

BFED Committee

From: Tasha A. Kama
Sent: Tuesday, April 19, 2022 5:22 PM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Combined Justification for Priority Proposals
Attachments: 2022-04-19 TK_Revised_FINAL_Priority_Justification.docx

Aloha BFED Committee,
Please find attached my final narrative of justification for my budget priorities.

Submitted on behalf of Councilmember Kama,

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.

CM Kama Priority #1 – Line-Item Appropriation – Parents & Children Together (PACT)

My proposal is to add an additional appropriation of \$140,000 for Parents & Children Together (PACT) to provide additional support for victims of sex trafficking. This appropriation would be added to the Budget Details, page 9-31, Index Code 914310B, Sub-object 6317, “County Grant Subsidy.”

The program operated by PACT is only staffed by a part-time contractor who assists child victims of sex trafficking. That existing part-time counselor is fully engaged and will not be able to handle additional victim volumes that are expected as our community becomes more aware and willing to report sex trafficking.

The proposal would add two full time employees to PACT to assist with counseling of both child and adult victims. These employees would also help PACT with needed outreach, education and mentoring in our community, schools and with other agencies.

CM Kama Priority #2 – Line-Item Appropriation – Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation (HARF)

This proposal would increase the line-item appropriation for the Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation (HARF) in the amount of \$250,000 so that the organization can complete construction of its animal welfare and public education facility in Waihe‘e. The 5,000 square-foot multi-use barn is nearly complete, and this one-time appropriation would allow HARF to finish construction so the facility can immediately be put into use to serve the public through its mission of rescuing animals and providing educational outreach and therapeutical programs for students and the residents of Maui County. HARF is a no-kill rescue center that annually acquires much of its funding from private sources and small donations from individuals. This County funding is a relatively small but important and timely portion of the final phase of the construction of this needed facility. While the Maui Humane Society is tasked with responding to livestock issues, their facility does not currently allow the space and logistics to care for larger animals such as horses and cows. The HARF facility is located on 10 acres and provides a 12-foot overhanging roof around the entire structure, to provide shelter and a total of 11,000 under-roof space as protection for these larger animals from the elements.

CM Kama Priority #3 – 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 #4 – 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.

CM Kama Priority #5 – Additional Line-Item Appropriation – Professional Services for Maui Community Outreach Court

This proposal would add \$90,000 to the professional services appropriation for the Prosecuting Attorney, General Prosecution Program (Page 17-14 of the Budget Details, Index 906158B, Sub-object 6132/Professional Services).

As discussed in the Human Concerns and Parks Committee, the Community Outreach Court provides an opportunity for those with non-violent offenses, like many in our unsheltered population, to seek a restorative, cooperative approach to the adjudication of those offenses. The Community Outreach Court is a team effort between the Judiciary, the Prosecutor, the Public Defender, and social service agencies. The Community Outreach Court sessions are typically held in atypical settings for the court – libraries, community centers, parks, and other locations. Those appearing to have their cases adjudicated are not called “offenders” but “participants.” The Community Outreach Court has the power to clear stoppers on driver licenses and to connect participants with the social services they need. I have been advocating for the establishment of a Maui Community Outreach Court since the early days of my first term in office; now we are almost ready to embark on this new approach.

The Prosecuting Attorney plans to launch the Maui Community Outreach Court in July 2022. All of the participating agencies and departments – Prosecuting Attorney, the Office of the Public Defender, and the Judiciary – are agreeable to the proposed launch date, but there needs to be a case coordinator to manage the interactions between the participants, the court and the social service agencies. For the Oahu Community Outreach Court that case coordinator is housed in the Office of the Public Defender.

The original proposal provided an additional appropriation in the professional services line item so that the Prosecuting Attorney could provide funding to the Office of the Public Defender for the needed case coordinator. Since making this proposal, it is apparent that the State budget would need to be amended by the Legislature for the Office of the Public Defender to accept the county's funding of the case coordinator position. Such an amendment could not be executed in a timely manner. In consultation with the Budget Office and the Prosecuting Attorney, I would like to amend my proposal so that this professional service appropriation is available for any non-profit entity that can provide the service needed.

Members, I believe the Maui Community Court is a key step in addressing permanent solutions for our unsheltered community. As such I ask for your support of my priority proposal.