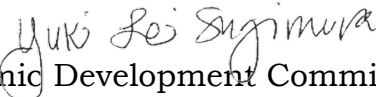


April 18, 2024

MEMO TO: Members of the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

F R O M: Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair 
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

SUBJECT: **WEST MAUI RESIDENCY AREA MEETING REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR (“FY”) 2025 BUDGET** (BFED-1)

On April 8, 2024, the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee held a public meeting at the Lahaina Civic Center regarding the Proposed FY 2025 Budget. Present for the meeting were: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama, and members Tom Cook, Gabe Johnson, Alice L. Lee, Tamara Paltin, Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Shane M. Sinenci, and Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins. The meeting started at 6:13 p.m. and adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Your Committee received oral testimony from 32 individuals. Unless otherwise indicated, the following oral testimony was received in support of funding for the organization, program, or project noted:

1. Two individuals testified in support of continued funding for Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.’s Head Start program.
2. Three individuals testified in support of more substantial and effective emergency-evacuation routes for West Maui.
3. One person testified in support of more parks and recreational space in West Maui due to facilities lost in the August 8th wildfires.
4. Four individuals testified in support of repurposing County tennis courts into pickleball courts and encouraged the Department of Parks and Recreation to facilitate and prioritize pickleball.
5. One individual testified in support of continued funding for the Maui Economic Development Board’s STEMworks program.
6. Ten individuals testified in support of Lahaina Community Land Trust.

7. Patty Copperfield, Transportation Director, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc., and two others testified in support of continued funding for the organization's transportation services.
8. Nine individuals expressed concern about the lack of affordable housing in West Maui.
9. Eight individuals testified in support of the Council prioritizing funds from the Affordable Housing Fund for projects in West Maui, including Kaiāulu o Kupuohi and Pulelehua.
10. Four individuals testified in support of continued funding for the West Maui Green Cycle, LLC's composting program.
11. Three individuals expressed concern about the lack of mental health support for wildfire survivors and residents of West Maui.
12. Three individuals expressed concern about increased traffic in and out of West Maui.
13. One individual testified in support of the County taking a regenerative approach to tackling the affordable housing crisis through building design, infrastructure, and net-positive designs for reconstruction.
14. Five individuals testified in support of regulation and conversion of short-term rentals to long-term rentals to mitigate the housing crisis for residents, especially those displaced by the wildfires.
15. One person testified in support of short-term rentals.
16. One person testified in support of the County prioritizing shelter for the houseless community in West Maui and expressed concern about the lack of pet-friendly rentals. They recommended the County prioritize the rebuilding of a homeless shelter and building of a kauhale in West Maui.
17. One person testified in support of increasing the number of bus stops in West Maui.

18. One person testified in support of increased fire-mitigation planning for Maui County and suggested that the old cane haul road above the Lahaina Civic Center be refurbished and used as an additional ingress and egress route.
19. One person testified in support of continued funding for the Partners in Development Foundation.
20. Two people testified in support of continued funding for Kupuna Care Hawai'i's home health care services.
21. One person expressed concern about the handling of wildfire debris and the use of crushed concrete for erosion control rather than gravel.

Your Committee also received the attached written testimony.

For questions relating to the West Maui residency area meeting, please contact Megan Moniz, Paige Greco, Pauline Martins, or Jennifer Yamashita. If you have any questions relating to the FY 2025 Budget, please contact the Committee staff (James Krueger, Kasie Apo Takayama, or Yvette Bouthillier). Thank you for your cooperation.

Attachment

bfed:2025bgt:rameetings:240408WestMauiResidencyAreaMeeting:mkm



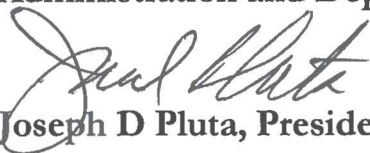
April 8, 2024

Aloha Maui County Council Members:

The West Maui Taxpayers Association has been advocating for increased Prioritization of Health and Safety and our on going crisis issues for many years. Now it's time for action in the budget to support addressing these crisis issues while deferring resources away from non-emergency and non-crisis issues. Please consider the following:

1. Prioritization of Health and Safety and ongoing crisis resolutions over any and all non-crisis issues.
2. Defer any growth of governmental agencies and ongoing employment related issues/expenses that could be contracted out via public/private partnerships
3. Re-assignments of existing departments and personnel to critical staffing shortages temporarily in addressing crisis resolving projects.
4. Outsourcing essential projects on hold due to staffing shortages.
5. Protecting and preserving housing and tax base collections in supporting Kahana Bay Restoration via Project District establishment.
6. Take back control of Maui Water Resources from State of Hawaii non elected power grab from recent State Water Commission authorization requirements.
7. Completion of Lahaina/Kahoma Stream Flood Control Project! (Another pending catastrophe.)

We hope you can support needed actions with budget revisions in working with the Administration and Departments. Malama Pono ame Mahalo,



Joseph D Pluta, President

On Behalf of WMTA Board of Directors

RECEIVED AT BPED MEETING ON 4/8/24
Lahaina

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE ORGANIZATION

Who are we?

A hui of advocates, experienced and educated kia'i, supported by trusted attorneys who have identified strategies to help preserve the character of the Lahaina community.

What is a land trust?

Community Land Trusts (CLT) are powerful and enduring structures for land protection and land justice. They are nonprofits that purchase and own land with the purpose of keeping it in community control, to be used as the community determines.



Contribute Today

We see the rising of Lahaina as an 'ohā, a next generation offspring of the makua that came before. Our intention is to nurture that 'ohā to ensure it grows healthy and strong, a beautiful reflection of the previous generation. Join us in this cause.

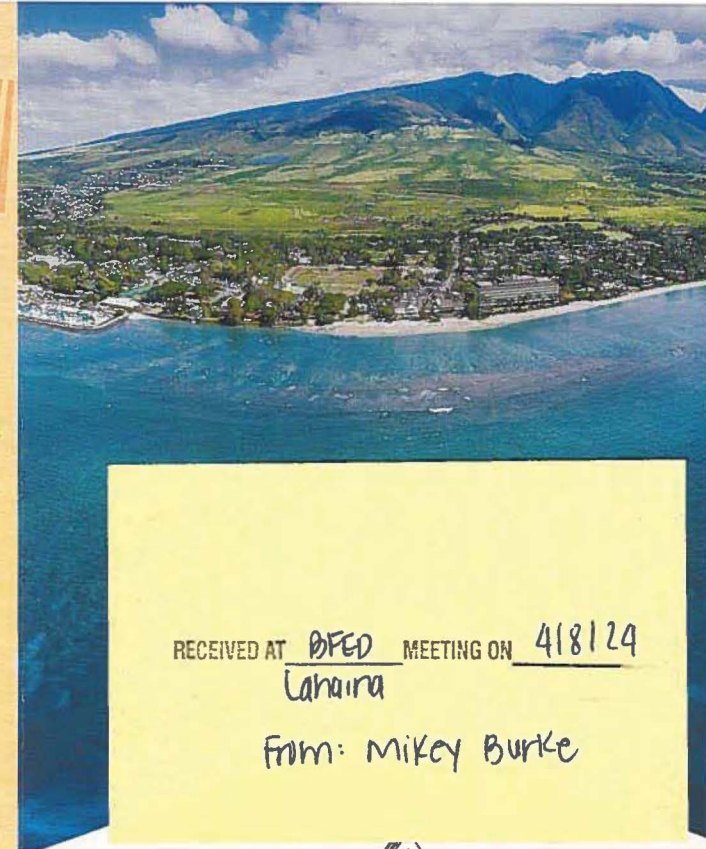
The Lahaina Community Land Trust is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that accepts tax-deductible donations.



Scan to donate!

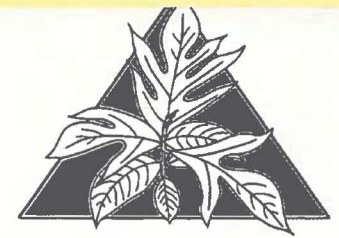


Connect With Us



RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 4/8/24
Lahaina

From: Mickey Burke



Lahaina

COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP OF LAND

Ways to Engage

Affordable Housing

We will serve a range of income brackets, depending on federal funding sources and parcels. Single family unit construction may be owner-builder or trust built. Ground leases will be for 99 years, renewable and inheritable. Re-sale formula will be chosen from a nationally recognized model, to ensure housing affordability.

Buy-Back Or Lease-Back

For current Maui resident-owners, buy-back or lease-back may be a seller's condition of the sale of the parcel to the land trust.

Conservation

We will prioritize properties with high cultural or environmental value, as determined by the Board of Directors and the Community Advisory Board. LCLT will partner with qualified community-based groups to steward

KEEP LAHAINA LANDS IN LAHAINA HANDS

Type of Programs

Initially acquired parcels may be banked for a period of time in order to better understand what kind of uses and development is most appropriate for Lahaina, as new zoning decisions are made and infrastructure is repaired.

We've designated four programs to get the land trust started.

Affordable Housing

Buy-Back Or Lease-Back

Conservation

Economic Development



WHAT DRIVES OUR COMMITMENT

Our Mo'olelo

Immediately following the fire, the concern about the future of Lahaina resonated deeply with us. While many of our family and neighbors are consumed with their day-to-day lives post-fire, we recognize that we are also up against the already-moving wheels of disaster capitalists.

We feared the prospect of opportunistic investor eyes on our cherished Lahaina amidst all the chaos, hurt, and confusion. We knew we needed to move quickly.

Thus, the Lahaina Community Land Trust was formed. Our purpose is to protect Lahaina lands by offering landowners considering the sale of their land a community based alternative to investor transactions, prioritizing our community's well-being over profit. We ensure that every piece of land and property entrusted to us is responsibly cared for, maintained, managed, and remains safeguarded under our protection.

Lands protected by The Trust will