

COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND
BUDGET COMMITTEE

October 23, 2020

Committee
Report No. _____

Honorable Chair and Members
of the County Council
County of Maui
Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii

Chair and Members:

Your Economic Development and Budget Committee, having met on October 7, 2020, makes reference to County Communication 20-428, from Council Chair Alice L. Lee, transmitting a proposed resolution entitled "CREATING AND EXPANDING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO GET MAUI COUNTY RESIDENTS BACK TO WORK."

The purpose of the proposed resolution is to urge: (1) the University of Hawai'i Maui College, the construction-related trade unions in the County, the State, and the Maui Economic Development Board to create and expand workforce development programs to get Maui County residents back to work; and (2) the Governor and Mayor to allocate CARES Act funding to programs in the State and County dedicated to workforce development and training programs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Your Committee discussed the importance of providing County residents with additional training, apprenticeship, and employment opportunities to support their return to work in jobs outside of the tourism industry.

Your Committee also discussed the need to provide employment and training opportunities to help build a larger and stronger island middle class in the County.

Your Committee amended the proposed resolution to incorporate the following:

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- References to health care programs and trade unions, and positions that are chronically vacant in Maui County.
- References to the Maui County Workforce Development Board and the Economic Recovery Task Force.
- Acknowledgment of Federal funding similar to CARES Act funding that may be received in the future.
- Urging the Mayor to create more public input opportunities and include temporary hires for the County in funding workforce development and training programs.
- Urging agricultural, conservation, and environmentally-related nonprofit groups and community organizations in the County and State to work on expanding apprenticeship and other training programs.

Your Committee voted 9-0 to recommend adoption of the revised proposed resolution and filing of the communication. Committee Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair King, and members Hokama, Kama, Lee, Molina, Paltin, Sinenci, and Sugimura voted “aye.”

Your Committee is in receipt of a revised proposed resolution, incorporating your Committee’s revisions and nonsubstantive revisions.

Your Economic Development and Budget Committee
RECOMMENDS the following:

1. That Resolution _____, as revised herein and attached hereto, entitled “CREATING AND EXPANDING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO GET MAUI COUNTY RESIDENTS BACK TO WORK,” be ADOPTED; and

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2. That County Communication 20-428 be FILED.

This report is submitted in accordance with Rule 8 of the Rules of the Council.



KEANI N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, Chair

edb:cr:20102aa:lpcm

Resolution

No. _____

CREATING AND EXPANDING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS TO GET MAUI COUNTY RESIDENTS BACK TO WORK

WHEREAS, the Countywide Policy Plan states that “Maui County will be an innovative model of sustainable island living and a place where every individual can grow to reach his or her potential” and “will be a leader in the creation of responsible, self-sufficient communities and environmentally sound economic development”; and

WHEREAS, the vision of the University of Hawai‘i Maui College is to “prepare students to respond to emerging challenges in their lives, communities, and the world through compassion, leadership, problem-solving, and innovation”; and

WHEREAS, according to the Section II of the Countywide Policy Plan, “the State’s economy remains service-oriented” emphasizing that our community needs to seek expansion in construction, manufacturing, and agriculture, which currently account for less than 10 percent of wages and salaries”; and

WHEREAS, the Maui Economic Development Board, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, was established in 1982 to lower the County’s dependence upon the agriculture and tourism sectors of its economy, achieve a balanced economy, and provide more rewarding choices to its residents; and

WHEREAS, on September 6, 2018, Moody’s Investor Services assigned a Aa1 rating to Maui County’s General Bond Obligation Bond Series 2018, with one of the rationales being “a very low unemployment rate”; and

WHEREAS, the novel coronavirus 2019, known as COVID-19, has spread globally at a rapid pace; and

WHEREAS, because of the rapid spread of COVID-19, Mayor Michael P. Victorino issued an emergency declaration for Maui County on

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March 4, 2020, and Governor David Y. Ige issued an emergency proclamation for the State of Hawai'i on March 5, 2020, with both the Mayor and Governor issuing numerous supplemental directives as the emergency remains in effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 20, 2020, the Governor announced the launch of the Reducing Unemployment Disruption and Driving Economic Regeneration ("RUDDER") program to provide up to \$100,000 of relief to registered and compliant Hawai'i businesses for new employees after March 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as of August 19, 2020, the State's Workforce Development Division website stated: "Due to the high demand of interest from employers, the RUDDER program has met its program capacity"; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance 5092, effective June 5, 2020, appropriated \$67 million in CARES Act funding to address public health and economic impacts caused by COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, the County Budget for Fiscal Year 2021 provides nearly \$139 million for Capital Improvement Projects and the State Legislature this year budgeted more than \$500 million for Capital Improvement projects in Maui County; and

WHEREAS, these projects have the potential for boosting the County's economy by employing local resources and providing jobs to residents who lost their jobs because of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, according to a press release relating to Hawai'i visitor statistics for May 2020 from the Hawai'i Tourism Authority dated June 29, 2020, visitor arrivals to the State decreased 98.9 percent compared to a year ago and 98.4 percent in the County because of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, a *Maui News* article, dated July 17, 2020, reported the unemployment rate in the County went from 34 percent in May 2020 to 22.6 percent in June 2020, but remains the highest in the State; and

WHEREAS, on August 19, 2020, this Council adopted Resolution 20-114, resolving the following:

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- “That it urges the Governor and the Mayor to hire locally and give businesses in the County of Maui the highest priority for projects and jobs paid for by Federal, State, and County funds; and
- That it urges the Mayor, in allocating the remaining CARES Act or other similar federal funding, to prioritize investments that will stimulate local jobs and businesses”; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the County of Maui:

1. That it urges the University of Hawai‘i Maui College to expand its curriculum to include more technology, health care, and skilled trades programs, including technical certificates, licenses, degrees, and positions that are chronically vacant in Maui County;
2. That it urges construction-related and health care trade unions in the County and the State to work on expanding apprenticeship and other training programs;
3. That it urges the Maui County Workforce Development Board and the Economic Recovery Task Force to collaborate and work with the Maui Economic Development Board to create and strengthen workforce development programs to get residents back to work in jobs outside of the tourism sector;
4. That it urges the Governor to use CARES Act or other similar federal funding and work with State’s Workforce Development Division to expand the Reducing Unemployment Disruption and Driving Economic Regeneration program capacity;
5. That it urges the Mayor to create more opportunities for public input and to allocate CARES Act or other similar federal funding to programs in the County dedicated to workforce development and training programs including temporary hires for the County during the COVID-19 pandemic;
6. That it urges recognized agricultural, conservation, and environmental stewardship related non-profit groups and community organizations in the County and State to work on expanding apprenticeship and other training programs; and

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7. That certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to construction-related and health care trade unions with offices on Maui and O`ahu; Dr. Lui Hokoana, Chancellor and Chief Executive Officer, University of Hawai'i Maui College; Leslie Wilkins, President and Chief Executive Officer, Maui Economic Development Board; Scott Murakami, Director, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Brian E. Schatz, Senator, United States of America; the Honorable Mazie K. Hirono, Senator, United States of America; the Honorable Ed Case, Representative, United States of America; the Honorable Tulsi Gabbard, Representative, United States of America; the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States; the Honorable Rosalyn H. Baker, Senator, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable J. Kalani English, Senator, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Senator, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Lynn DeCoite, Representative, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Troy N. Hashimoto, Representative, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Representative, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Tina Wildberger, Representative, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Justin H. Woodson, Representative, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Representative, State of Hawai'i; the Honorable Michael P. Victorino, Mayor, County of Maui; and the Honorable David Y. Ige, Governor, State of Hawai'i.