

BFED Committee

From: Tasha A. Kama
Sent: Friday, April 8, 2022 10:29 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Councilmember Kama's Priority Proposals - Justification Text
Attachments: 2022-04-07 CM Kama Priority Justification - Dept of Management.docx

BFED Committee:

On behalf of Councilmember Kama, please find attached for the public record, the text of her justifications for her priority proposals relating to the Department of Management.

Thank you.

Senior Executive Assistant Evan Dust *for*
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NOTE: We are following Chair Lee's directive to work remotely during the current COVID-19 emergency. Our public-facing office phone is answered by voice mail. Email is monitored and responded to as quickly as possible. Short inquiries can be made via Microsoft Teams. If you need to speak with me, you can call my internal direct extension at (808) 270-5509.

CM Kama Priority #4 – Line-Item Appropriation -- Palama Drive Neighborhood Engineering Study

This proposal would add a new line-item appropriation for a community-driven engineering study of County-provided hard services (such as sewer, water, and stormwater facilities) in the Palama Drive neighborhood. This new appropriation would be added to page 11-7 of the Budget Details, Index 904011B, object code 6132, “Professional Services” in the amount of \$200,000.

For the past few years, every time the County Council has discussed the disposition of the Fairways lots, individuals from the adjacent neighborhood along Palama Drive have testified at length about the negative impacts their community has suffered. In the testimony, statements about the inadequacy of county-provided hard services (e.g., sewer, water and stormwater facilities) especially during periods of measurable rainfall.

The purpose of this appropriation is to have the Department of Management retain a professional consulting team to engage the community to identify issues with the county’s hard services and develop solutions that meet with the satisfaction of most of the community. The study would inform the future Capital Facilities Plans (CFP) for Public Works, Environmental Management and the Department of Water Supply with respect to improvements to be programmed in future fiscal years.

The County created these issues for this community by approving in error the engineering that created the Fairway lots. Settling the issue with the developer did not fully address the harm created for this community. Now is the time to figure these issues out and determine solutions so this community can be healed.

CM Kama Priority #5 – New E/P -- DHHL Coordinator

This priority proposal would create a new position in the Department of Management to assist with the coordination of efforts between Maui County and the Department of Hawaiian Homelands. This new position will be charged with coordinating efforts of mutual interest of the county and the department so that the department may fully achieve the purpose stated in the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act of 1920, “to enable native Hawaiians to return to their lands in order to fully support self-sufficiency for native Hawaiians and the self determination of native Hawaiians in the administration of the Act...” Further, the principal purposes of the Act include “establishing a permanent land base for the benefit and use of native Hawaiians, upon which they may live, farm, ranch, and otherwise engage in commercial or industrial or any other activities as authorized...” by the Act.

By placing this position in the Department of Management recognizes that achieving the mutual goals of providing housing, farming and mercantile opportunities for native Hawaiians will require the cooperation and engagement with many county departments. It is fully within the authority and jurisdiction of the Department of Management since that department is charged with addressing coordination between county departments.

Further, having one point of contact for DHHL within the county organization will streamline addressing issues where cooperation is needed for DHHL to fully meet its mission with respect to native Hawaiians in Maui County.

This new coordinator position would assist with improvements to expedite the permitting process and clarify jurisdictional issues regarding development and building compliance on Hawaiian Homes Commission properties. The coordinator may be called on to assist engaging the native Hawaiian community for greater inclusivity in the processes by which County and private projects are planned and permitted. Additionally, the coordinator may be called upon to explore cooperative funding opportunities that foster truly affordable housing. This position also may assist with ensuring best management practices and cultural integrity of all DHHL/County projects.

It is recognized that a similar position is part of the proposed Charter amendment to create the Department of 'Oiwi Resources. This proposal would create the position in advance of the voter's choice on the new department. If the new department is created, this position could be transferred. If the department is not created, there would still be significant value in having this position within the Department of Management.