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

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Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL

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

March 31, 2024

Mr. Shayne Agawa, Director
Department of Environmental Management
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Agawa:

SUBJECT: **FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2025 BUDGET** (BFED-1) (EM-2)

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the BFED Committee meeting on **April 2, 2024**.^{*} This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2025 Budget. May I further request that, after approval by the Office of the Mayor, you transmit your answers to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by the end of the day on **April 4, 2024**.

**Date subject to change without notice.*

Overall

1. Please explain the Department's 50.7% decrease for "Other Governmental Funds" for FY 2025. (Page 194, Program Budget) (TC)
2. Relating to the Environmental Protection and Sustainability ("EP&S") Division, Goal #1: (Page 221, Program Budget) (TC) (GJ)
 - a. The Division estimates that it will divert 40,000 tons from landfills in FY 2025, doubling the estimated amount in FY 2024. How will the Department accomplish this goal? (TC)
 - b. What is the deadline to reach the 70% landfill diversion goal and what projects will achieve this? (GJ)
 - c. How will the Division achieve the success measurement for having a recycling grant awarded on Lānaʻi? (GJ)

3. Relating to EP&S Division, Goal #3: (Page 222, Program Budget) (GJ) (TP) (SS)
 - a. Why is there an estimated reduction in environmental and sustainability programs introduced and partnerships established? (GJ)
 - b. Please describe the environmental programs introduced, organizations supported through green grant funding, and partnerships established. (GJ)
 - c. Does the Division have a social media account separate from the County of Maui? Please explain. (TP)
 - d. What events were held in East Maui to increase environmental awareness and understanding? Can we expect awareness events in East Maui in FY 2025 and if so, when and where will they be held? What types of information is provided at these events? Can Councilmember Sinenci's office receive notification of these events before they occur? (SS)
4. Within the EP&S Division, which positions are responsible for administering grant subsidies? How many grants does the Division administer? (Page 224, Program Budget) (GJ)
5. The EP&S Division reports receiving grant applications that exceeded available grant subsidy funds for the Green Grants Program. Did grant requests for the Recycling Grants Program also exceed available funds? When were grant contracts for FY 2024 executed for these programs? (Pages 226 and 227, Program Budget) (GJ)
6. Please explain the \$920,551 in Carryover/Savings in the EP&S Fund in FY 2025 and the variability over previous FYs. Does the Department have a strategy to use these funds to expand EP&S services and minimize Carryover/Savings? (Page 77, Program Budget) (GJ)
7. Please explain the Department's proposed increases to rates and fees. What is the Department's strategy for assessing the effectiveness and fairness of increasing rates and fees? How do rates and fees compare to other counties in the State, sister counties, or national standards? (GJ)

8. Please explain the justification for the proposed increases in sewer collection fees. Please also provide the parameters and guidelines the Department uses when assessing fee increases. (Pages 4 and 5, Appendix B) (TP)
9. Relating to the Wastewater Administration Program, Goal #1, item 4, why does the Department anticipate there will be three grease-related spills in FY 2025? (Page 200, Program Budget) (GJ)
10. Has the Department considered contracting a project management team for necessary wastewater projects in West Maui to restore any lost portions of wastewater services? Why or why not? (TK)
11. Does the Department support an ash debris transportation fee? Why or why not? (TP)
12. Why does the Solid Waste Administration Program estimate a loss of approximately \$460,000 in annual refuse collection revenue in the coming years? (Page 211, Program Budget) (TP)
13. Why does the Solid Waste Administration Program expect a decrease of \$1,000,000 in commercial landfill revenue as a result of fewer visitors to the island? Wouldn't the reduction in commercial refuse prolong the life of existing and future landfills? (Page 211, Program Budget) (TP)
14. Please explain why the processing of construction and demolition material at County landfills takes longer than at privately-operated landfills. (TP)
15. The Solid Waste Administration Program's Goal #1 is to provide cost effective Division management. With the Hāna, Lāna'i, and Molokai Landfills cost per ton being significantly higher than the Central Maui Landfill, what pilot programs are being pursued for rural areas, if any, to increase cost efficiency? (Page 212, Program Budget) (TP)
16. Relating to the Solid Waste Operations Program, Goal #1, please explain how the Central Maui Landfill's estimated remaining years for FY 2023 Actual is 1 year, FY 2024 Estimate is 6.4 years, and FY 2025 Estimate is 5.2 years. Why do we not have enough capacity for the 400,000 tons of ash debris right now? (Page 215, Program Budget) (TP)

17. The Solid Waste Operations Program's Goal #1 provides the remaining years of the Molokai and Lāna'i landfill's capacity. How are the FY 2024 and 2025 Estimates calculated? (Page 215, Program Budget) (TP)
18. The Department expects an additional influx of permits during the Lahaina wildfire recovery. Is the County not planning to contract a vendor to assist with expedited permitting for sewer in conjunction with the Department of Public Works' vendor for emergency building permits? (Pages 7-9 and 7-10, Budget Details) (TP)
19. Please explain what Computer Services under index code 919005B will be used for and how the Department of Water Supply's billing has affected your Department. (Page 203, Program Budget) (GJ)
20. Please explain why the Wastewater Administration Program is not applying for or expecting to receive any grants in FY 2025. (Page 204, Program Budget) (GJ)
21. Please provide a status update on the Wastewater Administration Program's State and Tribal Assistance Grant and WaterSMART Title XVI Authorized Grant that were awarded in FY 2023. What was the outcome from these grants? (Page 204, Program Budget) (YLS)
22. Has the Abandoned Vehicles and Metals Program identified new sites for the Go Green West Maui Recycling program and a beverage container Redemption Center for West Maui? (Page 227, Program Budget) (Page 7-77, Budget Details, 919763B-6137) (TP)
23. Please explain what areas of the Department's budget were cut as a result of the Mayor's post-wildfire mandated 5% reduction. (SS)
24. If the Department had to decrease its budget by \$100,000, please describe what the Department would cut and the justification for cutting it. (SS)
25. For each of the Department's revolving funds, what variables are factored into the estimated balance as of June 30, 2024? Are prior years' encumbrances included in the estimated balance? What is the actual amount available for appropriation from each fund? (YLS)
26. Under EP&S's Abandoned Vehicle and Metals Section, what is the actual cost for maintaining the Paia Bypass? (YLS)

Salaries and Wages (Category “A”)

1. The Department is proposing six expansion positions for FY 2025. (Page 44, Program Budget) (GJ) (ALL) (TP) (YLS) (NUH)
 - a. With so many vacancies within the Department, and according to your Budget implementation report dated December 31, 2023, could any of the vacant positions be redescribed to the proposed Public Information Officer position? (Page 7-3, Budget Details) (ALL)
 - b. What are the specific qualifications required for the proposed Public Information Officer position? (Page 7-3, Budget Details) (TP)
 - c. Please justify the need for a Public Information Officer and explain how the duties will not be redundant with those performed by the Mayor’s Communications and Government Affairs Office. (Page 199, Program Budget) (GJ) (ALL) (YLS)
 - d. The proposed Public Information Officer position is outlined with the task of gathering and disseminating information. Please clarify which Division or Section the proposed position will be categorized under. (Page 7-3, Budget Details) (TP) (NUH)
 - e. Please justify the need for the six additional expansion positions. (YLS)
2. Please explain why the Construction Inspector II, Civil Engineer V, and Wastewater Source Control Tech positions are each proposed for 8 months of funding at Step M? Does the Department have specific candidates in mind? (Pages 7-9, 7-10, and 7-12, Budget Details) (TP)
3. The P-00568 Recycling Specialist I position is proposed at \$33,240, with 8 months of funding. Does the Department feel this rate will attract qualified candidates? What other County position is tasked with these duties? (Page 7-71, Budget Details) (NUH)

Operations and Equipment (Categories “B” and “C”)

1. The following relates to the Department’s request for a new 4x4 4WD SUV. (Page 7-6, Budget Details)

- a. Can the Department manage another year without a new 4x4 4WD SUV? Are there other vehicles in the Department's fleet that can be used rather than purchasing a new vehicle as a replacement? (ALL)
 - b. What vehicle does the Department currently use to support the management of the Department's three divisions? (Page 7-6, Budget Details) (TP)
2. The following relates to the Wastewater Operations Program's electricity costs: (Page 209, Program Budget)
 - a. There is an increase of \$893,000 in inflationary costs for electricity. What is the inflationary factor for utility costs? Is this factor calculated throughout the Department's proposed budget? (TC)
 - b. Does the Department have a strategy or plan for lowering these costs? (GJ)
3. The Summary by Grant Award table for the Electronic Waste Recycling Program indicates \$200,000 is anticipated for FY 2025. However, the Grant Award Description says the County will receive "approximately \$99,000." Which amount is correct? (Page 229, Program Budget) (TK)
4. The following relates to the Wastewater Operations Program's expansion budget request for Professional Services under index code 919022B for NPDES permitting process funding for Lahaina. (Page 210, Program Budget)
 - a. Please explain the \$2,600,000 appropriation. Additionally, is the funding increase meant to address the scope and schedule of work? (GJ) (TK) (TP)
 - b. Is the Department unable to apply for an NPDES permit with County or in-house staff, and if so, why? (GJ)
 - c. Does the Department anticipate similar funding for Professional Services for each County-owned wastewater reclamation facility? (GJ)

- d. Has the Department contracted a consultant for this work? If yes, please explain. If not, does the Department expect to issue a Request For Proposals for this work? (TK) (TP)
 - e. Will there be a public hearing relating to the NPDES permit application, as mandated under Section 11-55-13(c), Hawaii Administrative Rules, and as suggested by Resolution 23-191, FD1? (TP)
 - f. Following the Supreme Court's 2019 ruling in *County of Maui, Hawaii v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund et al.*, and the subsequent 2021 ruling by the District Court of Hawaii, the County must obtain an NPDES permit. What is the status on the County being issued a permit? (YLS)
 - g. Are there opportunities for other types of funding, such as grants, or State or federal funds? (NUH)
5. The following relates to Contractual Service under index code 101120B for the disposal of cars from residents. (Page 7-95, Budget Details) (SS)
- a. How many vehicles were towed and scrapped in FY 2024, to date? Further, how many vehicles were from East Maui? (SS)
 - b. Is it possible to dispose of abandoned vehicles that are not registered, do not have ownership papers, or in instances where the owner is not able to accompany the vehicle to the disposal site? What can be done to facilitate this process in East Maui? (SS)
6. Between FYs 2023 and 2024, there was a significant increase in costs for both Electrical Parts and Supplies and Repairs and Maintenance Supplies under index code 919044B, totaling approximately \$2,569,873. This increase is maintained in FY 2025. Were these not one-time purchases for parts and supplies? Please explain if this will be a continuation request going forward. (Page 7-35, Budget Details) (GJ)
7. The Department is proposing \$85,000 for Miscellaneous Supplies under index code 919730B. Were any of these miscellaneous supplies purchased in FY 2024? (Page 7-75, Budget Details) (GJ)

8. Please describe the Employee awards program under index code 919000B. Can this fund be used to provide performance bonuses, hiring bonuses, or retention bonuses to employees? (Page 7-5, Budget Details) (GJ)
9. The following relates to the Wastewater Reclamation Division's Priority 10, relating to the replacement of one equipment trailer. (Page 7-37, Budget Details)
 - a. Was the stolen equipment trailer not insured for theft? (GJ)
 - b. Has Maui Police Department had any success in recovering the stolen trailer? (TP)
 - c. Has the Department installed any additional security measures at the sewer maintenance baseyard? What preventative measures will be taken to ensure the safe storage of equipment and assets in the future? (TP) (NUH)
10. In FY 2023, the adopted total appropriation for the Wastewater Administration Program was \$4,116,800 higher than the actual dollar amount. Does the Department expect this trend to continue? (Page 7-7, Budget Details) (TP)
11. In FY 2023, the adopted total appropriation for the Wastewater Reclamation Program was \$2,824,651 higher than the actual dollar amount. Does the Department expect this trend to continue? (Page 7-7, Budget Details) (TP)
12. Please explain the need for a Ford 450 flatbed truck when the previous one only had 46,697 in mileage over 22 years. Given the truck's low mileage, would it be more efficient to rent a truck when needed? (Page 7-37, Budget Details) (TP)
13. Relating to Other Equipment under index code 919033C, the Department is proposing to purchase a Grit dewater trailer. Is it within staffs' job descriptions and collective bargaining agreements to remove grit from the basins? Will we need more staff and premium pay to accomplish this? (Page 7-38, Budget Details) (TP)
14. Would it be preferable to ship the Ford F450 crew cab truck, listed under Other Equipment under index code 919041C, from Lānaʻi to Maui to conduct repairs? If not, how will the vehicle be disposed? (Page 7-39, Budget Details) (TP)

15. Please explain the \$80,000 cost difference between the replacement of one heavy duty truck chassis hooklift and beds noted as Priority Item 1, and the replacement of one heavy duty truck chassis hooklift with beds noted as Priority Item 8 under the Solid Waste Operations Program. (Page 7-65, Budget Details) (TP)
16. Is \$200,000 still necessary for Electronic Device Recycling in light of Act 151 (2022)? (Page 7-84, Budget Details) (TP)
17. The Department is requesting \$1,200,000 for a wood hog grinder apparatus for the Molokai Landfill. (Page 7-66, Budget Details) (NUH)
 - a. What would the timeline be for this apparatus to be functional at the Landfill?
 - b. What is the Department's priority rating for this apparatus?
 - c. Is the pending purchase of this apparatus halting operations at the Molokai Landfill?
18. How many meetings and workshops will be conducted with the \$8,000 proposed for Rentals under index code 919726B. (Page 7-75, Budget Details) (NUH)
 - a. What are the measurable goals of these meetings and workshops? (NUH)
 - b. Would it be possible to use County facilities instead of paying for venues? (NUH)
19. Please elaborate on the goal and justification for adding \$20,000 to Printing and Binding under index code 919630B-6130 for the printing of recycling and zero waste guide booklets. Would the Department consider having the booklets online to print at home? (Page 7-76, Budget Details) (NUH)
20. Does the Department have the adequate number of employed staff to utilize all of the proposed equipment? (Pages 7-37 to 7-40, and 7-47, Budget Details) (NUH)
21. Under the Solid Waste Administration Program's Priority 9, will the proposed SUV be replacing one of the two current SUVs that

employees share to conduct site visits, or will this be replacing a non-operational third SUV? (Page 7-47, Budget Details) (NUH)

22. Under the Solid Waste Operations Program Priority 7, the Department is requesting to purchase four new roll-off bins at the Central Maui Landfill for operations to continue while older bins get refurbished. (Page 7-65, Budget Details) (NUH)
 - a. What is the estimated timeline for the older bins to be refurbished?
 - b. When the older bins are refurbished, what will happen to the new bins?
 - c. How would services be impacted if funding for only two bins were awarded instead of four?

24. The Department intends to purchase a \$2,000,000 Greasezilla, Fats, Oil & Grease Management System. (Page 226, Program Budget) (GJ) (NUH)
 - a. Please explain the need for this equipment and how it will be used. (GJ) (NUH)
 - b. Where will this equipment be based? (GJ) (NUH)
 - c. What is the equipment's lifespan? (NUH)
 - d. What is the department's priority rating for this equipment? (NUH)
 - e. Has the Department considered other methods of payment for this equipment, such as grants, low interest loans, or bonds? (GJ)

Capital Improvement Projects

1. Why is construction for the Lānaʻi Wastewater Reclamation Facility scheduled to proceed nine months after the design is completed on December 31, 2026? Can construction be moved up to be scheduled in FY 2027? (Page 868, Program Budget) (GJ)

2. The Department is requesting \$45,300,000 for CIPs in FY 2025. CBS-7878, Countywide Wastewater Project Management, proposes \$1,000,000 to assist the Wastewater Reclamation Division. Does

this appropriation provide sufficient funding? Does the Department have enough project management capacity to manage that level of capital investment? (Page 845, Program Budget) (TK)

3. CBS-7867, Partial Closures of Active Landfills, from FY 2024 requires a demonstration of closure cap effectiveness prior to closing landfills. Does the State Department of Health no longer require this demonstration? Does the County still need to develop test methodology and conduct testing and reporting to satisfy this requirement to begin the partial closure of active landfills? (Page 764, FY 2024 Program Budget) (TP)
4. Many Kihei-Makena, Wailuku-Kahului, Pa‘ia-Ha‘iku, and West Maui CIPs anticipated in FY 2024 are not moving forward in FY 2025. Is this due to an employee capacity issue, a funding issue, or both? What are the consequences of not doing those projects? (TP)
5. Please provide a status update on CBS-5039, Central Hāna Sewer System. Is this CIP suspended indefinitely? (Page 757, FY 2024 Program Budget) (TP)
6. Are repairs from the August 2023 wildfires included in the Department’s CIP? (TP)
7. Are CBS-7869 and CBS-8393 relating to Central Maui Landfill gas concurrent projects? Is CBS-7869 necessary for CBS-8393 to move forward? (Pages 879-881, Program Budget) (TP)
8. Please explain why the FY 2024 initial 6-year total of \$4,500,000 has been reduced to \$750,000 in FY 2025 for CBS-3182, Environmental Compliance System Design and Construction. (Page 847, Program Budget) (TP)
9. Does CBS-3565, Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Update, address the 20-25% food waste with a municipal composting facility or is it only considering a master composter training? How does master composter training and donation to food banks address the annual 41,151 tons of food waste? (Page 848, Program Budget) (TP)
10. Please explain the anticipated \$2,350,000 increase in the 6-year schedule for CBS-1119, Countywide Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Compliance Wastewater Reclamation Facility Renovation Projects. Please also explain why the Department is

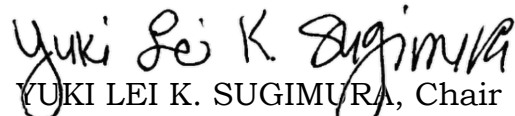
Mr. Shayne Agawa
March 31, 2024
Page 12

using \$2,700,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY 2025. (Page 849, Program Budget) (TP)

11. \$2,000,000 is proposed for CBS-1128 Countywide Wastewater System Modifications. Is this sufficient funding? (Appendix C) (TP)
12. The Department has a large number of CIPs proposed in FY 2025. How does the department plan to manage the workload of employees to ensure the timeliness of projects and make certain projects stay on track? (Page 845, Program Budget) (NUH)

Thank you for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (James Krueger at ext. 7761, Kasie Apo Takayama at ext. 7665, or Yvette Bouthillier at ext. 7758).

Sincerely,


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

bfed:2025bgt:240329aem01:jpp

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

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2024 12:51 PM
To: Shayne Agawa
Cc: BFED Committee; Robert Schmidt; Nadine Orikasa; Michelle Santos; Zeke Kalua; Lesley Milner; Kristina Cabbat
Subject: PLEASE READ attached letter re: FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2025 BUDGET (BFED 1); (EM-2)
Attachments: (EM-2) Correspondence to Environmental Management 03-31-2024.pdf

Mr. Shayne Agawa: Please refer to the attached letter from the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development (BFED) Committee Chair, dated March 31, 2024. Please respond by **April 4, 2024**

Mayor's Office (attention: Michelle Santos and Zeke Kalua): Please forward the attached letter to Mayor Bissen for his information.

Ms. Milner: FYI

Thank you,
Yvette Bouthillier, Senior Secretary
BFED Committee

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

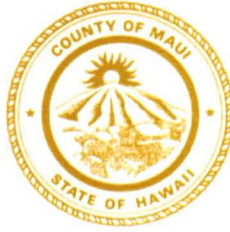
SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.
Director

ROBERT SCHMIDT
Deputy Director

MICHAEL KEHANO, P.E.
Solid Waste Division

ERIC A. NAKAGAWA, P.E.
Wastewater Reclamation Division


Environmental Protection &
Sustainability Division



COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

2145 KAOHU STREET, SUITE 102
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793

April 4, 2024

Ms. Lesley Milner 
Acting Budget Director, County of Maui
200 S. High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

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

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL


Mayor **4-5-24**
Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura
Chair, Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Chair Sugimura,

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR (“FY”) 2025 BUDGET (BFED-1) (EM-2)

In response to your request for information dated March 31, 2024, your request and the corresponding answers are provided below by the Department of Environmental Management (DEM).

Overall

- 1. Please explain the Department’s 50.7% decrease for “Other Governmental Funds” for FY 2025.** (Page 194, Program Budget) (TC)

The Department’s decrease for “Other Governmental Funds” is due to the removal of the Countywide Sewer Capital Improvement Reserve Fund (\$2,240,299) in the Wastewater Reclamation Division (WWRD) Wastewater Administration Program for FY2025.

2. Relating to the Environmental Protection and Sustainability (“EP&S”) Division, Goal #1: (Page 221, Program Budget) (TC) (GJ)

- a. The Division estimates that it will divert 40,000 tons from landfills in FY 2025, doubling the estimated amount in FY 2024. How will the Department accomplish this goal?** (TC)

The Recycling Section is working to reinstate the compost operations which will account for the estimated increase in diversion.

In addition, the Abandoned Vehicles and Metals Section is working with Hammerhead Metals to offer a bin at the Central Maui Landfill for residents to recycle their scrap metals (at no cost to residents nor the County). We expect this bin would be well-utilized, and thus would greatly increase our tons diverted given the weight of steel.

- b. What is the deadline to reach the 70% landfill diversion goal and what projects will achieve this?** (GJ)

The Hawaii Aloha Plus Challenge diversion goal of 70% by 2030 is recognized in the 2020 draft of the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan.

- c. How will the Division achieve the success measurement for having a recycling grant awarded on Lāna‘i?** (GJ)

The Recycling Section has identified a couple possible grant recipients for FY25 in addition to continuing to promote the Recycling Grants Program on Lanai, Molokai, and Hana. We intend to measure the success of a recycling program on Lanai by the comparison of data collected relating to the volume of materials recycled from year-to-year.

3. Relating to EP&S Division, Goal #3: (Page 222, Program Budget) (GJ) (TP) (SS)

- a. Why is there an estimated reduction in environmental and sustainability programs introduced and partnerships established?** (GJ)

We increased programming last fiscal year, and therefore we are not introducing as much this upcoming year. As we introduce new programming, our daily duties and responsibilities increase, and we are already running at full capacity. To be effective, current programs need to be maintained. Provided we get the staff and training, we can return to increasing our sustainability programming.

b. Please describe the environmental programs introduced, organizations supported through green grant funding, and partnerships established. (GJ)

Grantee/ Partnership	Project	Award amount (\$)
Maui Nui Marine Resource Council	Capacity Building for Maui Coral Restoration: Rebuilding Maui’s coral reefs in partnership with Kuleana Coral	26,000
Save Maui Cats, Inc.	Save Maui Cats TNR: Humanely managing & reducing feral cat population on Maui	13,500
Polipoli Farms	Kanu x Polipoli Farms ‘Ulu Nursery: establishing a nursery to educate, propagate and sell breadfruit trees to local farmers	21,500
Napoleon Gentry	Mana'e Stream Restoration: removing invasives and using green waste for mulch on local farms to increase native species habitat on a portion of Molokai’s Mana'e Stream	13,000
Joseph & Josephines	Maui Nui Pet Hui; axis deer research & development for pet food production	11,500

c. Does the Division have a social media account separate from the County of Maui? Please explain. (TP)

The Division does not maintain separate social media accounts from the County of Maui. All communications, including social media, are required to be directed through DEM and the Communications Branch managed under the Office of the Mayor.

d. What events were held in East Maui to increase environmental awareness and understanding? Can we expect awareness events in East Maui in FY 2025 and if so, when and where will they be held? What types of information is provided at these events? Can Councilmember Sineci’s office receive notification of these events before they occur? (SS)

The Abandoned Vehicles and Metals Section operated four Hana Metals Collection Events last year. We advertised for these events in the HanaSide Newspaper. We also have asked for the support of Councilmember Sineci’s office as well as through the community liaison Kamalu Carroll to help spread the word within their networks and on the Hana Now Facebook page. We post flyers in town in advance of every Metals event, hang banners, and send additional fliers to willing community members to post. Last fall we hosted a community appliance and scrap metals collection event in Ke’anae partnership with Nā Moku ‘Aupuni ‘o Ko’olau Hui.

At all of these events we inform residents and handout papers describing our free vehicle towing program, Hana Metals Events, and community container partnership opportunities. There is an appliance and tire recycling event planned for April 5th, 2024 taking place in Ke'anae. This Spring we also contacted the Kaupo Community Association to offer our container program in response to reports of illegal dumping occurring in the area. The AVM section also attended the Limu festival to share information about our programs. We will better inform Councilmember Sinenci's Office before these events occur.

Environmental Programming Section: The Section plans to once again represent EP&S at East Maui events such as the Limu Festival. In addition, the section plans to co-host the "Sustainability Together: Community-led Regenerative Action" Speaker Series in East Maui once an appropriate/community-relevant topic and local host can be secured. The section welcomes the Council's support with identifying suitable partners, topics and venues in East Maui. Councilmembers will be invited and receive notification of these events as usual.

Recycling Section: Taro Festival and Limu Festival as well as the annual Malama Aina Keiki Earth Day program for K-6th graders. We will notify Councilmembers of outreach in their jurisdictions in the future.

- 4. Within the EP&S Division, which positions are responsible for administering grant subsidies? How many grants does the Division administer?** (Page 224, Program Budget) (GJ)

Three positions are responsible for administering grant subsidies:

1. Michelle McLinden, Environmental Program Specialist, administers the Green Grants Program
2. Cecile Powell, Recycling Specialist, administers the Recycling Grants Program and the DOH ADF Grants Program
3. Tess Herman, Recycling Specialist, administers two grants for litter control programs operated by Community Work Day/Malama Maui Nui

- 5. The EP&S Division reports receiving grant applications that exceeded available grant subsidy funds for the Green Grants Program. Did grant requests for the Recycling Grants Program also exceed available funds? When were grant contracts for FY 2024 executed for these programs?** (Pages 226 and 227, Program Budget) (GJ)

Every year, grant applications exceed available grant subsidy. Due to varying reasons, some grantees are still in procurement phases, but the full grant subsidy is expected to be distributed for FY24.

6. **Please explain the \$920,551 in Carryover/Savings in the EP&S Fund in FY 2025 and the variability over previous FYs. Does the Department have a strategy to use these funds to expand EP&S services and minimize Carryover/Savings?** (Page 77, Program Budget) (GJ)

Much of the carryover savings derive from salaries of unfilled positions.

7. **Please explain the Department's proposed increases to rates and fees. What is the Department's strategy for assessing the effectiveness and fairness of increasing rates and fees? How do rates and fees compare to other counties in the State, sister counties, or national standards?** (GJ)

The proposed increase in rates and fees for FY2025 for the WWRD is due to the anticipated increase in operational expenditures. This includes increases to, but is not limited to, DWS billing service, Kualapuu Sewer Contract, rent, NPDES permit, tipping fee for sludge disposal, electricity, and special costs (debt service, ERS/FICA, EUTF, OH, OPEB).

Federal regulations (40 CFR 35.2140) requires every sewer user to pay for their wastewater service. WWRD utilizes a rate model to determine each sewer user class fee to ensure everyone pays for their fair share based on usage.

Typically, the County of Maui wastewater fees are in the middle of the other Counties wastewater fees. For instance, City and County of Honolulu charges roughly \$120 per month for residential housing and County of Kauai and Big Island charges \$73.75 and \$52.00 per month, respectively.

8. **Please explain the justification for the proposed increases in sewer collection fees. Please also provide the parameters and guidelines the Department uses when assessing fee increases.** (Pages 4 and 5, Appendix B) (TP)

Please see response to question 7 above.

9. **Relating to the Wastewater Administration Program, Goal #1, item 4, why does the Department anticipate there will be three grease- related spills in FY 2025?** (Page 200, Program Budget) (GJ)

The County has an active Pretreatment Program covering fats, oil and grease (FOG) for commercial customers that has eliminated/limited the quantity and volume of spills due to FOG blockages. Nonetheless, there remains the issue of residential customers that continue to discharge FOG and cause blockages. Historically, WWRD continues to have a few grease related spills throughout the year.

10. Has the Department considered contracting a project management team for necessary wastewater projects in West Maui to restore any lost portions of wastewater services? Why or why not? (TK)

WWRD has contracted Jacobs Engineering to assist with the assessment and management of Lahaina Wastewater Assets. They have already completed the preliminary damage assessment and will soon shift to the design of repairs.

11. Does the Department support an ash debris transportation fee? Why or why not? (TP)

The Department does not support the ash debris transportation fee for two reasons.

1. A logical basis to create this fee is difficult to quantify. Public Works is not able to calculate an estimate of cost of roadway degradation from this additional traffic on the roads. Fire is also not able to offer an estimate of potential numbers of incidents or of costs to mitigate potential spill events.
2. The Department reached out to FEMA to gauge their reaction to this fee. Federal Regulations, specifically the Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide (PAPPG) restricts what FEMA is eligible to fund. The following is excerpts from the PAPPG.

- A cost is reasonable if, in its nature and amount, it does not exceed that which would be incurred by a prudent person under the circumstances prevailing at the time the Applicant makes the decision to incur the cost.
- FEMA determines reasonableness by evaluating whether the:
 - Cost is of a type generally recognized as ordinary and necessary for the type of facility or work.
 - Applicant deviated from its established practices and policies. FEMA generally considers the Applicant's own labor, equipment, and supply costs reasonable provided the costs are consistent with the entity's policies including, but not limited to, pay rates, labor policies, and cost schedules utilized during its normal operations.
 - Cost is comparable to the current market price for similar goods or services in the same geographical area.

Based on these conditions FEMA would be unable to pay this additional fee (specific to them) in addition to the standard landfill tipping fee.

12. Why does the Solid Waste Administration Program estimate a loss of approximately \$460,000 in annual refuse collection revenue in the coming years? (Page 211, Program Budget) (TP)

The Solid Waste Division was provided a list of addresses for homes that were destroyed by the wildfire. Approximately 1,124 homes in West Maui and Upcountry had active refuse accounts on 8/7/2024. Based upon an annual refuse collection fee of \$408, the estimated revenue loss is \$460,000 per year.

- 13. Why does the Solid Waste Administration Program expect a decrease of \$1,000,000 in commercial landfill revenue as a result of fewer visitors to the island? Wouldn't the reduction in commercial refuse prolong the life of existing and future landfills?** (Page 211, Program Budget) (TP)

Approximately 95% of SWD commercial landfill revenue is generated from two commercial haulers on Maui. At the time that the Solid Waste Division submitted the estimated revenue, the incoming landfill revenue from these two haulers decreased comparatively to prior years based on actual billable tons for the first half of FY24. Since there were no major changes in the number of landfill accounts during that time, it was surmised that decrease in visitors to the island led a decrease in billable tons affecting revenue.

Yes, a reduction of incoming tonnages to any of the landfills would result in extending the life of that landfill.

- 14. Please explain why the processing of construction and demolition material at County landfills takes longer than at privately-operated landfills.** (TP)

The processing, or landfilling, of construction and demolition (C&D) material at a Subtitle D landfill, like Central Maui Landfill, will be the same process and have the same requirements for a County operated facility or a privately-operated facility. The processing of C&D material at a C&D landfill will have less requirements for proper landfilling and take less time to landfill.

- 15. The Solid Waste Administration Program's Goal #1 is to provide cost effective Division management. With the Hāna, Lāna'i, and Molokai Landfills cost per ton being significantly higher than the Central Maui Landfill, what pilot programs are being pursued for rural areas, if any, to increase cost efficiency?** (Page 212, Program Budget) (TP)

The Solid Waste Division does not have any planned pilot programs at the Hāna, Lāna'i, and Molokai Landfills. The Solid Waste Division does plan to evaluate the potential alternative of hauling-out municipal solid waste (MSW) from the Hāna Landfill, in lieu of landfilling. The Department is also working with Pulama Lanai on improving waste diversion activities on Lāna'i and is considering the potential for smaller waste-to-energy projects at the Lāna'i and Molokai Landfills. These alternatives, waste diversion, and energy recovery options being considered by the Department may help to increase cost efficiency.

- 16. Relating to the Solid Waste Operations Program, Goal #1, please explain how the Central Maui Landfill's estimated remaining years for FY 2023 Actual is 1 year, FY 2024 Estimate is 6.4 years, and FY 2025 Estimate is 5.2 years. Why do we not have enough capacity for the 400,000 tons of ash debris right now?** (Page 215, Program Budget) (TP)

The estimated remaining years is based upon available landfill capacity and assumed that the construction of Phase IIIB at the Central Maui Landfill will be completed towards the end of FY24. The construction of Phase IIIB is currently underway and its completion will increase the available landfill capacity and extend the useful life of the landfill. . At the time the Solid Waste Division submitted its budget request, there were no plans to construct any additional landfill capacity in FY25, so a decrease was estimated for the remaining years in FY25.

Although the completion of the Phase IIIB cell would provide sufficient capacity for the estimated 400,000 tons of ash debris, the operational area to accommodate normal landfill traffic at Central Maui Landfill and the additional ash and debris trucks utilizing the same area would reduce operational efficiencies and increase safety risks.

- 17. The Solid Waste Operations Program’s Goal #1 provides the remaining years of the Molokai and Lāna‘i landfill’s capacity. How are the FY 2024 and 2025 Estimates calculated?** (Page 215, Program Budget) (TP)

The remaining years are calculated based upon the previous year’s incoming waste tonnages, landfill volume utilized, and estimating the landfill volume needed for the next year’s estimated incoming tonnages. For the smaller landfills, the estimated incoming tonnages can sometimes vary significantly year to year due to large projects temporarily producing waste.

- 18. The Department expects an additional influx of permits during the Lahaina wildfire recovery. Is the County not planning to contract a vendor to assist with expedited permitting for sewer in conjunction with the Department of Public Works’ vendor for emergency building permits?** (Pages 7-9 and 7-10, Budget Details) (TP)

The Department has deferred the review of residential permits to the DPW vendor and will assist if/when questions arise. WWRD has given the vendor the information required for the complete review. DEM will be reviewing commercial permits and will expedite those that are fire related replacements.

- 19. Please explain what Computer Services under index code 919005B will be used for and how the Department of Water Supply’s billing has affected your Department.** (Page 203, Program Budget) (GJ)

The Department of Water Supply provides the billing service for WWRD. The anticipated increase in cost for this service is given to WWRD annually.

- 20. Please explain why the Wastewater Administration Program is not applying for or expecting to receive any grants in FY 2025.** (Page 204, Program Budget) (GJ)

Unfortunately, WWRD did not have the manpower in FY2024 to research and apply for grants in FY2025. WWRD has worked with third party entities over the past couple of years to seek grants and apply for them but all of the manpower and resources shifted towards other higher priority needs. DEM intends to hire someone for a grants manager position in the near future which will help the entire Department obtain much needed grant funding.

- 21. Please provide a status update on the Wastewater Administration Program's State and Tribal Assistance Grant and WaterSMART Title XVI Authorized Grant that were awarded in FY 2023. What was the outcome from these grants?** (Page 204, Program Budget) (YLS)

WaterSMART Title XVI Authorized Grant – This grant is still active with no monies received to date as the West Maui recycled water projects have proceeded much slower than anticipated due to the Lahaina fire and contractor issues.

State and Tribal Assistance Grant – also an active grant with no monies received to date.

- 22. Has the Abandoned Vehicles and Metals Program identified new sites for the Go Green West Maui Recycling program and a beverage container Redemption Center for West Maui?** (Page 227, Program Budget) (Page 7-77, Budget Details, 919763B-6137) (TP)

When the original program for the Go Green West Events lost its site, the program funding also was cut from the budget. We have been working to re-instate the funding, at which point we will work with County partners to secure a location and get the program up and running again.

The HI-5 Deposit Beverage Container Program is a State program that has their operations on several of our recycling drop-off locations. The Recycling Section is currently working with Lahaina International Market on establishing a new recycling drop-off facility for residential recyclables, as well as a HI-5 redemption center off of Honoapillani Highway in Lahaina.

- 23. Please explain what areas of the Department's budget were cut as a result of the Mayor's post-wildfire mandated 5% reduction.** (SS)

EP&S: No budget cuts were made due to Mayor's decision.

The Solid Waste Division postponed requesting replacement and expansion equipment to meet the Mayor's mandated 5% reduction.

The proposed cuts for WWRD in FY2024 were deleting the Countywide Sewer Capital Improvement Reserve fund and re-appropriating CBS-3569 Kihei WWPS No. 6 Modifications/Upgrades. There were no 5% reduction proposed for FY2025.

24. If the Department had to decrease its budget by \$100,000, please describe what the Department would cut and the justification for cutting it. (SS)

The Solid Waste Division would propose to remove the lowest ranked piece of equipment since it meets the \$100,000 reduction and would continue to make repairs to the replacement vehicle to last an additional year.

WWRD would propose reducing the Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) by \$100,000 because the total budget is \$40,700,000 for FY2026 and maybe one of those projects will come in under estimate.

25. For each of the Department's revolving funds, what variables are factored into the estimated balance as of June 30, 2024? Are prior years' encumbrances included in the estimated balance? What is the actual amount available for appropriation from each fund? (YLS)

EP&S: Carryover savings from salaries of vacant positions and high estimates of potential tows.

WWRD has two (2) revolving funds, NASKA Sewage Pump Station Fund and the Countywide Sewer Capital Improvement Reserve Fund. The balances are calculated by the Finance Department.

NASKA Sewage Pump Station Fund has a balance of \$ 3,912 and Countywide Sewer Capital Improvement Reservice Fund has a balance of \$12,560,181.

26. Under EP&S's Abandoned Vehicle and Metals Section, what is the actual cost for maintaining the Paia Bypass? (YLS)

\$30,000.

Salaries and Wages (Category "A")

1. The Department is proposing six expansion positions for FY 2025.

(Page 44, Program Budget) (GJ) (ALL) (TP) (YLS) (NUH)

a. With so many vacancies within the Department, and according to your Budget implementation report dated December 31, 2023, could any of the vacant positions be redescribed to the proposed Public Information Officer position? (Page 7-3, Budget Details) (ALL)

All vacancies, including the ones that are difficult to fill, are critical to the function that they support. Reallocating an unfilled position to the needed PIO position would leave another critical function unserved and would also potentially cause an increase in professional services costs for our divisions.

This is because contractual work will be needed to ensure compliance with State and Federal regulations. Additionally, reallocating a position may lead to a decrease in public service and hinder safety standards for our department.

b. What are the specific qualifications required for the proposed Public Information Officer position? (Page 7-3, Budget Details) (TP)

These are the specific qualifications for the proposed Information & Education Specialist II position.

Training and Experience:

A combination of education and experience substantially equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree in journalism, communications, public administration, education, or a related field is required.

Additionally, three (3) years of professional work experience in public relations, journalism, or public administration is necessary. This experience should include researching, organizing, and developing newsletters, brochures, websites, press releases, and other information materials for the media.

Moreover, at least one (1) year of experience should have included conducting informational workshops or coordinating/facilitating press conferences.

c. Please justify the need for a Public Information Officer and explain how the duties will not be redundant with those performed by the Mayor's Communications and Government Affairs Office. (Page 199, Program Budget) (GJ) (ALL) (YLS)

Requests for information and interest in obtaining current updated information is at an all-time high. The Mayor's Communications and Government Affairs Office is already heavily burdened and has difficulty supporting Departmental communications dissemination.

After doing some research, we will follow the class of work that the County of Hawaii has for the Department of Public Works. We would call this position Information & Education Specialist II instead of a Mayor's Public Information Officer. The pay would remain the same as a SR-24.

The proposed position is designed to play a pivotal role in our Department's operations. Its duties include planning, developing, and implementing comprehensive information and educational programs for the public and our employees. This role will also maintain community relations activities and foster solid relationships with the media, community groups, and key stakeholders in the public and private sectors. Additionally, the position will coordinate departmental training and strategic planning, thereby enhancing our organizational effectiveness.

We would have this position assist our three divisions in maintaining communication and understanding with concerned citizens regarding the complexity of issues involved with the policy within our Department.

This position is designed to help our department provide information and education to our employees and the citizens of Maui County about the daily issues our department faces. It will reduce the burden on each division and help maintain consistency within our department.

- d. The proposed Public Information Officer position is outlined with the task of gathering and disseminating information. Please clarify which Division or Section the proposed position will be categorized under.** (Page 7-3, Budget Details) (TP) (NUH)

This position will be under the Director's Office, allowing the role to collaborate with all divisions and consistently provide information to the staff and the public.

- e. Please justify the need for the six additional expansion positions.** (YLS)

Director's Office 1 out of 6 Positions requested.

In question 1b, it was emphasized that this role will play a vital part in driving the operations of our department. The individual in this role will be responsible for effectively communicating with the public about health and safety incidents, as well as new programs introduced by our department, thus significantly impacting our operations.

Wastewater 3 out of 6 Positions requested.

The current organizational chart for Wastewater includes one Civil Engineer VI overseeing Planning and Permitting, Pretreatment, Reclaimed Water, Geographic Information System (GIS), and Construction Inspection. However, the workload for managing these areas has become too much for one person. Additionally, the State of Hawaii Department of Health, Clean Water Branch will issue a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit for the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility. This will require a new permitting compliance program, adding more regulatory requirements for the reclaimed water and pretreatment sections. A new Civil Engineer VI position is needed to build and oversee this environmental compliance section, ensuring compliance with State and Federal regulations. This new section will also require additional staff as the program develops.

EP&S 2 out of 6 Positions requested.

The new expansion positions will aim to improve efficiency by delegating workloads to manage ongoing programs and tasks. This includes education and outreach, data analysis, program development, and legislative enforcement for the Glass Recycling Ordinance for liquor licenses. The Recycling Section staff work over 250 overtime hours annually to keep up with their responsibilities. In 2012, the Recycling Section had a Recycling Coordinator and three supporting staff. However, today, the Recycling Section has the same responsibilities but has been reduced to one Recycling Specialist IV, who manages the Recycling Section, and one Recycling Specialist II. Additional staff will help prevent employee burnout and low morale. New on-island programs, such as electric car batteries, plastics, and glass recycling, are ready to pilot, but the current workloads need allowances for program expansion. For the Environmental Programming Section, the expansion position will support the day-to-day operations and build a strong foundation through enforcement activities and data collection, tracking and reporting (e.g., ordinance reporting to Council, Green Grants impact), setting up Admin Rules for sunscreen law, state and county legislative tracking, state and county environmental response coordination, Green Grants administration, program implementation, and developing new programs.

- 2. Please explain why the Construction Inspector II, Civil Engineer V, and Wastewater Source Control Tech positions are each proposed for 8 months of funding at Step M? Does the Department have specific candidates in mind?** (Pages 7-9, 7-10, and 7-12, Budget Details) (TP)

Positions are funded for eight months to accommodate the creation of new expansion positions. Our engineering positions have already received approval for hiring within a specified range (Step L). In the event of low recruitment for the Construction Inspector II and the Wastewater Source Control Tech, we will seek permission from the Department of Personnel to hire those job classes within range.

- 3. The P-00568 Recycling Specialist I position is proposed at \$33,240, with 8 months of funding. Does the Department feel this rate will attract qualified candidates? What other County position is tasked with these duties?** (Page 7-71, Budget Details) (NUH)

In the past, we have faced challenges like low recruitment rates when hiring for higher-level positions. Typically, we initially hire at the Recycling Specialist I level and then reallocate the position once the incumbent meets the minimum qualifications and performs satisfactorily.

I am not aware that other County positions are tasked with these duties.

The recycling series is designed to attract entry level positions with opportunities for advancement.

Operations and Equipment (Categories “B” and “C”)

1. **The following relates to the Department’s request for a new 4x4 4WD SUV.** (Page 7-6, Budget Details)

- a. **Can the Department manage another year without a new 4x4 4WD SUV? Are there other vehicles in the Department’s fleet that can be used rather than purchasing a new vehicle as a replacement?** (ALL)

DEM could manage another year without a County vehicle. DEM Admin staff would continue to use their personal vehicles for County use for another fiscal year. The Divisions have no “extra” vehicles that could be assigned to DEM Admin.

- b. **What vehicle does the Department currently use to support the management of the Department’s three divisions?** (Page 7- 6, Budget Details) (TP)

Admin staff use their personal vehicles for County business.

2. **The following relates to the Wastewater Operations Program’s electricity costs:** (Page 209, Program Budget)

- a. **There is an increase of \$893,000 in inflationary costs for electricity. What is the inflationary factor for utility costs? Is this factor calculated throughout the Department’s proposed budget?** (TC)

The increase in electricity costs for WWRD are based off of FY2023 actual expenditures.

- b. **Does the Department have a strategy or plan for lowering these costs?** (GJ)

The WWRD is always working with the professionals in the wastewater industry to figure out ways in lowering electrical costs. Historically, this is done through replacing old equipment with new high efficiency electrical and mechanical equipment, utilizing different wastewater biological processes, and electricity usage audits.

3. **The Summary by Grant Award table for the Electronic Waste Recycling Program indicates \$200,000 is anticipated for FY 2025. However, the Grant Award Description says the County will receive “approximately \$99,000.” Which amount is correct?** (Page 229, Program Budget) (TK)

\$200,000 is the adopted amount, the \$99,000 in the narrative is the award amount.

4. The following relates to the Wastewater Operations Program's expansion budget request for Professional Services under index code 919022B for NPDES permitting process funding for Lahaina. (Page 210, Program Budget)

a. Please explain the \$2,600,000 appropriation. Additionally, is the funding increase meant to address the scope and schedule of work? (GJ) (TK) (TP)

The draft NPDES permit that will be issued by the State Department of Health covering the discharge from the Lahaina WWRF encompasses significant monitoring, sampling, lab analysis, establishment of several work plans and special studies, modifications to pretreatment and biosolids requirements, report preparation and submittals etc. While the precise scope of work and schedule is not yet fully determined the Department has made a best guess estimate of the effort and cost to meet the requirements.

(The draft permit includes the following: Discharge Monitoring Reports (monthly/annually), Annual Receiving Water Monitoring Reports, Wastewater Pollution Prevention Reports, Sludge/Biosolids Reports, Nearshore Bacterial and Visual Water Quality Monitoring/Reporting, Permanent Seep Water Quality Monitoring/Reporting, Temporary Seep Water Quality Monitoring/Reporting, Whole Effluent Toxicity (WET) Testing, Toxicity Reduction Evaluation (TRE) Workplan Development, Initial Water Reuse System Optimization Study, Annual Water Reuse System Optimization Studies/Reporting, Initial Water Reuse Characterization Study, Annual Water Reuse Characterization Studies, Nutrient Optimization and Pollution Prevention Reports, Water Conservation Impact Studies, Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Impacts Report, I/I Reduction Plan, Antidegradation Study, Dilution Study, Fate and Transport Study, Develop and Implement a Countywide Industrial Pretreatment Program.

b. Is the Department unable to apply for an NPDES permit with County or in-house staff, and if so, why? (GJ)

The County applied for the permit utilizing in house staff several years ago. The draft permit was sent to the County for review and comment in 2023. Due to the complexity and significant requirements of the draft permit, in-house staff and outside consultants will need to collaborate to meet all of the required deadlines.

c. Does the Department anticipate similar funding for Professional Services for each County-owned wastewater reclamation facility? (GJ)

Yes, in fact funding may be significantly more for each facility since the coastline areas in South Maui, Kahului, and Kaunakakai do not have the scientific background studies or data that the Lahaina area had collected prior to the NPDES permit process.

- d. **Has the Department contracted a consultant for this work? If yes, please explain. If not, does the Department expect to issue a Request For Proposals for this work?** (TK) (TP)

The Department contracted with a consultant to help review the draft permit issued by DOH. WWRD anticipates several contracts once the final permit is issued to meet the specific requirements (effluent/receiving water monitoring, sampling and analysis; Pretreatment program expansion; biosolids requirements, special studies etc.). WWRD expects to choose a consultant through the County's QBS process.

- e. **Will there be a public hearing relating to the NPDES permit application, as mandated under Section 11-55-13(c), Hawaii Administrative Rules, and as suggested by Resolution 23-191, FD1?** (TP)

Yes, a public hearing is anticipated.

- f. **Following the Supreme Court's 2019 ruling in *County of Maui, Hawaii v. Hawaii Wildlife Fund et al.*, and the subsequent 2021 ruling by the District Court of Hawaii, the County must obtain an NPDES permit. What is the status on the County being issued a permit?** (YLS)

A draft permit was issued and a comment period for both the general public and the County concluded August 14, 2023. The permit process was temporarily suspended due to the Lahaina wildfires. WWRD anticipates that the process will resume in the near future.

- g. **Are there opportunities for other types of funding, such as grants, or State or federal funds?** (NUH)

To date we have not identified any types of outside funding for the costs of this permit.

5. **The following relates to Contractual Service under index code 101120B for the disposal of cars from residents.** (Page 7-95, Budget Details) (SS)

- a. **How many vehicles were towed and scrapped in FY 2024, to date? Further, how many vehicles were from East Maui?** (SS)

At least 1,106 residents have recycled their cars in FY24 for free under our car recycling programs. 741 of these residents have utilized the free towing options to recycle their vehicles. 47 vehicles were from East Maui.

- b. **Is it possible to dispose of abandoned vehicles that are not registered, do not have ownership papers, or in instances where the owner is not able to accompany the vehicle to the disposal site? What can be done to facilitate this process in East Maui?** (SS)

Abandoned vehicles that cannot be identified which come from public areas are recycled by the Abandoned Vehicles Program. We do not allow people to use our separate Tow & Scrap Vehicle Disposal Program to recycle cars they do not own or cannot produce documentation for using County funding. Doing this could allow for misuse of the program, e.g. a landlord could recycle their tenant's car, a disgruntled spouse could recycle their partner's car, and it would likely invite more salvage "parts cars" to Maui from other islands for tax payers to clean up, etc. We ask people who have their paperwork to accompany their vehicles and retain their paperwork at all times until they are at the vehicle's final destination so that they are protected from any potential fraud. We can allow an authorized representative to accompany a vehicle and bring paperwork on behalf of another resident. For example, we often allow this in situations where middle-age children are helping Kupuna when scrapping a vehicle. In East Maui we can authorize more trusted representatives to take junk vehicles for one another to ensure greater flexibility in scheduling for the community. In addition, AVM staff is working on a way to address the very old, rusted, indistinguishable vehicles in a fair and practical manner.

6. **Between FYs 2023 and 2024, there was a significant increase in costs for both Electrical Parts and Supplies and Repairs and Maintenance Supplies under index code 919044B, totaling approximately \$2,569,873. This increase is maintained in FY 2025. Were these not one-time purchases for parts and supplies? Please explain if this will be a continuation request going forward.** (Page 7- 35, Budget Details) (GJ)

The budgeted amounts for the Electrical Parts and Supplies and Repairs and Maintenance Supplies under index code 919044B are the same for FY2023, FY2024 and FY2025. However, the actual expenditures will vary from year to year based on unexpected repairs required in order to keep the facilities running. Please be reminded that this index code is used for all 5 treatment facilities and 42 pumps stations Countywide.

7. **The Department is proposing \$85,000 for Miscellaneous Supplies under index code 919730B. Were any of these miscellaneous supplies purchased in FY 2024?** (Page 7-75, Budget Details) (GJ)

Yes, approximately \$38,000 has been expended in FY24 and the full amount is expected to be utilized.

8. **Please describe the Employee awards program under index code 919000B. Can this fund be used to provide performance bonuses, hiring bonuses, or retention bonuses to employees?** (Page 7-5, Budget Details) (GJ)

Funding is limited to Retirement & Service Awards (sub object 6240) and Employee Awards Program (sub object 6406).

9. The following relates to the Wastewater Reclamation Division's Priority 10, relating to the replacement of one equipment trailer. (Page 7-37, Budget Details)

a. Was the stolen equipment trailer not insured for theft? (GJ)

No, the trailer was not insured.

b. Has Maui Police Department had any success in recovering the stolen trailer? (TP)

No, MPD had no success recovering trailer.

c. Has the Department installed any additional security measures at the sewer maintenance baseyard? What preventative measures will be taken to ensure the safe storage of equipment and assets in the future? (TP) (NUH)

The County of Maui, Risk Management installed (3) three security cameras at all (3) three entrance gates at the Kahului facility and maintains the videos for them. Risk Management has also installed security cameras at the Kihei facility and Kahului Sewer Maintenance Baseyard. DEM also coordinates with the Loss Control Specialist under the Office of the Mayor to assist our department with theft mitigation.

10. In FY 2023, the adopted total appropriation for the Wastewater Administration Program was \$4,116,800 higher than the actual dollar amount. Does the Department expect this trend to continue? (Page 7-7, Budget Details) (TP)

WWRD expects to spend everything every year but throughout the year there are certain cost savings that cannot be predicted like special costs, vacancies, number of emergencies, equipment failures, electricity, mandatory budget cuts due to current affairs, etc.

11. In FY 2023, the adopted total appropriation for the Wastewater Reclamation Program was \$2,824,651 higher than the actual dollar amount. Does the Department expect this trend to continue? (Page 7-7, Budget Details) (TP)

WWRD expects to spend everything every year but throughout the year there are certain cost savings that cannot be predicted like special costs, vacancies, number of emergencies, equipment failures, electricity, mandatory budget cuts due to current affairs, etc.

12. Please explain the need for a Ford 450 flatbed truck when the previous one only had 46,697 in mileage over 22 years. Given the truck's low mileage, would it be more efficient to rent a truck when needed? (Page 7-37, Budget Details) (TP)

The reason for the low mileage of this vehicle is due to the fact that the vehicle was deemed inoperable within the first several years since it was provided for use by DEM.

This vehicle is used to haul portable equipment, pickup and transport large, heavy wastewater parts all over the island during work hours and emergency callouts. Therefore, it is not efficient to rent a truck because the use of the truck after work hours and during emergency callouts are not predictable and will prevent our staff from responding.

- 13. Relating to Other Equipment under index code 919033C, the Department is proposing to purchase a Grit dewater trailer. Is it within staffs' job descriptions and collective bargaining agreements to remove grit from the basins? Will we need more staff and premium pay to accomplish this?** (Page 7-38, Budget Details) (TP)

Yes, this activity is included in staff job descriptions. No additional premium pay is anticipated in order to complete this work.

- 14. Would it be preferable to ship the Ford F450 crew cab truck, listed under Other Equipment under index code 919041C, from Lānaʻi to Maui to conduct repairs? If not, how will the vehicle be disposed?** (Page 7-39, Budget Details) (TP)

Due to the complexity of shipping and major mechanical and electrical issues with the existing vehicle, it was determined/recommended that a replacement vehicle be purchased. EP&S has an abandoned vehicle removal service once a year on Lanai.

- 15. Please explain the \$80,000 cost difference between the replacement of one heavy duty truck chassis hooklift and beds noted as Priority Item 1, and the replacement of one heavy duty truck chassis hooklift with beds noted as Priority Item 8 under the Solid Waste Operations Program.** (Page 7-65, Budget Details) (TP)

The more expensive truck will replace the service truck at Central Maui Landfill. This truck will require a more robust frame and suspension to provide a higher carrying capacity for the additional support equipment (e.g., fuel tank, air compressor, oil tanks) that will be attached to the bed of the truck.

The less expensive truck will be an operational quad-cab truck with a flat bed and lift gate to carry employees and small tools to perform smaller tasks on site, like picking up trash, or picking up smaller supplies off site.

- 16. Is \$200,000 still necessary for Electronic Device Recycling in light of Act 151 (2022)?** (Page 7-84, Budget Details) (TP)

We did not want to cut funding for the Electronic Device Recycling program until Act 151 was fully enacted in order to prevent a gap in electronic waste recycling options for County residents. Although Act 151 was launched in 2022, the bill was challenged and remained under threat of being gutted throughout 2023. In addition to challenging the new bill, manufacturers were not at all ready to actually collect e-waste from Maui on the scale it needed to. Beginning Jan 1, 2025, manufacturers are supposed to be able to collect 70% of the island electronics which we believe they will be more prepared to do as it appears that the law will be here to stay. For this reason, we planned to extend our program for one more year to ensure e-waste collection continuity.

17. The Department is requesting \$1,200,000 for a wood hog grinder apparatus for the Molokai Landfill. (Page 7-66, Budget Details) (NUH)

a. What would the timeline be for this apparatus to be functional at the Landfill?

After approval of the budget, it will take between 8-12 months to bid, contract, construct, and ship the equipment to the Molokai Landfill.

b. What is the Department's priority rating for this apparatus?

The Solid Waste Division prioritizes this equipment at a rank 5 and other equipment ranked at 5 and lower dropping one spot.

c. Is the pending purchase of this apparatus halting operations at the Molokai Landfill?

No, but the existing equipment is less reliable due to its age and not appropriately sized due to the increase in greenwaste volumes over the years.

18. How many meetings and workshops will be conducted with the \$8,000 proposed for Rentals under index code 919726B. (Page 7-75, Budget Details) (NUH)

The EP Section plans to host its quarterly (four) "Sustainability Together: Community-led Regenerative Action" Speaker Series, including on neighbor islands. The objective of the series is to meet communities—where they are—to facilitate learning about and discussing a local environmental challenge they are facing, and to provide examples from other communities and leaders of tested, community-led solutions.

a. What are the measurable goals of these meetings and workshops?
(NUH)

Pre-event:

1. Partnerships & event design: Number of partnerships established with local organizations, community groups, and stakeholders to co-design event and enhance its local relevance and impact.
2. Venue Secured: Securing a suitable venue for the event within a specified timeframe, ensuring (ADA) accessibility and capacity to accommodate the meeting objectives, technical requirements and expected number of participants.
3. Speakers/ panelists:
 1. Number of local and knowledgeable speakers and panelists with expertise aligned with the event's theme and objectives.
 2. Number of successful projects showcased for knowledge transfer to the community.
4. Promotion Plan: A comprehensive plan for promoting the event, including outreach strategies, marketing materials, and communication channels to reach the target audience.
5. Sponsorships: Number of sponsorships/ funding support from relevant organizations or businesses to offset event costs and enhance program resources
6. Program Outline: In collaboration with local partners, a draft program outlining the agenda, session topics, and activities planned for the event, ensuring alignment with the intended objectives and audience preferences

During event:

1. Attendance: Number of participants attending meeting
2. Networking Opportunities: Number of new connections made and potential projects discussed during the meetings, fostering collaboration and community engagement
3. Number of local organizations/ businesses supported while executing event (Hawaiian blessing, catering, technical support, venue, etc.)
4. Zero Waste: Implementing a zero-waste initiative in collaboration with local partners so that at least 90% of waste generated is diverted from landfill through recycling, composting, and using reusable or biodegradable materials.

- b. **Would it be possible to use County facilities instead of paying for venues?**
(NUH)

A priority is securing a venue where the local community feels welcome and can easily participate. Meeting the community where they are, rather than expecting them to come to us, is crucial for fostering inclusivity and engagement. We also need a facility capable of handling the high technical demands of hybrid events. While County facilities may offer cost-saving opportunities, County facilities often cannot meet event requirements in terms of location, space, amenities, and technical capabilities. By renting local venues, EP&S also supports local businesses/ organizations and jobs, often unrelated to the tourism industry. For example, the series on Molokai was held at the Molokai Community Health Center, providing them useful support.

- 19. Please elaborate on the goal and justification for adding \$20,000 to Printing and Binding under index code 919630B-6130 for the printing of recycling and zero waste guide booklets. Would the Department consider having the booklets online to print at home?** (Page 7-76, Budget Details) (NUH)

Enforcement for liquor license glass recycling mandate and the Malama Aina Keiki Earth Day program, including coloring books.

- 20. Does the Department have the adequate number of employed staff to utilize all of the proposed equipment?** (Pages 7-37 to 7-40, and 7-47, Budget Details) (NUH)

The Solid Waste Division has adequate staff to utilize all of its proposed equipment.

The Wastewater Reclamation Division has adequate staff for proposed equipment.

- 21. Under the Solid Waste Administration Program's Priority 9, will the proposed SUV be replacing one of the two current SUVs that employees share to conduct site visits, or will this be replacing a non-operational third SUV?** (Page 7-47, Budget Details) (NUH)

The proposed SUV will replace one of the two current SUVs. The third, non-operational SUV was approved to be replaced in FY24.

- 22. Under the Solid Waste Operations Program Priority 7, the Department is requesting to purchase four new roll-off bins at the Central Maui Landfill for operations to continue while older bins get refurbished.** (Page 7-65, Budget Details) (NUH)

- a. What is the estimated timeline for the older bins to be refurbished?**

It will take approximately 3 months to cut and re-line the floors of the older bins with heavier gauge steel, then rustproof and paint the floor.

- b. When the older bins are refurbished, what will happen to the new bins?**

The new bins will be stored and utilized at the Central Maui Landfill. Two of the refurbished bins will be used by the Refuse Collection Section for

processing and recycling broken carts and the remaining extra bins will be used to support the outer landfills.

- c. **How would services be impacted if funding for only two bins were awarded instead of four?**

If only two bins are approved, then existing service levels to self-haul users could be reduced temporarily until the bins are refurbished and made available and other means for supporting outer landfills would need to be pursued.

23. There was no question #23

24. **The Department intends to purchase a \$2,000,000 Greasezilla, Fats, Oil & Grease Management System.** (Page 226, Program Budget) (GJ) (NUH)

- a. **Please explain the need for this equipment and how it will be used.** (GJ) (NUH)

Fats Oils and grease are extremely problematic. This will handle the issue and generate a revenue stream for DEM as well as water source required for the County managed composting operation to resume.

- b. **Where will this equipment be based?** (GJ) (NUH)

Central Maui Landfill

- c. **What is the equipment's lifespan?** (NUH)

20 years

- d. **What is the department's priority rating for this equipment?** (NUH)

The Department considers this a high priority.

- e. **Has the Department considered other methods of payment for this equipment, such as grants, low interest loans, or bonds?** (GJ)

Yes, we applied for a SWIFER grant in 2023 and was not selected.

Capital Improvement Projects

1. **Why is construction for the Lāna'i Wastewater Reclamation Facility scheduled to proceed nine months after the design is completed on December 31, 2026? Can construction be moved up to be scheduled in FY 2027?** (Page 868, Program Budget) (GJ)

The design/permitting process typically takes 2 years to complete. Since the facility plan will most likely result in an expansion of the treatment plant WWRD anticipates

a few additional months for permitting to be accomplished. The construction is scheduled to follow. WWRD is currently projecting construction to start in the fall on 2027.

- 2. The Department is requesting \$45,300,000 for CIPs in FY 2025. CBS-7878, Countywide Wastewater Project Management, proposes \$1,000,000 to assist the Wastewater Reclamation Division. Does this appropriation provide sufficient funding? Does the Department have enough project management capacity to manage that level of capital investment?** (Page 845, Program Budget) (TK)

FY2025 proposed budget for WWRD was submitted based on providing a reliable wastewater service to the community while balancing the financial demands for this service. For CBS-7878, WWRD may need more than the amount asked for based on current prices and vacancies.

- 3. CBS-7867, Partial Closures of Active Landfills, from FY 2024 requires a demonstration of closure cap effectiveness prior to closing landfills. Does the State Department of Health no longer require this demonstration? Does the County still need to develop test methodology and conduct testing and reporting to satisfy this requirement to begin the partial closure of active landfills?** (Page 764, FY 2024 Program Budget) (TP)

The State Department of Health (DOH) still requires a demonstration of closure cap effectiveness. The Solid Waste Division (SWD) is working with its consultant to propose a demonstration plan to DOH for their concurrence. Following DOH plan approval, the SWD and its consultant will work on modeling and testing and provide the results to DOH for final approval.

- 4. Many Kihei-Makena, Wailuku-Kahului, Pa'ia-Ha'iku, and West Maui CIPs anticipated in FY 2024 are not moving forward in FY 2025. Is this due to an employee capacity issue, a funding issue, or both? What are the consequences of not doing those projects?** (TP)

Note that the design/permitting process normally takes two years to complete before construction can take place. In addition, each project is evaluated prior to completing the proposed CIP to determine if it will be ready for construction funding in the ensuing year and what the anticipated cost will be. On occasion projects are delayed due to design not being completed or prioritization of other projects.

- 5. Please provide a status update on CBS-5039, Central Hāna Sewer System. Is this CIP suspended indefinitely?** (Page 757, FY 2024 Program Budget) (TP)

This project is currently on the six-year CIP schedule, however, it is anticipated that it will be suspended indefinitely in upcoming years due to a shortage of manpower and resources.

6. **Are repairs from the August 2023 wildfires included in the Department's CIP?** (TP)

No for SWD and WWRD.

7. **Are CBS-7869 and CBS-8393 relating to Central Maui Landfill gas concurrent projects? Is CBS-7869 necessary for CBS-8393 to move forward?** (Pages 879-881, Program Budget) (TP)

CBS-7869 and CBS-8393 are separate projects relating to landfill gas at the Central Maui Landfill (CML). CBS-8393 will allow the Solid Waste Division to procure consultant support to develop an RFP to utilize the existing landfill gas collected at CML for beneficial use to the County, such as creating a fuel source (e.g., LNG or CNG), electrical power, or another beneficial use. CBS-7869 will expand the existing landfill gas collection system at the Central Maui Landfill to collect landfill gas from the newly landfilled Phase III-A area that will add to the volume of landfill gas collected.

8. **Please explain why the FY 2024 initial 6-year total of \$4,500,000 has been reduced to \$750,000 in FY 2025 for CBS-3182, Environmental Compliance System Design and Construction.** (Page 847, Program Budget) (TP)

Unfortunately, when utilizing the CBS software, the SWD did not include the proposed 5 years of budget in its request for CBS-3182, so only reflected FY25 is reflected in the CBS request. The SWD does plan to request \$750,000 in future years or \$4,500,000 over the next 6 years.

9. **Does CBS-3565, Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Update, address the 20-25% food waste with a municipal composting facility or is it only considering a master composter training? How does master composter training and donation to food banks address the annual 41,151 tons of food waste?** (Page 848, Program Budget) (TP)

The ISWMP does not promote food waste diversion specifically by composting but advocates focusing additional recycling and diversion efforts on organic waste. This offers flexibility as to means and methods that are recommended for this waste stream. Food waste in commercial composting adds a high level of complexity to a composting operation and may not be the preferred method of diversion.

10. **Please explain the anticipated \$2,350,000 increase in the 6-year schedule for CBS-1119, Countywide Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Compliance Wastewater Reclamation Facility Renovation Projects. Please also explain why the Department is using \$2,700,000 in General Obligation Bonds for FY 2025.** (Page 849, Program Budget) (TP)

This project encompasses improvements/replacements at all of the Wastewater Reclamation Facilities that are too extensive for staff to accomplish as a

maintenance/replacement item. This includes design and construction of roof replacements/repairs, aeration improvements, piping replacements, clarifier/basin rehabilitation etc.

In order to maintain a small user rate increase for FY2025, general obligation bonds were utilized for \$2,700,000 of the funding.

11. \$2,000,000 is proposed for CBS-1128 Countywide Wastewater System Modifications. Is this sufficient funding? (Appendix C) (TP)

FY2025 proposed budget for WWRD was submitted based on providing a reliable wastewater service to the community while balancing the financial demands for this service. For CBS-1128, WWRD may need more than the amount asked for based on current prices and project overages.

12. The Department has a large number of CIPs proposed in FY 2025. How does the department plan to manage the workload of employees to ensure the timeliness of projects and make certain projects stay on track? (Page 845, Program Budget) (NUH)

The Solid Waste Division is proposing a manageable number of CIP projects and will continue to utilize a combination of inhouse staff, supplemented with consultant support to ensure timeliness completion of projects.

WWRD intends to fill the vacant positions and hire construction management companies to help keep these projects on time.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you with information on this matter. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to transmit them to the Department of Environmental Management via transmittal through the Office of the Mayor.

Sincerely,



DN: cn=Shayne R. Agawa,
ou=Director of the Dept. of
Environmental Management,
email=shayne.agawa@co.maui.hi,
us, c=US
Date: 2024.04.04 14:02:18 -10'00'

SHAYNE R. AGAWA, P.E.
Director of Environmental Management

BFED Committee

From: Janina Agapay <Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 10:41 AM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Lesley Milner
Subject: (BFED-1)(EM-2)
Attachments: (BFED-1)(EM-2).pdf

Hello,

Please see attached correspondence from Department of Environmental Management.

Thank you,

Janina Agapay

County of Maui

Budget Office

(808) 270-7836

Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us