

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-04-23 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 04-23-26 09:00

eComments Report

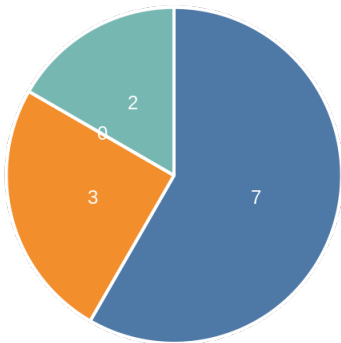
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-04-23 9:00 AM	04-23-26 09:00	2	12	7	3	0

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment

Support (58%) Oppose (25%) Neutral (0%)
No Response (16%)



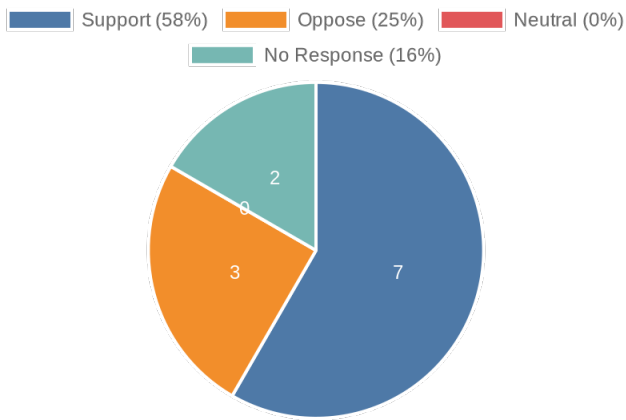
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-04-23 9:00 AM
04-23-26 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	6	4	1	0
BFED-1 PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)	6	3	2	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

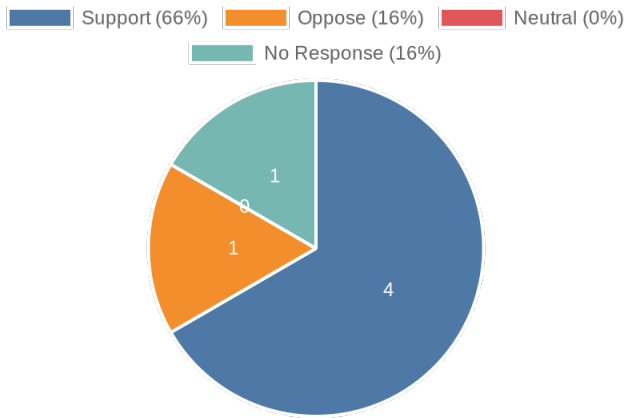
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:58am 04-23-26

Re: Correction to Prior Verbal Testimony

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I respectfully submit this written addendum to correct a material inaccuracy in my prior spoken testimony.

Contrary to my earlier statement that all facilities lack UV disinfection, I wish to clarify and correct the record as follows:

- Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WWRF): Has stringent UV disinfection.
- Kahului Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WWRF): Has no disinfection of any kind for injection well discharges.
- Kihei Wastewater Reclamation Facility (WWRF): Has no disinfection for injection well discharges, stringent UV to R-1 levels for reuse water.

I apologize for any confusion my prior testimony may have caused and respectfully request that this correction be entered into the official record.

Mahalo,
Stevie Chung

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 10:37am 04-23-26

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I support the realization of the MVA regional wastewater reclamation system as much as anyone, as I administratively managed the project from October 2021 - April 2025, at no net cost to MVA.

I only disagree that public funding should be used.

One experience I navigated was an event when an MVA wastewater working group leader gave me a direct order in a Zoom call to share all other vendor pricing information with David Whitney of EcoSolutions, before Mr. Whitney had provided a quote for the same work. I refused. I verbally "fought" to not do so. To me, the order ruined my due diligence financial analysis, which I had invested so much time into after interacting with 19 providers, but I felt I would be fired if I did not comply.

I handed over all other vendor pricing info to Mr. Whitney, against my will, because I believed it was not technically illegal, as no active procurement was happening at the time. David Whitney provided a bid just under the lowest bidder, and now appears to have the engineer position and contract.

I have many other incidences like this to report (with documentation), that indicate to me that the Ma'alaea community is better geared to spending private funding. I have a complete plan in place to deliver the entire project with philanthropy, with no funding invested by taxpayers for one of Maui's most significant profit centers for ecotourism.

Also, the original origin of the first allocation by \$9.5 of SRF was a call with Member King's staff, who asked for ideas about the best use of a slot in her amendment allocation for wastewater. Later, it was my name on the \$1.25 mil budget request awarded to MVA in a previous budget season.

In good faith, I cannot support any further tax dollars be allocated into a community with past and present leaders who are major leaders in the oil industry, a foreign-owned billionaire-aligned corporation, and ecotourism operations discharging into the Ma'alaea Harbor WWTP, which has had no valid wastewater permits since at least 2015.

Everyone agrees the Ma'alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System project should proceed. It just needs to happen without taxpayer investment, and the stars are aligning to deliver such a solution to the good people of Ma'alaea, with nonpublic funding, which will allow community leaders the flexibility, in procurement and administration, to which they are accustomed and adapted.

This is my due-diligence determination on the project after years of investment of time. I wish to see the project succeed as much as anyone, just not with taxpayer funding. The success of the project need not be linked in anyone's mind to taxpayer spending.

Aloha,

Travis A. Liggett, M.S.
+1 (808) 291-9934
travis.liggett@gmail.com

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:20am 04-23-26

Shame on this Council.

You have discussed roughly \$30 million in cuts while adding about \$40 million in new spending. That is not a reduction. That is a bigger budget dressed up to look responsible.

And this is happening while Maui's economy is tightening. The state just lost two PGA tournaments that brought millions in visitor spending to this island. Shipping costs keep rising, driving up the price of food, fuel, building materials and basic goods that every family depends on. Families across Maui—from the West Side to Upcountry to Paia—are tightening their personal budgets just to keep up with the cost of living.

Yet inside the council chambers the conversation continues about expanding funds, grants, programs, and nonprofit spending as if the County operates in some protected bubble.

Here is the reality: residents balance their checkbooks every month. When costs go up, they cut spending and prioritize essentials.

This Council should be able to do the same.

Right now many of us are wondering whether anyone sitting at that table actually knows how to balance a checkbook. And if you claim you do, then open the books and show us how fiscally responsible you are in your own lives.

Because from where the public is sitting, it looks like government spending keeps growing while residents are expected to absorb the consequences.

A \$1.6 billion county budget deserves real scrutiny, not symbolic cuts and political choreography.

For these reasons, I remain in opposition to this proposed budget and the direction these deliberations are taking.

Jolee Bindo, Waikapu Resident

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:07pm 04-22-26

Support for 2027 Budget Allocation – Maalaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System

Dear Maui County Council Members,

My name is John Astilla. I am a Maui resident, an environmental professional, and a surfer. I am writing in strong support of the proposed 2027 budget allocation for the regional wastewater reclamation system in M__alaea.

For decades, we have relied on the same approaches to wastewater management, and the results are clear - continued degradation of our nearshore waters, declining reef health, and ongoing impacts to the community's use of M__alaea Bay. We cannot expect different outcomes if we continue to do the same thing. This project represents an opportunity to take a different path, one that reflects what we have learned and responds to the urgency of the situation.

What makes this effort especially meaningful is its mauka-to-makai approach. By removing wastewater pollution at its source, we can directly improve water quality in M__alaea Bay while strengthening the broader network of restoration work already underway such as upland forest and stream restoration, native planting, coral and limu outplanting, and dune ecosystem protection. This kind of coordination is exactly what's needed to create real, lasting change.

The benefits extend beyond environmental restoration. Expanding access to R-1 water will improve firefighting capacity in high-risk areas and reduce pressure on our limited potable water supply. Just as importantly, this system can serve as a practical, community-based model for wastewater management across Hawai_i, showing that we are capable of implementing solutions that are both effective and locally grounded.

This is more than an infrastructure investment. It is a decision about the kind of future we want for Maui. We have an opportunity to move beyond incremental fixes and invest in a solution that addresses root causes, protects our natural resources, and builds long-term resilience for our community.

I respectfully urge you to support this funding and help move this project forward.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and commitment to the well-being of our island and future generations.

Sincerely,

John Astilla

(808) 385-4136

jcvastilla@gmail.com

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:07pm 04-22-26

Support for 2027 Budget Allocation – Maalaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System

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I respectfully urge you to support this funding and help move this project forward.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and commitment to the well-being of our island and future generations.

Sincerely,

John Astilla

(808) 385-4136

jcvastilla@gmail.com

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:26pm 04-22-26

Subject: Support for 2027 Budget Allocation – Regional Wastewater Reclamation System

Dear Maui County Council Members,

My name is Dray Wilson, I am born and raised here on Maui. I am writing to express my strong support for the 2027 budget allocation for the regional wastewater reclamation system.

While surfing at Ma'alaea I got the the worst skin rash of my life. It started itching while I was surfing and when I got in, I immediately rinsed off but it wouldn't stop. It was horrible and felt like my skin was on fire. I have surfed in all over the island and have never experience anything like that before. I believe the waste water pollution at Maya is causing this and it's an absolute crime to the people and the 'ina.

I believe this project is a critical component of one of Hawai'i's most comprehensive watershed restoration efforts. The system will provide lasting benefits to both our community and environment—from mauka to makai—by:

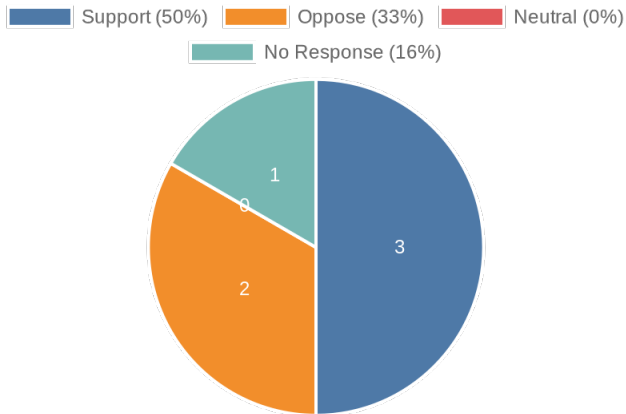
- * Removing wastewater pollution in M__alaea Bay
- * Strengthening collaboration across restoration efforts, including upland forest, Kanaio stream, native planting, coral and limu outplanting, and dune ecosystem and endangered species protection
- * Enhancing firefighting capacity through access to R-1 water in high-risk areas
- * Serving as a community-driven model for cesspool conversion across the Hawaiian Islands
- * Reducing strain on limited potable water resources

This investment represents a forward-thinking approach to environmental stewardship, public health, and long-term resilience. Mahalo for your consideration and for supporting projects that benefit current and future generations.

Sincerely,
Dray Wilson
(808)443-4090

Agenda Item: eComments for BFED-1 PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)

Overall Sentiment



BFED Committee

Location:
Submitted At: 9:03pm 04-23-26

Testimonies received from BFED Committee

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:56am 04-23-26

Sierra Club Maui Group April 22, 2026
PO Box 791180, Pa'ia, HI 96779

To: BFED Committee

Aloha Chair Sugimura, Vice Chair Batangan and Committee Members

Re: Request to support funding for Ma'alaea Wastewater treatment facility

Sierra Club and other local groups have long supported a solution for the upgrade of sewage treatment options from the Ma'alaea area. The solution proposed, a state of the art package treatment facility that produces high quality R-1 water that can be utilized for irrigation and fire-fighting deserves the support of Maui County.

When the County Planners and elected officials, in their wisdom, designated the Ma'aalea shoreline from single-family to multi-family/condominium zoning in 1970, Maui County was in the process of building a new federally funded sewage treatment plant in Kihei. All of the other rezoned multi-family and hotel areas of Kihei and Wailea were connected to this new sewage treatment plant, but not Ma'alaea.

Instead, the Ma'alaea condos, as they were built in the 1970's were urged by the powers that be to buy individual modular wastewater treatment units. Some of these units were even purchased from the County's pre-1970's wastewater facility. Dependence upon these inadequate units has lead to heavy loads of nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in the waters of Ma'alaea Bay. Even the state's Ma'alaea harbor, one of the largest income-generating small harbors in Hawaii, is unsewered- depending upon a high-level septic system. It is long beyond time to invest in proper infrastructure for these income generating areas.

Meanwhile, there is an active need for R-1 irrigation level water in the Ma'alaea area- the very same high quality R-1 water the proposed Ma'alaea Wastewater plant would produce. The transition from 800 condo units sending their inadequately treated wastewater into Ma'alaea Bay, to making that same water stream available as high quality R-1 water, is part of longer term ecological efforts for the watershed lands overlooking Ma'alaea Bay.

These long-term efforts are supported by State Dept of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW), Maui County Sea Grant program, Ma'aalea Village Association, Sierra Club Maui, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council and many other community groups. The master plan is to reverse years of erosional damage and sedimentation of Ma'alaea Bay through stormwater management and use of R-1 water from the Ma'alaea plant to create irrigated green ways for fire suppression.

There are also plans for tanks to hold R-1 water from the Ma'aalea Plant for actual firefighting. R-1 water could also be used to replace hundreds of thousands of gallons a day of County DWS potable water now used in the Ma'alaea area for landscape irrigation. That water would then be available for domestic users in south Maui. These are all outcomes that benefit all the residents of Maui County. All that is needed is the treatment plant.

The Ma'alaea Wastewater Treatment Plant will also serve as an example of a community-driven model for cesspool conversion to regional treatment plants designed to re-use all effluent. Compact residential areas like Kulamalu, in upcountry Maui could benefit from this model, as well as other unsewered areas across the Hawaiian Islands.

Please support this important infrastructure priority in the 2027 budget

Lucienne De Naie, Chairperson, Sierra ClubMaui Group

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:45am 04-23-26

April 23, 2026

Aloha BFED Committee,

My name is Lisa Darcy and I am the Founder and Director of Share Your Mana, a Maui nonprofit created in 2017 to address the needs of those living unhoused and unsheltered. We are dedicated to proactive, root causes to advocate for and provide healthy policy and procedures which assist those in poverty into safe living conditions thus reducing the need and cost for emergency and police services.

Subject: Shifting financial supports to be proactive in the 2027 Maui County Budget

For consideration:

I. Office of the Mayor pg 14(2) Houseless Solutions (c) Grants solutions

(2) (3) (4) c Aegaeon LLC

Current budget proposal:

Makawao - Clean and Safe 80k

P__ia Clean and Safe 530k

Kihei Clean and Safe 480k

1.09 MILLION \$

I have testified previously that investing in this program is reactive, continues harm, and does not provide any substantive process to remedy the needs of those in need. This is a unbelievable amount of money for a program which has no statistical evidence to make any substantive changes or assistance in the community which cannot be achieved through supporting related nonprofits. In light of the fact that there is only one day programs/drop-in program, and not any safe sleeping options while hundreds are forced to live on the streets, funding in this capacity in no way actually addresses the needs in terms of prevention. It is reactive. I urge the Council to invest in proactive programs which have trained advocates, such as Share Your Mana vs avoiding the actual needs. SYM could open drop-in programs in each area with this funding. Any program that uses the term vagrancy is out of touch with the actual needs of the community members.

As stated on the website, "Holding people accountable for their actions on your property lets people know your expectations and will deter future problems," said Clean & Safe

PO Box 1105 Makawao HI 96768 lisa@shareyourmana.org

Program Director Lawrence Kauha'aha'a. "The Clean & Safe team is available from 7 am to 7 pm every day to help people if they want help; but when safety, sanitation or property damage becomes a factor, it is important not to ignore it. Working with police and possibly filing a police report or showing up in court may seem like a nuisance, but it ultimately is an investment in your property and Wailuku Town."

This money would be effective if it was funding a location where people could rest out of the sun and charge their devices which are necessary for their health and safety. To fund these programs is to compound already impossible living needs the county is delinquent in providing.

Clean & Safe Program Director Lawrence Kauha'aha'a provides a few tips to reduce vagrancy issues for property and business owners:

- Promptly remove and/or dis-pose of personal belongings left on your property that are not part of the business.

- Ensure all exterior power outlets are disabled when not in use by the business.

- Gate or barricade alcoves or sheltered spaces that might be attractive to sleep.

- Get a camera system that sends notifications to your phone.

- Call the police when someone is trespassing. Provide a trespass letter to the Police Department authorizing them to issue trespass violations when you are not present. No one but the MPD should be doing this...giving this right to an employee is an abuse of power and is a slippery slope.

II. Pg 23 From P__ia -Haiku Community Plan

Holomua Gates 750K – why not shift monies to Holomua outreach for temp sheltering supports?

III. Also, please prioritize funding AND building bus shelters this year in Kahului, Kula, and P__ia. I have been advocating for almost two decades to ensure kupuna and those with disabilities have the needed infrastructure to utilize the public bus.

Mahalo for your consideration, Lisa Darcy

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:54am 04-23-26

Chair and Members of the Council,

I submit this testimony in firm opposition to the proposed FY2027 budget and to the direction these budget deliberations have taken.

The public has now watched this Council debate roughly \$30 million in cuts while adding approximately \$40 million in new spending. That is not fiscal discipline. That is a larger budget presented as reform. When government proposes a \$1.6 billion budget, arguing over a few million dollars in symbolic reductions does not demonstrate responsibility—it demonstrates theater.

This is happening while Maui's economic conditions are tightening in multiple ways.

The State has now lost two PGA tournaments that brought significant visitor spending and international exposure to Maui's economy. Shipping costs to Hawai'i continue to rise, increasing the price of food, fuel, building materials, and nearly every essential good residents rely on. Families across this island—from Lahaina to Kula to Paia—are tightening their household budgets every month simply to keep up with the cost of living.

At the same time, the County itself has adopted Bill 9, which reduces the visitor accommodation base that generates Transient Accommodations Tax revenue. Whether one supports or opposes that policy, it unquestionably requires serious fiscal planning and responsibility because the tax base that supports County operations will change.

Every one of these realities demands financial discipline from government.

Yet this Council is doing the opposite.

Instead of tightening the budget, the Council continues expanding funds, grants, programs, nonprofit subsidies, and discretionary spending that fall outside the core responsibilities of county government.

Departments such as Human Concerns have effectively become clearinghouses for taxpayer money, distributing millions through grant programs that show little measurable progress on the underlying problems they claim to address. Meanwhile, basic infrastructure responsibilities remain unresolved.

For example, the Ma'alaea wastewater system has been discussed on County agendas for decades without completion. This is basic infrastructure that affects water quality, environmental protection, and community health. Yet when funding for essential projects like this is discussed, the public is told taxes must increase.

At the same time, millions continue to be directed toward discretionary nonprofit funding and grant programs.

That contrast is obvious to the public.

Residents are told that essential infrastructure requires higher taxes while discretionary spending continues to expand.

Equally troubling is the tone of these proceedings. Many residents who take the time to testify and attempt to work within the system are met with visible impatience or dismissal. Yet when organizations aligned with the Council's priorities appear seeking funding, the reception is very different.

That disparity undermines public trust.

Maui residents balance their budgets every month. When income becomes uncertain and costs rise, families cut spending and prioritize essentials.

Government should be held to the same standard.

Instead, we are watching elected officials manage a \$1.6 billion county budget as if consequences do not exist,

expanding obligations while economic warning signs continue to accumulate.

The residents of Maui deserve better than symbolic cuts, political theater, and budgets written to satisfy special interests.

For these reasons, I remain in strong opposition to the FY2027 proposed budget and to the irresponsible direction these deliberations continue to take.

The people of Maui deserve a government that exercises the same financial discipline they are forced to live with every day.

Edward Codelia, Maui Resident

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 9:31am 04-23-26

Subject: Support for 2027 Budget Allocation – Regional Wastewater Reclamation System

Dear Maui County Council Members,

My name is Dustin Paradis, and I am the Executive Director for The Marine Institute, a 501c3 nonprofit in Ma'alaea. I am writing to express my strong support for the 2027 budget allocation for the regional wastewater reclamation system.

I believe this project is a critical component of one of Hawai'i's most comprehensive watershed restoration efforts. The system will provide lasting benefits to both our community and environment—from mauka to makai—by:

- * Removing wastewater pollution in M__alaea Bay
- * Strengthening collaboration across restoration efforts, including upland forest, Kanaio stream, native planting, coral and limu outplanting, and dune ecosystem and endangered species protection
- * Enhancing firefighting capacity through access to R-1 water in high-risk areas
- * Serving as a community-driven model for cesspool conversion across the Hawaiian Islands
- * Reducing strain on limited potable water resources

As the leader for a natural resource conservation organization, I feel mitigating the chronic anthropogenic stressors on our marine environment is of the utmost importance and I strongly urge the Maui County Council to consider funding this project.

This investment represents a forward-thinking approach to environmental stewardship, public health, and long-term resilience. Mahalo for your consideration and for supporting projects that benefit current and future generations.

Respectfully,
Dustin Paradis
The Marine Institute
dustin@mocmarineinstitute.org

Lynn Britton

Location:

Submitted At: 5:20pm 04-22-26

Aloha,

Please accept my testimony supporting funding for Ma'alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System.

Mahalo for your consideration and continued support,

Lynn Britton

MAUI  NUI
MARINE RESOURCE COUNCIL

April 22, 2026

Aloha Councilmembers,

The Maui Nui Marine Resource Council strongly supports the FY27 budget allocation in Bill 55 to support efforts to eliminate the use of injection wells at Māʻālaea Village via the Māʻālaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System (MRWRS).

MNMRC is actively advancing a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Coastal Resilience proposal focused on Māʻālaea Bay that takes a comprehensive, mauka to makai approach to reducing coastal hazards and restoring ecosystem function. This effort addresses the primary drivers of reef decline in Māʻālaea, including nutrient pollution and sedimentation, through coordinated watershed restoration, dune and coastal habitat restoration, and coral reef recovery.

Reduction of wastewater derived nutrient inputs is a central component of this strategy. Without addressing wastewater at its source, the effectiveness of downstream investments in reef restoration, dune stabilization, and watershed management is significantly limited. The MRWRS is therefore a foundational element of the broader resilience framework needed to achieve measurable improvements in water quality and reef health.

The NFWF proposal represents a \$6,000,000 federal request with more than \$6,700,000 in matching funds already identified, including County investments tied directly to the wastewater facility infrastructure. Continued County funding in FY27 is essential to maintain this alignment and to ensure that Maui remains competitive for these significant federal resources. This investment provides a clear opportunity to leverage local funding into substantially larger implementation dollars that will deliver long-term benefits to Maui.

MNMRC's water quality monitoring and field experience consistently show that nutrient pollution remains a major stressor to Maui's reefs. Addressing this through infrastructure investments such as the Māʻālaea system is one of the most effective actions available to support reef recovery and long-term coastal resilience.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,



Amy Hodges

Executive Director

Maui Nui Marine Resource Council

Working together to preserve, protect, and enhance the coral reefs of Maui Nui.

MAUIREEFS.ORG

PO BOX 331204, KAHULUI, HI 96733

MNMRC@MAUIREEFS.ORG

(808) 707-5056

BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 8:21 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: FW: BFED Committee Written Testimony
Attachments: 260423_MRWRS County Budget Support.pdf

From: Amy Hodges <amy@mauireefs.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 7:58 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Cc: Anissa Lucero <anissa@ecosoldesigns.com>
Subject: BFED Committee Written Testimony




You don't often get email from amy@mauireefs.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Please accept the attached supportive written testimony for the Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee's agenda item found in Bill 55, to support efforts to eliminate the use of injection wells at Ma'alaea Village.

Mahalo



Amy Hodges
Executive Director

 amy@mauireefs.org
 808.707.5056
 mauireefs.org
 @mauireefs
 PO Box 331204 Kahului HI 96733

BFED Committee

From: Anissa Lucero <anissa@ecosoldesigns.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 11:13 AM
To: County Clerk; BFED Committee
Subject: Info Submission - Maalaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System
Attachments: WWWG Functions Policy (1).pdf; Final FAQs_20260423.docx.pdf; Maalaea Permitting Gantt chart_20251205 - Gantt Chart.pdf

Some people who received this message don't often get email from anissa@ecosoldesigns.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha BFED Committee,

Please find the attached supporting documents for the Mā'alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System (MRWRS).

- **FAQs** - Questions and Answers About the MRWRS Project
- **Wastewater Working Group Functions Policy** - Leadership Structure Overview
- **2026 Gantt chart** - Project Timeline for Design and Permitting

Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Me ke Aloha,
Anissa Lucero
Mā'alaea Wastewater Working Group

Date: April 23, 2026

Wastewater Working Group (WWG) Functions Policy

Wastewater Working Group Members

Owner: MVA

Owner Representatives:

Tanci - MVA Board President, represents MVA Board of Directors and approves or rejects WWG proposed activities. Both Tanci and Tapani need to agree.

Tapani - MVA Board Member, represents MVA Board of Directors and approves or rejects WWG proposed activities. Both Tanci and both Tanci & Tapani.

Paul - MVA Board Treasurer, represents MVA Board of Directors and oversees budget and spending related activities.

Technical Consultants: EcoSolutions (EcoSol)

EcoSol Representatives:

Dave - Principal Engineer is the professional engineer responsible for the design and permitting of this project.

Anissa - Project Manager that oversees and organizes all project policies, related activities such as grant application preparation, generating WWG meeting minutes, scheduling and coordination; Public Relations.

Brian - Administrative Project Manager is the WWG grant compliance officer, WWG policy compliance, accounting activities related to funding, quickbooks management, MVA accounting coordination and preparation of any associated reporting requirements for these activities.

Please note the roles and responsible descriptions listed above are not designed to cover a comprehensive list of activities, duties or responsibilities that are required of the members of the WWG.

Date: April 23, 2026

Wastewater Working Group Functions Policy

1. Overview

The main function of the Wastewater Working Group (WWG) is to set grand strategic goals and develop an overarching vision for the Ma'alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System (MRWRS). The WWG is a committee of the Ma'alaea Village Association (MVA). The group comes together through regular meetings (Mondays at 3pm) to set objectives for the organization, programs, fundraising and project managers with measurable and specific objectives. The WWG bears the responsibility for moving the project (MRWRS) in a productive direction to reach its goals.

2. Representation

The WWG shall be made up of a diverse group of representatives that include MVA Members and technical consultants such as MVA board members, engineers, and consultants; different project involvement; and diverse demographics (i.e. ethnicity, sex, age). This ensures that strategic decision-making is intended to help ensure positive and constructive relationships with all those involved in the development of the MRWRS.

3. Duty to Follow Legal Documents

Each WWG member is responsible for reading and having an understanding of all legal documents (MVA Articles and Bylaws in conjunction with any Independent Contractor Agreements and/or other contracts) and for ensuring that the WWG as a whole follows the requirements they contain.

4. Wastewater Working Group Meetings

The WWG shall assemble weekly to:

- Discuss management of the MRWRS finances;
- Make decisions by majority vote;
- Address the concerns of MVA members;
- Discuss the WWG goals and strategies for development and fundraising; and
- Approve contracts such as MOUs with key project partners

5. Meeting Procedures

WWG meetings are important and should be conducted in a businesslike manner. This is where plans and policies are made, project development reviewed, and decisions reached for the guidance of Project Managers. Discussions should be full, but limited to the business at hand. An agenda (except for emergency items) for the meeting shall be prepared in advance by the project manager and emailed to the members the day of the meeting (Monday at 10 AM).

A suggested outline for a WWG meeting is:

- Meeting should start within five (5) minutes of the time stated in the board meeting notice;
- Confirm that meeting minutes from previous meeting have been sent;
- Management operational reports and any additional proposed agenda items

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- Unfinished business;
- Review important correspondences of which WWG should be advised;
- Discuss plans for financial improvement for the project; and
- New project activities.

6. WWG Meeting Minutes

WWG minutes constitute an important legal and historical record of the policies and non-profit activities of the WWG. They are a valuable record for guidance of management about policy actions and directives. They also provide a source of information for MVA board meetings and actions to be reported. During the meeting the minutes shall be generated by Zoom AI, reviewed and updated to ensure correctness, after the meeting notes are cleaned up and uploaded to the WWG shared Google Drive folder, and they are emailed and shared with MVA board members for review and comment.

The minutes shall include:

- Date, place, and time of meeting;
- A record attendees;
- A brief statement of all matters pertaining to the activities of the WWG during the meeting;
- Highlights of the project manager and treasurers reports, such as project status, expenses, earnings; and
- Minutes are sent to MVA board members via email, and at the subsequent meeting there is confirmation that minutes have been sent.

7. Policy Development

The WWG functions as a policy-making body when it comes to high level project needs.

8. Financial Functions

The WWG is actively involved in the budgeting and financial reporting processes of the foundation, as well as in setting financial goals for the MRWRS project managers.

9. Hiring

The WWG is responsible for recruiting project contractors and vendors, who are then responsible to fulfill WWG activities. Program managers are authorized by the WWG to take whatever actions are necessary to conduct the MRWRS project activities, including operations, control of all expenses and program activities within the framework of policies established by the WWG.

10. WWG Supervision of Members and Activities

MVA shall have absolute authority and responsibility to select WWG members. The WWG may terminate membership by a simple majority vote in cases where WWG members are not performing consistent with the needs of the MRWRS project. MVA gives the WWG the authority and responsibility to select contractors and vendors, negotiate their contracts based on budgets and funding approved by the MVA Board of Directors. The WWG will provide a monthly budget

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and activity summary to the MVA Board. , assign duties to WWG members, and terminate contracts in cases where the contractor is not performing to the WWG standards.

11. WWG Use of Outside Consultants

The WWG is responsible, with the consultation of project managers, for recruiting such outside consultants as may be necessary. These consultants may include, but are not limited to accountants, lawyers, and engineers.

12. Conflict of Interest

The WWG shall hold the interest of the MVA's organization as a whole above members' own personal interests at all times. Each member of the WWG shall complete a conflict of interest form and have it reviewed and approved by the WWG members as well as the MVA Board of Directors. If upon review by the MVA board, any WWG member is in the bounds of conflict of interest, they shall be asked to resign. (Failure to resign shall result in action as provided by the MVA bylaws.)

13. Confidentiality

Each member of the WWG shall complete a non-disclosure agreement and provide a signed copy to the WWG and MVA. The WWG will strictly hold all private information as confidential at all times. This includes sensitive matters related to MVA and WWG members (program directors, hires, contractors and vendors).

14. Insurance

The WWG together shall determine through annual review that all phases of the MRWRS project are adequately protected by insurance coverage, and report findings to the MVA Board of Directors as soon as possible after the review. The MVA Board of Directors shall ensure that actions are taken to correct any deficiencies.

15. Resolutions

All resolutions must be approved by the WWG by a majority vote prior to presenting or publishing to the MVA Board of Directors or public.

16. Public Relations

WWG members function as intermediaries between MVA, external donors, grant officers at conferences and events. In this way, WWG members represent the face of the MVA and MRWRS project when dealing with the public and potential donors/supporters.

All communications will consistently project the desired image of a well-managed, values-driven and democratically-controlled committee established to improve the wellbeing of the MVA members, its surrounding environment and the public at large.

17. Communications

The WWG will actively communicate with MVA members, patrons being served, other organizations, and the public, as appropriate, and in keeping with the MRWRS project planning.

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Attitudes and feedback about the MRWRS or WWG shall be gathered and recorded and the information will be used to shape future actions and policy.

The WWG will proactively communicate information to MVA members, such as providing updated policies and procedures, changes in WWG committee leadership, and opportunities for becoming involved in the directive or operations of the MRWRS.

And will provide opportunities for MVA members to voice their concerns and suggestions for improvement; the WWG will also allow members to add items to the WWG agenda, with seven (7) days written notice before the next scheduled meeting.

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What is Mā‘alaea Village?

Mā‘alaea Village is a community in South Maui near Kīhei and consists of:

- The Mā‘alaea Boat Harbor with both commercial and private boats
- The commercial triangle with nine commercial properties including the Harbor Shops, the Maui Ocean Center and other businesses
- 10 condominiums
- 1 remaining house and a vacant one-acre lot zoned apartment
- Several private homes on the cliff side along Honoapi‘ilani Hwy.

What is the current wastewater situation and health of Mā‘alaea Bay?

- Mā‘alaea Bay’s coral reefs are near total collapse.
- As shown in Coral Reef Assessment & Monitoring Programs, the Bay went from 75% living coral coverage in 1995 to less than 8% in 2005, <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/dar/files/2014/04/MauiReefDeclines.pdf>
- Today, the Bay has less than 5% living coral coverage.
- There are a total of 24 injection wells that discharge more than 100,000 gallons of wastewater every day into Mā‘alaea Bay.
- No reef means no fish, no sand production & no shoreline protection.
- Mā‘alaea Bay is listed by the EPA on the 303.D list of impaired waters.

What has caused the environmental destruction in Mā‘alaea?

- Excessive sedimentation: Rainwater brings dirt and mud from the highway and from the hills above Mā‘alaea. Mauka stream flows have been diverted from reaching the natural filtration of the Mā‘alaea mudflats. This problem causes brown water events. This issue is fixable with land restoration efforts which have already started.
- Excessive wastewater pollution: Contaminants including excess nutrients, PFAs (forever chemicals), pharmaceuticals and pathogens are carried in our wastewater and quickly percolate into the groundwater and out into the ocean. The proposed Mā‘alaea wastewater treatment system, will not only address wastewater pollution by eliminating discharge, but will also tackle sedimentation by establishing a vigorous windbreak and fire break with native, canoe crop and functional plant species.

Why build a regional wastewater treatment system for Mā‘alaea Village?

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- There is one simple overriding reason:
To clean up Mā‘alaea Bay and restore the nearshore marine ecosystem (the coral reefs, the limu, the ‘ōpae (shrimp), the baby fish and the seashells). These restoration efforts will support new sand creation and in turn increase protection against coastal erosion.
- Nature is very resilient. If we can clean up the bay, nature can regenerate. We truly can restore the coastal ecosystem— healthy reefs, increase fish populations and improve many other ecological services all while preserving associated economic benefits for locals and visitors alike.

Who is the Mā‘alaea Village Association?

The Mā‘alaea Village Association (MVA) represents the entire Mā‘alaea Village community. This includes Maui long term residents, condo resident owners, second homeowners that do not rent out, STR owners, the Commercial Triangle businesses and visitors.

- The purpose of the MVA is to protect the unique community of Mā‘alaea Village; to improve communication between stakeholders; and to educate the Mā‘alaea/Maui communities and elected officials on the need to preserve and share Mā‘alaea Village’s rural, ocean-oriented sense of place, for the benefit of all.
- The MVA is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. The board and its representatives has taken the initiative over the last 7 years to research and pursue alternatives to the known negatives of injection wells. Thousands of volunteer hours have been invested in this project. County, state and federal funds have also been invested, along with private donors.
- The MVA has gained national attention with this project. We have been told that this proactive effort by the Mā‘alaea community to clean up Mā‘alaea Bay has been unique within the wastewater world. We hope that we can be successful. Please consider supporting this effort. [Donate and be a part of building the Mā‘alaea Regional Wastewater System](#)

How will the nearshore marine ecosystem restoration in Mā‘alaea Bay take place?

- The Maui Ocean Center and other conservation organizations have the seedstocks necessary to reestablish the native coral and limu species in Mā‘alaea Bay. However, these corals would not be able to survive and propagate until the water quality within Mā‘alaea Bay is healthy enough to be able to sustain them.

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What is the Mā‘alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System (MRWRS)?

- The Mā‘alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System (MRWRS) is a community-driven approach to clean up Mā‘alaea Bay. This effort will need the support from everyone who benefits including residents, tourists and the authorities.
- A wastewater reclamation system that will provide R-1 water, which is an asset that can be used for landscaping and crop irrigation.
- The project plan includes creating a large greenbelt of native plants that will serve as a windbreak and a firebreak for the community which is vulnerable to wildfires.
- The regional wastewater reclamation system will save over six million gallons of fresh water a year that is currently being used for landscaping.

Who and what makes up the current community in Mā‘alaea?

- Mā‘alaea consists of 10 condos with a total of 567 living units. This is the equivalent of between 1,100 and 2,200 people depending on occupancy.
- Of the 352 units, 62% are short-term rentals (STR) and 215 units, 38% are long term residences (LTR).
- The Mā‘alaea Triangle Association (MTA) comprises nine commercial properties that includes Harbor Shops, Maui Ocean Center, Starbucks, a Gas Station, Carl’s Jr, and a Golf and Sports Park. These businesses have a wide-reaching positive impact in the community by employing community members and supporting many community services.
- There are also several houses along Honoapiilani Highway on the cliffs above the Bay that could be part of the treatment system.
- The State of Hawai‘i Mā‘alaea Boat Harbor is also part of the community, and they are currently operating their own small wastewater treatment system that is leaking and needs to be replaced. They are also on their own injection well that is polluting the Bay.

Who is leading the MRWRS and what is the leadership framework?

- Overview: The main function of the Wastewater Working Group (WWG) is to set grand strategic goals and develop an overarching vision for the Mā‘alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System

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(MRWRS). The WWG is a committee of the Ma'alaea Village Association (MVA). The group comes together through regular meetings (Mondays at 3pm) to set objectives for the organization, programs, fundraising and project managers with measurable and specific objectives. The WWG bears the responsibility for moving the project (MRWRS) in a productive direction to reach its goals.

- Representation: The WWG shall be made up of a diverse group of representatives that include MVA Members and technical consultants such as MVA board members, engineers, and consultants; different project involvement; and diverse demographics (i.e. ethnicity, sex, age). This ensures that strategic decision-making is intended to help ensure positive and constructive relationships with all those involved in the development of the MRWRS.

What are Injection wells?

- An injection well is a pipe that extends from the ground surface down into the groundwater. Solids are removed and wastewater is discharged into these pipes. This sewage water is released into the porous rock underground where it is diluted in the groundwater. Natural flows take this groundwater into the ocean. The wastewater for each of the injection wells serving the Mā'alaea community is required to be treated but there is no limit on nutrients such as nitrogen and phosphorus, and there is no disinfection required.

Are injection wells legal?

- As of today, in Hawai'i, injection wells are legal, but the U.S. Supreme Court has already ruled that they contribute to water quality pollution and need to be replaced.
- The Department of Health Administrative Rules (Title 11, Chapter 23) provide conditions governing the location, construction, and operation of injection wells so that injected fluids do not migrate and pollute underground sources of drinking water.
- The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) oversees the Underground Injection Control (UIC) program.
- The Mā'alaea injection wells (two for every system, 24 in total) are currently permitted and in compliance with regulations. Although they do not pollute drinking water, they are a known source of polluted water into the Bay.

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- No new injection well permits are being allowed by the Dept of Health, and existing ones will eventually need to be converted.

What other factors are impacting the health of Mā‘alaea Bay?

- Erosion and stormwater runoff also impact the bay. During storm events, water carries sediment, excess nutrients and pollutants from urban and agricultural areas.
- This issue is being addressed in the Mā‘alaea Mauka upland coastal areas where restoration projects are working to improve the landscape with native plantings and reforestation. Ultimately, ecological restoration will improve the soils, while enhancing water infiltration and reducing runoff.
- R1 reuse water from the Mā‘alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System (MRWRS) can be used to support these efforts by providing irrigation water and establishing plants in these areas.

Why fund a regional community wastewater treatment facility for the Mā‘alaea community?

- Mā‘alaea Bay, from Makena to the Mā‘alaea Boat Harbor, is a major economic engine for Maui’s people and visitors. Reversing the decay of Mā‘alaea Bay is important for everyone who lives on Maui. Visitors come to Maui for its environment and beauty. A healthy and vibrant marine ecosystem supports employment opportunities and economic security. A collapse of Mā‘alaea Bay would not just affect the local economy, it would affect everyone living on Maui.

How will the project be organized?

- The Mā‘alaea Village Association (MVA) is a nonprofit 501c3. The MVA will develop and operate MRWRS through a nonprofit 501c12 called the Mā‘alaea Wastewater Association.
- This unique corporation is organized as a "mutual" or "cooperative" utility that is similar in character to the electric company on Kauai. The MVA will also train and organize a work force with the proper talent to run the utility.

How is the County of Maui's Department of Environmental Management's (DEM) involved?

- The County of Maui has explained that they do not have the staffing levels, the technical knowledge, or the capacity to build, staff and manage this project.

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- This is not a DEM project. DEM is not required to play any role besides an advisory role in the development of this non-profit utility.
- Maui County maintains the right and option to take over this utility at any time.

Is this Mā‘alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System a bailout for the Mā‘alaea community?

- No, it is not.
- Mā‘alaea Village has working injection well systems with all the permits and permissions needed to operate. MVA is not required to fix the ecological problems of Mā‘alaea Bay, but they want to reverse the decline of Mā‘alaea Bay before it is too late. They are not mandated in any way to address the issue and do what is best for the Bay.
- All injection well permits renewed from the State Department of Health now require every injection well operator to shut down and connect to the regional wastewater system when it becomes available. All owners, including short term rental owners, will help pay the millions that it will cost to decommission their wastewater plants, decommission their injection wells, and connect to a sewer.
- The State of Hawai‘i Department of Health has been a supporter of this project.

Have CFDs been Considered?

- Yes, a Community Facilities District (CFD) is still on the table for funding construction. A CDF is time-consuming and could easily take ten years.

What is the financial status of this project?

- In this phase, the project has raised \$1.25 million dollars from private donations and a Federal grant.
- Matching County funds to prepare ground and provide a shovel-ready project with permits
- MVA is actively looking for funding for the installation.
 - [Donate and be a part of building the Mā‘alaea Regional Wastewater System](#) through the Mā‘alaea Village Association’s Special Projects fund. Reference “MRWRS” with your donation’s comment.
 - All donations are tax deductible.
 - Checks can be made to:
Mā‘alaea Village Association (MVA)
P.O. Box 2122
Wailuku, HI 96793

Has the State of Hawaii Mā‘alaea Harbor been a part of this project?

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- Sadly no. The State of Hawaii harbor manages the twelfth injection well system in the Mā'alaea community. The harbor management has not succeeded in any meaningful dialog.
- Mā'alaea Harbor currently has its own wastewater treatment plant that primarily serves the commercial boating operations within the harbor. The harbor wastewater plant is in terrible shape. It was not built with stainless steel, so this plant is full of corrosion and holes. It leaks effluent into the ground. It was overbuilt in size. This requires off-site (out-of-system) wastewater to be trucked into the plant to "seed" it to make sure the microbes can continue to work. The State of Hawaii has a major problem on its hands that they need to address. Working with the MRWRS team on wastewater would be an advantage.
- It would be a missed opportunity to develop a regional wastewater plant in Mā'alaea and not include the State of Hawaii owned Mā'alaea Boat Harbor in the system.

How does the Mā'alaea community pay for this project?

- The Mā'alaea community pays millions of dollars in General Excise Tax (GET) and Transient Accommodations Tax (TAT) to Maui County. They don't have a fire station, a police station or schools, so their taxes can help pay for this project.
- The plans for the Mā'alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System ensure that all stakeholders share in the costs of the system and contribute to it.
- Once the MRWRS is built, each user (the 10 condos and the commercial triangle and possibly the harbor) will be responsible for paying for their own connection to the new system.
- In addition, those using the MRWRS will be responsible for the ongoing operations and maintenance costs of the system, at no cost to Maui County.

How could the MRWRS support cesspool conversions statewide?

- This project can support others by showing that a community can proactively solve its wastewater problems– setting an example for other communities with clusters of cesspools and developing a highly skilled and knowledgeable local workforce, and by sharing research and experience.
- It is possible that other communities with clusters of cesspools, like Haili'imaile or Makawao to create regional wastewater plants without injection wells to serve their communities, all at a cost that is far less than installing individual septic system while creating R-1 water to help reduce stress on fresh potable water resources.

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MRWRS GANTT CHART



visual timeline for each task as well as project dependencies.

PROJECT TITLE Mā'alaea Regional Wastewater Reclamation System
 PROJECT MANAGER EcoSolutions

ORGANIZATION NAME Mā'alaea Wastewater Working Group
 DATE 4/23/26

WBS NUMBER	TASK TITLE	TASK OWNER	START DATE	DUE DATE	DURATION	PCT OF TASK COMPLETE	Q1 (JANUARY, FEBRUARY, MARCH)												Q2 (APRIL, MAY, JUNE)												Q3 (JULY, AUG., SEPT.)												Q4 (OCT., NOV., DEC.)											
							January				February				March				April				May				June				July				August				September				October				November				December			
							1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4				
1	Permit Application																																																					
1.1	Preliminary Grading and Grubbing	Civil & Landowner	1/1/26	8/31/26	240	5%	Design Phase												Permitting review																																			
1.1.1	Water Supply Application	Civil & Landowner	5/1/26	11/3/26	182	0%													Application Process												Application Review																							
1.3	DOH Wastewater Permit	Civil & Landowner	3/16/26	12/1/26	255	10%													Design & Application Process												Application Review																							
1.2	Building Permit	Civil, Architure, Structural & Landowner	6/15/26	12/1/26	166	0%													Permit Application Process												Application Review																							
2	Permit Application Review																																																					
2.1	Review Comments	Civil	5/1/26	1/1/27	240	0%													Review comments & response																																			
3	Detailed Construction Designs																																																					
3.1	Irrigation Plan	Civil	1/1/26	9/30/26	269	5%	Irrigation Planning & Design																																															
3.2	Planting Plan	Community & Civil	2/1/26	8/30/26	209	5%	Planting Planning & Design																																															
3.2.1	Structural Plans	Structural	2/1/26	9/1/26	210	0%													Structural planning & Design																																			
3.2.2	Electrical and Controls	Electrical	6/1/26	9/1/26	90	5%													Electrical Controls Design																																			
4	Construction Tasks																																																					
4.1	Fencing	Contractors	6/1/26	9/15/26	104	0%													Fencing design & construction																																			
4.2	Intial Grading and Grubbing	Contractors	8/15/26	11/1/26	76	0%																									Grading & Grubbing																							
4.3	Cover Crop	Contractors	9/9/26	11/1/27	412	0%																																					Cover cropping											
4.3	Water Supply	Contractors	9/1/26	11/7/26	66	0%																																					Water meter install											
4.3	Plant Nursery	Contractors	9/1/26	12/1/27	450	0%													Establish Plantings in Nursery																																			

BFED Committee

From: Lisa Darcy <lisa@shareyourmana.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2026 11:37 AM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Lisa Darcy
Subject: 2027 Budget considerations
Attachments: Budget 2027.pdf

You don't often get email from lisa@shareyourmana.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

April 23, 2026

Aloha BFED Committee,

My name is Lisa Darcy and I am the Founder and Director of Share Your Mana, a Maui nonprofit created in 2017 to address the needs of those living unhoused and unsheltered. We are dedicated to proactive, root causes to advocate for and provide healthy policy and procedures which assist those in poverty into safe living conditions thus reducing the need and cost for emergency and police services.

Subject: Shifting financial supports to be proactive in the 2027 Maui County Budget

For consideration:

I. Office of the Mayor pg 14(2) Houseless Solutions (c) Grants solutions

(2) (3) (4) c Aegaeon LLC

Current budget proposal:

Makawao -	Clean and Safe	80k
Pā'ia	Clean and Safe	530k
Kihei	Clean and Safe	480k

1.09 MILLION \$



I have testified previously that investing in this program is reactive, continues harm, and does not provide any substantive process to remedy the needs of those in need. This is an unbelievable amount of money for a program which has no statistical evidence to make any substantive changes or assistance in the community which cannot be achieved through supporting related nonprofits. In light of the fact that there is only one day programs/drop-in program, and not any safe sleeping options while hundreds are forced to live on the streets, funding in this capacity in no way actually addresses the needs in terms of prevention. It is reactive. I urge the Council to invest in proactive programs which have trained advocates, such as Share Your Mana vs avoiding the actual needs. SYM could open drop-in programs in each area with this funding. Any program that uses the term vagrancy is out of touch with the actual needs of the community members.

As stated on the website, “Holding people accountable for their actions on your property lets people know your expectations and will deter future problems,” said Clean & Safe



Program Director Lawrence Kauha'aha'a. "The Clean & Safe team is available from 7 am to 7 pm every day to help people if they want help; but when safety, sanitation or property damage becomes a factor, it is important not to ignore it. Working with police and possibly filing a police report or showing up in court may seem like a nuisance, but it ultimately is an investment in your property and Wailuku Town."

This money would be effective if it was funding a location where people could rest out of the sun and charge their devices which are necessary for their health and safety. To fund these programs is to compound already impossible living needs the county is delinquent in providing.

Clean & Safe Program Director Lawrence Kauha'aha'a provides a few tips to reduce vagrancy issues for property and business owners:

- Promptly remove and/or dis-pose of personal belongings left on your property that are not part of the business.
- Ensure all exterior power outlets are disabled when not in use by the business.
- Gate or barricade alcoves or sheltered spaces that might be attractive to sleep.
- Get a camera system that sends notifications to your phone.
- Call the police when someone is trespassing. Provide a trespass letter to the Police Department authorizing them to issue trespass violations when you are not present.
No one but the MPD should be doing this...giving this right to an employee is an abuse of power and is a slippery slope.

II. Pg 23 From Pā'ia -Haiku Community Plan

Holomua Gates 750K – why not shift monies to Holomua outreach for temp sheltering supports?

III. Also, please prioritize funding AND building bus shelters this year in Kahului, Kula, and Pā'ia. I have been advocating for almost two decades to ensure kupuna and those with disabilities have the needed infrastructure to utilize the public bus.

Mahalo for your consideration, Lisa Darcy

