

April 21, 2026

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MEMO TO: Members of the Budget, Finance, and Economic  
Development Committee

F R O M: Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair *Yuki Lei K. Sugimura*  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

SUBJECT: **LĀNA'Ī RESIDENCY AREA MEETING REGARDING THE FISCAL  
YEAR 2027 BUDGET** (BFED-1)

On April 15, 2026, the Council's Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee held a public meeting at the Lāna'ī High & Elementary School Cafeteria regarding the proposed FY 2027 Budget. Present for the meeting were: Committee Chair Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan, and members Tom Cook, Gabe Johnson, Tamara Paltin, Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Shane M. Sinenci, and Nohelani U'u-Hodgins. The meeting started at 6:03 p.m. and adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

The Committee received oral testimony from 10 individuals. Unless otherwise indicated, the following oral testimony was received in support of funding for the organization, program, or project noted:

1. Neal Tamashiro asked for support of the Lāna'ī Field House.
2. Dr. John Janikowski, Medical Director, Lāna'ī Kina'ole, Inc., and two individuals testified in support of the organization.
3. Rose Jane Ancheta, Lāna'ī Branch Manager, and four individuals expressed support for Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Ms. Ancheta asked for continued support of MEO's Transportation Services programs and services. Heather Durham shared her appreciation for MEO's social and health care services. Stan Ruidas, Michele Weinhouse, and Fran Odoshi Waite expressed general support for all MEO programs.
4. Stan Ruidas also requested a community center on Lāna'ī, preferably located below the skate park, and noted he has been in discussion with Councilmember Johnson and Mayor Bissen about the idea. He also proposed a feasibility study for the community center to ensure it can serve as a: (1) transient housing for specialized labor, visiting student athletes and government officials, and instructors to provide classes such as first-aid and CPR; (2)

gathering place for the community; and (3) Category 3 hurricane emergency shelter.

5. Michele Weinhouse, Vice-President, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, Lāna'i Chapter, shared her positive experiences with the Lāna'i-Grown Food Stimulus Program and asked for continued support. She also noted that quicker payments would help farmers tremendously.
6. David Embrey also requested additional support for farmers and shared the need to bring a commercial kitchen back to Lāna'i.
7. Fran Odoshi Waite similarly requested bringing back a commercial kitchen to Lāna'i and for continued support of farmers, including through the Lāna'i Farmers Market, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, and the Lāna'i-Grown Food Stimulus program. Ms. Waite also requested a new community composting and mulching machine and support for the First Hawaiian Bank building acquisition and remodel. Finally, she asked the Committee to support Natalie Ropa's requests and noted Natalie has been instrumental in building up and supporting the children of Lāna'i.
8. Natalie Ropa requested assistance with acquiring space formerly occupied by the Lāna'i Youth Center for the University of Hawai'i Lāna'i Education Center. She noted the college's current space is inadequate for a lab and is hindering the ability to offer college programs such as Certified Nursing Assistant and Licensed Practical Nurse.
9. Butch Gima, Chair of the Lāna'i Planning Commission, requested funds to support hybrid (in-person and online) meetings, citing the difficulty of chairing meetings exclusively online. He requested additional support for the Independent Nomination Board, and boards and commissions generally, to help with adequately recruiting for and properly managing boards. He also supported funding for the planning and permitting of the First Hawaiian Bank building renovations. Mr. Gima highlighted the hard work of Public Works' employees for the Lanai Veterans Cemetery and noted additional funding will be needed once the cemetery is expanded. He also asked for increased collaboration from the Department of Agriculture and noted their previous visits to Lāna'i to survey food

supply at stores. Mr. Gima thanked the Council and Administration for working collaboratively on affordable housing efforts.

Your Committee also received the attached written testimony.

For questions relating to the Lānaʻi residency area meeting, please contact OCS staff (Kasie Apo Takayama at ext. 7665, or Jennifer Yamashita at ext. 7143).

If you have any questions relating to the FY 2027 Budget, please contact 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). Thank you for your cooperation.

bfed:2027bgt:Residency area meetings:260415Lānaʻi:kmat

Attachment

# **Lāna'i Field House Programs' Proposal Summary:**

## **I. Current Program Status:**

- Currently, there are only two official sport programs approved to be conducted within the Lāna'i Field House by Maui County Parks and Recreation Department: baseball and softball.

## **II. Maui Councilmembers to Approve the Following:**

- Approve the additional sports programs which include archery, golf, martial arts (no weapons), Lāna'i Elementary, Middle School, and High School physical education classes, and adult sports leagues (e.g. archery, golf, whiffle ball, etc.).
- Approve the adult community sport volunteers that will supervise the above additional sport programs to be conducted inside the facility.

## **III. Certification:**

- All the adult community sport program volunteers will have current state or national teaching/coaching certifications. In addition, all adult volunteers will have current First Aid and CPR certifications.

## **Lāna'i Field House: Sport Program Proposal**

Currently there are only two official sport programs approved to be conducted within the Lāna'i Field House by Maui County Parks and Recreation: baseball and softball. This facility's sport program proposal will provide important information for the justification of including additional sport programs to be supervised within our facility.

We are asking the Maui Councilmembers to do as follows: (1) Approve the additional sports outlined in this proposal; and (2) approve that the additional sports will be *supervised by our adult community volunteers* (no additional cost to the Maui Park and Recreation Department's budget). The Lāna'i community volunteers will have either a current Hawaii state teaching and coaching certification (e.g. D.O.E. teachers and coaches) or possess a national organizational teaching/coaching certification (e.g., PGA Golf Certification, USA National Archery Organization Certification).

## **The Lānaʻi Field House: Programs Development**

Sport programs are developed based on the following: The Lānaʻi Field House's design; Lānai's sport community's desires and needs; and national and state organizations' sport requirements.

### ***The developmental program process should include:***<sup>1</sup>

- Lānaʻi Parks & Recreation (LP&R) should assess the “pulse” of the Lānaʻi's sporting community to determine the specific sports to be developed within the Lānaʻi Field House. This process should be on-going every year.
- The LP&R's community youth and adult sports selected may be represented within national, or state organizations.
- The national and state youth and adult organizations' programs that will be selected should accept all age-appropriate participants regardless of any physical or mental abnormalities.
- The organizations' programs should provide all participants with safe and fun mental and physical developmental activities (***“No Child or adult Left Behind”***).
- All coaches and leaders of the selected sport organizations that will participate in the Lānaʻi Field House should be required to have national coaching certification; and American Red Cross First Aid and CPR certifications.
- Lānaʻi sports selected should represent the community's multi-age groups from youth to seniors.
- Lānaʻi sports selected should be able to be performed safely indoors.
- Lānaʻi sports selected should be able to be played simultaneously with other similar sports (e.g., baseball, softball, golf) within the facility.

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**Note<sup>1</sup>** During the Fall 2018, during the conception stage of the field house's development, Mayor Alan Arakawa and Lāna'i Councilman Riki Hokama in partnership with Dr. (Coach) Coop DeRenne agreed that the county would raise the necessary funding for the facility's exterior infrastructure (building, site grounds, etc.), while Coach Coop would raise the funding for the interior from private donors and oversee sport programs to be conducted within the facility. The donors understood that Coach Coop would take the "pulse" of Lāna'i sporting community's program needs and purchase the requested items. In addition, Mayor Arakawa, Councilman Riki Hokama, and Coach Coop's community committee agreed that all purchases by Coach Coop would be gifted to the County Department of Parks & Recreation (DP&R). \$82,500 was raised by Coach Coop from private donors. In addition, labor and materials were donated by Pūlama Lāna'i and Goodfellow Brothers, INC. On April 22, 2022, the Council of the County of Maui based on Resolution # 22-106, unanimously accepted all 142 sporting equipment items; and labor by Goodfellow Bros. and Pūlama Lāna'i.

**∴** Based on the above sport program developmental process, baseball and softball are the only two organizational sports approved by Maui County Park and Recreation to be conducted within the Lāna'i Field House. Again, based on the "pulse" of the Lāna'i sporting community program needs, the following additional sport programs hopefully will to be approved by the Councilmembers of Maui County: **archery, golf, martial arts, "lower order" fundamental movement activities, fitness development activities, and adult sport leagues (e.g. archery, golf, whiffle ball).**

## Additional Sport Programs

**Note<sup>2</sup>:** All additional sport instructors will have First Aid and CPR certifications

### **I. Archery:**

- **History of Lāna'i:** Archery shooting and hunting are a way of life on Lāna'i. All Lāna'i archery teachers/instructors using the field house must belong to the USA Archery Organization and annually pass all coaching certified program levels 1-5.  
[www.usarchery.org](http://www.usarchery.org); /www.usarchery.org/coaches/become-a-coach
- **Safety:<sup>3</sup>**
  1. The Lāna'i Archery Club will build portable wooden backboards 14' H by 14" W that will cover the entire shooting areas. These backboards will be behind the three shooting targets. The moveable middle divider nets will be drawn back so no errant arrows will hit any net or student, only the targets or backboard.
  2. During any archery class when in session within the field house, no other sport or movement activity will be in session.
  3. All Lāna'i archery teachers/instructors using the field house must belong to the USA Archery Organization and annually pass all coaching certified program levels 1-5.
  4. Only USA Archery certified instructors are allowed to teach their respective archery class within the field house.
  5. Student & Instructor insurance will be covered under the USA Archery Organization.
  6. All archery instructors will have First Aid and CPR certifications.
- ***National Archery in The Schools Program (NASP):*** The National Archery in the Schools Program is an in-school program aimed at improving educational performance among students in grades

4th – 12th. And through it, students are learning focus, self-control, discipline, patience, and the life lessons required to be successful in the classroom and in life. NASP® is an activity that doesn't discriminate based on popularity, athletic skill, gender, size, or academic ability. It is a different kind of team sport. It's open to any student. Its biggest supporters are professional educators. Teams come together around one thing: Archery. In addition, NASP can be adopted in any school. NASP has online the following certifications programs: national certification instructor training program (e.g. schoolteachers & administrators, Lāna'i Archery Club Instructors); curriculum programs for 4<sup>th</sup> through the 12 grade; and NASP's 3-D International, Inc. Insurance program (\$25). [www.naspschools.org](http://www.naspschools.org)

1. The Lāna'i Youth Archery Instructors and USA National Archery instructors that are also the Lāna'i Youth Archery Club and the Lāna'i Adult Archery Club instructors will implement and conduct the NASP program for the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 12-grade at Lāna'i Elementary & High School.

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**Note<sup>3</sup>:** *All Lāna'i Elementary & High School archery students that join the Lāna'i Youth Archery Club/ USA Archery National Organization will adhere to the national rules, regulations, and safety procedures. [www.usarchery.org](http://www.usarchery.org)*

- ***The Lāna'i Youth Archery Club and the Lāna'i Adult Archery Club:*** These two Lāna'i archery clubs will have USA Archery certified instructors and personnel (from Lāna'i residents) managing the field house while archery classes are in session. Besides the student-archers belonging to the USA National Organization, the Lāna'i Adult Archery Club archers will become members of the ***USA Adult Archery Program***. This organization will help formulate and support Lāna'i's Adult Archery Club. [www.usarchery.org](http://www.usarchery.org)

- **NASP High School Tournaments:** Hawaii, Regional, National
  - a. Hawaii/local High School meets: Lāna'i High School vs. (private schools from Honolulu)-- Asia Pacific International School, Sacred Hearts Academy and La Pietra for Girls. 2026 Leilehua High School JROTC-Archery Postal Match
  - b. Hawaii/local High School meets: Lāna'i High School vs. (private schools from Honolulu)-- Asia Pacific International School, Sacred Hearts Academy and La Pietra for Girls.
  - c. 2026 Leilehua High School JROTC-Archery Postal Match
  - d. Hawaii NASP State Tournament 2026 (Wahiawa)
  - e. 2026 NASP® (school) Western Nationals
    - Elementary Division
    - Middle Division
    - High School Division
  - f. 2026 NASP® (school) National Championship – Bullseye
    - Elementary Division
    - Middle Division
    - High School Division

## **II. Golf:**

- **Golf:** (1) Is a transitional sport for all the family to enjoy. (1) The world of golf has seen a revolutionary shift with the advent of indoor golf driving ranges and simulators/practice facilities. (2) Youth and adults may learn the game not only on the outdoor practice facilities but indoor as well. Lastly, (3) indoor golf facilities provide for all weather access enabling golfers to invest in consistent time to improve their skills, facilitate faster advancements, and obtain a greater comprehension of the nuances of the game.
- **The Lāna'i Field House facility:** The new Lāna'i Field House has a new golf net that was specifically designed to be used within the

shell cage netting structure. Within the facility, the three tunnels' netting formation will allow golfers a perfect driving range setting/configuration for group and individualized instruction and practice.

- **History of Lāna'i Golf Association (LGA):**

The Lāna'i Golf Association was formed in the 1950s. It has served as a communal gathering of like-minded plantation workers looking to advance the game of golf for recreation, sportsmanship, and camaraderie. Plantation workers and Dole Company supervisors were able to compete, mingle, and socialize at events held by the LGA. Since its inception, the LGA has provided a spirit of competition for its members with weekly Sunday golf tournaments for the past 70 plus years. It is the most active social/recreational organization on Lāna'i. Nearly all its competition has been played on the E.B. Cavendish Golf Course throughout the years. The LGA built and still maintains the clubhouse/pavilion above the ninth green at the course. LGA members have also put in time to enhance the playability of the course with work-day projects throughout the years, including helping maintain the bunkers keeping them weed-free, cutting trees that impede sight lines to the greens, and even using hand-held drills (with long extensions cords) to aerate some greens. LGA members, young and old, have long held the "Dish" as a special place because of its accessibility, charm, and price-free gold.

LGA President Neal Tamashiro and one member of the Tamashiro family of golfers understands the advantages of the Lāna'i Field House:

Our members LGA would be intrigued to be able to swing away in an enclosed practice facility especially when Cavendish is rained out. Done right, it could make for an interesting venue for practice and competitions. In addition, it would afford members who don't have

the time from their busy daylight schedules to practice at night in the field house.

As a bonus, this facility may provide our local high school graduates an opportunity to obtain a golf scholarship like me, my son, and my brothers, and other Lānaʻi graduates that have used golf as means to a college education.

- **Safety:** In all indoor sports' facilities, safety is a main concern. Again, the new golf net and shell cage configuration allows for a safe driving range environment. In addition, the golfers will be hitting into golf tarps hanging on the length of the golf net less than twenty feet from the golfers, which also protects the golf balls from rebounding back toward the golfers or going through the net into the surrounding chain link fence. Further-more, each golfer hits off his own individualized golf mat that is placed on the synthetic turf in a safe distance from the other golfers. Thus, the other third tunnel behind the golfers protects them from simultaneous baseball or softball players hitting within tunnel # three. Moreover, *no* youth or adult golfer will be allowed into the field house without proper supervision.
- **National Golf First Tee Program states:**
  1. "We enable our youth to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with life skills curriculum, we create learning experiences that build inner strength, self- confidence, and resilience that our youth can carry into everything they do.
  2. Our programs happen daily at approximately 150 chapters around the world. Participants (**ages 7-18**) progress through the program over time, deepening their understanding of life skills and golf development. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with character-building, we create learning experiences

that help kids and teens uncover their inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that they can carry to everything they do.

3. **Our trained coaches** not only provide an introduction to junior golf and an opportunity to enhance golf skills, but they also create a safe, supportive, and empowering environment to help our child prepare for life ahead, including friendships, school, college and even their careers.
4. Through our program, kids and teens will learn skills that stay with them for life:
  - Understanding and managing emotions
  - Resolving conflicts
  - Setting up step-by-step goals
  - Planning for the future
  - Appreciating diversity
  - Fundamental golf skills and techniques
5. Advancing through the First Tee Program:
  - At each age group, participants engage with the 5 Key Commitments: Pursuing goals, growing through challenge, collaborating with others, building positive self-identity, and using good judgement, while focusing on mastering golf fundamentals and building upon a golf skill foundation as they advance within the program.
    1. **Age 7-9**
      - Be active and have fun with peers in a safe and encouraging manner
      - Build inner strength and self-confidence
      - Learn to play golf
      - Focus on building relationships with other players while exploring the game of golf

## 2. Age 10-11

- Explore character concepts in active and collaborative ways that are valuable on and off the course
- Develop golf skills and enthusiasm for the game
- Support positive Game Changing behaviors in fun and meaningful ways

## 3. Age 12-13

- Explore both golf skills and characters commitments while having fun with peers
- Provide opportunities to demonstrate mastery and growth in golf skills and abilities
- Support growth and development of early adolescents

## 4. Age 14+

- Build character and support personal development
- Develop additional golf skills and abilities
- Look toward their future and plan their own paths
- Evaluate, reflect, and apply their understanding of life and golf skills to new situations on and off the course
- A capstone program for high school teens that integrates the skills and inner strengths they've developed at First Tee and points them toward exploring, investing in, and building a clear plan and assets for their next step."

## 6. **School-Based:**

- "Since 2004, First Tee has been integrating the First Tee School Program into PE classes across the country. We've equipped educators at elementary and middle schools with our curriculum built around the game of golf, while positively impacting kids through both the game and its inherent ability to improve social-emotional learning (SEL)

skills. We work with the school to identify funding opportunities, such as sponsors or donations.

- This program aligns with national physical education standards developed by the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) and is designed to allow physical educators the ability to adjust lessons to fit their specific teaching situations in terms of class size, time, and facility type.
- ***First Tee School Program gives physical educators all the tools to get started.*** They provide the training, equipment, and lesson plans that integrate life skills and values with the game of golf and motor skills. They have an online community for teachers and youth leaders delivering our program, providing access to the curriculum, resources, and connections with peers delivering the program around the country.”
- **In Charge of The Program:** Lāna’i Golf Club volunteers; and Manele Golf Pros. volunteers.
- **Adult Golf:**
  1. There will be a supervised adult driving range for practices, individualized instruction, and competition.
  2. Lāna’i Golf Club sponsored; PGA certification & insurance.
  3. Night program: 7: pm to 9: pm
  4. **In Charge of Program:** Lāna’i Golf Club and Manele Golf Pros. volunteers.

# National First Tee Statistics



**47%** ethnically diverse\*



**38%** female\*

First Tee has intentionally been increasing our attention on kids ages 10-14, with the focus on retaining them in the program longer through our roll out of an age-based, refreshed curriculum.



**42%** teen retention\*



**18%** increase in teens\*

\*Based on Chapter registrations

### **III. Indoor soccer:**

- School ages: Supervised by National Certified Instructors; national insurance
- Adult league: Supervised by National Certified Instructors; national insurance

### **IV. Martial arts: No weapons**

- Adult league: Supervised by National Certified Instructors; national insurance
- Future: School ages (Middle School & High School): Supervised by National Certified Instructors; national insurance

### **V. Elementary School Physical Education:**

- “Lower order” fundamental movement activities (e.g., throw & catch with various implements suited for growth & development; whiffle ball).
- Supervised by Lāna’i Physical Education staff

### **VI. Middle School Physical Education:**

- Physical skills (athleticism) and fitness development activities.
- Supervised by Lāna’i Physical Education staff

### **VII. High School Physical Education:**

- Physical skills (athleticism) and fitness development activities.
- Supervised by Lāna’i Physical Education staff

### **VIII. Adult sport leagues:**

- Baseball, softball, golf, whiffle ball.
- Supervised by National Certified Instructors; national insurance