

# Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-04-14 1:00 PM

Meeting Time: 04-14-23 13:00

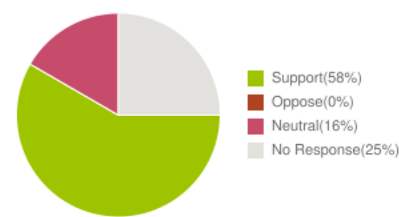
## eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-04-14 1:00 PM	04-14-23 13:00	2	12	7	0	2

### Sentiments for All Meetings

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

#### Overall Sentiment

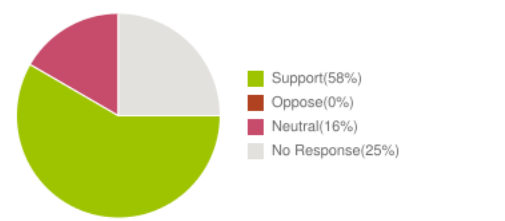


Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	3	1	0	1
BFED-1 FY 2024 PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)	9	6	0	1

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

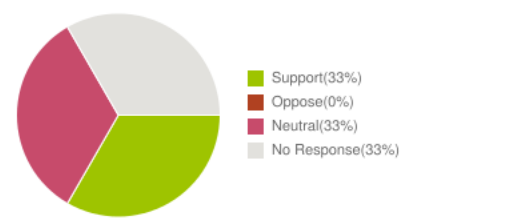
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:  
Submitted At: 4:42pm 04-14-23

I am Kamakanoweo Kekaouha-Schultz and I am testifying in support of the Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development.

To begin, the Maui Economic Development Board should obtain this grant because they have helped me become prepared for the future when I enter the workforce. By their programs, I learned how to craft a resume, I learned how to complete a cover letter, and I learned how to fill out a W-4 form. These steps are essential when applying for jobs, and they have helped kickstart that for me at a young age. The Maui Economic Development Board has gotten me prepared for when I apply for jobs in the workforce.

Secondly, Maui Economic Development Board internship program has made my career path more clear. MEDB has given me a glimpse of what a job in the Agriculture industry is like and therefore made me interested in

getting a job within the Ag industry in the future. Through the Maui County Ag Business & Technology Internship, I was able to intern with some of the top leaders in the Agriculture Industry on Maui. It gave me an idea of what this essential industry is all about. Especially in a time when the population is ever-growing and quality food is in higher demand, new agricultural leaders are in dire need. The Maui Economic Development Board impacted me, and a whole lot of other people to pursue a career in agriculture. Once the seed is planted, it only grows more, and the internship leaders of each internship have helped sow that seed in us, and that wouldn't be possible without their support.

The Maui Economic Development Board has many programs that benefit the community. For me, it was the Maui County Ag Business & Technology Internship, and for others, it may be STEMworks programs. Support from the County will make sure that others will have the opportunity to experience the things that MEDB has to offer, and the skills and lessons I gained because of them are to last a lifetime. Mahalo nui.

### **BFED Committee**

Location:

Submitted At: 2:58pm 04-14-23

Written testimony received from MEO (Molokai) 04-14-2023

### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:51am 04-14-23

4/12/2023

Budget testimony

Aloha Maui County Council members.

I support funding for planning, and developing a new pickleball facility Upcountry. It is needed now. I ask our Country Council to expedite this. It's what I believe the Parks Department should focus on also.

I also strongly agree there should be no more tennis court conversions on Maui. You can only play tennis on tennis courts, you can play pickleball anywhere level with a portable net.

We only have four playable tennis courts, for tennis Upcountry, across the whole mountainside. Our courts are busy with tennis often, and tennis as a sport is growing with increasing numbers.

In Kula, the tennis community currently does consider sharing the courts with PB as a minor conversion of our court use. It's acceptable as temporary, with PB taping lines, bringing their own nets, cleaning the courts when done. Painting PB lines within tennis lines would be a real court conversion. Totally unacceptable. I believe the new Parks Director understands this, as the past Director expressed to me also. Excluding tennis on the Kula tennis courts altogether would almost be criminal after the years the community and County worked to get the courts built, and the care we put into them.

Both sports need room to grow separately. They both are not compatible in noise requirements. Tennis under 40db, PB over 70db. They are both not compatible in design with different lines, rules, and dimensions.

Downtown resurfacing and lining a multi use court would cost the County, and then cost to reline it back to tennis a few years later? It would never happen. Bottom line, Tennis loses courts. I don't understand how this would be a "good compromise" as some in the PB community suggest.

PB needs leadership that focuses on the real solutions, and vision for their sport, as we in the Tennis community have done for years.

Please help give the PB community the direction to plan for their sport, and to plan for the growth of both tennis and Pickleball. Help them focus on a facility of their own.

Please secure funds for planning of separate pickleball facilities, not converting tennis courts in any way. Please respect the hard work and vision that was required to secure funding for our tennis courts for tennis in the past.

To say that any sport can use a tennis court, as some pickleball players will tell you, because it was their tax dollars that built them. I know, and as you know, funds are approved, and dedicated for specific needs, and projects. Tennis courts were funded and built for tennis.

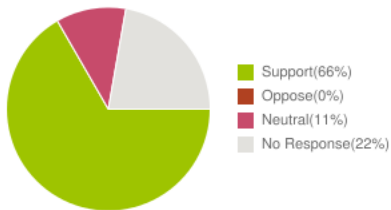
Hopefully soon separate pickleball facilities in town, and upcountry will be funded, and built. Then hopefully proper planning will prevail, and we return all converted tennis courts back to tennis. Then limit each sport to its own facilities, so all can prosper and grow without conflicts.

Thank you all for your thoughtful deliberations.

Aloha,

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

Overall Sentiment



**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 11:07am 04-14-23

4/14/2023

Budget testimony

Aloha Maui County Council members.

I support funding for planning, and developing a new pickleball facility Upcountry. It is needed now. I ask our Country Council to expedite this. It's what I believe the Parks Department should focus on also.

I also strongly agree there should be no more tennis court conversions on Maui. You can only play tennis on tennis courts, you can play pickleball anywhere level with a portable net.

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To say that any sport can use a tennis court, as some pickleball players will tell you, because it was their tax dollars that built them. I know, and as you know, funds are approved, and dedicated for specific needs, and projects. Tennis courts were funded and built for tennis.

Hopefully soon separate pickalball facilities in town, and upcountry will be funded, and built. Then hopefully proper planning will prevail, and we return all converted tennis courts back to tennis. Then limit each sport to its own facilities, so all can prosper and grow without conflicts.

Thank you all for your thoughtful deliberations.

Aloha,  
Steve Sutrov  
Kulatennis@gmail.com

**Guest User**

Location:  
Submitted At: 9:09pm 04-13-23

Aloha!

Please consider alternative sites for Pickle-ball, like community centers until the County builds a new amazing pickleball facility, where we can have tournaments. We play both sports. For pickle-ball, we can put up our own net, but for tennis that isn't possible. So it's better to leave the tennis courts alone and allow pickle-ball to be played at alternative sites that's easier to access, like Velma Wayne Center or in park pavilions during low/no use hours.

Taking away current tennis courts will have negative impacts as these courts are needed for MIL practices, tournaments, leagues, & junior tennis. Leave the courts as is and we can take turns until the Department of Parks & Recreation designates dedicated spots.

If you wish to be innovative, consider private-public partnerships as one could build a facility on public land or use vacant commercial space, like the old Sports Authority or Sears and bring in foot-traffic and draw in business.

Mahalo!

**BFED Committee**

Location:  
Submitted At: 3:22pm 04-13-23

Written testimony receive 04-13-2023

**Guest User**

Location:  
Submitted At: 2:24pm 04-13-23

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HAWAI\_I FARMERS UNION UNITED BUDGET**

As a FAM apprentice on the island of L\_na\_i, I implore you to support the Hawaii Farmers Union and its programs, the HFUU Network and the FAM Program. I am a supporter of HFUU because it is an organization that is a solution to Hawai\_i's food insecurity by directly impacting local food production by increasing the number of farmers in Hawai\_i, especially Maui. This year the program was opened up to L\_na\_i residents. We have 5 Farmer Apprentices in the program! That is 0.2% of L\_na\_i population! 5 people dedicated to being a part of solving L\_na\_i's food insecurity. We have nowhere else to get this training as a L\_na\_i resident. We all know being a farmer is extremely difficult. The FAM Program is extremely comprehensive teaching me what I need to know to be a successful farmer from taxes to compost. How else can I get that training through a single program on L\_na\_i? I was a former teacher of Natural Resources at L\_na\_i High & Elementary School. I was teaching about agriculture without being properly trained as many other new high school Natural Resources teachers. The FAM Program should be a program available not only to prospective farmers but to public school teachers who lack the agriculture background because it is really about teaching our keiki about Hawai\_i's inadequate agricultural system. By the way, I had 2 students out of 20 total students that wanted to be farmers! I would love one of them to take over my farm. In addition, FAM has given me clout, when I talk to restaurant owners, media, my community, P\_lama (from whom I will lease farmland), and legislature representatives. My voice means something as a farmer apprentice. Please continue to fund HFUU's programs for the future of L\_na\_i's food security. We get too much of our agricultural products from off-island. We need to stop depending on other islands to bail us out when the barge stops coming. We need to bring back the pride in the L\_na\_i grown brand. Maui needs to realize that although we have a wealthy landowner, he will not take care of Lanaians as the county should. I turn to the County, not landowners, to decide what is right for food security. Don\_t forget about L\_na\_i.

My heart becomes so heavy when I think of all the obstacles I face as a farmer on L\_na\_i. HFUU, a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 700 family farmers and their supporters organized as 14 Chapters in the four Hawai'i Counties, makes my load lighter, more manageable and promising. This is because we are taught by successful farm owners. I feel that I have a team to support me in becoming a successful farmer. You have been chosen to make decisions for all of Maui county, that includes L\_na\_i. L\_na\_i

is often forgotten but HFUU did not forget about us. Please continue to support HFFU.

Increasing the number of farmers who grow food is a key component of the long-term solution to the Hawai'i local food production deficit. Growing new farmers is also a key facet of the HFUU statewide strategic plan. Our planning goals are simultaneously aligned with the shared vision of increased food security and agricultural self-sufficiency for all counties and the State of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,  
Michele Weinhouse

Kapua's Farm L\_na\_i, LLC  
PO Box 631937  
L\_na\_i City, HI 96763  
Cell: (760) 390-5632, Email: michele64w@gmail.com

### Guest User

Location:  
Submitted At: 2:05pm 04-13-23

Aloha,  
I want to add my voice to the Upcountry community in support of the following items:

- 1) the purchase of the 7+ acres encompassing the Kula Community Center, the gateball park and the 4 existing courts currently used by both the tennis and pukaball community. It was a great surprise that this property was not owned by the county and until ownership is established there will be a reluctance by many to earmark funds for much needed capital improvements; 2050 may seem far away but it is not; this should be the #1 priority of the council and especially for our upcountry representative;
- 2) the growing popularity of pukaball necessitates the construction of additional shared as well as dedicated courts to meet this new demand. Until then, it must be made clear by the P&R department that the existing courts are resource to be shared by all court activities, and not the province of the tennis community. when the Kula courts were constructed pukaball was in its infancy. it is now the fastest growing sport in the world and while we as advocates are willing to take the time to put down tape for court boundaries and use portable nets purchased at our expense, we will not suffer tennis players who maintain they have some existing priority over our use when our taxes helped pay for the courts initially;
- 3) identify the existing courts in disrepair (pukalani, makawao, haliimaile, haiku) then repair them while also providing permanent pukaball lines; these courts are not used for MIL tournaments and a single tennis court can easily accommodate two pukaball courts. Many facilities have multiple court delineation (all of the basketball gyms, Maui CC) and the pukaball community will gladly bring its own portable nets;
- 4) build more courts where pukaball makes sense; I understand there are plans for pickleball court construction in central Maui in the Maui Lani development. this is the windiest area on the island and would be much better served by tennis courts over pukaball with its light weight wiffle ball.

Mahalo,

Bruce Harris  
Kula resident for 43 years  
jojabrum@gmail.com

### Guest User

Location:  
Submitted At: 7:13pm 04-12-23

Aloha Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee,  
My name is Evelyn Suzuki and I am testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development. I wanted to share with you all how MEDB has helped me through the many programs and services it has offered over the years. Currently, I am a Grade 3 teacher at Pukalani Elementary School. I am also a STEMworks AFTERSchool Instructor. My current class is called 3D Printing and Design. This class is an extension of previous design classes that existed. While

also an Designer, I am also allowed the opportunity to share some of my knowledge of structures, unique materials, spatial relations, and CAD (computer assisted drawing). Students are first taught the design process and are able to showcase new or reinforced ideas by creating three dimensional drawings via TinkerCAD. MEDB's support made it possible to have the resources needed for the class to be successful. A recent MEDB grant in which Pukalani Elementary School was awarded, allowed our STEMworks AFTERSchool program to purchase two 3D printers that replaced an old outdated 3D printer. The classes, the resources, and the new opportunities for our keiki to reach higher goals are made possible because of MEDB.

Mahalo for your time,

Evelyn Suzuki  
Pukalani Elementary School  
STEMworks AFTERSchool

**Guest User**

Location:  
Submitted At: 10:05am 04-12-23

Aloha,  
My name is Shannon Rowe and I am the Automotive Technology Teacher at Maui High School. I am commenting today to humbly ask that you continue to support Maui Economic Development Board's (MEDB) STEMworks programs. The funding provided directly impacts education at our schools filling gaps left by our state system. Through your support administered by MEDB, high school Automotive programs on Maui receive tools and equipment and teacher support. At Maui High School and Baldwin High the teachers are directly supported through the support of the county and MEDB. Many Industrial arts programs throughout the state have disappeared and there is a huge demand for skilled labor, it is believed that the lack of qualified teachers for these programs is directly to blame. Here on Maui we have been able to sustain programs at all 4 of our major public high schools thanks to your direct support. Please continue to support MEDB so that we can continue these much needed programs.

Mahalo,  
Shannon Rowe  
Maui High School  
660 Lono Ave.  
Kahului, HI 96732  
808-727-4113

**Guest User**

Location:  
Submitted At: 3:25pm 04-10-23

Please continue funding for the Maui Farmer Network FARMER NAVIGATIONAL COACHING program. So important to focus on opportunities for local food sovereignty.

**Guest User**

Location:  
Submitted At: 5:36pm 04-07-23

This is my testimony, in support of Maui Economic Development Board\_s Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development.

My name is Galit Breman, and I'm testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board\_s Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development.

MEDB has been instrumental in helping me successfully achieve Women owned business certification through the past two years. I was also blessed to receive professional one and one guidance how to apply and sustain a Women owned business certificate. MEDB's support was essential through the long and complex WOB process, and resulted in finally getting this important certificate and status I tried to achieve by myself for years.

In addition, I able to stay open and thrive during Covid shut down, thanks for Adaptability grant that was facilitated by MEDB, that made it possibly for me to transform my website from a showcase to an e-commerce shop online. That has opened up a lot of opportunities of growth to my business.

Thank you so much for all you do MEDB, and please help them to continue their important role on Island for small businesses and financial success.

Much appreciation and aloha,  
Galit Breman.

[www.galitbreman.com](http://www.galitbreman.com)  
808-214-7098



## BFED Committee

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**From:** Maui\_County Council\_mailbox  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 2:33 PM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Cc:** Lee Imada  
**Subject:** FW: Budget testimony from Moloka'i residents  
**Attachments:** MEO Business Development Center Molokai - Faith Tupola.pdf; MEO Business Development Center Molokai - Andrea Dudoit.pdf; MEO Business Development Center Molokai - Jean Roper.pdf; MEO Business Development Center Molokai - Malia Busby.pdf; MEO Business Development Center Molokai - Kilia Purdy-Avelino.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Connie Fleenor.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - David Kalilikane Jr..pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Crystal Hoffman.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Alicia Aweau.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Carol Ankrom.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - David Kangas.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Earl Kaina.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Hiilani Dudoit.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Giorgio De Paz.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - James Landreth III.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Kalai'ihe Ka'ai.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Khaelyn Harris Gramberg.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Raylen Perreira.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Stefan Richter.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Maile Orme.pdf; MEO Transportation Molokai - Tammy Watts.pdf

To the BFED Committee,  
Forwarding written TESTIMONY received from Lee Imada – FROM Molokai residents via the [County.Council@mauicounty.us](mailto:County.Council@mauicounty.us) e-mail box in relation to the fy-24 annual budget.

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**From:** Lee Imada <lee.imada@meoinc.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 14, 2023 11:11 AM  
**To:** Maui\_County Council\_mailbox <county.council@mauicounty.us>  
**Subject:** Budget testimony from Moloka'i residents

I have attached written testimony from residents on Moloka'i on the budget. Helping to get their comments on the record.

Could you confirm receipt?

Thank you.

Lee

--

**Lee Imada**, Executive Assistant

Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
99 Mahalani St, Wailuku HI 96793  
<http://www.meoinc.org>

T: 808-243-4306E: [lee.imada@meoinc.org](mailto:lee.imada@meoinc.org)

*MEO's mission is to strengthen the community while helping people in need restore their hope, reach their potential, and enrich their lives.*

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## **FISCAL YEAR 2024**

### **Community Budget Testimony**

#### **Program: MEO Transportation Moloka'i**

#### **Tammy Watts, Home Pumehana resident**

The MEO Bus System continues to be "VITAL" to all Moloka'i residents. Here at Pumehana, it is imperative that this system keeps rolling!!

Please consider the continued importance of MEO Shuttle Bus as it provides a wonderful much-needed assistance to so many of our resident all ages from keiki to kupuna!!

Mahalo plenty!!

# Fiscal Year 2024 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: Business Development Center - Molokai Office

Name: Faith Tupola

Email Address:  
auli@hawaii.edu

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Aloha Mayor Bissen,

My husband and I would like to say “Thank you” for your Business Development Services and the services they provide. Mahalo for the Agricultural Micro Grant Program, words cannot express our gratitude of how this grant has improved and moved our farm forward to keep up with our demands. By simplifying our farming procedures and day to day activities.

Again, MAHALO!!



# Fiscal Year 2024

## Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: Business Development Center - Molokai Office

Name: Andrea Dudoit

Email

Address: homesteadgrinds@gmail.com

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

My name is Andrea Dudoit, owner of Homestead Grinds, LLC. I attended the Molokai MEO Core Four business classes in 2022. I learned important steps in these classes that will help me succeed in my company. It has also aided me in creating a business strategy with specific objectives. I also received funding from MEO Ag. With the help of this grant, my company will have access to healthier choices, new farming techniques, new homegrown crops, lower inventory costs, and more. One of the many crucial elements in ensuring a prosperous farm and way of life is farm to table. Homegrown crops have frequently been destroyed by deer, which has also made the areas unsanitary. I'll be installing fencing to keep deer herds out of my yard using the Ag grant money.

Thank you MEO-BDC for your services, programs, and classes.

# Fiscal Year 2024

## Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: Business Development Center - Molokai Office

Name: Kilia Purdy-Avelino

Email Address:  
kpurdyavelino@gmail.com

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The MEO Micro Ag Grant helped both a 40-year existing Agribusiness that never received grant funding before but progressed through loans and credit cards, and a start-up Agribusiness. These farms are owned and operated by long-time generational Molokai homestead families that believe in making use of our homestead lands to create economic stability while growing more for our island. Both farms have been using mostly hand tools and physical energy, slowly growing and expanding. This first time grant will help our farms be more efficient and effective in expanding our production. Mahalo to MEO through County funds for recognizing long-time generational family farms needing the extra support to grow and expand.

# Fiscal Year 2024 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.  
Program: Business Development Center - Molokai Office  
Name: Jean Roper  
Email Address: jroper7777@gmail.com

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Aloha Mayor Bissen,

Happy to report, the business and financial classes, meeting, I have attended for study with Molokai Business Development Center (Lily) were and continue to be superior learning experiences for me.

Thanks,

Jean C. Roper



Malia P. Busby  
P.O. Box 64  
Kualapu'u, HI 96757  
(808) 336-0830  
[maliabusby@gmail.com](mailto:maliabusby@gmail.com)

April 6, 2023

TO: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor

FROM: Malia P. Busby, Owner of Kua'aina Kalo Company

DATE: April 6, 2023

SUBJECT: **Budgeting Request for the Maui Business Development Center, MEO**

Aloha Mayor Bissen,

My name is Malia Pualei Busby, and I submit this letter to sincerely thank you and respectfully request your careful consideration on extending the funding and support your office has afforded people like me through the Maui Business Development Center with Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO-BDC).

As a lifelong resident of Molokai who recently inherited a two-acre taro farm on the east end of our island, I have been profoundly impacted by both the **Core Four Business Planning Course** and **Agricultural Micro Grant III** programs.

Prior to my enrollment with the Core Four Business Planning Course, I had no knowledge or experience whatsoever on how to develop a viable business plan. While I felt grateful and determined, I did not know where to start and desperately needed direction and support in tackling the enormous responsibility and privilege of restoring an ancient and extensive taro patch farm in an eco-friendly yet sustainable way.

As a full-time teacher, wife, and mother, I was completely overwhelmed in various ways, but the financial strain had become most daunting in just a short two years. When I participated in the Core Four Business Planning Course through MEO, I was very pleased at the accessibility (online), pertinence, and comprehensive nature of each session, which was seamlessly tailored to the varied and specific needs of myself and respective cohort members. The Business Development Specialist instructing the course – Liliana Napoleon – was particularly instrumental in shifting my mindset and providing me with tools and resources for long-term success as a new taro farmer and business owner.

As a result of that Core Four Business Planning Course, I became aware of the many grant opportunities for folks like me and was able to secure an Agricultural Micro Grant III award this past February in the amount of \$25,000. This is the first time I have ever



received a grant, and it has directly assisted me in purchasing necessary machinery, equipment, infrastructure and processing supplies that will allow me to expand my farming yield and ultimately launch my taro and poi business this summer!

Moreover, as an educator deeply invested in our community, I have already been able to host youth groups at my farm to further perpetuate our culture, provide meaningful work experience and hopefully to inspire others to address food security needs we face as an island people. This is something I plan to continue indefinitely.

In closing, please know that the opportunities your office has afforded me, my family, and my community are far reaching and ongoing. Therefore, I humbly ask that you ensure extension of these programs and support them through continued funding as much as possible and for as long as possible.

Mahalo,



Malia P. Busby

## **FISCAL YEAR 2024**

### **Community Budget Testimony**

#### **Program: MEO Transportation Moloka'i**

#### **Alicia Aweau**

MEO has done so much good things for me and my Mom because we don't have a car. MEO is very helpful, and they help us get to places we don't have rides to, like the doctors, school, shopping for food.

They're also helpful to the kupuna who don't have a car and need to go places.

Thank you for all the service you guys share with us. Also, the workers/drivers are very respectful, understanding, helpful, patient, and they are awesome.

Mahalo for your services.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2024**

### **Community Budget Testimony**

**Program: MEO Transportation Moloka'i**

**Carol Ankrom, Home Pumehana resident**

Many of our residents use the MEO bus to shop, make medical appointments and excursions with the Hui four times a year.

Fiscal Year 2024

## Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: Bus

Name: Connie Fleenor

Email Address: FleenorConnieO@gmail.com

Being a disabled senior citizen  
I depend on the bus to take  
me to medical appointments  
Weekly

many folks from Island depend  
on this service

Thank you for being there  
helping us.

Connie Fleenor

3-24-2023

# Fiscal Year 2024 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: Youth Trans

Name: Crystal Hoffman

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

This program benefits <sup>me</sup> because it allows  
me to have <sup>safe</sup> transportation from work  
to home.

FISCAL YEAR 2024

COMMON BUDGET TESTIMONY

AGENCY: MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY INC.,  
PROGRAM

NAME: **DAVID H.KANGAS**

EMAIL ADDRESS: bi2602005@yahoo.com

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To Whom It May Concern:

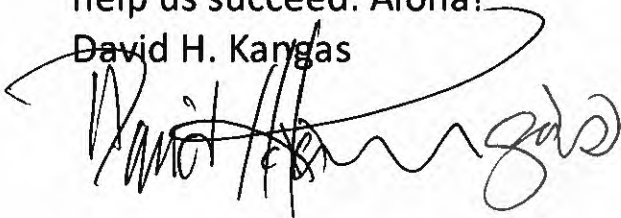
3/24/23

Much gratitude and mahalo for giving me this opportunity to tell you very respectfully that your services and kuleana are greatly needed, wanted and useful on Molokai particularly your great bus service, food distribution and everything! Every year your staff, service and kuleana are always improving especially during the holidays! Your crew here are always very kind, obliging, patient and understanding especially responding and answering requests for common and special help!

Over twelve years ago I moved from Seattle, Washington to Molokai and began using your benefits particularly with bus and food help of which my friends, their families and I deeply appreciate! Believe me! My friends of all ages and backgrounds would wholeheartedly agree with me and the day care center I understand is very wonderful!

Please continue funding for Molokai! My friends their families and I totally feel the need is great and not to be reduced and should honestly be greatly increased. Obviously the cost of living is really going up like never before with groceries, gas, personal services, rent and obviously buying homes. We really hope and pray our fidiciary and personal challenges will be beautifully resolved with your kind help, much mahalo! We realize your help in good conscience, patience and understanding with our sincere and important needs and challenges will help us succeed. Aloha!

David H. Kangas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David H. Kangas', written over a horizontal line.

# Fiscal Year 2024

## Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: Youth trans.

Name: David Kalilikane Jr. (Tonya)

Email Address: 4061001791@k12.hi, us

I catch the Youth trans. to have a transportation home from my high school sport. The Youth trans. benefits me because I don't have to worry about my ride home and focus on my sport or schooling.



# Fiscal Year 2024

## Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: Bus Service

Name: Evel Kaina

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I am a senior citizen  
and I reside at Pumahana.  
I depend on the bus service  
from Paule Mitchell Center  
to my daughter's farm  
by the airport.  
I work 4 days a week.  
I'm thankful.  
Please continue.

Evel



# Fiscal Year 2024

## Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: Youth trans

Name: Stefan Richter

Email Address: 3701900242@K12.hi.us

the reason why this program should remain funded is because it can give transportation to kids who ~~are~~ aren't able to get transportation via car. it benefits me because after school my parents are working and I have track practice, so I end up not being able to catch the school bus, so I catch this bus after practice.

## **FISCAL YEAR 2024**

### **Community Budget Testimony**

**Program: MEO Transportation Molokaʻi**

**Maile Orme, Home Pumehana resident**

I have enjoyed riding on the MEO Bus for many years now and fully support the continuation of this much-needed and appreciated service.

All the bus drivers show courtesy and aloha, are good humored and patient with everyone who boards the bus. Amy, the office manager, is also a great person and works hard to accommodate us all.

Thank you for your kokua in keeping this vital service to the community alive.

# Fiscal Year 2024 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: Raylen Pereira

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

FIRST OFF THANK YOU MEO AND MAUI COUNTY  
I USE THE BUS A COUPLE OF TIMES A WEEK  
TO GET TO TOWN AND HOME I AM VERY  
HAPPY SEVERAL AND DRIVERS PROVIDED BY MEO  
THANK YOU AND MEO WILL ALWAYS BE HERE  
FOR THE PEOPLE OF MAUI  
Maui Ki

# Fiscal Year 2024

## Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: youth trans

Name: Kalawihē Ke'āi

Email Address: KalawihēKeai@gmail.com

I use the youth trans to get home after my after school programs like college and sports. It's super convenient and I'm even writing this while on my way home right now. So keep it.

# Fiscal Year 2024 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: ~~Adult~~ youth trans

Name: Khaelyn Harrisgramberg

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

so I get dropped off by Kahunaula  
because that's where I live and I don't  
have a ride home.



# Fiscal Year 2024 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: Youth trans

Name: Hilari Dudoit

Email Address: 5621300379@K12.NJ.US

This program benefits me because it allows me to have safe transportation from work to home.

Fiscal Year 2024

## Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: TRANSPORTATION BUDGET

Name: GIORGIO DE PAZ

Email Address: WOLFYTHELOBD@GMAIL.COM

ALOHA

I'M NEW RIDING THE BUS HERE ON  
MOLOKAI, BUT IT HAS BEEN A VERY USEFUL  
WAY TO MOVE AROUND THE ISLAND & BE  
A MORE PRODUCTIVE MEMBER OF SOCIETY  
HOPE IT CAN CONTINUE & IMPROVE  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL  
I'VE GOTTEN TO KNOW SOME OF THE  
DRIVERS & I'M VERY IMPRESSED BY  
THEIR PROFESSIONALISM, FRIENDLYNESS  
& CARING FOR THEIR PASSENGERS.

MUCH LOVE

Giorgio De Paz

Fiscal Year 2024

## Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: James H. Lan Roth III

Email Address: James.H.LanRoth@maui.net

I've been on Molokai 15 years  
and, Thank You is a understatement.

In regards for myself. To know  
that these programs exists here  
is self explanatory because of the  
medical transportation without  
regards for payments for anyone  
from anyone is... I'm speechless  
most importantly, for advice,  
from a dime .10¢ to a \$1.00, really  
doesn't buy anything singultory..  
alas at the end of the day it  
adds up for everyone on the  
island. You do not see this other  
places.

A little something is better than A11  
of nothing and adds up.

For myself, Thank You for the  
transport to woundcare, because  
if not for this and the Beautiful  
n. in charge there, I wa't not have →



my legs.

Again, I thank you is quiet the understatement.

J M Sanketh

## BFED Committee

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**From:** Jeff Gilbreath <jeff@hawaiiancommunity.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 13, 2023 1:58 PM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Cc:** Chelsie Evans  
**Subject:** Maui County FY2024 Budget Recommendations - HCA and HCL  
**Attachments:** FY2024 Budget Recommendations - Maui County.pdf  
  
**Importance:** High

You don't often get email from jeff@hawaiiancommunity.net. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee,

Please find our budget recommendations for Fiscal Year 2024 attached. The recommendations are related to the priorities in the Maui County Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan that was funded by the Office of Council Services and released July 2021. Feel free to contact us should you have any questions.

Mahalo for your leadership and consideration,

**Jeff Gilbreath** (*he/him/his*) ([what's this?](#))

Executive Director

Hawaii Community Lending

Direct: 808-587-7653

Main: 808-587-7656

TTY: 877-477-5990

Fax Direct: 808-628-6879

Web: [www.HawaiiCommunityLending.com](http://www.HawaiiCommunityLending.com)



**Hawaii Community Lending** is a 501c3 nonprofit Native community development financial institution that increases access to credit and capital for the economic self-sufficiency of underserved Hawaii residents with a particular focus on Native Hawaiians.

Please consider the environment before printing this email

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April 13, 2023

Lehua Cosma

Hui Laulima O Hana

P. o. BOX 218 Hana, HI 96713

Dear Maui County Council Members of the FY 2024 Budget

Aloha,

My name is Lehua Cosma and I submit my written testimony wearing two hats. As an active and committed member of the Hana Community, and the Executive Director of The Hana Dialysis Home.

This letter is with reference to the budget meeting that was recently held in Hana. I am writing to thank you for your time in considering my testimony as the only Parks & Recreation in Hana with no Playground for our children at Paani Mai Park. Families endure the 2 hours drive to the nearest playground in Haiku or Kula just so their Keiki can play on the playground is simply not fair. Hana for many years lack so many programs and services when it comes to Parks & Recreation. We are taxpayers as well who should be considered part of Maui County. Please support Hana in the FY 2024 budget and the following Nonprofits, Hui Laulima O Hana, MEO, Hale Hulu Mamo, Hana Youth Center, Ohana Makamae, Kipahulu Ohana, Ma Ka Hana Ka Ike, & Ke Ao Ali'i.

The Hana Dialysis Home Program under the nonprofit Hui Laulima O Hana would like to thank the Maui County Council, Grants Division and Management Lori Tshako, Curtis Jamison and Nani Lay for supporting the Nation's, First of its kind Communal Dialysis Home.

Since 2009 till present we have served more than 18 patients over the years. Most have passed but were able to extend their lives remaining home and receiving the quality of life by not having to travel the long trips of 4 hours to the nearest Dialysis center in Wailuku. Which has taken its toll on their health and well-being.

Today we have four patients and two certified and trained dialysis Technicians who provide the utmost care to lived ones on dialysis. We rely on grant monies from the Maui County for payroll, utilities, and not to mention the high cost of general liability insurance of more than 10,000.00 which is hindering to our budget. We do fundrasing on site with a small thrift store where items are donated to our nonprofit

and manage by two Kupuna volunteers. We do not charge for items sold and accept only donation. Funds go toward the Hana Dialysis Program and at the same time helps the Hana Community who are struggling in these hard times. We have also provided blankets, towels, beddings, Clothes and household items to the Red Cross. Tourist from all over the world stops by and support the mission of Hui Laulima O Hana and interested in our model of having their own communal dialysis home in their own isolated & remote Community. I am a volunteer Executive Director a Board Member and also the Founder of our Nonprofit. I want to expressed my sincere gratitude and appreciation for your past support and hope you will consider and continue to support our Hana Dialysis Home Program, as we are the only unduplicated nonprofit serving dialysis patients living in East-Maui.

Once again, a very warm thank you from my team and me at **Hui Laulima O Hana**

Sincerely,

Lehua Cosma

Executive Director



April 13, 2023

**RE: FY2024 County of Maui Budget Recommendations**

Aloha e Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee,

I am writing on behalf of Hawaiian Community Assets, Inc (HCA) and Hawaii Community Lending, Inc (HCL) to provide recommendations for the County of Maui Fiscal Year 2024 budget. The following recommendations are related to the priorities in the Maui County Comprehensive Affordable Housing Plan that was funded by the Office of Council Services and released July 2021.

- 1. Increase Capacity at Department of Housing and Human Concerns.** As shared during our presentation on the final housing plan and more recently on February 28, 2023 to the Affordable Housing and Land Use Committee, the County of Maui Department of Housing and Human Concerns (DHHC) lacks the capacity to deliver affordable housing to our local people.

When released in July 2021, the County housing plan identified a lack of capacity within the current affordable housing system as a major barrier in achieving the goal of 5,000 homes targeting households under 120% AMI in the next 5 years. This included a lack of capacity among builders, community development nonprofits, County Councilmembers, and within the DHHC. The plan called for more staffing at the DHHC so they could move County lands into production and coordinate the build of 1,302 new rental and for-sale units for local families, the establishment and funding of public-private partnerships, and education of key stakeholders - all to increase our collective capacity to reach the 5,000-home goal.

Despite these recommendations and the ever-increasing need for housing among our people, only 675 homes have gone into construction since July 2021. It appears DHHC has taken no apparent action on moving County lands, including properties on Lanai, in Central Maui, and in South Maui, into production for housing since the plan was completed. Requests for proposals and new grants remain unreleased, leaving millions of dollars on the table that could provide the critical education and capital families need to move into homes and to prevent foreclosure.

Delays in housing production, as well as funding out of the Affordable Housing Fund and other housing programs such as the Homeowner Assistance Fund, are due, in part, to the fact that the DHHC maintains a staff of approximately 8 full-time positions as compared to Hawaii County's 51 full-time positions, despite their similar population sizes.

**Our organizations recommend to fund the DHHC to create a staffing plan that will ensure they are able to hire and retain the expertise needed to meet the demand for housing among our County residents.**

**Furthermore, additional funding should be committed to hire and maintain experts to establish the new Department of Housing so it can be proactive on housing development when they open their doors on July 1, 2024.**

2. **Ensure Access to HUD Housing Counseling to Comply with Bill 111.** During the last legislative session, the County Council passed a series of bills to ensure our local people have access to affordable rentals and for-sale homes. One such bill included Bill 111 which requires the County to establish and maintain an affordable housing list consisting of local residents who are required to complete HUD housing counseling. HUD housing counseling is offered by nonprofits located on Maui. Certificates of completion from HUD housing counseling qualify individuals and households for public assistance such as Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers and Federal mortgage programs requiring as little as 0% down. Furthermore, HUD housing counseling agencies promote fair lending laws by being required to refer homebuyers to a minimum of 3 lenders once they have reached the financial capacity to qualify for a mortgage.

**To ensure compliance with Bill 111 for the establishment and maintenance of an affordable housing waitlist, our organizations recommend the DHHC receives a minimum of \$750,000 in funding to enter into fee-for-service contracts directly with on-island, nonprofit HUD housing counseling agencies in order to serve local residents on the affordable housing list with these services, now required by County code.**

3. **Fund Deferred Payment Loans and Individual Development Accounts.** In the Fiscal Year 2023 budget, the County Council ensured \$2 million and \$250,000 in funding for Deferred Payment Loans and Individual Development Accounts, respectively. The funds were passed through to Hawaii Community Foundation (HCF) for administration. At the end of December 2022, HCL had applied through a Request for Qualifications to be the program manager for the Deferred Payment Loan program, while HCA and Hale Mahaolu applied through a Request for Qualifications to be program managers of the Individual Development Accounts. The two programs are standard tools used by community development nonprofits and affordable housing systems across the nation to target affordability for low-income homebuyers by providing the capital necessary to mortgage qualify and purchase a home.

HCL, HCA, and Hale Mahaolu chosen as program managers for the programs in 2022 and funding is pending DHHC review and approval before funds will be released to HCF. In anticipation of County funds to be released at some point in 2023, our organizations reached out to developers with 2.96 and 2.97 obligations and homebuyers enrolled at the Maui Financial Opportunity Center. We determined there is a demand for \$13.2 million in Deferred Payment Loans and \$750,000 in Individual Development Account match funds.

**Our organizations recommend the County fund \$13.2 million in Deferred Payment Loans and \$750,000 in Individual Development Accounts to be administered by the DHHC or contracted nonprofits.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our recommendations for the Fiscal Year 2024 County of Maui budget. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact HCL Executive Director, Jeff Gilbreath, at 808.587.7653 or [jeff@hawaiiancommunity.net](mailto:jeff@hawaiiancommunity.net).

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Gilbreath". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jeff" written in a smaller, more compact script than the last name "Gilbreath".

Jeff Gilbreath  
Executive Director  
Hawaii Community Lending