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

April 4, 2026

Mr. David Raatz, Jr., Director
Office of Council Services
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Raatz:

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI** (BFED-1) (OCS-02)

Although your Department is not required to appear before the Council's Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee during its FY 2027 Budget deliberations, may I please request that you answer the following questions. This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2027 Budget.

May I further request that you transmit your written response to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by 4:30 p.m. on **April 13, 2026**.

Overall

1. In light of the recent Kona Low storms, can OCS provide Starlink capacity and generator service for all rural residency area offices so important information can still be transmitted to residents during power outages? (Page 161, Program Budget) (SS)
2. Relating to the standardization of Councilmember office accounts: (Page 162, Program Budget; Pages 4-5 to 4-13, Budget Details)
 - a. Explain the basis for the proposed standardized amounts. (KB) How were the proposed standardized amounts determined? (GJ)

- b. Why were Councilmember office budgets different in prior FYs? (KB)
 - c. For Salaries and wages, Operations, and Equipment accounts, how do the proposed standardized amounts compare to the FY 2026 average for each office, stated in both dollar amount and percentage? (GJ)
 - d. Are there any historic differences between office budgets being offset elsewhere in the budget? (KB)
3. Under Ordinance 2156 (1992), please identify where OCS's Administrative Rules are available for public inspection and duplication, and state when the rules were last updated. (TP)
4. What is the total amount of lapsed appropriations for OCS for FY 2025? (TP)

Salaries and Wages (Category "A")

1. Please explain how the pay-range increases and step movements were calculated for each position and indicate when those adjustments will take effect. (Pages 4-3 to 4-5, Budget Details) (NUH)
2. Relating to the \$150,000 expansion request for Salary adjustments for the in-house scanning project, how long is the project expected to continue? (Pages 4-7, Budget Details) (NUH)

Operations and Equipment (Category "B")

1. Relating to the \$78,590 expansion request for Computer Services, including the \$50,000 for an artificial intelligence consultant: (Page 4-8, Budget Details)
 - a. Provide additional details about the proposed project scope and related services, including how the contract will be procured. (NUH) (TC)

- b. Is OCS currently using artificial intelligence software?
 - i. If yes, what training has been made available to staff on that software? (YLS)
 - ii. If yes, how have employees been receptive to its use, and what effective, if any has it had on office efficiency? (NUH)
2. Please provide a breakdown of operational costs for each residency area office, including rent, utilities, services, and staffing. Explain how OCS assesses each RAO's utilization and continued need in the residency area. (Pages 4-9 to 4-13, Budget Details) (NUH)
3. Relating to the \$34,500 expansion request for Miscellaneous Other Costs for Council inauguration, please explain why the request is almost triple the FY 2025 amount. (Page 4-9, Budget Details) (NUH)
4. Relating to the FY 2026 appropriation for the voluntary education assistance program, please provide the following: (Budget Details, p. 4-9)
 - a. Copy of the program policy. (TC) (YLS)
 - b. Date program launched. (TC) (YLS)
 - c. Method for notifying employees about the program. (YLS)
 - c. Parameters for applying for the program. (TC) (YLS)
 - d. Number of employees that applied for the program. (TC) (YLS)
 - e. Number of recipients and amount of each award. (TC) (YLS)
 - f. For FY 2027, the amount and basis of funding proposed for the program. (TC) (YLS)
 - g. Did the Office offer Councilmembers the opportunity to review the program policy before the program was finalized? If not, please explain. (YLS)

5. Under 901042B, did an Independent Audit of the former Finance Director's accounts occur? Please explain. Please also identify any other studies or audits planned for FY 2027. (Page 161, Program Budget) (TP)

Capital Improvement Projects

1. Relating to CBS-9482, Legislative Branch Office Renovations: (Page 852, Program Budget)
 - a. Please provide the scope of work for the renovations planned for the 6th, 7th, and 8th floors of the Kalana o Maui Building. (TC) (KB)
 - i. Please include a project timeline and operational assumptions. (KB)
 - b. Is it realistic for the full \$1.9 million appropriation to be allocated in FY 2027, or should the funding be spread over multiple FYs? (KB)
 - c. What is the status of the 6th floor being secured for OCS' use? (NUH)
 - d. What is the timeline for the renovations? (NUH)
 - e. Will the County Clerk continue to operate on the Kalana o Maui Building's 7th floor and will the renovations provide enough space to conduct election operations? If no, what is the status of locating an alternate location for elections? (NUH)

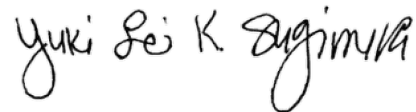
May I also request that you restate each question followed by your corresponding response. Include any attachments or exhibits. Please ensure your response is clear and legible by using a minimum 12-point font throughout so Committee members and the public can easily read the document once it is posted.

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

Mr. David Raatz, Jr.
April 4, 2026
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Thank you for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Kirsten Szabo at ext. 7662, James Krueger at ext. 7761, Jarret Pascual at ext. 7141, Clarissa MacDonald at ext. 7135, or Pauline Martins at ext. 8039).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei K. Sugimura". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "Y" and "S".

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

bfed:2027bgt:260403aocs01:kes

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2026 1:25 PM
To: David M. Raatz
Cc: Richelle K. Kawasaki; Maui_County Council_mailbox
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)
(OCS-2)
Attachments: 260403aocs01 (OCS-02).pdf
Importance: High