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COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

October 15, 2020

Honorable Michael P. Victorino
Mayor, County of Maui
Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

Dear Mayor Victorino:

SUBJECT: HAWAII EMERGENCY LAULIMA PARTNERSHIP

As you are aware the Hawaii Emergency Laulima Partnership (H.E.L.P.) program is set to terminate on October 31, 2020. Accordingly, I would respectfully request your consideration for increasing the appropriation for the program and extending it until December 31, 2020.

At the end of May 2020, I respectfully requested an increased appropriation of \$5 million to H.E.L.P. with an increase of the monthly payment to families.

On July 19, 2020, you increased the appropriation \$3 million to H.E.L.P., which was a boost in the arm to the many families struggling as a result of the loss of jobs and a reduction in unemployment benefits.

As of Friday, October 9, 2020, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO) processed over 10,000 applications totaling more than \$5.2 million in assistance. This is truly a substantial benefit to our residents.

According, to Debbie Cabebe, Chief Executive Officer, MEO, the volume of applications for a monthly program is overwhelming for their staff. Ms. Cabebe recommends if the program was to continue that the payment be a one-time grant, which would assist with expediting review of the applications.

Therefore, I am respectfully requesting your consideration of my following recommendations for H.E.L.P.:

1. Increase the appropriation to the program an additional \$3 million;

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2. Make the grant a one-time payment of \$1,500 to \$3,000 depending on household size;
3. Extend the program to December 31, 2020.

Even though travel to our islands has begun in limited fragments, people will remain unemployed because not all hospitality industry businesses are opening at the same time. Furthermore, since the Federal government is still uncertain about a second stimulus offering, continued assistance from H.E.L.P. will provide funds to many families in need.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. Should you have any questions please feel free contact me. I wish you and your family good health.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL J. MOLINA
Councilmember

CM:MHP:outgoing_HELP_Mayor01:grs

cc: Sandy Baz, Managing Director
Debbie Cabebe, CEO, MEO