

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-01 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 04-01-24 09:00

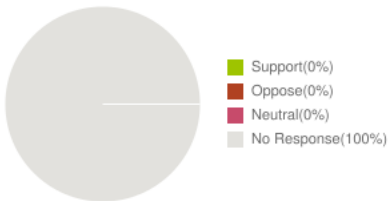
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-01 9:00 AM	04-01-24 09:00	2	7	0	0	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

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

Overall Sentiment



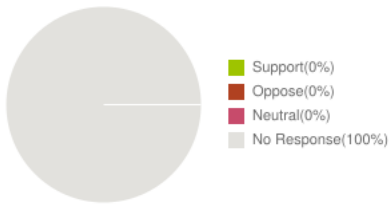
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-01 9:00 AM
04-01-24 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	1	0	0	0
BFED-1 Bill 60 (2024) PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)	6	0	0	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

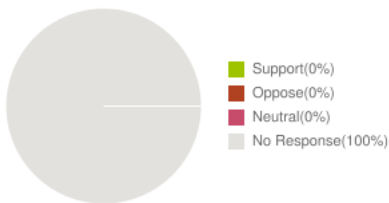
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



BFED Committee

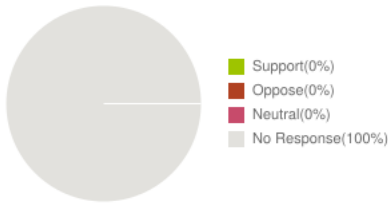
Location:

Submitted At: 12:34pm 04-01-24

Written testimony received by BFED committee on 3/27/2024

Agenda Item: eComments for BFED-1 Bill 60 (2024) PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)

Overall Sentiment



BFED Committee

Location:

Submitted At: 10:43am 04-01-24

From: Paula Phillips <paulalee@hawaii.rr.com>

Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 4:50 PM

To: bf.committee@mauicounty.us

Cc: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>

Subject: testimony for upcoming budget meetings

Aloha Budget and Finance Committee,

I know that a large majority of the budget will be used to rebuild Lahaina and house the families which is what needs to be done. With whatever funds are still available, here are a few areas I would like to bring to your attention:

1. Is there any way that the county can purchase the land on the makai side of Hana Highway on the way to the Haiku Community Center? There is now a gated community planned that will block access by car or truck down to fishing grounds used by native Hawaiians for centuries. This area should be in a land trust and as much of the coastline as possible should be preserved for generations to come.
2. It would also be a bonus for the Haiku community if the land that adjoins Giggle Hill could be purchased and the park expanded with walking trails... there are no paved walking trails in Haiku and it gets pretty unsafe and muddy walking on the streets and jumping off the road when traffic comes by.
3. Money should be allotted for covered playgrounds, similar to what they have at Kalama Park in Kihei, for all of our keiki. In Lahaina for the sun of course and also for Haiku, Paia and/or Makawao. It is so rainy over here and too many days go by with doing inside activities for our keiki. It is also nice to have coverage on sunny days as well.
4. There needs to be dedicated pickleball courts all over the island. This sport is growing like crazy and taking over basketball and tennis courts all over Maui. In Haiku there is a covered basketball court at the elementary school that has been taken over by pickleball players. They go when school is out and set up 3 nets every day. When people come by to play basketball, they move a net for them, but they are not able to play on the full court. My daughter and son-in-law used to play a few times a week but they have given up going.
5. Can something be done about the feral chickens? There are so many and myself and many neighbors have a problem with them digging up our vegetable gardens. I have had to put deer fence around my garden to try and keep them out. Is there a way that MISC can add them to their list of Invasive species?
6. Lastly, please complete the Haiku Fire Station ASAP. It has been in the process of being built for way too many years.

Mahalo for your time,

Paula Phillips
Haiku

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:14pm 03-31-24

From: Petar Kovacic <pkovacic@kkhs.k12.hi.us>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2024 4:44:40 PM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii
To: BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Subject: plz consider funding haiku northshore openspace k-bay purchase

Please allocate \$6.8mil for the Puniawa Bay(west kuiaha bay) coastal access near the historic Haiku Pauwela Light House. That region has beautiful benefits for ocean enthusiasts and historical and ecological value.

Thanks!

I am a surfer and outdoor enthusiast and environmental advocate.

Petar Kovacic
King Kekaulike High School Automotive Program
Maintenance & Light Repair, Collision Repair
Environmental Club Advisor
pkovacic@kkhs.k12.hi.us
(808) 727-3615

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:17am 03-31-24

To: BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Cc: Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins <Nohe.Uu-Hodgins@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>
Subject: SAVE HAIKU AND ITS COASTAL/AGRICULTURAL LAND

Aloha Maui County Council,

Please purchase the three parcels for sale in Haiku by Wainaku LLC and preserve it/use it for ag, Haiku School, the community center, and ocean access.

Thank you,
Spencer Hyde
4949 Hana Hwy
Haiku, HI 96708

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:15am 03-31-24

-----Original Message-----

From: Joan Louise <joanilouise@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2024 8:10 AM
To: BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Speed humps on Kokomo and more proposed

[You don't often get email from joanilouise@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Please remove or make the speed humps on Kokomo smaller.

They are too big. Our mechanic said many customers are having suspension work on their cars due to this. As far as I know, the speed humps should be made to be able to drive over them at the speed limit posted. Those speed humps are much too big too frequent and built rough so that you almost have to come to a stop to go over

them. Kokomo and Kapakalua roads should be declared as thoroughfares. I don't understand how it is that people move in those areas and then can just demand speed humps at the cost of the taxpayers. I did some research and each speed hump supposedly cost \$15,000. I would like our tax money to go towards establishing thoroughfares, safe, bike and walking paths for the residents not the tourists. I understand that in the aftermath of the fires, there are much more critical issues that you face. Consider emergency vehicles trying to go down those main thoroughfares and going over the huge speed humps. We have lived here for 40 years and seen our quality of life deteriorate due to traffic and decisions by the county that often times benefit new residents well coming from the mainland and tourists.

Thank you,
Michael and Joan Conway
Peahi

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:12am 03-31-24

From: Joan Louise <joanilouise@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2024 8:00 AM
To: BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Purchase Haiku 133 acres for a land trust

[You don't often get email from joanilouise@hotmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Please protect our lands! Add the purchase of the land across from the Haiku Community Center to keep it from developers. Our roads are already too congested, we don't need more private wells and protect the shoreline. Many of these developers put nothing into the infrastructure and walk away with millions. We have been residents in Peahi for 40 years.

Thank you,
Michael and Joan Conway

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:48am 03-27-24

From: scott werden <scottwerden@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 7:40:47 AM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii
To: BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Comments on 2025 Proposed Budget

Aloha BFED Committee,

I would like to submit these comments on the 2025 proposed budget;

- 1) There is a line item in Economic Development for \$40,000 to the Haiku Community Association for water quality testing. Please support this item; this is important for the health of residents and visitors who recreate in our freshwater resources in the Haiku area.
- 2) There is a line item in Economic Development for \$25,000 to Malama Hamakua Maui for maintenance and security of the Hamakualoa Preserve. Please support this item. It is constant work by Malama Hamakua Maui, along with the community, to keep the Hamakualoa Open Space Preserve in good shape.
- 3) The following is not budgeted, but I believe it should be: Three parcels of land in Haiku are currently for sale. They are TMK 227004050, 227004003, and 227004059, for a total of 133 acres. These three properties contain the Pauwela Lighthouse Road, which goes from Hana Hwy to the Pauwela Lighthouse. The latter is owned by the County of Maui. The Pauwela Lighthouse Road has long been used by the community to access the coast as well as the lighthouse property. The community is up in arms that more coast access is disappearing into private

hands. The land also links the coastal path that goes from near Maliko Gulch to Kaupakalua Gulch and this would be blocked if sold. Please budget funds in the amount of \$6.8M to add this land to the Maui County Preserve program.

Mahalo!

Scott Werden

Haiku

scott.werden@gmail.com

BFED Committee

From: Ann A <annalanarakawa@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 12:53 PM
To: Yukilei Sugimura; Shane M. Sinenci; Alice L. Lee; Gabe Johnson; Tamara A. Paltin; Tasha A. Kama; Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins; Keani N. Rawlins; Thomas M. Cook; BFED Committee
Cc: Civil Beat; Cory-Lynn
Subject: EMRCB
Attachments: Alan letter to BFED-2.pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from annalanarakawa@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,

Please see attached letter.

Thanks,
Alan M. Arakawa

March 27, 2024

Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, Chair
and Members of the Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Sugimura and Members,

RE: East Maui Water Authority and FY25 Budget (BFED-1)

I am writing as a member of the new East Maui Regional Community Board Water Authority (EMRCB) with serious concerns about the FY25 budget process for the EMRCB.

As you know, the EMRCB is comprised of 11 members appointed by the Mayor or the Council, and three ex officio members – the Councilmember from the East Maui residency area, the Director of Water Supply and the Director of Finance.

We have met twice to date and meet again on Thursday, March 28.

At our first meeting, we voted for a Chair and Vice Chair; had briefings from Corporation Counsel on our general powers, duties and authority as a County agency, as well as on the language from the Charter Amendment that created the EMRCB and other water authorities; and reviewed the FY24 budget that currently supports us.

At our second meeting, we voted on a position description for the Executive Director and the process to recruit for and fill the position; voted to send a letter to the State Commission on Water Resources Management (CWRM), asking about the process to obtain leases; and received a briefing from CWRM on East Maui water resources.

Other than a brief discussion about budgeting in general at the first meeting, the EMRCB has not discussed a detailed budget for FY25, and yet it appears that the Chair, Jonathan Scheuer, and an ex officio member, Councilmember Shane Sinenci, have been involved in the FY25 budget process already, without the EMRCB's knowledge or without discussion in open session.

This topic is agendaized for our next meeting, on March 28, where Councilmember Sinenci will provide an update on the proposed FY25 budget for the EMRCB, and it will be announced that Chair Scheuer will represent the EMRCB before your Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee at its April 4 meeting on the FY25 budget.

I am concerned that Chair Scheuer and Councilmember Sinenci are acting without the authority or knowledge of the rest of the EMRCB. While I appreciate their enthusiasm to “hit the ground running,” it does not justify their acting beyond their authority. For

example, regarding the FY25 budget, the Charter specifically requires the EMRCB to create and review the EMRCB's annual budget.

I would strongly advocate that we conduct a feasibility study on the financial, legal and practical implications of acquiring water leases before we proceed with filling multiple new civil service positions and funding office space and equipment for them. It is not clear to me from the language in the water authorities Charter amendment that the EMRCB has the authority to acquire leases; this question should be answered before funding new positions because we do not know clearly enough what the EMRCB is authorized to do with regard to lease acquisition. I believe funding was provided in the FY24 budget for the Department of Water Supply to conduct such a study, but I am not aware that it has been commissioned. If the study has been commissioned, it would be important to know the input, if any, that the EMRCB will have on its scope.

The status of this study should be known before funding new positions because it will inform more clearly what the EMRCB is authorized to do and what is practical for the EMRCB to do. If the study has not been commissioned, then the FY25 budget should provide funding for it, but we would need to know who has the authority to commission the study – in addition to the Department of Water Supply, I believe the EMRCB Executive Director may have this authority but not the Board. These topics must, by Charter, be discussed by the EMRCB and should be understood by the Council before the EMRCB FY25 budget is adopted, and certainly before Chair Scheuer or Councilmember Sinenci makes any representations to the Council on the EMRCB's behalf. As of this date, the EMRCB has not been given, or had any detailed presentation or discussion on, the proposed FY25 budget that has somehow been created for it.

The actions for and by the EMRCB taken today, in establishing new County-level water authority practices and processes, will have far-reaching implications beyond tomorrow and will affect all of our children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. These decisions must not be taken lightly and must have careful deliberation. While I have always been in favor of Maui County acquiring all water systems within its jurisdiction, it simply must be done correctly.

Please consider these concerns and endeavor to find answers to these questions when you deliberate on the FY25 budget concerning the EMRCB. You may contact me at 808-281-0354 or annalanarakawa@gmail.com if you have any questions or if I can provide any other information.

Thank you for your attention to this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alan Arakawa". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alan" and last name "Arakawa" clearly distinguishable.

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
Member, EMRCB