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Deputy Director of Council Services  
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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 17, 2025

Mr. Richard "Remi" E. Mitchell, Director  
Department of Housing  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

SUBJECT: **FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET** (BFED-1) (HO-04)

May I please request you explain the transfer of \$4,750,000 to the Experimental and Demonstration Housing Projects Fund even though none of the funds are appropriated for specific projects.

If the Department intends to request appropriations for projects in FY 2026, please explain the following:

1. What is the purpose of the Fund and what type of projects would qualify?
2. Does the Department anticipate any projects later in FY 2026? How will the Department select which projects to support?
3. Identify any projects that have been funded in the past.
4. What is the Department's plan for the Fund moving forward? (Index Code 924014B, County Funds; Page 10-9, Budget Details) (TC)

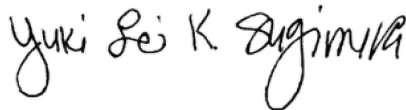
May I further request that you transmit your response to [bfed.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:bfed.committee@mauicounty.us) by **4:30 p.m. on April 21, 2025**, to enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2026 Budget.

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

Mr. Richard "Remi" E. Mitchell  
April 17, 2025  
Page 2

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, reading "Yuki Lei K. Sugimura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

bfed:2026bgt:250417aho01:clm

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.  
Budget Director  
Deputy Director of Housing

## BFED Committee

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**From:** BFED Committee  
**Sent:** Friday, April 18, 2025 5:26 PM  
**To:** 'Richard.E.Mitchell@co.maui.hi.us'  
**Cc:** 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; 'Lesley Milner'; 'kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us'; 'tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us'; 'Janina E. Agapay'; Saumalu Mataafa; 'Amanda.M.Martin@co.maui.hi.us'  
**Subject:** FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (BFED-1) (HO-04); reply by 4/21/25  
**Attachments:** (HO-04) Correspondence to Housing 04-17-2025.pdf

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**RICHARD E. MITCHELL, ESQ.**  
Director

**SAUMALU MATA'AFA**  
Deputy Director



**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
2065 MAIN STREET, SUITE 108  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793  
PHONE: (808) 270-7351  
FAX: (808) 270-6284

April 21, 2025

Ms. Lesley Milner   
Budget Director  
County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

 4-22-25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Date

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.  
Mayor, County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee  
Maui County Council  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

Dear Chair Sugimura:

**SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET** (BFED-1) (HO-04)

The Department of Housing (Department) is in receipt of your letter dated April 18, 2025, relating to the Department's Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 proposed budget which includes \$4,75 million appropriation for the Experimental and Demonstration Housing (EDH) Fund. Both the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development (BFED) Committee's questions and the Department's responses are below:

**If the Department intends to request appropriations for projects in FY 2026, please explain the following:**

- 1. What is the purpose of the Fund and what type of projects would qualify?**

The EDH Fund is a tool that provides creative methods to develop and research ideas that would reduce the cost of housing in the County. The Department proposes \$4.75 million to re-establish the EDH Fund and allow unconventional project proposals to be considered by the Department.

EDH projects must follow Chapter 16.28, Maui County Code (MCC), and Section 46-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to be considered.

- 2. Does the Department anticipate any projects later in FY 2026? How will the Department select which projects to support?**

The Department's intent is to solicit and award project proposals from private and non-profit developers in FY 2026. The Department will evaluate and rank project proposals that follow the criteria in Section 16.28.070, MCC.

- 3. Identify any projects that have been funded in the past.**

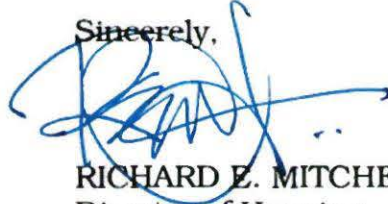
No funding has been expended since the EDH Fund was established in 2019.

- 4. What is the Department's plan for the Fund moving forward? (Index Code 924014B, County Funds; Page 10-9, Budget Details) (TC)**

The Department intends to evaluate the viability of the EDH Fund in FY 2026 and work with the Council to make necessary adjustments moving forward.

Should you have further questions, please contact me or the Department at (808) 270-7110 or email me at [director.housing@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:director.housing@co.maui.hi.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Mitchell', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

RICHARD E. MITCHELL, ESQ.  
Director of Housing

## BFED Committee

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**From:** Janina E. Agapay <Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 22, 2025 11:07 AM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Cc:** Lesley J. Milner; Richard E. Mitchell; Saumalu Mataafa; Amanda M. Martin  
**Subject:** (BFED-1)(HO-04)  
**Attachments:** (BFED-1)(HO-04).pdf

Hello,

Please see attached correspondence.

Thank you,

***Janina Agapay***

County of Maui | Budget Office

Phone: (808) 270-7836

Email: [Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us)