

MINUTES

of the

PUBLIC HEARING HELD ON

APRIL 16, 2021

THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII, CONVENED A PUBLIC HEARING ON FRIDAY, APRIL 16, AT 6:00 P.M., VIA BLUEJEANS, WITH CHAIR ALICE L. LEE PRESIDING, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING TESTIMONY ON THE PROPOSED OPERATING BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAM FOR THE FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2022.

CHAIR LEE: Will the Maui County Council public hearing on the proposed FY '22 Budget on April 16, at 6:00 p.m. please come to order. Aloha again to my dear colleagues. Same greeting, you want to take roll call.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS GABRIEL JOHNSON, KELLY T. KING, MICHAEL J. MOLINA, TAMARA A.M. PALTIN, SHANE M. SINENCI, YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, VICE-CHAIR KEANI N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, AND CHAIR ALICE L. LEE.

EXCUSED: COUNCILMEMBER NATALIE A. KAMA

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK JAMES G.M. KRUEGER: Chair there are eight Members present, one Member excused, a quorum is present to conduct the business of the Council.

For the record, oh apologies.

CHAIR LEE: No, I just said proceed.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: For the record, I am Deputy County Clerk James Krueger. Also present from the Office of the County Clerk are County Clerk Kathy Kaohu and Legislative Division staff Joyce Murashige, Lauren Saldana, and Dell Yoshida.

Joining the meeting from the Department of the Corporation Counsel, I believe is Corporation Counsel, Moana Lutey.

This online meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Governor's most recent emergency proclamation on COVID-19. If connectivity affecting quorum is lost, the Council will be in recess. If connectivity affecting quorum cannot be restored within 30 minutes, the meeting will automatically recess to Tuesday, April 20, at 9:00 a.m., using the same virtual connections, unless the Council announces a different date and time.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Clerk, the Deputy Corporation Counsel, I forgot her last name but her first name Kristi, she, she is with the Budget Committee.

Vice-Chair, what's her last name?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Toshikiyo. Toshikiyo.

CHAIR LEE: Toshikiyo. Kristi Toshikiyo. Are you on the call, Kristi?

DEPUTY CORPORATION COUNSEL KRISTINA TOSHIKIYO: Yes, Chair. I'm here.

CHAIR LEE: Alright, thank you. Okay, proceed. Mr. Clerk.

Oh, you want me to say the part about, Members the purpose of this public hearing is to receive testimony on the Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 and Capital Program as submitted by the Mayor.

Before we proceed, we would like everyone to know that we are requesting that everyone keep their microphones muted unless it is your time to speak. Decorum shall be maintained at all times.

Mr. Clerk, please proceed with testimony.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Chair, proceeding with the presentation of testimony. Members of the public may testify by connecting to the Council's online meeting by phone or video conference through the information posted on today's public hearing notice.

Individuals connected by phone are currently on mute and will be unmuted when it is their time to testify. Individuals connected by video conference should keep both their video and microphone muted until it is their time to testify.

Testimony is limited to the Proposed Fiscal Year 2022 Operating Budget and Capital Program. Individuals may testify for three minutes. When testifying, please state your name, and the name of any organization you represent. Please also identify to the Council if you are a paid lobbyist.

After your testimony has concluded, please disconnect from BlueJeans. Doing so will assist staff with identifying the remaining testifiers. The remainder of the public hearing can be viewed on Akaku Channel 53 or on mauicounty.legistar.com. Individuals may also be disconnected from the meeting at any time for breaking decorum.

Chair, the first person we have up to testify is Matt Bachman to be followed by Sarah Simmons.

CHAIR LEE: How many testifiers do we have so far?

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Chair, there's currently 24 individuals signed up to testify.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, thank you.

PRESENTATION OF TESTIMONY

MR. MATT BACHMAN:

Shall we proceed?

CHAIR LEE: Yes, please do.

MR. BACHMAN: Alright. Aloha, Council. My name is Matt Bachman and for some reason, I, there we are. My name is Matt Bachman, I'm the Family Services Director for Habitat for Humanity Maui. I appreciate the time tonight.

I am here to testify regarding the Housing and Human Concerns, Office of Aging budget, specifically a grant that was given to us last year and that is on the budget for next year that helps our kupuna age in place. According to a white paper by the Hawaii Community Foundation, 89 percent of those over 50 wish to remain in their home as long as possible. AARP Hawaii found that private nursing in Hawaii charges 50 percent more than those on the mainland. And finally, Hawaii senior facilities are very limited. As a result, the only way to keep our kupuna safe is to allow them to age in place.

Habitat Maui has been helping Maui County residents repair homes for years, including retrofitting for safety. Generally, the family would be required to pay us back with a loan of zero percent, however, we found that the most vulnerable of our residents were unable to repay the loan because they had a fixed income. The partnership between the Maui County Office of Aging and Habitat Maui has bridged that gap. We are now able to help our kupuna age in place safely at no cost to them.

Over the past year, we've received more than 50 requests from families in Maui to help retrofit their, their homes, this includes people from both Molokai and Hana. The request have come from families directly or from referrals from MCOA. In the first three quarters, Habitat Maui's construction team along with nearly 20 volunteers who have dedicated over 420 hours have been able to help 15 families.

While the pandemic made it challenging to get the program off of the ground, we now are able to streamline our process, decrease the amount of construction time, and still maintain strict safety measures. We are currently on track to complete another 11 projects by the end of the fiscal year. When the grant first was awarded, we hoped that we would fully fund 16 family homes, and with the help of the community we're going to be able to do 26.

Though every family's needs differ, the most frequent request are including grab bars and what we call a bathroom blow-out. This means that we are able to change the bathtub and retrofit it with a walk-in shower. It's decreasing falls and it's increasing the ability to maintain independence.

I want to share one story that exemplifies the need for this program. It's a story of Ron and Gloria. After back surgery, Ron unfortunately became wheelchair bound, excuse me, unable to use his legs. Their small condo made it difficult to move around while in the chair. Most troubling was Ron's trouble transferring from his chair to the commode in the bathroom. His wheelchair didn't fit through the door enough for him to fully use his grab bars. The counter got in the way of his legs, and from his chair, he couldn't even use the faucet to wash his hands. He kept a cellphone strapped to the wall so he could call for help every time he fell.

Thanks to the grant from MCOA, I'm sorry, thanks to the grant from MCOA, Habitat Maui was able to widen the door, build a custom counter for his legs, add stronger grab bars, and replace the faucet with one he could actually use. They were overjoyed. Now that cellphone sits next to the TV where it belongs.

In conclusion, I urge the Council to continue to fund this important program to keep our kupuna safe and allow them to age in place. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mr. Bachman. Are there any questions? Yes, Miss, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Bachman. So, you're in the Mayor's budget for 125,000 is that correct, with Habitat?

MR. BACHMAN: Yes, that is correct and that's the same amount that we received in the last fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for your excellent story, helping people. Thank you.

MR. BACHMAN: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Are there any more questions? If not, Mr. Bachman where do you get one of those blow-out tubs from?

MR. BACHMAN: Yes, we have a very good source and anytime someone needs a blow-out, a blow-out bathroom, we will be there to help them out.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Very good.

MR. BACHMAN: Thank you. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you very much. Thank you. May we have the next testifier? Oh, do you have a question, Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, just for you, just to let the testifiers know that, that sound was the alarm of their three minutes for testimony.

MR. BACHMAN: Oh, okay. Thank you. I'm sorry. Thank you, Councilmember.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're welcome. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Alright. Thank you, we have no more questions for you. Thank you for coming.

Next, Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Sarah Simmons to be followed by Jeeyun Lee.

MS. SARAH SIMMONS:

Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Sarah Simmons. I am here today in my capacity as a board member for Big Brother Big Sisters of Hawaii.

We are asking that the Council fully fund the grant request that we have submitted approximately \$147,000. I'm going to try to be as brief as I can. You know in short; Big Brother Big Sisters simply would not be able to survive without this County grant. Over the past year, our financial, you know, situation has gotten worse along with many other non-profits here in our County. We haven't been able to fundraise at the level we were previously, every single one of our big fundraisers were canceled for the year 2020. We've been able to put together some smaller fundraisers on a much smaller scale, but you know, we're just trying to do everything possible to survive at this point.

Big Brother Big Sisters serves the children of this community, some of which have been severely impacted by COVID-19 and we're just trying to adapt to our new normal. We've been able to hold virtual meetings with our Bigs and Littles. We've also been able to hold online activities for the children.

I also want to give a quick shout-out to Courtney Ikawa, I don't know if she's online right now, but you know, she has truly just been extraordinary over this past year. Her passion for the organization burns so brightly and we're so proud of what she's been able to do. So, please, please continue supporting our organization. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Ms. Simmons. Any questions? If not, thanks for coming.

MS. SIMMONS: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Next testifier.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Jeeyun Lee to be followed by Tawny Miyamoto.

MS. JEEYUN LEE:

Aloha ahihi distinguished Maui County Councilmembers. My name is Jeeyun Lee, and I am calling into you from beautiful Lahaina Town.

I'm a current Ka Ipu Kukui Fellow, but also recently joined as program staff to support the growth and strategic development of this vibrant non-profit. I am here to respectfully request your support of the 34,000 for Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows within Mayor's

proposed budget. My colleagues before me have already shared the meaningful outcomes this program has accomplished, so with that in mind I wanted to share my personal story as to why I am so committed to supporting this program.

Unlike most of my cohort, I was not born and raised here. I know, shh, it's okay, they already know. Instead, I came to Maui after a decade on Oahu to raise my son closer to his dad's side of the family, who are from Napili. This is my tie to Maui Nui and what grounds me here. This is Kaimakana, he's my nine-year-old and my why.

When I moved here in 2019, with almost 20 years of non-profit experience, I was the director of a local non-profit and quickly embraced the warmth and support that runs deep through the veins of Maui Nui. This show of aloha took my breath away. I began to ask friends and colleagues a simple question, how can I help here, guide me. The funny thing was that almost all the people I asked, Spencer Lau, Representative Troy Hashimoto, Kaimana Brummel, Jordan Hart, said the same thing. You want to understand how to help here, look into the Ka Ipu Kukui program. It's literally a program that asks and helps to answer that question for you as an emerging leader. So, well I did. I'm a good listener. Ka Ipu Kukui has laid the foundation for me to understand the core values, infrastructure, assets, and pinpoints of this unique County so that I have the knowledge, skill set and network to use my non-profit leadership skills more effectively.

It took me over a decade to learn this on Oahu, and within one year this program has armed me with the knowledge and skills to be a value at the Maui Nui community faster and more effectively. It has firmly rooted me here and made me more committed to this unique place. Not only did Ka Ipu Kukui accomplish this with its content, but with its comradery. My cohort has seen me both personally and professionally through this pandemic as I tackled my role as a HR director for Imua Family Services and even as a mom, with analyzing school choices for Kaimakana. They are my people. They inspire me, and they have all become Kaimakana's aunties and uncles. As you can see, I have directly benefitted from the Ka Ipu Kukui Fellows program in a profoundly meaningful way.

So, County Councilmembers, Mahalo piha. I'm here to look you all in the eye and tell you that your investment won't go unreturned. With that in mind, I humbly ask you to continue to perpetuate this gift for other emerging Maui Nui leaders so that they too can expand their skills and knowledge base and support us as we navigate through the pandemic pivots ahead. And I will work diligently on my end to ensure that the resources spent continue to be a value add to Maui Nui.

Mahalo for your time and for you and your families' public service during these complex times. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Ms. Lee. Any questions? If not, thank you very much.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Tawny Miyamoto, to be followed by Teana Kaho'ohanohano.

MS. TAWNY MIYAMOTO:

Hi.

CHAIR LEE: Hi.

MS. MIYAMOTO: Aloha, my name is Tawny Miyamoto. I'm testifying on behalf of MEO Head Start on the island of Molokai. The program has played an essential role in the development of my child, emotionally, socially, and academically. It has . . . thriving our whole family. The support and resources . . . from the program . . . We have learned a lot. And I strongly believe having access to early childhood education programs plays a huge role in building a child's educational foundation. Being affiliated with the program for three years now and looking forward to having my third son attend in the upcoming school year. I ask for the continued funding for the MEO Head Start program. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you for coming. Any questions, Members? If not, may we have the next testifier please.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person signed up to testify is Teana Kaho'ohanohano, to be followed by Brett Fahnestock.

MS. TEANA KAHO'OHANO:

Aloha ahihi kakou. My name is Teana Kaho'ohanohano and I am testifying on behalf of Ka Ipu Kukui and I request the support from the County of Maui Fiscal Year 2022 Budget.

I was born and raised here on Maui and I had it instilled in me early on the desire to give back to the community that helped raise me. So, making that connection to my island has always been really important to me. I lived on the mainland for many years after graduating high school to pursue my education and career efforts. After that I

worked on Hawaii island serving as a Nursing Wing Administrator in both the public and private sector. I was blessed to be able to return to Maui in 2017 where I now serve as the License Nursing Home Administrator for Hale Makua Health Services, Maui's largest long-time care facility. We employ over 500 Maui residents and serve over 450 Maui kupuna.

Ka Ipu Kukui has always played a beneficial role in the development of many of Maui's most influential leaders. Current and past fellows include businessowners, attorneys, educators, and even County Councilmembers. In this immensely challenging year, we're proud to say that the impact of our current cohort, one that I'm a part of, has been even more profound. Of course, with COVID-19, the pandemic erupted prior to the completion of our program, yet the network of us young, local leaders that we established through our time together, and the capacity to confront this opponent, resources were just amazing.

I need to tell you a story about Hale Makua. As the administrator there, when COVID hit, it devastated our kupuna, our families and our employees. Two months into the pandemic, you know we thought that was such a long time, now we're a year into it, but two months. I had the idea to have a drive thru for our families so that they could see their kupuna, their loved ones. If it had not been for my fellow cohort, I don't know if that would've been possible.

Ashley Takitani-Leahy who was the Director of Communication and Development took my dream and put it to life. Our first phone call was to Tyson Miyake, and he was able to get support from the County and from the Mayor. It was the most amazing day in my career, to see how my cohort with one phone call was able to make this happen for our kupuna of Maui. And then to end our day, donated popsicles and ice cream from Buddy Nobriga, Maui Soda Works and Ice Cream. All made possible from my cohort. Something so simple was so profound for one simple day for our kupuna.

I know I can always count on my fellows to hui and kako'o the kupuna I serve every day. Do you know why? It's because we are proud of the difference we are able to enact to the community that raised us. We all still have inherent connection to this island, and our involvement with Ka Ipu Kukui has strengthened our ability to positively influence the needs of Maui's people today and for our future.

Ka Ipu Kukui is able to create this Maui magic that you don't find anywhere else. Even in our limited time together, the relationship we forged are everlasting. So, mahalo for your time this evening and I truly hope after hearing us tonight will inspire you to continue to support Ka Ipu Kukui and the next generation of Maui Nui leaders. Mahalo nui.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Ms. Kaho'ohanohano. Are there any questions? If not, thank you for coming.

Mr. Clerk.

MS. KAHO'OHANO: Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Mahalo.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Brett Fahnestock, to be followed by Natasha Nunies.

MR. BRETT FAHNESTOCK:

Aloha everybody, my name is Brett Fahnestock, I'm testifying on behalf of myself and I'm grateful to be able to testify. Thank you.

I live at Southpointe, I'm testifying on concern for the water rates. I live at Southpointe which is a condominium complex in Kihei, 346-units, approximately 15 acres, approximately a thousand people living here. What's surprising is that we pay the same rate for water as the Four Seasons Resort, just like Harbor Lights or Lao Parkside or Kihei Villages, we all pay the same rate as the hotels and the businesses. It's based on the way the water rate structure is laid out for Maui.

Oahu has done it differently, they have a multi-family rate for, for housing that's in condos. And so, I'm just asking you, I hear you people say sometimes that, you know, you want to target the egregious users, the people that use excessive water and you know, I understand that. But at Southpointe, we've been able to maintain a lot of the same employees for years and we've reduced it down to approximately 6,000 gallons per unit, per month, but we are classified in the all other users. So, when you target raising the rates of those all other users, you are targeting the hotels, but you're also targeting us and Harbor Lights and Kihei Villages because of the way the water rate structure is set-up.

And I'm just humbly asking you to, I asked the Mayor years ago when he was the Water Resource Committee and Dave Taylor was the Water Director and it went nowhere. You know I told him I can't understand how Harbor, I got a bunch of people from Harbor Lights to testify, so I can't understand why they pay the same rate as the Grand and it just, Dave was tough back then, it didn't go anywhere. I'm bringing up again cause I hear talk of, you know the all other users going to go way up again.

So please if we could try to create a multi-family rate for, for us in condos where we would get per unit a certain amount of gallons, would be grateful for that. The reason that it's kind of billed this way is like, we have approximately five meters, 70-units on a meter, so when 70-units use water, we go through that lowest tier on the first day, so the rest of the days of the month we're billed at the highest rate, that's why. So, changing the water rate structure the way it's built, and really all you have to do is copy Oahu for the most part, it's not that difficult.

I'm just humbly asking you, before you target the all other users and you will get the hotels, but you'll also get some us that have, you know lived here and have long-term rental. So, that's all I have. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Questions?

Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here Mr. Fahnestock. You know, there's a portion of your, of Southpointe that's actually zoned hotel. And so, I have been working with the, some of the heads of your association couple of years ago in trying to get the zoning changed. But they needed, they first need, because of this, because you actually are paying hotel rates for garbage pickup too, but they couldn't get the numbers of people to respond to a vote, the owner, you know, you have to have a certain number of owners, certain percentage. So, if it, is it possible that you could follow up with them and you know find out what the issue is with the zoning?

MR. FAHNESTOCK: I, I understand what you're saying Ms. King, thank you for that. But all condos, whether you're in a hotel zoned or not, pay the same rate for water. All of them across Maui. So, it's not, I know what you're saying but we don't, it's not just being zoned hotel that allows for short-term rentals, there's more to it. And so like the new law that was passed about rentals and stuff, we don't fall into that is the way that I understand it because we're zoned hotel, we're zoned residential that, we, you have to have it in your governing documents, your declaration bylaws that you allow short-term rentals. And so we've never allowed short-term rentals here, and so because of our governing documents and people have tried it and we, we've, they've lost and so I don't think the issue is that it's all condos, whether you're zoned hotel, it's the way the meters, the way the structure is rather than the zoning. Does that make sense?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, that's just not what I was told when I first met with you folks over there, so I can try to follow up and see what's going on with those rates.

MR. FAHNESTOCK: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thanks.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Are there any questions, any other questions?

Yes, Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Fahnestock. Couple clarifying questions. How much total units did you say, for Southpointe? Is it 350, 70 times 5?

MR. FAHNESTOCK: 346, 346, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And do you know what your monthly bill is? I mean, not your bill, sorry your gallons that you use, how much gallons you use?

MR. FAHNESTOCK: I don't have that with me. I think the Board President is on here to speak in a little bit, he might have that. I used to have that but um, I don't know that right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, okay, that's cool, that's cool. And then last question is, so nobody in that whole Southpointe is short-term rental you said?

MR. FAHNESTOCK: That's correct. Yes. That's correct. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. FAHNESTOCK: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much for your testimony.

MR. FAHNESTOCK: Thank you, too.

CHAIR LEE: Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Fahnestock. Mahalo for your testimony and for your email. Just a quick clarifying question, if you had an opportunity to review the proposal for the rate structure that I submitted to the committee?

MR. FAHNESTOCK: Yes, I sure did. I'm so thankful that you're bringing it up. Yes, thank you for helping. It's um, yes, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Any more questions? If not, thank you very much.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Natasha Nunies, to be followed by Kekoa Barcai.

MS. NATASHA NUNIES:

Aloha, my name is Natasha. I'm testifying on behalf of Kahi Kamali'i, MEO. I really enjoyed everyone's previous story. I can definitely tell that the funds are very needed amongst the community.

MEO Kahi Kamali'i helps me personally because I am a parent whose keiki attends it and you know, as the other person had mentioned our keiki are our future. You know, they're going to be us one day, so we have to be able to have that impact for them to get a good head start.

It also helps families like myself because, you know as a lot of people shared, the pandemic really did take a toll on a lot of people. I can tell you prior to, I was not on any State funds or needed assistance, and I get emotional thinking of it, cause you know at one point I didn't have the income to live where I live. I had to pay my electricity, my utilities, all of that, and that kind of really back peddled because I wasn't able to go to work and I wasn't able to receive any funds from the State.

So, we jumped on funding and finally I used all the savings that I had left to catch up on my utilities and all that, and then now we were getting ready to go back to work and then my child who at the time was just a few months is now, you know running around, can't really keep still. So, it's not like I can take her to work with me, cause you know, toddlers are just go, go, go, that's all they know right.

So, I reached out to some of the fundings that could help us and Kahi Kamali'i were one of them. Debbi Amaral she's in charge over there and you know she really said, you know hey I can help you. And I appreciated that, because at that time there wasn't many help, yeah. It was a tough, a tough time. Everything that I would wanted to, I couldn't afford, so definitely by funding it for parents like myself. And it's really not just, you know, people don't just see it as free money. We see it as resources to get to school, get to work.

I have other keikis who have to go to school you know, it's not their responsibility to have to care for the child. But in order for me to keep my head afloat, I also need to be able to go to work, so this program has extremely helped us and has kept us, you know, floating on. And now I know this coming school year will be just as good, it's not one thing you have to worry about. I can now focus my care to, I have to obtain my home now, I have to my electric, my utilities, all of that. So, praise God for this program because it keeps us, you know, ahead and afloat. So, thank you so much.

CHAIR LEE: And thank you for your excellent testimony. Members, do you have any questions? If not, thank you. May we have the next testifier.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person signed up to testify is Kekoa Barcai, to be followed by Christopher McGee.

MR. KEKOA BARCAI:

Aloha. Kekoa Barcai. I testifying on behalf of MEO Head Start. I am a single father with three beautiful daughters, all have attended MEO Head Start program. My youngest is enrolled with MEO Head Start Wailuku B center. I am also a Policy Council Representative for Wailuku B center. I have been a part of MEO Head Start program for quite, quite a while and am very proud to be part of the Head Start family. I have been more involved due to this pandemic, but despite of it, I've gotten more in-tuned and how I can be more of an advocate for my daughters' education.

This program and this funding is so essential to me as a parent, and to other parents in this program. The MEO Head Start program has helped my family and I so much in the past. They have provided bus passes for my stepdaughter and I to get her to her school. The staff has provided meals and turkey boxes during the holiday season. The teachers has provided learning packets and any supplies we needed during these trying times. I am and always will be appreciative of each and every one of them.

With this funding, the extending of the day, I will be able to go to work, to help provide for my family and not worry that I can't work a full day. If this funding was no longer available for full day services or summer programs, it will definitely have a negative impact on my family and I. I would not be able to go to work, I would have to find other ways and options which this funding and Head Start program already helps and provide.

I'm so grateful for MEO Head Start program. My daughters are so advanced and smart because of this program and that they have excelled in many of their accomplishments. I just wish that MEO Head Start was working beyond early childhood years. But I am appreciative. But I am forever grateful and thank you for letting me share my story.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, you're muted.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mr. Barcai. No questions, so Mr. Clerk, next testifier.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Next person we have signed up to testify is Christopher McGee, to be followed by Darla Palmer-Ellingson.

MR. CHRISTOPHER MCGEE:

Hello, thank you, Chair and Members. I would like to submit my testimony on behalf of the Maui Economic Development Board, MEDB.

My name is Christopher McGee, I'm the owner of the Avocado Group a very small web-marketing and business coaching company with headquarters in Kihei and servicing all islands.

We strongly believe in MEDB's mission to lead and inspire innovation in business education, in business education and our community. Innovation in business is at the heart of what myself and my team strive for every day. And we have been fortunate enough to be first-hand beneficiaries and contributors to some of the programs that MEDB organizes and administers.

In September 2020, while the island was largely shutdown, MEDB administered the adaptability fund to support small businesses in need of support to adapt their way of conducting business to survive in these unprecedented times. The Avocado Group was not only a recipient of that grant, but as a company that specializes in helping other businesses find ways to monetize online, without reliance on tourism.

The Avocado Group is listed as one of the service providers on a campaigning website with a directory, a directory of Maui County service providers that the grantees could utilize for the adaptability fund grants. As a result, we were able to serve several small businesses in need of assistance as they adapted their businesses online, the majority of whom are once again thriving and now enjoying new sources of revenue they did have prior to the shutdown.

Another relief funding program that MEDB implemented was the Maui County, in Maui County was the Aloha Connects Innovation, ACI. This program was designed to provide opportunity for displaced workers, people laid off as a result of the shut down by placing them in non-tourism related businesses. The Avocado was able to host three participants, one of whom we hired after the program ended. She is now with us fulltime and is perhaps one our most valuable team members. She manages the rest of my team, both my staff and all of our clients love her, and we are lucky to have her. She was laid off due to COVID and thanks to MEDB, she is now happily employed.

We're also looking forward to hosting a few high school students through the STEM-Works Internship this summer, and a virtual internship where they'll be able to learn valuable life skills that they will be able to use in the workforce and become innovators themselves.

MEDB truly is living up to their mission to lead and inspire innovation in business education and in our community. Here at the Avocado Group, we will continue to work with the Maui Economic Development Board to further that mission, and I ask that you continue to fund the work that they do. Thank you all.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mr. McGee. Any questions? If not, oh yes, Ms. Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Really fast. What is, I'm sorry, ACI stand for?

MR. MCGEE: It's Aloha Connects Innovation.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Alright, may we have our next testifier.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Darla Palmer-Ellingson, to be followed by Rachelle Pedersen.

MS. DARLA PALMER-ELLINGSON:

Aloha. Mahalo, Chair and Councilmembers. My name is Darla Palmer-Ellingson and I'm testifying on behalf of The Climate Action Advisory Committee or CAAC for short where I Chair the . . . Environment Committee. I'm testifying in support of Councilmember King's budget item proposal to hire an additional Economic Development Specialist II to manage, draft, initiate request for qualifications, and request for proposals to develop a pre-built housing factory, research site options, and

research locally sourced sustainable building materials under the Administration's Office on Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency.

CAAC applauds the County Council for the affordable housing study and are grateful that participants identify prebuilt housing as one solution for Maui's housing crisis. For this budget item you have an opportunity to not only create affordable housing, but to positively impact climate change goals and create a diversified economy through development of sustainable buildings and materials and create more resilient communities.

Those on the County of Maui CARE Committee may recall that CAAC brought forth a presentation to explore the idea of building a net zero housing factory on Maui and there's many other vendors that are capable of such a project including right here in Hawaii. CAAC would support any qualified vendor as long as energy efficiency and sustainable materials are incorporated. These homes would preferably be net zero or even net positive which means homes return power to the grid or store it for future use.

If consumers are wondering about costs, our research indicates that factory built modular housing typically represents at least 20 percent cost savings over . . . built homes. The cost continues because homes are much cheaper to operate when energy cost is taken out of the equation. We're all also charged with reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere thereby stopping catastrophic climate change as quickly, safely, and equitably as possible.

As this initiative develops, you have a real opportunity to create housing solutions that reduce these emissions and enhance electricity efficiency. We can transition homes from being a major environmental drain to being net zero or net positive. We also take into consideration that the materials that we build with, developing sustainable sources, we have the capacity to produce here in Hawaii, including hempcrete and bamboo. This initiative suggested by the Affordable Housing Plan creates a cost effective and environmentally smart solution.

That is way CAAC supports the position for this budget item to be contained in the Administration's Office of Climate Action, Resiliency and Sustainability. We ask the Council to consider not limiting the search for a suitable factory location to County land inventory as this is an unnecessary limiting factor in development. Mahalo, Councilmembers.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any questions? If not, thank you for your testimony. Oh, we have a couple.

Ms. King and then, Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to ask you Darla if you could send the written testimony in? It was a really good testimony and jam packed with information.

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: Yes, we definitely will be sending in testimony on this and other items from CAAC.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you.

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Ellingson for your testimony. I just, um, I wasn't clear, um, it's not the County you want to run it, you want the County to look for land for it.

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: Well, this is, this is what's proposed. You know, basically this is a pretty complex project and typically in, you know, counties and cities it goes to the Council and/or an economic development board to bring it in to the community. So, at some point there would be private developers going through an RFP process to establish the facility. But we need to create the framework to bring it here. We've also on behalf of CAAC, written a letter to the State to make sure that there's, there's no barriers as far as building this type of structure in the County Code. So there needs to be this position because there's a lot of work to be done just to be able to do this type of project.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you're asking for the position, like that was the, what I was trying to clarify. Thank you.

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: Yeah. I'm sorry. Long answer. Yeah, it's a County position.

CHAIR LEE: Any more questions? If not, thank you Ms. Palmer--

MS. PALMER-ELLINGSON: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: --Ellingson. Okay. I, we still remember her as Darla Palmer.

Alright, Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Rachelle Pedersen, to be followed by Lynn Britton.

MS. RACHELLE PEDERSEN:

Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Rachelle Pedersen. I'm testifying on behalf of MEO Early Head Start and Kahi Kamali'i. My daughter Savannah is three-years old and she's been attending there for over a year and a half now.

During the pandemic, when the pandemic first started, I was furloughed from my job and decided to go back to school, go back to college, and I was able to finish. And I wouldn't have been able to do that if it wasn't for Kahi Kamali'i and the scholarships that they provide. And now I am a COVID contact, or COVID investigator with the Department of Health, and I could not have gotten this far without Debbi Amaral's help and all of her staff at MEO. Not only do they do help with childcare and scholarships, but so much more for this community. It's unbelievable. And I would not be where I'm at now without their help, and it brings me to tears of how much appreciation I have for them. And I just, I really pray that you provide funding for them to continue with the scholarships for our children so we can continue working for our community. Aloha and mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mrs. Pedersen. Any questions for the testifier? If not, may we have the next one.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person signed up to testify is Lynn Britton, to be followed by Jaquelynn.

MS. LYNN BRITTON:

Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Aloha.

MS. BRITTON: . . . Council.

CHAIR LEE: Very good.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ah, Ms. Britton, you've muted yourself.

MS. BRITTON: Can you hear me now?

CHAIR LEE: Well, no.

MS. BRITTON: Good?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. BRITTON: Okay. Sorry. I've submitted written testimony supporting Ma'alaea Mauka and appreciate all the Council has done to bring us this far. And we do need additional funding in this year's, coming year's budget to finalize the purchase. It's nothing new, the effect of sediment on coral reefs in Ma'alaea Bay. Just today in the Maui News we had another article testifying to that. So, I don't think I need to give Council more information on sediment issues, but in my testimony I also summarize other reasons why we need to move ahead with Ma'alaea Mauka and appreciate your support.

We also support funding for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. They've done excellent work with the Pohakea management study, storm water management, and they have taken us this far in terms of showing the importance of sediment and the effects on Ma'alaea Bay. They have two areas of funding, they have Environmental Protection Funds and also grants and disbursements for the visitor industry for visitor education. So, please continue to support Maui Nui Marine Resource Council.

We also support the feral animal control funding in the Mayor's budget. And we're very excited about possibilities for funding for the conveyance system for the Ma'alaea regional wastewater system which we have several representatives from the Ma'alaea community, we'll talk about that later. But we appreciate Councilmember King being able and Budget Chair Rawlins-Fernandez being able to include the money for the conveyance system in the coming budget. This is very important to continue to improve efforts to restore Ma'alaea Bay. Twenty-four injections wells going from ten condominium properties and the businesses in Ma'alaea. This will address that and really will put Maui forward for the future in terms of all that we can do to improve the economy and to support the environment. So, thank you for all you do and appreciate your support. Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Aloha. Any questions? If not, thank you, Lynn. Mr. Clerk.

MS. BRITTON: Thank you.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Jacquelynn to be followed by Todd Yamashita.

MS. JAQUELYNN SUA:

Hello.

CHAIR LEE: Hello.

MS. SUA: Hello, my name is Jaquelynn, can you guys hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. SUA: My name is Jaquelynn Sua. My daughter goes to MEO, the Kahului B center, and I have four children. I am the only parent in the home. The, this is her first year and the program has been very supportive with my family. They've been actually like the second parent, the parent partner for me, the second pair of eyes, you know, just like a co-parenting. It's more than just them being their teachers and you know they just, just the excellent team that they have to, you know, educate and support our keikis.

So please continue to support our keikis through the MEO Head Start program. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, you're muted. Chair, you're muted.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, I can see that again. May we have the next testifier.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person signed up to testify is Todd Yamashita, to be followed by Kealoha Laemoa.

MR. TODD YAMASHITA:

Aloha, distinguished Councilmembers. Um, you know, I just, really quickly I just wanted to mahalo each of you for spending your Friday night helping to support our community, I'm really moved by testimonies tonight.

So, um, I'm, ah, my name is Todd Yamashita and I'm calling in from the island of Molokai and I'm testifying in support of Council Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, priority proposal No. 33 under the Office of Economic Development to fund workforce development in renewable energy on Molokai. I'm the board president of Oahu Energy Cooperative Molokai and I'm proud to say that we're the first community owned and community managed renewable energy coop here in Hawaii. You know, I know we're

new and I want to, I just want to take a moment so that you guys know who we are and kind of the guts of why we do, trying to do what we want to do.

So Oahu Energy's vision is resilient, sustainable, equitable, culturally capatible energy for all. Our mission is to produce community-owned affordable renewable energy for the benefit of our members, the community, and environment. Oahu Energy's organizational goal is to increase energy justice and to build equity in the energy sector on behalf of the Molokai community.

So, with the proposed funding, you know, we plan to provide training for 20 or more people on the island to prepare for the design, construction, installation, maintenance, repair, and management of renewable energy systems here in, on Molokai. And as you guys know, you know, we have been earmarked to reach our 100 percent renewable energy here on Molokai by 2020. And obviously that has passed, but, you know, looking at this goal and of, you know, this huge movement forward in renewable energy and this expectation that Molokai is going to buildout in this area. You know our intent is, is to focus on making sure that our Molokai people have the training and the opportunity to buildout these systems and to you know elevate ourselves as a community.

And just real quick, I want you guys to know that, you know, this is a, these are Molokai people. These are all volunteer people that are putting this together. In my own family history, I have been on Molokai for five generations, my grandfather Henry Yamashita ran Molokai Electric for a very long time. And so, this is a little bit of a legacy for me and you know I just want you guys to know that this is of and by the Molokai community. And to really just mahalo you guys for being here for us. And also to let you know, you know we have another couple members that we're going to, you know, talk about a little bit more about what we're doing. Thank you very, very much.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, yes, we have a question for you.

Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Nice to see you Todd. I think I've seen your name in print often with the Molokai Dispatch, is that right?

MR. YAMASHITA: That's correct. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: That is you.

MR. YAMASHITA: Yes, yes. It's me.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, are you, what number did you reference? Did you say 32 or is it 33?

MR. YAMASHITA: I think this is number 33 on, on a, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. I got it. I see it.

CHAIR LEE: Any more questions for Todd? And Todd, by the way, you mentioned that we're giving up our Friday night. Don't worry about it because none of us have a life to speak of. Just kidding. Thank you for coming. Next.

MR. YAMASHITA: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Next.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have to testify is Kealoha Laemoa, to be followed by Keisa Liu.

MS. KEALOHA LAEMOA:

Aloha, Councilmembers. Can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes we can.

MS. LAEMOA: Okay, I am calling or I am testifying in support of Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, her line item of A, B, C and D, and I want to thank you for considering all of those, which is plenty. All of the words that she uses, maika'i.

But I also wanted, I'm also in support of MEO and keeping the monies here on Molokai. You know, they've helped me with so much more, I recently was awarded Section 8 and they've helped me with getting my deposit, Auntie Nani from MEO here. They were so supportive and I am in support of MEO on Molokai.

And so, I don't want to take up any of your time but I am definitely in support of Keani Rawlins-Fernandez in her line item of A, B, C, and D. Thank you very much.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any questions? If not, thanks for coming.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Keisa Liu, to be followed by Lori Buchanan.

MS. KEISA LIU:

Aloha, Members. Can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. LIU: It looks like, okay. Um, so aloha Council Chair Lee and Councilmembers. My name is Keisa Liu. Some of you know me as the EA to Councilmember Johnson, but today I'm speaking on my own time and my own capacity as a community organizer with a special interest in the Maui Police Department.

I'm calling, I'm testifying about the COPS grant in particular and how it relates to the LEAD program. I just want to say that I am in full support of the LEAD program and funding that, and I'm excited to hear that there are other Councilmembers' who will be . . . their own spaces, in their own districts. I would say that for me personally, I think it's important because it's a step in the right direction when it comes to different organizations working together to support our most vulnerable. It also creates an opportunity for people of authority to operate in a space that encourages empathy and emotional intelligence, and I really, really am excited about that and that space. I would suggest maybe that we involve the new Commission on Healing Solutions for Homeless when it comes to that program.

And then the other thing that I would just say is I had some questions about the COPS grant and the explanations that was given by Chief Faaumu about the funding for it. There was a question about needing to pay 40 percent of the salaries in FY '22, even though the COPS grant is supposed to fund it 100 percent, the salaries and benefits. Sorry. So, I had a question as to why we were funding that? I also had a question about what would happen after FY '22, because it sounds like they would have to, will have to fund it in FY '23 and then after that what happens? Do they reapply for the grant or do we have to create some type of line item in our County budget to do that?

And the reason why I'm concerned is because I don't want to lose funding for such an important program to, important community oriented program within our Police Department, we don't have alot of those. I am curious about who is going to be writing the grants for that. I know they talked about them getting a assistant for that, but that's different than a grant writer. And so I was just curious, who was going to be writing those grants, making sure that they get done so that we can have that funding there.

I didn't really have any other things particularly to the COPS grant, but I did write a bunch of other questions I had about the budget in my written testimony. But that's all I really wanted to, to touch base on today and thank you all for being so supportive and . . . is something that's very important to me that I care very much about. So I'm glad that, that's something that's important to you guys as well. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Did you send in your written testimony?

MS. LIU: I did. I got a bounce back email from the County Clerk so I just sent it to all you guys and then the County Clerk's email.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. So, all of the questions that you mentioned are in that testimony, right?

MS. LIU: They are. Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, very good, and I'm sure Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, the Budget Chair will answer every single one of them.

MS. LIU: Thank you. You know me, I always have questions.

CHAIR LEE: We like tough questions. Anybody else? I guess not, so thank you for coming.

MS. LIU: Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: No more questions.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next individual we have signed up to testify is Lori Buchanan, to be followed by Dick Mayer.

MS. LORI BUCHANAN:

Hui. Aloha, my hardworking Councilmembers. I no think you guys ever go home and sleep. I think you guys all get pillows in the back of you and you just wake up in the morning and go again. But, um, I wanted to thank you, I so exciting to hear so much good work going on in Maui County. Maui County rocks.

I'm here tonight to testify and support what you just heard earlier from Mr. Todd Yamashita. Todd Yamashita is the President of the newly formed energy coop and I, I get to be his Vice-President. And so, we're trying to mentor the next generation and

we keep them in line and we're trying to do all of this for our community. So, we would like to speak in support of the funding that Keani has proposed for us, and so not to go into all of that since he already testified.

I would also like to support additional request from Keani's office and that would be for the additional worker at the DMV. So, sorely, sorely needed on the island of Molokai. Support for the Sustainable Molokai food pantry. Education and outreach for a Charter Commission, and we just had the Charter Commission last night on Molokai. And Council, a lot of people really don't understand, especially on Molokai, what the Charter Commission does and how important it is. So please try kokua that. And then last for axis deer management and a person to head that off because you guys know that is becoming a big issue on the island of Molokai.

And of course, once upon a time, I used to be one mom, and six of my eighth kids attended MEO Preschool. And at the time as a young mom, they gave me some skills that I could use at home, especially how to put them down in the afternoon and make them go sleep and get them on one schedule, and then feed them and pick them up. And so touch my heart because MEO rocks, you know, they really do and so I'd like to throw support for them there. And I wanted to thank you guys again for not having a life and, and serving me, I appreciate it. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Our pleasure. Any questions? If not, mahalo for stopping by Lori. Can we have our next testifier, Mr. Clerk?

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next individual signed up to testify is Dick Mayer, to be followed by Scott Lacasse.

MR. DICK MAYER:

Good evening and nice to see you all again. And others have commented about the fact that you never leave the room, I swear to it now.

I want to talk about something, not where you spend the money, but where you get the money. The main source of income for the County is the property tax obviously. There's another potential source out there that has not been tapped, but the County has in the past begun investigating it, and that's impact fees.

About a decade ago, the County spent a lot of money, hired two companies to do impact fee studies on new projects coming into the island, whether it be mega-malls, mega-homes, you know, rich homes, whether it be shopping centers, other types of operations where a fee could be set to help pay for the infrastructure that we so badly

need. They did two studies and it was, there was a committee in the County that was advisory to the Planning Department on that and included some very good people, Grant Chun, and David Goode, and Jeanne Skog, myself, Lucienne DeNaie, it was a, and I could mention others, a well balanced committee that we advised the consultants on that report.

They came out with a report and the person for the County that lead that whole thing was the lady that you may remember Ms. Kern, who was the lady killed on the, in the helicopter crash or the plane crash on Lanai about five, six years ago. Once she died, the leader of that effort unfortunately passed away, was no longer able to push for the adoption of that. The studies also included, actual ordinances, how the County could adopt that thing.

So, what I'm going to ask is that the Budget Committee along with Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, look at this. It's an infrastructure issue, this morning she said she had one item in her Committee, I would like her and I would be glad to work with her to, as an infrastructure issue and the funding source, to give the County some potential funding. The question would be how much is fair? That those reports did a lot of calculations with consultants and give some advice from the group that I mentioned. They . . . Hana, let's say a company in Hana should pay the same amount as somebody in West Maui. We talked about those kinds of issues.

I have copies of those reports that were finished. They were kept by the Administration for several years without transmission to the Council. Finally, I think after a few years, they were transmitted to the Council and nothing ever happened with them. I'm going to ask that you take a good look at that study, those studies, the two of them and see what can be done to enhance County revenues. One of the provisions that can be done in that would be that for example, that affordable housing that's built not have to pay the impact fees, but that the burden goes on the large estates that are being put up by the stores like Lowes, the new Lowes, or the Safeway on the Hana highway.

So, I'm glad to work with you if that's something that you would like to do to enhance County revenues so that you don't have to rely only on property taxes.

CHAIR LEE: Yes, Ms. Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay, thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, now we can't hear you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Sorry. Just clarification, I don't think that, I don't want you to think that I only have one thing on my plate. It was just for that one committee I had scheduled, I'm going to schedule Lahaina Flood Control.

MR. MAYER: Okay. Oh, good. Okay, I misunderstood and I'm sorry, I apologize for that.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No, no, no that's okay, but on the impact fees, just to let you know, because I asked that question to Planning when they came before us, and they have the study, must be the same one you're talking about. I will circle back with them to find out and they said to all the Council that December of this year, they're reviewing it again and that they will present it to the Council. So just to let you know that it's not completely dead, I guess it, you know, it was--

MR. MAYER: It's been dormant.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: It was dormant. So, but I will talk to you later, I'm very interested in impact fees. It's an item in my Committee and I'm very interested in figuring out how we can build more infrastructure.

MR. MAYER: I think there are two things, two steps. One is to get an ordinance that allows that to be done by the County for the impact fees and . . . transportation and roads and the other one will be done for all the other kinds of infrastructure, fire stations, police stations, wastewater, etc. They could be funded in part by these fees paid so it doesn't put the burden on existing residents and voters, but rather on new entities that want to move into Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Are there any questions, any more questions? If not, thank you Dick because we're always interested in new revenue sources. So, thank you for bringing that up.

MR. MAYER: And have a great weekend. If you have one?

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Thank you.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person signed up to testify is Scott Lacasse, to be followed by Anne Rillero.

MR. SCOTT LACASSE:

Aloha, Madam Chair and Councilmembers. My name is Scott Lacasse and I'm the new Executive Director for Grow Some Good, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to cultivating healthy communities through garden-based education.

We serve 8,000 students in 35 schools across Maui, Lanai and Molokai and envision our island community fully supported by a thriving, local, and eventually sustainable food system. Our Maui Farm to School Network garden program was formerly known as the Maui School Garden Network, is a line item on the Mayor's proposed budget. This program is dedicated to supporting a greater state of food independence in Maui County by providing keiki with the tools needed to envision and create a food future that is less reliant on imported food. The Maui Farm to School Network program currently serves 75 percent of the Title I Schools in Maui County as defined by an average of 57 percent of the enrolled students existing below poverty level. As such 5,000 of the 8,000 students we educate are considered financially disadvantaged.

First, I'd like to thank the Council and the OED grants team for their support during this challenging year. It's been very difficult for all of us, and the support has been instrumental in us being able to achieve our impactful work within the community. We intend to continue our collaborations and projects well into the Fiscal Year '22 and respectfully request that you continue to support this critical work.

Some of the strong relationships that we've developed, and it's been a positive light out of this pandemic, are with other community organizations, such as the Maui Family YMCA. We were able to initiate a successful plant distribution program that supplied nearly 11,000 food plants and 850 pounds of food to families in need during the early stages of the pandemic. This food came from school gardens across Maui Nui. We are also engaged with Maui Family YMCA in plans to build a community garden which is in the permitting phase as we speak, and we hope to begin construction in the Fall of 2021.

We also started working closely with Imua Family Services and their discovery garden and have been invited to participant in designing and staffing a new educational garden there. Big Brother Big Sister mentor center at Waiale, we've developed a beautiful partnership with them. We've expanded their existing gardens, brought them back to life and we had a wonderful summer program and we would love to continue that summer program with them. And with the eye on creating a true community garden in that community at Waiale.

We've also been doing work with the University of Hawaii, Maui College and Kamehameha Schools in developing and implementing a P-20 pilot agricultural education program on Maui. This is a new youth education program that seeks to grow a resilient agricultural workforce in Hawaii. Our focus continues to be on collaboration with our schools to facilitate garden education.

In response to the ever-changing educational landscape, we leverage our past successes in assembling and distributing student garden learning kits to connect keiki across Maui Nui to their food through an impactful project and place-based learning experience we call Kumu Mea Kanu. This project without, oh, wow.

CHAIR LEE: Sorry.

MR. LACASSE: That's okay. If approved, please consider us. We are respectfully requesting that the County Council approves the Mayor's recommendation to continue supporting this countywide program at the proposed \$100,000 level. Thank you so much for your time.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you for your very informative testimony. Mr. Sinenci, and then Ms. Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo Mr. Lacasse for your testimony.

I was just wondering have you been able to navigate through the Department of Education regulations when it comes to supplementing meals at DOE schools?

MR. LACASSE: Supplementing the meals? Well we've, so we're part of the Statewide Farm to School Hui Network and there's been some changes in the Division of Food Services. So, there's been a lot of people at the top that were really big supporters of that program have since left, so we're all trying to navigate that and figure out how best to engage the schools and regarding the cafeteria programs and also getting more local food in the cafeterias. So, stay tuned on that one, it's a work in progress.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Alright, awesome. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Lacasse. So, are you the Maui School Garden Network in for 100,000? Is that you?

MR. LACASSE: Yes, yes, that is us.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, is that Lehn Huff? Did you take over for Lehn Huff?

MR. LACASSE: Yeah, I'm trying to take over for Lehn Huff.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, she's still active?

MR. LACASSE: Well, she retired, she thinks she retired but honestly, I'm not going to let her.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Aww.

MR. LACASSE: Cause I need her too much, so, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Good job. You certainly sound like you're very busy even in this pandemic.

MR. LACASSE: We, yes, thank you so much, we really are.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Scott, good to see you. I'm glad you're . . . is continuing. Are you working at all with the, with our Maui Board of Education representative on the Farm to School issue?

MR. LACASSE: No, I am not. I'm not aware of which, in which capacity. Is that part of the proposal for the Agricultural Department?

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Well, we have one Board of Education for the whole State school system so, and we have I representative from Maui on that board.

MR. LACASSE: Oh, wow. Yeah, no I am not, I'm not part of that. If you'd care to share--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: I can talk to you offline. I'll hook you up with her.

MR. LACASSE: That'll be great. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any more questions? If not, thank you very much, Scott.

MR. LACASSE: Yes, thank you so much. Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Anne Rillero, to be followed by Harry Johnson.

CHAIR LEE: We can't hear you. Try again. Try again.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: So, Anne, we see you and you are unmuted on our end, we see that you're unmuted but for whatever reason audio is not coming through. Your microphone might not be working something along those lines.

CHAIR LEE: Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mister, Ms. Rillero, you may need to restart your device. So, maybe try restarting and then logging back on and hopefully that fixes your audio. And you won't lose your place in line.

CHAIR LEE: We'll come right back to you.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Okay, then the next testifier is Harry Johnson, to be followed by Kimberly Kaawa.

MR. HARRY JOHNSON:

Aloha, Council. Thank you for tonight's meeting. My name is Harry Johnson, I'm the Transportation Director for Maui Economic Opportunity and I'm here to testify on behalf of MEO in their entire program, but in particular with the Paratransit Services and Human Services Transportation.

The County of Maui provides funding for the Human Services grant and for the Maui Bus Paratransit Fee for Service contract. These are two separate contracts, are two separate transportation programs that are operated by MEO. The Human Services grant provides services for Maui County's youth, elderly persons with disabilities, low-income individuals, persons with special needs, and disadvantaged individuals mainly in the rural areas of Maui island and on Molokai and Lanai. The Paratransit Fee for Service contract provides transportation services to persons with disabilities that reside within that three quarter mile radius of the Maui Bus fixed route.

During the pandemic, like many social service programs throughout the County of Maui, MEO's Human Services and Paratransit Service served fewer clients. The people were concerned if transportation services would be safe to use and immediate and long-term modification through operations took place to heighten our ability to protect all of our clients and staff. We accomplished this by monitoring staff temperatures, disinfecting buses on a daily basis, and staff and clients wearing protective equipment and maintaining social distancing. These measures are all part of MEO's countywide health and safety plan in response to the COVID-19.

Providing the safety net establishes confidence in our services and riders know that the people of Maui County are still able to obtain life sustaining services in the midst of a crisis. During the pandemic, the MEO Paratransit Services operated the same schedule as the Maui Bus fixed route. MEO Human Services continue to provide trips to dialysis and daycare centers, grocery and other retail establishments, medical appointments, employment to work, these programs and more by changing how we provided the service and adapting to the community needs.

For example, on Maui we expanded shopping shuttle hours for the Hana to Kahului routes. We also expanded the community transportation to include shuttles to and from vaccine clinics. We also worked with Boys and Girls Club, youth centers, and other youth programs to provide rides for youth during the modified or blended learning curriculum. Transportation, we also transported Hana youth to and from sporting activities in the Central and West Maui area. We modified day health pickups and drop off times to accommodate client and center needs, and we continue to provide works for low income and disadvantaged individuals and those living outside the Maui Bus hours of operations.

On Lanai, the senior nutrition program evolved from transporting to and from congregate meal sites to delivering surplus food and produce to the kupuna. During the stay-at-home orders issued by the Mayor, MEO Transportation delivered food and sanitation supplies to those quarantined and on lock-down.

Just wanted to say, thank you very much for your support and I'm just grateful that I had an opportunity to testify on behalf of the Maui Economic Opportunity. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mr. Johnson. Are there any questions for the testifier? If not, thank you again and may we have the next testifier. And could you give us a count, Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Yes, Chair. So the next testifier Anne Rillero has reconnected so we can go back to her. Then the next testifier would be the individual connected to the meeting under the name Scott. And it looks like we have about 22 testifiers remaining.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. We're going to take a break in about maybe 10 minutes. Alright.

MS. ANNE RILLERO:

Okay, let's try again. Can you hear me now?

CHAIR LEE: Yes, we can. Ms. Rillero.

MS. RILLERO: Oh, okay. I conquered technology. Well, good evening. Mahalo for all the long hours you put in all the Councilmembers and thank you for welcoming all of us here tonight to testify.

I'm representing Maui Nui Marine Resource Council. We're a non-profit working for clean ocean water and healthy coral reefs for Maui Nui. We want to testify to express our strong support for the County expenditure to acquire the Ma'alaea Mauka property and Pohakea Watershed. And we view that transferring this land from private to public ownership is really important, because it opens up the opportunities to address the serious problems of runoff from the watershed into Ma'alaea Bay. If the Ma'alaea Mauka land is publicly owned, there is greater potential for our State DLNR to provide supportive funding for repairs in the watershed to address the runoff problem.

And as Lynn Britton mentioned earlier, an article in today's Maui News describes the impact of extreme rains, sediment runoff on Hawaii's coral reefs. And the article explains that runoff is a bigger threat to Hawaii's coral reefs than warming ocean water, which was a surprise, even to me. So, the purchase of the Ma'alaea Mauka property will improve our community's ability to address the runoff that's polluting Ma'alaea Bay, and this in turn will help protect the coral reefs that are now helping to protect Ma'alaea shoreline from the storm waves and erosion.

I also request that you support funding Maui Nui Marine Research Council's conservation programs which are included in the environmental protection section of the Mayor's budget. And this funding will support the Hui O Ka Wai Ola water quality monitoring program at 29 sites in South and West Maui, our oyster bioremediation project to improve water quality in Ma'alaea Harbor, our work in Pohakea Watershed to reduce sediment runoff, and our reef friendly landscaping project to reduce our community use of pesticides and herbicides that are harming coral reefs and wildlife.

We also ask that you support the funding for the visitor education programs in the grants and disbursements for the visitor industry part of the budget. And this would be to support programs that mitigate the impacts of tourism on our local coral reefs. Many

of our Maui visitors are unfamiliar with coral reef ecosystems and they really need the benefit of education to ensure that out of ignorance they are not trampling our reefs, . . . marine wildlife, or polluting our waters with reef harming sunscreens.

So, mahalo to each of you for all of your hard work and your time this evening and for all of your public service that led up to this moment and for this opportunity to testify. Have a good night. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you for your time, Ms. Rillero, but we have one question.

Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Rillero, for your testimony. I just wanted to clarify; how do you know that the visitor education money is about reef. Is, is that, like they stated that?

MS. RILLERO: It's a line item in the budget for Maui Nui Marine Research Council to conduct visitor education and we--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, that one, that one.

MS. RILLERO: Yeah, yeah. So, we're doing yeah, we using social media, ads were targeted at visitors. Excuse me?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's not the 200,000 one?

MS. RILLERO: No, no, that's a \$100,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: I keep turning myself off so not to interfere with anybody else. Of course, you can't hear me.

Thank you, Ms. Rillero, we have no more questions for you. Thank you.

MS. RILLERO: Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, we'll take one more testifier and then take a 10-minute break.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Okay, then the next testifier is the individual connected to the meeting under the name Scott, and then the individual who's up to testify after the break is Darrah Kauhane.

MR. GENESIS YOUNG:

Aloha, this is um, I think I'm under Scott, this is Genesis Young, so I'm also on 27 on the list, you can take me off there, I think, I don't know how to change my name on this.

But anyway, thank you and mahalo for your time you guys coming from Friday night, all the Councilmembers being here to listen to us. I appreciate that. I do want to support Maui Nui Marine Research Council funding. Everything that Anne just said, basically and particularly let's buy that Ma'alaea Mauka land and protect the Ma'alaea Bay as we all know from the previous information, it's in jeopardy. So, I want to support that and support them as they do great work here.

And I also want to support Darla as she was talking about the, adding an Economic Development Specialist for basically for green building framework. It's one of Kelly's items, Kelly King's item, Councilmember King's, I guess I should be more respectful. And, yeah, I really want to support that, I think it's really important, really would get some green building going on here and create a framework, and Darla's worked hard on that, so please support her on that.

I also want to ask that you please fix the building permit problem. We've been trying to get a permit for our shelter working through our non-profit, Teran James Young. I'm the director of that as a foundation. We've been trying to get a permit to have a youth shelter here since December 2019, not 2020, 2019 so, it's like a year and a half it's running into now, just trying to get a permit. And my architects and contractors say that if we just had that digitized, we probably save a lot of time. And that's for renovations.

We can get new stuff done way quicker than renovations and it's not, I really don't want the new stuff, I want the renovations. Let's repurpose the stuff that's there and we're slowing down the process for renovations and we're speeding up the stuff for new, it's just doesn't make any sense at all. I don't want more development I want better development and smarter development and so, if we just, you know create a better building permit system, just digitize it, that would save, you know, probably two-thirds the time right there. And the whole system has got so many other problems which I won't even go into right now.

And then, I just want to talk briefly before my time runs out about tourist sustainability, quality over quantity. We passed that resolution and then not a week or two after that, the Maui Coast Hotel as you all probably know, then went ahead and authorized through the Planning Commission's error, if you ask me, a hundred and seventy room, a new hotel which we just can't accommodate.

We have too many tourists and you know if you didn't believe that then what about the protest at the Four Seasons. Did you see how the Four Seasons, it covered the beach with all of the chairs and umbrellas and the people were protesting that. I mean this is like, that's not going to create better tourism, we need sustainable tourism. Tourism really helps our island and I think it's to the betterment of all of us, and all of the tourist industry and all of the visitors to decrease the numbers and I think we should have a moratorium.

. . . raise the property taxes on the hotels and short-term rentals. Raise them really good then we'll have quality tourism over quantity. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any questions for Scott *[sic]*? If not, thank you very much for coming and we're going to take a break. Come back at 7:40. Okay. Any objections to our short recess. If not, recess to 7:40.

(THE PUBLIC HEARING WAS RECESSED BY THE CHAIR AT 7:27 P.M., AND WAS RECONVENED AT 7:42 P.M., WITH ALL MEMBERS PRESENT, EXCEPT FOR COUNCILMEMBER KAMA EXCUSED.)

CHAIR LEE: Will the public hearing for April 16, Maui County Council please reconvene. Mr. Clerk, please call our next testifier. But first, we want to test the alarm.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Uh, yes. So, this is the alarm sound we'll be using moving forward.

CHAIR LEE: Sounds like the other one.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Darrah Kauhane to be followed by Kimberly Kaawa.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, hello, Ms. Kauhane.

MS. DARRAH KAUHANE:

Aloha mai kakou. My name is Darrah Kauhane, I'm the Executive Director of Project Vision Hawaii, a local non-profit. You may have seen our mobile health van providing vision screenings and glasses to keiki across the entire County and across the State. Additionally, we've been contracted by DHS to run a countywide SNAP program for which we've registered about 12 times our usual monthly numbers during the pandemic. This year has obviously been very difficult for Maui, so I'd like to share

some of our other programs that have been successful on Big Island, Kauai, and Oahu, and humbly offer to share these services with Maui County.

My ask is for an upgraded mobile health van that includes facilities for vision, vaccinations, wellness exams, hygiene and social services on Maui, all-in-one. We meet people where they are in location and in spirit, with our mobile clinics, bathrooms, and support services with the ultimate goal of employing, housing, and empowering our people. We have a proven track record but need your kokua to modernize and deploy further on Maui, Lanai, and Molokai.

I want to share with you on Oahu, our medical and case management teams have been responsible for 5,000 hot showers; 20,000 vision patients; 12,000 COVID tests in the past year; and 40,000 COVID vaccines in the last four months. With COVID we have seen the need for proactive flexibility and strike teams who go door-to-door within communities and do street outreach to educate one on one to build those relationships, design relevant programs and address co-occurring issues at the root of houselessness and multi-generational traumas.

We are proud to have earned the trust of the Department of Health, Department of Public Safety this year to be part of the solution for our most at risk populations in congregate settings in jails, prisons, homeless shelters, low-income housing, behavior health programs and alike.

We had a medical team on Maui a couple of weeks ago doing a pilot event with our partners vaccinating the homeless. We hope for the opportunity to further that work with the Department of Health, Native Hawaiian Health Systems, Maui Homeless Alliance, and the support of our friends at Maui Rescue Mission by serving in those encampments, those public housing groups, as minority communities to bring care to our Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander families through our partnerships with groups such as Papa Ola Lōkahi, We Are Oceania, and the Marshallese Community Organization of Hawaii.

Obviously, our mobile units encourage the practice of laulima, many hands bringing everyone together with their strengths and talents so that we can really address the needs for our vulnerable populations on an individual level. We're proud to hire from the community that we serve with our workforce development program. I'll share a story of one of our employees, who was living on the streets, used our showers, we got her free eye surgery, and she can now see and work. She is now one of our hardest working full-time employees housed with medical and benefits and she now trains the rest of her staff, and together they inform our board and our directors of the most strategic ways forward for our houseless community and for those living in those public housing and vulnerable situations.

So, I come to you today humbly with hopes that you will welcome our organization to share our strengths while continuing to learn and grow with the local groups respecting what has already been done, what continues to be done on Maui. And I thank you for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo. Good night, Councilmembers.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. We have some questions for you.

Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Darrah. So are you in the budget? I was looking for your organization.

MS. KAUHANE: We just submitted yesterday, we sent in a written, written proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, you sent it in to who? Which departments, sorry, Housing and Human Concerns.

MS. KAUHANE: To each of, each of you, Councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, I see what you're saying. Oh, you sent it, it's a brand-new request tonight or yesterday that you sent to Maui County.

MS. KAUHANE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And you're right now operational in, on Big Island, yeah?

MS. KAUHANE: We're on, we're in all counties right now. We do currently do services on Maui, but so far its limited to DHS, for our SNAP contract and then we have our statewide vision programs that we do throughout the schools.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Are you based on the Big Island?

MS. KAUHANE: I'm, personally I am based in Honolulu. But we have teams, we have teams in all four counties.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair Lee. Thank you, Ms. Kauhane for your testimony tonight and your service to our community. I just was wondering is your organization a 501(c)(3) non-profit?

MS. KAUHANE: Yes, ma'am.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And have you ever applied for the grants, like it sounds like you're not a line item, but have you applied for the grants, like they have so much money in the house, housing program. Have you applied for those grants through that process once the money gets put in there?

MS. KAUHANE: We, we have, we currently have Community Development Block Grants on all other counties except for Maui. So, but we've been asked because of our service during the pandemic, we've been asked by multiple partners within Maui County to share our work that we've done successfully on other islands. So, we will be applying for CDBG and ESG funds when the time is, when the time comes, but we would love to get started especially with the necessary vaccinations for our vulnerable and HPI communities.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair. Aloha, Ms. Kauhane. I was just curious, do your organization normally receive any CARES Act funding during the pandemic?

MS. KAUHANE: Yes. Here on Oahu, we were grateful to receive grants from the Department of Community Services. That was all CARES funding. Most of our funding comes from private funders though. The Hawaii Community Foundation has been a gracious doner. We just got a grant today from the Papa Ola Lōkahi and they're specifically interested in what we might be able to bring to Maui County.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MS. KAUHANE: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good evening, Ms. Kauhane. I got your message; I appreciate you reaching out to my office and we'll be in contact with you. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Any other questions? If not, thank you Ms. Kauhane.

MS. KAUHANE: Sure.

CHAIR LEE: And Mr. Clerk, may we have the next testifier.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Next individual we have signed up to testify is Kimberly Kaawa, to be followed by Rob Weltman.

Kimberly Kaawa it is your time to testify, you're muted on your end. We see that you're in the meeting, but we cannot unmute you, you need to unmute yourself.

Chair, shall we proceed with the next testifier for the meantime?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Then the next person signed up to testify is Rob Weltman, to be followed by Sean Cooke.

CHAIR LEE: Hi, Rob.

MR. ROB WELTMAN:

(Spoke in Hawaiian.)

Good evening, Chair Lee and Members of the Maui County Council. My name is Rob Weltman, and I would like to speak briefly in support of proposal 4, Appendix A2, Member King's list of conditional priorities. A shoreline access study to identify potentially obstructed shoreline areas and assess lateral shoreline access and access point pathways and make recommendations for County action.

I think anyone born on Maui County or having lived here for any length of time has had the experience that of a walking path or a fisherman trail along the shoreline has been lost to public access. Often it is due to new property owner fencing off access or building barriers and generally illegal.

Hawaii Revised Statute 115-4 on the Right of transit along shorelines says that "The right of access to Hawaii's shorelines includes the right of transit along the shorelines." HRS 115-5 says "in areas of cliffs or areas where the nature of the topography is such that there is no reasonably safe transit for the public along the shoreline below the

private property lines, the counties by condemnation may establish along the makai boundaries of the property lines public transit corridors which shall be not less than six feet wide."

Shoreline access protection is one of the intended purposes of the Special Management Area Revolving Fund. This proposal will give us the information we need, and which shoreline areas are currently obstructed, and what actions the County can take in each individual case.

I'd like to finish by saying that the longer an illegal obstruction is in place, the more other property owners are encouraged to follow suit and block off additional shoreline areas. Your action today will save shoreline access as provided for in State law, not only for us, but for our children and for their children to come. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Weltman? If not, thank you Rob for coming.

MR. WELTMAN: Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Sean Cooke, to be followed by Jordan Hocker.

MR. SEAN COOKE:

Aloha, thank you. I'm Sean Cooke testifying as the President of Southpointe AOAO about the proposed water rate increases. Southpointe is a community that is majority owner occupied, the remainder is long, are long-term rentals, and we are a lower income multi-family and retired community. And the current water rate structure does not have any category regardless of zoning that breaks out a monthly per unit pricing strategy.

So, currently, no matter which category we're in, for an example a randomly pulled recent water bill, we have five meters, so we get five bills. We paid, the first 5,000 gallons at the tier one price, the next 10,000 at the Tier 2, and the remaining 754,000 gallons at the Tier 3 price. So that's currently how we are being charged for water which doesn't seem quite fair particularly in regards to the lengths we go to, to conserve water, the demographics of our community and like communities like Southpointe.

So, I am requesting that you either wait to increase the all other category, since that's the category we're in, the third-tier rate or add a fourth-tier rate to that category. But you restrain from doing that at this point so the multi-family category can be addressed, or you move communities like Southpointe and Kihei Villages into the single-family category which would give us the same current pricing structure that we have with the billing should be exactly the same. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Any questions, Members?

Ms. King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Just real quickly Mr. Cooke. You mentioned, is it Kihei Villages that you mentioned?

MR. COOKE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, and so do they have the same, I know you have in your CC&R's no short-term rentals. Do they have the same stipulation, so they are all long-term residents.

MR. COOKE: I do not know the answer to that. As far as I know, they do not do short-term rentals there either as when I was looking to buy here, that was one of our stipulations and we looked at Kihei Villages.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, but you're not sure if, if they have the same thing.

MR. COOKE: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Any more questions, anyone? If not, thank you very much, Mr. Cooke.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Chair, the next person we have signed up to testify is Jordan Hocker, to be followed by Mark Deakos.

MS. JORDAN HOCKER:

Hello, Councilmembers. It's nice to see you again. It's only been, you know, most of the day, and so working hard I really appreciate you. Okay, so I'll try to keep this brief.

I'd like to testify in support of some things being funded, specifically the recycling and glass retrieval under the Department of Environmental Management. I am a member of a community group that picks up Pulehu Road on the first Saturday of every month. We haul 600 to 800 pounds of trash every single month that's been dumped along the side of the road. So, anything that you can do to fund recycling programs with the County, maika'i, I fully support it.

As well as mirroring the testimony of many people in terms of MEO. What MEO does for our community, and what they've done during times, during this past year with COVID, has been, I mean they're basically angels. Let's not try to, any organization that's going to help Maui's families to the extent that MEO does, and really all across the board from small kine keiki to kupuna, they have full support.

And then, somethings I have some questions on, I have some concerns is the County grant subsidy for Maui Visitor's Bureau is listed in the proposed budget as \$1.3 million with only \$200,000 going to the visitor education. Under that line it describes the purpose of the funding as being promoting and marketing Maui as safe and healthy visitor, meeting and convention destination to domestic and international markets. I don't think in any way that they need that much funding. I think that if anything, there's no shortage of people clamoring to come here and kind of feel like a broken record because I've said probably that exact same statement testifying on something else. But people want to come here.

When the flights are low, I mean, people are getting pinged all the time to come to Hawaii on vacation. I mean like I have inbox full of spam promoting a Hawaiian vacation to me, living currently in Hawaii. And I don't think that, I mean even if \$300,000 went to visitor education not just on how to, how to protect and be mindful of the reef, but also how to conduct themselves. I'm not sure if you've seen videos of the road to Hana, but people are parking in the middle of the road, it's kind of mayhem right now. And so, I think, I don't think that giving that much funding when the budget is this tight, post COVID is really the right move. So, I would encourage you to find other places for a majority of that. I know that the Maui Visitors Bureau, probably not happy with me saying that, but that's where I stand. We could definitely find other places for that money.

If I could finish up real quick. I just have one more thing. Um, I'm looking at the Police proposed budget that's just over \$60 million and I would encourage that if that budget is going to be passed as is, that at the end of the 2022 Fiscal Year that the Police Department face an audit. I've seen too much, I've seen and testified before you guys on too much corruption and Police misconduct to feel okay with that, with the money

that's being spent, and how it's being spent, and how complaints are handled within the department without being properly vetted. So, I just put that in your ears.

Thank you so much for your time today. I know, morning to night, I appreciate you so much. So, thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Are there any questions for Ms. Hocker? If not, thank you very much for coming.

MS. HOCKER: A hui hou, Council.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Mark Deakos, to be followed by Kimberly Kaawa.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Deakos.

MR. MARK DEAKOS:

Good evening, Council Chair and Members. Good to see you all again. I'm Mark Deakos, Chief Sustainability Officer of 3P Consulting and Ambassador for the Living Building Challenge Framework.

I'm in support of creating a position for research and development on locally sourced building materials with an emphasis on sustainability and practices on green building designs. And when we think about sustainability, especially around housing and affordable housing, we really need to give equal time to affordable living.

I want you to imagine a home that's designed to make all its electricity with renewables; captures all its own water onsite; treats all the grey water onsite, has no wastewater. Imagine 95 percent of materials during construction are diverted from the landfill, repurposed; 25 percent of those materials bought right here locally as proposed. Imagine all the materials are non-toxic. The tenants have healthy internal environments. Imagine that the landscaping isn't just grass, but provides food for the community and the open spaces restore ecosystem function, controls, and filters storm water, provides habitat for native species, rebuilds the soils, sequesters carbon, and imagine beautiful homes for low-income families with no utility bills, and immediate access to healthy, local food.

May sound like a pipe dream, but these buildings and affordable housing communities exist all over the country, and they meet the living building challenge having a net positive impact on the environment and the community, built at the cost of traditional construction. So, there's one on the Big Island, but we need the first living building right here on Maui, so I can take you all down there to see hands on what holistic, regenerative design looks like. We gotta get past the low impact design, the idea of doing less bad and move to regenerative design so we can restore what we've broken.

With all infrastructure projects I hope you start to ask how's it going to advance renewables, food security, aquifer recharge, ecosystem restoration, culture, walkability, affordable and healthy living. How will it eliminate storm water damage, wastewater contamination, landfill, traffic, toxic environments, and inequality cause every building should be able to do all of that. And we don't need to figure out how to do it, we just need to replicate what's already being done successfully elsewhere. Mahalo, oh, and support all Maui Nui Marine Resource Council projects. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Any questions for Mister, yes, Member King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Mark. First, I thought something had happened to your hair, then I saw that there's a palm tree behind your head. But I wanted to ask you, you know you were talking about there being an example already on the Big Island, but are you talking, you're not talking about the factory that we were talking about, you're talking about one house?

MR. DEAKOS: No, well there's the Hawaii, the only living building in Hawaii is the Hawaii Prep Academy in Kamuela, the energy lab there. So--

COUNCILMEMBER KING: That's the . . .

MR. DEAKOS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, okay, were you able to check out Graham Hill's house that he built here on Maui in Haiku?

MR. DEAKOS: I'm familiar with it, I haven't been out there. But a yeah. I'm familiar with all the ones they are building, especially the affordable housing communities across the country. I'm an ambassador for ILFI, which is the non-profit that supports the living building standard, so I can provide all the specs, the whatever people want to know about, I'm happy to provide.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Awesome.

MR. DEAKOS: It's exciting stuff.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah. Thank you.

MR. DEAKOS: You're welcome.

CHAIR LEE: Any more questions? Yes, Gabe. Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I love your testimony, Mark. You're singing my song, talking my language. I don't want to take up too much of the Councilmembers' time so if you want to just send me your contact info, that would be great. We can start an email exchange. Mahalo.

MR. DEAKOS: Be happy to, happy to.

CHAIR LEE: Anymore questions? If not, thank you Mark.

And Mr. Clerk may we have the next testifier.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Kimberly Kaawa, to be followed by Tapani Vuori.

MS. KIMBERLY KAAWA:

Aloha, Councilmembers. Hi.

CHAIR LEE: Hi.

MS. KAAWA: I'm here to testify on behalf of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Maui. I just wanted to ask if you guys continue, hopefully can continue to support them. They make an entirely, immensely huge impact in the kid's lives. I have two children who are now part of the program. My oldest is in fifth grade and due to this past year, he has been in since third grade and has enjoyed the program immensely. This past year of course with COVID, things have changed completely in the school systems and it's been a very, very difficult year, the, with, you know, with us having to attempt to supplement and be teachers, learn how to be teachers all over again. It's been very difficult, and my son was really struggling the first two quarters in school because of this distance learning. He's one of those kids that learns better in person and hands on.

And thanks to his Big Sister, who has been helping tutor him, he literally went from, the grade, the way they do the grading in the elementary school is a bit different. They have these, it's not letter grades, but basically he went from what would be considered a D in math, thanks to his tutor, and he jumped to an A, equivalent in this past quarter. And that is just with the minimal amount of time they spend one to two days a week for about an hour, so two hours a week with this special person that they get as their Big Sister or Big Brother.

And between that and the comradery of course, because without the kids being in school there's been a lack of socialization that has been sorely missed. And we are a very close family but, you know, it's not the same as having your friends and your schoolmates and stuff. So, having that Big Brother or Big Sister that the kids have has made a wonderful impact on them and I just can't thank the Big Brother and Big Sister program enough for what they've done for my kids. It's just a really amazing thing out here.

They've also, they help the families a lot too. They offer assistance in different ways, they offer us different learning programs or if we need help, you know, learning how to teach our kids things, they offer so much different things to the entire family. But it's just been a really great experience especially this past year during COVID. I am more appreciative than ever, and I would just really like to see them be able to continue helping the kids in our Maui communities. Thank you very much for your time.

CHAIR LEE: Very good, Ms. Kaawa. Ms. King has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Aloha, Kimberly. Thank you for being here. I just wondered how your, how the program works. Was it virtual this past year, during the pandemic?

MS. KAAWA: Yes. This past year has been virtual of course because of all the different COVID issues. It took them a little while to get it started but they really, they realize how important it was to the kids and yes, they have their, the Big so these other high school kids logon and they make their time where they would normally be in the community center doing different things with them and physically helping tutor. They've had to learn how to do it virtually. Just like a lot of these teachers have, but, they make it to where they have individual rooms for the Bigs and the Littles to spend time together, so they still get that one-on-one time with someone older who can help talk to them, and be a friend to them, and at the same time tutor them.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, great, great. Thanks a lot. Thank you.

MS. KAAWA: Yes.

CHAIR LEE: Are there any other questions? If not, thank you very much for coming.

MS. KAAWA: Thank you so much.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next individual we have signed up to testify is Tapani Vuori, to be followed by Peter Cannon.

MR. TAPANI VUORI:

Aloha and good evening, Honorable Council and Councilmembers. Thank you for being here late tonight, I appreciate it and the community appreciates it. My name is Tapani Vuori, and I am the General Manager at the Maui Ocean Center, I'm also the board member at the Ma'alaea Village Association and I'm testifying on behalf of the Ma'alaea community and specifically, and the Maui community at large.

Thank you for your support so far for the Ma'alaea regional wastewater treatment facility and also your support for the Ma'alaea Mauka, Spencer land for public trust. And um, I humbly ask for your continued support in funding, specifically \$4 million for the wastewater treatment plant and \$5.5 million for the mauka, mauka Spencer lands. Why is this important? You know, Maui Nui Marine Resource Council is doing a lot of good work in the community here and it's quite evident that we have a problem in the community.

Ma'alaea Bay is actually classified as a impaired body of water, 303(d) classification by EPA, by our Federal government. As of today, we probably have about five percent coral reef ecosystem coverage in the Ma'alaea Bay. DLNR did a study not long ago and about 30-years ago they indicated that we had about 85 percent coral reef ecosystem living in the bay, so this is happening under our watch.

So really, I think quite a lot about what is the legacy that we are going to leave for our keiki and mo'opuna, for the future generations basically. And there's a lot of worthy causes what I'm hearing tonight, you know, you are going to have a very difficult task ahead of you, you know, how do you choose? And I've been thinking about that quite a lot, and I think what Council, Council Chair Lee, and Mr. Mayer and Scott, I believe was his name, they all mention about looking at additional revenue sources, so we can only tax people and companies so much.

But yesterday we had 5,075 people arrive to Maui through Kahului Airport. If you multiple that by 365 days a year, that's 1.85 million people in the next 12 months, and historically you know if I look at cyclical or seasonal visitation trends on Maui, we are actually in a . . . season right now, so this is one of our weaker periods. In 2019, we had 2.5 million visitors come in and I think, I've heard several times this evening, people elude to the fact that it's not really sustainable. I . . . just consider how can we add revenue, I would encourage you to consider an environmental fee for all the visitors coming in, this would be an easy, no, a fairly fast way of looking at improving our revenue for infrastructure and other community needs. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR LEE: Very interesting ideas. Members, do you have any questions? If not, thank you very much for your testimony.

MR. VUORI: Thank you. Appreciate it.

CHAIR LEE: Alright, let's see, Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Peter Cannon, to be followed by Robin Knox.

MR. PETER CANNON:

Thank you, Councilmembers for working late like this. I gotta say, building a budget has gotta be the toughest job you have to do and I'm very impressed with the process. I'm stoked to have listened to all of this and I've heard, how do you choose, how do you decide where, where things go with limited, with limited funding and with COVID going on?

My name is Peter Cannon, I serve with Tapani and Lynn Britton on the Ma'alaea Village Association board. I co-chair with Tapani the wastewater committee for Ma'alaea and with all the hakakā that we've had on Maui over injection wells, our community has been proactive in trying to find a solution to having poorly treated sewer water going into the injections wells that are 60, 70, 80 feet away from the shoreline. If, if, I mean I'm stoked to hear how the CARE Committee is looking at Ma'alaea Bay and the ecological health of Ma'alaea Bay as a, as a goal for Ma'alaea and I really want to support that.

I want to just give a report of what we've done so far. We have a consortium that's willing to build a regional wastewater system in Ma'alaea at no cost or capital contribution from the condominiums. It includes Hawaiian Electric Industries as the investor, the green investor, and Cambrian Innovations, the people that make space

age, brand new processes for treating sewage. We have Mahi Pono, our great neighbor who's offered 10 acres of land either on a 99-year lease for a dollar a year or as a gift to the County to put this, to put the wastewater plant on and to build a green belt around Ma'alaea for fire break and for wind break that can absorb any of the extra water that comes out of the plant and the plant is to produce R-1 water.

We have the support of every single condominium in Ma'alaea because the offer is, is, wastewater as a service, so they're going to charge us a little over two cents or around two cents a gallon and that's cheaper than we can do it for ourselves running it on our own properties and pumping effluent into an injection well. And then the last thing is that we have R-1 water coming out that we can pipe back to the condominiums for landscaping and not have to buy fresh water to put on planting and landscaping here at the, in the community.

So, we are missing one, we have one missing link. We've done all of this, but the Cambrian does not make the conveyance system which is the system that takes the sewage away from the condominiums, down the street and up to the plant. Mahi Pono is giving us the easements to do all of this. So, all of the stars are aligned except for this one missing link. And it's about a \$4 million cost which, which the community has gotten this far but we're at this last--

That's what I wanted to share with you tonight and please consider this item in your budget for Ma'alaea. Get us off these injection wells, let's clean up Ma'alaea Bay with this help. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Peter. Any questions, for the testifier? If not, thank you very much. Thank you for coming.

MR. CANNON: My pleasure. Thank you. Can I ask a burning question? Can I ask a one question?

CHAIR LEE: Sure.

MR. CANNON: Keani, is your mom Shirley?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Mr. Cannon. No, my mom is Liko. She is married to . . . brother.

MR. CANNON: I see. Thank you. I've made their tide calendars for 20-years at the Rawlins station. Thank you. I thought that maybe you were related. Thanks.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. CANNON: Good night, folks. Thank you. I'll listen to the rest of this. Thank you very much.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Robin Knox, to be followed by Sarah Sexton.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You're muted Ms. Knox.

MS. ROBIN KNOX:

Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Council. Thank you for allowing us to testify tonight.

In general, I support everything that is water, wastewater, infrastructure, the recycling, the sustainability initiatives, anything with coastal restoration, wetland preservation, and water quality monitoring. Specifically important though are the Ma'alaea wastewater conveyance system that Peter Cannon just spoke of, and the acquisition of the Ma'alaea Mauka lands, and as well as the Pohakea stormwater work that would utilize, you know would allow us to stop some of the sediment coming off of those lands.

In addition to all the great things everyone's already told you about how that improvement to water quality you know helps the coral and protects the land, I'd like you to also consider that the harbor is full of sediment. And the harbor is a place where I think it's more than 100 Maui businesses operate, and it's to the point where you can hardly get a boat in and out of the boat ramp. And there are tons of sediment coming down and you know hundreds of tons sometimes in every storm event. So please support those two projects.

Also, MEO and MEDB, can't say enough good things about their programs. MEDB helped my small business with business planning. I'd like to see them help us with more Maui small businesses becoming Federal contractors to help diversify our economy. And also, that the early childhood education that MEO does is so very, very important for us all and for our future.

And then lastly, any social programs to help our homeless community and to bring about what Mark Deakos described, totally, amazingly, sustainable, affordable housing. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Robin.

Yes, Ms. King.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Robin. You were talking about your small business and MEDB helped you with, and you were talking about Federal contracting. Have you ever gotten any Federal contracts based on being a woman owned business?

MS. KNOX: I'm actually, excuse me, I'm getting some kind of interference on my phone, but I've, that's actually the help I need Kelly, is to apply for that certification. And I, because of the industry that I've been in for 30 years of doing water quality consulting, I have been subcontractor to Federal contractors. And they cannot find enough small businesses and women owned businesses to, you know, their contract requires them to hire and so, I have been a subcontractor but I could get more work if I had that certification and I could hire more people here on Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Okay, great.

MS. KNOX: And a lot of our work is remote.

COUNCILMEMBER KING: Yeah, that's great. You're on the right track. A lot of people don't look for those . . . business contract. So, great.

CHAIR LEE: Any more questions? If not, thank you. Good luck to you, Robin.

MS. KNOX: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Clerk, where are you? There you are. You keep jumping from one slot to another. Okay.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Kassen Yamashita, to be followed by Yolanda Reyes. Kassen Yamashita, it is your time to testify.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, I see her. Ms. Yamashita.

MS. KASSEN YAMASHITA:

Hello. Hi.

CHAIR LEE: Hi.

MS. YAMASHITA: Aloha mai kakou. My name is Kassen Yamashita, and I am, I am, and I am here to testify on behalf of MEO Youth Services. I am a Kaiapuni student at King Kekaulike, freshman. . . . continue to funding the program and that they've been doing awesome during this pandemic, you know. For a little while they had to cancel the program, which kind of made me sad, but then they found a way to have us come down and interact with other kids from different schools. I'm a high-schooler and I get to interact with other kids from other high schools like Baldwin and Seabury and I also got to talk with some other students from middle school that are having trouble this year, you know, cause the whole online thing and you know, I was happy to help them, and they helped me so that was very great.

We did a lot of community service too; everybody was always safe. We had vans as our transportation and it's four kids to a van, every kid gets their own seat and there's only one adult in the vehicle. Everybody wears their masks at all times, there's constant sanitization . . . going on and they do their best to keep us kids safe and its really helpful of them. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you. Are there any questions for Ms. Yamashita? If not, good job. Thank you.

MS. YAMASHITA: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person--

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Clerk, how many more testifiers do we have?

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Chair, we have, let's see, I believe it's 13 testifiers remaining.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Yolanda Reyes, to be followed by Sarah Sexton.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Hello.

(Testifier experienced audio issues.)

CHAIR LEE: You can start talking. Mr. Clerk, she's muted. Mr. Clerk, she's muted.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Chair, Ms. Reyes, we see you, but we're having a really hard time hearing you. You appear unmuted on our end. I think it might be a connection issue.

CHAIR LEE: Maybe she should turn off her video.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Yeah. If you could try turning off your video, Ms. Reyes and then try speaking then, maybe that might help.

(Testifier experienced audio issues.)

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Ms. Reyes if you're speaking, we actually can't hear you.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, why don't we, oh, okay.

Yes, Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Reyes, if you would like to restart your device and log back in. When you get back on, our Deputy Clerk can call you.

CHAIR LEE: Restart, restart your side.

Okay, Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Okay, then the next person signed up to testify is Sarah Sexton, to be followed by Ilima Greig-Hong.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Sexton.

MS. SARAH SEXTON:

Aloha. Aloha, Councilmembers. Thank you for your hard work and for being here so late in the evening, and to all the community members that have spoken, people have been talking about some very important stuff.

My name is Sarah Sexton, I'm a Maui County resident and I live in Haiku. I wanted to show my support for a handful of things. First off, for anything and everything for Maui Nui Marine Resource Council projects, I'd like to show support for them. I also wanted to emphasize a request that no portion of the budget is allocated this year towards the

Maui Visitor Bureau, or really any other tourism promotion and marketing departments. We have more tourist than we can sustainably manage as is already and its deeply taxing on both the environment and certainly psychologically on the community.

Next, it's come to my attention that Maui County actually has the lowest property taxes on visitor accommodations than anywhere else in Hawaii, even though we're visited more than any of the other islands. So, this makes our home a premium destination and I think it only seems fair that we should be able to increase property taxes on visitor accommodations, and that additional money could then be put towards deeply needed projects. Things like drainage filters that protect the ocean and reefs from storm runoffs, wetlands preservation, and various other types of rehabilitative and regenerative projects. We all love these islands deeply and we need to do our part to protect them.

So, thank you for showing support for sustainable tourism here in Maui County and I'd like to see that get expanded to many, many different factors of the island to protect the land and the creatures that we love here. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, you're muted.

CHAIR LEE: Apparently there are no questions, so thank you for your testimony. Ugh, the feedback is coming.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Chair, the next person we have signed up to testify is Ilima Greig-Hong. And then I saw Yolanda Reyes back in the call, so we can try and see if she's able to testify after Ilima Greig-Hong.

CHAIR LEE: You can start your testimony. But you have to turn your microphone on.

MS. ILIMA GREIG-HONG:

How's that?

CHAIR LEE: Great.

MS. GREIG-HONG: Can you hear me? Great, thank you. So, aloha and thank you everyone for allowing me to speak on behalf of Lahainaluna High School. My name is Ilima Greig-Hong and I'm a Vice-Principal at our high school.

I am speaking on behalf of the Maui County Public School Auto Program model in the West Maui Culture, Economic Development Program. As the administrator at the school, I oversee our alternative learning programs and internships, and we find that support of your County Public School Auto Program model would enable our school to attract industry licensed auto mechanics and engineers as instructors for our very interested auto students.

We've all experienced the most challenging year with COVID-19 and has played a big part in the schools looking to grow their technology engagement and online learning. Our career in technical education pathways are course tracks for students interested in a career in possibly agriculture, health, business, digital arts, and industrial engineering which specifically helps with auto, engineering, and building and construction. So additional funding for any one of these pathways is a welcomed gift.

Auto in particular is a thriving program. Students, male and female enjoy the grease and the mechanical projects. They work with their hands and they learn very practical skills quite applicable during a pandemic. We currently have about 150 or so automotive students, that's about 15 percent of our student body and therefore, providing our students with knowledgeable industry experienced teachers bring the outside vocational world into our classrooms.

At Lahainaluna High School, we recognize that our community is close, we rely heavily on one another and acknowledge the diverse needs and interests of our students. Some are college bound and they have the opportunity to take college classes on our campus in partnership with the University of Hawaii Maui College. And yet, we do recognize that students, there's other students wanting to go straight into work, and we want to make sure that our job as secondary education is to prepare our students for the real world. So, I've seen over the years the real benefit of giving students some kind of experience in work world, either by internships, part-time work, or vocational projects. Many of our students decide to even pursue school after they have some work experience. So, college is never really shutdown for many of our students. They might enter college later when they're more mature.

So, we're hoping with the help of our community to continue to provide our students with an education that equips them for the 21st century skills, sensibility, and sense of community. Thank you again for the opportunity to testify. Mahalo and I hope you all have a very good night and stay safe.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you and you, too.

Mr. Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ilima. I was just curious, so the school receives County funding for your program.

MS. GREIG-HONG: At the moment, no. So, Lahainaluna has not participated in this line item or be a beneficiary of this program per se. We've learned about it as we've gotten to learn more with the Maui Economic department and so forth, so we learned about this and we thought it was critical for us to share with the Council our very sincere interest in partnering with our community council to assist our students. So, we've just funded it ourselves and we would really love to be a partner with all of you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Greig-Hong for your testimony this evening. I just was wondering, I, I had spoken with Leslie Wilkins of MEDB who runs this program, and she was saying that she was going to call Jeri Dean and Mark Palakiko. Did you also speak with her?

MS. GREIG-HONG: Yeah. Absolutely. I spoke with her this week and in the circle of emails and discussions, our Principal Jeri Dean is well aware that we are all putting our best foot forward in, to partner in this way.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Awesome. Thank you.

MS. GREIG-HONG: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Any more questions? Okay. Thank you. Thank you for your testimony.

MS. GREIG-HONG: Mahalo. Have a good evening.

CHAIR LEE: You too.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Yolanda Reyes, to be followed by Courtney Ikawa.

MS. YOLANDA REYES:

Aloha, can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. REYES: Thank you for allowing me to testify. My name is Yolanda Reyes, I am the branch director for MEO on Molokai. You know, despite with all the COVID restrictions, MEO Molokai have been working throughout the whole pandemic doing rental assistance, utility assistance, food, especially transportation, we still had Core Four classes virtual, and we also, you know still had our Head Start program going. And, you know, we've made accommodations for students because of their activities, you know, so, some activities were on, some were off so we would make accommodations for them to have activity shuttle after school, and this is for Molokai High School, Molokai Middle School, and Kualapuu Elementary School.

Also, the Food Emergency Assistance program with Maui Food Bank has you know, expanded so many items to be distributed. And we're so appreciative, you know, of everyone's support and we've had so many people come through MEO for food. And we've made accommodations to deliver food to the kupuna who are unable to come, you know we don't want them to come out because of COVID so we would deliver food to them.

And, also we've asked our, when we do our shopping shuttle that people call us because we seem to be having more people that come on the bus, but we're trying to keep our COVID restrictions, you know, wearing masks, you know, social distancing. So we've asked people to call us if they're going to catch the, catch the shuttle because if we try to fit everybody in there, we can't, they can't sit next to each other so we would send another bus, if we know that we're having more than the bus can accommodate or we use a bigger bus.

Also, the Maunaloa Post Office has been under repair and the residents on the west end have been having to, their mail has been rerouted to the Ho'olehua Post Office. So, we've made accommodations to transport the west end clients if they didn't have a ride, to stop at the Ho'olehua Post Office before taking them home on the, on the shuttle. And we're so appreciative of you know, the County Council's support and we ask for your support, continued support. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Ms. Reyes. Any questions?

If not, Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Next person we have signed up to testify is Courtney Ikawa, to be followed by Livit Callentine.

CHAIR LEE: I think she spoke already. Or was that today, this afternoon.

MS. COURTNEY IKAWA:

Hello, Council Chair Lee and Councilmembers. Yeah, no, I haven't spoken yet. You might have seen emails. That's all.

CHAIR LEE: No, I'm sorry. I meant the person after you. Callentine.

MS. IKAWA: Oh, okay. Perfect. Well, I'm Courtney Ikawa and I'm the regional director for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Maui. Our one-to-one mentoring relationship support the critical social and emotional development . . . build resilience and promote mental health and well-being in the 150 youth that we serve here on Maui.

Now more than ever, Big Brothers Big Sisters has stepped up to find innovative ways to serve the community to keep kids connected to their mentor or their big as this has been the only constant for our kids as we navigate this difficult and changing landscape. We've helped our families with things like food . . . and adopted our after-school program to a virtual platform like you heard from Kim earlier, and we've adjusted our annual fundraisers to sustain our agency.

Our goal is to create lifelong friendships between Littles and Bigs, and they say seeing is believing, so when our kids see their Bigs doing things that they're passionate about, our kids dream bigger and believe they can do it too.

So, we have a quote from a Little Brother who attends our program at our mentor center in Hale Makana, and he says, "I like playing in the garden and talking story with my Big Brother. He's funny. My Big Brother makes me want to help kids when I get older like him." And this is just one example of the power of a mentoring relationship and the positive change it can make in our community, and I look forward to seeing this Little Brother become a Big Brother one day.

And so, I just humbly ask for your support of the Mayor's proposal and thank you so much for your continued investment in our Maui youth. Thank you so much for your time tonight.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. What is your position with Big Brothers and Big Sisters?

MS. IKAWA: I'm the Regional Director.

CHAIR LEE: Oh. Are you the person that said that you noticed the Big Brothers plaque behind me? You are the one.

MS. IKAWA: Yes, yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, you're very, very observant. Any questions? If not, thank you. Thank you very much for coming.

MS. IKAWA: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next individual we have signed up to testify is Livit Callentine, to be followed by Christopher O'Brien.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Callentine.

MS. LIVIT CALLENTINE:

Yes, can you hear me now?

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. CALLENTINE: Okay, great. Well, you did see me before today and I've been sitting here the whole day. No, that's not true. I had a few . . . But you guys have been sitting here a long time and I know what it's like to have long night meetings. So, I'll be really quick. And I appreciate so much your time and the effort that you spend and the care that you take to, to manage our County.

So, this is in regarding the proposed \$1.5 million in funding that's shown in the Mayor's proposed budget to be given to the Maui County Visitor's Association. Like other testifiers, I question whether Maui island still needs to be marketed. Judging by the recent surge in traffic island-wide and the overcrowded beaches despite COVID-19 restrictions, it appears that everyone knows where we are, how to get here, and where to stay.

No other private for-profit industry receives this kind of taxpayer money at least as far as I know. And so why should we be giving our taxpayer money to the visitor industry who is able to support itself. I believe it is time to conclude that this support is no longer needed, this for-profit industry can very well support itself. Please reallocate this

\$1.5 million to another more worthy cause such as affordable housing, beach nourishment projects, and climate change planning. Thank you and that is my brief testimony.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

MS. CALLENTINE: And may I just say one more thing, which is I hope you all have a wonderful, peaceful, restful Saturday and Sunday.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you.

MS. CALLENTINE: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Members, any questions? If not, Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person signed up to testify is Christopher O'Brien, to be followed by Randy Yamashita.

MR. CHRISTOPHER O'BRIEN:

Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Christopher O'Brien and I represent a number of organizations, mostly non-profit. I'm here today, first to testify in my capacity as the Treasurer of Oahu Energy Cooperative Molokai to support budget priority 33 under the Office of Economic Development. First, I think Auntie Lori and Todd Yamashita did a great job at summarizing, you know, what we're trying to accomplish, but I do want to add that over half of our population on Molokai qualifies for the low-income energy bill assistance, and these are the people we want to benefit from our renewable energy efforts.

Moreover, this project will aim to reduce our carbon footprint, reduce our dependency, or eliminate the use of fossil fuels, and keep more money circulating on island instead of it going offshore. And not only will our participants get certified training, they will also receive direct hands-on paid experience after graduating from this program.

I'm also here to testify in support of priority 36 which is Sustainable Molokai's food bank, food hub project where I work as the Director of Admin. and Development. Since the pandemic, Sustainable Molokai has distributed over \$80,000 in Molokai produced food through our local food pantry system. A quarter of that was funded by Maui County CARES funding we received last year, which we mahalo the County for their support.

As our community has come to depend on Sustainable Molokai's efforts, we are constrained with the lack of a dedicated facility on the island to manage the procurement, processing, storage, and distribution of both local food and food we receive from Maui island and elsewhere. So, I respectfully request support of our Council for this budget priority. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mr. O'Brien. Are there any questions? If not, thank you for coming.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person signed up to testify is Randy Yamashita, to be followed by Misty Boteilho-Dougherty.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Yamashita.

MR. RANDY YAMASHITA:

Hello. How you guys doing? So, I was going try keep 'em short and simple. So, I going just read off my thing.

Aloha, my name is Randy Yamashita, a resident of Haiku and I want to thank you guys for supporting MEO B.E.S.T. Re-entry and Rental Assistance Program. I come from a church that works with some of the people that come from the jails, and I think it's awesome they have assistance when they come out. They get help with figuring stuff out especially when they don't have any other support. I know lots of, I know lots of guys who got help finding a job, and when they do have money on hand, they get help from getting housing. I think it's important to continue these services and mahalo for the programs like B.E.S.T. and Rental Assistance and thank you guys for your time.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Mr. Yamashita. Any questions, from the Members? If not, thanks again for coming.

MR. YAMASHITA: Thank you. Have a good day. Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Clerk.

Aloha.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Next person signed up to testify is Misty Boteilho-Dougherty, to be followed by the individual calling in from the phone number ending with these last four digits 2443.

CHAIR LEE: Misty.

MS. MISTY BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY:

Hi, can you hear me?

CHAIR LEE: Yeah.

MS. BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY: Okay. Hi, I'm Misty Boteilho-Dougherty and we're calling on behalf of MEO Youth Services and actually my son has a few things that he'd like to say.

KAHLEN BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY:

Hi, I'm Kahlen Boteilho-Dougherty, I'm a twelve-year old seventh grader that goes to Emmanuel Lutheran School. I go to MEO after school as the thing I can do to help the community and I'd like to ask for continuous funds so that I will be able to still help the community along with other kids. Some of the ways I help the community is in a community farm we are able to get vegetables for the elderly so they are able to eat healthy and be able to have food so that they are able to . . . healthy. And some of the other ways are that we actually go to people's houses sometimes and we actually help them by doing things in their garden, doing things to help them better so it can give them time to rest so that they don't have to, less things that they have to do actually.

And some of the things that I like about it is where they're actually able to pick you up, pick us up wherever we want and drop us off whenever we want . . . at around the same time as others because they pick me up from school even though it's a little bit after people, other schools are finished and they're able to drop me off a little bit earlier than usual sometimes and it would drop me off where I need to be. And they've actually helped us to stay, to stay strong in COVID and give me interaction during COVID with other kids and other people from--

CHAIR LEE: Did he practice that smile at the end?

MS. BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY: No. I asked him to, if he wanted to practice of write anything down and he said no. We joined the call a little late and we didn't know really how to go on here and we were waiting for our names and I was like, oh, I think we have to actually put our names in.

Anyhow, I know we only have three minutes, but I can't explain how much of a help that MEO Youth Services Program has been, especially during COVID and throughout these times that we had, that was very difficult for our family financially and also just being able to go back to work and having a hard time to take him to different things and bring others, anything for him to really be interacting with other kids or just with anybody in general.

And it was such a great experience for him to be in middle school and to be able to, it's an awkward stage I think in life and to be a parent with a middle schooler, the MEO Youth Services program has brought up a lot of conversations that would be really hard to talk about had it not be for MEO Youth Services opening up the doors for those like alcohol abuse in younger children and--

KAHLEN: --bullying, cyberbullying, financial stuff.

MS. BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY: --cyberbullying, financial things, and then even suicide awareness and prevention and other things like that, that are just a little tricky to talk about especially since we're home all the time with him and we're just trying to do the main school things and everything else.

You forget about all of those other things that are coming up in a child's life during this time of adolescence, and with MEO Youth Services, they've been able to help us with that and really open doors and just really support us with those things.

They even have different Zoom programs that he cooked food a couple of nights ago and he made his own alfredo sauce just by watching a program or watching a Zoom conference with them and having chefs go on there. We did a few family game nights.

And just really interacting with kids from different schools and just with other children and being able to help with drop offs and pickups have been a big help for our family, cause we're at work and if it wasn't for us to be able, if it wasn't for this, we would pick him up and drop them off at specific things, even like Kumon.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Thank you. What is, what is your son's name?

KAHLEN: Oh, my name is Kahlen Boteilho-Dougherty.

CHAIR LEE: What is your first name?

KAHLEN: Kahlen Boteilho-Dougherty.

MS. BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY: Kahlen.

KAHLEN: K-A-H-L-E-N.

CHAIR LEE: Do you know Noah Mathias.

MS. BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY: Do you know a Noah Mathias?

KAHLEN: No, I do not.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, okay. He goes to Emmanuel Lutheran, too. Okay, anybody--

MS. BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY: I don't know how to switch camera.

KAHLEN: Oh wait, Noah must be, is, is wait, sorry, is he in fourth grade?

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, I think so. Yeah.

KAHLEN: I think, I think I know him. I think I've seen him. He's new, yeah? This is his first year.

CHAIR LEE: He's new. Him and his sister go there.

KAHLEN: Yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

KAHLEN: Yes, yeah, I think I've seen. I actually today during P.E. we actually joined them.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, very good. Anybody have questions? And Misty, you have that Intuitive Health business, right? No?

MS. BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY: I do.

CHAIR LEE: You do, yeah.

MS. BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY: I do. Oh, yes, your son, your daughter-in-law, I think sees me.

CHAIR LEE: Yeah, possibly, yeah.

MS. BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY: Yes, that's right.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

MS. BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY: I can't, I don't know where all the pictures went. But, yes I can't see.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, very good. Well nice meeting both of you and good luck. And we already support MEO, so don't worry. Thank you.

MS. BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY: Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Alright. Bye.

MS. BOTEILHO-DOUGHERTY: Aloha. Bye.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is the individual calling in from the phone number with these last four digits, 2443 to be followed by Eseta Uddipa.

MS. ESETA UDDIPA:

Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Aloha.

MS. UDDIPA: My name is Eseta Uddipa. I am . . . mom who is in MEO Head Start in Lahaina. MEO Head Start has been continuously blessing for my family for four years. I have three kids and they were all enrolled at MEO Head Start. Being a mother with a close ages babies, it's so hard to be a good mother, as my hand always full. I couldn't and I can't afford preschool, thankfully one of my friends introduced me to MEO. MEO Head Start prepped them to kindergarten and academic school through educational interaction and socialization.

My three kids are all different. My oldest, took her a month to stop crying when she go to school. Every morning, we drop her, would take about 10 minutes just to try to get her away from holding me, into me and crying not to, to stay there. Thanks for Ms. Ashley's patience and her holding her every morning. Second one, first day, he didn't want me there. I always ask the teacher to eye him, cause I believe he had ADHD, but somehow the teacher has a magic wand that make him calm, listen, and participating. 2021, my little one This little boy is very shy and he is also like

challenges. He's overexciting everyday just to study hard and study more cause he likes to make Ms. Kiki proud of him. Ms. Kiki always fascinate to go extra mile just to make each little kids that they are the best. Thank you for being an excellent teacher.

What I'm trying to say here that it doesn't matter the kid's differences, MEO Head Start teacher can handle. Can you imagine, I couldn't afford preschool and my first baby, baby's first year is kindergarten. She will behind one month of school cause of crying. MEO had other program inside school that I love, for example, brushing teeth. My second baby hate brushing teeth, also a fight, always a fight, but since he went there, he learned and turned out loving it.

MEO even educate us as parents on better, on better healthy choice. Since COVID-19 hit, my husband and I both lost our jobs due to the pandemic. COVID-19 affects us financially and mentality. Thank God for . . . MEO Help, helping with our utilities. Honestly, it's a huge relief. This pandemic pulled me down as a mother and as a person. Ms. Kelly was the one always try her best to help or search for extra help for me. She always called back with more information like who to call and where to call for help. I had learned to be more patient with kids, with my kids by just watching the teacher of MEO. MEO Head Start not only helped my kids' education, helped me financially but improved me knowledges and skills. Mahalo.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you so much for your testimony.

Mr. Clerk. Mr. Clerk, how many more do we have? Because, I'm thinking of taking another short break for our staff to take a rest.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: We are at seven testifiers remaining.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Maybe we should keep going.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person signed up to testify is Leslie Wilkins, to be followed by Tamara Lester.

MS. LESLIE WILKINS:

Good evening, Councilmembers.

CHAIR LEE: Good evening.

MS. WILKINS: My name is Leslie Wilkins and I'm honored to serve as Maui Economic Development Board's President and CEO. We are a values based economic

development organization guided by our respect for our environment, culture, and sense of place, with the priority focused to build entrepreneurship and sectors that can help diversify our economy.

On behalf of our board and staff, I'll begin by saying thank you for your leadership during these unprecedented times. We know you have many difficult decisions before you. The past year MEDB has worked to refocus all our programs to be responsive to the COVID-19 needs of our businesses, our teachers and students, and our community, which are the three pillars of our organization's mission and programs.

We developed the Business Assistance Webinar series providing technical information and resources ranging from SBA products like PPP and IDA loans, helping farmers understand resources available for ag, and guiding businesses how to apply for MEDB's Administered Adaptability Fund. To date, we have more than 2,700 views of our seven webinars and to answer Ms. Knox's prior question, our last webinar on March 24, was how to become certified as a women owned minority business . . . the SBA to yes, get preference contracts.

MEDB worked diligently to get nearly \$5 million at the door of CARES Act funding through the Adaptability Fund. We were able to fund more than 438 businesses with grants. We also provided coaching on ways to restructure and retool operations to comply with safety guidelines, increase web presence, and develop ecommerce. We have provided one-on-one coaching and technical assistance to more than 700 Maui County businesses during the pandemic.

We realize that economic development must be linked with education and workforce development to assure we are growing a skilled workforce aligned with the sectors we are trying to build in healthcare, clean energy, aggrotech, IT, geospatial, aerospace, cyber security, robotics, AI, virtual reality, 3D printing, and entrepreneurship.

Thank you for investing in us so we can invest in our future workforce, entrepreneurs, and problem-solvers. Our programs extend from K to careers as we like to say, and in addition to leveraging the County's funding with Federal, and State, and private sector funding, we also have a ratio of about three to one of that leverage to the County's funding. We further provide industry standard software for our schools for free, for example, geospatial GIS. And we train our teachers in original . . . space curriculum, in service learning, clean energy science, and . . . capacity.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you, Leslie. Are there any questions, for Ms. Wilkins, MEDB? If not, thank you very much.

MS. WILKINS: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Good to see you.

MS. WILKINS: Good evening.

CHAIR LEE: Good to see you.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person signed up to testify is Tamara Lester, to be followed by Liko Wallace.

CHAIR LEE: Oh, that's a familiar name. Tamara. Tamara, it's your turn. Not our Tamara, the other Tamara. I guess she's not there, let's move on to--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'd like to testify on behalf of MEO Youth Services, they're wonderful; and Boys and Girls Club, I couldn't make it through budget without them.

CHAIR LEE: I know we memorized the lines already. Okay, I guess Tamara's not here, we can circle back to her. How about, let's have Liko Wallace from Molokai.

MS. LIKO WALLACE:

Molokai. Aloha, County Council.

CHAIR LEE: Aloha.

MS. WALLACE: Thank you for hearing me tonight. It's been a patient wait. Nice seeing all your smiley faces. I just wanted to ask you to support, I have several that I'd like to list. One is an additional worker for our Molokai's Department of Motor Vehicles, which we have two. But we always end up with short one person and the door gotta be closed, one person does driving test, the other person has someone in there, the line is always very, very long. So, an additional worker would be definitely appreciated.

Then moving on to the Molokai Axis Deer Management Specialist. It's something that we have been addressing for a while, but nothing actually came into play. And this past year has been horrible. The deer was all over the place. And basically not realizing if it was just, I know it wasn't managed correctly, so either they weren't being hunted enough or, I dunno, all I know is the capacity of food just wasn't enough, the

water wasn't enough. Deer was everywhere. Babies was dropping everywhere. Deer was dead everywhere. So management, a Deer Management Specialist is definitely needed so we don't have to see that hopefully again. That was horrible to live through. The smell of death was everywhere.

The Molokai Renewable Energy Co-op, so that we can help with the renewable energy. And then the Sustainable Molokai Food Pantry. I help out at our church food bank and there's a lot of times when the distribution becomes way too much than we can handle. And there's nowhere that we can store cold, cool, cold items and panned items that ends up being like way too much. So, a food pantry would be a nice assistance for the, the help on distributing much needed food when needed and not overbearing any of the churches or food banks to find places to keep it.

And then the last one is Charter education and outreach. I know that meeting was last night, and I wasn't able to attend that. And I really would like to understand, and I know there's a lot of people I've been talking to and asking them if they know what the Charter Commission is. I couldn't even answer the question. So, I think we just need more education there and an outreach. It took us, took me how long to even figure out how to come and talk to you guys. But now I'm feeling a lot more comfortable. Oh, such beautiful faces. But thank you for hearing me tonight and thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you so much, Liko. Are there any questions? Any question? If not, thank you very much.

MS. WALLACE: You're welcome. God bless you guys.

CHAIR LEE: You too.

MS. WALLACE: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person signed up to testify is Blossom Feiteira, to be followed by George Fujita.

CHAIR LEE: Blossom.

MS. BLOSSOM FEITEIRA:

Hi. Aloha, Madam Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Aloha.

MS. FEITEIRA: Thank you for the opportunity to address the County Council this evening. I'm actually here to deliver testimony on behalf of my daughter-in-law who is a parent of a child who is a recipient of services of MEO Head Start. So, with your permission, if I may, we would like to mahalo the County Council for the opportunity to testify in support of funding for the MEO Head Start program.

My grandson is actually a diagnosed autistic. He entered into Head Start at the age of two with no speech capacity and severe behavioral problems as a result of that. In the two years that he's been in the Head Start program he can now speak in full sentences; his behavior has increased dramatically. We are not looking at the same child that we first met two years ago. He is now transitioning into kindergarten at the DOE.

You know, we want to be able to mahalo MEO Head Start and the superb services that their Head Start program provides to all of their children. Speech therapy is only one part, you know, what you have is a bunch of clearly dedicated teachers to early education. You can't do better than what you can find at Head Start at MEO. And so, without further ado, once again mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of Maui Economic Opportunity, my daughter-in-law and my grandchild. So thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Blossom. Good to hear from you. Are there any questions?

MS. FEITEIRA: Good to see all of you. I'm so happy.

CHAIR LEE: Good to see you too. Well, hear you anyway. Let's see. Any questions? No questions, thank you again.

Mr. Clerk.

MS. FEITEIRA: Mahalo.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person signed up to testify is George Fujita, to be followed by the individual connected to the meeting under the name Mona.

MR. GEORGE FUJITA:

County Council, thank you so much for your time, you guys. Late nights, appreciate it. Very nervous right now, please excuse me. My name is George Fujita, I reside in, on kuleana lands in Ukumehame, I speak for the trees. Actually, I did some work with some of your Councilmembers, I look very much up to you guys and the efforts. A lot

of efforts with Keani. I was able to talk to Shane Sinenci on our Ku'u march last year. Did some efforts with Gabe Johnson on sending me to Lanai so, um.

I mean mentioning all of that just edifying on my passion on our community and the well-being of our Hawaiian community. Not just the two-legged species walking around but also all the way down to the micro-organisms that's very important in the thriving of our health moving forward.

So, just want to disagree with the tourism fundings and maybe we can implement it in a, maybe a better, and I'm not saying pump it, stop it 100 percent, but I think we can maybe use it to better our infrastructure as far as the sustainability of the cleanliest of how things get operated. Just had the incident with the jeep falling in the, in the Papalau'a Wayside Park Ocean. And as far as the tourism, as far as jeeps and sports car, I no think our guests maybe should be allowed 4x4 jeeps maybe, it kind of encourages them to get into mischief and going to places outside of State and County roads.

But, um, I just love Hawaii so much and I believe that if we can use those funds to make a healthier, sustainable ecosystem, it will then in return keep us, as the people healthy and help its further progression. And I'm sorry for my nervousness you guys, but thank you. I support all of that things about the wastewater management and all that kind stuff and I'm very surprised and it actually gives me hope listening to everybody's testimony. Thank you so much you guys. You guys have a blessed night.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, George. Any questions, Members? If not, thank you again.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is the individual connected to the meeting under the name Mona, and then I believe Tamara Lester has reconnected with phone audio, so she will be next.

MS. MONA LALOULU:

Aloha, hello. Good evening, County Council.

CHAIR LEE: Hi.

MS. LALOULU: My name is Mona and I'm here to testify on behalf of MEO Head Start. I am, my son attends Kahului A and I'm sorry, and I just wanted to give a shout out to the staff of MEO Head Start, the dedication that they show me and my child. Especially,

you know, within these past couple of years. You know, my son he . . . to wake up every day to go to school. Even when they don't attend school, he always ask, oh, do I have school, are you taking me to school?

You know, I, um, you know, just the program itself, the teachers, the staff, case managers, especially Ms. Kelly. You know, the resources that they have when I need help, when I reach, you know, roadblocks, um, you know MEO Head Start is always there for me mentally, physically, emotionally. It's been a, it's been a rollercoaster for me this year, especially with my own personal family situation that I have going on, Kelly was always there to provide resources and just help me get back and fight and to empower myself to keep pushing.

Um, you know, I've been to, I've attended many parent meetings, but not one that touched me and had me in tears, um, we've discussed about this book, Bounce Back. Sorry, getting a little emotional. It speaks about like, your weaknesses, strengths, helps you reevaluate your lifestyle as a parent, as a individual. And as we discussed the book, you know, we had some tears, laughter, comfort and you know, as a parent and, you know, future children and my children to come, I ask that you guys continue in funding MEO Head Start and supporting them and, yeah.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Thank you, Mona. Members--

MS. LALOULU: Thank you for having me testify on behalf of MEO Head Start.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you for coming. Are there any questions for Mona? If not, thank you again.

Mr. Clerk.

MS. LALOULU: Okay, have a good evening.

CHAIR LEE: You too.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Chair, Mona before you leave, could you please state your full name for the record.

MS. LALOULU: My name is Mona Laloulu.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Thank you.

MS. LALOULU: Thank you.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Chair, the next person we have signed up to testify is Tamara Lester, to be followed by Junya Nakoa.

MS. TAMARA LESTER:

My phone or--

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Yes, we can hear you now.

MS. LESTER: Can you hear me now? Can you hear me now? Hello?

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Yes, yes. Tamara, we can hear you.

CHAIR LEE: Yes.

MS. LESTER: Okay. Okay, sorry. I'm calling on behalf of the, well first of all, some of the people have already testified regarding this. Jordan Hocker and Livit Callentine and so many others regarding the proposed budget for MVB. In my opinion, well it's not my opinion, we are in, what I've been reading has shown us that we are already experiencing visitor arrivals exceeding pre-pandemic numbers here on Maui. And this is impacting everyone negatively from what I'm hearing.

And I read in the Maui News today, that the Mayor's budget had proposed \$3.5 million for Maui County's Visitors Association, and yet on the budget line item it shows 1.5 million. I don't know what that number is? Can you tell me what that number really is? What was being proposed? Because I don't know for sure, I mean the online budget proposal, you know is \$2 million different than what it showed in the Maui News. And I thought, well is there money somewhere else in the budget that doesn't show, you know, you know, that's being given to Maui County's Visitors Association? Um, if the online Fiscal Year 2022 Mayor's proposed ordinance combined showed 1.5 million for line item, and um, either way, um, we don't need this funding for the Maui's Visitor Association.

The County's own Cost of Government Commission report which we have paid for with our tax dollars recommends that the budget should not exceed half a million dollars a year in the future. And with that half a million dollars, I think we should not use it to be advertising Maui, but perhaps, like, you know, and I'm not even sure about tourist education, because they ignore all the signs about wearing masks, I've seen it. And I'm just, I think it's beyond education, it's maybe enforcement, you know. Tourist management should include enforcing our mandates here on the island to help keep

our residents safe. And it's also for their own good, because of our own infrastructure, it's so limited. We don't have the medical facilities to accommodate the sheer numbers of people coming.

And after hearing Kahlen Boteilho-Dougherty tonight, I think we should give it all to MEO Youth Services and Head Start. But anyway, that's a, I don't know, you guys have to figure all that stuff out. But the main thing is that there is more than enough money spent on marketing Maui as a destination.

This is a quote from our report that we had paid for to have issued whether they should receive money or not, and they did not find a correlation between MVB and the levels of visitor arrivals and spending. So, um, and then there was just a note in the article, I don't know if you've read it, maybe you have already and I don't want to rehash it if you have, but that the, in 2018 when they trimmed the budget by a million dollars--

CHAIR LEE: Excuse me, can you conclude your testimony, please?

MS. LESTER: --okay. Let's defund the Maui Visitor's Bureau and use the money where it's needed more on the island. That's all.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, very good. Thank you.

MS. LESTER: Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Members, are there any questions? If not, thank you very much for coming.

Mr. Clerk, may we have the next testifier, please.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Chair, the last individual we have signed up to testify is Junya Nakoa. If there is anybody else who's connected to the meeting who hasn't testified but wishes to do so, please notify us in the meeting chat now.

CHAIR LEE: Hello, Junya.

MR. JUNYA NAKOA:

Alright, howzit. Had to turn off the TV. Um, uhh, okay you guys heard all the stories on today, from all the happy stories from the MEO's, from the Big Bruddahs Big Sistas, that one, you know what, what I was trying to get at, all those buggahs should be getting all the money, the \$1.5 million from the Visitor's Bureau, that's who suppose to go get 'em.

The, yeah, the Maui Visitor's Bureau, I when talk to about nine managers throughout this whole week because they all panicking cause they think we going come over there protest in front the beach. And then I when talk to all of them, and then I when tell them about I like defund the Maui Bureau, Visitor's Bureau. But they all say, we need 'em, we need 'em, we need 'em. I said you guys no need 'em, you guys no need market nobody, look how busy you guys stay. Oh yea, we stay 90 percent, all yea we stay 80.

You know what I mean, you guys no need the money for market this place, and then market Hawaii. Hawaii doing it's good job by just being Hawaii. So, we no need these dummies coming over here and jamming 'em up if they no like listen to the rules. And yea so, go take care the MEO stuff and Big Bruddahs and Big Sistas, and mahalo you guys for all day and all night. But my night is stay going good. You guys have a good one . . . you buggahs. Yessah. Chee hoo!

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Junya. Any questions? If not, mahalo Junya.

And Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Thomas Croly.

MR. THOMAS CROLY:

Aloha, Councilmembers. Thomas Croly, speaking on my own behalf, and I thank you for your late night here. I want to compliment the entire budget staff for the way that you're conducting this budget. I really appreciate the clarity that you've put online with all the documents, and the way that you're going through everything methodically. And also the way you're getting along, it's nice to see you guys getting along and that's a wonderful thing. And tonight is a wonderful night and I hope you see it as a reward for the hard work that you're doing.

All of the people who are testifying asking for you to support their non-profits and so forth, it really makes you feel warm to know that Maui County is doing these things for, for the folks of Maui and I hope that, that you're getting that same reward yourself for knowing that you can help facilitate this.

I wasn't going to testify but I heard so many people making notes that just weren't true, so I wanted to point out a few things first. Which was, where does the money come from, that, that you guys are using in the budget that's facilitating all of these things, right? And I want to point out that the, the people who live in Maui, who own property,

okay, in total spend, pay \$33 million in taxes, and they get an \$82 million reduction in those taxes so, that's something to note. Now, 33 million, what is that? That doesn't even pay for your solid waste, okay, so all of the taxes coming from all of the people who live and own property on Maui, \$33 million doesn't even pay for their solid waste.

The hotels, the hotels are getting a big tax break this year and are paying \$26 million, it's about a 20 percent reduction for the hotels, so it's not the hotels that are bringing you the money. All of the agriculture, the largest land holders on the island, in total pays \$7 million in property taxes. And then all of the businesses, all of the, you know, Costco, and Wal-Mart, and so forth, \$31 million comes from all of the businesses.

So if all of the money is not coming from there, then where is it coming from, right? And you guys know this, but I'm hoping that this reaches a wider audience here. \$37 million comes from timeshares, okay \$37 million is paid by the timeshare owners. That's more than all the hotels combined, and the timeshares make up a manini part of the total number of rooms.

And then \$95 million comes from the second homeowners. Now I know we don't like the second homeowners, but let's recognize that \$95 million of your budget is coming from the people who own second homes here on Maui and use them part-time.

Chair, if you can just bear with me, one more point, which is where does most of the money come from? \$138 million comes from the short-term rentals, okay, so let that sink in for a moment. Okay, when we talk about trying to reduce tourism and so forth, \$138 million, more than the total of all of the people who live on Maui, all of the businesses on Maui, all of the hotels on Maui, all of the agriculture on Maui combined, okay come from the short-term rentals. So just something that I wanted to make sure that people understood in the big picture of things, where is the funding coming from to do all these great things on Maui.

Keep up the good work, I'll come to talk to you on real property tax night as former Chair of the Real Property Tax Board of Appeals and have a great weekend. Thank you. Aloha.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Tom. We have a question from Member Sugimura for you.

MR. CROLY: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Before I thank you, before I go into my question, I wanted to thank you for your service cause we got your notification from the Mayor's Office of your resignation, so thank you very much--

MR. CROLY: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: --for your work on the commission and being the Chair, right, you were the Chair of it too?

MR. CROLY: Yes, I was the Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, so thank you very much. Do you have that written testimony you could submit to us? Good data.

MR. CROLY: You know, I just made this up on cuff, because I saw all these comments and, and people who didn't quite understand where the numbers came from. But if you want, I will put something together and send it in for you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Please, please do.

MR. CROLY: Yup.

CHAIR LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yup. Thank you.

CHAIR LEE: Alright. Any more questions for Tom? If not, thank you very much Tom.

MR. CROLY: Aloha. Goodnight.

CHAIR LEE: Appreciate you coming by. Thank you.

Mr. Clerk.

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Oh. Vice-Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, did you have a question?

VICE-CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have just a point of information, not for the testifier. Mahalo, Chair.

Just for Member Sugimura, that we will be having the certification with all of that information on Tuesday. And it is also due to the Council on Monday, so we'll have that information on Monday as well. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you. Alright.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: The next person we have signed up to testify is Faith Chase.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, is she the last one?

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Currently, yes.

CHAIR LEE: Okay. Faith.

MS. FAITH CHASE:

Aloha, Council. Good evening, um, I know, I'm going, I know you've heard me many times, so I'm going to be quick. I would really like the invasive species funding to maximize as much as possible. My one time on the Hawaii Organic Farming Association, we watched eight farmers belly up because of fire ants. We even helped one family move back to the continent because they just lost everything. And so I hate to see those kind of things happen to Maui, please increase that funding wherever you can.

I understand that there is introduction of a water truck to help those unsheltered, unhoused, living in their cars, and struggling with secure housing. That would be, that would be, I wish it was tomorrow, but whatever you can do to see that through would be great.

Like I said before, Shay and Ian Chan Hodges and their ESG project, their stream monitoring for East Maui has empowered the community, I'd like to see that. Maybe partner with some of the watershed, the water, East Maui water study, um, I think I have a prepared testimony in that aspect and that's all I wanted to say. I'll let you guys go. Thank you so much.

CHAIR LEE: Thank you, Faith. Any questions for the testifier? If not, Mahalo.

Mr. Clerk.

DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK: Chair, we do not have any other testifiers noted. If an individual connected to the meeting has not testified but would like to do so, please unmute yourself and identify yourself now or you can notify us in the meeting chat.

This is the last call for testifiers. If you want to testify, please indicate so now.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, Members are there any objections--

MS. ANN PITCAITHLEY:

I would like to testify.

CHAIR LEE: Alright.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: I would like to testify.

CHAIR LEE: Please state your name, for the record.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Ann Pitcaithley, my name is Ann Pitcaithley from Wailuku. So, I'm calling, I echo the opinions of many of the other testifiers that we should, the County should stop funding the Maui Visitor's Bureau. They already received some funding, to my knowledge from the Transient Accommodations Tax. And they can function independently . . . that so I think the money should go to tourist management, we're so impacted already from the return of all these tourist and the roads and the beaches and you have to compete with them on, for parking spots on the beach, parking lots.

And I also wanted to say, as far as the Parks and Recreation Department, there's a lot of investment in basketball, and baseball, and, but, you know, the fastest growing sport in America is, is pickleball. And that's so evident in Maui. I mean there's so many, much, many more pickleball players than there are tennis players. And that's pretty evident if you go to any of these places. And we've just outgrown what can be accommodated.

And in Kihei, behind the Maui Sunset, I think there's four pickleball courts, and there's like a hundred people there, and again compete with tourist there. And then, War Memorial, there's two courts and that, there's probably about sometimes 20, 25 people there. I know that the new South Maui gym is open, or will be opening, they have flat out refused to accommodate pickleball courts there.

And you know it's pretty easy to add markings for, to the tennis courts for, so that the pickleball people, players can play there. And I just think, I know there's been many appeals to the County Council and to the Parks and Recreation Department, Carla Peters and I just don't feel like a lot has been done about it. So, I would like to see more accommodations for pickleball players, as I am an avid pickleball player and it is, it's a rapidly growing sport and I think that needs to be acknowledged. So, I go to War Memorial, and sometimes there's nobody playing at the tennis courts or there's never

a line to play tennis, right, but there always is to play pickleball. So, I guess, that's all I want to say. And so, I really appreciate you working overtime tonight, all of you. Thank you so much, for your dedication and hard work.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Sugimura. Ms. Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, Ann if you could contact my office and I can help give you some answers regarding pickleball. Our Parks Chair is not here tonight, but I will gladly, you know, help answer some of your questions you have, had about pickleball. So, my name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, and you can call my office or you can call my cell. I'll give you my cell (808) 870-8047, if you got a paper and pencil.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: I didn't get the, I got 808, I didn't get the next three numbers.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Um, my number is 870-8047.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Thank you so much. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Okay, alright.

CHAIR LEE: Ms. Paltin. Ms. Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair Lee. Thank you, Ms. Pitcaithley.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Pitcaithley. That's fine, I'm used to that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you for your testimony. I just was wondering if you had heard about the four new pickleball courts at Napili Park, um, there's no line, ever. So, come on down.

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Yeah. Great. Well, that's good to hear. I mean, but you know, what's interesting is Central Maui, where bulk of the population is and where I live, I live in Wailuku, that there's only one court, that there's, there's War Memorial and those are two courts and it's every and the pickleball players get preference on Tuesdays and Thursdays, so that's what we're limited to. Two courts, we get 20 to 25 people showing up and you know, you play four on a court so you have to wait a long time, whereas the tennis players, there's never like, there's nobody sitting in the bleacher section, there's none of that.

So, I know that there's other tennis courts around, there's one in Kahului, there's one, I think at Wells Park too and oftentimes, I know Wells Park, there's not people playing at all, no tennis people playing. That court could be marked for pickleball and the one in, in, in Kahului should be also in my opinion. And I don't want to take away from the tennis players, I'm just saying there's way more pickleball players than tennis. And actually, I've only been doing it for a year, but you know, a year ago I'd never ever heard of it. So I'm, you know, I'm astonished by the number of people that are playing including tourist.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Kind of sounds like--

CHAIR LEE: Are you done with questions?

MS. PITCAITHLEY: Alright, well thank you for listening.

CHAIR LEE: Alright, Members. Are there any objections to receiving written testimony into the record and to closing public testimony?

MEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTION.

THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, WRITTEN TESTIMONY
RECEIVED FROM THE FOLLOWING WERE MADE A PART OF
THE RECORD OF THIS PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Scott Lacasse, Grow Some Good;
2. Rod Antone, Maui Hotel & Lodging Association;
3. Marianne Asher and Janelle Lau;
4. Noelani Balai;
5. Danielle Bergan, Mental Health America of Hawaii;
6. Sandra Brissette;
7. Peter W. Cannon;
8. Andrea Castroman;
9. Steve Chaikin, Molokai Sea Farms;
10. Scott Crawford, Na Mamo O Mu'olea;
11. Nakota Crumbo, Common Ground Collective;
12. Vicky DeMercer, Mental Health America of Hawaii;
13. James "Kimo" Falconer;
14. Molly Jacobson;
15. Lori Johnson, King Kekaulike High School;
16. Pahnelopu McKenzie;
17. Terese Masters, Common Ground Collective;

18. MEO Business Development Center (BDC) testimonials;
19. MEO Community Services (Rental Assistance, BEST – Reentry, P&CC – Senior Coordinator, Enlace Hispano, Maui Independent Living Center) testimonials;
20. MEO Head Start After School and Summer testimonials;
21. MEO Human Services Transportation and Paratransit Services testimonials;
22. MEO Kahi Kamali'i Infant and Toddler Center testimonials;
23. MEO Youth Services and Under Age Drinking Prevention testimonials;
24. Mental Health America of Hawaii testimonials;
25. Napili Bay and Beach Foundation;
26. James J. Nobriga, West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District;
27. Frank "Bud" Pikrone, Wailea Resort Association;
28. Mike Silva, Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District;
29. Mailani Souza, Common Ground Collective;
30. Larry Stevens; and
31. Nicolas Timpone, Common Ground Collective.

CHAIR LEE: So ordered. Is there any more business, Mr. Clerk?

DEPUTY COUNTY CHAIR: No, Chair. That's everything.

CHAIR LEE: Okay, then I am about to adjourn this meeting unless anybody has questions or comments. If not, this public hearing is now officially adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing of *APRIL 16, 2021*, was adjourned by the Chair at 9:25 p.m.



KATHY KAOHU, COUNTY CLERK
COUNTY OF MAUI, STATE OF HAWAII



in your neighborhood

1215 S. Kihei Rd. Suite O #1047, Kihei, HI 96753-5225
(808)215-9228 Fax (866)286-3631
www.GrowSomeGood.org

April 16, 2021

County Council Budget Hearing
Kalana O Maui Building, 8th floor
200 S. High St.
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

RECEIVED
2021 APR 16 PM 12:31
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

RE: FY2022 Budget Hearing Testimony

Aloha Council Chair and County Council Members. My name is Scott Lacasse, and I am the new Executive Director for Grow Some Good, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to cultivating healthy communities through garden-based education. We serve 8,000 students in 35 schools on Maui, Lāna'i, and Molokai and envision our island community fully supported by a thriving, local, and eventually sustainable food system.

Our Maui Farm to School Network Garden Program (formerly Maui School Garden Network or MSGN) is dedicated to supporting a greater state of food independence in Maui County by providing disadvantaged keiki the tools needed to envision and create a food future that is less reliant on imported food. The MF2SN program currently serves 75% of the Title 1 schools in Maui County, as defined by an average of 57% of enrolled students existing below poverty level. As such, 5,000 of the 8,000 students we educate are considered financially disadvantaged.

First, I'd like to thank the Mayor, each Councilmember, and the OED Grants Team for their support during this challenging year. Without your fiscal and moral support, we would not have accomplished the impactful work we engaged in throughout the community at multiple scales.

Grow Some Good has built many strong relationships within the community during this past year. We experienced great success with the Maui Family YMCA, having initiated a successful plant distribution program that supplied 10,810 food plants and 848 pounds of produce to families in need during the early stages of the pandemic. This project included collaborations with organizations such as Hungry Homeless Heroes and Maui Farm, which grow, harvest, and prepare fresh produce for meals distributed to those in need. Thus far, those organizations received 2,581 of the plants, translating into countless meals for those in need.

We have further partnered with the YMCA to build a community garden, which is in the permitting phase, and we hope to begin construction in the Fall of 2021. We have also been invited to design a new educational garden and help staff the IMUA Discovery Garden program in Wailuku. Conceptual designs are underway, and we are hopeful that construction will commence during the upcoming

Grow Some Good is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by the IRS.



fiscal year. Additionally, we are currently working together with the Big Brother Big Sisters Mentor Center to build a new community garden on site and offer additional program support.

Funds would also be used to continue developing and implementing our P-20 pilot agricultural education program on Maui. This project, developed in collaboration with the University of Hawai'i Maui College, Kamehameha Schools, and several other community partners, is a new youth education program that seeks to grow a resilient agricultural workforce in Hawai'i. The program will design and implement transformational education and workforce development strategies that lead to college and career pathways, improve community health, support food security, and connect the next generations to the 'Āina. We intend to develop and implement a two-year pilot program in 2021-2023 for schools in the Central Maui - Baldwin Complex area that include early childhood, elementary, intermediate, high schools, and University of Hawaii Maui College.

Teachers and parents alike have been struggling to deliver lessons that engage children in meaningful learning experiences. Additionally, blended and remote learning models in schools significantly decreased our capacity to impact our usual student numbers. In response to the ever-changing educational landscape, we leveraged our past successes in assembling and distributing student garden learning kits to connect keiki across Maui Nui to their food through an impactful project and place-based learning experience. We expanded our standards-based online curriculum and connected it to educational garden kits that support teachers' goals, students' needs and promote concepts of self-sufficiency.

The Kumu Mea Kanu project is about reconnecting and strengthening students' relationships to their land, food, and community through hybrid garden learning. We have expanded our online curriculum and connected it to our educational garden kits that support teachers' goals, students' needs and promote the concepts of self-sufficiency.

This effort resulted in the distribution of 1,332 educational garden kits to 42 teachers across 11 schools. To date, 1,293 viable plants were grown by students and were returned for distribution to the community through a partnership with the Maui Family YMCA. Furthermore, despite the challenges presented by distance and blended learning models, our garden coordinators still engaged with nearly 2,400 students and 148 teachers across 17 schools during in-person garden learning in outdoor classrooms.

Our focus continues to be on collaboration with our schools to facilitate garden education. Recognizing that the DOE might reduce school programs due to budget cuts, we believe that the Kumu Mea Kanu project effectively maintains connectivity at a class, grade, and community scale. Moving forward, we will include this as one of our standard offerings to engage schools that are new to garden learning. We intend to continue this incredibly successful project into the upcoming school year. County funds will help support this effort.



Also, these funds will be used to continue supporting the creation of new learning gardens and the expansion of existing ones. This past year, we initiated three garden expansion projects and five new construction projects, one of them being at Maunaloa El on Molokai! There is a clear and demonstrated interest in this learning style. Enough so that it warrants continued support and inclusion in all schools on Maui.

HIDOE Schools receive annual funding based on past year enrollment (aka weighted formula). Because enrollment was down, we can expect school budgets to be down and not support garden classroom programming. Additionally, much of the program funding at individual schools comes from Parent Teacher Associations, and they were unable to fundraise as they usually do. Therefore, funding from that source will be reduced as well. Now, more than ever, it is imperative that the County continues to support this critical program and help close the gap on these anticipated budget deficits. We respectfully request that the County Council approves the Mayor's recommendation to continue supporting this county-wide program at the proposed \$100,000 level.

Mahalo nui for making a difference in our Maui community!

Sincerely & Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Lacasse".

Scott Lacasse
Executive Director
Grow Some Good
scott@growsomegood.org
(808) 757-8688

County Clerk

From: rodantone <rodantone@mauihla.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 2:32 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Testimony on Behalf of the Maui Hotel & Lodging Association regarding CC-21-191

Aloha Council members,

This testimony is in opposition to CC-21-191, entitled "AMENDING THE BUILDING CODE TO ADD CHAPTER 40 RELATING TO A MORATORIUM ON BUILDING PERMITS FOR HOTELS."

The bill talks about how our tourism counts are beyond what is recommended in the Maui Island Plan. Pointing to 2019 numbers the bill goes on to say that "With a daily visitor census of nearly 70,000 and resident population of well under 150,000 in 2019, Maui dramatically exceeded the desired visitor-resident ratio."

I understand that this matter is in early discussions, still it brings up some immediate questions:

- Circumstances have changed dramatically since that daily visitor count in 2019, why does the bill not address present visitor counts or mention the pandemic which shut down the industry for almost 8 months?
- Has there been a meeting with the community regarding this issue, prior to the introduction of this bill? If not why?
- What does this bill do to existing permits for hotels that are already in various stages of development?

The Maui Hotel & Lodging Association requests that this bill be deferred until such time that an informational community meeting can be scheduled involving all affected parties.

Sincerely,

Rod Antone
Executive Director
Maui Hotel & Lodging Association

RECEIVED
2021 APR 15 PM 3:04
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

County Clerk

From: Marianne Asher <mahinascrub@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 9:54 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Labor Help Needed

RECEIVED

2021 APR 16 AM 10:04

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Hello,

We are looking to employ two consistent willing labor support people for our organic farm through your agency.

Hours are 8:00-5:00 Tuesday and Thursday with a one hour unpaid lunch break. Jobs will include, but are not limited to, weeding, planting, fertilizing, mulching, harvesting, and composting. There can be relatively heavy lifting and pushing. If there is heavy rain at our location, work will be cancelled.

We have two companies:

50%Maui Mahina Organics LLC for profit - a developing farm

50%Scrub a registered non profit which gave over 1000 lbs of cabbage to the Food Bank last month, and which works with film education.

We would like each labor support person to receive a starting fee of \$15/hr. Would you be willing to reduce your agency's fee to support Scrub's 50% of the work?

We would like to begin with these two important people on Tuesday AM , and look forward to receiving your quote, as well as what your service offers us.

thank you,

Marianne Asher and Janelle Lau

County Clerk

From: noelani balai <ehaunty@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 11:40 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 PM 1:09

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

I would like to submit written testimony in support of the purchase of the Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed.

As a thirty year resident of Ma'alaea, I have seen the many changes in this area. From pineapple and sugar cane fields to the Ma'alaea Triangle and Maui Ocean Center. I live in Island Sands at 150 Hau'oli Street. In the time I have lived here, our building has been flooded twice. The water basin across the street has helped but every time there is a large amount of rain, I watch the muddy water empty into Ma'alaea bay. This is not good for our environment!

The purchase of the Pohakea Watershed will enable us to protect Ma'alaea bay. It will also help to protect our community from the summer fires that come over the mountain.

I encourage the Maui County Council to purchase the Pohakea Watershed.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Noelani Balai

My name is Danielle Bergan, and I am the Community Coordinator at Mental Health America of Hawaii, dba as the Mental Health Association in Hawaii. We are deeply grateful for the support of the Department of Housing and Human Concerns, the County Budget Office and the Maui County Council of the important services we provide the Community of Maui County. As COVID-19 has affected us all I am proud to say we pivoted within 2 weeks of the onset of the lockdown and posted a new "Get Connected Page "on our website with COVID-19 resources including links to virtual mental health counselling.

We continually have been able to reach out to our community during this uncertain time and offer them support. During this current grant year, we have already reached more than 1300 with our virtual trainings, help calls, including our virtual Suicide Prevention Awareness Conference last Fall, "Building Connection and Honoring Culture to Save lives."

We continue to come up with new trainings related to self-care and coping skills to enhance the mental wellness of our Maui County Community.

We are hoping that you will all consider us with continual funding at the same level as this year, \$95 K on the 2022 grant.

Mahalo.

Danielle Bergan

Danielle Bergan

Maui Community Coordinator

RECEIVED
2021 APR 14 PM 3:35
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

County Clerk

From: sandra brissette <sbrissette@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 3:05 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed. Written Testimony

Aloha, My Written testimony for the Mauka/Pohakea Watershed meeting.

To whom this may concern:

I am in full support of Maui County to purchase with Open Space Funding the Ma'alaea Mauka/Pohakea Watershed. This area needs to be maintained and protected from wild fires. We have had numerous devastating fires every year that has started in this area. It also needs to be protected from having commercial or residential buildings being built in this area that will cause many water runoff & sediment pollution problems in Ma'alaea Bay. Please protect this area. We have a chance now to acquire this whole property that will affect our generations to come and our Bay inhabitants. Please Don't let this opportunity get away. This can not be put on the sideline for a next year commitment because the opportunity might not be there in the future.

Sincerely Yours,

Sandra Brissette
245 Mahie Pl
Kihei. Hawaii. 96753
Email: sandra_brisette@yahoo.com

RECEIVED
2021 APR 15 PM 3:04
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

County Clerk

From: Peter <peter@hawaiianresources.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 12:01 PM
To: County Clerk; Alice L. Lee; Kelly King
Cc: Mayors.Office@co.maui.hi.us
Subject: Budget Testimony for the April 16 Maui County Council public hearing

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 PM 1:09

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Good morning Council Members.

I am writing to support your efforts to purchase the 257 acre Spencer property just above Maalaea Village.

I am very familiar with life in the Maalaea community. I am part of the fifth generation in my family to be born on Maui. But I am also in the fourth family generation to be living in Maalaea. Today I am in a Kanai A Nalu apartment built where my Great Grandmother Maybelle Walker lived. Our Wilson and Barbara Cannon family home was located where the Maalaea Banyans now stands. I can remember Maalaea before the harbor, before the shoreline erosion, and before the sediment from the Pohakea Watershed and the Spencer property became a problem. Maalaea Bay was like Tahiti when I was young. Diving in front of our homes was far better than Molokini is today.

I have read the excellent summation in testimony from fellow Maalaea Village Association Board member Lyndon Ibele and I will repeat it here:

The benefits of placing this tract into public ownership and stewardship are many. The lands should remain in agricultural/open space use, free from development for the following reasons:

1. Ma'alaea is the gateway to Lahaina and the connection between Wailuku, Kahului, Kihei and West Maui;
2. The 257-acre Ma'alaea Mauka parcel offers iconic views and provides habitat for rare and endangered native animals;
3. Management of the tract will reduce fire hazard to Ma'alaea village and disruptions to traffic to/from West Maui. When there are road closures, Maui residents and visitors need a safe place to stop, rest, and turn around if necessary without blocking access to Ma'alaea (as is the current practice by MPD);
4. Ma'alaea Bay restoration efforts depend on addressing drainage and sediment run-off from Pohakea Watershed State Conservation Lands above Ma'alaea that flow through Ma'alaea Mauka lands;
5. Preserving Ma'alaea's 'Conservation Corridor'- Kealia National Wildlife Refuge, Lahaina Pali Trail, Ma'alaea Harbor, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, and Maui Ocean Center - will benefit future generations;
6. Ma'alaea Mauka lands are identified as the site of a future transit corridor which would benefit future traffic reduction efforts;
7. Ma'alaea Mauka lands include the historic Lahaina Pali Trail. Trailhead and parking for this popular recreational landmark should be expanded for hiking and enjoying Maui's scenic vistas.

To this I would like to add that if we are ever going to regain control over the ecological health of Maalaea Bay caused by dirt sedimentation from the mauka properties, then having control over the Spencer property will be paramount to solving this problem.

Thank you for your efforts in funding this very important budget item.

With aloha,

Peter W. Cannon
808 636 2300

Cc: Mayor Michael Victorino

County Clerk

From: Keisa R. Liu
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 4:32 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: RE: FW: Testifying at upcoming meetings

RECEIVED
2021 APR 16 AM 7:45

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

-----Original Message-----

From: Reuben Ignacio <Rlnacio@halemahaolu.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 3:56 PM
To: Keisa R. Liu <Keisa.Liu@mauicounty.us>
Subject: FW: FW: Testifying at upcoming meetings

Aloha Keisa

Here is the testimony written by the daughter of a personal care program client that I shared during my testimony last Thursday, April 8th.

Thank you!
Reuben

Reuben Ignacio
Program Director | Personal Care Program

11 Mahaolu Street, Suite A, Kahului, HI 96732
Phone: (808) 873-0521 | Fax: (888) 501-6427 Rlnacio@halemahaolu.org | www.HaleMahaolu.org

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-----Original Message-----

From: Reuben Ignacio <Rlnacio@halemahaolu.org>
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 5:01 PM
To: Andrea Castroman <andreaonmaui@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: FW: Testifying at upcoming meetings

Andrea this is an awesome testimony and will help so much, thank you!

Reuben

From: Andrea Castroman [andreaonmaui@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 7, 2021 4:31 PM
To: Reuben Ignacio
Subject: Re: FW: Testifying at upcoming meetings

Aloha Reuben,

I won't be able to join online with the bluejeans link tomorrow although I have written my testimony below for you to share:
Thank you!

Aloha,

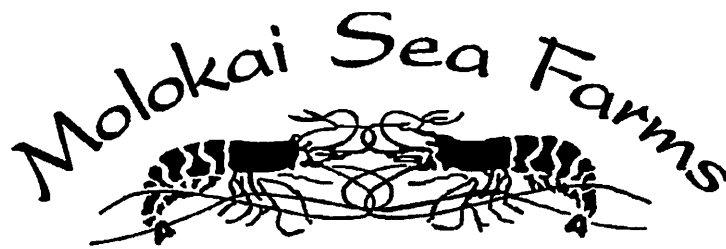
My name is Andrea, my mother is Susan Aakre who is in the Hale Mahaolu Personal Care program. I wanted to make sure I share our experience regarding the Hale Mahaolu Personal Care program as if it were not for this wonderful program my mother would not be able to afford to live independently. As my mother is quadriplegic confined to her wheelchair with the use of her right arm only due to a stroke many years ago that paralyzed her. We found the Hale Mahaolu Personal Care program about 5 years ago after searching for help as to what to do as my mother started requiring further assistance with getting into bed, out of bed, showers, and dressing. We applied for medical assistance although she did not qualify as she was slightly above the income threshold. I was helping my mother as much as I could as she was barely being able to make it, paying the caregivers that we could find as for the care she requires they charge a minimum of \$20 an hour. It was difficult for me as I have a boy that has autism that requires a lot of me as well so we were at a crossroads on what we could do. I started searching for help and answers then that is when I found the Hale Mahaolu Personal Care program. This program we feel has definitely saved us to keep my mother to be able to live independently with assistance. We found two loving caregivers Kara and Irish that thanks to the Hale Mahaolu Personal Care program, my mother is able to pay them due to the subsidy that she receives from the program. If we did not have this subsidy care program my mother definitely would not be able to afford to pay the girls for the help that she requires to live independently. My mother's wellbeing relies on this program to continue to live independently with the care that she receives from her caregivers that comes in to help her for a few hours in the morning and evening. As she is very grateful and would tell you herself although she can only whisper so I help to be her voice, we know this program is a saving grace especially for people stuck in the middle not able to qualify for medical assistance and not able to pay for the care on their own. We are so thankful and grateful every day for my mom to be a part of this amazing program so she can continue to live in her home! Thank you!

Mahalo,

Andrea Castroman

808-870-2796

andreaonmaui@gmail.com<<mailto:andreaonmaui@gmail.com>>



P.O. Box 1978 Kaunakakai, Molokai, Hawaii 96748 USA
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**County of Maui
Budget Committee
April 16, 2021**

RECEIVED
2021 APR 16 AM 7:47
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

FROM: Steve Chaikin

TO: County of Maui, Budget Committee of the County Council

REQUEST: 1) Line Item for MLSWCD \$30,000
2) Junk Car Removals - \$85,000

1. As a member of the board directors for the Molokai-Lanai Soil & Water Conservation District (M-LSWCD) we would like to ask the County of Maui for its continued support of the (M-LSWCD). The SWCD's have the responsibility for identifying and addressing issues that adversely affect the air, soil and water of our islands. We review the County Grading applications, as well as develop conservation plans required for agricultural land users. Conservation planning for agricultural land users, is Mandated by State Law. We also conduct conservation education, natural resources protection projects and community outreach
2. We have also brought in over \$5 million worth of conservation projects on Molokai, more than \$850 thousand on Lanai and \$45 million on Maui in 2020 with partners such as USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency.

3. The (M-LSWCD) free junk car removal began in 2002 and partnering with the County of Maui Solid Waste Division, Public Works, and Highways approximately 2000 abandoned vehicles have been removed for recycling. Due to policy changes we can no longer partner with County of Maui Solid Waste Division and must seek funding for private enterprise to assist with the removal of the derelict vehicles. We ask for your assistance to provide funding so we can protect our aina continue this important work.

Thank you for your support and let us know if you need any additional information.

With Aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Chaikin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Steve Chaikin

Director Molokai - Lanai Soil & Water Conservation District

County Clerk

From: Scott Crawford <scott@aloha.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:51 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Support for Na Mamo O Muolea budget item in Open Space Fund

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my support for the budget item in the Special Purpose Revenues, Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund, submitted as a priority request by Councilmember Sinenci, for \$20,000 for Na Mamo O Mu'olea, for performing safety and security improvements to the county's Mu'olea property, which is managed by Na Mamo O Mu'olea under a lease agreement.

In order to ensure safe community use of this property, there is a need for projects such as fencing maintenance to keep feral cattle out of the property, road and trail maintenance to keep them clear and safe, management of the ancient coconut grove, safety-related signage, upgrades to a shed for secure storage of tools and equipment to support these projects, and other related items.

The board, families and neighbors of Na Mamo O Mu'olea contribute many hours of volunteer in-kind service to these projects, and in fact save the county thousands of dollars by not requiring this land to be maintained by the Parks department or other county agency.

For these reasons I believe that \$20,000 is a very reasonable request to help ensure the necessary improvement to keep this county property safe and secure for the community users, and greatly appreciate your support of this request.

Mahalo,
Scott Crawford
Secretary, Na Mamo O Mu'olea

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County Clerk

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From: Nakota Kai Crumbo <nakotakai@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 11:37 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Budget Testimony

2021 APR 16 PM 12:31

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha nō kākou! Speaking as a board member of Common Ground Collective 501c3, I can say we, the organization, are very very grateful for the support we have had from the county, and are very very grateful for being considered for further support so that we can not only continue to offer our services county-wide, but so we can expand our services, as we have always intended on but have not had the resources to make happen. Please consider the following:

In 2020 CGC...

- Collaborated on 7 food bag giveaways and helped hand-out 1,300+ bags of groceries to local residents in need.
- Partnered with local organizations such as the Maui Food Bank, Paia Youth and Cultural Center, Chilis on Wheels, Feed My Sheep and Maui Rapid Response, to help ease the impacts of COVID-19.
- Surpassed our harvest goal of 10,000 lbs. and harvested 18,500+ lbs. of produce (which would have otherwise rotted) from Upcountry & Northshore backyards, and got it out into the community.
- Donated over 10,778 lbs. of backyard produce to local community organizations servicing the County of Maui
- Sold over 7,788 to local markets and restaurants, generating over \$10,000 of income
- Supplied participating residents of the Kēōkea Homestead Farm Lots with one native and one citrus tree to plant on their land; along with mulch and amendments to help the trees thrive.

In 2021 CGC is aiming to...

- Collaborate with local businesses on more community based food bag giveaways.
- Continue to strengthen our partnerships with like-minded community organizations, and establish new partnerships.
- Set harvest goal of gathering 22,500 lbs of backyard produce.
- Hire an assistant to help with harvests and processing local produce.
- Move operations into our new space in the Aloha 'Aina Center in Ha'ikū town.
- Start the farm & orchard installation portion of our Foster Farm Program

As per our 1st quarter report, we are on track in meeting our 2021 goals:

- Performed over 26 harvests
- Harvested over 7,894 lbs. of backyard produce
- Donated more than 6,878 lbs. of backyard produce to community organizations servicing the County of Maui
- Sold 1,016 lbs to local markets
- Collaborated on 400 food bag giveaways
- Hired a part-time assistant
- Moved into our new hub, allowing us to aggregate our produce efficiently, and prepare it for delivery.

Our next step is to initiate the installation portion of our Foster Farm program. Our plan is to help residents plant root crops and orchards. A percentage of the harvest from each installation will be donated to current collaborating community organizations.

As you can see, we are really doing the work and using our resources to the best of our ability. Your support in this county budget will prove invaluable to our efforts county-wide. 🙏

Nakota Crumbo
Board Member,
Common Ground Collective

County Clerk

From: Nakota Kai Crumbo <nakotakai@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 12:05 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Budget Testimony

Aloha e! My name is Nakota Crumbo. I'm from Ha'ikū, Maui. We used to live Molokai for several years too. I'm writing this testimony as an individual, because I TRULY believe in the Common Ground Collective and I understand that CGC is being considered for continued support by the county. CGC is a collective of fantastic women and a couple good men who really truly want to create a better food system here across the whole of Maui County. They bust ass to pick and then donate tens of thousands of pounds of produce that would otherwise rot, they donate thousands of dollars of groceries to families in need, and they even put money back in the pockets of land owners who are too old to harvest their own orchards. If you wanna talk altruism on a tangible level, if you wanna talk hard work for the people by the people, if you wanna talk food security, please, give CGC allll money.

Sincerely,
Nakota Crumbo
A tax paying resident

Sent from my iPhone

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Testimony of James 'Kimo' Falconer

Economic Development and Budget Committee Meeting
In consideration of the 2022 County Budget

Meeting of April 16, 2021

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COUNTY CLERK

Members of the Maui County Council:

I wish to provide this testimony in support of County funding for the Soil and Water Conservation districts (Districts). Maui County has always been very supportive of the excellent work the districts do for our community.

The general purpose and duty of the District work is to protect soil and water resources. This is done by a small staff through the cooperation of volunteer land stewards utilizing any measure of technique and experience of working with this very important aina. Our community receives the benefit of cost sharing, community outreach, conservation education, watershed protection projects and planning as well as having the Districts' watchful eye on grading and grubbing and monitoring potentially harmful activities.

I would ask this body to continue to fund their part of this valuable County asset, where a vote of support is a vote to protect our fragile environment.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

County Clerk

From: Molly Jacobson <Molly@mauimedia.net>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 3:04 PM
To: County Clerk; Kelly King; Axel I. Beers
Subject: Fw: In support of CC 21- 191

Aloha Council Member King,

I am writing in support of your bill CC 21-191.

I 100% agree that there should be a temporary moratorium on building *and permitting* of any non-resident lodging.

In addition, a moratorium on new permits for temporary vacation rentals should also be applied.

I am concerned that we are over-touristed and have been for years. There is absolutely no need for more tourist lodging. The number of beds available for rent is directly related to the number of people who visit. Adding more (of any sort) is a bad idea.

Our infrastructure and our economy is already suffering from the weight of unmanaged tourism.

As a resident, a business owner, and an ally for marginalized community members and our environment, I fully support your bill. I feel a sense of urgency about this bill, and hope that you can continue to work on it.

I think your important proposal should be referred to committee for investigation and refinement.

Please let your fellow council members know that I support this bill.

Mahalo for your work and time.

Molly Jacobson
Kihei

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Lori Johnson
King Kekaulike High School/Health Teacher
ljohnson@kkhs.k12.hi.us
727-3610
April 5, 2021

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2021 APR 14 PM 3:35

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COUNTY CLERK

It was March of 2020 when I first met Danielle Bergan at King Kekaulike's Professional Development workshop, the last day of Quarter 3, right before Spring Break. It was my first year teaching Health at the high school level (middle school previously) in Hawaii and I was somewhat familiar with Mental Health America in Hawaii but not specifically about their high school presentations. Danielle and I had exchanged a few emails about possibly having her come and present one of her mental health high school presentations in my Health class for Quarter 4 of 2020 but little did we all know that just a few weeks later the world would be turned upside down with COVID-19, especially our schools and our precious youth of Maui.

As our schools wrestled with the online teaching so did our teens of Maui. Isolation, fear, parents out of work, learning a new way of learning and countless other challenges were happening to our youth of Maui. I found that in my first Semester of 2020-2021 that many of my students were struggling with all these things and not sure how to deal with these new stresses. Danielle emailed me and shared about their new online presentation called, "Self Care for Youth Training." This was perfect, as I do a 'Ways to deal with Stress' unit in Health and I knew this would be a great additional resource for my students. Also, I wanted them to understand that there were local resources that could not only help them with their own mental health issues but also those they care about like their parents, other relatives and friends.

In February of 2021 Danielle presented to all of my Health classes the "Self Care for Youth Training". This engaging, interactive presentation was excellent. My students were engaged and when I had them write a reflective statement after the presentation they all felt that this presentation was helpful and a good reminder of eight tools they can use to deal with the stressors in their lives. Also, many shared that they didn't know about some of the resources available on Maui. Students need a safe website or phone number to call when feeling like they may be in crisis or someone to talk to when they feel someone they love is in crisis. I am thankful for Mental Health America in Hawaii for their resources and willingness to adapt their presentations to online teaching for the local middle and high schools. It is important for our youth to have this resource available, especially during these trying times of this pandemic. Bringing it to the schools brings it to the many who need it and it will help build a stronger, resilient youth in Maui who have tools to be able to handle the stressors that come their way.

Mahalo,
Lori Johnson
Health/Health Core Teacher at King Kekaulike High School

County Clerk

From: pah <2spiralbirth@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 7:20 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Common Ground Collective 2021 county budget

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Greeting to all who read this,

I am writing today to speak of the value of Common Ground Collective as a non-profit here in Maui County. The fact of food security here in Maui is very possible for the local population. Sometimes it seems that there is not enough, as there are so many that go without fresh produce here because of economics, lack of land, and time restraints with needing to work. CGC provides a bit of hope for the community. CGC harvested 18,500+ lbs. of produce (which would have otherwise rotted) from Upcountry & North shore backyards. It has been shown how much food from back yards can feed so many people imagine how much food if it was an island wide cooperative harvest. In 2020 CGC Donated over 10,778 lbs. of backyard produce to local community organizations servicing the County of Maui. Sold over 7,788 to local markets and restaurants, generating over \$10,000 of income.

I am a community member that learned of Common Ground Collective through the news. As I watched all the action that was happening I became more interested in the project. In 2020 there was a school food drive that was organized by Common Ground Collective and Pukalani Superette. We had extra fruit at my house and Jen offered to come pick to donate. When she came she was so prepared and respectful. It was nice how organized she was in her time and also in the communication about reimbursement exchange for the fruits. She let me know about the food drive and if I wanted to come and help with distribution. I was happy to participate in this and to see how this worked. I was amazed to see the variation of local produce that was ready to go to the people. The collaboration of Common Ground Collective and Pukalani Superette was very inspiring. It was really showing how community effort is the solution to food security. Coming together to create social justice and honor how our interconnections can change how we live. I think the systems that Common Ground creates in community building are sheer action to inspire. CGC reminds and supports residents to know that they are part of a wholesome future of diverse and abundant food choices. In creation God does not make waste and organizations like Common Ground Collective hold high that everything can be used for the greater good. If we coherently work together there is enough for everyone. I was asked to come to a meeting to learn more about the organization and now have actually become the secretary within CGC non profit. I am honored to be asked to help in a bigger way. I am also amazed at the organization and diligence of this collective and the administrative duties. Common Ground Collective is really a model showing how important home gardening, wild harvesting, and yard produce collection is. The importance of sharing what we have whether that is food, knowledge, time, soil, or kindness. As a community member I am excited to see the continued growth of this organization supporting and advocating for food Sovereignty here in Hawai'i.

The model that CGC provides, island wide, is mind blowing. To see the food security, local economic investments, and food installations shows the levels how CGC models can benefit Maui. As Common Ground grows each year it only gets better. The food drives even outside of this pandemic will continue. As we see the tourist economy is a destructive form of exchange and must be shifted. Common Ground Collective has shown how beneficial a local circular economy can work, nourish and prosper. With the hope of COVID 19 slowing more garden installations can be implemented. The Vision of Fannie Lou Hamer and the freedom Farm Collective with traditional Hawaiian agriculture models give me hope that CGC is a model that can help nourish more and more families.

The financial support of the county for Common Ground Collective is a major investment in a bigger picture of island wide health and prosperity based in cooperative sharing and health. Watching long term food solutions grow and be implemented must be a priority for the county. As financial support the harvests and installations will extend countywide reducing waste and establishing gardens all over. I am grateful for the support the county has given and hopefully will continue to do so. Thank you for your time today and the continued efforts of smart innovative solutions to accountable economics for Maui County.

Blessed be your day, Pannelopi McKenzie

--

Blessed be your day and all that you do!

County Clerk

From: Terese Masters <ihilanimasters@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:59 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Testimony in support of Common Ground Collective

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Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Vice Chair Tamara Paltin
Councilmember Gabe Johnson
Councilmember Tasha Kama
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Councilmember Alice L. Lee
Councilmember Michael J. Molina
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Aloha Kākou,

As the founding president of Common Ground Collective, I want to thank you for your continued support of our grassroots organization. Despite all the challenges that 2020 had brought us, we were able to not only meet, but exceed our annual goals. I'd like to thank the administration for allocating \$30,000 for our very successful Foster Farm harvesting program. We are also seeking an additional \$55,000 to commence orchard and food crop installation in the County. We have made incredible headway reaching our goals and working toward our mission. With your help and proper funding, there is no doubt we will continue to increase food security in Maui County for years to come.

In 2020 CGC:

- Surpassed our harvest goal of 10,000 lbs. and harvested 18,500+ lbs. of produce (which would have otherwise rotted) from Upcountry & Northshore backyards, and got it out into the community
- Collaborated on 7 food bag giveaways and helped hand-out 1,300+ bags of groceries to local residents in need.
- Partnered with local organizations such as the - Maui Food Bank, Paia Youth and Cultural Center, Chilis on Wheels, Feed My Sheep and Maui Rapid Response, to help ease the impacts of COVID-19.
- Donated over 10,778 lbs. of backyard produce to local community organizations servicing the County of Maui
- Sold over 7,788 to local markets and restaurants, generating over \$10,000 of income
- Supplied participating residents of the Kēōkea Homestead Farm Lots with one native and one citrus tree to plant on their land; along with mulch and amendments to help the trees thrive.

In 2021 CGC is aiming to:

- Collaborate with local businesses on more community based food bag giveaways.
- Continue to strengthen our partnerships with the like-minded community organizations we have, and establish new partnerships.
- Harvest 22,500 lbs of backyard produce.
- Hire an assistant to help with harvests and processing local produce.
- Move operations into our new space in the Aloha 'Aina Center in Ha'ikū town.
- Start the crop & orchard installation portion of our Foster Farm Program

As per our 1st quarter report, we are on track to meeting our 2021 goals:

- Performed over 26 harvests
- Harvested over 7,894 lbs. of backyard produce
- Donated more than 6,878 lbs. of backyard produce to community organizations servicing Maui County
- Sold 1,016 lbs to local markets
- Collaborated on 400 food bag giveaways
- Hired a part-time assistant

- Moved into our new processing space which allows us to aggregate our produce efficiently, store it and prepare it for delivery.

Moving forward, our next step is to initiate the installation portion of our Foster Farm program. This is where the additional \$55,000 will really enable CGC to make great strides, generating County-wide food security. Our plan is to help residents plant root crops and orchards, to ensure viable food sources into the future. A percentage of harvest from each installation will also be donated to current collaborating community organizations, to further support our mission of increasing food security in Maui County.

Again, thank you for your continued support.

Mahalo,

Terese Masters
Founding Chair
Common Ground Collective

County Clerk

From: Lee Imada <lee.imada@meoinc.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:28 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Public Hearing (4/16/21) Testimony Operating Budget FY 2022 -- MEO Business Development Center
Attachments: MEO BDC testimony.pdf

***** Testimonials attached *****

Maui County Budget FY 2022

Client Support Testimony

Maui Economic Opportunity Inc., Business Development Center (BDC)

David Daly, Program Director

david.daly@meoinc.org

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COUNTY CLERK

Budget Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and committee members,

The County of Maui Office of Economic Development provides grant funding for MEO BDC (Microenterprise Program). This program provides entrepreneurial and financial education, technical assistance, and micro financing to low income, disadvantaged individuals on Maui, Molokai and Lanai.

MEO BDC provides a much needed source of information, education, and financing for individuals looking at starting their own business. BDC also provides Youth and Adult financial literacy education, which sets the stage for a solid financial foundation that will allow entrepreneurship to become reality at any age. The entrepreneurial educational component is in the form of Core Four Business Planning Classes, which are taught county wide by BDC staff. MEO BDC has been teaching The Core Four Business Planning Classes in Maui County since 2000.

BDC staff is able to provide one-on-one service to individuals using all BDC program services either via phone, virtually using Zoom or other web services, and in person if needed.

BDC was also able to partner with the County of Maui to provide administration and service of the \$2.5 million Micro Ag Grant for 108 small farms and farmers in Maui County.

MEO BDC staff and MEO administration truly appreciate the support of our County Council and Mayor, in continuing to support the Business Development Center Microenterprise program in FY 2022 Budget.

--

Lee Imada, Executive Administrative 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.

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COUNTY CLERK

MEO Agricultural Micro Grant
Attention: Heather Wells
99 Mahalani St
Wailuku, HI 96793

Date 04/01/2021

Anuheia Hog Farm Report
To All Concern:

It has been a few months since receiving the Agricultural Micro Grant and it has been a blessing for us. We had already used some of our savings to purchase feed before receiving the grant and things were not looking good financially. We used the monies from the grant we received to purchase mostly grain for our hogs as well as some fencing materials. Feed was our biggest concern as losing the hotel garbage put us in a difficult situation. Supplementing with potatoes and any other scrap we could pick up made it hard on the animals which resulted in a slow growth rate. The grain we were able to purchase thru the grant made a huge difference. We were able to turn around and put out a faster and more marketable product to consumers. It also gave us a sense of hope.

We are now only feeding grain and utilizing the materials we were able to purchase thru the grant. The situation on the farm is a lot better and less stressful since receiving the grant monies thru MEO.

However we have had to cut back on our hog operation drastically. There is still no word from Grand Wailea when they will be back to opening up their Lu'aus. Old Lahaina Lu'au has returned to purchase hogs from us every month but it has been slow. They will also be purchasing hogs from another local farmer which will bring our sales way down. Before the pandemic they would purchase 30 hogs a month from us it is now down to 8 a month. We were working with Feed My Sheep on a Farm to Table program but that ended earlier this year.

I believe there is still a lot of uncertainty and everyone is waiting to see when things will return back to normal. Unfortunately there are some things you can't put on hold.

Having the grant monies to purchase feed was a huge help. It allowed us to catch up with other bills that were due. The farm is running smoother and it is all because of the help we received from MEO.

We are forever grateful and very thankful for receiving MEO's Agriculture Micro Grant. It was truly a godsend. Mr Dane Wright was awesome to work with. He made the application process easy and answered any questions that I had. Whenever I left a message he would return my calls immediately. In a time that is so stressful and uncertain going thru this process with you was like a breath of fresh air. Your program works. It helps the local farmers get back on their feet. Thank you to everyone that has made this possible. We are forever grateful. Again Thank You to the staff and management of Maui Economic Opportunity Inc.

Mahalo,
Donna Alexander
Anuheia Hog Farm LLC
140 Anuheia Place
Pukalani Hawaii 96768

Donna Alexander, Anuheia Hog Farm LLC

OFFICE OF THE
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2021 APR 15 AM 10:34

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April 10, 2021

2021 APR 15 AM 10:33

Dear Maui County Council,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

First off, I would like to thank you for your support of the MEO Business Development Center and the Core Four Business Planning Course. It was an extremely helpful course for me and a great refresher for things I can do in my business. I made a lot of contacts and was reminded of all that Maui and Hawaii has to offer small businesses. For example, the Maui County Business Resource Center, Maui Chamber of Commerce, Business Research Library, and the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. We explored websites and what was the most useful links. We had guest speakers that touched on different topics and talked about their personal experiences. I found having online classes immensely helpful for my lifestyle because I could take my laptop with me and have class while I was waiting for my son to finish baseball practice or games. I heard about MEO's Core Four class before and was unable to attend because I am too busy as soon as I found out there was online classes I jumped at the opportunity! So, I ask you to please continue to support MEO Business Development Center and thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Warm regards,

Kayla Graham

RECEIVED

Aloha and Ho'omalka'i! Maui County Council,

2021 APR 15 AM 10:34

A big congratulations for your support of the MEO Micro Agricultural Grant program. The objective of this type of economic stimulus serves one of the most critical undervalued endeavours, Local Farming!

Island food production is desperately needed and appreciated by the rural community of Molokai. As you are aware, economic movement is stifled here on Molokai with the community desiring a more sustainable and culturally sensitive avenue of growth. Local farming is that avenue, being supported by all! This brings forth local resilience, food security, job opportunities and an overall better quality of life for our Molokai community. It has been my great pleasure and with all gratefulness, much gratitude, and thanks for that of the work of Dane, Taja- Rae, and other MEO staff in facilitating the MEO Micro Agricultural Grant. It has enabled my long term farm to progress and will provide lasting and significant benefits to this rural community and in fact generations to come. Without this type of support the rural small farmers are at a complete uphill struggle with endless difficulties to develop into a growing truly sustainable and economically improved local Agricultural base. I could explain to you endlessly just how much this micro grant was a real lifesaver! Thank you for paying attention to the needs of Molokai small farmers.

Me ka mahalo nui

Bret P Hoffman

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FY 2022 Maui County Budget

2021 APR 15 AM 10:33

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Maui County Council,

MEO BDC helped me to get a loan of \$50,000.00 to purchase a vehicle 3 years ago that tripled the revenue of my business in a few months! This is how it started I've been trying to get a loan from banks and credit unions for about six years and have been turned down numerous of times because my credit wasn't good enough, my balances were too high or I didn't have business credit but my personal credit was great. So the last bank I went to which is American Savings Bank said that they couldn't pass my loan because of no business credit, so they gave me the number to MEO, so I called them up and David Daily helped me to get the loan I needed to acquire the Vehicle that jump started my business!

If it wasn't for MEO BDC I don't think my business would have made it because my old vehicles were breaking down every other week and I was spending a lot of money to fix them. My business also didn't grow because the appearance of them didn't help and it didn't give me confidence or any motivation at all!

Sincerely,
Angus Owan
Steam Masters Westside, LLC
(808)280-3343

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2021 APR 15 AM 10:33

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

April 10, 2021

**Lei Sato - Student
MEO Core Four Business Planning Course**

Aloha Maui County Council Members,

I would like to Thank you for such a wonderful program that was offered by the MEO Business Development Center and Core Four Business Planning Course.

My name is Lei Sato and I am very fortunate to be one of the students that currently attended this course that was offered and I wanted to say that this course has helped me understand how I would become a successful business owner. My passion is to cook delicious meals and deliver it to my customers for their convenience. Lianne Peros-Busch has opened up those doors to make my dreams a reality.

This course has given me the vision of what my company can become. Providing I follow the proper steps that I have learned. Lianne is so amazing that her knowledge of this course opened my eyes on the factors that will be needed on how to become a successful owner. The Characteristics and logistics of everything I need to know. Like the Market planning and Cash Flow, insurance coverage for medical etc. Who would have thought that these are factors in owning a business whether it may big or small?

There is a lot of locals here on Maui that have hidden talent but does not know how to do it legally. Especially now during this pandemic. With this program it will help our community to grow strong and become successful. Take care of one another like we should. With that said, I hope you will consider keeping this program alive for it will help our community to strive for a better tomorrow. Thank you all for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lei Sato

- **Core Four Business Planning Course**
- **MEO Business Development Center**

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2021 APR 15 AM 10:33

Letter of Recommendation MEO BDC

Maui County Council

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Re: FY 2022 funding for MEO Business Development Center

The Maui Economic Opportunity Business Development Center has been invaluable to both my family and my business here on Maui.

I first approached MEO BDC after being denied financing for equipment for my Company due to credit issues. David Daly and his team immediately helped me to formulate a plan for success.

After following the advice from MEO BDC and with their assistance I was able to secure the equipment needed and gain the knowledge necessary to grow and expand my business here on Maui.

My Company has now grown to the point that I have Payroll which gives jobs to local people and boosts the Maui economy. I have also acquired assets and expanded operations.

I highly recommend the MEO BDC for entrepreneurs and business people as a source of help, advice and assistance. The team at MEO truly cares about the client and will provide guidance to enable Maui businesses to succeed.

Always Yours-

Brian M. Smith (808) 446-6742

Maui Gravel and Soil

P.O. Box 2075 Kahului, HI 96733

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COUNTY CLERK

**Laoa Farms
531 Ihe Place
Kula, HI 96790
April 5th, 2021**

To: Maui County Council,

As a small farm on Maui, I greatly appreciate being a recipient of the MEO Micro Agricultural Grant. I was able to purchase new equipment for the farm, including lawn mowers, weed hackers, fertilizer and an incredible chipper.

The new lawn mowers keep the grass short in the orchard. This helps to prevent infestation of insects, keep nutrients in the soil and prevents soil erosion. The chipper is used to make mulch from the Mac nuts and leaves and goes under the fruit trees. All of this will expand farm yield and production of better quality fruit.

Dane, at MEO, was so helpful in answering any questions I had regarding the application and made sure my application was complete. he was very patient and always positive.

Thank you for recognizing and supporting small farms in Maui county. I hope there will be more grants in the future.

Sincerely,

**Carol Voss
Laoa Farms**

County Clerk

From: Lee Imada <lee.imada@meoinc.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 10:16 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Public Hearing (4/16/21) Testimony Operating Budget FY 2022 -- MEO Community Services
Attachments: MEO Community Services testimony.pdf

***** Testimonials attached *****

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

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Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: Rental Assistance, BEST- Reentry, P&CC- Senior Coordinator, Enlace Hispano, Maui Independent Living Center

Name: Cassi Yamashita, Director of Community Services

Email Address: CS@meoinc.org

Within the Community Services Department there are a number of programs and services that are administered to address the needs in the community. Although each program has its own focus or entry point, the programs provide more than just a single service or purpose. At MEO each person that is served is just that, a person, not a number. While this year has been especially challenging for all of us the programs and staff worked extremely hard to find ways to meet the clients where they are and provide the most holistic services as possible. The programs are all involved in various cohorts, coalitions, Hui, etc. to maximize services and assistance for our clients. We don't claim to be the experts in any topic instead we are dedicated to working alongside experts and finding ways to best serve our community. Each program communicates with each other to see how a client can benefit from all services available at MEO.

MEO is dedicated to "Helping People, and Changing Lives".

Below are short descriptions of the services of each of the county-funded services followed by personal written testimonies from clients who have benefited from the services administered.

Mahalo for your continued funding and support over the years.

The **BEST Being Engaged and Safe Together- Reentry** program provides a service model that addresses the challenges that individuals face as they return to the Maui community from incarceration. The goal is to provide support by increasing opportunities for successful reintegration while promoting public safety. Services to remove barriers for individuals may include substance abuse assessments and referral, tuition support, fees and other financial assistance to help clients obtain a driver's license and other required identification. It also provides work clothing, food, bus passes and personal hygiene items.

Enlace Hispano (Hispanic Link) was created to assist the Hispanic/Latino population to achieve self-reliance by providing them with education, outreach, intervention, referrals, notary public and other direct services. Through this the quality of life for the Hispanic community and the general population on Maui will also be improved by fostering opportunities for inter-cultural experiences.

MILC-Maui Independent Living Center has a mission to ensure that persons with disabilities are full social, civic and economic partners, both within their families and in a fully accessible community. Creating access and choice.

The **P & CC Planning and Coordinating Council- Senior Services** assists senior clubs with recruitment and membership enrollment, advocacy, education and social activities and events. The objective of this program is to enhance the quality of life for our seniors where they can obtain the benefits of knowledge, companionship, and better health. The senior coordinators help the 60 clubs to get organized, elect officers, schedule guest speakers on a variety of topics critical to senior living, organize activities and excursions to improve their quality of life, and arrange transportation to meetings and events. The coordinators also assist in the collection of data for an annual community assessment of senior needs, and facilitates involvement in government budget hearings and other public meetings.

MEO, Inc., is one of the administrators of the County of Maui **Rental Assistance Program** grant. This program is designed to help individuals and families in Maui County with assistance on rental deposit, utility deposit and rent subsidy at a declining schedule and contingent upon the applicant's circumstances. All assistance is paid directly to the landlord of the rental or the utility company. This program is part of a homelessness prevention initiative, helping residents get into and sustain permanent housing.

--

Lee Imada, Executive Administrative 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.

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Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

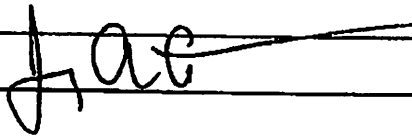
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: MED
Program: MILC
Name: Joy allan G. about
Email Address: allan about88@gmail.com

Please support Meo milke the service helped me a lot. Before we had no where to go now and other people with disabilities can find help. Please support this programs.

Salamat po,

Joy Allan



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Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: MEO
Program: MILC
Name: Stephanie A. Abut
Email Address: saabut687@gmail.com

Thank you for meo MILC the service is
great it helps my husband and I very
much. We can both call for help.
Without MILC we will be sad.
Thank you so much appreciated, Stephanie,

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COUNTY CLERK

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: MEO

Program: BEST, Employment Service, CARES ACT

Name: Mirriam Auwae

Email Address: makanaboi003@gmail.com

I just got out of prison at the beginning of this year. I wanted to start fresh so I know I could not go back to my old neighborhood and hang out with my old friends and the possibility of getting back in trouble again. The first thing I did was made a phone call to Bishop of the MEO BEST program on Maui. I heard that he helps people like me get back on their feet. So straight from WCCC, I got on a one way trip to Maui.

At Kahului Airport, I met Bishop for the first time. He came to pick me up. From there, the ball started rolling for me. Bishop helped me with housing, medical care, secure my social security card, state ID, food stamps, a phone and even some toiletries. You see, all I brought with me were the clothes on my back inside and a back pack. After meeting him, I secured the basic things I needed for survival.

Then, Bishop introduced me to Jan Cerizo, the Employment Specialist at MEO. With her, I went through Pre-Employment training where I learned how to prepare myself to become part of the workforce again. She coached me how to answer interview questions, helped me with my resume and present myself as a desirable job candidate.

Within a month after meeting these MEO guys, I got myself a job! I now work at Coinmatic Auto Parts as a full time warehouse worker. I get along well with the people with my co-workers and I am just happy to start a new chapter in my life again.

Working at the warehouse requires that I have change of clothes because I get really dirty and sweaty. When I called MEO and told them about this, they said that they can help me get a couple of shorts and T-shirts. When Jan delivered it to me, it felt like Santa Claus just gave me a bag full of presents. Later, I learned that these clothes were from Anslem Yazaki's CARES ACT program. I also found out that his program paid for my rent at the sober living housing where I am staying at now.

Words cannot express how grateful I am that I made the right decision by calling Bishop at MEO and moving to Maui. Without MEO's help, God knows what could have happened to me.

I hope that you will continue to fund MEO and its programs. They really do make a difference in people's lives. I know that they restored my hope.

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Fiscal Year 2022

Community Budget Testimony

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Agency: MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (MEO)

Program: B.E.S.T. / CSBG CARES ACT

Name: Bryan Benz

Email Address: benzbryan94@gmail.com

All I know is that Maui Economic
OPportunity was a life saver for me.
They help me get through all my trials.
Without Maui Economic OPportunity help
I would be back in prison.

Bryan Benz

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COUNTY CLERK

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Program: REENTRY PROGRAM BEST

Name: Shonn DeWitt

Email Address: _____

I'm grateful that MEO has helped me obtain my birth certificate from Washington State and assisted me with getting my social security card. These documents were necessary in getting my Hawaii State ID which was a requirement as part of my drug court programming. I am a maui drug court participant and without MEO help I would have no ways of obtaining my birth certificate or for even getting my ID. I was incarcerated at MCCC since last year, without family on Maui I could not have fulfilled all my drug court requirements I was given. MEO has supplied my needs when I need it the most.

Mahalo to all the Staff at MEO



Evalina Nani Watanabe <evalina.watanabe@meoinc.org>

TEstimony Needed to MILC

Harry Brown <specialkonmaui@gmail.com>
To: evalina.watanabe@meoinc.org

Tue, Apr 6, 2021 at 4:51 PM

We the Brown 'Ohana appreciate all the support, workshops, special groups (Wheelers) who have enlightened our lives as we face the challenges of every day life . MEO MILC has been a constant source of encouragement, education and emotional support. They give us hope, help and happiness.

Harry, Donna and Kahiau Brown

----- Original message -----

[Quoted text hidden]

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

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Fiscal Year 2022

Community Budget Testimony

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.Program: Rental Assistance ProgramName: Noelani EmelioEmail Address: noelanienmelio@gmail.com

My name is Noelani and I am a family of 5. We had received Rental Assistance from MEO this year, 2021. With MEO, we have improved our financial situation, social economic life and achieved sustainability when I thought it was impossible during this pandemic. Before MEO, I have had three pay cuts since April of 2020 due to Covid-19. During MEO, I was able to attend a Financial Literacy Class where I learned how to improve my credit score, budget, and the importance of a savings account. We have improved our financial situation by being current w/ bills and paid off our car loan which in return helped our Credit Score. Our social economic life has improved w/ the Rental Assistance by strengthening our mental and physical health w/o the stress of lack of income. We are healthy, to be reliable at work and able to help our children during these distance learning. We have achieved sustainability by being able to budget. We now have opened our family's savings account for the first time. Our goal as a family to one day own our own home is finally possible. Thank you MEO for the Rental Assistance Program.

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Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

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COUNTY CLERK

Agency: MEO
Program: MILE
Name: Bernard Koko
Email Address: kokobernardjr@mail.com

Please support MILE help me much for
Deaf with many thing need service me to help
many people

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April 6, 2021

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this with the purpose that it will help convince you to continue providing funding for MEO's Maui Independent Living Center (MILC) which plays such a valuable role in making it possible for persons with disabilities on Maui to live as independently as possible. As a quadriplegic, I have a first-hand understanding of how important it is in having someone like Nani Watanabe, MILC's Program Coordinator, available to direct persons like myself in finding the appropriate agency or program to contact in order to receive the information or services that I require. In addition, Nani keeps me and a large part of the rest of Maui's disabled community informed of various upcoming events that may be of interest to us, as well as helping in the organizing of events for the community at large that create awareness of the obstacles to independent living that persons with disabilities face every day. For these reasons and more I ask that you continue to support MILC with the funding it needs for fiscal year 2022.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Buster Medeiros

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Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: MEO

Program: Hawaii Emergency Laulima Program

Name: Romill Millare

Email Address: romill.m@americare18.com

I also got assistance through MEO through the Employment Services program. I participated in the Pre-Employment training, where I enhanced my chances of becoming more employable and increased my self-confidence. Through Ms. Jan Cerizo, the trainer, I heard about the HELP program and how as someone affected by the pandemic, due to reduction in hours, I actually qualify for the HELP program.

I was one of the lucky recipients of the HELP program. The financial assistance I received helped to pay my tuition fee for the Nurse Aide and Phlebotomy trainings I took with the hope of advancing professionally. As a result of completing both programs, Americare, my current employer, has increased my work hours and as of January 1, 2021 promoted me to a full time Shift Supervisor position, working in the office. Previously, I worked as a part time Nurse Aide working in various clients' homes all over Maui. I like being a permanent full time employee working in the office so much better. Without the HELP program and MEO's support and encouragement to better myself, I probably would not have attained this position.

I am grateful to MEO and how it helped to improve my life. I hope that you will continue to fund this organization so that they can help more people like me.

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Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: MAUI ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY (MEO)
Program: B.E.S.T. / CSBG CARES ACT
Name: KAIMI PAUL PUPUHI
Email Address: 808-793-9470

ALOHA. MY NAME IS KAIMI PAUL PUPUHI. I AM WRITING
THIS TESTIMONY ON BEHALF OF MEO AND THE PHENOMENAL
SUPPORT THAT THEY GIVEN ME AND THE ONGOING
BLESSING THAT THEY CONTINUE TO PROVIDE. THEY HAVE
BEEN ABSOLUTELY PIVOTAL IN PROVIDING ME WITH
A SHELTER AND A ROOF OVER MY HEAD. THEY HAVE
BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN MAINTAINING TRANSPORTATION,
RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION, FOR ME TO GET TO AND
FROM WORK AND CLASSES, AND FOR ME TO FULFILL
MY BASIC LIVING NEEDS SUCH AS GROCERY SHOPPING,
BILL PAYING AND DR. APPOINTMENTS. THEY HAVE GRACIOUSLY
PURCHASED MUCH NEEDED WORK ATTIRE FOR ME
TO BE SAFE AND CONFIDENT IN MY WORKPLACE.
THEY CONTINUE TO BE A SOLID FOUNDATION AND A
TRUE BLESSING ON MY ROAD TO INDEPENDENCE
AND RECOVERY. MAHAU NUI LOA, ME KEALOA
PUNEHAUA, AMAN AMAN LOA! I AM TRULY GRATEFUL
FOR EVERYTHING THAT YOU DO FOR ME AND MY
COMMUNITY!

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Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: MEO

Program: Hawaii Emergency Laulima Program

Name: Lochie Robinol

Email Address: lochie.robinol@yahoo.com

When I arrived on Maui from the Philippines, my concern was getting employment. Then COVID happened and businesses started closing down. So, I even got more worried about how to get a job. Then my mother-in-law, who got help from MEO in the past, by participating in its Pre-Employment Training told me that I should inquire about how I can get vocational training and become a nurse aide like her.

When I met Ms. Jan Cerizo, she enrolled me in the program so that I can improve my job seeking skills and make me more attractive as a job candidate. Then she encouraged me to pursue nurse aide training. The problem was the lack of money for the tuition. Then, HELP happened. Because a family member has lost a job due to COVID, that family member applied for assistance to pay for my tuition. I am happy that because of this series of events, I can proudly share that I am now employed at Hale Makua as a nurse aide.

Without MEO, HELP and Ms. Jan's encouragement, I probably would not be as successful as I am today. I hope that you will continue to fund this organization so that they can help more people like me.

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Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: MEO

Program: Hawaii Emergency Laulima Program

Name: Rachel Robinol

Email Address: cheng_2731@yahoo.com

I lost my job working at a duty-free shop at the Kahului Airport due to the pandemic. Initially, it was financially difficult for my family to make ends meet. It was scary not knowing how we would survive this crisis as a family.

One day, I brought my sister-in-law, who just arrived from the Philippines, to an appointment to meet with Ms. Jan Cerizo, the MEO Employment Specialist, who may be able to help her get a job. As I listened to what was discussed, I became more interested. I thought maybe, I can also do this Pre-Employment program and also get vocational training so that I can also be certified as a nurse aide. Before the meeting was over, I made an appointment to also become an MEO client.

Because of that meeting, I obtained help in improving my job seeking skills, have increased self-confidence but, most of all, I got financial assistance in paying for my nurse aide tuition fee through the HELP program and became a certified nurse aid in the state of Hawaii.

Now I am happy to be working in a job that I have dreamed of doing since I was a little girl. I am proud to share that I am now a full time hospital aide at the Maui Memorial Medical Center. Through this job, I get to help a lot of people, not just my family. Now, my husband and I can cope better with the financial crisis brought on by COVID.

Without MEO, the HELP program and Ms. Jan's encouragement, I probably would not be where I am today. I hope that you will continue to fund MEO so that they can help more people in the community.

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**Fiscal Year 2022
Community Budget Testimony**

**Agency: MEO
Program: MILC
Name: Lance Toyoshima
Email Address: Lancetoyo@gmail.com**

Dear Council Members,

Aloha, I am writing in support of the Maui Independent Living Center which has been providing valuable services to our community by helping individuals with disabilities and their families. As a Social Worker, I understand the need for services for those members of our island community that need extra support to lead healthy and fulfilling lives. I am also a member of the Maui Deaf Friends and personally know several Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals that currently use the services that the Center provides for them. I also interact personally with members of the Maui Wheelers, many of whom also benefit from the services that the Center offers.

The MILC has served to make a difference here in Maui and has allowed those with disabilities to lead more independent and satisfying lives. By providing educational, financial, and social supports; the Center has aided its clients to thrive and maintain healthy lifestyles in spite of the many challenges that they face on a daily basis. If you need further information, please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address above. Thank you for your time and consideration on this important resource for our community.

Sincerely,

**Lance Toyoshima
Social Worker, MSW**

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COUNTY CLERK

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: MEO
Program: MILC
Name: Valerie Yoshikawa
Email Address: _____

Please support MEO MILC, without this program
there are no services for the Deaf/HOH and
the disabled community. The history of Maui
Independent Living Center lives on in Maui County.
Mahalo for your support.

County Clerk

From: Lee Imada <lee.imada@meoinc.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:41 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Public Hearing (4/16/21) Testimony Operating Budget FY 2022 -- MEO Head Start
Attachments: MEO Head Start testimony.pdf

**** Testimonials attached ****

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

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2021 APR 15 AM 9:44
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Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO)

Program: MEO Head Start After School and Summer

Name: Debbi Amaral, Early Childhood Services Director

Email Address: debbi.amaral@meoinc.org

Budget Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and committee members,

The County of Maui provides funding for essential early learning services to Head Start eligible children and their families. Funding provides services at 8 center locations including Kahului A, Kahului B, Kihei, Lahaina, Makawao A, Makawao B, Wailuku A, and Kaunakakai on Molokai. A total of 160 children attend a longer school day as a result of this funding. A longer school day means families can obtain or sustain employment, return to school for a post-secondary degree, or participate in job training.

During the pandemic, MEO Head Start adjusted services to meet the needs for children and families. Services included:

- Distance learning opportunities for children to participate in weekly sessions. Devices with built-in WIFI access were provided to all families that identified a need.
- Learning packets were provided to families with activities and supplies included. Activities were individualized based on each child's developmental stage, and areas identified as requiring support in preparation for Kindergarten.
- Aloha Back Pack Buddies - providing food for weekends to support meal insecurities.
- Weekly contact with families to check in and support referrals to community resources available on Maui or Molokai, or within the state.
- In-person, center-based services for families returning to work. Center groups of children were smaller in comparison to the pre-pandemic period to meet requirements of physical distancing.

In addition, MEO Head Start receives County funding to operate a six-week program during the summer months for 120 eligible children and their families. This project allows families to continue employment, attend school, or participate in job training. Similar services are provided, including Family Case Management and Family Engagement services. The goal of this project is to provide families access to quality care to continue employment or workforce development.

The attached testimony is from current recipients of the MEO Head Start Afterschool program. Please contact Debbi Amaral, MEO Early Childhood Services Director, at 243-4379 for more information about the MEO Head Start - County of Maui Afterschool, and County of Maui Summer programs.

--

Lee Imada, Executive Administrative 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.

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Athenia

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March 4, 2021

2021 APR 15 AM 9:44

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following:

By continuing a safe and responsible
learning environment for my child.
Via Zoom or in person has helped my child
stay connected to somewhat of a normal
routine. Having weekly checkins periodically
to see if our family needed additional
support. Also providing weekly snacks
while school was out, and overall learning
support to navigate during these times.

Sincerely,

Lerani Aguirre

Date: 3/10/21

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2021 APR 15 AM 9:46

To Whom It May Concern,

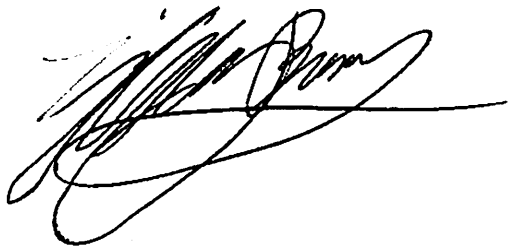
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

Flexible school hours and open to make-up days, a safe way to access education through virtual learning, providing most to all supplies for projects and sending home books to further foster a love of learning and reading. A fantastic "can do" staff that takes the time to talk story and really listens, providing the positive responsive attitude to ideas, the touch of multilingual learning and sign in lessons, the overall inclusiveness of the program making all feel welcome. May this program never fade. Truly thankful!

Sincerely,

Tiffany Berry and Araynia Swan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be a cursive script, located below the typed name of Tiffany Berry and Araynia Swan.

Date: 3/6/21

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2021 APR 15 AM 9:46

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

MEO has helped my family spend more time together socially by providing learning packets for Kyser. We work together on his education by singing and playing games. MEO has also provided financial information for my family during Covid-19. We were able to apply for HUD in which we are still waiting, from the info provided in Kyser's packet. We really appreciate being in this program and we look forward to future years to come.

Sincerely,

Wila Chyn

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Date: March 10, 2021

2021 APR 15 AM 9:45

To whom it may concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start Program has helped me and my family throughout the covid-19 Pandemic by providing my family with a new virtual way of learning. Along with providing resources and supplies for us to accomplish all lessons and activities being given. Not only that, the teacher has been making many efforts to make virtual class time effective and efficient for my 4 year old to accomplish and meet the goals the teacher and myself has set for my child to have before moving on to kindergarten. MEO Head Start Has also provided food for my kids along with blessings for Christmas that we will always be thankful for. Without the MEO Head Start Program I would be a struggling stay at Home mom trying to figure out what would be available for my child to grow and to be honest, there is no other program I know of that can measure up. Without MEO Head Start there would be a lot of parents who would choose to keep their children from a preschool program because it can be expensive and very hard to do alone. But MEO offers counselors to help guide you through the program and along with assisting the parents and teaching them better ways of parenting. Something I myself needed and joined the class they offered for it as well. And it has helped tremendously. My name is Margaret Burrows-Nahoopili I am a mother of my 4 year old who is in the virtual class with Mrs. Kyra and this is my letter to you. ALOHA and Mahalo for the opportunity of letting me express how I feel about MEO Head start.

*Margaret B
Burrows-Nahoopili*

Date: 3/10/21

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2021 APR 15 AM 9:46

To Whom It May Concern,

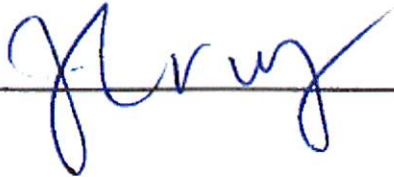
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

A wonderful education outlet for my daughter. It has given her a preschool experience which has allowed her to grow socially as well as in her independence for learning. We are so grateful for the weekly learning supplies and activities that help keep her engaged. The MEO staff and Ms. Kiki are wonderful and we appreciate the care and outside resources we have received during this pandemic. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jenna Cruz and family

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jenna Cruz', written over a horizontal line.

March 9, 2021

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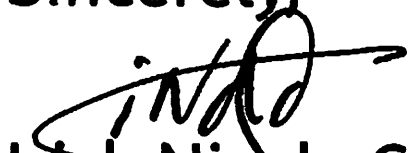
2021 APR 15 AM 9:45

To whom it may concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start Program has helped me and my family throughout COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following:
Aloha backpack buddies program,
crib and carseat, gifts for my kids, foods,
giftcards for meals and the greatest help for us is the knowledge Ms. Kiki's teaching my daughter, together with the learning packets and learning kits that helps her to love learning more while waiting for her next class. Thank you for being loving and caring to our community MEO. God Bless everyone!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irish Nicole Cu', written over a horizontal line.

Irish Nicole Cu

RECEIVED

Date: 03/11/21

2021 APR 15 AM 9:46

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

We recieved assistance with our deposit
through MEO's rental assistance Program.
We received aide through the the
Lineap program. Also my daughter attends
MEO headstart. She has ADHD and some
developmental delays. MEO headstart has
helped her learn and grow so much.
Mahalo Nui Loa MEO.

Sincerely,

Sunday Hanehett

RECEIVED

March 4, 2021

2021 APR 15 AM 9:44

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following:

My family and I have greatly benefited from the MEO
Head Start program through receiving Learning packets during
the COVID-19 pandemic. By being able to have these packets
my children were still able to expand their educational knowledge.
They were able to get an early start on building the motor skills
to be able to write their names. While having the physical classroom
with other peers, my children were able to improve their social skills
by making friends. I've seen a great improvement in their communication
by being able to verbally express their feeling and sharing their
experiences at school.

Sincerely,

Jay-Dee Kuaana

March 4, 2021

RECEIVED

To Whom It May Concern,

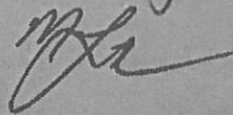
2021 APR 15 AM 9:45

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following:

- Food, - Resources (everything). They've checked up on how
me & my children were doing! Head Start has helped
reassured me @ times when I've needed reassurance.
MEO Head Start has comforted me in times I've needed
when I kept things inside. Whether it was my
own personal things, or if it had to do with
school, or my child. MEO always made it easy
for me to always open ^{me} up. MEO Head Start &
their staffs has always been on top of every thing
that was needed. I am "FOREVER GREATFUL" for Head
Start's staffs, & teachers! ^{lo}

Sincerely,

Monataga Laloulu



Date: 3.6.21

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:46

To Whom It May Concern,


OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

Learning packets
Bus tickets
Food cards
support in finding services
Everybody has been so helpful

They have provided so many things to help me and Chloe get through COVID 19 such as food, bus, and learning supplies they have been incredible!

Sincerely,


Ryan LeFevre

RECEIVED

Date: 3/10/2021

2021 APR 15 AM 9:46

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

To Whom It May Concern,

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

I appreciate the consistency in parent-teacher communication. Art supplies are always available. My daughter is always excited about her backpack snacks. The option for virtual meetings is great, being a single parent I do my best to participate while at work.

Sincerely,

Ariel Burke

March 4, 2021

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:45

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following:

I personally would like to thank this program MEO for giving me and my family the opportunity to participate. MEO help me soo much throughout this complicated and very difficult time not only providing learning kits and learning packets which my son and myself love, using it, it has everything needed for a child to learn. Me and my family also receive a Aloha Backpack Buddies which I really did appreciate throughout COVID-19 while we were struggling financially and for that I am grateful for all the support, effort and time this program invest in the community.

Sincerely,

Eveline Malafu (Siotame's mom)

RECEIVED

March 4, 2021

2021 APR 15 AM 9:46

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following:

MEO HAS BEEN A GOD SEND THE STAFF ARE

AMAZING WITH MY SON'S THEY'RE VERY EXCITED TO

GO TO SCHOOL. MY SON'S COME HOME SINGING AND

FILLED WITH JOY TO SHARE ABOUT WHAT THEY HAVE LEARNED.

MEO HAS PROVIDED MY FAMILY WITH MULTIPLE RESOURCES

FOR MANY DIFFERENT SCENARIOS IN MY LIFE. I WAS PROVIDED

WITH NUTRITIONAL INFO FOR MY SON THAT LOVES TO EAT

BUT GAINS LOTS. RESOURCES FOR ADDITIONAL HELP WITH

FOOD, FINANCIAL, MORE DURING THIS PANDEMIC. MEO
PROVIDED US WITH A FAMILY CASE WORKER WHO HAS BEEN
HELPFUL IN MORE SITUATIONS THAN I CAN COUNT. I APPRECIATE
MEO HEAD START THEY HAVE BEEN A BLESSING. PROGRAMS
LIKE MEO SHOULD ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE NOT ONLY
FOR THE KIDS THAT AND PARENTS THAT ATTEND BUT
ALSO THE COMMUNITY AS WELL. THE STAFF
REALLY MAKES MY SON'S AND MY FAMILY
A PRIORITY AND IM VERY APPRECIATIVE.

Sincerely,

HALENA MELEKIOLA
AND
SON'S


MARCH 10, 21

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:44

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

March 10, 2021

To Whom it May Concern,

Throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic MEO Headstart has provided my child with a safe environment to attend school. The new protocols in place help keep my child and MEO community safe. I appreciate that my child can attend school full time enabling educational and emotional growth.

Various resources allowed my family to get support and help from different programs. Including Happy Teeth, Happy Keiki, Your Journey Together, & multiple Food Distrubitions. Keeping me updated with programs and activities that was being offered in my community proved to be beneficial for my family.

Mahalo to MEO especially Teaching Staff and Family Case Manager at the Kaunakakai Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tawny Miyamoto', with a small mark above the first name.

Tawny Miyamoto

Kyriss Quikayat

RECEIVED

March 4, 2021

2021 APR 15 AM 9:45

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following:

meo has helped my family greatly
with resources ~~like~~ ^{like} wic, food, snacks
as well as Virtual Education
like reading, games, and identifying
main points in the story from books
that's read to them, games help
them challenge their comprehension
in how well they remember the story.

meo teaches many learning strategies that very
helpful ~~to~~ my child prepare for success
helpful to

Sincerely,

Gandra Pakele
sandra

RECEIVED

Date: 3-11-2021

2021 APR 15 AM 9:46

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

To Whom It May Concern,

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

Meo has been so very helpful &
important for my granddaughter, but also
for me. The things I have learned
about Kids education and well being.
I just want to thank all the great
staff for this time. I wish she could
stay here till she. All the program's
have been educational for me.
"Mahalo"

Sincerely,

Brian K. Poole

RECEIVED

Date: 3-9-21

2021 APR 15 AM 9:46

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

To Whom It May Concern,

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

Neo head Start program help me and my child through this pandemic by providing Virtual session and learning packets. And also providing Health updates and parent virtual meetings to keep us updated with child's learning and progress.

Sincerely,

Devin Robana

March 4, 2021

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:44

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following:

Our family case manager called us consistently to hear
how we were doing and if there was anything we needed.
She showed up in person to drop off packages with food and
learning kits (masked and distanced). Our child very much
enjoyed the online Headstart meetings and activities provided
with the learning kits. Everything that MEO Headstart provided
to us during the pandemic has helped us a lot and we
appreciate the program very much.

Sincerely,

Dana Russell

Date: March 11, 2021

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:46

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

MEO Head Start program has helped my family and I by providing Snack + Meal packs, learning packets, medical and dental treatment bags and also the Alpha backpacks. My daughter was also able to bring home New books to read.

Sincerely, Lacey N. & Santiago
Marcos P. Nolasco

March 4, 2021

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:45

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following:

Has helped provide me with meals via Backpack Buddies program and learning strategies to use at home for my son. During the Covid-19 pandemic this was & still is very important since children are at home majority of the time. However, their ability to provide services & class for my son during times when regular public schools were not able to was very helpful as well. MEO is a very necessary program. Please continue to fund this worthy program. Thank you

Sincerely,

Brandie Groen

RECEIVED

Date: 3/11/21

2021 APR 15 AM 9:14

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

To Whom It May Concern,

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

Snack packs, learning packets and
activities for the children. Snack
packs have made snack time easier
for me because I didn't have to buy
Azrielle Snacks or go hunting for some.
Thank you. Activities for Azrielle
has been a huge help especially
during the pandemic because we
were stuck at home with nothing
to do. Learning packets have helped
her enjoy reading and counting.
Thank you MEO.

Sincerely,

Athena Taylor

RECEIVED

Date: 06/09/2021

2021 APR 15 AM 9:45

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

To Whom It May Concern,

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

The MEO head start program has helped me and my family throughout the pandemic by providing Mcha backpacks. which I love so much because it extra snacks and drinks that my child loves and also provides can goods. what also helped during the pandemic was providing the kids with school supplies and learning packets to keep them busy.
Thankyou so much.

Sincerely,

Jhe Wakuta-Aking ohena
(Tarran wakuta)

RECEIVED

Date: March 09, 2021

2021 APR 15 AM 9:45

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

I Am So Grateful For The MEO Headstart
Program They Help Provide Learning Packets,
Learning Kits, Assisted For Us During The
Holidays Gave Us A Turkey. For Thanksgiving
And A Food Box Assisted With Resources
For Counseling And Also Resources To Help
With My Debt. I Am Forever Grateful
To Be Apart Of The MEO Headstart
Family.

Sincerely,



Date: 3/8/2021

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:45

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

Distance Learning as well with in person learning for my daughter. Even through this Pandemic my daughter was and is still able to get in her education and has grew along way from where she first started. She struggled a bit with the distance learning in the beginning but, as it continued she progressed! more. Her learning ability has progressed through out the months and I'm glad she was able to be apart of this wonderful program.

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

March 4, 2021

2021 APR 15 AM 9:45

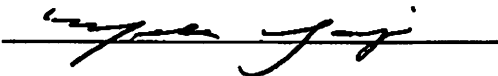
To Whom It May Concern,

SERVICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following:

A safe, fun place for my daughter to grow. When
the shut down initially started, MEO adapted & provided
a virtual program. During last summer, my 5 year
old was able to logon twice a week and stay
connected with her friends. Weekly activity bags with
hands on projects were provided with all necessary
materials. This was very helpful because of COVID
my children & I were limited on the activities we
could do that are conducive to our health.

Sincerely,



Date: 3/12/2021

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:46

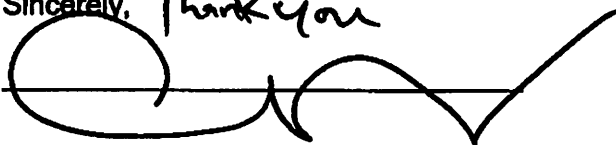
To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

MEO HeadStart program has provided resource
handouts of available services in the community. Great
feedback and materials for my child to improve her
learning. Also provided referrals to services I needed
such as electric help.

Sincerely, Thank you

A stylized handwritten signature, possibly reading 'Omar', written in black ink over a horizontal line.

RECEIVED

March 4, 2021

2021 APR 15 AM 9:46

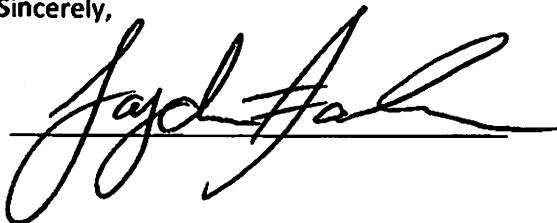
To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following:

learning kits and learning packets
for Isabella during her time
away from school. providing weekly
zoom meetings for Isabella to
attend. keeping us up to date &
safe during this time & providing
a school schedule that works

Sincerely,



RECEIVED

Date: 03/09/21

2021 APR 15 AM 9:46


OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

To Whom It May Concern,

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

MEO has helped me and my family by providing
resources and activities for my child. They have
also provided snacks which my child really enjoyed.
They continued to inform the families and keep
us updated about any changes.

Sincerely,



Date: March. 4, 21

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:47

To Whom It May Concern,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

The MEO Head Start program has helped me and my family throughout the COVID-19 pandemic by providing the following :

MEO Head Start provided me and my family a lot of support throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. When the preschools were closed for in-person sessions, MEO Head start still provided my child with quality learning services such as sending home learning bags that had great resources such as learning activities for us to do at home. We were also given many school supplies like crayons, journals, glue and many more for my child to use. The teachers continued to provide learning opportunities through zoom which still gave my son the support he needed for his learning and development. My family was also very fortunate to have been in this program when the pandemic hit because not only we got quality learning for my son, we also got a lot of support getting some essential needs such as resources for rental assistance, utility assistance and food vouchers that kept us afloat while some of our family members had no jobs. I am also very thankful to have received a carseat that fit the safety criteria for my son. MEO Head Start is the best. We are always treated like family even before the pandemic, MEO Head Start always helped our family ✓

sincerely, 1 v 2

County Clerk

From: Lee Imada <lee.imada@meoinc.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:19 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Public Hearing (4/16/21) Testimony Operating Budget FY 2022 -- MEO Transportation
Attachments: MEO transportation testimony.pdf

***** Testimonials attached *****

Opportunity, Inc. (MEO) Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

RECEIVED
2021 APR 15 AM 9:20
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO)

Program: MEO Human Services Transportation and Paratransit Services

Name: Harry Johnson, Transportation Director

Email Address: harry.johnson@meoinc.org

Budget Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and committee members,

The County of Maui provides funding for the Human Services grant and for the Maui Bus Paratransit fee for service contract. These are two separate transportation programs that are operated by MEO.

The Human Services grant provides services for Maui County's youth, elderly, persons with disabilities, low-income individuals, persons with special needs, and disadvantaged individuals mainly in rural areas on Maui Island and on Molokai and Lanai.

The Paratransit fee for service contract provides transportation services to persons with disabilities that reside within a three quarter mile radius of the Maui Bus fixed route.

During the pandemic, like many social service programs throughout the County of Maui, MEO Human Services and Paratransit served fewer clients. People were concerned if transportation services would be safe to use. An immediate and long-term modification to operations took place to heighten our ability to protect all of our clients and staff. We have reached our pinnacle anniversary of one year and counting toward maintaining safe and effective transportation services during this time. We accomplished this by monitoring staff temperatures, disinfecting buses on a daily basis, and staff and clients wearing protective equipment and maintaining social distance. These measures are all a part of MEO's county-wide health and safety plan in response to COVID-19. Providing this safety net establishes confidence in our services and riders know that the people of Maui County are still able to obtain life-sustaining services in the midst of a crisis.

During the pandemic the MEO Paratransit services operated on the same schedule as the Maui Bus fixed route.

MEO Human Services continued to provide trips to dialysis and day care centers, grocery and other retail establishments, medical appointments, employment to work, youth programs and more, by changing how we provided the service and adapting to their community needs.

For example:
Maui --

- Expand shopping shuttle hours, including the Hana to Kahului routes.
- Expand Community Transportation to include shuttles to and from vaccine clinics.
- Work with B&G Clubs and Youth Centers, and other youth programs to provide rides for youths during the modified or blended learning curriculum.
- Transport Hana youth to and from sporting activities in Central and West Maui.
- Modify day health pick up and drop off times to accommodate client and center needs.
- Continue to provide rides to work for low-income and disadvantaged individuals and those living or working outside of the Maui Bus hours of operation.

Lanai--

- The senior nutrition programs evolved from transporting to and from congregate meal sites to delivering surplus food and produce to the Kupuna.
- During the "Stay at home orders" issued by the Mayor, MEO transportation delivered food and sanitation supplies to those quarantined and on lock-down.
- Continue to offer shuttle services throughout Lanai and rides to and from medical appointments and dialysis.

Molokai--

- Transport residents to the Ho`olehua Post Office after the temporary closing of the Maunaloa.
- Deliver and provide drive thru surplus food and produce pick-up.
- Expand rural shopping shuttle hours.
- Continue to provide in-town shuttle and rides to and from doctor appointments and dialysis.

All of these services were provided while maintaining compliance with County of Maui COVID-19 Guidelines adopted by MEO in an ongoing effort to maintain safer services during the pandemic.

We appreciate our staff, the Mayor and his administration and the Council for supporting MEO Human Services and Paratransit transportation.

--

Lee Imada, Executive Administrative 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.

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:20

Fiscal Year 2022

Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity
Program: Transportation to and from Hana
Name: JoAnn Carreira - 412021
Email Address: tutugrams@gmail.com

Aloha!

MEO Transportation has been a Gods Cent for me and my family. More especially since last year. During the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, since last year I am NO longer able to drive and rely on MEO Transportation services in Hana and out to Waialua and Back. Johnie has been able to keep us safe by assuring mask wearing and sanitizing and distances. The drivers are courteous and very helpful.

Please continue to fund MEO's Hana Program. This service is detrimental to me and other Kupuas and riders who needs this service to go to doctors, grocery shopping picking up medication, do laundry etc. I thank you for your continued support to MEO's Transportation Services in Hana.

":)

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:21

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: Meo

Program: _____

Name: Chris Cagney

Email Address: Chris Cagney@gmail.com

Just would like to say thanks
to meo for all that they
do for the people of Laramie,
as well as for me. They have
always been kind and more
than helpful to everyone. Once
again thank you meo

Chris Cagney

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:22

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: _____

Program: _____

Name: Christine E. Daniels

Email Address: christineerandani@gmail

I am VERY BLESSED to MED bus
system for sooo many reasons. They
have been the life-line in transportation
for me. Living outside of Hana town is
1 1/2 hrs for me to walk. I am 68 years
old 6'4" 165 lbs. I can walk however
MED has saved me plenty in
a lot of ways. They get me everywhere
I need in Hana town, the needs, Post Office,
supplies & Dr's & Dentist. Also into
Kahului for supplies medication,
Dr. & Pizza @ Costco 107.

I Love all the drivers ~
they have been very kind & timely

Thank you so much &
God Bless You All!

♡ CDE

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:21

Fiscal Year 2022

Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: MED

Program: Bus

Name: Caroline Davis

Email Address: cd 2001-50@yahoo.com

What a Blessing!

I would have had a real problem
coming from Hana when I need vaccinations
dental work or physical therapy.
The drivers (Karen + Taks) are
wonderful.

Thank You - Mapale

Apr. 8th 2021

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

Agency: East Maui MEO BUS
Program: _____
Name: Dennis M Kaathue
Email Address: pauwala.farm.808@gmail.com

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

2021 APR 15 AM 9:21

RECEIVED

~~East~~ East Maui needs MEO bus transit to and from Kahului. For the east side of Maui or a bus transit. The Kupunas "Elders" especially are hit the hardest with out way or travel to and from town "Shopping in other necessities" MEO bus very helpful for other riders East Maui. Because of the distance and location far away from the central area "City". It is difficult for many residents on East Maui traveling to and from town. Especially there are ~~no~~ other bus "public" bus transit for East Maui people. The cost of MEO bus transit is different compared to central MEO buses. From my experience with riding the MEO bus. The bus Drivers are experience of the road and terrain areas. But most importantly CPR, and road emergency. not sure if MEO bus is equip with GPS loc. unit in case break down? The Drivers has good attitude and the bus is equip with road side emergency equip. and basic first aid kit.

Read Back →

MEO BUS Rider
Dennis Kaathue
Read Back

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:21

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: _____

Program: _____

Name: (2) Kanaka

Email Address: 30 K. Waino Road Hana, Hwy

We need Bus Services in Hana.
Community Not for M.E.O. We Go No Were
to and from Kahului to Hana
Let's keep the bus services going
Doing a Great Job. M.E.O. Driver.
give more hours to our Drivers.

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:22

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: M.E.O
Program: Haner Shuttle
Name: Richard Keohakua
Email Address: PO Box 603 Hanalei HI

M.E.O Haner Shuttle help me
to go to my doctors Appointment
and Shopping, I am homebound I need
Help Haner Shuttle help me to Do
it. Thank you M.E.O, it help All
of us.

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:22

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: _____
Program: Hale Huku Mamo Senior Center
Name: Helen Liu
Email Address: Linzohana@yahoo.com

Dear M.F.O.

We would like to take this time to tell you how grateful we are ~~to~~^{to} have your service here in Hana.

for 10 yrs now we have been using your service for all our needs for doctors, shopping Senior Center Plu & drop off. you and your staff have been very a so nice to ~~use~~ you give us information on the up comming changes when we are late you'll wait for us, when we are not there you try to everyway to get ahold of us by phone and a blast of your horn and in if self is great service and care so thank you for your service please continue to serve our community we thank you very much and appreciate you
Helen Liu and Ohana
Mahalo

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 AM 9:22

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: MED
Program: HANA TRANSPORTATION
Name: LARRY MATSUDA
Email Address: _____

SERVICES PROVIDED BY M.E.O. FOR THE
COMMUNITY ESPECIALLY THE EDERLY FOR
MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS BOTH IN HANA AND
KAHALUI IS ESSENTIAL. I FEEL THIS IS
A MUCH NEEDED SERVICE THAT NEEDS TO
CONTINUE WITHOUT DISRUPTION.

MAHALO & ALOHA
Larry Matsuda

To whom it may concern,

Aloha, my name is Asti Merino, Organizer for the MPAL Hana Flag Football team. As we began putting together the Flag Football teams, we knew the obstacle of transportation for the players and parents would be a challenge as the games would be played in more central locations on Maui. On March 9th, 2021, contact was made with Debbie Cabebe, Chief Executive Officer for the Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc., regarding possible transportation services for the Hana children participating in the Maui Police Activities League Flag Football Teams. Debbie Cabebe provided me with contact information for Jonnie Oliveira, who runs the MEO operations for the Hana Community, to make arrangements for MEO transportation opportunities. I spoke to Jonnie Oliveira who made arrangements for two MEO buses to transport the Middle School Flag Football team consisting of fifteen children and two coaches from Hana School located at 4111 Hana Highway, in Hana to the Central Maui Regional Sports Complex located on South Kamehameha Avenue, in Kahului every Thursday between the dates of 03/11/2021 and 04/15/2021. Jonnie Oliveira also made arrangements for two MEO buses to transport the High School Flag Football team consisting of fifteen children and two coaches from Hana School located at 4111 Hana Highway, in Hana to Lahainaluna High School located at 980 Lahainaluna Road, in Lahaina every Friday between the dates of 03/12/2021 and 04/16/2021.

Our parents, players and coaching staff are very grateful for the generosity and service that MEO provided to allow our Hana children to participate in such an event. On behalf of the entire Hana Flag Football Teams, coaches staff and parents, we would like to express our sincerest thanks and appreciation to all who assisted with making this happen.

Thank you for your continued efforts supporting our Maui Communities.

Sincerely,

Asti Merino

Organizer for the MPAL Hana Flag Football team

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COUNTY CLERK

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2021 APR 15 AM 9:22

Fiscal Year 2022

Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: _____

Program: _____

Name: Carole Noel

Email Address: P.O. Box 633 Hana HI

My name is Carole Noel ⁹⁶⁷¹³ and I mainly use the MED BUS service for going to my local town of Hana to go to food bank every 2nd and 4th Tuesday at Ohana Makani family resource center. I go to Hana to check my mail and pick up needed supplies and food, without the bus I would not be able to do this. I am disabled and I live in an isolated neighborhood my community is small and with the covid virus people do not carpool anymore. I take the bus also to my local medical center "Hana Health" which is my PCP - primary Dr, and I go to Kapulue to my other Dr. appointments MRIs etc.

Also supplies are more affordable over there, I would like to request going on the MED bus on Friday afternoons so I can participate in the Farmers market in Hana town at

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Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: MEO
Program: HANA
Name: Jacqueline Nolan
Email Address: jnolan3027@gmail.com

THE MEO IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR OUR
COMMUNITY OF HANA FOR THE
ELDERLY AND FOR OTHERS INCLUDING
MYSELF WHO DON'T HAVE
TRANSPORTATION TO APPOINTMENTS
AND ESSENTIAL SHOPPING ON THE OTHER SIDE

I AM GRATEFUL FOR THE STAFFS SUPPORT
AND KINDNESS
THEY ARE GENUINELY KIND
AND CARING PEOPLE

WE NEED THEM!!
😊

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Fiscal Year 2022

Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: MEO - Hana
Program: Transportation
Name: Pearl Pahuhoa
Email Address: _____

I live in Keanae, I am 75 year old. I have been riding the meo bus from Hana for several years off + on but in the past year more often because I don't drive any more.

I am very satisfied + happy with the service of meo. The bus drivers are polite + kind and very helpful. At this point I cannot imagine what I will do without them.

This service is one of the best service Maui does. Living in Hana/Keanae is crucial that we get to go to town for appointments, shopping or visiting with friends + family - I really appreciate meo services + ~~recommend~~ recommend it to everyone especially seniors + special needs people. Mahalo, Mahalo, Aloha

Pearl Pahuhoa

To Whom it may concern,

We have worked with MEO transportation for a number of years. MEO has provided years of safe transportation for our children, students, sports, summer programs, clubs, elders, and many others. We have also benefited from MEO as they have provided opportunities for our community with financial assistance, nutritional program assistance, and more.

Some of our student testimonials includes:

"MEO has provided weekly transportation from the East to the West of Maui". "For many summer's I remember every weekend during paddling season how dedicated they were. Plus they made sure to support each child as they competed in the hot sun".

"It ' s because of MEO my mama has access to the kupuna program's. I know how important it is to fellowship with your peer's."

"MEO has allowed many students to participate in Makahiki. Without MEO many students would not have participated because transportation is a big issue for students in East Maui."

"Many people may not understand this, but when you live an hour or more away from your school. Your parents are working, walking is not an option. MEO becomes the answer for many to be able to!"

"MEO has helped our kupuna to have access to a community farm, which assisted many kupuna to a healthier lifestyle. Accessible transportation allotted kupuna to include a variety of produce within their diet."

"Because of MEO, our community can continue to thrive and we are hopeful that MEO's community collaboration continues.

We are excited for the opportunity to create memories, and because of MEO's collaboration, 12th graders will be able to create 'REMEMBER WHEN' memories. This year, due to the loss of many activities, a group of parents/employees of education, have agreed to create these memorable moments. We are grateful that MEO has considered to be a part of this creation.

Aloha Nui Kākou,
Lehualani Park
808-298-2060
lehua@hanabuild.org

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Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: _____

Program: MED BUS

Name: Gina Pinner

Email Address: NONE

Use for Dentist, Doctor,
Food shopping,

When my Truck is Broken

Most Helpful

Mahalo. Nu Loa

Hana Shuttle maybe stay later
for appointments
and (Farmers market on Fridays)

April 13, 2021

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Aloha,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

My name is Ramona Oliveira and I am writing this letter of support for MEO Hana. My mother, Theresa Eharis has been a passenger of their transportation buses for many years and uses it to go to the senior center in Hana three times a week. In the past, she and my father would frequently use their services to go to Kahului for food shopping and doctor appointments. Today, because my husband and I work early, the MEO bus service helps by picking up our mom from our home and taking her to her destination, and returning her home safely. MEO transportation services serves as a vital need for the residents of Hana and we ask that you keep this service available to us.

Please take into consideration of my letter of support for MEO Hana.

Mahalo,

Ramona Oliveira

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Fiscal Year 2022

Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: MEO
Program: Hāna transportation
Name: Sheila Roback
Email Address: sheila@madcc.org

Aloha my name is Sheila Roback and I'm the senior center director of Hale Huiy Mamo. We are blessed to have MEO provide transportation to our Kupuna to our center from their homes and from our center to their homes.

MEO also provides daily shuttles for our community to the stores, post office, Drs. in Hana. Some of our Kupuna have requested later hours so that they could go to the bank which opens @ 8pm & closes at 4:30.

MEO is a blessing to our community for providing transportation to Kahului 5 days a week for Dr. appointments, shopping, etc. There have been a request to extend their hours to a possible later time to return to Hana as some appointments with Drs. are in the afternoons even if it was one day a week but a later time was offered.

County Clerk

From: Lee Imada <lee.imada@meoinc.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:47 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Public Hearing (4/16/21) Testimony Operating Budget FY 2022 -- MEO Kahi Kamali'i
Attachments: MEO Kahi Kamali'i testimony.pdf

***** Testimonials attached *****

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

RECEIVED
2021 APR 15 AM 9:50
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO)

Program: MEO Kahi Kamali'i Infant and Toddler Center

Name: Debbi Amaral, Early Childhood Services Director

Email Address: debbi.amaral@meoinc.org

Budget Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and committee members,

The County of Maui provides funding for essential early learning services to income eligible families with children ages 12 months to three years. Funding provides tuition assistance for up to 15 lower income, eligible families. Eligibility is determined through an income assessment completed with the assistance of Melanie Padgett from Maui Family Support Services. Scholarships provide financial assistance so families can enroll in the program to obtain or sustain employment, return to school for a post-secondary degree, or to participate in job training. Priority is given to low income families, single parent families, children in foster care, families experiencing unstable housing, and teen parents.

During the pandemic, MEO Kahi Kamali'i remained open to provide services to families that were required to work due to their essential positions. The center adjusted services to meet the needs of children and families while complying with the Department of Human Services guidelines to keep children and staff safe during a pandemic.

The attached testimony is from current recipients of the County of Maui scholarship. Please contact Debbi Amaral, MEO Early Childhood Services Director, at 243-4379 for more information about the MEO Kahi Kamali'i Scholarship program.

--

Lee Imada, Executive Administrative 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.

Date: 3/18/2021

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To Mayor Michael Victorino and County of Maui Councilmembers,

2021 APR 15 AM 9:50

My family is a current recipient of the County of Maui tuition scholarship assistance program provided to MEO Kahi Kamali'i Infant and Toddler program. This is my story of how the assistance has assisted my child and family.

With the financial assistance I received my younger child was able to not only attend an early education center where he as well as I felt safe and comfortable. Before attending I struggled to do my college work to obtain my degree, struggled to establish a routine, my son, Khaos, had communicating and speech issues until attending Kahi Kamalii. I am also able to get educated and helpful feedback and tips to grow with my child and for my child. This program doesn't just help our childrens education, but social and behavior skills and struggles also

Sincerely,

Dallas Findley

Dallas Findley
(Mother to Khaos Findley)

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Date: 03/18/2021

To Mayor Michael Victorino and County of Maui Councilmembers,

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

My family is a current recipient of the County of Maui tuition scholarship assistance program provided to MEO Kahi Kamalii Infant and Toddler program. This is my story of how the assistance has assisted my child and family.

My child has been attending Kahi Kamalii
for the past two years. I have received the
County of Maui tuition scholarship to help pay
for the costs. If I didn't receive the tuition
assistance, I wouldn't have been able to pay
for childcare, which ultimately I wouldn't
have been able to accept my spot in Nursing
school. It allowed my son to go to daycare
to learn and interact with other kids and
amazing staff. By getting this scholarship
it allowed me to continue my education
to be able to provide more for my family.
I am very grateful for the scholarship and
I know it will continue to help other families like mine.
Thank You!

Sincerely,

Kataha Mfauqui

County Clerk

From: Lee Imada <lee.imada@meoinc.org>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:30 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Public Hearing (4/16/21) Testimony Operating Budget FY 2022 -- MEO Youth Services
Attachments: MEO youth services testimony.pdf

**** See attached informational flyer and public testimony.****

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

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OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO)

Program: MEO Youth Services and Under Age Drinking Prevention

Name: Dane Ka`ae, Youth Services Director

Email Address: dane.ka`ae@meoinc.org

Budget Chair Keani Rawlins-Fernandez and committee members,

The County of Maui provides funding for the Under Age Drinking Prevention (UDP) and Youth Services (YS) Programs.

MEO provides evidence-based educational curriculum, programs and practices for Substance Abuse prevention, such as underage drinking, cyberbullying, teen suicide prevention, life and career skills training and gender specific programming. These programs were modified this year from in-person to virtual classes.

Complementing our curriculum is the out-of-school service learning, leadership activities and projects focused on community involvement, acculturation development and cultural connections.

--

Lee Imada, Executive Administrative 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.

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MEO Youth Services

July 2020 - March 2021

Community Service – Partnering with local non-profit organizations to help individuals affected the pandemic.

Feed My Sheep

- Arranged food boxes for distribution.

Nisei Veterans Memorial Center

- Made cards thanking veterans for their bravery and service.

The Maui Food Bank

- Donated sweet potatoes grown from community garden.

Office on Aging-County of Maui

- Made Care cards for quarantined Kupuna.

MILC (Maui Independent Living Center) Program

- Made Aloha Pop-up cards for clients.

Mental Health America-Hawaii

- Created Kindness Rocks to share positive messages of Hope.

MEO Community Services

- Put together swag bags for 47th Annual Senior Fair.

Hale Makua Health Services

- Thanksgiving wishes to isolated seniors.

Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Centers

- Youth led food drive for donation.

D.I.Y. Tie-Dye Facial Masks

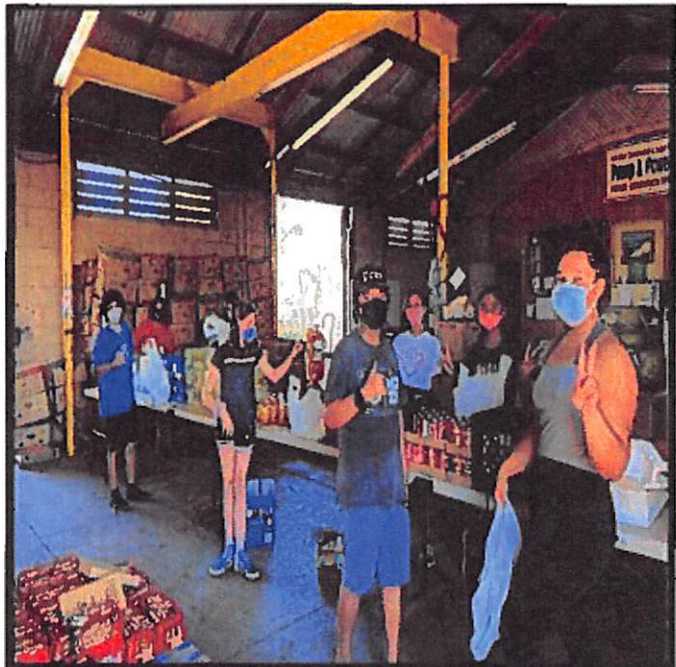
- Kula Hospital Staff
- MILC (Maui Independent Living Center)
- BEST (Being Empowered and Safe Together) Reintegration Program
- Salvation Army

Na Hoaloha

- Volunteered to clean yards for seniors.

Pukalani Superette

- Acts of Kindness messages displayed around the store for customers to read.



Cultural and Environmental Activities

Youth learn the value of sustainability, environmental stewardship, and cultural connectedness.

Maui Nui Botanical Garden

- Native Hawaiian plant identification and restoration.

Friends of Moku'ula

- Assisted with the preservation of a Native Hawaiian site.

Leilani Farm Sanctuary

- Helped maintain the farm and feed the rescue animals.

'Ohana Game Night – Virtual events designed engage and strengthen the family unit in a series of pro-social activities.

- BINGO Bash
- Scattergories – Maui Style Edition
- Gingerbread House Contest

Prevention Campaigns – Youth led prevention campaigns designed to bring awareness to issues that affect the community.

Underage Drinking Prevention

Maui Police Department, DUI Task Force and Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

- Sober Super Bowl sign waving - "Don't drink and drive, We ALL win."
- Filmed Public Service Announcements

Suicide Prevention Awareness Week

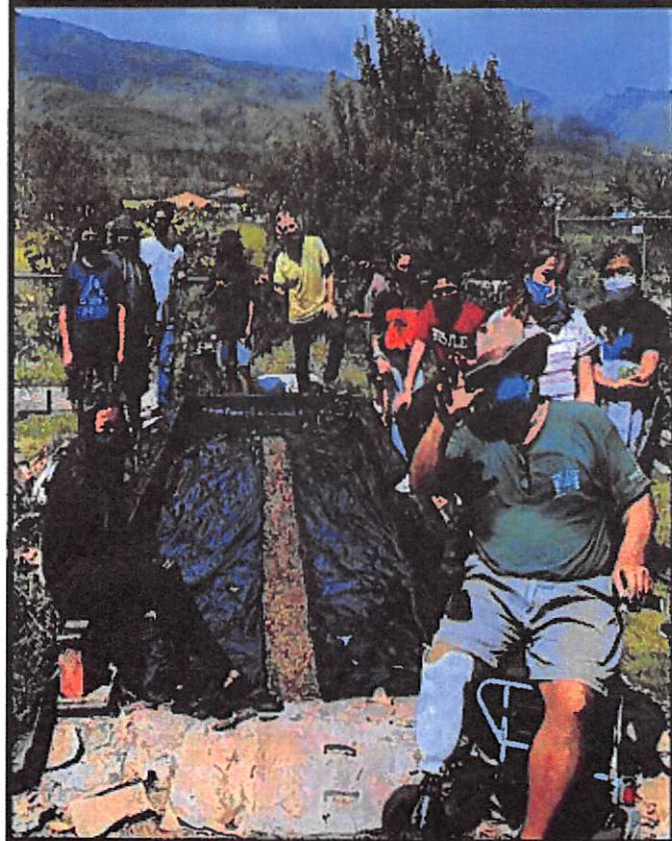
- Sign waving in Kahului and Pukalani
- Monday Moodz, virtual mental health checkup and support resource.

Great American Smoke out

- Beach & Park Clean-ups – Collected tobacco & alcohol related trash.

Prevention Zoominars- Virtual Training Courses

- Connect 2 Prevent Suicide
- Slick Tracy-Underage Drinking Prevention
- Digital Defenders-Bullying/Cyberbullying



to

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Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: Maui Economic opportunity Inc.

Program: MEO Youth Services

Name: Xavier Arcangel

Email Address: 21_xavie.arc@mwis.k12.hi.us

Aohika my name is Xavier Arcangel I am 13 years old and
I go Maui Weehee Inter as a 8th grader. I have been in
MEO Youth Service for 2 years.

During Past Year me and my family have been affected
by covid-19 by not being able to go out as much as I
used to and I couldn't be able to see my new friends &
teacher this Year in person.

Being In MEO has helped me be more helpful to others
In my community and it has gave me a chance to safely
hang out with my friends when School was out. While being
apart of MEO Youth Service I was able to learn how to create
and tend a garden. Also If it wasn't for MEO Youth Services
all I would do is be on my school computer for 7 or 8
hours a day for 5 or 6 days doing my school work,
Thank You Maui County Council Members Continuous Fundings

From, Xavier

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Fiscal Year 2022

Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: Maui Economic opportunity inc.

Program: youth services

Name: Kahlen Botello-Dougherty

Email Address: 22-Kbo+eilho@ELCS-maui.org

Hi, My name is Kahlen Botello-Dougherty. I am a 12 year old 7th grader and go to Emmanuel Lutheran School. I have been in MEO youth services for a year now. And during Covid I have been affected in several many ways. Some of those things were, not being able to go out and do fun things with my family. And also affected traveling because we weren't able to France. One of the things that I feel that I have done as a big help was working in our community garden. And thank you very much Maui County for funding MEO so that we were able to do so much for the community.

Thank you,
Kahlen

Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

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OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity Inc.

Program: Youth Services

Name: Laelia C.

Email Address: 22laeli.cor@mweis.k12.hi.us

My name is Laelia, I'm 12 years old and I go to Maui Wana intermediate. I've been going to Meo Youth Services for 2 years. Covid affected me and my family by causing my mom not being able to work and I couldn't see my friends much and it affected my entire family causing us not being able to go to Japan. Something that I did in Meo to help out people dealing with this pandemic is giving people food packages and helped make custom masks for the seniors. Also we made valentines cards for seniors to make their day.

Thank you Maui County Council member continuous for funding MEO Youth Services.

Sincerely,
Laelia

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Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: MEO Maui Economic Opportunity
Program: Youth Services
Name: Rocklyn Jones
Email Address: rjones@sasmall.org

Heb! Im Rocklyn Jones. Im 11½, I am a 6th grader at St. Anthony School. Last year I was supposed visit California to visit my family and possibly go to a Billie Eilish Concert, But Covid-19 made that near impossible. Even though were going through tough times, MEo has helped me and many others in the group. One way we have helped the community was by bagging food and supplies for the homeless. Another thing we did to help others was clean Uncle Roy's garden because he has trouble moving around and walking so we did things to help like clean his pool, weeding his front yard, and re-planting his garden. I want to thank all of the Maui County Council Members (MCCM) for their continuous funding and for supporting MEo Youth Services.

Sincerely, Rocklyn Jones

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Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: Maui economic opportunity

Program: Youth services

Name: MADDISON MAZINGO

Email Address: mazingoma@kalama.k12.hi.us

Hi, my name is Maddison mazingo I, am 12 years
old in 7th grade in Kalama intermediate.

I have been in meo for almost 2 months.

Covid has been difficult for me and my
family it has affected us, everyone's
feelings, more fight's with everyone, not
being able to go out, being stressed,
missing friends, family. It has been difficult
for my mom and dad the most but everyone
is working on it.

meo helped me by being more active in
my life, helping people with food donations,
helping me with my shyness. I'm still getting
there through.

Thank you Maui Council members for funding and
supporting meo youth services. Thank you for
reading, from maddison.

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Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: MEO Maui Economic Opportunity
Program: Youth Services
Name: Rylen Murray
Email Address: 23rylen.mur@Mwis.k12.hi.us

Hello my name is Rylen. I am 12 years old, and I am in 6 grade. I have been apart of meo youth services for 4 year. Covid has effected my family by makeing us stay home now, and we were suposie to go to China to see my sister and my nephew. We helped feed my sheep with meo youth services for people that had covid-19.

I just want to thank Maui county council members for funding meo youth services.

Thank you,
Rylen

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Fiscal Year 2022 Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

Program: Youth Services

Name: Gianna Armbrist Okuda

Email Address: 21-garmbrist-okuda@iaooschool.org

Aloha, my name is Gianna, I am 12 years old and I'm a 7th grader at iao inter. I've started coming MEO youth services either 1 or 2 years ago. Covid affected me and my family by us not being able to go out. I have a grandpa at home who is at risk and already has health issues. At MEO we were able to help out others by making masks for seniors who are currently hospitalized and other community members who needed help such as those who are hungry.

I want to thank the Maui County members for the continues funding to MEO youth services

Sincerely,

Gianna

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Fiscal Year 2022

Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: MEO Economic Opportunity, Inc
Program: Youth Services
Name: Jaden Takushi
Email Address: 23.takushi.jaden@kkhs.k12.hi.us

Aloha, I'm Jaden Takushi, I'm 16(8:10m), I go to King Kekaulike, I'm a sophomore, I've been going to MEO for 5½ years. Covid really effected my mental health in negative ways, I've become more anti-social & in quarantine I was depressed and it's hard for me to keep track of time.

MEO gave me an outlet and people to interact with, I never realized how important school was for my social & mental health and MEO allowed me to get the needed human interaction while being able to do good for my community, we built a community garden at MEO building, as a part of MEO I ended up on Maui News Now for sign waving about drunk driving during the Super bowl.

Thank you Maui County Council Members for your continuous founding & support!

Thank You for supporting MEO Youth Services!

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Fiscal Year 2022

Community Budget Testimony

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity

Program: Youth Services

Name: Hina Wells

Email Address: 22hina.wells@mwis.k12.hi.us

Hi,

My name is Hina Wells, I'm a 7th grader at Maui Waena, and I'm 12 years old. I've been attending MEO youth services for 2½ years. During the past year my family and I have been affected by covid. I haven't been able to see my friends from school and my mom and I didn't get to go to O'ahu. Coming to MEO has benefitted me and others by allowing opportunities that let me get out of the house. The program benefitted others by helping feed My Sheep package food for the people in need.

I want to thank the Maui County Council members for the continuous funding of MEO youth services.

Sincerely,

Hina

Fiscal Year 2022

Community Budget Testimony

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2021 APR 15 AM 9:31

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Agency: Maui Economic Opportunity
Program: Youth Services
Name: Laakea wells
Email Address: Laamon@icloud.com

Hi, my name is Laakea Wells. I am 14 years old, I go to Maui Weana intermediate school and am in the 8th grade. I have been going to MEO Youth Services for 3 years. This past year has been challenging because of COVID-19, my grades went down because I wasn't use to online school, I also stopped seeing my friends all the time which was a bummer. I was also doing sports at the time which when I stopped so suddenly was kinda hard to adjust to. Because of MEO Youth Services I got to help a kupuna named Uncle Roy who isn't able to do yard work on his own, so we helped him by working on his yard and making him a compost pile which made me feel good, we also helped him a number of times before. Thank you Maui county Council members for continuing to fund MEO Youth Services.

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2021 APR 14 PM 3:35

Testimonials

For Trainings done during the Pandemic

By Mental Health America of Hawaii

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Live Your Life Well

I really want to give you and the team at MHA Hawaii a big, virtual hug. Your workshops have been so valuable to me. I'm fine, but your team has given me new tools for dealing with others during this time. Thank you!!!

Vicky DeMercer

Community Engagement Specialist II

HMSA | Blue Cross Blue Shield of Hawai'i

An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

Office 808.948.6733 | vicky_demercer@hmsa.com

Pronouns: She | Her | Hers | Wizard

Self-care for Youth

I am always so grateful to have Danielle and the Mental Health America of Hawaii team work with my students but especially during this unique school year. My high school students have lost out on a lot during this pandemic --mentally, physically, socially- and this MHAH training was SO needed. The knowledge and methods of Self Care shared during the training had a positive impact on my students' overall health. We all struggle with self-care at times and it was refreshing to cover MHAH's practical methods. Plus, it reminded us that there are

people/agencies out there that truly care about us and want to support our mental health needs during these tough times.

John Melia

Maui High School

Health Teacher

Managing Complex Emotions in a Complex World, Utilizing Self-care and Coping Skills to Address Anxiety and Stress

I first heard the presentation by Danielle Bergan and Dr. Mestisa Gass when they presented, “Managing Complex Emotions in a Complex World, Utilizing Self Care to help Manage Stress and Anxiety” for a Maui United Way meeting. I was so impressed with the presentation I couldn’t wait to share with my supervisor to see if they could present for our entire agency. They shared a wealth of knowledge on the effects the COVID-19 pandemic has had on us and what we all can do for self-care to reduce anxiety and stress. They reinforced many of the things we know we should be doing and gave many suggestions of ways to help manage the effects of high levels of anxiety and stress. I am so thankful to them that I had the opportunity to be there for the presentation. I know I will use the information personally and for my staff and clients.

Mahalo for all that you do.

Margot



**Parents And
Children Together**

BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS THAT MATTER MOST

Mental Health America of Hawaii

General Testimonial

To whom it may concern,

I would like to thank Mental Health America of Hawaii (MHAH) and especially Danielle Bergan for the continued and heart-felt work they do to help with breaking stigma around mental health challenges and to support people who are struggling with suicidal ideations, especially during this pandemic. I work closely with this office and am continually amazed by their forethought, creativity, and inspiration. When the world shut down, they saw the potential warning signs that more people would need, additional mental health support. MHAH came through with multiple on-line resources on self-care (both for adults and youth), they figured out how to offer youth suicide and bullying prevention education to students virtually and safely, they held a wonderful virtual mini-conference last Fall on the importance of culture and saving lives and created a simple yet effective PSA on the importance to “ask for help” if you are struggling. No matter what the challenges in this world, Mental Health America of Hawaii shines and comes through for their community. Thank you for all you do!

Sincerely,

Kristin Mills, M.S., M.A.

Public Health Educator

Maui District Health Office

MARGARET "Margot" SNEED, MA

Maui Program Director

270 Hookahi Street, Suite 303, Wailuku, Maui 96793

P: 808-244-2330/F: 808-244-2254/E: msneed@pacthawaii.org

2020 Maui Suicide Prevention Mini-Conference

"Building Connection and Honoring Culture to Save Lives."

May 14th, 2020 my nephew, Jacob Matthew Hunter, a marine, a trauma survivor, the first boy to call me Auntie, died by suicide and took the lives of two others. This news hit me in a way I was not anticipating. That is a news story, not my reality.

I am a social worker. I compartmentalize and skillfully navigate my way around tragedy daily.

This loss, however, left me so low I was not sure I had the ability to navigate anywhere but to the kitchen for another drink. Toss in a healthy dose of self loathing and COVID making it impossible to even be with family to have those moments of laughter after loss set me on a path of potential destruction if left unchecked.

I could rationalize the guilt I was feeling but I also could not escape it.

I reached out to Danielle, we are work acquaintances, but I felt like she had been there my whole life. She suggested I attended the Mental Health America Suicide Prevention Mini-Conference, I did, and I intentionally went to the session for vets.

I cried. Because of that experience, I was able to type out that first line. And on occasion I can say it out loud. As his anniversary approaches, I am hopeful because I know I have a place to go and people who with genuine concern will support me.

Mahalo!

Jessica Pazos, MSW

Islands Of Hope Resource Navigator

Maui Family Support Services, Inc.

NAPILI

Bay and Beach Foundation

PO Box 10823
Lahaina, HI 96761

RECEIVED

2021 APR 15 PM 1:09

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Honorable Chair Rawlins-Fernandez and members of BFED:

Summary:

Napili Bay and Beach Foundation, Inc. (NBBF) is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit organization formed in late 2006 with a mission of protecting and improving the health of Napili beach and bay. We respectfully request here a grant of \$67,000.00 from the SMA Revolving Funds account, which will allow us to complete the unfunded part of our overall project to replace public beach access structures at the south end of Napili Beach.

NBBF has been working since early 2019 to remediate the damage to public beach access path, stairs, and beach shower destroyed by coastal erosion over a two year period: 2017 - 2019. An estimated 50,000 - 60,000 residents and Maui visitors/year use this public access point to Napili Beach.

The overall project includes removal of all old concrete structures and replacement of same with well engineered stairs, above-grade path, and beach shower that are made with more resilient materials, more appropriate for these types of beach access structures along Maui's coastlines. Private donations have been used to pay for new architectural plans that are more resilient to coastal erosion processes and to spare the headland from further erosion. All plans and County SMA permits are now in place, also privately funded.

NBBF applied for, and has just received approval of a County grant for \$49,000.00 to cover costs of demolition of the old concrete stair debris and the other old concrete structures that contribute to headland erosion. We have also received a Hawaii State Grant in Aid of \$75,000.00 to rebuild the new set of resilient public beach access stairs.

An additional request for funds to complete construction of a new public beach shower with a raingarden to appropriately handle shower drainage is in process. The old public beach shower (1980's) was drained with a simple PVC pipe running out through the headland to the beach area, which contributed to the headland erosion and to pollution of the bay waters (e.g. sunscreens, other skincare products).

So what is left, and why are we requesting \$67,000.00 from the SMA Revolving Funds? Due to the destruction of the old concrete beach access stairs in July, 2019, coastal geologist Tara Owens recommended that new stairs be moved slightly mauka and tucked into the headland to protect them from further wave run-up damage due to sea level rise. This meant re-routing traffic over the top of the headland to the point where new stairs will be located. While this is SAFE for beachgoers to traverse, it is causing further damage to the headland due to all the foot traffic. Thus, the new design has a new portion of the beach access path that will be constructed of TREX type decking and be 'above grade' to spare the headland from further damage. Collateral damage from this foot traffic is to water quality in Napili Bay as coastal erosion increases sediment in the water, further impairing coral/reef health. We have WQ data from Hui O Ka Wai Ola that show this is the case. (available on request)

Financial overview of the project, which has been a private, County and State collaboration :

Private contributions \$80,000.00
 (Includes bridge loan of \$25K and \$25K in kind project management)

State contributions \$75,000.00

County contributions \$49,000.00 granted
 (\$14,274.00 requested OED)

SMA Revolving Fund \$67,000.00 requested today

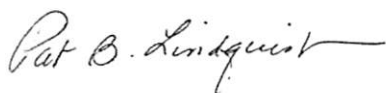
Financial Details:

What	Cost Estimate	Obtained...from	Gap
Demolition of all old Concrete structure debris	\$50,654.00	\$49,000.00 Maui County	\$1,654.00
Construction of new public beach access stairs, resilient to erosion	\$83,015.00	\$75,000.00 State of Hawaii Grant in Aid	\$8,015.00
Construction of new public beach shower and rain garden	\$17,605.00	\$13,000.00 Private donations and foundation	\$4,605.00
Total NOW -	\$151,274.00	\$137,000.00	\$14,274.00
WHAT WE ARE TRYING TO RAISE REST OF FUNDING TO DO			
Construction of new above grade path to spare more headland erosion by foot traffic	\$66,888.00	0	\$66,888.00

NBBF will have old concrete debris removed, new stairs installed this Summer. IF the small OED grant is made, we will also have the new beach shower and rain garden installed at same time.

With the funding from SMA Revolving Fund, we can complete the above grade access path, and spare further destruction of the headland and further impairment of water quality at Napili Bay.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration.



Pat B. Lindquist, President

Gregg Nelson, Vice-President

Nane Aluli, Secretary

Norm Runyan, Director

Jamie Lung-Ke'o, Director

Tano Taitano, Director



West Maui Soil and Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 2993, Wailuku, HI 96793

RECEIVED

2021 APR 16 AM 7:47

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

TO: Economic Development and Budget Committee
Chairwoman Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
Vice Chair Tamara Paltin
Council Member Gabe Johnson
Council Member Tasha Kama
Council Member Kelly King
Council Member Alice Lee
Council Member Mike Molina
Council Member Shane Sinenci
Council Member Yuki Lei Sugimura

Date: April 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2022 Budget
Funding for the Maui Soil and Water Conservation Districts

On behalf of the Maui Soil and Water Conservation Districts, I would like to thank the County of Maui for its long-standing support towards protecting Maui's precious soil and water resources. The Maui Soil & Water Conservation Districts are in support of the Mayor's proposal of funding for the Districts. The SWCDs are legally constituted, self-governing units under the Hawaii Soil and Water Conservation Law, Chapter 180. We were organized as volunteers of the State of Hawaii for the protection and conservation of soil and water resources in the interest of the health, safety, and general welfare of people in this region.

The SWCDs have the responsibility to review plans developed for compliance with the County Grading Ordinance, as well as provide conservation plans that is required for agricultural land users. The districts review grading and grubbing plans, suggesting practices to comply with MS4 requirements as well as clearly defined metrics to guide DPW for regulatory needs. The SWCDs work with farm and ranch cooperators to develop conservation plans to minimize negative impacts of agriculture on natural resources.

Conservation plans for farmers and ranchers developed by our conservation specialists, with training and guidance from USDA-NRCS result in qualifying our farmers and ranchers for USDA Farm Bill cost share programs. The County coffers are leveraged with State and Federal funds resulting in the employment of Specialists to assist farmers and ranchers in developing conservation plans and applying for USDA Farm Bill Programs. **Over the past 5 years, cost-share benefits of \$8.3 million to implement farm plans were awarded in Maui County farmers and ranchers, as a result of Maui County's investment to the SWCDs via this grant program.** Additionally, the SWCD programs, services, and projects include, but not limited to:

- Watershed Planning/Projects
- Conservation Education
- And Community Outreach

Historically, we have also brought in over \$40 million worth of conservation projects on this island. After much delay, there is a high probability that the long-awaited Lahaina Flood Control Project will be completed. The remaining 3 phases is expected to cost \$15M, totally funded by the Federal government. Maui County will be responsible for easements, under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works. The project was



April 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2021 Budget

Funding for the Maui Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Page 2

reevaluated and deemed important to Maui. An updated environmental document is underway and the resultant design will determine easement requirements.

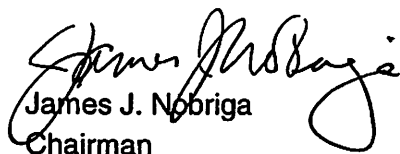
All programs involving SWCDs are community based. SWCD directors are citizens from their respective communities and welcome community input toward identifying natural resource problems. The SWCD Programs carries out its activities in partnership with County, State, Federal, and non-profit agencies.

We would greatly appreciate your approval to increase the Maui SWCDs' budget for a total of \$188,000 for much needed staff and operational cost to assist the voluntary board of directors of the four (4) Maui SWCDs. Demands on conservation planning have been growing and are expected to continue to rise due to major changes in agricultural activities in Central Maui, East Maui, Upcountry, and West Maui. The conservation plans are necessary to legally exempt farmers and ranchers from grading and grubbing permit requirements. The budget increase request includes this capacity building, and to assist in hosting the September 2022 National Association of Conservation Districts Pacific and Southwest Region Conference on Maui. This conference includes USDA leaders who will be providing guidance for new opportunities in management of our natural resources.

We respectfully request your support of funding for the SWCDs and appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 808-357-2023.

Sincerely,


James J. Nobriga
Chairman



RECEIVED
2021 APR 15 PM 4: 22
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

April 15, 2021

Maui County Council
200 South High Street, 8th Floor
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

SUBJECT: Moratorium on Visitor Accommodations Development in West Maui and South Maui.

I am writing on Behalf of the Wailea Resort Association to request that this proposed bill be sent back to committee so that the community can have some input.

Our association has not been contacted by Councilmember King regarding this issue. We would like to discuss how this bill affects any existing permits or permits for renovations on existing properties. It also appears rather broad in scope which can lead to various interpretations. This proposed bill is being rushed through without proper discussion.

On behalf of the WRA, thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Frank", followed by a long horizontal line.

Frank "Bud" Pikrone
General Manager



Central Maui Soil and Water Conservation District
77 Hookele St., Suite 202, Kahului, HI 96732

RECEIVED

2021 APR 16 AM 7:46

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

TO: Economic Development and Budget Committee
Chairwoman Keani Rawlins-Fernandez
Vice Chair Tamara Paltin
Council Member Gabe Johnson
Council Member Tasha Kama
Council Member Kelly King
Council Member Alice Lee
Council Member Mike Molina
Council Member Shane Sinenci
Council Member Yuki Lei Sugimura

Date: April 15, 2021

SUBJECT: Fiscal Year 2022 Budget
Funding for the Maui Soil and Water Conservation Districts

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remaining 3 phases is expected to cost \$15M, totally funded by the Federal government. Maui County will be responsible for easements, under the jurisdiction of the Department of Public Works. The project was reevaluated and deemed important to Maui. An updated environmental document is underway and the resultant design will determine easement requirements.

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We respectfully request your support of funding for the SWCDs and appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at (808) 242-8611.

Sincerely,



Mike Silva
Chairman

County Clerk

From: Mailani Souza <mailani22@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 8:52 AM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Common Ground Collective Support Letter - Testimony

RECEIVED

2021 APR 16 AM 9:28

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Aloha e,

My name is Mailani Souza and I sit on the Board of Directors for Common Ground Collective (CGC). I am writing this testimony to urge the County of Maui to continue to support the efforts of this nonprofit organization that works diligently to promote the food security and well-being of the local community. Having spent many years as a teacher of sustainable agriculture practices at UH Maui College as well as public and charter schools throughout the state, I understand the importance of creating a future for the islands that does not rely solely on outside resources, increases the knowledge and engagement of regenerative and self-sustaining agricultural practices, and provides healthy and nourishing food options for the community and those in need who may not have access to such supplies. The importance of these support systems has been made increasingly clear with the current state of the global pandemic and its effects on the local economy.

In the time I have held a position as a board member of CGC, I have seen tremendous growth and expansion and am overwhelmed with the amount of time and energy that members and volunteers have put forth to support this effort for the community. In the last year alone, CGC harvested and distributed over 18,500 pounds of local produce, 10,778 pounds of which was donated to community organizations that service the entire county of Maui, and the rest was sold to local markets supporting the economy. This was produce that would not have been made available had CGC not been there with its services. Since the beginning of 2021, over 26 harvest have taken place and nearly 8,000 pounds of backyard produce has been dispersed to the community, mostly in the form of food giveaways (400+ bags to date). All of this was mainly carried out by one dedicated staff member in a time when a pandemic did not allow much volunteer engagement. With the current funding coming in from the County of Maui, as well as other sources, CGC has been able to hire an assistant to help with harvest and distribution, obtain a facility for storing, processing, and dispersing goods, and expand its goals and services. Continued support from the county will allow for the growth and expansion of harvesting efforts and introduction of the installation portion of the Foster Farming program. Aiding residents in planting gardens, farms, and orchards will only further promote the long-term sustainability of the island, county, and state of Hawaii.

I wholeheartedly believe that Common Ground Collective is an organization that is of utmost importance and benefit to the county of Maui's future in food security, economic growth, and self-sustainability that will continue to grow exponentially. The financial backing from the County has been instrumental thus far and I strongly urge the County of Maui to stand by CGC's efforts by providing continued and expanded support in the upcoming budget.

Sincerely,

Mailani Souza

(CGC Board Member)

808-345-5477

County Clerk

From: Larry Stevens <lfstevens@earthlink.net>
Sent: Friday, April 16, 2021 12:53 PM
To: County Clerk
Cc: anne Rillero; Lynn Britton
Subject: Ma'alaea (Spencer) land purchase testimony

Our coral reefs remain in grave danger. Reducing runoff is a key change to protect them. Extreme rainfall is increasing. Putting the Spencer property into conservation gives us many more opportunities to manage that rainfall, reduce runoff and protect our reefs. Please vote in favor of the budget item.

This is explained much better in today's Maui News:

<http://www.mauinews.com/news/local-news/2021/04/extreme-rains-threaten-hawaiis-coral-reefs/>

Larry



Virus-free. www.avast.com

RECEIVED
2021 APR 16 PM 1:43
OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

County Clerk

From: Nicolas Timpone <nicolas.timpone7@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:45 PM
To: County Clerk
Subject: Budget testimony

RECEIVED

2021 APR 16 AM 7:47

OFFICE OF THE
COUNTY CLERK

Chair Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Vice Chair Tamara Paltin
Councilmember Gabe Johnson
Councilmember Tasha Kama
Councilmember Kelly Takaya King
Councilmember Alice L. Lee
Councilmember Michael J. Molina
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Aloha Kākou,

As a founding member and Vice Chair of Common Ground Collective, I want to thank you for your continued support of our grassroots organization. Despite all the challenges that 2020 had brought us, we were able to not only meet, but exceed our annual goals. I'd like to thank the administration for allocating \$30,000 for our very successful Foster Farm harvesting program. We are also seeking an additional \$55,000 to commence orchard and food crop installation in the County. We have made incredible headway reaching our goals and working toward our mission. With your help and proper funding, there is no doubt we will continue to increase food security in Maui County for years to come.

In 2020 CGC:

- Surpassed our harvest goal of 10,000 lbs. and harvested 18,500+ lbs. of produce (which would have otherwise rotted) from Upcountry & Northshore backyards, and got it out into the community
- Collaborated on 7 food bag giveaways and helped hand-out 1,300+ bags of groceries to local residents in need.
- Partnered with local organizations such as the - Maui Food Bank, Paia Youth and Cultural Center, Chilis on Wheels, Feed My Sheep and Maui Rapid Response, to help ease the impacts of COVID-19.
- Donated over 10,778 lbs. of backyard produce to local community organizations servicing the County of Maui
- Sold over 7,788 to local markets and restaurants, generating over \$10,000 of income
- Supplied participating residents of the Kēōkea Homestead Farm Lots with one native and one citrus tree to plant on their land; along with mulch and amendments to help the trees thrive.

In 2021 CGC is aiming to:

- Collaborate with local businesses on more community based food bag giveaways.
- Continue to strengthen our partnerships with the like-minded community organizations we have, and establish new partnerships.
- Harvest 22,500 lbs of backyard produce.
- Hire an assistant to help with harvests and processing local produce.
- Move operations into our new space in the Aloha 'Aina Center in Ha'ikū town.
- Start the crop & orchard installation portion of our Foster Farm Program

As per our 1st quarter report, we are on track to meeting our 2021 goals:

- Performed over 26 harvests
- Harvested over 7,894 lbs. of backyard produce
- Donated more than 6,878 lbs. of backyard produce to community organizations servicing Maui County
- Sold 1,016 lbs to local markets
- Collaborated on 400 food bag giveaways
- Hired a part-time assistant

- Moved into our new processing space which allows us to aggregate our produce efficiently, store it and prepare it for delivery.

Moving forward, our next step is to initiate the installation portion of our Foster Farm program. This is where the additional \$55,000 will really enable CGC to make great strides, generating County-wide food security. Our plan is to help residents plant root crops and orchards, to ensure viable food sources into the future. A percentage of harvest from each installation will also be donated to current collaborating community organizations, to further support our mission of increasing food security in Maui County.

Again, thank you for your continued support.

Mahalo,

Nicolas Timpone
Vice Chair
Common Ground Collective

Sent from my iPhone