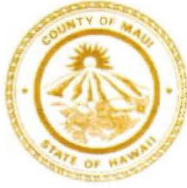


**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**JOSIAH NISHITA**  
Acting Managing Director

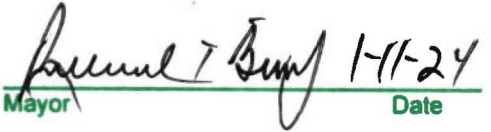


**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

January 11, 2024

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

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
and Members of the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Sugimura:

**SUBJECT: BILL 136 (2023), AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET: OFFICE OF THE MAYOR (ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM); AND EAST MAUI WATER AUTHORITY (BFED-63)**

Pursuant to your correspondence dated January 3, 2024, the following are responses to your questions.

1. Please explain the basis for recognizing the East Maui Water Authority as a separate department from the Office of the Mayor. Under this rationale, if other water authorities are created, would they also be recognized as separate departments?

*Response: The Administration reviewed the Council discussions related to the Charter amendment for the East Maui Water Authority ("EMWA") as well as documentation submitted to the Salary Commission and the salary set for the Director. It was determined that in order for the EMWA to operate as "an independent County of Maui agency responsible for the acquisition and management of the State of Hawaii water licenses for the collection and delivery system and any other systems acquired in the region" (memo from Councilmember Sinenci to the Salary Commission dated August 8, 2023), it should exist as a separate Department. As the EMWA was the only entity established in the Charter amendment, that was the name used for the Department. If additional water authorities are created in the future, the*

*Administration will determine if they should be independent departments or exist under the current water authority department.*

2a. Please provide the position titles for the 3.0 equivalent personnel and indicate whether the positions are appointed or civil service.

*Response: The positions are as follows:*

- *Director – not civil service*
- *Administrative Assistant II – civil service, SR-20C, BU3*
- *Grant Coordinator – civil service, SR-24H, BU13*

2b. Further, has the Salary Commission established the salary for the Director of the East Maui Water Authority? If so, what is the salary?

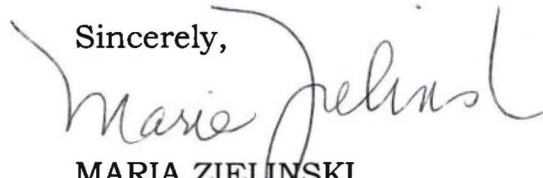
*Response: Yes, the salary commission established the salary for the Director at \$149,000.*

3. Please explain why no funding is being transferred for Category B -Operations & Equipment.

*Response: While \$20,000 in funding was included in the Fiscal Year ("FY") 2024 Budget for Category B – Operations & Equipment for the EMWA, no expenditures have been made as personnel have not been hired. Funding for the three positions was included for ten months in the FY 2024 Budget which will not be fully expended. If funding is needed for Operations or Equipment in the current FY, the Administration will submit a resolution requesting to move the funds under the EMWA from Category A to Category B. Should additional funding be necessary, the \$20,000 will be reallocated from Office of the Mayor. If these funds are not needed by the EMWA, they will not be expended by the Office of the Mayor.*

Should you have any questions, please contact me at ext. 7212 or Lesley Milner at ext. 8239.

Sincerely,



MARIA ZIELINSKI  
Budget Director

## BFED Committee

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**From:** Lesley Milner <Lesley.J.Milner@co.maui.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2024 2:22 PM  
**To:** Maria Zielinski; BFED Committee  
**Cc:** Michelle Santos; Zeke Kalua  
**Subject:** Re: please read re: BILL 136 (2023), AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET: OFFICE OF THE MAYOR (ADMINISTRATION PROGRAM); AND EAST MAUI WATER AUTHORITY (BFED-63). . .  
**Attachments:** Bill 136 (2023) - BFED-63.pdf

Aloha,  
Please see the attached response. Thank you!  
-Lesley

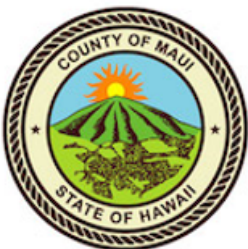
Lesley Milner  
Budget Specialist  
County of Maui  
200 S. High Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
808-270-8239

>>> BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us> 1/4/2024 11:09 AM >>>

**Ms. Zielinski:** Please refer to the attached letter from the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development (BFED) Committee Chair, dated January 3, 2024, and respond by **01/12/2024**.

**Mayor's Office (attention: Michelle Santos and Zeke Kalua):** Please forward the attached letter to Mayor Bissen for his information.

Thank you,



**Yvette Bouthillier**  
Senior Committee Secretary  
County of Maui | Office of Council Services  
Email: [Yvette.Bouthillier@mauicounty.us](mailto:Yvette.Bouthillier@mauicounty.us)  
Office: (808) 270-7758