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Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

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

April 16, 2026

Mr. Josiah Nishita, Managing Director
Department of Management
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Nishita:

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI** (BFED-1) (MD-04)

May I please request your response to the following:

1. Please explain why Index Code 904082B-6317 was transferred to Index Code 904051B-6112 to be administered as a contract rather than a grant to Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. for the Economic Recovery Commission. (YLS)
 - a. Please also include the legal basis and criteria for that determination. (YLS)

Please note that these questions were submitted to the Department of the Corporation Counsel but deferred to the Office of Recovery.

May I further request that you transmit your response to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by **4:30 p.m. on April 17, 2026**.

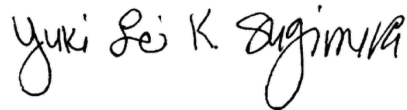
May I also request that you restate each question followed by your corresponding response. Include any attachments or exhibits. Please ensure your response is clear and legible by using a minimum 12-point font throughout so Committee Members and the public can easily read the document once it is posted.

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

Mr. Josiah Nishita
April 16, 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 style with a large, looped "Y" and "S".

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

bfed:2027bgt:260416amd01:jpp

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Budget Director
Office of Recovery Administrator

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 3:53 PM
To: 'Josiah K. Nishita'
Cc: 'Zeke Kalua'; 'Lesley Milner'; 'tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us';
'kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us'; 'Shirley Blackburn'; 'Janina Agapay'; 'Erin Wade'; 'Cynthia Sasada'; 'Didi Hamai'; 'John Smith'; 'lynette.kaona@co.maui.hi.us'
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (MD-4)
Attachments: (MD-04) Correspondence to Managing Director 04-16-2026.pdf

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

ERIN A. WADE
Deputy Managing Director



DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAI'I 96793
www.mauicounty.gov

April 21, 2026

Ms. Lesley Milner
Budget Director, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL


Mayor Date 4-22-26

For Transmittal to:

Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Sugimura:

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (MD-4)

Thank you for your letter dated April 16, 2026. Below are your questions in **bold** followed by the Department's answers.

- 1. Please explain why Index Code 904082B-6317 was transferred to Index Code 904051B-6112 to be administered as a contract rather than a grant to Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. for the Economic Recovery Commission. (YLS)**
 - a. Please also include the legal basis and criteria for that determination. (YLS)**

Based on conversations with Council and Corporation Counsel, the funds can be returned to their previous index code and distributed as a grant. The updated language can read: "Up to \$200,000

*Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee
April 21, 2026
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must be for Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. for final support for implementation of projects developed through the Economic Recovery Commission program.”

Since the nature of the work being completed was more in alignment with a professional service than most grants, the Department included it as a contract. Upon review following Council’s questions, Corporation Counsel advised the department that the funds may continue to be distributed as a grant for reasons including, but not limited to:

- The activity being funded by the FY2027 grant only incidentally benefits the County.
- The work does not involve maintaining any County parks or facilities
- The work does not involve operating County programs
- The County does not sign-off on the deliverables
- Implementation strategy of the projects continues to originate from the community participants rather than being designed or directed by the County.
- There continues to be cost-sharing and mixed beneficiaries for the projects.
- There continues to be partial government funding combined with other matching funding sources as grants and therefore could not be competitively bid.

Should you have any further questions, please contact my office at ext. 7855 or email Josiah.Nishita@co.maui.hi.us.

Sincerely,



for JOSIAH K. NISHITA
Managing Director

BFED Committee

From: Tiare P. Horner <tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2026 10:10 AM
To: BFED Committee; Josiah K. Nishita
Cc: Ezekiel I. Kalua; Lesley J. Milner; Kristina Angeline C. Cabbat; Shirley Blackburn; Janina E. Agapay; Erin A. Wade; Cynthia E. Sasada; Didi A. Hamai; John R. Smith; Lynette M. Kaona
Subject: RE: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (MD-4)
Attachments: (BFED-1) (MD-4).pdf

Aloha,

Please see attached correspondence.

Mahalo,

Tiare P. Horner
Budget Specialist
Phone: 808.270.7517

From: BFED Committee <BFED.Committee@mauicounty.us>
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2026 15:53
To: Josiah K. Nishita <josiah.k.nishita@co.maui.hi.us>
Cc: Ezekiel I. Kalua <Zeke.Kalua@co.maui.hi.us>; Lesley J. Milner <Lesley.J.Milner@co.maui.hi.us>; Tiare P. Horner <tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us>; Kristina Angeline C. Cabbat <kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us>; Shirley Blackburn <shirley.blackburn@co.maui.hi.us>; Janina E. Agapay <Janina.E.Agapay@co.maui.hi.us>; Erin A. Wade <erin.wade@co.maui.hi.us>; Cynthia E. Sasada <cynthia.sasada@co.maui.hi.us>; Didi A. Hamai <didi.hamai@co.maui.hi.us>; John R. Smith <John.Smith@co.maui.hi.us>; Lynette M. Kaona <lynette.kaona@co.maui.hi.us>
Subject: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) (MD-4)