


April 12, 2024

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

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

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

On April 3, 2024, the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee held a public meeting in Pukalani regarding the Proposed FY 2025 Budget. Present for the meeting were: Vice-Chair Tasha Kama, and members Tom Cook, Gabe Johnson, Alice L. Lee, Tamara Paltin, Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Shane M. Sinenci, and Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins. The meeting started at 6:02 p.m. and adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

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

1. Eleven individuals testified in support of continued funding for Maui Economic Development Board’s STEMworks AFTERSchool Program, including Pukalani Elementary School’s robotics team.
2. Paige DePonte, Executive Director of The Spirit Horse Ranch, and one other individual testified in support of additional funding for the organization’s equine therapy services for youth.
3. Jay Penniman, Project Manager of Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project, testified in support of continued funding for the organization’s conservation efforts.
4. Tim Garcia, Board Member of Hui No‘eau Visual Arts Center, and four others testified in support of \$50,000 for the Youth and Family Art Outreach Program.
5. Three testifiers requested continued funding for Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. Head Start program to support extended hours of operation and summer sessions.

6. Seven people testified in support of repurposing under-utilized tennis courts into pickleball courts and extending the Eddie Tam Memorial Center courts' operational hours.
7. One testifier expressed the need for wider roads that include bike lanes to address bicycle-related accidents.
8. Two testifiers requested additional funding be allocated to address the housing crisis, including programs to help homeowners with mortgage assistance and funding for law enforcement to manage the houseless population.
9. Two individuals testified in support of continued funding for Maui Invasive Species Committee.
10. One testifier requested the creation of a position within the Office of Council Services to manage the legislative aspects of disaster recovery. He also testified in support of funding for an "Olympic-style village" for displaced and houseless individuals.
11. Two testifiers requested continued funding for Maui Economic Opportunity Inc.'s Youth Services programs.
12. One individual testified in support of a Ha'ikū land purchase for environmental protection and restoration efforts, including the planting of native species and restructuring of natural water systems.
13. Kyle Ellison, President and Executive Director of Mālama Kula, testified in support of additional funding for cleanup and debris removal in Kula.
14. One testifier requested the County transition to cardboard trashcans.

Your Committee also received the attached written testimony.

For questions relating to the Upcountry residency area meeting, please contact Sam Tanck, Paige Greco, Maria Leon, or Jennifer Yamashita. If you have any questions relating to the FY 2025 Budget, please contact the Committee staff (James Krueger, Kasie Apo Takayama, or Yvette Bouthillier). Thank you for your cooperation.

Attachment

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