

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-04-10 6:00 PM

Meeting Time: 04-10-23 18:00

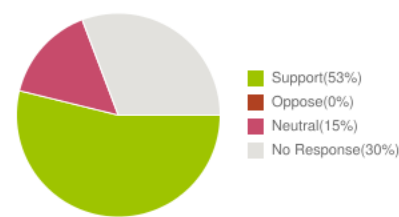
eComments Report

| Meetings | Meeting Time | Agenda Items | Comments | Support | Oppose | Neutral |
|---|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-04-10 6:00 PM | 04-10-23 18:00 | 2 | 13 | 7 | 0 | 2 |

Sentiments for All Meetings

The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment

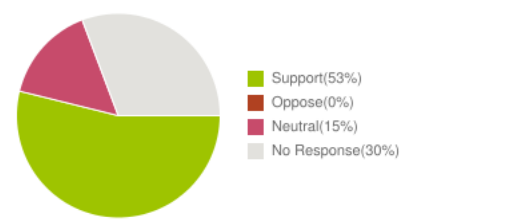


| Agenda Name | Comments | Support | Oppose | Neutral |
|---|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| A G E N D A | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| BFED-1 FY 2024 PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) | 11 | 6 | 0 | 2 |

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

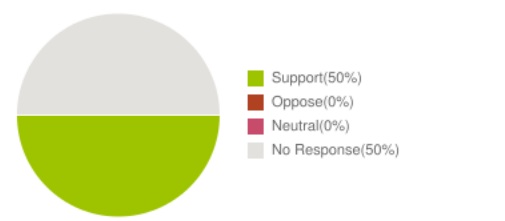
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



BFED Committee

Location:
Submitted At: 8:42am 04-11-23
Written testimony received 04-10-2023

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 4:17pm 04-10-23

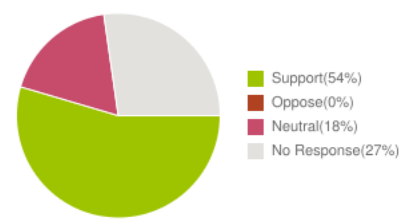
There is a Public Health and Safety issue in North Kihei that puts residents, Maui First Responders, and County Public Works staff in jeopardy. The flash flooding and the resulting debris torrent on S. Kihei Road at the bridge over the Waiakoa Gulch has exacerbated dangerous flooding and is creating environmental damage to our shoreline and marine life in Ma'alaea Bay.

We are requesting that the COM set aside funding from surplus FY 2023 and/or designate FY 2024 funding to construct flood control structures in the Waiakoa Gulch on state lands mauka from the bridge over S. Kihei Road

and replace the concrete bridge side rails with safety railings that will allow flood waters to flow across the road and back into the Waiakoa Gulch as the bridge was originally designed.
We have submitted the testimony attached to this submission.
Mahalo to Mayor Bissen and Maui County council members for consideration of this request.
Mike Elerding
36 S. Kihei Road #207
Kihei, HI 96753

Agenda Item: eComments for BFED-1 FY 2024 PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)

Overall Sentiment



Deleted User

Location:
Submitted At: 8:02am 04-11-23
Meeting 654512036
Honorable Finance Chair, Committee members and Friends,

I'm Terez Amato, State Representative for Kihei, an area repeatedly devastated by once in a hundred year floods, that now happen on the average every 8 months. My, how time flies.

I have had communication with Multiple County agencies and over 150 Kihei neighbors about floods which have cost life and property loss, created huge anxiety and interfered with local commerce, killed pending real estate sales as well as eating into local businesses, and in multiple ways may increasingly disrupt our tax base needed to maintain our society.

We can't undo 50 years of development in a wetland area without environmental assessments where permits were handed out like candy, nor can I reverse climate change. And as a State official I can not legally rebuild a county bridge or a county road, but I can try to help with State properties. To that end I am adding my voice to the 70 neighbors from Waipuilani gulch who came within inches of losing their apartments, and to the 80 from Waiokoa gulch including the engineers and flood experts on their board with whom I have met.

It was recently said that this area would be underwater in a decade. First that is not true, second, we can't just abandon these people. We absolutely can reduce flooding effects Mauka and relieve flood bottlenecks Makai to make a dent in this real and dangerous problem.

To help solve this problem I have recently obtained several million in CIP funds for that effort, which will be funneled directly to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for flood mitigation efforts on State lands. This includes funds for infrastructure support for detention and retention of water upstream, to plant native plants to prevent flooding in Kihei, and fences to hold back axis deer from eating plants and for infrastructure needed for upstream water and silt retention. My hope and plan is that my initial \$2.5 Million dollar effort spread over 3 gulches for FY2024 will pave the way for another \$10Million in federal N-funds.

Unfortunately, that only helps in the long term. So I am also requesting YOUR support of the Maalaea Surf resident reasonable requests to fix the bridge on South Kihei road specifically to remove sidewalks and replace

with more porous sidewalls. This is a no brainer, the most important and easiest, and the most cost effective partial fix for the most severe Kihei flooding at the moment.

I also support their request to construct two flood control structures and mud retention basins on public land easements at the east and west sides where Waiakoa Gulch passes under Piilani Highway at an estimated cost \$200,000. If the county will pay I will personally advocate at State level with DLNR. I want to work with you to help.

Last, I support the request for Construction of one additional flood control structure and mud retention basin on private land between South Kihei Road and Piilani Highway. I have had discussions with Maalaea surf and have agreed to engage the private landowners to support this.

The total for this ask is 500K, and with the \$2.5M in state funds is a drop in the bucket compared to potential property loss and lawsuits.

The Millions of dollars in State funds I am obtaining for FY2024 will only help part of the problem so I urge you to please help by funding this smaller county request. Compassion and lives and businesses and revenues are important, but this would also be effective in showing due diligence should the landowners feel legal action is needed. An ounce of prevention may be a prudent and responsible way to spend funds.

Last I want to mention that I have written dozens of polite collaborative emails seeking to actively engage county departments on this issue, and have received virtually zero real answers from Public works or the Executive branch. The same is true of emails from many citizens..

The cries for help from our neighbors go unanswered, and I can only get money for state lands, the rest depends on you. I want you to be aware of the lack of response from Maui County agencies, not as a complaint, but as a request for help as State and County MUST work together as a team for our people.

I want to work with you. Please reach out to my office, to me at RepAmato@Capitol.hawaii.gov and my Chief of Staff J.Ritter@Capitol.Hawaii.gov
I want to meet and help to help solve these problems.

Thank you for considering my request for support of the \$500k request to save lives and property in our neighborhood.

Aloha, Terez
State Representative Terez Amato
HD11 Kihei

Phyllis Robinson

Location:
Submitted At: 3:45pm 04-10-23

I am commenting on Yuki Lei Sugimura's request to Rogerene Arce regarding funding of the farmer education programs that have traditionally been line items in the budget under OED. I would like to make sure that in addition to FAM and Farm Bureau, that the Maui Family Farmer Training Network (MFFTN) Navigational Coaching also be under consideration for funding as we are now coaching 28 farmers on increasing their yields and becoming better entrepreneurs, as well as a tool and equipment lending library. I would add we have not even done a press release yet. Our current funding is only \$30,000. I am attaching a 1 p. proposal

Mike Moran

Location:
Submitted At: 2:34pm 04-10-23

Aloha Chair Please see attached from the Kihei Community Assoc
Mahalo

Mike Moran

BFED Committee

Location:

Submitted At: 2:32pm 04-10-23

Written testimony received 04/10/2023

Mike Elerding

Location:

Submitted At: 11:44am 04-10-23

There is a Public Health and Safety issue in North Kihei that puts residents, Maui First Responders, and County Public Works staff in jeopardy. The flash flooding and the resulting debris torrent on S. Kihei Road at the bridge over the Waiakoa Gulch has exacerbated dangerous flooding and is creating environmental damage to our shoreline and marine life in Ma'alaea Bay.

We are requesting that the COM set aside funding from surplus FY 2023 and/or designate FY 2024 funding to construct flood control structures in the Waiakoa Gulch on state lands mauka from the bridge over S. Kihei Road and replace the concrete bridge side rails with safety railings that will allow flood waters to flow across the road and back into the Waiakoa Gulch as the bridge was originally designed.

We have submitted the testimony attached to this submission.

Mahalo to Mayor Bissen and Maui County council members for consideration of this request.

Mike Elerding

36 S. Kihei Road #207

Kihei, HI 96753

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:21pm 04-09-23

I am Rachel Campbell and represent VisSidus Technologies, Inc. I am testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board_s (MEDB). VisSidus Technologies, Inc. strongly supports the MEDB and their business and skill development programs. MEDB core programs develop infrastructure, capital, and talent to facilitate the growth of technology and manufacturing jobs in Hawai'i in general and Maui in particular. VisSidus benefited from MEDB programs that support innovative small businesses from the startup stage through growth and export. For example, SBIR workshops, Tech Ohana meetings, and outreach in the form of Maui Techies monthly meet. VisSidus appreciates MEDB's efforts to keep the Maui County creative and technical communities engaged during the CoV-SARS-2019 pandemic lockdown by adapting to full remote and virtual meetings. VisSidus respectfully asks the Maui County Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee to continue funding the MEDB for the during the next budget cycle.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 7:49pm 04-09-23

Aloha kakou,

I request that funding and resources be devoted to solving the escalating problems on North Kihei Road. Between the canoe clubs and Kealia National Wildlife Refuge there are increasing numbers of houseless people camping in their cars and on the narrow stretch of beach and dunes.

While I sympathize with those who have no place to live, this situation is untenable for the following reasons:

- There are no toilets, and the beach and dunes are being fouled with human waste
- There are no trash cans or dumpsters, and the area is being trashed with loose garbage
- This environmentally sensitive area is one of the few places on Maui used by the endangered hawksbill turtles (honu'ea) for nesting, from June to December
- Kealia Pond provides important habitat for many bird species, some of them endangered or threatened
- The fence constructed to keep the nesting female honu'ea from attempting to cross North Kihei Road is being destroyed in many places by those parking and camping there
- The lack of enforcement of no-camping rules has permitted and encouraged increasing numbers of people to move in to the location
- Many people are now moving truckloads of possessions onto the beach, including furniture and other things that end up being dumped there: mattresses, appliances, tires, plastic tarps, discarded clothing and debris, etc.

- There are fire pits being constructed and used, and kiawe trees and trash are being burned
- Lack of trash containers, lack of care, and the wind result in a lot of garbage going into the ocean, the pond, and the surrounding area
- The longer the problem goes unaddressed, the more damage is done.

Please find a solution. This is shameful.

Mahalo for your kokua!

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:52am 04-07-23

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Petar Kovacic and I am testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development. Our King Kekaulike High School automotive program has benefited from your support. Specifically our advanced classes have access to four different types of battery chargers YOUR MONIES FUNDED. This allows shop labs of four stations of approx 6 students at each machine. They rotate through all to learn particularities and experience repetition. Additionally, our entry level classes have a similar shop set up for oil changes. We practice on our shop project cars, reusing the oil we learn how to change, BUT, of course we spill as we learn. YOUR MONIES FUNDED bulk motor oil to keep our lab stations running. (dont worry we recycle our used motor oil!)

There are always incidental expenses to operate a fully functioning automotive training facility. With the assistance of Britney James, YOUR MONIES FUNDED numerous tools, supplies and EXPANDED REAL WORLD LEARNING EXPERIENCES over the years, please consider continuing to do so.

Aloha,
 Petar Kovacic
 King Kekaulike High School Automotive Instructor

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:41am 04-07-23

Aloha,

I'm a new Pickleball player and I have met so many great people in the Pickleball community whether they are locals or tourists. It is a sport that we ALL can enjoy regardless of ages as some players are like 10 years old while we have so many people 60+ up as well. It is so nice to see different generations get together and play Pickleball. As it's the fastest growing sport in the US, we will need more courts anyway and obviously other cities are adding more and more Pickleball courts for their citizens wellness and great communities. Our current courts at Waipuilani Park are so beat up, I'm always concerned that people get hurt while playing especially older people. I really hope the county can take a look at the courts to see how dangerous and beat up the courts are and get them resurfaced for our community.

Thank you,

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 11:08am 04-06-23

Aloha, I am a Pickleball Ambassdor here. Our main job is to promote the great game of pickleball. With this written testimony, I am requesting funding be added to the budget for construction of multi-court, dedicated pickleball facility for South Maui.

If you are unaware, pickleball (pb) is widely considered the fastest growing sport in the US, and one of the fastest growing sports globally.

It is a fun game to play, it is a very social sport, and it is a surprisingly good workout.

Like many things, pb was slow to arrive on Maui but has now been firmly established with the number of players increasing almost daily.

In 2020, I retired after a 15 year career in the Parks Dept., based in the South Maui district. During my career I heard many times the Dept.'s stated goal of having as many people as possible using and enjoying County recreational facilities. Due to it's smaller size, 4 pb courts can fit in the area of a tennis court, meaning in the same space where you can have a maximum of 4 tennis players, you can have 16 pb players. Seems like that fits Parks goals.

In response to the growing number of pb players, the Parks Dept. has converted 3 tennis courts here. 2 at Waipuilani Park in Kihei, and 1 at the Lahaina Civic Center. That helped, but is already nowhere near enough. Doing so was met with much approval from the pb community, but much anger from the tennis community who have not been happy about having courts taken away from them. There's been a somewhat adversarial relationship between pb and tennis players, but really, tennis players want what we want- our own courts. Since the pandemic, the number of pb players on Maui has skyrocketed. All of the public facilities we have been granted use of by the Parks Dept. have become overwhelmed with players. During many meetings with Parks and other County officials we have been told we needed to be patient. Our ever increasing numbers of players warrant way more attention now. We don't need or want more converted tennis courts. We need and deserve dedicated pb facilities, not just in South Maui, but island wide.

Waipuilani Park in Kihei is by far the most popular place to play pb on Maui. It is not at all uncommon to find 80 or more players there every morning during peak tourist time. That number decreases during non peak months, but really, not that much, to 40-50 every morning players. Despite it's popularity, Waipuilani's courts are in horrible shape. Slippery surface due to wrong paint being used for court lines, and cracks so wide and deep they're more like canyons. It's embarrassing, and more importantly, unsafe. It's amazing no real serious injuries have occurred there. If the Parks Dept. wants quality, safe facilities for people to use, Waipuilani is a complete failure. Along with the substandard courts, there is very little shade, and virtually no place to sit and wait for an open court. Also, no drinkable water near the courts, and an old, seemingly seldom serviced porta-potty in place so people don't have to walk all the way back to the restroom by the parking lot.

Tourism is still the main economic force here. It is well known that many pb players choose vacation destinations based on availability of pb. Everyone wants to visit Maui. Having an adequate number of quality pb courts would only enhance Maui's reputation as one of the world's most popular tourist destination. Dedicated pb courts would be a tremendous boost for tourists and residents alike. As stated, our ever increasing number of players, both visitors and residents deserve way more attention. It's frustrating and disappointing to play on or see pictures of amazing and large public pb facilities, many of which are in areas that are not touristy and the population is far less than Maui.

I am asking for funding to completely redo from the ground up, the Waipuilani courts to make them not only safe, but also cosmetically appealing, or preferably, a large (12-15 court) dedicated pb facility for South Maui.

Please add pb court construction for South Maui to the budget. Mahalo.

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:56pm 04-03-23

Aloha County Council members,

I have sent you all separate emails recently and I am requesting that you all consider the acquisition of 7 of our last remaining wetlands in South Maui. It is some peoples assumption that our wetlands are now protected by the wetlands overlay that was made into law last year. However that overlay is being created and while we wait a year or so for it to take affect our wetlands are in danger of development by Peter Savio and his un-affordable housing projects.

I have been in correspondence with Jordan Molina (Director of Public Works) who is in support of this acquisition as well. He is actually the person who told me what to do as he felt that the Waipuilani and Kulanihakoi Gulches need protection through acquisition. This is what he proposed to do "The specific portion of the budget where the acquisition request will shown is in Appendix A, Part II Special Purpose Revenue, Open Space Fund. I've attached a copy of this appendix from FY23 and highlighted the Open Space section which starts on Page 2. Your request for FY4 will be to add a line item for Waipuilani and Kulanihakoi acquisitions." This request and acquisition will cost 5 million dollars which the open space funds would allow easily.

The South Maui CPAC just approved the following language and amendment that supports the acquisition of crucial wetlands in the South Maui Community plan. This will also take a long time to be put into action once the planning is complete. It may be too late at that point to protect these valuable resources.

“Acquire wetland parcels, if necessary under the threat of condemnation, such as TMK 3-9-001-162, 3-9-062-019, 3-9-001-164, 3-9-001-007, 3-9-059-001, 3-9-058-061, and 3-9-046-011 and designate as Open Space-protected lands in perpetuity.

Explore the feasibility of obtaining the areas identified through the wetlands mapping study, or other similar studies, through conservation easements, acquiring through negotiation or under the threat of condemnation wetlands including but not limited to gulches, continuous, intermittent, and ephemeral streams, streams beds and flood plains and other flood prone parcels and designate as open space protected lands in perpetuity.” Unfortunately the South Maui Community plan and the Wetlands overlay created through Bill 91 will not be complete for a year or 2. This leaves all of our remaining wetlands in imminent danger. If they are not protected now these natural resources will be destroyed before protections are put in place.

This is a glimpse into what other states are doing to protect their wetlands and the benefits they provide.

<https://qz.com/economic-benefit-save-us-coastal-wetlands-1849881739>

This is a letter just sent by Peter Savio about building on top/middle of the Waipuilani Gulch. He is known for violating his permits as he has shown with grading and grubbing without permits. Now he is continuing to push for building even though he will not provide any drainage or any other type of infrastructure in these critical areas.

“ KIHEI WAILANI VILLAGE LLC

March 30, 2023

Dear Maui Community:

We hope this letter finds you all in good health and spirits. We write to you today to discuss a matter of great importance to our community: Affordable Housing. As you may know, the Kihei Wailani Village Affordable Housing Project is an initiative aimed at providing affordable housing to low and moderate-income families on Maui. The project is currently on a waitlist, and we need your support to ensure it moves forward.

Affordable housing is a critical issue on Maui, with many families struggling to find a safe and affordable place to call

home. The Kihei Wailani Village Affordable Housing Project is a crucial step in addressing this issue and providing much-needed relief to those in need.

We urge you to support this project by writing letters, emailing, and calling the Mayor's office and administration. Let them know that you support affordable housing initiatives like Kihei Wailani and that you believe it's a critical step towards addressing the housing crisis on Maui.

By working together, we can make a difference in the lives of families on our island who are in desperate need of affordable housing. Your support and involvement in this project can make all the difference in the world.

We urge you to take action and do your part to support The Kihei Wailani Village Affordable Housing Project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

For your convenience, please find the County's Administrations address, phone number, fax number, and emails below:

Office of The Mayor

200 S. High Street

Kalana O Maui Bldg 9th Floor Wailuku, HI 96793

Phone:

(808) 270-7855

Fax:

(808) 270-7870

richard.bissen@co.maui.hi.us mayors.office@mauicounty.gov Leo.Caires@mauicounty.gov

Thank You,

SAVIO KIHEI WAILANI VILLAGE LLC a Hawaii limited liability company”

Please stop the destruction of our last remaining wetlands,

Sincerely, Brandi Corpuz

808-357-9170

BFED Committee

From: Mike Elerding <mike@coastalak.com>
Sent: Monday, April 10, 2023 4:15 PM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Flood Control Request Waiakoa Gulch at S. Kihei Road
Attachments: COM Budget REQUEST.pdf; Pic #1.jpg; Pic #3.jpg; Pic #4.jpg; Pic #2.jpg

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

There is a Public Health and Safety issue in North Kihei that puts residents, Maui First Responders, and County Public Works staff in jeopardy. The flash flooding and the resulting debris torrent on S. Kihei Road at the bridge over the Waiakoa Gulch has exacerbated dangerous flooding and is creating environmental damage to our shoreline and marine life in Ma'alaea Bay.

We are requesting that the COM set aside funding from surplus FY 2023 and/or designate FY 2024 funding to construct flood control structures in the Waiakoa Gulch on state lands mauka from the bridge over S. Kihei Road and replace the concrete bridge side rails with safety railings that will allow flood waters to flow across the road and back into the Waiakoa Gulch as the bridge was originally designed.

We have submitted the testimony attached to this submission.

Mahalo to Mayor Bissen and Maui County council members for consideration of this request.

Mike Elerding

36 S. Kihei Road #207

Kihei, HI 96753

April 7, 2023

**Honorable Alice L. Lee, Chair
and Members of the Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793**

RE: Waiakoa Gulch flood events:
 Public Health and Safety Issues on South Kihei Road
 Pollution abatement into Ma'alaea Bay

Dear Chair Lee and Members

There is a Public Health and Safety issue facing residents, visitors, Maui County workers, First Responders, local businesses and property owners working and living in North Kihei and ocean environmental impacts that should be addressed by the County of Maui before next winter's rainy season.

- The flash flooding and the recurring debris torrents (December 2021, January 2023) in Waiakoa Gulch threaten public Health and Safety.
- The mud, debris and pollutants that enter the ocean from Waiakoa Gulch flooding are causing environmental damage to the shoreline, near-shore area, and marine life in Ma'alaea Bay. The suspended sediments turn North Kihei and Ma'alaea Bay muddy and unsafe for water activities for weeks and months after flood events.
- When the debris torrents reach the bridge at South Kihei Road, the bridge acts as a dam and floods north and south along South Kihei Road, causing local business closures and widespread property damage.

We support Maui County and State projects directed at upcountry erosion control and the overpopulation of deer, but these are long term solutions. **We request that Maui County invest in practical solutions now and in the 2024 Budget to address the immediate problems of mud and debris entering the ocean and flooding businesses and property in North Kihei.**

The Waiakoa Gulch bridge at South Kihei Road was originally designed to allow extreme flood waters to flow over and across the roadway. The December 2021 and January 2023 debris torrents demonstrate that, due to excess sediment and debris in the flood waters, the bridge side rails act like a dam and prevent flood waters from flowing across the roadway. The attached photo of the bridge from the January 2023 flood event shows the damming effect caused by the concrete bridge side rails. The second aerial photo shows the extent of flooding north and south along Kihei Road as the flood waters seek other routes to the ocean through adjacent properties since the Waiakoa Gulch is effectively dammed by the bridge. The third photo shows the debris plume fouling the beach and polluting Ma'alaea Bay.

We request that Maui County set aside funding from surplus FY 2023 and/or designate FY 2024 funding to:

1. Construct two flood control structures and mud retention basins on public land easements at the east and west sides where Waiakoa Gulch passes under Piilani Highway. Estimated cost \$200,000. Photo #4
2. Construct one additional flood control structure and mud retention basin on private land between South Kihei Road and Piilani Highway to restore wetland function in this area. Estimated cost \$100,000 (not including land acquisition or easement costs).
3. Replace the concrete bridge side rails on the South Kihei Road bridge with safety railings that will allow flood waters to flow across the road and back into the Waiakoa Gulch, as originally intended. Estimated cost \$200,000.

The flood control structures and mud retention basins would intercept vegetation and other debris and slow flood water velocity, allowing mud, small debris and pollutants to settle out before reaching the ocean.

More porous side railings on the South Kihei Road bridge would allow extreme flood waters to pass across the road as originally intended and reduce or eliminate the dangerous flooding on South Kihei Road. Recurring flooding and debris torrents are a clear and present danger to Public Safety, Maui First Responders, Maui Public Works crews, residents, visitors and business owners. The flooding interrupts commerce on S Kihei Road resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars of lost revenues to local businesses. Property damage from the flooding in North Kihei has resulted in millions of dollars in losses and repairs to damaged structures.

Granting funding for the construction of flood control structures and mud retention basins and replacement of the side railings on the bridge over the Waiakoa Gulch on South Kihei Road will:

1. enhance Public Health and Safety.
2. reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts in Ma'alaea Bay; and
3. eliminate business losses and property damage in North Kihei.

Mahalo to Mayor Bissen and Maui County Council for considering this critical funding request.

Sincerely,

Kihei Beach Condominiums Association
Michael J. Elerding
36 S. Kihei Road #207
Kihei, Hawaii 96753



top of bridge railing ^

South Kihei Road

Waiakoa Gultch Bridge at South Kihei Road
January 2023 Debris Torrent Event



bridge

Maui Farmer's Market

ABC Store



Mud plume entering Ma'alaea Bay



Proposed Flood Control Location

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2024 budget.

Four items:

1. Please support \$120,612 grant for Hui LauLima Dialysis home in Hana. At the current time, the home has 4 patients who receive dialysis four days a week. The new machine provides a gentler dialysis but requires an additional day for the 3-to-4-hour treatment. The liability insurance has gone up dramatically—from \$2,000 a year prior to covid to \$9,000 and now \$10,000 for 2024. That accounts for the additional funding. Patients report improved health with the new treatment. The home has been providing Hana patients care for 14 years. The first dialysis tech has been there from the first day. The second tech has been there for seven years. This home provides wonderful care and adds to the quality of life for patients.
2. In Kihei there is a tremendous need for some kind of pedestrian path on Pi'ikea between Safeway and CVS center. There are open fields and a very narrow easement for pedestrians. No street lighting so limited night visibility. Sadly, there have been two pedestrian fatalities on that stretch of road. When I have inquired about this need over the years, I have been told the property owner is responsible. Please consider funding maintenance for the safety of all.
3. Regarding Ord. #5434, the bill to protect native Hawaiian seabirds from outdoor lighting. I would ask that any funding for new /replacement lighting due to this Ordinance be deferred until such a time as this Ordinance can be reconsidered by Council. New information was revealed after the Bill was passed which confirmed that there are no light bulbs which meet the requirements of the Ordinance. Additionally, there is a sole source for the streetlights. This will cost the taxpayers because the lack of competitive bidding will drive up the price.
4. As a resident of Maui Meadows, I am grateful for the efforts of Mayor Victorino and Councilmember Sugimura in bringing all the parties together for the long-awaited traffic signal at Piilani Highway and Mikioi Place. Construction is underway. This intersection has been the site of many traffic accidents. Mikioi left turns are blocked during construction. The only drawback to all the diverted traffic into Maui Meadows, it has wrecked the pavement on lower Kupulua Drive. If possible, could this repair be included in the capital improvements budget.

Please be frugal with the tax dollars you have been entrusted with. I appreciate your commitment.

Thank you.

Madge Schaefer


RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 4/10/2023




RECEIVED AT BFED MEETING ON 4/10/2023
THE BLOCK 2.1.1





From: Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez tominmaui@icloud.com 
Subject: Sidewalk
Date: April 10, 2023 at 9:04 AM
To: Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez tominmaui@icloud.com



From: Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez tominmaui@icloud.com 
Subject: Concrete from bench
Date: April 10, 2023 at 9:03 AM
To: Tom Blackburn-Rodriguez tominmaui@icloud.com



The Maui Family Farmer Training Network (MFFTN) Project - FY '24

A Survey of Need: Completing a farmer training program is only the first step in becoming a stable, and successful contributor to food resiliency in the County of Maui. Over 100 farmers have graduated from Maui's beginning farmer training programs in the past 7 years. Based on graduate surveys, these new farmer goals range from:

- buying their own farm,
- establishing a customer base, a farm brand and website,
- developing sales and marketing plans,
- cooperative participation in local food hubs,
- Agrotourism and

Most importantly, participants want to be members of a network of support that interactively fuels the courage it takes to start or expand a farm business in the most expensive island in the Pacific.



MFFTN's Mission: To contribute to our County's food security through one-on-one coaching local farmers to overcome the obstacles that prevent their being an integral piece of Maui's agricultural industry. By increasing the number of financially stable, Climate-Smart farms and farmers in Maui County we will thereby increase the health, availability and quantity of locally grown foods, and locally produced products. We are focused on recently established farmers (less than 10 years) who have the knowledge and skill set to take their farms to the next level of production. This project is all about the strength and resilience of Maui's small, diversified regenerative farmers. Navigational Coaching is one part of what we do. We hold events on farms for networking, we bring in mentors for webinars and on-farm demonstrations to teach production expansion.

Project Budget Narrative: In the past 2 fiscal years, the MFFTN project has received \$30,000/yr. in funding under OED. During our first year, we served 27 farmers. This year, FY'23, we are close to reaching 40 farmers. Currently, all administrative and programmatic time for this project has been in-kind. We would like to expand our coaching to 60 farmers, and bring in additional Coaches to the programming. We are hoping to expand Farmer Navigational Coaching to Lana'i and Moloka'i, and have been delayed for lack of funding. We are applying for the Beginning Farmer Rancher Development grant from the USDA. An increased budget from the County of Maui will support us in achieving the needed matching funds for the BFRDP grant. **We are requesting an additional \$60,000 for FY '24.** This will provide adequate funding for programmatic and administrative functions. In addition, it will allow us to increase the coaching budget to reach more farmers and allow us to expand to Moloka'i and Lana'i.

Maui Farmer Network Navigational Coaching Project www.mauifarmernetwork.com

Directors: Phyllis Robinson, Ed.D (808) 647-4066 pfierro@aol.com

Georgia A. Pinsky, 808.866.8194

mauitimeisright@gmail.com



To: Maui County Council
From: Kihei Community Association
Re: Fiscal Year 2024 Budget Requests
Date: April 10, 2023

Kihei Community Association board of directors met on April 7, 2023, and compiled the following list of priority budget items for Kihei.

- 1) North-South Collector Road –
 - A) Finish next two incomplete sections that have been (or are currently) in design phase, including the phase from Kaonoulu St. to Kulanihakoi St. and the phase from Kulanihakoi St. to E. Waipuilani Rd. This will give us a more complete thoroughfare for bike riders and motorists who want to avoid the highway traffic around the new roundabout. No new housing or business development projects should be approved in Kihei/Wailea, or even proposed, until these sections are completed.
 - B) Finish design of the third phase of the North South Collector Rd. (Liloa Dr.) from Halekuai St. to E. Welakahao Rd. This section is critical egress to the next phase of the South Maui Community Park, which has already gone through a recent master planning by the Maui County Parks and Rec. CIP Division. Our much-needed park development cannot move forward without this phase of the North South Collector Road, essentially extending Liloa Dr. to Welakahao St.
- 2) Wetland Preservation/Restoration – budget ~\$1.2 million (Open Space funds) for purchase of TMK (2) 3-9-010:0077 as landowner's previous proposal to develop a medical center was not supported by the Council and she has since stated a willingness to sell the property for wetland restoration; plus \$250k to create a 5-year plan to purchase other parcels identified in the attached letter and the TMK's referenced below and/or in the wetland overlay to be created this year, using the following criteria to prioritize:
 - A) Risk for development
 - B) Potential for absorption of storm water and drainage
 - C) Availability for sale
- 3) Sidewalks – prioritize completion of sidewalks along Ohukai (as promised by the previous administration); identify sections of South Kihei Road under heavy use by pedestrians and begin or finish design/engineering asap.
- 4) ReTree Maui County – budget a minimum of \$30k for tree planting throughout Maui County to reduce "heat islands". Consider creating a county-wide 5-year plan for green infrastructure which could be eligible for federal and/or state grants.
- 5) Multi-modal Transit Corridor design – budget for and begin the design phase to include Complete Streets concepts (i.e., a complete bike lane system for South Maui). Please don't wait for the South Maui Community Plan to be adopted to begin this project! This could be a real public-private

partnership between the County and our South Maui community associations (KCA, MVA, Maui Meadows, Wailea and Makena).

The following attachments are included:

1. Letter dated 12-27-22 from then councilmember Kelly King to then Mayor Victorino requesting the County acquisition of specific South Maui Wetland properties.

2. Wetlands TMK map of the properties referenced below and in CM King's letter:

- [\(2\) 3-9-001-162:0000](#) (7.0 acres)
- [\(2\) 3-9-062-019:0000](#) (2.42 acres)
- [\(2\) 3-9-001-164:0000](#) (3.34 acres)
- [\(2\) 3-9-001-007:0000](#) (12.95 acres)
- [\(2\) 3-9-059-001:0000](#) (2.14 acres)
- [\(2\) 3-9-058-061:0000](#) (1.08 acres)
- [\(2\) 3-9-046-011:0000](#) (.53 acres)

Thank you for your consideration to these priority requests for the benefit of South Maui.

Mike Moran, President
Kihei Community Association

2 Attachments

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

December 27, 2022

TO: Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor

FROM: Kelly Takaya King
Councilmember, South Maui Residency Area
Chair, Climate Action, Resilience, and Environment Committee

SUBJECT: **ACQUISITION OF WAIPUILANI AND KULANIHAKOI WETLANDS
PROPERTIES IN KIHAI**

As I serve my final week on the Maui County Council, I would like to express my strong support for the preservation of the Waipuilani and Kulanihakoi gulch wetlands in Kihei. There are parcels in these gulch and wetland areas which are currently undeveloped and should remain that way, primarily to aid in flood control, support biodiversity and avoid worsening the chronic muddy deposits that plague Kihei during intense storm events.

Specifically, these TMKs are critical to protect from development as further loss of these wetland properties in the gulches would exacerbate Kihei's flooding issues:

- [\(2\) 3-9-001-162:0000](#) (7.0 acres)
- [\(2\) 3-9-062-019:0000](#) (2.42 acres)
- [\(2\) 3-9-001-164:0000](#) (3.34 acres)
- [\(2\) 3-9-001-007:0000](#) (12.95 acres)
- [\(2\) 3-9-059-001:0000](#) (2.14 acres)
- [\(2\) 3-9-058-061:0000](#) (1.08 acres)
- [\(2\) 3-9-046-011:0000](#) (e.53 acres)

In September 2022, the Maui County Council passed Bill 91, CD1 (2022) (Ordinance 5421) to conserve and protect wetlands. This legislation will advance the policy to increase and protect wetlands from development and allow for restoration in areas not yet developed. While the wetlands mapping is being completed, the above-identified parcels targeted for development should be acquired as soon as possible and protected as open space.

Aerial photos of these parcels show their locations in the path of water and mud flows from the gulches during storm events. Allowing development of the parcels in areas known to flood would further deplete the natural environment and contribute to worsening of the ongoing problems caused by decades of wetlands loss.

Wetlands provide many benefits when allowed to function naturally:

- Improved water quality by intercepting runoff, removing pollutants through biological processes
- Erosion control – wetland plants stabilize soils and reduce water velocity
- Flood abatement – wetlands soak up flood water
- Habitat enhancement for threatened and endangered species
- Cultural activity area
- Water supply – retained water is released slowly into surface water and ground water
- Aesthetics – wetlands are appealing as open space

Through my terms as the South Maui residency area councilmember and four decades as a resident of Kihei, I have seen the impacts of development on our ecosystems and infrastructure. Flooding events are a regular occurrence, brown water smothers our reefs, and native ecosystems are stressed and disappearing. These impacts will continue to worsen as the climate changes and sudden and severe rain events become more common. It is incumbent upon all branches and levels of government, in partnership with community advocates and organizations, to do what is necessary to preserve these sensitive ecosystems which serve as important natural infrastructure and open space.

Recently, much progress has been made in restoring the potential of green infrastructure and ecosystems to exist in harmony with the built environment. The work of a number of South Maui non-profit wetlands groups, as well as the Kihei Drainage Master Plan Ecological Alternatives Assessment, shows that the preservation of these wetlands not only provides the aforementioned benefits, but also allows implementation of natural solutions which serve as infrastructure with low impact and less cost than conventional concrete channelization.

As a reminder, the Council did include the purchase of the Kulanihakoi parcels in a previous budget; however, the amount allowed by the Council (\$750,000.00) was not acceptable to the previous owners.

Unfortunately, the recent purchase of parcels within the Waipuilani and Kulanihakoi gulches and wetlands by another developer has included destructive activity commenced in preparation for development. These potential new projects and the accompanying degradation threatens the integrity of the wetlands systems and would result in ecological harm while making South Maui less resilient to storms and climate change.

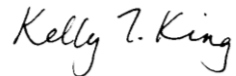
I can think of no better use of Maui County's Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund than to acquire parcels in the Waipuilani and Kulanihakoi wetlands so that they may be preserved and managed as public resources, either by the County or capable community groups. Doing so would be in alignment with the Maui Island Plan and would be an investment benefitting many generations to come.

December 27, 2022

Page 3

I urge the County Administration and the Conservation Planning Committee to do all that is within your power to allocate funding and take action so that the Waipuilani and Kulanihakoi wetlands may be acquired, preserved and managed as public lands.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly T. King". The script is cursive and fluid.

Kelly Takaya King

Cc: Conservation Planning Committee
Kihei Community Association
Mayor-Elect Richard Bissen
Brandi Corpuz
Robin Knox



Keolu St

Kaonoulu St

Malulu St

Heona Pl

Kuanihaku St

Olua St

39062019

39001164

Heona Pl

Kuanihaku Rd

Kuanihaku St

Olua St

Malulu St

39059001

39058061

Olua St

39001007

Kapuhau Pl

E Waiipulani Rd

E Waiipulani Rd

Kaunaa St

39046011

S Kihikihi Rd

Ewa Pl

Lepolego Park

Malulu Park

April 7, 2023

**Honorable Alice L. Lee, Chair
and Members of the Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793**

RE: Waiakoa Gulch flood events:
 Public Health and Safety Issues on South Kihei Road
 Pollution abatement into Ma'alaea Bay

Dear Chair Lee and Members

There is a Public Health and Safety issue facing residents, visitors, Maui County workers, First Responders, local businesses and property owners working and living in North Kihei and ocean environmental impacts that should be addressed by the County of Maui before next winter's rainy season.

- The flash flooding and the recurring debris torrents (December 2021, January 2023) in Waiakoa Gulch threaten public Health and Safety.
- The mud, debris and pollutants that enter the ocean from Waiakoa Gulch flooding are causing environmental damage to the shoreline, near-shore area, and marine life in Ma'alaea Bay. The suspended sediments turn North Kihei and Ma'alaea Bay muddy and unsafe for water activities for weeks and months after flood events.
- When the debris torrents reach the bridge at South Kihei Road, the bridge acts as a dam and floods north and south along South Kihei Road, causing local business closures and widespread property damage.

We support Maui County and State projects directed at upcountry erosion control and the overpopulation of deer, but these are long term solutions. **We request that Maui County invest in practical solutions now and in the 2024 Budget to address the immediate problems of mud and debris entering the ocean and flooding businesses and property in North Kihei.**

The Waiakoa Gulch bridge at South Kihei Road was originally designed to allow extreme flood waters to flow over and across the roadway. The December 2021 and January 2023 debris torrents demonstrate that, due to excess sediment and debris in the flood waters, the bridge side rails act like a dam and prevent flood waters from flowing across the roadway. The attached photo of the bridge from the January 2023 flood event shows the damming effect caused by the concrete bridge side rails. The second aerial photo shows the extent of flooding north and south along Kihei Road as the flood waters seek other routes to the ocean through adjacent properties since the Waiakoa Gulch is effectively dammed by the bridge. The third photo shows the debris plume fouling the beach and polluting Ma'alaea Bay.

We request that Maui County set aside funding from surplus FY 2023 and/or designate FY 2024 funding to:

1. Construct two flood control structures and mud retention basins on public land easements at the east and west sides where Waiakoa Gulch passes under Piilani Highway. Estimated cost \$200,000. Photo #4
2. Construct one additional flood control structure and mud retention basin on private land between South Kihei Road and Piilani Highway to restore wetland function in this area. Estimated cost \$100,000 (not including land acquisition or easement costs).
3. Replace the concrete bridge side rails on the South Kihei Road bridge with safety railings that will allow flood waters to flow across the road and back into the Waiakoa Gulch, as originally intended. Estimated cost \$200,000.

The flood control structures and mud retention basins would intercept vegetation and other debris and slow flood water velocity, allowing mud, small debris and pollutants to settle out before reaching the ocean.

More porous side railings on the South Kihei Road bridge would allow extreme flood waters to pass across the road as originally intended and reduce or eliminate the dangerous flooding on South Kihei Road. Recurring flooding and debris torrents are a clear and present danger to Public Safety, Maui First Responders, Maui Public Works crews, residents, visitors and business owners. The flooding interrupts commerce on S Kihei Road resulting in hundreds of thousands of dollars of lost revenues to local businesses. Property damage from the flooding in North Kihei has resulted in millions of dollars in losses and repairs to damaged structures.

Granting funding for the construction of flood control structures and mud retention basins and replacement of the side railings on the bridge over the Waiakoa Gulch on South Kihei Road will:

1. enhance Public Health and Safety.
2. reduce or eliminate negative environmental impacts in Ma'alaea Bay; and
3. eliminate business losses and property damage in North Kihei.

Mahalo to Mayor Bissen and Maui County Council for considering this critical funding request.

Sincerely,

Kihei Beach Condominiums Association
Michael J. Elerding
36 S. Kihei Road #207
Kihei, Hawaii 96753