

Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-04-18 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 04-18-23 09:00

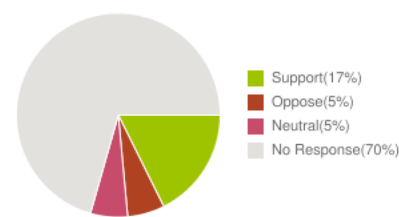
eComments Report

Meetings	Meeting Time	Agenda Items	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-04-18 9:00 AM	04-18-23 09:00	2	17	3	1	1

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

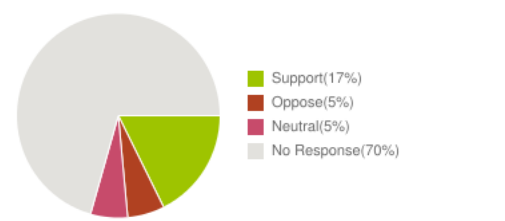


Agenda Name	Comments	Support	Oppose	Neutral
A G E N D A	3	2	1	0
BFED-1 FY 2024 PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1)	14	1	0	1

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

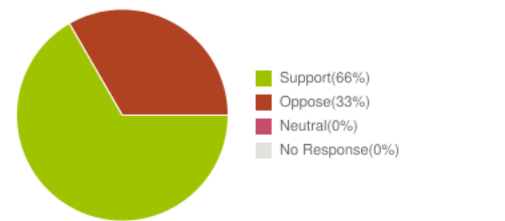
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 8:34pm 04-17-23

My name is Ali McKeon Pineo and I am the co-artistic director for Adaptations Dance Theater (ADT). I'd like to begin by offering my sincere gratitude to the County of Maui for including ADT in its budget for 2023 and 2024.

I am a born and raised Wailuku girl who has recently returned back home after 13 years of living in California. I moved off island in 2007 to attend university and to later, dance professionally with a ballet company in the Bay Area. I visited home often, in large part due to the opportunities provided by ADT and their signature Bring it Home vision, which aims to provide a professional dance home to contemporary dancers on Maui and to literally, bring home Maui-bred dancers and choreographers currently pursuing professional dance careers on the mainland. Choreographing new works and performing for the Bring it Home concert has been the highlight of my professional career. Those experiences affirmed my deep yearning to move back home, to be near family, and to continue making art with and for the vibrant, ever-evolving Maui community that raised me.

One year after moving back, I was asked to join the artistic team as co-artistic director, and hope to perpetuate this company's mission to cultivate a space for high level contemporary dance work on Maui. As ADT comes up on its ten year anniversary, we strive to continue to bring compelling, meaningful dance work and educational programming to the diverse Maui community. We remain grounded in and inspired by our mission to bring Maui dancers home in hopes that someday, they too can envision moving back, knowing their artistic lives will flourish here. Thank you for supporting our work to keep our community in-tact through dancemaking.

Sincerely, Ali McKeon Pineo Co-Artistic Director, Adaptations Dance Theater

Thomas Gianneschi

Location:

Submitted At: 3:57pm 04-17-23

Comments on Animal Management Budget - Please find attached comments on the Animal Management Budget Request

Kristine Musto

Location:

Submitted At: 11:11am 04-17-23

Kris Musto <kristinemusto@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 5, 11:09_AM (12 days ago)

to nohe.uu-hodgins

Aloha BFED Committee,

I hope you're familiar with Upcountry Strong, Inc. but in case you're not, I'd like to give you a quick update on our non-profit.

What started as a grass-roots effort between neighbors in Makawao to support our community during the pandemic, quickly turned into a movement. Established in 2020, Upcountry Strong, Inc. set out to address the issue of food insecurity faced by residents of Upcountry Maui during the Covid-19 pandemic. The areas served include Makawao, Pukalani, Haliimaile, Kula, Ulupalakua, Haiku, Paia, and all the way to Hana. _

While our initial efforts were a direct response to the pandemic, we quickly became aware that the issue of food insecurity was not new to our community. The need is on-going and we are committed to try and continue our food support efforts but we face the challenge of sustaining these efforts due to the lack of financial resources.

To date, we've had 17 food distributions at Oskie Rice Arena and have fed over 3,400 families with approximately 85,000 pounds of food including fresh meat, fresh produce, and non-perishable items.

During the pandemic, much of the supplies were donated from The Maui Food Bank, Haleakala Ranch, and various other businesses. Unfortunately, this is no longer the case and we are left to purchase most of the items that we provide in our food boxes. Thankfully we are able to purchase the items at cost but each event is roughly costing us a minimum of \$5,200. With our current budget, we've had to adjust from our usual (8-9) events to now only (6). Our current finances just barely be able to fulfill these (6) events planned for 2023.

I wanted to share the information below to give you an idea of the typical beneficiaries of the program:

Here's a breakdown of recipients by area/age from our February 2023 distribution:

96768 & 96788-over 65%

96790-14.9%

96708-13.2%

96779 & 96713-small portion

adults served (18+)-469

children served (under 18)-285

Just a couple notes to point out:

We had 76 new registrations at the last distribution in February.

We are seeing an increase in our Kupuna at these distributions.

Due to our current financial situation and our hopes to continue on our mission, we are humbly asking for you to consider sponsoring our efforts in the 2024 budget. I am available to answer any question you may have. Please feel free to reach out at your convenience.

With gratitude,

_Kristine Musto, Co-founder & cVice President

Upcountry Strong, Inc.

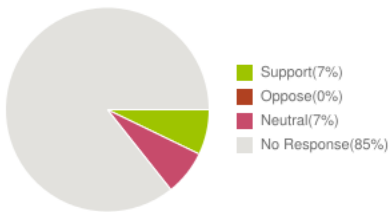
808.870.0553-direct

kristinemusto@gmail.com

www.UpcountryStrong.org

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: 1:27pm 04-18-23

Aloha my name is Victoria Kaluna-Palafox I live in lahaina. I am a board member of Malama Kakaniloha a group that has dedicated ourselves in the protection of Iwi Kupuna, aina and water.

My testimony is in support for the budget that has been aside for the caring of Waiale Area of Maui Lani.

We have advocated for the Maui Lani protection of iwi kupuna for almost 15 years. We have brought awareness to the community by holding viduals, gathering of community in creating a Lei of Aloha that surrounded the iwi kupuna in phase 6, we have carried our leo for support in the building of knowledge and wisdom with open conversations with all communities wherever we are and to educate of the history old maps to give understanding of how culturally and through historical events this area is. Example: My ohana is Napel (k) he was a elder of the lds church and heirs 1 kupuna D. Napela was a school teacher on Kahoolawe til they were displaced and continued to teach and a Kupuna was governor of maui.

So, these are stories after the battle of Kakaniloha and the area of where Kahekili over see the battle. We continue to share more abroad today with other Indigenous communities. We have already done proper protocol of reinternment there in Waiale, with members of Puukohola where are training and understanding has grown I for myself and my husband attend papa for 15 or so years with Kumu Kuponoai Molitau just to help with clarity and teaching comes from.

With this I thank you all for this opportunity to share with you a group that carries good intentions from their ano and has been donating their time and efforts and keni keno all with no hesitation. But to have the gift of Aloha to support Waiale in the area of Maui Lani is so important to strengthen the people with knowledge and

understanding with good intentions makes for a stronger and happier people and village. Again mahalo nui ke akua pu

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:20am 04-18-23

Epic Swim Maui Teaser

<https://vimeo.com/user191529870>

Robert Seeger

robbyseegermaui@gmail.com

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 8:19am 04-18-23

I am writing in support of the mayor's line item of \$25,000 for . My name is Susana Browne, and I am a 40-year resident of Maui with 35 years' experience in education and the arts. I am also a board member of ADT and have been following them for over 10 years when they became the only home-grown contemporary dance company on Maui. Not only are these Maui dancers highly disciplined, but they are also always looking for ways to reach a wider audience and inspire our youth to pursue dance as either a career or a creative expression. An all-too-common phenomena is "brain drain," where our talented and educated youth leave the islands to pursue careers on the mainland. One of ADT's goals is to prevent that by providing a home on Maui for professional dance artists. Since 2018, the Bring it Home performance has brought Maui raised dancers who are living on the mainland back to present culturally relevant and creative dance to an enthusiastic audience. The program inspires our young people to continue their dreams of being a professional dancer and demonstrates the importance of investing in our own Maui dance company. Thank you for supporting the arts in our community!

Susan Browne

BFED Committee

Location:

Submitted At: 8:18am 04-18-23

Written testimony received 04-17 to 04-18-2023

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 5:04pm 04-17-23

Dear county of Maui officials,

My name is Hallie Hunt I am Co Artistic Director and a Co Founder of Adaptations Dance Theater. I have worked for multiple arts organizations of Maui for the past 13 years, including ADT, Alexander Academy of Performing Arts, MAPA, Momentum Dance Maui and Seabury Hall. I am a huge advocate for the dance youth of Maui and encouraging them towards a career in the arts. I see the enormous talents that exists in the schools here and I feel deeply that providing them with the next step in their journey of a professional dance career is imperative to keep these astonishing young artist a part of their community or to keep the door open for them to return home and share their glorious talent with their island home.

I would like to express my gratitude for the wonderful support you have given us by including Bring it Home in the budget last year. We would be honored to be included again.

There are several reasons why it is important for Bring it Home to remain a part of the County of Maui's budget:

1. Supporting local artists: Bring it Home provides professional contemporary dance opportunities for Maui trained artists. By supporting this program, the county can help to nurture local talent and provide opportunities for them to showcase their skills.
2. Boosting the arts economy: The arts industry is a significant contributor to the local economy, generating jobs

and revenue. By supporting Bring it Home, the county can help to grow this industry and provide economic benefits for the community.

3. Community engagement: Bring it Home offers performances that engage the community and promote the arts. By supporting this program, the county can help to foster a continued sense of contemporary dance community and provide opportunities for residents to come together and enjoy live theater experiences.

4. Educational opportunities: Bring it Home also offers educational opportunities for local students, including workshops, intensives and masterclasses. Participating in Bring it Home workshops can help young dancers to build confidence in their abilities and develop a sense of professionalism. This can prepare them for future auditions and performances. By supporting this program, the county can help to provide valuable educational experiences for students and promote the importance of the arts in education. Exposure to professional performances: By attending Bring it Home performances, young dancers can see professional dancers in action and gain exposure to the world of contemporary dance. This can inspire them to pursue dance as a career and help to develop their artistic sensibilities.

Overall, by supporting Bring it Home, the County of Maui can help to promote local talent, boost the arts economy, enrich the community, engage residents, and provide educational opportunities for students. Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,
Hallie Hunt
Co Artistic Director and Co Founder

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 1:29pm 04-17-23

Aloha Council,

For testimony this Tuesday, we would like to have this video played to illustrate our project:

<https://vimeo.com/785456220>

Kainoa Horcajio will be present at the meeting, and will be able to address the question raised by Councilwomen Kama.

Mahalo nui,
Kainoa Horcajio

BFED Committee

Location:
Submitted At: 8:09am 04-13-23

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 Interior 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 Pukalani STEMworks AFTERSchool program to purchase two 3D printers that replaced an old outdated 3D printer. The classes, the resources used, and the new opportunities for our keiki to reach higher goals were made possible because of MEDB.

Mahalo for allowing me to share.
Evelyn Suzuki

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 12:24pm 04-12-23

I am Danyel Erickson and I am testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development. The MEDB has helped me support students in Elementary and Middle school this year. I created a science club for the Elementary school and was able to use the STEMworks lending library to access many resources from iPads to VR sets and beyond. The MEDB also organized for me to take 17 elementary and middle school students to the AMOS conference where they were able to meet a real life astronaut, engage in hands on projects such as a flight simulator and talk to experts in the astronomy and aerospace field. MEDB paid for me to participate in the CODE.org professional development course where I gained the knowledge and skills to implement computer science into my classroom of fifth grade students. Without their wonderful support, my journey to contact the International Space Station would not have been as successful.

Thank you,

Danyel Erickson
Fifth Grade Teacher
Lanai High and Elementary School

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:37pm 04-11-23

Aloha,

I am Ron Vilorio and I am testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development.

Three of many MEDB efforts come to mind with a smile:

- 1) AMOS Conference: World Class Space Situational Awareness Event Organizing, Support and Networking.
- 2) JUMPSmartMaui and EVOhana: Forward Thinking initiative to move Maui towards Sustainability.
- 3) Startup Weekend: Deep and intense multi-day exposure to "Startup Culture", easily accessible by Maui's Tech Community.

But the most impactful example of how MEDB has helped me through its programs and services is the STEMWorks program and how it allows small businesses like mine a mutually beneficial opportunity through internships. The networking and contacts that I've made through it are life-changing and the structured but flexible program has made the barrier of giving back to the community very low and accessible. As an entrepreneur it inspires me to see so many businesses, especially small local Maui businesses, providing useful, interesting, and exciting internships to the bright youth of our local Ohanas. I've probably learned just as much from the internships as the interns have and I've been inspired to startup other small businesses in addition to my core consulting business from projects that I wouldn't be able to undertake otherwise. With the ever changing landscape now dealing with AI, Metaverse, Robotics, etc., MEDB is a critical component to the Maui ecosystem bridging the gap from the most advanced tech companies to our precious upcoming generation of Keiki. I look forward to MEDB continuing to provide much welcome and needed programs and services for the Maui community, I am very proud personally and professionally to be part of the MEDB Community and Ohana.

Mahalo MEDB and The County of Maui for the generous support over the years!

Ron Vilorio
ReasonAbility

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:36pm 04-11-23

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 on 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 possible 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
808-214-7098

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 3:36pm 04-11-23

Aloha,

My name is Joe Breman, and I am testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development. As an entrepreneur that had my start in the tech park, I was glad to find MEDB so helpful in pairing me as a new tech business, with some customers who ended up being long term supporters to the business enabling me to manage it to fruition for over a decade. At that point I was able to sell it and turn focus to our non-profit organization, The Wisdom Center for Autism, here on island, that provides services to the autism community. Thanks for the support as we grow, and for creating ways that we can continue to collaborate in the future. We have some exciting ideas for new developments that can help Maui County, in an outdoor park and recreational space for both residents, and visitors, and look forward to ways that we can explore these further.

Mahalo,
Joe Breman

--

Joe Breman | President
The Wisdom Center Farm (808) 214-2326
PO Box 343, Haiku, HI 96708
jbreman@wisdomcenterforautism.org
<http://wisdomcenterforautism.org>

Guest User

Location:
Submitted At: 3:35pm 04-11-23

I am, Emilio Macalalad, and I am testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development.

I am a teacher at Molokai High School. MEDB is a valuable resource for teachers and students. They have provided numerous opportunities for professional development for teachers in both agriculture and STEM related activities. They have helped to fund and support our robotics program. They have helped our STEM program with classroom equipment and supplies. They have helped with teacher support with Agriculture teacher Pau Hana sessions. They have provided ongoing activities in-person and virtually for teachers and students which include Hawaii STEM Conference. Without MEDB, many of the opportunities our school has would not be possible. We

are indebted to them for how much support they have given us. Please continue to support them because in the long run, they help our students and the enhance learning experience.

--

Emilio Macalalad
Science Teacher
Molokai High School
PO Box 158/2140 Farrington Ave.
Ho'olehua, Hawaii 96729
(808) 567-7135
(808) 567-6960 Fax

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:34pm 04-11-23

Aloha,

I am Nathan Pallett, an agriculture teacher at Lahainaluna High School, and I am testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development.

The STEMworks Program has provided me with valuable classroom resources and professional development (PD) that improves my instruction in the classroom. I am also most grateful for the internships and stipends my students have received this year at various locations. They have really enjoyed them and even I have been a little jealous of the fun they have had.

Most recently, Britney James organized a (PD) on Molokai and it was an amazing experience. It was great to see another school's agriculture program and even better to visit one of the islands that is not visited as often. I learned more about the moon calendar, native plants, and management techniques from Uncle Bobby as well as other guest speakers. I feel that it would not have happened without the funding support from STEMworks and Ms James. Community partners like MEDB STEMworks and Ms James make it possible for us teachers to focus on the classroom and our students while still having opportunities for great resources and experiences.

Please continue to fully fund this grant and in doing so support our county's students and instructors.

Mahalo,
Nathan Pallett

--

Nathan Pallett
CTE- Agriculture Food and Natural Resources Teacher
Lahainaluna High School
Email: Nathan.Pallett@k12.hi.us
Office: (808) 662-4000 Ext.298

Guest User

Location:

Submitted At: 3:33pm 04-11-23

Aloha,

I am Ralph Matias, a sophomore of Lahainaluna High school, and I am testifying in support of Maui Economic Development Board's Economic Development Grant under the Maui County Office of Economic Development.

Initially, I wasn't all interested in agriculture. I had no prior experience in farming and I never liked getting myself dirty. However, with STEMwork's internship program, I've started to open up about the ways of farming. I really liked learning about the benefits of farming and how it supports our community.

I first want to thank Kaipo, my mentor, who influenced me the most about agriculture. He knew I wasn't that interested in the work but he still made it enjoyable for me. I knew he was always busy with his business life, but I

appreciated that he always made time to teach me about how amazing farming is. I also want to thank Mr. Pallett, Britney, and the STEMwork's program. It wouldn't have been possible without Mr. Pallett letting me know about the internships, Britney's invitation to them, and STEMworks creating the internships themselves. If I never knew about the internships, I would still be the high school kid who would be oblivious to the work of wonders that the community of farmers provide!

Thank you for your previous fundings into the internship program. Thank you for making them possible and providing us a stipend for our work. I hope you will continuously fund the grant so more kids like me will be enlightened about the arts of farming. Of course including the other internships that aren't about agriculture.

Mahalo,
Ralph Matias

BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 8:05 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: FW: Written testimony for MEMA Budget - Maui Search & Rescue
Attachments: MSAR FactSheet MEMA 2023Apr.pdf

From: Isa Cocallas <isa@mauisar.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2023 8:00 AM
To: herman.andaya@mauicounty.gov; County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Written testimony for MEMA Budget - Maui Search & Rescue

You don't often get email from isa@mauisar.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

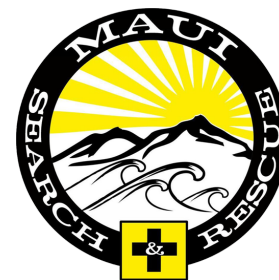
I am submitting written testimony for the Maui County Council - Budget Committee.

This is testimony from Maui Search and Rescue and our organization is listed in the MEMA budget. This document is intended for those council and committee members who may wish to have more information on our organization.

With aloha,
Isa

Isa Cocallas
Board Member At-Large
isa@mauisar.org

Maui Search and Rescue (MSAR) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity and DOES NOT CHARGE for search services. This is in line with our mission: ***“Maui Search and Rescue is a 100% volunteer organization dedicated to providing free expert search and rescue assistance and community outreach education.”*** We believe a strong sense of community starts at home and extends out to the people of Maui, both residents and visitors alike.



OVERVIEW - see following page for additional details

Founded: 2014 after the disappearance of Maui resident Charli Scott.

Organization: 501(c)(3) non-profit, all-volunteer with elected Board of Directors.
Website: mauisar.org

Financials: Funded entirely by donations and fund-raising.

Membership: 18 active human members with over 60 trained since 2014.
4 dogs with individual specialties in tracking, trailing, air-scenting, and human remains detection.
Members are screened with county & federal background check.

Activities: On average MSAR has responded to 5-6 incidents per year.

Agency Cooperation: MSAR historically cooperates and communicates with other Maui agencies, including police, fire, and houseless advocate resources. MSAR is in process of developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Maui Police Department and intends to also formalize the relationship with the Maui Fire Department. In furtherance of community involvement and a unified response MSAR supports the goals and objectives of MEMA and the Community Emergency Response Training (CERT) Program. Some MSAR members are also CERT members and MSAR supports new recruits in joining.

Intended Use of Funds: UPGRADE COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES To maximize the effective use of MSAR teams and activities, key communication technologies must be upgraded. This can include radios and satellite communications where cellular service is not available or reliable.

TRAINING & CERTIFICATIONS Provide resources (trainers & fees) for human and canine members to increase both abilities and safety. Certification programs can be multi-year endeavors. Information and resources can be shared inter-agency.

Background

MSAR was launched in response to the disappearance of Charli Scott, a pregnant young woman, who was reported missing from Haiku in February 2014. In the days immediately following her disappearance an overwhelming public response followed. It became clear that an organized community-based search and rescue organization was needed in Maui County to complement and support the official efforts of police and fire departments. MSAR members were there to coordinate volunteer search teams and K9 teams, disseminate information about the searches, and serve as a liaison between members of the family, police, fire, media and the public.

Today

MSAR currently has 18 active human members and has trained over 60 participant members since 2014. All members are screened with a county and federal background check. Members complete a 40-hour training course including 2 classroom sessions conducted weekday evenings and 4 field sessions conducted on weekends. Field personnel must pass a Backcountry Physical Test which includes hiking the equivalent of 3 miles in rough terrain in less than 1.5 hours while carrying a pack that is 20% of their body weight. All field and some support roles are required to pass three online FEMA courses and CPR & First Aid certifications. Membership skills include urban and field search, swiftwater and ropes search, intake interview, and radio operations.

MSAR has 4 active dogs (K9s) who are in constant training for specialties including tracking, trailing, air scenting, and human remains detection (HRD).

Our members purchase their own personal equipment package consisting of several sets of weather and climate appropriate clothing and utility gear costing approximately \$1,500. Our members come from all professions and backgrounds including education, legal and construction and we are pleased to have a representative cross-section of Maui giving back to the community by helping to search for missing and lost people.

On average MSAR has responded to 5-6 incidents per year. Responses may range from Intake (interview, gather & share information with agencies) to Preliminary Search to full Callout.

Agency Cooperation

MSAR supports MEMA in providing a unified response to emergencies in Maui County. MSAR works in cooperation and communication with Maui police and fire departments. To better formalize this relationship, MSAR is in the process of meeting with the Maui Police Department (MPD) to determine a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and intends to do the same with Maui Fire Department. MOUs with these departments will assist in widespread inter-department, inter-agency recognition to facilitate the sharing of information and resources when responding to a missing person event. Each agency brings both unique and overlapping skills to a response scenario. For example, MSAR interviews with family may garner different/additional information if anyone has a reluctance to discuss matters with uniformed officers. MSAR members are trained and versed in intensive ground searches in areas that may not be as accessible to some other agency personnel. Maui and MEMA need all resources available during emergencies and MSAR brings additional capabilities to this cooperative body.

BFED Committee

From: Lee Imada <lee.imada@meoinc.org>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2023 9:19 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Budget Testimony on MEO Transportation
Attachments: Kihei Youth Center MEO Testimony FY 24.pdf; Ka Ipu Kukui.pdf; MADCC.pdf; B&G Clubs of Maui.pdf

To the BFED Committee.

I have been sending written testimony through the main County Council email (county.council@mauicounty.us). Since the testimony was being referred to the BFED Committee, decided to email directly to the committee.

Please let me know if I am doing this correctly and could someone confirm receipt of the testimony?

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

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

Confidentiality Note: This e-mail is intended only for the person or entity to which it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged. Distribution or copying of this e-mail or the information herein by anyone other than the intended recipient, or any employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, is prohibited. If you have received this e-mail in error, please contact the sender and destroy.

Fiscal Year 2024

Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: MEOTransportation

Name: Margie Dela Cruz

Email Address: margie@madcc.org

I am writing in support of MEO Transportation. The MEO Transportation program is been providing transportation services to our clients to and from Maui Adult Day Care Centers for almost 50 years. Not only do they provide transportation for us but to a very large number of people on Maui from different backgrounds and needs. As the numbers of our seniors and elderly population continue to grow so as the need for transportation services. More and more of our clients are requiring specialized transportation and these clients would be left unattended at home in unsafe conditions if it were not for the generosity of MEO and the transportation services they provide our community. We need to support the needs of these seniors to be able live well and be part of the community to enjoy the remaining years of their lives.

Maui Adult Day Care Centers is deeply grateful to MEO for all they do to help meet the needs of our clients and the Maui community, and we are sincerely grateful to you for your favorable consideration of our request to support MEO's funding for this upcoming budget.

Kihei Youth Center

Since 1983

kiheiyouthcenteronmaui@yahoo.com

March 31, 2023

County of Maui

Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee

Dear BFED Chair Sugimura and Vice-Chair Kama,

On behalf of the Kihei Youth Center, this letter is in support of the MEO Youth Transportation and their request for funding for the upcoming FY 2024.

We have been a recipient of MEO's Youth Transportation services for many years. Along with our board of directors, our youth members, their families, we are very grateful for the service that they have provided and continue to provide for our youth members and all the youth of Maui Nui.

MEO Youth Transportation, and all their other transportation services they provide, are such a vital link to the community, from keiki to kupuna. It is like a lifeline to so many people who would otherwise not be able to get around to their services, so it is without a doubt that we rally to support MEO and its transportation services in general and ask you to **please grant MEO their request for both the Youth Transportation services and their other transportation services that they provide to Maui County for the upcoming FY 2024.**

Mahalo nui loa,


Lehuani Huddleston-Hafoka, Executive Director

Kihei Youth Center
Serving Maui Since 1983

4/12/2023

Aloha e Maui County Council,

I am writing in favor of Maui Economic Opportunity's (MEO) financial support from the County. My name is Charen Kepler and I am the Executive Director for Ka Ipu Kukui. MEO has been a loyal and key non-profit on Maui for many years. They have provided necessary gaps in services our residents need that I have personally experienced.

My first interaction with MEO was back in my elementary years when the "MEO Bus" would provide transportation to several of my special needs classmates. Coming from a single parent home, I understood at a young age the challenges parents can face in getting their children to and from school and activities and I thought then, as I do now, that MEO was a wonderful organization caring for the keiki.

In my high school years, I learned that MEO also provided services to kupuna when my grandmother needed transportation to certain doctor's appointments. While my mother was at work and I was in school, we were certain that "Apo" would be well taken care of by MEO staff assisting us in keeping her appointments.

And now, as a working professional, I have seen the many ways MEO continues to support Maui Nui by interacting with current staff and following their social media posts. Most recently, MEO provided necessary transportation for the current Ka Ipu Kukui cohort for one of this year's monthly meetings. We were so grateful for this support as it helped to keep our operational expenses down and aided in the fellows' experience and camaraderie of riding together in the same vehicle. This became a highlight of the day.

I cannot thank the County and County Council enough for supporting MEO in the past, and ask that you continue to provide them with financial assistance to continue their legacy of helping Maui Nui in ways that are necessary and appreciated.

Mahalo piha,



Charen Kepler
Executive Director
Ka Ipu Kukui

<https://kaipukukuifellows.org>

(808) 205-8069

Fiscal Year 2024

Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui

Name: Thomas Daya

Email Address: thomasd@bgcmaui.org

Aloha County of Maui,

MEO provides a variety of critical services to our community. It is with gratitude that I write a testimony in support of MEO and their Transportation services. Monday through Friday, after school and on school out days, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui serves youth ages 9-17, when they are most at risk and unsupervised. At Clubs we provide our members with programs and activities to contribute to their development and safety. MEO is an essential partner in making this possible by providing safe transportation to and from our Clubhouses. This happens Monday-Friday when Clubs are open, whether it be after school and back home at the end of the day or when schools are out and members need a ride to and from Club. So many of our members would not have a safe, fun and positive place to go without the Boys & Girls Clubs, and without MEO, they would not have the means to get there. MEO works alongside us to ensure the safety and development of our members and we are extremely grateful for that. This service is provided free to our members, which is a huge help for families who may not be able to afford or accommodate transportation to the Boys & Girls Clubs. Thank you County of Maui for all you do to support both Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui and MEO transportation, it makes all the difference and is an investment in the lives of our young people, their families, and community.

Mahalo,

Thomas Daya
Director of Operations
Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui

To: Maui County Council

April 17, 2023

From: Thomas Gianneschi, 61 Pihaa St. Lahaina, 96761

RE: 2024 Maui County Budget – Animal Management

Mahalo to the Council for your accomplishments in the 2023 budget. Council can take pride in adjusting real property tax rates to reflect the impact non-owner occupied investment properties have in fueling price increases. I would welcome your consideration of additional rate increases for this class of ownership.

Another area I think should be addressed through the budget is The Animal Management program administered by the Maui Humane Society.

Program Management

The important issue not addressed in their funding request is how do they achieve a humane animal management program in an island ecology where established invasive species and disease are slowly obliterating the natural environment. The record shows MHS can do well at adoptions, enforcing animal cruelty law and picking up strays. Recently they have initiated efforts at providing support for pet owners in need to reduce the number of pets arriving at MHS for adoption. All activities most would support. But there is a serious conflict of goals when it comes to managing invasive pet species.

Specifically, MHS is wed to the Mainland policy of Trap, Neuter, Return (TNR) for outdoor cats. On its present course TNR results in an ever increasing outdoor cat population while continuing the destruction of our endemic species. TNR proponents always promise an “eventual” reduction of feral numbers “sometime” in the future. The reality is TNR facilitates a warehousing of unwanted pets both at MHS and spread throughout the island in the form of neighborhood and rural cat colonies. Consequently, these colonies continuously grow the population by attracting abandoned and feral animals to groups where they then mate and provide us with an unending wave of new cats to care for. Program sponsored spay and neuter activity has no chance of keeping up with the pace of newborns.

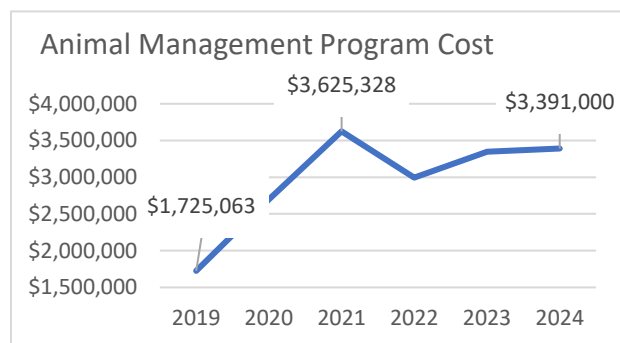
MHS TNR-centric enforcement policies promote the growth of outdoor cat populations. MHS will not remove an outdoor cat from one of these colonies unless they have been totally abandoned. Because the enforcement standard is based on providing food and requires no evidence by a colony sponsor of spay or neuter, or requiring surrender of newborn kittens for adoption, or any other restrictions, these neighborhood colonies flourish. If one sponsor moves on, the cats stay put and integrate into other neighborhood colonies or find new sponsors. And the process begins all over again at their new address introducing a new set of neighbors to daily yard cleanup of cat feces, cat spray on the front door, dead birds and more. Similar situations exist for the numerous feeding stations sponsored and maintained by various online organizations.

Just this morning I saw an article about feral feeding stations on Hawaii Island attracting Nene. Luckily the DLNR got involved to get agreement from the property owner to remove them because of their risk to endangered endemic wildlife. *And they repeated their plea to protect the environment by keeping all cats indoors.* Contrast DLNR actions with MHS non-action and we can see the conflicting goals of

preserving our island ecology vs supporting invasive species encroachment promoted as a “humane” policy.

Because of the ecological threat they pose to the island there is no place on Maui for free roaming cats. I agree we need to be humane in how outdoor cat numbers are reduced but we need to start the process of reducing these numbers now.

Program Cost



The cost of using MHS as the contractor for animal management has proven increasingly expensive. A \$1.7m budget in 2019 doubled to \$3.6m by 2021, fell back during Covid, and then resumed growing with yet another increase to \$3.4 million requested in the 2024 budget. If Maui could claim to have a program that aligned with the budget goal of protection of the environment and the strategic vision of an environmentally responsible

and sustainable community then I would not have to write this. But our Animal Management program is an example of good intentions with no accountability and no end to funding increases that costs much more than county citizens should be paying.

Animal Management Track Record

Goals / Actions	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Actual	2023 Est	2024 Budget	6 Year Trend
G1-I1 Live Release Rate Dogs	97	97	95.6	93.2	92	92	↓
G1-I1 Live Release Rate Cats	82	85	80.9	81.7	85	85	→
G2-I1 Outreach	83,677	6,786	14,614	887,363	850,000	900,000	↑
G2-I3 Volunteer Hours	N/A	11,979	14,243	18,849	14,500	16,000	↓
G2-I4 Spays & Neuters	7,494	5,798	8,080	9,184	7,500	8,500	→
G3-I1 Capture Strays	213	1,144	1,236	715	1,500	1,000	→
Annual \$M	\$1.725	\$2.700	\$3,625	\$2.996	\$3.346	\$3.391	↑

Looking at the MHS performance against some of the Goals and Actions that have been in the budget the longest do little to indicate animal management is improving. Compared to the most recent actual performance (2022) three of the six line items are budgeted for improvement while *three items, LRR Dogs, Volunteer Hours and Spays and Neuters are budgeted to get worse.*

The largest positive gainer (1,000% vs 2019) by far is “Outreach” to 900,000 people reached. With an island population of 170,000 that is a questionable achievement. If the justification of pursuing still

higher outreach numbers is that it generates more support for efforts locally then why don't other goals related to volunteers and adoptions show an upward trend?

Bottom Line – Maui County pays a lot for a program that does not align with the ecology of the island, overarching budget goals and the County's strategic vision.

Some Initial Steps Council Can Consider to Improve Animal Management of Outdoor Cats

- 1) *Add a continuing budget goal of provable outdoor cat reductions.*
 - a) Establish an accurate population number for outdoor cats
 - i) Take an actual count or provide estimates based on reliable sampling information.
 - b) Provide an annual target for outdoor cat population reduction
 - c) Use historically close connections with local online groups that maintain feeding stations to capture and adopt out outdoor cats.
 - i) If adoption is not sufficient or suitable to absorb these remote colonies then consider alternatives such as shipping to the mainland Humane Society.
- 2) *Reduce or Hold Flat County budget support until progress on reductions is established.*
 - a) It is counterproductive to approve any amounts for facilities expansion or increased operating expenses resulting from policies not consistent with a healthy and sustainable Island ecology. The last two AM budgets for Sheltering and Enforcement (+90% of total AM budget) have grown at a 13% compound annual rate. Since 2019 the total AM budget has grown on a similar pace. In 6 years the budget will be over \$6 million if allowed to continue.
 - i) Approve a flat or reduced budget until progress is shown.
 - (1) Because TNR leads to increased outdoor populations (spays and neuters never keep up with new abandons and births) require MHS to motivate their donation base to provide support for the increased needs from a policy that isn't appropriate for Maui.
 - (2) Last year HARS received a one time \$250k funding for its facilities in the budget. The current MHS budget request converts this one time expense to an annual recurring expense by absorbing it into requested increases for various contractual costs. In effect the one time HARS grant is converted to funding part of the MHS budget expansion.
 - (3) Seeing they are excellent at outreach, MHS should be expected to rely on motivating its donation base to offset the majority of their requested increases.
- 3) *Redirect MHS enforcement practices to reducing the number of outdoor cats*
 - a) Current MHS enforcement practices lack any element directed to population control and in practice encourage an ever growing number of free roaming cats.
 - b) Instead of being solely focused on TNR in pure form MHS should pivot to aggressively discourage the prevailing notion that anyone who wants a colony of outdoor cats can have one with their support.

Doubling funding over the last six years hasn't led to improved metrics. There is no plan to reduce the cost to taxpayers of an agency that traditionally relied on donations for financial support. The current cat management policy leads only to increased numbers and increasing budgets. All in the name of a policy singularly focused on humane cat treatment at the expense of endemic wildlife and a healthy environment.

A ban on outdoor feeding would solve a lot of these problems. But new laws are hard work and take much time and effort. We don't have to wait for new laws. We need a change in direction from MHS. We must insist MHS adopt their methods and policies to our needs, not the other way around. Because of disease, predators and climate change our island is an environment where several native birds are on virtual life support or extinction. Some state agencies have been forced to use heroic measures to salvage a very small population at best. How can we in good conscience fund efforts based on supporting invasive species that by their nature makes saving endemic species more difficult?

There was a news article last August announcing a project by MHS to count outdoor cats. It was a rare moment of encouragement for those of us who feel the cat problem has remained hidden behind a successful PR campaign of TNR advocacy. But since then nothing has been announced and I don't see anything in the budget request for financial support. I fear that small first step has been shelved. Perhaps the realization of the enormity of the problem has led to second thoughts.

Thank you for considering my comments.