

# REQUEST FOR LEGAL SERVICES

**Date:** December 12, 2025  
**From:** Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

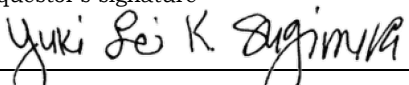
**TRANSMITTAL**

**Memo to:** DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL  
Attention: Thomas Kolbe, Esq.

**Subject:** BILL 92, CD1 (2025), AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR A JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE (BFED-4)

**Background Data:** Please submit your response to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us with a reference to BFED-4.

**Work Requested:** ☐ FOR APPROVAL AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY  
☒ OTHER: Legal Opinion.

Requestor's signature  Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair	Contact Person <u>Kirsten Szabo or Peter Hanano</u> (Telephone Extension: <u>7662 or 8007, respectively</u> )
---	---

☐ ROUTINE (WITHIN 15 WORKING DAYS) ☐ RUSH (WITHIN 5 WORKING DAYS)  
☒ PRIORITY (WITHIN 10 WORKING DAYS) ☐ URGENT (WITHIN 3 WORKING DAYS)

☐ SPECIFY DUE DATE (IF IMPOSED BY SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES): \_\_\_\_\_  
REASON: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR CORPORATION COUNSEL'S RESPONSE**

ASSIGNED TO:	ASSIGNMENT NO.	BY:
--------------	----------------	-----

TO REQUESTOR: ☐ APPROVED ☐ DISAPPROVED ☐ OTHER (SEE COMMENTS BELOW)  
☐ RETURNING--PLEASE EXPAND AND PROVIDE DETAILS REGARDING ITEMS AS NOTED

**COMMENTS (NOTE - THIS SECTION NOT TO BE USED FOR LEGAL ADVICE):** Based on the opinion there are no financial obligations contained in this agreement, please provide a written legal opinion to determine whether any provision of the Maui County Charter or Maui County Code requires the Council to approve, accept, or otherwise act on the proposed intergovernmental agreement contained in Bill 92, CD1 (2025), before the Administration executes it. If no such provision applies, the Administration may execute the intergovernmental agreement without any further Council action. Please cite controlling law where useful and state a clear conclusion.

DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
(Rev. 7/03)

bfed:ltr:004acc03:kes

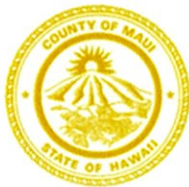
Attachment

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

**VICTORIA J. TAKAYESU**  
Corporation Counsel

**MIMI DESJARDINS**  
First Deputy

**LYDIA A. TODA**  
Risk Management Officer



DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET, 3<sup>RD</sup> FLOOR  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
EMAIL: CORPCOUN@MAUICOUNTY.GOV  
TELEPHONE: (808)270-7740

November 3, 2025

Yuki Lei Sugimura, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee  
Maui County Council  
Kalana O Maui Building  
200 South High Street, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Re: BFED-4 Relating to "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR A JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE."

Dear Chair Sugimura:

This letter responds to the following inquiries:

1. What constitutes a financial obligation under Chapter 2.20, Maui County Code; and
2. Does the proposed intergovernmental agreement between the County of Maui's Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a Joint Terrorism Task Force place any financial obligation on the County that would require Council authorization under Section 2.20.020, Maui County Code?

RESPONSE: Maui County Code 2.20.010.B defines "obligation" broadly:

Obligation means "any commitment, promise, or similar representation contained in an intergovernmental agreement that the county or any agency thereof will provide funds, documents, statistical data or any professional or technical service, or establish any rules, regulations, or other law within the county to any other governmental or quasi-governmental agency."

Yuki Lei Sugimura, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee  
Maui County Council  
November 3, 2025  
Page | 2

Maui County Code 2.20.020 requires passage of an ordinance if an intergovernmental agreement (“IGA”) places a ***financial*** obligation on the County:

“Unless authorized by ordinance, the mayor shall not enter into any intergovernmental agreement or any amendment thereto which places a financial obligation upon the county or any department or agency thereof.”

The Code does not specifically define “financial obligation”. Therefore, what constitutes a “financial obligation” must be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

I have reviewed the proposed IGA between the Maui Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a Joint Terrorism Task Force and have conferred with the Police Department regarding any financial obligations on the County. It is MPD and this office’s position that this IGA does not place any financial obligations on the County and therefore does not require Council authorization under Section 2.20.020, Maui County Code.

Please contact us if you have any further questions.

Sincerely yours,



---

THOMAS KOLBE  
Deputy Corporation Counsel

## BFED Committee

---

**From:** Thomas W. Kolbe <Thomas.Kolbe@co.maui.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, November 3, 2025 10:53 AM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Cc:** Melody A. Andrion; Peter A. Hanano; Kirsten E. Szabo  
**Subject:** BFED-4 Bill 92 Re JTTF IGA  
**Attachments:** 2025-11-03 Letter to Sugimura re JTTF IGA.PDF; 2025-11-03 BFED-4 2025-10-14 RFLS Re JTTF IGA.PDF

Please see attached letter.

## **BFED Committee**

---

**From:** BFED Committee  
**Sent:** Friday, December 12, 2025 11:24 PM  
**To:** 'CorpCounselRFLS@co.maui.hi.us'  
**Cc:** 'Thomas Kolbe'  
**Subject:** BILL 92, CD1 (2025), AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR A JOINT TERRORISM TASK FORCE (BFED-4)  
**Attachments:** Correspondence to Corporation Counsel 12-12-2025.pdf