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

March 29, 2025

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

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

Ms. Gina Young, Director
East Maui Water Authority
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Young:

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (BFED-1) (EWA-02)

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the BFED Committee meeting on **April 3, 2025**.^{*} This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2026 Budget.

May I further request that, after approval by the Office of the Mayor, you transmit your answer to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by the end of the day on **April 4, 2025**. **Date subject to change without notice.*

Overall

1. Relating to the Administration Program, Goal #1, item 1, please provide a list of grants the Department has applied for to support watershed and system capital improvements. For each grant, include:
 - a. The funding amount;
 - b. The name of the organization or agency; and
 - c. The purpose of the application. (Page 166, Program Budget) (TC)
2. Relating to the Administration Program, Goal #2, item 1, please provide a list of all community meetings the Department has held and the purpose for each meeting. (Page 167, Program Budget) (TC)

3. Relating to the Administration Program, Goal #2, item 3: (Page 167, Program Budget)
 - a. Why is developing and distributing community surveys an objective? (TK)
 - b. Where in East Maui will these surveys be distributed? Please provide the population size of the geographic areas where the survey distributions will take place. (TK)
 - c. For the number of surveys distributed, why is the FY 2026 Estimate at 150? (TK)
 - d. How does the Department determine a survey's methodology and sample size? (TC)
 - e. What is the intended outcome of the surveys? Please explain how the data collected by these surveys will be used to support the Department's goals. (TC)
4. Relating to the Administration Program, Goal #2, item 4:
 - a. What type of information does the Department share through its newsletter?
 - b. How many people are subscribed to the Department's newsletter? (Page 167, Program Budget) (TC)
5. Please provide a copy of any preliminary assessments, studies, and environmental reports prepared by or for the East Maui Water Authority. (Page 163, Program Budget) (TC)
6. Chapter 19 of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended, requires the East Maui Regional Community Board to review and approve a long-range watershed management plan: (Page 163, Program Budget)
 - a. Please provide a copy of the long-range watershed management plan. (TC)

- b. Will the Department need additional staff to implement the long-range watershed management plan? (SS)
- 7. Please provide a list of entities the Department plans to coordinate with for watershed restoration.
 - a. Please explain the East Maui Watershed Partnership's most pressing needs. How does the Department plan on focusing its efforts to assist?
 - b. Please describe actions the Department can take now to develop a resilient watershed capable of producing water for future generations. (SS)

Salaries and Wages (Category "A")

- 1. Relating to P-00601 Info and Education Specialist, Index Code 927001A: (Page 5-3, Budget Details)
 - a. Has this position been filled? If not, is the position in active recruitment? If neither has occurred, why is a full year's salary being requested? (TP)
 - b. Please confirm whether this position is the same as the "community liaison" noted on page 162 of the Program Budget. (TC)
- 2. Relating to P-00640 Student Intern, Index Code 927001A:
 - a. How many interns does the Department plan to hire?
 - b. Please describe the selection criteria for this position. Will recruitment be limited to the University of Hawai'i Maui College Sustainability Science Management Program's capstone students? If so, what is the expected duration of the internship? (Page 5-3, Budget Details) (TC)

Operations and Equipment (Categories "B" and "C")

- 1. For the East Maui Water Authority Program, relating to Professional Services, Index Code 927001B: (Page 5-6, Budget Details)

- a. How will the requested \$380,000 be allocated? Please provide a detailed breakdown. (TC) (NUH)
 - b. Please provide a list of entities the Department has contracted with to provide the services listed. (TC)
 - c. What is the status of the Department's strategic plan? (TC)
2. For the East Maui Water Authority Program, relating to County grant subsidy, Index Code 927001B: (Page 5-6, Budget Details)
 - a. Please provide a list of watershed management projects the Department plans to fund using the \$75,000 grant. (GJ) (TC)
 - b. Why is the County grant subsidy \$75,000? Please explain how this amount was determined. (GJ)
3. For the East Maui Water Authority Program, relating to Rentals, Index Code 927001B: (Page 5-6, Budget Details)
 - a. Has the Department identified a location for office space? If so, has the Department moved into the space? (NUH) (SS)
 - b. Will the requested \$66,000 be enough for the entire year? (NUH)
4. For the East Maui Water Authority Program, relating to Other Services, Index Code 927001B: (Page 5-6, Budget Details)
 - a. Please describe the nature and extent of the proposed office renovations. (TC)
 - b. Has the Department received an estimated cost to complete the renovations? (SS)
5. For the East Maui Water Authority Program, relating to Professional Services, Index Code 927002B: (Page 5-6, Budget Details)
 - a. Please explain the Community Watershed Planning's intent, purpose, and goals. (TC)

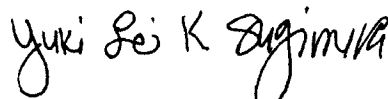
Ms. Gina Young
March 29, 2025
Page 5

- b. Does the Department need additional staff to implement the Community Watershed Planning? (SS)
- 6. For the East Maui Water Authority Program, relating to Other Equipment, Index Code 927001C: (Page 5-7, Budget Details)
 - a. How many workstations does the Department plan on purchasing and what will each workstation include? (TP)
 - b. What is the estimated cost per workstation? (SS)

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

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,



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

bfed:2026bgt:250328aewa01:clm

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

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Saturday, March 29, 2025 4:00 PM
To: Gina M. Young
Cc: BFED Committee; 'Cory-Lynn Vicens'; 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; Lesley Milner; kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us; tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us; Janina Agapay
Subject: FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (BFED-1) (EWA-2); reply by 4/4/2025
Attachments: (EWA-2) Correspondence to East Maui Water Authority 03-29-2025.pdf

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

GINA M. YOUNG
Director



EAST MAUI WATER AUTHORITY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

April 3, 2025

Ms. Lesley Milner, 
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

For Transmittal to:
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
and Members of the Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee
200 South High Street, 8th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

 4-3-25
Mayor Date

Aloha Chair Sugimura and Members.

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (BFED-1) (EWA-02)

This letter is in response to your correspondence dated March 29, 2025. Thank you for the opportunity to provide additional information on our Department's proposed budget. Please see below for my responses to your questions.

Overall

1. Relating to the Administration Program, Goal #1, item 1, please provide a list of grants the Department has applied for to support watershed and system capital improvements. For each grant, include:
 - a. The funding amount.
 - b. The name of the organization or agency; and
 - c. The purpose of the application. (Page 166, Program Budget) (TC)

Answer: In the absence of a grant writer, I received financial and/or technical assistance from the following organizations:

- Lincoln Foundation. Attended conference as an invited presenter. I received airfare, lodging, meals and conference fee for the convening of private and government funding agencies and foundations held in Santa Rosa, California. The purpose was to meet funders and gather information from them on best practices for building a successful grant acquisition program. My presentation was on the opening day of the conference, and I introduced them to the County's newest Department and how we aligned with the funding agencies and private foundations with similar missions, including a wide variety of areas such as environmental, cultural, rural community, social equity and justice, climate change adaptation, watershed restoration, and sustainable water resource management. I attended conference workshops and was matched with funders who provided advice on steps we should take to build our department's capacity to apply for grants and how to establish productive relationships with funders. I look forward to introducing some of the participants I connected with at the conference to our new grant coordinator.
 - Robert Wood Johnson. I received technical assistance on what key skills and experience we should consider in a grant writer when reviewing, interviewing, considering applicants, as well as advice on additional staffing required to show the capacity to execute grants once they are received. This advice included the hiring of a water resource specialist dedicated to our watershed plan implementation and programs. In addition, I was provided information and advice on community engagement planning to ensure successful grant acquisitions. This offer of assistance is ongoing on an as needed basis.
 - Public Finance Institute. The Institute is providing in kind services to convene two community meetings this June. These community meetings will bring Institute experts to Maui to provide information and conduct interactive community workshops on watershed planning and water management. Community engagement is the foundation of our strategic planning, watershed planning and grant writing processes.
2. Relating to the Administration Program, Goal #2, item 1, please provide a list of all community meetings the Department has held and the purpose for each meeting. (Page 167, Program Budget) (TC)

Answer: Pursuant to Maui County Charter Chapter 19, the Department and Community Board are mandated to hold at least two community meetings a year. The purpose of the meetings is to

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facilitate the flow of information from the community to the Board and Department. The meetings also provide an opportunity for us to present information to the community.

- On October 16, 2024, the ‘Aha Wai O Maui Hikina East Maui Regional Community Board held a community meeting in Ke’anae. During this meeting, community members shared about watershed issues in their local area and their priorities for addressing them. They voiced their concerns about the lack of rainfall and decreased stream flow.
- On November 20, 2024, attended and provided remarks at the Kula Community Association general meeting, an overview of the Board and Department was provided. Unfortunately given the length of the meeting, only a few questions from the audience were allowed; however, post meeting we were able to talk one on one with residents. Follow up phone calls and individual meetings with several attendees were conducted to discuss their individual concerns. The information gained was shared with the Board.
- On May 14, 2025, the Board, Department and the Ha’ikū Community Association will hold a joint community meeting and listening session. An update from the Board and Department will be provided. Individual topic specific tables will be set up for attendees (round table format) allowing them to interact and provide them an opportunity to rotate through and discuss and connect with knowledgeable industry leaders.
- In June 2025, Board and Department will conduct community meetings with assistance from the Public Finance Institute. The intent is to update the community on the Department and Board, provide technical information on watershed management and planning, and to gain community input on those issues important to them and hear and learn about their priorities and concerns. The Ke’anae meeting will have an interactive workshop on watershed planning for that region.
- The Department is in discussion with the community group, Na Moku Aupuni O Ko’olau Hui, for them to attend and present at a future Board meeting and listen and gather feedback and hear community concerns.
- The Department has been invited to present at another Kula Community Association General meeting later in 2025, and we plan to incorporate a listening session.

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- We periodically have a table at the Hana Farmer's market. This allows us to talk story with attendees from the community. Connecting is central and a form of first-hand data gathering for our department.
 - April 26, 2025, we are participating at the East Maui Taro Festival.
3. Relating to the Administration Program, Goal #2, item 3: (Page 167, Program Budget)

a. Why is developing and distributing community surveys an objective? (TK)

Answer: Grant applications require community engagement. Good applications tell the community's story and demonstrate their support for grant goals. Written surveys are a vehicle for capturing information and can easily be distributed at community meetings, events and online. Surveys, whether conducted as a written hand out, orally 1:1, or digitally are a proven and successful method and tool for capturing and documenting generational, cultural and traditional knowledge of the local watershed areas and management methods. It is important for our department, the Administration, Council and State policymakers to understand our community needs, values and priorities.

b. Where in East Maui will these surveys be distributed? Please provide the population size of the geographic areas where the survey distributions will take place. (TK)

Answer: Throughout all Maui County areas surveys will be conducted as each area provides useful and unique information of great value. Population size is TBD and defined individually if at a community event. The intent is to be present at as many "survey opportunities" as we can. Instances of these that will be attended by staff include: local regional community events, our own community meetings, digitally on our website, social media, and, when possible, provide links on partners webpages and social outlets. It is one of the best ways to get information from all interested parties about what matters to them and to learn about the different areas needs and priorities.

c. For the number of surveys distributed, why is the FY 2026 Estimate at 150? (TK)

Answer: It is a starting point, and a sample size determined through discussion with our Board. The number is large enough to provide meaningful information and be a motivating ambitious goal. I believe it matches the number of items of testimony we received last year.

d. How does the Department determine a survey's methodology and sample size? (TC)

Answer: It will be important to survey a diverse and large sample of residents so that multiple perspectives can be gathered. The differing perspectives are opportunities to learn and better understand our different communities. Utilization of several survey common methodologies include but are not limited to: 1) online digital, 2) Face-to-Face Interviews,

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3) Email surveys, 4) Paper-Based Surveys, 5) Mobile surveys, 6) Focus groups, 7) social media, and 7) booth/kiosk. The Information and Education Specialist is tasked with survey development and data collection. This position requires education and work experience in research and data collection methods. Our goal with the surveys has multiple applications; it is intended to gather information from the community so that it can direct our efforts to meet community needs and priorities with the watershed work while also capturing the information needed for grant applications.

e. What is the intended outcome of the surveys? Please explain how the data collected by these surveys will be used to support the Department's goals. (TC)

Answer: The intended outcome of the surveys is multifold:

- Grant writing: Survey information will be used in grant applications to demonstrate community alignment with funding source missions, to communicate the community's individual and collective stories, and to capture community priorities so we are seeking funding for programs that meet their needs.
- Surveys will be used to capture individual and community knowledge. They will have open ended questions to facilitate the collection of information on traditional and cultural watershed history and management practices. Historical knowledge from kupuna on the history of the area is critical to understanding changing climate patterns and specific areas as they change over time, including stream location, invasive species growth and movement, native species populations over time, and near shore coastal water conditions.
- To capture specific data on agriculture in the area. The EMWA Department is a partner in the Department of Agriculture's Food Nutrition and Security Plan, for example we may use surveys to collect information on the number and types of food grown in East Maui.
- Surveys can assist, along with community meetings, to gain better and greater understanding and insights of our communities' priorities and needs and importantly provide an outlet and opportunity for community members to provide "their" input.

4. Relating to the Administration Program, Goal #2, item 4:

a. What type of information does the Department share through its newsletter?

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Answer: Our Information and Educational Staff person will be responsible for the development of a Department newsletter strategy. The position was just accepted by an experienced applicant who has previously done informative and uplifting newsletters.

b. How many people are subscribed to the Department's newsletter? (Page 167, Program Budget) (TC)

Answer: At this time, we do not have a newsletter or contact list developed but will start that program shortly after the Information and Education Specialist is hired in May.

5. Please provide a copy of any preliminary assessments, studies, and environmental reports prepared by or for the East Maui Water Authority. (Page 163, Program Budget) (TC)

Answer: We are in discussions with Mahi Pono and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to determine the form and structure of a joint partnership. Once that has been achieved, we will know what legal reports are required, if any.

6. Chapter 19 of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended, requires the East Maui Regional Community Board to review and approve a long-range watershed management plan: (Page 163, Program Budget)

a. Please provide a copy of the long-range watershed management plan. (TC)

Answer: The watershed management plan has yet to be contracted. We have been advised by experts in the field to first research what information will be required for grants so that it can be included in the plan. We were informed that it was necessary to have and hire an employee who would be responsible for the plan's implementation which a water resource specialist with education and training in this area would do. We have begun our community engagement efforts however and this will lay the foundation for the plan.

b. Will the Department need additional staff to implement the long-range watershed management plan? (SS)

Answer: Yes. We were advised that the department needs a staff person in charge of implementation of the plan and that position needs to have education and experience in the areas of hydrology, surface water, weather and rainfall, climate change, water management, watershed restoration, invasive species management, and data collection and analytics. We have also been advised that boots on the ground staff be hired to implement the plan. While some of this work can be contracted out through grants and service contracts, some of the work can be more effective and cost less if done by staff. Staff also allows for more seamless partnering.

7. Please provide a list of entities the Department plans to coordinate with for watershed restoration.

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Answer: The department plans to partner with the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife and Na Moku Aupuni Ko'olau Hui. Through a partnership we can maximize our efforts to focus on the middle and lower elevation zones and increase opportunities for matching funds, sharing of resources, and targeting specific areas to increase success. We will also need to coordinate with the East Maui Partnership who works at the upper elevations and with MISC.

a. Please explain the East Maui Watershed Partnership's most pressing needs. How does the Department plan on focusing its efforts to assist?

Answer: The East Maui Watershed Partnership is a private organization that focuses on the upper watershed area where their consortium members own land. According to the partnership, these areas offer the best chances of preserving pristine lands. Due to the focus on the upper areas, the middle and lower elevations have historically received inadequate funding and efforts. These areas are ripe with opportunities to improve stream flow and connectivity, manage invasive species, protect local springs, plant native species to repopulate the forest (especially in Huelo which has been depleted completely of native plants), provide fencing at lower elevations to address invasive ungulates, and generally improve the condition of the watershed to ensure a healthy eco system and water availability for future generations.

b. Please describe actions the Department can take now to develop a resilient watershed capable of producing water for future generations. (SS)

Answer: The Department's watershed planning efforts are critical to its success. Planning to capture historic information, gain knowledge on proven management methods, empowerment of local communities to reengage their kuleana to care for the watersheds, and identification of partners is necessary. Planning also includes capturing and organizing the individual community's knowledge of their areas, compiling their concerns, needs, values, and priorities. Once the plan is completed and adopted by the Board, implementation is needed to ensure watershed programs and partnerships are established, then evaluated and adjusted for effectiveness. Much work needs to be done and the earlier we start the more success we will have in ensuring future water availability. For a detailed description of watershed planning please refer to the response to question 5 under Operations & Equipment.

Salaries and Wages (Category "A")

1. Relating to P-00601 Info and Education Specialist, Index Code 927001A: (Page 5-3, Budget Details)

a. Has this position been filled? If not, is the position in active recruitment? If neither has occurred, why is a full year's salary being requested? (TP)

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Answer: This position was accepted yesterday, and the start date is in May.

b. Please confirm whether this position is the same as the “community liaison” noted on page 162 of the Program Budget. (TC)

Answer: The position of the Information and Education Specialist was provided by the Council during last year’s deliberations. The position was offered as an alternative to the community liaison position because it is an existing classified position that specializes in the flow of information to and from an organization, much like a community liaison.

2. Relating to P-00640 Student Intern, Index Code 927001A:

a. How many interns does the Department plan to hire?

Answer: The position is budgeted as a .6 position with the intent of filling it year-round with one student. It is the first year we will be offering this position. The intent is to have a long-term person; however, it will depend upon the needs and schedules of the individual applicants.

b. Please describe the selection criteria for this position. Will recruitment be limited to the University of Hawai‘i Maui College Sustainability Science Management Program’s capstone students? If so, what is the expected duration of the internship? (Page 5-3, Budget Details) (TC)

Answer: This position will not be limited to the UH Maui College Sustainability program. The intent is for a student intern to be able to assist the department in achieving our goals. There is lots of room for flexibility. As we review applications, we will see who is the best fit. We have already received calls from a range of applicants with impressive skill sets. The Department needs help with watershed data collection and analysis. We are hoping an intern can help with these functions.

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

1. For the East Maui Water Authority Program, relating to Professional Services, Index Code 927001B: (Page 5-6, Budget Details)

a. How will the requested \$380,000 be allocated? Please provide a detailed breakdown. (TC) (NUH)

Answer: Department strategic plans cost about \$300,000 - \$350,000 depending on the extent of the scope. Any remaining funding will be available for business/legal services if needed to provide assistance with written partnership and/or state disposition contracts.

b. Please provide a list of entities the Department has contracted with to provide the services listed. (TC)

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Answer: Funding was not provided in last year's budget, so no entities have been contracted.

c. What is the status of the Department's strategic plan? (TC)

Answer: The Department was not provided with funding for a strategic plan; however, we have been reviewing other strategic plans to better understand the elements of a good plan and our own department's needs. I've met with technical experts on the development and organization of a plan. Prior to a plan we need to better understand the form of a strategic joint partnership with Mahi Pono and the State, we are currently in productive discussions.

2. For the East Maui Water Authority Program, relating to County grant subsidy, Index Code 927001B: (Page 5-6, Budget Details)

a. Please provide a list of watershed management projects the Department plans to fund using the \$75,000 grant. (GJ) (TC)

Answer: The grant program will be awarded competitively. Areas of need identified by the local communities include removal of vegetation along streams to increase mauka to makai connectivity, native planting, spring protection, auwai maintenance, stream monitoring, water quality testing, miconia removal, ungulate management, and other projects to support a healthy eco system.

b. Why is the County grant subsidy \$75,000? Please explain how this amount was determined. (GJ)

Answer: This amount was arrived at during discussions with our Board last fall with an effort to partner as best as possible with community groups and other organizations working in the area to create value. Community engagement after the Board discussions has revealed a significant number of needs identified in the watershed areas.

3. For the East Maui Water Authority Program, relating to Rentals, Index Code 927001B: (Page 5-6, Budget Details)

a. Has the Department identified a location for office space? If so, has the Department moved into the space? (NUH) (SS)

Answer: We have identified office space and are currently negotiating with the landlord on needed work. We are not able to move in until that work is completed. Additional renovations will also need to be made; however, we believe we can occupy the space while that is being done.

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b. Will the requested \$66,000 be enough for the entire year? (NUH)

Answer: Thank you for asking. We worked with the Department of Finance and the Budget office to determine the rent costs for the fiscal year and the lease amount is the same as was included in the budget.

4. For the East Maui Water Authority Program, relating to Other Services, Index Code 927001B: (Page 5-6, Budget Details)

a. Please describe the nature and extent of the proposed office renovations. (TC)

Answer: I will give a description the best I can, given that we have not moved in and have only met with the property manager once to discuss their willingness to address our needs.

The previous tenant began renovations and was unable to finish projects so there are areas that had begun to be turned into private workspaces and a conference room but were not completed. There is also a need to create workspaces in 2 larger open areas. A kitchen sink and cabinet area were installed at some point, but not finished. We hope to turn another older kitchen area with failing cabinetry into a work station. There is a mix of uneven flooring (tile, carpet over carpet) in a room that looks to be an unfinished renovation of two areas into one big room that we plan to use as a conference room. There are limited electrical outlets and more will be needed given the use of multiple work stations in one room. Another area is partially enclosed, and we think we can just add a window or perhaps close up the wall. We will need to check the building code to determine options. Another room needs to be converted into two work areas, but we are hoping to use cubicles and not renovate the room. We will compare costs. We also need to adapt a large reception area to a workspace and a smaller reception area but are hoping to use a work cubicle for that. We are hoping to just clean the carpeting (it's very stained) but will not know if it needs replacement until the landlord cleans it and then there is the possibility that we could inquire with them about replacing it if needed. We will need to wait for the landlord to finish their work over the next few weeks before we can assess the need for renovations and then get bids for the remaining work.

b. Has the Department received an estimated cost to complete the renovations? (SS)

Answer: No, we will know our needs once the landlord has completed their work in the unit, and we have identified and compared the options of renovations vs using workstations. We also need to evaluate the timing and planning; it may be best if the two expansion position work areas are combined into the renovation vs work station plan so that all the work is done at one time.

5. For the East Maui Water Authority Program, relating to Professional Services, Index Code 927002B: (Page 5-6, Budget Details)

a. Please explain the Community Watershed Planning's intent, purpose, and goals. (TC)

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Answer: The intent, purpose and goals are to systematically and comprehensively manage East Maui watersheds so they can continue to provide water now and in the future.

Over the years there has been a dramatic reduction in water availability caused by a multitude of factors, including climate change and aging infrastructure. New weather patterns include overall less rainfall, but also a movement in the location of rain and an increase of episodic high intensity storm events. Water system management is a robust and growing field with opportunities that include improved material types and new efficiency and monitoring technologies. Watershed planning will identify needs, opportunities for partnerships to maximize program success, cost effectiveness and funding acquisition.

Planning begins with assessing existing data and identifying gaps, then developing a comprehensive baseline of watershed eco systems, including habitat vegetation, hydrology, topography, geology and water quality. Identification of problems and maintenance needs, area specific climate patterns, priorities and opportunities for coordination need to be identified. Community and data-based planning will focus on targeted programs and partnerships that are needed to increase eco system health and resilience. Data collection will include community and stakeholder knowledge, as well as a review of scientific studies.

Based upon analysis of data, program development and adoption will occur, followed by funding acquisition, then evaluation and program adjustments. Program areas can include protecting and restoring terrestrial and aquatic habitats, improving streamflow and spring integrity and mauka to makai connectivity, monitoring and controlling invasive species, flood management, identification of stormwater capture opportunities. The process is community driven through stakeholder engagement and Board review and approval of the resulting watershed plan, program development and annual evaluation of each plan policy and related program (as mandated by Chapter 19 of the Maui County charter). Planning also involves working with the state agencies (DoFAW, CWRM, BLNR), UH and other experts (such as the East-West Center and the Pacific Drought Knowledge exchange) the county departments (Department of Water Supply, Department of Agriculture and the Ag park Manager, the Department of O'iwi Resources), community organizations (such as Na Moku Aupini O Ko'olau Hui), MISC and area residents, cultural practitioners and farmers to identify information, program gaps and matching funding opportunities.

One example of data driven planning is the development of weather pattern and rainfall modeling and the development of management methods to bolster resilience in the different areas. Identifying through GPS mapping and the use of various methods of monitoring the severity and location of extreme rainfall events will allow for better program and infrastructure planning and create a higher likelihood of obtaining funding. An example of planning based upon community engagement and the capture of historical knowledge is native reforestation. The Huelo forested areas have lost their native habitats and resiliency. Identifying plants that previously thrived in specific areas helps to ensure successful planting projects. Community members can also identify problems with existing

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infrastructure such as clogged auwais and post storm watershed damage. Data collection done as part of program monitoring will become the basis for evaluation and program adjustment.

b. Does the Department need additional staff to implement the Community Watershed Planning? (SS)

Answer: Yes, the Department needs a Water Resource Specialist position, and one has been included in the proposed budget. Watershed restoration staff can also increase effectiveness and reduce the cost of implementing the plans and running restoration programs for each area. Additional interns can provide cost effective data collection, evaluation and monitoring services.

6. For the East Maui Water Authority Program, relating to Other Equipment, Index Code 927001C: (Page 5-7, Budget Details)

a. How many workstations does the Department plan on purchasing and what will each workstation include? (TP)

Answer: We will be meeting with vendors to discuss options. We need to better understand our renovation needs and pricing to determine the most cost-effective renovation/workstation options.

b. What is the estimated cost per workstation? (SS)

Answer: We are meeting with a vendor(s) to determine options and costs.

Thank you again for this opportunity. Please do not hesitate to contact me regarding additional questions at gina.young@co.maui.hi.us.

Respectfully,

Gina M. Young

GINA M. YOUNG, Director
East Maui Water Authority

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BFED Committee

From: Janina E. Agapay <Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 3, 2025 9:33 AM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Lesley J. Milner; Gina M. Young; Cory Lynn M. Vicens
Subject: (BFED-1)(EWA-02)
Attachments: (BFED-1)(EWA-02).pdf

Hello,

Please see attached correspondence (BFED-1)(EWA-02)

Thank you,

Janina Agapay

County of Maui | Budget Office

Phone: (808) 270-7836

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