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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 1, 2026

Mr. John Stufflebean, Director  
Department of Water Supply  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Stufflebean:

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE  
COUNTY OF MAUI** (BFED-1) (WS-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 8, 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 7, 2026**. *\*Date is subject to change without notice.*

**Overall**

1. Under Water Administration Program Goal #2, item 1, the Department has a goal of promoting or obtaining new certifications for 20 staff members in FY 2026. The FY 2026 Q2 Budget Implementation Report notes that five staff members have met this goal. (Page 819, Program Budget) (NUH)
  - a. Is the Department on track to meet this goal? If no, please explain why.
  - b. Please provide additional details on staff promotions or on those who have obtained new certifications. When staff members are promoted, does the Department have challenges with filling their former positions?

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2. Under Water Administration Program, Goal #3, item 1, what is the Department's timeline to approve the 100 meters on the Upcountry meter waitlist in FY 2027? If possible, please also provide a list of the additional water sources the Department is pursuing to achieve this goal. (Page 820, Program Budget) (YLS)
3. Under Water Administration Program Goal #3, item 2, it was noted to the BFED Committee last year that the Department's Engineering Division is crafting a reorganizational proposal to facilitate permit review by aligning permit review clerical positions with DPW-DSA positions. It was also noted that the Department's hydraulic model and a procedural shift in requiring consultants to prepare non-engineering documents would reduce cumbersome calculations and voluminous document preparation. What progress has been made to date? (Page 820, Program Budget) (TP)
4. Under Water Administration Program, Goal #4, item 1, how did the Department determine that four percent of the operations budget will be allocated for watershed protection and management? Is more funding needed for watershed protection and management? Please explain. (Page 820, Program Budget) (YLS)
5. Under Water Operations Program, Goal #2, item 2, which four well pumps and three booster pumps will be replaced in FY 2027? (Page 832, Program Budget) (SS)
6. Under Water Operations Program, Goal #3, items 1 and 2, what is the total lineal feet of mainline? If 30,000 lineal feet of mainline is to be inspected, what is the percentage out of the total lineal feet of mainline? What is the percentage of 55,000 lineal feet of mainline replaced out of the total lineal feet of mainline? (Page 832, Program Budget) (KB)
7. There appears to be an issue with the Department's billing system where water charges are based on estimated usage and a subsequent billing is later charged for actual usage. How is your Department addressing this issue? How has the public been notified of this practice? Is additional funding needed to Index Code 953083B-6110 Computer Services to implement fixes to your billing system? (Page 24-11, Budget Details) (YLS)

8. What current efforts have been made to reduce energy costs for the County's water system operations? What future efforts are planned? Has the Department determined that additional capital investment into alternative energy sources would or would not provide cost savings? Please explain. (KB)
9. Please provide the balances for the Restricted Water Fund (WR) and Unrestricted Water Fund (WU). Where are these balances found in the FY 2027 Budget? (Pages 1013 & 1014, Program Budget) (TP)

### **Salaries and Wages (Category "A")**

1. How does Executive Order 2025-02 provide authority for salary increases? (Pages 24-3, 24-5, 24-7, 24-23, 24-27, and 24-29, Budget Details) (TC)
2. Are the FY 2026 expansion positions ready to be posted for recruitment? Please explain. (Page 24-21, Budget Details) (TP)
3. Will the proposed FY 2027 expansion positions require a reorganization? Please explain why or why not. (Page 24-21, Budget Details) (TP)

### **Operations and Equipment (Category "B")**

1. For Index Code 953109B-6132 Professional Services, was the Water System Master Planning and Development Fee study completed? The BFED Committee was informed last year that the \$1,425,000 in funding would complete the master plan of two water systems based on the Maui Island Plan and Community Plans. Does your proposed budget for FY 2027 implement the study's recommendations? Please explain. (Page 823, Program Budget) (YLS)
2. For Index Code 953109B-6132 Professional Services, please elaborate on the "misc. engineering services" provided. (Page 24-13, Budget Details) (NUH)
3. For Index Code 953109B-6230 Registration/Training Fees, please provide information on the HWWA, ACE, PWC, and DBIA conferences. How does the Department benefit from staff participation? (Page 24-13, Budget Details) (NUH)

4. For Index Code 953164B-6317 County grant subsidy, please elaborate on the \$75,000 expansion request for expanded fire mitigation efforts. (Page 24-15, Budget Details) (NUH)
5. For Index Codes 953307B-6013 Water Meter Inventory and 953307B-6033 Meter Replacement Expenses, some residents have voiced dissatisfaction about the Department's meters and transponders not reading properly and resulting in high bills. Will the requests of \$1,710,000 and \$920,000, respectively, cover the costs of updating and replacing these meters and transponders? (Page 24-32, Budget Details) (NUH)
6. For Index Code 953471B-6235 Rentals, how many generators can be rented with \$390,000? Would it be more cost-efficient in the long-term to purchase generators instead of renting them? Please explain. (Page 24-34, Budget Details) (NUH)
7. For Index Code 953604B-6112 Contractual Service, please elaborate on what the Water Treatment Plant Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition—WTP SCADA—is in reference to the annual maintenance service contracts. (Page 24-35, Budget Details) (NUH)
8. For Index Code 953080B-6317 County grant subsidy, please provide additional details on the Nature Conservancy proposal. Was this project affected by the Kona Low storms? Please explain. (Page 24-15, Budget Details) (TP)
9. The FY 2027 Budget includes a \$500,000 grant to Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve. The project narrative states that "project management recently transitioned from Living Pono to Aloha Pu'u Kukui under the Maui Land & Pineapple Company." Please clarify if the grant should be listed under Aloha Pu'u Kukui or Pu'u Kukui Watershed Preserve. (Pages 825 & 827, Program Budget) (TP)

### **Capital Improvement Projects**

1. The following relate to CBS-9511 Acquisition of Maui Land and Pineapple Water System Assets: (Page 1022, Program Budget)

- a. Provide the anticipated annual cost to maintain and operate the Maui Land and Pineapple Water System Assets. (YLS)
  - b. The operating impact narrative states that the acquisition will require additional personnel, equipment, and additional electricity, fuel, and maintenance costs. However, the schedule of activities does not account for any operation and maintenance costs. Please explain. (YLS)
  - c. Does the Department intend on moving forward with the acquisition despite ongoing litigation between Maui Land & Pineapple Company, Inc. and TY Management Corporation? (NUH)
2. Please explain how the Department's proposed FY 2027 Budget implements the WUDP. Please list the WUDP goals or priorities that each CIP supports. (Page 1013, Program Budget) (SS)
3. The Kona Low storms resulted in power outages in East Maui for three days and even longer in other areas. For CBS-2299 Countywide Upgrades and Replacements, can funds be used to purchase an emergency generator for use during power outages so residents have access to drinking water? Please explain. (Page 1017, Program Budget) (SS)
4. For CBS-7885 Upcountry Reliable Capacity - Ha'ikū Aquifer Source & USGS Monitor Well, is it possible for an airborne electromagnetic survey to be funded under this CIP? Please explain why or why not. (Page 1026, Program Budget) (SS)
5. The following relate to CBS-6649 Central Maui Reliable Capacity: (Page 1027, Program Budget)
  - a. Should the South Maui Desalination Water Treatment Plant be designated under the Kīhei-Mākena District for location accuracy? Please explain. (SS)
  - b. Is the new transmission waterline integration from Ha'ikū to Central and Upcountry water systems planning to address the Upcountry meter waitlist? Or is this meant to provide water for South Maui? Please explain. (SS)

- c. Please cite the Community Plan policy components that support the desalination plant and the transmission waterline integration projects under CBS-6649. (SS)
  - d. The operating impact narrative states that “no impact is anticipated” but the total operating and maintenance costs are \$1.2 million. Please explain what these costs are for. (YLS)
6. The following relate to CBS-1092 West Maui Reliable Capacity: (Page 1029, Program Budget)
- a. CBS-1092 and CBS-6649 note desalination projects for West Maui and South Maui, respectively. The Department completed a Maui Desalination Feasibility Study dated September 2024.
    - i. Please provide a summary of the Department’s study. Please consider the following in your response: (SS)
      - 1. The total project costs, including the proposed operating costs and capital costs.
      - 2. Will this additional source be integrated into the County’s water system to serve as a public resource or will it serve more affluent communities?
      - 3. Does the West Maui Desalination Water Treatment Plant support increasing water resources? If yes, how?
    - ii. Is the feasibility study the full report? Has the full report been released to the public? Why or why not? (SS)
  - b. One anticipated project under this CIP is the Honokowai Valley-Source Tunnel Intake and Transmission line.

- i. Does this project intercept water earlier in the system instead of capturing water further downstream? What are the advantages and disadvantages of capturing the water further upstream? (SS)
    - ii. Has the Department conducted any studies to assess if the removal of upstream water affects groundwater recharge and brackish water conditions downstream? (SS)
  - e. The operating impact narrative states that “no impact is anticipated” but the total operating and maintenance costs for this CIP are \$1.2 million. Please explain what these costs are for. (YLS)
7. For CBS-7887 Upcountry Reliable Capacity and CBS-1098 Molokai Reliable Capacity, please explain why these CIPs have no operating impact. (Pages 1024 & 1025, Program Budget) (YLS)
8. The following relate to CBS-1075 Countywide Facility Improvements: (Page 1015, Program Budget) (TP)
  - a. Considering the recent rainfall, what are the current water levels at the County’s dams and reservoirs that meet the criteria for a “dam,” as set by the State Department of Land and Natural Resources Dam Safety Engineering Division?
  - b. Have these dams and reservoirs been inspected recently and are they in good condition? Please explain.
  - c. Have any of these projects been affected by Kona Low storms? If yes, please describe. Does the Department require any funding adjustments to account for this?
9. What CIPs, if any, need to be delayed or adjusted because of the Kona Low storms? (YLS)

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

1. There is \$11.5 million in the General Excise Tax Fund for the acquisition of private water systems and wells. Before the Administration acquires any private water system or well, does the Administration plan to submit legislation to the Council to authorize the acquisition? If yes, please further explain if an amendment is needed to Section 14.01.060, Maui County Code. (Page 52, Budget Bill) (TP)
2. In FY 2025, \$10 million was transferred from the GET Fund to the Water Fund for the acquisition of private water systems and wells. (YLS)
  - a. Did the Department expend the funds? If yes, how much has been spent or remains encumbered?
  - b. If no acquisitions were made, what happened to the funds? If it was transferred back to the GET Fund, please explain how and when the transfer occurred.

### **Appendix B**

1. The Department is proposing various water service rate increases and a five percent increase for monthly service fees across all meter sizes. How did the Department determine the rate changes proposed in Appendix B? Was it based on a study—such as the water system master planning and development fee study—or on the new equivalent single dwelling methodology? Please explain. (Page 53) (YLS)
2. Please explain the proposed flat rate for a single dwelling water system development fee. How often do customers obtain a 12-inch meter? (Page 65) (TP)

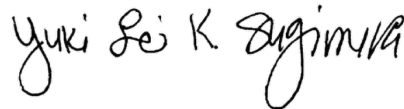
May I also request that you restate each question followed by your corresponding response. Include any attachments or exhibits. Please ensure your response is clear and legible by using a minimum 12-point font throughout so Committee members and the public can easily read the document once it is posted.

Mr. John Stufflebean  
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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, flowing style.

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

bfed:2027bgt:260330aws01:jpp

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

## BFED Committee

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**From:** BFED Committee  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 1, 2026 6:48 PM  
**To:** 'John Stufflebean'  
**Cc:** 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; 'Lesley Milner'; 'tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us';  
'kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us'; 'Shirley Blackburn'; 'Janina Agapay'; 'James Landgraf';  
'Linda Kimura'  
**Subject:** PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (WS-2)  
**Attachments:** 260330aws01 (WS-02).pdf