

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-18 1:30 PM -

Reconv from 4/17/24 9am; recess to 4/19/24 1:30pm

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All Agenda Items A G E N D A BFED-1 Bill 60 (2024) PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025... All User Locations

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Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
BFED Committee	Testimonies received from BFED Committee.		Attachment	04-19-2024 08:03 am
Guest User	<p>From: Erin Tseu Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 10:06:29 AM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii To: BFED Committee Subject: Fiscal Year 2025 Budget</p> <p>Dear BFED Committee,</p> <p>I am writing to request that you add \$285,000 to the Lāna'i Feral Animal Control line item in the Fiscal Year 2025 budget and award it to the Lanai Cat Sanctuary so they can continue to provide feral cat services on the island.</p> <p>Recently students from our school on 'Oahu went on a week-long educational experience to both Maui and Lana'i to learn more about the threats to endangered and native birds, the impact of free roaming cats, and how we can collaborate to help BOTH. The Lanai Cat Sanctuary was by far the most well-run organization of all of the organizations we visited. These are some of the impacts the LCS had on our students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about how the Lanai Cat Sanctuary rescues so many cats, as well as maintains care for each and every one of them was very interesting. It was especially impactful to see how every member of the staff contributes so much to the sanctuary, and work so hard for the cats. It is also interesting to think about how a system like that could be when implemented on Oahu. • It was impactful to see a cat sanctuary on a large scale. They are the home to over 800 cats. This is a goal that many non-profit organizations hope to reach. This includes the Pōpoki Place Oahu Cat Sanctuary. They take in street cats (and maui fire cats) and provide them with a comfortable home to live and thrive with other cats just like them. • It was nice to see what a cat sanctuary on Oahu could be by seeing one on the Lanai on oahu could be by seeing one on lanai. It was 			04-18-2024 04:31 pm

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	At
	<p>good to see how their system works and how they do things with how many cats they have. It was nice to see how all the cats are well fed and cleaned. • I was impacted by this i term because it was important as a kid who as always lived with cats either owning or fostering. To see how to prevent cats from affecting the natural world of Hawaii in a bad way and how to help the endangered birds. We not only learning important lessons about cats but also learning in a fun way and seeing how our campus takes part in these precautions for the cats and marsh and taking all that in was impactful for me.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throughout the course of the I-term, I not only learned more about a topic I've always been interested in, but also learned about myself. As a junior, I have recently been thinking about college, and trying to decide what I want to study. I've always had an interest in all animals, so Zoology or Veterinary services were always a choice in my mind, but this trip really cemented my decision, because seeing all of these animals in need made me realize that I could be a part of the solution. <p>The Lanai Cat Sanctuary has not only reduced the feral cat population on Lāna'i, but we saw first hand on our tour of many different organizations that they are the leader in the industry for their progressive approach to saving endangered birds by providing humane solutions for cats predated in protected areas.</p> <p>Unsterilized female cats in Hawaii that are 6 months or older can have up to 3 litters a year, with 3-5 kittens per litter. Without the Lanai Cat Sanctuary, feral cats would overrun the island of Lāna'i.</p> <p>If the Lanai Cat Sanctuary does not receive the funding needed to continue accepting all feral and unwanted cats, it will severely impact the progress the island of Lāna'i has made in controlling the feral cat population and protecting the native and endangered birds on the island. Also without this funding, students such as ours will lose a valuable educational resource - we all, and particularly our youth, need to learn about the most effective ways to deal with the free roaming cat crisis on all our islands.</p> <p>Thank you, Erin Tseu</p> <p>-- Erin Tseu Secondary Teacher/Science O: (808) 261-0707 ext 3010</p>			

Guest User

From: Rebecca Ashton Sent: Wednesday, April 17, 2024 6:01:25 PM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii To: BFED Committee Subject: Paia town concerns

04-18-

2024

07:44 am

Dear Committee, I am a merchant in Paia. Please allow me to register my concern regarding the current status of our historical and significant small town. The tragic fire in Lahaina town has brought an increased number to visitors our way. I feel it is increasing important that our island support us in meeting the needs of our daily visitors as well as making a favorable lasting good impression. Paia town is desperately in need of the following:

- More Parking, more parking, and more parking.
- Public bathrooms which are available and clean
- Trash containers that are emptied regularly
- Street and sidewalk maintenance for trash and hazards
- _Attention to and control of the homeless population please!
- Attention to traffic flow and a better bypass system

Please pay attention here and help us go forward and be much better than we are currently! Thank you, Rebecca Ashton Maui Crafts Guild (we are the oldest surviving business in Paia) Sent from my iPhone

BFED Committee

From: Shanna Willing <swilling@molokaichc.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2024 10:58 PM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Terry Radl
Subject: Molokai Community Health Center Request for Funding
Attachments: MCHC Operational Budget Request.pdf

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

Aloha Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee,

Mehalo for holding your budget hearing on Molokai Monday evening! Mehalo Nui for allowing Molokai Community Health Center leadership the space to present our proposed project to the committee as well. We at MCHC have been reaching out with hopes to be included in this budget process, and we do so appreciate your attention to this important program for expanded dental operational health services we are bringing to the residents of Molokai!

Since January of this year two of the three on-island dental providers have pivoted to cash-only practices, no longer accepting insurance. This requires Molokai families to pay upfront for all dental services received, which can be quite expensive and taxing on the already tight household budget. Molokai Community Health Center has responded to the vulnerabilities associated with access to dental care and is expanding our dental practice to include space to accommodate additional providers. MCHC, as a federally qualified health center, accepts all patients regardless of their ability to pay; thus, this expansion will address an important gap in care for Molokai.

Please find attached the supplemental information for the testimony on behalf of MCHC that was presented Monday night. Keani has graciously included this proposed project, which is inclusive of a portion of the operational funding required to bring this expansion project to fruition, as one of her budget priorities.

On behalf of Molokai Community Health Center, thank you for your consideration of this important project which will address a critical care gap for the residents of Molokai! If you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact me!

Thank you,

Shanna Willing

*Interim Chief Executive Officer
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April 18, 2024

Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
Maui County Councilmember
PO Box 889
Kaunakakai, HI 96748

RE: Proposed Budget for Dental Expansion Program for Molokai Community Health Center

Dear Keani:

First, thank you for providing the opportunity to present testimony in request of support of operational expenses required for the expanded dental project on behalf of Molokai Community Health Center.

As you may be aware, the dental provider situation on Molokai has changed drastically in the last year. There are three remaining dental providers on island, two of which are no longer accepting insurance, thereby requiring payment made at the time service is provided. Molokai Community Health Center is the only dental practice on island that is accepting insurance. In addition, MCHC, as the federally qualified health center on island, accepts all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.

Molokai residents are voicing their concerns over the vulnerabilities associated with access to dental care. In the past two years, daily dental patient encounters have increased 33%, and MCHC's patient base has increased at least 22% per year since 2021.

In response to the concerns expressed over access to care, Molokai Community Health Center applied for and received \$1.2 million in Congressionally Directed Spending funding to renovate the existing dental building to nearly double the size of the existing practice, updating the dental equipment, and make space for an additional dentist and hygienist, as well as a future dental residency program.

The \$1.2 million must be utilized for capital expenses – building renovation and equipment. With the capital expenses funded, this leaves operational funding remaining: the costs for staffing the practice, travel for the dental providers (our providers currently fly in from off island every week), the cost for housing the providers, as well as the increased costs associated with operating the practice due to the increase in patients requiring care.

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With this in mind, I offer the following detailed budget with regards to the dental operations funding:

Ask Amount	Total Org Yearly Amount Budgeted	Budget Item	Justification	Funding: County	Funding: State/Federal	Funding: Other/Private
\$ 218,560	\$3,113,714	Salaries/Benefits	Dentist, hygienist and dental assistant salaries	07%	43%	50%
15,000	\$63,000	Travel/Mileage/ground	Staff travel cost-flights	24%		76%
18,000	\$50,071	Housing	Housing cost for staff hired off island to travel to Molokai for work	36%		64%
58,440	\$380,029	Building Operations	Utilities/Facility Insurance	15%	15%	70%
10,000	\$136,017	Program Supplies	Daily program needs for patient care	07%	15%	78%
10,000	\$16,925	CE Credit/Dues/Training	Continuing education paid for providers to maintain licensure	59%		41%
\$330,000		TOTAL				

As a non-profit health care facility, the Health Services and Resource Administration has not increased base grants to community health centers in over ten years, yet the cost to continue operations has increased incrementally.

The health care shortage issues experienced in Hawaii have caused our business, as well as other health care businesses on island to use locum providers, which can exponentially increase operating costs due to the high salary costs and requirements to provide housing and transportation.

This is the first time that Molokai Community Health Center has requested funding support from the County, and your consideration of this request is much appreciated!

I look forward to discussing this request with you in detail, Keani. Thanks for all you do for Molokai!

Sincerely,



Shanna Willing
Interim CEO

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