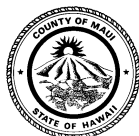


Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



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](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

April 3, 2023

Ms. Rogerene Arce, Director  
Department of Agriculture  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Arce:

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

May I please request you be prepared to answer the following questions at the BFED Committee meeting held via BlueJeans on **April 5, 2023**.<sup>\*</sup> This will enable the Committee to comprehensively review the FY 2023 Budget. May I further request that, after approval by the Office of the Mayor, you transmit your answers to [bfed.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:bfed.committee@mauicounty.us) by the end of the day on **April 5, 2023**. *\*Date subject to change without notice.*

**Overall**

1. Has the Department created Administrative Rules or procedures for how it will achieve its responsibilities? If so, please provide a copy. (Page 91, Program Budget) (NUH)
2. Has the Department's strategic plan been completed and where can we access a copy? (Page 99, Program Budget) (TP)
3. What is the status of the 2023 transition plan for County agriculture-related matters moving from the Office of Economic Development to the Department of Agriculture and has it been implemented? (NUH)
4. Please provide the Department's actual totals for Key Goals & Measures for the first two quarters of FY 2023. If the total is not 50% or more than the FY 2023 estimate, please explain what steps

are being taken to achieve these goals. (Pages 96-98, Program Budget)  
(NUH)

5. For Goal #1, item 1: (Page 96, Program Budget)
  - a. How many grant workshops have been conducted in FY 2023? Please provide information on the grant workshops, including the groups presented to, the date of the workshop, the number of attendees, and describe the content or curriculum covered. (NUH) (TC)
  - b. On the number of farmers, ranchers, and value-added producers assisted in identifying Federal, State, or County grant or financial resource opportunities, why did the FY 2023 estimate of 150 decrease to a FY 2024 estimate of 50? What factors led to this change? (TC)
  - c. On the percentage of data gathered which is needed for island specific game management plans, please provide the following: (TC)
    - i. What type of data is gathered?
    - ii. How is that data collected?
    - iii. How is that data used to inform the Department's decision-making process?
  - d. On the amount of grant funding secured from State and Federal sources, can you please explain why the estimated grant amount for FY 2024 is decreasing from \$5 million to \$2.5 million? (Page 97, Program Budget). (GJ)
6. For Goal #1, item 2, relating to the number of legislative proposals assisted with or submitted to the Hawaii State Legislature, please provide the specific bill numbers the Department assisted with that are currently moving through the State Legislature. (Page 97, Program Budget) (TC)
7. For Goal #2, item 1, relating to the percentage of data collected necessary to assess food supply and security issues within Maui County and percentage of resource assessment completed (understand available resources, grants, assistance, education, etc.), why is the FY 2024 estimate the same as the FY 2023 estimate?

Please explain why additional data and assessments remain unchanged. (Page 97, Program Budget) (NUH)

8. For Goal #3, item 1, relating to the number of collaborative meetings held amongst various entities to further agricultural activities and partnerships, what factors led to the estimated decrease of this performance measure? (Page 98, Program Budget) (TC)
9. For Goal #4, item 1, relating to the number of community meetings held, please provide a list of community meetings held to date in FY 2023 and a description of what was discussed at each meeting. (Page 98, Program Budget) (TC)

**Salaries and Wages (Category “A”)**

1. The proposed budget shows 12 E/Ps, including an Agricultural Advocate position. Will this position be responsible for reaching out to farms or ranches to assist farmers or ranchers with learning about and applying for eligible grant and loan programs? If not, would Agricultural Advocate be an appropriate title for these duties or can you suggest a different title? (Page 99, Program Budget) (Page 1-3, Budget Details) (AL)
2. The following questions are related to fully funding the Agricultural Inspector, Agricultural Ombudsman, Agriculture Advocate, Food Access Coordinator, and Waste and Resource Regeneration Specialist: (Page 100, Program Budget) (Page 1-3, Budget Details)
  - a. Has the Department of Personnel Services (DPS) given a timeframe to establish the class and position for these E/Ps? (TP)
  - b. How long has DPS been working on describing these positions? (TP)
  - c. Would six- or eight-months funding be sufficient for each position? (TP)
  - d. Has the Department created its overall plan and do these positions have established programs and guidelines to implement? (Page 100, Program Budget) (NUH)

3. Is the Department confident that it will be able to hire an Administrative Assistant II and Grants Management Program Specialist by July 1, 2023? (Pages 1-3 and 1-4, Budget Details) (TP)
4. Does the Department have the necessary personnel to review, award, and manage the \$3,000,000 MEO Agricultural Micro Grants Program? (Page 101, Program Budget) (SS)
5. The Department oversees many programs and grants and has just 12 employees. Will you be able to get these programs and grants up and running with the current staff allocation? How long do you think it will take? Do you think you will need more staff later? (Page 101, Program Budget) (TK)

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

1. A \$25,000 allocation for grant application program and monitoring is listed under Contractual Services. What is the grant application program and how was the software or company selected? (Page 1-6, Budget Details) (TC)
2. A \$50,000 allocation to advertise and promote agricultural programs and resources is listed under Advertisements. (Page 1-6, Budget Details) (TC)
  - a. How many advertisement campaigns does the Department intend to launch in FY 2024?
  - b. What mediums of advertisement will be used?
  - c. What will this line-item cover? (e.g. strategy planning, copywriting, asset creation, implementation via radio, print, mail, etc.)
3. How will the \$2,250,000 in Agriculture Promotion and Technology grant funds be allocated? (Page 101, Program Budget) (GJ)
4. The following questions are related to the Agriculture Education and Apprenticeship program and the University of Hawaii Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources program: (Page 101, Program Budget) (Pages 1-8 and 1-9, Budget Details)

- a. Is there a reason the grant subsidies for these programs did not increase in FY 2024? (GJ)
  - b. What has been achieved by each of these programs in prior fiscal years and how do they differ from each other? (AL)
5. Relating to the Agriculture Promotion and Technology Program and Agriculture Operations program:
  - a. Funding in the amount of \$2,250,000, to support the Agriculture Promotion and Technology program is being transferred from the Office of Economic Development. The Department has also added a new appropriation of \$500,000 to support the Agriculture Operations program. The description of these programs appear to overlap. Please explain how the Agriculture Promotion and Technology program funds were allocated in FY 2023 and the need for the new Agriculture Operations program. (Pages 1-7 & 1-9, Budget Details) (NUH)
  - b. Would the Department be agreeable to a condition on the \$500,000 Agricultural Operations line-item or the \$2.25 million Agriculture Promotion and Technology line-item that at least \$225,000 (or \$75,000 each) must be spent on feasibility studies for: (a) a new slaughterhouse that must process Axis deer, (b) developing a market for venison, and (c) an agricultural cooperative where farmers and ranchers can rent equipment and develop economies of scale for materials, supplies, feed, etc.? (Pages 101-102, Program Budget) (Pages 1-7 and 1-9, Budget Details) (AL)
6. Is the Department anticipating using FY 2024 funds to help support or start a farmer's market on Lānaʻi on County land? (GJ)
7. The following questions relate to the \$40,000 allocated for Feral Animal Control: (Page 99, Program Budget) (Page 1-8, Budget Details)
  - a. In the FY 2023 Budget, \$1,000,000 was allocated for Feral Animal Control under grants and disbursements for Water and Environmental Resource Protection and Conservation. Is this funding for the same program? (TP)

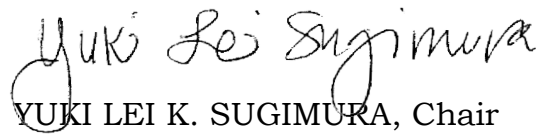
- b. Maui, Molokai, and Lānaʻi each have \$300,000 allotted for Feral Animal Control as well. Would this \$40,000 be available for all areas of Maui County? (TP) (NUH)
  - c. Is this funding limited to animals that affect agricultural activities (e.g. deer, pigs)? (NUH)
- 8. The following questions relate to the County grant subsidy for Agriculture Operations in the amount of \$500,000: (Page 101, Program Budget) (Page 1-7, Budget Details)
  - a. Aside from the \$100,000 conditioned for the Molokai Livestock Co-op, will the remaining funds be used throughout all of Maui County? (TP)
  - b. Which organizations received these funds in FY 2023 and what was the application process? (TP)
- 9. In the FY 2023 Budget, the Maui County Farm Bureau was allocated \$238,000 to increase the capacity of local meat processing and for livestock feed and mineral program related to feral animal control. At least a portion of this funding was intended to purchase equipment for meat processing. Was the funding disbursed in FY 2023 and was the equipment purchased? If so, why did the line-item not decrease? (Page 101, Program Budget) (TP)
- 10. How was the FY 2023 funding of \$1,310,000 for the Agricultural Promotion and Agricultural Technology Fund disbursed? Please explain the need for an additional \$940,000 in FY 2024. (Page 100, Program Budget) (TP)
- 11. Could Feral Animal Control grant funds be used for a bounty program, with a goal to cull axis deer and receive a predetermined amount as a reward? (Pages 101-102, Program Budget) (YLS)
- 12. Does the Department have any plans to increase security to protect against stolen equipment, vandalism, etc. at the Kula Agricultural Park? If so, what are the estimated costs? (Pages 101-102, Program Budget) (YLS)
- 13. What Federal grants has the Department applied for? Have any been awarded? Is the Department using any professional services

Ms. Rogerene Arce  
April 3, 2023  
Page 7

money to contract out to a national public relations firm for grant acquisitions? (SS)

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei Sugimura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

bfed:2024bgt:230402aag02:ljcm

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

## **BFED Committee**

---

**From:** BFED Committee  
**Sent:** Monday, April 3, 2023 11:08 AM  
**To:** Rogerene Arce  
**Cc:** Michelle Santos; Zeke Kalua; Maria Zielinski; Desiree Echalas; Janina Agapay  
**Subject:** PLEASE READ attached letter re: Fiscal Year ("FY") 2024 Budget (BFED-1) (AG-2)  
**Attachments:** (AG-2) Correspondence to Agriculture 04-03-2023.pdf

**Ms. Arce:** 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

Mahalo, Clarita Balala



**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**ROGERENE K.M. ARCE**  
Director

**KOA HEWAHEWA**  
Deputy Director



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

April 13, 2023

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "my".

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL**

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard T. Bissen, Jr.".  
**Mayor** **4-13-23**  
**Date**

For Transmittal to:

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

Dear Ms. Sugimura:

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

Thank you for your letter dated April 3, 2023 regarding the Fiscal Year 2024 budget for the Department of Agriculture. Please see the below responses:

**OVERALL**

1. Has the Department created Administrative Rules or procedures for how it will achieve its responsibilities? If so, please provide a copy. (Page 91, Program Budget) (NUH)

No, the Department does not have Administrative Rules, but we will work with the Department of the Corporation Counsel to establish them when necessary.

2. Has the Department's strategic plan been completed and where can we access a copy? (Page 99, Program Budget) (TP)

No. We have contracted Guild Consulting who are in the infancy stages in developing a roadmap to begin the data collection process from stakeholders and community input.

3. What is the status of the 2023 transition plan for County agriculture-related matters moving from the Office of Economic Development to the Department of Agriculture and has it been implemented? (NUH)

The transition plan is still in motion and we are frequently being updated and advised on the OED process with OED Grants and their management of the Kula Agricultural Park. Additionally, we have been building capacity with our staff in developing our grants division to inherit the OED ag-related grants and process. Our grants division have also been training with OED staff.

#### Kula Ag Park

January to March

- Begin transition plan
- Dept. Heads site visit with OED personnel Ka'eo Ornellas, inspecting for: dumping of rubbish, hazardous materials, non-compliance of leases, checking reservoir and for any operational or grounds maintenance needs
- Review need for documentation with tenants of thefts and vandalisms if any
- Receive site maps

March

- Develop Ag. Park Manager position to help respond to these duties

April

- Deputy Director begin independent site inspections time-permitting

By June:

- Contract cleaning out Reservoir B, grounds maintenance and other operational needs

Upcoming FYs

- Develop a Field Operations Division for operation and ground maintenance needs

#### Upper Maui Ag. Park (UMAP)

- 10/19/22 Department's first meeting with OED, County Engineer, contractors
- 11/4/22 Follow up meeting to review Alternatives 1 and 2 layout options
- 11/15/22 Review Bill 160 and needs in subdivision to accomodate organic farming
- 11/30/22 Follow-up meeting to discuss Private Ag Park subdivision option
- 3/23/23 Review list of subdivision layout options with Deputy Director

#### Ag. Grants

February Grant Coordinator meets with OED Director and Grants Manager

March Department Grants team review OED grant program processes

April Receiving 18 OED Ag grants

#### CIP projects

Department is receiving two CIP projects: Booster Pump and UMAP



4. Please provide the Department's actual totals for Key Goals & Measures for the first two quarters of FY 2023. If the total is not 50% or more than the FY 2023 estimate, please explain what steps are being taken to achieve these goals. (Pages 96-98, Program Budget) (NUH)

Goal #1 – Maximize ability of ag. producers to be financially sustainable

1. Improve access to financial resources

	Qtr. 1	Qtr. 2	Qtr. 3	Qtr. 4
• Grant workshops	0	1	2 w/other agencies	2 planned
• # Producers assisted in finding grants	0	0	1	
• % data gathered for ea. Island game mgt.	0	0	0	
• Amount of grants provided	\$200K	0	0	
• Grant funding secured	0	0	0	

2. ID ways to reduce regulatory burdens

• # of Legislative proposals to Council	0	0	0	
• # of Leg. proposals submitted by Coun.	0	0	0	
• # of County policies, reviewed etc.	0	0	0	

3. Protect ag. activities by assisting in agricultural, pest, disease and feral ungulate mitigation

• Amount of Fed. Funds secured	0	0	2.3M	applied for
--------------------------------	---	---	------	-------------

Goal #2 - Ensure productive use of important and non-designated ag. lands

1. Collect market and other data

• % data to assess food supply & security	0%	0%	(via grocer survey implemented; need redeploy)	
• % completed of resource needs (grants, education, resources, tech. assistance)	2%	3%	(via NASA Harvest and Guild Consulting)	

2. Provide assistance in inspection services of ag. activities for the Dept. of Finance

• # of inspections did during the FY	0	0	0	
• Assist. in ag. inspections for DWS	0	0	0	
• Assist. in ag. inspections for Plan. Dept.	0	0	0	

Goal #3 – Promote agricultural production in Maui County of Maui

1. Provide business support

• # of collaborative meetings held to further ag activities & partnerships	8	10	3	
--	---	----	---	--

2. Assist with developing and securing institutional purchasing and distribution channels

• # of new purchasing channels	0	0		
--------------------------------	---	---	--	--

Goal #4 – Promote community involvement in the future of agriculture in Maui County

1. Keep community members involved and informed

• # of community meetings held	2		3	
--------------------------------	---	--	---	--

5. Goal #1, item 1: (Page 96, Program Budget)

- a. How many grant workshops have been conducted in FY 2023? Please provide information on the grant workshops, including the groups presented to, the date of the workshop, the number of attendees, and describe the content or curriculum covered. (NUH) (TC)

Grant Management Specialist shared about Department's grant opportunities at two workshops other agencies hosted.

- b. On the number of farmers, ranchers, and value-added producers assisted in identifying Federal, State, or County grant or financial resource opportunities, why did the FY 2023 estimate of 150 decrease to a FY 2024 estimate of 50? What factors led to this change? (TC)

The estimate of 150 was not achieved therefore, the decrease in the new estimate. The main factors leading to the change were:

- No Grants Coordinator and Grants Management Specialist
- Learning curve on writing Position Descriptions
- Length of DPS audit process and vetting with unions before advertising
- Offer declined by first choice for Grants Coordinator position in November
- Second choice applicant in place on Dec. 1 resigned on Dec. 16
- Filled Grants Coordinator position on February 16
- Did not select Grants Management Specialist from first round interviews; Oct.

- c. On the percentage of data gathered which is needed for island specific game management plans, please provide the following: (TC)

- i. What type of data is gathered?

Previous Deputy began data collection but was not reappointed.

- ii. How is that data collected?

Through various correspondence including phone calls to farmers and ranchers, written correspondence, and site visits.

- iii. How is that data used to inform the Department's decision-making process?

We are still gathering and analyzing data to make determined and informed decisions that will benefit all parties.



- d. On the amount of grant funding secured from State and Federal sources, can you please explain why the estimated grant amount for FY 2024 is decreasing from \$5 million to \$2.5 million? (Page 97, Program Budget). (GJ)

These numbers were preliminary prior to Department establishment.

6. For Goal #1, item 2, relating to the number of legislative proposals assisted with or submitted to the Hawaii State Legislature, please provide the specific bill numbers the Department assisted with that are currently moving through the State Legislature. (Page 97, Program Budget) (TC)

For this quarter,  
SB 1588 Relating to Food Safety  
SB 1350 Relating to Food Safety  
HB 284 Relating to Taro  
HB 1382 Relating to Meat Donation  
HB 606 Relating to Meat Processing  
Letter of Support to DEM for Co-Composting Facility

7. For Goal #2, item 1, relating to the percentage of data collected necessary to assess food supply and security issues within Maui County and percentage of resource assessment completed (understand available resources, grants, assistance, education, etc.), why is the FY 2024 estimate the same as the FY 2023 estimate? Please explain why additional data and assessments remain unchanged. (Page 97, Program Budget) (NUH)

The Department was a staff of two up until end of December. These numbers were estimated and now that we are more established in terms of staff size and capacity, we strived to accomplish these educated estimates in the last quarter. However, a first attempt of a grocer's survey was made in qtr. 1, sent out with the help of Hawaii Food Industry Association. Department will reassess and may leave for incoming Food Access Coordinator.

8. For Goal #3, item 1, relating to the number of collaborative meetings held amongst various entities to further agricultural activities and partnerships, what factors led to the estimated decrease of this performance measure? (Page 98, Program Budget) (TC)

The Department was a staff of two up until end of December. These numbers were estimated and now that we are more established in terms of staff size and capacity, we strived to accomplish these educated estimates in the last quarter.

9. For Goal #4, item 1, relating to the number of community meetings held, please provide a list of community meetings held to date in FY 2023 and a description of what was discussed at each meeting. (Page 98, Program Budget) (TC)

8/23/22 Listening Session, 13 Molokai farmers  
8/29/22 Listening Session, 9 Lanai farmers  
10/19/23 Listening Session, 23 Hawaii Taro Farmers, Waikapu, Maui  
11/9/22 Listening Session, 14 Molokai farmers  
11/22/22 Listening Session, 11 Maui Farmers Network apprentice/student farmers  
Department Heads began a Listening Sessions in Maui County and collected ag. producers' feedback (concerns, needs, ideas) on the below 10 topics that helped the Department understand the preliminary needs of stakeholders.

1. Education and Advocacy
2. Infrastructure
3. Marketing Distribution
4. Grants, Loans
5. Pests
6. Regenrative Ag.
7. Workforce Dev.
8. Transportation
9. Theft
10. New forms of sustainable ag. production methods

Guild Consulting was contracted in the 3rd quarter to continue collecting feedback from the stakeholders throughout Maui County. Feedback will be used to direct Department Head's efforts in developing and addressing community specific initiatives. Guild Consulting will primarily develop Department's Strategic Plan.

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

1. The proposed budget shows 12 E/Ps, including an Agricultural Advocate position. Will this position be responsible for reaching out to farms or ranches to assist farmers or ranchers with learning about and applying for eligible grant and loan programs? If not, would Agricultural Advocate be an appropriate title for these duties or can you suggest a different title? (Page 99, Program Budget) (Page 1-3, Budget Details) (AL)

Yes, the Agricultural Advocate will be responsible for reaching out to farms or ranches and connecting them to the Department's Grants Division. The position title seems appropriate.



2. The following questions are related to fully funding the Agricultural Inspector, Agricultural Ombudsman, Agriculture Advocate, Food Access Coordinator, and Waste and Resource Regeneration Specialist: (Page 100, Program Budget) (Page 1-3, Budget Details)

- a. Has the Department of Personnel Services (DPS) given a timeframe to establish the class and position for these E/Ps? (TP)

6 months to a year for each position based on DPS priorities and difficulties in creating position descriptions and establishing classes. Additionally, the Department is the first of its kind at the County level which makes it difficult to identify templates for these position descriptions. Together with DPS, the Department is learning how to develop new positions that do not exist within other County jurisdictions or in the State of Hawaii Department of Agriculture.

- b. How long has DPS been working on describing these positions? (TP)

Department Heads began developing position descriptions in August with a steep learning curve of knowing the difference between a Position Description and Class or Specs, as well as, understanding what are the steps and processes of DPS.

- c. Would six- or eight-months funding be sufficient for each position? (TP)

The Department is asking for one-year of salary for each position anticipating to hire at beginning of FY 2024. The Department will accept 10 months salary given the time it takes for a position to get through all the DPS processes.

- d. Has the Department created its overall plan and do these positions have established programs and guidelines to implement? (Page 100, Program Budget) (NUH)

Through Guild Consulting, we are beginning to build out the Strategic Plan. The Department is still determining the needs of the positions suggested prior to Department establishment. The position descriptions are being carefully and mindfully thought out. Department Heads are considering what needs are being heard from the agriculture community and stakeholders. The collected data from the Listening Session are being used to develop guidelines for these positions and departmental programs.

3. Is the Department confident that it will be able to hire an Administrative Assistant II and Grants Management Program Specialist by July 1, 2023? (Pages 1-3 and 1-4, Budget Details) (TP)

The Administrative Assistant II was in place on December 27, 2022 and the GMPS was in place as of March 1, 2023.

4. Does the Department have the necessary personnel to review, award, and manage the \$3,000,000 MEO Agricultural Micro Grants Program? (Page 101, Program Budget) (SS)

MEO will continue to manage and solicit these until we build capacity in our Grants Division.

5. The Department oversees many programs and grants and has just 12 employees. Will you be able to get these programs and grants up and running with the current staff allocation? How long do you think it will take? Do you think you will need more staff later? (Page 101, Program Budget) (TK)

No, but with the third grant staff, will allow us to accommodate the execution and management of the grants. We anticipate completing recruitment by end of FY 2023. In the upcoming FY's we will need more Grant Management Specialists to assist with funding that we independently secure.

#### **Operations and Equipment (Categories "B" and "C")**

1. A \$25,000 allocation for grant application program and monitoring is listed under Contractual Services. What is the grant application program and how was the software or company selected? (Page 1-6, Budget Details) (TC)

The \$25,000 allocation was determined in FY 2022 before Department was set up. Funds are for establishing Department which may include contracting jobs. For example, removing silt and mud from the KAP reservoir B; for designing and installing a security camera system in KAP; for compiling and creating a catalog of agricultural services for the public.

The newly formed Grant Division is just over 6 weeks old and are just beginning to develop a grant application program for the Department. Currently, the Department is using OED's online grant application portal to receive grant applications which OED is receiving and transmitting them to the Department.

2. A \$50,000 allocation to advertise and promote agricultural programs and resources is listed under Advertisements. (Page 1-6, Budget Details) (TC)

- a. How many advertisement campaigns does the Department intend to launch in FY 2024?

We estimate about 4-6, which could include attending all ag-related events/fairs and possible open-house event.



b. What mediums of advertisement will be used?

We anticipate utilizing emails to our farmer and rancher contacts that we have gathered through previous listening sessions, and also County of Maui media platforms including social media and department website.

c. What will this line-item cover? (e.g. strategy planning, copywriting, asset creation, implementation via radio, print, mail, etc.)

Allocation is used to purchase promotional items (swag- pens, bags, etc.) to distribute at events, fairs, workshops; shirts for staff to use at events; cost of embroidery of County logo on shirts; table covers for use at events; business cards and brochure holders for use at events; any printed advertisements including ads and flyers, etc.

3. How will the \$2,250,000 in Agriculture Promotion and Technology grant funds be allocated? (Page 101, Program Budget) (GJ)

The Department did not develop the guidelines for this OED grant. The description OED provided is that *funds will be used for programs that promote the agriculture industry (i.e. robot technology, etc.)*

4. The following questions are related to the Agriculture Education and Apprenticeship program and the University of Hawaii Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources program: (Page 101, Program Budget) (Pages 1-8 and 1-9, Budget Details)

The Department did not develop the guidelines for these OED grants but inquired with OED for more details.

The description OED provided for the Agriculture Education and Apprenticeship program is that *funds will go toward programs that provide education, skilles and a community support network that beginning farmers need ot be successful in their agriculture enterprises.*

The description OED provided for the University of Hawaii Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources program is that *funds will be used to support activities in Maui County in the area of agriculture, research and assistance to the farming community*

a. Is there a reason the grant subsidies for these programs did not increase in FY 2024? (GJ)

These line items were determined by previous administration/Mayor Victorino. There is no further information that OED can find to provide further answers. More time is needed for more research with OED.

- b. What has been achieved by each of these programs in prior fiscal years and how do they differ from each other? (AL)

More time is needed for more research with OED.

5. Relating to the Agriculture Promotion and Technology Program and Agriculture Operations program:

- a. Funding in the amount of \$2,250,000, to support the Agriculture Promotion and Technology program is being transferred from the Office of Economic Development. The Department has also added a new appropriation of \$500,000 to support the Agriculture Operations program. The description of these programs appear to overlap. Please explain how the Agriculture Promotion and Technology program funds were allocated in FY 2023 and the need for the new Agriculture Operations program. (Pages 1-7 & 1-9, Budget Details) (NUH)

The Department did not develop the guidelines for these OED grants but inquired with OED for more details. The description OED provided for the Agriculture Promotion and Technology Program is *funds will be used for programs that promote the agricultural industry and advance to remain competitive in the industry.*

The Department's budget was developed before its establishment. All ag. grants are managed by OED until end of FY 2023. Until then, the \$500,000 under Agriculture Operations was allotted for the Department to award grants aside from OED ag grants for opportunities they create which should align with priority needs indicated by stakeholders through needs assessments. As noted in earlier answers, the Grants Division had some set backs with getting staff on board in the first half of the FY 2023. During that time, two ag proposals that came through OED during the first half of the FY 2023 were awarded \$100,000 each from this allotment. Now, 6 weeks old, the Department's Grants Division will create grants opportunities based on priority needs indicated by stakeholders, as mentioned above, through needs assessments. With the requested \$500,000 under Ag Operations, the Department proposes the following earmarks \$100,000 each toward (1) Livestock related, county wide (2) Community Kitchen related; county wide (3) Ag. Tech. Dev., county wide Ag. (4) Teacher Pro. Dev., county wide; (5) High School Ag. Programs; county wide OR will use discretion in making awards.



- b. Would the Department be agreeable to a condition on the \$500,000 Agricultural Operations line-item or the \$2.25 million Agriculture Promotion and Technology line-item that at least \$225,000 (or \$75,000 each) must be spent on feasibility studies for: (a) a new slaughterhouse that must process Axis deer, (b) developing a market for venison, and (c) an agricultural cooperative where farmers and ranchers can rent equipment and develop economies of scale for materials, supplies, feed, etc.? (Pages 101-102, Program Budget) (Pages 1-7 and 1-9, Budget Details) (AL)

We are requesting OED to explain what the Agriculture Promotion and Technology grant is supposed to be used for. Depending on the criteria of that funding, the Department would agree that at least \$225,000 (or \$75,000 for each Maui, Molokai and Lanai islands) must be spent on (a) consulting and planning on improvements of Maui and Molokai slaughterhouses to process axis deer and consulting and planning for a Lanai slaughterhouse to process Axis deer; (b) developing a venison market (c) planning for an ag cooperative on Maui.

6. Is the Department anticipating using FY 2024 funds to help support or start a farmer's market on Lānaʻi on County land? (GJ)

Yes, the Department anticipates using FY 2024 funds to implement the Lanai Farmers Market if federal funding is secured. If not, funding can be reallocated from within the budget. The third option is for the Department's Grant Division to secure grant funding. For clarity of the status of this project, it is in its infancy stages. The Department is taking steps to carefully plan it out and determine budget. There is a checklist of processes from Parks and Recs Department that will be reviewed to determine how to meet compliance. Also, Director is working on getting more information on crop production and potential marketable items from Lanai producers and plans to interview neighbors to get input on potential impacts and their thoughts. A visit to the proposed site may occur to determine layout, fire plan, etc.

7. The following questions relate to the \$40,000 allocated for Feral Animal Control: (Page 99, Program Budget) (Page 1-8, Budget Details)

The description OED provided for the Feral Animal Control is that *funding was provided for controlling deer population at the Kula Ag Park specifically, grant given to Animal Control Services, Jeff Frye.*

Mayor has tasked his office to address deer management solutions through Chief of Staff Leo Caires and Executive Assistant Zeke Kalua. Since OED was managing the feral animal and feral recovery grant funds and are working with COS Caires and EA Kalua on a deer project, Director Arce and Director Mahi determined OED funds for Feral Animal Recovery and

Feral Animal Control will remain in OED and not be transferred to the Department of Agriculture in FY 2024 as part of the OED ag grant funds.

- a. In the FY 2023 Budget, \$1,000,000 was allocated for Feral Animal Control under grants and disbursements for Water and Environmental Resource Protection and Conservation. Is this funding for the same program? (TP)

The Department did not develop the guidelines for these OED grants but inquired with OED for more details. The description OED provided for the Feral Animal Control is that *funding was provided for controlling deer population at the Kula Ag. Park specifically, grant given to Animal Control Services, Jeff Frye*. The Department does not know what the Water and Environmental Resource Protection and Conservation funding is. According to Department's Grant Coordinator, the grant may be housed in DHHC.

- b. Maui, Molokai, and Lānaʻi each have \$300,000 allotted for Feral Animal Control as well. Would this \$40,000 be available for all areas of Maui County? (TP) (NUH)

The Department did not develop the guidelines for these OED grants but inquired with OED for more details. The description OED provided for the Feral Animal Control is that *funding (\$40,000) was provided for controlling deer population at the Kula Ag Park specifically, grant given to Animal Control Services, Jeff Frye*.

The \$300,000 for Feral Animal Control Maui was awarded for a Mobile Slaughterhouse.

The description OED provided for the \$300,000 for Feral Animal Control Molokai is for *controlling deer population with hunting and providing food for the community*. Unsure if projects were awarded for this grant.

The description OED provided for the \$300,000 for Feral Animal Control Lanai is that *this grant was for the Lanai Cat Sanctuary*. Unsure if projects were awarded for this grant.

- c. Is this funding limited to animals that affect agricultural activities (e.g. deer, pigs)? (NUH)

From the Director's perspective, funding should include other ungulates, such as, pigs



8. The following questions relate to the County grant subsidy for Agriculture Operations in the amount of \$500,000: (Page 101, Program Budget) (Page 1-7, Budget Details)

- a. Aside from the \$100,000 conditioned for the Molokai Livestock Co-op, will the remaining funds be used throughout all of Maui County? (TP)

When determining earmarks within the \$500,000, it was a category that was listed but Department will allow livestock related projects throughout all of Maui County.

- b. Which organizations received these funds in FY 2023 and what was the application process? (TP)

From the \$500,000, two entities were awarded \$100,000 each for their projects: Hana Chapter HFUU and Sustainable Molokai.

9. In the FY 2023 Budget, the Maui County Farm Bureau was allocated \$238,000 to increase the capacity of local meat processing and for livestock feed and mineral program related to feral animal control. At least a portion of this funding was intended to purchase equipment for meat processing. Was the funding disbursed in FY 2023 and was the equipment purchased? If so, why did the line-item not decrease? (Page 101, Program Budget) (TP)

More time is needed to inquire with OED who is currently managing these funds.

10. How was the FY 2023 funding of \$1,310,000 for the Agricultural Promotion and Agricultural Technology Fund disbursed? Please explain the need for an additional \$940,000 in FY 2024. (Page 100, Program Budget) (TP)

More time is needed to inquire with OED about the \$1,310,000 for the Agricultural Promotion and Agricultural Technology Fund who is currently managing these funds.

11. Could Feral Animal Control grant funds be used for a bounty program, with a goal to cull axis deer and receive a predetermined amount as a reward? (Pages 101-102, Program Budget) (YLS)

Currently we have been meeting with community stakeholders and agencies in regards to attending to this particular item, and more solution-based suggestions will be determined in upcoming weeks.

12. Does the Department have any plans to increase security to protect against stolen equipment, vandalism, etc. at the Kula Agricultural Park? If so, what are the estimated costs? (Pages 101-102, Program Budget) (YLS)

Yes. Kula Agricultural Park is almost entirely enclosed with deer fencing which will help to deter ongoing theft and vandalism, and the department is also installing security-coded gates and will eventually purchase game cameras to increase these efforts.

13. What Federal grants has the Department applied for? Have any been awarded? Is the Department using any professional services money to contract out to a national public relations firm for grant acquisitions? (SS)

None, at this time. We currently contracted consultants, Strategies 360, to determine federal funding opportunities.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at ext. 8278 or contact Deputy Director Koa Hewahewa at ext. 8277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rogerene K. M. Arce".

Rogerene K. M. Arce  
Director, Department of Agriculture

## BFED Committee

---

**From:** Desiree Echalas <Desiree.B.Echalas@co.maui.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 3:31 PM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Subject:** FY 2024 (BFED-1) (AG-2)  
**Attachments:** FY24 (BFED-1) (AG-2) Response.pdf

Attached is AG-2 response from the Department of Agriculture.

Desiree Echalas  
Budget Specialist  
County of Maui  
Office of the Mayor  
[Desiree.B.Echalas@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:Desiree.B.Echalas@co.maui.hi.us)  
Phone: (808) 270-8239