Resolution

No. 24-155

AUTHORIZING THE COUNCIL CHAIR TO ISSUE A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR A FEASIBILITY STUDY OF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF GRANTS MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, under Section 3-6 of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended ("Charter"), the Council has the authority to legislate appropriations for County purposes; and

WHEREAS, the August 2023 Maui wildfires destroyed more than 2,200 structures and caused approximately \$5.5 billion in damages; and

WHEREAS, recovery efforts, from rebuilding housing and infrastructure to implementing measures to prevent and mitigate future disasters, will cost billions of dollars over the course of the foreseeable future; and

WHEREAS, the County will need to leverage all available funding mechanisms for the recovery efforts, including grant funding from private organization and government entities; and

WHEREAS, grant programs can have tenuous application processes and strict terms and conditions for which compliance needs to monitored; and

WHEREAS, the County's individual agencies apply for grants independently and balance the responsibility of applying and monitoring grants with other departmental functions, but the massive scale of grant funding needed for recovery efforts requires coordination and dedicated personnel; and

WHEREAS, the County may be able to achieve the best results with accessing and managing grants through creating a Department of Grants Management; and

WHEREAS, a Department of Grants Management would not only focus the County's efforts in accessing recovery grants, but it could also

manage the other grants that County agencies apply for to support their individual departmental duties; and

WHEREAS, a Department of Grants Management could also assist County agencies with grant writing and managing the grants the County provides to local nonprofit organizations; and

WHEREAS, municipalities across the country operate central departments, divisions, offfices, and administrations specifically to manage and monitor the grants they both receive and disburse; and

WHEREAS, to further explore the potential benefits of a Department of Grants Management, the Council would like to commission a feasibility study to research the matter further; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

- 1. That it authorizes the Council Chair to issue a Request for Proposals for a feasibility study of a County Department of Grants Management; and
- 2. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and the Managing Director.

INTRODUCED BY:

ALICE L. LEE