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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

April 3, 2026

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

Dear Ms. Lallo:

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

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the Council's Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee meeting of **April 16, 2026\***. This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2027 Budget.

May I further request that you transmit your response to [bfed.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:bfed.committee@mauicounty.us) by 4:30 p.m. on **April 14, 2026**. *\*Date is subject to change without notice.*

**Overall**

1. The Office of Economic Development "is committed to investing in technology to diversify the economy and enable a technologically advanced business sector in Maui to become more competitive on a global scale. With up-to-date technology local businesses are able to compete with counterparts from other regions thereby attracting investment and fostering economic growth. Likewise, technology-driven businesses are more likely to attract and retain a skilled workforce thereby contributing to long-term economic stability."  
(Page 31, Program Budget) (NUH)
  - a. What types of technology has the Office invested in to diversify the economy and how does the Office measure the technology's success?

- b. What investments and economic growth has occurred in the County because our local businesses are updating their technology?
    - c. How have technology-driven businesses impacted the workforce, and how do they support the County's long-term economic stability?
  2. Relating to the Office of Innovation: (Page 32, Program Budget)
    - a. Who oversees the Office of Innovation? (NUH) (YLS)
    - b. How many full-time equivalent positions are assigned to the Office? (NUH) (YLS)
    - c. Who is responsible for monitoring and carrying out the actions in the Climate Action Resilience Plan? (NUH) (YLS)
  3. Relating to the Administration Program's Goals #5 and #6, what are the purposes of these goals, and how does the Office ensure its work for these goals is coordinated with, and not duplicative of, work done by the Department of Management and the Department of Environmental Management's Environmental Protection and Sustainability Program? (Page 533, Program Budget) (GJ)
  4. The Economic Development Program's focus for FY 2026 is creating economic "pillars." Please provide details on the "pillars," including the initiatives the Program completed this year. What are the success measurements for these initiatives? (NUH)
  5. Relating to the new Grants Division Program: (Pages 569 to 573, Program Budget)
    - a. Relating to this Program's relationship with the Economic Development Program: (TC) (NUH)
      - i. Why is the Office proposing to have two programs that administers grants? Are two needed?
      - ii. How will work be distributed between the two programs, and who will oversee each program?

- iii. How will the Economic Development Program be impacted due to the decrease in its grant administration responsibilities? Will the Economic Development Program be restructured or changed as a result? Please explain.
  - b. What is the proposed timeline to transfer this program, and the Economic Development Program, if applicable, to the Department of Management? The related expansion positions in the Department of Management are not funded in FY 2027, so will these be entirely new positions or will they be transferred and removed from the Office? (NUH)
  - c. Is a reorganization required for this Program? If no, why not? (TP)
  - d. Does P-00833 Grants Management Program Manager currently exist or does the position need to be created? (Page 15-16, Budget Details) (TP)
  - e. Please provide a copy of the job descriptions for each position that will be in the Program and the justification for each position. (Page 15-16, Program Budget) (TC)
  - f. How did the Office determine which grants were moved under the new Grants Division Program, which grants remained under the Economic Development Program, and which grants remained under the Administration Program? (YLS)
  - g. Would the Division be willing to administer the grants and program relating to animal control and spay and neutering currently administered by the Department of Agriculture? These grants and programs currently do not align with the Department of Agriculture's purpose. Please advise. (GJ)
6. Is the Department involved in the creation of the greenprint under Section 2.82.050, Maui County Code? If yes, is there any funding dedicated to executing a contract for this project? (GJ)

**Salaries and Wages (Category “A”)**

1. Please explain the significant salary increases for the following positions: (Pages 15-3, 15-5, 15-24, and 15-62, Budget Details) (NUH)
  - a. P-26174 Executive Assistant I
  - b. P-26226 Executive Assistant II
  - c. P-28636 Executive Assistant II
  - d. P-29597 Executive Assistant II
  - e. P-26335 Economic Development Director
  - f. P-26179 Budget Director
  - g. P-26385 Assistant Budget Director
  
2. Relating to P-00811 Economic Development Specialist III, why is the Office requesting to reinstate the Film Commissioner position? (Page 15-24, Budget Details) (TC) (NUH)
  
3. Relating to WIRP and Executive Order 2025-02:
  - a. What is “WIRP” and how does it justify the proposed salary adjustments? (KB) (NUH) (YLS)
  
  - b. How was the initial salary for each position in the Office determined? (KB) (NUH) (YLS)
  
  - c. How are salary adjustments based on WIRP calculated? (KB)
  
  - d. Why does WIRP affect the pay for some positions but not others? If based on position classes or salary ranges, please explain which position classes or salary ranges are affected. (KB)
  
  - e. Provide a copy of Executive Order 2025-02 and explain how it provides the authority for salary increases for the Office of the Mayor. (KB) (TC) (NUH) (YLS)
  
  - f. What parameters or guidelines are used to determine the positions affected by Executive Order 2025-02? (KB)

**Operations and Equipment (Category “B”)**

1. Relating to Computer Software, Index Code 903013B, what is the name of the Countywide grant management system acquired in FY 2026 and what are its capabilities? (Page 535, Program Budget) (TP)
2. Relating to County grant subsidy, Index Code 903394B, how will the funds for Lahaina Memorial Phase 1 be used? (Page 536, Program Budget) (TP)
3. Relating to Houseless Solutions grant: (Page 536, Program Budget)
  - a. For the funds appropriated in FY 2026:
    - i. Provide a breakdown of the expenditures made and grants issued to date. (GJ) (YLS)
    - ii. Were any of the solutions funded found to be successful and are there plans to receive funding through a dedicated appropriation? (GJ)
    - iii. How were grantees selected? If there was an application process, please provide a list of organizations that applied, the project name, the amount requested, and the amount approved. (GJ)
  - b. For the funds requested for FY 2027:
    - i. How does the Office plan to use these funds and how will the public be notified of the use? If the funds will be granted through a competitive grant process, how will the Office notify the public that applications for grants are available? (KB) (GJ)
    - ii. Why is this appropriation administered by the Office of the Mayor rather than the Department of Human Concerns? (KB)
4. Relating to Stewardship and Maintenance of County-owned land grant: (Page 537, Program Budget)

- a. Provide a breakdown of the expenditures made and grants issued, to date, for FY 2026. (GJ) (YLS)
  - b. What will the requested \$300,000 for FY 2027 be used for? (GJ) (NUH)
  - c. Is the Office working with the Conservation Planning Committee to develop maintenance and implementation plans for these properties? (NUH)
  - d. Because the Maui County Emergency Management Agency oversees hazard mitigation on County-owned lands, will the Agency have access to these funds? Should funds be specifically allocated to the Agency? (TP)
  - e. How will the Office coordinate the use of this funding with the Department of Management and its plans for stewarding County properties? (GJ)
5. How were the FY 2026 Hawaii State Cesspools funds used? (Page 539, Program Budget) (GJ)
6. Relating to Small Grants: (Page 15-22, Budget Details)
- a. If each grant award totaled \$25,000, the total \$1.75 million appropriation would equate to up to 70 grants. The Mayor's Budget message mentioned a simplified application process for grant recipients. Please describe the simplified application process? How will it be administered and how will it differ from the application process for other grants? (TC) (GJ) (NUH)
  - b. Besides the grant size and application process, how else will these grants differ from those currently administered by the Economic Development Program? (TC)
7. Relating to Miscellaneous Other Costs, Index Code 903039B: (Page 15-27, Budget Details) (NUH) (YLS)

- a. Please provide more details on the \$50,000 expansion request to cover Public Information and Communications Specialist and Website Design Team for Maui Nui Strong, Maui Nui First, and miscellaneous costs for email blasts and social media. (NUH) (YLS)
  - b. Please provide a breakdown of the FY 2026 costs for the Maui Nui Strong and Maui Nui First websites and explain how they are currently funded. (NUH) (YLS)
  - c. Provide the total cost of public information and communication for each department, including grant funds and revolving funds. For each department, identify the number of positions and salary amount, each contract number, vendor, and contract amount, and any other source of spending, such as purchase orders. (YLS)
8. Relating to County grant subsidy, Index Codes 903039B and 903951B: (Page 553, Program Budget)
  - a. Please justify the requested \$850,000 for Makahiki Season and the requested \$150,000 for related marketing and guidelines. (NUH)
  - b. Can Makahiki Season be accomplished with a smaller budget? If so, please provide the revised amount. If not, explain why. (GJ)
9. Relating to the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration Program, please provide more information on the two initiatives developed to improve the resilience of the Moku 'O Kula. Will the FY 2027 funding continue to support these initiatives? Please explain. (Page 555, Program Budget) (GJ)
10. Should the "Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement" grant be referred to as "Hawaiian Council" due to a name change? Please advise. (Page 557, Program Budget) (TP)

11. Relating to Festivals of Aloha, Inc. for the Maui County Fair, how much revenue was generated from the Fair in 2025? What was the total cost of the Fair? Please compare revenue and costs, and determine whether the Fair turned a profit or a loss. (Page 557, Program Budget) (GJ)
12. Relating to Index Code 903488B for Kemper International: (Page 15-35, Budget Details)
  - a. Please provide a breakdown of how the funding will be used. Please distinguish between Maui Invitational uses and Women's Tournament uses? (TC) (TP)
  - b. Please provide more information on the Women's Tournament, including where and when it was most recently held. (TC)
  - c. Will the Women's Tournament be held concurrently with the Maui Invitational? Please explain. (TC)
13. Relating to Financial Literacy grant, does a similar program exist in another Department? Please explain. (Page 557, Program Budget) (TC)
14. How was the FY 2026 appropriation of \$395,000 for Maui Economic Development Board for Film Promotion used? (Page 558, Program Budget) (NUH)
15. Relating to PGA for Sentry Tournament grant: (Page 558, Program Budget)
  - a. Will the Tournament be returning to Maui in 2027? (TC) (TP)
  - b. Why is the Office requesting \$50,000 more in FY 2027 over FY 2026? (TC)
  - c. How will this funding be used? Please provide a breakdown. (TC)
  - d. Was the FY 2026 funding used? If so, please provide a breakdown. (TC)

16. Are the Economic Development Program's Small Business Promotion grant and the Grants Division Program's Small Grants both competitive grant funding appropriations? Please explain. (Pages 558 and 571, Program Budget) (SS)
17. Relating to the Clean and Safe Programs grants: (Pages 571 and 572, Program Budget; Page 15-18, Budget Details)
  - a. Are the Programs' outcomes developed and monitored by the Office's Homeless Solutions Coordinator or the Department of Human Concerns? What are the Office's outcomes or measurables for programs that relate to houseless community outreach and social services connections? (GJ)
  - b. Why is the Office requesting less funding for the Kihei Clean and Safe Program this FY? (TC)
18. Relating to Index Code 903894B for the Tourism Management Grant Fund, what programs were funded in FY 2026 and how will the Fund be used in FY 2027? (Page 15-57, Budget Details) (GJ)

#### **Appendix A, Part II**

1. Relating to the Economic Development and Cultural Programs Revolving Fund, what is the status of the FY 2026 grant for Kaahumanu Church renovation and restoration? (Page 15-76, Budget Details) (YLS)
2. Relating to the Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund: (Page 579, Program Budget; Page 56, Budget Bill) (GJ)
  - a. What plan or process guides the Office's use of the Fund and determines which properties to acquire?
  - b. Why are there so many unexecuted prior year appropriations?

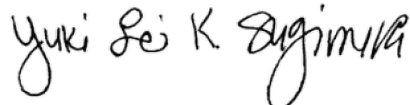
May I also request that you restate each question followed by your corresponding response. Include any attachments or exhibits. Please ensure your response is clear and legible by using a minimum 12-point font throughout so Committee members and the public can easily read the document once it is posted.

Ms. Cynthia Lallo  
April 3, 2026  
Page 10

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,

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

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

bfed:2027bgt:260402aom01:jgk

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

## BFED Committee

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**From:** BFED Committee  
**Sent:** Friday, April 3, 2026 11:58 PM  
**To:** 'Cynthia Lallo'  
**Cc:** 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; 'Lesley Milner'; 'Kristina Cabbat'; 'Tiare P. Horner'; Shirley Blackburn; 'Janina Agapay'  
**Subject:** PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (OM-3)  
**Attachments:** 260402aom01 (OM-02).pdf  
**Importance:** High