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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

March 31, 2024

Ms. Rogerene Arce, Director
Department of Agriculture
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Arce:

SUBJECT: **FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2025 BUDGET** (BFED-1) (AG-2)

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the BFED Committee meeting on **April 3, 2024**. * This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2025 Budget. May I further request that, after approval by the Office of the Mayor, you transmit your answers to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by the end of the day on **April 4, 2024**. **Date subject to change without notice.*

Overall

1. Please provide the Department's annual report on the County's overall performance in meeting agriculture objectives and any barriers that could be addressed by ordinance. (Page 103, Program Budget) (YLS)
2. One of the Department's main strategies for providing strong advocacy and support for local farmers is to identify existing resources and cultivate new programs. Please provide information on new programs that have been developed to assist farmers. (Page 104, Program Budget) (NUH)
3. Relating to the Department's strategic plan: (Page 113, Program Budget)
 - a. When will the Council receive the completed plan? (TC) (TP)
 - b. How much of the \$240,000 has been encumbered? (TP)

- c. What methodology was used to ensure that adequate community input and a diverse spectrum of stakeholders were represented in shaping the plan? (TC)
4. Has the Department established its administrative rules? If yes, please provide a copy. If no, please state why not. (TP)
5. The Department is responsible for educational and mitigation efforts of invasive species. The State Department of Land and Natural Resources also has those responsibilities. How will the Department address interagency issues if conflicts are identified by property owners, farmers, neighbors, or constituents? (Page 105, Program Budget) (TK)
6. Relating to Agriculture Program, Key Activity Goals & Measures, for each additional activity undertaken by the Department, such as system mapping, data collection on useable land vs. crop needs, or whether measurable or quantifiable data is available, please provide the Department's accomplishments for each. (Page 109, Program Budget) (TC)
7. Relating to Agriculture Program, Goal #1, item 1: (Page 109, Program Budget)
 - a. The number of workshops is expected to decrease from 8 in FY 2024 to 3 in FY 2025, but the number of participants who are expected to receive assistance shows an increase from 35 in FY 2024 to 50 in FY 2025. Please explain. (TC) (TK)
 - b. Based on these figures, in FY 2025, more participants are expected in each workshop compared to FY 2024. Please explain the Department's reasoning for this change. (TK)
 - c. In the third success measurement, what is meant by "grant ready"? (TK)
8. Relating to Agriculture Program, Goal #1, item 2: (Page 110, Program Budget)
 - a. The amount of grants provided to the agriculture sector through State or Federal sources is expected to decrease from

\$3,000,000 in FY 2024 to \$1,500,000 in FY 2025. Please explain. (TC)

- b. The Department estimates receiving \$2,500,000 in funding from State and Federal sources in FY 2024. According to the Quarter 2 Budget Implementation Report, no funding has been secured. Please provide an update and explain the reasoning for the amount received. Explain why the FY 2025 Estimate is \$4,000,000 and how this will be achieved. (NUH)
9. Relating to Agriculture Program, Goal #1, item 3, please provide the State and House bill numbers the Department assisted with and that are currently moving through the Hawaii State Legislature. Please explain the Department's support for each measure. (Page 110, Program Budget) (TC)
10. Relating to Agriculture Program, Goal #2, item 1: (Pages 110 and 111, Program Budget) (GJ)
 - a. Please explain how the success measurement works in practice once the number of residents without access to locally produced food are identified.
 - b. Please explain how the success measurement relating to the number of residents, including those in food deserts, that improved their access to locally produced food works in practice and how it achieves the goal of collecting market data to inform decision-making of the agricultural sector.
11. Relating to Agriculture Program, Goal #2, item 4, the FY 2025 Estimate indicated a total of 5,000 acres of important and non-designated agricultural lands being surveyed and mapped. Please provide a description of those areas. (Page 111, Program Budget) (TC)
12. Relating to Agriculture Program, Goal #3, item 3, what programs, activities, or plans does the Department have in place to help facilitate new farmers markets and food stands being developed in under resourced and underserved communities? (Page 112, Program Budget) (TC)
13. Please provide a list of community meetings held in FY 2024 to promote community involvement in the future of agriculture in Maui

County, including the types of information provided to attendees. What strategies has the Department implemented to promote and continue community involvement? (Page 112, Program Budget) (NUH)

14. Relating to the Draft 2024-2028 Department of Agriculture Strategic Plan, which budget items support the County's and Department's goals toward local composting? (GJ)
15. Please describe the Department's working relationship with the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC). (TP)
16. Was the Department consulted about the Department of Water Supply's 20% agriculture water rate increase? How will this impact farmers? (GJ)
17. Strategies 360 was contracted to search for Federal funding opportunities. Did the Department apply for any Federal grants as a result of our contract with them? (TP)
18. If the Department's budget was cut by 5% due to a post-wildfire mandated reduction, please explain which portions were cut. (SS)
19. If \$100,000 of the Department's budget had to be cut, which portions would be cut and why? (SS)

Salaries and Wages (Category "A")

1. How do the Grants Coordinator and Grants Management Program Specialist positions differ from one another? (Page 113, Program Budget) (NUH)
 - a. What additional revenue have been identified as a result of these positions? Please provide a list of funding sources that the Department has applied for, including the dollar amount and status. (NUH)
 - b. Do these positions secure grant funds from State, Federal, or private entities, manage County administered grants, or both? (SS)
2. Please explain the reduction of 1.0 Equivalent Personnel for the Waste and Resource Regeneration Specialist position. Why is the

Department not funding this position and how will it impact the Department's operations? (Page 113, Program Budget) (GJ)

3. Please explain the need for the requested salary adjustments of \$180,478 under Index Code 918223A. (Page 114, Program Budget) (SS)
4. Provide the minimum qualifications and the position description for the Food Access Coordinator under Index Code 918223A. Has the position been filled? (Page 1-3, Budget Details) (TP)
5. How long has the Department of Personnel Services been working to establish the Agricultural Inspector position? Would an 8-month salary be appropriate if it's not currently established? (Page 1-3, Budget Details) (TP)

Operations and Equipment (Categories "B" and "C")

1. Relating to Index Code 918223B, how will the Department ensure \$300,000 for coconut rhinoceros beetle and invasive species campaigns are not redundant with MISC funding? Will \$300,000 be enough to fund these campaigns? (Page 114, Program Budget) (GJ)
 - a. Please detail what the Department's plan is for these campaigns. Is the plan to seek grant funding and if so, how would this be coordinated with other efforts throughout the County? (NUH) (SS)
 - b. Please provide information on invasive species educational campaigns completed in FY 2024. (NUH)
2. Relating to the County grant subsidy under Index Code 923024B for grants for invasive plants and animals and to address theft and vandalism on agricultural properties: (Page 115, Program Budget)
 - a. What types of applications are likely to be approved for these grants? How will this grant subsidy be distributed? (GJ) (TK)
 - b. How much of the requested \$1,000,000 will be used for grants for invasive plants and animals and how much will be used for grants to address theft and vandalism? How will the funding for invasive plants and animals be different from grant funding for MISC? (GJ)

- c. For the grants to address theft and vandalism, does the Department address these on agricultural properties directly or is the grantee's responsibility? (TK)
 - d. Will the entire \$1,000,000 be awarded or will some funds be reserved for emergency response? (TK)
 - e. Approximately how many farmers or operators will be provided grants in FY 2025 if based on the typical number of awards granted? (TK)
3. Relating to the Department's County Grant Subsidy Detail: (Pages 115 - 117, Program Budget)
 - a. Will the \$2,130,000 for Agriculture Operations/Infrastructure/Education in FY 2025 assist farmers, rangers, and flower growers for the Maui County Farm Bureau? (YLS)
 - b. How was the \$1,000,000 for Feral Animal Recovery used in FY 2024? (GJ)
 - c. What will be the criteria and selection process for the \$100,000 proposed for Lānaʻi Agriculture in FY 2025? (GJ)
 - d. Are the Lānaʻi Agriculture and Molokai Agriculture programs only for those respective islands? Are residents on those islands prohibited from applying for other County grant subsidies? (TP)
 - e. For the MEO Agricultural Micro Grants Program, please provide a program report and status update, including number of participants, use and purpose, grant amounts, and for each grantee, the number of years in operation and whether repeat funding was received. Will the criteria to apply be the same as previous years? (YLS) (TP)
4. What funding sources will assist with the mitigation of axis deer and feral animals on Maui, Molokai and Lānaʻi? Please detail the Department programs implemented in FY 2024 and what funds will be used to assist in FY 2025. (YLS)

5. The Lanai Cat Sanctuary is looking for funding as they help control feral cats and dogs. Would this organization qualify for the Department's feral animal control funding? (YLS)
6. The County grant subsidy program description for Agriculture Recovery on Page 116 of the Program Budget differs from the information listed on Page 1-8 of the Budget Details, Index Code 923024B. Please clarify. (GJ)
7. Relating to Small Equipment – under \$1000 under Index Code 918223B, how many Starlinks will the Kula Agricultural Park Field Office need? Is the \$10,000 expansion request solely for the Starlink purchase? If not, what is the \$10,000 expansion request for? (Page 1-5, Budget Details) (TP)
8. Relating to Professional Services under Index Code 918223B, \$573,000 is proposed in FY 2025, which can be used for services relating to agricultural assessments, research, and data collection. Which agricultural assessments were identified and completed in FY 2024? Please provide any data or copies of reports. Please also provide information on any research and data collection the Department has completed. How has this information helped the Department support the community? (Page 1-5, Budget Details) (NUH)
9. Relating to Contractual Service under Index Code 918223B, please explain the need for funding grant application program and monitoring when the Department has a Grants Coordinator and two Grant Management Program Specialists III. Or is this needed for the MEO Agricultural Micro Grants Program? (Page 1-5, Budget Details) (TP)
10. Relating to the Feasibility Study Agriculture Cooperative under Index Code 923014B, what is the status of this study as \$75,000 was budgeted in FY 2024. (Page 1-7, Budget Details) (ALL)
11. Under Index Codes 923012B and 923010B, respectively, is "Agriculture Operations, Promotion, and Education" supposed to read "Agricultural Operations, Infrastructure, and Education" instead? Are all of these programs being advertised and promoted by the budgeted \$50,000 for Advertisement under Index Code 918223B? (Pages 1-5 and 1-7, Budget Details) (TP)
12. Please provide a side-by-side comparison of your approved FY 2024 grants and your proposed FY 2025 grants, with necessary

explanations describing how they relate to each other. For example, FY 2024 budgeted funds for Kula Agriculture Park, Agriculture Education and Apprenticeship, and Agriculture Promotion/Technology. The FY 2025 Budget does not include these line items, but does include \$2,130,000 designated for Agriculture Operations/Infrastructure/Education, which may be intended to cover all three of the FY 2024 grants. (Page 1-8, Budget Details) (ALL)

13. Relating to the Agriculture Operations/Infrastructure/Education grant under Index Code 923018B: (Page 1-8, Budget Details)
 - a. How will the \$2,130,000 in grant funds be allocated? (NUH)
 - b. What types of programs are anticipated to fall under this grant? Will these programs be conducted by the Department or third-party organizations? (SS)
14. Relating to Index Code 923020B, please explain the \$150,000 expansion request for Grow Some Good, formerly Maui School Garden Network. (Page 1-8, Budget Details) (NUH)
15. Relating to Index Code 918223C: (Page 1-9, Budget Details)
 - a. Please explain the need for the Kula Agriculture Park Field Office. Which of the Department's staff will occupy this office space? Will the Farm Maintenance Laborer staff the field office full-time? (NUH) (TC)
 - b. What is the average cost for the type of riding mower the Department is proposing to purchase for \$80,000? Will the new mower be electric? How many riding mowers does the Department currently have? (GJ) (TC)
 - c. Please explain why mid-size SUVs are needed to complete business-related errands. What is the estimated cost of the vehicles? (NUH)
 - d. The Department is requesting two new vehicles for a total of three vehicles for the Department's use. Please provide a breakdown of vehicle usage to justify the need for three vehicles and how the Department currently manages its vehicle use. (TC)

16. Please provide an inventory of all lawn and grounds maintenance equipment used by the Department. (GJ)
 - a. Please indicate which equipment are gas powered or electric. Does the Department have a plan, timeline, or cost estimate for replacing gas-powered equipment with electric equipment? (GJ)
 - b. For the machinery and equipment budgeted to be purchased in FY 2025, please indicate which will be gas-powered and which will be electric. If the Department doesn't expect to purchase electric machinery or equipment, please explain why. (GJ)

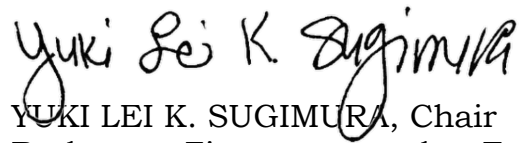
17. Relating to the State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture Grant Award, formerly CBS-7898, Kula Agricultural Park Phase 1 Expansion – Upcountry Maui Ag Park (FY 2024): (Page 119, Program Budget)
 - a. Formerly listed as a CIP project in the FY 2024 Budget, the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture provided a \$10,160,000 grant award. What is the status of the project and these grant funds, including the County's \$10,000,000 match? Was the \$20,750,000 in funds adopted in FY 2024 encumbered? (YLS) (GJ) (TP)
 - b. If the Phase I expansion has not yet been constructed, when is construction anticipated to begin? (TP)
 - c. Was the "lease map" approach selected for the project? (TP)
 - d. What is the status of the booster pump relocation project for the Park? (TP)
 - e. Are any positions or line-items in the Department's FY 2025 budget responsible for exploring the feasibility of additional County agricultural parks? (GJ)
 - f. Please explain the timeline of when farmers will be able to use the Park. (NUH)

To ensure efficient processing, please include the relevant Committee item number in the subject line of your response.

Ms. Rogerene Arce
March 31, 2024
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Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (James Krueger at ext. 7761, Kasie Apo Takayama at ext. 7665, or Yvette Bouthillier at ext. 7758).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei K. Sugimura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

bfed:2025bgt:240329aag01:clm

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Acting Budget Director

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2024 3:12 PM
To: Rogerene Arce
Cc: BFED Committee; Koa.Hewahewa@co.maui.hi; Kahea Ueshiro; Michelle Santos; Zeke Kalua; Lesley Milner; Kristina Cabbat
Subject: PLEASE READ attached letter re: FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2025 BUDGET (BFED 1); (AG 2)
Attachments: (AG-2) Correspondence to Agriculture 03-31-2024.pdf

Ms. Arce: Please refer to the attached letter from the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development (BFED) Committee Chair, dated March 31, 2024. Please respond by **April 4, 2024**.

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

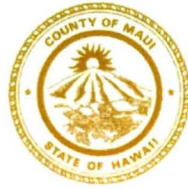
Ms. Milner: FYI

Thank you,
Yvette Bouthillier, Senior Secretary
BFED Committee

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

ROGERENE K.M. ARCE
Director

KOA HEWAHEWA
Deputy Director



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

April 4, 2024

Lesley Milner 
Acting Budget Director, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL


Mayor **Date** 4-5-24

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

For Transmittal to:

Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Sugimura:

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR (“FY”) 2025 BUDGET (BFED-1) (AG-2)

Thank you for your letter dated March 31, 2024 regarding the FY 2025 Budget for the Department of Agriculture. Please see our responses to your questions below:

Overall

1. Please provide the Department’s annual report on the County’s overall performance in meeting agriculture objectives and any barriers that could be addressed by ordinance. (Page 103, Program Budget) (YLS)

A PDF copy of our Department’s FY 2023 Annual Report will be sent digitally.

2. One of the Department’s main strategies for providing strong advocacy and support for local farmers is to identify existing resources and cultivate new programs. Please provide information on new programs that have been developed to assist farmers.

(Page 104, Program Budget) (NUH)

Four Divisions within the Department have been established and the following programs and resources are available to the public:

Grants Division

- Grants program for funding opportunities
- Technical assistance
- Grant Readiness Workshops

Food Security Division

- Food & Nutrition Security Plan (leading to the Plan development and food access projects); Community Talk Story
- Maui Nui Food Summit, annually
- Youth Ag. Field Day, annually

Agriculture Advocacy

- Agriculture Resource Directory

3. Relating to the Department's strategic plan: (Page 113, Program Budget)

a. When will the Council receive the completed plan? (TC) (TP)

In two weeks.

b. How much of the \$240,000 has been encumbered? (TP)

Encumbered balance is \$48,750.

c. What methodology was used to ensure that adequate community input and a diverse spectrum of stakeholders were represented in shaping the plan? (TC)

Guild Consulting conducted focus groups with invited stakeholders, held one on one interviews, and community meetings to receive input on the draft Strategic Plan.

4. Has the Department established its administrative rules? If yes, please provide a copy. If no, please state why not. (TP)

A draft has been developed and being finalized by Department heads. It will be sent to DPS to review then, to the Unions for approval. The development of the administrative rules by the Department is not the highest priority among developing the Departmental framework which includes staff capacity and defining Divisions to create.

5. The Department is responsible for educational and mitigation efforts of invasive species. The State Department of Land and Natural Resources also has those responsibilities. How will the Department address interagency issues if conflicts are identified by property owners, farmers, neighbors, or constituents? (Page 105, Program Budget) (TK)

- 1) For response activities (ie. trapping, insecticide applications, species removal, etc.) HDOA Director Hurd and Deputy Director Kishida had preliminary verbal discussions with Director Arce about developing an MOA or MOU for MDOA to assist in response activities as the third line of defense to HDOA and MISC.
- 2) Both HDOA and MISC will provide training to MDOA staff
- 3) The Ag. Program Assistant position is being established with DPS who will provide support in invasive species management and, the Department will evaluate what capacity is further needed for the following FY

6. Relating to Agriculture Program, Key Activity Goals & Measures, for each additional activity undertaken by the Department, such as system mapping, data collection on useable land vs. crop needs, or whether measurable or quantifiable data is available, please provide the Department's accomplishments for each. (Page 109, Program Budget) (TC)

None of those Success Measures have begun to be collected since key staff positions were established this FY which are the Division Leaders: Ag. Park Maintenance Specialist, Ag. Advocate, Food Access Coordinator. The Ag. Program Assistant position is being established with DPS who will assist the Ag. Park Maintenance Specialist (aka Ag Park Manager) in the data collection and data input functions, perform basic research and surveying.

7. Relating to Agriculture Program, Goal #1, item 1: (Page 109, Program Budget)

- a. The number of workshops is expected to decrease from 8 in FY 2024 to 3 in FY 2025, but the number of participants who are expected to receive assistance shows an increase from 35 in FY 2024 to 50 in FY 2025. Please explain. (TC) (TK)

We held two grant workshops in FY 2024 thus far. The attendance should increase as more farmers become aware of these workshops that are tailored to accommodate their availability.

- b. Based on these figures, in FY 2025, more participants are expected in each workshop compared to FY 2024. Please explain the Department's reasoning for this change. (TK)

As more farmers become aware of our grants program, we expect an increase in workshop attendees in FY 2025.

- c. In the third success measurement, what is meant by “grant ready”? (TK)

“Grant ready” is having the applicant aware of and obtaining assistance with acquiring all required documents (proof of insurance, DCCA vendor compliance, W9, etc.) and also what our department will be requiring (budget/expense sheet, details of program, staffing, etc.).

8. Relating to Agriculture Program, Goal #1, item 2: (Page 110, Program Budget)

- a. The amount of grants provided to the agriculture sector through State or Federal sources is expected to decrease from \$3,000,000 in FY 2024 to \$1,500,000 in FY 2025. Please explain. (TC)
- b. The Department estimates receiving \$2,500,000 in funding from State and Federal sources in FY 2024. According to the Quarter 2 Budget Implementation Report, no funding has been secured. Please provide an update and explain the reasoning for the amount received. Explain why the FY 2025 Estimate is \$4,000,000 and how this will be achieved. (NUH)

The \$4,000,000 was a guess by Director on what the Grants Division staff could aim to secure through successful grant writing that would provide a source of funding to develop grant programs so not to be reliant on a budget request to fund the Department’s grant program. Although the Grants Division was established in FY 2023, the two GMPS time is consumed with managing the 50+ agriculture grant contracts that was transferred over from OED at the start of the 2024 calendar year and additional contracts awarded by the Department in FY’s 2023 and 2024. Only one of the two GMPS has a small percentage of 15% of FTE in identifying and applying for federal grant opportunities. To achieve securing grant funding to support the Department’s Grant Program the Department will develop more staff positions in the future FY’s. It is important for now that the development of the Department’s organizational framework is done in a balanced fashion to have staff coverage in as many agriculture topics and areas. We are looking into a potential contract to fund a Grant Writer position through Ulupono.

9. Relating to Agriculture Program, Goal #1, item 3, please provide the State and House bill numbers the Department assisted with and that are currently moving through the Hawaii State Legislature. Please explain the Department’s support for each measure. (Page 110, Program Budget) (TC)

- SB3365, Relating to Plant Care Components
Act requires the Department of Agriculture to certify treatments performed on wood chips, compost, and filter socks. Places certain restrictions on the distribution or transportation of plant care components without prior treatment certification from the Department.

We SUPPORT this measure for the following reasons:

1. This bill provides for the State Department of Agriculture another much needed layer to protect our islands from invasives, especially coconut rhinoceros beetle (CRB).
2. The Maui County Department of Agriculture strongly supports this bill because it assists our CRB working, which includes our HDOA, by mitigating the primary vectors of the beetle.
3. We also strongly support this bill because it assists in the safeguarding of Lahaina where there has been numerous filter socks imported to slow hazardous run off. Furthermore, this bill assists in the assurance of clean woodchips and composts which will be needed for the Lahaina recovery over the next few years.

- SB2329, Relating to Aquaculture
The Act Appropriates moneys for mullet production for fishponds and stock enhancement, including for new positions, equipment, maintenance, and operating costs. Declares that the appropriations exceed the state general fund expenditure ceiling for 2024-2025.

We SUPPORT this measure for the following reasons:

1. This bill provides vital funding for sustainable aquaculture by funding mullet production for fishpond recharge and stock enhancement.
2. This bill funds much needed equipment, maintenance, and operating costs that will increase our agricultural workforce and industry as a whole.
3. This bill will begin to take steps towards the development of a resilient environment and a healthy public. The restoration of our aquaculture and fishponds in particular addresses climate change adaptation, food and nutrition security, and presents a unique opportunity economically.

- SB3316, Relating to Pesticides

We SUPPORT this measure for the following reasons:

1. While Hawai'i has taken steps towards mandatory disclosure of Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP), we believe that we can continue to take steps towards increasing the accessibility, transparency, and efficacy of this information that better serves the health and safety of our environment and public.
2. Monthly reported use of RUP creates the opportunity for our concerned community to have more meaningful, real time, and pertinent analysis of environmental and public health impacts of pesticides from more comprehensive reporting. Especially in regards to geospatial data of RUP

application, considering the proximity of their use to residential communities, schools, and public spaces.

3. There are well researched and documented studies of chronic health effects associated with pesticide use. Improving reporting of what RUP is sprayed, where, when, and in what quantities can provide policy makers and public health experts with much needed data to make evidence based and informed decisions about pesticide use, management, and regulation.

- SB2401 HD1, Relating to Feral Chickens

The Act Makes an appropriation to each county as a grant-in-aid for the implementation of feral chicken control programs. Makes an appropriation to the Department of Health for a feeding of feral animals education campaign. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.

We SUPPORT this measure for the following reasons:

1. We recognize our feral chickens and roosters as a resource and we support a program that assists in the control and management of their populations.
2. We support addressing this situation by first establishing a feral animals education program that increases our community's knowledge to best manage this situation.
3. This bill will allow Maui County to build our capacity by developing our departments abilities to implement animal control measures.

- HB2619, Relating to Agriculture Biosecurity

This act appropriates funds for the biosecurity program of the Department of Agriculture to develop and implement projects for clean plant material, agricultural treatments, diagnostics, and pest management.

We SUPPORT this measure for the following reasons:

1. This bill allows for our State Department of Agriculture to implement much needed and long overdue biosecurity programs that are needed to secure and sustain environmental and public health and safety. Biosecurity and these programs and initiatives that need to be implemented are the back bone to our food and nutrition sustainability and security.
2. This bill allows for best management practices to be developed and implemented, especially at our ports, pre and post entry, which is the primary vector for countless pests and diseases that literally threaten our lives and existence here in Hawai'i.
3. This bill is just a first step to securing our endemic ecology/environment and ultimately our economy. If we don't significantly increase our biosecurity and the protection of our 'āina and endemic ecology there will come a time, for example, Hawai'i won't be able to produce and capture water. We are the

most isolated land masses in the world, where historically one new species was introduced once every three hundred thousand years. Today, because our reliance on imports and current biosecurity measures we introduce to our endemic ecology, which is the rarest and most unique in the world, nearly a new species every day. With increased biosecurity we can begin to sustain a pono, resilient, and prosperous 'āina, which is the foundation of our environmental and public health and safety, as well as, our economic viability.

4. The County of Maui supports the biosecurity program under the department of agriculture because it recognizes the increasing threat to particularly our agricultural food crops and food security.
5. The Department of Agriculture developed the biosecurity program to fight Hawai'i's pests and prohibits restricted organisms without a permit which speeds up and bypasses a restrictive process.
6. The Hawaii State Department of Agriculture is required to implement the comprehensive biosecurity program to control and prevent increasing threats of pests and prohibited or restricted organisms without a permit from entering and spreading throughout the State.

- HB1815, Relating to Agribusiness Development Corporation
The Act specifies the inclusion of agritourism in the definition of "enterprise" to authorize the Agribusiness Development Corporation to financially support businesses engaged in agritourism.

We SUPPORT this measure for the following reasons:

1. The County of Maui supports HB 1815 which authorizes the Agribusiness Development Corporation to financially support businesses engaged in agritourism
2. Enterprises are necessary in the agricultural industry as an extension to agribusinesses which are engaged in agricultural crop development, value-added products, increasing accessory and use of agricultural facilities
3. The amendment will create the opportunity for a more diversified agricultural industry that will enhance the industry as a whole through increased access to funding.

- HB2771, Relating to Food Security
The Act appropriates funds for the continued administration of the Hawai'i healthy food incentive program and to provide matching funds to beneficiaries who participate in the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

We SUPPORT this measure for the following reasons:

1. This bill doubles the purchasing power of a SNAP dollar when used to buy Hawai'i grown produce, thus supporting our agricultural industry.

2. This bill supports local farmers and producers by increasing the customer base and incentivizing consumers to keep dollars in our local community.
3. This bill dedicates funding to the state which can ultimately be matched by federal funding. This funding is small but necessary to begin to address food and nutrition security for Hawai'i.

- HB2626, Relating To Fishponds

The Act specifies that the counties may issue traffic infractions for violations of any law prohibiting or restricting the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles on all highways and county property. Authorizes stopping, standing, and parking restrictions and prohibitions on property under jurisdiction of the Director of Transportation and the counties, respectively.

We SUPPORT this measure for the following reasons:

1. This bill allows for the development and implementation of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) master permit process for traditional Hawaiian fishponds which helps streamline and create a more efficient process for the regeneration, restoration, mālama, and operation of loko i'a, traditional Hawaiian fishponds.
2. This bill creates the opportunity and path forward for the reestablishment of a truly sustainable and secure food production system that has proven to be effective for hundreds of years in Hawai'i. The resurrection of our fishponds across Hawai'i is beneficial and necessary for our environmental and public health and safety.
3. We strongly support this bill because our loko i'a are vitally important natural and cultural resources. It is a system when implemented and lead with ancestral wisdom and traditional Native Hawaiian knowledge will positively increase our communities ability to be food secure, climate change adaptable, and overall significantly more resilient. The loko i'a infrastructure adds to our resilient landscape and green infrastructure in inmeasureable ways. This bill supports the healing of our 'āina, kai, endemic ecology, and our people.

10. Relating to Agriculture Program, Goal #2, item 1: (Pages 110 and 111, Program Budget) (GJ)

- a. Please explain how the success measurement works in practice once the number of residents without access to locally produced food are identified.

We are in the process of developing a food system map for Maui County, mapping all food systems infrastructure, including grocery stores, farmers markets, food pantries, and food outlets including restaurants, to better

understand our areas of low food access. We will utilize this data to support groups like MEO and Maui United Way in developing food access programs like the Kaukau 4 Keiki Summer Feeding Program.

- b. Please explain how the success measurement relating to the number of residents, including those in food deserts, that improved their access to locally produced food works in practice and how it achieves the goal of collecting market data to inform decision-making of the agricultural sector.

Our Department works with the Maui Food Bank and other partners, including the Emergency Feeding Taskforce, Hawai'i Appleseed, and the Maui Nui Food Alliance to gain a more up-to-date and local perspective on food security, in addition to the data we receive from Feeding America and USDA describing rates of hunger, child food insecurity, and the number of individuals accessing federal food assistance programs, including SNAP and WIC. With this data and the information we gathered in our series of community talk stories, we are developing a food and nutrition security plan to improve nutrition security, climate and emergency resilience, and opportunities for local food producers to overcome barriers that prevent Maui County from having a food supply that is self-sufficient, secure, and sustainable. We aim to have this plan and our food system mapping finalized before FY26, as it will guide our programs in areas of low food access. These programs will include supporting Farm to Food Bank, the formation of new farmers markets, and the expansion of the DA BUX program across Maui County.

11. Relating to Agriculture Program, Goal #2, item 4, the FY 2025 Estimate indicated a total of 5,000 acres of important and non-designated agricultural lands being surveyed and mapped. Please provide a description of those areas. (Page 111, Program Budget) (TC)

None collected since key staff positions were established this FY which are the Division Leaders: Ag. Park Maintenance Specialist, Ag. Advocate, Food Access Coordinator. The Ag. Program Assistant position is being established with DPS who will assist the Ag. Park Maintenance Specialist (aka Ag Park Mgr) in the data collection and data input functions, perform basic research and surveying.

12. Relating to Agriculture Program, Goal #3, item 3, what programs, activities, or plans does the Department have in place to help facilitate new farmers markets and food stands being developed in under resourced and underserved communities? (Page 112, Program Budget) (TC)

We are exploring the idea of establishing a farmers market at Entry Park on County park's land fronting the Lana'i Fire Station by meeting the requirements that is needed to establish such an event that include permitting, establishing rules and procedures, having adequate infrastructure, complying with DOH and GAP certifications where applicable, etc., and are working with HFUU Lāna'i, the Planning Department, Parks Department, Corporate Counsel and the Fire Department that will feature 100% grown on Lāna'i produce, and provide a new market for Lāna'i's producers looking to scale their production. It is important to emphasize that the farmers market is not meant to compete with the Chamber of Commerce's Food Stand who sells at the Dole Park but instead, aim to provide more opportunity for growers to make sales, and allow residents more access to purchase local grown produce and eggs by holding on days and times different from the Dole Park market.

In FY23, the Director successfully advocated for \$1,300,000 of federal capital improvement funding for Sustainable Molokai (SM) to secure property with infrastructure that they can make improvements to that will support the development of their resiliency hub, to facilitate their farmers market, a store front, a food bank, and as a commercial kitchen space for local producers.

- 13.** Please provide a list of community meetings held in FY 2024 to promote community involvement in the future of agriculture in Maui County, including the types of information provided to attendees. What strategies has the Department implemented to promote and continue community involvement? (Page 112, Program Budget) (NUH)

As part of the Strategic Plan development, Guild Consulting conducted 10 interviews on County of Maui (DWS, DEM, DHHC, Finance-RPT, and OED) and state departments (DLNR, HDOA, DHHL, and Agribusiness Development Corp).

Also, Guild Consulting conducted five focus groups. two Public meetings in Molokai, Lāna'i, and one online to gather feedback and input on the draft Plan, and an all day Planning Session on the Strategic Plan development with a selection of stakeholders that represent compost, food hub, and farming.

Seven Community Talk Story Sessions were held to validate the findings from the Maui Nui Food System Needs Assessment, which will be used to develop the Food and Nutrition Security Plan.

The Department hosted the Maui Nui Food Summit which brought together community and industry leaders to discuss the transformation of Maui County's food security.

The Department also co-hosted the first youth agriculture field day.

14. Relating to the Draft 2024-2028 Department of Agriculture Strategic Plan, which budget items support the County's and Department's goals toward local composting? (GJ)

No budget is set aside for compost making. DEM EP&S will continue to oversee and lead compost operations, education, and outreach. However, DEM has requested that MDOA work with farmers to determine what the standards for organic compost are which will eventually become a Departmental initiative when there is staff to champion the project.

The Department will be awarded a \$200,000 HDOA grant to fund a pilot project of a container hauling program in Central Maui for stockpiled green waste that could be a potential CRB breeding ground to be hauled to the County of Maui's central Maui landfill where it will be made into compost.

15. Please describe the Department's working relationship with the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC). (TP)

The Department is coordinating with the State Department of Agriculture, Maui Invasive Species Committee, Molokai Invasive Species Committee, Hawaii Invasive Species Committee, CTAHR and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response Team to coordinate the inter-agency response to invasive threats to agricultural production in Maui County to prevent overlap or redundancy in duties.

16. Was the Department consulted about the Department of Water Supply's 20% agriculture water rate increase? How will this impact farmers? (GJ)

The Department was not consulted and does not have information to know the potential impacts.

17. Strategies 360 was contracted to search for Federal funding opportunities. Did the Department apply for any Federal grants as a result of our contract with them? (TP)

The Department did not apply for any grants that Strategies 360 shared. The Grants Division has two GMPS of which one GMPS has 15% FTE in identifying and applying for federal grant opportunities but, both are managing the 50+ agriculture grant contracts that was transferred over from OED at the start of the 2024 calendar year and additional contracts awarded by the Department for the grant subsidies of FY's 2023 and 2024. The Department is needing more staff to secure funding that will allow the Department to develop grant programs and not to be reliant on a budget request to fund the Department's grant program. The Department is looking into applying for a grant funded Grant Writer position with Ulupono for one to two years to allow Department to request for EP's, create the position PD's, and then establish with the DPS.

18. If the Department's budget was cut by 5% due to a post-wildfire mandated reduction, please explain which portions were cut. (SS)

Majority would be taken from professional services plus we terminated Strategies 360 contract because they were already providing same services via Management Department. The other cuts were in categories with bigger amounts that we did not use much of that include advertising, misc. supplies, printing & binding.

19. If \$100,000 of the Department's budget had to be cut, which portions would be cut and why? (SS)

Cuts would be made in categories with bigger amounts that we did not use much of that include advertising, supplies, printing, binding, etc.

Salaries and Wages (Category "A")

1. How do the Grants Coordinator and Grants Management Program Specialist positions differ from one another? (Page 113, Program Budget) (NUH)

Under the general supervision of the Deputy Director, the Grant Coordinator will work independently to plan, develop, manage and coordinate the Department's grant programs and activities. Assignments to this position may be complex and require an understanding of and experience with grants programs and activities.

- Plan, develop, manage and coordinate grant programs and activities
- Ensures compliance with funding requirements
- Supervise and provide direction to grants program and management staff
- Coordinates records management activities for grant related programs

Under the general supervision of the Grant Coordinator, the Grants Management Program Specialist III independently performs the full range of grants management tasks related to the grant process.

- Assist in the implementation of the grant programs and activities
- Ensure compliance with State and County regulations, policies, guidelines and requirements
- Support departments, agencies, farmers, ranchers, and community organizations through the grants process
- Identify and assist in applying for federal or state grant opportunities

- a. What additional revenue have been identified as a result of these positions? Please provide a list of funding sources that the Department has applied for, including the dollar amount and status. (NUH)

As indicated in question 17 above, no additional revenue was secured by the Grants Division because of the two GMPS dedicating their time to manage existing grant contracts. Also as indicated in question 14 above, Director & DEM Recycling Manager co-wrote an HDOA proposal to fund a pilot project of a container hauling program for stockpiled green waste for Central Maui to be hauled to the landfill and be made into compost in an effort to reduce potential CRB breeding sites.

- b. Do these positions secure grant funds from State, Federal, or private entities, manage County administered grants, or both? (SS)

As indicated in question 17, the Grants Division has two GMPS of which one GMPS has 15% FTE in identifying and applying for federal grant opportunities but, both are managing the 50+ agriculture grant contracts that was transferred over from OED at the start of the 2024 calendar year and additional contracts awarded by the Department for the grant subsidies of FY's 2023 and 2024. The Department is needing more staff to secure funding that will allow the Department to develop grant programs and not to be reliant on a budget request to fund the Department's grant program. The Department is looking into applying for a grant funded Grant Writer position with Ulupono for one to two years to allow Department to request for EP's, create the position PD's, and then establish with the DPS.

2. Please explain the reduction of 1.0 Equivalent Personnel for the Waste and Resource Regeneration Specialist position. Why is the Department not funding this position and how will it impact the Department's operations? (Page 113, Program Budget) (GJ)

The Waste Regeneration Specialist P-X3027 position needs to be created by Director and established with DPS. The position will be reallocated to the Ag. Park Caretaker.

3. Please explain the need for the requested salary adjustments of \$180,478 under Index Code 918223A. (Page 114, Program Budget) (SS)

Restore cuts by Council in FY 2024 because we are working to establish all expanded positions.

4. Provide the minimum qualifications and the position description for the Food Access Coordinator under Index Code 918223A. Has the position been filled? (Page 1-3, Budget Details) (TP)

The Food Access Coordinator position has been filled. The Minimum Qualification Requirements listed below are taken from the Job Bulletin:

Training and Experience: A combination of education and experience substantially equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a bachelor's degree in business or public administration, political science, education, psychology, sociology or a related field and two (2) years of professional administrative and analytical work experience involving community, civic or similar service-oriented programs and the responsibility for directing and coordinating the work of groups.

License Requirements: Possession of a valid Hawaii State driver's license (Type 3).

Knowledge of: principles of organization and administration; principles of public relations, government functions, programs, and services; local community needs and community resources; the structure, functions and purposes of community organizations and interest groups; in-service training methods; research methods and techniques; record keeping practices; collaborative problem solving and conflict resolution; report writing; and principles of supervision.

Ability to: plan, organize, and execute projects and programs; establish and maintain effective working relationships

Health and Physical Condition:

Persons seeking appointment to positions in this class must meet the health and physical condition standards deemed necessary and proper to perform the essential functions to the position with or without reasonable accommodations.

Physical Effort Grouping: Light

5. How long has the Department of Personnel Services been working to establish the Agricultural Inspector position? Would an 8-month salary be appropriate if it's not currently established? (Page 1-3, Budget Details) (TP)

The Agriculture Inspection position needs to be created by Director and established with the Department of Personnel Services. The position will be reallocated to a second position for Ag. Park Caretaker 1.

Operations and Equipment (Categories "B" and "C")

1. Relating to Index Code 918223B, how will the Department ensure \$300,000 for coconut rhinoceros beetle and invasive species campaigns are not redundant with MISC funding? Will \$300,000 be enough to fund these campaigns? (Page 114, Program Budget) (GJ)

- a. Please detail what the Department's plan is for these campaigns. Is the plan to seek grant funding and if so, how would this be coordinated with other efforts throughout the County? (NUH) (SS)

The Department is coordinating the Maui County CRB response through leading a working group with the State Department of Agriculture, Maui Invasive Species Committee, Molokai Invasive Species Committee, Hawai'i Invasive Species Committee, CTAHR and Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Response. The working group is tasked with developing a regionally-tailored CRB Emergency Response plan for Maui County that leverages expert knowledge and insight from Pacific partners who have found innovative solutions to address CRB on their islands.

The Department has supported the deployment of CRB traps and educational workshops on CRB led by CRB Response and CTAHR Cooperative Extension.

- b. Please provide information on invasive species educational campaigns completed in FY 2024. (NUH)

The Department has supported educational workshops for landscapers, tree trimmers, and County Parks employees on CRB detection and green waste management at UHMC and in Hāna and Lāna'i led by CRB Response and CTAHR Cooperative Extension.

The department is utilizing the statewide CRB communications plan to develop press releases and to coordinate education and outreach, including a flyer campaign in Maui County at agricultural suppliers.

2. Relating to the County grant subsidy under Index Code 923024B for grants for invasive plants and animals and to address theft and vandalism on agricultural properties: (Page 115, Program Budget)

- a. What types of applications are likely to be approved for these grants? How will this grant subsidy be distributed? (GJ) (TK)

Those that assist in covering damages caused by invasive plants/animals and provide preventative measures (i.e. fencing) and mitigation (i.e. hunting).

- b. How much of the requested \$1,000,000 will be used for grants for invasive plants and animals and how much will be used for grants to address theft and vandalism? How will the funding for invasive plants and animals be different from grant funding for MISC? (GJ)

The Department does not currently fund MISC. OED funds MISC.

- c. For the grants to address theft and vandalism, does the Department address these on agricultural properties directly or is the grantee's responsibility? (TK)

The Department hasn't yet received reports of theft and vandalism but anticipate having to address these issues. The Department has an Ag Advocate that can assist in determining the facts of the occurrences which will be reviewed on a case by case basis.

- d. Will the entire \$1,000,000 be awarded or will some funds be reserved for emergency response? (TK)

The entire \$1,000,000 will be available to be awarded and also reserved for emergency/miscellaneous use, depending on our vetting process.

- e. Approximately how many farmers or operators will be provided grants in FY 2025 if based on the typical number of awards granted? (TK)

About 40 grantees are expected to be awarded grant funding for FY 2025.

3. Relating to the Department's County Grant Subsidy Detail: (Pages 115 - 117, Program Budget)

- a. Will the \$2,130,000 for Agriculture Operations/Infrastructure/Education in FY 2025 assist farmers, rangers, and flower growers for the Maui County Farm Bureau? (YLS)

Yes, the grants are open competitive for anyone to apply.

- b. How was the \$1,000,000 for Feral Animal Recovery used in FY 2024? (GJ)

It was utilized for fencing.

- c. What will be the criteria and selection process for the \$100,000 proposed for Lāna'i Agriculture in FY 2025? (GJ)

It must be a Lāna'i based project.

- d. Are the Lāna'i Agriculture and Molokai Agriculture programs only for those respective islands? Are residents on those islands prohibited from applying for other County grant subsidies? (TP)

It must be a Lāna'i or Molokai based projects, and residents are not restricted to apply for other competitive categories.

- e. For the MEO Agricultural Micro Grants Program, please provide a program report and status update, including number of participants, use and purpose, grant amounts, and for each grantee, the number of years in operation and whether repeat funding was received. Will the criteria to apply be the same as previous years? (YLS) (TP)

The report can be provided by MEO's David Daly.

4. What funding sources will assist with the mitigation of axis deer and feral animals on Maui, Molokai and Lāna'i? Please detail the Department programs implemented in FY 2024 and what funds will be used to assist in FY 2025. (YLS)

The funding sources will be the Ag. Recovery grant category which allows more individuals to be eligible.

5. The Lanai Cat Sanctuary is looking for funding as they help control feral cats and dogs. Would this organization qualify for the Department's feral animal control funding? (YLS)

No. The Department focuses on feral animals that impact agriculture production.

6. The County grant subsidy program description for Agriculture Recovery on Page 116 of the Program Budget differs from the information listed on Page 1-8 of the Budget Details, Index Code 923024B. Please clarify. (GJ)

Simple oversight on the Explanation column that can be corrected by adding language.

7. Relating to Small Equipment – under \$1000 under Index Code 918223B, how many Starlinks will the Kula Agricultural Park Field Office need? Is the \$10,000 expansion request solely for the Starlink purchase? If not, what is the \$10,000 expansion request for? (Page 1-5, Budget Details) (TP)

Probably one Starlink will be needed; cost is estimated at \$1,000. Other costs are for off grid solar kit which is estimated to cost \$10,000.

8. Relating to Professional Services under Index Code 918223B, \$573,000 is proposed in FY 2025, which can be used for services relating to agricultural assessments, research, and data collection. Which agricultural assessments were identified and completed in FY 2024? Please provide any data or copies of reports. Please also provide information on any research and data collection the Department has completed. How has this information helped the Department support the community? (Page 1-5, Budget Details) (NUH)

The Food Security Division has begun data collection to develop the County's Food and Nutrition Security Plan. This data along with other agency's data that include HDOA, USDA, etc., will be integrated to develop a dashboard for the Department's website. The Department is preparing an RFP for a contractor to design and develop the dashboard. Other data that has been compiled are from the listening sessions that began in FY 2023, and data collected by Guild Consulting leading up to the development of the Department's five-year Strategic Plan. A compilation of the food security data collected by the Food Access Coordinator, the data from the Department's Listening Sessions, and data collected by Guild Consulting leading up to the development of the Department's five-year Strategic Plan will be forthcoming.

9. Relating to Contractual Service under Index Code 918223B, please explain the need for funding grant application program and monitoring when the Department has a Grants Coordinator and two Grant Management Program Specialists III. Or is this needed for the MEO Agricultural Micro Grants Program? (Page 1-5, Budget Details) (TP)

Some of the Contractual Service funding will be used for supplies, materials, and printing needed for making handbooks, and any educational materials and advertisement to support the Grant Readiness workshops and outreach events. These activities are separate from MEO Ag. Micro Grants Program

10. Relating to the Feasibility Study Agriculture Cooperative under Index Code 923014B, what is the status of this study as \$75,000 was budgeted in FY 2024. (Page 1-7, Budget Details) (ALL)

No feasibility has been conducted and will become a project at a later date when the Department has staff to champion. It also needs careful planning and determination of what the objectives and outcomes of the study will include. The Department should not start a project just because there is funding. The Director is creating positions and divisions in a balanced matter to be able to address many areas of agriculture in order to meet stakeholder needs.

11. Under Index Codes 923012B and 923010B, respectively, is "Agriculture Operations, Promotion, and Education" supposed to read "Agricultural Operations, Infrastructure, and Education" instead? Are all of these programs being advertised and promoted by the budgeted \$50,000 for Advertisement under Index Code 918223B? (Pages 1-5 and 1-7, Budget Details) (TP)

The explanation in the budget details need to be corrected "Operations, Infrastructure, and Education". If approved, these funds will be used to advertise grant opportunities.

12. Please provide a side-by-side comparison of your approved FY 2024 grants and your proposed FY 2025 grants, with necessary explanations describing how they relate to each other. For example, FY 2024 budgeted funds for Kula Agriculture Park,

Agriculture Education and Apprenticeship, and Agriculture Promotion/Technology. The FY 2025 Budget does not include these line items, but does include \$2,130,000 designated for Agriculture Operations/Infrastructure/Education, which may be intended to cover all three of the FY 2024 grants. (Page 1-8, Budget Details) (ALL)

This response is similar to our response on March 20, 2024 (BFED-79). The \$2,130,000 is still designated for Agriculture Operations/Infrastructure/Education based on our Grants Team developing competitive “funding buckets” based on the feedback and requests of previous grantees, producers, farmers, ranchers, and

community members. Specifically, the Agricultural Operations “funding bucket,” which also includes funds related to Agricultural Promotion and Agricultural Education, covers broad-based agricultural programs that encompass all forms of operational support, promotion of agricultural industry, and education-related projects and proposals enhancing the growth and future agricultural objectives.

13. Relating to the Agriculture Operations/Infrastructure/Education grant under Index Code 923018B: (Page 1-8, Budget Details)

a. How will the \$2,130,000 in grant funds be allocated? (NUH)

Like other grant categories the Department is proposing to offer, it will be a competitive grant.

b. What types of programs are anticipated to fall under this grant? Will these programs be conducted by the Department or third-party organizations? (SS)

Like other grant categories the Department is proposing to offer, it will be a competitive grant. For this particular category, projects that will assist agriculture producers in developing, expanding, up-scaling, improving their operations; promoting their business through advertising, and other related methods; and projects that are education related. These funds will be granted to third party organizations.

14. Relating to Index Code 923020B, please explain the \$150,000 expansion request for Grow Some Good, formerly Maui School Garden Network. (Page 1-8, Budget Details) (NUH)

Maui School Garden Network is a line item. Since they have two projects, Grants Division increased their funding by \$50K under Na Mala Kai`ulu.

15. Relating to Index Code 918223C: (Page 1-9, Budget Details)

a. Please explain the need for the Kula Agriculture Park Field Office. Which of the Department’s staff will occupy this office space? Will the Farm Maintenance Laborer staff the field office full-time? (NUH) (TC)

The KAP Field Office will provide Department presence in the Park and a home base that the Ag Field Operations Division can work out of to provide

grounds maintenance at both KAP and UMAP totaling approximately 700 acres with approximately 50 farms. A dedicated on-site Grounds department is needed to provide ongoing routine and preventative maintenance. Also, an on-site office will allow for direct contact with KAP/UMAP farmers to communicate with County Staff as well as allow County staff to monitor and enforce the day to day operations of the Ag Parks. The KAP Field Office will also provide a space for the Department to conduct community outreach events. Ag. Park Manager and future staff will occupy this office. The Ag Park Caretaker I is in the process of being established with DPS.

- b. What is the average cost for the type of riding mower the Department is proposing to purchase for \$80,000? Will the new mower be electric? How many riding mowers does the Department currently have? (GJ) (TC)

The average cost for this type of riding mower is approximately \$80,000. This includes the tractor and several attachments such as the mower, loader buckets, backhoe, power broom, box scraper, etc. This will not be electric due to the heavy industrial needs this equipment will be used for. The Department currently does not have any mowers.

- c. Please explain why mid-size SUVs are needed to complete business-related errands.

Grants conduct inspections on grantee projects which are on farms/ranches with unpaved road and uneven terrain, some requiring 4WD. The Ag. Park Mgr. currently uses the one County truck purchased in FY 2023 daily to perform duties at the KAP. Deputy Director Hewahewa and Ag. Advocate have dual roles with Office of Recovery that require travel to Lahaina and Kula frequently. Occasionally, administrative office personnel will use to pick up office supplies. Currently, 10 staff share one truck to conduct office business. With the nature of our work being conducted in an industry that occurs on ag lands, farms, ranches, open conservation areas, staff should not be required to use personal vehicle or have to purchase one to conduct County business when other County departments have multiple fleet vehicles.

- d. What is the estimated cost of the vehicles? (NUH)

Two estimated at \$50,000 each.

- e. The Department is requesting two new vehicles for a total of three vehicles for the Department's use. Please provide a breakdown of vehicle usage to justify the need for three vehicles and how the Department currently manages its vehicle use. (TC)

Two new mid-size are needed because the Department currently has only one vehicle, a truck that is used daily by the Ag Parks Division.

16. Please provide an inventory of all lawn and grounds maintenance equipment used by the Department. (GJ)

(1) String trimmer

(1) Blower

(1) Pressure washer

(1) 10 foot container is in route to the Department's office parking lot at Miyahira house. It will provide adequate storage space for more equipment and PPE that will be purchased this FY. The Ag. Park Manager currently has the three gas powered tools in his office, a converted garage closet, because of the lack of space in our building that is shared with two DHHC staff and nine Department staff.

a. Please indicate which equipment are gas powered or electric. Does the Department have a plan, timeline, or cost estimate for replacing gas-powered equipment with electric equipment? (GJ)

All current equipment is gas powered. Battery powered small equipment can replace the gas-powered equipment once an Ag Park field office is complete with power to charge batteries. At that time a complete inventory of battery powered small equipment can be purchased for an approximate price of \$5,000.

b. For the machinery and equipment budgeted to be purchased in FY 2025, please indicate which will be gas-powered and which will be electric. If the Department doesn't expect to purchase electric machinery or equipment, please explain why. (GJ)

All current equipment is gas powered. Battery powered small equipment can replace the gas-powered equipment once an Ag Park field office is complete with power to charge batteries. At that time a complete inventory of battery powered small equipment can be purchased for an approximate price of \$5,000.

17. Relating to the State of Hawaii, Department of Agriculture Grant Award, formerly CBS-7898, Kula Agricultural Park Phase 1 Expansion – Upcountry Maui Ag Park (FY 2024): (Page 119, Program Budget)

a. Formerly listed as a CIP project in the FY 2024 Budget, the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture provided a \$10,160,000 grant award. What is the status of the project and these grant funds, including the County's \$10,000,000 match? Was the \$20,750,000 in funds adopted in FY 2024 encumbered? (YLS) (GJ) (TP)

The Booster Pump Relocation Project is schedule to go out for bid.

Upper Maui Ag. Park Determining the conceptual plans for the UMAP water delivery system. The EA, which covers the water system and the UMAP, are in process but awaiting decision on the water system plans to be determined

FY 2024 funds have not been encumbered. Contacted Rep. Yamashita and Senator Hashimoto's respective offices on February 1, 2024 to discuss draw-down process of matching funds, and are awaiting responses. We plan to encumber funds in FY 2025. The Department will start the process to get the County's \$10,000,000 bond match when the state funds are encumbered.

- b. If the Phase I expansion has not yet been constructed, when is construction anticipated to begin? (TP)

Phase I, aka UMAP cannot start until the EA process is complete which is expected by end of 2024, and the water delivery system needs to go out to bid. Until the determination of the water system is made, the decisions on the roads, lot design and placement, location of fire hydrants, and electricity, etc. cannot be made. Construction is anticipated to begin probably mid 2025

- c. Was the "lease map" approach selected for the project? (TP)

Yes, the lease map approach was selected instead of the subdivision.

- d. What is the status of the booster pump relocation project for the Park? (TP)

The Booster Pump Relocation Project is schedule to go out for bid.

- e. Are any positions or line-items in the Department's FY 2025 budget responsible for exploring the feasibility of additional County agricultural parks? (GJ)

No staff will be assigned to exploring the feasibility of County Ag. Parks in FY 2025 because the Department should focus efforts towards finishing up projects that have been initiated before starting new projects. Also, the newly established Ag Field Ops/Parks Div., the Food Security Div., the Ag. Advocacy and Education Div. have just got leadership created and hired. They are developing their work plans and beginning to initiate projects developed based on stakeholder needs.

- f. Please explain the timeline of when farmers will be able to use the Park. (NUH)

Approximately in 2026

Chair Yuki Lei K. Sugimura
April 4, 2024
Page 23

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at ext. 8278 or contact Deputy Director Koa Hewahewa at ext. 8277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rogerene 'Kali' Arce". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Rogerene "Kali" Arce
Director

BFED Committee

From: Janina Agapay <Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 10:24 AM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Lesley Milner
Subject: (BFED-1)(AG-2)
Attachments: (BFED-1)(AG-2).pdf

Hello,

Please see attached correspondence from Department of Agriculture.

Thank you,

Janina Agapay

County of Maui

Budget Office

(808) 270-7836

Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us