

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2024-04-24 9:00 AM

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All Agenda Items A G E N D A BFED-1 Bill 60 (2024) PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025... All User Locations

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- 1 Meetings
- 2 Agenda Items
- 10 Comments
- 8 Support
- 0 Oppose
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Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
Guest User	<p>Aloha Council Members,</p> <p>I am writing to provide a correction regarding Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui's (BBBS of Maui) funding request for the upcoming fiscal year. Upon reviewing the numbers, I realized that there was an error in the previous communication.</p> <p>Our organization had originally requested \$245,068 in funding to support our critical programs and operations. However, the Mayor's proposed budget allocates only \$195,000 to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui. This creates a significant shortfall of \$50,068 that we urgently need support to address.</p>	Support		04-24-2024 02:08 pm

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The requested funding of \$245,068 was carefully calculated to meet specific needs, including the addition of a part-time position in our Mentor Center after-school program, support for program operations, and covering operational costs associated with accommodating partner agencies.

We recognize the challenges and complexities involved in the budgetary process and appreciate your careful consideration of Council Member Johnson’s priority proposal to increase funding for the Human Concerns Programs and support BBBS of Maui as requested. Closing this funding gap is essential for us to continue providing essential services and support to Maui’s youth and families, especially in the wake of recent crises such as the wildfires.

As you deliberate on the final budget allocation, we respectfully request your support in bridging the shortfall of \$50,068 and ensuring that Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui receives the necessary resources to fulfill our mission.

Mahalo for your ongoing support.

Sincerely, Courtney Ikawa Maui Regional Director

Guest User	GJ CW #2 New 8 Budget Bill Department of Human Concerns, Human Concerns Program General Increase Human Concerns Program by \$3,000,000.	Support		04-24-2024 01:33 am
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Guest User	Aloha Council Members, As a supporter of our urban forests on Maui, I am requesting the addition of a county arborist. An additional arborist would enable the County to preserve and protect our approximately 250,000 shade trees; whose green canopy needs to be protected and increased for the sake of our climate and our quality of life. A tremendous amount of damage is being done daily by the hundreds of uneducated tree trimmers and property owners across Maui. They are not bad people, however another arborist would support, supervise and enforce proper tree pruning and removal. For instance,	Support		04-23-2024 11:46 pm
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several large shade trees were denuded in Kihei on Lipoa Street just yesterday - there is not a leaf left on the now-bare bare trunks - these trees may die, or may take 15 years to recover the growth that they lost and their life expectancy is now shortened. Honolulu has 27 arborists; we have 1. Please consider the huge return on the investment of hiring one additional arborist. Mahalo, Amy Muramatsu, Pukalani

Guest User	Aloha .. i humbly ask that you support adding an additional arborist ... we have over 200,000 trees on our islands and we currently have only one arborist .. we need another arborist ! .. please support this additional position ..			04-23-2024 06:17 pm
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mahalo nui loa .. adele rugg :=}

BFED Committee	Testimonies received from BFED Committee.		Attachment	04-25-2024 07:49 am
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Helena Costa	Hi, my name is Lena. I'm providing testimony in support of Councilmember Johnson's proposal to increase DHC's Human Concerns Grant Subsidy Program by \$3 million dollars. By extension, I specifically support the increase to The Maui Farm's budget from \$279,666 to the requested \$313,588. Having been a part of the Family Strengthening Program, I am writing to support The Maui Farm and all the services they provide. Before staying at The Maui Farm, I had just gone through a severe domestic violence situation in which I was stabbed, and honestly without this place, I don't know where I'd be. When I first moved to The Maui Farm, I had nothing. Through the program there I have learned so much and have grown as a person, as a mother, and a member of the community. Before, I didn't realize there was helpful people for women like me and the horrible situation I found myself in. Through the individual and group sessions I realized how much abuse my children and I had gone through, and I can now recognize and avoid toxic lifestyle cycles. I now have a stronger and stable relationship with my children and have a stable family	Support		04-24-2024 05:24 pm
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Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

life. The support from the staff there allowed me to realize that I am not alone and always connected me with great resources. They made sure we got the care that we needed, even supporting with attaining therapy and addiction recovery services. I know that the staff at The Maui Farm is always here for me, but they helped me to build my own support network as well. I now have a stable job and income, a working vehicle, improved credit, savings, and housing. During my transition to stability, I had a safe place to stay at The Maui Farm and I was able to continue going to work and grow in the company I am employed with. I was also able to save money by working in the Stipend program while the staff helped me to improve my budgeting skills and work habits. This helped me build a great foundation to manage my home and work life. I knew nothing about credit growing up and before the Maui Farm I had no credit. Through the individual sessions and staff support, I learned a lot about building my credit. I now have a great credit score, which I built in less than 1 year while in the program. This credit score improvement allowed me to get a dependable car, an apartment, a better position at my work, along with getting a loan to consolidate all my debt. I am almost debt free! Above all, I am confident in continuing my path toward my ultimate goal of buying a house, armed with the tools and support from the Maui Farm. I hope you now have a better understanding of how programs like this need to stay funded, because they save and impact lives. I am forever grateful to The Maui Farm and staff!

Guest User	Dear Council Members, I am writing to express my full support for Council Member Johnson's priority proposal to increase funding for the Department of Human Concerns Programs. As a representative of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui (BBBS of Maui), I wish to highlight the critical importance of this funding increase for our organization and the communities we serve.	Support	04-24-2024 01:22 pm
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Name

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In the face of recent challenges, including the devastating wildfires, our organization has witnessed a significant increase in demand for our services, particularly in our Mentor Center after-school program. Despite being awarded flat funding for FY 2025, BBBS of Maui is committed to meeting the evolving needs of our community, especially the youth of the Hale Makana O Waiale community.

BBBS of Maui had requested a total of \$203,728 in funding to support our vital programs and operations. However, in the Mayor's proposed budget, only \$195,000 has been allocated to our organization. Prior to the wildfires, we experienced a surge in enrollment in our afterschool program, catering to 3rd through 5th graders in the Hale Makana O Waiale area. With only one Case Manager overseeing a caseload of over 40 youth and high school volunteers, our capacity to provide effective support is stretched thin. Youth often rely on our services beyond scheduled hours, highlighting the critical need for additional staffing to accommodate their needs.

The proposed funding increase of \$8,728 would allow us to add a much-needed part-time position in our Mentor Center after-school program, providing vital support to our existing staff and enabling us to extend our operating hours to better serve the community. Moreover, in the aftermath of the wildfires, we have extended our support to neighboring youth at the Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Center, who have lost access to their classroom facilities. The increased funding would enable us to cover operational costs associated with accommodating partner agencies at no expense to them.

In light of these pressing needs and our unwavering commitment to serving the Maui community, I urge you to lend your support to Council Member Johnson's priority proposal to fund BBBS of Maui as requested. By investing in our organization, you are not only supporting the positive development of youth in our community, but

Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

also fostering resilience and empowerment in the face of adversity.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this matter. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you need any more information or clarification.

Sincerely, Courtney Ikawa Maui Regional Director

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
Guest User	<p>Aloha. Thank you for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Malama Hana formerly known as Malama Maui Hikina, to receive funding to continue its vital and important work. Malama Hana is deeply rooted in informed stewardship that protects our visitors to our Ahupua'a. In our work we share the protective information held within ancient place names of our sites. We share with our visitors the natural dangers of the area. We ask them to be aware and kilo carefully before going in. We inform them of the fragility of the eco-systems they will interact with when entering these spaces. We educate them at to their impact on these living systems, the community whose roads they drive and park on and the impact they have on our first responders themselves who risk their lives to save them from dangerous predicaments they often put themselves in. As well we share with them the impact of the absence of those responders when they are not available to serve our communities.</p> <p>As stewards we are well paid by Malama Hana. Our work is deeply fullfulling and gives us great sense of self worth and purpose as we provide a protective influence steeped in the deepest values of Aloha. Aloha for our 'aina, its endangered and critically endangered species, our local community and our visitors. We interact with respect and professionalism, and more often than not receive respect in turn.</p> <p>Our founders Kauila Hanchett, of Holani Hana, Kauai Kanaoli of Alakau, Sunnie Makua of Ke Ao Hali'i and Lehua Park have led us on a path on an empowering path where our input is valued. Our knowledge and hearts</p>	Support		04-24-2024 09:41 am

Name	Comment	Position	Attachments	Submitted At
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have been enriched by the experience they have provided for us working with the Edith Kanaole foundation, giving us opportunities to access ancestral wisdom and science through mele, and ole. We have received on site education from Keahi Bustamente of DOHAR, Hannah Bernard from Hawaii Wildlife Fund, Jay Pennemin from Maui Nui Sea Bird Recovery Project and Petra Bertillson of The Marine Mammal Center, that we know and understand deeply the habits and needs of our critically endangered species put at risk at all of our sites by uninformed visitors.

Our path is now turning to include more than education of our visitors. As we become more informed ourselves through the process of natural kilo, interaction with Hana Kupuna and education with experts, we see ourselves taking on greater responsibility to be the educators of our own community on our 'Aina.

As well Sunnie Makua and Mona Olivera, our site coordinator, are beginning to open a pathway to those of our younger stewards to receive University scholarships through internships programs that will be implemented on our 'Aina.

Mahalo Nui Loa for this opportunity to share our program with you. And hope you will find it worthy of future funding.

Kathleen Flanders Hana Community Member Retired
Teacher Malama Maui Hikina Steward

Gay Sibonga	Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) is in support of Council Member Johnson's priority proposal to increase funding for the Human Concerns Program's. MEO Human Concerns Programs were flat funded for PY 2025. The agency requests would support salary adjustments and program operations. Hiring and retaining qualified staff is one of the major challenges for everyone. The increases requested will keep the agency competitive in the current job market and assist in attracting and retaining qualified staff. MEO also requested an increase	Support	04-24-2024 07:15 am
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Name Comment Position Attachments Submitted At

to the Youth Services Program to continue prevention programs on Moloka*i. For the last two years the*
Moloka i Kaohi Program has assisted over 650 youth through a Federal SAMSHA grant and private funding. Here is a recap of budget shortages for MEO: • Enlace requested \$112,231, Mayor Proposed \$107,532, short \$4,699 • Head Start Summer and After School requested \$490,572, Mayor Proposed \$473,205 short \$17,367 *Head Start also leverages \$2,425,000 federal funds to operate eight centers and assist 170 children and their families. HS Summer and After School provides extended services and summer services for working parents or parents attending school.

- Planning and Coordinating Council, requested \$92,828, Mayor Proposed \$89,465, short \$3,363 *P&CC also leverages \$11,272 from the State Office of Community Services Community Service Block Grant (CSBG) for two Senior Coordinator salaries.
- Youth Services and Underage Drinking Prevention, requested \$440,441, Mayor proposed \$385,664, short \$54,777

MEO respectfully requests your support of Council Member Johnsons' priority proposal to fund MEO programs as requested.

[Kaui Kanakaole](#) Written testimony is attached in support of making the Mālama Maui Hikina Project a line item in the 2025 Budget. Council Member Shane Sinenci has introduced the idea. Support [Attachment](#) 04-22-2024 12:57 pm

BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 1:36 PM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: FW: BFED-1 - Testimony in support of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens FY2025 Budget Line Item Grant
Attachments: Letter of Testimony to the Maui County Clerk.docx

From: Kim Harter <kim@kimharter.com>
Sent: Wednesday, April 24, 2024 1:33 PM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: BFED-1 - Testimony in support of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens FY2025 Budget Line Item Grant

You don't often get email from kim@kimharter.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Letter of Testimony to the Maui County Clerk - BFED-1

Support for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens FY2025 Budget Line-Item Grant

April 24, 2024

Kimberly Harter

4234 Hana Hwy, Haiku, HI 96708

I support the full \$150,000 line-item amount for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens in the FY2025 proposed budget.

The Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is a rich cultural and environmental community resource for the residents and visitors of Maui. It is a gathering place for visitors to learn about Hawaiian culture; a place for community events; offers cultural programs; provides conservation programs of rare native species; coordinates volunteer programs of service learning for students; offers tours and school activities and has regular plant giveaways to support growing native plants.

Please continue to support MNBG's important community building work.

Mahalo for your kokua,

Sincerely,

Kimberly Harter

Letter of Testimony to the Maui County Clerk

Support for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens FY2025 Budget Line-Item Grant

April 24, 2024

Kimberly Harter

4234 Hana Hwy, Haiku, HI 96708

I support the full \$150,000 line-item amount for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens in the FY2025 proposed budget.

The Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is a rich cultural and environmental community resource for the residents and visitors of Maui. It is a gathering place for visitors to learn about Hawaiian culture; a place for community events; offers cultural programs; provides conservation programs of rare native species; coordinates volunteer programs of service learning for students; offers tours and school activities and has regular plant giveaways to support growing native plants.

Please continue to support MNBG's important community building work.

Mahalo for your kokua,

Sincerely,

Kimberly Harter



April 19, 2024

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street, 7th Floor
Wailuku, HI 96793

Subject: FY 2025 Letter of Support for Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide local stewardship and visitor management at three wahi pana of East Maui.

Aloha e BFED Committee Members,

On behalf of Ala Kukui (AK) I would like to urge you to support the Mālama Maui Hikina project to provide community-based tourism management and place-based stewardship for three treasured wahi pana in East Maui—Wailua, Waioka, and Kaihalulu. These historically and culturally significant wahi pana are threatened by the impacts of mass tourism and must be protected.

Ala Kukui is a community-based nonprofit utilizing our retreat property and facilities to create opportunities rooted in place that inspire community, ignite potential and empower the human condition within our Hāna community and beyond. We believe that when we intentionally cultivate space and opportunities for growth, meaningful transformation can happen. Throughout the Mālama Maui Hikina project, Ala Kukui has served as the primary physical meeting place for our hui of residents, lineal descendants, and community leaders from Ko'olau to Kahikinui.

Hāna of the low-lying heavens and *ua kea* rains nestled upon the Eastern flank of Haleakalā remains a cultural kīpuka for traditional Hawaiian lifestyles and values. East Maui has a long and storied heritage of place-based stewardship where thriving village communities were nourished by abundant lands. The spiritual and social mechanisms to manifest this ancestral abundance remain encoded in the *kānaka* and *'āina* of Maui Hikina.

Mālama Maui Hikina has at its heart, the intention to aid in the reclamation of ancestral pathways of self-reliance and resiliency—returning East Maui's communities to their rightful roles as stewards of the land and navigators of their own destinies. We understand this is just a beginning and that there is much we will both learn and unlearn along the way. Once again, I urge you to fund the Mālama Maui Hikina project and support our community-led efforts to restore pono, balance and natural order, to three of our beloved wahi pana.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Kau'i Kanaka'ole
Executive Director