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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

April 10, 2023

Ms. Rogerene Arce, Director  
Department of Agriculture  
County of Maui  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Arce:

SUBJECT: **FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2024 BUDGET** (BFED-1) (AG-3)

Thank you for participating in the Committee's discussions on April 5, 2023. The Committee respectfully submits the follow-up questions listed below. May I further request that, after approval by the Office of the Mayor, you transmit a written response to [bfed.committee@mauicounty.us](mailto:bfed.committee@mauicounty.us) by **April 17, 2023**.

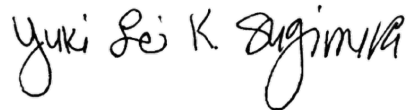
1. Please explain where the \$10 million for the booster pump was derived. Please also provide a description of its purpose. (TP)
2. Are there currently green manure crops at Kula Agricultural Park? Please explain. (TC)
3. Is there a plan to provide a subsidy to farmers for soil building at Kula Agricultural Park? Please explain. (TC)
4. Relating to your response to the Committee dated March 30, 2023, page 4, response 11, the answer appears to be cut off prior to the list of infrastructure funds. Please provide a complete response. (YLS)
5. How much of the \$1 million for feral animal recovery has been used to date, and how does the Department anticipate it will be allocated in FY 2024? (TC)
6. In prior fiscal year budgets, Maui County Farm Bureau, Hawaii Farmers Union United, and the Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program

Ms. Rogerene Arce  
April 10, 2023  
Page 2

were listed as individual line-item appropriations. Now that agricultural grants fall under your Department, how will you spread funding conscientiously amongst the various established farming organizations? (TP)

Thank you for your attention to this request. Should you have any questions, please contact me or the Committee staff (Lesley Milner at ext. 7886, Kasie Apo Takayama at ext. 7665, or Yvette Bouthillier at ext. 7758).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Yuki Lei K. Sugimura". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic  
Development Committee

bfed:2024bgt:230405aag03:alkl

cc: Mayor Richard T. Bissen, Jr.  
Budget Director

## **BFED Committee**

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**From:** BFED Committee  
**Sent:** Monday, April 10, 2023 1:13 PM  
**To:** Rogerene Arce  
**Cc:** BFED Committee; Michelle Santos; Zeke Kalua; Maria Zielinski; Desiree Echalas; Janina Agapay; Kahea Ueshiro  
**Subject:** PLEASE READ attached letter re: Fiscal Year ("FY") 2024 Budget (BFED-1) (AG-3)  
**Attachments:** (AG-3) Correspondence to Agriculture 04-10-2023.pdf

**Ms. Arce:** Please refer to the attached letter from the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development (BFED) Committee Chair, dated 04/10/2023.

**Mayor's Office (Attention: Michelle Santos and Zeke Kalua):** Please forward the attached letter to Mayor Bissen for his information.

**Ms. Zielinski:** FYI

Mahalo, Clarita Balala

**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**ROGERENE K.M. ARCE**  
Director

**KOA HEWAHEWA**  
Deputy Director



**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
**COUNTY OF MAUI**  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

April 18, 2023

Maria E. Zielinski  
Budget Director, County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "my", written over the address of Maria E. Zielinski.

Honorable Richard T. Bissen, Jr.  
Mayor, County of Maui  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

**APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard T. Bissen, Jr.", written over the word "Mayor".  
**Mayor** **4-20-23**  
**Date**

For Transmittal to:

Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair  
Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee  
Maui County Council  
200 South High Street  
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Ms. Sugimura:

**SUBJECT: FISCAL YEAR ("FY") 2024 BUDGET (BFED-1) (AG-3)**

Thank you for your letter dated April 10, 2023 regarding follow-up questions to the Fiscal Year 2024 budget for the Department of Agriculture. Please see the below responses:

1. Please explain where the \$10 million for the booster pump was derived. Please also provide a description of its purpose. (TP)

The \$10,000,000 Mayor proposes will come from general obligation bonds. Another \$10,000,000 was requested by Councilmember Sugimura from the State Representative Nishimoto and Senator Keith Agaran. The additional \$750,000 was requested by OED Director Mahi also from the State Representatives for designing an on-site water system and water transmission as well as to supplement EA for subdivision and conveyance of water for the Upper Maui Agriculture Park.

The relocation of the booster pump is needed to get the 1 million gallons of water to UMAP. That amount of water is a condition of the Water Delivery Agreement between

Alexander and Baldwin, LLC. Due to the order by the State Commission of Water Resource Management in its June 2018 Interim Instream Flow Standard (IFS) to reduce off-stream diversions and improve the water delivery systems to minimize leakage and wastes, relocating the Ag Park Pump will be enough to result in a water savings of 1.0MGD of water and meet the anticipated water needs of KAP. If pump improvements are not made, only 119 acres of the 262 acres can be irrigated from reservoir 40 via gravity feed of which the County can already draw 1.0 MGD of non-potable water. This 1.0 MGD of non-potable water is in addition to 1.5 MGD that the County may draw on.

**2. Are there currently green manure crops at Kula Agricultural Park? Please explain. (TC)**

The Department has not yet done an assessment on the crops being produced in the KAP but have plans to. The Maui County Farm Bureau has 2023 funding of \$238,000 of which part of it is to improve cover cropping and strip tillage.

Much of the reason lies on existing capacity. Unfortunately, the Department had 5.5 months to develop the capacity while still trying to sort out directions to take in establishment. Also, the transfer of OED ag funds and projects did not come with staff. Department Heads are the only experts in the Department that can address stakeholder needs. Although our Grants Management Specialist has the farming upbringing and education, she is dedicated to grants programming. Between the two of us, we find it important to address producer needs based on the first 5.5 months of needs assessment before going further and trying to take on more projects. Coupled with that, we have all of OED ag related funds and projects to sort out, understand, make decisions for since the transfer on January 2, 2024.

**3. Is there a plan to provide a subsidy to farmers for soil building at Kula Agricultural Park? Please explain. (TC)**

There is no plan in place as of yet. Initiatives are driven by what farmers and ranchers want and are ranked in priority for the Department to address based on the greatest requests. The top 3 priorities on each of the tri-island county are Infrastructure, Education/Advocacy, and Marketing Distribution which came out of the surveying of our producers through Listening Sessions. Contractor, Guild Consulting, will further survey clientele. However, only one non KAP farmer suggested the Department consider the idea of implementing a cover cropping and soil building program. The Department is brand new with a new Deputy just making three months. We are just beginning to learn the County processes, learn of the current ag issues in each community and need more time to determine where to best use limited resources.



4. Relating to your response to the Committee dated March 30, 2023, page 4, response 11, the answer appears to be cut off prior to the list of infrastructure funds. Please provide a complete response. (YLS)

The following is the response provided for March 30, 2023 for question 11 (What are your top three priorities for FY 2024 and how does your Department budget reflect that?)

Top three priorities are: Infrastructure, Education and Advocacy, Marketing and Distribution.

Infrastructure:

\$2.5M for Sustainable Molokai Food Hub land acquisition (\$1.3M) and capital improvements (\$1.2M)

Education and Advocacy :

\$100K to provide Good Agricultural Practices Training and Certification

\$100K to provide Organic Farm Training and Certification

For Marketing and Distribution needs:

\$300K for two components of the Lanai Food Security System Plan:

Small Farm Training

Farmers Market

\$75K for Maui Food Hub Vension to Market Plan

5. How much of the \$1 million for feral animal recovery has been used to date, and how does the Department anticipate it will be allocated in FY 2024? (TC)

Per OED, as of March 28, 2023, \$789,995.00 of the \$1 million has been awarded as microgrants to farmers and ranchers. Our grants division will further determine how funds will be awarded for FY 2024.

6. In prior fiscal year budgets, Maui County Farm Bureau, Hawaii Farmers Union United, and the Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program were listed as individual line-item appropriation. Now that agricultural grants fall under your Department, how will you spread funding conscientiously amongst the various established farming organizations? (TP)

**ADDITIONAL RESPONSE for BFED AG-2/CLARIFICATION TO APRIL 3, 2023 QUESTION #5A**

- 5a. Relating to the Agriculture Promotion and Technology Program and Agriculture Operations program:

- a. More explanation on the funding in the amount of \$2,250,000, to support the Agriculture Promotion and Technology Program being transferred from the Office of Economic Development.

\$474,662.40 of the \$2,250,000 funding is for Maui County Farm Bureau in the following areas:

Administration Budget (payroll, gen. admin. expenses)	\$165,140.16
Operations Budget (Ag in Class., Grown on Maui, AgFest, 4-H Livestock Fair, Member professional dev., Program, Marketing, PR Coordinator)	\$174,072.24
Marketing Budget	\$43,150.00
Maui Assoc. of Landscape Pro.	\$38,700.00
Maui Cattleman's Assoc.	\$18,100.00
<u>Maui Coffee Assoc.</u>	<u>\$35,500.00</u>
Total	\$474,662.40

Also from the \$2,250,000 were the following awards:

Maui United Way - Maui Fam Farmer Training Network \$91,460

Hawaii Ag Foundation-Building an Ag workforce pipeline Maui \$24,000

ClimbHi \$12,000

OED will be able to respond further.

Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office at ext. 8278 or contact Deputy Director Koa Hewahewa at ext. 8277.

Sincerely,



Rogerene K. M. Arce  
Director, Department of Agriculture

## BFED Committee

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**From:** Desiree Echalas <Desiree.B.Echallas@co.maui.hi.us>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 20, 2023 10:01 AM  
**To:** BFED Committee  
**Subject:** FY 2024 (BFED-1)(AG-3) \*\*Revised Response\*\*  
**Attachments:** FY24 (BFED-1)(AG-3) Response.pdf

Attached is response AG-3 from Department of Agriculture. \*\*Note- This is a revised response of which overrides the initial transmittal from the Budget Office on 04/19/2024.

Desiree Echalas

Budget Specialist

County of Maui

Office of the Mayor

[Desiree.B.Echallas@co.maui.hi.us](mailto:Desiree.B.Echallas@co.maui.hi.us)

Phone: (808) 270-8239