

# Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2025-04-07 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 04-07-25 09:00

## eComments Report

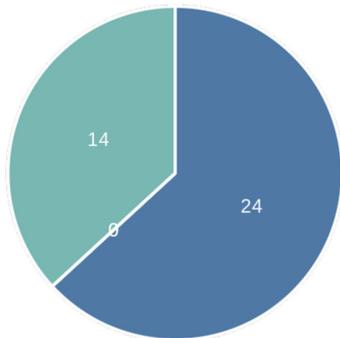
Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2025-04-07 9:00 AM	04-07-25 09:00	2	38	24	0	0

### 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 (63%)   Oppose (0%)   Neutral (0%)  
No Response (36%)



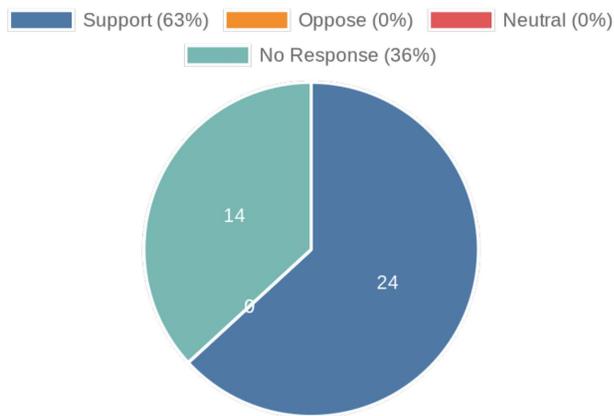
**Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2025-2027) on 2025-04-07 9:00 AM**  
**04-07-25 09:00**

Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	36	22	0	0
BFED-1 Bill 41 (2025) PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)	2	2	0	0

**Sentiments for All Agenda Items**

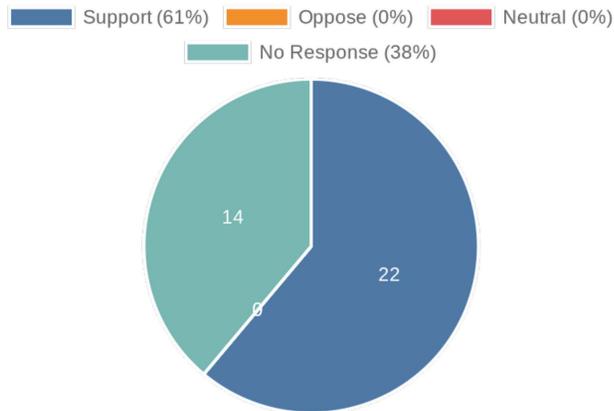
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

**Overall Sentiment**



## Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

### Overall Sentiment



### BFED Committee

Location:

Submitted At: 1:10pm 04-07-25

Testimonies received from BFED Committee 04-07-2025 (3)

### Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 1:08pm 04-07-25

Aloha,

My name is Anne Allison, and I live in Kihei. I am writing to strongly support increasing the county's budget for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

Every election cycle, politicians say they want to protect Maui resources, yet less than 1% of the state budget is directed to protect our natural resources!!!! How much is budgeted for Maui? Do any of you actually go in the water and see what is happening? We do not have enough rangers or DOCARE to protect the fish, reefs, coastline. Seems that so little of the coastline is protected which makes it easy for poachers and or overfishing. Just in 8 years (snorkeling most days a week) reef health has plummeted and there are very few fish or varieties of fish at most reefs. Tourists notice. And this puts more pressure on Ahihi Kinau Reserve which is a marine preserve; they go there even though not a friendly beginner place as they are guaranteed to see a fish. Yes, it is getting that bad. Many people visiting there do not even realize that this is a marine preserve, do not read the signs and often misstep.

Maui Nui is an amazing organization which i donate yearly to and before covid, was a volunteer on the water quality testing team. They also provide top quality educational presentations on Zoom or at the Ocean Center. the Reef-Friendly landscaping program is a must, and again often funded by donations!!!!

Please really do protect or environment!!!!!! And the increases at DOCARE, Rangers and Maui Nui are excellent places to fund to get your bang for the buck!!!!!!!

Respectfully,

Anne Allison, resident of Maui and ocean lover

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:05pm 04-07-25

Aloha Council Members,

My name is Thomas Kevin Kekoa Dolan-Ma, and I'm writing today to ask that you prioritize funding for rental assistance in the County budget.

Families across Maui County are still struggling to afford housing—especially wildfire survivors and working families who are being priced out of their own communities.

Rental assistance is a lifeline that prevents houselessness, supports local workers, and helps people stay rooted where they live, work, and raise their keiki.

Please invest in programs that help keep our residents housed and our communities strong.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and service.

I wish you enough,

Thomas (he, him)

808.859.0286

I am grateful to live and work in Vancouver, BC and Honolulu, Hawai'i. While in Vancouver on the stolen and unceded lands of the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tsleil-Waututh peoples, and while in Honolulu on the stolen and unceded lands of The Hawaiian Kingdom and the Kanaka Maoli. I acknowledge how I have benefitted and continue to benefit from colonial practices. I'm in a lifelong commitment of unlearning attitudes and acts of oppression, and I'm committed to cultivating respectful and reciprocal relationships with these lands and their ancestral stewards.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:57am 04-07-25

Aloha,

My name is Robin Kory, and I own a home in Kihei. I am writing to strongly support increasing the county's budget for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

The Council monitors water-quality at 41 beaches across Maui, which tells us how healthy our ocean water is. They conduct reef health surveys throughout the year, which tells us how our reefs are changing and where help is needed. They developed Hawaii's first reef-friendly landscaping program, which teaches landscaping methods that are safer for our reefs. They also established a new coral restoration area in South Maui, which gives damaged corals a second chance at survival.

Our surrounding waters and reefs are one of Maui's greatest assets. If they die, our way of life and economy will die. We need all the help we can get to protect our beautiful waters and reefs.

Mahalo,  
Robin Kory

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:57am 04-07-25

Aloha,

My name is Ash, and I live in Lahaina. As a manager at Sail Maui, I am reaching out to express my full support for increasing the budget allocation for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council in the county's 2026 budget.

At Sail Maui, we provide our guests with the unforgettable experience of snorkeling over Maui's vibrant coral reefs. The health of these reefs is not only crucial for marine biodiversity but directly impacts the quality of experiences we can offer to our visitors, ultimately influencing the sustainability of our business.

The Maui Nui Marine Resource Council's initiatives are integral to our operations and the broader health of Maui's marine environments.

#### **Water Quality Monitoring**

Monitoring water quality at 41 beaches across Maui is vital, as it helps ensure the waters our guests swim in are safe and clean. This directly enhances the guest experience and supports our commitment to environmental stewardship.

#### **Reef Health Surveys**

The council's detailed reef health surveys provide essential data that helps us understand the conditions of the reefs we visit. This knowledge enables us to better educate our guests about reef conservation and adapt our tour routes to minimize environmental impact.

#### **Reef-Friendly Landscaping Program**

Promoting landscaping methods that are safer for our reefs protects the aquatic ecosystems that are fundamental to our snorkeling tours. This initiative not only preserves the scenic beauty of Maui but also ensures the longevity of our marine attractions.

#### **Coral Restoration Efforts**

The coral restoration area in South Maui is particularly significant for us. It not only aids in the recovery of damaged corals but also serves as a compelling point of interest for our tours, enhancing our educational offerings about coral ecology and conservation efforts.

The continued funding and expansion of the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council's work are essential for maintaining the health of Maui's marine ecosystems, which are the foundation of our snorkeling tours at Sail Maui. An increase in their budget is an investment in the sustainable future of our local environment and economy.

I strongly advocate for this budget increase and appreciate your consideration of this crucial matter.

Mahalo for supporting our natural heritage and local businesses.

Best regards,

Ash

Ashley | Sail Maui | 808-868-6212 | [www.sailmaui.com](http://www.sailmaui.com)

#### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:54am 04-07-25

Our most important tourist resource is our ocean.

In other places in the world, hotels pay a coral tax and build bio reef to start new life and reefs.

Here, so far, its been the bottom line... money... determining choices that lead in the opposite direction than protection.

Since its the bottom line that speaks... healthy reefs = tourist dollars.

Act now to help the agencies that help protect and monitor ocean life.

Thank you,

With aloha,

Aerie Waters

#### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:54am 04-07-25

To whom it may concern,

Aloha – My name is Christine Nelson, and I live in Lahaina. I am writing to strongly support increasing the county's budget for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

Maui Nui monitors water quality at 41 beaches across the island of Maui. This regular monitoring informs us not only on how healthy our ocean is, but also if our streams are carrying contaminants into our ocean. They conduct reef health surveys throughout the year which helps us know if our reefs are healthy and growing or if they are dying.

They developed Hawaii's first reef friendly landscaping program. Teaching landscaping methods that are better and safer for our reefs.

Maui Nui also established a new coral restoration area in S. Maui that gives damaged corals a chance to survive all the abuse it has been given.

The cultural importance of the reefs cannot be overstated. Without our reefs, we will have no more Honu or fish that depend on the coral for food and protection.

The cleanliness of the water is so important for the existence of our food and for recreation.

I again ask that you please continue supporting Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

Mahalo!

Christine Nelson  
707-477-5786

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:53am 04-07-25

Aloha,

My name is Suparna Vashisht and I live in Kihei. I am writing to strongly support increasing the county's budget for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council (MNMRC).

MNMRC does work that is vital for the health of our ocean and land:

- Monitors water-quality at 41 beaches across Maui which tells us how healthy (or not) our ocean water is
- Conducts reef health surveys throughout the year which tells us how our reefs are doing and where help is needed
- Developed Hawaii's first reef-friendly landscaping program and teaches landscaping methods that are safer for our reefs and better for our ocean health and the health of the endangered and protected species that live there.
- Establishing a new coral restoration area in South Maui which gives damaged corals a second chance at survival

Regards,  
Suparna Vashisht

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 7:51am 04-07-25

Aloha, Council Members,

To us, the environment is the most important issue we can try to assist. The Maui Nui Marine Resource Council is worth supporting, individually and by the government. (We have a "front row seat" to erosion, storm damage, the warming ocean, dune damage etc. where we live.)

Some of its accomplishments include:

- Monitor water-quality at 41 beaches across Maui: Tells us how healthy our ocean water is
- Conduct reef health surveys throughout the year: Tells us how our reefs are changing and - where help is needed
- Developed Hawaii's first reef-friendly landscaping program: Teaches landscaping methods that are safer for our reefs
- Established a new coral restoration area in South Maui: Gives damaged corals a second chance at survival

Mahalo for your support.

Bill & Bobbie Best,  
Ma'alaea

**Guest User**

Location:  
Submitted At: 7:50am 04-07-25

Aloha,

My name is Christiane Santoro and I live in Pukalani. I am writing to strongly support increasing the county's budget for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. It is a very important organization to make sure our ocean water is monitored for water quality. They also do reef surveys throughout the year to make sure that our reefs do not decline further than they already have and have a coral restoration project to help corals survive.

I have travelled to many places to snorkel and know what a healthy reef and fish population can look like. Please help protect our reefs for our ohana and the many visitors our beautiful island has.

Christiane Santoro

**Guest User**

Location:  
Submitted At: 7:49am 04-07-25

Aloha,

My name is Nancy, and I live in Kahului. I am writing to strongly support increasing the county's budget for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

**Key Points:**

- Monitor water-quality at 41 beaches across Maui: Tells us how healthy our ocean water is
- Conduct reef health survey throughout the year: Tells us how our reefs are changing and where help is needed
- Developed Hawaii's first reef-friendly landscaping program: Teaches landscaping methods that are safer for our reefs
- Established a new coral restoration area in South Maui: Gives damaged corals a second chance at survival

Thank you,

Nancy Nguyen

**Ashley Tahauri**

Location:  
Submitted At: 12:05am 04-07-25

Aloha, my name is Ashley Tahauri and I am writing to express my support for the I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line-item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens for FY2026. This institution holds particular importance to my family and our community.

I have attended and participated in numerous valuable workshops at the gardens, which have provided me with valuable knowledge, fostered connections, and created lasting memories. The Kama\_\_ina I\_\_au (native Hawaiian) plants, cultural events such as Ho\_\_omau, and educational workshops ranging from \_\_ohe hana ihu to \_\_hi\_a ROD and seed collection workshop, \_\_Awa, Kapa, Kalo, Imu, L\_ Ho\_i Ho\_i E\_, L\_ K\_\_oko\_a, and many more events that are held there, have contributed to the preservation and promotion of our culture and t\_puna (ancestors). This is a wahi pana (significant place) that we all deeply cherish.

Over the years, I have transitioned into my profession as an Outreach Educator and Reforestation assistant for Uhiwai O Haleakal\_. We have been fortunate to utilize this space to teach our Maui \_\_pio (youth) the art of native seed processing, plant identification, and the mo\_\_olelo (stories) and traits of these plants. Additionally, I have facilitated educational workshops that emphasize the importance of ecosystem protection. While we were unable to take the youth into the mountains due to hazardous conditions, I was able to provide them with an alternative learning experience at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens—a safe and conducive space where they could engage in meaningful activities and receive the necessary guidance.

I have also participated as an outreach educator at various events held at the gardens, including L\_\_Ulu, Arbor Day, and most recently Ho\_\_omau. I appreciate the native plant sales, the seedbank, the knowledge provided, and the diverse range of educational and fun activities offered by the gardens for our community! I have witnessed many malihini-outside visitors come to this place and gain respect and knowledge of our people and K\_naka Maoli culture.

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens offers a wealth of resources and opportunities, and I strongly advocate for financial support to further its mission.

#### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:27pm 04-06-25

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line-item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens for FY2026. My name is Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii. I have participated in and attended many community events held at the Gardens that promote the appreciation, protection and preservation of Maui Nui\_s native plants and cultural heritage. They offer workshops on the propagation, care and cultural uses of native species, and educate the public on Rapid \_\_hi\_a Death and other threats to our watersheds. They also house a seed bank to ensure we will always have a source of viable native seed for future outplantings in the event of wildfires and other disasters that may cause native plant populations to decline. Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is an integral part of our community. I humbly ask for your full support of their line-item grant for FY2026.

#### **Warren Johnson**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:10pm 04-06-25

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens for FY2026. The garden is the best community resource I know of for learning which native plants will grow on our property as we seek to replace introduced plants with native ones. The garden is also a great location to spend time as a family when we are in town and have time between appointments. I also appreciate the free plants we've obtained when we stop, expanding my knowledge of native plants. Mahalo for your consideration. Aloha, Warren

#### **Elaine Malina**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:06pm 04-06-25

In Support of Department of Agriculture line-item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens for FY2026.

The MNBG staff has so much passion for what they do, to share this garden of native plants to grow beyond the borders of the garden, sharing with the community so that the native plants are seen all over Maui County. MNBG is such a special place, the Garden connects Native plants to the community, connects the Hawaiian

culture to the community.

MNBG is a place that brings the community together with such free events as the La'Ulu Festival and the Arbor Day Free tree giveaway event. Mahalo to all of you.

### **MARIAN ZAJAC**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:43am 04-06-25

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line-item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Of particular interest to my ohana is their ongoing support and educational outreach for the production and use of Breadfruit. Ulu is a vital component of local food source for Maui and they have made a big difference in how many people are willing and able to grow and eat this staple.

### **Linda Freidenburg**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:07am 04-06-25

I am in support of Department of Agriculture line-item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens for FY2026." That organization is instrumental in educating visitors and residents about appropriate plants for Maui. I personally have taken advantage of free and for sale native plants to plant where I live.

### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:44am 04-06-25

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. The Gardens are the best resource on island for learning about native plants and supporting Hawaiian culture. I have been countless times for the weekly plant sale, workshops and events, and each time I learn something new. They have hosted fantastic cultural practitioners to teach weaving 'eke and p\_pale. I hope to continue taking class from these teachers and have already recommended them to many friends. La 'Ulu and Ho'omau were beautiful gatherings for the community and also supported Hawaiian education, arts, and local businesses. Maui needs more community spaces like the gardens with low-barrier cost to entry that fosters arts and culture.

### **Stephen Sleight**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:48am 04-05-25

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. The gardens are a valuable resource in our community to help foster learning and appreciation of the natural world and Hawaiian cultural ideas and practices for both kama'aina and visitors to Maui.

### **River Barros**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:39am 04-04-25

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. The Botanical Gardens have made an incredibly important impact on me personally; they have helped foster and facilitate in me a love for the 'ina and for our native plants. They deserve all the support they can get. I would not have all the knowledge and care for the 'aina without them.

### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:20am 04-04-25

Aloha,

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line-item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens for FY2026. I have personally enjoyed many activities at the garden including weaving, handcrafting Hawaiian instruments, and creating living wreaths. They have provided so many events and opportunities for our local homeowners and gardeners to learn about and purchase healthy native plants. The Maui Nui Botanical Garden is such a valuable resource.

### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:43am 04-04-25

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens for the fiscal year 2026. The MNBG is a large and very unique space in Maui that is open to the public. Unlike other gardens that are smaller or where one has to pay to enter these grounds welcome any and all alike for free. This space is host to events that support cultural heritage that are unable to be hosted in such an open, spacious venue which is also easily accessible to most of Maui county. The educational value of MNBG is priceless. Hosting many school field trips for children of a wide range of ages exposes them to the land they live on and how humankind in these islands came, survived and thrived to live here in Hawaii and Maui county. The immersion in nature (the 'aina) is vital to ensure the love of the land and respect for how we need to support the land in order to survive and thrive in our daily lives. Please continue to support the MNBG in the many myriad purposes that it fulfills for the people of Maui county. Thank you. Linda Tesar-Amimoto (registered voter) and member supporter of MNBG for over a decade.

### **Kealii Reichel**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:40am 04-04-25

I am writing in support of the Dept of Agriculture line item Grant for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens For many years, MNBG has been key in ensuring the survival of our kupuna plants throughout our community-at-large. Through initiatives such as plant giveaways, sales, partnerships with prominent festivals, and workshops on cultural practices, propagation, and cultivation techniques, they create valuable opportunities for everyone. These efforts foster the sharing of knowledge across generations and help strengthen our environmental and cultural connections. Thank you for your consideration in supporting Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.

### **Todd Madden**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:03am 04-04-25

In support of the Dept of Agriculture line-item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens for FY 2026 because it is a free open space for residents to enjoy with easy access for all. It introduces to both residents and visitors to a wide variety of endemic plants in a peaceful and relaxing layout. Volunteers and staff propagate many varieties of plants which allows for the sale or giveaway to get the plants back in the ground on Maui. The Garden is a great venue for gatherings and celebrations as well as educational opportunities. In this day and age, having open space with local flora and free access for residents is a need not a luxury. Thank you. Todd Madden

### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 6:13am 04-04-25

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. The Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is a beautiful venue - amazing location - providing 'Maui' / Native education to students and everyone.

### **Angela Hauck**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:17am 04-04-25

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. My husband and I have been members of the Gardens for two years now. We are avid native gardeners ourselves, and we know how invaluable the work Maui Nui does is to the island and the State of Hawaii. The people there could not be more knowledgeable. They are a vital resource for propagating and nurturing native plants. Please award Maui Nui Botanical Gardens the much-needed and much-deserved grant. Thank you.

### **Darcel Gilbert**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:07pm 04-03-25

I am writing in support of the Dept of Agriculture line item Grant for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. The Gardens

have been a wonderful Source of information , education as well as Native plants which are flourishing in my yard. Maui grown for Maui growing!

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:19pm 04-03-25

I support of the Dept. of Agriculture line item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. I have been a member of the MNBG since 2016 and have attended several classes conducted by them. Additionally, I have attended the Arbor Day and Breadfruit Day (L\_\_Ula) events there numerous times. Also the Botanic Garden provides an ideal place for the annual Ho\_omau fundraiser for Hawaiian Immersion. Whatever amount the county is considering awarding the MNBG, it should be increased. Respectfully, Marty Martins, K\_hei

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:31pm 04-03-25

I would like to express my support of the Department of Agriculture line-item. Maui Nui Botanical gardens is one of the best community resources for finding out about native landscape. They always have excellent information about growing endemic plants that are appropriate for the dry, windy climate of Lahaina where I live. They support the Hawaiian culture by encouraging the planting of endemic plants. I've also purchased endangered plants which helps keep these plants in their native landscapes.

**Sharon Heritage**

Location:

Submitted At: 8:03pm 04-03-25

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line-item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens (MNBG) for Fiscal Year 2026. MNBG plays a vital role not only in propagating native Hawaiian plants, but also in education for our keiki and adults. Their weekly plant sales have enabled countless (me included) people to acquire and plant indigenous Hawaiian species to help their spread and growth. They also offer tours for the schools and classes for everyone to learn how to grow and use Hawaiian plants. It is very important to continue supporting this impactful organization. Thank you for your consideration.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 3:41pm 04-03-25

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. My name is Leslie Santos and I recently moved back home after a 38 year career in the mainland. I am on a quest to immerse myself in all things Hawaiiana and found that at the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. They offer an impressive array of cultural opportunities and experiences at very reasonable rates, made possible by this important grant. Mahalo for your continue support.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 2:58pm 04-03-25

Aloha,

My name is Benton Kealii Pang, and I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line-item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.

I am a long-time member of the Garden and an ethnobotanist with over three decades of experience in conservation throughout Hawai\_i. I recall spending many hours with the late René Sylva when the Botanical Gardens was in its infancy. His dedication to native plant conservation deeply influenced my own path. It has been inspiring to watch Tamara Sherrill build upon that foundation, growing MNBG into a respected and vital center for Hawaiian cultural and biological restoration.

The Garden's mission—to foster appreciation and understanding of Maui Nui's plants and their role in Hawaiian cultural expression by providing a gathering place for discovery, education, and conservation—is evident in all

they do. Through workshops on Hawaiian kapa making, ʻulu (breadfruit) cultivation, and traditional implement crafting, the Garden connects the community to the deep cultural relevance of native and Polynesian-introduced plants.

Equally important are MNBG's conservation initiatives, including critical seed banking efforts that ensure the long-term survival of some of Hawai'i's rarest and most vulnerable plant species, such as *Kanaloa kahoolawensis* (Palupalu o Kanaloa). This kind of work is not just urgent—it is irreplaceable.

MNBG embodies the values of ʻOia i o (integrity, truth), M\_lama (stewardship, preservation), Ho\_\_la Hou (re-awakening), and Ho\_ona\_auao (education, enlightenment), and its vision to cultivate widespread preservation, conservation, and integration of Hawaiian plants throughout Maui Nui is both timely and vital.

This baseline funding is essential. It sustains core operations and staff, enabling the Garden to leverage additional grants and community support to continue its mission.

Mahalo for your time and consideration—and for your continued support of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.

Me ka ʻoia i o,  
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.  
P\_lolo Valley, O\_ahu

**Jake Sipes**

Location:  
Submitted At: 2:35pm 04-03-25

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of the Department of Agriculture line item grant for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. MNBG plays a critical role in the stewardship of native Hawaiian plants, preserving invaluable genetic resources that might otherwise be lost. Their dedicated management and staff ensure that these plants—many of which are vital to Hawaii's cultural and ecological heritage—continue to thrive.

Beyond conservation, MNBG fosters deep community engagement through educational programs and cultural events that connect residents and visitors to native Hawaiian plants and traditions. Their work not only safeguards biodiversity but also strengthens our community's understanding and appreciation of our natural and cultural resources.

Maui County is a better, richer place because of MNBG's tireless efforts, and I strongly urge continued support for their mission.

Mahalo,  
Jake H. Sipes

**Kanani Higbee**

Location:  
Submitted At: 2:31pm 04-03-25

Aloha,

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. My name is Kanani Higbee. I am a Maui 'oiwi. The funds the garden get from this grant help this garden operate. I spend most of my free time at this garden to rejuvenate because this garden has so much healing power. I love to be among the plants. It has so much 'Ike with Hawaiian culture. I love to attend all the workshops to learn from various kumu on practices that my kupuna did in ancient times. I am taught knowledge that helps me in my livelihood as a fine artist. I love to learn about all the uses of the plants to help with medicinal purposes and usefulness in every day life. I attend nearly all the events like Ho'omau in which they raise funds to perpetuate the Hawaiian culture. I also love the ulu festival and the Arbor Day festival. I like to volunteer here to learn more about plants. I raised my children to go to this garden regularly and volunteer to teach Hawaiian crafts. The funds used to allow this garden to operate is the best money well spent on the island, in my humble opinion.

With Aloha,  
Kanani Higbee

**JASON WOLD**

Location:  
Submitted At: 2:24pm 04-03-25

I would like to support the grant for Maui Nui Botanical Garden. I have volunteered there multiple times and have learned a lot about native Hawaiian agriculture and plants. It is a great resource for the community and education tool.

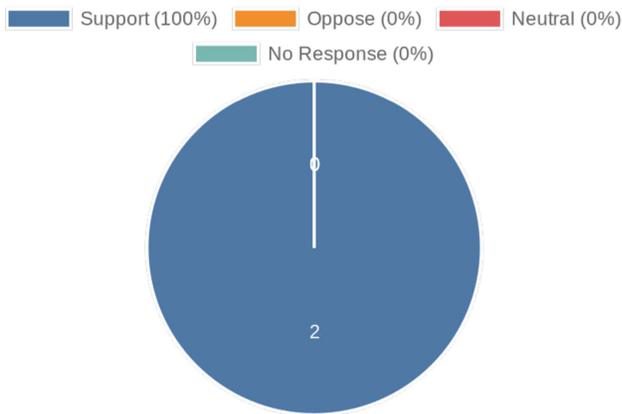
**Guest User**

Location:  
Submitted At: 12:41pm 04-03-25

I would like to express my support of the Department of Agriculture line-item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens for FY2026. The garden is one of the best community resources for finding out about native Hawaiian and canoe plants and trying out native plants in the landscape. They always have excellent information about growing endemic as well as unique Hawaiian crop varieties, and their workshops are supporting living Hawaiian culture by teaching modern Hawaiian ethnobotany. These plants need to be protected by all Maui County residents.

Agenda Item: eComments for BFED-1 Bill 41 (2025) PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)

Overall Sentiment



**Guest User**

Location:  
Submitted At: 8:47pm 04-04-25

This comment is in support of Department of Agriculture line-item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens for FY2026. My name is Amy Muramatsu of Pukalani, Maui. As a member of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, I appreciate their wonderful work such as producing community events such as the La 'Ulu breadfruit festival, Arbor Day tree

giveaway, the beautiful gardens with Hawaiian native plants and their support of the culture of Hawaii. I believe in the financial support of their mission.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:25pm 04-04-25

I am writing in support of the Department of Agriculture line item grant to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. I have been a member of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens for several years and have been impressed with the commitment of the Gardens to honor and support the local culture and the native flora. These are precious to the people of Maui and need our kokua. I am in favor of financially supporting their mission.

## BFED Committee

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**From:** Bill Nelson <orangejello@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 5, 2025 1:16 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony For County Budget 2026  
**Attachments:** Maui Nui Marine Resource Council Letter.docx

You don't often get email from orangejello@sbcglobal.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

To: Maui County - Please see the attached letter as my testimony to continue supporting financially the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

Best Regards,

**Bill Nelson**  
**707-688-7187**

**Bill Nelson**  
**5437 Shallows Place E.**  
**Santa Rosa, CA 95409**

April 5, 2025

Aloha – My name is Bill Nelson, and I live in Lahaina. I am writing to strongly support increasing the county's budget for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

Maui Nui monitors water quality at 41 beaches across the island of Maui. This regular monitoring informs us not only on how healthy our ocean is, but also if our streams are carrying contaminants into our ocean.

They conduct reef health surveys throughout the year which helps us know if our reefs are healthy and growing or if they are dying.

They developed Hawaii's first reef friendly landscaping program. Teaching landscaping methods that are better and safer for our reefs.

Maui Nui also established a new coral restoration area in S. Maui that gives damaged corals a chance to survive all the abuse it has been given.

The cultural importance of the reefs cannot be overstated. Without our reefs, we will have no more Honu or fish that depend on the coral for food and protection.

The cleanliness of the water is so important for the existence of our food and for recreation.

I again ask that you please continue supporting Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

Best Regards,

**Bill Nelson**

**orangejello@sbcglobal.net**

**707-688-7187**

## BFED Committee

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**From:** County Clerk  
**Sent:** Monday, April 7, 2025 7:47 AM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Subject:** FW: Testimony For County Budget 2026  
**Attachments:** Maui Nui Marine Resource Council Letter.docx

**Categories:** Processed

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**From:** Natalie Nelson <natalie.nelson44@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 7, 2025 5:08 AM  
**To:** County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>  
**Subject:** Testimony For County Budget 2026

You don't often get email from [natalie.nelson44@gmail.com](mailto:natalie.nelson44@gmail.com). [Learn why this is important](#)

Please see attached.

Thank you!

Best Regards,  
Natalie Nelson  
(707) 245-0441

April 7, 2025

Aloha – My name is Natalie Nelson, and I live in Lahaina. I am writing to strongly support increasing the county's budget for the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

Maui Nui monitors water quality at 41 beaches across the island of Maui. This regular monitoring informs us not only on how healthy our ocean is, but also if our streams are carrying contaminants into our ocean.

They conduct reef health surveys throughout the year which helps us know if our reefs are healthy and growing or if they are dying.

They developed Hawaii's first reef friendly landscaping program. Teaching landscaping methods that are better and safer for our reefs.

Maui Nui also established a new coral restoration area in S. Maui that gives damaged corals a chance to survive all the abuse it has been given.

The cultural importance of the reefs cannot be overstated. Without our reefs, we will have no more Honu or fish that depend on the coral for food and protection.

The cleanliness of the water is so important for the existence of our food and for recreation.

I again ask that you please continue supporting Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

Best Regards,

**Natalie Nelson**

[Natalie.Nelson44@gmail.com](mailto:Natalie.Nelson44@gmail.com)

**707-245-0441**

## BFED Committee

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**From:** County Clerk  
**Sent:** Monday, April 7, 2025 11:11 AM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Subject:** Fw: Written Testimony Budget Committee  
**Attachments:** Testimony MEDB\_STEMworks.docx

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**From:** Steel Girl <staceypurdy@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 7, 2025 10:13 AM  
**To:** County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>  
**Cc:** lalaine@medb.org <lalaine@medb.org>; George Purdy IV <worldcat30@gmail.com>; Adam Purdy <adamjipurdy@gmail.com>; Kaitlyn Purdy <kaitlynmariepurdy@gmail.com>  
**Subject:** RE: Written Testimony Budget Committee

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

Aloha,

Please see the attached written testimony for the Budget Committee Hearing.

Thank you,  
Stacey Purdy

George K. Purdy IV  
Stacey M Purdy  
Adam J.I. Purdy  
Kaitlyn M. Purdy  
P.O. Box 630545  
Lanai City, HI 96763  
staceympurdy@gmail.com

April 7, 2025

County of Maui  
Budget Committee  
Yuki Lei Sugimura, Chair  
Budget Committee Members  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, HI 96793  
[county.clerk@mauicounty.us](mailto:county.clerk@mauicounty.us)

RE: Grant Funding in Support of Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB)/STEMworks

Dear Budget Committee Chair and Members,

We, the Purdy Ohana of Lanai, are in full support of MEDB and their outreach programs. Over the years, this program has benefited countless youth of Lanai. Two of them were our children who are now graduated and young adults. They all now stand with me in support of this worthy program. Even if a child's chosen path in life doesn't equate to a STEM career, this program is beneficial. It builds confidence, self-assurance, gives them a chance to dream, and experience opportunities not always fostered in the Department of Education (DOE) system. Not to mention the opportunity to network with students from other schools and backgrounds, creating friendships that will last a lifetime. MEDB is a necessary arm for well-rounded exposure and education. Cuts may be necessary for the County's due diligence. However, neglecting our children, who is the future would be a monumental mistake. Please continue your financial support of MEDB/STEMworks a worthy and worthwhile program.

Sincerely,  
The Purdy Ohana  
George K. Purdy  
Stacey M. Purdy  
Adam J.I. Purdy  
Kaitlyn M. Purdy

cc: [lalaine@medb.org](mailto:lalaine@medb.org)  
[worldcat30@gmail.com](mailto:worldcat30@gmail.com)  
[adamjipurdy@gmail.com](mailto:adamjipurdy@gmail.com)  
[kaitlynmariepurdy@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlynmariepurdy@gmail.com)