly as time went on, I ended up having visitations with my daughter as the staff at MFRC monitored the visits. Then as more time went on and I was showing progress, I was able to

have my daughter over nights and during these times I still have not seen my son. That was always my motivation to get my kids back together again. MFRC supported me through very stressful moments of learning new skills and even unlearning bad habits that I developed during my whole life being in survival mode. This is something that is not easy to do nor does this happen over night, this takes time-a lot of time and I am so grateful for the patience MFRC had for me.

I was there as a client from 2018-2019. Within a year, I graduated from MFRC and also the Family Court Drug court. The greatest gift of all was reuniting with my son and my 2 children finally being able to see each other again. I am very proud to say now that I have my children back with me, with no court orders and I get along with both of their fathers. We are all co parents and is raising our children in a healthy lifestyle, something I could never give them if I was still in my addiction.

In March, 2020. I was hired at MFRC as a program assistant. I stayed there for 11 months until I was transferred to Aloha-House residential as a program assistant and than shortly after became a lead program assistant. In October 2022, I was offered a job by Geoff Kirkland at Aloha-house Vineyard SLP (Sober living program) as a counselor 1 assigned to the Maui drug court program, which is my current position.

I have been in the company for 4 years now. I have also been in collage at UHMC since Jan 2021 taking human services classes. I have just recently been awarded two certificates of competence. One for Human services -Substance abuse counseling degree 1 and also a Human services case management degree. What truly motivates me working in this field is my step brother that past away in 2019 (when I was just a little over a year clean). He died from suicide. He was hearing voices and had relapsed on drugs and took his life at the ER. This unfortunate event has truly been

my driving force to continue to help people who suffer from addiction and mental health. This experience has been one of the worst experiences I have dealt with while in recovery. Turning my pain into purpose has been the ultimate blessing.

Looking at my life now that I am 38 years old and I have been clean from all altering substances for 6 years now has been quite the journey and it will forever be a journey. Making a choice every single day to not put substances in my body is truly a miracle. That is why I love my job so much. I understand these participants, they remind me all the time where I was at not that long ago, and also reminds me of how far I have come too. But also gives me the passion to never give up on them. Just knowing that someone believes in you could really make all the difference in someones life. just like Lisa P did for me. That is one person I would truly like to thank. Thank you for allowing me back in MFRC for the second time and thank you for hiring me at MFRC and giving me a chance. If it was not for you, I would not be where I am at today. I would also like to thank my mother. She is one person that stuck by me through everything, still til this day. I would like to thank my children. They have been my motivation to wanting to keep this healthy beautiful life that I have today. I get to break generational curses now. It stops right here with me!!!!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Spring Taylor", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Spring Taylor

staylor@aloha-house.org

808-242-9733 X8701

BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 10:17 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: FW: Testimony: Urban Design Review Board
Attachments: OHara testimony BFED FY2025.pdf

From: Dawn Lono <Dawn.Lono@mauicounty.us>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 9:57 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: FW: Testimony: Urban Design Review Board

Good morning,

Please find attached testimony for the BFED Committee from Ke Ao Hali'i. I have tried to submit through e-comment and was unable. I signed up with my personal email and validated and it said to come back in a few days to participate???

Mahalo, Dawn

: Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros <mavisoliveira@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 9:38 AM
To: Dawn Lono <Dawn.Lono@mauicounty.us>
From Subject: Fwd: Testimony: Urban Design Review Board

Can submit this for Ke Ao Hali'i? Claudia was unable to.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: <claudia@savehanacoast.org>
Date: Sun, Apr 21, 2024 at 8:44 PM
Subject: Testimony: Urban Design Review Board
To: Mavis Medeiros <mavisoliveira@gmail.com>, <irish@savehanacoast.org>

Hi Mavis

Can you please submit this on behalf of KAH. KAH doesn't have an account, and as a guest user can only say support or not...unable to upload without an account.

Mahalo in advance,
Claudia



Ke Ao Hali'i

P O Box 115 Hāna, HI 96713

April 19, 2024

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street, 7th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

Subject: FY 2025 Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide local stewardship and visitor management at three wahi pana of East Maui.

Aloha e BFED Committee Members,

On behalf of Ke Ao Hali'i (KAH) I would like to urge you to support the Mālama Maui Hikina project's community-based tourism management and place-based stewardship for three treasured wahi pana in East Maui. These historically and culturally significant wahi pana are under threat due to tourism impacts and must be protected.

The purpose of Ke Ao Hāli'i is to protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources of the Hāna moku and the customary and traditional practices of Native Hawaiians of the region; to hold title to and own interests in real property or to hold easements; to preserve and manage the area's natural, cultural, scenic, historic and marine resources for the benefit, education and enjoyment of our community and future generations.

Ke Ao Hāli'i literally means "The Blanket of Clouds." In the same way that the blanket of clouds protects the land, so do we as the supporters of Ke Ao Hāli'i wish to protect the land from unwanted development, from abusive practices, and from self-serving interests that will cut off access for native families of the area. We wish to ensure that the land thrives, remains open and lush, protects the shoreline and reef, and allows the families who have deep ancestral ties to these areas to continue their traditional and customary practices and subsistence lifestyle along the Hana coast. To us, it is much more than just a name, Ke Ao Hāli'i is a spiritual blessing of Ke Akua and our ancestors. It is our kuleana to protect this land for future generations.

Ka Ao Hāli'i has had the kuleana of implementing activities of the East Maui Tourism Management Pilot Project for both Kaihalulu and Waioka over the past six months. We have worked closely with Hōlani Hāna and the Wailua Hui to harmonizes our efforts across the three sites we have under our care. Indeed, our KAH board members have worked closely with Wailua Hui members and Hōlani Hāna staff through many past initiatives. Our shared experiences have solidified a strong connection between us as individuals, and this translates to our organizations.

Once again, I urge you to the Mālama Maui Hikina project and support our community-led efforts to restore pono, balance and natural order, to our treasured wahi pana.

Sincerely,

John "Irish" O'Hara

**John "Irish" O'Hara
Board President**

BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 1:20 PM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: FW: Testimony in Support of Mālama Maui Hikina
Attachments: K. Kanakaole AK Testimony BFED FY2025.pdf

From: Kau'i Kanakaole <kauikanakaole@alakukui.org>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 1:04 PM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>; Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>
Cc: haleholani@gmail.com; Sunnie Makua <sunniemakua@gmail.com>
Subject: Testimony in Support of Mālama Maui Hikina

Some people who received this message don't often get email from kauikanakaole@alakukui.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please accept my testimony in support of making Mālama Maui Hikina a line item in the 2025 Budget. Council Member Shane Sinenci has introduced this at today's Budget Meeting at 9am.



Kau'i Kanaka'ole

Executive Director, Ala Kukui Hāna Retreat

P.O. Box 489

Hana, HI 96713

cell - (808)248-7677

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April 19, 2024

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street, 7th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

Subject: FY 2025 Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide local stewardship and visitor management at three wahi pana of East Maui.

Aloha e BFED Committee Members,

On behalf of Ala Kukui (AK) I would like to urge you to support the Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide community-based tourism management and place-based stewardship for three treasured wahi pana in East Maui—Wailua, Waioka, and Kaihalulu. These historically and culturally significant wahi pana are threatened by the impacts of mass tourism and must be protected.

Ala Kukui is a community-based nonprofit utilizing our retreat property and facilities to create opportunities rooted in place that inspire community, ignite potential and empower the human condition within our Hāna community and beyond. We believe that when we intentionally cultivate space and opportunities for growth, meaningful transformation can happen. Throughout the Mālama Maui Hikina project, Ala Kukui has served as the primary physical meeting place for our hui of residents, lineal descendants, and community leaders from Koʻolau to Kahikinui.

Hāna of the low-lying heavens and *ua kea* rains nestled upon the Eastern flank of Haleakalā remains a cultural kīpuka for traditional Hawaiian lifestyles and values. East Maui has a long and storied heritage of place-based stewardship where thriving village communities were nourished by abundant lands. The spiritual and social mechanisms to manifest this ancestral abundance remain encoded in the *kānaka* and *ʻāina* of Maui Hikina.

Mālama Maui Hikina has at its heart, the intention to aid in the reclamation of ancestral pathways of self-reliance and resiliency—returning East Maui’s communities to their rightful roles as stewards of the land and navigators of their own destinies. We understand this is just a beginning and that there is much we will both learn and unlearn along the way. Once again, I urge you to fund the Mālama Maui Hikina project and support our community-led efforts to restore pono, balance and natural order, to three of our beloved wahi pana.

Me ka haʻahaʻa,

Kau'i Kanaka'ole
Executive Director

BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 3:37 PM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: FW: Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina Project
Attachments: Mālama Maui Hikina Support Letter.pdf

From: Kauwila Hanchett <haleholani@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 22, 2024 3:27 PM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Cc: Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Dawn Lono <Dawn.Lono@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina Project

Aloha,

Please find a support letter from Sheila Roback of Hale Hulu Mamo attached.

Mahalo,
Kauwila

--
Kauwila Hanchett
Executive Director
Hōlani Hāna, Inc.
(808) 463-6259



HALE HULU MAMO

Hana Senior Center

P.O. Box 567 Hana, Hi. 96713 (808) 248-8833
Fax (808) 248-8803



April 19, 2024

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street, 7th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

Subject: FY 2025 Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide local stewardship and visitor management at three wahi pana of East Maui.

Aloha e BFED Committee Members,

On behalf of Hale Hulu Mamo, I would like to urge you to support the Mālama Maui Hikina project which restores local stewardship of three treasured wahi pana in East Maui.

For the past 21 years, I have served as the Co-Director/Director for Hale Hulu Mamo. The mission of Hale Hulu Mamo is to provide a safe and nurturing haven for the kūpuna of Hāna to meet their social, creative, cultural, and physical needs. The wellbeing of our kupuna is vital to our community. Hale Hulu Mamo is a place which embraces our precious and esteemed kupuna. Hale Hulu Mamo, the House of the Precious Mamo Feathers, embodies a commitment between generations; that one would not forget, and the other would not be forgotten. It is our commitment to our ancestors that they will be cared for and that their memories will be cherished as a beacon for our future.

Our center is located at the old Hāna School campus at the base of Pu‘u Ka‘uiki. Given our proximity to Kaihalulu, we witness daily the impacts of the many tourists who visit this area. Parking spaces along our narrow roads are limited and visitor parking can interfere with resident access to important facilities housed here. The old Hāna School facilities have been undergoing intensive rehabilitation exacerbating an already challenging situation. Neighboring residents who live along these narrow roads must deal with the daily frustrations of visitor traffic.

Kaihalulu also has a high occurrence of visitor emergencies and fatalities which impacts our limited emergency personnel including fire fighters, police, and EMT. At times, our first responders must risk their own lives to pull people out along the treacherous trail when the nature of the situation is not conducive to rescue by air.

As a lineal descendant and generational resident of East Maui, I have watched the changes to our landscape and community over time due to over tourism. So many of our special places, that were once only accessible to local families, have been overrun by visitors who have no sense of place. Working so closely with our kupuna, I understand how these changes can create kaumaha, a deep and lasting sadness, that the Hāna they remember from their childhood days is slowly

disappearing or is no longer. Community-led efforts to restore balance with the land and to protect our precious wahi pana from the negative impacts of tourism must be supported.

Once again, I urge you to fund the Mālama Maui Hikina project and support our community-led efforts to restore pono, balance and natural order, to three of Maui Hikina's treasured wahi pana.

Mahalo Nui,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheila Roback". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a dark ink on a white background.

Sheila Uluwehi Roback
Senior Center Director
Hale Hulu Mamo



April 19, 2024

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street, 7th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

Subject: FY 2025 Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide local stewardship and visitor management at three wahi pana of East Maui.

Aloha e BFED Committee Members,

On behalf of Hōlani Hāna I would like to urge you to support the Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide community-based tourism management and place-based stewardship for three treasured wahi pana in East Maui—Wailua, Waioka, and Kaihalulu. We understand that the wellbeing of our community is inextricably tied to the ‘āina (land, that which feeds us) as most East Maui families rely on the land and sea for sustenance. As generational residents, we have watched as our ‘āina has been overburdened, our resources diminished, and our beloved and sacred places overwhelmed by Hawai‘i’s extractive visitor industry. We recognize that the cumulative and ongoing negative impacts of tourism threaten our very way of life as well as the inheritance of future generations.

East Maui is accessed by a single road which is narrow and vulnerable to landslides, rock falls, flash flooding, extreme weather events, and wildfires. It is not uncommon for our roads to be closed or unsafe due to these natural hazards, sometimes for prolonged periods of time that can span months or even years. This road provides our community’s sole access to essential goods, services, and employment opportunities. As visitors have increased, this roadway has become increasingly congested exacerbating local access issues and resulting in visitor/resident conflicts.

These natural hazards also impact areas frequented by visitors resulting in numerous visitor injuries and fatalities. Many East Maui residents have stories of dangerous situations they put themselves in to come to the aid of a visitor in trouble. When a visitor is hurt or dies here, the repercussions are felt by residents for many, many years. East Maui has limited emergency personnel and if our first responders are attending to a visitor, they are unavailable to come to the aid of locals—in our isolated community, this can be the difference between life and death.

In general, the rural Hawaiian communities of East Maui bear much of the burden of Maui’s tourism industry while receiving very little of its benefits. “Heavenly Hāna” and “The Road to Hāna” are major draws that many visitors come to Maui to experience. However, there is little to no engagement with the local community and little, if any, cultural awareness. We recognize that

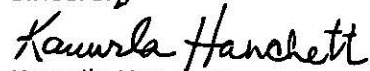
as a native community rooted in ‘ike kūpuna (ancestral knowledge) we are well positioned to help lead Hawai‘i in its shift from extractive tourism—that diminishes Hawai‘i’s natural beauty and residents’ quality of life—to regenerative tourism that restores pono (balance, natural order).

Hōlani Hāna is currently supporting lineal descendants and generational ‘ohana of Wailua to implement the Mālama Wailua initiative under the East Maui Tourism Management Pilot Project in partnership with MVCB and HTA.

Our kūpuna recognized that each place emitted its own unique pana, beat or vibrational frequency, this pana then informed place-specific pono which instructed kānaka in how they entered, acted, interacted, and moved within this place. Certain places emitted a more powerful pana and thus were recognized as wahi pana, wahi kapu, and wahi kūpuna. Mālama Maui Hikina is founded on this understanding, recognizing that when we as kānaka attune our inner rhythms to the pana of a place, aligning our behavior and actions with its unique pono, then both the land and people flourish. When we are out of alignment with pono, and emit a dissonant beat, the land, the people, and the myriads of expressions of ola (life) that share Hawai‘i as our home are unwell.

Once again, I urge you to fund the Mālama Maui Hikina project which will help to restore pono stewardship to three beloved wahi kūpuna in East Maui.

Sincerely,



Kauwila Hanchett

Executive Director