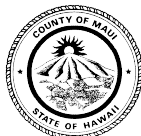


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Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

April 1, 2025

Mr. Kapono'ai Molitau, Director  
Department of 'Ōiwi Resources  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Molitau:

SUBJECT: **FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET** (BFED-1) (OWR-02)

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the BFED Committee meeting on **April 8, 2025**.<sup>\*</sup> This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2026 Budget.

May I further request that, after approval by the Office of the Mayor, you transmit your answer to [bfed.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:bfed.committee@mauicounty.us) by the end of the day on **April 8, 2025**. *\*Date subject to change without notice.*

**Overall**

1. As part of the Department's goals and objectives, does the Department conduct outreach to Native Hawaiian organizations and cultural or lineal descendants that have a stake in proposed development areas? (Page 580, Program Budget) (SS)
2. Under Goal #1, item 1, what type of community outreach events will be conducted? Please describe the nature of the information that will be shared and feedback the Department is hoping to receive from community engagement. How will this support the Department's operations? (Page 579, Program Budget) (TC)
3. Under Goal #1, item 2, will there be consultation with cultural or lineal descendants and cultural practitioners on iwi kūpuna vaults? (Page 580, Program Budget) (SS)

4. Under Goal #1, item 3, will the Department consider all possible options of final disposition for Native Hawaiian ancestral burials and burial sites? (Page 580, Program Budget) (SS)
5. Under Goal #1, items 2, 3, and 4; please describe the Department's plan to implement those objectives. (Page 580, Program Budget) (TC)
6. Under Goal #2, item 4, are culturally sensitive artifacts acquired by the Department being stored in a County facility? If not, where? Please also describe the Department's plan for implementation in protecting these culturally sensitive items. (Page 580, Program Budget) (TC)
7. Under Goal #3, item 1, what type of government documents will be translated? (Page 581, Program Budget) (TC)
8. Under Goal #3, item 4:
  - a. What criteria are needed for County personnel to be selected to participate in the cultural sensitivity training program? (Page 581, Program Budget) (TC)
  - b. Can cultural sensitivity training be provided to boards and commission members that make recommendations or have decision-making authority on development projects? (Page 581, Program Budget) (SS)
9. One of the Department's missions is to "guide the county in the correct usage of the Hawaiian language, including place names, and the integration of Hawaiian language within County functions." Please provide a status update on the Department's efforts in achieving this mission. (Page 575, Program Budget) (TC)
10. Another mission of the Department is to "advise state and federal agencies on all programs and projects that affect 'ōiwi resources in the County." Please provide a status update on the Department's efforts in achieving this mission. (Page 575, Program Budget) (TC)
11. With new archaeological and cultural consulting services planned for other County departments and divisions, how will your Department ensure timely and effective input on projects affecting culturally significant sites? (Page 580, Program Budget) (NUH)

12. Does the Department have a dedicated staff person monitoring all phases of development near known culturally-sensitive areas? Can the Department's Principal Archaeologist or the proposed Archaeologist or Archaeology-Cultural Monitor fulfill this role? (SS)
13. Has the Department created an inventory of locally-certified archaeologists to help protect cultural resources? (SS)

**Salaries and Wages (Category "A")**

1. The FY 2025 Council Adopted Budget notes the Department allocated seven Equivalent Personnel. How many of those positions are currently vacant? For those positions requesting a full year salary in FY 2026, how many have been filled? (Page 582, Program Budget) (TK) (TP)
2. The following relates to the Department's proposed FY 2026 expansion positions: (Page 16-3, Budget Details) (TP) (YLS) (TC) (TK)
  - a. Will the proposed FY 2026 expansion positions require reorganization? Are the position descriptions and minimum qualifications created for the Equivalent Personnel requesting eight months of funding? (TP) (YLS)
  - b. How long will it take to create the position and recruit to fill the position? Are all requested positions already established in the civil service system or will it require a new classification? If yes, which ones? (YLS)
  - c. Please elaborate further on the Aina Advocate's role. Is the primary role to track legislation and government relations or will the position also engage in community outreach or education? (TC)
  - d. Will the Grant Coordinator manage grant funds distributed by the Department to entities in the County? If yes, and if the position is funded for 12 months, does the Department intend to have grant subsidy funds available to the community? If yes, in what amounts? (Page 583, Program Budget) (GJ)

- e. What is the Department's expectation on filling these new expansion positions? (TK)

**Operations and Equipment (Category "B")**

1. The following relate to Index Code 926001B-6132 Professional Services: (Page 583, Program Budget) (TP) (YLS) (NUH)
  - a. Is Phase I of the Department's strategic plan completed and implemented? If yes, can the strategic plan be posted on the County website? (TP) (YLS)
  - b. What key areas will this phase focus on and how will it guide the Department's long-term priorities? (NUH)
2. The Department of Planning is proposing \$345,000 in funding for consultant services which includes a Lahaina National Historic District Nomination Update, Lahaina Traditional Cultural Properties Study, and Cultural Resources Management Plan. Has the Department of Planning consulted with your Department on these projects? (Page 643, Program Budget) (TP)
3. The following relate to Index Code 926001B-6365 Recreation programs: (Page 16-7, Budget Details) (TC) (NUH)
  - a. Please provide a breakdown of what this funding will cover. (NUH)
  - b. Please describe the nature, purpose and intent of this event for County employees. Will this be for County employees only or also available for public participation? What is the plan to implement this program and will this be a one-time event or will multiple events be held throughout the year? (TC)
4. The following relate to Index Code 926001B-6278 Conservation Program: (Page 584, Program Budget) (SS) (NUH) (TP)
  - a. Please elaborate further on how these funds will be used. (NUH)

- b. Will this funding also be used to for the acquisition of lands of significant cultural importance? If funds will be used to care for land rather than to purchase, have these conservation lands been identified? (SS) (TP)
  - c. How will the Department identify and prioritize the lands for conservation? What partnerships or community involvement will be incorporated into the program? (NUH)
  - d. Could the Department request that Open Space Funds be used for the conservation of County lands of significant cultural importance? (TP)
- 5. As it relates to Index Code 926001B-6012 Construction Materials, please describe the proposed location for the iwi kūpuna vaults. (Page 16-6, Budget Details) (TC)
- 6. The following relate to Index Code 926001B-6126 Maintenance Contracts: (Page 16-6, Budget Details) (TK) (TC) (NUH)
  - a. What does this cost cover? Is this for specialized cleaning services, exterior and interior cleaning, or any additional maintenance? (NUH)
  - b. What entity has been contracted to perform this service? (TC)
  - c. How was this amount determined? Is this the average rate for a window cleaning? Are there any considerations for cost-saving alternatives? (TC) (NUH)
  - d. Is the Department currently housed in the David Trask Building? What is the status of that office space? If the County acquired the building, why is the Department responsible for paying repairs and maintenance to this office space? (TK)
- 7. Under Index Code 926001B-6221 Miscellaneous Other Costs, what types of expenses related to Countywide blessings will the funds be used for? Will this include lei, travel, etc.? (Page 16-6, Budget Details) (TC)

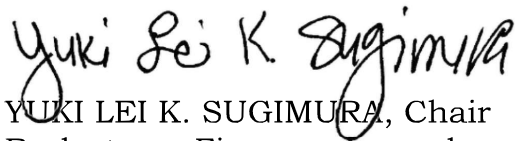
Mr. Kapono'ai Molitau  
April 1, 2025  
Page 6

8. Under Index Code 926001B-6225 Publications and Subscriptions, please describe the type of information that the Department is hoping to publish and the Department's plan for distribution of its publication. (Page 16-6, Budget Details) (TC)

To ensure efficient processing, please duplicate the coding in the subject line above for easy reference.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Kirsten Szabo at ext. 7662, James Krueger at ext. 7761, Jarret Pascual at ext. 7141, Clarissa MacDonald at ext. 7135, or Pauline Martins at ext. 8039).

Sincerely,



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic  
Development Committee

bfed:2026bgt:250401aowr01:jpp

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.  
Budget Director  
Deputy Director of Ōiwi Resources

## **BFED Committee**

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**From:** BFED Committee  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 7:18 PM  
**To:** Kapono'ai Molitau  
**Cc:** BFED Committee; Kekai.Robinson@co.maui.hi.us; Deanna.Thyssen@co.maui.hi.us; 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; Lesley Milner; kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us; tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us; Janina Agapay  
**Subject:** FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (BFED-1) (OWR-02)  
**Attachments:** (OWR-2) Correspondence to Oihi Resources 04-01-2025.pdf

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Meia o Ke Kalana o Maui


**J. KAPONO'AI MOLITAU**  
Po'o o Ka 'Oihana Kumuwaiwai 'Ōiwi

**KEKAI ROBINSON**  
Hope Po'o o Ka 'Oihana Kumuwaiwai 'Ōiwi



**KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ŌIWI**  
**DEPARTMENT OF 'ŌIWI RESOURCES**  
KE KALANA O MAUI, COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793  
pūnaewe: [www.mauiCounty.gov](http://www.mauiCounty.gov) leka uila: [oiwi@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:oiwi@co.maui.hi.us)

7 'Apelila 2025

Ms. Lesley Milner   
Budget Director, County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL**

 4-8-25  
Mayor Date

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.  
Mayor, County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

**SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (BFED-1)(OWR-02)**

Aloha kākou e nā Lālā o ia Kōmike,

Thank you for providing this second set of questions in preparation for our appearance before the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee on April 8, 2025, to review our Department's Fiscal Year 2026 budget.

### **OVERALL**

1. As part of the Department's goals and objectives, does the Department conduct outreach to Native Hawaiian organizations and cultural or lineal descendants that have a stake in proposed development areas? (Page 580, Program Budget) (SS)



*Yes. The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources prioritizes inclusion of voices often excluded from discussions concerning development. This includes stakeholders and extends to our natural cultural elements, including plants, animals, waterways, and minerals and other traditional natural-cultural resources. Our approach is to consider all of these voices as they relate to development areas.*

*Although the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources does not have access to or maintain a list of contact information for cultural or lineal descendants or Native Hawaiian Organizations, we make extensive effort to be as thorough as possible when asked to opine on development, specifically for county-owned, county-stewarded lands or potential county land purchases. This also includes reaching out to state and federal organizations that do maintain contact information for our community and participating in community meetings that are hosted specifically for areas under review. Through a range of mechanisms, such as personal phone conversations, e-mail, text, site visits, and community forums, as well as asserting our presence with the various island burial councils, the Aha Moku, State of Hawai'i Historic Preservation Division (SHPD), Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA), and other Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHO) and non-profits, the Department is committed to conducting outreach where appropriate.*

2. Under Goal #1, item 1, what type of community outreach events will be conducted? Please describe the nature of the information that will be shared and feedback the Department is hoping to receive from community engagement. How will this support the Department's operations? (Page 579, Program Budget) (TC)

*Community outreach, also termed, "Lāhui Engagement", includes facilitating and/or attending community-led meetings or educational workshops, and facilitating community meetings and/or leading training sessions. Where deemed appropriate and necessary, community outreach might include community forums (in person and hybrid), site visits, online surveys, educational outreach, public service announcements, ArcView story maps, information provided via the Department website, and other signage with links to online resources. This aligns with the Department's operations, "to advocate for responsible stewardship of natural, cultural, and historical resources", and also supports the Department's first goal, "to safeguard and responsibly steward lands of concentrated natural and cultural importance to ensure enduring access to healthy natural resources and spaces where culture may thrive".*

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources has been tasked by the Administration to take the lead on the planning, recovery, and restoration of Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, Pākalā, and the surrounding Lahaina Royal Complex. Community engagement specific to this goal and item in our FY 2026 budget includes meeting with community organizations in and around the area – Nā Kūpuna o Maui, Nā 'Aikāne, Hui o Wa'a Kaulua, Kaiāulu Initiative, Lahaina Strong, Lahaina Land Trust and other community members embedded in those spaces – to get a good sense of their thoughts on planning, stewardship, protocol, and other opportunities for collaboration. We understand that these are the very people who know the area best. We hope the community can share more about their hopes for the Lahaina Royal Complex and surrounding areas, their commitment to revitalization and protection of natural and cultural resources, and their vision for the area as Maui starts to rebuild.*

3. Under Goal #1, item 2, will there be consultation with cultural or lineal descendants and cultural practitioners on iwi kūpuna vaults? (Page 580, Program Budget) (SS)

*Yes. The Department has consulted with cultural practitioners, lineal descendants, and cultural descendants on past projects and activities involving iwi kūpuna vaults, and we will continue to do so, as much as possible and as much as is reasonable.*

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources does not maintain a list of contact information of lineal and cultural descendants. That list is regulated and maintained by the Department of Land and Natural Resources through the State Historic Preservation Division and governed by the island burial councils, Hawai'i Administrative Rules Title 13-300, Rules of Practice and Procedure Relating to Burial Sites and Human Remains, Hawai'i Revised Statutes Chapter 6E, and on a federal level by the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106.*

*The Department does not believe in the "one size fits all" approach to the protection and reinterment of disturbed ancestral remains and burial places. So far, solutions have ranged from permanent repositories to temporary repositories, and considerations supported by descendants, e.g. burial at sea, relocation, cremation, etc.. Our responsibility is to facilitate the wishes, as reasonable and possible, of the lineal and cultural descendants of iwi kūpuna on county parcels.*

*The installation of iwi kūpuna vaults is recommended and supported by the Department only in situations 1) where land is county owned or county stewarded, 2) where iwi need immediate emergency protection from destruction or*



*desecration, 3) in an effort to maintain the sanctity of the iwi and keep iwi in close vicinity to where they were discovered 4) with the approval and collaboration of the State Historic Preservation Division, 5) with the appropriate approvals, consultation, permits, etc. from other affected county departments, state and federal agencies, and 6) in consultation, as much as possible and reasonable, with lineal descendants, cultural descendants, and other cultural practitioners. These minimum criteria must be met in areas where the Department supports the installation of iwi kūpuna vaults for temporary or permanent on-site protection of iwi kūpuna. The Department is staffed with both the archaeological and cultural expertise to comply with both the laws and cultural values that govern ancestral burial sites and ancestral remains, and we have received planning and guidance from the Department of Management.*

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources acknowledges that the first and most important step is consulting with lineal descendants, cultural descendants, and cultural practitioners. The proper handling of iwi kūpuna differ from area to area, and from family to family, and as a result, it is important to collaborate with these same stakeholders on how, why, where and under what circumstances this approach to protecting iwi kūpuna is appropriate. We would also point out that some of these areas have been identified countywide and have been waiting to be addressed for as long as thirty years or more. Many ancestral burial sites are located near shoreline areas and are threatened by erosion due to sea-level rise, rising tides, and seasonal high surf or at risk of destruction and desecration by development.*

*The Department understands that each situation involving iwi kūpuna is unique and requires specific protocols and mitigation appropriate for the known circumstances. No final decisions regarding iwi kūpuna vault installations are made without culturally appropriate consults and legally required approvals.*

4. Under Goal #1, item 3, will the Department consider all possible options of final disposition for Native Hawaiian ancestral burials and burial sites? (Page 580, Program Budget) (SS)

*Yes. The Department understands that ancestral burials and ancestral burial sites are each unique and require specific protocols and mitigation procedures appropriate for the known circumstances. For ancestral remains and ancestral burial sites on county-owned parcels, the Department's primary goal is to care for iwi kūpuna in situ, meaning "in position" or "on site", a term used to describe something situated in the original, natural, or existing place or position.*

*No final decisions are made without culturally appropriate consults and legally required approvals. Verbal discussion with lineal and cultural descendants and kupuna, consult with related or relevant cultural practitioners, and supplemental research through books and historical documents and resources are very important in understanding what the rightful and most appropriate means of final disposition may be.*

*It is important to specifically point out that the island burial councils and State Historic Preservation Division, History & Culture Branch, are the governing bodies that make final decisions as to reinternment. Iwi kūpuna from county parcels regularly erode out below the highwater line so they are technically under the authority of the State. Since its inception, the Department has worked seamlessly with SHPD and the Maui/Lāna‘i Island Burial Council to facilitate the lineal and cultural descendants wishes and do what is best for the iwi kūpuna.*

5. Under Goal #1, items 2, 3, and 4; please describe the Department’s plan to implement those objectives. (Page 580, Program Budget) (TC)

*The Department’s Key Activity Goal #1 is to safeguard and steward lands of concentrated natural and cultural importance to ensure enduring access to healthy natural resources and spaces where culture may thrive.*

*Item 2 under Goal #1 for FY 2026 is to investigate, assess, design, permit, construct, and maintain iwi kūpuna vaults. The Department understands that ancestral burials and ancestral burial sites are each unique and require specific protocols and mitigation procedures appropriate for the known circumstances. For ancestral remains and ancestral burial sites on county-owned parcels, the Department’s primary goal is to care for iwi kūpuna in situ, meaning “in position” or “on site”, a term used to describe something situated in the original, natural, or existing place or position.*

*Item 3 under Goal #1 for FY 2026 is to safeguard native Hawaiian ancestral burials and burial sites. The Department does not believe in the “one size fits all” approach to the protection and reinternment of disturbed ancestral remains and burial places. So far, solutions have ranged from permanent repositories to temporary repositories, and considerations supported by descendants, e.g. burial at sea, relocation, cremation, etc. Our responsibility is to facilitate the wishes, as reasonable and possible, of the lineal and cultural descendants of iwi kūpuna on county parcels.*



*No final decisions are made without culturally appropriate consults and legally required approvals. Verbal discussion with lineal and cultural descendants and kupuna, consult with related or relevant cultural practitioners, and supplemental research through books and historical documents and resources are very important in understanding what the rightful and most appropriate means of final disposition may be.*

*Item 4 under Goal #1 for the FY 2026 budget refers to the creation of cultural overlay maps for inclusion in current map frameworks, including HICRIS, MAPPS, and MEMA. We have already been contributing to HICRIS and MEMA (through their new Genasys Protect mapping). We are planning to collaborate with the Office of Recovery to do a master plan for the Lahaina Royal Complex, which will add more cultural information to existing map frameworks.*

6. Under Goal #2, item 4, are culturally sensitive artifacts acquired by the Department being stored in a county facility? If not, where? Please describe the Department's plan for implementation in protecting these culturally sensitive items. (Page 580, Program Budget) (TC)

*Yes, artifacts acquired by the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources are currently being stored in a county facility. The Department's Kīpuka Division is currently in the process of designing a collections management policy rooted fully in Kanaka 'Ōiwi ways of knowing and being. This entails drafting a repository lexicon, museum catalog, accession process, and laboratory process that allows for appropriate access and interpretation of shared cultural material — which is essential for the preservation of Native Hawaiian cultural heritage — while ensuring those materials and heritage are never subject to the taxonomical violence often seen in cultural repositories organized around western concepts, where important cultural items are often misunderstood, misinterpreted, and displayed or shared inappropriately, furthering historical and cultural trauma. Kīpuka Division plans to create and maintain a first-of-its-kind collections database, shared across islands, that will be built and searchable in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, and uses terminology and relationships for cultural items that are rooted in 'ōiwi values at its base. The lexicon, catalog, and repository processes, as well as proper handling and storage protocols for important cultural items will be developed in collaboration with communities and descendants who have a vested interest in the proper protection and perpetuation of those items.*

*Currently, the Department houses archaeological material uncovered during the Lahaina Fire Recovery Debris Removal Program. These materials were donated to the Department at the request of specific property owners. While the material includes pre-contact artifacts and items, which are significant in terms of historic preservation and cultural understanding, none of these objects are considered “culturally sensitive,” nor does the Department house any funerary objects or human remains. The donated material is currently housed in our laboratory space in Wailuku.*

*In the future, the Department hopes to acquire and renovate a historic property in Wailuku as a cultural heritage center for the County of Maui centrally located in historic Wailuku. Exhibitions for all cultures of Maui, historical artifacts, and traditional narratives can be hosted from that space and curated to educate and share the history and heritage of Maui. It would include renovations with the appropriate protections for fire suppression, security, flood mitigation, etc., and to provide space for adequate storage, curation and digitization of important cultural artifacts of Maui. The Department is hoping to secure a location that is ideally situated for both visitors and kama‘āina to learn more about Maui’s history and heritage as they visit or conduct business in the heart of Wailuku.*

7. Under Goal #3, item 1, what type of government documents will be translated? (Page 581, Program Budget) (TC)

*The Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources is committed to implementing the Charter amendment designated as Charter Commission Proposal 2, approved by the electorate at the 2022 General Election, to affirm that the County will operate as a bilingual government, under Ordinance No. 5758, Bill No. 127, CD1 (2024) amending Title 2 of the Maui County Code passed on January 23, 2025 and effective September 1, 2025, to implement Charter Section 13-17, which provides that the County must operate as a bilingual government and promote the use of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, further providing that official writings of the County must be prepared and made available in both official State languages, English and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. Our staff currently consists of one ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Specialist and we are proposing an additional ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Specialist, and importantly, a Chief Hawaiian Culture Specialist who will oversee, supervise, and manage this division within our Department.*

*Here are some examples of the Department’s translated documents and research over the past six months with a single ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Specialist: Mayor’s Message for the Fiscal Year 2026 Mayor’s Proposed Budget, Glossary for South Maui*



*Community Plan Update, Kaulahao Field Report, Keahuaiwi Field Report, Mapulehu Molokai Field Report, County of Maui Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Bingo Night Flyer, Department of 'Ōiwi Resources Presentation for the ESCS Committee, the Cecile Powell Activity Book (pages 4, 6, and 7), and a variety of correspondence and phrase translations for other county departments. The templates for the boards and commissions are being prepared. We are asking other Departments and offering to review and confirm the accuracy of their documents that incorporate 'ōlelo Hawai'i before they are published or circulated. We have been assisting with place name research and confirming accurate spellings of street names with the Department of Public Works.*

*The Department will need to strategize an implementation process and schedule. We will need to clearly define what constitutes "official government documents". Initially, we will be starting with agendas from the Maui County Boards and Commissions (current count 37) and collaborate with the Office of Council Service's 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Specialist as they translate the Maui County Council and Committee agendas. We look forward to working with Council and Administration through our Chief Hawaiian Cultural Specialist in determining how Maui County will promote the use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in government in the future.*

8. Under Goal #3, item 4:

- a. What criteria are needed for County personnel to be selected to participate in the cultural sensitivity training program? (Page 581, Program Budget) (TC)

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources would like to recruit for an Information/Educational Specialist to assist with designing and facilitating training for Maui County employees. First, we would like to produce a general cultural sensitivity video to be made available via Workday for current employees and made mandatory for new hire employees. We would also like to design and facilitate a workshop and training for county employees who have worked with or have the potential to come across iwi kūpuna. We would begin this training specifically with Maui County lifeguards, firefighters, parks, police, public works, environmental management, and emergency management and make this training available upon request to other county departments.*

- b. Can cultural sensitivity training be provided to boards and commissions members that make recommendations or have decision-making authority on development projects? (Page 581, Program Budget) (SS)

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources is in full support of creating and facilitating cultural sensitivity training for boards and commissions members.*

9. One of the Department's missions is, "to guide the county in the correct usage of the Hawaiian language, including place names, and the integration of Hawaiian language within county functions." Please provide a status update on the Department's efforts in achieving this mission. (Page 575, Program Budget) (TC)

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources is committed to promoting the use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i within county functions. Our staff currently consists of one 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Specialist and we are proposing an additional 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Specialist, and importantly, a Chief Hawaiian Culture Specialist who will oversee, supervise, and manage this division within our Department.*

*Here are some examples of the Department's translated documents and research over the past six months with a single 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Specialist: Mayor's Message for the Fiscal Year 2026 Mayor's Proposed Budget, Glossary for South Maui Community Plan Update, Kaulahao Field Report, Keahuaiwi Field Report, Mapulehu Molokai Field Report, County of Maui Mahina 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Bingo Night Flyer, Department of 'Ōiwi Resources Presentation for the ESCS Committee, the Cecile Powell Activity Book (pages 4, 6, and 7), and a variety of correspondence and phrase translations for other county departments. We continue to offer the administration and other county departments to review and confirm the accuracy of documents that incorporate 'ōlelo Hawai'i before they are published or circulated from the County. We have been assisting with place name research and confirming accurate spellings of street names with the Department of Public Works. We look forward to working with Council and Administration through our Chief Hawaiian Cultural Specialist in determining how Maui County will promote the use of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in government in the future.*

*Similar to our request for service for archaeological considerations, we are in the process of creating a request for translation and research services for other county departments to extend this opportunity and service. We hope this will further the ability for the County of Maui to lead bilingual government and uplifting Hawaiian language countywide.*



10. Another mission of the Department is, “to advise state and federal agencies on all programs and projects that affect ‘ōiwi resources in the county.” Please provide a status update on the Department’s efforts in achieving this mission. (Page 575, Program Budget) (TC)

*The Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources has been advising and collaborating with federal, state, and county agencies on programs and projects that affect ‘ōiwi resources. Specific to Lahaina recovery, cultural sensitivity and awareness training, both initial and ongoing, is needed in Lahaina and beyond. This may be challenging because it requires lifelong learning on behalf of all these agencies. As an institution, systems change is a multigenerational effort.*

*The Department is requesting an expansion position to include an ‘Āina Advocate, similar to the Agricultural Advocate, that would help to facilitate collaboration between the county at a state and federal level. This position is key to those activities that will allow the Department a greater understanding of how we can impact and influence ‘ōiwi concerns at the state and federal level on behalf of the County of Maui.*

11. With new archaeological and cultural consulting services planned for other county departments and divisions, how will your department ensure timely and effective input on projects affecting culturally significant sites? (Page 580, Program Budget) (NUH)

*Under the license of the Maui County Principal Archaeologist, the Department has been able to advise and provide archaeological and cultural consulting services to other departments and divisions within the County in an extremely expedited fashion. We have completed archaeological field inspections and cultural research (including consultation with lineal descendants) — from survey to final report — in a matter of weeks. This is a fraction of the time often allotted to private firms who are contracted to do similar work, and who exorbitantly mark up their services, draining public resources.*

*By providing these services internally, the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources will save the County invaluable time on critical projects as well as the thousands of dollars which are normally spent on private contracts. As the Department grows its capacity, creating a Request for Professional Services (RFS) form fillable PDF, all new requests from the various divisions, offices, and departments would be assigned an intake number and would be routed to the appropriate individuals*

*within our Department. The level of urgency and approximate timeline need would be listed on RFS along with the types and amounts of ground altering activities.*

*Information on the RFS will include:*

- *Do you require early consultation on the proposed project?*
- *Do you want a HICRIS search of known cultural sites?*
- *Do you need an Archaeological Monitoring Plan (AMP)?*
- *Do you require a literature review (in English and/or Hawaiian)?*
- *Do you want Place Names/Mele/etc. about an area translated?*
- *Do you need a site inspection?*
- *Are looking to understand best practices in a particular environment?*
- *Are you in need of remote sensing such as GPR or LiDAR?*

12. Does the Department have a dedicated staff person monitoring all phases of development near known culturally sensitive areas? Can the Department's Principal Archaeologist or the proposed Archaeologist or Archaeology-Cultural Monitor fulfill this role? (SS)

*For County of Maui projects, the Principal Archaeologist and other support staff can help provide both guidance and monitoring on the ground. The more we can grow the division the more money and time we can save, and the more culturally significant sites can be identified and protected.*

*Currently, there is no local certification for Archaeologists in Maui County. The department plans to develop a pathway for local youth who have a demonstrated interest in historic preservation to obtain an SHPD recognized certification in archaeological methodology through 'Ōiwi Resources, which will drastically increase the workforce available to oversee projects, while increasing the representation of local Native Hawaiians in the fields of anthropology and archaeology, a need that is sorely lacking and a community that is drastically unrepresented in this field.*

*In creating this new form of locally trained and certified hybrid cultural and archaeological monitors, we will address a much-needed workforce demand. The Department would like to create an online certification program for the County of Maui similar to the one used by the State of Washington (visit <https://www.archaeologyinwashington.com/techtraining.html>).*

*The primary difference is there would be specific modules outlining traditional culture, protocols, and procedures during fieldwork. This on-demand certification program could be extended to others working in the field of construction. SHPD*



*and the Society for Hawaiian Archaeology (SHA) have agreed to work with us to get this program up and running.*

13. Has the Department created an inventory of locally certified archaeologists to help protect cultural resources? (SS)

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources does not maintain a list of locally certified archaeologists. The State Historic Preservation Division (SHPD) keeps an up-to-date list of all permitted archaeologists available to the public on their website.*

*Currently, there is no local certification for Archaeologists in Maui County. The department plans to develop a pathway for local youth who have a demonstrated interest in historic preservation to obtain an SHPD recognized certification in archaeological methodology through 'Ōiwi Resources, which will drastically increase the workforce available to oversee projects, while increasing the representation of local Native Hawaiians in the fields of anthropology and archaeology, a need that is sorely lacking and a community that is drastically unrepresented in this field.*

#### **SALARIES AND WAGES (CATEGORY "A")**

1. The FY 2025 Council Adopted Budget notes the Department allocated seven Equivalent Personnel. How many of those positions are currently vacant? For those positions requesting a full year salary in FY 2026, how many have been filled? (Page 582, Program Budget) (TK) (TP)

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources has filled all Equivalent Personnel positions allocated in the FY 2025 Council Adopted Budget. There are no vacant positions in our Department. There are two positions requesting full year salary in FY 2026, Grant Coordinator and GIS IV, and they are both filled.*

2. The following relates to the Department's proposed FY 2026 expansion positions: (Page 16-3, Budget Details) (TP) (YLS) (TC) (TK)
  - a. Will the proposed FY 2026 expansion positions require reorganization? Are the position descriptions and minimum qualifications created for the Equivalent Personnel requesting eight months of funding? (TP) (YLS)

*The FY 2026 proposed expansion positions will not require reorganization in FY 2026. However, we are considering the possibility of reorganization for the following fiscal year. Position descriptions and minimum qualifications are currently being formulated and collaborated on between our Department and the Department of Personnel Services for the four proposed Equivalent Personnel requesting eight months of funding. Three of the four have similar position descriptions and minimum qualifications already established within the county, which are the Info/Education Specialist, Archaeologist, and 'Āina Advocate (based on the Agriculture Advocate), and we are in close collaboration with DPS to establish these positions under the Department for immediate recruitment upon funding. The fourth position, Chief Hawaiian Cultural Specialist, encompasses an entirely new position within the County of Maui, which we are working closely with DPS to establish. We have several excellent potential candidates who have expressed interest in this position.*

- b. How long will it take to create the position and recruit to fill the position? Are all requested positions already established in the civil service system or will it require a new classification? If yes, which ones? (YLS)

*The Department has taken a proactive approach to creating positions and recruiting for positions in collaboration with the Department of Personnel Services. Three of our requested positions already exist in the civil service system – Hawaiian Language Specialist, Info and Education Specialist, and Archaeologist. Although our Hawaiian Language Specialist is E/P Only, and in anticipation of the increased translation and research work, we currently have in our Department, with thanks to the State Workforce Development and the Office of the Mayor, an interim worker performing in this capacity. Our hope is that once we receive funding for this position, this worker, having gained experience with our Department, will formalize his employment and become a county employee within our Department.*

*One of our requested positions is closely related to a position that exists in the civil service system and can be modified as appropriate – 'Āina Advocate (from Agriculture Advocate). We have already started the work of modifying this position description to align with the advocacy position that currently exists and to parallel the responsibilities as appropriate but to prioritize 'āina initiatives.*



*Two positions requested do not currently exist in the civil service system – Chief Hawaiian Cultural Specialist and Archaeology-Cultural Monitor/Intern. We will need to work closely with DPS to establish these positions; however, the work that they will perform for the county within our Department is a priority and it is crucial and necessary as soon as possible.*

- c. Please elaborate further on the Aina Advocate's role. Is the primary role to track legislation and government relations or will the position also engage in community outreach or education? (TC)

*The Department has three strategic priorities: Kīpuka, Kumuwaiola, and Pai Ka Leo. Kīpuka is a focus on 'āina initiatives in alignment with the Department's mission, operations, strategic priorities, goals, and key activities. The Department is designing the 'Āina Advocate's position based on the Agricultural Advocate in the Department of Agriculture to help fulfill responsibilities in the Kīpuka Division.*

*The 'Āina Advocate would be empowered to track, monitor, advise, and advocate on behalf of the Department and the County of Maui for or against legislation at all levels of government that impacts the responsible protection and stewardship resources – 'āina (land), kai (sea), wai (fresh water), lani (sky), and all other natural-cultural resources – considered 'ōiwi resources. This position would be tasked with county land-related issues, natural resources, cultural resources, and networking and supporting community mission-driven organizations with navigating government systems, technical assistance, community engagement, and connecting community with various funding opportunities and capacity-building resources. Intergovernmental work related to 'āina, especially natural-cultural resources work, coordinating and collaborating with federal, state, and other county resources, and working with local, state, and federal government officials to champion lands of concentrated natural and cultural importance in alignment with our mission and goals.*

*The position description for the 'Āina Advocate will include these responsibilities:*

- a. *Perform a full range of public relations and informational activities for the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources to include advocating for 'ōiwi resources, kīpuka, kumuwaiola, and pai ka leo needs in our community;*

- b. *Serve as a resources specialist and as a neutral and impartial liaison for the community to voice concerns, complaints, and questions about the stewardship and management of 'ōiwi resources countywide;*
  - c. *Identify key issues, facilitate and participate in outreach opportunities, lāhui engagement, and other community-engagement initiatives, design and promote educational opportunities, and serve as a resource specialist;*
  - d. *Participate in and recommend appropriate action items, including planning, design, and implementation of 'āina initiatives, nurture relationships with community stakeholders and local, state, and federal agencies, and maintain effective partnerships in support of 'ōiwi resources initiatives;*
  - e. *Assist Director and Deputy Director with tracking legislation, preparing and submitting testimony to county, state, and federal legislators, and providing recommendations and research in support or opposition to 'ōiwi resources related issues;*
  - f. *Attend and/or provide presentations at various conferences, meetings, workshops, or panels on behalf of the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources on 'āina- or 'ōiwi-related issues;*
  - g. *Provide support to the Director and Deputy Director as assigned.*
- d. Will the Grant Coordinator manage grant funds distributed by the Department to entities in the County? If yes, and if the position is funded for 12 months, does the Department intend to have grant subsidy funds available to the community? If yes, in what amounts? (Page 583, Program Budget) (GJ)

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources hired a Grant Coordinator in FY 2025. In four short months, our Grant Coordinator has applied for \$300,000 in federal, state, and philanthropic funding to help support both projects for the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources and for distribution to community NGOs that align with our mission and goals.*

*Additionally, our Grant Coordinator has organized our competitive grant process utilizing the largest portion of our FY 2025 County Grant Subsidy budget to distribute in our county. The grant application, checklist, instructions, and informational webinar recording can be obtained from our Department of 'Ōiwi Resources webpage on the Maui County website*



at <https://www.mauicounty.gov/2832/Oiwi-Resources-Grants>. Grant applications are due by April 25, 2025 with award letters anticipated by May 1, 2025. The Department will be distributing \$330,000 divided equally across our three strategic priorities: Kīpuka, Kumuwaiola, and Pai Ka Leo.

*Kīpuka: A maximum of \$110,000 will be awarded to programs that focus on land stewardship, conservation and cultural preservation to ensure long-term community access to natural and cultural resources. Some examples of programs include, but are not limited to, promoting traditional and regenerative farming, community gardens, and food sovereignty; empowering local communities to manage and protect lands and cultural resources; addressing climate change impacts on land and communities, including wildfire prevention and sea-level rise mitigation; and programs for youth and adults focusing on land stewardship, sustainability, and cultural practices.*

*Kumuwaiola: A maximum of \$110,000 will be awarded to programs that focus on protection of native cultural resources and ecocultural stewardship. Some examples of programs include, but are not limited to, revitalizing landscapes with traditional plants used for food, medicine, and ceremonies; supporting elders and knowledge keepers in passing down ecological and cultural wisdom; teaching youth and communities about the deep connections between culture and nature; and empowering youth to become advocates and caretakers of their lands.*

*Pai Ka Leo: A maximum of \$110,000 will be awarded to programs to empower and uplift native Hawaiian voices and to activate and engage in Hawaiian language. Some examples of programs include, but are not limited to, community-based language immersion classes for all ages; expanding access to ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i in K-12 and higher education; hosting cultural events and workshops fully in Hawaiian; theater, music, poetry and spoken word performances, and storytelling activities incorporating ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i.*

- e. What is the Department’s expectation on filling these new expansion positions? (TK)

*We hope to fill these new expansion positions by September 2025 but no later than December 2025.*

**CATEGORY “A” ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS (TK)**

1. What are your vacancies?

*The Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources does not have any vacancies.*

2. What are your total number of positions?

*The total number of positions for FY 2025 in the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources is seven. All seven positions are currently filled. Our request for FY 2026 is six additional positions. If granted all proposed positions, our total number for the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources in FY 2026 would be 13 positions.*

3. If Council were to adjust the budgeted amount for expansion EP’s to only 4 months of forecast expenditures, rather than the traditional 8 months, would that have a large impact on your department’s ability to recruit?

*The Department is proposing six additional expansion EPs for FY 2026. Of those six expansion EP’s, two positions have been temporarily provided for through a six-month assignment by the State Workforce Program and the Office of the Mayor – Hawaiian Language Specialist and Archaeology-Cultural Monitor – positions that temporary placements are ready to apply for as soon as the funding is approved. The ‘Āina Advocate position is also ready to be filled by an employee currently working with the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture. If the Council adjusted the budget request to fund only 4 months, we would lose the opportunity to move these three temporary emergency placements into permanent positions into our Department by opening a large gap in time. For the three remaining expansion EP’s – Chief Hawaiian Cultural Specialist, Archaeologist, and Information/Education Specialist – we have candidates that have expressed interest in applying for those positions. We are committed to filling those positions as expeditiously as possible following approval of funding.*

4. There was substantial carry over savings recognized from the FY 2024 budget. This carry-over represents capital improvement projects that never were started, vacancies that were not filled, and equipment that was not purchased. What from



FY 2024 is being proposed again in this budget? What services/activities were you not able to deliver or delivered at a lower level of service in the current fiscal year?

*This question is not applicable to the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. Our Director was installed during FY 2025 on July 1, 2024. The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources had a FY 2024 budget of \$0.*

5. How confident are you in your department's ability to deliver on the services and projects proposed in the FY 2026 budget?

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources will be in our second year with the County of Maui for the FY 2026 budget and we are confident that provided the staff and the budget requested, we will be able to meet and/or exceed our FY 2026 goals.*

#### **OPERATIONS AND EQUIPMENT (CATEGORY "B")**

1. The following relate to Index Code 926001B-6132 Professional Services: (Page 583, Program Budget) (TP) (YLS) (NUH)

- a. Is Phase I of the Department's strategic plan completed and implemented? If yes, can the strategic plan be posted on the county website? (TP) (YLS)

*Phase I of the Department's strategic plan is slated to be completed by the end of June 2025. When the strategic plan is complete, we intend to distribute to county departments, administration, and county council, host a community presentation online, and post it on the county's website.*

- b. What key areas will this phase focus on and how will it guide the Department's long-term priorities? (NUH)

*The second phase of strategic planning will focus on implementation of action items identified in the first phase. For example, planning, design, and implementation of bilingual government, translation and research services, and an overall county strategy to encourage and uplift the use of Hawaiian language in our community. Archaeological-cultural monitoring certification implementation is another example of needed planning and implementation. The Department is interested in exploring revenue that can be applied to curb negative cultural impacts countywide and land use designations where traditional protocols will dictate and help determine how county-stewarded lands may be accessed and utilized.*

2. The Department of Planning is proposing \$345,000 in funding for consultant services, which includes a Lahaina National Historic District Nomination Update, Lahaina Traditional Cultural Properties Study, and Cultural Resources Management Plan. Has the Department of Planning consulted with your Department on these projects? (Page 643, Program Budget) (TP)

*A Department of Planning representative reached out last week to open up discussion on these issues, but conversation is ongoing. The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources fully supports these efforts, especially updates to the Cultural Resources Management Plan, the current working version of which has not been updated since May 1984. We also feel the Lahaina Traditional Cultural Properties Study should be done in tandem with the Lahaina National Historic District Nomination Update.*

3. The following relate to Index Code 926001B-6365 Recreation Programs: (Page 16-7, Budget Details) (TC) (NUH)

- a. Please provide a breakdown of what this funding will cover. (NUH)

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources hopes to uplift the season and celebration of MAKAHIKI. This budget request will be used to expand Makahiki ceremony and celebration within the County of Maui. Some background on the importance of Makahiki, the nature, purpose, and intent of this celebratory season, is provided in the next question. The initial FY 2026 request is to support and uplift currently existing Makahiki celebrations across Maui County. Future requests for support would allow for expansion of this celebration countywide.*

- b. Please describe the nature, purpose, and intent of this event for county employees. Will this be for county employees only or also available for public participation? What is the plan to implement this program, and will this be a one-time event, or will multiple events be held throughout the year? (TC)

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources agrees that it is important to understand the nature, purpose, and intent of Makahiki and hopes the description included below provides some historical background, clarity, and support. This celebration is already acknowledged throughout Maui Nui and celebrated in a variety of regions by private, state, and community organizations. The County of Maui has an opportunity to uplift the*



*celebration of this season, either through support of existing ceremony and celebration, or specifically for county employees. It is an annual celebration driven by the seasons as further described below. The Department plans to reach out to community organizers who currently host Makahiki ceremony and celebrations and collaborate to expand celebrations, first to county employees and hopefully to the community at-large.*

*In Hawai‘i, the year is delineated by two distinct seasons – Kau (dry season) and Ho‘oilo (wet season). Through observation, seasons, months, and lunar days have distinct natural features that describe an elegant stratified system of time which allowed for specific functions in specific seasons. The Makahiki season began in Ho‘oilo “with the first rising of the constellation Pleiades (Makali‘i) over the horizon at sunset...” (Native Planters, 329). Lono is the akua who is chiefly celebrated in the time of Makahiki and is celebrated through several forms – Lonoikamakahiki, Lonomakua, and Lonopele.*

*For socioreligious context to Makahiki and Lono, Hawaiian culture, at large, is heavily laden with the concept of duality, i.e. Kumulipo, a creation chant composed of eight periods of pō (darkness) and eight periods of ao (light) and citing sea-land partnerships and male-female counterparts throughout. The cycle of Lono, the akua of rain, peace, and fertility, is juxtaposed by the akua Kū, who has dominion over politics, war, and order and whose season is opposite of the rainy season indicating a harsher natural climate wherein harsher events such as war may occur. Makahiki invokes Lono as chiefly ruling over agriculture, farming, and fertility. According to historians, “The most elaborate and complex rituals in the Hawaiian religion were those of the annual Makahiki harvest festival....the festival continued for four months during the rainy season. Makahiki was celebrated by and for all people throughout the islands. During its celebration, enmities and territorial ambitions were in abeyance and war was forbidden.” (Handy and Handy, 346).*

*The main purpose of celebrating Makahiki and Lono was to ask for ample rainfall and a rich harvest for the people. The ali‘i nui of each island acted as the representative of Lono during Makahiki. Once all offerings were given to Lono, a final ceremony took place, wherein the ali‘i nui “landed on the shore from a canoe and here was met by the image of Lono, flanked by spearmen. A spear was thrown at the chief as he stepped on shore.” This was followed by “attaching a basket filled with foods to the outrigger of a*

*canoe...which was towed out to sea and set adrift, presumably to convey the offerings of food to Lono in the distant land whither he had gone” (Handy and Handy, 332).*

*As well as having several important ceremonies, Makahiki involved many “games.” However, these games, while enjoyed immensely by the people, were not merely for pleasure or celebration. There are regional variances in games ranging from island to island and also district to district. These “games” were designed so that the participant would need to demonstrate his or her adept abilities in strength, endurance, strategy, and wisdom. Of course, this would have provided opportunities for participants to show themselves as worthy of rank or to grow their own mana having spiritual or societal implications. “Games” also served as a means to retain physical and mental strength. While Makahiki is a time for celebration and rest, it is also a time for competition and to sharpen physical and mental abilities.*

*Lono and the season of Makahiki is best understood through the words of our Hawaiian ancestors in traditional Hawaiian chants for the season of Lono:*

*He ua lā, he ua, he ua pi‘i mai. Noenoe hālau, hālau loa o Lono. ‘O Lono ‘oe. Pā ‘ā‘ā nā pali i ka hana a ‘Ikuā. Pohā kō‘ele‘ele a Welehu ka malama noho i Makali‘i. Li‘ili‘i ka hana aia a e‘eu. He ‘eu ia no ka lā hiki, hiki mai ka lani. Nāueue ka honua. Ka hana a ke ōla‘i nui, moe pono ‘ole ko‘u pō. Nā niho ‘ai kalakala, ka hana a ka niuhi, ‘ā mau i ke kai loa. He loa o ka hikina. A ua noa, a ua noa lā, ē!*

*Though translation can consequently diminish the original intent and meaning of native poetry, here is a close translation:*

*A rain! A rain travels inland covering the long houses in mist, the Hālau Loa o Lono (a long cloud formation witnessed during this season). You are indeed Lono. Listen! The cliffs are stunned by the clamor of ‘Ikuā, a month that breaks out in storm. The month of Welehu resides in Makali‘i, and little work can be done. The royal one approaches; the earth trembles. It is the time of the terrible earthquakes. My nights are sleepless. The Niuhi (a shark) has the teeth that tear into the food. This is the work of the man-eating shark,*



*ever burning in the vast ocean. Lono is coming until all is free. All is freed.*

*This tradition acknowledges the reciprocity between all people and the elements of our natural environment. The following chant for Makahiki also refers to traditional dualities, the benefits to people in caring for nature, including the sustenance that is gained when acknowledging the seasons:*

*Eia maila ka ho 'okupu o ke kai. Eia pū ka ho 'okupu o ka 'āina. Mai ke kai olohia, ke kai hohonu, mai ka 'āina momona a nā kūpuna. 'O ka pono ke hana 'ia a iho mai nā lani. Ku 'ua i ka pōmaika'i. E Lonoikamakahiki!*

*Here are the offerings of the sea, also these are the offerings from the land. From the deep, undulating seas and the fruitful lands of our ancestors. Here is a rich yield from the heavens. Blessings bestowed upon all by Lono of the Makahiki.*

4. The following relate to Index Code 926001B-6278 Conservation Program: (Page 584, Program Budget) (SS) (NUH) (TP)

- a. Please elaborate further on how these funds will be used. (NUH)

*Conservation funds would be used to identify, designate, and maintain lands of significant cultural importance. There are lands that are county owned and county stewarded that are better designated as wahi pana, or lands of cultural significance and importance, as opposed to recreational lands. We would like the opportunity to explore this designation as a wahi pana as lands for conservation.*

- b. Will this funding also be used for the acquisition of lands of significant cultural importance? If funds will be used to care for land rather than to purchase, have these conservation lands been identified? (SS) (TP)

*Conservation funds will be used to maintain lands of significant cultural importance amongst currently owned county lands. Without having done a complete and thorough review of all county lands for consideration of significance and cultural importance, these lands have been initially identified: Kaulahao, Hāmākua Poko Kai, Ho'okipa, Waianu'ukole (Puamana), Mapulehu, Ma'ālaea, Kamehamenui (Keahuaiwi) and the*

*Lahaina Royal Complex (Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, Pākalā, Loko O Nalehu, etc. from Shaw Street to Dickenson Street). A full review of county-owned parcels could be performed by our Department in FY 2026 for further discussion by the Council.*

- c. How will the Department identify and prioritize the lands for conservation? What partnerships or community involvement will be incorporated into the program? (NUH)

*The Department, at the request of the Managing Director on behalf of the County of Maui, has provided several field reports in FY 2025 to explore and identify the cultural significance of specific lands. Each district and region has different community partners at differing levels of involvement in the conservation of culturally significant lands. The Department acknowledges the importance of and seeks valuable community partnerships in maintaining the integrity and prosperity of county-stewarded lands. Understanding these lands through presence and building a relationship with the surrounding community, as well as research and community engagement, will be how the Department will determine the correct course to achieve conservation, preservation, and protocol goals.*

- d. Could the Department request that Open Space Funds be used for the conservation of county lands of significant cultural importance? (TP)

*Yes, the Department would appreciate and support the use of Open Space Funds used for the conservation of county lands of significant cultural importance.*

5. As it relates to Index Code 926001B-6012 Construction Materials, please describe the proposed location for the iwi kūpuna vaults. (TC)

*The specific locations of iwi kūpuna vaults are culturally sensitive and protected information that is not appropriate to identify to the public in this letter. We can share that in general, for FY 2026 Construction Materials budget request, we are looking at four vaults for the island of Maui and one vault for the island of Molokai. Four of the five vaults are for areas that the Department has already been doing extensive work with the community and appropriate authorities. The fifth vault is in anticipation of a positive review and appropriate burial treatment plan for an area that has been waiting over three decades for respectful and dignified treatment of unearthed iwi kūpuna. These are all county-owned, county-stewarded properties.*



*This option of iwi kūpuna vaults for temporary on-site protection of iwi kūpuna aligns with the mission of the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, "to protect and preserve the cultural resources of Maui County, including but not limited to Hawaiian language and place names, historical and archival materials, cultural sites, iwi kūpuna (ancestral burials), and burial sites, and natural resources used in cultural practices...". This is supported by Countywide Outcomes, including governance that is mindful of our Hawaiian history, heritage, and culture.*

6. The following relate to Index Code 9326001B-6126 Maintenance Contracts: (page 16-6, Budget Details) (TK) (TC) (NUH)

- a. What does this cost cover? Is this for specialized cleaning services, exterior and interior cleaning, or any additional maintenance? (NUH)

*This cost for maintenance is to cover window and carpet cleaning in our offices in the David Trask Building. This would also help us to cover the removal of large track shelving systems that we inherited from the lawyer group that previously occupied this space.*

- b. What entity has been contracted to perform this service? (TC)

*To date, we have not contracted anyone to perform these maintenance services.*

- c. How was this amount determined? Is this the average rate for a window cleaning? Are there any considerations for cost-saving alternatives? (TC) (NUH)

*These costs were determined by contacting two window-cleaning services for a rough estimate. We have not formally requested or contracted any services yet to help with any of the maintenance.*

- d. Is the Department currently housed in the David Trask Building? What is the status of that office space? If the county acquired the building, why is the Department responsible for paying repairs and maintenance to this office space? (TK)

*Yes, the Department is housed in the David Trask Building. The office space was turned over to the Department on August 1, 2024. We were informed that we are responsible for repairs and these larger maintenance requests like window and carpet cleaning.*

7. Under Index Code 926001B-6221 Miscellaneous Other Costs, what types of expenses related to countywide blessings will the funds be used for? Will this include lei, travel, etc.? (Page 16-6, Budget Details) (TC)

*This budget for countywide blessings is for expenses related to supporting travel, implements, required supplies, and for a cultural practitioner to provide county blessings when the Director or Deputy Director is not available.*

8. Under Index Code 926001B-6225 Publications and Subscriptions, please describe the type of information that the Department is hoping to publish and the Department's plan for distribution of its publication. (Page 16-6, Budget Details) (TC)

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources would like to utilize this funding to purchase subscriptions and publications for our office use. Subscriptions would include publications related to archaeology, museum collections, and Hawaiian culture/language. We will not be producing material for publication or distribution.*

Thank you for this second opportunity to provide answers to the FY 2026 Budget questions from the BFED Committee. Should you have additional questions or require clarification, please contact me or the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources staff (Director Molitau at ext. 9117, Deputy Director Kekai Robinson at ext. 6176, or the 'Ōiwi Department Main Line at ext. 1719).

Mahalo me ke aloha,



J. Kapono'ai Molitau, Director  
Department of 'Ōiwi Resources

cc: Josiah Nishita, Managing Director



## **BFED Committee**

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**From:** Tiare P. Horner <Tiare.P.Horner@co.maui.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 8, 2025 2:47 PM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Cc:** John K. Molitau; Kekai Robinson; Deanna L. Thyssen; Lesley J. Milner  
**Subject:** (BFED-1)(OWR-02)  
**Attachments:** (BFED-1)(OWR-02).pdf

Aloha BFED Committee,

Please see attached correspondence for (BFED-1)(OWR-02).

Mahalo,

Tiare P. Horner  
Budget Specialist

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