

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

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DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING
COUNTY OF MAUI
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OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY COUNCIL

April 8, 2019

Ms. Michele M. Yoshimura *MJY*
Budget Director, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

Honorable Michael P. Victorino
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Michael P. Victorino 4/9/19
Mayor Date

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
Chair, Economic Development and Budget Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Rawlins-Fernandez:

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2020 BUDGET (PL-3) (EDB-1)

Thank you for your letter dated April 3, 2019 with questions about the grant-funded programs in FY18 and FY19 for the Department of Planning (Department).

In FY18 and FY19, the Department had only one grant that was funded by the General Fund: the cost-share with the University of Hawaii Sea Grant Program (Hawaii Sea Grant). The County funds \$104,000 which is approximately 62 percent of the salary and fringe for the Hawaii Sea Grant Extension Agent to serve full-time in Maui County. The remaining 38 percent is funded by the University of Hawaii through Hawaii Sea Grant. Significant additional support for the program is also provided directly from Hawaii Sea Grant, including travel funds, administrative and fiscal support as well as technological requirements.

A partnership between Maui County and Hawaii Sea Grant has been in place for 22 years. The goal of this partnership is to provide County departments, the County Council, the planning commissions, and community organizations and stakeholders with on-site specialized expertise in shoreline processes, coastal hazards, and coastal management for science-based decisions and planning. The extension agent's contribution has been invaluable.

Michele M. Yoshimura, Budget Director
Michael P. Victorino, Mayor
For Transmittal to:
Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair
April 8, 2019
Page 2

As a partnership, this program was designed from the beginning as a cost-share agreement, whereby County grant funds support a percentage of the total program cost. Thus, by design County grant funds are highly leveraged to receive benefits beyond what the County could support on its own.

Similarly, Hawaii Sea Grant is itself a highly leveraged program, and all extension faculty positions are project-based through grants and cost-share agreements. The extension agent is backed by a larger network of faculty at the University of Hawaii and within the National Sea Grant network of 33 university-based programs nationwide. These resources are leveraged to support the County through expanded expertise and research support.

The extension agent identifies and contributes to proposals for other funding opportunities which often results in leveraging more funding for Maui County needs and initiatives. The most recent examples of this additional funding and support include:

- In partnership with the Pacific Islands Ocean Observing Systems and University of Hawaii Department of Oceanography, an award of \$500,000 from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) FY17 Regional Coastal Resilience Grant Program for “Enhancing Community Resilience with Real-time Warnings of Hazardous Wave-driven Flooding and Erosion Events in West Maui.” This work is currently underway with a three-year project ending in September 2020.
- In partnership with the Department of Land and Natural Resources Office of Conservation and Coastal Lands and the State Office of Planning, an award of \$845,160 from the NOAA FY15 Regional Coastal Resilience Grants Program for “Building Resilience to Coastal Hazards and Climate Change in Hawaii” with a focus on developing the statewide Sea Level Rise Viewer, guidance for disaster recovery planning, and support and guidance for incorporating sea level rise into community plans. This work is currently underway and wrapping up final products and activities by this summer.

Again, we have found this partnership to be of significant benefit and that the extension agent’s contributions to our coastal planning efforts to be immense. We hope that you will continue to support this partnership in FY20 and beyond.

If you have any questions or require additional information, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



MICHELE CHOUTEAU MCLEAN, AICP
Planning Director