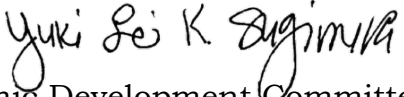


April 17, 2023

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: **PUKALANI-KULA-‘ULUPALAKUA RESIDENCY AREA MEETING
REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR (“FY”) 2024 BUDGET** (BFED-1)

On April 12, 2023, the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee held a public meeting in Makawao regarding the proposed FY 2024 Budget.

The following persons testified:

1. Ten people testified in support of Maui Hui Malama which provides students with activities such as art, foreign language education, cooking, civic engagement, gardening, field trips, job shadowing, and tutoring.
2. Twenty people testified in support of continued and increased funding for Maui Economic Development Board STEM programs which educate, engage, and inspire children, and potentially provide much-needed talent for high-demand areas of Maui’s workforce, including engineers.
3. Five people requested an additional \$25,000 for Hui No‘eau Visual Arts Center Youth and Family Visual Arts program to expand outreach and supported the \$50,000 included in the FY 2024 Budget for the Art with Aloha program.
4. Three individuals testified in support of continued funding for the Boys & Girls Club of Maui. One testifier reported that the organization serves over 200 youth per day; increases graduation rates; develops leadership skills; offers STEM education, teen nights, outdoor sports, and recreational activities; and provides a safe space for club members.
5. One person testified in support of Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows, a community-based program designed to identify and train future

leaders in Maui County, while offering opportunities for participants to network and establish connections.

6. Two testifiers spoke in support of Maui School Garden Network, which has merged with Grow Some Good, and requested an additional \$25,000 in funding for a total of \$125,000. The preschool and garden programs are expanding, and the organizations have partnered with Maui Family YMCA to develop a community agroforest program. One testifier shared that plants grown by students in the classroom produce food that is then donated to local nonprofits serving houseless populations.
7. Two people testified in support of Maui YMCA.
8. Four people testified in support of the Kekaulike High School Foundation, which promotes programs within the Baldwin-Kekaulike-Maui Complex and provides scholarships to students and grants to teachers.
9. One individual advocated for Hawaiian cultural and native plant educational programs.
10. Seven individuals expressed support and requested increased funding for MEO's programs, including Head Start, Youth Services, Community Services, and the Agricultural Micro Grants Program. Two testifiers spoke about the necessity and success of the B.E.S.T. Reintegration Program that provides support services to prepare inmates for a successful transition back into the community upon release from incarceration.
11. One individual testified in support of Maui Youth & Family Services' intensive inpatient and outpatient counseling for at-risk youth struggling with substance abuse and behavioral challenges. The program also provides transportation and meals for clients.
12. One testifier requested new funding for Spirit Horse Ranch, which uses equine therapy to help adolescent and teen abuse survivors heal from trauma and mental health issues.
13. One individual expressed support for Aloha House, a substance abuse residential treatment program, and referenced the agency's

high client success rate. The testifier mentioned that poor mental health and substance abuse can lead to houselessness.

14. One person testified in support of Malama Family Recovery Center, the only facility on Maui that allows children to reside with their mothers while recovering from substance use disorders. The program supports all areas of need, including one-on-one therapy, childcare, transportation, and assistance with applying for social services and employment.
15. Four testifiers spoke about the need for locally-produced compost. Farmers heavily rely on compost and Kihei Compost, the only composting facility on Maui, is closing temporarily. Testifiers noted concerns about green waste not being diverted from landfills, lack of availability of an important resource to farmers, increased costs to farmers, and the increased risk of invasive species created by imported compost. Two individuals requested additional funding for West Maui Greencycle and waste diversion.
16. One person advocated for help for low-income, disabled farmers, including a higher disability tax exemption.
17. One testifier sought continued support for the Maui Coffee Association, under the Maui County Farm Bureau budget item. Managing coffee rust and the coffeeberry borer beetle have been challenging for coffee farmers.
18. Two people testified in favor of continued or increased support for Maui Invasive Species Committee, emphasizing that early detection and rapid response are most effective against invasive species.
19. One individual requested continued support for Mauna Kahalawai Watershed Partnership to protect watersheds from threats including invasive species such as strawberry guava, Himalayan ginger, axis deer, and pigs.
20. Three people testified in support of the Department of Agriculture's budget for feral animal management, including axis deer control. Two testifiers cited the need for fencing and axis deer control to prevent further ungulate damage to Hāli'imaile Pineapple Company's fields.

21. One person requested increased funding for all conservation groups and advocated for accelerating environmental restoration, claiming mental, physical, and spiritual health are all impacted.
22. One person testified in support of continued funding for Habitat for Humanity's A Brush with Kindness Program which provides no-cost safety repairs and retrofits to low-income kūpuna and disabled homeowners.
23. One person requested funding for architectural drawings for a planned kūpuna daycare center at the proposed Kēōkea Homestead Farm Lots Association Community Center. The project could also include a healing center, school, and native plant garden.
24. One individual stressed the importance of funding for affordable housing, including senior housing.
25. One testifier requested priority for flood control and mitigation from Haleakalā to Kīhei and Mā'alaea.
26. Six people submitted written testimony requesting additional pickleball facilities in the Upcountry area.
27. One person requested lowering water usage rates for multifamily condo and apartment complexes to be comparable to single-family residences.
28. One testifier spoke in favor of Kula Community Association's budget priorities. The requests for funds not specified above, include: 1) acquiring the land under the Kula Community Center and grounds as the lease is coming to an end; 2) supporting the Upcountry water system reliability project; 3) supporting Upcountry agriculture, including the expanded Kula Agricultural Park; 4) constructing and maintaining a firebreak barrier makai of the residences in lower Kula and for additional firefighting equipment and water-conserving reservoirs on Mahi Pono land; 5) establishing a recycling site in the Kula area; 6) implementing the Upcountry Greenways Master Plan; 7) completing high-priority road projects; and 8) constructing a connector sidewalk near Haleakalā Waldorf School.

29. One individual requested different flight paths for airplanes, more parking at Ho‘okipa Beach Park, and road widening to accommodate pedestrians and bicycles.
30. In addition, one individual submitted written testimony in support of continued funding for Malama Hamakua Maui (Hā‘iku).

For questions relating to the Pukalani-Kula-‘Ulupalakua residency area meeting, please contact Richard Mitchell, Ellen McKinley, Pauline Martins, 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.