

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-11 6:00 PM

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All Agenda Items A G E N D A BFED-1 Bill 60 (2024) PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025... All User Locations

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Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
Guest User	<p>Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Maja Szpunar and I am part of the King Kekaulike High School graduating class of 2023. I am currently a freshman at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a recipient of the 2023 Susan Scofield and Debbie Hisashima Memorial Scholarships by the Kekaulike High School Foundation.</p> <p>I am testifying in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation's Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.</p> <p>The inaugural Upcountry Winter Fest took place in November 2023. The festival included a craft fair, holiday display, food trucks and booths, non-profit information booths, keiki games, and entertainment - not to mention that Santa and Mrs. Claus graced us with their presence!</p>	Support		04-11-2024 09:58 am

Name Comment Position Attachments At

Here are a few stats from 2023: 55 - Small businesses/vendors participated 9 - Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations participated from 4 of the 7 schools within the complex 60 - Volunteers came from the Upcountry community to make this festival successful 9 - Non-profit organizations provided information to festival goers on their mission and impact on the community 1,096 - Attendees were counted!!! For the 9 Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations that participated at the food booths and keiki games, they were able to generate almost \$7,000 in sales. These clubs and organizations range from Kaiapuni Class of 2024 to Pukalani Elementary School Robotics to Na Ali'i Boys Soccer. Of the other 55 vendors and small businesses this festival supported, based on our after-festival survey, the vendors were very pleased and are looking forward to coming back this year.

The Kekaulike High School Foundation aims to support the ENTIRE Kekaulike complex, through scholarships for students and grants for teachers. In 2022, their initial year of supporting the community, they have facilitated providing \$8,500 in scholarships to seniors pursuing higher education and \$1,000 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers. This increased in 2023 to \$9,700 in scholarships, with \$500 of that total coming directly from funds the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to raise, and \$250 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers.

Because of the success of the 2023 Upcountry Winter Festival, the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to allocate \$1,000 in scholarships and \$1,500 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers for this year. This event also serves as the Kekaulike High School Foundation's main fundraiser for the year.

Personally, the KKHS foundation has vitally impacted my higher education. As with many students, scholarships and grants are what determine how far we can take our education journeys. As someone who has always wanted to attend university, the stress of the cost of attendance was nerve racking. The KKHS Foundation scholarships I received therefore allowed me to begin my education goals. Scholarships such as those provided by the Foundation can give many students hope to attend the schools of their choice.

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
	<p>Encouraging the next generation to pursue their college and trade goals is important to the futures and successes of the students of Hawai'i. My KKHS Foundation scholarships helped me to start my journey at UH Mānoa, with goals to give back to my community in the future. I hope that one day I can provide to the KKHS foundation through donations, to support other students such as myself, as the foundation once did for me. Because I understand the importance and security this scholarship has provided to myself and fellow classmates.</p> <p>Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation and Upcountry Winter Festival 2025. Have an amazing day.</p> <p>Maja Szpunar majamonkeybrains2@gmail.com</p>			

Guest User	<p>Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Teisha Nishimitsu and I am an Alumnus of King Kekaulike High School, and currently a sophomore attending Stanford University.</p> <p>I am testifying in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation's Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.</p> <p>The inaugural Upcountry Winter Fest took place in November 2023. The festival included a craft fair, holiday display, food trucks and booths, non-profit information booths, keiki games, and entertainment - not to mention that Santa and Mrs. Claus graced us with their presence!</p> <p>Here are a few stats from 2023:</p> <div data-bbox="350 1514 1089 1976" style="background-color: #f0f0f0; padding: 10px;"> <p>55 - Small businesses/vendors participated</p> <p>9 - Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations participated from 4 of the 7 schools within the complex</p> <p>60 - Volunteers came from the Upcountry community to make this festival successful</p> </div>	Support		04-11-2024 07:54 am
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Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
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9 - Non-profit organizations provided information to festival goers on their mission and impact on the community

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Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation and Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.

Teisha Nishimitsu teisha.nish@gmail.com 808 - 757 - 6529

Guest User	<p>TESTIMONY FROM LINDA PUPPOLO Testifier's name</p> <p>RE: Testimony in Support of Maui AIDS Foundation's grants from the COUNTY OF MAUI Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr. 's Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2025</p>	Support	<p>04-10-2024 04:40 pm</p>
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Name

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Position Attachments At

Aloha Council Members Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, Sugimura, Kama, Johnson, Paltin, Cook, and U'u-Hodgins, Maui AIDS Foundation, (MAF), is a nonprofit health and social service organization serving the residents of Maui County for over 37 years. The basic goals of the Maui AIDS Foundation's Treatment Core Services programs are to minimize/eliminate HIV/HCV/STIs through testing, education, and to extend a linkage to medical care. MAF also provides Harm Reduction services including Narcan training/distribution and Syringe Exchange services and access to our food pantry. Our organization requested \$172,000 in core service grant funding, \$119,000 for Free Clinic Expansion, and \$70,000 to increase prevention and harm reduction education services. Thank you so much to Mayor's Administration for awarding us have \$140,000 by DHHS. This is the same amount awarded in the last 2-year contract. The need for these services has expanded because of the Maui Wildfire disaster; but the funding is exactly the same in an environment that makes fundraising almost impossible competing against businesses and displaced residents for those finite dollars. MAF understands that the funding is tight right now but Free Clinics unburden public resources at a rate of \$34 per \$1 invested. We are asking this Council to invest wisely in our organization which will prevent long-term increases in health care treatment, opioid overdose, and food insecurity for houseless residents.

Untreated infections can raise a person's risk of cancer in different ways. For example:

- Some viruses directly affect the genes inside cells that control their growth.
- These viruses can insert their own genes into the cell, causing the cell to grow out of control.
- Some infections can cause long-term inflammation in a part of the body which can lead to changes in the affected cells and in nearby immune cells, and can eventually lead to cancer.
- Some types of infections can suppress a person's immune system and the immune system normally helps protect the body from some cancers.

Any of these changes may lead to a higher risk of cancer. Several of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) create viruses that are linked with cancer in humans. Our growing knowledge of the role of viruses as a cause of cancer has led

Name

Comment

Position Attachments At

to the development of vaccines to help prevent certain human cancers and prevention education is crucial to avoiding transmission and making the crucial decision to vaccinate. Human papillomaviruses (HPVs), Hepatitis B virus (HBV) and hepatitis C virus (HCV), Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), and Human herpes virus 8 (HHV-8) are examples of viruses that are linked to the development of cancer.

Many STIs can be cured or treated with medication, the consequences of untreated STIs can include infertility, pregnancy complications, cervical cancer, pelvic inflammatory disease, birth defects, death, and an increase in HIV/STI transmission in the community. STIs are a state-wide concern with Hawaii ranking very high in congenital syphilis, primary and secondary syphilis, and chlamydia.

MAF assists those incarcerated, those living with Hepatitis and other STIs, people living with HIV, those suffering with substance use issues, LGBTQIA+ and Mahu populations, women and youth at-risk, Native Hawaiian communities, and those with mental illness disorders by offering a wide-range of linkage to care that provides treatment, case management, insurance enrollment, housing and utility subsidies, food pantry, testing, treatment, case management, LGBTQIA+ support groups, prevention and harm reduction education, Narcan Training and distribution, Pride Events, and so much more.

MAF is requesting expanded grant funding to assist the agency with the following objectives:

- Expansion of MAF's free clinic services to offset the increases in Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI); especially since the Maui Wildfires in August of 2023.
- Expansion of MAF's prevention and harm reduction education to set a path toward elimination of HIV, Hepatitis, and other Sexually Transmitted Infections and in effort to reduce stigma.
- Increase efforts in harm reduction by the training and distribution of Narcan to assist Maui County residents with the ability to administer life-saving opioid overdose treatment
- Expand capacity to enable staff to begin some vaccination services by hiring an RN or LPN to support our one Provider, Dr. Bryan Chin.

Name	Comment	Position Attachments At	Submitted
	<p>MAF has always actively pursued a combination of funding mechanisms including Federal, State, and Private Foundation funding. Since the Maui Wildfires, it is not possible to compete against wildfire disaster efforts by fundraising. This expanded County funding would provide MAF resources to provide the services that Maui County desperately needs at this time.</p> <p>Mahalo for consideration of increasing the funding for our County Grant Proposals. The goal is to eliminate STIs and Opioid overdose. The spread of STIs and Opioid overdose affect everyone in Maui County. We can affect this outcome with your help.</p> <p>STOP THE SPREAD!</p> <p>Linda Puppolo, Executive Director Maui AIDS Foundation 1935 Main Street, #101 Wailuku, Hawaii 96793 linda@mauiaids.org 808-283-8390 www.mauiaids.org</p>		
<p>Roan Reinecke</p>	<p>Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Roan Reinecke and I am testifying in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation’s Upcountry Winter Festival 2025. The inaugural Upcountry Winter Fest took place in November 2023. The festival included a craft fair, holiday display, food trucks and booths, non-profit information booths, keiki games, and entertainment - not to mention that Santa and Mrs. Claus graced us with their presence.</p> <p>Here are a few stats from 2023:</p> <p>55 Small businesses/vendors participated</p> <p>9 Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations participated from 4 of the 7 schools within the complex</p> <p>60 Volunteers came from the Upcountry community to make this festival successful</p> <p>9 Non-profit organizations provided information to festival goers on their mission and impact on the community</p> <p>1,096 Attendees were counted!!!</p>		<p>04-10-2024 02:33 pm</p>

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The King Kekaulike high school foundation gave me a \$2,750 scholarship that helped me transition from highschool to college. I had unexpectedly lost my dad in March of my senior year which significantly altered my plans for college. It was extremely emotionally difficult. The scholarship gave me the funds for my first semester of College here at UHMC. It was recognition and support of me as a student and would have made my dad very proud of me. This scholarship helped set me up for success as I am set to receive my Associates Degree in Liberal Arts and am transferring to UH Manoa in the fall. The Kekaulike High School Foundation is a source of support and encouragement for me as well as other students in the Kekaulike Community.

BFED
Committee

Testimonies received from BFED Committee.

[Attachment](#)

04-18-
2024
10:23 am

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
Guest User	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing to the BFED Committee to urge it to appropriate funding for the Lanai Cat Sanctuary. I understand that there is huge pressure to allocate funding to the areas on Maui that were destroyed by the fire last year. However, there is great pressure on the wildlife on Lanai. Predatory feral cats on Lanai cause great harm to small animals and birds. The cat sanctuary helps to control this by the spay/neutering program for stray cats on the island. This is essential in controlling the population of feral cats.</p> <p>As a side note, the cat sanctuary is also a tourist attraction, of which there are few on Lanai. I have visited the cat sanctuary, twice on the same day, as it was such a fantastic experience. The cat sanctuary has also rescued many cats that became “strays” after the fire that destroyed much of Lahaina. These cats would have become feral and impacted the wildlife on Maui if not rescued.</p> <p>I urge the BFED Committee to appropriate funding for the Lanai Cat Sanctuary.</p> <p>Thank You, Bruce Howard 425-802-3826</p>	Support		04-11-2024 06:10 am
Roan Reinecke	<p>Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Roan Reinecke and I am testifying in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation’s Upcountry Winter Festival 2025. The inaugural Upcountry Winter Fest took place in November 2023. The festival included a craft fair, holiday display, food trucks and booths, non-profit information booths, keiki games, and entertainment - not to mention that Santa and Mrs. Claus graced us with their presence.</p> <p>Here are a few stats from 2023:</p> <p>55 Small businesses/vendors participated</p> <p>9 Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations participated from 4 of the 7 schools within the complex</p> <p>60 Volunteers came from the Upcountry community to make this festival successful</p>			04-10-2024 03:07 pm

Name Comment Position Attachments At

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Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
Guest User	<p>Aloha from Lanai! My name is Olivia Pascual and I am in support of the Maui Economic Development Board's grant. I am a mother of 3 girls, two of which have taken advantage of the great opportunities from MEDB. My oldest is now a senior in high school, graduating next month. My second child is an 8th grader. My youngest is just 6 years old, but I look forward to having my youngest get involved with future MEDB events. My older 2 children have greatly benefited from MEDB and their past events. I feel that their passion in STEM is a big influence from MEDBs camps and events they have attended in the past. I strongly urge you to support their mission and vision to continue to provide learning opportunities for the youth. Afterall, they are OUR FUTURE.</p> <p>I am from the island of Lanai and I can personally tell you that MEDB has provided fun and educational opportunities to our Lanai students. As you may know, living on the island Lanai poses a challenge for our youth in which resources and opportunities may often be limited due to our location. Travel and financial matters are often a barrier to organizations coming over to Lanai and providing learning opportunities for our students. MEDB has been a vital part of our student's learning process. This organization has dedicated so much of their time and energy into promoting growth and professionalism in our youth. Our Lanai kids included!</p> <p>Last year, my daughter and a friend were able to attend the 3-day Summer Camp for girls. Everyday, these kids came home from their activity and talked about the new friends and connections they've made. They also talked about their travels and fun activities they learned from their teachers. Communication skills and networking are developed through these programs.</p> <p>For Lanai residents, our means of transportation is either via ferry or the plane ride. Both means of transportation can be costly and also time consuming for travelers. With MEDBs funding, the youth of Lanai, along with their chaperones have been sponsored so that they are included in these Maui events. I am tearful as I am typing this testimony because I have seen the wonderful blessings and opportunities it has provided not only to my daughters but also to other youth on Lanai.</p>	Support		04-09-2024 09:15 pm

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
	<p>I strongly believe that every youth has a potential to do something great. But greatness also requires guidance and development from those who are successful in their field of work. This is what MEDB offers to our children—guidance, education, and development of our children. Please consider AND APPROVE Maui Economic Development Board’s grant.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>Olivia Pascual</p>			
Guest User	<p>Testimony in support of Maui Economic Development Board’s Economic Development Grant</p> <p>Aloha BEFD Committee,</p> <p>My name is Carrie DeMott and I am enthusiastically in support of the Maui Economic Development Board’s grant programs. Through the years I, as a teacher, have benefited from programs designed for educators to enhance their skills and now, my 6th grade son is fully engaged in STEMWorks programs at Lokelani, one incredibly valuable program for our keiki.</p> <p>My son has struggled in school, from the time he was quite young. Finding an adult mentor and classes of interest have been challenging to say the least. As he prepared for middle school, I worried. Fortunately, Lokelani has an amazing after school STEMWorks program, which he looks forward to every day. My child is excited about what he is learning and looks up to the talented teachers/coaches that run these programs.</p> <p>Having opportunities for middle school students, with passionate educators and mentors, is vital for our kids. At this age they are in desperate need for positive role models who take an interest in who they are. They are searching for connections and need to find things they are excited about learning and doing. Without these opportunities, our kids will become apathetic about learning and look elsewhere for outside connections. We all know what that can lead to.</p> <p>Please continue to fund these worthwhile programs. For kids like my son, who don’t find a lot of purpose or connection with traditional academics, it is just so incredibly important.</p>	Support		04-09-2024 08:56 pm

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
	<p>Our public school students deserve these opportunities and the payoff to our community, having young people who are passionate and who have found purpose in STEM, will be exponential! We cannot afford not to support programs like this.</p> <p>Mahalo for your time and continued support,</p> <p>Carrie DeMott Parent & Teacher 808-344-5164 cdemott@napueo.k12.hi.us</p>			
Guest User	<p>Aloha Maui County Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Kaitlin Kitagawa and I am an alumni of King Kekaulike High School, as well as a recipient of a scholarship offered by the Kekaulike High School Foundation.</p> <p>I am testifying in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation's Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.</p> <p>The inaugural Upcountry Winter Fest took place in November 2023. The festival included a craft fair, holiday display, food trucks and booths, non-profit information booths, keiki games, and entertainment - not to mention that Santa and Mrs. Claus graced us with their presence!</p> <p>Here are a few stats from 2023: 55 - Small businesses/vendors participated 9 - Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations participated from 4 of the 7 schools within the complex 60 - Volunteers came from the Upcountry community to make this festival successful 9 - Non-profit organizations provided information to festival goers on their mission and impact on the community 1,096 - Attendees were counted!!!</p> <p>For the 9 Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations that participated at the food booths and keiki games, they were able to generate almost \$7,000 in sales. These clubs and organizations range from Kaiapuni Class of 2024 to Pukalani Elementary School Robotics to Na Ali'i Boys Soccer. The other 55 vendors and small businesses at this festival also indicated that they were very pleased and look forward to participating in the next event.</p> <p>The Kekaulike High School Foundation aims to support the ENTIRE Kekaulike complex, through scholarships for students and grants for teachers. In 2022, their initial year of</p>	Support		04-09-2024 08:27 pm

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Last year, I was awarded the Debbie Hisashima Scholarship for my work in STEM and my goal to pursue a STEM-based career as a bioengineer. This scholarship honors the late Maui teacher Debbie Hisashima, who dedicated her life to introducing students to the world of STEM. She was an influential person in both my little brother's and my lives. Her efforts, among those of King Kekaulike staff, are what led me to pursue my major and career. It fills me with joy to know that her legacy lives on in this scholarship administered by the Kekaulike High School Foundation, so she will continue to help students pursue STEM.

Receiving this scholarship was also crucial to my academic plans. Biomedical Engineering is not a major offered at Hawaii's colleges, so I was forced to attend a school in the continental US, which increased the cost of my education. The total cost of tuition, housing, and supplies at my college, Santa Clara University, ranges from \$70,000 to \$85,000. Even though my parents have stable jobs, the cost is still overwhelming for my family. This scholarship allowed me to fund my education at Santa Clara University, where I plan to earn both a bachelor's and master's in biomedical engineering.

Overall, I believe that the efforts of the Kekaulike High School Foundation are exemplary and deserve support. I highly recommend them for your consideration.

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
	<p>Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation and Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.</p> <p>Kaitlin Kitagawa KKHS Alumni and Scholarship Recipient (808) 868-9753 kkitagawa868@gmail.com</p>			
Guest User	<p>Dear Members of the Maui County Council:</p> <p>My name is Naomi McCall and I am the new treasurer for the King Kekaulike Foundation and a parent of twins who will be graduating from King Kekaulike High School in a month.</p> <p>I am testifying in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation’s Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.</p> <p>The inaugural Upcountry Winter Fest took place in November 2023. The festival included a craft fair, holiday display, food trucks and booths, non-profit information booths, keiki games, and entertainment - not to mention that Santa and Mrs. Claus graced us with their presence! Here are a few stats from 2023: 55 - Small businesses/vendors participated 9 - Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations participated from 4 of the 7 schools within the complex 60 - Volunteers came from the Upcountry community to make this festival successful 9 - Non-profit organizations provided information to festival goers on their mission and impact on the community 1,096 - Attendees were counted</p> <p>For the nine Kekaulike complex clubs and organizations that participated at the food booths and keiki games, they were able to generate almost \$7,000 in sales. These clubs and organizations range from Kaiapuni Class of 2024 to Pukalani Elementary School Robotics to Na Ali’i Boys Soccer. Of the other 55 vendors and small businesses this festival supported, based on our after-festival survey, the vendors were very pleased and are looking forward to coming back this year.</p> <p>The Kekaulike High School Foundation aims to support the ENTIRE Kekaulike complex, through scholarships for students and grants for teachers. In 2022, their initial year of supporting the community, they have facilitated providing \$8,500 in scholarships to seniors pursuing higher education and \$1,000 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers. This increased in 2023 to \$9,700 in scholarships, with \$500 of that</p>	Support		04-09-2024 06:03 pm

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	<p>total coming directly from funds the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to raise, and \$250 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers.</p> <p>Because of the success of the 2023 Upcountry Winter Festival, the Kekaulike High School Foundation was able to allocate \$1,000 in scholarships and \$1,500 in grants to Upcountry public school teachers for this year. This event also serves as the Kekaulike High School Foundation's main fundraiser for the year.</p> <p>Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation and Upcountry Winter Festival 2025.</p> <p>Sincerely, Naomi McCall KKHS Parent Treasurer, Kekaulike High School Foundation Kula, HI</p>			

Guest User	<p>Aloha BFED Committee,</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Ka Ipu Kukui program funded through OED. I am part of the 2023 cohort that graduated in May 2023. This program is necessary for the next generation of leadership in Maui Nui. The layout of each topic whether it be Water, Land, Ag, Science, or even Medical - is done in a way where participants can see many perspectives so that we can come to terms with where we stand on any critical issue that our community faces. I love that it's encouraged that if you need more information from a speaker, the program provides you with their direct contact. Many of the presenters welcome deeper conversations that are open and honest.</p> <p>Anyone in a leadership role in this County would highly benefit from being in this program. It not only makes for better leaders but also better stewards in the community. Please continue to fund and support this vital program through OED.</p> <p>Mahalo, Patty Copperfield</p>	Support		04-09-2024 08:43 am
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Aloha Council members,

This is Dr. Lisa Labrecque, CEO of Maui Humane Society. This morning I presented testimony regarding our country contracts, along with three of my Directors, and some questions were asked that we were unable to answer fully. I am back this evening to provide the information you requested.

First, regarding our **MOU with Lanai Cat Sanctuary** -

In November 2023, we signed an MOU with Lanai Cat Sanctuary (LCS) where they agreed to accept 200 cats from Lahaina in exchange for 200 friendly Lanai cats, at a cost of \$2,250 per cat. For reference, most sanctuaries charge \$4K or more per cat. The money MHS contributed towards the care of Lahaina's displaced cats will cover their care for about a year, and these funds will not subsidize the feral cat management on Lanai.

Second, regarding **Donations we received following the fires** -

Maui Humane Society received approximately \$9.4M in donations to support our wildfire relief efforts. These funds have been and will continue to be applied directly towards caring for fire-affected animals. We must ensure that these donated funds are used in alignment with the intentions of our donors, specifically to aid our fire relief efforts, rather than being used for general operations.

Our Fire Relief Programs include:

- opening and operating our new Lahaina Pet Resource Center
- providing free mobile veterinary clinics, pet food, and supplies to ALL residents of West Maui
- rental support
- and assistance to families leaving the island with their pets

To date, we have assisted 708 animals who have left Maui with their families. We have also scheduled a chartered flight to send additional shelter animals to Northern California, which will make room for the anticipated influx of animals as displaced residents move from pet-friendly hotels into housing that won't allow pets. We will be using these funds over the next few years to continue to support these efforts that are above and beyond our normal shelter operations.

In addition to monetary donations, we did receive in-kind donations in the form of pet food and pet supplies. Those donations were quickly distributed to West Side locations

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including hotels that housed displaced victims and their pets. As these in-kind donations have been exhausted, fire funding will support the continued need for pet food and supplies for the Maui community in the years to come.

The third question was regarding **pet surrenders** as a result of the fires -

Between August 8 and March 30, we received 590 total surrender inquiries. Of those, 180 were related to the fires, and 119 were deferred as our team provided resources to the pet owners. We currently maintain a waitlist for pets in need of surrender.

Finally, to **clarify our budget requests** for Humane Enforcement and Molokai:

Humane Enforcement contract -

Maui Humane Society is contracted by Maui County to provide animal control and humane enforcement services to the community. We asked the County for \$1.14M to cover the island of Maui's Humane Enforcement costs for Fiscal Year 2025. The Mayor's budget falls short by \$81K, which will hinder our officers' ability to perform their duties. We respectfully request the \$81K be added back in so that we can meet our Humane Enforcement contractual obligations.

Maui Humane Society & Molokai -

We are thankful for the contract awarded for Fiscal Year 2024 to support Molokai's animal control, provide medical care for Molokai's animals, and replace the dangerously unsafe animal control kennels that have resulted in death or injury to multiple dogs. We will work with the Bissen Administration regarding the receipt of these funds to start the proposed project.

For the Fiscal Year 2025, we respectfully ask for \$140K to continue providing veterinary services, including spay/neuter surgery, to the animals on Molokai who desperately need it.

Rec'd
4/11/24
6:44 pm
nan

Testimony on Commercialized Residential Tax rate

I am Rick Pounds and my wife Dale and I have lived in Maui Meadows for more than 30 years. In 1998 we were granted our Bed and Breakfast permit to use our cottage and rooms in our house for hosting visitors. In fact we were one of the first permits ever issued. To say that it has been challenging, dealing with the County concerning our permit over the years, is an understatement. But our neighbors have always embraced us, and we have made friends of our many of our guests over the years the years.

Property tax has always stuck us as unfair to those of us who have followed the law all these years and maintained our B&B permits. I don't think that it is fair that we have to pay as much as 3 times what my neighbors pay in property tax as a result of our B&B permit. But the current proposal to increase our tax rate to \$5.00/\$1000 is a step too far. This newly proposed rate, when applied to my new, much higher tax assessment, would increase my tax bill from \$8008 to \$11,345, a 41% increase in just one year.

I want to stress that we are not a short term rental. We live in our home full time and it is not fair to charge us more than three times the tax charged to my neighbor, with a similarity assessed home.

Two years ago we began paying an the new 3% Maui County Transient Accommodations Tax to the County and this year an additional 1/2 percent General excise tax. Isn't

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that enough? I also pay 10.25% TAT and 4% GET to the State. Why should I also have to pay so much additional property tax? It is not fair and I am asking the Council to reduce the tax rate for the Commercialized Residential tax class to \$3.50. This will still have me paying twice and much as my neighbors pay, but at least would be a little more reasonable.

As a result of the Lahaina fires and the pronouncements of the Governor and the Mayor, that visitors should not to come to Maui, my business is off by more than 50%. My wife and I are in our 70's and survive off of our B&B income. But my income is going down while my taxes are going up. I don't know how we will make it. Please reduce my tax rate.