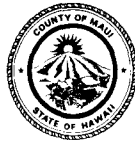


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Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

March 20, 2025

Mr. Kapono'ai Molitau, Director  
Department of 'Ōiwi Resources  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Molitau:

SUBJECT: **FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET** (BFED-1) (OW-01)

May I please request you submit your response to the following questions by **March 31, 2025**. This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2026 Budget.

1. Please outline the major changes in your Department's budget from FY 2025 to FY 2026. If your budget will decrease, how will this impact your Department's operations and ability to serve the public?
2. How many vacant positions currently exist within your Department?
  - a. Please include the job titles for the vacancies and indicate how long the positions have been vacant.
  - b. What is the anticipated timeline for filling these vacancies?
  - c. What are the consequences, if any, for removing funding for these vacant positions from the FY 2026 Budget?
3. If your Department had expansion positions in the FY 2025 Budget, how many of those positions were filled? If they have not been filled, are they included in the FY 2026 Budget? How many months of funding are being requested?

4. If your Department is proposing expansion positions in the FY 2026 Budget, how do you plan to fill those positions?
5. How many positions were filled in FY 2025 that were not expansion positions?
6. Describe your recruitment process.
  - a. How did your Department recruit to fill vacancies and what were the most effective methods for attracting candidates?
  - b. Does your Department take an active role in recruitment or is recruitment handled primarily by the Department of Personnel Services? Please explain.
7. The following questions are related to overtime payments:
  - a. How much in overtime has been paid to date in FY 2025 and what was the reason for the overtime?
  - b. Were any of these overtime costs attributed to the number of vacant positions in your Department?
  - c. Do you anticipate that overtime costs in FY 2026 will increase or decrease and what are the reasons for your assumption?
8. The following questions are related to your Department's program and activities for FY 2026:
  - a. Identify the programs and activities conducted by your Department because of a Federal or State mandate. Indicate for each program and activity the amount of Federal or State funding your Department anticipates receiving and the amount of County funding your Department is requesting.
  - b. Identify the programs and activities conducted solely because of a Maui County Code mandate and indicate the amount your Department is requesting.
9. If your Department had Capital Improvement Projects in FY 2025:

- a. Provide the current status of each CIP, if different from the information provided in the Fiscal Year 2025 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter CIP Report.
  - b. Provide information on how much funding has been encumbered or expended to date for each project.
10. If your Department has proposed CIPs for FY 2026:
  - a. Rank your proposed CIPs, by priority.
  - b. Will CIP funding included in the FY 2026 Budget be encumbered by June 30, 2026? If not, how much do you anticipate will be encumbered by that date?
11. If your Department manages a revolving fund:
  - a. Explain whether the revolving fund is still needed and why.
  - b. Provide the current balance.
12. If your Department manages grants:
  - a. For each grant line-item not designated for a specific recipient (e.g., Small Business Promotion; Youth Programs), provide a breakdown of the grants that will be funded by the line item.
  - b. Provide a breakdown of all grants that will be funded by your Department under Sub-object Code 6317, County grant subsidy.
  - c. Did your Department apply for any grant funding in FY 2025? If yes, how much grant funding was received?
13. Provide details on your Department's Carryover/Savings that were included in the FY 2026 Budget.
14. What are your top three Department priorities for FY 2026 and how does your Department's budget reflect that?

15. How much has your Department spent on Professional Services in FY 2025, and what projects and consultants were funded under this line item?
16. How much of your Department's expenditures in FY 2025 will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in relation to the wildfires? What amount of FY 2026 expenditures are expected to be reimbursed?
17. If your Department is receiving Federal grants, including pass-through grants:
  - a. What amount is your Department receiving for routine operations?
  - b. What amount is your Department receiving for August 2023 Maui Wildfires disaster recovery?
  - c. Explain any factors that could jeopardize your receipt of Federal grants, including Federal policy changes, compliance requirements, or expiration dates.
  - d. Explain how your Department will adjust if it does not receive the anticipated Federal grant funding.
18. If your Department received funding to repair or replace equipment, locations, and structures destroyed in the wildfires, provide the current status for each. If there are items still pending repair or replacement, provide the estimated cost and timeline for the repair or replacement.

The Department is scheduled to present on **April 8, 2025**. The schedule is subject to change and Committee staff will reach out if there are any changes to the schedule.

Please be prepared to provide a ten-minute presentation on the changes in your Department's budget from FY 2025 to FY 2026, addressing the following:

- Operations
- CIPs, if any
- Grants awarded by the Department, if any

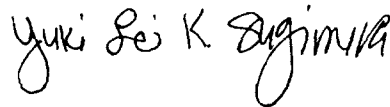
Mr. Kapono'ai Molitau  
March 20, 2025  
Page 5

- Grants received by the Department, if any
- Revolving funds, if any
- Rates and fees, including any estimated increase or decrease in revenue as a result of the changes

Please transmit your response to [bfed.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:bfed.committee@mauicounty.us) by **March 31, 2025**. To ensure efficient processing, please include the Committee item number in the subject line. Please use a font size of at least 12 points for the response. This formatting allows Committee members and the community to clearly read the document once posted.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Kirsten Szabo at ext. 7662, James Krueger at ext. 7761, or Pauline Martins at ext. 8039).

Sincerely,



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic  
Development Committee

bfed:2026bgt:253019aow01:kes

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.  
Budget Director



**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Meia o Ke Kalana o Maui

**J. KAPONO-AI MOLITAU**  
Po'o o Ka 'Oihana Kumuwaiwai 'O'iwi

**KEKAI ROBINSON**  
Hope Po'o o Ka 'Oihana Kumuwaiwai 'O'iwi

**KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'O'IWI**  
**DEPARTMENT OF 'O'IWI RESOURCES**  
KE KALANA O MAUI, COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793  
pūnaewele: [www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov) Ieka uila: [oiwi@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:oiwi@co.maui.hi.us)

1 'Apelila 2025

Ms. Lesley Milner  
Budget Director, County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.  
Mayor, County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL**

*Richard T. Bissen, Jr.*  
Mayor Date 4-2-25

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793

**SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (BFED-1)(OW-01)**

Welina me ke aloha iā kākou:

Thank you for your letter requesting our presence on April 8, 2025 before the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee to review our Fiscal Year 2026 budget. The Department of 'O'iwi Resources is in receipt of the questions from the Committee regarding our Department's budget and is grateful for this opportunity to provide our responses below.

1. Please outline the major changes in your Department's budget from FY 2025 to FY 2026. If your budget will decrease, how will this impact your Department's operations and ability to serve the public?

*There are three significant budget changes for the Department of 'O'iwi Resources from FY 2025 to FY 2026.*

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Date

*The first significant budget change is the proposed increase in staff positions to add an additional six positions for a total department size of thirteen. This would increase Wages, Salaries, and Premium Pay by \$324,384. This proposed increase for FY 2026 would fund an Archeologist specializing in LiDAR and ground-penetrating radar, an Archaeological-Cultural Monitor, a Chief Hawaiian Cultural Specialist to lead the Hawaiian language-culture projects and activities, an additional Hawaiian Language Specialist, an Information/Education Specialist, and an Advocate for 'Āina and 'Ōiwi legislation.*

*The second significant budget change is a request for \$200,000 for professional services to provide the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources some funding for a Phase II Strategy Implementation plan.*

*The third significant budget change is a request for \$100,000 under Conservation Program to fund conservation of county lands and programs that protect lands of significant cultural importance.*

2. How many vacant positions currently exist within your Department?
  - a. Please include the job titles for the vacancies and indicate how long the positions have been vacant.
  - b. What is the anticipated timeline for filling these vacancies?
  - c. What are the consequences, if any, for removing funding for these vacant positions from the FY 2026 Budget?

*There are no vacant positions currently in the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources.*

3. If your Department had expansion positions in the FY 2025 Budget, how many of those positions were filled? If they have not been filled, are they included in the FY 2026 Budget? How many months of funding are being requested?

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources had seven expansion positions in the FY 2025 Budget. To date, all seven positions are filled.*

4. If your Department is proposing expansion positions in the FY 2026 Budget, how do you plan to fill those positions?

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources is proposing six additional expansion positions in the FY 2026 Budget – two archaeology positions, one legislative advocate, one information/educational specialist, an additional Hawaiian language specialist, and a chief Hawaiian culture specialist. We are grateful to the State Workforce Program and the Office*

*of the Mayor for collaborating and providing our department with two specialized intern-employees that are prepared to apply for the position of Hawaiian Language Specialist and Archaeology-Cultural Monitor/Intern as soon as those positions are approved and funded. For our high-level positions – Archeologist and Chief Hawaiian Culture Specialist – we have candidates that have expressed interest and have committed to apply*



*when these positions are approved and funded. We hope to continue to work closely with DPS and participate in Maui County employee recruitment community events.*

5. How many positions were filled in FY 2025 that were not expansion positions?

*N/A. All Department of 'Ōiwi Resources positions in the FY 2025 Budget were expansion positions.*

6. Describe your recruitment process.

a. How did your Department recruit to fill vacancies and what were the most effective methods for attracting candidates?

b. Does your Department take an active role in recruitment or is recruitment handled primarily by the Department of Personnel Services? Please explain.

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources filled all positions provided for by FY 2025 Budget between August 2024 and February 2025. There are currently no vacancies. Director and Deputy Director had an active role in filling many of the open positions in our department by sharing these vacancies throughout our community and encouraging applicants through community engagement opportunities. Our most effective method for attracting candidates and filling all vacancies was prompt attention to our applicant list and diligently holding interviews within days of receiving our qualified applicants list from the Department of Personnel Services.*

7. The following questions are related to overtime payments:

a. How much in overtime has been paid to date in FY 2025 and what was the reason for the overtime?

*For FY 2025, to date, the department has spent \$413.00 in Other Premium Pay (overtime) in FY 2025 for 1) community engagement and community meetings, specifically in outlying districts, and 2) emergency situations involving iwi kūpuna on county-owned properties that required immediate attention from our staff.*

b. Were any of these overtime costs attributed to the number of vacant positions in your Department?

*Overtime costs are not due to vacant positions.*

c. Do you anticipate that overtime costs in FY 2026 will increase or decrease and what are the reasons for your assumption?

*Our budget request for overtime in FY 2026 is \$5,000 for the two reasons stated above.*

8. The following questions are related to your Department's program and activities for FY 2026:

- a. Identify the programs and activities conducted by your Department because of a Federal or State mandate. Indicate for each program and activity the amount of Federal or State funding your Department anticipates receiving and the amount of County funding your Department is requesting.

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources does not conduct programs or activities due to direct Federal or State mandates and does not currently receive nor anticipate receiving Federal or State funding for the same.*

- b. Identify the programs and activities conducted solely because of a Maui County Code mandate and indicate the amount your Department is requesting.

*There are no programs or activities conducted solely because of Maui County Code mandate and no County funds for the same.*

9. If your Department had Capital Improvement Projects in FY 2025:
  - a. Provide the current status of each CIP, if different from the information provided in the Fiscal Year 2025 2nd Quarter CIP Report.
  - b. Provide information on how much funding has been encumbered or expended to date for each project.

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources did not have CIPs for FY 2025.*

10. 10. If your Department has proposed CIPs for FY 2026:
  - a. Rank your proposed CIPs, by priority.
  - b. Will CIP funding included in the FY 2026 Budget be encumbered by June 30, 2026? If not, how much do you anticipate will be encumbered by that date?

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources has no proposed CIPs for FY 2026.*

11. If your Department manages a revolving fund:
  - a. Explain whether the revolving fund is still needed and why.
  - b. Provide the current balance.

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources manages one revolving fund for the County of Maui – the Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund. The revolving fund estimated balance as of June 30, 2025 is \$1,208,186. There was no revenue and no expenditures for Calendar Year 2024 due to the August 8, 2023 Lahaina fires. The department hopes to retain management of this fund in support of Moku'ula, Loko o Mokuhinia, Loko o Nalehu and Pākalā over the coming years as Lahaina recovers. We hope to apply this fund to cultural restoration in this specific area and we look to the Council and Administration to assist with other additional sources of revenue to further to contribute to this fund.*

12. If your Department manages grants:

- a. For each grant line-item not designated for a specific recipient (e.g., Small Business Promotion; Youth Programs), provide a breakdown of the grants that will be funded by the line item.

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources does not currently have any competitive grant line items in the Fiscal Year Budget.*

- b. Provide a breakdown of all grants that will be funded by your Department under Sub-object Code 6317, County grant subsidy.

*Under sub-object code 6317, County Grant Subsidy, for FY 2025 the, department is currently accepting applications from community non-profit organizations providing service to Maui Nui in the areas of Kīpuka, Kumuwaiola, and Pai Ka Leo not to exceed \$330,000 with funding requests limited to \$25,000-\$50,000 per organization. The grant application period is April 1 through April 25 with notice to award by May 1, 2025.*

- c. Did your Department apply for any grant funding in FY 2025? If yes, how much grant funding was received?

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources has applied for four grants in FY 2025 for a total of \$300,000. Currently, the department has not received any funding but we are awaiting notice from all four of our grant applications. These four grant applications are:*

- i. National Park Service, Historic Preservation Fund, Tribal Heritage Grants, Request Amount: \$75,000*
- ii. US Regional Arts Organizations, Walking Together: Investing in Folklife in Communities of Color, Request Amount: \$50,000*
- iii. National Park Service, NAGPRA Consultation/Documentation Grants, Request Amount: \$150,000*
- iv. National Park Service, NAGPRA Repatriation Grants, Request Amount: \$25,000*

13. Provide details on your Department's Carryover /Savings that were included in the FY 2026 Budget.

*The carryover savings included in the FY 2026 Budget are from the unrestricted fund balance for FY 2024 reflected in the County's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) along with anticipated additional revenues based on the funds collected in the first half of FY 2025. Any carryover savings from FY 2025 will be recognized in the FY 2027 Budget.*

14. What are your top three Department priorities for FY 2026 and how does your Department's budget reflect that?

*The top three budget priorities for the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources in FY 2026 are Kīpuka, Kumuwaiola, and Pai Ka Leo. The proposed increase in funding for staff is the*

Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Committee  
April 1, 2025

*largest change to the department's budget and ensures equitable attention, work performance, and efficient productivity across these three priorities. The proposed budget will support four administrative positions, four archaeology-anthropology positions, four Hawaiian language and culture positions, and one legislative advocate.*

*The department has three goals that support these priorities. First, to safeguard and responsibly steward lands of concentrated natural and cultural importance to ensure enduring access to healthy natural resources and spaces where culture may thrive. Second, to champion the natural world and defend the conditions essential to a thriving ecocultural landscape and prosperous natural cultural resources. And third, to revive the understanding of Hawaiian history and culture and use of Hawaiian language in government and in our community.*

*These three goals are supported by specific objectives, programs, and projects outlined in our proposed budget. Priority objectives include community outreach and planning for the Lahaina Royal Complex area of Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, Pākalā, and Loko o Nalehu, safeguarding ancestral burials and burial sites, continued archaeological and cultural consultations for county departments, supporting bilingual government initiatives, and providing additional education and sensitivity training to county employees and the general community.*

15. How much has your Department spent on Professional Services in FY 2025, and what projects and consultants were funded under this line item?

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources was allocated \$300,000 in FY 2025 for Professional Services for our department strategic plan. The RFP was awarded to Karey Kapoi, LLC in the amount of \$144,000. As of March 31, 2025, we have paid out \$64,998.00. We hope to complete this project by June 2025. There are no other projects or spending under Professional Services for the department for FY 2025.*

16. How much of your Department's expenditures in FY 2025 will be reimbursed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in relation to the wildfires? What amount of FY 2026 expenditures are expected to be reimbursed?

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources does not have any expenditures eligible for reimbursement by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in relation to the wildfires. The department does not anticipate reimbursement from FY 2026 expenditures from FEMA in relation to the wildfires.*

17. If your Department is receiving Federal grants, including pass-through grants:  
a. What amount is your Department receiving for routine operations?  
b. What amount is your Department receiving for August 2023 Maui Wildfires disaster recovery?  
c. Explain any factors that could jeopardize your receipt of Federal grants, including Federal policy changes, compliance requirements, or expiration dates.

Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Committee  
April 1, 2025

d. Explain how your Department will adjust if it does not receive the anticipated Federal grant funding.

*For FY 2025, to date, the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources did not receive federal grants.*

18. If your Department received funding to repair or replace equipment, locations, and structures destroyed in the wildfires, provide the current status for each. If there are items still pending repair or replacement, provide the estimated cost and timeline for the repair or replacement.

*The Department of 'Ōiwi Resources did not receive funding to replace equipment, locations, or structures destroyed in the wildfires.*

Thank you for the opportunity to provide answers to the FY 2026 Budget questions from the BFED Committee. We are prepared to provide a 10-minute presentation to the Committee on April 8, 2025.

Should you have additional questions or require clarification, please contact me or the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources staff (Director Molitau at ext. 9117, Deputy Director Kekai Robinson at ext. 6176, or the 'Ōiwi Department Main Line at ext. 1719).

Na'u iho nō me ke aloha,



J. Kaponoa'i Molitau, Director  
Department of 'Ōiwi Resources

c: Josiah Nishita, Managing Director

## **BFED Committee**

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**From:** Janina E. Agapay <Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 2, 2025 10:13 AM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Cc:** Lesley J. Milner; John K. Molitau; Kekai Robinson  
**Subject:** (BFED-1)(OW-01)  
**Attachments:** (BFED-1)(OW-01).pdf

**Categories:** Read only

Hello,

Please see attached correspondence (BFED-1)(OW-01).

Thank you,

***Janina Agapay***

County of Maui | Budget Office

Phone: (808) 270-7836

Email: Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us