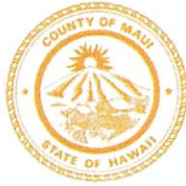


RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH NISHITA
Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
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REFERENCE NO. BD-BA 25-02

June 27, 2024

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

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

For Transmittal to:

6-27-24
Mayor Date

Honorable Alice L. Lee, Chair
and Members of the Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Lee and Members:

**SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET
(APPENDIX A, PART I, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICES)**

On behalf of the Department of Agriculture, I am transmitting a proposed bill entitled "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI, APPENDIX A, PART I, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICES."

The purpose of the proposed bill is to amend the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, Appendix A, Part I, Grants and Restricted Use Revenues – Schedule of Grants and Restricted Use Revenues by Departments and Programs for Fiscal Year 2025, to add a new appropriation for the Department of Agriculture entitled "United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service" in the amount of \$500,000 along with conditional language for 1.0 LTA equivalent personnel.

These grant funds will be used to support salary, fringe, and travel costs for a Maui Nui Natural Resource Liaison for three years. The liaison will serve four objectives:

- Assisting in the identification and mapping of critically imperiled areas and working with key partners to promote innovative land management solutions to help mitigate risks relating to future fires or natural disasters.
- Facilitating collaboration between communities, NRCS, state and local governments, producers, academia, historically underserved groups, and non-governmental organizations.
- Promoting balanced and responsible conservation, cultural and science-based positions relating to misconceptions and debates surrounding naturalized vs. invasive species. Coordinating with agricultural producers and essential partners, the liaison will create and review vegetation management plans at multiple scales and provide input on the best methods for managing and restoring productive vegetated landscapes in our dry lowland ecosystems.
- Promoting public engagement through outreach and conversations about naturalized species versus invasive species while also providing a platform for cultural and science-based positions relating to misconceptions. Promoting vegetation and restoration management strategies to the public, and target landowners of both managed and unmanaged working lands. Promoting Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm Bill programs, and practices related to climate resilience and the Inflation Reduction Act.

These grant funds have a cost share requirement which will be met through an in-kind contribution of a portion of the Director and Deputy Director of Agriculture's time in working with the Liaison on these objectives. No additional funding is needed for the cost share.

Thank you for your attention in this matter. Should you have any questions, please contact me at ext. 8239.

Sincerely,



LESLEY MILNER
Budget Director

Attachment

cc: Kali Arce, Director of Agriculture