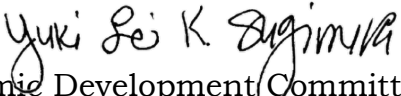


April 18, 2023

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: **CENTRAL MAUI RESIDENCY AREA MEETING REGARDING THE FISCAL YEAR (“FY”) 2024 BUDGET** (BFED-1)

On April 14, 2023, the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee held a public meeting in the Council Chamber regarding the proposed FY 2024 Budget.

The following persons testified:

1. Eleven students testified in support of Maui Hui Malama and the youth activities they offer, including drawing, painting, fishing, swimming, and Japanese language, food, and arts. The program has helped participants with tutoring and making friends from different schools. The youth entrepreneurship program has sparked participants’ interest in business and using technology to design their own products.
2. The Chief Executive Officer of Hawaii Animal Rescue Foundation (HARF) testified in support of their community education and animal center. She said there is a line item for funding under the Animal Management program, but no dollar amount has been specified. She requested \$150,000 in funding towards animal care and sheltering. HARF would like to develop twenty-two additional kennels that would shelter dogs and supplement the services Maui Humane Society offers. HARF is the only organization on Maui that brings STEM-based humane curricula to Maui classrooms.
3. Two individuals testified in support of MEO Youth Services. Through the program, they learned from visits to Lahaina Restoration Foundation, Twin Falls, and Leilani Farms. The program provides assistance with homework and offers opportunities for sign waving around Maui.

4. One testifier supported Big Brothers Big Sisters (BBBS) as a Big Sister. She said mentoring youth has had a positive impact with building relationships and inspiring others, and encourages youth to become mentors themselves.
5. The Farm-to-School program manager with Grow Some Good testified for continued support of their nonprofit program which offers hands-on, garden-based education. The line-item funding in the FY 2024 Budget is now under the Department of Agriculture.
6. Nine students and one teacher from Maui Waena Intermediate School, and one alumnus testified for continued support of Maui Economic Development Board's (MEDB) media and STEMworks programs under the County's Office of Economic Development. The program teaches participants about video editing, and graphics software and technology, and also helps students with writing scripts, problem solving, decision-making, and teamwork. Continued funding will create more opportunities for future students.
7. One individual testified in support of a police officer at Waihe'e Elementary School to help with traffic and pedestrian safety. He said other schools have designated police officers that help with this. He also said money to fund a police officer from a prior budget lapsed and the position was never filled.
8. One person testified in continued support of programs that help with domestic abuse. She benefited from the services of The Maui Farm, which allowed her to support her family apart from her abuser.
9. A program director of the Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program (FAM) testified for continued support. FAM is a training program for new farmers and assists established farmers to pass on knowledge to the next generation. A FAM cohort participant also testified in support. A total of \$375,000 is appropriated for agriculture education and apprenticeship under the County Department of Agriculture. But the appropriation is not specifically allocated to FAM.
10. A Waiehu resident testified in support of the Imi Kala Extension project in light of expanded housing development and growth in surrounding areas.

11. Three individuals testified in support of Epic Swim Maui, a high-profile and high-impact event focused on ocean health and nearshore environments that will aid in economic development for Maui. The event is likened to a Tour de France, but for swimming, for the islands. The total budget is \$600,00 and half, or \$300,000, is being requested from the County.
12. Two individuals testified for continued support of MEO Head Start and programs that impact youth. Parents are taught resilience and are encouraged to be a part of their children's curriculum. Parents benefitting from the program thanked the Council for supporting MEO Head Start which has helped their children blossom.
13. Two staff members of the Boys & Girls Club (BGC) testified for continued, and possibly increased, support of their organization. A youth testifier said she enjoys playing sports like dodge ball and flag football at BGC. A parent testifier said they are grateful to BGC because the program assists children with homework like reading and math, and also helps them with public speaking and coping skills.
14. An individual testified on behalf of the Sierra Maui group and advocated to use Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation funds (Open Space funds) to purchase one wetland parcel and a handful of key parcels to address flooding and management of wetlands for water retention, as proposed by the Kihei Community Association. She said the FY 2024 Budget can be boosted to provide for a ten-month salary for the Director of the East Maui Water Authority and adding an Administrative Assistant position. She further suggested a culturally significant piece of land, valued at \$1 million based on an evaluation done in 2020, and located adjacent to the dog park in Kihei be purchased and added to the park.
15. A representative of Hawaii Taro Farm expressed concern for the high cost of living, housing issues, the mass exodus of people leaving the State, and food security due to the isolated location of the islands. He is advocating for increased funding for food security and said that less than ½ percent at the Hawaii State Legislature is appropriated for agriculture. He encourages the Council to use the

County Department of Agriculture, the first in the State, to leverage increased funding for agriculture.

16. The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) State President expressed support for earmarked funding that will help the organization identify membership with those who support their mission statement, engage and support Department of Hawaiian Homelands lessees, and bridge the gap with generational farmers. HFUU is requesting \$375,000 in funding, similar to prior budget requests.
17. One person testified in support of \$250,000 in funding for West Maui Green Cycle Composting Facility to expand composting operations, which also helps to divert green waste from the landfill and reduce methane emissions. A testifier from Maui Association of Landscape Professionals expressed support for small-scale farming like flower growers and nurseries, and small-scale composting. She also supported the Maui County Farm Bureau.
18. The Director of 'Aina Stewardship with Hawai'i Land Trust testified to request \$1 million in funding to repair and rebuild an existing building on the C.W. Dickey House property, owned privately by Hawai'i Land Trust. The building will be renovated to create a cultural education center at Waihe'e Refuge. The Director of 'Aina Education at Hawai'i Land Trust also testified in support of requested funding.
19. An individual testified in support of repainting lines at tennis courts to create defined places to play pickleball. Two individuals requested additional funding for designated pickleball courts because of the expansive growth of the sport. As an interim measure, one of the testifiers would support repainting six pickleball lines at tennis courts at War Memorial for a cost of about \$18,000. A testifier also expressed support of funding to repair roadways, specifically potholes, along Mill Street, Central Avenue, Lower Main Street, Vineyard Street, and Imi Kala Street.
20. A testifier expressed support for Maui Economic Opportunity's Office of Community Service for Senior Farmers Nutrition program, Office of Hawaiian Affairs' nutrition program, and Bill 23 for the purchase of Wailuku Water Company. She also expressed concern with funds for the Animal Management program, and complaints

she has made with the Maui Humane Society regarding excessive barking near her farm.

21. A Board of Director for Hui No‘eau testified in support of two line items in the Mayor’s FY 2024 Budget, specifically \$50,000 for the Art with Aloha program which helps to perpetuate the Hawaiian culture through the arts, and \$25,000 for the Youth Family Art Outreach Program which include after school programs and arts projects to the underprivileged.
22. An individual testified on behalf of Nā Mamo Aloha ‘Āina O Honokōhau for the \$750,000 in funding appropriated in the FY 2023 Budget to purchase an oceanfront parcel in Honokōhau Valley using Open Space funds. The parcel will be used to create and preserve a permanent space and sustainable ‘āina-based program for the community. There are plans to close on the property in June 2023, but if that doesn’t happen, the request is to roll the funds into the FY 2024 Budget.
23. An individual testified in support of using \$6 million from the Affordable Housing Fund allocated for the Hale Mahaolu Ke Kahua project to benefit and support youth programs with MEDB, BGC, MEO Youth Program, MEO Transportation Services, BBBS, Maui Hui Malama, and MEO Head Start.
24. The Program Director of The Maui Farm testified in support of the benefits and support she personally received from the organization. She also spoke on the benefits of the MEO Early Childhood program which helped her greatly as a single parent with five small children.
25. An individual from the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) testified for continued support of funding for their organization. He said MISC has completely eradicated several colonies of little fire ants on Maui, including a large colony in Nahiku which has been greatly diminished.
26. A person testified in support of raises for Kaunoa Senior Services’ staff. He also said the County should help to ensure all credentials for the Hale Mahaolu Ke Kahua project are in place.
27. An individual testified against the \$6 million in funding for the Hale Mahaolu Ke Kahua project which displaces kānaka maoli and

instead supported a land swap. Since the Council's last discussion on this project, another family has come forward with land claims which will lead to lawsuits, delays, and increased costs.

28. Written testimony was received in support of various programs and organizations, including The Maui Farm; HFUU; FAM; development of a cultural center at Waihe'e Refuge; improved infrastructure on Kahekili Highway; various Wailuku Town programs, such as Wailuku Clean and Safe, PARK MAUI, and Halau of 'Ōiwi Arts; an outdoor sculpture garden for The Wisdom Center for Autism; Maui Academy of Performing Arts; an agricultural park on Lanai; and the restriping of tennis courts and additional pickleball courts.
29. Fifth-graders from Kula Kaiapuni o Maui ma Pā'ia submitted written testimony in support of various items, including Kō'ie'ie Fishpond, BGC-Paukukalo, and Waihe'e Dunes.

For questions relating to the Central Maui residency area meeting or 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.