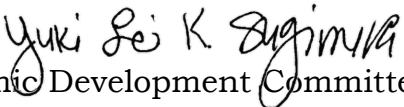


April 9, 2024

MEMO TO: Members of the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

F R O M: Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair 
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

SUBJECT: **HĀNA RESIDENCY AREA MEETING REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR (“FY”) 2025 BUDGET** (BFED-1)

On April 1, 2024, the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee held a public meeting in Hāna regarding the Proposed FY 2025 Budget. Present for the meeting were: Vice-Chair Tasha Kama and members Tom Cook, Gabe Johnson, Alice L. Lee, Tamara Paltin, Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, and Shane M. Sinenci. Committee member Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins was excused. The meeting started at 6:04 p.m. and adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Your Committee received oral testimony from 21 individuals. Unless otherwise indicated, the following oral testimony was received in support of funding for the organization, program, or project noted:

1. Līpoa Kahaleuahi, Executive Director of Ma Ka Hana Ka ‘Ike Building Program, and six others testified in support of continuing and increased funding for the organization’s vocational training programs – Hāna Build, Mahele Farm, Mālama Hāloa, and Kahu ‘Ai Pono.
2. One individual testified in support of funding to address climate change, improve emergency sirens, fix potholes, and improve signage on Hāna Highway.
3. Heidi Lea, Executive Director of Hāna Business Council, Inc., testified in support of funding for the Ho‘omakaukau Maui Hikina – East Maui Ready program to increase community resilience, emergency planning, and siren improvement. She also testified in support of ‘āina-based solutions and local food hubs.
4. Three individuals testified in support of continued funding for Hāna Canoe Club.

5. One individual testified about the need to repair a dilapidated County-owned home used to house Maui Police Department officers. The testifier also offered to provide photos for documentation.
6. One individual requested a Transient Accommodations Tax exemption for Maui County residents.
7. Becky Lind, Executive Director of Hāna Arts, and three others urged for continued funding of the organization and support for all East Maui nonprofits.
8. Two individuals testified on the need for a larger civic center facility to accommodate Hāna nonprofits and the growing population. The testifiers also suggested the expansion of Helene Hall, construction of an additional gym facility, covered volleyball and basketball courts, and an outdoor amphitheater.
9. Two individuals requested funding to preserve and maintain Old Hāna School, including the need for signs prohibiting parking during school hours.
10. One person testified in support of funding to rebuild Hāna Wharf for the transport of emergency supplies during natural disasters or when Hāna Highway is closed.
11. One individual testified in support of funding for maintenance and paving of roads from Hāna to Kīpahulu and requested regulation of a glamping operation at Ke‘anae.
12. Three individuals testified in support of continued funding for Ke Ao Hāli‘i.
13. Six people expressed support for East Maui nonprofits in general.
14. Mary Brook, East Maui Branch Manager of Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc., and eight others testified in support of the agency’s transportation, youth, and kūpuna services.

15. One person testified for funding for development of the Hāna Greenway including walkable paths and sidewalks along Hāna Highway.
16. Four individuals testified in support of Hāna Fresh and Hāna Health.

Your Committee also received the attached written testimony.

For questions relating to the Hāna residency area meeting, please contact Ellen McKinley, Megan Moniz, Maria Leon, or Jennifer Yamashita. If you have any questions relating to the FY 2025 Budget, please contact the Committee staff (James Krueger, Kasie Apo Takayama, or Yvette Bouthillier). Thank you for your cooperation.

Attachment

bfed:2025bgt:rameetings:240401HanaResidencyAreaMeeting:mkm

MA KA HANA KA 'IKE

"In Working, One Learns"

April 1, 2024

County of Maui | FY2025 Community Budget Meeting | East Maui – Hāna
Helene Hall Community Center

Aloha mai kākou,

Mahalo a nui loa to Mayor Richard Bissen, the County of Maui, its Office of Economic Development and Department of Agriculture, and all its departments for your continued advocacy and service to the East Maui community from the Ko'olau to the Kaupō regions. Mahalo, as well, to your staff members, everyone who processes our reports, ensures that due diligence is executed, and who responds to our inquiries. It is their high standard that has contributed to raising the bar of our organization's fiscal practices. In these extreme and difficult times, we are encouraged by your examples of leadership, steadfast dedication, and discernment, knowing that it takes all of us and each of you and your teams to get the job done to serve our vast and diverse communities.

As the executive director of Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, I am testifying on behalf of our impact, commitment to community service, and resolute sense of responsibility to utilize to the penny every tax-payer dollar entrusted to us to build a brighter future for Hāna and our island home.

We are in our final quarter of this fiscal year, and as of March 15th, our teams harvested over 15,000 pounds of produce, impacted the lives of 506 participants, fed 134 kūpuna, led youth in a combined total of 25,489 hours of hands-on vocational and place-based training and education, and executed 16 building projects despite challenges such as flooding, invasive species invasions, the impact still of the pandemic on our students, one another, and our community, and, the heightened need for resources to go out to our families and friends impacted of the Lahaina, Kihei, and Kula fires. And that is just what we've accomplished directly through our partnership and the use of County funds. Our services and the funding to support them expands from there so that we can provide 10,268 prepared meals to kūpuna and keiki on a rotating basis, explore and offer training and certificate opportunities to our youth and apprentices so that by the time they graduate, they have concrete, applicable skills and knowledge to enter the workforce, and to supplement our school environment with cultural education programs in Makahiki and ku'i 'ai.

Behind all these numbers are the people who create and uplift every activity, program, project, and initiative and each student, colleague, kūpuna, and community member we serve. It's the house that will be a home for generations to come so that our kūpuna can age in place and their 'ohana can continue to live, stay, and thrive here in Hāna. It's the young mother who can expect to receive her family's veggies for the week for free after volunteering at Mahele Farm. It's the student who arrives at school hungry yet can find an extra meal and a lesson on how to make it in their culinary class. And it's experienced in the ongoing, uninterrupted nature of our services and employment that can be maintained through the unexpected and the unplanned.

MA KA HANA KA 'IKE

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HANA
Special Agent, Kōhala

MA KA HANA KA 'IKE

"In Working, One Learns"

I think word has successfully gone out about Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike's recent \$2 million gift. We are proud and humbled that after 24 years we now have 6-12 months of cash reserves, a necessity for an organization of our size and caliber, when up until this point in our organization's lifespan, we've operated with two months at best. And with a budget of \$2.06 million and plans to only deepen our service to our community, we ask for your continued support, belief, and leadership. Join us in ensuring our community is one in which our people thrive.

Mahalo nō,



Lipoa Kahaleuahi

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BFED COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING IN HANA

From Janet Redo

On behalf the Keanae Community-

My name is Janet Redo I am a resident of Keanae Maui for more than 65 years. I am speaking on behalf of the residents of the Keanae & Wailaa Nui Community. We are requesting a concrete pavilion to be erected at the Keanae Baseball Park at the Keanae peninsula. It is to be used mainly for the community meetings and other needs. We request that the Council will consider funding this pavilion in this budget term. Thank you for your consideration, Janet

“Festivals of Aloha Hana” Budget Requests

Our Hana “Festivals of Aloha” organization is the last in the state that each year runs around 17 events over 8 days and is still called “Aloha Week”. We sold 1,295 ribbons last year. By comparison Lanai sold less than 200. Our long-term plan is to have this festival become a destination event that Hana would be noted for. To this end we need adequate and accessible funding.

We rely heavily on volunteer help. Folks volunteer to chair our events, and we get discounted rentals etc. It is truly a community supported festival. In 2023 the festival encountered significant cash flow problems that seriously undermined the credibility we had with our supporters. To date there are still folks, including myself, who fronted large sums of money and have yet to be reimbursed by the county for their expenses.

If a person volunteers to help our festival they shouldn't have to suffer financially. To improve things we would like to see more funds available specifically to Hana and have a larger percentage (70%) available up front. One key to a successful festival is bringing in top notch entertainment. Quality entertainers are booked well in advance and want to see a deposit to secure a commitment. The county regulations require that service be rendered before payments can be made. I am sure that rule fits some situations but only serves to have us expend personal funds that won't be reimbursed till months later. I would think something could be done to make it less financially burdensome for folks who are only trying to serve their community.

Bill Sides

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EAST MAUI

April 1, 2024

Aloha, Mayor Bissen, and Council Members,

Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to provide testimony. My name is Bailey Spry. I am the Grants Manager at Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike (MKHKI), and I am here as an advocate for continued County support for our educational non-profit. I want to mahalo you for the years of support and incremental increases to our line item. Your staff's availability and accessibility have streamlined our proposal and reporting processes over the years. The county's diligence and rigorous processes have empowered us to raise the bar on our reporting and internal organization systems, which, in turn, have prepared us to steward larger awards. Consistent support and backing from the county, alongside that of other Hawai'i funders, have garnered us both local and national acclaim, leading to gifts such as the one recently received through Lever for Change.

Given our growing funding landscape, I want to highlight the significance of County funds for MKHKI. With less than 0.02% of the county's annual budget, which is 4% of the county's grant management funds, we are able to engage over 350 East Maui youth each year in meaningful work-based learning opportunities and serve an additional 100 beneficiaries, the majority of whom are kūpuna, through our food hub, kūpuna hale builds, and home safety renovations. County funds allow us to provide a paid apprenticeship program for vocational students of Hāna School to gain the skills needed to become self-sufficient adults.

Over the years, County funds have allowed us the flexibility to respond to the evolving needs of Hāna students, kūpuna, and their families. Most recently, OED funds have supported one of our organization's most sweeping initiatives, Mālama I Nā Hulu Kūpuna, wherein the educational endeavors of our K-12 youth feed and house kūpuna in East Maui. This year, MKHKI used county funds to leverage over 66% of our workforce development project budget. For every County dollar, we are able to access two dollars of support from private, national, and government entities. Funding from the County of Maui continues to act as a stamp of approval from our local government, which does not go unnoticed by additional funders.

County funds have supported professional and workforce development opportunities for youth including knowledge shares and advanced workshops. This year, two senior culinary students

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EAST MAUI

April 1, 2024

attended an experiential visit to the University of Hawai'i Maui College culinary program, and the entire high school culinary class participated in an industry training day at the Hyatt. This year, we supported graduate apprentices through various professional development opportunities, including butchering, historic building renovation, and USDA agriculture loan workshops. Our latest student and apprentice survey results tell us that 97% of high school and graduate apprentices have gained skills through our programs that they will use in the future. Additionally, 100% of surveyed kupuna beneficiaries told us that MKHKI has improved their well-being.

MKHKI continues to ensure alignment with county goals and objectives for economic development by sustaining a now two-decade-old approach to vocational training programs while expanding into new territory for economic development. One of our newer initiatives, I Kū Nā Loea, or readying the masters, seeks to build income capacity among apprentices by focusing on resume building through professional development and training documentation. Through I Kū Nā Loea (IKNL), service learning continues while apprentices receive experience in performance reviews and advanced learning opportunities. IKNL is redefining as well as documenting the educational experience at MKHKI while working towards culturally relevant certifications that can equate to real-world increases in income.

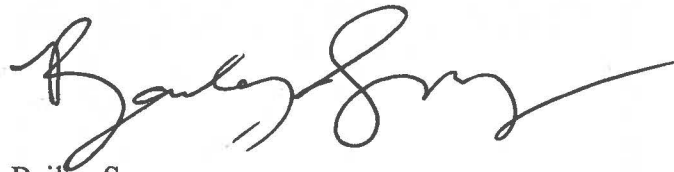
Habitat for Humanity will soon be breaking ground on affordable housing in Hāna. In as much as it allows us to maintain the educational integrity of our programs, MKHKI is prepared to collaborate on these upcoming projects. In addition to Habitat, continued partnerships with Ala Kukui, Chef Hui, Hawai'i Farmers Union United, and UH Maui College support education in the real-world trades for Hāna youth. MKHKI will take on yet another Department of Education position this coming year to provide Natural Resource Education with a food systems approach to Hāna students. MKHKI is consistently attuned and prepared to meet the incoming needs of our school and community. We are keenly aware of the people we need for these roles and can leverage our relationships to find those people.

It was requested that we provide further information on how the recent Lever for Change award will impact our non-profit. Successful non-profits typically maintain between 6-12 months of "Operating Reserves" on hand. For most of our organization's history, we have operated with

April 1, 2024

about two months of reserves. As MKHKI entered its third decade in service to East Maui, we received recognition for our work through a gift from Lever for Change, equivalent to nearly a year of our operating budget. This gift places our non-profit in a financially sound space while allowing us to pursue projects waiting in the pipeline for the right time, partnerships, and team members to take forward. Simultaneously, this gift does not negate the significance of the aforementioned "stamp of approval" that the county provides us through continued support.

Is there a future in which aspects of MKHKI no longer need to exist because we have schools that provide thriving agriculture programs, vocational training, and hands-on learning opportunities that serve immediate community needs? Our partnership with the County of Maui is significant for both the short and long-term well-being of Hāna's people and the local economic development of East Maui. Mahalo nui for your investment in East Maui's economy and that of Maui Nui as a whole.



Bailey Spry

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