

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-09-12 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 09-12-23 09:00

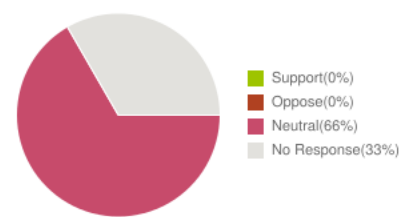
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-09-12 9:00 AM	09-12-23 09:00	2	6	0	0	4

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment

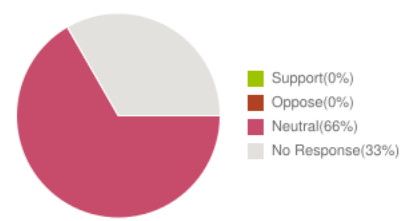


Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	2	0	0	1
BFED-21(8) ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AFTER MAUI WILDFIRES (BFED-21(8))	4	0	0	3

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

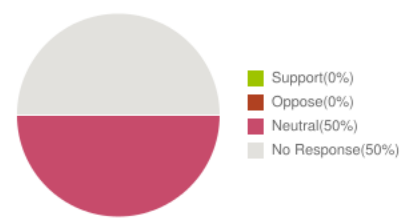
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 5:12pm 09-11-23

RECONSTRUCTION OF COMMERCIAL PROJECTS: For structures that will not be allowed to rebuild, due to changes in government regulations and which may be subject to condemnation, offer relocation sites along Canal Street. Widen Canal Street to suitable standards for such.

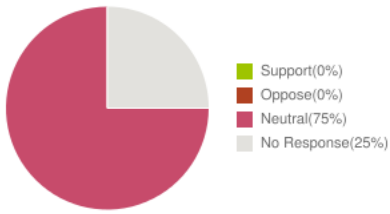
This assumes of course, that the Kamehameha III school is not rebuilt in its present location. The balance of the school site could become a beach park.

Susan Pcola-Davis

Location:
Submitted At: 3:54pm 09-11-23

Submitting testimony for todays meeting

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:31pm 09-12-23

Guest User at September 12, 2023 at 11:54am HSTNeutral

Aloha Chair Sugimura and BFED Committee Members and Everyone,

This is me, Tammy Harp. I want to pull a Yuki Lei Sugimura by nominating myself, Tammy Harp, to an Honorary Seat on Governor Green's Economic Recovery Commission headed by DEBT in regards to the economic future of the Lahaina District. My purpose is to at least be a part of the kuleana to kako'o a little girl's promise to take care the people of Lahaina. Yes, physically I am not residing in Lahaina but my metaphysical umbilicus is still attached to Lahaina/Puukolii/Honokowai through DHHL Maui Ag Wait List (make' list). Besides, like my dad once said to me, Tammy, working on it is not the same as doing it.

Mahalo for your time and consideration for this self-nominating honorary seat with the Economic Recovery Commission. Tammy Harp

p.s. Apologies, Chair Sugimura, didn't mean to pick on you. *aia my ecomment was posted in the GREAT Committee.

Susan Pcola-Davis

Location:

Submitted At: 8:37am 09-12-23

Considerations for NOW to accomplish to understand revitalization .

Jonathan Helton

Location:

Submitted At: 1:50pm 09-11-23

Attached, mahalo

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:33am 09-09-23

If there are no extenuating circumstances (CZM issues etc) the permitting of structures, which have contemporary plans and permits, should be streamlined. The bidding and reconstruction of the structures could occur while infrastructure is being revamped. This will ensure that businesses can reopen as quickly as possible. The understanding would be that the new construction would not be granted a Certificate of Occupancy until applicable infrastructure is completed.

USE THE PROFESSIONALS. Because of the massive amount of reconstruction on the horizon, I suggest using the 'Plan Review Waiver', whereby architects and engineers can attest to the compliance of plans for permitting purposes. Perhaps parameters that do not allow changes in use or square footage could be applied.

UNEMPLOYMENT

FILING CLAIMS

[Unemployment Insurance | UI Claims Maui \(hawaii.gov\)](https://hawaii.gov/unemployment/)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Please be advised that your eligibility for UI benefits will be determined first.**
- If you worked for Uber, Lyft, DoorDash, Instacart, or similar Web Platforms, Hawaii UI considers you to be an employee of these companies and **you may qualify for regular UI benefits.**
- Additionally, officers/owners of a corporation or Limited Liability Company (LLC) taxed as a corporation and received payment or are entitled to receive payments are also considered to be employees and **may be eligible for regular UI benefits.**
- If you have questions or require assistance, please call (833) 901-2272 or (808) 762-5751.

So far one of the hoops to jump through, you have to file for "regular UI benefits" and get denied before you can file for Disaster Unemployment (Just like PUA during COVID filings)

HOW DO I APPLY FOR UNEMPLOYMENT

Eligibility

Work Search and Work Registration for Maui County Residents

- For Maui County Residents affected by the fires, **you are not required to register or search for work.**

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

- Disaster Unemployment Assistance is available to **workers, business owners, and self-employed individuals who were working or living in Maui County at the time of the fires and became unemployed or had their work hours reduced or interrupted because of the disaster and**

do not qualify for regular unemployment insurance.

Apply

- To apply for DUA benefits, you will submit an application through the regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits system.
- Go to "Claimant Services" and log in to your UI account.
- If you have not previously filed for UI benefits, you will need to create an account first.
- Once logged in, select "File an Initial Claim" and follow the prompts to submit an application.
- DUA applications must be submitted **no later than September 25, 2023.**
- **Applications submitted after this deadline will be considered untimely and DUA benefits may be denied unless there is good cause for the late filing.**

PROOF OF IDENTIFICATION

- The Hawaii Unemployment Insurance Division, in partnership with the U.S Department of Labor and U.S. Postal Service have launched two new methods to provide ID verification – **Login.gov and USPS in person proofing.**
- Claimants filing for UI benefits on or after August 24, 2023 **must provide proof of ID through one of these methods to continue their claim for UI benefits.** Claimants can select a method of ID proofing through their initial claim confirmation page or through their claimant dashboard.
- If you have questions, call (833) 901-2272 or (808) 762-5751.

DLIR Launches Hawaii Unemployment Info Website

- The Department of Labor & Industrial Relations has launched a new website to provide answers to frequently asked questions, to share information alerts and to provide other resources related to Hawaii unemployment.
- The website, <https://hawaiiunemploymentinfo.com>, will be updated regularly to address common concerns and to notify claimants of potential scams and fraud protection measures.

Maui City Council

COMMITTEES

Budget, Finance, Economic 9/12/23 9:00

Land Use 9/13/2023

Disaster, Resilience, Planning 9/14/2023

Council Meeting 9/15/2023

WATER QUALITY LABORATORY INFORMATION ISSUES!!

- The Department of Water Supply will be continually sampling **the water distribution system** in Upper Kula and Lahaina in addition to its regulatory compliance requirements.
- **It has always been the Water Quality Laboratory's policy not to test water from private homes with the exception of lead and copper testing.**
- **If customers would like to have their water tested they can call the following laboratories:**
 - Aecos Laboratory (808) 234-7770 FoodQuality Labs (808) 839-9444
- **Both laboratories are located on Oahu. *When requesting testing, they should ask for the regulatory VOC test panel.* Or customers can view a full list of laboratories at the link provided.**

Addressing the current Water Contamination

- The latest testing included water samples taken from **inside numerous fire hydrants**.
- Results showed the presence of lead attributed to water in those fire hydrants.
- Water pressure within the distribution system prevents the lead from migrating back into the system or reaching customers' homes and businesses.

- In an abundance of caution, the **Department of Water Supply** is **flushing the fire hydrants to remove the contaminant** and is conducting an additional round of testing to verify that the distribution system is free of lead and the water is safe to drink.
- **WHAT IS FLUSHING?** OPENING THE FIRE HYDRANTS AND USING HIGH PRESSURE AND HIGH VELOCITY.
- **WHERE WILL THAT WATER GO?**

WATER ADVISORY

- County of Maui Department of Water Supply are advising residents of the affected area to not use the tap water for drinking and cooking until further notice.

Why Ventilation: Possible vapors that will cause respiratory issues

Why limit use of skin exposure: Possible rashes, itchiness, hives

- Limit use of hot water
- Limit shower time/bathing (use lukewarm water and ventilate area)
- Use a dishwasher to wash dishes and use air dry setting
- Wash clothing in cold water
- Avoid using clothes dryers (dry laundry outdoors) - possible vapors
- Do not take baths
- Do not use hot tubs or swimming pools
- Do not use ice from automatic ice makers
- Use proper ventilation when using water indoors

POTABLE WATER LOCATIONS as of 9/7/2023

Please bring a clean water container (5 gallons maximum capacity).

UPPER KULA

- Crater Road
- Copp Road
- Kula School near Cafeteria
- Kula Community Center
- Kula Lodge
- Rice Park
- Ching Store
- Ulupalakua Ranch Store

LAHAINA

- Kahoma Village at Front Street entrance
- Lahaina Gateway Shopping Center
- Honokokau Valley
- Lahaina Baseyard parking area
- Vicinity of Kapunakea and Nahale streets intersection

DO NOT DRINK-DO NOT BOIL YOUR WATER

Failure to follow this advisory could result in illness.

What should I do?

- DO NOT DRINK YOUR TAP WATER – USE ONLY BOTTLED WATER. Bottled water should be used for all drinking (including baby formula and juice), brushing teeth, and making ice and food preparation until further notice.
- DO NOT TRY AND TREAT THE WATER YOURSELF. Boiling, freezing, filtering, adding chlorine or other disinfectants, or letting water stand will not make the water safe.

- Please share this information with all other people who receive this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (ex. People in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). This can be done by posting in a public place or distributing copies by hand

WHO'S JOB IS THIS?
WHY HASNT BEEN DONE
ALREADY?



Sept. 12, 2023

9 a.m.

Maui County Council Chamber

To: Maui County Council, Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee

Yuki Lei Sugimura, Chair

Tasha Kama, Vice Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

Joe Kent, Executive Vice President

RE: ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AFTER MAUI WILDFIRES (BFED-21(8))

Comments Only

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on what the county can do to revitalize Maui's economy in the wake of the deadly Aug. 8 wildfires.

The Institute grieves with Maui residents at the loss of life, property and heritage in the Lahaina fires. Under these circumstances, the challenges associated with rebuilding Maui's economy can seem overwhelming; however, if we approach financial recovery with a sense of respect for those impacted by this tragedy, we could mitigate the economic damage it has caused and help start a healthy rebuilding process.

First and foremost, as a general principle, the County should respect the rights of Lahaina residents who lost loved ones, homes and businesses in the fires. Those who owned land or buildings in Lahaina should not be forced to give up their property rights to the county or anyone else.

That said, there are several policies the county can advance to preserve the rights of Lahaina residents.

Submitted by Jonathan Helton

Because many of the buildings in Lahaina Town were constructed decades ago, before modern building codes and zoning ordinances were established, they were considered “nonconforming uses.” As a result, many buildings did not meet minimum parking requirements, mandatory setbacks or other zoning-related standards.

The Council should pass legislation allowing those property owners the right to rebuild their land with whatever exemptions or waivers their previous building had in place. This would give them the option to rebuild in a form and style that would be similar to the old Lahaina Town, if they so choose to rebuild in that way.

Next, with an eye toward rebuilding, the Council should amend Maui County Code, Chapter 16.26B.105, Section 105.2.1, “Emergency reconstruction of dwellings and accessory structures.” This section of the county code sets out a process by which those whose properties have been damaged by a natural disaster can obtain building permits in an expedited fashion.

The amendment should specify that structures that were destroyed — not simply “damaged,” as the statute currently reads — are allowed to obtain permits as that section of the code prescribes. It should also mandate that permit fees be waived for such reconstruction.

The Council should also borrow a line from Hawaii County’s code, indicating that “Emergency work may commence... without a permit. However, the applicant shall notify the authority having jurisdiction of such emergency work on the workday immediately following the day the emergency work is commenced. This notification shall be made in writing.”

Hawaii County’s code further provides that “An application for a permit for the emergency work shall be filed with and appropriate fees... paid to the authority having jurisdiction within fourteen days of the commencement of the emergency work.”¹

These changes would assist Lahaina residents in rebuilding quickly and with lower total costs — whenever such rebuilding is allowed to take place, of course.

These suggestions mirror the 2014 Hawaii Natural Disaster Economic Recovery Strategy, which advocated the creation of a “‘Build it Back Better’ program for the urban commercial areas to aid in swift recovery and improved vitality and resilience following a disaster.

¹ Hawaii County Code, [Chapter 5. Construction Administrative Code, Article 3, Section 5-3-25. Emergency work.](#), accessed Sept. 8, 2023.

“The legislation could authorize the Departments of Planning and Public Works in each County to establish a rapid repair permit system with expedited processing for repairing and rebuilding structures after a natural disaster.”²

Since Maui has such a “rapid repair permit system” in place, state legislation is unnecessary, but the Council would do well to expand the applicability of its emergency permit rules.

In order to boost the supply of available housing in the short term, the Council should also temporarily waive parking requirements and sewer and water connection fees for accessory dwelling units constructed to house displaced Lahaina residents. A number of businesses already offer prefabricated ADUs, which could be installed with minimal effort.

Boosting the stock of ADUs could be essential for housing Lahaina residents in the short and medium term, but also in the long term, since the county has identified ADUs as one method of combating its housing shortage.

Furthermore, to assist economic recovery, the Council should immediately create an “Economic recovery board” tasked with gathering community and business input regarding which state and county regulations impede economic diversification and business expansion and the hiring, training and retention of new employees.

The Council should also explore the possibility of designating Lahaina as an Enterprise Zone. Such a designation could reduce tax liabilities for any businesses rebuilding or starting up in Lahaina once it begins to recover.

Looking ahead, the Council should consider broader reforms to its zoning code. The wildfires did not erase Maui’s housing crisis — they only made it worse, underscoring the need for new housing and new rules for providing such housing.

At the least, the Council should remove parking minimums, allow houses to be built on smaller lots and expand the supply of land on which duplexes and apartments can legally be constructed. We look forward to future dialogue on these issues.

² “[Natural Disaster Economic Recovery Strategy](#),” Prepared by SSFM International, Inc. for the Office of Planning in the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism, December 2014, p. 64.

Beyond specific policies, it is paramount the Council do one thing: Respect Lahaina residents, their concerns and their rights. Any top-down models for rebuilding Lahaina should be rejected; instead, the community should simply be empowered to naturally reconstruct its home.

The Institute thanks the Committee for holding this hearing. Please let us know if we can be of assistance in any way.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Joe Kent
Executive Vice President
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii