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

July 28, 2025

Ms. Cynthia Lallo, Chief of Staff
Office of the Mayor
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Lallo:

**SUBJECT: MAUI ECONOMIC RECOVERY COMMISSION
UPDATE (BFED-20(13))**

The Council's Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee received an update on the Maui Economic Recovery Commission at its meeting of July 22, 2025.

May I please request your response to the following:

1. Related to the role of the Office of Economic Development in economic recovery:
 - a. What is OED's current role in the economic recovery process - lead implementer, support agency, or other? Please explain.
 - b. Is OED's role anticipated to change to include more direct implementation responsibilities related to wildfire economic recovery? If no, why not?
2. Related to the availability of grants and support for essential businesses in wildfire-impacted areas:
 - a. Can an entrepreneur apply to OED for funding or technical assistance to launch an essential service business, such as a laundromat, childcare facility, mobile hygiene unit, or similar use in a wildfire-impacted area? Please explain.

- b. Are any new or expanded programs being developed to address the unique challenges facing essential service providers in wildfire-impacted areas, including access to commercial space, startup capital, and temporary operating conditions? Please explain.
 - c. Has OED partnered with the Maui Chamber of Commerce, LahainaTown Action Committee, or other organizations to develop or expand programs in wildfire-impacted areas? Please explain.
3. Related to coordination and accessibility of economic development support:
 - a. Does OED have a process to identify and prioritize community-driven business proposals in wildfire-impacted areas that meet urgent recovery needs but are delayed due to zoning, meter availability, or site readiness? Please explain.
 - b. Does OED currently provide, or plan to provide, grant funding or technical assistance for such proposals, including businesses such as laundromats, childcare facilities, or mobile hygiene services? If no, why not?
 - c. Are applicants who lack final permits, water meters, or other infrastructure ineligible for economic development support? If so, under what circumstances?
 - d. Please outline the steps a business owner must follow to obtain a County grant to open a new essential service business in a wildfire-impacted area. In your response, please:
 - i. Identify how much funding is currently available for such programs and the sources of those funds.
 - ii. Indicate whether additional funding is being sought, and if so, from which entities or programs.

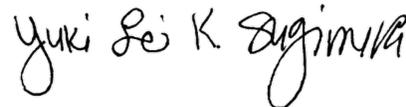
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- iii. Describe the application and approval process using a hypothetical applicant seeking to open a laundromat in Lahaina.

May I further request you transmit your response to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by **August 5, 2025**. To ensure efficient processing, please include the Committee item number in the subject line.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Kirsten Szabo at ext. 7662, or Pauline Martins at ext. 8039).

Sincerely,



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

bfed:ltr:020(13)aom01:kes

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Monday, July 28, 2025 2:06 PM
To: Cynthia Lallo
Cc: 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'
Subject: MAUI ECONOMIC RECOVERY COMMISSION UPDATE (BFED-20(13))
Attachments: Correspondence to Chief of Staff 07-28-2025.pdf