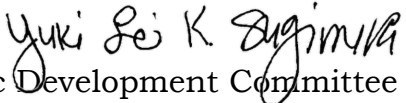


April 18, 2023

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: **LANA'I RESIDENCY AREA MEETING REGARDING THE FISCAL
YEAR ("FY") 2024 BUDGET (BFED-1)**

On April 13, 2023, the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee held a public meeting on Lana'i regarding the proposed FY 2024 Budget.

The following persons testified:

1. Twelve individuals, including a former County Councilmember, expressed overwhelming support on the need for affordable housing on Lana'i. Individuals suggested several ideas to build affordable housing, one being to use the 115 acres of County-owned land. One individual requested that a Request for Proposals (RFP) be used. Another recommended enacting a Charter amendment to pass a land management proposal with regards to affordable housing, similar to the City and County of Honolulu. Several individuals also requested that affordable housing should be considered for kūpuna, noting that the only senior housing available is Hale Kupuna O Lana'i.
2. Eleven individuals testified in support of funding Lana'i Kina'ole. Lana'i Kina'ole is a nonprofit home healthcare agency that aims to provide in-home supportive services and medical assistance for kūpuna. One testifier noted that Lana'i Kina'ole has plans to create an adult daycare facility and requested that the Mayor issue an RFP. Two individuals also sent in written testimony in support of the agency.
3. The Executive Director of the Lana'i Academy of Performing Arts (LAPA) and six individuals overwhelmingly supported the LAPA program. LAPA has offered classes in dance, scriptwriting, filmmaking, songwriting, and acting. The organization has put on

numerous theatrical productions and musicals, providing an alternative activity to those who may not participate in sports. Participants and families have commended the program for allowing creative expression, giving kids a sense of belonging, as well as building self-confidence and combatting public anxiety. The Executive Director expressed concerns about the lack of space for production and suggested a community theatre or facility for live performance space to be considered on the 115 acres of land owned by the County. In addition, the Executive Director also requested \$10,000 in funding for travel expenses to Maui for students to attend a collaborative event with the Maui Academy of Performing Arts. Two individuals submitted written testimony in support of LAPA.

4. Five individuals requested support and funds to finish the construction of a field house on Lana‘i. One individual requested that \$79,000 in funding should be considered to fix the construction’s faulty design. In the individual’s testimony, a metal roof extension was required to prevent leaks, and reinforce a gutter system and fencing. A former Councilmember stated that the field house is a worthy project that provides physical and mental help, and recreational activities. One person also submitted written testimony in support.
5. Four individuals expressed support to improve road access and infrastructure. Individuals noted that certain roads have potholes and a lack of sidewalks, raising safety concerns for pedestrians. Two individuals suggested the implementation of speed tables on Fraser and Lana‘i Avenues. Further, two individuals requested improvements to the beach access road to Hulopo‘e Beach Park, noting that the road is not wide enough and that there is no pedestrian walkway. Two individuals also provided written testimony in favor of improved roadways.
6. Four individuals, including the Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) Lana‘i Branch manager, testified in support of continued funding for MEO’s transportation services. The manager expressed support to construct a new office building to provide additional storage space for food bank donations. One individual supported additional bus driver positions and pay raises.

7. The Director of E Malama I Na Keiki O Lana‘i Preschool testified in support of the Maui Family Support Services grant. The use of County funds for the program provides financial assistance for families to give children the opportunity to attend preschool, increasing early learning and child development. Three individuals submitted written testimony in support.
8. Three individuals, including the President of the Lana‘i Farmers Union, supported the creation of an agricultural park, farmers’ market, and community kitchen on the island. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lana‘i’s only farmers’ market was shut down, leading to an unreliable food hub and community gathering place. Providing all three suggestions would promote community engagement and pride in local agriculture. One testifier also expressed individual support for the agricultural park.
9. Three individuals testified in support of continued funding for the Maui Economic Development Board’s STEMworks program. The STEMworks program has helped teachers and students by increasing opportunity and access to education. Two individuals also provided written testimony in support of the program.
10. Two individuals testified in support of a skate park on Lana‘i. There is currently no skate park on the island, but building one would provide an opportunity for the public to skate safely.
11. Three individuals testified in support of the Coalition for a Drug Free Lana‘i Youth Mentoring Program. The program is aimed at preventing delinquency and educating Lana‘i youth on drug and alcohol awareness. One resident requested \$50,000 for the program.
12. The President of the Lana‘i Community Association (LCA) and three individuals testified in support of its nonprofit organization. The LCA primarily focuses on the youth and elderly, similar to United Way. The association has provided scholarships for students and notes that it has sponsored two major activities in the community: the Christmas Tree Lighting and the annual Lana‘i Pineapple Festival. The President noted that the LCA currently has a \$38,000 grant and has requested for \$40,000 in funds. In addition, one individual provided written testimony in support.

13. The Executive Director of the Lana‘i Cat Sanctuary and one individual testified in support. The original purpose of the sanctuary was to protect cats and endangered birds, but has now expanded to include medical care to cats. The Executive Director noted that while the sanctuary is not funded by the County, they will accept financial support in any way.
14. The Committee received testimony from three individuals in support of a multi-purpose facility for the community. The multi-purpose facility would allow for social gatherings, such as parties or celebrations, to be held. One individual suggested that the multi-purpose facility or center can also benefit LAPA by including a larger space for a stage.
15. Two individuals expressed concerns about where their tax dollars go. Instead, the individuals would like to see their taxes go toward funding recreational activities for youth and kūpuna.
16. Two individuals expressed general support to providing mental health and senior care to locals. One individual expressed support of Lana‘i Community Hospital.
17. One individual testified in support of a dog park on the island, specifically in a space near the Kanepu‘u and Iwiolo complexes. In her testimony, she requested two sections for the proposed park: one section for large dogs and one section for small dogs. The testifier noted that there are 211 families that currently own dogs, and that the number of dog owners is increasing on the island. Dog parks are known to improve dog socialization and provides pets more freedom to move and play.
18. One individual testified in support of centralizing a mechanic shop on Lana‘i. The individual noted that a crew of mechanics must be flown over from Maui to fix equipment.
19. One individual expressed support for community-based subsistence fishing area designations.
20. One individual provided written testimony in support of Hawaii Farmers Union United. HFUU features a farm apprentice mentoring program that helps empower young farmers by providing them the

opportunity to learn sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices to increase food security in Hawaii. Further, the individual supported the Hawaii Farmers Union Foundation, a nonprofit organization that aims to support farmers across the State to build a coalition among the agricultural community.

21. The president of the Kula Community Association submitted written testimony with clarifying comments on firebreaks. In her testimony, she requested establishing firebreaks on land owned by Alexander & Baldwin, Mahi Pono, Haleakala Ranch, and Kaonoulu Ranch. In addition, she requested \$25,000 be added to either the Maui Emergency Management Agency or Department of Fire and Public Safety budgets.

For questions relating to the Lanaʻi residency area meeting, please contact Jarret Pascual, Shelly Espeleta, Clarita Balala, or Jocelyn Moniz. 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.