

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Councilmembers
Kauanoë Batangan
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



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

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

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

April 10, 2026

Ms. Rogerene "Kali" Arce, Director
Department of Agriculture
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Arce:

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI** (BFED-1) (AG-03)

Thank you for participating in the Council's Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee meeting of April 9, 2026. The Committee respectfully submits the follow-up questions below.

May I further request that you transmit your response to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by **4:30 p.m. on April 17, 2026**.

1. Which grantee received funding from the Department under the Molokai Feral Animal Control grant in FY 2026? Please advise. (KRF)
2. Relating to the Kula Agricultural Park Committee:
 - a. Please justify the Department's need for the P-00674 Secretary of Boards/Commissions I position for the Kula Agricultural Park Committee. (YLS)
 - b. How frequently has the Committee met over the past year? Please explain whether meetings were impacted by a lack of quorum and whether the Committee currently has quorum. (YLS)
 - c. Your Department noted working with the Department of the Corporation Counsel on changing the Director of Agriculture and the Maui County Councilmember board member

Ms. Rogerene Arce
April 10, 2026
Page 2

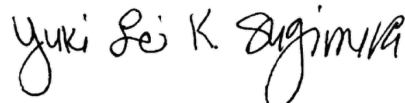
positions from voting to ex-officio members. Please clarify if this change will be made and the status of the proposed amendments to Section 22.04A.070, Maui County Code. (KRF)

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.

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:2027bgt:260409aag01:clm

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

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2026 6:50 PM
To: 'Rogerene Arce'
Cc: 'Zeke Kalua'; 'Lesley Milner'; 'tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us';
'kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us'; 'Shirley Blackburn'; 'Janina Agapay';
'koa.hewahewa@mauicounty.us'; 'Kahea Ueshiro'
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)
(AG-3)
Attachments: (AG-3) Correspondence to Agriculture 04-10-2026.pdf

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

ROGERENE K.M. ARCE
Director

KOA HEWAHEWA
Deputy Director



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

April 17, 2026

Lesley Milner
Budget Director, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

4-20-26
Mayor Date

Dear Ms. Sugimura:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (AG-03)'

Thank you for your letter dated March 22, 2026 regarding the above mentioned subject matter. Please see our responses below:

1. Which grantee received funding from the Department under the Molokai Feral Animal Control grant in FY 2026? Please advise. (KRF)
[Ka Ipu Makani Cultural Heritage Center](#)
2. Relating to the Kula Agricultural Park Committee:
 - a. Please justify the Department's need for the P-00674 Secretary of Boards/Commissions I position for the Kula Agricultural Park Committee. (YLS)

At the beginning of the term, the Department initially requested a Secretary III to assist the Deputy Director and the department with various clerical duties, however the Department of Personnel Services rejected that request and eventually allowed us to have a Secretary for Boards/Commissions I position. This position was requested not only to staff the Kula Ag Park Committee, but is also intended to staff two other boards/commissions that is our department's responsibility. With the amount of work and time that is put into staffing these committees, it was deemed necessary that a civil-servant

position solely manage these responsibilities, versus it being managed by the Director, Private Secretary, and Administrative Assistant.

- a. How frequently has the Committee met over the past year? Please explain whether meetings were impacted by a lack of quorum and whether the Committee currently has quorum. (YLS)
- 7/23/25: Cancelled until further notice (staffing shortage)
 - 5/21/25: Rescheduled (lack of quorum); note: was set-up and had attendees in DPS conference room
 - 3/31/25: Completed
 - 1/29/25: Cancelled (tech issues & did not meet posting deadline)
 - 8/12/24: Completed

Your Department noted working with the Department of the Corporation Counsel on changing the Director of Agriculture and the Maui County Councilmember board member positions from voting to ex-officio members. Please clarify if this change will be made and the status of the proposed amendments to Section 22.04A.070, Maui County Code. (KRF)

Yes, changes in the makeup of the committee membership will result in reducing the number of committee members from 11 with the Director of Agriculture and the Councilmember board member as voting members TO seven committee members with the Director of Agriculture and the Councilmember board member being non-voting ex officio board members. The proposed amendments of the committee membership makeup are currently with the Department of the Corporation Counsel for review and editing. The Department anticipated transmitting the proposed amendments to the County Council in the next month. The department will continue to work with Corp Counsel on further proposed amendments to clearly state that organic farming standard is for the Upper Maui Ag. Park (UMAP) or Kula Ag Park Phase II and does not apply to Kula Ag Park, Phase I.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at ext, 8278 or be email to rogerene.arce@co.maui.hi.us.

Sincerely,



Rogerene K. M. Arce

BFED Committee

From: Tiare P. Horner <tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 4:07 PM
To: BFED Committee; Rogerene Arce
Cc: Ezekiel I. Kalua; Lesley J. Milner; Kristina Angeline C. Cabbat; Shirley Blackburn; Janina E. Agapay; 'koa.hewahewa@mauicounty.us'; Kayla K. Ueshiro
Subject: RE: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (AG-3)
Attachments: (BFED-1) (AG-03).pdf

Aloha,

Please see attached correspondence.

Mahalo,

Tiare P. Horner
Budget Specialist
Phone: 808.270.7517

From: BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Sent: Saturday, April 11, 2026 18:50
To: Rogerene Arce <Rogerene.Arce@co.maui.hi.us>
Cc: Ezekiel I. Kalua <Zeke.Kalua@co.maui.hi.us>; Lesley J. Milner <Lesley.J.Milner@co.maui.hi.us>; Tiare P. Horner <tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us>; Kristina Angeline C. Cabbat <kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us>; Shirley Blackburn <shirley.blackburn@co.maui.hi.us>; Janina E. Agapay <Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us>; 'koa.hewahewa@mauicounty.us' <koa.hewahewa@mauicounty.us>; Kayla K. Ueshiro <kahea.ueshiro@co.maui.hi.us>
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (AG-3)