

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-02 6:00 PM

Meeting Time: 04-02-24 18:00

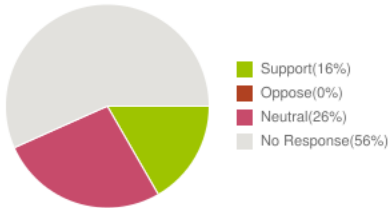
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-02 6:00 PM	04-02-24 18:00	2	30	5	0	8

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



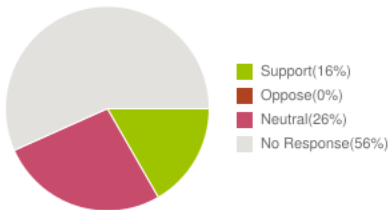
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-02 6:00 PM
04-02-24 18:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	15	4	0	4
BFED-1 Bill 60 (2024) PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)	15	1	0	4

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

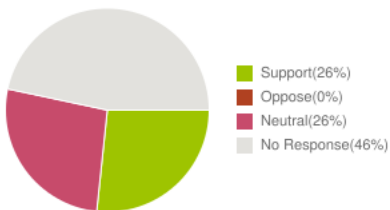
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:34pm 04-02-24

From: Nicole Meschkat <nicole.meschkat@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 8:32:18 PM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii

To: BFED Committee

Subject: Pauwela parcels

I am a concerned Haiku resident and I am emailing to request Maui county to utilize open space funding to purchase the 3 Pauwela parcels for \$6.8 million. Please preserve this land as it is an important aspect of Hawaiian culture.

Sincerely,

Nicole Greenwood

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:44pm 04-02-24

From: melody torres <mauimel@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 8:41:25 PM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii

To: BFED Committee

Subject: Re: Pauwela Parcels

Aloha to the Maui County Council ,

I am emailing in regards to the sale of the Pauwela parcels as a concerned citizen and full time resident of Haiku. I'm am urging Maui County to consider purchasing the land as to keep available and accessible access to the light house and shoreline for community use. Haiku is growing rapidly and could benefit from more open space, and room to expand upon our community center and school.

Please consider budgeting in the necessary funds to purchase these parcels for the benefit of our North Shore Community

The last thing our community needs is a new luxury development threatening to take away or limit shoreline access and push out locals even more.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Melody Torres

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:21pm 04-02-24

Aloha,

I am writing to express my concern for the privatization of the lots that wrap around K Bay and the Pauwela Lighthouse, across the street from Haiku Community Center. Kanaka m_ori are already hindered by existing developments and privatization of Mauna to Makai (ahupua'a) lands, we have the opportunity now, to ensure future generations have access and do not face that same issue with this area. Residents, locals, and Native Hawaiians are already experiencing increased stress on resources in the wake of the Lahaina fires, and further development or privatization of that land will only make the strain worse. That land, if purchased by the county, can remain undeveloped for as long as is necessary to determine the correct course of action for the community. But once it is privately purchased, there is no going back. A budget of 6.8 million USD is enough to purchase the lots, and ensure they remain accessible to the public.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:11pm 04-02-24

Aloha. I am writing to express my concern for the privatization of the lot that wraparound K Bay and the Pella lighthouse. I want further investigation to be conducted before any decision is made, and I would like a halt on any construction projects, or any further developments or changes given the circumstances.

Please Kokua, and consider the local people and the local lives that may be affected from allowing such a development project to proceed

Caroline Kemp

Location:

Submitted At: 7:05pm 04-02-24

Aloha, I am a resident of Haiku and am writing regarding the parcels of land for sale in H_m_kualoa makai from the Haiku community center.

This land provides important access to the coastline and I am concerned that residents would lose access to culturally important places like the Pauwela lighthouse and K bay as well as the coastline if a private buyer were to purchase the lots. Kamehameha Schools has already begun fencing off the land that they purchased east of Puniawa Bay.

This is a big opportunity for the County to add to its Hamakualoa Open Space preserve. Please include \$6.8 million of open space funding for these lots to guarantee access for future generations so that keiki and ohana can fish, surf, and learn about the ocean for years to come.

Mahalo and aloha,
Caroline

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 6:45pm 04-02-24

From: Michael <michael@cmschwarz.com>

Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 9:08 PM

To: Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins <Nohe.Uu-Hodgins@mauicounty.us>; Thomas M. Cook <Thomas.Cook@mauicounty.us>; Gabe Johnson <Gabe.Johnson@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>

Subject: Pa'uwela lighthouse access

Aloha ,

I recently was informed that property is for sale along the Pa'uwela lighthouse road. As a resident of Haiku for the last 37 years I am very concerned that the sale of the two lots adjacent to the road and the most makai lot which actually runs across the road might lead to the loss of access to the coast. The community of Haiku uses the Pa'uwela lighthouse road to get to the coast ,the lighthouse and to K bay one of the few accessible bays east of Maliko. The stunning coastline should be open to all the residents of Haiku, so I am suggesting that the County of Maui purchase the three lots TMK 227004050, TMK227004003 and TMK 227004059 as part of its land preservation program. Preserving these properties for public use would enhance the extent of the Hamakualoa Open Space which is already owned by the county and enable future generations to enjoy this awe inspiring coast.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Michael Schwarz

michael@cmschwarz.com

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 6:20pm 04-02-24

I'm a concerned neighbor living in Kuau. The main concern for me is the possibility of a fire threat to the entire paia community. My neighbors have had unwelcome visits on their property and I have seen people on my street using hard drugs in plain view of children. I understand the complexity of the issue but also realize that if the many health and safety issues are not addressed in a timely manner the threat to the community as a whole will be much grater. Best to address the issue now before it gets out of hand.

Heidy Swift

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:24pm 04-02-24

Aloha,

As a North Shore Maui resident, I'm reaching out to address several urgent community concerns that require

immediate attention:

1. Holomua Road Clean-up: The safety and well-being of our community are at risk due to unsafe activities stemming from displaced individuals and unpermitted encampments along Holomua Road. This includes a surge in first responder calls, fires, and medical emergencies, alongside a significant buildup of trash and abandoned vehicles. Additionally, the presence of unwell and violent individuals poses a threat to the peace of our North Shore community.
2. Hana Highway Bypass: Given the mounting traffic congestion, particularly with the continued growth of Haiku, I seek updates on the progress or discussions regarding the Hana Highway bypass project. As the main access to Haiku currently passes through Paia and its surrounding beach communities, it exacerbates traffic issues.
3. Unpermitted Commercial Tour Buses at Hookipa Beach Park: The constant presence of unpermitted commercial tour buses at Hookipa Beach Park is causing parking congestion and illegal parking on the roadside. This misuse of our public beach for commercial gain is unacceptable and must be addressed promptly.

I urge immediate action on these matters to ensure the safety, well-being, and equitable access to our community resources.

Thank you for your prompt attention and action on these urgent concerns.

Mahalo!

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:22pm 04-02-24

From: Kyle Greenwood <kyle9382@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 5:14:56 PM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii

To: BFED Committee

Subject: Land purchase haiku

It would be great if this land could be purchased we don't have much coastal land left for public use and this would guarantee access to the lighthouse and K bay which is a well used fishing, diving and surf spot.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:43pm 04-02-24

Aloha,

My name is Lisa and I am writing regarding Holomua Rd and the many cars and people camped out there. I live on the Holomua side of Kuau Bayview and am very concerned being downwind with the fear of fires sweeping into our neighborhood. Having this worry is very stressful as we all know what happened last August.

I would support expanding the Safe Paia program. I believe it has been a help to Paia.

On another point, I believe The Pauwela Point parcels should be included in Open Space funding. I worry that more development without the bypass will just create more traffic. We need open space to enjoy with our families as well.

Thank you for listening to our concerns.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:39pm 04-02-24

> From: Dave Eggert <davheneggs@gmail.com>

> Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 6:49 AM

> To: Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins <Nohe.Uu-Hodgins@mauicounty.us>

> Subject: FY 25 Budget: Funding for open space acquisition

>

> Aloha Nohe,

>

> It was nice to see you at the Haiku community meeting last week. Mahalo for your interest, support and work on our behalf.

>
> One of the topics, that I wish to express our support for is to have the county budget funds to acquire additional open space properties. The properties mentioned were makai of Hana Highway, across from the community center that became recently available.
>
> Mahalo for your consideration and support for this funding by the county.
>
> Aloha,
>
> Dave
>
> Dave Eggert
> 475 Manawai Place
> Haiku, HI 96708
> Davheneggs@gmail.com
> 847-505-9156

BFED Committee

Location:

Submitted At: 2:33pm 04-02-24

From: Lisa Starr <ecs@maui.net>

Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 2:15 PM

To: Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins <Nohe.Uu-Hodgins@mauicounty.us>

Cc: theedwardsposse <jodeledwards@gmail.com>; Kitty Walsh <kitty.d.walsh@gmail.com>

Subject: Holomua Road, Paia

Hello Nohe,

In 2021 I sent a plea to Director of Pubic Works, Rowena Dagdag-Andaya and Councilman Mike Molina to at the very least enforce dumping and littering on Holomua Road to mitigate the common fires that were occurring then as they still are now. Promises were made, nothing changed. Holomua Road was only left to worsen.

Please do all you can to be our Council representative who accomplishes results for all our safety. The complicated concerns for those who find themselves resorting to encampments on public property are well known. I trust the many departments who are tasked with addressing this islandwide challenge are doing what they can.

I would like to reiterate the same request I made in 2021. Is it really too much to expect that dumping, frequently toxic and flammable materials, on the shoulders of Holomua Road should be enforced in the same way that it certainly and promptly would be if dumping tires, engines, trash etc etc were on the sides of most any other County road?

To me this one logical, not complicated nor seriously costly endeavor would genuinely contribute to improved safety from wildfires upwind from our neighborhoods. Maybe there already is adequate funds with Public Works road maintenance to install signs and enforce the simple longtime law of "NO LITTERING, NO DUMPING"???

Thank you for visiting P__ia Community Center tomorrow. I regret that I am away from Maui and unable to attend. This message is my testimony submittal.

Aloha n_,

Lisa Starr

Lisa Starr • 8 Malie Place, Paia, HI 96779 • (808) 579-8707, (808) 283-8450

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:12am 04-02-24

I cannot attend the meeting tonight to share thoughts. As a resident of Kuau for many years, I am very concerned with the people living on Holomua road. It is a very dangerous situation, especially as we move into summer dryer months and the risk of fire increases and the strong trade winds will blow directly towards residences and the town of Paia.

Some suggestions that I agree with for changing this situation are as follows:

- > • Continue funding and expand the current County Clean and Safe Paia program to Holomua. Mel Johnson with Aegaeon has proved his service on the land before the public parking lot and with his current contract in Paia. Fund the program to allow his service to clear out and expand the 8hours to 16hours to include Holomua for consistent security and allow him to join county's long term solutions. (Legality issues pose a big question. I am confident with his expertise and experience that he is aware and has solutions to logistically deal with these legality issues in a civil way. You can reach out to him directly to best answer questions.)
- > • Fund a Holomua gravel or paved bypass road to help traffic congestion, provide an evacuation route and enforce laws.
- > • Provide local ID unsheltered residents a 5pm-8am monitored gravel camp facility in town for easy resource access.
- > • Continue educational outreach for residents on how to civilly stop the problem.

Is there a budget or fund for sending non resident Houseless individuals back to the mainland? What I am seeing more and more, are new houseless people coming to the island to live on the beach or in their cars/vans, in fact not too long ago someone was renting a van on Holomua road on Airbnb!

I feel strongly that we need to care for our houseless Ohana/residents and send a message to others that Maui is not open for houseless living.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:15am 04-02-24

Board/staff/community testimony:

Aloha my name is Susan Kean

- Please accept my testimony

in support of Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center's Youth & Family Outreach Programs and Art with Aloha Programs. Hui No'eau's Youth & Family Arts Education Outreach Programs eliminate cost and logistic barriers to arts participation for more than 8,000 Maui County keiki annually, including keiki on L_na'i and Moloka'i. In 2023, this included more than 1,500 Lahaina keiki who benefitted from the Hui's arts outreach, art supply distributions for Lahaina schools, field trips to the Hui; and Art2Go Art Kits. Hui Youth Outreach programs are delivered at no charge to participants, schools, or partner organizations. We are all heartbroken over the devastation the fires on Maui caused last August and we know how important art for the children affected by the fire is as part of their continued healing and recovery. I ask the County of Maui to please consider supporting the Hui's youth outreach efforts with \$50,000 in FY25 so that the Hui can continue this important work at the same level as in the past. Hui No'eau's Art with Aloha Program provides demonstrations, hands-on workshops, art events, and youth programs with native Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Art with Aloha programs encourage authentic cultural exchange while inspiring appreciation and understanding of Hawaiian people, culture, and hana No'eau (arts). I ask the County of Maui to please consider supporting the Hui's Art with Aloha Programs with \$50,000 in FY25.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:13pm 03-29-24

Aloha, my name is Cheryl Tipton and I am submitting this testimony in support of Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center's Youth & Family Outreach Programs and Art with Aloha Programs. Full disclosure: I have served as a Member and Officer of the Hui's Board of Directors for over a dozen years and visit the Hui often. Because of my frequent involvement I am well aware of the wonderful work the Hui does, especially with the support of the County for two of our programs.

Hui No'eau's Youth & Family Arts Education Outreach Programs eliminate cost and logistic barriers to arts participation for more than 8,000 Maui County keiki annually, including keiki on L_na'i and Moloka'i. Hui Youth Outreach programs are delivered at no charge to participants, schools, or partner organizations, including the very popular Art2Go Art Kits.

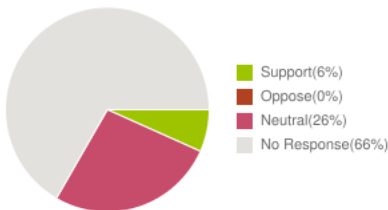
In 2023, more than 1,500 Lahaina keiki benefitted from the Hui's arts outreach, art supply distributions for Lahaina schools, field trips to the Hui; and Art2Go Art Kits. We are all heartbroken over the devastation the fires on Maui caused last August and we know how important art for the children affected by the fire is as part of their continued healing and recovery. In addition, the parents and friends of the children have often participated with the art projects bringing them closer together during this difficult time.

I ask the County of Maui to please consider supporting the Hui's youth outreach efforts with \$50,000 in FY25 so that the Hui can continue this important work at the same level as in the past fiscal year.

Hui No'eau's Art with Aloha Program provides demonstrations, hands-on workshops, art events, and youth programs with native Hawaiian cultural practitioners. The classes that are funded through this program are almost immediately sold out. Art with Aloha programs encourage authentic cultural exchange while inspiring appreciation and understanding of Hawaiian people, culture, and arts. I ask the County of Maui to please consider supporting the Hui's Art with Aloha Programs with \$50,000 in FY25, again so that the Hui can continue to offer these opportunities at the same level as in the past fiscal year.

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

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:52pm 04-02-24

From: karlee chong kee <karlee.chongkee@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 7:42:56 PM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii

To: BFED Committee

Subject: Pauwela Parcels

Aloha!

My name is Karlee Chong Kee and I am a resident of ha_ik_. I am emailing you folks in regards to the three Pauwela Parcels and requesting for Maui County Council to utilize open space funding for the three parcels to keep the land for our community. This land is very historical to our Hawaiian Culture in which our ancestors were given the lands in kingdom times. These lands also have native planting occurring that were planted by Hawaiian Organizations in which will be able to provide for our people. I hope for the county to approve our request.

Mahalo!

Karlee Chong Kee

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:37pm 04-02-24

Aloha,

My name is Kaleo Ollech I was born and raised in haiku. I am concerned as to what will become of the 3 parcels of land up for sale near k bay. This land and the trails within have always been apart of my life and many others in Maui county, especially the north shore. I ask for the county to purchase said parcels to ensure access is still available for locals and later generations to enjoy. I don't necessarily what the best use of the land will be but am sure the county and our community can put it to good use for all and prevent further development.

Mahalo for reading

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 6:44pm 04-02-24

From: CShop <cshop5@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, March 29, 2024 11:16 PM

To: Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins <Nohe.Uu-Hodgins@mauicounty.us>; Thomas M. Cook <Thomas.Cook@mauicounty.us>; Gabe Johnson <Gabe.Johnson@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>

Subject: Pauwela lighthouse access

Aloha Councilmembers, Please set aside \$ to purchase the parcels that are for sale that include the road access from Hana Hwy to the Pauwela lighthouse. Since the County already owns the lighthouse area, it would be a perfect opportunity for the county.

We are already saddened to see how Kamehameha School purchases are now blocking access to coastal areas where they have recently purchased along the North Shore and East Maui. Residents want to have access to the coast and private landowners are no longer granting access. It's sad and the County should help preserve as many open land areas as they can, or at the very least create public way easements for these wonderful ocean access properties!

with respect and aloha,
Cindie Mattox
Makawao, HI

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 6:41pm 04-02-24

From: Michael <michael@cmschwarz.com>

Sent: Monday, April 1, 2024 9:08 PM

To: Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>; Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins <Nohe.Uu-Hodgins@mauicounty.us>; Thomas M. Cook <Thomas.Cook@mauicounty.us>; Gabe Johnson <Gabe.Johnson@mauicounty.us>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>

Subject: Pa'uwela lighthouse access

Aloha ,

I recently was informed that property is for sale along the Pa'uwela lighthouse road. As a resident of Haiku for the last 37 years I am very concerned that the sale of the two lots adjacent to the road and the most makai lot which actually runs across the road might lead to the loss of access to the coast. The community of Haiku uses the Pa'uwela lighthouse road to get to the coast ,the lighthouse and to K bay one of the few accessible bays east of Maliko. The stunning coastline should be open to all the residents of Haiku, so I am suggesting that the County of Maui purchase the three lots TMK 227004050, TMK227004003 and TMK 227004059 as part of its land preservation program. Preserving these properties for public use would enhance the extent of the Hamakualoa Open Space which is already owned by the county and enable future generations to enjoy this awe inspiring coast.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Michael Schwarz

michael@cmschwarz.com

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:38pm 04-02-24

Hello,

My family lives downwind of Holomua road. I would like to preface my comment by saying, we have no problem with houseless people in general and understand each person has a story of struggle whether they moved here without an address or have lived their whole life and now have no where to go.

I am extremely concerned about the fires on Holomua. The location is so hidden from the community, that it provides a hidden safe haven to perform illegal activities that put the community at risk. There have been dozens of fires already this year. The biggest concern is what happens this summer when the fields are dry, the winds are stronger, and other parts of the island may require MFD resources at the same time? Historic Paia town and several neighborhoods, plus a school could be lost. Evacuating Paia residents on 2 lane roads would be extremely challenging as well. I understand the county may not be able to relocate these people and many desire this population to be out of sight and remain where they are but something must be done to ensure there is no longer a fire risk.

Some of my ideas are to have the county closely monitor this area around the clock during the dry season to restrict fires, provide fire extinguishers and fire education, remove flammable cars and garbage, add more fire breaks, provide relocation to those who wish to move, and discourage that location from further population growth.

Also of concern is that the population there needs mental/medical help and their needs can't be seen on that road. For example, we have had a bleeding person with a head injury from Holomua road hike the field over a mile to our home after dark and knock on our door asking for medical help. If the county is going to keep this population there, I think they should have dedicated staff addressing the medical and mental struggles of the people there before they are walking into residences at night, needing 911, or dying.

I hope they a solution to the fires and the state of the people living there can be found.

Thank you

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:38pm 04-02-24

My name is Shanon McCaffrey. I am a retired R.N. living in Kuau Bayview since 1996. I am also concerned about potential fire hazard and sanitary conditions on Holomua road. I helped the 'HUNGRY HEROS' after the fires, deliver meals to many of the people in the encampments. It was quite shocking how people are living. I support any action to improve this situation and help make our community safer.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:32pm 04-02-24

Hello,

I'm Rachel and I own a little shop in Paia. I would like to advocate for more parking.

There are approximately 80 small businesses in Paia, and only a very small handful of them have private parking for their employees, or customers.

We did a recent survey, and found there are between 225-275 employees that are going to work every single day in our town, that need parking.

There are only about 40 parking spaces that allow more than 2 + hours, which is in the public lot next to the shell station.

Street parking is only 1-2 hrs, and the small lot by Mana Foods is also 2 hr parking. So you can park there, but risk getting a ticket. Paying for parking by the hour in one of the paid lots, is too expensive for workers.

I have heard some say that the businesses should supply the parking for employees, but I can tell you first-hand, we don't own any of the parking, and are unable to do so.

I would like to propose, making a dedicated parking lot for employees who are working in Paia. It would free up hundreds of spaces in town, so more people can come to do their grocery shopping, get a haircut, go to the dentist or out for lunch.

Right now it's faster to drive all the way into town to do your shopping than it is to find a place to park in Paia. It shouldn't be this way.

Our little town generates so much revenue for the island, and I think it's more important than ever to support the small businesses here and keep our employees at work.

Thank you

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:09pm 04-02-24

From: spreiter@mauigateway.com <spreiter@mauigateway.com>

Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 12:52 PM

To: BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>

Subject: 3 oceanfront Pauwela lots

I would like to request Maui County Council to include \$6.8 million of Open Space Funding for the three Pauwela Parcels. Do not offer them up for sale. Mahalo
Janet Spreiter, 478 Front Street, Lahaina

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:06pm 04-02-24

Aloha Councilmembers,

As a former employee of the Maui Invasive Species Committee I agree with the other commenters that the situation in Paia, and particularly on Holomua Road, has grown out of control and something, anything, must be done to change course. MISC employees work at nearly all hours of the day and night, going in and out of their base yard at the Old Maui High School to keep the island as safe as possible from fire ants, nocturnal coqui frogs, and other highly damaging invasive species that slip through the importation cracks and threaten the economy and way of life. I know from experience that Holomua Road at 11pm at night is not a place one wants to drive through on their way home from work after a coqui shift, and certainly not a place anyone would want to walk their pet even in the light of day. I have witnessed all manner of foul, inappropriate, and threatening behavior both day and night over the 3 or so years I drove the road daily and saw the encampment grow and spill its elements into Paia town.

Multiple 40 ft dumpster roll-off units have been filled to the maximum with trash deposited on the ground by encampment residents and picked up by County bulldozers and workers. I know it's not unique on Maui but the amount of trash and human waste deposited by homeless residents along Holomua Road is staggering and will likely have consequences for the ecosystem (native seabirds at Hookipa, reef system, etc.) and public health. I called the fire department many times to report fires started along the road during my commute to work at MISC. It's a miracle none of them grew to catastrophic levels that could affect downwind residents, business owners, and visitors in Ku'au and Paia. At one point MISC employees were calling MPD daily to report threatening behavior and road blockages which delayed the invaluable service they perform for the community.

This is now a larger public safety issue in a fire prone area and should be treated as such. Years long efforts have already gone into getting services and assistance options to encampment residents only to be largely met with refusals. Please clean up the area citing all applicable public health and safety laws. There should be plenty of evidence and documentation to support such a move along a public road at this point. At minimum, continue funding and expand the current County Clean and Safe Paia program to Holomua.

With Aloha,
Concerned Maui Resident

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:37pm 04-02-24

From: Frank Finn <frank.finn@adaptivegroup.co <mailto:frank.finn@adaptivegroup.co>>

Sent: Saturday, March 30, 2024 9:58 PM

To: Shane M. Sinenci <Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us <mailto:Shane.Sinenci@mauicounty.us>>; Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins <Nohe.Uu-Hodgins@mauicounty.us <mailto:Nohe.Uu-Hodgins@mauicounty.us>>; Thomas M. Cook <Thomas.Cook@mauicounty.us <mailto:Thomas.Cook@mauicounty.us>>; Gabe Johnson <Gabe.Johnson@mauicounty.us <mailto:Gabe.Johnson@mauicounty.us>>; Tasha A. Kama <Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us <mailto:Tasha.Kama@mauicounty.us>>; Alice L. Lee <Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us <mailto:Alice.Lee@mauicounty.us>>; Tamara A. Paltin <Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us <mailto:Tamara.Paltin@mauicounty.us>>; Keani N. Rawlins <Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us <mailto:Keani.Rawlins@mauicounty.us>>; Yukilei Sugimura <Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us <mailto:Yukilei.Sugimura@mauicounty.us>>

Subject: Haiku Resident - Hoping we have a better solution to maintaining Access to Kuiaha Bay And Pauwela Lighthouse

Hello Shane,

I just wanted to reach out regarding the sale of the parcels makai of Haiku Community center. We live on Kauhikoa and regularly take our family and many friends down these coast access roads for community days down Kuiaha Bay.

I was very sad to learn that these parcels were being sold and that they were likely going to be fenced off and closed from public access. We take our children down there to fish, play, and learn about the ocean. We have been down there to help uncles pull nets full of Akole from the surf, who send our families home with coolers full of fish.

I am hopeful that if there is something the county can do to preserve access to these very special areas, that we do everything in our power to do so.

I have heard from several realtors in the area that there are some serious entitlement and easement issues with these parcels that will make them very unattractive to purchasers and that they will not likely sell for the prices they are being offered for. What a great opportunity for the county to step up and approach the sellers of the land with a realistic offer and preserve this space for the community.

Sincerely,

Frank Finn
668 Kauaheahe place
Haiku, HI 96708

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:51am 04-02-24

Something needs to be done about the old high school road. It's not safe for people to exercise down that road

anymore and super sketchy for kids. The fires being set in the dry fields puts thousands at risk. The stolen cars that have ended up there by the usual suspects. It's too many people in one homeless encampment and the over flow of crime in surrounding area is at an increase. The more nothing is done about it the larger the problem grows. Best to handle it now before it turns into something too unmanagable. Please urgently address this situation straight away, mahalo.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 4:52am 04-02-24

Good Morning,

My name is Me-Shell Mijangos, and I've had the privilege of calling Maui my home for over two decades now. As a resident of Paia for the past 14 years and a homeowner, I feel deeply invested in the well-being and safety of our community.

I'm here to address the pressing issue of homelessness and mental health that continues to affect Maui. It's an issue that's not only visible but also pervasive across the island. Without adequate support and resources, our homeless population faces immense challenges, and this, in turn, impacts both residents and tourists.

The situation along Holomua Road is particularly concerning. If left unaddressed, it could lead to serious consequences for our community. From safety concerns for families to the heightened risk of wildfires, the stakes are undeniably high.

I'm here to offer some actionable suggestions that we can begin implementing:

- * Continue funding and expand the current County Clean and Safe Paia program to Holomua. Mel Johnson with Aegaeon has proved his service on the land before the public parking lot and with his current contract in Paia. Fund the program to allow his service to clear out and expand the 8hours to 16hours to include Holomua for consistent security and allow him to join county's long term solutions. (Legality issues pose a big question. I am confident with his expertise and experience that he is aware and has solutions to logistically deal with these legality issues in a civil way. You can reach out to him directly to best answer questions.)
- * Fund a Holomua gravel or paved bypass road to help traffic congestion, provide an evacuation route and enforce laws.
- * Provide local ID unsheltered residents a 5pm-8am monitored gravel camp facility in town for easy resource access.
- * Continue educational outreach for residents on how to civilly stop the problem.

By taking these steps, we can begin to address the complex issue of homelessness and mental health on Maui. It's crucial that we come together as a community to tackle this challenge head-on and create a safer, more inclusive environment for all residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

With Aloha,
Me-Shell Mijangos

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:52pm 04-01-24

My name is Morgan Rawson, and am a resident of Ku'au. Today, I emphasize our concern about the escalating wildfire threat and safety hazards stemming from the encampment on Holomua. While we acknowledge the broader issue of mental health and homelessness, we urge a swift allocation of funds towards readily available solutions to safeguard the neighborhoods adjacent to this encampment. Our community's safety depends on it.

1. Expand the County Clean and Safe Paia program to Holomua, utilizing Mel Johnson's proven expertise and experience to clear and secure the area for 16 hours daily, while ensuring his integration into the county's long-term solutions.
2. Allocate funds for the construction of a Holomua gravel or paved bypass road to alleviate traffic congestion, establish an evacuation route, and enforce laws effectively.
3. Establish a monitored gravel camp facility in town for unsheltered residents with local ID, operating from 5pm to

8am, to provide easy access to resources.

4. Maintain and enhance educational outreach initiatives for residents to effectively address and mitigate the issue of homelessness in a civil manner.

Thank you for listening to our concerns and resolving the issue at hand.

BFED Committee

Location:

Submitted At: 9:59am 04-01-24

From: Jodel Edwards <jodeledwards@icloud.com>

Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2024 10:53 AM

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

Cc: Justin Edwards <logicwins@gmail.com>

Subject: Testimony 4/2 Budget meeting

Aloha,

I am submitting my testimony for the upcoming budget meeting 4/2@6pm@ Paia Community Center. I will also submit once the agenda becomes available via EComment.

Mahalo,

Jodel Edwards

I am Jodel Edwards. We have been Ku'au resident for 10 years and our neighborhood and community is very concerned of our safety and wildfire risk from the lawless, dangerous, and unsanitary Holomua encampment. We propose funding be focused on the quickest and easiest solutions that are already in place.

- Continue funding and expand the current County Clean and Safe Paia program to Holomua. Mel Johnson with Aegaeon has proved his service on the land before the public parking lot and with his current contract in Paia. Fund the program to allow his service to clear out and expand the 8hours to 16hours to include Holomua for consistent security and allow him to join county's long term solutions.
- Fund a Holomua gravel or paved bypass road to help traffic congestion, provide an evacuation route and enforce laws.
- Provide local ID unsheltered residents a 5pm-8am monitored gravel camp facility in town for easy resource access.
- Continue educational outreach for residents on how to stop the problem.

Please consider our proposed solutions to help keep our community safe. Mahalo for listening and resolving our safety and wildfire concerns.

Jodel and Justin

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 2:05pm 03-28-24

Aloha my name is Anne-Marie Forsythe and I am the Executive Director for Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center. Please accept my testimony in support of Hui No'eau's Youth & Family Outreach Programs and Art with Aloha Programs.

I truly believe in the immeasurable power of the arts to support mental health, healing, and overall well-being. As people work toward rebuilding their homes and their lives, art can help us feel less alone by providing an opportunity for shared experience and expression. Art teaches us to notice details, to find beauty where we may not have seen it before, and to connect with our community and ourselves.

The arts will be more critical now than ever before to support the community's mental health and healing. Studies have shown that arts and culture can be key tools in preserving, recovering and creating new social memory, with positive impacts on community members' abilities to be resilient and appropriately engage and participate in their post-disaster lives. Participants in artistic and creative initiatives realize physical and mental health benefits, including stress reduction, increased self-confidence,

social cohesion, and community empowerment. Moreover, reports indicate that art can empower disaster survivors to take control of their thoughts, their feelings, and their narratives, and thus to begin the long process of recovery.

Hui No'eau's Youth & Family Arts Education Outreach Programs eliminate cost and logistic barriers to arts participation for more than 8,000 Maui County keiki annually, including keiki on L_na'i and Moloka'i. In 2023, this included more than 1,500 Lahaina keiki who benefitted from the Hui's arts outreach, art supply distributions for Lahaina schools, field trips to the Hui; and Art2Go Art Kits. Hui Youth Outreach programs are delivered at no charge to participants, schools, or partner organizations. We are all heartbroken over the devastation the fires on Maui caused last August and we know how important art for the children affected by the fire is as part of their continued healing and recovery. I ask the County of Maui to please consider supporting the Hui's youth outreach efforts with \$50,000 in FY25 so that we can continue this important work at the same level as in the past.

I would like to share recent testimony from some of our youth participants and community Partners:

"Our grandson Lahikiola saw the fires as he and his family fled Lahaina. Our family relocated to Upcountry. It was a difficult transition for Lahikiola, leaving his friends, school and community. The upcountry community has been so supportive and welcoming. Lahikiola is thriving, and now that he got involved with the Hui he is so happy. He looked forward to going to art class every day and was so excited to tell us what he learned."

"Hui No'eau's amazing teaching artists have been the BEST with our children! The children always look forward to our weekly in-person art days. Parents have also been enjoying time spent with their children in the groups, which promotes such healthy parents and child relationships and precious moments of bonding." Misty Bannister, Children's Services Coordinator, Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers

"Mahalo Hui No_eau and Kumula__au and Haunani Sing. Hui No_eau truly went above and beyond to fulfill their mission of providing a space for community arts. Not only providing us the resource, but also going as far as to bring the resource to us. This allowed us to take part in an otherwise not available opportunity that our keiki and Kumu were engaged in. Kumula__au and Haunani were truly a gift. Their lesson plan, organization, and execution was pure perfection. Their sincere aloha for the language and works of our ku_puna helped to support what we are instilling daily in our classrooms. Lastly this opportunity helped to heal our community through art and culture. The keiki were given the opportunity to indulge in work that brought them joy in a time where emotions are high and feelings are raw. It also allowed for our community to come in and see first hand the resilience of our students and families. Mahalo nui loa for your support and aloha!" - Kumu Joy Salvador, Kula Kaiapuni O Nahi_ena_ena

Hui No'eau's Art with Aloha Program provides demonstrations, hands-on workshops, art events, and youth programs with native Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Art with Aloha programs encourage authentic cultural exchange while inspiring appreciation and understanding of Hawaiian people, culture, and hana No'eau (arts). I ask the County of Maui to please consider supporting the Hui's Art with Aloha Programs with \$50,000 in FY25. I would like to share testimony from some of our recent students:

"Shre (Wilson) really shares the history of Ni'ihau and its culture and people. She is so enthusiastic about her subject and passionate about keeping this special cultural art alive for future generations it is infectious. I can't wait to take another course with her."

"I enjoyed meeting the other artists in class and seeing their work and processes. It's inspiring to me to work with other creatives. I was also very touched by the three fire

survivors in the class and how they were using their class time to “feel normal” and create a routine in an otherwise very tumultuous time in their lives.”

“Kekai (Daunhauer)’s passion and expertise were most infusive and inspired us to experiment on the items we had to make dye coloring and print.”

From: Jodel Edwards jodeledwards@mac.com
Subject: Testify
Date: April 2, 2024 at 3:15 PM
To: Jodel Edwards jodeledwards@gmail.com



Aloha, I am Jodel Edwards. We are Ku'au residents for 10 years and our neighborhood and community is very concerned of our safety and wildfire risk from the lawless, dangerous, and unsanitary Holomua encampment.

Annual budget states "to provide vital and reliable service to county residents and also focuses on recovery and prepare for future disasters". Bill 62 -improvement projects. Bill 63-roads, beautification, safety, disability accessibility and provide funding for a modular community.

We propose funding be focused on the quickest and easiest solutions that are already in place.

1. Continue funding and expand the current County Clean and Safe Paia program to Holomua. Mel Johnson has proved his service on the land before the public parking lot and with his current contract in Paia. Fund the program to allow his service to clear out and expand to 16 hours to include Holomua for consistent security and allow him to join county's long term solutions.
 - (Legality issues pose a big question. I am confident with his expertise and experience that he is aware and has solutions to logistically deal with these legality issues in a civil way. You can reach out to him directly to best answer questions.)
2. Fund the Holomua gravel or paved bypass road to help traffic congestion, provide an evacuation and emergency route and enforce laws.
3. Fund and encourage a 5pm-8am monitored gravel camp facility in town for unsheltered residents for easy resource access.
4. Continue funding educational outreach for residents on how to civilly stop the problem.

I am aware that the county is taking steps to help this situation, however, please consider funding our proposed solutions to help keep our community safe. Mahalo for listening and resolving our safety and wildfire concerns.

Jodel and Justin

NOTE-This is not my expertise, my role is to voice my Ohana's concern and encourage residents to do the same.

RECEIVED AT BFEU MEETING ON 4/2/2024
Paia

TO: Budget Finance and Economic Development Committee April 1, 2024

From Ha'iku Community Association (HCA)

RE: FY 2024-25 County Budget Priorities

Aloha Committee Chair Yukimura and Committee Members

Mahalo for your diligent work on our county budget. The Ha'iku Community Association would like to support the following priority items in our 2024-25 Budget.

Infrastructure and Public Safety:

- 1. Funding for next design-build phase of Ha'iku Fire station**
- 2. Funding for planning studies to support storage reservoir at Kamaole water treatment plant**
- 3. Funding for East Maui Community Water Authority staff and operations**

Environmental Safety

- 1. Funding for MISC and better delivery method to distribute the funds**
- 2. Funding for East Maui Water shed Partnership, and other watershed partnerships.**
- 3. Line item funding of \$40 k to continue the HCA recreational stream water quality testing program for year 2024-25**

Open Space Fund

- 1. Funding of \$30 k for Malama Hamakua Maui to care for HamakuaLoa Open space preserve**
- 2. \$6.8 mil Funding to purchase up to 140-acres of Pauwela lands and protect access to the Kuiaha coastline and the County park above Kuiaha Bay. The lands can also be used for the future Haiku Community Center and active park playing fields.**

Other:

Funding for staff and operations for new department of' Oihi Services

Mahalo nui loa

**Lucienne de Naie
President**

RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 4/2/2024
Paia

Shirine Santos 808 359-8088
TropicalFarmer4@gmail.com

Aloha Council members,
my name is Shirine Santos.

First of all I would like to take this opportunity to ~~the~~ express my appreciation to any of you who were instrumental in the purchase of the lots now known as the Hanalei open space. When they stopped raising pineapples there I was afraid that it would turn into yet another subdivision but now it is open to be used by the people of Maui - so thank you.

Secondly, ~~I have come here~~ as you may be aware there are 3 parcels of land for sale across from the community center that total about 133 acres. I would like to ask this council that - if there is any way possible - you could include ~~\$~~ 1.8 million dollars of open space funding for the purchase of those lots.

The reason that I ask this is because I already know that there is not enough space at our current community center. When my kids were young, I used to take them to practice soccer there and there wasn't enough room at the park for all the teams to practice - so they would end up practicing on the school playground. ~~The purchase of those parcels of land would~~ that was 5 years ago and the population of the surrounding area has and will continue to grow. The purchase of those parcels of land would provide a place to expand the park and possibly the community center in the future.

The third & last reason I am here tonight is the most important for me. As you may know, also across from the Hāiki Community Center is a county owned road that goes down to the Pauwela lighthouse and a trail that branches off of it that goes to Puniava Bay. The problem is that road runs through the lot that is for sale that is closest to the ocean and often times public trails & roads that run through private property get blocked off. But even if the road remains open, it is very likely that access to the trail that goes down to the Bay will be closed. On top of that, Kamehameha Schools has bought the land surrounding the east side of the bay and if they do what they have done to other properties they have bought, they will fence it off and deny access to the bay ~~and~~ from that direction.

What I am asking is ~~that~~ please find a way to guarantee access to Puniava Bay so that we as a community don't lose access to it like many other places on the north shore that we can no longer get to. If the budget doesn't allow ^{for} the purchase of all the lots - please purchase the one closest to the ocean and if that is not possible then I think I have a solution to the problem that I would be happy to share but I won't do it here because I have already taken up too much time

Thank you ~~for your time~~

April 1, 2024

Aloha Councilwoman Nohelani U'u-Hodgins and Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee

My name is Kitty Walsh I am contacting you about wildfire and safety concerns on Holomua Road in Kuau on the beautiful North Shore of Maui. I have been a resident and property owner in Kuau for over 30 years. My husband, Peter, and I raised our four sons, Ian, Luke, Shaun and Dennis in our family home on Ulumaika Place.

Over the past 4 years Holomua Road encampments have become a significant wildfire and safety hazard in our community. Large encampments with illegal activities, illegal vehicles, trash, propane tanks, human waste, cooking and bon fires, are continuing to thrive. There have been over 30 fires reported and responded to by the Maui Fire Department and the Maui Police Department since January 2024! Most of these fires have been generated by the rapidly growing encampments. Once the summer drought conditions and the gusty tradewinds return to Kuau and Paia, downwind of Holomua Road, will be at EXTREME risk for wildfires! I am confident that Maui Fire department and Maui Police department are doing their very best to protect our lives and property from the dangers of Holomua Road. However, they could definitely use more support and funding from our County. Please consider funding:

A location in central Maui where people in need can park vehicles to sleep and live in with access to basic sanitary facilities and outreach resources until they can find permanent housing.

Posting signage on Holomua Rd. No Camping, No Parking 7pm-6am, No dumping, Then fund towing of illegal vehicles and removal of illegal trash and illegal structures

Clear vegetation, iron wood trees, brush and grasses from both sides of the road and around Old Maui High School. Work with Mahi Pono to cut large fire breaks on either side of Holomua More funds for Public Works

Fund a Private Security contract to assist in cleaning up Holomua similar to the Paia Bypass and public parking clean up last year, Aegaeon Security.

Fund Friends of Old Maui High School and MISC to provide additional security.

After Holomua is cleared and safe put up gates at both Hana Highway and Baldwin Ave.

Holomua was once a quite county road where residents could walk and and exercise and enjoy the beauty of historic Old Maui High School established in 1913 and the alma mater of Pasty Takemoto Mink, US Representative and author of title IX legislation for Educational Equality. Holomua Road is also culturally significant as the pathway from the mountains of Makawao to the beautiful reefs of Kuau and Ho'okipa, Hamakuapoko Ahupua'a

RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 4/2/2024
Paia

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration of my concerns about wildfire and safety risks on Holomua Road affecting my home and my community. Please email me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,


Kitty Walsh
Kitty.d.walsh@gmail.com

MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL TESTIMONY 4-2-2019

John Phelps 300 Waiama Way Haiku
Haiku Hills Subdivision
773-573-6587
JandD_Phelps@yahoo.com

RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 04/02/2024
Paia

CONTAINING COQUI FROGS ON MAUI

1. 5 Years ago Meetings were held with MISC to address the Coqui Frog problem on Haiku Hill
 - a. The largest density of Coqui frogs on Maui was at the Maliko Gulch/Lilikoi gulch junction.
 - b. MISC lacked personnel to deal with the frogs coming from the gulches to other areas and the frogs on the properties in Haiku Hill Subdivision.
 - c. I became the lead for a community support group to spray the properties in the subdivision to allow MISC personnel to deal with other areas plus the Lilikoi gulch.
 - d. We had success getting the frogs quiet in the subdivision but had to stop spraying the frogs in Lilikoi gulch due to the frogs advancing toward Hana and the rainforest area.
 - e. Our group spent up to 100 hours a month .
 - f. A PVC line was added around the subdivision (90 acres) to provide a barrier to the frogs in the gulches. This cut our spray time in half.
2. The State and County provided MISC funding without which the coqui frog battle on Maui would have been lost long ago.
 - a. The frogs were somewhat isolated to the Gulches where they continued to increase in number.
 - b. Additional community groups were created to address other areas along the gulches.

FROG THREAT

1. Female lay up to 1000 eggs a year which mature in 8 months.
2. An acre of moist wooded land with mosquitoes and other insects can support up to 40000 frogs
3. Maliko gulch (125 acres) and Lilikoi gulch (25 acres) can support up to 6 million frogs
4. 1 frog outside a bedroom window is like trying to sleep with a rooster. Hilo has this kind of problem.
5. A few frogs in the East Maui Watershed can produce millions of frogs that will spread.before they can be contained.

FUNDING

1. Continuing the MISC funding at current levels is required to keep the frogs semi contained in the gulches.
2. Additional funding to eradicate the frogs in the gulches is required or the current funding for containment must be continued forever. A few frogs left alone will produce 1 MILLION EGGS in a couple years. They all must go.
3. Just for Lilikoi gulch will require a Million dollars of funding.

Title: Containing Coqui Frogs on Maui: A Community-Led Effort

Introduction:

Aloha! My name is John Phelps, a resident of Haiku Hill on the beautiful island of Maui. I've been deeply involved in the efforts to contain the spread of coqui frogs within our community. Over the past five years, I've served as the lead for coqui frog containment activities in Haiku Hill, working closely with the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) and fellow residents to address this pressing issue.

History:

In the early 2000s, MISC initiated a "certified coqui free" program to combat the proliferation of coqui frogs across Maui. However, despite these efforts, the coqui population persisted, particularly in areas like Haiku Hill. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, community meetings were convened with MISC five years ago to address the coqui problem specifically in our neighborhood.

Facing limited personnel, MISC struggled to adequately address the growing coqui population in Haiku Hill and prevent their expansion into neighboring areas, including the sensitive rainforest regions towards Hana. In response, the Haiku Hill community formed a support group and provided personnel to supplement the MISC activities. Residents began spraying citric acid on their properties, while MISC targeted the adjacent Lilikoi gulch.

Initially, significant time and effort were invested, with myself and other property owners dedicating around 100 hours per month to the cause. This concerted effort yielded promising results, reducing the frog population near homes substantially. However, the challenge persisted in the gulches, where frog numbers continued to rise unchecked. MISC lacked personnel to spray the gulches and respond to the outlying frog hot spots.

To address this, homeowners installed a PVC line around the subdivision perimeter to deliver acid, further mitigating frog incursions from the gulches. Despite these efforts, the coqui population in the gulches continued to escalate, prompting the formation of additional community groups across Maui to combat the issue.

Over the past five years, the Haiku Hill Subdivision has contributed approximately 2500 hours of labor towards coqui frog control. Despite these collective efforts, the challenge remains daunting, with frog densities being the highest on Maui at the junction of Lilikoi and Maliko gulches.

Frogs:

The reproductive capacity of coqui frogs presents a formidable challenge, with a single female capable of producing up to 1000 eggs annually. With no natural predators on Maui, frog population can spiral out of control rapidly. The density of frogs in affected areas can grow up to 40,000 per acre, underscoring the urgency of containment efforts.

Left unchecked, coqui frogs pose a significant threat to Maui's ecosystem, particularly in regions experiencing high rainfall and dense vegetation. Without intervention, the situation could mirror the crisis faced in Hilo, exacerbating

environmental degradation and disrupting native habitats. Millions of eggs are being laid in the gulches every year and an egg becomes a reproducing frog in 8 months. One year without spray and the frogs will overrun Haiku Hill and the other neighborhoods along the gulches and spread into the watershed west of West Kuiaha. At this point it will be impossible to control the frog population.

Funding:

Sustaining the fight against coqui frogs necessitates adequate funding and resources. Without the previous state and county funding the frogs would have overrun Maui long ago. The current level of funding for MISC is essential for containing frog populations in the gulches and preventing further spread. Without this support, the frog population control achieved thus far would be lost, as frog densities in the gulches are already high.

To bolster containment efforts, increased staffing for spray crews is imperative. MISC is exploring innovative solutions, including recruiting temporary crews from the mainland. However, these initiatives require additional funding.

Moreover, addressing the root cause of the issue demands substantial financial investment. Just containing the frogs is not enough. Actually eradicating frogs from breeding areas like Lilikoi Gulch and Maliko Gulch will require significant additional resources, with estimates surpassing one million dollars for Lilikoi Gulch alone. Given the larger size of Maliko Gulch, the costs are expected to escalate accordingly.

Mahalo:

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to all those involved in the ongoing battle against coqui frogs on Maui. Your dedication and commitment are vital in safeguarding our environment and preserving the unique biodiversity of our island. Together, we can overcome this challenge and ensure a brighter future for generations to come.

Mahalo,
John Phelps
JandD_Phelps@yahoo.com

This white paper outlines the history, challenges, and funding needs associated with containing coqui frogs on Maui, emphasizing the importance of community collaboration and sustained support from relevant authorities.

TESTIMONY

4.2.2024

Offered by David DeLeon, 335 Waiama Way, Haiku dpdeleon@icloud.com 808-281-3269

Aloha. My name is David DeLeon, Haiku resident and former county Charter Commission Member. Thank you for allowing me to address two different issues.

For about a decade my neighborhood in Haiku Hill was being overrun by amazingly noisy, tiny tree frogs. I spent many nights in the rain tracking down and killing coqui. Their presence had a serious impact on the quality of my life.

Now, thanks to Maui County's fiscal support of the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MIST) over the years, that horrible waste of my time, energy and sleep is behind me and my neighbors. MIST helped us form a community-based response and gave us the resources we needed to push these noisy frogs out of our neighborhood. Instead of becoming the next Hilo, we have beautiful, quiet Maui nights again. Mahalo.

And we have to celebrate MIST's victory over the little fire ants in Nahiku. That was such a sigh of relief to know we still have a handle on the fire ant situation. My hat is off to MIST.

While we know this is a tough budget year, the services MIST provides are essential to the quality of life for everyone living on Maui. Please continue to support them.

The other topic is the Department of Housing. There seems to be some confusion over what its purpose is. Let me clear that up: it is to develop – by any means possible – housing our working class residents can afford. Period.

This department was initially created to address our then housing crisis. I know this because I wrote the proposal. That crisis has since turned into a disaster. This department was designed to get homes built. If you are not sure about that, please read the charter provision again. The director is meant to lead our community's response to this disaster by getting homes built. The advisor committee is meant to help the director do that. That is the mandate the Charter Commission approved unanimously and the mandate voters gave when they approved the Charter Amendment by a two to one margin.

As a budget issue, I believe the salary attached to the director's position is too low by a factor of two. You wouldn't offer that salary to someone seeking to become a college basketball coach. We have a massive problem that affects the whole community. We need an Olympic grade leader to tackle it. The approved salary grade says we are not serious.

Time is limited, so I will stop here. Please expect to hear more about this from me.

(pau)

RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 04/02/2024
paia

BFED Committee

From: TerrillJames Kāneali'ikeikioka'āina Williams <tkanealiw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 3:08 PM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Written testimony
Attachments: KanealiiWilliams_BudgetHearingTestimony.pdf

Categories: Processed

You don't often get email from tkanealiw@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

Please see the attachment. It is my written testimony for today's County Budget Hearing.

Mahalo,
Terrill James Kane Alii Williams

April 2, 2024
County of Maui Budget and Finance Committee

Aloha,

My name is Terrill James Kane Alii Williams, MBA, and I am one of many lineal descendants of my great-great-great-great-great grandfather Nalopi; through my genealogical tie to Nalopi, I am testifying as a lineal descendant of the ahupua'a of Pauwela in Ha'iku, Maui.

The following is a quote from the attached letter from the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Commission on Water Resource Management, dated February 29, 2024 in regards to Land Commission Award 3666 Royal Patent 2194 to Nalopi:

"HISTORIC USE

In reviewing the historic use of Land Commission Award (LCA) 3336 to Nalopi, Commission staff referenced the online Kipuka Database and the Papakilo Database, both maintained by the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Māhele Database, a privately maintained system of Waihona 'Aina Corp. The Native Register for LCA 3336, translated, states, 'I hereby state a claim for land. In Hamakua, at Kuiaha, Kuponamoa, is a pauku of land. Kula land is at Ulupepe, Poholauhala, Kumapopo. A house claim is in Haiku and a sweet potato kula also. At Pauwela is a sweet potato mo'o. Those are my claims for land, lo'i and kula. Lauhala and two houses are in Pauwela and in Kuiaha (emphasis added)'. (See Figure 5) While there does not appear to be a historic use for lo'i kalo on the parcel located at LCA 3336, the survey notes in the Māhele Awards, for Nalopi, indicates a small poalima did exist on 'āpana 4 of LCA 3336 (See Figure 6)." (Page 6).

Please refer to the letter attachment to this testimony and the relevant sections therein other relevant sections; The 9-page letter has been redacted for the purpose of making it easier for the Committee to identify the relevant sections pertaining this testimony.

Due to the County of Maui's past involvement regarding purchasing, selling, and trading of lands without having a clear chain of title in other areas of Maui as well as current involvement in pushing forward development projects on behalf of foreign investors despite knowing that clear title has not been established, the County needs to be a lot more proactive in doing quality land title research in the Pauwela ahupua'a regarding the Land Commission Awards and Royal Patents lands. This needs to be done to ensure that the rights of Kanaka Maoli, especially those such as myself and my 'ohana who are lineal descendants of the ahupua'a, are not obstructed in exercising our traditional and customary practices in our native lands. It is too often a tendency that when Hawaiian lands come under the possession of foreign investors, our rights to practice our culture, including our traditional and customary practices such as fishing, gathering, accessing traditional easements, trails, and roads, and protection of iwi kupuna burials become infringed upon and we are faced with ethnocidal politics. For example, our ability to easily access the shoreline of East Kuiaha --- of which the Kuiaha ahupua'a are the neighboring ahupua'a of Pauwela --- has already become infringed upon due to both the privatization of large tracts of land and the privatization of the roadway makai of Hana Highway and thus has disrupted the traditional mauka-to-makai cultural foundation our ancestors. I do not want to see that same thing happen in the ahupua'a of Pauwela nor for our ability to access Puniawa Bay and other culturally significant aspects of the parcels in Pauwela makai of Hana Highway to be further restricted or desecrated. I am urging the County to take the appropriate actions that will maintain that these lands remain under traditional stewardship and protection that is lead by the lineal descendants of Pauwela and not be taken over by foreign investors or any other agendas that do not align with the values of the lineal descendants of the ahupua'a.

Mahalo for your time,

Terrill James Kane Alii Williams, MBA
Lineal descendant of Nalopi
Ha'iku, Maui

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'AINA



DAWN N. S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON

KENNETH S. FINK, M.D., MGA, MPH
NEIL J. HANNAHS
AURORA KAGAWA-VIVIANI, PH.D.
WAYNE K. KATAYAMA
PAUL J. MEYER
LAWRENCE H. MIIKE, M.D., J.D.

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES | KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | KE KAHUWAI PONO
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

February 29, 2024

CDR.5960.6

Terrill James Kane Alii Williams
P.O. Box 790172
Pā'ia, HI 96779

Aloha Mr. Williams:

Complaint / Dispute Resolution
East Kuiaha Stream, Maui; TMK (2) 2-7-007:012

This letter serves as the formal response to the Complaint/Dispute Resolution (CDR) received by the Commission on Water Resource Management (Commission) on October 26, 2022. In the CDR, you allege that East Maui Irrigation Company is diverting all the water from East Kuiaha Stream and that there is "a preexisting 'auwai connected to the Lowrie Ditch within the TMK." You identify four diversions on the East Kuiaha Stream located mauka of LCA 3336 RP 2194.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Figure 1. Photographs from site visit on December 8, 2022 showing East Kuiaha Stream at Ha'ikū Rd.



A) Upstream view of East Kuiaha Stream above Ha'ikū Rd.



B) Upstream view of East Kuiaha Stream from Ha'ikū Rd.



C) Unregistered stream diversion works in East Kuiaha Stream at approximately 510 ft a.s.l.



D) Unregistered stream diversion works in East Kuiaha Stream at approximately 510 ft a.s.l.



E) Vertical channel cut into the hillside along Ha'ikū Rd on the east side of East Kuiaha Stream Bridge



F) Damage indicated along Lowrie Ditch before siphon across East Kuiaha Gulch

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B) Kaluanui Ditch diversion (KD-2) on East Kuiaha Stream from right bank.



C) East Kuiaha Stream below Kaluanui Ditch diversion.



D) East Kuiaha Stream below Kaluanui Ditch below diversion on East Kuiaha Stream (KD-2).

ANALYSIS

Geology

[REDACTED]

Figure 3. Photographs from site visit on December 6, 2022 showing East Kuiaha Stream at Kauhikoa Ditch



A) Upstream view of East Kuiaha Stream above Kauhikoa Ditch.



B) East Kuiaha Stream bypass over Kauhikoa Ditch.



C) Closed intake on Kauhikoa Ditch diversion (KH-6) on East Kuiaha Stream.



D) East Kuiaha Stream bypass over Kauhikoa Ditch.

Hydrology

The basal freshwater lens in the Ha'ikū Region forms a hydraulic gradient of about 3 ft. per mile inland from the coastline. At the 500 ft. elevation, the stream is 9,200 ft. (1.74 mi.) from the coastline and the freshwater lens is approximately 5.2 ft. above sea level, far below the stream channel elevation. The high elevation perched groundwater system that occurs at the interface between the Kula Volcanics and the Honomanū Volcanics generally mimics the topography of the region, rising from the coastline with a slope of about 340 ft. per mile inland. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

¹ Gingerich, S.B. (1998) Ground Water and Surface Water in the Haiku Area, East Maui, Hawaii. U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 98-4142.

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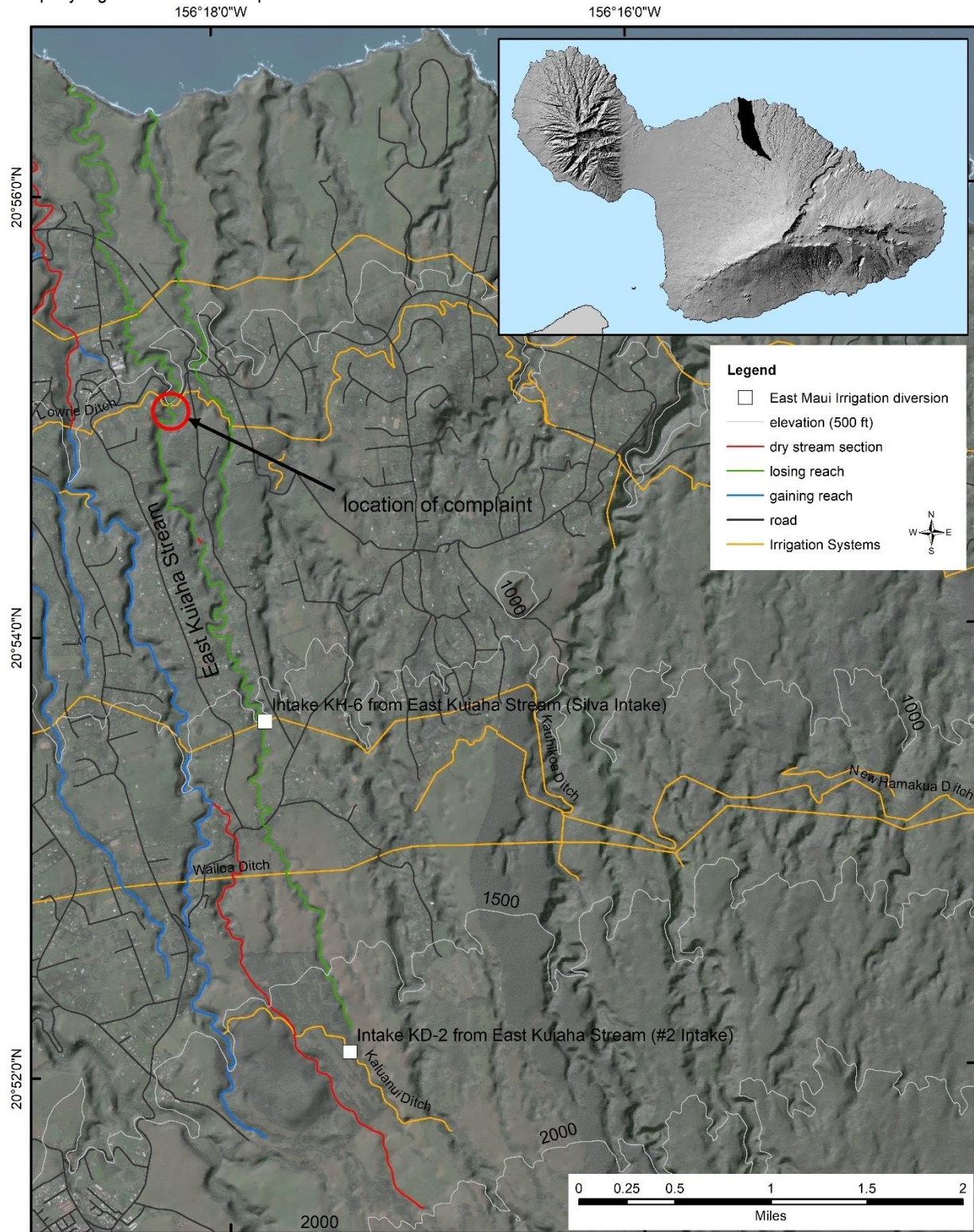
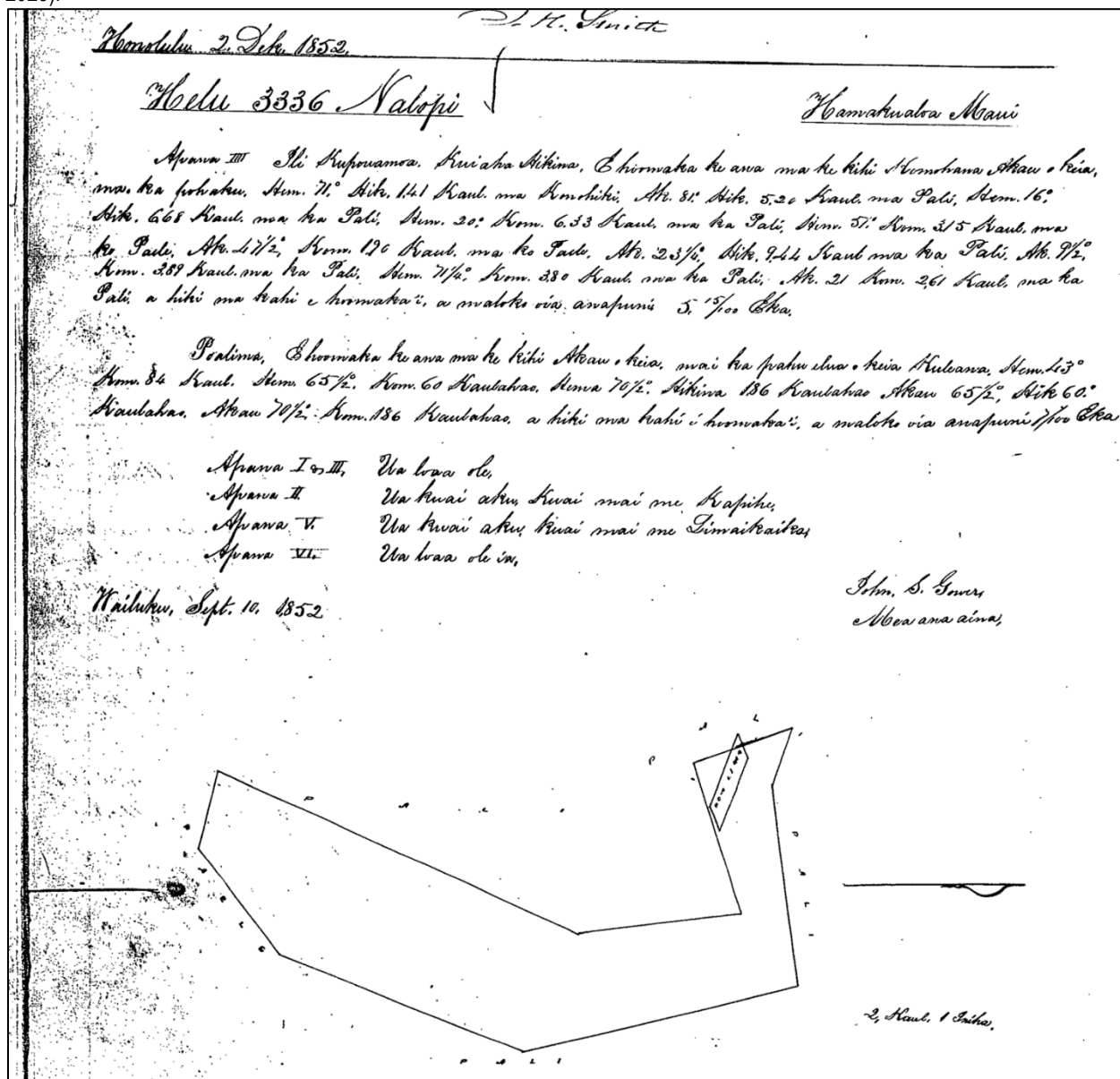


Figure 5: Scan of Native Register, Reel 3, Volume 6, Image 01219 (Downloaded from the Papakilo Database, December 12, 2023).

62
3336 Nalopi
Aloha ma Iuna Hoona Kii-
Ma leana, ke hai aku nei au i ke kuleana
aina, aia i Hamakua o Kii iha o Kupo-
wanua ka puka aina. Kula Ulupipe
Poholouhala, Kumuapopo, Kulanakauhale
Kulana hale i Haiku mekahi kula
hale i Haiku, i Pauwela, mo Hale, oia
hoi mau kuleana aina, loi, kula, Lau-
hala lua kuleana hale i Pauwela i
Kii iha. Aloha ma Iuna Hoona kuleana
me ka mahaloia. Kii iha i Hamakua
Pauwela Haiku Na Nalopi
30 Ianuari 1848.

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[REDACTED]

CONCLUSION

Since the filing of the CDR, Commission staff have conducted numerous site visits to the registered stream diversion works identified in the CDR. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

While your assertion to be an heir of Nalopi and LCA 3336 may be authentic, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Should you have any further questions, please contact Dean Uyeno, of the Commission staff, at (808) 587-0234 or by email at dean.d.uyeno@hawaii.gov.

Ola i ka wai,



DEAN D. UYENO
Acting Deputy Director

cc: MP East B, LLC
East Maui Irrigation, Company, LLC

BFED Committee

From: TerrillJames Kāneali'ikeikioka'āina Williams <tkanealiw@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 2, 2024 6:38 PM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Alice L. Lee; Gabe Johnson; Keani N. Rawlins; Nohe M. Uu-Hodgins; Shane M. Sinenci; Tamara A. Paltin; Tasha A. Kama; Thomas M. Cook; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Kanealii Williams - Written Testimony for April 2, 2024 Budget Hearing -- Pauwela
Attachments: Kanealii Williams_Written Testimony .pdf

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

Aloha,

Please see the attachment of my written testimony.

Mahalo,
Terrill James Kane Alii Williams, MBA

April 2, 2024
County of Maui Budget, Finance, and Economic Development

Aloha,

My name is Terrill James Kane Alii Williams, MBA, and I am one of many lineal descendants of my great-great-great-great-great grandfather Nalopi; through my genealogical tie to Nalopi, I am testifying as a lineal descendant of the ahupua'a of Pauwela in Ha'iku, Maui.

The following is a quote from the attached letter from the State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources Commission on Water Resource Management, dated February 29, 2024 in regards to Land Commission Award 3336 Royal Patent 2194 to Nalopi:

"HISTORIC USE

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Mahalo for your time,

Terrill James Kane Alii Williams, MBA
Lineal descendant of Nalopi
Ha'iku, Maui

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'AINA



DAWN N. S. CHANG
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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
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COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT | KE KAHUWAI PONO
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

February 29, 2024

CDR.5960.6

Terrill James Kane Alii Williams
P.O. Box 790172
Pā'ia, HI 96779

Aloha Mr. Williams:

Complaint / Dispute Resolution
East Kuiaha Stream, Maui; TMK (2) 2-7-007:012

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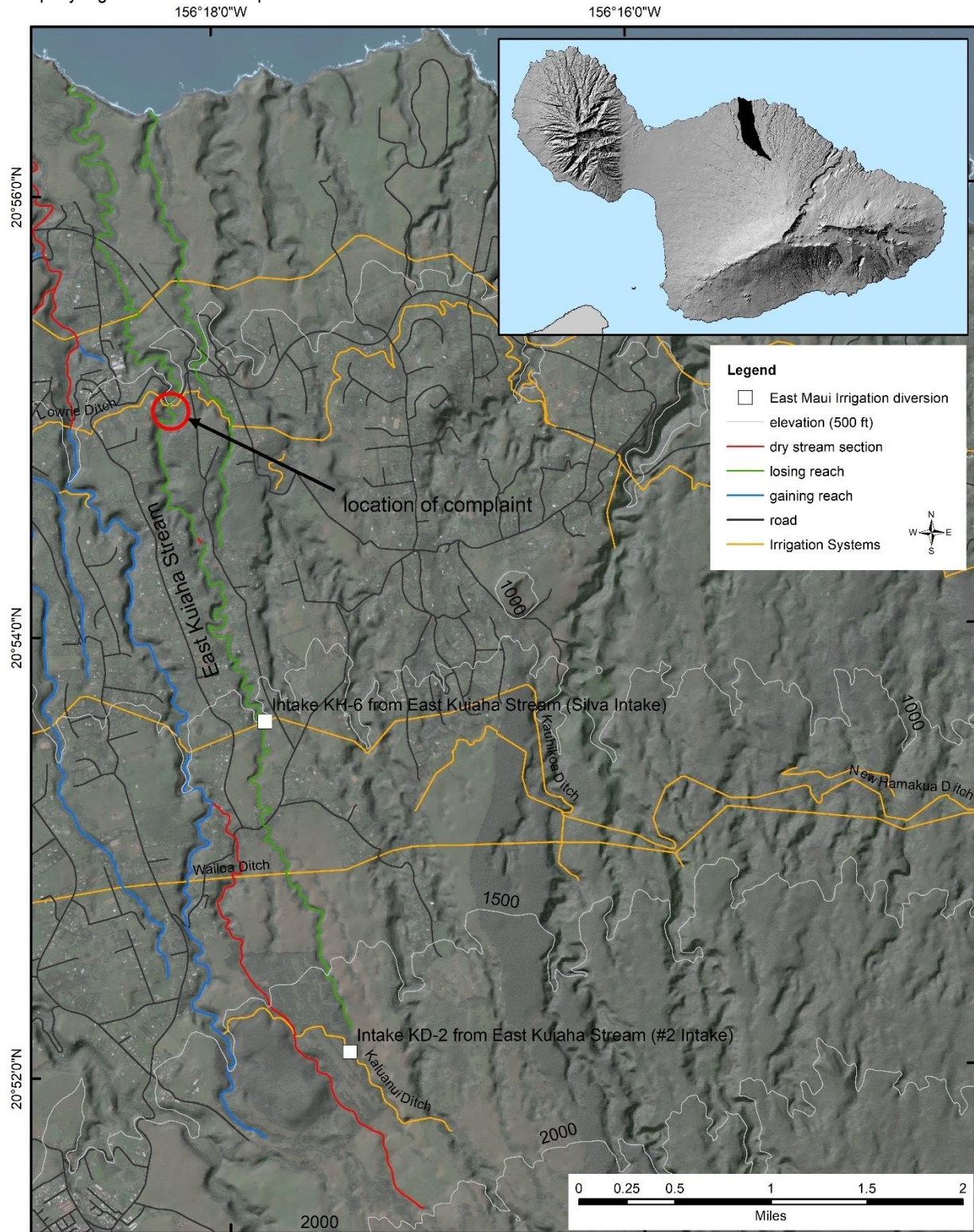
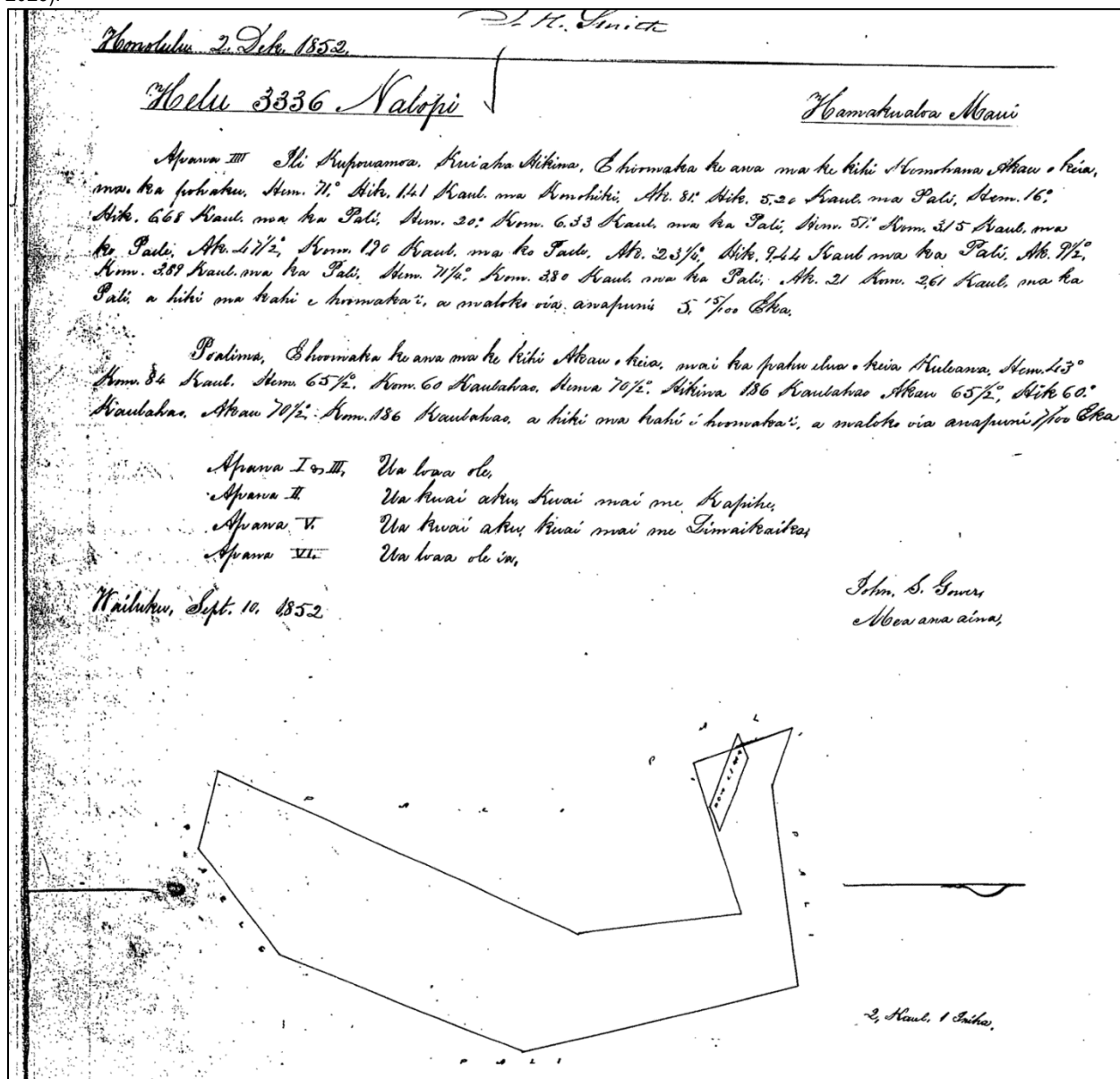


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aina, aia i Hamakua o Kii iha o Kupo-
wanua ka puka aina. Kula Ulupipe
Poholouhala, Kumuopopo, Kulanakauhale
Kulana hale i Haiku mekahi kula
hale i Haiku, i Pauwela, mo Hale, oia
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[REDACTED] Should you have any further questions, please contact Dean Uyeno, of the Commission staff, at (808) 587-0234 or by email at dean.d.uyeno@hawaii.gov.

Ola i ka wai,



DEAN D. UYENO
Acting Deputy Director

cc: MP East B, LLC
East Maui Irrigation, Company, LLC

BFED Committee

From: Bobbie Patnode <bobbiepatnode@fastmail.fm>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 8:49 AM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Kula Community Association Budget Priorities for 2024-25
Attachments: KCA Budget Priorities FY 2025.docx

Aloha BFED Committee-

Attached for your consideration are the budget priorities for the Kula Community Association.

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Mahalo for your work, every day, to reflect our values and priorities in our Maui County Budget.

**-Bobbie Patnode, President
Kula Community Association**

KULA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

<http://www.kulamaui.com/>

Bobbie Patnode, President – bobbiepatnode@fastmail.fm

The VISION of the Kula Community Association *is to preserve open space, support agriculture, maintain a rural residential atmosphere, and to work together as a community.*

The SPECIFIC PURPOSE of this association *is to improve the quality of life for the residents of Kula, to promote civic welfare, and generally to benefit the community of Kula.*

Kula Community Association BUDGET PRIORITIES for Fiscal Year 2024-2025

1. Kula Community Center
2. Wildfire Preparedness
3. Water Supply
4. Invasive species control
5. Kula Recycling
6. Road improvements and maintenance

Detailed List

1. **Kula Community Center** – This is a facility on leased land for which the County has already spent million\$. Please finalize the actual allocation of funds to acquire the land under the Kula Community Center, parking lot, gate-ball court, and tennis courts this year. The cost will only rise as the land's lease-term comes to an end.
2. **Wildfire Preparedness** – With the recent experience of the August 8th fires, Kula has learned our community was not prepared to survive a wildfire disaster. We continue to need to create firebreaks and have learned we have other needs as well. We need a plan in place to ensure there is water available to firefighters as well as an effective method of communicating with the community. We need the county to address fire hazards on public property and enforce laws related to private property. We need emergency supplies. We request funds be budgeted to both create and implement emergency plans, address emergency communication needs, construct and maintain adequate firebreaks. To ensure safety, we would like additional firefighting equipment be available to fight a fire and maintain water reservoirs at higher elevations in the upcountry area.
3. **Water Supply** – The KCA continues to prioritize the creation of a system that provides dependable, quality water for all our residents and that provides water meters for the Upcountry Water Meter List. We would like to ensure that we have adequate water supply for all the meters being requested. We encourage the Council to ensure that funding is available for water storage alternatives and to request cost estimates for various sized reservoirs and water tanks in the upcountry area. We also request that new water sources be looked at as well as increased treatment facilities. As such, we support funding for an Upcountry water system reliability project.

4. **Invasive Species Control** – The KCA strongly supports efforts to control, reduce and eradicate invasive species, especially Axis deer, the Little Fire Ant, coqui frogs, glycine, and chickens.

Axis deer are by far the biggest concern in the Kula community. The deer are eating pasture land that should be available for the ranches' cattle operations. Deer are destroying many small farmers' crops. They impact the gardens of many residents. And they are a significant danger to automobile traffic.

We support increased funding for Maui Invasive Species Control (MISC) and other programs. Glycine weed is a particular problem Upcountry, as the weed attaches itself to Jacaranda and other trees and eventually kills them. Coqui frogs are a major concern as neighboring Haiku and Maliko Gulch are facing severe problems that could lead to the spread of the frog to Kula and the rest of the island.

5. **Kula Recycling** – We request:

- a. a recycling site be established in the Kula area;
- b. a location for the disposal of appliances, TVs, etc. to be located at the central landfill or similar central location to keep this kind of trash off our roadsides; and
- c. expand the support of organic composting capacity for purely non-toxic materials, e.g., green-waste, restaurant waste, etc.

6. **Road improvements and maintenance** – On the County's website we would like to see the Public Works Department establish a priority list of roads that need to be repaved and those planned for the slurry treatment within each district of the County, and then budget to build the highest priority road improvements.

BFED Committee

From: Keoni Vaughn <keoni@lanaicatsanctuary.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 11:52 AM
To: edb.committee@mauicounty.us; BFED Committee; County Clerk
Subject: Official Testimony for request for support for FY25 Lanai Feral Animal Control
Attachments: Letter to BFED - Request for Support for FY25 Feral Animal Control Lanai 2.pdf

Importance: High

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

TESTIMONY RELATING TO THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025.

Dear BFED Committee,

I am writing to ask for your support for the Lanai Cat Sanctuary to receive a \$285,000 grant under budget line item 'Feral Animal Control Lanai' for FY25 for the Lanai Feral Cat Management Program. The Lanai Cat Sanctuary (LCS) received funding from this line item in the past, and we are disappointed that the Lanai Feral Animal Control line item for FY25 is \$0, when both Maui and Molokai are slated to receive \$285,000 for Feral Animal Control (p. 587 of the budget). We humbly request your support in getting this funding back into the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

LCS has significantly impacted the feral cat population, which in turn protects the native and endangered birds on Lanai. Over the past decade, we have developed the most humane and comprehensive approach that has remarkably reduced the number of free-roaming cats on the island. Other islands and even states are working towards duplicating our model. Conservationists have not seen any cat-related bird deaths on Lanai in the past four years, and due to a focus on trapping feral cats in Lanai City 10 years ago, the only cats you will see are the occasional owned sterilized cats in someone's yard.

LCS currently has an operating budget of \$1.7mm per year, and aside from this one county grant, we are fully funded by visitors and off-island donations. As a secondary impact from the Lahaina Fires, **our visitors (and therefore donors) are down by 40%, and we have taken on additional expenses due to taking in 220 traditionally unadoptable cats from Lahaina that survived the fires** and were forced to fend for themselves in the toxic burn zone. The grant funding is now more crucial than ever for us to continue controlling the feral cat population on Lanai.

The need for feral cat management on Lanai is evident from the alarming statistics that in Hawaii, an unsterilized female cat that is six months or older can produce three litters a year with 3-5 kittens per litter. Without interference, cats will continue to reproduce at an alarming rate and pose a significant threat to Lanai's native and endangered birds.

Lanai is the only island that does not have a humane society or any county-funded animal care and control contracts, aside from a part-time dog warden that only handles dog-related calls. LCS is the only animal nonprofit on Lanai, and an open-admission shelter, accepting all cats, including feral, stray, and any owned but unwanted cats from the community, 365 days a year without a surrender fee. The mission of LCS is to humanely control the feral cat population on Lanai by relocating unwanted and homeless cats to a large, four acre open-aired sanctuary with predator-proof fencing.

Due to an agreement between LCS, DLNR, and Pulama Lanai, **Lanai is the only island where feral cats that are trapped in protected areas are not instantly euthanized by gunshot.** Lanai conservationists trap cats in protected areas where native and endangered ground-nesting birds such as the 'Ua'a, the Hawaiian Petrel, live. LCS has an agreement with these entities that every cat caught will be brought to LCS, where the cats will be

sterilized, vaccinated, and kept at the sanctuary for the entirety of their lives or until they are adopted. Neither of these entities provide any funding for this agreement, and nowhere else (in Hawaii or nationwide to our knowledge) has this sort of humane approach to controlling cats in protected and sensitive areas.

The Lanai Feral Cat Management Program is a comprehensive program that ensures that cats at the sanctuary are given the medical care, food, and space they need to experience a good quality of life. **It costs approximately \$2,000 per cat per year to meet these needs.** LCS has a medical system in place to ensure the health and well-being of each cat; a high-tech mobile veterinary clinic is used for on-site care and services, and since there are no veterinarians on the island, veterinary teams with experience in shelter medicine are flown in weekly from neighboring islands or the mainland if a specialist is needed.

As mentioned previously, we began rescuing 220 cats from the Lahaina burn zone in November of last year. At the time, we had approximately 660 cats already in our care. With our new population at almost 900 cats, we are in the process of expanding our facility by 12,000 square feet (about a quarter of an acre) to ensure there is enough space for the Lanai cats, as well as those from Lahaina.

LCS received this county grant in FY23 (though we received the funding in FY24), and we met and surpassed the grant program goals and objectives by the second quarter of the fiscal year. If we receive this funding again, the specific outcomes and goals for FY25 include continuing to sterilize and intake 100 feral cats per year, re-homing at least 100 cats through the successful socialization of feral cats within the sanctuary, and caring for and housing over 800 cats. With 100 new feral cats coming in and 100 friendly and adoptable cats going out, the net gain is zero cats. I genuinely believe LCS has a formula that is the most humane approach to controlling the free-roaming feral cat population.

LCS and the Feral Cat Management Program have the potential to make a lasting impact on the native habitat on the island of Lanai. Without this funding and given the impacts to the numbers of visitors and cats since the Lahaina fires, LCS may not be able to continue to accept new feral cats. This would be detrimental, forcing the Lanai community several steps backward in our attempts to control the feral cat population and conserve our native birds, and unfortunately undoing the impressive accomplishments LCS has achieved for the island of Lanai.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo,

Keoni

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Keoni Vaughn
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LanaiCatSanctuary.org

Saving cats, protecting birds



April 3, 2024

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High St.
Eighth Floor
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear BFED Committee,

I would like to submit testimony relating to the operating budget for the County of Maui for the fiscal year July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2024, for the Lanai Cat Sanctuary to receive a \$285,000 grant under budget line item 'Feral Animal Control Lanai' for FY25 for the Lanai Feral Cat Management Program. The Lanai Cat Sanctuary (LCS) received funding from this line item in the past, and we are disappointed that the Lanai Feral Animal Control line item for FY25 is \$0, when both Maui and Molokai are slated to receive \$285,000 for Feral Animal Control (p. 587 of the budget). We humbly request your support in getting this funding back into the budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

LCS has significantly impacted the feral cat population, which in turn protects the native and endangered birds on Lanai. Over the past decade, we have developed the most humane and comprehensive approach that has remarkably reduced the number of free-roaming cats on the island. Other islands and even states are working towards duplicating our model. Conservationists have not seen any cat-related bird deaths on Lanai in the past four years, and due to a focus on trapping feral cats in Lanai City 10 years ago, the only cats you will see are the occasional owned sterilized cats in someone's yard.

LCS currently has an operating budget of \$1.7mm per year, and aside from this one county grant, we are fully funded by visitors and off-island donations. As a secondary impact from the Lahaina Fires, **our visitors (and therefore donors) are down by 40%, and we have taken on additional expenses due to taking in 220 traditionally unadoptable cats from Lahaina that survived the fires** and were forced to fend for themselves in the toxic burn zone. The grant funding is now more crucial than ever for us to continue controlling the feral cat population on Lanai.

The need for feral cat management on Lanai is evident from the alarming statistics that in Hawaii, an unsterilized female cat that is six months or older can produce three litters a year with 3-5 kittens per litter. Without interference, cats will continue to reproduce at an alarming rate and pose a significant threat to Lanai's native and endangered birds.

Lanai is the only island that does not have a humane society or any county-funded animal care and control contracts, aside from a part-time dog warden that only handles dog-related calls. LCS is the only animal nonprofit on Lanai, and an open-admission shelter, accepting all cats, including feral, stray, and any owned but unwanted cats from the community, 365 days a year without a surrender fee. The mission of LCS is to humanely control the feral cat population on Lanai by relocating unwanted and homeless cats to a large, four acre open-aired sanctuary with predator-proof fencing.





Due to an agreement between LCS, DLNR, and Pulama Lanai, **Lanai is the only island where feral cats that are trapped in protected areas are not instantly euthanized by gunshot.** Lanai conservationists trap cats in protected areas where native and endangered ground-nesting birds such as the 'Ua'a, the Hawaiian Petrel, live. LCS has an agreement with these entities that every cat caught will be brought to LCS, where the cats will be sterilized, vaccinated, and kept at the sanctuary for the entirety of their lives or until they are adopted. Neither of these entities provide any funding for this agreement, and nowhere else (in Hawaii or nationwide to our knowledge) has this sort of humane approach to controlling cats in protected and sensitive areas.

The Lanai Feral Cat Management Program is a comprehensive program that ensures that cats at the sanctuary are given the medical care, food, and space they need to experience a good quality of life. **It costs approximately \$2,000 per cat per year to meet these needs.** LCS has a medical system in place to ensure the health and well-being of each cat; a high-tech mobile veterinary clinic is used for on-site care and services, and since there are no veterinarians on the island, veterinary teams with experience in shelter medicine are flown in weekly from neighboring islands or the mainland if a specialist is needed.

As mentioned previously, we began rescuing 220 cats from the Lahaina burn zone in November of last year. At the time, we had approximately 660 cats already in our care. With our new population at almost 900 cats, we are in the process of expanding our facility by 12,000 square feet (about a quarter of an acre) to ensure there is enough space for the Lanai cats, as well as those from Lahaina.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Keoni Vaughn

Executive Director
Lanai Cat Sanctuary

