

BFED Committee

From: jenn barker <waiside.botanicals@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 13, 2026 5:15 PM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Testimony for FAM program

You don't often get email from waiside.botanicals@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

I am currently in cohort 11 of the FAM program and I am learning so much from Maui farmers . This knowledge I would not be able to get any other place as I am low income and running a small homestead on leased land. This program has supported me by connecting with community farmers and teaching me how to grow our soil fertility to produce higher nutrient density foods for my family and our community. This program is such an important part of our county budget and it has helped so many be a value to our community suppling foods for markets and shared.

Mahalo

Jenn Barker

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

BFED Committee

From: Keolamau Tengan <keolamau@kaehu.org>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 5:54 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: Written Testimony in Support of FY27 Budget — KA'EHU | Item f(1)(ii), Page 7
Attachments: 2026.poo.letter.support.kumu (2).pdf

[You don't often get email from keolamau@kaehu.org. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification>]

Aloha e Chair,

My name is Keolamau Tengan, Executive Director of KA'EHU. I submit this written testimony on behalf of KA'EHU - and our Board of Directors - in strong support of the Mayor's proposed FY27 budget line item allocating up to \$500,000 to KA'EHU to manage and restore County shoreline property at Tax Map Key (2) 3-3-001: 001, under the Department of Environmental Management's Environmental Protection and Sustainability Fund (Item f(1)(ii), Page 7).

ABOUT KA'EHU

KA'EHU is a Native Hawaiian-led nonprofit organization that has stewarded the 64-acre Ka'ehu Bay coastal wetland in Paukūkalo/Wai'ehu for over a decade. Our work is grounded in the ahupua'a framework — integrating land stewardship, cultural education, community resilience, and environmental restoration as an interconnected, place-based practice. A place for our community to gather, together.

We do this through our huaka'i with the keiki, those who are hungry through our farmers' market, and those in need through our recovery services to the community.

2025 IMPACT: A YEAR OF HISTORIC GROWTH

The following metrics reflect KA'EHU's programmatic reach and impact during Calendar Year 2025 and our FY26 reporting period:

- 5,114+ participants engaged across 104 events — representing a 254.6% increase over the prior two-year average
- 21+ schools supported through field trips and cultural education programming
- Approximately 3,000 native plant species propagated in our on-site nursery
- Nearly 8,000 lbs of marine debris removed from the Ka'ehu Bay shoreline
- 30+ community partners actively engaged through programming and network coordination
- Nearly 2,000 lbs of food distributed through our Mahi'ai Night Market program
- Approximately 2 acres of firebreaks created adjacent to homes neighboring KA'EHU, directly supporting wildfire risk reduction

These numbers reflect not just programmatic growth, but a community that is increasingly relying on KA'EHU as a hub for mālama 'āina, cultural education, disaster resilience, and food security — particularly in the wake of the disasters that struck Maui in the past few years.

KA'EHU BOARD OF DIRECTORS STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

The Board of Directors of KA'EHU unanimously supports the inclusion of this funding in the FY27 operating budget. Our Board affirms that this investment directly advances the mission of our organization and the long-term stewardship of one of Maui's most ecologically and culturally significant coastal wetlands. We are grateful for the continued partnership and confidence of the Maui County Council and the Office of Council Chair Alice L. Lee, whose leadership has been instrumental in establishing this funding relationship this past year.

FY27 PRIORITIES: SHORELINE RESTORATION AND RESILIENCE

The requested FY27 funding will directly support:

- Active management and ecological restoration of County shoreline property at Ka'ehu Bay, including native plant restoration, invasive species removal, and coastal erosion mitigation
- Strengthening infrastructure and capacity of our organization
- Continuation of community programming and cultural education at the site
- Fire mitigation infrastructure improvements to protect neighboring homes and the wetland ecosystem
- Flood resilience enhancements, including drainage and wetland management, in direct response to the March/April 2026 Kona Low flooding events
- Workforce development through our community stewardship programs, creating local jobs rooted in 'āina-based practice

This funding is not duplicative — it directly addresses the County's obligation to manage this shoreline property and ensures that management is led by the community most deeply connected to this place.

CLOSING

KA'EHU has demonstrated year over year that County investment in our work yields exponential community benefit. We are a trusted steward, a proven partner, and a vital anchor for the Paukūkalo/Wai'ehu community and Maui, at large.

We respectfully urge the Council to support this line item as proposed by the Mayor. We would welcome the opportunity to provide additional information or testimony at any time.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Keolamau

--

Komo mai kau mapuna hoe

"Dip your paddle in." Join in the effort.

Keolamau Tengan

KA`EHU

Director of Organizational Development

(808) 372-0804

keolamau@kaehu.org

April 12, 2026
Maui County Council
200 South High Street
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai'i 96793

Re: Letter of Support — KA'EHU FY27 County Budget Proviso, \$500,000

Aloha,

On behalf of the Board of Directors of KA'EHU, I write in strong support of the \$500,000 FY27 County budget proviso line item for KA'EHU. We respectfully urge the Maui County Council to approve this critical investment in the health of our 'āina, wai, and our community.

KA'EHU is a Native Hawaiian-led nonprofit stewarding a 64-acre coastal wetland in Paukūkalō/Wai'ehu since 2014 — caretaking a critical point in our watershed and a place of heritage for Maui. For over a decade, KA'EHU has served as a cultural resource for groups, a living classroom for our keiki, a place of healing, and a community anchor, delivering cultural education, native habitat restoration, water quality monitoring, and coastal resilience programming to thousands of Maui residents each year. In 2025 alone, our programs reached over 5,100 participants across 104 events — a 254% growth in community engagement over the previous year's numbers.

The requested \$500,000 proviso will directly support KA'EHU's capacity to sustain and expand its core operations, including coastal restoration, community-based environmental stewardship, wildfire resilience programming, and cultural education for Maui's keiki and 'ohana. This funding is not simply operational support — it is an investment in the long-term ecological and cultural resilience of our island. KA'EHU's work sits at the intersection of land, water, community, and heritage, and contributes to both the social and environmental ecologies of Maui, at large.

Indeed, in the aftermath of the 2023 Lahaina wildfires and the 2026 Kona Low flooding, the need for community-rooted organizations like KA'EHU has never been greater. We have stood with our community through every crisis, and we remain committed to doing so. County support through this proviso will ensure KA'EHU has the stable foundation necessary to continue showing up — not just in moments of emergency, but in the steady, daily work of restoration and renewal.

The Board of Directors of KA'EHU stands united in our commitment to this 'āina and to the people of Maui. We are honored to have the County of Maui as a partner in this work, and we humbly ask for your continued support by approving this proviso.

Mahalo nui loa for your support and for your consideration.
Me ke aloha pumehana,

Hōkūlani Holt

Kumu Hōkūlani Holt
Board Chair
KA'EHU

BFED Committee

From: Dr Beth King <drbdking@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 6:24 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: MAPA

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Dear Maui County Financial Board,

Maui Academy of Performing Arts (MAPA) needs your help in completing the Naylor theater! We needs \$250,000 to purchase the chairs and finalize the lighting. This building has greatly enhanced downtown Wailuku but we need your help to complete the theater. Please help our community !

Beth Daigle-King
Teacher of the Deaf
Kihei Resident
Actor

BFED Committee

From: kristina shugars <kristinamaui111@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2026 3:53 PM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: 2027 Budget Request
Attachments: To Maui County Councilmembers.pdf

You don't often get email from kristinamaui111@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Chairperson Sugimura,
Thank you for your hard work during this fiscal year's budget.
I have attached a letter with my request for support for MAPA and our new Naylor Theatre.
Mahalo
Kristina Shugars

Subject: **Support for Maui Academy of Performing Arts (MAPA) – FY2027 Budget Request**

Dear Honorable Members of the Maui County Council,

I am writing to you today as a Board Member and supporter of the arts to urge your full support for **Maui Academy of Performing Arts (MAPA)** in their request for **\$500,000** in the upcoming County Budget. These funds are specifically designated for the critical equipment and supplies necessary to complete our new theater facility. As Maui continues to recover and rebuild, the completion of this cultural hub is more important than ever for the well-being and vibrancy of our community.

Why This Investment Matters

- **A Home for Maui's Youth:** MAPA serves thousands of children across our island. Completing this theater ensures that our students have a professional-grade space to develop confidence, discipline, and creativity.
- **Economic Vitality for Wailuku:** The new theater is a cornerstone of the Wailuku redevelopment effort. It will draw residents and visitors to the town center, supporting local restaurants and small businesses.
- **Cultural Resiliency:** In times of hardship, the arts provide a necessary space for healing and connection. This facility will be a venue for storytelling and community gathering for generations to come.

The Impact of \$500,000

While we have opened our doors to the community, a theater is only functional with the specialized "tools of the trade." This funding will bridge the final gap for:

- **Professional Lighting and Sound Systems:** Essential for modern productions.
- **Staging and Safety Equipment:** Ensuring a secure environment for performers and audiences.
- **Technical Supplies:** The final components needed to finish the scope of work.

MAPA has shown incredible dedication to Maui for over 50 years. I respectfully request that the Council honors our \$500,000 request to ensure this project crosses the finish line.

Thank you for your hard work in balancing our county's needs and for your commitment to the future of our island's culture.

Sincerely,

Kristina Shugars

(808)281-3268

