

BFED Committee

From: Scott Crawford <scott.crawford@TNC.ORG>
Sent: Friday, April 17, 2026 8:00 AM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Shane M. Sinenci; Jordan K. Molina; Jody K. Yoshida; Lesley.Milner@mauicounty.us; Elizabeth Benyshek
Subject: FY27 Budget funding for Conservation Planning Committee
Attachments: TNC Testimony Maui County Budget Committee 2026-0420 re Conservation Planning Committee.pdf

You don't often get email from scott.crawford@tnc.org. [Learn why this is important](#)

Aloha Chair Sugimura and Budget Committee Members,

I am attaching testimony to the BFED Committee, re support for the County's Conservation Planning Committee.

This testimony has also been submitted via the eComment function for the April 20 BFED Committee meeting.

Mahalo for your consideration.

--

Scott Crawford

Maui Marine Director | The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra

Email: scott.crawford@tnc.org

Phone: (808) 281-2021



**Testimony of The Nature Conservancy
Commenting on Proposed FY27 Budget
Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee
April 20, 2026 at 9:00 am
via Videoconference on Teams**

Aloha Chair Sugimura and Budget Committee Members,

In my role as Maui Marine Director for The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i and Palmyra, I serve as an *ex officio* member of the County's Conservation Planning Committee.

As you may be aware, the Committee was established in 2018 and was tasked in with preparing a "greenprint" for Maui County, a long-term conservation planning tool to help guide the use of the Open Space, Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation fund. However, the Committee has struggled to meet regularly and make progress toward this goal and has twice extended the deadline to produce the greenprint plan.

At a meeting last year, the Committee discussed this lack of progress and concluded a major barrier is the lack dedicated staff. It was mentioned at that time that perhaps CM Sinenci could introduce a budget amendment to provide some staff capacity to support the Committee. While I defer to those better versed in the available mechanisms, I wanted to raise the issue to the Council in hope that you will consider this in your current budget deliberations.

The other budget item that was discussed to support the work of Committee is to hire a consultant with expertise in greenprint development to assist the County with this process. This is the intention of the Committee members, as I understand, and is recognized as the only way that a professional and useful greenprint plan will be developed in a reasonable time frame. In speaking with Budget Director Milner, she indicated a budget amendment could be done later once the Committee had the chance to meet further. I also recognize a budget amendment takes time and effort, and if it is included in the FY27 budget it may move the process along more quickly.

In consulting with some resources who have worked on greenprint plans for other locations, they have a provided an estimate of \$200K - \$250K for the County to consider for a contract in the FY27 budget. While the cost of such a plan can vary greatly depending on the scope and depth, this would provide support for the stakeholder process within the committee, community engagement with a cultural component, and

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Duke E. Ah Moo Kris Billeter Anne S. Carter Ka'iulani de Silva Daniel J. Dunn Dave Eadie Jan Elliott Matt Emerson
Hon. Judith Epstein Dr. Alan M. Friedlander Benjy Garfinkle Puni Jackson David Lassner Brett MacNaughton (Chair)
Janet Montag Alicia Moy Katherine G. Richardson John R. Sabas Bradley E. Smith Julie Smolinski Vern Yamanaka

Ihupani Advisory Council: Christopher J. Benjamin Kenton T. Eldridge Eiichiro Kuwana
Duncan MacNaughton Jean E. Rolles Crystal K. Rose Nathan E. Smith

Founders: Samuel A. Cooke Herbert C. Cornuelle

The Nature Conservancy, Hawai'i and Palmyra

April 16, 2026

Page 2

a final product with interactive features. (A barebones process could be done for as little as \$150K; a more robust process with more depth of community engagement and more features in the final product could range up to \$350K.)

(Please note that TNC does not intend to bid on the greenprint contract; but we do intend to provide resources and expertise to support the process.)

I encourage you consider including funding for staff and contracting for the Conservation Planning Committee in the FY27 budget, and I'm happy to provide information for questions you may have about the greenprint process.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Scott Crawford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Scott Crawford
Maui Marine Director

Guided by science, TNC is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 84,000 acres in 13 nature preserves and 18 managed areas and have supported over 50 coastal communities to help protect and restore the nearshore reefs and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands.

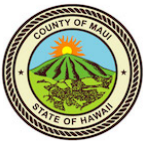
BFED Committee

From: Maui_County Council_mailbox
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 8:52 AM
To: BFED Committee
Cc: Michele Lincoln
Subject: FW: FY2027 Park Grant Request
Attachments: Alamihi Fishpond Park David Malo MemorialDocument_20250922_0001.pdf; Park Color Coded Satellite View.pdf

Aloha BFED,

Forwarding the below email from the county.council@mauicounty.us inbox for your processing.

Thank you,



Support Section

County of Maui | Office of Council Services
Email: county.council@mauicounty.us
Phone: (808) 270-7838 | Fax: (808) 270-7686

From: Michele Lincoln <lincolnmichele@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 8:44:35 AM (UTC-10:00) Hawaii
To: Maui_County Council_mailbox <county.council@mauicounty.us>
Subject: FY2027 Park Grant Request

Aloha,

Thank you for listening to the voices of Lahaina's community regarding the FY2027 budget. There is a lot of need for financial assistance with limited funding. In view of that, I appreciate your willingness to allocate some funding for the development of the park parcels promised in the settlement agreement.

In August 2025, the finalization of the Kahoma Village settlement agreed to county parks in the Mala Wharf area and adjacent to Kahoma Village. Kahoma Village was able to rebuild at lightning quick speed. In addition to a grant amount that you deem appropriate, please give the Department of Parks and Recreation permission to expedite the process with SMA waivers, permits, and the like that was afforded Kahoma Village's rebuilding.

I will include two attachments with information. It is not necessary to read everything but please open each one to see where the parcels are located and the features promised for the parks.

Due to the parcels located on both sides of Front Street, I would like to identify the parks by the history that happened there:

David Malo Memorial Park TMK (2) 4-5-008:008 parcel adjacent to Kahoma Village.

‘Alamihi Fishpond Park TMK (2) 4-5-004:063, TMK (2) 4-5-004:011, TMK (2) 4-5-004:012 parcels between Mala Wharf and Jodo Mission.

Thank you for your efforts to include a grant for the development of these parcels for public parks in FY2027 budget.

Mahalo,

Michele Lincoln

(808) 385-3157

September 22, 2025

Aloha Maui County Parks and Recreation Department,

We crossed the finish line at the Maui Planning Commission meeting on August 26, 2025, with a settlement agreement that includes the County to use its best efforts to create, develop, and maintain parks in the areas around Mala Wharf and Kahoma Village subdivision. It is exciting to see the area being cleaned up preparing the way for the park. This shows good faith efforts by the County to make good on its promises of "Diligent Pursuit of Parks."

Now we get to start planning the next phase of the parks. I have included the main pages of the settlement for your reference as related to the park development.

Until the parks are officially named, I will refer to the three parcels located by the Mala Wharf restrooms as the 'Alamihi Fishpond Park. The parcel adjacent to Kahoma Village will be referred to as the David Malo Memorial Park.

I have included a map with some suggestions for the park's features that were submitted to the Maui Planning Commission. Of course, they are only ideas based on the history that happened on those parcels. The overall mission is to make up for the loss of the 6-acre park and preservation of the history that happened there.

Included are a few pages from "A Cultural Overview of the Kahoma Stream Flood Control Project." It highlights the 'Alamihi Fishpond and David Malo's LCA3702 history of the area. Perhaps the environment impact statement from the Kahoma Village subdivision could expedite this stage of development as it would encompass the area. Could the Kahoma Village waiver of SMA approval before building be applied to the park's development?

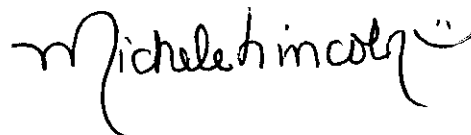
I look forward to working together to develop the parks as outlined in the mediation agreement.

Mahalo,

Michele Lincoln

(808) 385-3157

lincolnmichele@yahoo.com

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michele Lincoln" with a small smiley face at the end.

SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT

This Settlement Agreement (the "Agreement") is made this 5th day of March, 2025, between the PROTECT AND PRESERVE KAHOMA AHUPUAA ASSOCIATION, an unincorporated association, MICHELE LINCOLN, MARK ALLEN, LINDA ALLEN, CONSTANCE B. SUTHERLAND (collectively referred to as the "Intervenors"), and the COUNTY OF MAUI and its MAUI PLANNING COMMISSION (collectively referred to as the "County"), and SCD KAHOMA VILLAGE, LLC, a Hawaii limited liability company (hereinafter, "SCD").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, on September 12, 2012, Stanford Carr Development, LLC, on behalf of The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, Inc., submitted an Application for a Special Management Area Use Permit ("SMA Application") to the Department of Planning of the County of Maui (the "Planning Department") for the Kahoma Village 201-H affordable housing project and related improvements (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, Stanford Carr Development, LLC has assigned its rights relating to the development of the Project to SCD; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2014, the Intervenors filed a Petition to Intervene (the "Petition") with respect to the SMA Application; and

WHEREAS, on June 24, 2014, the Maui Planning Commission (the "Commission") held a hearing on the Petition and the SMA Application, wherein the Commission denied the Petition and granted Special Management Area Use Permit SM1-2012/0007 (the "SMA Permit"); and

WHEREAS, the Intervenors appealed the Commission's decision on the Petition and the SMA Permit to the Circuit Court of the Second Circuit, which denied the Intervenors' appeal on June 19, 2015; and

WHEREAS, on October 13, 2020, the Hawaii Intermediate Court of Appeals vacated the Circuit Court's decision, holding that the Intervenors had demonstrated standing to intervene in the SMA Permit proceedings and that the Commission was required to make findings on the Project's consistency with HRS §205A-26(2)(C); and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2021, the Hawaii Supreme Court upheld the Intermediate Court of Appeals' decision and remanded the matter back to the Commission for further proceedings; and

WHEREAS, the Project was completed, and the SMA Permit closed-out, by the time the Hawaii Supreme Court issued its decision; and

WHEREAS, the matter is currently going through the contested case hearing process; and

WHEREAS, central to the contested case hearing is whether the SMA Application conforms with the Open Space and Project District Designations in the West Maui Community Plan, which included a requirement for 6 acres of park land to be located within the Project area; and

WHEREAS, with the support of the parties, the County initiated an amendment to the West Maui Community Plan (the "CPA"), so that the Project conforms to the provisions contained in the West Maui Community Plan; and

WHEREAS, the CPA was approved on December 23, 2024 through Ordinance No. 5748; and

WHEREAS, certain lands have been identified by the parties for development as park and/or parking space; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to fully and finally settle all matters related to the Petition by way of this Agreement;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein, the parties jointly agree as follows:

1. Amendment to the West Maui Community Plan. The parties agree that with the CPA's deletion of the 6-acre park requirement for the project district where the Project is located, the Project conforms to the West Maui Community Plan.

2. Application and Approval of SMA Permit and Withdrawal of Petition to Intervene. Within thirty (30) days of the execution of this Agreement, the Planning Department shall submit a request to the Commission to reconvene and continue the hearing on the SMA Application for the Project. The Planning Department shall also submit a staff report to the Commission recommending approval of the SMA Permit and providing that as said SMA Permit was previously granted, it should again be approved, but said approval should specifically include a provision that the Project is consistent with the West Maui Community Plan. No later than at the time of the hearing by the Commission, the Intervenors shall withdraw their Petition and any other opposition to the Project and shall support the granting of the SMA Permit.

All of the terms and conditions of this Agreement shall be contingent upon the Commission's granting of the SMA Permit upon terms and conditions acceptable to SCD and should said approval not be obtained, the parties agree that the Intervenors shall be allowed to intervene in said hearing on the SMA Application.

3. Diligent Pursuit of Parks. The County will use its best efforts to create, develop, and maintain parks and/or parking on the following parcels:

a. That certain parcel of land owned by the County containing approximately 2.76 acres and identified by the tax map key designation TMK No. (2) 4-5-008:008 ("Parcel 8"), but limited to those areas mauka of Front Street which are not encumbered by United States Army Corps of Engineers easements along the Kahoma Stream; and

b. That certain parcel of land owned by the State of Hawaii and controlled and managed by the County pursuant to Executive Order No. 1314 (1949) containing approximately 0.5492 acres and identified by the tax map key designation TMK No. (2) 4-5-004:011 ("Parcel 11"); and

c. That certain parcel of land owned by the County containing approximately 2.468 acres and identified by the tax map key designation TMK No. (2) 4-5-004-012 (por.) ("Parcel 12"); and

d. That certain parcel of land owned by the State of Hawaii and controlled and managed by the County pursuant to Executive Order No. 3206 (1983) containing approximately 17,720 square feet and identified by the tax map key designation TMK No. (2) 4-5-004:063 ("Parcel 63").

The County will make its best efforts to landscape the park areas and consult with the Intervenor in obtaining community support for historical markers, signage and other park amenities such as covered play area for all ages and abilities and covered tables and a memorial to David Malo as permitted by law. The County also will consider additional park spaces as part of the rebuilding of Lahaina.

4. SCD Contribution. SCD shall contribute a total of EIGHTY THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (USD \$80,000.00), with SEVENTY THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (USD \$70,000.00) donated to a 501(c)(3)-approved non-profit charity organization (the "Non-Profit Charity") chosen by the Intervenor for the benefit of West Maui, a portion of which is to be used to design and develop park space in the Lahaina district, including but not limited to development of the parcels identified in this Agreement, and TEN THOUSAND AND NO/100 DOLLARS (USD \$10,000.00) payable to the Lance D. Collins Attorney Client Trust Account. These contributions shall be made within fourteen (14) days of the Commission's granting of the SMA Permit upon terms and conditions acceptable to SCD, provided that the Intervenor shall provide in writing to SCD the name and mailing address of the Non-Profit Charity within seven (7) days of the execution of this Agreement.

5. Attorneys' Fees and Costs. Each party in this matter shall bear its own attorneys' fees and costs.

6. Breach of Agreement. The parties agree that if any party shall breach this Agreement, the non-breaching party may pursue legal proceedings in the Second Circuit Court to enforce the terms of this Agreement. In this event, the prevailing party shall be awarded its reasonable expenses sustained on account of such action, including reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.


7. Instruments of Further Assurance. The parties agree to execute and deliver any and all further instruments and documents, if necessary, and to take such action as may be reasonably required to effectuate the terms of this Agreement.

COUNTY OF MAUI:

By  Date: 3-5-25
RICHARD T. BISSEM, JR.
Its Mayor

By 
MARCY MARTIN
Its Director of Finance

APPROVAL RECOMMENDED

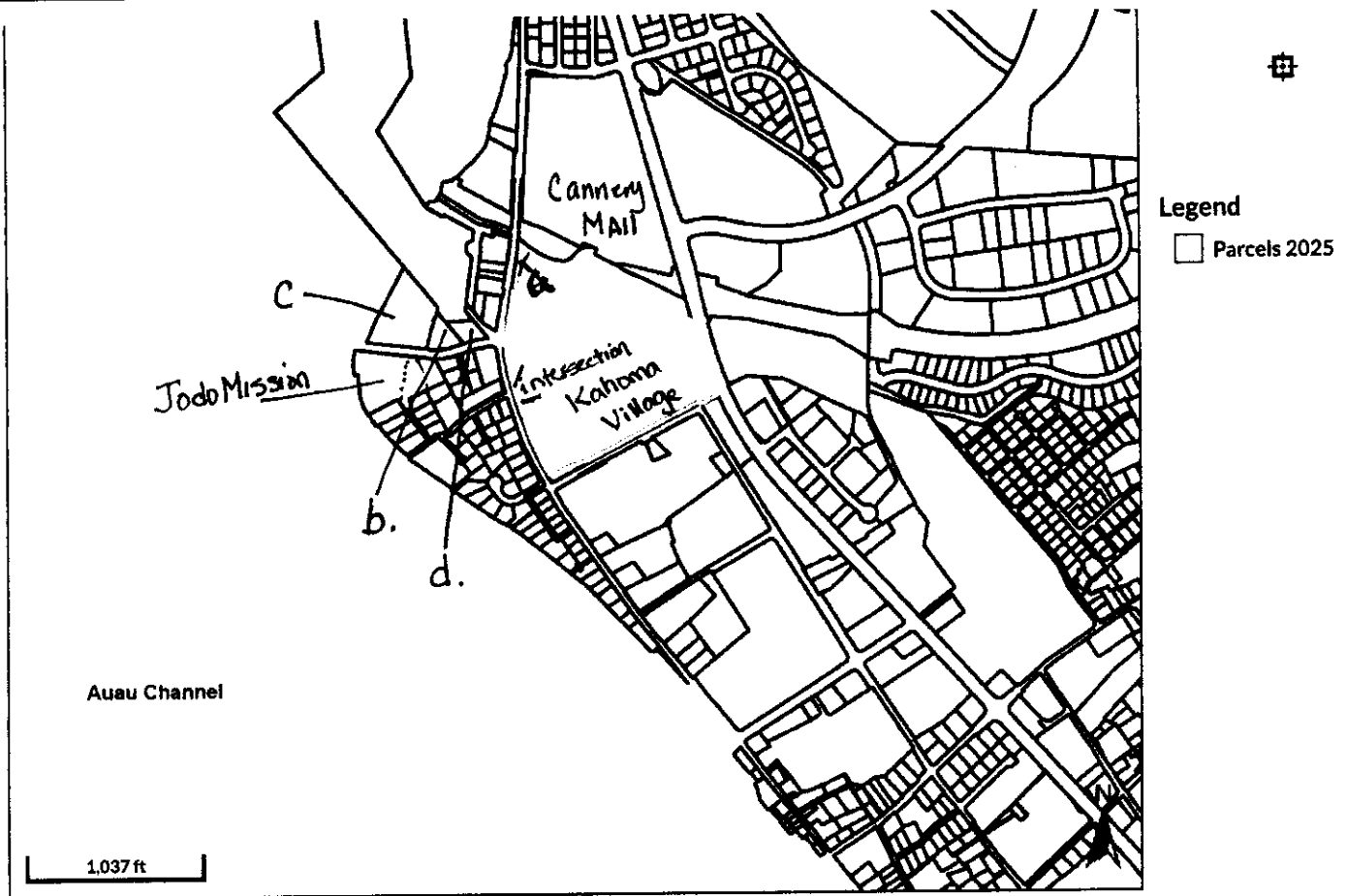
 Digitally signed by Jordan Molina, Director of Public Works
Date: 2025.02.26 10:22:25 -10'00'

JORDAN MOLINA
Director of Public Works


PATRICK MCCALL
Director of Parks and Recreation

**APPROVED AS TO
FORM AND LEGALITY:**


VICTORIA J. TAKAYESU
Corporation Counsel
County of Maui



Protect and Preserve Kahoma Ideas for Park Spaces

Parcel a) Memorial honoring David Malo with a replica of his tomb, which is located above the “L” overlooking Lahaina. Historical signage with his likeness or a bronze bust along with his accomplishments and things he penned and spoke. Include some parking spaces to exclusively access this memorial park and some benches for reflection and enjoyment. This memorial could go on one of the other parcels, but this area is LCA 3702, which was David Malo’s homestead.

Parcel b) and d) are near the public restrooms and showers. A covered playground would be nice in this area with nearby access to restrooms. It is also a good way for parents and caretakers to bribe their children to leave the beach, shower off, and play in the playground closer to the parking lot for a “clean get away.” It would also be a nice place for some picnic tables.

c) This parcel is the largest with access from the Jodo Mission side and Mala Boat Ramp side. It was part of the royal ‘Alamihi Fishpond and is adjacent to the cemetery. This space would be ideal to have a walking pathway with historical signage talking about the fishpond, the battle between Kamehameha the Great and Maui’s high chief, the abundant food source this ahupua’a produced, the capital of the Kingdom of Hawaii, and more recent history of the plantation era pineapple and sugar cane industry and cannery. Then Mala Pier’s glory days built quickly for war time efforts. Research other important historical findings of the area and include those as well.

Envirosigns Interpretive Solutions makes signs for the Lahaina Restoration Foundation and has many choices and experts to help create a historical walk to remember.

If other parcels in the area become available for sale due to rebuilding setback restrictions, it would be nice to consider them for additional space to make up for the loss of the 6-acre park.

TC
423
• P33
1979b
EC

A Cultural History Overview of the Kahoma Stream Flood Control Project, Lahaina, Maui and the Ma'alaea Small Boat Harbor Project, Ma'alaea, Maui, Hawaii

By
Pauline King Joerger
Michael W. Kaschko

Prepared for the
Corps of Engineers, Pacific Ocean Division
Department of the Army
Contract No. DACW89-79-C-0012

September 1979

Hawaii Marine Research, Inc., Honolulu

DISCUSSION OF THE SITES

MALA WHARF

Historical Overview. Adjacent to Kahoma Stream and bisected by the Mala Wharf approach road are the remains of an inland fishpond called 'Alamihi. Situated in the ahupua'a (ancient land division) of 'Alamihi, the pond may have been named 'Alamihi in historic times and may have had a different name in ancient times. Shortly before Western contact (1778) 'Alamihi was the site of a battle between two great chiefs, Kauhi'aimokuakama and Kamehameha-nui (known also, as Kamehameha I and Kamehameha the Great). Kauhi, the high chief of Maui, was fighting against the authority of Kamehameha-nui. During the rebellion Kauhi "seized all the food at 'Alamihi ahupua'a" (Kamakau, 1961:73). According to Kamakau, enough food was collected to support the needs of his army for a march across the island (Kamakau, 1961:73).

In the Great Mahale (land division) of 1848 Kamehameha III kept the ahupua'a of 'Alamihi, including the fishpond, as Crown Land (Indices, 1929:26; Nahaolelua, Report). Mauka (inland) of the pond and adjacent to it, David Malo (c. 1793-1853), a well-known Hawaiian historian, was awarded a parcel of land approximately eleven acres in area (Indices, 1929:208; LCA No. 3702). This was one of several parcels owned by Malo. Malo's parcel extended from the fishpond

mauka and across the Ka'anapali Road. It was reported by Kamakau (c. 1866) that there was a breadfruit tree "on which the first victim of the battle was laid." The tree was "near the house of David Malo" (Kamakau, 1961:73-74). Moreover Inez Ashdown stated that the lower part of Kahoma Stream was in fact called "Kapa'ulu," or enclosure of breadfruit, and it was from Kapa'ulu that fresh water was fed into 'Alamihi fishpond (Ashdown, Personal Communication).

Thus, 'Alamihi fishpond was part of an important battle in the latter part of the 18th Century between two great chiefs (ali'i nui) and at least one of the breadfruit trees of the area was still standing in the 1860s.

Kamehameha III and Malo were the only two recorded land owners in 'Alamihi aupua'a for some time.

The fishpond itself was mentioned in government records from time to time. P. Nahaolelua, governor of Maui, reported to the King in 1853 on a survey of the area and referred to the pond and a few coconut trees (Nahaolelua, 1853). Again he reported that he had received six dollars for the fishpond apparently as rent or a fee (Nahaolelua, 1855).

By 1889 Pioneer Mill Company had entered into a 15-year lease for much of the 'Alamihi land. The area was given as nine acres (Iaukea, 1894:79). Until the revolution of 1893 which abrogated the monarchy and replaced the Kingdom of Hawaii with a provisional government, 'Alamihi Fishpond was part of the Crown Lands, the personal property of Kamehameha III and his heir, Kamehameha IV. After 1865 the Crown Lands were administered by a Board of Commissioners of Crown Lands

and the income from these lands given to whomever was monarch. 'Alamihi Fishpond, then, remained the property of the Hawaiian monarchy and was administered by a government agency. ✱

When the Provisional Government became the Republic of Hawaii in 1894 the Crown Lands became public lands. Then, as indicated in a "Statement of Leases of Public Lands under control of Commissioners of Public Lands as of the date of 31 August 1898," the government of the Republic included the Crown Lands and 'Alamihi fishpond with that of government or public lands (Public Lands Commission, 1898:14). After the Islands were annexed by the United States in 1898, the Commissioner of Public Lands of the Territory of Hawaii reported to the Governor that about 60 acres of land and fishponds, consisting of many "small patches and remnants in and about the town of Lahaina" were all that remained of the Lahaina Crown Lands. He placed the value of the acreage at about \$6,000.

Interest in the fishpond was evinced early in the 20th Century by the Survey Department of the Territory of Hawaii. In 1908 and 1917 two surveys were made (Figures 3 and 4). The pond was described as being 5.23 acres in the earlier survey. Some changes were made to the pond on the end toward Lahaina town to accommodate a government road. By 1917 the pond had been reduced in size to 4.07 acres.

A more dramatic change occurred in the 1920s with the building of Mala Wharf. That structure was completed in 1922 and the approach road to the wharf cut diagonally across the pond dividing the pond into


Proposed Areas for Parks Near Kahoma Village




Kahoma Village

Exhibit 6

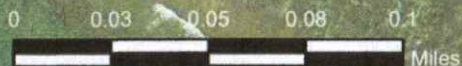
LEGEND

 Tax Map Keys

Parcel Owner

 County of Maui

 State of Hawaii



DATE: 4/3/2025

BFED Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 11:10 AM
To: BFED Committee
Subject: FW: Lauren Aguilar Testimonial
Attachments: MFSS COUNTY SUBSIDY SAMPLE TESTIMONY EMAIL 9.18.25.docx

From: Lauren Aguilar <lauren.wayne@fourseasons.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 11:04 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Cc: MFSS CHILDCARE SUBSIDY PROGRAMS <subsidy@mfss.org>
Subject: Lauren Aguilar Testimonial

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

Aloha,

Please find the attached testimonial on how the MFSS grant has helped my family. Please continue to support this wonderful cause!

Mahalo,
Lauren Aguilar

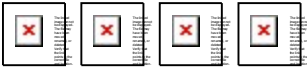
- **Contact us:**
 - **INVOICE SUBMISSION only:** fshinvoiceslanai.ig@capgemini.com. PDF format only, 1 invoice = 1 PDF. Please send invoice only once to avoid duplicate processing.
 - **COMPANY UPDATES, INQUIRIES, or FOLLOW-UPS:** fshhelpdesknam.ig@capgemini.com or call 1-866-363-8810
 - **STATEMENTS:** fshstatements.ig@capgemini.com. Sending your statements every month ensures our account with you stays current.

Lauren Aguilar
Jr. Staff Accountant - Part Time
Four Seasons Resort Lānaʻi
Voice: 808-565-2470 / Mobile: 808-457-7969
lauren.wayne@fourseasons.com

<https://fourseasons.com/lanai>
<https://fourseasons.com/sensei>

Need Anything? Click [HERE](#) to Chat with us.





Four Seasons Resort Lānaʻi & Sensei Lānaʻi, A Four Seasons Resort Awards



Elevate your experience. Travel via Oahu on [Lānaʻi Air](#) included with all qualifying reservations arriving on or before December 31, 2024.

To: county.clerk@mauicounty.us
CC: subsidy@mfss.org
Subject: Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program

Dear County Council,

My name is Lauren Aguilar, and I am a participant in the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program for my son, Duke, who was too young to obtain funding from Preschool Open Doors. He is only 2 years old.

This program has helped my family by allowing me to keep my job, so we can afford to live on Lanai. With the rising cost of housing, groceries, and gas, this grant has been instrumental in our lives. I can't imagine what I would have done without this assistance. Finding a babysitter on Lanai is very difficult, as there are not many people on the island. I am glad Duke is going to a full-time preschool, which helps me be a good employee and consistent. I could have never been able to afford Preschool myself, considering I have 2 preschool age kids and 5 kids total.

Because of the Maui County Childcare Subsidy Program, my family has been able to keep a consistent schedule and routine for our kids, which is very important in this time in their life. We get to feed our kids healthier food, since we don't have to stress about the cost of childcare. We also got to schedule a vacation to visit our family in San Diego this summer to meet Duke for the first time. We haven't left Lanai for over 3 years because it's so expensive to travel, especially with 5 kids. I'm so grateful for this program that our kids get to experience new things and see family we haven't seen in years (over ever, for Duke!). Travel opens your mind to new experiences, cultures, and lifestyles, which in turn, can change your perspective on your own life.

Please continue funding this program so it can support more parents, children, and families across Maui County.

Thank you,

Lauren Aguilar

BFED Committee

From: Joseph Kutney <josephkutney@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2026 10:03 PM
To: Alice L. Lee; Tamara A. Paltin; Gabe Johnson; Yukilei Sugimura; Keani N. Rawlins; K. Kauanoë Batangan; Thomas M. Cook; Shane M. Sinenci
Cc: BFED Committee
Subject: Written Testimony in support of PID's Tūtū & Me Program

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

Dear Chair and Council Members,

My name is Joseph Kutney, and I am a parent with a direct connection to the Tūtū and Me program, operated by the Partners in Development Foundation, at the Makawao site. My older child previously attended the program, and my younger child is currently enrolled. Unfortunately, all four Tūtū and Me sites in Maui are scheduled to close at the end of August 2026 due to a lack of federal funding.

I respectfully ask for your support in preserving Tūtū and Me sites on Maui. This program is a lifeline for my family and many others in our community. It strengthens bonds between keiki and caregivers while grounding our children in Native Hawaiian values, culture, and a deep sense of belonging.

I am deeply concerned that the Department of Education has proposed a \$0.00 budget for the Native Hawaiian Education Program (NHEP) for fiscal year 2026–27, effectively eliminating it from the federal budget. This loss of funding is directly impacting the Tūtū and Me Traveling Preschool and is forcing the closure of all four Maui sites: Lahaina, Kahului, Makawao, and Kihei.

Without this program, families like mine lose not just access to early education, but a rare and meaningful space where generations learn together and community is built. The impact on Maui will be significant and deeply felt. Programs like this are essential in fostering resilient families and communities, and their long-term benefits far outweigh the cost of sustaining them.

I respectfully urge the County of Maui to consider allocating grant funding to sustain the Tūtū and Me program. According to the Partners in Development Foundation's published FAQs, approximately \$300,000 is required to operate each Maui site. For all four sites, the total funding needed is approximately \$1.2 million. I ask for your support in securing this funding so these vital programs can remain open and continue serving local families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, and for your continued service to our community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Joseph Kutney