

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-01-27 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 01-27-26 09:00

eComments Report

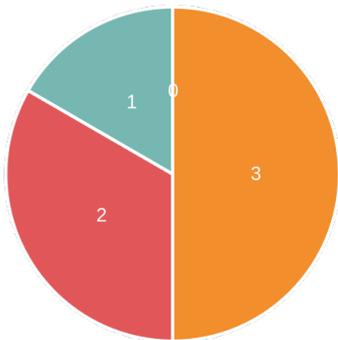
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-01-27 9:00 AM	01-27-26 09:00	5	6	0	3	2

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 (0%) Oppose (50%) Neutral (33%)
No Response (16%)



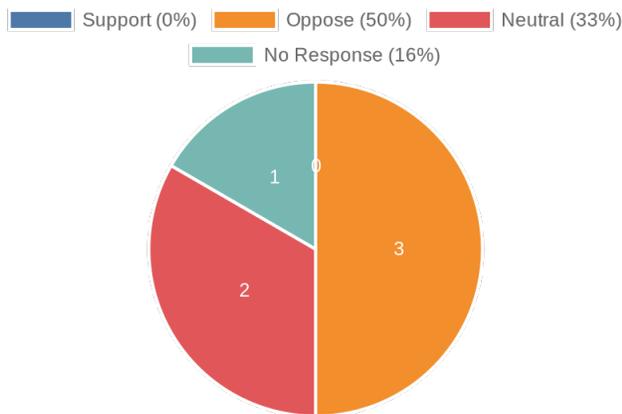
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2026-01-27 9:00 AM
01-27-26 09:00

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
BFED-47 Bill 2 BILL 2 (2026), AMENDING SECTION 2.56.080, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO SETTING THE SALARIES BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ESTABLISHING NEW PAY SCALES (BFED-47)	1	0	1	0
BFED-20(22) FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND FISCAL YEAR 2026 CARRYOVER/SAVINGS (BFED-20(22))	2	0	0	2
BFED-14 Bill 9 (2026) BILL 9, AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET: INCREASE ESTIMATED REVENUES, LICENSES, PERMITS, AND OTHER REVENUES; INCREASE GENERAL FUND CARRYOVER/SAVINGS; DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, TRANSFER TO THE GENERAL EXCISE TAX FUND; DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY, INCREASE EQUIVALENT PERSONNEL BY 10.0; AND DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS (BFED-14)	2	0	1	0
BFED-15 Bill 10 (2026) BILL 10 (2026), AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET: INCREASE ESTIMATED REVENUES, CARRYOVER/SAVINGS, GENERAL FUND; DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES PROGRAM, CATEGORY B - OPERATIONS & EQUIPMENT (BFED-15)	1	0	1	0

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

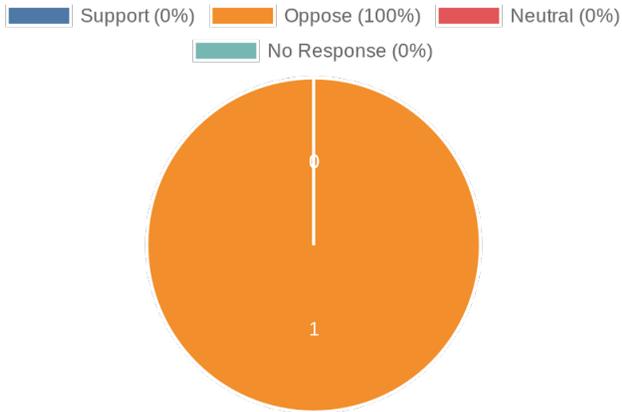
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Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for BFED-47 Bill 2 BILL 2 (2026), AMENDING SECTION 2.56.080, MAUI COUNTY CODE, RELATING TO SETTING THE SALARIES BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND ESTABLISHING NEW PAY SCALES (BFED-47)

Overall Sentiment



Edward Codelia

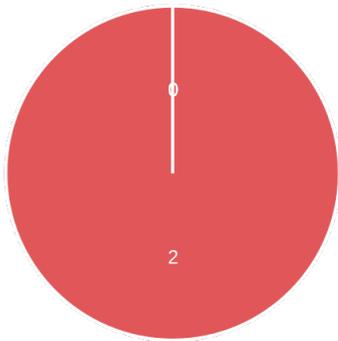
Location:

Submitted At: 8:20pm 01-21-26

I am submitting attached written testimony in opposition to Bill 2 (2026). This bill permanently transfers salary-setting authority for the Board of Ethics from the elected County Council to an internal executive structure without sufficient external oversight or review. My written testimony explains this concern in greater detail for the record.

Overall Sentiment

Support (0%) Oppose (0%) Neutral (100%)
No Response (0%)



Edward Codelia

Location:

Submitted At: 10:47pm 01-21-26

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the Department of Finance's responses and the opportunity to review the FY 2025 and FY 2026 carryover and savings information presented today. I recognize that this is an informational item and that no legislative action is being taken at this time.

The materials provided reflect a high level of institutional experience and technical competence. At the same time, long-standing systems and crisis-driven financial structures place an increased responsibility on all of us to ensure that public funds remain understandable and traceable to the communities they serve.

Several areas remain incomplete or deferred, including the absence of Capital Improvement Project detail, the exclusion of Department of Water Supply data, and the lack of readily available historical documentation for the creation and authorization of the Housing, Interim Financing, and Buyback Revolving Enterprise Fund. These gaps do not imply impropriety, but they do limit the public's ability to fully assess what funds are unavailable by legal necessity versus unavailable by convention or timing.

Additionally, the scale of unspent Category A and B/C appropriations, combined with significant revenue collections in excess of budget, suggests the need for ongoing reflection on how budgeting, execution capacity, and policy priorities are aligned. As experience and authority increase, so does the obligation to ensure that fiscal decisions are not only compliant, but clearly explained and periodically reexamined in a public setting.

I offer these comments in the spirit of stewardship and transparency, and I encourage the Committee to continue requesting complete information before future certifications or appropriations are advanced. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Edward Codelia

Maui Resident

Edward Codelia

Location:

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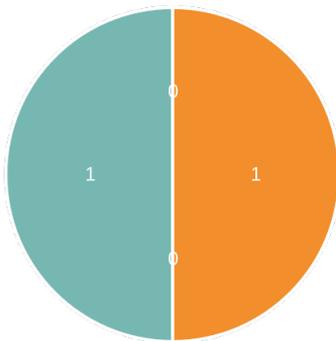
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Edward Codelia
Maui Resident

Agenda Item: eComments for BFED-14 Bill 9 (2026) BILL 9, AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET: INCREASE ESTIMATED REVENUES, LICENSES, PERMITS, AND OTHER REVENUES; INCREASE GENERAL FUND CARRYOVER/SAVINGS; DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, TRANSFER TO THE GENERAL EXCISE TAX FUND; DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY, INCREASE EQUIVALENT PERSONNEL BY 10.0; AND DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS FOR INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS (BFED-14)

Overall Sentiment

Support (0%) Oppose (50%) Neutral (0%)
No Response (50%)



Tiare Horner

Location:
Submitted At: 3:08pm 01-26-26
Revised Bill 9 (2026)

Edward Codelia

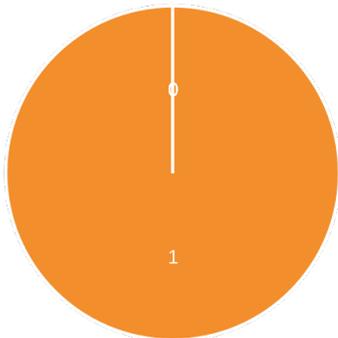
Location:
Submitted At: 8:39pm 01-21-26

I am submitting attached written testimony in opposition to Bill 9 (2026). This bill raises serious concerns regarding the use of one-time General Fund carryover to create permanent staffing and long-term operational obligations, the bundling of multiple major fiscal actions into a single amendment, and the grant of broad acquisition and upgrade authority for private water systems without clear guardrails or defined oversight. As drafted, the legislation obscures the true long-term fiscal impact and weakens transparency and Council control over future commitments. My written testimony details these concerns for the record.

Agenda Item: eComments for BFED-15 Bill 10 (2026) BILL 10 (2026), AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET: INCREASE ESTIMATED REVENUES, CARRYOVER/SAVINGS, GENERAL FUND; DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT, INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY SERVICES PROGRAM, CATEGORY B - OPERATIONS & EQUIPMENT (BFED-15)

Overall Sentiment

Support (0%) Oppose (100%) Neutral (0%)
No Response (0%)



Edward Codelia

Location:
Submitted At: 7:58pm 01-21-26

Aloha, I am submitting attached written testimony in opposition to Bill 10 (2026). In short, this bill uses one-time General Fund carryover/savings to pay for ongoing software subscriptions and cybersecurity costs, which obscures the true recurring cost of County operations and creates future budget pressure. My written testimony explains this concern in greater detail for the record.

**Written Testimony in Opposition
Bill 2 (2026)
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee**

I respectfully submit written testimony in opposition to Bill 2 (2026).

I recognize the importance of ensuring that the Board of Ethics is adequately staffed and that compensation levels are sufficient to attract and retain qualified personnel. My opposition to this measure is not based on salary amounts or staffing needs, but on the governance and oversight structure established by the bill.

Bill 2 amends Section 2.56.080, Maui County Code, to transfer salary-setting authority for Board of Ethics staff from the Maui County Council to the Executive Director of the Board of Ethics, within established pay ranges. While this change may appear administrative, it represents a permanent shift of oversight authority away from the elected legislative body to an internal executive structure.

The Board of Ethics occupies a unique position within County government. It is responsible for enforcing ethical standards applicable to County employees, appointed officials, and elected officials. Because of this role, maintaining clear external oversight and public accountability over the Board's internal governance is especially important. Allowing the Board to internally control its own compensation structure, without continued Council involvement, reduces transparency and weakens an important check that supports public confidence in the institution.

Once authority of this nature is delegated, it is rarely revisited or reclaimed. Bill 2 contains no sunset provision, no periodic review requirement, and no mandatory reporting to the Council regarding aggregate compensation changes over time. As a result, the bill permanently alters the balance of oversight without establishing corresponding safeguards.

For these reasons, I oppose Bill 2 (2026) as drafted. Any modification to the governance structure of the Board of Ethics should preserve meaningful external oversight by the elected Council and include clear review and reporting requirements before authority is permanently transferred.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for the record.

Submitted by:
Edward Codelia
Maui Resident

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BILL NO. 9 (2026)

A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET, INCREASE ESTIMATED REVENUES, LICENSES/PERMITS/OTHERS BY \$10,000,000, INCREASE CARRYOVER/SAVINGS, GENERAL FUND BY \$10,000,000, DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, COUNTYWIDE COSTS, INCREASE APPROPRIATION FOR TRANSFER TO THE GENERAL EXCISE TAX FUND BY \$10,000,000, DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY, WATER OPERATIONS PROGRAM – WATER FUND, INCREASE EQUIVALENT PERSONNEL BY 10.0, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND APPENDIX C, DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY, COUNTYWIDE, INCREASE APPROPRIATION FOR INTEGRATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000,000, AND APPENDIX A, PART II, GENERAL EXCISE TAX FUND, INCREASE APPROPRIATION FOR ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE WATER SYSTEMS AND WELLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,000,000

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 5816, as amended, "Fiscal Year 2026 Budget," Section 2, Estimated Revenues, is amended to increase Licenses/Permits/Others in the amount of \$10,000,000, increase Carryover/Savings, General Fund in the amount of \$10,000,000, and increase the total accordingly, to read as follows:

"ESTIMATED REVENUES

FROM TAXES, FEES, AND ASSESSMENTS:

Real Property Taxes	660,572,668
Circuit Breaker Adjustment	(385,718)
Transient Accommodations Tax	65,000,000
General Excise Tax	70,000,000
Charges for Current Services	187,942,380
Public Service Company Tax	8,000,000
Licenses/Permits/Others	[75,388,402] <u>85,388,402</u>
Fuel and Franchise Taxes	25,500,000
Special Assessments	17,300,000
Other Intergovernmental	80,169,830

FROM OTHER SOURCES:

Interfund Transfers	110,107,913
Bond/Lapsed Bond	179,226,268
Carryover/Savings:	
General Fund	[143,940,156] <u>153,940,156</u>
Sewer Fund	10,239,592
Highway Fund	11,292,761
Solid Waste Management Fund	3,867,796
Environmental Protection and Sustainability Fund	984,524
Liquor Fund	816,172
Water Fund	<u>17,480,318</u>

TOTAL ESTIMATED REVENUES

[1,667,443,062] 1,687,443,062"

SECTION 2. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, Section 3.B.6.g.(14), Department of Finance, Countywide Costs, Transfer to the General Excise Tax Fund, is amended to increase the appropriation in the amount of \$10,000,000 and adjust the total accordingly, to read as follows:

<u>"FUNCTION AND PROGRAMS</u>	<u>A - Salaries</u>	<u>B – Operations & Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
6. Department of Finance g. Countywide Costs			
(14) Transfer to the General Excise Tax Fund	0	[60,530,047] <u>70,530,047</u>	[60,530,047] <u>70,530,047</u> "

SECTION 3. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, Section 3.B.21.c.(1), Department of Water Supply, Water Operations Program – Water Fund, is amended to increase the equivalent personnel from 159.0 to 169.0, to read as follows:

<u>"FUNCTION AND PROGRAMS</u>	<u>A - Salaries</u>	<u>B – Operations & Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
21. Department of Water Supply c. Water Operations Program - Water Fund			
(1) Disbursement for salaries and premium pay is limited to [159.0] <u>169.0</u> equivalent personnel.	12,588,957	36,092,300	48,681,257"

SECTION 4. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, Total Operating Appropriations, is amended to reflect an increase of \$10,000,000, to read as follows:

<u>"FUNCTION AND PROGRAMS</u>	<u>A - Salaries</u>	<u>B – Operations & Equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
TOTAL OPERATING APPROPRIATIONS	270,200,769	[991,711,226] <u>1,001,711,226</u>	[1,261,911,995] <u>1,271,911,995</u> "

SECTION 5. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, Section 4.I.1.a.(3).(i), Department of Water Supply, Countywide, Water Supply, Water Fund – Restricted (GET), Integration of Public and Private Water Systems, is amended to increase the appropriation in the amount of \$10,000,000, to read as follows:

<u>"PROJECT TITLE</u>	<u>APPROPRIATION</u>
I. Department of Water Supply 1. Countywide a. Water Supply (3) Water Fund - Restricted (GET) (i) Integration of Public and Private Water Systems	 [5,000,000] <u>15,000,000</u> "

SECTION 6. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, Total Capital Improvement Project Appropriations, is

amended to reflect an increase of \$10,000,000, to read as follows:

“TOTAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT APPROPRIATIONS [405,531,067] 415,531,067”

SECTION 7. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, Total Appropriations (Operating and Capital Improvement Projects), is amended to reflect an increase of \$20,000,000, to read as follows:

“TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS (OPERATING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS) [1,667,443,062] 1,687,443,062”

SECTION 8. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, as amended, “Fiscal Year 2026 Budget,” Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenues – Schedule of Revolving/Special Funds for Fiscal Year 2026, General Excise Tax Fund, is amended to increase the appropriation for Condition 20, Department of Water Supply’s vision to integrate public and private water systems, in the amount of \$10,000,000, update the project description, and increasing Anticipated Revenue for FY 2026 by \$10,000,000 and adjusting the total accordingly, to read as follows:

	<u>“ESTIMATED BALANCE AS OF 6/30/2025</u>	<u>ANTICIPATED REVENUES FOR FY 2026</u>	<u>TOTAL FOR FY 2026</u>
BB. General Excise Tax Fund (Chapter 3.100, Maui County Code)	2,000,593	[60,530,047] <u>70,530,047</u>	[62,530,640] <u>72,530,640</u> ”

(20) Up to ~~[\$5,000,000]~~ \$15,000,000 must be to fund the acquisition of private water systems and wells to align with the Department of Water Supply’s vision to integrate and private water systems and develop a municipal water system. This would also include upgrading the system to the Department’s standards. Transfer to Department of Water Supply.

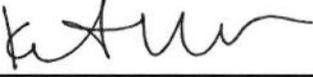
SECTION 9. Fiscal Year 2026 Budget, as amended, Appendix C – Capital Improvement Projects, Department of Water Supply, Countywide, is amended to update the project description and increase the appropriation for Integration of Public and Private Water Systems, in the amount of \$10,000,000, to read as follows:

“APPENDIX C - Capital Improvement Projects		
CBS NO.	PROJECT TITLE/DESCRIPTION	APPROPRIATION
	<u>Department of Water Supply</u>	
	<u>1. Countywide</u>	
CBS-XXXX	d. Integration of Public and Private Water Systems	[5,000,000] <u>15,000,000”</u>
	Acquisition of private water systems and wells to integrate and consolidate public and private water systems within the County to promote water access equity and improve water reliability[.] <u>and upgrading the system to the Department’s standards.</u>	

SECTION 10. Material to be repealed is bracketed. New material is underscored.

SECTION 11. This Ordinance takes effect on approval.

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:



KRISTIE M. WRIGGLESWORTH
Deputy Corporation Counsel

**Written Testimony in Opposition
Bill 9 (2026)
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee**

I respectfully submit written testimony in opposition to Bill 9 (2026).

I acknowledge the importance of safe, reliable, and resilient water infrastructure for Maui County, particularly as the County evaluates opportunities to integrate public and private water systems and improve long-term water security. My opposition to this bill is not based on disagreement with those goals. Rather, it is based on the structure, funding mechanisms, and scope of authority established by this measure, which together create long-term fiscal and governance risks that are not adequately constrained or disclosed.

1. Bill 9 bundles multiple major fiscal actions into a single amendment

As described in the Mayor’s transmittal and budget explanation, Bill 9 simultaneously increases estimated revenues, increases General Fund carryover/savings, transfers funds to the General Excise Tax Fund, expands Department of Water Supply staffing, authorizes capital acquisitions, and broadens project descriptions across multiple budget appendices .

By combining operating appropriations, capital appropriations, staffing increases, inter-fund transfers, and project scope expansions into a single bill, the measure reduces transparency and makes it difficult for the Council and the public to evaluate the true fiscal and operational impact of each component. Each of these actions would ordinarily merit discrete consideration. Bundling them together limits meaningful scrutiny.

2. One-time carryover funds are used to create permanent obligations

The certification of revenues confirms that the \$10,000,000 supporting this bill is derived from General Fund carryover/savings . Carryover and savings are, by definition, non-recurring resources.

Despite this, Bill 9 authorizes:

- an increase of 10.0 equivalent personnel positions within the Department of Water Supply, and
- ongoing operational responsibilities associated with newly acquired and integrated systems.

The transmittal states explicitly that these positions are intended to be created “as soon as possible so they can be filled if the County acquires additional systems” . This establishes permanent staffing in anticipation of future acquisitions that have not yet occurred and for which long-term funding has not been identified.

Using one-time funds to establish permanent staffing and ongoing operational responsibilities obscures the County's true baseline costs and shifts known future obligations into later budgets. This weakens fiscal discipline and increases the likelihood of future budget pressure.

3. Acquisition of private water systems lacks defined guardrails

Bill 9 authorizes the acquisition of private water systems and wells and allows for upgrades necessary to bring those systems to Department standards prior to integration .

However, neither the bill nor its attachments establish:

- valuation standards for acquisition,
- criteria for determining which systems should be acquired,
- limits on acquisition or upgrade costs,
- prioritization among candidate systems, or
- requirements for Council notification or approval on a per-acquisition basis.

Absent these guardrails, the bill grants broad, open-ended authority to acquire and upgrade private systems without sufficient legislative constraints. This reduces Council oversight and makes it difficult to ensure that acquisitions are cost-effective, equitable, and aligned with broader County priorities.

4. Project scope is expanded after budget introduction

The bill updates Appendix A and Appendix C to broaden project descriptions to include “any upgrades that may be needed prior to integrating the systems” .

Expanding project scope after funds are authorized materially increases administrative discretion and weakens legislative intent control. While upgrades may be necessary, the absence of defined limits or standards allows the scope and cost of work to grow without further Council review.

This approach reduces transparency and increases the risk that expenditures will exceed what was reasonably contemplated at the time of appropriation.

5. Circular fund movements obscure the true source and use of funds

Bill 9 increases estimated revenues, increases General Fund carryover/savings, transfers funds to the General Excise Tax Fund, and then uses those funds for both operating and capital purposes. While each step may be legally permissible, the overall structure makes it difficult to trace the true origin, duration, and purpose of the funds.

This complexity complicates public understanding and weakens accountability. Clear separation between revenue sources, one-time savings, operating costs, and capital investments is essential to sound fiscal governance.

6. The bill commits the County to a long-term “vision” without sufficient structure

The transmittal references the Department of Water Supply’s “vision to integrate public and private water systems and develop a municipal water system” . While vision is important, legislation that commits public funds must be anchored in defined plans, timelines, standards, and limits.

Bill 9 advances that vision by creating staffing, authorizing acquisitions, and expanding project scope, but it does so without a comprehensive framework that allows the Council and public to evaluate:

- total projected cost,
- long-term operational impact,
- ratepayer implications, or
- alternative approaches.

Approving major structural commitments based on vision alone, without corresponding safeguards, places future Councils and taxpayers at risk.

Conclusion

Bill 9 (2026) does not merely fund water infrastructure improvements. It establishes permanent staffing, authorizes open-ended acquisitions, expands project scope, and commits the County to long-term operational obligations using one-time funding sources, all within a single, complex amendment.

For these reasons, I oppose Bill 9 (2026) as drafted. At a minimum, consideration should be deferred until the bill is restructured to clearly separate one-time and recurring costs, establish acquisition and upgrade guardrails, preserve meaningful Council oversight, and present a transparent accounting of long-term fiscal impacts.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for the record.

Submitted by:
Edward Codelia
Maui Resident

**Written Testimony in Opposition
Bill 10 (2026)
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee**

I respectfully submit written testimony in opposition to Bill 10 (2026).

I recognize the importance of maintaining secure, functional, and modern information systems, particularly those supporting tax administration and cybersecurity. However, I am unable to support this measure as drafted due to the manner in which recurring operational obligations are being funded and presented.

The transmittal documents for Bill 10 state that this \$3,000,000 appropriation is intended to cover the cost of Transient Accommodation Tax software for the Department of Finance, upcoming software subscription renewals, and the County's cybersecurity contract. These are not one-time or extraordinary expenditures. They are ongoing operational obligations that will continue beyond Fiscal Year 2026.

Bill 10 proposes to fund these recurring costs using General Fund carryover/savings. Carryover and savings are, by definition, non-recurring resources. Using one-time funds to pay for recurring software subscriptions and contractual services obscures the true, ongoing cost of County operations and shifts known future obligations into later budgets without identified recurring revenue.

The justification offered indicates that procurement delays and higher-than-anticipated costs resulted in these expenditures being deferred into FY2026. While procurement timing issues may explain *when* the costs are incurred, they do not change the underlying nature of the expenses. Funding recurring obligations through carryover masks structural budget requirements and weakens fiscal transparency.

Additionally, approving operational software and cybersecurity costs through a mid-year budget amendment rather than through the regular budget process limits meaningful Council and public review of long-term cost implications, vendor dependence, and future funding commitments.

For these reasons, I oppose Bill 10 (2026) as drafted. At a minimum, recurring operational technology costs should be addressed through identified recurring revenue sources and incorporated transparently into the base operating budget, rather than backfilled with one-time carryover funds.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony for the record.

Submitted by:
Edward Codelia
Maui Resident