

March 24, 2025

MEMO TO: BFED-1 File

F R O M: Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair *Yuki Lei K. Sugimura*
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

SUBJECT: **TRANSMITTAL OF INFORMATIONAL DOCUMENTS RELATING
TO PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY
OF MAUI** (BFED-1)

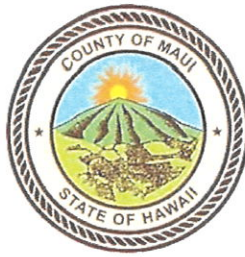
The attached informational documents pertain to Item BFED-1 on the Committee's agenda.

bfed:2026bgt:250324afile01:kes

Attachments

STACEY MONIZ
Chair

FRANK TAM
Vice Chair



Commissioners:

LAHELA AIWOHI
FRANK DE REGO JR.
JANET KUWAHARA
ARRAGON "KEKOA" MOWAT
WILLIAM "Bill" RICHARDSON
TRAVIS TANCAYO

POLICE COMMISSION
COUNTY OF MAUI
55 Mahalani Street
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793
maupolicecommission@mpd.net
(808) 244-6440

March 20, 2025

Stacey Moniz, Chair
Police Commission, County of Maui
55 Mahalani Street
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

For transmittal to:

Alice Lee, Chair and Members
Maui County Council
County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii 96793

SUBJECT: Police Commission FY 2026 Budget Submittal Letter

Aloha Chair Lee and Members of the Maui County Council,

Pursuant to Section 18-12.2.2 of the Charter of the County of Maui, "The police commission shall review the department's request for an annual appropriation for the operation before submission to the mayor." Pursuant to this Charter mandate, the Police Commission on December 4, 2024 submitted to the mayor the Police Department's FY 2026 request for an annual appropriation for the operation of the department, including a budget submission letter.

On April 19, 2025, at its regular meeting, the Police Commission voted unanimously to forward to the County Council the FY 2026 budget submission letter that accompanied its submission of the department budget to the mayor via the administration's budget director, along with the Police Commission's specific request embedded in the budget.

The Commission welcomes any questions Councilmembers have regarding its budget request and its need for resources to avoid conflicts of interest; solve problems of public access; and ensure the prompt and efficient handling of public complaints against department personnel.

Sincerely,



Stacey Moniz, Chair
Maui Police Commission

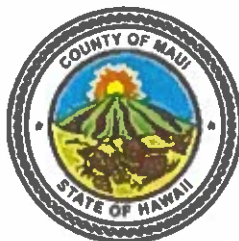
cc: Andrew Nelson, Deputy Corporation Counsel

Attachments:

Police Commission FY 2026 Budget Submission Letter
Police Commission Budget Request

STACEY MONIZ
Chair

FRANK TAM
Vice Chair



Commissioners:

LAHELA AIWOHI
FRANK R. DE REGO JR.
JANET KUWAHARA
ARRAGON "KEKOA" MOWAT
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POLICE COMMISSION
COUNTY OF MAUI
55 Mahalani Street
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793
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November 29, 2024

Honorable Richard T. Bissen Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

For transmittal to:

Ms. Lesley Milner
Budget Director, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, HI 96793

RE: Supplemental Budget Request Considerations for Fiscal Year 2026

Aloha e Ms. Milner,

Section 18-12.2.2 of the Charter of the County of Maui states that, "The police commission shall review the department's request for an annual appropriation for the operation before submission to the mayor." Pursuant to this Charter mandate, the Police Commission hereby submits the results of our review of the Police Department's FY2026 request for an annual appropriation for the operation of the department. The Commission has worked diligently to fulfill this mandate as evidenced by establishing a temporary investigative group (TIG) on the FY2026 department budget and the commission's participation (in-whole or in-part) in the schedule of meetings outlined in Exhibit A attached.

Commission Comments on Maui Police Department FY2026 Operating Budget

General Comments

The Commission commends Chief John Pelletier and the executive and finance staff for producing a FY2026 operational budget that continues to focus on professionalism, community care and readiness at all levels of operations within the police department. The equipment, training, education, recruitment, and personnel initiatives contained in the budget are a result of the department and its leadership's four-square commitment to standards of excellence and continuous

improvement outlined in the strategic plan. The Capital Improvement Plan provides vital infrastructure and facilities that promote the mission of the department, which is the safety and prosperity of our community.

Countywide Emergency Communications System

It is now almost 16 months since the tragic wildfires of August 2023. In the FY2025 budget submission message the Commission viewed the post-fire interregnum as a period to 1) assess the department's capabilities, 2) rebuild the department's ability to meet present needs, and 3) enhance the department's capacity for future emergencies. The Commission believes the FY2026 budget builds on and expands those efforts.

Concerning the focus on building emergency capacity, the Commission would like to highlight in this budget message a special challenge around Technical Services – the Countywide Emergency Communication System. This integrated system covers all communications among numerous emergency management entities in the county, including dispatch, the fire department, the Maui Emergency Management Agency, and others.

The expenditure in this area on equipment, CIP projects and personnel makes up a significant portion of the Police Department budget. For over twenty years, the department has gladly taken responsibility for ensuring all the communication needs of the agencies in this space are met and to ensure the most robust, up-to-date communication system is deployed. But the Commission believes this service may come with an unintended consequence and subsequent cost to the department. Namely, the costs in this area are so large that they artificially inflate the department's total budget and may unknowingly result in cuts to facilities, personnel, equipment, and programs needed within the department.

The vast experience and expertise that exists in this area within the police department behooves the county to keep the efficient planning and building of the emergency communication system within its jurisdiction. At the same time, the Commission recommended to the department that in the presentation of its budget it teases out the direct costs for the system, disentangling it from departmental costs per se. This would give the administration a true picture of the department's budget outside the large costs needed to build a secure, robust communications system countywide for an emergency or natural disaster.

The Commission's last comment on this subject is to point out the plan devised by the department in emergency communications. The Commission wholeheartedly commends the department for the comprehensiveness of the plan and advises the administration to accept this plan in total.

The costs are considerable, but the alternative is unthinkable.

Grant Opportunities

The Commission recognizes that Chief Pelletier, the executive staff, and members of the finance team have vigorously pursued grant opportunities to enhance department readiness and expand wellness programs for both sworn and unsworn members of the department. We are confident that the department will continue to do so in FY2026.

A prime example of a current grant in health and wellness is the Department of Justice Assistance's VALOR (Preventing Violence Against Law Enforcement and Ensuring Officer Resilience and

Survivability) Program. This grant aims to improve the safety, wellness, and resilience of law enforcement officers.

Commission Comments on the Police Commission Budget

There is a sizable increase in the Police Commission's budget. There are reasons for this change. In the past, the Commission has made requests for needed resources to no avail.

Operational Needs

The Commission is mandated by the charter to investigate charges brought by the public against the department and its personnel. This process is guided by the Rules of the Commission. Once the Commission approves a case for investigation it should be passed on to an investigator. The Commission has at least five back cases, almost three years old, and two cases approved for investigation in the last six months that may cost an estimated 20 thousand to forty thousand dollars each to complete because the Commission is forced to go out into the private sector to get these investigations done. The first five cases were for various reasons not investigated by Corporation Counsel investigators over two administrations (past and current) after they were already assigned to the Corporation Counsel investigator. The Commission diligently asked for answers on the first five cases from both administrations but received no answers. There is an effort underway to have a Commission investigator position reallocated from the department, but this process has not passed the requisite bureaucratic hurdles and there is conflict of interest concern regarding who this investigator will report to for administrative purposes in the police hierarchy. At this point, the Commission has not seen a final organizational chart that would meet the conflict-of-interest standard. Until this position is secured, the Commission needs an alternative, so more cases do not languish.

The Commission Secretary in Maui County is the only one in the state that is embedded within and works for a law enforcement division in the department. In this case, the current secretary's time is allocated sixty percent for the Commission and forty percent for the Criminal Investigation Division. In the past, the Commission had operated under a tacit agreement with the department for the Commission Secretary to work one hundred percent for the Commission in spite of the posted job description. This appears not to be the case anymore.

Thus, the Commission is in need of a full-time Commission Secretary pursuant to the Rules of the Commission §13-101-11. The Commission asserts the fact that having this position embedded within and working for a division in the department constitutes an inherent conflict of interest. The current arrangement means the person involved must handle and store confidential information regarding public complaints against officers and, in some cases, the chief of police while potentially also working for those same officers and the chief of police. This situation is untenable and must not be allowed to continue.

In summary, the Commission needs a full-time investigator and full-time Commission Secretary without any attendant conflicts of interest.

Need for Permanent Meeting and Office Space

The Commission has been informed that it may not be able to meet at the County Service Center because the Liquor Department is not going to support the electronic equipment in the meeting room it oversees. The Commission may have to find an alternative meeting space outside county

facilities or contract a court reporter with audio recording capability to attend Commission meetings at the Service Center if that is an option. The Commission conducts in-person meetings according to HRS 92-3, so there is no need for interactive electronic capability. The Commission is currently working with the department on short term curative measures to deal with the Commission's CY2025 meeting space challenge.

However, the Commission needs long term, permanent meeting and office space outside the confines of the department that would be more accessible to the public. This would cure the conflicts of interest with the current situation of being housed within the Wailuku Police Department site which is not readily accessible to the public and constitutes a barrier for anyone who wishes to interact with the Commission staff. This would also ensure a permanent meeting space for the Commission outside the vagaries of securing a meeting space within the paucity of supply. The business-as-usual scenario is indefensible.

Thus, the Commission requests that it work closely with the administration to secure such space with the help of the real estate specialist housed in the Finance Department.

Conclusion

In closing, the Commission looks forward to collaborating with Chief Pelletier to ensure the success of the department as it continues to serve our Maui Nui community. The Commission also looks forward to being provided the resources necessary to perform its Charter mandated duties independently and without conflicts of interest. In that spirit, the Police Commission submits these comments and recommendations along with the budget for the Police Department and wants to thank the administration for its consideration of the department and the Commission's budget priorities.

Please feel free to contact the Police Commission if there are any questions at maui-police-commission@mpd.net.

Mālama pono,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stacey Moniz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Stacey Moniz

Chair

Police Commission, County of Maui

**EXHIBIT A
POLICE COMMISSION
TEMPORARY INVESTIGATIVE GROUP ON THE
POLICE DEPARTMENT FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET
SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

August 21, 2024 – At its Regular Meeting, the Commission created a TIG and appointed three members of the Commission to the TIG. They were directed to attend the Budget meetings of the department.

September 12, 2024 – Members of the TIG attended with the Chief of Police and departmental executive staff a Budget Meeting presentation on the Uniform Services Bureau.

September 25, 2024 – Members of the TIG attended with the Chief of Police and departmental executive staff a Budget Meeting presentation on the Investigative Services Bureau.

October 22, 2024 – Members of the TIG attended with the Chief of Police and departmental executive staff the Pre-Budget Meeting on the Support Services Bureau and Technical Services.

November 20, 2024 – At the regular meeting of the Commission, the following agenda items: FY2025 Department Budget Review – 1) Department's Budget Presentation; 2) Commission's Review, Discussion, and Requests for Modifications to the Department's Budget.

The Commission voted unanimously (7 ayes, 0 nays, 2 excused) to submit the Commission's comments and recommendations to the mayor and deputized Commissioner Frank R De Rego Jr to write the budget submission communication on the Commission's behalf for the Chair's signature and subsequent submission.

MPD Commission Budget - 2025

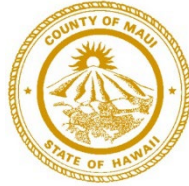
Index Code	Sub-Object Code/Description	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Actual	FY 2024 Adopted	FY 2025 Adopted	Continuation Request	Expansion Request	FY 2026 Requested	Explanation of changes
910265B -	Police Commission								
910265B	6101 - Advertisement	\$ 2,103	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 2,500	\$ 2,500	
910265B	6112- Contractual Service	\$ 15,559	\$ 17,089	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 14,000	\$ 10,900	\$ 24,900	Contract for evaluation
910265B	6132- Professional Services	\$ 5,484	\$ -	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 270,000	\$ 280,000	Due to 7 complaints that need to be investigated
910265B	6201 - Airfare/Transportation	\$ 249	\$ 3,050	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 12,300	\$ 2,700	\$ 15,000	
910265B	6204 - Mileage & Allow Rptble Non-Tax	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,000	
910265B	6212 - Dues	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	
910265B	6222 - Per Diem Non-Reportable	\$ 364	\$ 3,482	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 12,000	
910265B	6223 - Per Diem Reportable Non-Taxable	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ 2,200	\$ 800	\$ 3,000	
910265B	6226- Per Diem S/D/T Taxable	\$ -	\$ 405	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 405	\$ 595	\$ 1,000	
910265B	6230 - Registratinn/Training Fees	\$ -	\$ 3,200	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 8,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 9,000	
TOTAL POLICE COMMISSION		\$ 23,759	\$ 27,726	\$ 58,000	\$ 58,000	\$ 58,905	\$ 292,495	\$ 351,400	

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

JOHN STUFFLEBEAN, P.E.
Director

JAMES A. LANDGRAF
Deputy Director



DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
<http://www.mauicounty.gov/water>

March 21, 2025

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mayor Bissen,

On March 20, 2025, the Board of Water Supply voted to support the Department of Water Supply's proposed FY 2026 budget for the following reasons:

- Rates: We recognize the need for additional revenue for the Water Fund and support the continued strategy of maintaining a lifeline residential rate while increasing the rates especially for high water users and the hotel/resort sector.
- Operating Budget: Funding is needed for increased personnel costs, long-delayed equipment replacement, new staffing for water code enforcement, and essential professional services.
- CIP: The needs far exceed the moneys available, and we support the Department's approach of prioritizing projects for new water source development and essential infrastructure improvements, and for seeking outside funding.

We appreciate your support and look forward to working together to further better our community.

"By Water All Things Find Life"

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donna D. Sterling". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Donna Sterling, Chair
Board of Water Supply

cc: Chair Alice Lee and Members of the Maui County Council
Josiah Nishita, Managing Director
Director John Stufflebean, Department of Water Supply
Deputy Director James Landgraf, Department of Water Supply