

# Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-03 6:00 PM

Meeting Time: 04-03-24 18:00

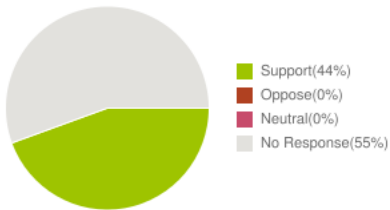
## eComments Report

| Meetings  | Meeting Time   | Agenda Items | Comments | Support | Oppose | Neutral |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-03 6:00 PM | 04-03-24 18:00 | 2            | 9        | 4       | 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



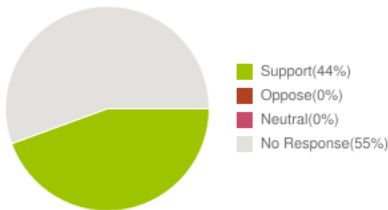
**Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-03 6:00 PM**  
04-03-24 18:00

| Agenda Name  | Comments | Support | Oppose | Neutral |
|--|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| A G E N D A  | 3        | 2       | 0      | 0       |
| BFED-1 Bill 60 (2024) PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) | 6        | 2       | 0      | 0       |

**Sentiments for All Agenda Items**

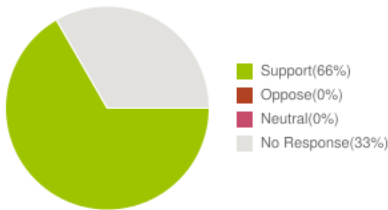
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

**Overall Sentiment**



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

**Overall Sentiment**



**Jennifer Yamashita**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:21am 04-04-24

From: Gerry Ross <lavaboy458@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 7:52:26 PM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii

To: BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>

Cc: Sydney Smith <malikoestate@hawaii.rr.com>; Bobbie Patnode <bobbiepatnode@fastmail.fm>

Subject: BFED-1

You don't often get email from lavaboy458@gmail.com. Learn why this is important

Aloha

My name is Gerry Ross and with my wife we grow vegetables on Kupa'a Farms in lower Kula. Our family has been growing vegetables here for over 4 decades all of it destined for local consumption. I am testifying in opposition to the proposal to raise the rates for ag water users by 20%. We work hard every year to make sure we

use the most efficient and economical water on our 4 acre farm. Over 90% of the farm water is used for drip irrigation and we only use inefficient overhead irrigation when it benefits the plants such as cooling of leafy greens during the summer or nonpoisonous management of pest such as thrips on onions. Every year we check all of our lines for leaks and have spent considerable time and money to upgrade our irrigation. I am very disappointed to learn that our water rates will be increasing by 20%. That is a sizable jump that is not easily passed on to consumers. It comes at a time when both the state and county are constantly talking about food security, local food production, and supporting buy local. Increasing our water rates by 20% sends the opposite message that we are just another source of cash for county coffers rather than serving a benefit to our community. In addition agricultural water use is only 8% of total water delivered according to DWS own numbers so we are a drop in the bucket when compared to other users and yet we provide food and food security to our community. I ask that you keep water rates the same for agricultural users so that we can remain solvent and relevant.

### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 1:56pm 04-03-24

Aloha, my name is Dylan Haymans and I am submitting this testimony in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Grant and the STEMworks AFTERSchool program. Both of my children have participated in various STEMworks programs through the years, and over the past year we have become even more involved with the Robotics program at Pukalani Elementary School. This program, along with the other STEMworks classes and outreach events, have been incredibly beneficial to all those involved. Not only are the children learning about and engaging in subjects that provide valuable insight into future endeavors, they are learning social skills and strategies that enrich their day to day lives. Critical thinking skills, teamwork, camaraderie and community building are fostered by these programs. I have been amazed to watch these attributes develop over the months, as well as in real time at sponsored events. Children that may not get the opportunity to hone these skills in day to day life are able to shine in these programs. I cannot support and endorse the STEMworks program enough. The Maui Economic Development Board's grant for programs such as STEMworks have changed my children's and their peers lives for the better, brought us deeper connections with our community and given us much needed outlets to foster academic excellence. Thank you for your time.

### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:17pm 03-29-24

Aloha, my name is Cheryl Tipton and I am submitting this testimony in support of Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center's Youth & Family Outreach Programs and Art with Aloha Programs. Full disclosure: I have served as a Member and Officer of the Hui's Board of Directors for over a dozen years and visit the Hui often. Because of my frequent involvement I am well aware of the wonderful work the Hui does, especially with the support of the County for two of our programs.

Hui No'eau's Youth & Family Arts Education Outreach Programs eliminate cost and logistic barriers to arts participation for more than 8,000 Maui County keiki annually, including keiki on L\_na'i and Moloka'i. Hui Youth Outreach programs are delivered at no charge to participants, schools, or partner organizations, including the very popular Art2Go Art Kits.

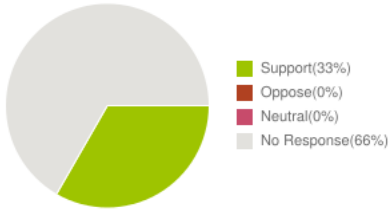
In 2023, more than 1,500 Lahaina keiki benefitted from the Hui's arts outreach, art supply distributions for Lahaina schools, field trips to the Hui; and Art2Go Art Kits. We are all heartbroken over the devastation the fires on Maui caused last August and we know how important art for the children affected by the fire is as part of their continued healing and recovery. In addition, the parents and friends of the children have often participated with the art projects bringing them closer together during this difficult time. I ask the County of Maui to please consider supporting the Hui's youth outreach efforts with \$50,000 in FY25 so that the Hui can continue this important work at the same level as in the past fiscal year.

Hui No'eau's Art with Aloha Program provides demonstrations, hands-on workshops, art events, and youth programs with native Hawaiian cultural practitioners. The classes that are funded through this program are almost immediately sold out. Art with Aloha programs encourage authentic cultural exchange while inspiring appreciation and understanding of Hawaiian people, culture, and arts. I ask the County of Maui to please consider supporting the Hui's Art with Aloha Programs with \$50,000 in FY25, again so that the Hui can continue

to offer these opportunities at the same level as in the past fiscal year.

Agenda Item: eComments for BFED-1 Bill 60 (2024) PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)

Overall Sentiment



**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:14pm 04-03-24

Hello,  
I am an artist and instructor.  
I would encourage you to allow your he Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center in Makawao to receive funds in the FY25. I personally have seen the positive impacts of the many classes the Hui No'eau offers. Maui County needs to support the arts and the creative process of our community.  
Thank you

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:37pm 04-03-24

I am a concerned Haiku resident and I am emailing to request Maui county to utilize open space funding to purchase the 3 Pauwela parcels for \$6.8 million. Please preserve this land as it is an important aspect of Hawaiian culture.  
Sincerely,  
Nicole Greenwood

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 4:37pm 04-03-24

I am a concerned Haiku resident and I am emailing to request Maui county to utilize open space funding to purchase the 3 Pauwela parcels for \$6.8 million. Please preserve this land as it is an important aspect of Hawaiian culture.  
Sincerely,  
Nicole Greenwood

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:05am 03-31-24

SAVE HAIKU COASTAL / AGRICULTURAL LAND  
Aloha Maui County Council,  
Please purchase the three parcels for sale in Haiku by Wainaku LLC and preserve it/use it for ag, Haiku School, the community center, and ocean access.  
Thank you,

Spencer Hyde  
Haiku, HI 6708

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 5:20pm 03-28-24

Aloha, my name is Brandis Sarich and I am a board member of the Hui No'eau. Please accept my testimony in support of Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center's Youth & Family Outreach Programs and Art with Aloha Programs. The poet Jane Hirshfield says that art is the antidote for despair- and that seems appropriate for kids in Lahaina. The Hui No'eau's outreach programs eliminate cost and logistic barriers to arts participation for more than 8,000 Maui County keiki annually, including keiki on L\_na'i and Moloka'i. In 2023, this included more than 1,500 Lahaina keiki who benefitted from the Hui's arts outreach, art supply distributions for Lahaina schools, field trips to the Hui; and Art2Go Art Kits. Hui Youth Outreach programs are delivered at no charge to participants, schools, or partner organizations. I ask the County of Maui to please consider supporting the Hui's youth outreach efforts with \$50,000 in FY25 so that the Hui can continue this important work at the same level as in the past. Hui No'eau's Art with Aloha Program provides demonstrations, hands-on workshops, art events, and youth programs with native Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Art with Aloha programs encourage authentic cultural exchange while inspiring appreciation and understanding of Hawaiian people, culture, and hana No'eau (arts). I ask the County of Maui to please consider supporting the Hui's Art with Aloha Programs with \$50,000 in FY25.

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 2:06pm 03-28-24

Aloha my name is Anne-Marie Forsythe and I am the Executive Director for Hui No'eau Visual Arts Center. Please accept my testimony in support of Hui No'eau's Youth & Family Outreach Programs and Art with Aloha Programs.

I truly believe in the immeasurable power of the arts to support mental health, healing, and overall well-being. As people work toward rebuilding their homes and their lives, art can help us feel less alone by providing an opportunity for shared experience and expression. Art teaches us to notice details, to find beauty where we may not have seen it before, and to connect with our community and ourselves.

The arts will be more critical now than ever before to support the community's mental health and healing. Studies have shown that arts and culture can be key tools in preserving, recovering and creating new social memory, with positive impacts on community members' abilities to be resilient and appropriately engage and participate in their post-disaster lives. Participants in artistic and creative initiatives realize physical and mental health benefits, including stress reduction, increased self-confidence, social cohesion, and community empowerment. Moreover, reports indicate that art can empower disaster survivors to take control of their thoughts, their feelings, and their narratives, and thus to begin the long process of recovery.

Hui No'eau's Youth & Family Arts Education Outreach Programs eliminate cost and logistic barriers to arts participation for more than 8,000 Maui County keiki annually, including keiki on L\_na'i and Moloka'i. In 2023, this included more than 1,500 Lahaina keiki who benefitted from the Hui's arts outreach, art supply distributions for Lahaina schools, field trips to the Hui; and Art2Go Art Kits. Hui Youth Outreach programs are delivered at no charge to participants, schools, or partner organizations. We are all heartbroken over the devastation the fires on Maui caused last August and we know how important art for the children affected by the fire is as part of their continued healing and recovery. I ask the County of Maui to please consider supporting the Hui's youth outreach efforts with \$50,000 in FY25 so that we can continue this important work at the same level as in the past.

I would like to share recent testimony from some of our youth participants and community Partners:

"Our grandson Lahikiola saw the fires as he and his family fled Lahaina. Our family

relocated to Upcountry. It was a difficult transition for Lahikiola, leaving his friends, school and community. The upcountry community has been so supportive and welcoming. Lahikiola is thriving, and now that he got involved with the Hui he is so happy. He looked forward to going to art class every day and was so excited to tell us what he learned.”

“Hui No’eau’s amazing teaching artists have been the BEST with our children! The children always look forward to our weekly in-person art days. Parents have also been enjoying time spent with their children in the groups, which promotes such healthy parents and child relationships and precious moments of bonding.” Misty Bannister, Children’s Services Coordinator, Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers

“Mahalo Hui No\_eau and Kumula\_\_au and Haunani Sing. Hui No\_eau truly went above and beyond to fulfill their mission of providing a space for community arts. Not only providing us the resource, but also going as far as to bring the resource to us. This allowed us to take part in an otherwise not available opportunity that our keiki and Kumu were engaged in. Kumula\_\_au and Haunani were truly a gift. Their lesson plan, organization, and execution was pure perfection. Their sincere aloha for the language and works of our ku\_puna helped to support what we are instilling daily in our classrooms. Lastly this opportunity helped to heal our community through art and culture. The keiki were given the opportunity to indulge in work that brought them joy in a time where emotions are high and feelings are raw. It also allowed for our community to come in and see first hand the resilience of our students and families. Mahalo nui loa for your support and aloha!” - Kumu Joy Salvador, Kula Kaiapuni O Nahi\_ena\_ena

Hui No’eau’s Art with Aloha Program provides demonstrations, hands-on workshops, art events, and youth programs with native Hawaiian cultural practitioners. Art with Aloha programs encourage authentic cultural exchange while inspiring appreciation and understanding of Hawaiian people, culture, and hana No’eau (arts). I ask the County of Maui to please consider supporting the Hui’s Art with Aloha Programs with \$50,000 in FY25. I would like to share testimony from some of our recent students:

“Shre (Wilson) really shares the history of Ni’ihau and its culture and people. She is so enthusiastic about her subject and passionate about keeping this special cultural art alive for future generations it is infectious. I can’t wait to take another course with her.”

“I enjoyed meeting the other artists in class and seeing their work and processes. It’s inspiring to me to work with other creatives. I was also very touched by the three fire survivors in the class and how they were using their class time to “feel normal” and create a routine in an otherwise very tumultuous time in their lives.”

“Kekai (Daunhauer)’s passion and expertise were most infusive and inspired us to experiment on the items we had to make dye coloring and print.”

Aloha e Council members,

My name is Marina Starleaf Riker. First, I want to thank you for listening. Some of you know me, from when I worked as a journalist and actually covered the budget. Today, I'm just here as one of your constituents. And also as someone who lost everything last year in two separate, yet entirely preventable tragedies.

On July 27, my stepdad, the man who raised me when my own father couldn't be there, was riding his bicycle with friends when he was struck and killed by a driver passing multiple cars on a county roadway with a narrow shoulder and no bike lane. Twelve days later on August 8, my home burned to the ground.

Now I firmly believe that whoever built that narrow road with no bike lane, or decided we didn't need to bury power lines in my old Kula neighborhood, believed they were making the best decision they could at the time. I'm sure they were trying to be fiscally prudent while juggling numerous competing demands.

But I'm here to remind you that this isn't just about balancing a budget, this is about peoples' lives, and this is about the future of our community.

Budgets are living documents that show what our values are. And our state doesn't have a great track record of putting our people first. I've known this since I was young, because during my senior year at King Kekaulike, our state decided that my education wasn't important enough to fund for the full five-day school week. I'm sure you all remember Furlough Fridays, too. Yet somehow, just four years later, the state cobbled up more than \$300 million to build a fancy new rental car parking garage at the Kahului Airport. It's a state-owned building with a \$340 million price tag that I have yet to set foot in, as someone born and raised here.

Fast forward 10 years later, and our state lawmakers are now balking at our mayor's request for \$400 million to help us recover in the aftermath of the deadliest catastrophe in Hawai'i's recorded history. Yesterday I learned of a last minute attempt to switch out the text of a resolution in what political insiders know as a gut and replace. The initial measure looked to create a legal pathway for homeless folks to sleep in their cars, which I would argue might be necessary after 10,000 of community members lost their homes.

But instead, the new text inserted without a transparent process urges Maui County to adopt a "financially prudent budget." It calls out three new departments by name: the Department of 'Oiwi Resources, the East Maui Water Authority, and the new Department of Housing.

RECEIVED AT BEED MEETING ON 4/3/2024  
UPCOUNTRY  
from Marina Starleaf Riker

In November 2022, tens of thousands of voters showed up to tell you that we needed more focus in these areas. Especially after the fires, I think it's clear that housing, water, and cultural resources are exactly what we should be investing more in protecting.

Take housing. For three years, the Department of Housing and Human Concerns sat on \$8 million in federal grants to help homeowners struggling to make mortgage payments. All they needed to do was issue an RFP. That's just one example, but I think there are countless others that show why we need a department focused solely on housing needs more than ever, not one massive department constantly juggling housing, supporting seniors, social services, grants for nonprofits, the list goes on.

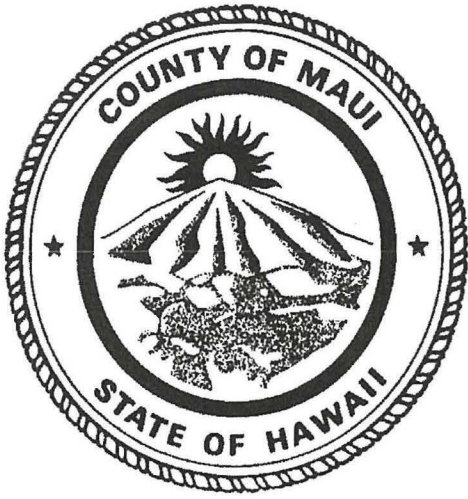
Same with water. Remember how just months ago, the Upcountry system was just three weeks away from running out? We should be doing whatever possible to bring more of our water systems under our local government's control and take the lead in protecting our most precious natural resource. The cost of this new department that aims to better manage the water flowing from East Maui streams is proposed at \$400,000, at a time when construction of a new well can run into the millions.

So I'm here to ask you to remember that this isn't just politics. This is the future of our grieving community. And the way you choose to invest or make cuts in our community can either continue to cause more pain for those of us who are hurting, or you can uplift and give us hope.

Mahalo nui for listening.

Marina Starleaf Riker  
[marinastarleafriker@gmail.com](mailto:marinastarleafriker@gmail.com)  
808-298-1056





**COUNTY OF MAUI**  
**Office of the Mayor**  
**Fiscal Year 2025**  
**Community Budget Request**

RECEIVED AT BEED MEETING ON 4/3/2024  
UPCOUNTRY

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Brittnie Gouveia

Email Address: mauigurl.britz@gmail.com

Phone:

808-344-9468

Mailing Address: 157 Alea place, Pukalani HI 96768

City/Zip

I Represent:  Myself  
 Organization \_\_\_\_\_

Request/Issue: Aloha e county of Maui, my daughter has

attended MEO Headstart last year & is approaching the

end of her time there. I have seen so much growth

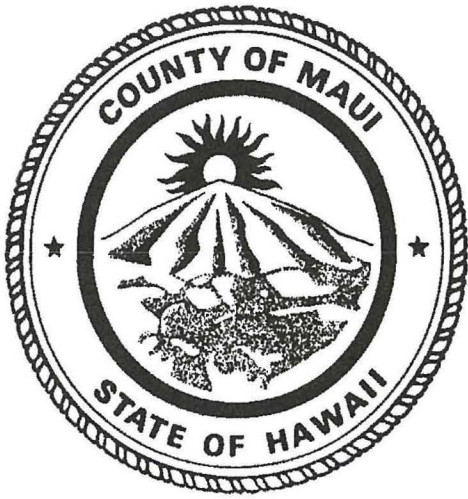
in her since attending headstart. A 1/2 day of preschool is

just not enough for a child's socialization & development.

Mahalo for supporting our keiki w/full school days

these past years. I ask that you consider further supportin

full 3pm days for the benefit of our future keiki. Mahalo!



**COUNTY OF MAUI**  
**Office of the Mayor**  
**Fiscal Year 2025**  
**Community Budget Request**

RECEIVED AT BFEI MEETING ON 4/3/2024  
LIPOUNTRY

PLEASE PRINT

Name: Cherie Schwartz

Email Address: Luvlites808@outlook.com

Phone:

Mailing Address: 2555 Kaupakaua<sup>RD</sup> Haiku, HI 96708

City/Zip

I Represent:  Myself

Organization MauiKawa & Headstart (M&H)

Request/Issue: I am a single mother of 3 & it is

ESSENTIAL FOR MY CHILD TO BE IN SCHOOL UNTIL 3PM

OR LATER DAILY SO WE CAN AFFORD RENT, UTILITIES &

THE NECESSITIES TO LIVE. I'M REQUESTING FUNDING SO THAT

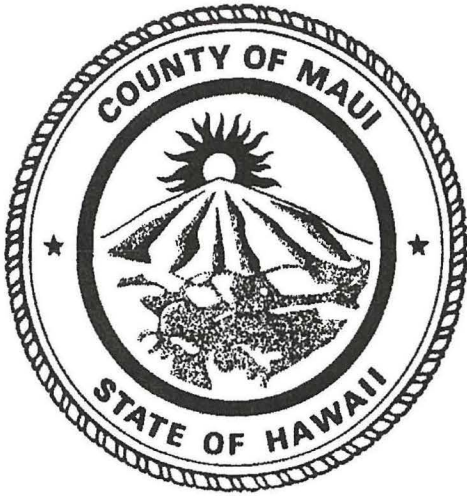
MY CHILDREN CAN HAVE THE LIFE THEY DESERVE. IT'S

ACTUALLY ABUSE TO A CHILD TO SUFFER FROM LACK OF

EDUCATION FOR THE FULL DAY OF SCHOOL & THEIR PARENT NOT

BEING ABLE TO WORK A FULL TIME JOB DUE TO LACK OF FUNDING

BE PONO - WHAT IS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE KID?'



**COUNTY OF MAUI**  
**Office of the Mayor**  
**Fiscal Year 2025**  
**Community Budget Request**

RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 4/3/2024  
UPCOUNTRY

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Chanelle Dundas

Email Address:

cdundas89@gmail.com

(808) 446-1980

Phone:

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 330037 Kahului HI 96732

City/Zip

I Represent:

Myself

Organization

Request/Issue:

Thank You County of Maui for your Support  
in funding to MEO Headstart. This funding has  
kept Centers open for full days and continue to stay  
open during the summer months. Our Community is beyond  
blessed to have this program for our keiki and parents!  
Having the Centers open and available not only help the  
keiki thrive, it also helps us parents in getting the help  
and things needed to better our families and community  
together! My son continues to learn, grow, and maintain a  
healthy lifestyle being in this program! Thank you!



18

**Heather Long, MS, CSAC**  
Adolescent Treatment Services  
Program Director

Cell 808-264-6696  
Fax 888-772-9420  
hlong@myfs.org

1498 Lower Main St Unit D  
Wailuku HI 96793

mbhr.org

The logo includes a graphic of a house with a heart inside, a question mark, and a person. To the right of the graphic is the text "MAUI BEHAVIORAL HEALTH RESOURCES". Below this, it lists "Aloha House", "Malama Family Recovery Center", and "Maui Youth & Family Services". A QR code is positioned to the right of the text.

**MAUI BEHAVIORAL  
HEALTH RESOURCES**  
Aloha House  
Malama Family Recovery Center  
Maui Youth & Family Services



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## HeartMath Quick Coherence® Technique

The Quick Coherence Technique is a simple HeartMath technique to help you develop a state of greater coherence in the moment. With practice, these 2 simple steps can be used to manage stress, promote feelings of well-being, and help your body function in a more optimal state.

**Step 1: Heart-Focused Breathing™** – Focus your attention in the area of the heart. Imagine your breath is flowing in and out of your heart or chest area, breathing a little slower and deeper than usual. Find an easy rhythm that's comfortable.

**Step 2: Activate a positive or renewing feeling** – As you continue heart-focused breathing, make a sincere attempt to experience a regenerative feeling such as appreciation or care for someone or something in your life.

Think of something or someone you feel grateful for Think of a time you did something you felt proud of Imagine a place where you feel safe or good

Think of your pet, or something your pet likes to do Think of something that makes you laugh Focus on a feeling of "calm" or "ease"

Just like taking medication, this technique will only work if you use it regularly. In fact, the more often you use it, the more benefit you will receive. You can use the Quick Coherence Technique anytime, anywhere and no one will know you are doing it. This technique can be especially helpful when you start to feel a draining emotion such as frustration, worry or anger, and can prevent these feelings from escalating out of control. In less than a minute, it creates positive changes in your heart rhythms that send powerful signals to your brain and body, improving how you feel and how your body is functioning.

Some opportunities to practice The Quick Coherence Technique include:

1. When you first wake-up in the morning, before getting out of bed.
2. In the car, while driving or stopped at a stop light.
3. Before a test, important meeting or difficult conversation.
4. When you are worrying about something you can't do anything about.



