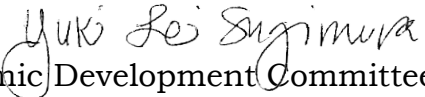


April 10, 2023

MEMO TO: Members of the Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

F R O M: Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair 
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee

SUBJECT: **MOLOKAI RESIDENCY AREA MEETING REGARDING THE
FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET** (BFED-1)

On March 31, 2023, the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee held a public meeting on Molokai regarding the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Budget.

The following persons testified:

1. Five individuals testified in support of the Molokai Rural Health Community Association. Written testimony was also received from 78 individuals supporting continued funding. There is overwhelming support for this program as it provides invaluable kūpuna care services such as haircuts, fitness-related activities, hula lessons, arts and crafts, and education on social security and medicare.
2. The President and Executive Director of the Molokai Arts Center testified in support of funding. Written testimony was also received from six individuals in support of the organization. The center promotes culture and the arts by providing art classes, youth programs, and music events.
3. Eight individuals testified in support of continued funding for Maui Economic Opportunity's (MEO) transportation and bus services.
4. Eight individuals testified in support of expanding the Boys & Girls Club to include Molokai. The acting captain of the Molokai Patrol Division noted that 70 percent of juveniles who are arrested come from broken homes. The creation of a Boys & Girls Club would aim to serve as an alternative program for those who do not participate in youth sports, as well as promote character and leadership development, and social and mental health. One individual requested \$200,000 in funding.

5. Written testimony was also received from five individuals supporting the Kāoхи program. Through MEO's Youth Services, the program offers an in-school curriculum to prevent alcohol and substance abuse, bullying, and suicide.
6. Three people, including District 13 State Representative Poepoe, testified in support of a Firefighter I expansion position for the Pūko'o Fire Station. Written testimony was also received from one individual in support. Testifiers noted that despite other fire stations being staffed with five personnel, there are only two emergency personnel stationed in Pūko'o, making an additional position critical.
7. Three parents testified in support of MEO's Head Start program. Head Start supports children and families by providing services that impact early development and school readiness.
8. Three individuals testified in support of the Uniting Peer Learning Integrating New Knowledge (UPLINK) program. The program focuses on the development of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for middle school students.
9. Two individuals and members of the Kaunakakai School Robotics Team expressed support for the Ka Alahele Education Fund from the Maui Economic Development Board (MEDB) to fund their program. One individual sent written testimony in support of the fund.
10. One individual testified in support of the Molokai Business Development Center, provided by MEO. Four individuals submitted written testimony in support of continued funding for the Molokai Business Development Center. The Committee notes that these individuals have commended MEO for providing business planning and financial literacy classes.
11. Two individuals shared concerns about the location of the current Kaunakakai Police Station. These individuals noted that the current building is situated in a flood zone and that it warrants further consideration to find a safer location.
12. Two individuals expressed concern for the Kaunakakai Wastewater Treatment Plant and urged the Department of Environmental

Management to consider a long-range plan. Both individuals urged the Committee to consider the Capital Improvement Program project for the treatment plant.

13. Two individuals testified in support of improving Molokai's transportation infrastructure. Both testifiers noted that air and maritime transportation are necessary to be considered to provide better services to the island. One individual noted that U.S. Senator Schatz secured more than \$62 million in Federal funding to invest in the State's public transit systems, and that some of the funds should be considered for a ferry system to Molokai.
14. The Committee received two pieces of written testimony in support of funding the Kilohana Community Center on Molokai. One testifier suggested providing recreational equipment, such as a ping pong table or a pool table, to provide activities for youth.
15. One individual supported the creation of a private practice team to provide urgent care needs and in-person and telehealth services on Molokai. The individual raised concerns about the lack of primary care providers on the island, noting that there are a total of 4,391 patients without a provider, disproportionately affecting keiki and kūpuna. In their testimony, the individual implored the Committee to consider appropriating \$51,000 in start-up funds.
16. The Committee received testimony from the Executive Director of Ho'ākā Mana, a nonprofit organization. The organization has a "pūlahala" accelerator program that aims to expand small businesses and entrepreneurs. The individual mentioned a partnership with MEDB and the Small Business Administration, leading to 17 small businesses serviced on Molokai. Their testimony acknowledges that 100 percent of the businesses are minority-owned and 92 percent are women-owned. In addition, the individual requested \$40,000 to be appropriated.
17. One individual testified in support of relocating the Pūko'o Fire Station to 'Ualapu'e. The current fire station is located in a flood zone and tsunami inundation zone.
18. The Committee received written testimony from one individual in support of the Resources for Enrichment, Athletics, Culture, and

Health (REACH) program. The program provides students with school activities to improve athletic development.

19. One individual testified in support of MEDB's STEMworks Ag Internship program. The individual stated in their testimony that the internship opened the door to current employment and encouraged other students to apply for the internship to boost their career readiness skills.
20. One individual testified in support of promoting the Parks and Recreation District Supervisor's office assistant from a part-time position to a full-time position. Further, this individual also requested that the Office of Council Services consider Wi-Fi hotspots and sending one technician to residency area meetings to facilitate with technical and internet connection issues.
21. One individual submitted written testimony in support of MEO's Agriculture Micro Grants program.
22. Written testimony was also received from one individual in support of reinstating the Kupuna Meal Voucher program under the County's Office of Aging. This service would provide eligible kūpuna vouchers to purchase food at participating food trucks in the County.
23. Further, the Committee also received one piece of written testimony in support of improving and repairing the Shigeto "Shigesh" Wakida Tennis Courts in Lāhainā, Maui. In addition, one piece of written testimony was submitted requesting a community police officer position to be stationed in Pā'ia, Maui.

For questions relating to the Molokai residency area meeting, please contact Jarret Pascual, Paige Greco, Stacey Vinoray, or Maria Leon. If you have any questions relating to the FY 2024 Budget, please contact the Committee staff (Lesley Milner, Kasie Apo Takayama, James Krueger, Ana Lillis, or Yvette Bouthillier). Thank you for your cooperation.