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COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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March 29, 2025

Ms. Cynthia Lallo, Chief of Staff
Office of the Mayor
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Lallo:

SUBJECT: **FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET** (BFED-1) (OM-03)

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the BFED Committee meeting on **April 1, 2025**.^{*} This will enable to the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2026 Budget. ^{*}*Date subject to change without notice.*

May I further request you transmit your answers to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by the end of the day on **April 3, 2025**.

Overall

1. As it relates to the discontinuation of the Office of Innovation & Sustainability: (Pages 526-527, Program Budget)
 - a. How will the continuity of the Goals and Objectives this Office has worked toward, including Goals #5 and #6 relating to climate action, sustainability, resiliency, and green transportation, be achieved in FY 2026? (GJ) (NUH)
 - b. Identify the staff liaisons who will continue the mission of the Office and the key areas assigned to each. (GJ)
2. For Goal #1, item 1, the FY 2025 Second Quarter Budget Implementation Report estimates that the Office of Economic Development will initiate 27 events, conferences, and trainings to

foster job creation within Maui County with new and expanding businesses. The report states that four events occurred. How does OED plan to increase assistance to new and expanding businesses? (Page 540, Program Budget) (NUH)

3. Provide OED's FY 2024 grant evaluation report as required by Section 3.36.120, Maui County Code. (Page 550, Program Budget) (NUH)
4. Provide a list of FY 2025 grantees who received an advancement, including the date of disbursement. Also provide confirmation that receipts were provided under Chapter 3.36, Maui County Code, including the dates the receipts were received. (Page 550, Program Budget) (NUH)
5. For OED's Grant Awards Program, Goal #1 estimates six grant applications will be submitted and six will be awarded. The FY 2025 Second Quarter Budget Implementation Report states that a total of 11 applications were submitted, with only two awarded, totaling \$2,569. The estimated value of grants awarded in FY 2025 is \$13,000,000. Provide a list detailing the grants applied for and their amounts. Additionally, how does OED identify which grants to apply for and how will the success rate for receiving grant awards be improved? (Page 549, Program Budget) (NUH)
6. As it relates to OED's Workforce Development program: (Page 561, Program Budget) (NUH)
 - a. What percentage of participants who receive training obtain employment?
 - b. The FY 2025 Second Quarter Budget Implementation Report states that 26 programs, workshops, and training opportunities were initiated for job seekers and employers. Explain how OED plans to increase opportunities for job seekers and employers.
7. Who is the Office's staff liaison for the Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund? What are the Office's processes and procedures for the use of the fund? (Page 569, Program Budget) (GJ)

8. When did the Office stop paying the salary of the former OED Director? When will a new director be appointed? (GJ)
9. What specific actions are being taken to reduce the County's liability on County-owned land that are not managed or properly maintained, including those directly owned, provided through an executive order, and leased? (TP)

Salaries (Category "A")

1. The P-26337 Administrative Assistant II position is receiving a \$5,556 salary increase due to a step movement but the position lists the same step for FYs 2025 and 2026. Explain the discrepancy. (Page 15-3, Budget Details) (TP)

Operations and Equipment (Categories "B" and "C")

1. As it relates to County grant subsidy, Index Code 903394B, provide the plan for the second-year wildfire commemoration and which entity will receive the grant funds. (Page 15-9, Budget Details) (TP)
2. As it relates to County grant subsidy, Index Code 903490B, explain Index Codes 903458B and 903433B. (Page 15-13, Budget Details) (TP)
3. As it relates to Audit Services and Other Services under Index Code 903013B: (Page 530, Program Budget)
 - a. Explain what funding requests for JCI energy savings and JCI measurement and verification entails. (YLS)
 - b. Has the third-party auditor for the JCI energy savings been selected? If no, why not? (TP)
 - c. Is measurement and verification not considered a part of the audit? Please explain. (TP)
 - d. Why is the audit occurring now? (TP)
 - e. If JCI's projected energy savings are not realized, what is the County's recourse? (TP)

4. As it relates to a Countywide grant management system: (Page 530, Program Budget)
 - a. Explain the requested \$100,000 for a Countywide grant management system. Is it a one-time cost or will an annual fee for the system be required? (YLS) (TP) (NUH)
 - b. Has a system already been selected? (TP)
 - c. Since this is a Countywide system, will all Departments be required to use the system? Who will maintain the system and provide training? (YLS)
5. As it relates to Professional Services, Index Code 903013B: (Page 15-6, Budget Details) (TP)
 - a. If the land management plan is complete, please provide a copy.
 - b. How many EV chargers need monthly maintenance?
6. Provide the status of resiliency projects started in FY 2025 through Professional Services, Index Code 903021B, including how funds were expended. Provide the plan and goals for the resilience hubs and land management plan that will be created through Professional Services, Index Code 903013B, and explain how these projects relate to FY 2025's projects. (Pages 15-6 & 15-7, Budget Details) (GJ) (TP)
7. As it relates to Pā'ia Clean & Safe: (Page 531, Program Budget)
 - a. Explain why the program was transferred to the Office of the Mayor's Administration Program. (YLS)
 - b. Is there a Clean & Safe program for Wailuku? Explain why or why not. (YLS)
 - c. Are residents satisfied with the performance of Pā'ia Clean & Safe? (TP)
8. Provide the spending plan for the Hawai'i State Broadband grant. (Page 534, Program Budget) (GJ)

9. In FY 2023, \$1,200,000 was appropriated for the State of Hawai'i Cesspool Conversion Pilot Program. How many conversions were done under this program? Provide details of the project and whether the pilot program will be continued. If the program will not be continued, provide information on other programs the Administration is considering to meet the compliance deadline for cesspool conversions. (Page 534, Program Budget) (YLS)
10. Provide the film and video production industry strategic plan for which \$200,000 was appropriated in FY 2025. (Page 543, Program Budget) (NUH)
11. Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. shut down the National Displaced Workforce Grant program on February 24, 2025. In FY 2025, the Council approved \$2,000,000 in grant funding for the Maui Displaced Workforce Development Program. Was a contract executed and were funds disbursed? (Page 15-37, Budget Details) (NUH)
12. Provide the spending plan for the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. (Page 547, Program Budget) (GJ)
13. What is the status of grants listed under the Economic Development Program? Have they been awarded or only applied for? (Page 547, Program Budget) (TP)
14. As it relates to Kemper Sports Marketing LLC: (Page 551, Program Budget)
 - a. Provide information on Kemper Sports Marketing LLC and the services they provide. (GJ)
 - b. Explain why the grant is necessary. (YLS)
 - c. From FYs 2020 to 2025, how much funding was provided to Kemper Sports Marketing LLC each FY, including the date the funding was provided and the funding source? (TP) (NUH)
 - d. What was the attendance for the 2024 Maui Invitational and was it sold out? (GJ)

15. Explain what events will be supported through the Maui County Events grant. Are these funds able to support the 2026 Maui County Fair? (Page 552, Program Budget) (TK)
16. As it relates to PGA for Sentry Tournament: (Page 552, Program Budget)
 - a. The 2025 total prize money payout for The Sentry was \$20 million. Explain why the \$100,000 grant is necessary. (YLS) (GJ)
 - b. From FYs 2020 to 2025, how much funding was provided to The Sentry each FY, including the date the funding was provided the funding source? (TP) (NUH)
17. As it relates to Maui Marathon: (Pages 552, Program Budget)
 - a. Provide further information on the \$100,000 grant for the Maui Marathon and explain why it is necessary. (YLS)
 - b. From FYs 2020 to 2025, how much funding was provided to the Maui Marathon each FY? (NUH)
18. As it relates to MEDB for Film Promotion: (Page 555, Program Budget)
 - a. Provide further information on how the grant will be used. (GJ) (YLS)
 - b. Will applications be solicited for this grant under Chapter 3.36.060, Maui County Code? (NUH)
 - c. Will any of the funds be allocated to the County's Film Office? If so, explain why the County is using grant funds instead of appropriating OED funds specifically for the Film Office. (NUH)
 - d. Has the grantee received grant funding for the same purpose in the past? If yes, please provide the date the grant was provided, the amount granted, and the funding source of the grant. (Page 15-42, Budget Details) (TP)
 - e. Does the County have a Film Commissioner? Please explain. (YLS)

19. As it relates to the Economic Diversification and Development Initiative, Maui County Events, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. for Microenterprise Program, Small Business Promotion, Sports and Events, Technology Business Promotion, Workforce Development Programs grants, and Cultural & Arts Program, provide the following for FY 2025 and, if applicable, FY 2026: (Pages 551-556, Program Budget) (GJ) (TP)
 - a. The names of all applicants.
 - b. The amount of funding requested by each applicant.
 - c. The amount of funding awarded to each applicant
 - d. The applicant's project title or description.
 - e. The selection criteria for each grant.
20. Explain how the UH Maui College Cooperative Education Program grant is used. If the funds cover stipends or wages, provide the hourly equivalent interns are paid. If any of the Office's other grants pay for internship stipends or wages, provide the hourly equivalent those interns are paid. (Page 556, Program Budget) (GJ)
21. Provide further information on the \$120,000 grant for Festivals of Aloha. (Page 556, Program Budget) (SS)
22. Explain the purpose of the Wedding Industry Engage Summit grant, including the intended grantee, how the \$300,000 will be used, and how the grant will benefit the County. (Page 557, Program Budget) (YLS) (TK) (TC) (GJ) (NUH)
23. Explain why Tourism was added to the Culture & Arts category instead of being under Visitors Industry. What is the difference between the categories Culture, Arts, and Tourism, and Visitors Industry? (Pages 556-558, Program Budget) (YLS)
24. As it relates to the Tourism Management Grant Fund: (Page 558, Program Budget)
 - a. Describe the Office's stance on promoting the County as a visitor destination versus the need to manage tourism

- impacts. How does this stance inform the Office's grant award selections for the Tourism Management Grant Fund? (GJ)
- b. What are the goals for the use of this fund? (GJ)
 - c. Provide a list of the FY 2025 grantees and explain how the funds were expended. (TP)
25. As it relates to Feral Animal Control appropriations: (Pages 558-559, Program Budget)
- a. Provide the historical basis for these grants, including how many grants have been completed since the appropriations have been approved by the Council. (TK) (SS)
 - b. How many applications were received and how many grants were awarded in FYs 2024 and 2025 for each of the four feral animal control grants? (TK) (SS)
 - c. Because the funds will assist farmers and ranchers with deer mitigation, should the grants be transferred to the Department of Agriculture? If not, explain why the grants should remain with the Office of the Mayor. (YLS) (GJ)
 - d. If the Feral Animal Control grants remain with the Office of the Mayor, explain whether you support including bird and rodent mitigation in the scope for the Feral Animal Control Lāna'i grant. (GJ)
 - e. How is the success of these grants measured? Is one of the measurements a reduction in the deer population? (SS)
26. As it relates to Houseless Solutions: (Page 14, Budget bill)
- a. Explain why this grant is under the Office of the Mayor instead of under the Department of Human Concerns. (TP)
 - b. Explain the difference between this grant and the \$2,858,300 appropriation for Houseless Programs in the Department of Human Concerns. (YLS)

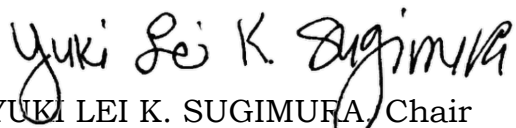
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- c. Which Office of the Mayor staff is tasked with addressing houseless-related issues? Would additional resources assist in addressing these issues in a timely manner? (SS)
- d. What types of houseless solutions will be funded? (GJ) (SS)
- e. The recent ECONorthwest study prepared for the Department of Human Concerns found that stakeholders did not have a common goal, nor a commitment to consensus. Are these funds intended to facilitate coordination and collaboration as recommended by the report? If not, how will the recommendations in the study be implemented? (TP)
- f. Explain how the Houseless Solutions grant was used in FY 2025. (GJ)

Thank you for your attention to this request. To ensure efficient processing, please include the relevant Committee item number in the subject line of your response.

Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Kirsten Szabo at ext. 7662, James Krueger at ext. 7761, Jarret Pascual at ext. 7141, Clarissa MacDonald at ext. 7135, or Pauline Martins at ext. 8039).

Sincerely,


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

bfed:2026bgt:250328aom01:jgk

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

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Saturday, March 29, 2025 4:38 PM
To: Cynthia Lallo
Cc: BFED Committee; 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; Lesley Milner;
kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us; tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us; Janina Agapay
Subject: FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (BFED-1) (OM-03)
Attachments: (OM-3) Correspondence to Chief of Staff 03-29-2025.pdf