

# Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-04-21 9:00 AM

Meeting Time: 04-21-23 09:00

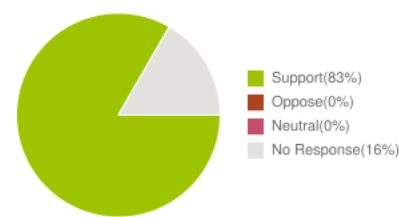
## eComments Report

| Meetings                                                                              | Meeting Time   | Agenda Items | Comments | Support | Oppose | Neutral |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee (2023-2025) on 2023-04-21 9:00 AM | 04-21-23 09:00 | 2            | 12       | 10      | 0      | 0       |

### 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

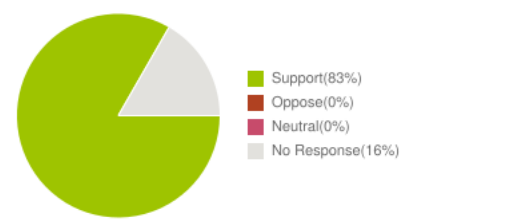


| Agenda Name                                                                     | Comments | Support | Oppose | Neutral |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------|--------|---------|
| A G E N D A                                                                     | 2        | 1       | 0      | 0       |
| BFED-1 FY 2024 PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2024 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI (BFED-1) | 10       | 9       | 0      | 0       |

Sentiments for All Agenda Items

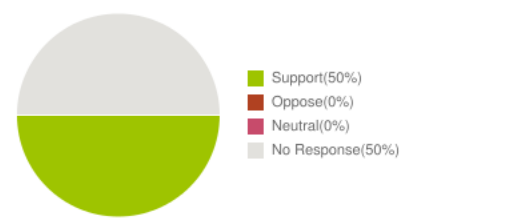
The following graphs display sentiments for comments that have location data. Only locations of users who have commented will be shown.

Overall Sentiment



Agenda Item: eComments for A G E N D A

Overall Sentiment



Guest User

Location:  
Submitted At: 12:11am 04-20-23

Aloha,  
My name is Sanna Ka\_uhane, and i\_m writing on behalf of Na Mamo Aloha Aina O Honokohau. We are a 501 (C)3 non-profit based in Honokohau, West Maui. Our main focus is our educational partnerships with Maui county Hawaiian language immersion schools to provide regularly scheduled, hands-on oppurtunities to students, preschool through grade 12, to practice Hawaiian culture and language outside of the classroom. Our Hui also strives to care for and preserve the natural resources of Honokohau through lo\_i restoration, regular monitoring of streamflow and community outreach programs.

Our Hui was approved to receive \$775,000 in open space funds for the current fiscal year to preserve an ocean front parcel of land in Honokohau and put it into conservation. Honokohau bay and the surrounding valley are amongst the last coastal communities in West Maui not exploited by commercial fishing or tourism. Honok\_hau

Bay is also an important fishing, educational, and recreational area for \_ohana in the area. Fishermen with generational ties to our ahupua\_a depend on this access to feed their families. This parcel would also provide us with an oceanfront space to run future makai management and educational programs.

The landowners have been extremely patient with us while we navigated our way through the open funds process. Our little hui of kalo farmers has been desperately trying to meet all the county requirements by the June 30 deadline. While we have already been promised the funds for the current fiscal year we would like to ask the county to either consider a slight extension if deemed necessary or be taken into consideration for open funds budget for the following year, again, if deemed necessary. We are doing everything we can to meet the June 30th deadline and receive the funds on schedule. Mahalo for all your support thus far!

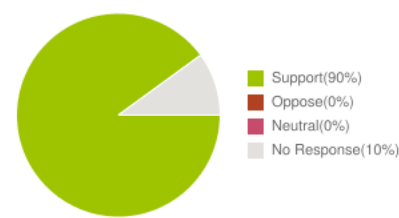
**Guest User**

Location:  
Submitted At: 10:12am 04-17-23

I am a parent of one of the students attending MEO Head Start Makawao B. I am testifying in favor of continuing and possibly expanding the budget for the Makawao District's Head Start in Fiscal Year 2024. My son had entered the school year with little socialization skills due to pandemic protocols. He and his class have spent the past 8 1/2 months with MEO Head Start's team of wonderful teachers and staff members learning and growing in a safe, happy and educational environment while also preparing them for kindergarten. MEO not only provided these children with an exceptional learning environment but also gave us parents access to learning tools and strategies to better our lives as a whole family. MEO Head Start is an integral part of this community, providing low income families with quality education in a safe environment. I am very in favor of continuing MEO Head Start for the families like mine. Dianna Kauha'aha'a

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: 8:09am 04-21-23

Please find below a written copy of my in-person testimony delivered on Tuesday, April 18, 2023:

Aloha Chair Sugimura and Committee Members,

My name is Jen Cox and I am the executive director of Maui's contemporary dance company, Adaptations Dance Theater. We are honored to be an Office of Economic Development grantee this fiscal year, and humbly ask for your continued support of \$25,000 for our beloved Bring it Home program for 2024.

Bring it Home brings back Maui-raised artists who are pursuing professional careers elsewhere to share their craft with the community that raised them. By honoring their professionalism with paid performance opportunities, we are building the vibrant contemporary dance home that can sustain our local artists and motivate our next generation of dancers to see Maui as a place where they can flourish professionally.

This year, we are thrilled to bring home Emily McKeon. Emi grew up at Maui Academy of Performing Arts and apprenticed with ADT before pursuing her degree at UC-Irvine. She now dances with SALT2 in Salt Lake City, yet Emi returns every summer to work with ADT as a dancer, teaching artist, and now co-lead our summer training programs.

Bring it Home is a collaboration between the artists we bring back and our resident company members. Of our six resident dancers, two are Bring it Home converts — people who moved away, and are now back! Through their relationships with ADT, they saw they could return to their island home and keep their practice as professional artists. One of those converts is our new co-artistic director, Ali McKeon Pineo, and yes, Emi's older sister.

Our goal is to stay active throughout the year, so we can reunite with more of our extended ADT 'ohana whenever they can come home, like Seabury and MAPA alum Madi McGain, who we got to train with a couple weeks ago. As we increase our bandwidth, we can bring more of our people home, more often (if not permanently) to contribute to Maui's performing arts offerings and elevate our community's collective quality of life.

In our decade as a nonprofit, we have fostered thousands of connections through our performances and workshops. In response to the pandemic, we now consider the basketball court at Haiku School, the courtyard at Hale Makua, and several alleys in Wailuku Town as performance sites. Most recently, we produced a family-friendly show at the IMUA Discovery Garden for people with sensory sensitivities to enjoy contemporary dance on their own terms. We are grateful to be able to create these accessible offerings because of the steadfast support we receive from our private and public funders.

Now we are less than a month away from SEED, the first residency in the Bring it Home season. Attendees to our open rehearsal on May 9 will see choreography in its barest bones before it becomes a fully-fleshed staged production by mid-August. Our last Bring it Home concert garnered over 500 attendees in three shows; we are ecstatic for Bring it Home to make its comeback at the historic 'Iao Theater with friends old and new.

I appreciate the opportunity to share our vision for a brilliant future in contemporary dance, one where we serve as role models for Maui's students, as collaborators for Maui's working artists, and as the conduit for those we will bring home with your support.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jen

--

Jen Cox  
Executive Director, Adaptations Dance Theater  
Pronouns: she/her  
jen@adaptationsdancetheater.com  
808-446-2450  
www.adaptationsdancetheater.com

### **Guest User**

Location:  
Submitted At: 10:54am 04-17-23

I am the mother of a girl who entered Head Start. Her father and I were happy with the presence of very good female teachers.

I ask the County of Maui to support them because they deserve all the financial support. Thank you.

Suzan Jubran

### **Guest User**

Location:  
Submitted At: 10:52am 04-17-23

Being a participant of the UH-MC MEO Head Start program has had many beneficial factors for my family and daughter.

She has gained the confidence to socialize and interact with peers appropriately. She has learned daily life skills

and how to take care of herself, share and follow directions.

She enjoys going to school to see her friends and teachers. I enjoy and am comforted knowing my child is in good care while at my full-time job. She also gets the opportunity to eat delicious and nutritious food, nap, and be in a learning environment that promotes academic readiness for kindergarten.

For me, I work a full-time job and having the site open until 3 p.m. helps me know she is under good care until I can pick her up. Also having my child attend at no cost greatly relieves the financial burden each month. I am able to spend more time with my family and not have to spend time away working multiple jobs.

Sandy Fujitani

### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:41am 04-17-23

Aloha. My son Orion Coffin has attended MEO Head Start Makawao A for two years. He was referred by Imua Services for speech delay. While attending, he has made dramatic improvements. He has excelled in all curriculum and interactions. It has been a God send to receive these services. I believe that without this program and time he has spent at this facility, he would not have progressed as much as he has.

I truly believe that cutting back on funding/hours would be detrimental to the children who attend Head Start.

The program allows kids who need the extra help to get where they need to be to enter into the normal school system.

I humbly ask that you continue to fund our school and that you do not cutback on hours for the children's sake.

Mahalo for your time.

Sean Coffin

### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:35am 04-17-23

First and foremost, I would like to express my gratitude to all the staff dedicated to supporting and guiding all the children the MEO Head Start program. The program has positively impacted my child's growth and development. After only one year of attendance at the Makawao A location, I have noticed a positive change this program has had on my child with academic abilities, as well as social skills.

Good child care can be hard to find, and I am so grateful for the opportunity have my child take part in the Head Start program.

With the dedicated staff to ensure a safe and educational environment, I am assured my child is getting the care, respect and education necessary to foster a healthy introduction to the world. The hours of operation that MEO Head Start offers allow parents like myself the time needed to be able to provide for our children at home - knowing that our keiki are well cared for in our absence.

Kahala and Chris Dee Christopherson

### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:24am 04-17-23

This is my first year of having a child attending MEO Head Start and Wow! The services and education they provide are awesome. They do so much, provide books, activities, services.

I feel that my child being in school until noon just wouldn't be enough. She is learning so much in her school day. I feel it is better preparing her for the duration of what a real school day will feel like when she gets older.

This staff is so caring and I feel comfortable leaving my children from 7:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. so she can grow to the best of her ability. Mahalo MEO!

Brittnie Gouveia

### **Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:20am 04-17-23

I feel very grateful for MEO's Head Start program. The teachers and staff are amazing people who really look out for not only the community but our children. It really does help that the Head Start program helps families by having the school open as long as they do to help working parents. Thank you.

Olina Butchart-Kalama

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:18am 04-17-23

We love MEO Makawao A. We as a family appreciate having the center open until 3 p.m. My son loves all the teaching staff and being able to play with all his friends. Please help and support keeping the center open until 3 p.m. Thank you for all you do!

Brandi Mawae

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 10:14am 04-17-23

Mahalo very much and we appreciate the County for extending the hours for the Keiki at MEO Head Start.

Alooooooha!

Joseph Ramos

**Guest User**

Location:

Submitted At: 9:57am 04-17-23

I am the proud father of Kahali'i Jones. During her time with the wonderful angelic teachers at MEO I watched my beautiful baby girl become a wonderful well spoken young lady. The time and energy these teachers put in is amazing. In my opinion, all education workers should be as selfless and nurturing as these teachers are. Forever, I will always thank them for helping raise my daughter - Ms. CJ, Ms. Denet. Ms. Fox. Thank you for being the best.

L.A. Jones