

# Resolution

No. 25-101

RECOGNIZING MAY 2025 AS COMMUNITY  
ACTION MONTH IN THE COUNTY OF MAUI AND  
CONGRATULATING MAUI ECONOMIC  
OPPORTUNITY, INC., THE COUNTY'S ONLY  
COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCY, ON THEIR  
60TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, the National Community Action Program was created with the passage of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 as part of President Lyndon B. Johnson's War on Poverty; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Act is to eliminate the causes and consequences of poverty in the United States by offering a variety of resources to expand educational opportunities, increase the net gain for the poor and unemployed, and tend to health and financial needs of the elderly; and

WHEREAS, Community Action Month is celebrated in May by more than 1,000 Community Action Agencies in all 50 states; and

WHEREAS, Community Action Agencies are local private and public nonprofit organizations which embody our nation's spirit of hope, change people's lives, and improve communities making America a better place to live for everyone; and

WHEREAS, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. is a private, nonprofit Community Action Agency that was chartered on March 22, 1965; and

WHEREAS, MEO provides outreach and information and administers human service programs to low-income persons, youth, kūpuna, immigrants, ex-offenders, and persons with disabilities and medical needs; and

WHEREAS, MEO began with two cornerstone programs: the Head Start preschool—now serving 180 three- and four-year-olds on Maui and Molokai at no cost to eligible families; and the kūpuna-led Maui Planning

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and Coordinating Council which seeks to enhance the quality of life for seniors through education, companionship, and better health; and

WHEREAS, from these humble beginnings, MEO has expanded to encompass more than 30 programs across five distinct departments such as Transportation Services, Business Development Center, and Youth Services—each of which could stand as its own nonprofit agency; and

WHEREAS, MEO is frequently relied upon by state and local governments in dire times, most recently during the August 2023 Maui Wildfires and the COVID-19 pandemic, because of their ability to swiftly implement programs that meet government fiscal requirements; and

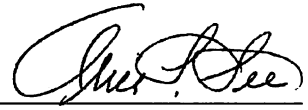
WHEREAS, MEO is celebrating 60 years of service to the people of Maui, Molokai, and Lānaʻi as the only Community Action Agency in the County of Maui; and

WHEREAS, MEO's mission of "Helping People ... Changing Lives" is a guiding theme that is being carried out through the success of their human service programs and advocacy efforts; now, therefore,

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

1. That it recognizes May 2025 as Community Action Month in the County of Maui;
2. That it further commends and congratulates Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc., its Board of Directors, employees, and volunteers for 60 years of service to the people of the County of Maui; and
3. That certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to Debbie Cabebe, Chief Executive Officer, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.; the Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Governor, State of Hawai'i; and the Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor, County of Maui.

INTRODUCED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alice L. Lee", written over a horizontal line.

ALICE L. LEE