

BFED Committee

From: Breanne Fong <bfong4@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, May 1, 2024 7:20 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Funding Priorities for Mayor's Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2025

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Aloha Maui County Council,

I urge Maui County Council to prioritize funding for long-term housing initiatives in West Maui, particularly for the Kaiāulu o Kupuohi and Pulelehua projects. These initiatives hold the key to providing stable housing for our families and individuals affected by the Lahaina fire, and their expedited construction is important.

The devastating impact of the fire has left thousands of West Maui residents in precarious living situations, with many still residing in hotel rooms or unstable accommodations even after almost nine months since the fire. The closure of breakfast and lunch programs in these hotel settings further highlights the challenges faced by our community. Additionally, more than a quarter of displaced individuals have been forced to leave the island due to the huge shortage of housing options.

Given that 87% of displaced residents are renters, the need for affordable housing on West Maui is critically urgent. Since the fire, no funding has been allocated for long-term housing projects in West Maui, exacerbating the housing crisis for affected families and individuals. Please prioritize building stable long-term dignified housing in West Maui.

Mahalo,

Breanne Fong