

County Clerk

From: Jill Kanahale <sjkanahale@gmail.com>  
Sent: Tuesday, April 9, 2024 10:34 PM  
To: County Clerk  
Subject: Testimony for MCC Budget meeting 4/16 @ 6 pm

RECEIVED  
2024 APR 10 AM 9:25  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

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

Aloha,

I'd like to submit written testimony for the meeting regarding Pickleball courts.

As both a pickleball and tennis player, I feel I have a very unbiased, clear view of the use of our county courts in central Maui. Pickleball (pb) is a sport I picked up last summer and instantly fell in love. It's very easy to learn, smaller court (880 sq ft)--so less demanding, shorter matches, extremely social vs tennis, which takes years to learn. Don't get me wrong, I still prefer tennis to pb, but pb has it's appeal in that I can play it everyday without having to arrange for someone to play with as War Memorial or Waipuilani courts are available 7 days a week

Pickleball is not just good exercise, it's a social sport that's fairly easy for anyone to pick up.

*Dr. Bobby Song, a sports medicine doctor and pb player, says "It's a sport with a relatively small learning curve. You don't have to practice for hours and hours to be able to hit a decent shot. There is also a big pick-up culture which brings people together. The ball is a Wiffle ball, which doesn't pick up as much spin — making the bounce more predictable; and the paddle is more forgiving, so new players inexperienced in racket sports can quickly learn how to make good contact with the ball."*

	TENNIS	PICKLEBALL
LEARNING CURVE	min 1-2 yrs	1 month
COURT SIZE	2808 sq ft	880 sq ft
MIN/GAME	45 min/set	15 min ave

Pickleball is definitely a great sport for older folks (but young people too) who just want to get out and sweat a little and socialize. War memorial usually has 4 nets going from 8 am – noon, 7 days/week and Tue/Thu 4 pm – 9 pm. The crowds will vary from 15-30 in the mornings and 20-40 at night. The way the lines were painted on the upper courts at War Memorial were not thought out for the following reasons:

1. The nets are too high—tennis nets are 36" high while pb nets are 34" high. That 2 " makes a huge difference, especially since the large tennis nets are usually even higher as they move away from the center. PB is a game of soft net play (dinking) and the incorrect net height totally changes the required technique.
2. If a game averages 15 min and only 4 people can play at a time, 2 nets at War (as painted now) will only allow for 4 games/hour per net, so only 8 people could play on the 2 courts at a time. With 15-30 people showing up to play, we'd be waiting 15 minutes to play once, then rotate out for another 15 – 30 minutes for our next round of play. We currently chalk 4 courts and bring in our own nets to speed up play and continuously rotate seamlessly for 4 hours of fun, sitting out only 5 – 10 mins for the next open net.

Since I represent both groups, I recommend the following:

1. Build PB facility in non-residential area with min of 8 PB courts with wind protection & perhaps, a few covered courts so play can continue in the event of rain
2. In the interim, repaint courts 3 & 4 (2 UPPER COURTS) at War Memorial as follow:
  - a. Cover all lines
  - b. Repaint courts to be either blue court, green non-court or green court, red non-court
  - c. Paint 4 pb courts (1 per side of tennis nets) in a color lighter than the tennis court color (blended stripes). If the courts are repainted blue, then the pb lines would be light blue, if repainted green, then light grn—could add 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> courts if fit in open area not to overlap onto courts.
  - d. Provide storage lockers for private pb nets to be stored at owners own risk (optional), as nets are somewhat heavy to cart back and forth everyday

In summary, PB is here to stay and can no longer be ignored. For the county to drag their feet and cause division between the tennis and pb community is unacceptable. The tennis courts came to be because avid tennis players back in the day lobbied and fought for them. For the county to hastily “convert” tennis courts to PB courts without regard to their usage—albeit not as frequently as pb’ers feel warrants their preservation—is unfair. We don’t convert parks to other things based on their usage. They’re maintained regardless of the number of people utilizing them. The same can be said for tennis courts. Many tennis players have to wait until after work, usually 5 pm, to play. PB players see the open courts during the day, just about every day, and can’t understand why the county won’t just convert these courts to permanent pb courts, not realizing just how the tennis community does, in fact, still need all 4 courts.

#### **CENTRAL TENNIS COURTS & THEIR USAGE**

**Wells Park – 6 courts utilized heavily year round, weekdays and weekends—leave as is**

- Baldwin HS practices from Feb – Apr using 4-6 courts.
- Drop in tennis in the mornings with most courts occupied around 9-noon weekdays
- Free senior tennis clinics 2x week
- USTA adult leagues run year round Sat & Sun from 8 am – 6 pm
- Wailuku Junior Tennis program – 9 months M-F 4 pm – 6 pm
- Occasional youth tournaments & MIL matches throughout the year

**Kahului Community Center – 4 courts – recommend far 2 courts for dual-purpose lines**

- Maui HS uses courts for practices & some matches
- Rainout USTA matches utilize KCC if open
- Youth tennis lessons some afternoons
- Social groups play in the evenings
- Occasional youth tournaments & MIL matches throughout the year--infrequent
- Downside for PB – in a residential neighborhood—too noisy if converted to multiple PB courts
- Some PB players have started taping lines on courts 3 & 4 and playing throughout the week

**War Memorial – 4 courts – recommend top 2 for dual-purpose lines**

- Top 2 courts reserved 4 pm – 6 pm 2 days a week for Petra Dupont to run county youth tennis clinic
- Bottom 2 courts utilized only occasionally for overflow USTA matches
- All 4 courts reserved for new U14 junior tennis league started last year and finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> season this month
- St Anthony HS was using War Memorial for their tennis team—not sure if they will have a team in the future
- Occasional youth tournaments & MIL matches throughout the year—infrequent

- PB play going strong at War 7 days a week on courts 3 & 4. Public chalking the courts and bringing own nets. Free clinics, holiday gatherings, etc. Very fun & social pb club started up last month.

Let's not fight over these courts. Let's work out a compromise and be grateful we live in this beautiful place with the best weather of any state that allows us the opportunity to socialize and get out and play!! Whether tennis or pb, sports are sports and everyone should have the right to enjoy whichever activity we choose. The county has dragged its feet for too long causing this silent battle between my 2 favorite sports. The funds are there—let's take action immediately and end the bickering!

## **Here's an article I found online re: shared usage**

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (WLOS) — Asheville Parks and Recreation announced Wednesday, Nov. 9 that all outdoor hard surface public tennis courts maintained by the city of Asheville will soon become dual-lined in order to convert the courts to pickleball courts for shared use.

Officials said as the popularity of pickleball grows in the area, this will help accommodate that growth while still maintaining the rec department's existing 11 public tennis courts rather than replacing them.

Lining the existing tennis courts will increase public pickleball courts from 12 to 22.

"By adding dual lines to all of Asheville's existing public tennis courts and instituting a structured play schedule, **we're following the lead of other recreation professionals in communities across the nation to support both popular racquet sports and minimize user conflict.**" said D. Tyrell McGirt, director of Asheville Parks and Recreation.

The addition of the dual lines, also called blended stripes, will begin in early 2023 and last approximately 4-6 weeks. Once the project is complete, the tennis court dimensions will remain white, with the pickleball court dimensions being light blue. Two pickleball courts and one tennis court can fit within each multipurpose court.

Pickleball players will still need to set up their own portable nets, but Asheville Parks and Rec (APR) said it plans to add semi-permanent pickleball nets at some locations or institute a check-out system for pickleball nets.

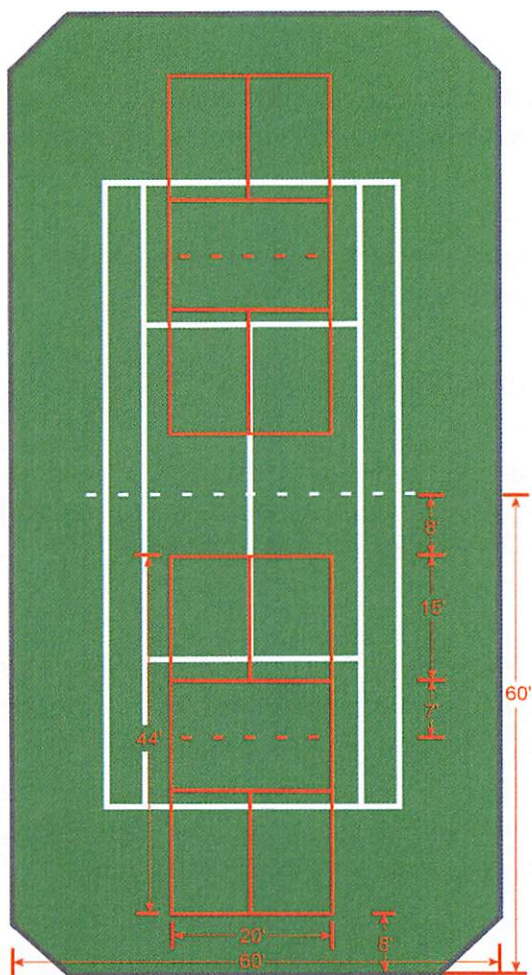
### **NOTE:**

Tennis activity is on the increase, but because pb is growing faster, the country clubs—Wailea, MCC, & Royal Lahaina have converted several courts to dedicated pb courts thus reducing the number of courts available for USTA league play (yr round adult leagues). This means we will be relying more heavily on county courts to fill the need. War Memorial are the first courts we will turn to.

There are currently 8 adult leagues—9 with our new 55+ mixed league

### **Two Pickleball Courts per Tennis Court**

The diagram on the left shows 2 pickleball courts laid out on a tennis court. A standard tennis court pad is 60'x120'. The minimum recommended size for a pickleball court is 30'x60'. That is exactly one fourth the size of a standard tennis court pad. Therefore, it is possible to put 4 pickleball courts in the space of a tennis court except for the possible existence of angled corners that are on some tennis courts. If the corners are angled, then two courts can fit very nicely as shown. If the conversion is temporary or it is desired to be able to continue to use the court for tennis, then [USAPA Portable Net Stands](#) can be used for the pickleball courts and the tennis net can be left in place as a backstop for the two pickleball courts.



As to the question of lined courts being an issue for tennis on Maui, this information was given to me by Ron Romano, President of the USTA for the state of Hawaii:

"The only events that we have in Hawaii that do not allow pickleball lines are:

1. The Level 2 National Junior Tennis Tournament in October at CORP on Oahu (we don't hold level 2 and above tournaments anywhere on Maui)
2. Professional tournaments that we have held in the past and may host in the future (may hold professional level tournament at Royal Lahaina in the future)

Other than these 2 categories, we have no local rules that preclude our tournaments or leagues from being played on blended lines."

**It is critical that pickleball players have a place to play. It's too bad the temporary parking lot at Wells is going to be used for baseball. That would have been a perfect location for dedicated pickleball courts, since that area is less windy than the proposed location for 12 pickleball courts at the Maui Lani sports complex. Pickleball cannot be played in a high windy area, so that needs to be considered when finally building courts.**

**Thank you!**

**Jill Kanahele**

808-357-8428, cell

## County Clerk

RECEIVED

**From:** Sherri Gabin <sherrigabin@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 4:17 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** My Testimony on behalf of HARF (Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation)

2024 APR 10 AM 9:26

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COUNTY CLERK

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

Aloha, My name is Sherri and I am an advocate for animals in despair and their voice. A year ago I came across a neglected and abused dog who was not even a year old, she was also pregnant. It's was sad to see her suffering at the hands of her abusive owner and once she had her babies I had to do something to give all of them a chance for a better future. I was hopeless and time was running out, it was urgent that they needed care and a safe place. I immediately contacted the owner and pleaded for their release since he was in no position to care for such a large litter of puppies, ten to be exact. I was fortunate to be able to convince him to release them in my care. That is where HARF came in, I was lucky enough to come into contact with these angels who graciously embraced me and these animals with assurance that they are in good hands now and to not worry anymore. The compassion I received was overwhelming and I was so grateful and relieved that I knew in my heart that these puppies would be in good hands and cared for. They took them in and gave them the necessary medical attention that was needed. In no time they were in foster homes and eventually in their forever homes. Thank you HARF for the incredible love, care and compassion shown in our communities and for the powerful impact of the programs and services you provide. This foundation is a beacon of hope for the future.

Mahalo Nui Loa



**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** jody Singsank <psingsank@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 4:28 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** New Pickleball Courts for Kula

2024 APR 10 AM 9: 26

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[You don't often get email from psingsank@icloud.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Aloha,

I am part of the Tuesday/Thursday group that plays from 8am -12pm at the Kula Community Center and would like to recommend new pickleball courts for Kula.

Our group purchased our own nets and collect weekly donations to buy pickleballs and masking tape to line our courts.

We are currently able to set up 5 pickleball courts on the top section and sometimes set up one or two more on the bottom section. Sometimes we have more than 45 pickleball players who show up to play!

There are 2 regular groups of 4 tennis players who play doubles on the bottom section on Tuesdays and Thursdays. We have learned to get along and do our best not to disturb their play.

In my opinion, the current location is the best place for new pickleball courts. There is existing and adequate parking, a port-a-potty and ADA approved walkways leading to the courts.

The weather conditions are optimal for pickleball play at this location, with cooler temperatures and little to no wind.

If it is possible to cut into the hillside adjacent to the upper courts and duplicate the footprint and layout of the current upper two courts, we could have six new pickleball courts in this space.

Pickleball brings people together from all walks and stages of life. The social and health benefits have been a blessing to the community of Kula pickleball players.

Please consider funding for new pickleball courts in Kula.

Thank you.

**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** Ane Takaha <bhaktirocks@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 4:33 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Budget planning

2024 APR 10 AM 9:26

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[You don't often get email from bhaktirocks@earthlink.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Aloha

I am writing to encourage you to include HARF - animal rescue in your budget this year. They are wonderful, dedicated people who fill in the cracks where the Humane society doesn't or can't go. I support them and encourage you to also. Thank you

Ane Takaha

Maui Meadows



**County Clerk**

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**From:** deborah sitbon <alohacurly@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 3, 2024 4:47 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation

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

Our island is suffering, our pets are suffering, we need your help.

Sadly, the fires compounded an already horrendous situation for our animal population on Maui. Prior to the fires, people who loved their pets and wanted their family held together had to deal with landlords that don't allow pets, and had to deal with elevated costs for all foods including pet food and medication.

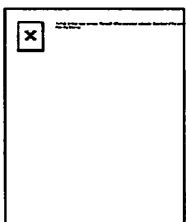
The animals are innocent and are left to suffer and sometimes die alone. Post fire trauma does not need to be explained, does it?

As more and more rental owners are vacating their premises so that they can get Fema rates, they are leaving residents houseless and pets in shelters.

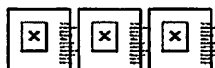
One of my clients, who is a firefighter in Lahaina, fought the blaze, watched his own house burn down and then was put in a hotel room to live with his wife, child and two dogs with no kitchen. He is facing the sadness of having to put his dogs into the shelter system. This is not fair. HARF is a phenomenal organization. Talk about people who care. They have the space and the willingness to shelter animals while their families look for homes, what they don't have is enough money. I have volunteered for several years and if I didn't have to work so much I would happily do more.

The burden put on the Maui Humane Society can be reduced with HARF's help.

It is time to act for the residents and the pet population that call this island home.



**Deborah Sitbon**  
Realtor, Accredited Buyers Rep.  
HomeSmart Island Homes  
808 446 2544



## County Clerk

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**From:** Mesceille Ogata <mesceille@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 10:50 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Please Help Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation

2024 APR 10 AM 9:26

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[You don't often get email from mesceille@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

To the office of the County Clerk:

I am writing to request your support of the Maui Animal Rescue Foundation.

Please continue to help this wonderful group of people continue their very important and much needed work in their community.

As a recent visitor to Maui, my husband and I volunteered and met the amazing people who work and volunteer at the animal rescue. We were trained on how to care for the pets, walked and fed dogs and cats, helped maintain the dog kennels And gave lots of love to many dogs, cats and Bunnies. We learned that it takes a lot of work and dedication to make things run smoothly and successfully.

We met the Founder of HARE, Dawn Pfendler, during our volunteer shift. She explained the program they have and we were highly impressed by their services.

I have been posting on Maui Visitor pages for visitors to go volunteer and visit their center while on vacation and shared what a rewarding experience we had.

Thank you for considering additional support to Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation to further enhance their program.

Kind regards,  
Mesceille Ogata  
305 Grand Street  
Alameda, Ca 94501

mesceille@gmail.com  
Sent from my iPhone

## County Clerk

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**From:** Kelley Kuhlman <paperglyphs@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 4, 2024 1:31 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** HARF Funding

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

To Whom it May Concern,  
I am writing concerning HARF and needed funds for the future.

My husband and I donate a small amount monthly to HARF (we also do the same for Maui Humane Society and the East Maui Animal Refuge). We even have a dog who was in the care of HARF who has been a part of our family for more than 5 years now. We are so grateful for these three groups.

Maui is really lucky to have this service. Humans are the only ones who can care for innocent animals left on their own, homeless or neglected. What would our island look like if we didn't have this group? They make sure every animal is fixed and healthy and they rehome with great success. Their gift to the people of Maui is something that we cannot allow to go un-supported. Indifference to the situation won't go away. Low funds mean more babies and more sad stories.

Please set aside funds for HARF in your upcoming budget. Your support for them is support for our island home.

Thank you for your consideration.  
Kelley Kuhlman

*I have made the Lord GOD my refuge,  
that I may tell of all your works.*

**Psalm 73:28**

**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** Sarah Haynes <kittycharmfarm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 5, 2024 7:30 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Please fund HARF - hawaii animal rescue foundation

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[You don't often get email from kittycharmfarm@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

They are a terrific rescue! Our county sure needs them.

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Mahalo,

Sarah Haynes  
Kitty Charm Farm  
A safe & loving sanctuary for Cats & their Farm Animal Friends

**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** susan ogle <oglesusan@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 5, 2024 8:04 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** HARF

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[You don't often get email from oglesusan@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Aloha , i am writing on behalf of HARF, I have supported them for years, have adopted from them . And have used them for neutering , and my monthly flea medicines . It would be a financial burden to not have their help, and support . They do amazing work on our island , for our island animals .  
Please help  
Mahalo , Susan Ogle  
Sent from my iPhone

**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** Sibet Alspaugh <sibet@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 8:20 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** HARF Grant

2024 APR 10 AM 9:27

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[You don't often get email from sibet@sbcglobal.net. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

To whom it may concern,

I have been a supporter and volunteer at HARF, the Hawaiian Animal Rescue Foundation, since after the fires in August 2023.

HARF has done an amazing job taking care of Maui's animals, both those looking for their forever homes and animals who lost their homes in the fires and needed a kind and loving place to stay while their human parents navigate the resulting devastating loss and housing situation, as well as animals who have been abandoned or surrendered. They accommodate all creatures great and small... From rabbits and goats, to dogs and cats and horses. This is an incredibly hard-working group of people, and Dawn Pfendler, their founder, is exceptional and tireless! They are providing VITAL services and care for our Maui animals in need. It is because of this, and in the spirit of our island's kuleana, that I urge you to give this grant to HARF.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Sibet Hyder Alspaugh  
(619) 246-1067

## County Clerk

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**From:** Eve Hyder <ehyder2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 2:08 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Grant

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[You don't often get email from ehyder2@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

To whom it may concern,

Please consider giving HARF the grant they are petitioning for. They are an extremely important part of the Maui community in that they care for so many animals, find them loving homes, do community outreach and education for our youth, and have done so much extra work to help families with their animal care especially after the wildfires.

I volunteer and am so impressed with how the facility is run, but as we know, there is a huge need for more help with our island animal population. Please help HARF continue and expand on their wonderful work for the community.

Mahalo,  
Eve Hyder

Sent from my iPhone



**County Clerk**

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**From:** Heidi Sewell <phllyfree2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 7, 2024 5:40 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Funding for H.A.R.F.

2024 APR 10 AM 9:27

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 You don't often get email from phllyfree2@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support for funding for the Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation, aka HARE.

This rescue is vital to the animals of Maui and they deserve the support and backing of the county. Funding for them helps and saves the lives of countless deserving animals. Without this rescue, hundreds of animals would not receive the shelter and medical care.

Rescues everywhere are struggling as more and more pets are surrendered and abandoned to become strays. The community and animals need the unconditional and unwavering support of this rescue.

Please approve the grant they are requesting so they can expand and continue to save the lives of these innocents.

Mahalo, Heidi Sewell

**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** Susan Kissel <suesuechef@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 8, 2024 4:08 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Animal funding

2024 APR 10 AM 9: 27

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[You don't often get email from [suesuechef@yahoo.com](mailto:suesuechef@yahoo.com). Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

As a long time resident of Maui I support HARF & all the amazing work they do and they definitely deserve this funding! They stepped up and did an amazing job after the fires, working tirelessly to help the community during this tragedy. For many years they have helped find homes for many of the island's homeless animals. This funding will ensure that this vital work continues. Mahalo for your time, Susan Kissel Kihei Hawaii

Sent from my iPad

**County Clerk**

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RECEIVED

**From:** muirbean@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:13 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Writing to urge support for HARF's Animal Care and Sheltering Program for Fiscal Year 2025

2024 APR 10 AM 9:27

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COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from muirbean@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Honorable Council Members,

I am writing to urge your support of funding HARF's Animal Care and Sheltering Program for Fiscal Year 2025. They provide a vital service to the community for animal rescue, veterinary care, outreach and education. Our shelters are bursting at the seams and their services are needed more now than ever. Because they are also a non-profit, County contributions have an outsized impact when combined with donations.

Mahalo,  
Erin Pinto  
Paia

## County Clerk

RECEIVED

**From:** Chris Mercer <chrs\_mercer@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 9, 2024 6:52 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Hawai'i Animal Rescue Foundation- HARF

2024 APR 10 AM 9:27

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[You don't often get email from chrs\_mercer@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Aloha!

We just wanted to share our experience with HARF and what an amazing organization they are. We adopted our dog, Flea, from them about a month and a half ago. He is the best little boy with so much love to give. When HARF first got him, he was in rough shape - malnourished and skinny, covered in fleas, cherry eyes and neglected. They had his eyes fixed at the vet. It took 3 flea baths to get rid of all the fleas on him because the neglect had left him so infested. They fed him and loved him and rehabilitated him over a few months.

When we went to their facility looking to adopt a dog, Flea (Java was his name when they had him) was the first dog we met. We knew the organization mostly from when they were outside Longs/Whole Foods at Maui Mall on Saturdays, but their facility in Wailuku is perfect for an animal rescue organization. We met the other dogs and cats, many just being boarded until the families affected by the fires can stabilize their housing and bring their pets back home. We went home that night to get our place ready for a new dog and brought him home the next day.

HARF was unsure if they were going to be able to save Flea when he first came to them because of how bad off he was, but through their love and care and rehabilitation, he is healthy and happy and living the good life now here in Paia with us! 2 weeks after we adopted Flea his cherry eye came back, so we contacted HARF to get his records for which vet and when the original procedure was. To our surprise they even contacted the vet to cover the cost of the new procedure.

We have adopted dogs before, and we have volunteered at animal rescue foundations before, and HARF is genuinely one of the BEST we have seen. Thanks to their generosity and care, we now have Flea as our beloved family member for hopefully many years to come!

I hope this email is going to the appropriate place, and I hope the county can continue to support such an amazing organization to continue saving animals' lives and bringing so much joy into the lives they touch.

Chris Mercer and Brian Mercer  
666 Pili Loko St  
Paia, HI 96779  
646-400-3848

County Clerk

RECEIVED

**From:** Gary Thompson <cleangreenmaui@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 5:06 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** HARF

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

I am writing to support funding for HARF. HARF is a vital part of Maui's animal community. From hosting mass spay neuter and health clinics to housing animals displaced by the fires HARF has come through for Maui. Funds from the county will not go to waste, they will help insure the continued good work of this much needed organization.

Sincerely  
Gary Thompson , Sara Patton  
Wailuku

## County Clerk

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**From:** Sara Patton <sarapattontmaui@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 7:08 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Please fund Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation in this year's budget

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

Aloha. I am a long-time resident of Maui (36 years!) and animal lover. I am writing to urge you to generously fund HARF and their Animal Care and Sheltering program this year. Their heart-centered nonprofit is running an extremely efficient organization and providing vital services to our community, especially after last summer's fires.

I understand that with \$150,000 allocated from you they can double the kennel capacity for sheltering dogs on Maui. With the ongoing and increasing challenges of surrendered and homeless animals, this is obviously needed. Thank you for helping the voiceless by allocating financial support to Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation.

Sara Patton  
160 River Road  
Wailuku, HI 96793

**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** KB KB <k\_bade@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 8:34 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** HARF

2024 APR 10 AM 9:27

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

 You don't often get email from k\_bade@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)  
Aloha,

I am in support of HARF and the work they do in saving animals of all kinds and helping them be adopted into the community. I am recommending the counsel and county continue to support them by granting them \$150,000 to assist them in supporting Maui counties voiceless animals. They have personally helped my friend who is very low income by providing free vaccination and microchip services and I appreciate that they have been helping by housing Maui Fire victims animals. Please continue to support the services they provide to our community.

Sincerely,

Kathren Rosales  
Waiehu resident  
808-250-7077



**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** Ken Holt <kenpholt@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 9:05 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation

2024 APR 10 AM 9:27

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

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

Hello,

I am writing in support of the county providing funding to the Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation. I believe they are a vital and crucial part of the community, as they have provided shelter to many animals, not just dogs, for many years, and have really stepped up after the fire in Lahaina. As the Maui Humane Society has been at (or above) capacity since the fire, HARF has been able to take up some of the slack, and provide housing for many animals in need, including animals made homeless by the fire. HARF are great people, and they are doing a vital and necessary service for the county.

Thanks for your consideration,

Ken Holt

**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** Leslie Hutchinson <leslie.labrava@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 11:59 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** FY 2025 funds allocation

2024 APR 10 PM 12:32

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from leslie.labrava@gmail.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Dear Maui County Council,

As a long time resident and animal lover, I often feel we on Maui are falling well short of doing everything we can to be a place of compassion and responsible animal management- whether towards pets or feral animals and since the fires things have gotten more dire.

Please help those who are on the front line of animal welfare by granting HARF (Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation) their requested \$150,000 to help continue their lifesaving work.

Thank you.

Leslie Hutchinson  
Haiku

## County Clerk

RECEIVED

**From:** Ginni Madsen <ginni@pacifichomeloans.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 4:12 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Support for the Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation

2024 APR 11 AM 8:36

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

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

Members of the Maui County Council  
200 South High Street Wailuku, HI 96793

Dear Honorable Members of the Maui County Council,

I am writing to express my unwavering support for the Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation (HARF) and its Animal Care and Sheltering Program. As a resident of Maui County, I am proud to have served as a volunteer for HARF for 13 years, and I currently hold a position on the board of directors. Through my years of involvement, I have witnessed firsthand the incredible impact that HARF has had on our community and its animals.

HARF's commitment to rescuing, sheltering, and caring for Maui's animals is unparalleled. The incredible response to the Maui Wildfire and continued community support stands as a testament to HARF's dedication to the Maui community. Their actions demonstrate HARF's ability to adapt and grow in response to the escalating rescue cases and shortage of resources facing our community.

I am particularly impressed by HARF's recent building completion at the HARF Center which doubled Maui's kenneling capacity for dogs! Financial support from Maui County on the upcoming budget cycle will be an investment that will go far to not only provide a safe haven for more animals, but will also elevate the standard of animal care throughout our community. With financial support from Maui County, HARF will be able to rescue and care for a greater number of animals, ensuring that fewer animals are left without shelter or proper care.

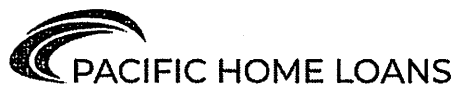
As a volunteer and board member of HARF, I have seen firsthand the dedication and compassion of HARF's staff and volunteers. Their tireless efforts to rescue, rehabilitate, and rehome animals in need are truly inspiring. HARF's work goes beyond rescue operations to include vital veterinary care and community education initiatives, making a lasting impact on animal welfare in Maui County.

I firmly believe that supporting HARF's Animal Care and Sheltering Program is not only the right thing to do morally but also makes good economic sense for Maui County. By investing in animal welfare, we are investing in the well-being of our community as a whole. Healthy and happy animals contribute to a safer and more vibrant community, and HARF's work directly contributes to this goal.

In conclusion, I urge you to include HARF in the upcoming Fiscal Year 2025 Maui County Budget hearings and to allocate the necessary funds to support their vital work. Your decision has the power to make a tangible difference in the lives of countless animals in Maui County, and I hope that you will choose to stand with HARF and support their mission. Thank you for considering my testimony, and for your dedication to serving the residents and animals of Maui County.

Sincerely,

All the best,  
Ginni Madsen  
Executive Vice President



Pacific Home Loans (MLOC #278194)  
2395 S Kihei Rd, #205, Kihei, HI 96753  
Tel: 808-891-0415 | Cell: 808-280-7308  
Toll Free: 877-270-2542 | Fax: 808-270-2769  
Email: [ginni@pacifichomeloans.com](mailto:ginni@pacifichomeloans.com)

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## County Clerk

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**From:** CT <cd@InstantExpress.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 6:06 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Fiscal Year 2025 Maui County Budget hearing

RECEIVED

2024 APR 11 AM 8:36

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

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## PLEASE FUND HARF

Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation (HARF) appears to have done so much with so little – with funding from my tax dollars and everyone else's, HARF will be able to do even more. When HARF helps dogs, people are helped. I'm sure the Humane Society operates to help but unfortunately animals are euthanized. Since HARF doesn't kill animals – I support HARF and I hope the County does too.

**County Clerk****RECEIVED**

**From:** jennifer battles <jenniferbattles@live.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 10, 2024 7:20 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** HARF Funding

**2024 APR 11 AM 8:36****OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK**

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

Dear county clerk of Maui,

My son and I have been volunteering with Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation (HARF) for several years now and I am writing today in the hope that this organization will receive funding for the incredible work that they do. I have volunteered with many organizations through the course of my life and I have to say that HARF is by far the most responsible and efficiently run organization I have seen.

I have witnessed countless animals come through their doors from all different situations, and time and time again, HARF has taken them in, given them the veterinary care that they need and tirelessly worked to find them happy and reliable homes. HARF has flown animals to their partner shelters on the mainland in order to open more space for the animals here on Maui. Being a NO KILL shelter, HARF has taken it upon themselves to do outreach and education in our schools and community. They offer discounted meds and vaccines at cost for their previously adopted animals to ensure that they receive what they need. They hold spay and neuter clinics at a reduced rate for the community and for any of their previously adopted animals. This plays an critical role in helping to break the cycle of unwanted animals born here on our islands.

HARF recently had to pivot in order to help with the fires in Lahaina and in a matter of hours, they were prepping their new facility and ready to take in animals from the west side. I personally had friends whose homes burned down and were absolutely desperate, with no place to go or no place to keep their furry family members. HARF has been housing these animals for months now, giving them the best care possible and allowing their families to come and visit so they know they were not forgotten. They care.

Not only does HARF provide needed care for the animals in our community, they also play an important role for our keiki. My son who volunteers with me is 11 years old. Through their volunteer program, he has learned how to properly handle and care for animals. We even got our beloved dog, Fortuna who is from Molokai, from HARF, making a little boy's dream come true. My son along with many other kids have the unique opportunity to learn new skills and to be a part of something bigger. I see the relationship that Dawn and Richard have with the teens in foster care who volunteer and I have watched these young adults walk with a sense of pride while caring for these animals. For these young adults to be trained in new skills and to be trusted in caring for another living thing, the trajectory of their lives and what they think is possible will forever be changed.

HARF is an amazing organization. They have a very small staff and these folks work hard, 24/7, 365 days a year. There are no holidays at HARF, the animals need care around the clock. I have seen the ins and outs of this operation and I can tell you, they move mountains. From education in our schools to providing much needed services in our community, they will always have a very special place in my heart.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Battles

Jennifer Battles  
Education Therapy  
16 Hobron Ave. Suite 205  
Kahului, HI 96732  
Ph 808-893-0590  
Fax 808-893-0591



**From:** Donna Lindquist <dlindquist27@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 6:03 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Support of HARF's Animal Care and Sheltering Program

2024 APR 11 AM 8:36

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from dlindquist27@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi, my name is Donna Lindquist. I am the Chairperson of the Pet Ministry Committee for Tree of Life Lutheran Church in Harrisburg, PA. Our mission is as follows:

We believe in helping all God's creatures when there is a need, including all kinds of pets and wildlife.....whether they are in shelters, loving homes, when disasters happen, in local or far away communities.....we strive to be the disciples that help.

We ask you to please provide crucial funding allowing HARF to nearly double Maui's kenneling capacity for dogs, offering a safe haven for more animals in need and elevating the standard of animal care throughout the region. HARF's Animal Care and Sheltering Program is a beacon of hope for Maui's animals, specifically designed to meet their growing needs with escalating rescue cases and a critical shortage of resources, and extends beyond rescue operations to include veterinary care and essential community education.

They truly have goals of helping God's creatures! The Pet Ministry of Tree of Life Lutheran Church is so very honored to be a part of HARF's vital work in Maui and as we follow their journey, we are excited to watch all they have accomplished and will accomplish in the future with your help.

When we heard and read about the terrible fire disaster on Maui, we were devastated at the loss families were suffering. We decided to help the animals in some way. In doing research on organizations that were helping the animals and families affected by the fires, we found HARF. We were instantly touched by their commitment to help families and pets in need. We looked at their facebook page and read all the incredible stories of their assistance and saving grace for pets. We knew they needed and deserved our help!

I contacted Dawn Pfendler, CEO of HARF. She immediately reached out to me and was so enthusiastic about our interest and support. Our congregation watched a video that Dawn sent us from the shelter in early October and were touched by all the caring for individual animals. The video detailed how they immediately pulled together a truck full of supplies and a medical team and headed to the Lahaina areas. They took calls from families that lost everything and provided a safe space for their animals. Some of those families became volunteers, needing to do something positive in the wake of their disaster. We were so in awe of the generosity and kindness of all these folks! Our hearts were with them again as one particular story emerged about a sweet dog named Angel. Angel narrowly escaped the fires with her 7 four week old puppies. These precious souls were taken care of by HARF. The puppies were fostered and adopted. Angel was plagued by numerous health issues and was traumatized. HARF saw that same pain every day in the eyes of animals and families that came to them for help. Angel was eventually healed and adopted into a loving home. HARF gave her hope, and brought hope and kindness to so many others!

We had a strong desire to show hope and kindness too! So, we embarked on a campaign to sell church t-shirts and collect other donations, resulting in our congregation generously donating over \$1,000 to HARF in cash and items from their Amazon wishlist.

We strongly believe in HARF and the vital work they do in their Maui communities. As a result of the disaster, a wonderful opportunity has arisen for them to be a beacon of hope for Maui's animals. We understand that recovering from such a disaster will take years. The growing needs are escalating and their resources are inadequate. Their commitment to also provide veterinary care and essential community education is essential. We believe the need for these things was highlighted by the disaster but must continue!

We support them and we pray that you will too by providing funding in your budget!

Thank you for consideration of our testimony,

Donna Lindquist

Chairperson, Tree of Life Lutheran Church Pet Ministry

--

Don't Pittie a Shelter Dog, Adopt One!

**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** Dana Fulton <dfulton808@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 11, 2024 10:11 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Animal Budget Items Public Testimony

2024 APR 11 AM 10:15

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from dfulton808@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha,

I am writing as a private citizen who was born and raised here. Please fund Maui Humane Society (MHS) and all animal control enforcement services as much as possible, not HARF. The Maui Humane Society by law has to take every animal and care for them. HARF does not. They get to pick and choose the animals they want. The analogy in my mind is public vs. private school. Public Schools (MHS) have to take everyone and deal with whatever comes (including disabled and dangerous) while private schools (HARF) pick and choose whom they want, or whom they see as optimal for their statistics. If Lanai Cat Sanctuary is under the same burdens as MHS and unless HARF is actively supporting MHS to alleviate their burdens, please give all the money to MHS and the enforcement services through MHS and/or MPD (I am unsure of the legal requirements between them). The priority should be safe neighborhoods from dangerous dogs, and funded public animal care on an island where they have nowhere else to go.

Mahalo,  
Dana Fulton  
Makawao, HI



RECEIVED

2024 APR 11 PM 4: 25

April 11, 2024

ATTN: Maui County Council  
Office of the County Clerk  
Kalana o Maui Building  
200 South High Street, 8th Floor  
Wailuku, Hawai'i 96793  
Submitted via Email at [county.clerk@mauicounty.us](mailto:county.clerk@mauicounty.us)

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for KA'EHU regarding Maui County Council Proposed Operating Budget for FY 2025, Public Hearing, April 16, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Aloha pumehana kākou:

Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (KUA) submits this letter in **strong support** for KA'EHU, a wonderful nonprofit dedicated to revitalizing and providing much-needed mālama 'āina efforts at Ka'ehu Bay, Maui. KA'EHU also works to perpetuate 'ike Hawai'i for Maui residents and visitors alike.

"Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo" stands for "grassroots growing through shared responsibility," and our acronym "KUA" means "backbone." **Our mission is to connect and empower communities to improve their quality of life through the collective care for their biocultural (natural and cultural) heritage, serving as a "backbone organization" that supports creative and community-driven solutions to problems stemming from environmental degradation.** Hawai'i's biocultural resources continue to be negatively impacted by political, economic, and social changes, and the increasing dangers of climate change make fostering and empowering resilient communities acutely critical.

Currently KUA supports three major networks of: (1) almost 40 mālama 'āina (caring for our 'āina or "that which feeds") community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together); (2) over 60 loko i'a (fishpond aquaculture systems unique to Hawai'i) and wai 'ōpae (anchialine pool systems) sites in varying stages of restoration and development, with numerous caretakers, stakeholders, and volunteers known as the Hui Mālama Loko I'a ("caretakers of fishponds"); and (3) the Limu Hui made up of over 50 loea (traditional experts) and practitioners in all things "limu" or locally-grown "seaweed." **Our shared vision is to once again experience what our kūpuna (ancestors) referred to as 'ĀINA MOMONA – abundant and healthy ecological systems that sustain our community resilience and well-being.**

A primary function of KUA includes development of the 'auwai, a stream of resources, tools, bridges, relationships, and networks that help to cultivate and take our communities' environmental stewardship work to greater levels. This includes advocacy for, and the development of, the kind of collaborative agreements that support communities' ability to better manage visitor impacts and cultivate the resources and capacity they need to engage in the stewardship they envision for their place.



This past January, KUA was fortunate to stay and gather at KA'EHU for our Po'o (leader) Gathering of the Hui Mālama Loko I'a. Being able to walk the land and bay there, learn about some of the history, and see for ourselves how much a small organization like KA'EHU has accomplished in such a short amount of time, was awe inspiring to say the least. They also shared with us what they believe was possibly part of a fishpond wall that might have existed long ago – feeding and sustaining the surrounding communities with fresh fish and more. **Imagine all the amazing possibilities that could be achieved by dedicating more resources and energy into this wahi pana through this well-established organization.** We strongly believe in KA'EHU's mission and vision to continue restoring, reviving, and caring for this beautiful place.

**KUA cannot emphasize enough the amazing impacts that community organizations like KA'EHU have made thus far on their ancestral lands in Maui.** They inspire Hawai'i and the world, and we mahalo them for further expanding our shared movement to reestablish 'āina momona and best mālama our kō Hawai'i pae 'āina (island home) now and forever.

**We urge you to continue supporting KA'EHU in all their future endeavors.**

Me ka mahalo a me ka 'oia'i'o nō,

Kevin K.J. Chang  
Executive Director

Olan Leimomi Fisher  
Kua'āina Advocate

RECEIVED

2024 APR 12 PM 12:28

TESTIMONY from:

Linda Tesar-Amimoto LMFT

RE: Testimony in Support of Maui AIDS Foundation's grants from the COUNTY OF MAUI Mayor Richard T. Bissen Jr.'s Budget Proposal for Fiscal Year 2025  
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha Council Members Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, Sugimura, Kama, Johnson, Paltin, Cook, and U'u-Hodgins,

Maui AIDS Foundation, (MAF), is a nonprofit health and social service organization serving all residents of Maui County for over almost 40 years. They help anyone and everyone in all of Maui County (Lana'i, Molokai) regardless of sexual orientation and in more ways than the name implies. They help a very vulnerable population; a population that often battles the shame of social stigma around drug use, sexual orientation, lifestyle, and low socio-economic status, is often shunned and neglected by other organizations. MAF reaches out to this population in connection, caring and made to feel valued as human beings.

The need for MAF's services has increased because of the Maui Wildfire disaster and fundraising has become just as almost impossible due to the island wide competition for needed funds; please help them.

Very importantly, keep in mind that free clinics reduce the funding needed from public resources by providing at a rate of \$34/1 ratio of monies invested in them. The long-term savings is astronomical when one considers how much health care costs not only the county but each taxpaying individual on Maui.

Saving on health care costs breaks down like this. Research has shown that viruses caused by STIs create viruses linked to cancer. Testing, diagnosis, vaccinations, and treatment can be provided to increase prevention and decrease disease transmission. Untreated and unprevented infections, i.e. STIs that lead to possible cancer, can be often prevented by vaccines, which then avoids transmission to others, thus saving costs to taxpayers and the County of Maui. Breaking the chain of disease and costs. Hawaii ranks very high in congenital syphilis, primary and secondary syphilis, and chlamydia showing this how the chain of shame, stigma, lack of diagnosis and treatment or prevention cause generational health care issues.

Other Maui public resources savings that Maui Aids Foundation provides include: assistance with incarcerated persons; those currently living with Hepatitis and other STIs and HIV; those suffering with substance use issues; LGBTQIA+ and Mahu populations; women and youth at-risk; Native Hawaiian communities; and those with mental illness disorders.

MAF currently has in place and offers a wide-range of established connections for care that provide treatment; case management; insurance enrollment; housing and utility subsidies; food pantry; testing; treatment; LGBTQIA+ support groups; prevention and harm reduction education and finally Narcan Training and distribution.

The Maui Aids Foundation needs the expanded grant funding for:

- Expansion of MAF's free clinic services to offset the dramatic increases in Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) that has occurred since the Maui Wildfires, August of 2023.
- Expansion of the foundation's prevention and harm reduction education to set a path toward elimination of HIV, Hepatitis, and other Sexually Transmitted Infections, and efforts to reduce the societal stigma that leads to late diagnosis and non-treatment.
- Increase harm reduction by the training and distribution of Narcan to assist Maui County residents with the ability to administer life-saving opioid overdose treatment.
- Expand capacity to enable staff to begin some vaccination services by hiring an RN or LPN to support our sole Provider, Dr. Bryan Chin.

Since the Maui Wildfires, it is not possible to compete against wildfire disaster efforts by fundraising. This expanded County funding would provide MAF resources to provide the services that Maui County's vulnerable population desperately needs at this time.





1050 Bishop St. #508  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
808-864-1776  
info@grassrootinstitute.org

Removing barriers to Hawaii's prosperity

April 15, 2024, 6 p.m.  
Mitchell Pau'ole Community Center, Main Hall

**To: Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee**  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair

**From: Joe Kent, Executive Vice President**  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

RECEIVED  
2024 APR 12 PM 4:14  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

**RE: COMMENTS ON BILL 60 — A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025**

Aloha Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Kama and Council Members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on Bill 60, the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2025.

We are deeply concerned about the effect of significant property tax hikes while Maui residents are already struggling from the effects of continued inflation and economic uncertainty.

The proposed budget includes a wide series of real property tax hikes, especially on owner-occupied homes.

Property tax rates on owner-occupied homes valued at less than \$1 million would go up by 5.3%; for homes valued between \$1 million and \$3 million, the rate would go up by an astounding 25%; and for homes valued at more than \$3 million, the property tax rate would increase by 18.2%.

Tax rates on commercial residential properties would be hiked by 13.6%; transient vacation rentals would see a 2.6% increase across the board; and non-owner occupied homes would see property tax rates go up between 2.6% and 12%.

These proposed property tax increases would comprise a heavy burden for local homeowners, if enacted. The largest increase is aimed at homes valued at between \$1 million and \$3 million. Given that the median sales

price for a single-family home on Maui is \$1.3 million<sup>1</sup>, this means that the largest proposed tax increase is aimed directly at the average Maui family.

Moreover, tax rates are only part of the picture when it comes to property taxes.

There is also the fact that property values help determine the total tax bill for local homeowners. This year alone, Maui single-family home prices have gone up by about 10%, and condominiums by more than 60%.<sup>2</sup> Thus, Maui homeowners are being squeezed both by rising home prices and rising tax rates. Even without the proposed tax increases, Maui housing is on track to become even more unaffordable, hastening the exodus of Maui residents to the mainland or elsewhere.

Some might argue that the property tax hikes are needed to offset increased costs this year, especially costs related to the Lahaina response and rebuilding efforts.

However, much of the \$140 million earmarked for an emergency management program is being funded by grants.<sup>3</sup> The required county match for those funds is only about \$26.5 million.<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, the estimated increase in property tax revenues from fiscal year 2024 is approximately \$51 million.<sup>5</sup> Add to that an estimated \$45 million in revenue from the county's general excise tax surcharge and a \$260 million increase in grant funds,<sup>6</sup> and it would appear there is no need to raise property taxes at all.

At the state level, lawmakers are looking for ways to fund Maui relief efforts and have been asking Maui County to cut its budget where possible.

But this proposed budget includes only two minor line-item spending cuts: "Highways, streets and transportation" is set to decrease from \$83.6 million to \$82.3 million; and "social welfare" from \$37.5 million to \$34.7 million.<sup>7</sup>

Every other department is seeking an increase in expenditures for the coming year.

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<sup>1</sup> "Monthly Market Overview," Hawaii Realtors, March 2024.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Richard T. Bissen, Jr., "County of Maui Budget Proposal. Fiscal Year 2025," County of Maui, Office of the Mayor, March 25, 2024, page 187.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid. p.7.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid., p. 75.

In short, there has been virtually no effort to cut spending, ease the burden on taxpayers, or redirect county funds to areas of greater need.

Maui is facing a challenging year as it works to rebuild and recover. Its residents need a break from higher taxes. Adding a massive property tax hike to last year's GET surcharge would burden residents and the economy far more than any purported benefit to the county.

Rather than adding to the financial challenges of Maui's residents, the Council should be seeking ways to reduce the budget and provide tax breaks to local families and businesses.

We urge you to remove all property tax hikes in the fiscal 2025 budget.

Mahalo,

Joe Kent  
Executive Vice President  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

**County Clerk**

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RECEIVED

**From:** Sandra Lundborg <sanlun1@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 12, 2024 7:52 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** HARF funding

2024 APR 15 AM 9:28

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from sanlun1@aol.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Please continue to fund HARF to help Maui's animals. In the aftermath of the fire, so many have had to surrender their beloved pets. Please assist and fund HARF.

They show compassion and so much care. The West Maui community needs to heal and we need your help.

Sincerely,

Sandy Lundborg  
Napili  
(808)250-5028

Sent from my iPhone

**County Clerk**

RECEIVED

**From:** Paula Claire <solopmc@aol.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 13, 2024 6:41 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Testimony

2024 APR 15 AM 9: 28

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

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

Animals are the delight of our lives and the natural resource that balances our environment. Protecting, healing and adopting out or returning to their pet parents is a service that is critical to the overall well being of the community and often critical to the well being of individuals. I urge you to grant the budgeting for Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation. It is a notable service for all the animals in your state.

Pauletta M. Claire  
*Attorney At Law*  
Ph: (612) 860-5112  
Email: solopmc@aol.com  
Lic. #0243887

## County Clerk

---

**From:** Maria Ginnebaugh <maria.ginnebaugh@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Saturday, April 13, 2024 9:38 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** UPDATE (04/13): My support to Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation (HARF)

RECEIVED  
2024 APR 15 AM 9:28  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

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

Aloha:

I would like to give my formal support to this incredibly hard working and wonderful non-profit organization (HARF) for the work they have been doing here on Maui for the last 13 years. I have met the founders before and I follow them via their public events. They are doing so much work trying to help the (overwhelming) population of homeless animals, such as: dogs, cats, horses, and etc. As you know, this is an huge problem here on Maui.

Therefore, I am hoping HARF will be able to secure and be rewarded the \$150,000 funding they are seeking from Maui County. This is an investment that will transform animal welfare locally. I am confident the founders and their volunteers are up to the challenge and I am sure you will not be disappointed.

Please let me know if there is anything else I need to do to make this email official to the Maui County decision makers.

Warmest Mahalo and Aloha!!

Maria Ginnebaugh R(S), CRS

**MAUI LIFESTYLE REALTY, LLC**

RS-60027

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Instagram: @mginnebaugh

Facebook-Pro: @mginnebaughrealtor

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1050 Bishop St. #508  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
808-864-1776  
info@grassrootinstitute.org

Removing barriers to Hawaii's prosperity

April 16, 2024, 6 p.m.  
Council Chamber, Kalana O Maui Building

To: Maui County Council  
Alice Lee, Chair  
Yuki Lei Sugimura, Vice-Chair

From: Joe Kent, Executive Vice President  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

RECEIVED  
2024 APR 15 PM 1:27  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

RE: COMMENTS ON BILL 60 — A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE RELATING TO THE OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025

Aloha Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Sugimura and Council Members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii would like to offer its comments on Bill 60, the proposed operating budget for fiscal year 2025.

We are deeply concerned about the effect of significant property tax hikes while Maui residents are already struggling from the effects of continued inflation and economic uncertainty.

The proposed budget includes a wide series of real property tax hikes, especially on owner-occupied homes.

Property tax rates for owner-occupied homes valued at less than \$1 million would go up by 5.3%; for homes valued between \$1 million and \$3 million, by an astounding 25%; and for homes valued at more than \$3 million, by 18.2%.

Tax rates on commercial residential properties would be hiked by 13.6%; transient vacation rentals would see a 2.6% increase across the board; and non-owner occupied homes would see property tax rates go up between 2.6% and 12%.

If enacted, these proposed property tax increases would comprise a heavy burden for local homeowners. The largest increase is aimed at homes valued at between \$1 million and \$3 million. Given that the median sales

price for a single-family home on Maui is \$1.3 million<sup>1</sup>, this means that the largest proposed tax increase is aimed directly at the average Maui family.

Moreover, tax rates are only part of the picture when it comes to property taxes.

There is also the fact that property values help determine the total tax bill for local homeowners. This year alone, Maui single-family home prices have gone up by about 10%, and condominiums by more than 60%.<sup>2</sup> Thus, Maui homeowners are being squeezed both by rising home prices and rising tax rates.

Even without the proposed tax increases, Maui housing is on track to become even more unaffordable, hastening the exodus of Maui residents to the mainland or elsewhere.

Some might argue that the property tax hikes are needed to offset increased costs this year, especially costs related to the Lahaina response and rebuilding efforts.

However, much of the \$140 million earmarked for an emergency management program is being funded by grants.<sup>3</sup> The required county match for those funds is only about \$26.5 million.<sup>4</sup>

Meanwhile, the estimated increase in property tax revenues from fiscal year 2024 is approximately \$51 million.<sup>5</sup> Add to that an estimated \$45 million in revenue from the county's general excise tax surcharge and a \$260 million increase in grant funds,<sup>6</sup> and it would appear there is no need to raise property taxes at all.

At the state level, lawmakers are looking for ways to fund Maui relief efforts and have been asking Maui County to cut its budget where possible.

But this proposed budget includes only two minor line-item spending cuts: "Highways, streets and transportation" is set to decrease from \$83.6 million to \$82.3 million; and "social welfare" from \$37.5 million to \$34.7 million.<sup>7</sup>

Every other department is seeking an increase in expenditures for the coming year.

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<sup>1</sup> "Monthly Market Overview," Hawaii Realtors, March 2024.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> Richard T. Bissen, Jr., "County of Maui Budget Proposal, Fiscal Year 2025," County of Maui, Office of the Mayor, March 25, 2024, page 187.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.* p.7.

<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, p. 75.



In short, there has been virtually no effort to cut spending, ease the burden on taxpayers, or redirect county funds to areas of greater need.

Maui is facing a challenging year as it works to rebuild and recover. Its residents need a break from higher taxes. Adding a massive property tax hike to last year's GET surcharge would burden residents and the economy far more than any purported benefit to the county.

Rather than adding to the financial challenges of Maui's residents, the Council should be seeking ways to reduce the budget and provide tax breaks to local families and businesses.

We urge you to remove all property tax hikes in the fiscal 2025 budget.

Mahalo,

Joe Kent  
Executive Vice President  
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

County Clerk

RECEIVED

**From:** Janet Rymsha <jlrymsha@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 3:20 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** maui nui botanical

2024 APR 15 PM 3:35

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

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

aloha,  
please continue financial support to MNBG.  
the gardens are a treasure for Maui and important to all the  
Hawaiian islands.  
sincerely,  
Janet and Fred Rymsha

April 14, 2024

RECEIVED

Aloha Council Chair Lee & Councilmembers. My name is Drej (Dre) Quito and I'm writing in support of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui (BBBS Maui).

2024 APR 16 AM 7:59

I have been in the BBBS Maui Program since 2018. I am an only child from a single parent household. My mom enrolled me in the program because she wanted me to have a positive male influence in my life that would help me to explore new things.

I was matched with my big brother, Ted in February 20, 2020. From the beginning Ted & I got along really well. Ted and I had a lot of the same interests and we were able to do a lot of things together that I wasn't able to do with my mom. Ted taught me to surf and play guitar. We explored different parts of the island and got to eat different food that I never tried before. Every time we went out it was like a new adventure. It helped me to break out of my shell and to be more confident in trying new things. I was also able to talk to Ted about things that were going on in my life and he was always there to give me advice or even just to listen. In 2022, Ted & I were the Match of Year for BBBS Maui. We were the first match of the year on Maui and we were really honored to be chosen for that.

Ted has truly become a part of my family. He would come to family dinners and get together and got to know my entire family. We also got to know Ted's family as well. When Ted got married, I was the best man at his wedding. I was truly honored that I got to be a part of his wedding and be there for him. Ted also helped teach me how to drive and with my driving hours and I passed my driving test with a perfect score. Ted's wife, Kellyn and parents were also a big part of our family as well. Ted's parents live in California but when they come we always try to get together with them. Our families are so close that even when Ted is away on work trips we still get together. One year our families spent Easter together while Ted was away working. Ted & Kellyn also come every year to make mochi with my family and have become a part of that tradition. Last year when Ted & Kellyn had their baby, we were the first ones to get to meet their son, Theo. I was so excited to be an Uncle & can't wait to be there for Theo as he grows up.

When I started this program, I honestly didn't know what to expect but I was fortunate that I was able to be part of this program and to be matched with Ted. Ted and I may have only known each other for 4 years but we've been through a lot together and we consider ourselves family. I am so grateful to have Ted in my life and know that none of this would be possible without the BBBS Maui program.

I humbly ask that you continue to support Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui so that they can continue to make an impact on Maui's youth. The impact this program makes is not just for a period of time but for a lifetime.

Thank you for your time & consideration!

Sincerely,

Drej Quito

County Clerk

RECEIVED

**From:** Sarah Schmidt <sarahschmidt@mac.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 5:49 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Support for Bill 71

2024 APR 16 AM 7: 59

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

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

Hi. I live on Ag land in Kula and am thinking about building a 2nd farm dwelling. I fully support increasing the 2nd farm dwelling from 1,000 sf to 1,500 sf. We will be able to house more people and the island is in desperate need of housing.

Best,  
Sarah

Sarah Schmidt  
[sarahschmidt@mac.com](mailto:sarahschmidt@mac.com)

917-279-6262

**County Clerk****RECEIVED**

**From:** Debra Billings <debra.billings2@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 7:30 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** On Behalf of HARF

**2024 APR 16 AM 8:00****OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK**

 You don't often get email from debra.billings2@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)  
Aloha!

I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation ( HARF). I have been touched by this organization in countless ways. By spending time through volunteering for the program from adoption days to spay/neuter clinics offered to the community, And after taking in many fire victims pets without thinking twice, I have seen nothing but love and compassion pour out to these animals and animal owners during these trying times. While walking through complete exhaustion, Dawn and staff always put the cats, dogs and others first.

Please take into consideration the funding needed for the organization is a small ask when considering all that it does for these animals and community. All this takes dedication, yes for which Dawn, Richard Nichole staff and countless volunteers all offer day in and out. But the monetary support is equally needed to keep this phenomenal organization running smoothly, I always look forward to coming out and spending time holding well fed bunnies and sweet displaced fire kitties, and traipsing around the property with a happy dog at my heels.

And the Humane Education program? So it is very important in teaching our children Compassion and empathy. Being a teacher myself, I have been inspired by this program offered through HARF/Dawn and staff that my students and I have to talk story gatherings daily in the classroom regarding the love and care of animals and beyond. So important and the kids love it!

So many hats this amazing organization wears. And I can only say that my love and pride for HARF is immeasurable. But I am a small part of a large community that feels the same.

Mahalo!  
Sincerely,  
Debra Billings (Kumu B.)  
808.868.6936

**County Clerk****RECEIVED**

**From:** r c <sbrcnm@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 9:08 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Pickle ball courts needed on Maui

**2024 APR 16 AM 8:00****OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK**

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

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,

Pickle ball participation on Maui has continually grown over the last several years. Residents, part time residents and visitors have come to embrace this fastest growing sport nation wide. It is suitable for all ages, especially Kupuna. It encourages physical activity no matter the persons age. It promotes socialization and better health overall. These are important factors as we age, all of us. There is a definite need for more pickle ball courts on Maui. All one has to do is attend the common areas where played, War Memorial Sports Complex and Waipuilani Park in Kihei. These courts are busy with players.

There are tennis courts all over Maui that are underutilized. These courts can be made so they are dual purpose courts for tennis and pickle ball.

If you would look at Oahu and see how they have converted and/or made unused courts into dual courts, over 200 of them! Now, doesn't that tell you something? They see the need and have adjusted accordingly to accommodate both residents and visitors.

Maui would do great to follow their lead in this matter.

I personally invite any Council Member to come out and try it. I would be honored to show any member how to play, etc... It is not a hard sport to learn.

Mahalo for your time in this matter.

Rudy Carreon  
505-577-4385

## County Clerk

---

**From:** Michi Atkinson <matkinson@lokelanischool.k12.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 15, 2024 10:24 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Public Testimony in Support of Grow Some Good's Funding

RECEIVED

2024 APR 16 AM 8:00

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

You don't often get email from matkinson@lokelanischool.k12.hi.us. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha e honored Members of the Maui County Council,

I am writing to provide testimony in support of continued funding for Grow Some Good's programs for the 2025 Fiscal Year from the Maui Department of Agriculture.

My name is Michi Atkinson and I work at two educational gardens located on Maui - the school garden at Lokelani Intermediate School in Kihei, and at the Community Food Systems garden at the Maui Family YMCA in Kahului.

Grow Some Good has been an integral community partner for each of these gardens, allowing food education and production to occur at a scale and depth that could not otherwise be reached without the staffing support provided by Grow Some Good to the host site and members.

In my experience working at both sites, hundreds of youth are able to eat garden-grown foods, particularly canoe crops, that are significant to Hawai'i and Pacific Island communities. For example, at both the Lokelani School Garden and the YMCA Community Food Systems Garden, the youth who have participated in garden activities over the last year have learned to make "Lau 'Uala Green Smoothies" featuring nutrient-dense lau 'uala (sweet potato leaves) that grow on site. The positive feedback rate from the youth who taste-test the smoothie is over 90% at both sites. Most of these youth are eating lau 'uala for the first time, as well as seeing how this plant grows and is harvested. This type of exposure and first-hand experience allows the youth to develop their own relationship to a food plant that was integrated into Hawaiian and Polynesian communities over generations because it was discovered to be an abundant and nutritious food source.

At both the school garden and community garden, youth are exposed to canoe crops and other tropical climate food plants that they may not see at their homes or neighborhood environment. What is encouraging for me to witness is how eager the youth are to eat the foods growing in the garden and to document such a high percentage of positive responses to foods including 'uala, 'ulu, kalo, kō, mai'a, fresh vegetables and fresh fruit.

Lokelani School recently obtained a papa ku'i'ai and pōhaku ku'i'ai (board and stone for pounding taro) through funds from the Office of Hawaiian Education. Students are incredibly eager to ku'i kalo and to taste the kalo they have prepared. In my experience at the school garden and community garden, I see how many youth have a hunger - an eager curiosity - to eat fresh food, participate in making food, and participate in harvesting and planting.

In this past school year, 2023-2024, one of the most profound experiences for me occurred after the West Maui fires. In September 2023, a 6th grade student who had transferred to Lokelani from the west side came to the garden with her health class to taste-test the lau 'uala green smoothie. When the activity concluded, she asked if she could take some lau 'uala to share with her family. At the time, I did not know that she was a west-side student who had temporarily transferred to our campus. I agreed to meet her at the garden immediately afterschool so that she could harvest the lau in time to also catch the school bus. As we walked from the garden to the bus, I asked if

she grew any food at home. She replied by saying that she used to have a home garden, but her family lost their home in the fire.

What impacted me deeply from the interaction with this young student was seeing her have a positive experience with food amidst a tragic and difficult life experience, and being eager to share that experience with her family. The following week, she told me that her family loved the green smoothie, and we made a short video testimonial of her experience. I asked her if she would share the lau 'uala green smoothie recipe with her peers and teachers when she transferred back to her long-term school and she said yes.

There are many more stories that I can share from both the school garden and community garden about youth and adults having positive and transformative experiences with canoe plants and other food plants through the learning activities at these sites. But for the sake of time, I will just submit the examples I have shared here.

At both gardens, Grow Some Good has played an integral role to start and support these gardens as sites for education and food production. The organization has secured the funding to build the spaces, provide educational staff, develop curriculum, obtain supplies, and manage the data for each site. The staffing support that comes from Grow Some Good has enabled both types of gardens to be created and sustained in partnership with a host site. Without the staffing support from Grow Some Good, neither Lokelani or the YMCA could currently allocate a comparable number of staff or financial resources to create and sustain the level of gardening activities or food system education that is provided through the partnership with Grow Some Good staff.

I do hope that organizations like Grow Some Good can continue to secure the financial support that allows for the staff and resources needed to provide opportunities for food production and education to youth and adults in communities across Maui. Empowering members of our island community to grow and consume fresh, nutrient-rich foods is vital to present and future food security.

I thank you for considering the various ways that food production on Maui can be supported and strengthened.

**R. Michi Atkinson**

Garden Coordinator, Lokelani Intermediate School, Kihei

*- A fruitful life is rooted in love -*



## County Clerk

RECEIVED

**From:** chris@rainbowridgewest.com  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 10:20 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** 2025 Budget Testimony

2024 APR 16 AM 10:24

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

[You don't often get email from chris@rainbowridgewest.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Aloha,

I apologize for this late written testimony regarding the 2025 county budget, but I understand that it will still be considered.

I live in Lower Nahiku and drive to Hana several times per week. There are 2 issues that I think need to be addressed in the next budget:

1. Lower Nahiku's water system. As I write this our water has gone out for the 6th time since Thanksgiving. This is unacceptable, and is in fact a life/safety issue. It is my understanding that the outage was caused by vandalism at least twice, and by leaks the other times (today's cause remains unknown at this point). I am requesting the county include in the next budget funds to improve the water delivery system to Lower Nahiku. That should include increased security to deter vandalism, additional storage tanks, and pumps to recharge the system quickly when there is an outage.
2. Deterioration of the Hana Highway between Nahiku and Hana, and at Waikani. First Waikani - the county did a very good repair of the road on the Hana side of the Waikani bridge. However, the Ke'anae side is in terrible condition and just gets worse. Last week crews filled in the damaged area (I was delayed for it on my way to Makawao), but later that day on my return trip the holes had already re-emerged. Second between Nahiku and Hana - the road has deteriorated tremendously since the last repavement (about 10 years ago) between miles 26 and 27, including the bridge at Hana Harvest cafe, and between miles 28 and 29. Cold patches last only a few days, and besides begin to leach petroleum into the environment at the first rain after the repair. Those 2 areas are a perpetual problem because the areas are extremely wet and they receive very little sunlight. Cold-patching is inadequate and a waste of county resources. Those areas require improved roadbeds and repaving, an investment that will be cheaper for the county in the long run.

Mahalo for considering these ideas for the next budget, and for the work you do on behalf of the people of Maui.

Chris Gaarder  
Lower Nahiku  
808-248-8750  
[chris@rainbowridgewest.com](mailto:chris@rainbowridgewest.com)

## County Clerk

RECEIVED

**From:** Hallie Hunt <hallie@adaptationsdancetheater.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 10:21 AM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** testimony re: Mayor's budget

2024 APR 16 AM 10:24

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

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

Dear County of Maui Officials,

My name is Hallie Hunt, and I am writing to you as the Co-Artistic Director and Co-Founder of Adaptations Dance Theater.

I am filled with immense gratitude for the wonderful support you extended to us by including Bring it Home in the budget last year. It was an honor for us to be included, and we are hopeful to receive your support again this year.

Over the past 13 years, I have been deeply involved with multiple arts organizations on Maui, including ADT, Alexander Academy of Performing Arts, MAPA, Momentum Dance Maui, and Seabury Hall. Throughout my career, I have remained committed to advocating for the youth in dance and nurturing their talents towards a professional career in the arts. Witnessing the exceptional talents within our schools, I strongly believe in providing these young artists with the necessary support to further their journeys in dance, ensuring they remain an integral part of our community or have the opportunity to return and share their remarkable talents with their island home.

I am filled with immense gratitude for the wonderful support you extended to us by including Bring it Home in the budget last year. It was an honor for us to be included, and we are hopeful to receive your support again this year.

There are compelling reasons why maintaining funding for Bring it Home within the County of Maui's budget is crucial:

1. **Supporting Local Artists:** Bring it Home offers Maui-trained artists professional contemporary dance opportunities. By continuing to support this program, the county can foster and showcase local talent.
2. **Boosting the Arts Economy:** The arts industry plays a vital role in our local economy, creating jobs and generating revenue. Supporting Bring it Home will contribute to the growth of this industry, bringing economic benefits to our community.
3. **Community Engagement:** Bring it Home performances engage our community and promote the arts. By supporting this program, the county helps cultivate a vibrant contemporary dance community and offers residents opportunities to enjoy live theater experiences.
4. **Educational Opportunities:** Bring it Home provides educational workshops, intensives, and masterclasses for local students. These experiences build confidence and professionalism in young dancers, preparing them for future pursuits in the arts.
5. **Exposure to Professional Performances:** Attending Bring it Home performances exposes young dancers to professional artists, inspiring them to pursue dance as a career and enriching their artistic development.

In summary, supporting Bring it Home demonstrates the County of Maui's commitment to promoting local talent, boosting our arts economy, enriching our community, engaging residents, and providing invaluable educational experiences for our students.

Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Hallie Hunt  
Co-Artistic Director and Co-Founder  
Adaptations Dance Theater

## County Clerk

---

**From:** Felix D'Souza <felix.s.dsouza@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 1:09 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Public Testimony in Support of Grow Some Good's Funding

 You don't often get email from felix.s.dsouza@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

To the Honorable Members of the Maui County Council,

I strongly support the continued funding of Grow Some Good's programs in the Fiscal Year 2025 Maui Department of Agriculture budget. Grow Some Good has been an integral part of our community, providing invaluable resources and programs that promote wellness, resilience, community connection, and environmental stewardship.

County funding enables us to supplement Garden Coordinator pay, ensuring they have the time and resources to maintain gardens and create engaging educational lessons. With additional support, our Garden Coordinators experience less stress, leading to increased job satisfaction and sustainable positions for the growth of our programs.

County funding also provides after-school and intersession learning opportunities for students, enhancing their agricultural understanding through fun and engaging activities.

The community agroforest that is part of Grow Some Good's Community Food Systems Program is crucial to addressing food security, implementing learning experiences for residents, and offering a safe and healing space for Maui's most vulnerable populations.

Please prioritize funding for Grow Some Good's programs to ensure our community continues benefiting from their impactful initiatives. By investing in Grow Some Good, we are investing in the future of our community, fostering a healthier, more resilient, and more sustainable Maui County.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and dedication to serving our community's needs.

Sincerely,  
Felix Sunny D'Souza  
4955 Hanawai St, 7-101, Lahaina, HI, 96761  
[felix.s.dsouza@gmail.com](mailto:felix.s.dsouza@gmail.com)

RECEIVED  
2024 APR 16 PM 1:14  
OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

## County Clerk

RECEIVED

**From:** William Skrivan <wskrivan@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 16, 2024 1:34 PM  
**To:** County Clerk  
**Subject:** Public Testimony in Support of Grow Some Good's Funding

2024 APR 16 PM 2:33

OFFICE OF THE  
COUNTY CLERK

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

To the Honorable Members of the Maui County Council,

I strongly support the continued funding of Grow Some Good's programs in the Fiscal Year 2025 Maui Department of Agriculture budget. Grow Some Good has been an integral part of our community, providing invaluable resources and programs that promote wellness, resilience, community connection, and environmental stewardship.

Grow Some Good has been working hard to provide keiki with educational experiences that teach them about caring for Maui's land and applying it to their STEM coursework, fostering healthy habits, and providing healing spaces through school gardens.

The community agroforest, which they are building in partnership with the Maui Family YMCA, will offer resources for food security and learning opportunities for Central Maui's residents. This is an important program for Maui, and Grow Some Good is making a strong impact in offering solutions.

Please prioritize funding for Grow Some Good's programs to ensure our community continues benefiting from their impactful initiatives. By investing in Grow Some Good, we are investing in the future of our community, fostering a healthier, more resilient, and more sustainable Maui County.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and dedication to serving our community's needs.

Sincerely,  
William Skrivan  
4955 Hanawai St, 7-101, Lahaina, HI, 96761  
[wskrivan@gmail.com](mailto:wskrivan@gmail.com)