

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-16 1:00 PM -

Reconvened from 04/12/2024 at 9:00 a.m.

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All Agenda Items A G E N D A BFED-1 Bill 60 (2024) PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025... All User Locations

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Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
Guest User	<p>From: County Clerk Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 9:11 AM To: BFED Committee Subject: FW: New testimony for county 2024 budget on behalf of ADT</p> <p>From: Susan Browne Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 9:05 AM To: County Clerk Subject: New testimony for county 2024 budget on behalf of ADT</p> <p>April 17, 2024 - Haiku, Maui</p> <p>I am writing in support of the mayor's line item of \$25,000 for Adaptations Dance Theater's program Bring it Home. My name is Susana Browne, and I am a 40-year resident of Maui with 35 years' experience in education and the arts. I am also a board member of ADT and have been following them for over 12 years when they became the only home-grown contemporary dance company on Maui. Not only are these Maui dancers highly disciplined, but they are always looking for ways to reach a wider audience and inspire our community to appreciate dance as an art form and encourage youth to pursue dance as a career or a creative expression. Over the past year, ADT has engaged in several free performances that have reached Maui's community. After the fires in August 2023, their performance at UH Maui College with Maui Public Art Corps brought much needed solace to all of us. Another free performance at the Discovery Garden in Wailuku was geared for children, including those with neurodiversities. My five-year-old grandson was delighted and danced himself when the audience was asked to participate. Since 2018, the Bring it Home performance has brought Maui raised dancers who are living on the mainland back to present culturally relevant and creative dance to an enthusiastic audience. The 2023 program again was a moment of inspiration and healing after the fires in Lahaina and Kula. Thank you for supporting the arts in our community!</p>			04-17-2024 09:31 am

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
P.O. Box 1002 Haiku, Hi, 96708				
Guest User	<p>From: peggy yott Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 9:10 AM To: BFED Committee Subject: Lana'i Feral Animal Control</p> <p>Dear Councilmembers,</p> <p>My name is Margaret Yott. I am writing to request that you add \$285,000 to the Lāna'i Feral Animal Control line item in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget and award it to the Lanai Cat Sanctuary so they can continue to provide feral cat services on the island.</p> <p>The Lanai Cat Sanctuary has not only reduced the feral cat population on Lāna'i, but they are a leader in the industry for their progressive approach to saving endangered birds by providing humane solutions for cats predating in protected areas.</p> <p>Unsterilized female cats in Hawaii that are 6 months or older can have up to 3 litters a year, with 3-5 kittens per litter. Without the Lanai Cat Sanctuary, feral cats would overrun the island of Lāna'i.</p> <p>If the Lanai Cat Sanctuary does not receive the funding needed to continue accepting all feral and unwanted cats, it will severely impact the progress the island of Lāna'i has made in controlling the feral cat population and protecting the native and endangered birds on the island.</p> <p>Thank you, Margaret Yott</p> <p>Peggy Yott 708.429.4665 pegyott@hotmail.com</p>			04-17-2024 09:30 am
Guest User	<p>From: Mary Di Grande Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 8:28 AM To: BFED Committee Subject: Proposed Fiscal Budget</p> <p>My name is Mary Di Grande. I am writing to request that you add \$285,000 to the Lāna'i Feral Animal Control line item in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget and award it to the Lanai Cat Sanctuary so they can continue to provide feral cat services on the island.</p> <p>The Lanai Cat Sanctuary has not only reduced the feral cat population on Lāna'i, but they are a leader in the industry for their progressive approach to saving endangered birds by providing humane solutions for cats predating in protected areas.</p> <p>Unsterilized female cats in Hawaii that are 6 months or older can have up to 3 litters a year, with 3-5 kittens per litter. Without the Lanai Cat Sanctuary, feral cats would overrun the island of Lāna'i.</p> <p>If the Lanai Cat Sanctuary does not receive the funding needed to continue accepting all feral and unwanted cats, it will severely impact the progress the island of Lāna'i has made in controlling the feral cat population and protecting the native and endangered birds on the island.</p> <p>Thank you, Mary Di Grande</p>			04-17-2024 09:29 am
Guest User	<p>From: S418-Norman Montehermoso Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 6:53 PM To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant.</p> <p>Dear Maui County Mayor and Council,</p> <p>I am Norman Montehermoso, a senior at Maui High School and team captain of the robotics team. I am pleased to write this t</p>			04-17-2024 09:27 am

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
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estimony in support of the Maui Economic Development Board grant. The Maui Economic Development Board's grant has given me the opportunity to travel, meet new people, and compete in my high school's robotics program. Through my high school's robotics program, I also got to teach younger students more about STEM through working with Lihikai Elementary School, volunteering for the Maui Valley Isle VEX IQ league, which involves students from elementary school to middle school, and presenting in the Maui Matsuri Children's Festival.

Without the Maui Economic Development Board's generous financial support, my high school's robotics team would not be as successful and well-represented within the community, as funding is one of the most important aspects of robotics. We recently competed in the FIRST Robotics Competition Hawai'i Regional where we made it all the way to the finals. The Maui Economic Development Board's grant has greatly aided us in our endeavors this season and we would not have made it this far without their support.

MEDB has supported all the schools I have attended from grades 6-12 and without their grant, I feel confident to say that I would not have learned more about STEM and STEM careers. In the future, I plan to attend Seattle University, majoring in Mechanical Engineering, and none of my ambitions would exist without MEDB's grant.

Once again, I am very pleased to write this testimony in support of the Maui Economic Development Board's grant and would love to see the continuation of this grant in many programs in the county.

Sincerely, Norman Montehermoso

Guest User

From: County Clerk

Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 5:40 PM To: BFED Committee Subject: FW: BFED-1: Support for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens FY2025 Budget Line Item Grant

04-17-

2024

09:26 am

From: Warren Johnson

Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 4:25 PM To: County Clerk Subject: BFED-1: Support for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens FY2025 Budget Line Item Grant

4/16/2024

Warren Johnson 171 Maoli Pl Paia, HI 96779

Aloha,

I strongly support the full \$150,000 line item amount for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens in the FY25 proposed budget. MNBG is a valuable community resource offering important educational opportunities about native flora and culture. For example, we are in the process of replacing introduced vegetation with native plants in our yard. I frequently ask them for recommendations and recently picked up a free plant adapted to Paia's climate. From a larger perspective, through my volunteer work with the Bishop Museum I learned about the Laukahi Network and Maui Nui Botanical Gardens' essential role in protecting endangered native plants through their seed bank and cultivation.

Mahalo for your consideration, Warren

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
Guest User	<p>From: Keith Imada Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 3:57 PM To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony in support of Maui Economic Development Board’s Economic Development Grant</p> <p>Aloha Esteemed Council members My name is Keith Imada and I am a STEM Teacher at Maui High School. I am also the STEMworks facilitator and team 2443 Robotics Coach.</p> <p>I am writing in support of the Maui Economic and Development Board's Economic & Education Development Grant. Through my 30 years of teaching Science and now STEM/Robotics I have found MEDB's STEMworks educational program an invaluable resource and support for my program. They are the community leaders that fund projects and programs to help connect the students at the High School with local professional personnel and groups. They also financially support specific robotics program activities. We could not have sustained our dream of providing our students the rigorous high tech and engineering based competitive robotics program since our humble beginnings in 2006. I do not have enough time nor the space in this email to describe all the opportunities that MEDB's grants and support have provided to the STEM students at Maui High School, but please know that in all of the tragedies that we on Maui have survived, the students and children that we educators all work with will be the reason that Maui communities continue to thrive in the 21st century. We need to continue to provide all students the STEM education needed to make educated decisions in researching, designing and analyzing solutions that will keep our communities Maui Strong and Maui No Ka Oi - Thank-you for your time! Keith Imada - Teacher Maui High School - STEMworks teacher and Robotics Coach</p>			04-17-2024 09:24 am
Guest User	<p>From: Irina Constantinescu Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 2:56 PM To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony in support of Ka Ipu Kukui Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development</p> <p>Aloha,</p> <p>As a Maui County resident, a licensed professional engineer, a working mom, and a Ka Ipu Kukui alumna, I would like to encourage the Maui County Council to continue supporting the Ka Ipu Kukui Program. The knowledge I have gained in the program (10 years ago), has made me a better citizen, has made me love Maui, has made me support our community, and has helped me formed irreplaceable long-lasting bonds with fellows from across socio-economic demographics in the County. It is one of the programs fully dedicated to grow one’s knowledge and love of Maui.</p> <p>Mahalo for your continued support,</p> <p>Irina Constantinescu, P.E. Director, Maui Local Leader Brown and Caldwell Wailuku, Maui Constantinescu@brwncald.com T 808.442.3305 C 808.419.0142</p>			04-17-2024 09:20 am
Guest User	<p>From: jerry@mioat.com Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 10:51 AM To: BFED Committee Subject: Testimony in support of Maui Economic Development Board’s Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development.</p> <p>I am Jerry Isddale, founder of Maui Makers and the Maui Institute of Art and Technology LLC. I am testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board’s Economic Development Grant (MEDB)) under the</p>			04-17-2024 09:18 am

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
	<p>Maui County Office of Economic Development (OED). MEDB has been the dominant force in the Maui technology community. It has a wide variety of worthy programs. I have been a participant in their Tech Ohana and several other programs. While it is small contribution, they have been very supportive of our informal Maui Techies monthly gatherings. All of these provide a social connection for our suprisingly large (to some) and vibrant tech community. Their educational and other programs are a large boost to our youth (of all ages).</p> <p>Jerry Isdale Maui Institute of Art and Technology LLC Haiku, Maui 805.338.1996 (cell) jerry@mioat.com</p>			
Guest User	<p>From: County Clerk Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 7:58 AM To: BFED Committee Subject: FW: BFED-1</p> <p>From: Marty Martins Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 5:45 PM To: County Clerk Subject: BFED-1</p> <p>Support for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens FY2025 Budget Line Item Grant</p> <p>I support the full \$150,000 line item amount for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens in the FY2025 proposed budget.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Marty Martins KThei</p>			04-17-2024 09:17 am
Guest User	<p>Aloha mmbbers of the Budget Committee for 2024. I apologized for not attending your meeting with the the Hana Community. I am dealing with health issues but compelled to express how I want to see my taxes go towards. Before I raised my concerns, I do want to share with you that our people are tired and fed up to attend meetings because they are tired of repeating for three years what is in dire need for their Community and nothing happens. I for one, as a volunteer Executive Director of Hui Laulima O Hana Nonprofit for the Hana Dialysis Home Program, I am so appreciated of your on going support. Through all of you at the Maui County level we would not be able to honor our 15 years Anniversary. Together, we have truly made a difference in bringing quality of life to loved ones in dire need of dialyzing at home in Hana. As the only unduplicated service provided in Hana our goal is to provide the utmost care and service to loved ones needing Dialysis treatments in the remote and isolated communities through out the East Maui communitis. At the same time I have pleaded help for our Keiki in Hana, who do not have a playground at Pa'ani Mai Park which is under Parks & Recreation County of Maui. It saddens me as a Kupuna and Grandmother that my babies gotta travel all the way from Hana to play at Giggle Hill in Haiku. The other concern is the Helene Hall in Hana, where Maui County holds meetings. Where is our kitchen that came with Helene Hall? A recent party rented the hall and with no kitchen dishes, pots and pans had to be carried to the nearest shower to washed. Every Community on Maui when rented comes with a kitchen, all except Hana! We all pay taxes, but always forgotten in the budget. Please consider Hana, we deserve better.</p> <p>Mahalo, Lehua Cosma Hana</p>	Support		04-16-2024 10:08 pm
BFED Committee	Testimonies received from BFED Committee.		Attachment	04-16-2024 09:33 am
Yosef Ben Gershom	<p>Dear Chair and members,</p> <p>I would like to submit testimony in support of the Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County</p>	Support		04-15-2024 11:19 pm

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
	<p>Office of Economic Development. I would also like to provide my support for the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows Leadership Grant. Throughout my student and professional journey, I have had the privilege of engaging with MEDB in various capacities. From my initial exposure to and training on CAD programs to my attendance at the AMOS conference over the past several years, I have witnessed firsthand the organization's dedication to advancing aerospace education, workforce development, business, and research in Hawai'i. As a member of the planning committee for the prior year's conference Emer-Gen program, I have had the opportunity to contribute to this valuable program that has had a profound impact on students and young professionals pursuing diverse careers in aerospace and related fields. The Emer-Gen program has served as an invaluable platform for connecting students and young professionals with leaders and experts in the aerospace industry, providing them with mentorship, guidance, and career development opportunities. As an engineer with the Hawai'i Space Flight Laboratory at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, I have seen firsthand the positive impact the program has had on our students. The program has not only fostered a sense of community among participants but has also equipped them with the skills and knowledge necessary to excel in their chosen fields, and opened the door for them into the wider community.</p> <p>The AMOS conference has been instrumental in facilitating collaborations and partnerships that have led to the acquisition of additional funding for our lab and the University. These resources have enabled us to expand our research capabilities and provide more students with hands-on experience in a variety of aerospace and engineering projects. The conference has served as a catalyst for fostering an aerospace ecosystem in Hawai'i, bringing together industry professionals, small businesses, educators, researchers, and government.</p> <p>In addition, I have also seen firsthand the STEMWorks program, which targets younger students, prove to be highly beneficial. The program provides a foundation for STEM education and inspires students to pursue STEM careers. By providing students with hands-on activities, interactive workshops, and mentorship opportunities, the program cultivates a passion for STEM subjects and encourages students to embrace innovation and problem-solving. Supporting these programs will continue to help our next generation and community become more self-sufficient and provide a brighter future for all of us. I have also seen firsthand the benefits of the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows Leadership program and am in staunch support of it. It is an invaluable program which informs, educates, and encourages our emerging leaders. In fact, I would be ecstatic if additional funding would be allocated in the future to provide support for more fellows and an even broader program.</p> <p>Yosef Ben Gershom Makawao, HI</p>			

Brialyn
Onodera

I am Brialyn Onodera and I am testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board's (MEDB) Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development. As an engineer on Maui I have participated in outreach events coordinated by MEDB in order to help generate interest in engineering as a career for Maui County youth, especially girls. I appreciate the opportunity, as a female, to serve as a role model and encourage youth to pursue engineering as a career ideally within Maui county. These outreach programs and others that are supported by MEDB helps to serve as that important pipeline that is able to reach middle schoolers and high schoolers in order to help them dream

Support

04-15-
2024
01:25 pm

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
	<p>big with the hopes that they too can find engineering careers and serve industries that seek to diversify Maui's economy.</p> <p>I would also like to add testimony in support of the Ka Ipu Kukui Grant under the County Office of Economic Development. I am a current Ka Ipu Kukui fellow and the program has been extremely valuable in helping me to understand the various issues that impact Maui County and meeting with professionals who are passionate about making impactful change for the betterment of Maui that serves that community and maintains the sense of place that is unique to Maui county. I highly recommend the program to aspiring leaders and professionals and hope to see it supported for the upcoming fiscal year.</p>			

BFED Committee

From: Jessica Langenhan <bruinforever01@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, April 14, 2024 8:40 PM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Please Add \$285,000 to FY25 Budget for Lanai Feral Cat Control

You don't often get email from bruinforever01@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is JESSICA LANGENHAN. I am writing to request that you add \$285,000 to the Lāna'i Feral Animal Control line item in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget and award it to the Lanai Cat Sanctuary so they can continue to provide feral cat services on the island.

The Lanai Cat Sanctuary has not only reduced the feral cat population on Lāna'i, but they are a leader in the industry for their progressive approach to saving endangered birds by providing humane solutions for cats preying in protected areas.

Unsterilized female cats in Hawaii that are 6 months or older can have up to 3 litters a year, with 3-5 kittens per litter. Without the Lanai Cat Sanctuary, feral cats would overrun the island of Lāna'i.

If the Lanai Cat Sanctuary does not receive the funding needed to continue accepting all feral and unwanted cats, it will severely impact the progress the island of Lāna'i has made in controlling the feral cat population and protecting the native and endangered birds on the island.

Thank you,
JESSICA LANGENHAN

P.S. I just visited Lanai and the cat sanctuary on 4/13/24 (visiting from Southern California), and I am again amazed by the work that is done at the Sanctuary, especially considering the added challenges of this past year when they have taken in the Lahaina cats. The cats, the birds, and the people of Lanai and the visitors all benefit from the Sanctuary's work, and they need the ongoing support. Thank you!

Jessica L. Langenhan, MD, MBA, CHCQM

Diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology, Inc.,
a member of the American Board of Medical Specialties

The cure for anything is saltwater: sweat, tears, or the sea. ~Isak Dinesen

BFED Committee

From: Evelyn Baran <neshama369@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 5:23 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Funding for Lanai Cat Sanctuary

You don't often get email from neshama369@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Council Members:

I am writing to request that you add \$285,000 to the Lāna'i Feral Animal Control line item in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget and award it to the Lanai Cat Sanctuary so they can continue to provide feral cat services on the island.

The Lanai Cat Sanctuary has not only reduced the feral cat population on Lāna'i, but they are a leader in the industry for their progressive approach to saving endangered birds by providing humane solutions for cats predated in protected areas. Unsterilized female cats in Hawaii that are 6 months or older can have up to 3 litters a year, with 3-5 kittens per litter.

Without the Lanai Cat Sanctuary, feral cats would overrun the island of Lāna'i. If the Lanai Cat Sanctuary does not receive the funding needed to continue accepting all feral and unwanted cats, it will severely impact the progress the island of Lāna'i has made in controlling the feral cat population.

Mahalo for your time,
Evelyn Baran



BFED Committee

From: Stephanie Jordan <stephj.ironwoodgolf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 7:17 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Please Add \$285,000 to FY25 Budget for Lanai Feral Cat Control

You don't often get email from stephj.ironwoodgolf@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Councilmembers,

My name is Stef Jordan. I am writing to request that you add \$285,000 to the Lāna'i Feral Animal Control line item in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget and award it to the Lanai Cat Sanctuary so they can continue to provide feral cat services on the island.

The Lanai Cat Sanctuary has not only reduced the feral cat population on Lāna'i, but they are a leader in the industry for their progressive approach to saving endangered birds by providing humane solutions for cats predated in protected areas.

Unsterilized female cats in Hawaii that are 6 months or older can have up to 3 litters a year, with 3-5 kittens per litter. Without the Lanai Cat Sanctuary, feral cats would overrun the island of Lāna'i.

If the Lanai Cat Sanctuary does not receive the funding needed to continue accepting all feral and unwanted cats, it will severely impact the progress the island of Lāna'i has made in controlling the feral cat population and protecting the native and endangered birds on the island.

Thank you,
Stef Jordan

BFED Committee

From: Jolambereen Rose Mawae Mollena <jolambereen_rose.mawae_mollena@k12.hi.us>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 6:49 PM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: "Testimony in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant."
Attachments: StemWorks testimonies.pdf

You don't often get email from jolambereen_rose.mawae_mollena@k12.hi.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

Attached are the testimonies of students who support the MEDB grant.

Mahalo,

Healani Mawae
Stem After School Instructor
Molokai, Hawaii

This is a staff email account managed by Hawaii Department Of Education School District. This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the sender.

My name is Azariah Akina and I support the Maui Economic board's grant because I have learned so many different subjects about plants that otherwise I wouldn't have learned.

I've learned that some plants need no light to grow also learning at the same time how to best take care of my own plants that the teacher gave me. We also learned more about the coconut tree, some really astonishing things like using the leaves to make a bed or using the coconuts for food, water, and a cup/Bowl. Later we learned you can use the tree to make a canoe. I deeply appreciate STEM for reaching me more about my land/environment so that I can teach others so our land stays healthy and producing. Therefore I really would like to thank the Maui Economic Board's grant for giving me this amazing privilege to learn all these fantastic things. ...

MY Name is Kamahu Poaha Kaa'i
and I support the Maui Economic boards
grant

This program help ME community
BY teaching me more about the
community. I come From Molokai and
a lot of people like to farm so learn
about how to do things like that is so
exciting and makes me so happy and
it shows us how to respect the land.

Ariehna

My name is Ariehna Buchanan and I support the
Maui economic barad's grant.

This program helped me to help my Comiunatie
I live on moionai and every one is working hard so
Just learning how to help our Comiuntie is
So good.

Umi

my name is U'al ebuloo
Peltier yaw and I support
the Maui Economic Bonds
grant. It tells me how to
take care of my yard
and pets take care of
my home and community.

Kapu

4/10/24

My name is Hiikapu Lima and I support the Maui Economic Board's grant.

This program really helped me. by teaching me about the Maui community. also how it is related to my Ohana like the farmers and things. it also helped me know more about how to make money. my family is farmers so knowing more about how to farm really helped me.

BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 7:59 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: FW: BFED-1

From: Hōkūlani Chong <hokuchong22@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 15, 2024 10:16 PM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: BFED-1

You don't often get email from hokuchong22@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in support of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens FY2025 budget line item.

4/15/2024

Cathy Hoku Chong

277 Muliwai Dr. Wailuku, HI 96793

I support the full \$150,000.00 line item amount for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens in the FY 2025 proposed budget. Please fully support this vital resource for Maui County and abroad. MNBG provides support to our community in many ways through the inventory of native plants they maintain and provide to the public including trees, medicinal plants and kalo. They have provided support after the Maui Fires both for mental health and well being of people in need as well as in remediating areas that were affected by fire. Many important conservation and cultural workshops are given at MNBG many of which I and/or my friends and family have attended.

Please continue to provide full financial support to MNBG to help us keep Maui beautiful and healthy.

Mahalo,

--

Cathy Hoku Chong

BFED Committee

From: Dylan Domingo <dylandomingo57@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2024 8:15 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Testimony in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant.

You don't often get email from dylandomingo57@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Honorable members of the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee,

My name is Dylan Domingo, and I am writing to express my support for the Maui Economic Development Board. This vital organization cultivates economic growth and educational opportunities across Maui.

Throughout my high school career, I've experienced what I believe to be a fulfilling education within the field of STEM. I've obtained hands-on experience within the STEM workforce through MEDB's STEMworks Innovation Internship program. From the opportunities, not only have I learned many valuable technical skills within the areas of technology, but I have also equipped myself with the practical soft skills necessary to succeed.

MEDB has opened many pathways for me and other students by funding schools' educational programs. The organization has been funding my school's robotics program for a long time, often offering grants that pay almost all the costs for our robot's materials. Without such monetary donations, my team would not have been able to compete in such a competitive yet teaching experience. On behalf of Maui High School's Robotics program, we are grateful for the grants and funding MEDB provides us.

Not only do they provide monetary grants to support student's education, but they also provide access to free STEM educational materials. Last summer, I was allowed the amazing opportunity to intern at MEDB's STEMworks Lending Library. This Lending Library contains educational materials that schools across the county and the entire state of Hawaii can borrow to advance their STEM education. This library includes technology, portable project kits, and even more fascinating items that help to foster education. Working in the backend of the online database, I saw how frequently students and educators across the state used the service and how much it has helped them.

I heavily urge the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee to keep supporting the Maui Economic Development Board and the grants it serves. Through its continued support, the economy will prosper for generations to come, and so will the young future leaders of Maui County. Thank you for giving me the extraordinary opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Dylan Domingo
303 Kaiwahine St.
Kihei, HI, 96753