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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

April 3, 2023

Ms. Lori Tsuhako, Director
Department of Housing and Human Concerns
County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Tsuhako:

SUBJECT: **FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2024 BUDGET** (BFED-1)(HHC-2)

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the BFED Committee meeting on **April 10, 2023**.^{*} This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2024 Budget. May I further request that, after approval by the Office of the Mayor, you transmit a written response to bfed.committee@mauicounty.us by the end of the day on **April 10, 2023**.

**Date subject to change without notice.*

Overall

1. For Administration Program, Goal #3, item 1, the actual number of inter-agency/inter-departmental collaborations for shared team efforts of success in FY 2022 was 60. The estimated number for FYs 2023 and 2024 is 25. When can we expect to see an increase over previous years' numbers? (Page 284, Program Budget) (NUH)
2. Please provide the number of Section 8 vouchers issued by island for Maui, Molokai, and Lānaʻi. Please also indicate when the vouchers are available. Of the issued vouchers, how many are in use? (Page 290, Program Budget) (TK)
3. One of the services provided by the Housing Program – Housing Division is the First-Time Home Buyer's Program. (Page 290, Program Budget) (TK)

- a. When do First-Time Home Buyer's Program grants become available?
 - b. Of the number of grants awarded, how many first-time home buyers were able to use their grants?
 - c. Please comment on the effectiveness of changing the program to a "merit-based" one where households who are better prepared to compete in the tight housing market have a much greater opportunity to be awarded a grant.
4. How much is available in the Experimental and Demonstration Housing Projects Fund? (Page 291, Program Budget) (TP)
5. For Housing Program – Housing Division, Goal #3, item 1, the number of persons assisted with fair housing or landlord-tenant code questions, concerns, or issues mediated annually was 652 in FY 2022. The estimated number for FYs 2023 and 2024 is 200. When can we expect to see an increase in the number of individuals assisted? (Page 292, Program Budget) (NUH)
6. For Housing Program – Housing & Community Development Division, Goal #1, item 1, please explain the two Requests For Proposals the Department anticipates issuing in FY 2024. (Page 294, Program Budget) (GJ)
7. Housing Program – Housing & Community Development Division, Goal #3, item 2 contains success measurements that state "prior to Council submittal, 201H and 2.97 applications have completed internal reviews with all departments, and comments have been received" and "departments feel comments have been acknowledged and addressed to the extent possible, prior to the first Committee hearing." Does the Department plan to propose legislation to amend Chapter 2.97, Maui County Code, as it relates to the Department of Water Supply's inability to waive fees? (Pages 294 & 295, Program Budget) (TP)
8. What are the Administration's plans for the remaining unconditioned \$48,043,242 in the Affordable Housing Fund? Do those plans include building necessary infrastructure? (Pages 46-48; Appendix A-II) (YLS)
9. Does the listed balance for the Affordable Housing Fund account for the \$18,000,000 appropriation to Maui Oceanview LP for the

Pulelehua Affordable Housing Project, as approved by Ordinance 5454? (Pages 46-48, Appendix A-II) (YLS)

10. Up to \$1,750,000 from the Affordable Housing Fund in FY 2023 was conditioned for master plans or feasibility studies for land suitable for affordable housing. Did the Department expend these funds, including for Lānaʻi? This condition has been deleted for FY 2024. (Pages 46-48, Appendix A-II) (GJ)
11. Please provide information on the MEO HELP program administered during the pandemic, including the number of recipients and families served, and if possible, organized by the amount of assistance received. (GJ)
12. Where is the appropriation for the State of Hawaii - Homeowners Assistance Fund, which was included in FY 2022 by Ordinance 5332? Has the Request For Proposals been issued for the \$8,060,500? (TP)
13. Please provide a status update on the County's pursuit to lease vacant units at Lahaina Crossroads Apartments. (TP)

Salaries and Wages (Category “A”)

1. The Department is requesting \$197,130 for fringe benefits under the Title III Program. (Page 9-77, Budget Details) (SS)
 - a. Why is Federal grant funding being used to pay employee fringe benefits?
 - b. Are there other Federal and State grants being used to pay for employee fringe benefits?
 - c. Could fringe benefits be paid with another funding source? If so, would the \$197,130 be available to fund services for kūpuna?

Operations and Equipment (Categories “B” and “C”)

1. How will the requested \$300,000 for “parcel studies” be used? (Page 9-10, Budget Details) (TP)
2. The Department is requesting \$1,000,000 for the implementation of Subsection 2.96.060(C)(3), Maui County Code, which was passed by Ordinance 5441. Please explain why funding is not being requested

for the program and the subsidies mandated by Subsection 2.96.060(C)(3). (Page 298, Program Budget) (GJ)

3. A \$1 million appropriation is proposed to be transferred from the First-Time Home Buyer's Program to the Home Acquisition and Ownership Program Revolving Fund in FY 2024. Would the Department support using the funds for a one-year line item grant for an "ohana assistance pilot program" to award grants up to \$50,000 to long-time residents with owner-occupied properties to build 'ohana units for family members or at workforce housing rental rates, subject to other criteria that advance local housing needs? Other than amending Maui County Code Chapter 3.34, what else is needed to advance this proposed program? If the program is successful, it could be continued with the new Department of Housing in FY 2025. (Pages 298 & 299, Program Budget) (Page 9-11, Budget Details) (AL)
4. Please describe how the requested \$3,000,000 for Affordable Rental Housing Programs will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Page 298, Program Budget) (TP)
5. The Department's request contains a \$60,000 deletion for a community needs assessment. Was the assessment completed? If so, where can the results be viewed? (Page 9-21, Budget Details) (TP)
6. The Department is requesting \$30,000 for Printing and Binding for production expenses related to the Senior Services Leisure/Wellness Program monthly newsletter. How many monthly newsletters are printed? Are the newsletters printed in-house by the Department or through an outside vendor? Are there electronic options for newsletters? (Page 9-26, Budget Details) (NUH)
7. The Department is requesting \$170,865 for the Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. for the MEO B.E.S.T. Reintegration Program. Is there an opportunity to improve the program by increasing the services provided to those currently incarcerated rather than waiting for their release? For example, if vocational education and training were provided to incarcerated individuals, perhaps they would have marketable skills that could lead to living wage employment after their release. (Page 312, Program Budget) (TK)
8. Please describe how the requested \$857,750 for Food, Shelter and Safety Grants will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Pages 309 & 310, Program Budget) (TP)

9. The Department eliminated two Food, Shelter and Safety Grants. Please provide reasons for not expanding programs or funding new ones in FY 2024. (Page 9-29, Budget Details) (GJ)
10. Please describe how the requested \$1,173,500 for Early Childhood Programs will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Pages 310-312, Program Budget) (TP)
11. Please describe how the requested \$530,050 for Substance Abuse Programs will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Pages 313-314, Program Budget) (TP)
12. Please describe how the requested \$123,500 for Youth Alcohol Education Awareness Programs will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Pages 313-314, Program Budget) (TP)
13. The Department is requesting \$2,041,306 for Homeless Programs grants. (Pages 315-317, Program Budget)
 - a. Please describe how this funding will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (TP)
 - b. If this funding was increased, how would that added funding be most effectively spent? (TC)
14. The Safe Zone/Sleeping Space for Houseless grant is not being funded in FY 2024. Will this project be executed in FY 2023? (Page 9-35, Budget Details) (GJ)
15. The Department is requesting \$110,000 for Mental Health Association in Hawaii. (Pages 315 & 318, Program Budget) (NUH)
 - a. Please provide a salary breakdown for employees.
 - b. Please elaborate on the demographics served through this organization.
 - c. Of the services offered by Mental Health Association in Hawaii, what makes this organization different from other entities receiving funds for a similar service?
16. Please describe how the requested \$95,000 for Self-Sufficiency Programs will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Pages 315 & 319, Program Budget) (TP)

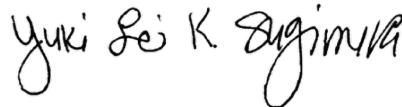
17. Who administers the Women Helping Women program for East Maui? (Page 9-34, Budget Details) (SS)
18. What mobile water filling station services are currently provided to the houseless population on Maui? Are any grants for this service proposed for FY 2024? (Page 9-35, Budget Details) (SS)
19. The Department is requesting \$900,000 for Services to the Frail and Elderly. (Pages 315, 319 & 320; Program Budget)
 - a. Please describe how this funding will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (TP)
 - b. Could a program to assist youth and adults with disabilities be supported with this funding? (SS)
20. Please describe how the requested \$484,677 for Youth Programs will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Pages 320, 322; Program Budget) (TP)
21. Please explain the purpose of the requested \$422,404 for work-related travel. (Page 9-77, Budget Details) (TC)
22. The Department is requesting a total of \$3,391,000 for grants and disbursements for animal management. Will any of this funding be used for feral chicken mitigation? If not, which Department would handle this concern? (Page 355, Program Budget) (NUH)
23. Please explain the steps the Department will be taking in FY 2024 to prepare for the senior housing and for-sale affordable housing project on County-owned land on Lānaʻi. (GJ)
24. Is there a reason no County resources are proposed to be invested in experimental and demonstration housing projects in FY 2024? (GJ)
25. Is there a reason no County resources are proposed to fund the Aloha House 12-bedroom dormitory in FY 2024? (GJ)
26. Is there a reason no County resources are proposed to fund individual development accounts in FY 2024? (GJ)
27. Are there any programs or grant funding available to serve the houseless in East Maui? (SS)

Ms. Lori Tsuhako
April 3, 2023
Page 7

28. Are there any programs or grant funding available for the elderly in East Maui to provide access to a centralized kitchen or a place with computer plug-ins and Wi-Fi? (SS)
29. For all County-funded grants and disbursements to organizations, how does the Department record compliance and data to ensure proper funding in evidence-based programs? (NUH)

Thank you for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Lesley Milner at ext. 7886, Kasie Apo Takayama at ext. 7665, or Yvette Bouthillier at ext. 7758).

Sincerely,



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

bfed:2024bgt:230403ahhc02:jgk

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Budget Director

BFED Committee

From: BFED Committee
Sent: Monday, April 3, 2023 4:43 PM
To: loriann.tsuhako@co.maui.hi.us
Cc: BFED Committee; Saumalu Mataafa; kimberly.ferguson@co.maui.hi.us; Michelle Santos; Zeke Kalua; Maria Zielinski; Desiree Echallas; Janina Agapay
Subject: PLEASE READ attached letter re: FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2024 BUDGET (BFED 1) (HHC-2). . .
Attachments: (HHC-2) Correspondence to Housing and Human Concerns 04-03-2023.pdf

Ms. Tsuhako: Please refer to the attached letter from the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development (BFED) Committee Chair, dated 04/03/2023.

Mayor's Office (attention: Michelle Santos and Zeke Kalua): Please forward the attached letter to Mayor Bissen for his information.

Ms. Zielinski: FYI

Thank you,
Yvette Bouthillier, Secretary
BFED Committee

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

LORI TSUHAKE
Director

SAUMALU MATA' AFA
Deputy Director



**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING
& HUMAN CONCERNS**
COUNTY OF MAUI
2200 MAIN STREET, SUITE 546
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
PHONE: (808) 270-7805

April 10, 2023

Ms. Maria Zielinski
Budget Director, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "R. Bissen", written over the address of Ms. Maria Zielinski.

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.
Mayor, County of Maui
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Richard T. Bissen, Jr.", written over the "APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL" text.
Mayor **Date** 4-10-23

For Transmittal to:

Honorable Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Chair Sugimura:

SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2024 BUDGET (BFED-1) (HHC-2)

Thank you for your correspondence of April 3, 2023. The information requested in your letter is listed below in bold and is followed by the Department's responses.

Overall

- 1. For Administration Program, Goal #3, item 1, the actual number of inter-agency/inter-departmental collaborations for shared team efforts of success in FY 2022 was 60. The estimated number for FYs 2023 and 2024 is 25. When can we expect to see an increase over previous years' numbers? (Page 284, Program Budget) (NUH)**

The increase in inter-agency/inter-departmental collaborations in FY 2022 occurred because of the need to coordinate responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Department expects to surpass 25 inter-agency/inter-departmental collaborations in FY 2024 as we work with the Administration on addressing housing, homelessness, and position vacancies.

- 2. Please provide the number of Section 8 vouchers issued by island for Maui, Molokai, and Lānaʻi. Please also indicate when the vouchers are available. Of the issued vouchers, how many are in use? (Page 290, Program Budget) (TK)**

There are a total of 1,508 out of 1,513 total vouchers currently in use. Breakdown by island is as follows:

Maui: 1,327

Molokai: 179

Lānaʻi: 2

Vouchers are issued monthly, or as they become available as families voluntarily remove themselves from the program, vouchers expire, or participants are terminated from the program.

- 3. One of the services provided by the Housing Program – Housing Division is the First-Time Home Buyer's Program. (Page 290, Program Budget) (TK)**

- a. When do First-Time Home Buyer's Program grants become available?**

Grants are available year-round to individuals on the waitlist.

- b. Of the number of grants awarded, how many first-time home buyers were able to use their grants?**

There were 7 grants agreements executed in FY 2022 and 3 grant agreements have been awarded in FY 2023 to date.

- c. Please comment on the effectiveness of changing the program to a "merit-based" one where households who are better prepared to compete in the tight housing market have a much greater opportunity to be awarded a grant.**

The current program is, by design, already based on merit. All households on the wait list must be pre-approved for a mortgage and provide a pre-qualification letter from a licensed bank in Hawaii.

- 4. How much is available in the Experimental and Demonstration Housing Projects Fund? (Page 291, Program Budget) (TP)**

In FY 2023 there was \$1,000,000 encumbered in Experimental and Demonstration Housing Projects Funds for the Wailuku Union Church's Wailuku Mission Housing

Project. There are no other funds available (Index 101434B); however, developers are still able to apply for funding through the Affordable Housing Fund.

5. **For Housing Program – Housing Division, Goal #3, item 1, the number of persons assisted with fair housing or landlord-tenant code questions, concerns, or issues mediated annually was 652 in FY 2022. The estimated number for FYs 2023 and 2024 is 200. When can we expect to see an increase in the number of individuals assisted? (Page 292, Program Budget) (NUH)**

An increase in inquiries is usually related to on-line postings or training opportunities related to Fair Housing. For example, April is Fair Housing Month, and a series of training opportunities will be available which generally increases inquiries.

6. **For Housing Program – Housing & Community Development Division, Goal #1, item 1, please explain the two Requests For Proposals the Department anticipates issuing in FY 2024. (Page 294, Program Budget) (GJ)**

The purpose of the newly created Housing and Community Development Division is to support the efforts to create housing to meet the needs of Maui County residents. The proposed funding for Requests for Proposals will give the new division the ability to do due diligence on future county projects.

7. **Housing Program – Housing & Community Development Division, Goal #3, item 2 contains success measurements that state “prior to Council submittal, 201H and 2.97 applications have completed internal reviews with all departments, and comments have been received” and “departments feel comments have been acknowledged and addressed to the extent possible, prior to the first Committee hearing.” Does the Department plan to propose legislation to amend Chapter 2.97, Maui County Code, as it relates to the Department of Water Supply’s inability to waive fees? (Pages 294 & 295, Program Budget) (TP)**

The Department plans to revisit Chapter 2.97, Maui County Code, and seek administrative and legislative solutions related to fee waivers.

8. **What are the Administration's plans for the remaining unconditioned \$48,043,242 in the Affordable Housing Fund? Do those plans include building necessary infrastructure? (Pages 46-48; Appendix A-II) (YLS)**

A request for proposals is published in late summer or early fall for all available Affordable Housing Funds once the total funding is finalized and certified by Finance.

9. **Does the listed balance for the Affordable Housing Fund account for the \$18,000,000 appropriation to Maui Oceanview LP for the Pulelehua Affordable Housing Project, as approved by Ordinance 5454? (Pages 46-48, Appendix A-II) (YLS)**

Yes, the balance accounts for the \$18,000,000 appropriation.

- 10. Up to \$1,750,000 from the Affordable Housing Fund in FY 2023 was conditioned for master plans or feasibility studies for land suitable for affordable housing. Did the Department expend these funds, including for Lāna'i? This condition has been deleted for FY 2024. (Pages 46-48, Appendix A-II) (GJ)**

The Department anticipates the newly created Housing and Community Development Division to review and coordinate the master planning and feasibility studies for affordable housing. The Department is requesting \$300,000 in FY 2024 for parcel studies.

- 11. Please provide information on the MEO HELP program administered during the pandemic, including the number of recipients and families served, and if possible, organized by the amount of assistance received. (GJ)**

The Hawaii Emergency Laulima Program (HELP) administered by Maui Economic Opportunity was awarded \$10,086,159 in total funding. Assistance was provided to 33,731 individuals. The number of households was not specifically tracked throughout the full program. In total there was 12,494 approved applications. Approved applications for assistance included:

Assistance Provided	Number of Times Provided	Total Amount of Assistance
Food	12,062	\$ 4,263,910
Rent/Mortgage	2,662	\$ 2,185,740
Utilities	4,899	\$ 1,408,236
Medical/Prescription	274	\$ 91,979
Insurance	857	\$ 235,154
Tuition/Childcare	139	\$ 87,606
Other Essential Needs	2,501	\$ 1,307,018

- 12. Where is the appropriation for the State of Hawaii - Homeowners Assistance Fund, which was included in FY 2022 by Ordinance 5332? Has the Request For Proposals been issued for the \$8,060,500? (TP)**

The appropriation for the Homeowners Assistance Fund has already been recognized in the County budget. The Department expects to publish the Request for Proposal before April 14, 2023.

- 13. Please provide a status update on the County's pursuit to lease vacant units at Lahaina Crossroads Apartments. (TP)**

The Department is currently doing testing for asbestos and lead paint prior to any necessary renovations being completed. Once testing and renovations are complete, new tenants can be moved in.

Salaries and Wages (Category “A”)

1. The Department is requesting \$197,130 for fringe benefits under the Title III Program. (Page 9-77, Budget Details) (SS)

a. Why is Federal grant funding being used to pay employee fringe benefits?

The Department confirms that Title III Program funds are not used to pay employee fringe benefits. The Department apologizes for this error and recommends that the amount of \$197,130 in Sub-Object code 6275 be deleted and added into Sub-Object code 6129.

b. Are there other Federal and State grants being used to pay for employee fringe benefits?

Yes. State grants being used to pay for employee fringe benefits include the following: Aging and Disability Resource Center, Kūpuna Care Program, Healthy Aging Partnership Empowering Elderly.

c. Could fringe benefits be paid with another funding source? If so, would the \$197,130 be available to fund services for kūpuna?

The Department confirms that the General Fund is used to offset the cost of employee fringe benefits for salaries that are paid for through Title III Program funds. As such, the Department recommends making an adjustment to Sub-Object code 6129 of the Title III Program by increasing the amount by \$197,130 resulting in a FY24 proposed amount of \$892,757 for direct services for kūpuna. With this adjustment, the overall total of expenditures under the Title III Program will remain unchanged at \$908,257.

Operations and Equipment (Categories “B” and “C”)

1. How will the requested \$300,000 for “parcel studies” be used? (Page 9-10, Budget Details) (TP)

The proposed funding will assist the new Housing and Community Development Division with initiating due diligence on County projects to determine feasibility for housing development.

2. The Department is requesting \$1,000,000 for the implementation of Subsection 2.96.060(C)(3), Maui County Code, which was passed by Ordinance 5441. Please explain why funding is not being requested for the program and the subsidies mandated by Subsection 2.96.060(C)(3). (Page 298, Program Budget) (GJ)

The \$1,000,000 requested in the budget is the funding the department estimates will be needed to contract with a vendor to design and manage the program mandated in MCC 2.96.06 (C)(3) over 2 years, including funding to subsidize

approximately 13 homebuyers for the units that are expected to be built and closed in FY 2024.

3. **A \$1 million appropriation is proposed to be transferred from the First-Time Home Buyer's Program to the Home Acquisition and Ownership Program Revolving Fund in FY 2024. Would the Department support using the funds for a one-year line item grant for an "ohana assistance pilot program" to award grants up to \$50,000 to long-time residents with owner-occupied properties to build 'ohana units for family members or at workforce housing rental rates, subject to other criteria that advance local housing needs? Other than amending Maui County Code Chapter 3.34, what else is needed to advance this proposed program? If the program is successful, it could be continued with the new Department of Housing in FY 2025. (Pages 298 & 299, Program Budget) (Page 9-11, Budget Details) (AL)**

The Department's preference is for program guidelines, goals, and objectives to be established prior to funding allocation. The Department would welcome the opportunity to have detailed discussions with the Council on the "ohana assistance pilot program" and other ideas that will help create housing opportunities for residents.

Revisions to the existing First-Time Homebuyer's Program are currently being explored to allow expanded uses.

4. **Please describe how the requested \$3,000,000 for Affordable Rental Housing Programs will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Page 298, Program Budget) (TP)**

The following table provides a breakdown of the proposed distribution of funds for Affordable Rental Housing Programs. Please note these are just projected allocations and the Department respectfully requests that no provisos be included in order for funding to be used by the agency who needs it most at the time it is needed.

AFFORDABLE RENTAL HOUSING PROGRAMS		
AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM TITLE	FY24 Proposed (based on FY23 usage)
Family Life Center, Inc.	Rental Assistance Program	\$930,000
Ka Hale A Ke Ola Resource Centers, Inc	Rental Assistance Program	630,000
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.	Rental Assistance Program	1,140,000
Women Helping Women	Rental Assistance Program	300,000
TOTAL:		\$3,000,000

5. **The Department's request contains a \$60,000 deletion for a community needs assessment. Was the assessment completed? If so, where can the results be viewed? (Page 9-21, Budget Details) (TP)**

The community needs assessment has not yet been completed. The RFP is in the final stages of preparation. Once the assessment is completed, the results will be posted on the Department's website.

6. **The Department is requesting \$30,000 for Printing and Binding for production expenses related to the Senior Services Leisure/Wellness Program monthly newsletter. How many monthly newsletters are printed? Are the newsletters printed in-house by the Department or through an outside vendor? Are there electronic options for newsletters? (Page 9-26, Budget Details) (NUH)**

The \$30,000 requested for Printing and Binding in Kaunoa's Leisure account is based on expenses incurred for printing the Leisure newsletter pre-pandemic. Leisure classes did not take place during the pandemic, so no printing costs were incurred in FY 21 and FY 22. Leisure classes resumed in FY 23.

Currently, newsletters are designed in-house and printed by an outside vendor. As many seniors still prefer hard copies, approximately 2,900 newsletters are distributed via US mail and 2,500 digital newsletters are distributed via e-mail.

7. **The Department is requesting \$170,865 for the Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. for the MEO B.E.S.T. Reintegration Program. Is there an opportunity to improve the program by increasing the services provided to those currently incarcerated rather than waiting for their release? For example, if vocational education and training were provided to incarcerated individuals, perhaps they would have marketable skills that could lead to living wage employment after their release. (Page 312, Program Budget) (TK)**

The Being Empowered and Safe Together (B.E.S.T.) program with Maui Economic Opportunity was designed to include pre-release services at Maui Community Correctional Center. Clients can receive services 3 month prior to their release. When clients identify specific trades or crafts they are interested in, MEO is able to collaborate with other organizations and employers to provide training prior to release. For example, training for CDL, welding, carpentry, auto detailing, and landscaping have been previously offered. MEO is also able to assist inmates with obtaining necessary documents to secure employment and housing prior to release. This could include obtaining a social security card and driver's license. Because of the nature of working with incarcerated individuals, MEO is not always in control of access to the population or the conditions of their release, both of which at times limit the ability to offer services to all.

8. **Please describe how the requested \$857,750 for Food, Shelter and Safety Grants will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Pages 309 & 310, Program Budget) (TP)**

The following table provides a breakdown of the proposed distribution of funds for Food, Shelter and Safety Programs:

FOOD, SHELTER, AND SAFETY PROGRAMS		
AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM TITLE	FY24 Proposed
Aloha House	Residential Substance Abuse Treatment for Adults	\$143,000
Ka Hale Pomaikai	Co-occurring Disorder and Substance Abuse Treatment	30,000
Malama Na Makua A Keiki	Substance Abuse Treatment for Women	185,000
Maui AIDS Foundation	Maui County HIV, HCV, STI Rapid Testing, Prevention and Counseling Program	140,000
Mediation Services of Maui, Inc.	Mediation Services and Conflict Resolution Training	90,000
Parents and Children Together	Maui Family Peace Center	80,000
Roman Catholic Church of Hawaii	St Theresa Church - Hale Kau Kau	60,000
TBD	Arising Need	129,750
	TOTAL:	\$857,750

9. The Department eliminated two Food, Shelter and Safety Grants. Please provide reasons for not expanding programs or funding new ones in FY 2024. (Page 9-29, Budget Details) (GJ)

The programs were removed from County funding due to severe non-compliance issues. One grant was for fiscal sponsorship of community organizations. This should not impact potential applicants as fiscal sponsorship is an allowable expense for a grant application. Furthermore, the line item funding to Lokahi Pacific for grants administration provides a viable replacement if needed by eligible community organizations. The second program no longer funded by the County is primarily funded by the State. County funds were supplemental. It is expected that the program will not stop due to unavailability of County funds. After the Mayor's proposed budget was released, a third program will no longer be funded in FY 2024 at the request of the organization itself. In this case, program services are covered by State programs and other community organizations. It is anticipated that there will be no gap in services. However, \$129,750 remains in the Food, Shelter, and Safety Programs budget to address arising needs if a gap in services develops.

10. Please describe how the requested \$1,173,500 for Early Childhood Programs will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Pages 310-312, Program Budget) (TP)

The following table provides a breakdown of the proposed distribution of funds for Early Childhood Programs:

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS		
AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM TITLE	FY24 Proposed
Family Hui Hawaii	Hui Peer Parenting Support Program	\$85,500
IMUA Family Services	Infant & Early Childhood Services	73,000
Maui Family Support Services	Early Childhood Resource Center & Subsidy Program	500,000
Maui Family Support Services	Early Literacy Program	285,000
People Attentive to Children	Licensed Childcare Workforce Recruitment, Sustainability, & Continuous Quality Improvement Program	230,000
TOTAL:		\$1,173,500

11. **Please describe how the requested \$530,050 for Substance Abuse Programs will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Pages 313-314, Program Budget) (TP)**

The following table provides a breakdown of the proposed distribution of funds for Substance Abuse Programs:

SUBSTANCE ABUSE PROGRAMS		
AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM TITLE	FY24 Proposed
Aloha House	Medically Modified Substance Detox	\$125,000
Ka Hale Pomaikai	Sober Housing & Culture Based Treatment on Molokai	70,000
Maui Family Support Services	Teen Voices - Teen Services Program	50,000
Maui Youth and Family Services	Substance Abuse Treatment for Adolescents	85,000
Ohana Makamae, Inc.	Substance Abuse/ Mental Health Services	50,050
TBD	Arising Needs	\$150,000
TOTAL:		\$530,050

- 12. Please describe how the requested \$123,500 for Youth Alcohol Education Awareness Programs will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Pages 313-314, Program Budget) (TP)**

The following table provides a breakdown of the proposed distribution of funds for Youth Alcohol Education Awareness Programs:

YOUTH ALCOHOL EDUCATION AWARENESS PROGRAMS		
AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM TITLE	FY24 Proposed
Hawaii Public Health Institute	Maui Nui Youth Council	\$42,500
Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.	Youth Services	11,000
Paia Youth Council	MPPV Underage Drinking Prevention	50,000
TBD	Arising Need	20,000
	TOTAL:	\$123,500

- 13. The Department is requesting \$2,041,306 for Homeless Programs grants. (Pages 315-317, Program Budget)**

- a. Please describe how this funding will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (TP)**

The following table provides a breakdown of the proposed distribution of funds for Homeless Programs:

HOMELESS PROGRAMS		
AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM TITLE	FY24 Proposed
Community Clinic of Maui	Street Medicine	\$60,000
Family Life Center	Case Management	213,750
Family Life Center	Molokai Homeless Services	200,000
Family Life Center	Outreach	215,000
Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers, Inc.	Central/West Side Operations and Step-up (w/care manager)	671,000
Legal Aid Society of Hawaii	Holistic Legal Services for Maui County's Most Vulnerable	70,000
Mental Health Kokua	Homeless Outreach for Mental Health Empowerment & Psychosocial Rehab	95,000
TBD	Arising Needs	516,556
	TOTAL:	\$2,041,306

- b. If this funding was increased, how would that added funding be most effectively spent? (TC)**

Increased funding for Homeless Programs is not necessary. Currently there is \$516,556 in unassigned funds set aside for arising needs. These funds will be used as viable programs are identified or developed to fill gaps in services. Viable programs would need to meet all County and Department requirements to receive a grant. It is also important to the Department that programs align with current funded services and fit within the continuum of care of homeless services.

14. The Safe Zone/Sleeping Space for Houseless grant is not being funded in FY 2024. Will this project be executed in FY 2023? (Page 9-35, Budget Details) (GJ)

The Department issued a Request for Proposals in the fall of 2022 for the Safe Parking Lot project for the homeless. We did not receive any proposals, and thus the program could not be implemented.

15. The Department is requesting \$110,000 for Mental Health Association in Hawaii. (Pages 315 & 318, Program Budget) (NUH)

a. Please provide a salary breakdown for employees.

The following table breaks down employee salaries for the funded program at Mental Health Association of Hawaii:

Organization: Mental Health Association of Hawaii, dba Mental Health America in Hawaii				
Program: Mental Health Education Advocacy and Support				
Position	Annual Salary	% of Time on This Program	% of That Time Charged to the County grant	Total Salary Budgeted to the County Grant
Maui Community Coordinator	\$50,274	100%	100%	\$50,274
Program Director	\$64,388	5%	74%	\$2,382
Training Program Manager	\$50,274	15%	44%	\$3,318
Operations Manager	\$50,274	10%	26%	\$1,373
Executive Director	\$86,100	15%	0%	\$0
Mental Health Educator	\$37,930	20%	100%	\$7,586

b. Please elaborate on the demographics served through this organization.

The program targets both consumer of mental health services and organizations. Special emphasis is placed on reaching youth, individuals seeking help for their own or others' mental health concerns, and helping

professionals including educators, governments officials, and law enforcement who are best positioned to help others experiencing mental health challenges. Mental Health Association does not provide direct services to clients for treatment or case management. They focus on advocacy, training, education and connecting help-seeking individuals with appropriate services.

- c. **Of the services offered by Mental Health Association in Hawaii, what makes this organization different from other entities receiving funds for a similar service?**

This organization implements evidence-based training programs for youth and adults such as youth suicide and bullying prevention curriculum, youth and adult Mental Health First Aid certification, Suicide Prevention 101 for Adults, Self-Care for Youth, A Practice in Coping Skills and Addressing Anxiety and Stress for Direct Service Providers. The organization connects help-seeking individuals with services by operating a Help Line. The program provides social media, e-blast education and community events to broadly remove negative stigma around mental health and wellness. These services are not offered to the specific target populations by other organization funded by the County. Other mental health organizations receiving County funding, such as Mental Health Kokua, provide direct services such as outreach, case management, and treatment.

16. **Please describe how the requested \$95,000 for Self-Sufficiency Programs will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Pages 315 & 319, Program Budget) (TP)**

The following table provides a breakdown of the proposed distribution of funds for Self- Sufficiency Programs:

SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAMS		
AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM TITLE	FY24 Proposed
Maui Family Support Services	Early Childhood Programs - Child Care Subsidy	\$75,000
The Maui Farm	Stipend Program	20,000
	TOTAL:	\$95,000

17. **Who administers the Women Helping Women program for East Maui? (Page 9-34, Budget Details) (SS)**

Women Helping Women oversees and administers the entirety of their grant funded programs including the services in East Maui.

18. **What mobile water filling station services are currently provided to the houseless population on Maui? Are any grants for this service proposed for FY 2024? (Page 9-35, Budget Details) (SS)**

Aside from Project Vision (FY 23 grantee), there are no other water filling station services specifically for the homeless. During and after the March 20, 2023 Water Authority, Social Services and Parks Committee meeting, the Department met with Project Vision leadership to discuss the agency's oral request for expanded funding and program expansion. We requested the agency submit a narrative and budget proposal for the Department to review. Unfortunately, Project Vision has not submitted any proposals to the Department. At this juncture, without further clarifying information and a concerted effort to increase their performance, the Department would not support continued or enhanced funding for this grantee in FY24.

19. The Department is requesting \$900,000 for Services to the Frail and Elderly. (Pages 315, 319 & 320; Program Budget)

a. Please describe how this funding will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (TP)

The Grants for Services to the Frail and Elderly program have historically supported direct service provision of critical in-home and community-based supports for frail elders. Through this general funded program, community service providers are awarded contracts through the RFP process in accordance with the State of Hawaii Procurement statutes rather than receiving grants.

Most services are procured with a fee-for-service basis rather than by cost reimbursement meaning that no service provider is guaranteed any particular amount of money each year. Service providers are paid market value or less only for those services that are delivered to seniors and verified through an internal system of accountability that utilizes a database tracking service costs and units provided for each participant.

The amount earned by each service provider is dependent on the following factors:

- 1) Demonstrated need for the services that are provided by the service provider;
- 2) The service provider's workforce capacity; and
- 3) Consumer's choice of service providers under contract with the County.

It must also be noted that State and Federal Funding in addition to County funding may be utilized to pay for contracted services. Therefore, each service provider, in theory, could receive a combination of County, State, and Federal funding. However, in order to simplify the contracting process and to ensure fiscal accountability, MCOA attempts to avoid using multiple funding sources to pay one contractor.

Services are authorized to individuals and family caregivers according to the results of a comprehensive assessment protocol; an unmet need,

meaning no family member or agency provides the same service to the individual or family; and takes into consideration the needs of the individual and/or family. Services are targeted through the use of a financial algorithm to ensure that County funding is applied to those who have the highest financial need.

A listing of services authorized to individuals and family caregivers and current service providers can be found on pages 319-320 of the Program Budget.

b. Could a program to assist youth and adults with disabilities be supported with this funding? (SS)

As mentioned earlier, the Grants for Services to the Frail and Elderly program have historically supported direct service provision of critical in-home and community-based supports for frail elders; however, this program can be expanded to assist adults with disabilities between the ages of 18-59. Youth with disabilities should be served through the Department of Health or the Department of Education. The proposed budget reflects the needs in covering expenditures associated with home delivered meals in rural areas and anticipated increases in service delivery to our kūpuna.

The Department recommends that any expansion of this program include an increase in funding to support additional service providers to serve adult individuals with disabilities.

20. Please describe how the requested \$484,677 for Youth Programs will be disbursed. How much funding will each entity receive? (Pages 320, 322; Program Budget) (TP)

The following table provides a breakdown of the proposed distribution of funds for Youth Programs:

YOUTH PROGRAMS		
AGENCY NAME	PROGRAM TITLE	FY24 Proposed
Lokahi Pacific	Ho'oulu Na Kamali'i	\$110,000
Lokahi Pacific	Teens On Call	94,177
TBD	Youth Center on Molokai	280,500
	TOTAL:	\$484,677

21. Please explain the purpose of the requested \$422,404 for work- related travel. (Page 9-77, Budget Details) (TC)

There was an error in the explanation of changes column in the Department's proposed budget. The purpose of this line item is to cover any unanticipated expenditures associated with maintaining and operating the County's Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). It should be noted that the use of ADRC

Program funds requires compliance with the terms and conditions of the contract between the State of Hawaii and the County of Maui to operate the ADRC for the County of Maui.

- 22. The Department is requesting a total of \$3,391,000 for grants and disbursements for animal management. Will any of this funding be used for feral chicken mitigation? If not, which Department would handle this concern? (Page 355, Program Budget) (NUH)**

There are no feral chicken mitigation programs within the funding for animal management. Feral animal control funds have been moved away from the Department of Housing and Human Concerns to the Office of Economic Development and now the Department of Agriculture. Feral chickens would not fall under the mandated services for animal control nor does the matter fall under the jurisdiction of the Animal Control Board.

- 23. Please explain the steps the Department will be taking in FY 2024 to prepare for the senior housing and for-sale affordable housing project on County-owned land on Lānaʻi. (GJ)**

The Department has been collaborating with the Department of Management to discuss ideas on the project. A new market study will likely be required to assess the current housing needs of Lānaʻi before moving forward with proposed development plans.

- 24. Is there a reason no County resources are proposed to be invested in experimental and demonstration housing projects in FY 2024? (GJ)**

The Department does not anticipate potential projects to be ready to meet the requirements for funding in FY 2024. In FY23, \$1,000,000 was budgeted for the Wailuku Union Church housing project out of the Experimental and Demonstration Project revolving fund. The project team is in the process of conducting due diligence studies to submit an application by the end of FY23

- 25. Is there a reason no County resources are proposed to fund the Aloha House 12-bedroom dormitory in FY 2024? (GJ)**

There is a currently a grant agreement in place with Aloha House for plan and design for a 12-bed dorm expansion. Aloha House has not provided a sufficient capital campaign plan to raise the necessary funding for the construction of the project while at the same time increasing the expected commitment of County funds. Further, during the process of planning and design, it was made known that there are issues with the property boundaries that need to be sorted out. The proposed project site sits on the boundary of property leased to Maui Youth and Family Services and property leased to Aloha House. Additionally, the lease for Aloha House is expiring soon and will need to be renewed prior to construction taking place. The Department is working with Aloha House and Maui Youth and Family Services on renewing and updating the leases. Although Aloha House has been working diligently on this project, the myriad steps and approvals needed, the lease issues, and need to develop a more comprehensive, realistic plan to

secure additional funding to ensure the project can be completed, strongly indicates that County funds for construction will not be needed until FY 2025.

26. Is there a reason no County resources are proposed to fund individual development accounts in FY 2024? (GJ)

Hawaii Community Foundation just recently submitted their grant proposal for line-item funding which was included in the FY 2023 budget. This grant proposal includes funding for Individual Development Accounts, which is proposed to have a multi-year performance period which includes FY 2024.

27. Are there any programs or grant funding available to serve the houseless in East Maui? (SS)

The Family Life Center (FLC) currently receives grant funding to provide homeless outreach intervention and case management services countywide. As such, they do travel to East Maui to encounter unsheltered individuals when those services are requested. If an individual is desirous of assistance with acquiring shelter placement and/or housing support services, the FLC will travel to East Maui to meet with individuals and assist them with appropriate services. Although the only shelter programs available in Maui County are located in Lahaina and Wailuku, as well as the FLC's women and children shelter in Kahului, they are willing and able to make transport arrangements available to those that are cooperative with their outreach program. If an individual from East Maui were participating in one of their housing programs, and wanted to remain in East Maui long-term, then the FLC would try their best to accommodate that individual by searching for available and appropriate homes in that area.

28. Are there any programs or grant funding available for the elderly in East Maui to provide access to a centralized kitchen or a place with computer plug-ins and Wi-Fi? (SS)

The Department is not aware of any programs or grant funding opportunities for the services described above. Perhaps community members, including kūpuna, could be invited to utilize the wi-fi access available at the Hana District office.

29. For all County-funded grants and disbursements to organizations, how does the Department record compliance and data to ensure proper funding in evidence-based programs? (NUH)

According to the Oxford Review Encyclopedia, evidence-based practice (EBP) refers to the *systematic* process where-by decisions are made and actions or activities are undertaken using the best evidence available. The aim of evidence-based practice is to remove as far as possible, subjective opinion, unfounded beliefs, or bias from decisions and actions in organizations. Evidence for decisions comes from various sources:

1. Peer-reviewed research
2. Work-based trial and error testing
3. Practitioner experience & expertise
4. Feedback from practice, practitioners, customers, clients, patients or systems

The Department supports the implementation of Evidence-based programs, and will work toward giving EB programs the highest consideration for funding based on efficacy and results. Currently the majority of our grantees are not implementing EB programs. Monitoring of all DHHC grants is conducted via two methods: table top monitoring is the review of submitted grantee payment requests, compliance with budget allocations, and verification of program outcomes as contracted. The second method for monitoring occurs as site visits where facilities are visited, and agencies required to provide the backup documentation (such as receipts for spending) to justify spending and or reimbursement. Staff also review programmatic records (for example sign in sheets to verify attendance at programs) during site visits.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this information. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Ext. 7805.

Sincerely,



LORI TSUHAKE, LSW, ACSW
Director of Housing and Human Concerns

BFED Committee

From: Desiree Echalas <Desiree.B.Echallas@co.maui.hi.us>
Sent: Tuesday, April 11, 2023 11:53 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: FY 2024 (BFED-1) (HHC-2)
Attachments: FY24 (BFED-1) (HHC-2) Response.pdf

Attached is response HHC-2 from Department of Housing and Human Concerns.

Mahalo,

Desiree Echalas

Budget Specialist

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