

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-04-15 6:00 PM

Meeting Time: 04-15-26 18:00

eComments Report

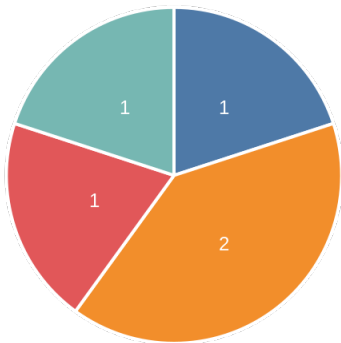
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-04-15 6:00 PM	04-15-26 18:00	2	5	1	2	1

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

Support (20%) Oppose (40%) Neutral (20%)
No Response (20%)



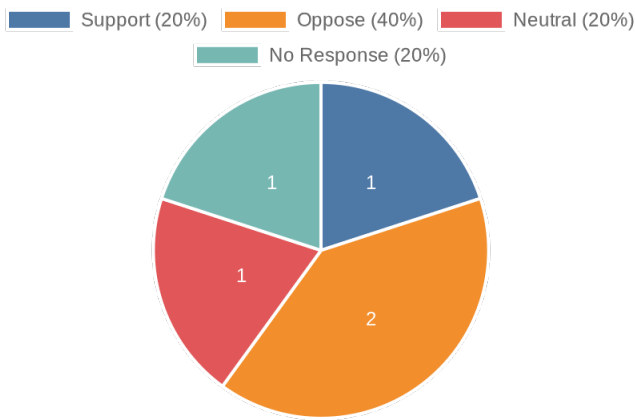
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-04-15 6:00 PM
04-15-26 18:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	2	1	1	0
BFED-1 PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)	3	0	1	1

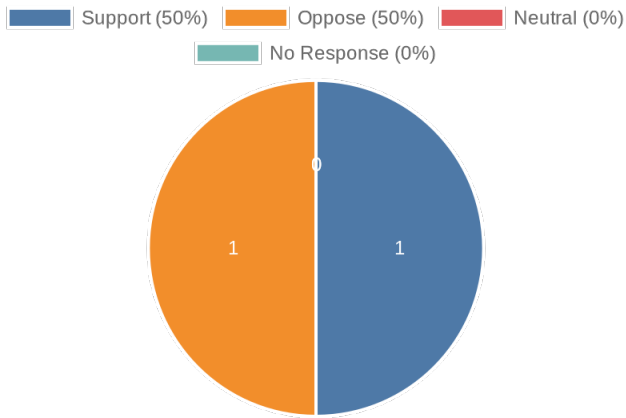
Sentiments for All Agenda Items

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

Overall Sentiment



Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:03pm 04-15-26

Here is the ****revised testimony**** incorporating the transparency concern about leadership connections while keeping the argument focused on priorities and public trust.

****Testimony Opposing Funding for the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellowship Program – FY2027 Budget (BFED-1)****

I respectfully oppose the proposed ****\$47,500 allocation of County funds**** for the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellowship Program.

Maui County is currently facing serious and measurable problems that directly affect residents. Farmers are telling the Council they cannot even process the animals they raise because basic agricultural infrastructure is missing. Residents are struggling with housing where the ****median home price is roughly \$1.2 million while median household income is around \$100,000****. The county continues to face major bottlenecks involving water infrastructure, permitting delays, and housing supply.

In that environment, every dollar of taxpayer funding should be focused on ****programs that produce direct, measurable benefits for the public****. The Ka Ipu Kukui Fellowship Program is a selective leadership development initiative serving a small number of participants each year. While the experience may be valuable for fellows personally, the public has not been presented with clear evidence showing measurable improvements to housing supply, infrastructure capacity, agricultural production, or other core community needs.

There is also a reasonable question about ****public perception and transparency****. The program's leadership includes individuals who have close relationships with current government leadership. When taxpayer funds are directed to a private fellowship program connected to people within the local political network, it raises legitimate questions about priorities and the appearance of favoritism, even if no rules are violated. Public funding decisions

should be especially careful to avoid even the perception that insider networks benefit from taxpayer dollars.

Leadership development programs can and do exist across the country without taxpayer subsidy. If the fellowship program provides value to the private sector leaders and organizations involved, it should be able to sustain itself through **private sponsorship, tuition, or philanthropic support** rather than public funding.

At a time when the County of Maui is operating with a government budget approaching **\$1.6 billion**, residents reasonably expect public funds to be directed toward **infrastructure, housing supply, agriculture, and essential services**.

For these reasons I urge the Council to **remove funding for the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellowship Program from the FY2027 budget** and redirect those funds toward programs that deliver direct, measurable benefits to the people of Maui County.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Lore Menin, Kihei Resident

Noelani Hessler

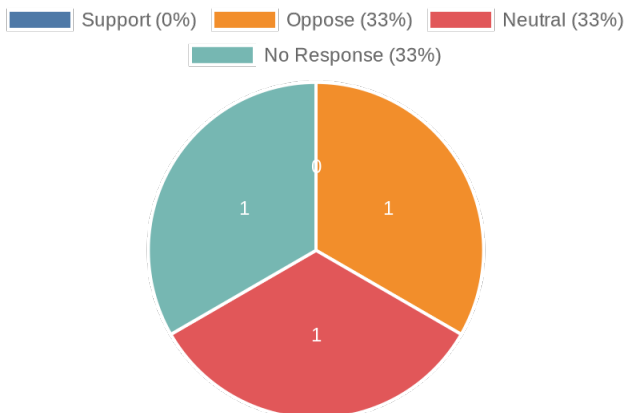
Location:

Submitted At: 4:36pm 04-14-26

I am in support of Bill No. 64. I agree with the County and Mayor that establishing a fee for the use of County-owned electric vehicle , or EV, charging stations in order to offset the cost of electricity that is consumed through the EV charging stations. It has been many years now that electric vehicle drivers have been reaping the benefits of using the "free" stations to fully charge their vehicles on the County's general fund to power up their vehicles. It is time for these EV owners to start contributing to the electric bills on island. I know many people who fill up their electric vehicles around town so they don't have to ever use the electric at their homes and it has been a loop hole for them for many years. Its time that they start contributing back to the County in this way. I am in support of this bill and hope that the council considers it as a positive contribution back to our county funds.

Agenda Item: eComments for BFED-1 PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)

Overall Sentiment



BFED Committee

Location:

Submitted At: 11:08am 04-16-26

Testimony received from BFED Committee

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:16pm 04-14-26

Enough is enough.

Maui residents are watching their government struggle to perform its most basic responsibilities while millions of dollars continue to flow out through grants, subsidies, and handouts to nonprofits, organizations, and special interests. Meanwhile the people who actually fund this government—the residents and taxpayers of Maui County—are left dealing with rising costs, failing infrastructure, crime, slow permitting, and departments that can barely keep up with their core duties.

Ask a simple question: when was the last time you saw an ordinary resident stand in front of the council asking for taxpayer money to pay their bills, tax-free? It doesn't happen. Working families on Maui handle their responsibilities every day without subsidies or special treatment. Yet government seems far more comfortable writing checks to organizations than fixing the systems it directly controls.

The county's responsibility is not to function as a grant-distribution agency. Its responsibility is to run the government—public safety, roads, drainage, permitting, planning, infrastructure, and the departments residents rely on every single day. Those systems should be functioning at a high level before taxpayer money is dispersed elsewhere.

At the same time, residents are being asked to trust leadership despite a record that raises serious concerns. We have seen leadership failures, rising public safety questions, and a government structure that often appears more focused on messaging and programs than on competence and results. Accountability matters, and public officials should always be prepared to answer for the outcomes under their watch.

If Maui residents want things to change, the first step is showing up, paying attention, and demanding accountability. Government should serve the people of this island first—not political priorities, not press releases, and not a network of organizations funded by public money.

Support the departments you are responsible for. Fix the systems that are failing residents. Focus on competence and results.

And if leaders cannot do that, they should step aside and allow people who will.

Noelani Hessler

Location:

Submitted At: 5:31pm 04-14-26

I am neutral on Bill No. 63 on changing the name of the County revolving fund from the "Hawaiian cultural restoration revolving fund" to the "Lahaina royal complex restoration revolving fund". I think either title is a good title for this fund. I think the title that it is now is good though and I wanted to point out that keeping the title as it is could help support all different historic sites throughout the historic district of Lahaina in the future. The title could be helpful without having to make another county fund in the future, if it was ever expanded to assist in preserving more historic sites found or new findings that could come up during the rebuilding in Lahaina that may need further funding assistance. Lahaina Restoration Foundation does a wonderful job on preserving historic sites in Lahaina as a 501(c)3, but I am sure would appreciate support from the County in this way. However, if the funds are ever only going to be allowed to be used at the designated "Lahaina Royal complex' sites then the new name for it sounds acceptable and more specific for it. I do support the purpose of including the newly found sites at Kamehameha III school and the library areas Makai of Front Street to this funding. There has been so much archaeological findings at these locations and will need a lot of maintenance and support from the County. I believe letting any remaining funding from each fiscal year's budget accumulate every fiscal year is important too since maintaining active archaeological sites will be expensive over the decades. Thank you for your

consideration and thought process on this matter.

Lāna'i Field House Programs' Proposal Summary:

I. Current Program Status:

- Currently, there are only two official sport programs approved to be conducted within the Lāna'i Field House by Maui County Parks and Recreation Department: baseball and softball.

II. Maui Councilmembers to Approve the Following:

- Approve the additional sports programs which include archery, golf, martial arts (no weapons), Lāna'i Elementary, Middle School, and High School physical education classes, and adult sports leagues (e.g. archery, golf, whiffle ball, etc.).
- Approve the adult community sport volunteers that will supervise the above additional sport programs to be conducted inside the facility.

III. Certification:

- All the adult community sport program volunteers will have current state or national teaching/coaching certifications. In addition, all adult volunteers will have current First Aid and CPR certifications.

Lāna'i Field House: Sport Program Proposal

Currently there are only two official sport programs approved to be conducted within the Lāna'i Field House by Maui County Parks and Recreation: baseball and softball. This facility's sport program proposal will provide important information for the justification of including additional sport programs to be supervised within our facility.

We are asking the Maui Councilmembers to do as follows: (1) Approve the additional sports outlined in this proposal; and (2) approve that the additional sports will be *supervised by our adult community volunteers* (no additional cost to the Maui Park and Recreation Department's budget). The Lāna'i community volunteers will have either a current Hawaii state teaching and coaching certification (e.g. D.O.E. teachers and coaches) or possess a national organizational teaching/coaching certification (e.g., PGA Golf Certification, USA National Archery Organization Certification).

The Lānaʻi Field House: Programs Development

Sport programs are developed based on the following: The Lānaʻi Field House's design; Lānai's sport community's desires and needs; and national and state organizations' sport requirements.

The developmental program process should include:¹

- Lānaʻi Parks & Recreation (LP&R) should assess the “pulse” of the Lānaʻi's sporting community to determine the specific sports to be developed within the Lānaʻi Field House. This process should be on-going every year.
- The LP&R's community youth and adult sports selected may be represented within national, or state organizations.
- The national and state youth and adult organizations' programs that will be selected should accept all age-appropriate participants regardless of any physical or mental abnormalities.
- The organizations' programs should provide all participants with safe and fun mental and physical developmental activities (***“No Child or adult Left Behind”***).
- All coaches and leaders of the selected sport organizations that will participate in the Lānaʻi Field House should be required to have national coaching certification; and American Red Cross First Aid and CPR certifications.
- Lānaʻi sports selected should represent the community's multi-age groups from youth to seniors.
- Lānaʻi sports selected should be able to be performed safely indoors.
- Lānaʻi sports selected should be able to be played simultaneously with other similar sports (e.g., baseball, softball, golf) within the facility.

Note¹ During the Fall 2018, during the conception stage of the field house's development, Mayor Alan Arakawa and Lāna'i Councilman Riki Hokama in partnership with Dr. (Coach) Coop DeRenne agreed that the county would raise the necessary funding for the facility's exterior infrastructure (building, site grounds, etc.), while Coach Coop would raise the funding for the interior from private donors and oversee sport programs to be conducted within the facility. The donors understood that Coach Coop would take the "pulse" of Lāna'i sporting community's program needs and purchase the requested items. In addition, Mayor Arakawa, Councilman Riki Hokama, and Coach Coop's community committee agreed that all purchases by Coach Coop would be gifted to the County Department of Parks & Recreation (DP&R). \$82,500 was raised by Coach Coop from private donors. In addition, labor and materials were donated by Pūlama Lāna'i and Goodfellow Brothers, INC. On April 22, 2022, the Council of the County of Maui based on Resolution # 22-106, unanimously accepted all 142 sporting equipment items; and labor by Goodfellow Bros. and Pūlama Lāna'i.

∴ Based on the above sport program developmental process, baseball and softball are the only two organizational sports approved by Maui County Park and Recreation to be conducted within the Lāna'i Field House. Again, based on the "pulse" of the Lāna'i sporting community program needs, the following additional sport programs hopefully will to be approved by the Councilmembers of Maui County: **archery, golf, martial arts, "lower order" fundamental movement activities, fitness development activities, and adult sport leagues (e.g. archery, golf, whiffle ball).**

Additional Sport Programs

Note²: All additional sport instructors will have First Aid and CPR certifications

I. Archery:

- **History of Lāna'i:** Archery shooting and hunting are a way of life on Lāna'i. All Lāna'i archery teachers/instructors using the field house must belong to the USA Archery Organization and annually pass all coaching certified program levels 1-5.
www.usarchery.org; /www.usarchery.org/coaches/become-a-coach
- **Safety:³**
 1. The Lāna'i Archery Club will build portable wooden backboards 14' H by 14" W that will cover the entire shooting areas. These backboards will be behind the three shooting targets. The moveable middle divider nets will be drawn back so no errant arrows will hit any net or student, only the targets or backboard.
 2. During any archery class when in session within the field house, no other sport or movement activity will be in session.
 3. All Lāna'i archery teachers/instructors using the field house must belong to the USA Archery Organization and annually pass all coaching certified program levels 1-5.
 4. Only USA Archery certified instructors are allowed to teach their respective archery class within the field house.
 5. Student & Instructor insurance will be covered under the USA Archery Organization.
 6. All archery instructors will have First Aid and CPR certifications.
- ***National Archery in The Schools Program (NASP):*** The National Archery in the Schools Program is an in-school program aimed at improving educational performance among students in grades

4th – 12th. And through it, students are learning focus, self-control, discipline, patience, and the life lessons required to be successful in the classroom and in life. NASP® is an activity that doesn't discriminate based on popularity, athletic skill, gender, size, or academic ability. It is a different kind of team sport. It's open to any student. Its biggest supporters are professional educators. Teams come together around one thing: Archery. In addition, NASP can be adopted in any school. NASP has online the following certifications programs: national certification instructor training program (e.g. schoolteachers & administrators, Lāna'i Archery Club Instructors); curriculum programs for 4th through the 12 grade; and NASP's 3-D International, Inc. Insurance program (\$25). www.naspschools.org

1. The Lāna'i Youth Archery Instructors and USA National Archery instructors that are also the Lāna'i Youth Archery Club and the Lāna'i Adult Archery Club instructors will implement and conduct the NASP program for the 4th through the 12-grade at Lāna'i Elementary & High School.

Note³: *All Lāna'i Elementary & High School archery students that join the Lāna'i Youth Archery Club/ USA Archery National Organization will adhere to the national rules, regulations, and safety procedures. www.usarchery.org*

- ***The Lāna'i Youth Archery Club and the Lāna'i Adult Archery Club:*** These two Lāna'i archery clubs will have USA Archery certified instructors and personnel (from Lāna'i residents) managing the field house while archery classes are in session. Besides the student-archers belonging to the USA National Organization, the Lāna'i Adult Archery Club archers will become members of the ***USA Adult Archery Program***. This organization will help formulate and support Lāna'i's Adult Archery Club. www.usarchery.org

- **NASP High School Tournaments:** Hawaii, Regional, National
 - a. Hawaii/local High School meets: Lāna'i High School vs. (private schools from Honolulu)-- Asia Pacific International School, Sacred Hearts Academy and La Pietra for Girls. 2026 Leilehua High School JROTC-Archery Postal Match
 - b. Hawaii/local High School meets: Lāna'i High School vs. (private schools from Honolulu)-- Asia Pacific International School, Sacred Hearts Academy and La Pietra for Girls.
 - c. 2026 Leilehua High School JROTC-Archery Postal Match
 - d. Hawaii NASP State Tournament 2026 (Wahiawa)
 - e. 2026 NASP® (school) Western Nationals
 - Elementary Division
 - Middle Division
 - High School Division
 - f. 2026 NASP® (school) National Championship – Bullseye
 - Elementary Division
 - Middle Division
 - High School Division

II. Golf:

- **Golf:** (1) Is a transitional sport for all the family to enjoy. (1) The world of golf has seen a revolutionary shift with the advent of indoor golf driving ranges and simulators/practice facilities. (2) Youth and adults may learn the game not only on the outdoor practice facilities but indoor as well. Lastly, (3) indoor golf facilities provide for all weather access enabling golfers to invest in consistent time to improve their skills, facilitate faster advancements, and obtain a greater comprehension of the nuances of the game.
- **The Lāna'i Field House facility:** The new Lāna'i Field House has a new golf net that was specifically designed to be used within the

shell cage netting structure. Within the facility, the three tunnels' netting formation will allow golfers a perfect driving range setting/configuration for group and individualized instruction and practice.

- **History of Lāna'i Golf Association (LGA):**

The Lāna'i Golf Association was formed in the 1950s. It has served as a communal gathering of like-minded plantation workers looking to advance the game of golf for recreation, sportsmanship, and camaraderie. Plantation workers and Dole Company supervisors were able to compete, mingle, and socialize at events held by the LGA. Since its inception, the LGA has provided a spirit of competition for its members with weekly Sunday golf tournaments for the past 70 plus years. It is the most active social/recreational organization on Lāna'i. Nearly all its competition has been played on the E.B. Cavendish Golf Course throughout the years. The LGA built and still maintains the clubhouse/pavilion above the ninth green at the course. LGA members have also put in time to enhance the playability of the course with work-day projects throughout the years, including helping maintain the bunkers keeping them weed-free, cutting trees that impede sight lines to the greens, and even using hand-held drills (with long extensions cords) to aerate some greens. LGA members, young and old, have long held the "Dish" as a special place because of its accessibility, charm, and price-free gold.

LGA President Neal Tamashiro and one member of the Tamashiro family of golfers understands the advantages of the Lāna'i Field House:

Our members LGA would be intrigued to be able to swing away in an enclosed practice facility especially when Cavendish is rained out. Done right, it could make for an interesting venue for practice and competitions. In addition, it would afford members who don't have

the time from their busy daylight schedules to practice at night in the field house.

As a bonus, this facility may provide our local high school graduates an opportunity to obtain a golf scholarship like me, my son, and my brothers, and other Lānaʻi graduates that have used golf as means to a college education.

- **Safety:** In all indoor sports' facilities, safety is a main concern. Again, the new golf net and shell cage configuration allows for a safe driving range environment. In addition, the golfers will be hitting into golf tarps hanging on the length of the golf net less than twenty feet from the golfers, which also protects the golf balls from rebounding back toward the golfers or going through the net into the surrounding chain link fence. Further-more, each golfer hits off his own individualized golf mat that is placed on the synthetic turf in a safe distance from the other golfers. Thus, the other third tunnel behind the golfers protects them from simultaneous baseball or softball players hitting within tunnel # three. Moreover, *no* youth or adult golfer will be allowed into the field house without proper supervision.
- **National Golf First Tee Program states:**
 1. "We enable our youth to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of new challenges. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with life skills curriculum, we create learning experiences that build inner strength, self- confidence, and resilience that our youth can carry into everything they do.
 2. Our programs happen daily at approximately 150 chapters around the world. Participants (**ages 7-18**) progress through the program over time, deepening their understanding of life skills and golf development. By seamlessly integrating the game of golf with character-building, we create learning experiences

that help kids and teens uncover their inner strength, self-confidence, and resilience that they can carry to everything they do.

3. **Our trained coaches** not only provide an introduction to junior golf and an opportunity to enhance golf skills, but they also create a safe, supportive, and empowering environment to help our child prepare for life ahead, including friendships, school, college and even their careers.
4. Through our program, kids and teens will learn skills that stay with them for life:
 - Understanding and managing emotions
 - Resolving conflicts
 - Setting up step-by-step goals
 - Planning for the future
 - Appreciating diversity
 - Fundamental golf skills and techniques
5. Advancing through the First Tee Program:
 - At each age group, participants engage with the 5 Key Commitments: Pursuing goals, growing through challenge, collaborating with others, building positive self-identity, and using good judgement, while focusing on mastering golf fundamentals and building upon a golf skill foundation as they advance within the program.
 1. **Age 7-9**
 - Be active and have fun with peers in a safe and encouraging manner
 - Build inner strength and self-confidence
 - Learn to play golf
 - Focus on building relationships with other players while exploring the game of golf

2. Age 10-11

- Explore character concepts in active and collaborative ways that are valuable on and off the course
- Develop golf skills and enthusiasm for the game
- Support positive Game Changing behaviors in fun and meaningful ways

3. Age 12-13

- Explore both golf skills and characters commitments while having fun with peers
- Provide opportunities to demonstrate mastery and growth in golf skills and abilities
- Support growth and development of early adolescents

4. Age 14+

- Build character and support personal development
- Develop additional golf skills and abilities
- Look toward their future and plan their own paths
- Evaluate, reflect, and apply their understanding of life and golf skills to new situations on and off the course
- A capstone program for high school teens that integrates the skills and inner strengths they've developed at First Tee and points them toward exploring, investing in, and building a clear plan and assets for their next step."

6. **School-Based:**

- "Since 2004, First Tee has been integrating the First Tee School Program into PE classes across the country. We've equipped educators at elementary and middle schools with our curriculum built around the game of golf, while positively impacting kids through both the game and its inherent ability to improve social-emotional learning (SEL)

skills. We work with the school to identify funding opportunities, such as sponsors or donations.

- This program aligns with national physical education standards developed by the Society of Health and Physical Educators (SHAPE) and is designed to allow physical educators the ability to adjust lessons to fit their specific teaching situations in terms of class size, time, and facility type.
- ***First Tee School Program gives physical educators all the tools to get started.*** They provide the training, equipment, and lesson plans that integrate life skills and values with the game of golf and motor skills. They have an online community for teachers and youth leaders delivering our program, providing access to the curriculum, resources, and connections with peers delivering the program around the country.”
- **In Charge of The Program:** Lāna’i Golf Club volunteers; and Manele Golf Pros. volunteers.
- **Adult Golf:**
 1. There will be a supervised adult driving range for practices, individualized instruction, and competition.
 2. Lāna’i Golf Club sponsored; PGA certification & insurance.
 3. Night program: 7: pm to 9: pm
 4. **In Charge of Program:** Lāna’i Golf Club and Manele Golf Pros. volunteers.

National First Tee Statistics



47% ethnically diverse*



38% female*

First Tee has intentionally been increasing our attention on kids ages 10-14, with the focus on retaining them in the program longer through our roll out of an age-based, refreshed curriculum.



42% teen retention*



18% increase in teens*

*Based on Chapter registrations

III. Indoor soccer:

- School ages: Supervised by National Certified Instructors; national insurance
- Adult league: Supervised by National Certified Instructors; national insurance

IV. Martial arts: No weapons

- Adult league: Supervised by National Certified Instructors; national insurance
- Future: School ages (Middle School & High School): Supervised by National Certified Instructors; national insurance

V. Elementary School Physical Education:

- “Lower order” fundamental movement activities (e.g., throw & catch with various implements suited for growth & development; whiffle ball).
- Supervised by Lāna’i Physical Education staff

VI. Middle School Physical Education:

- Physical skills (athleticism) and fitness development activities.
- Supervised by Lāna’i Physical Education staff

VII. High School Physical Education:

- Physical skills (athleticism) and fitness development activities.
- Supervised by Lāna’i Physical Education staff

VIII. Adult sport leagues:

- Baseball, softball, golf, whiffle ball.
- Supervised by National Certified Instructors; national insurance