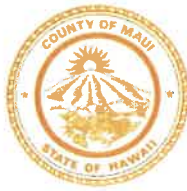


Michael P. Victorino  
Mayor

Sananda K. Baz  
Managing Director



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
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January 22, 2021

The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke,  
and Members of the House Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 306  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Members:

**SUBJECT: 2021 Informational Briefing to the House Committee on Finance**

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my 2021 Budget Informational Briefing for the County of Maui.

I am submitting two measures for the Legislature's consideration during the 2021 Legislative Session. Additionally, I have highlighted priorities that the County of Maui will be monitoring and supporting throughout the session.

Legislation

**1) GET Surcharge Extension (HB158 and SB457)**

Amend Sections 46-16.8 and Section 238-2.6, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to extend the deadline for the counties to pass an ordinance to establish a surcharge on the general excise tax. This measure was introduced last session to enable Maui County to accept a proposed surcharge on the State's general excise tax for transportation and other related purposes.

**2) Public Agency Meetings and Records (HB157 and SB456)**

Amend Section 92-5, HRS, to allow boards to hold a meeting closed to the public to consider statements and information obtained from witnesses or victims during the course of any investigation into the hire, evaluation or dismissal of an officer or employee.

Priorities

**CARES Act 2020 - County of Maui Allocations and Uses**

During the pandemic, Maui County has proudly assisted the Department of Education, Department of Health, and Maui Health Systems to provide our residents and visitors with CARES Act funding. Below is Maui County's utilization of the 2020 CARES Act funding, which I look forward to expanding on during our meeting:

• Community Assistance:	\$ 9,727,736	15%
• Public Health & Safety:	4,796,238	22%
• Economic/Business Support:	38,627,657	58%
• Others:	1,957,185	3%
• Expenses Incurred/Not Yet Classified:	1,489,941	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>\$66,598,757</u></b>	<b>100%</b>

**Housing and Human Concerns**

I would like to thank the Legislature for appropriating funds to support housing projects in Maui County over the course of my term as Mayor. My administration has worked diligently to expedite County processes to bring housing projects to fruition for Central Maui and West Maui. I urge the Legislature to continue to support funding to the Rental Housing Revolving Fund (RHRF).

Last session, the Legislature appropriated \$37 million, from the RHRF, for the construction of the Keawe Street rental housing project which will add 200 affordable rental units to Maui's housing inventory. The project, with my Administration's tireless effort, received approval from the Maui County Council early last year. The project's subdivision process is complete and a Residential Workforce Housing Agreement recorded, and water allocation has been received from the county. The State Historic Preservation Division is requiring the developer to complete an AIS specific to the parcel. Barring major setbacks, construction start is slated for September 2021.

Additionally, the Legislature also appropriated \$5 million, from the Dwelling Unit Revolving Fund (DURF), and for the renovation of the UH Maui Dorms for low-income families on county-owned land in Central Maui. The funding has gone a long and will provide 12 permanent affordable rental units for our residents. Renovation is underway and is expected to be complete in mid-March 2021.

Last session, the State Legislature also appropriated planning funds for the Ka'ahumanu Avenue Community Corridor Master Plan, which aims to provide a means for multimodal transportation, and community-friendly planning for the

Wailuku-Kahului transportation corridor. The county with the assistance of the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), has hired a consultant to begin the stakeholder and community outreach planning. The project will also identify opportunities for affordable housing and mixed-used development in the project area.

Additionally, during this upcoming session I will continue to support programs and funding that provide assistance to individuals who have mental illness and for families experiencing homelessness.

**Agriculture & Environment**

My Administration will support legislation to increase availability of capital for agriculture initiatives, especially for programs that promote increasing local food production.

We are grateful to have received from the State, \$1 million to acquire land for the Upcountry Agricultural Park expansion, and \$3.5 million for agricultural infrastructure and the relocation of an existing water pump for the Upcountry Maui Agricultural Park. State supported agriculture initiatives, such as these, go a long way in helping our community produce more local food and value added products.

In partnership with Hawaii State Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Hawaii Home Lands, private land owners and community members, continued collaboration is needed to reduce and manage the axis deer population and to mitigate the negative impacts they have on farmers, residents, traffic safety, and native species.

I recognize the many challenges facing our state, and pledge to work collaboratively with our leaders to build a more resilient community. Should you have any questions please contact me through Executive Assistant Saumalu Mataafa at (808) 270-7215, or via email at [saumalu.mataafa@mauicounty.gov](mailto:saumalu.mataafa@mauicounty.gov).

Sincerely,



MICHAEL P. VICTORINO  
Mayor, County of Maui