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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

April 4, 2026

Mr. Kapono'ai Molitau, Director
Department of 'Ōiwi Resources
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Molitau:

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI** (BFED-1) (OWR-02)

Although your Department is not required to appear before the Council's Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee during its FY 2027 Budget deliberations, may I please request that you answer the following questions. This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2027 Budget.

May I further request that, after approval by the Office of the Mayor, you transmit your written response to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by 4:30 p.m. on **April 13, 2026**.

Overall

1. Relating to the Department's Mission: (Page 585, Program Budget) (TC)
 - a. How does the Department "Guide the county in the correct usage of the Hawaiian language, including place names, and the integration of Hawaiian language within County functions?" Please provide supporting examples of what the Department has done to date and plans to do in FY 2027.
 - b. How does the Department "Advise state and federal agencies on all programs and projects that affect 'ōiwi resources in the County?" Please provide supporting examples of what the Department has done to date and plans to do in FY 2027.

2. Why is the Department proposing a 92.9 percent increase in staff E/Ps and a 70.2 percent increase in Salaries and Wages while proposing a 47.2 percent decrease in Operations? (Page 588, Budget Program) (SS)
3. Relating to the 'Ōiwi Resources Program, Goal #1, item 1: (Page 589, Program Budget)
 - a. What is the status of the management strategy, recovery, and restoration of Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, Pākalā, and the surrounding cultural community? What is the timeline for implementation and completion of the restoration? Is community input and participation on the management strategy, recovery, and restoration allowed? Please explain. (TP) (SS)
 - b. In the FY 2026 Budget Implementation Report as of December 31, 2025, the Department reported conducting two community outreach events.
 - i. Please describe the community outreach events the Department has done and how the events engage the community. (TC)
 - ii. How does the Department measure the success of events and determine whether the community engagement should continue or if the Department should try something else? (TC)
4. Relating to the 'Ōiwi Resources Program, Goal #1, item 2: (Page 590, Program Budget)
 - a. Can the Department create, in consultation with State and federal agencies, measurable outcomes for granting licenses to archaeologists to perform studies on Maui? Please explain. (SS)
 - b. Can the Department develop a database of archaeologists certified to operate business in, and approve permits for, the County? Please explain. (SS)

- c. In the FY 2026 Budget Implementation Report as of December 31, 2025, the Department reported the reinterment 20 iwi kūpuna. Where were the iwi kūpuna reinterred? What is the process to reinter iwi kūpuna? (NUH)
5. Relating to the 'Ōiwi Resources Program, Goal #1, item 3, can the Department, in collaboration with the planning commissions and the Department of Planning, require developers to use the Department's cultural overlay maps when they create their project plans? Please explain. (Page 590, Program Budget) (SS)
6. Relating to the 'Ōiwi Resources Program, Goal #2, item 1, which Countywide nonprofit organizations, with missions that align with 'ōiwi resources, does the Department coordinate with? Will the Department make this list accessible to the public? Please explain. (Page 590, Program Budget) (SS)
7. Relating to the 'Ōiwi Resources Program, Goal #2, item 5: (Page 591, Program Budget) (SS)
 - a. Does the Department have a repository for iwi kūpuna?
 - b. Who should be contacted if a person locates iwi kūpuna?
8. Relating to the 'Ōiwi Resources Program, Goal #2, item 6, the Department's FY 2026 Estimate for the number of cultural archaeological monitor certifications to be awarded is 5. In the FY 2026 Budget Implementation Report as of December 31, 2025, the Department reported that it had awarded 0. Is the Department still anticipating meeting its estimate? Please explain. (Page 591, Program Budget) (NUH)
9. Where are the Department's Administrative Rules available for public viewing? When were they last updated? Do the Rules comply with Chapter 1.16, Maui County Code? (TP)
10. Which FY 2025 appropriations did the Department allow to lapse? Please include the overall total amount of lapsed appropriations in your response. (TP)

Salaries and Wages (Category "A")

1. What is the status of the Department's FY 2026 expansion positions? (TC)
2. Relating to the 13 proposed expansion positions: (Pages 16-3 and 16-4, Budget Details)
 - a. Will the expansion positions require a reorganization? Please explain. (TP)
 - b. Which positions already exist and which ones do not have a comparable position across government entities in the State and must be newly created? (TP)
 - c. Does the Department have capacity for the positions within its current facilities? Please explain. (TP)
 - d. Do the positions require equipment? Please explain. (TP)
 - e. Please describe each expansion position, including its duties and responsibilities, and explain how each position will contribute towards the Department's mission. (TC) (SS)
3. Has the Department considered funding P-00786, P-00787, and P-00791 Park Caretaker Aina Ambassadors and P-00788 Security Officer through the Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund? Or would the Department consider using contractors who would also manage the related parking concession? (Page 16-4, Budget Details) (TP)
4. Please explain whether the following positions reported vacant in the FY 2026 Budget Implementation Report as of December 31, 2025, have been posted for recruitment or filled: (TP)
 - a. Chief Hawaiian Cultural Manager
 - b. Program Specialist II, 'Āina Advocate (Molokai)
 - c. Archaeologist.

5. According to the FY 2026 Budget Implementation Report as of December 31, 2025, the Student Intern – Archaeology/Cultural Monitor was expected to officially start on February 1, 2026. Did the intern officially start receiving pay on that date? If not, please explain why. (TP)

Operations and Equipment (Category “B”)

1. Relating to Miscellaneous Other Costs, Index Code 926001B, please provide a list of costs associated with Countywide blessings the Department anticipates incurring. (Page 16-7, Budget Details) (TC)
2. Relating to Registration/Training Fees, Index Code 926001B, please provide a breakdown of the Department’s anticipated expenses. (Page 16-7, Budget Details) (TC)
3. Relating to Recreation programs, Index Code 926001B, does the Department coordinate with the Office of the Mayor on Makahiki Season? Why is the Office of the Mayor budgeting \$1 million for Makahiki Season separately from the Department? Is the Office’s appropriation for purposes other than employee games? (Page 16-8, Program Details) (TP)
4. What is the total monetary amount of grant requests the Department has received and what is the total amount the Department can fund? Please explain what restrictions and challenges prevent the Department from fully funding all worthy proposals received. (GJ)

Appendix A, Part II

1. Relating to the Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund: (Page 16-13, Budget Details; Pages 52 to 53, Budget Bill) (TP)
 - a. What is the status of the FY 2026 Moku‘ula and Mokuhinia Mo’olelo Story Boards project?
 - b. How and where will the requested \$200,000 for Hui O Wa‘a Kaulua for restoration and maintenance of canoes and canoe site be used? Is this use allowed under Code Chapter 3.38? Please explain.

- c. Is the Department in compliance with Code Subsection 3.38.030(C)? If yes, provide a copy of the 2025 report and the transmittal letter to the Council. If not, please explain why.
- d. What is the status of the parking concessions at Tax Map Key (2) 4-6-007:036? The ability to park there seems to be enforced inconsistently.
- e. Bill 63 (2026) would rename this fund and expand the area of use to include the Lahaina Royal Complex, King Kamehameha III Elementary, and library areas makai of Front Street.
 - i. What community outreach has been done in Lahaina on the expanded use of the Fund? Specifically, has the Department reached out to Nā 'Aikāne o Maui and Na Kupuna O Lahaina on the change?
 - ii. Does the Administration propose removing the reporting requirements? If yes, why?

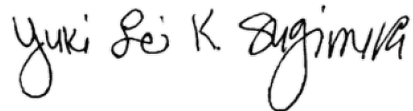
May I also request that you restate each question followed by your corresponding response. Include any attachments or exhibits. Please ensure your response is clear and legible by using a minimum 12-point font throughout so Committee members and the public can easily read the document once it is posted.

To ensure efficient processing, please duplicate the coding in the subject line above for easy reference.

Mr. Kapono'ai Molitau
April 4, 2026
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Thank you for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Kirsten Szabo at ext. 7662, James Krueger at ext. 7761, Jarret Pascual at ext. 7141, Clarissa MacDonald at ext. 7135, or Pauline Martins at ext. 8039).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei K. Sugimura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

bfed:2027bgt:260403aowr01:jgk

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Budget Director

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Saturday, April 4, 2026 10:36 AM
To: 'John.K.Molitu@co.maui.hi.us'
Cc: 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; 'Lesley Milner'; 'Kristina Cabbat'; 'Tiare P. Horner'; shirley.blackburn@co.maui.hi.us; 'Janina Agapay'; 'Kekai.Robinson@co.maui.hi.us'; 'Deanna Thyssen'
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (OWR-02)
Attachments: 260403aowr01 (OWR-02).pdf