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## COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

April 1, 2025

Mr. Kapono'ai Molitau, Director  
Department of 'Ōiwi Resources  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mr. Molitau:

SUBJECT: **FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET** (BFED-1) (OWR-02)

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the BFED Committee meeting on **April 8, 2025**.<sup>\*</sup> This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2026 Budget.

May I further request that, after approval by the Office of the Mayor, you transmit your answer to [bfed.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:bfed.committee@mauicounty.us) by the end of the day on **April 8, 2025**. *\*Date subject to change without notice.*

### **Overall**

1. As part of the Department's goals and objectives, does the Department conduct outreach to Native Hawaiian organizations and cultural or lineal descendants that have a stake in proposed development areas? (Page 580, Program Budget) (SS)
2. Under Goal #1, item 1, what type of community outreach events will be conducted? Please describe the nature of the information that will be shared and feedback the Department is hoping to receive from community engagement. How will this support the Department's operations? (Page 579, Program Budget) (TC)
3. Under Goal #1, item 2, will there be consultation with cultural or lineal descendants and cultural practitioners on iwi kūpuna vaults? (Page 580, Program Budget) (SS)

4. Under Goal #1, item 3, will the Department consider all possible options of final disposition for Native Hawaiian ancestral burials and burial sites? (Page 580, Program Budget) (SS)
5. Under Goal #1, items 2, 3, and 4; please describe the Department's plan to implement those objectives. (Page 580, Program Budget) (TC)
6. Under Goal #2, item 4, are culturally sensitive artifacts acquired by the Department being stored in a County facility? If not, where? Please also describe the Department's plan for implementation in protecting these culturally sensitive items. (Page 580, Program Budget) (TC)
7. Under Goal #3, item 1, what type of government documents will be translated? (Page 581, Program Budget) (TC)
8. Under Goal #3, item 4:
  - a. What criteria are needed for County personnel to be selected to participate in the cultural sensitivity training program? (Page 581, Program Budget) (TC)
  - b. Can cultural sensitivity training be provided to boards and commission members that make recommendations or have decision-making authority on development projects? (Page 581, Program Budget) (SS)
9. One of the Department's missions is to "guide the county in the correct usage of the Hawaiian language, including place names, and the integration of Hawaiian language within County functions." Please provide a status update on the Department's efforts in achieving this mission. (Page 575, Program Budget) (TC)
10. Another mission of the Department is to "advise state and federal agencies on all programs and projects that affect 'ōiwi resources in the County." Please provide a status update on the Department's efforts in achieving this mission. (Page 575, Program Budget) (TC)
11. With new archaeological and cultural consulting services planned for other County departments and divisions, how will your Department ensure timely and effective input on projects affecting culturally significant sites? (Page 580, Program Budget) (NUH)

12. Does the Department have a dedicated staff person monitoring all phases of development near known culturally-sensitive areas? Can the Department's Principal Archaeologist or the proposed Archaeologist or Archaeology-Cultural Monitor fulfill this role? (SS)
13. Has the Department created an inventory of locally-certified archaeologists to help protect cultural resources? (SS)

**Salaries and Wages (Category "A")**

1. The FY 2025 Council Adopted Budget notes the Department allocated seven Equivalent Personnel. How many of those positions are currently vacant? For those positions requesting a full year salary in FY 2026, how many have been filled? (Page 582, Program Budget) (TK) (TP)
2. The following relates to the Department's proposed FY 2026 expansion positions: (Page 16-3, Budget Details) (TP) (YLS) (TC) (TK)
  - a. Will the proposed FY 2026 expansion positions require reorganization? Are the position descriptions and minimum qualifications created for the Equivalent Personnel requesting eight months of funding? (TP) (YLS)
  - b. How long will it take to create the position and recruit to fill the position? Are all requested positions already established in the civil service system or will it require a new classification? If yes, which ones? (YLS)
  - c. Please elaborate further on the Aina Advocate's role. Is the primary role to track legislation and government relations or will the position also engage in community outreach or education? (TC)
  - d. Will the Grant Coordinator manage grant funds distributed by the Department to entities in the County? If yes, and if the position is funded for 12 months, does the Department intend to have grant subsidy funds available to the community? If yes, in what amounts? (Page 583, Program Budget) (GJ)

- e. What is the Department's expectation on filling these new expansion positions? (TK)

**Operations and Equipment (Category "B")**

1. The following relate to Index Code 926001B-6132 Professional Services: (Page 583, Program Budget) (TP) (YLS) (NUH)
  - a. Is Phase I of the Department's strategic plan completed and implemented? If yes, can the strategic plan be posted on the County website? (TP) (YLS)
  - b. What key areas will this phase focus on and how will it guide the Department's long-term priorities? (NUH)
2. The Department of Planning is proposing \$345,000 in funding for consultant services which includes a Lahaina National Historic District Nomination Update, Lahaina Traditional Cultural Properties Study, and Cultural Resources Management Plan. Has the Department of Planning consulted with your Department on these projects? (Page 643, Program Budget) (TP)
3. The following relate to Index Code 926001B-6365 Recreation programs: (Page 16-7, Budget Details) (TC) (NUH)
  - a. Please provide a breakdown of what this funding will cover. (NUH)
  - b. Please describe the nature, purpose and intent of this event for County employees. Will this be for County employees only or also available for public participation? What is the plan to implement this program and will this be a one-time event or will multiple events be held throughout the year? (TC)
4. The following relate to Index Code 926001B-6278 Conservation Program: (Page 584, Program Budget) (SS) (NUH) (TP)
  - a. Please elaborate further on how these funds will be used. (NUH)

- b. Will this funding also be used to for the acquisition of lands of significant cultural importance? If funds will be used to care for land rather than to purchase, have these conservation lands been identified? (SS) (TP)
      - c. How will the Department identify and prioritize the lands for conservation? What partnerships or community involvement will be incorporated into the program? (NUH)
      - d. Could the Department request that Open Space Funds be used for the conservation of County lands of significant cultural importance? (TP)
5. As it relates to Index Code 926001B-6012 Construction Materials, please describe the proposed location for the iwi kūpuna vaults. (Page 16-6, Budget Details) (TC)
6. The following relate to Index Code 926001B-6126 Maintenance Contracts: (Page 16-6, Budget Details) (TK) (TC) (NUH)
  - a. What does this cost cover? Is this for specialized cleaning services, exterior and interior cleaning, or any additional maintenance? (NUH)
  - b. What entity has been contracted to perform this service? (TC)
  - c. How was this amount determined? Is this the average rate for a window cleaning? Are there any considerations for cost-saving alternatives? (TC) (NUH)
  - d. Is the Department currently housed in the David Trask Building? What is the status of that office space? If the County acquired the building, why is the Department responsible for paying repairs and maintenance to this office space? (TK)
7. Under Index Code 926001B-6221 Miscellaneous Other Costs, what types of expenses related to Countywide blessings will the funds be used for? Will this include lei, travel, etc.? (Page 16-6, Budget Details) (TC)

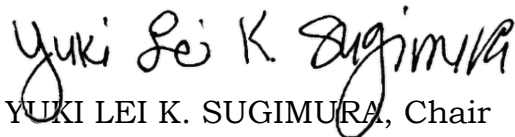
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8. Under Index Code 926001B-6225 Publications and Subscriptions, please describe the type of information that the Department is hoping to publish and the Department's plan for distribution of its publication. (Page 16-6, Budget Details) (TC)

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

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,



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

bfed:2026bgt:250401aowr01:jpp

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.  
Budget Director  
Deputy Director of 'Ōiwi Resources

## BFED Committee

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**From:** BFED Committee  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 1, 2025 7:18 PM  
**To:** Kapono'ai Molitau  
**Cc:** BFED Committee; Kekai.Robinson@co.maui.hi.us; Deanna.Thyssen@co.maui.hi.us; 'Michelle Santos'; 'Zeke Kalua'; Lesley Milner; kristina.cabbat@co.maui.hi.us; tiare.p.horner@co.maui.hi.us; Janina Agapay  
**Subject:** FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET (BFED-1) (OWR-02)  
**Attachments:** (OWR-2) Correspondence to Oihi Resources 04-01-2025.pdf