



2022 Annual Report

housing
planning teamwork
excellence people
helping
stabilize **changing** youth
assistance creativity jobs
strengthen equality **respect**
literacy
training
empathy
personal
integrity inclusive
kupuna
lives
flexibility diversity
need
keiki financial

Words to Live By at Maui Economic Opportunity

A Nonprofit Community Action Partnership Agency Since 1965



‘Helping People. Changing Lives.’ for last 57 years in Maui County

The story of Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc. (MEO) begins on March 22, 1965, when the agency was chartered as part of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, a part of President Lyndon Johnson’s Great Society. MEO is the only designated anti-poverty Community Action Agency serving Maui County.

As a Community Action Agency, MEO must ensure low-income citizens play an active role in program design and administration, or “maximum feasible participation.” The Act mandates a board structure with tripartite representation. The MEO Board of Directors is comprised of low-income residents, private businesses and public officials.

MEO connects children and families to greater opportunity, transforming their lives and making our community stronger with services in the areas of greatest need. When a family or an individual faces a crisis, MEO is able to respond quickly with targeted assistance appropriate to the situation. This may include the mobilization of help from our many private sector partners, volunteers and faith-based groups.

When the community faces a crisis, government leaders turn to MEO. One of the agency’s shining moments was getting Maui County funds to emotionally and financially stressed residents in the aftermath of the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

But for MEO, it’s not enough to provide for immediate needs. The goal is to avoid the long-term consequence of costly dependency. MEO also has the capability to sustain long-term involvement in an individual’s or family’s progress to self-sufficiency, as well as in the development of the low-income community.

MEO provides tools to help people and change lives through 40-plus programs in five departments: Business Development Center, Community Services, Early Childhood Services, Transportation Services and Youth Services.

Programs provide Maui Bus paratransit and specialized transportation services, including for children needing to get to after-school programs, kupuna to dialysis and health



Lance Winston of MEO Transportation assists a client from the MEO bus to the ballroom at the Grand Wailea during the Kupuna Aloha Luncheon on July 30.

appointments and shopping, and individuals to get to work. Head Start provides needed preschool to low income families.

Other programs offer drug, alcohol, suicide and bullying prevention for youths, business planning and financial literacy classes and microloans, rent/mortgage and utility support, employment training and placement for kupuna and support for inmates recently released from jails and prisons.

In the 2021-22 year, we expanded our reach to Moloka’i, taking Youth Service smoking, substance abuse, bullying and suicide prevention curriculum to the island with a grant from the Nuestro Futuro Foundation. MEO also cast a light on suicide and prevention, calling a town hall meeting on the issue.

MEO BDC organized a best business plan contest, awarding \$25,000 to the top plan. The grant was funded by district funds from Council and Board Member Tasha Kama. BDC team also began assisting residents with their debt problems as certified credit counselors.

In a sign of returning normalcy, MEO hosted the Mexican Consulate for the first time in two years. And the National Farmworker Jobs Program assisted farms and farmworkers with safety and pesticide certifications.

It’s difficult to grasp or describe all that MEO does for Maui County. MEO offers a wide ranging set of programs for a diverse population of people in need while “dedicated to helping people help themselves.”

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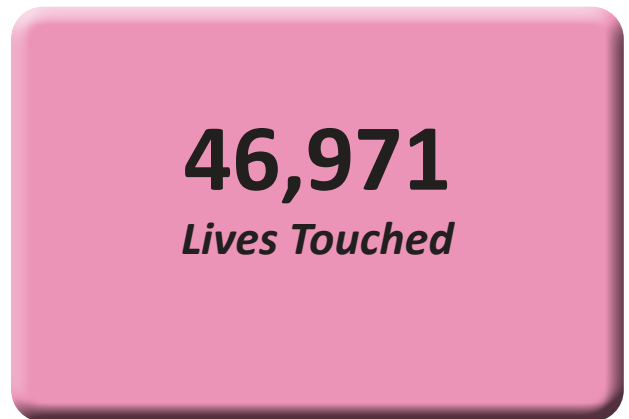
MEO’s Mission

To strengthen the community while helping people in need restore their hope, reach their potential and enrich their lives.



Helping People. Changing Lives.

Fiscal Year 2022 (October 1, 2021-September 30, 2022)





Grateful for support of community and staff

Looking back over the past year, I am reminded how fortunate MEO is to be represented by compassionate and dedicated team members who are dedicated to our mission of strengthening the community while helping people in need . . .



CEO's MESSAGE

Debbie Cabebe

The MEO Board and community partners round out this team, whose sole purpose is to make Maui County a better place to live. This is achieved through the various services funded by the Federal, State and County governments, private foundations, businesses and individual donors and administered by MEO.

Some highlights of the year include maintaining services during the COVID-19 spikes; expanding services provided by the MEO Youth Services Program on Moloka'i; hosting Computer 001 classes to assist Kupuna and others learn how to use a

computer and access the internet, chipping away at the digital divide; qualifying and issuing business and micro ag grants; expanding the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition program to assist low-income families; organizing and hosting the first in-person Kupuna Aloha Luncheon and hosting the first visit by the Mexican Consulate in two years; helping youth on Moloka'i get to school when driver shortages limited service; organizing

a town hall on Moloka'i on suicide prevention; offering credit and debt counseling with certified counselors; awarding the first Best Business Plan grants with the top prize of \$25,000; offering heat and pesticide safety classes for farms and their workers.

In addition, we welcomed new branch managers on Moloka'i and Lana'i, Mahie McPherson and Rose Jane Ancheta, respectively.

We participated in Maui County Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy focus groups and conducted our tri-annual Community Needs Assessment to develop MEO's Community Action and Strategic Plans. These plans help us develop a road map for our future.

This year, we said a final aloha to MEO's first Executive Elizabeth Jonesie Medeiros. She helped establish the organization in 1965 and was instrumental in introducing Head Start and grass roots community outreach to Maui County.

MEO was once again recognized by Hawaii Business Magazine Book of Lists Top 250 Businesses, named Top Ten in the Pacific Business News Nonprofit Lists and maintained its Better Business Bureau Transparency Seal and Guide Star Gold Level status.

We continue to be grateful for the support we receive from our funders, donors and elected officials. We appreciate the commitment and dedication of our Board of Directors, volunteers and partners to help us live the Community Action motto of Helping People. Changing Lives.

The Rest of The Executive Team



Gay Sibonga
Chief Operating Officer



Debbie Lorenzo
Chief Fiscal Officer



Cliff Caesar
Chief Human Resources Officer



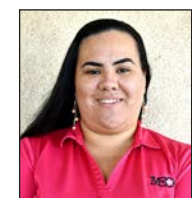
Cassi Yamashita
Community Services Director



Debbi Amaral
Early Childhood Services Director



David Daly
Business Development Center Director



Patty Copperfield
Transportation Director



Dane Ka'ae
Youth Services Director



Mahie McPherson
Moloka'i Branch Manager



Rose Jane Ancheta
Lana'i Branch Manager



Mary Kauai Kala-Brook
Hana Branch Manager



Mark Hammer
Facilities Manager



Guy Aguirre
IT Manager



Lee Imada
Executive Assistant



It takes a diverse team to serve the community

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful to be blessed with an engaged board, hardworking staff, dedicated volunteers and generous supporters who all contribute to the success of MEO.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carol Reimann

Collectively, we work together to deliver a myriad of much needed social service programs that support our residents and benefit our local community.

Our diverse and hardworking board is comprised of scientists, business-people, clients, council members, government officials and lawyers. In addition to providing guidance to the organization, the board helped to complete a Community Needs Assessment. This assessment provides MEO with key data specific to Maui and is the blueprint for our Community Action Plan, which will be implemented in the next fiscal year. The three-year plan provides direction for our programs and identifies how to maximize resources to best meet the needs of Maui County.

Results of the plan confirm that affordable housing, good paying jobs, child and elder care, medical and mental health care are the primary

needs for Maui County residents.

Our board's primary role is not to reinvent the wheel but to provide the necessary support to enable our hardworking staff to effectively run the organization's 40-plus programs. MEO's success over the last five decades is because of our dedicated and hardworking employees, and we are grateful for their fine efforts.

MEO proudly serves our community as a safety net in a variety of ways. A snapshot of some of the services we provide includes: assisting our elderly with transportation to adult day care centers, providing financial support to our residents who lose their job and cannot pay rent or utilities, running preschools for our children and helping our residents who cannot secure conventional loans to start their businesses.

In addition to the many beneficial services that we provide, MEO has stepped up to help tackle Maui's critical affordable housing problem.

We have partnered with Hale Mahaolu and Highridge Costa to develop 120 rental units for 30 to 60 percent area median income residents. These affordable rental units will provide much needed housing for Maui's most at-risk population. Rents will be as low as \$550 for qualified local families.

MEO is pleased to be a productive member of Maui's community, and we thank you for your ongoing support!

- ### MEO Tripartite Board
- The 21-member Board of Directors represents Resident, Private and Government sectors with 1/3 representation for each.
- Clifford Alakai**, *Treasurer*, Rep. Troy Hashimoto
 - Charles Andrion**, ILWU
 - Elizabeth Dela Cruz**, Head Start Policy Council
 - Dawn Bicoy**, Molokai Filipino Community Council
 - Cynthia Lallo**, Mayor Richard Bissen
 - Ned Davis**, Sen. Lynn De Coite
 - Frank De Rego Jr.**, Maui Native Hawaiian Chamber of Commerce
 - Gabe Johnson**, Lana'i Area Council
 - Arleen Gerbig**, *Secretary*, West Maui Seniors
 - Peter Horovitz**, Maui County Bar Association
 - Reuben Ignacio**, Hale Mahaolu
 - Tasha Kama**, Maui County Council
 - Gemma Medina**, Hawai'i Association for the Education of Young Children – Maui Chapter
 - Glenn Yamasaki**, Rep. Kyle Yamashita
 - Scott Okada**, Sen. Angus McKelvey
 - Bard Peterson**, *Vice President*, Rep. Justin Woodson
 - Carol Reimann**, *President*, A&B Properties
 - Adele Rugg**, Kula AARP Seniors
 - Sandy Ryan**, Maui Economic Development Board
 - Tessie Segui**, Kahului Seniors
 - Desiree Ting**, Central Pacific Bank

Fifteen of the 21 members of the Maui Economic Opportunity Board of Directors pose for a photo at the annual Board Installation held on July 31, 2022. Retired 2nd Circuit Judge Rhonda Loo swore in the members. The installation was held in the MEO Classrooms in Wailuku.





Programs & Services

BEST (Being Empowered and Safe Together)

- **Goals.** Addresses the challenges that individuals face as they return to the Maui County community from incarceration.
- **Services.** Substance abuse assessments and referral, tuition support, fees and other financial assistance to obtain a driver's license and identification, work clothing, food, bus passes and personal hygiene items.
- **Contact.** (808) 243-4356, bishop.pahia@meoinc.org

Enlace Hispano

- **Goals.** To improve the quality of life for the Hispanic community and foster opportunities for inter-cultural experiences.
- **Services.** Interpretation, translation, supportive services and case management.
- **Contact.** (808) 243-4357, alexandro.cuevas@meoinc.org

Maui Independent Living Center

- **Goals.** To ensure that persons with disabilities are full social, civic and economic partners within their families and in a fully accessible community, and to create access and choice.
- **Services.** Assessment to identify needs, development of Personal Independence Plan, assist with applications and program enrollment.
- **Contact.** (808) 243-4360, jennifer.mcgurn@meoinc.org.

National Farmworker Jobs Program

- **Goals.** Nationally-directed program of job training and employment assistance for migrant and seasonal farmworkers.
- **Services.** Skills training, supportive services to stabilize employment in agriculture, facilitates coordination with American Jobs Center system. Employment Service Plan or Individual Service Plan developed, implemented and maintained by staff with timely follow-ups and reviews. Pesticide and safety training offered to workers and farms.
- **Contact.** (808) 243-4370, uliani.ahchan@meoinc.org.

Maui Planning and Coordinating Council

- **Goals.** To enhance the quality of life and independence for seniors through education, companionship, and better health.
- **Services.** Assists senior clubs



Youth Services joined the Homeless Alliance sign waving along Kaahumanu Avenue fronting the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center on Nov. 16, 2021.

with recruitment and membership enrollment, advocacy, education and social activities and events.

- **Contact.** (808) 243-4313, zilpah.kaimiola@meoinc.org.

Cares Act Reentry Program

- **Goals.** Collaborates with Maui Reentry Partners to deliver targeted services designed to keep present and formerly incarcerated individuals impacted by COVID-19 from reoffending.
- **Services.** Provides access to mental health and substance abuse assessments, treatment, career pathways, employment training and housing assistance opportunities.
- **Contact.** (808) 249-2970.

Senior Discount Red Card

- **Goals.** To reduce food costs for seniors.
- **Services.** Merchants solicited for program that offers senior citizens 60 years of age or older and residents of Maui County discounts on food and merchandise when showing the MEO Red Card.
- **Contact.** (808) 243-4313, zilpah.kaimiola@meoinc.org.

Senior Community Service Employment Program

- **Goals.** To foster and promote part-time employment opportunities in community service activities for low income senior citizens 55 years or older.
- **Services.** Compile an individual Employment Plan and be assigned to host agency for work experience with follow-ups.
- **Contact.** (808) 243-4355, carmelei.

leano@meoinc.org.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Energy Crisis Intervention (ECI)

- **Goals/Services.** Provides assistance to households on the verge of utility termination or terminated within 60 days from application.
- **Contact.** (808) 249-2970.

Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)

- **Goals.** Provides help to increase energy efficiency for low-income families, elderly, persons with disabilities and children.
- **Services.** Assists with purchase of cost-saving home energy efficiency improvements. An in-home energy audit is conducted that evaluates and recommends specific energy-saving measures.
- **Contact.** (808) 249-2970.

Maui County Rental Assistance Program

- **Goals/Services.** Provides assistance for rental and utility deposits and rent subsidy at a declining schedule based on income and contingent on 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.
- **Contact.** (808) 243-4358, marjorey.vale@meoinc.org.

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program

- **Goals.** Provides seniors with nutrition education and access to unprocessed locally grown produce.
- **Services.** Participants receive

\$50 in coupons to be redeemed with participating farmers, farmers markets, or roadside stands for fruits, vegetables, herbs and honey. Seasonal program runs from April 1 to October 31.

- **Contact.** (808) 249-2990, gay.sibonga@meoinc.org.

Employment Services for Low-Income Persons and Legal Permanent Residents

- **Goals.** To improve opportunities for low-income persons and legal permanent residents by enhancing their employment skills and helping them overcome barriers on Maui and Moloka'i. The goal is to help clients find jobs earning a living wage.
- **Services.** Participants will learn skills, behaviors and methods of obtaining and keeping gainful employment.
- **Contact.** (808) 243-4371, janeth.cerizo@meoinc.org.

Head Start Preschool

- **Goals.** Federally funded, national program promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through provisions of education, health, nutrition, social and other services to eligible children and their families.
- **Services.** Preschool for 3 and 4 year olds in low-income families on Maui and Moloka'i.
- **Contact.** (808) 249-2988, debbi.amaral@meoinc.org.

Head Start

After-School and Summer

- **Goals/Services.** Extended-day and summer quality education services so parents or guardians can be employed, attend school to obtain a degree or credential, or participate in employment training for job placement.
- **Contact.** (808) 249-2988, debbi.amaral@meoinc.org.

Kahi Kamali'i Infant Toddler Center

- **Goals.** To provide quality early childhood services for children to 3 years of age.
- **Services.** Four qualified caregivers promote continuity of care. Services are offered year round. County of Maui provides funding to keep costs affordable for income-eligible families, teen families and families with children receiving early intervention support through Imua Family Services.
- **Contact.** (808) 249-2988, debbi.amaral@meoinc.org.

Continued on the next page



Continued from Page 6

Temporary Emergency Food Assistance

- *Goals/Services.* Individuals and families receive U.S. Department of Agriculture food commodities monthly on Moloka'i and Lana'i.
- *Contact.* (808) 565-6665 on Lana'i, (808) 553-3216 Moloka'i.

Human Services Transportation

- *Senior Services.* Allows seniors to participate in activities and events at Kaunoa Senior Center and communitywide, senior club meetings, leisure and nutrition excursions. Provides house-to-house or site pickups.
- *Senior Nutrition.* Transports seniors and persons with disabilities from home or designated pickup sites to congregate dining sites throughout Maui County, including Hana, Lana'i, and Moloka'i.
- *Ka Lima O Maui and Easter Seals.* Transports clients with special needs to participate in programs at Ka Lima O Maui and Easter Seals. Most clients require house-to-house pickup and return.
- *Employment Transportation.* Provides transportation to adults with special needs and low income or disadvantaged clients to and from their jobs. Service area includes Central, South, West and Upcountry. Normal service is on weekdays, excluding holidays.
- *Rural Shopping Shuttle.* To meet the needs of the outlying rural communities, shuttle provides curb-to-curb transportation from residence to locations primarily within the central corridor of the islands of Maui and Moloka'i, as well as within Hana and Lana'i City and the Upcountry area. Service is by reservation.
- *Youth Transportation.* Provides transportation for Maui County youth with emphasis on public programs and facility locations that are important to youth. This includes youth centers, paddling practices and regattas.
- *Community Transportation.* Provides transportation to the seniors, residents in medical need, and other disadvantaged people in the community, to attend the Maui County Special Fair and other community events.
- *Ala Hou Transportation.* Provides transportation to persons with disabilities who need accessible transportation in areas of Maui

- County not serviced by ADA Paratransit Services.
- *Dialysis Treatment Transportation.* Provides nonemergency medical transportation for kidney dialysis patients in Maui County to and from Liberty and Rainbow Dialysis Centers.
- *Contact.* (808) 877-7651 Maui, (808) 553-3218 Moloka'i, (808) 565-6665 Lana'i.

Maui Bus Paratransit Transportation

- *Goals/Services.* Advance reservation, curb-to-curb service for persons with disabilities who are unable to use the regular fixed route Maui Bus. Service is available within corridors whose boundaries extend three-fourths of a mile on each side of each fixed Maui Bus route.
- *Contact.* (808) 877-7651 Maui.

Youth Services

- *Goals.* To develop life, career, leadership skills and cultural awareness to give intermediate and high school youths the confidence and awareness to make good decisions.
- *Services:* After school and out of school youth development program for 6th to 12th grade students throughout Maui County. Typical participants come from low income or disadvantaged families.
- *Contact.* (808) 243-4315, dane.kaae@meoinc.org.

Underage Drinking Prevention

- *Goals.* To delay the age when youths begin drinking and to reduce use among youths who have consumed alcohol.
- *Services.* Evidence-based in-school curriculum for youths ages 12-17 offered in middle and high school classrooms. Program is peer led and age-appropriate with service learning projects after school and during school breaks.
- *Contact.* (808) 243-4315, dane.kaae@meoinc.org.

Youth Services Kāohi Program

- *Goals.* To develop life, career, leadership skills and cultural awareness to give Moloka'i intermediate and high school youths the confidence and awareness to make good decisions.
- *Services.* After-school and fall, winter, spring, summer break youth development program; in-school prevention curriculum. breaks.
- *Contact.* (808) 553-5472,



Arleen Gerbig addresses the Planning and Coordinating Council meeting on June 8, 2022, at MEO. P&CC President David Yanagisako stands to the right.



Playground structures at eight Head Start sites, including this one at the Lahaina site, were replaced. Some structures were 20 years old. The lower profile equipment will allow for better supervision of children.



U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz visited MEO on July 7, 2022, and met with board members and staff.

mela.candelario@meoinc.org

Business Development Center

- *Goals.* Providing microenterprise financing and offering educational programs and technical assistance to those interested in starting, expanding or purchasing a business.
- *Services.* Core Four Business Planning Course that is offered on Maui, Lana'i and Moloka'i, Credit Repairs and Technical Assistance (TA) for applicants of the OHA Malama Loan Program, Teen and Adult Financial Literacy and seminars for Maui County Business Resource Center on Credit Readiness, How to Obtain Business Loans and Starting a Business.
- *Contact.* (808) 243-4318, david.daly@meoinc.org.

Agape Lana'i Loan Fund

- *Goals/Services.* Loans are for Lana'i

small businesses in the amount of up to \$30,000 with an interest rate of 5 percent.

- *Contact.* (808) 243-4318, david.daly@meoinc.org.

Maui County Micro-Agriculture Grants

- *Goals.* Providing funds to small Maui County farms that will have a direct impact on increasing availability of local produce, livestock, poultry and products by increasing the farm's capacity, productivity, name recognition and income.
- *Services.* Grants of up to \$25,000 provided to qualifying farms. Funds provided by Maui County grant with MEO administering program.
- *Contact.* (808) 243-4318, david.daly@meoinc.org.



God's Lanes wins \$25,000 grant

The Business Development Center assists small business entrepreneurs with business plan training, credit assessment and microloans for startup and expansion.

A key component is the Core Four Business Planning course, offered several times a year on Maui, Moloka'i and Lāna'i. Designed for entrepreneurs, this 6-week course spans 36 hours of engagement, offers opportunities for networking and helps participants to develop a business plan.

Another popular offering is the adult and teen Financial Literacy class, which teaches basic budgeting.

Since its inception, BDC has administered the Maui County Agricultural Micro-grants Program, which offers up to \$25,000 in grants to Maui County farmers. MEO has been granted \$3 million to administer the third round of grants.

In a new offering, BDC staff are all certified credit counselors, who can help individuals with debt consolidation and management.

Landa Ampong's business plan for God's Lanes, LLC, a startup e-commerce retail company offering faith-based athleisure apparel to Christian men and women, was judged the best plan and awarded \$25,000 in a Maui Economic Opportunity Business Development Center contest.

BDC Director David Daly made the video announcement Oct. 5, 2021, to the 30 entrepreneurs who submitted business plans for the contest. All entrants participated in MEO's Core Four business development course.

Funding for Ampong's and seven other grants was provided by Council Member and MEO Director Tasha Kama, who used her county district funds.

The mission of God's Lane is to "encourage you to walk down the lane God has for your life, by equipping you with daily reminders of Him while you wear our athleisure apparel in comfort from one



Landa Ampong, founder of God's Lanes, LLC, wrote the top business plan in a Maui Economic Opportunity Business Development Center competition in 2021 and received a \$25,000 grant. Her business produces athleisure wear with biblical messages. She is shown in a screenshot from a Hawaii News Now report.

life task to another."

The Lahaina resident came up with the idea of putting biblical messages on athleisure wear during the pandemic

The grants do not go directly to the startup businesses. BDC staff will make sure the grantees have completed requirements to become a legitimate business in Hawaii, such as filing registrations and tax forms. Then, BDC

staff work with the grantees to come up with a list of vendors, who will be paid by MEO.

Other winners follow with company name and owner:

- \$10,000 grants**
- Northshore Nice Cream, Naomi Rahm.
- Adaptive Hawaii, LLC, Jennifer Gladwin.
- Malia Lauer, LLC, Malia Lauer.
- \$5,000 grants**
- Salt Ice Hawaii, LLC, Jessie Stone.
- Maui Balloon Décor, Jasmine Dillon.
- On The Move, LLC, Mele Andrade.
- Lucky Cat Provisions, Eden and Teak McAfee.



Teens learn about budgeting and life

Darren Yamada (front), Jaede Hinaiu-Kobatake and Isabel Noble attend the Teen Financial Literacy class in June 2022 at Maui Economic Opportunity. Jaimie Dukelow of Hawai'i Federal Credit Union taught the class with Lianne Peros-Busch of the Business Development Center. The four-session class covered budgeting, credit, saving and practical financial knowledge.

By The Numbers: 839 entrepreneurs received training and technical assistance

- 358 individuals improved their financial literacy



Early Childhood Services offers two programs for children and families and provides training and technical help for staff.

The Kahi Kamali'i Infant and Toddler Center at the J. Walter Cameron Center in Wailuku provides quality early childhood services year round for children 1 to 3 years of age. Qualified caregivers are assigned to the same children each day to promote continuity. The County of Maui provides funding to keep costs affordable for income-eligible families, teen families and families with children receiving early intervention support through Imua Family Services.

Head Start supports the entire family to achieve stability and promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of low income children ages 3 to 5 providing education, health, nutrition, social and other services. The core program is federally funded with additional funding from the County to offer an after-school and summer program at no cost to families.



Thirteen of the 20 Head Start children at the Head Start site in Kaunakakai were on hand Sept. 28 to receive the children's classic "If You Give A Mouse A Cookie."

W. Va. youth gifts books

A West Virginia high school senior reached across the Mainland and the Pacific to Kaunakakai to hand 20 Maui Economic Opportunity Head Start children the classic book "If You Give A Mouse A Cookie" on Sept. 28, 2022.



Rania Zuri

Rania Zuri of Morgantown made the donation through her Fifty Nifty Head Start project, part of the LiTEAray

Society, her nonprofit whose mission is to end book deserts for children in Head Start.

"'If You Give a Mouse a Cookie' was one of my very favorite books as a child, and I hope that the Head Start children will enjoy this beloved story as much as I did (and still do!)," said Rania. "I truly believe that certain books can spark a lifelong love of reading."

In selecting the Moloka'i site, Rania said she wanted to surprise children in rural and less traveled areas.

Head Start on-site review passed

Maui Economic Opportunity's Head Start preschool program meets all federal Head Start standards for educational programming and teaching practices, health and safety and family strengthening, according to a recent on site federal review that is conducted every five years.

A federal monitoring team from the Administration for Children and Families visited Maui from Jan. 18-22, 2022, to

observe the program, review financial and other documents and meet with staff, families and board members.

The on-site review was part of a three-pronged monitoring protocol by the federal Office of Head Start to verify documents submitted by the MEO Head Start program. The third part, the Classroom Assessment Scoring System Reviews, will be held in 2023.

The report did note staff vacancies, a nationwide issue.

Head Start parent top dad

Head Start Dad Kekoa Barcai was named "Father of the Year" and Maui Economic Opportunity the "Parent-Friendly Business Award" winner at the Hawai'i Fatherhood Conference via Zoom on June 18, 2022.

The awards were presented by the Hawai'i State Commission on Fatherhood, an advisory panel that promotes the important role fathers play in the lives of their children.

Barcai has been a top volunteer at MEO Head Start, serving as Policy Council representative and president of his child's parental group.

Barcai's path to award-winning Dad has had challenges since being released from jail and regaining custody of children Journey Honesty and Legacy.



Father of the Year Kekoa Barcai poses for a photo with daughters Honesty, Legacy and Journey at an event honoring him June 20, 2022 at MEO.

By The Numbers: 150 demonstrated skills for school readiness • 150 children improved emergent literacy skills
• 94 parents/caregivers improved their home environments



Community Services programs strengthen the community while supporting low income individuals and families engage in their community and achieve economic security and stability. The department includes:

- *Maui Independent Living Center, which supports persons with disabilities.*
- *Planning and Coordinating Council, supports kupuna countywide.*
- *Enlace Hispano, supports acculturation to the Hispanic / Latino community.*
- *BEST (Being Empowered and Safe Together) Reintegration, supports recently released inmates.*
- *National Farmworker Jobs Program, supports farmworkers and their families.*
- *Senior Community Service Employment Program, offers jobs and training to kupuna.*
- *Employment Services, supports readiness and placement.*
- *Other programs, rental/mortgage/utility assistance, weatherization and food distribution.*

Mexican Consulate returns to Maui

The Mexican Consulate made its first in-person visit to Maui in two years due to the pandemic on March 26 and 27, 2022.

The MEO classrooms were bustling with activity with lines stretching out into the parking lot on the two days with 17 Consulate staffers from San Francisco handling about 480 appointments.

The majority of the appointments were for passport renewals, but staff also was ready to process birth certificate retrievals from Mexico, civil registries, Consular IDs, voting cards and other documents.

In conjunction with the Consulate visit, MEO held the Hispanic Heritage Resource Fair in the parking lot on a rainy March 26 with representatives from groups and organizations involved with legal, health care, food assistance and educational services.



Staffers from the Mexican Consulate in San Francisco helped Maui residents with passports and other documents.

48th Senior Fair was a Zoom affair

The 48th Maui County Senior Fair was held virtually for the second year in a row due to the pandemic on Oct. 22, 2021.

There was entertainment by Na Pilimehana and Kaina Kountry, messages from top Hawaii and Maui County government officials, exercise breaks by Enhance Fitness and prize giveaways.

Emceed by Kathy Collins, the two-hour-long Senior Fair was available via Zoom and on the Maui Economic Opportunity Facebook page and Akaku Channel 54.

About 400 individuals participated via the platforms.

There were video and live appearances by Gov. David Ige and his wife, Dawn; Maui County Mayor Michael



Kathy Collins emceed the virtual 48th Maui County Senior Fair from the Maui Economic Opportunity classrooms on Oct. 22, 2021.

Victorino; Hawaii's entire Congressional delegation; Maui County state Senators and Representatives; and all Maui County Council members.

Local nonprofits that work with seniors, businesses that offer services to kupuna and government agencies with helpful information, such

as how to prevent being scammed, produced videos for the Senior Fair.

The Senior Fair is usually held at the War Memorial Gym.

Seventy-three prizes were given out in a drawing.

This event was produced by MEO and was funded by the Office on Aging.

By The Numbers: 1,352 individuals received utility subsidies ● 2,070 seniors improved access to fresh fruits and vegetables ● 271 individuals secured and maintained safe/affordable housing



NFJP holds heat, pesticide training

About 80 farmworkers on Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island were trained in pesticide and heat stress protection in a class presented by the National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP) trainers in July 2022.

The Worker Protection Standard, Heat Stress Prevention and Pesticide Safety trainings are required annually for all agricultural operations. MEO offers the training for no cost to farms across the state; the federally funded NFJP is the only program MEO offers statewide.

MEO certified trainers Uilani Ah Chan, Suzette Bacarro, both NFJP case managers, and Cassi Yamashita, Community Services Director, conducted classes for 10 workers at Royal Kona Coffee Mill and 70 workers at Kauai Nursery and Landscape. At the end of each session, all workers received bandanas.

In addition to Kaua'i and Hawai'i Island, NFJP supports farmworkers and farms on Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i and



Maui Economic Opportunity Community Services Director Cassi Yamashita leads a heat stress prevention and pesticide safety training for farmworkers at Kauai Nursery and Landscape in July 2022.

Oahu.

The trainings teach that water, rest and shade are essential to preventing heat problems. For workers handling pesticides, it is important that they wear a button-down shirt. Should a worker be contaminated by pesticides, removing the shirt by unbuttoning reduces the spread of the exposure.

NFJP supports farmworkers, their families and

farms that employ them. For workers, NFJP seeks to generate greater economic stability by connecting farmworkers to job training, better opportunities and supportive services for themselves and their families. For the farms, NFJP supports on-the-job training with subsidies and defrays the cost of required certifications, such as the Worker Protection Standard.

OHA funded 'Ai Hua food program starts

MEO began accepting applications in January 2022 for the 'Ai Hua food voucher program, funded by a \$150,000 grant from the Office of Hawaiian Affairs.

Native Hawaiians, who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic are eligible for up to \$150 in coupons based on family size for up to four months.

Vouchers can be used at local farmers markets and online with Maui Hub (www.mauihub.org) to purchase local fresh fruits, vegetables and protein items.

The program, administered by MEO Community Services, benefits both the Native Hawaiian families, who receive the vouchers for the fresh food, and the local farmers, who provide the products for the farmers markets.

Third annual MEO Abilities Awareness Fair entertains and educates

Hundreds of people visited information booths, took in the entertainment and learned about acceptance of persons with disabilities at the third Maui Economic Opportunity Abilities Awareness Fair on April 30, 2022, at the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center.

Put on by Maui Independent Living Center, the goal of

the fair was to bring better understanding and acceptance of persons with disabilities. MILC helps those with disabilities maintain their independence.

Public, private and nonprofit organizations staffed tables at the fair. Comprehensive Service Center of Oahu and coordinator Rosalind Kia were honored.



Lynnell Mateaki (right) appears with Nani Watanabe of the Maui Independent Living Center at the Abilities Fair on April 30, 2022, at the Queen Ka'ahumanu Center.



Established in 1969, MEO Transportation eliminates mobility barriers for low income and disadvantaged individuals, persons with disabilities, seniors and youths. This vital service improves quality of life, eliminates barriers to employment, prevents youths from participating in risk-taking behaviors and leads to economic security for individuals and families.

MEO operates the specialized Human Services Transportation and Maui Bus Paratransit, both Maui County funded.

Human Services provides door-through-door service to most vulnerable clients and those who live outside Paratransit routes.

Paratransit is the Maui Bus Americans with Disabilities Act service, providing curb-to-curb service for persons with disabilities who live within three-quarters of a mile from the fixed route.

MEO operates everyday from 4 a.m. to 11 p.m. with a fleet of more than 100 vehicles and is a part of the county's Emergency Response Disaster Recovery Team.



COO Gay Sibonga (below) filmed her segment of the video "Public Transportation in Maui County" (screenshot at left) at Akaku Maui Community Media studios on Aug. 17, 2022.

MEO heads creation of transit video

Maui Economic Opportunity led the effort to create the video "Public Transportation in Maui County," which outlined available services.

The video was commissioned by the Maui County Department of Transportation and produced by MEO and Akaku Maui Community Media.

The goals of the video were to outline available services on The Maui Bus, operated by Roberts Hawaii, and MEO's paratransit and Human Services transportation, as well as options provided by Kaunoa Senior Services and Nā Hoaloa.

County Transportation Director Marc Takamori provided



an overview of county-operated bus services and discussed the establishment of routes and fares, the new Kahului transportation hub, bus stops and electric buses. Darren Konno, MDOT Transportation Coordinator, explained the use of personal care assistants and service and companion animals.

MEO CEO Debbie Cabebe narrated the video, offering a history of public transportation in Maui County.

Taping was completed in August with the video released in late September 2022. The video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZeipO9yN4s>.



Sherrilynn Nishikuni

Sherrilynn Nishikuni named Transportation Assistant Director

Sherrilynn Nishikuni was named Assistant Director of Transportation, the No. 2 post in the department.

In her 21 years at MEO Transportation, Nishikuni has driven

buses and served as a dispatcher/reservationist, scheduler/planner and lead reservationist. She was Transportation Office Supervisor, overseeing daily operations, before being promoted to Assistant Director.

By The Numbers: 3,910 individuals utilized specialized transportation, receiving more than 210,208 rides throughout Maui County • 1,333 seniors and persons with disabilities utilized MEO Transportation



Youth Services provides an evidence-based educational curriculum, programs, practices and strategies for prevention of substance abuse and underage drinking, cyberbullying, youth suicide and tobacco use. Programs on Maui and Moloka'i also offer life and career skills training and gender specific programming to compliment the in-school curriculum. The training and evidence-based prevention program covers youths, ages 11 to 17, as well as teachers, parents, families and the community. Staff-run bullying, suicide, drug, alcohol and smoking prevention programs in schools on Maui and Moloka'i, as well as after-school and during fall, winter, spring and summer breaks.

In the spring 2022, Youth Services took its Maui programs to Moloka'i with a grant from the Nuestro Futuro Foundation, which was later supplemented by federal funds and a Maui County suicide grant. The program is called Kāohi.

MEO brings Kāohi to Moloka'i

Youth in the inaugural Maui Economic Opportunity Kāohi program on Moloka'i helped with food distribution and learned about vehicle maintenance, including changing wiper blades and fixing a tire.

MEO Youth Services brought its drugs, alcohol, smoking, bullying and suicide prevention programs to Moloka'i through a \$100,000 grant from the Nuestro Futuro Foundation. The program focuses on intermediate and high school age youth by offering community service, in-school and out-of-school prevention curriculum, life skills and leadership activities, as well as excursions around the island.

Kāohi funding has been supplemented by a \$100,000 federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services grant.

Mela Candelario has been hired as program coordinator.

Activities during the first week of Kāohi from



Saige Dudoit-Hart and Layla Labrado built a castle out of cardboard and presented the gift to MEO Head Start on Moloka'i on June 15, 2022.

June 13-17, 2022, included basic vehicle maintenance, building a cardboard castle for Head Start preschoolers and assisting in the Maui Food Bank distribution at the Moloka'i Veterans Center.

Other activities included a hike to Kalae, an excursion to Lokomaikai Farm, making tie-dye shirts and growing plant starters, as well as sign

making and waving for LGBT Pride Month.

For the summer, Kāohi ran from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of the MEO Moloka'i office, 380 Kolapa Place, Kaunakakai.

When the new school year began, Kāohi offered programs after school, during extended school holidays and some weekends.



Fright Night. About 10 families and 50 youth joined 'Ohana Fright Night at MEO on Oct. 22, 2021. Following county pandemic rules, families clustered in the backs of their trucks to watch the movie "Hocus Pocus."

Suicide prevention. About 20 residents walked from the gym to the library in Kaunakakai to bring awareness to suicide and prevention on July 27, 2022. Later in the day the "Let's Talk Story About Hope, Help and Healing" town hall on suicide prevention at Kalaikamanu Hou Church Hall drew about 60 residents.



By The Numbers: 571 youths avoided risk-taking behaviors

● 968 youths improved mental and physical health, well-being and behavior



Two New Branch Managers

Mahie McPherson named to lead Moloka'i office

Mahie K. McPherson officially took over as Maui Economic Opportunity Moloka'i Manager in late March 2022 and runs a g e n c y operations on the island while serving as liaison to the community and identifying needs.



Mahie McPherson

She replaces longtime manager, Yolanda Reyes, who

retired after 12 years at the helm of MEO Moloka'i.

McPherson joins the nonprofit Community Action agency after a diverse employment background. Prior to joining MEO, she worked at the county Department of Motor Vehicles and Licensing in Kaunakakai for 10 years as a customer service representative.

She spent six years in Kalaupapa as a facilities management clerk with the Kalaupapa National Historical Park and state Department of

Health as business services supervisor and office assistant. Her resume also included stints with Kamehameha Schools Maui high school as administrative coordinator and Parents & Children Together – Family Peace Center as program assistant.

McPherson has Bachelor of Science degrees in Business & Human Resource Management from the University of Phoenix and in Criminal Justice Administration from Central State University. She also

earned an Associate Degree in Human Services from the University of Hawai'i Maui College on Moloka'i.

In the community, she has been an officer and board member of school and parent organizations in Kaunakakai and Kualapu'u elementary schools and a member of the state Commission on the Status of Women.

As Moloka'i Manager, McPherson will direct MEO programs on the island and connect with the community to identify and assess needs.

Rose Jane Ancheta new manager of Lana'i office

Rose Jane Ancheta, a Lana'i High alumna with a long career in health care on the island, has joined Maui Economic Opportunity as Lana'i branch manager. Ancheta



Rose Jane Ancheta

began in the post leading MEO operations on Lana'i in March 2022.

She replaces Kaena Doolin, who moved to Oahu.

Prior to joining MEO, Ancheta worked in the health care field, most recently as a certified clinical medical assistant at Straub Family Health Center in family practice.

She joined Straub in 2015.

Her resume also lists time at Ke Ola Hou O Lana'i and Lana'i Community Health Center and Aiea Vision Clinic and Pacific Cardiology on Oahu in positions including community health care worker /certified nursing assistant, lead medical assistant and medical biller/receptionist.

Ancheta earned an applied

science degree in medical assisting from Heald College on Oahu in 2004 and received certifications as a phlebotomist and nursing assistant.

She graduated from Lana'i High in 2002.

As Lana'i branch manager, Ancheta will manage the Lana'i office and staff of three and administer MEO programs on the island.



Reopens. MEO's Hana Office in the Hana Community Center, reopened Oct. 13, 2022, after being closed for renovations nearly two years ago. The office will have to close again when renovation work continues.

Lana'i Excursion. 13 members of the HSTA Maui County District Club made a day excursion to Lana'i on Sept. 1, 2022, and were transported by MEO Lana'i. Among the places they visited was the Maui Lookout (shown here).





Mayor Richard Bissen leads the singing of “Hawai’i Aloha” at the conclusion of the 37th Volunteer Celebration in the MEO classrooms. About 100 people, including MEO volunteers, board members and staff and government leaders, attended the event. In his talk, Mayor Bissen thanked the volunteers for their compassion. “We partner with a lot of

nonprofit organizations, such as MEO, because we recognize we cannot do all the work in county government,” he said. “The volunteers help to keep the foundation of our community strong.” The Volunteer and Benefactor of the Year were announced at the gathering with lunch prepared by Job Corps.

Volunteer of the Year **Clifford Alakai**

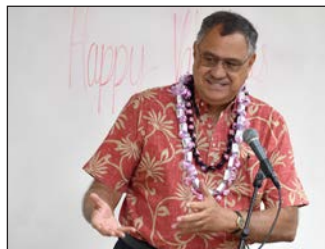
Clifford Alakai has served on the MEO Board since 2006 and has been Treasurer since 2017.

His professional experience includes working for a CPA firm, before joining Maui Medical Group in 1997, where he is the Administrator. He is a certified public accountant.

Cliff brings a wealth of financial experience to the Board. Despite his busy work schedule and other community and family obligations, he is always available to offer his assistance and expertise.

As Treasurer, he chairs the Finance Committee, which reviews budgets, spending and other financial matters critical to the operation and integrity of MEO.

Other examples of his commitment include helping to present financials clearly



Clifford Alakai

and concisely, offering analysis of the audit report, providing guidance/support to management and the Board and assisting to navigate a land issue involving the development of an affordable housing project on MEO land.

Cliff is also a member of the Medical Group Management Association, the Hawaii Society of Certified Public Accountants, Royal Order of Kamehameha I; Hale Mua Initiative, which nurtures Native Hawaiian men.

Benefactor of the Year

Nuestro Futuro Foundation

The high prevalence of alcohol and substance abuse among youth on Moloka’i was on MEO’s radar as a concern needing to be addressed. Then, the Nuestro Futuro Foundation came along with an offer to help.

MEO explained to Executive Director Abigail Perrin that drug and alcohol abuse rates among Native Hawaiian youth are the highest in the state with Moloka’i’s population predominantly Native Hawaiian. The abuse of drugs and alcohol puts youth at risk for unsafe behaviors, such as physical and sexual assault, alcohol-induced accidents and injuries and suicide.

With Youth Services tobacco, alcohol, drug, bullying and suicide prevention programs operating successfully and serving 250 intermediate and



Abigail Perrin, executive director of the Nuestro Futuro Foundation

high school youth on Maui, MEO proposed extending the reach to Moloka’i. The Nuestro Futuro Foundation responded to our proposal with a \$100,000 grant.

Those funds laid the foundation for Kāohi, which means “to prevent,” on Moloka’i. Led by Mela Candelario, the program has been running since spring 2022. With the Nuestro Futuro and federal and county grants, Kāohi is funded for 3 years.

By The Numbers: 481 volunteers performed 1,833.5 hours on Maui, Lāna’i and Moloka’i, saving MEO \$47,000 • 738 individuals improved their knowledge, skills and abilities to improve their conditions and enhance their ability to advocate



Kupuna Advocates honored at Kupuna luncheon

Kupuna Advocate: **Tony Krieg**

Tony Krieg logged more than three decades supporting kupuna at Hale Makua.

He retired from the organization in 2016 after 35 years - with 30 of those years as CEO.

Tony was among those warning of the “Silver Tsunami” as Baby Boomers reached retirement age and the need to make preparations, especially in the area of elderly care. Under his leadership, he saw long-term care evolve from being a nursing home to one that offers both on- and off-site health care services.

During his tenure, services expanded to provide adult day health care, home care and long-term care; the Kahului facility was built; the nursing facility was kept up to date despite reimbursement challenges; small “neighborhoods” were created to give Hale Makua a sense of community instead of being in an institution; and the gap between critical care at Maui Memorial Medical Center and home-based care was filled.



Gov. David Ige enjoyed doing Laughter Yoga.

Candidates mingle with kupuna

More than 40 candidates for state and county offices met about 350 Maui seniors at the 50th Kupuna Aloha Luncheon on July 30, 2022, at the Grand Wailea.

This was the first in-person gathering, sponsored annually by MEO, in two years due to the pandemic.

Eight buses brought in kupuna from around the island including East and West Maui. Gov. David Ige also attended.



MEO Board Member Adele Rugg gave the oli.

Kupuna Advocate: **Mazie Hirono**

U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono ensured that the hard earned benefits and core health care services promised to our seniors remain intact.

She has protected Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid for seniors and helped expand medical services for veterans to the private sector.

Over the years, she has supported struggling families by preserving Hawaii’s pre-paid health care law, teamed up with colleagues across the aisle to protect Native Hawaiian education programs, became a nationally recognized advocate for quality early childhood education, and promoted food and energy sustainability.

She sits on the Senate Armed Services, Veterans Affairs and Judiciary committees and has worked for fairer treatment of immigrants and minority groups and protection of civil rights.



Rep. Troy Hashimoto was among 40 candidates in attendance.



Community Needs Assessment developed

Government, private and nonprofit Maui County leaders and clients and staff of MEO offered their views on top community problems and ways to address them in focus groups organized as part of MEO’s effort to formulate a Community Needs Assessment.

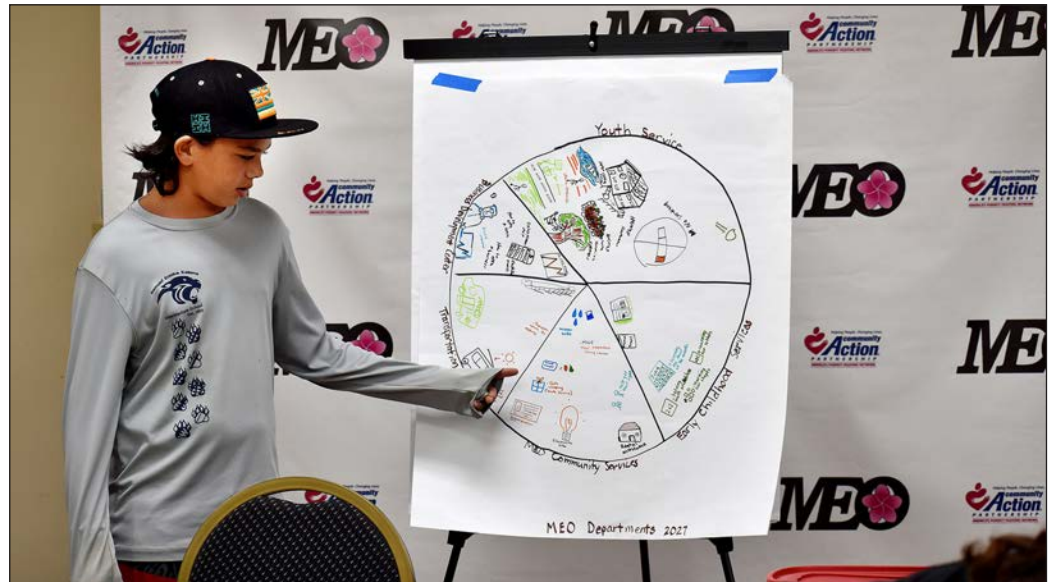
MEO is mandated to commission a Community Needs Assessment every three years. This assessment is used to generate a Community Needs Plan for the Oct. 1, 2023, to Sept. 30, 2026, period.

Under the direction of Dr. Lori Teragawachi and supported by CEO and certified ROMA trainer Debbie Cabebe, MEO disseminated hundreds of surveys countywide and held focus groups and individual interviews to determine the top needs of Maui County.

The Community Needs Assessment was presented to the MEO Board of Directors.

A Community Action Plan will be drafted with MEO aligning its programs to address the top community needs.

Preliminary survey results



Above: Kimokeo Puaa, who is part of MEO Youth Services summer program, presents his group’s views on MEO’s departments on June 16, 2022.

Right: Lori Tshako, Department of Housing and Human Concerns director, and TJ Daya, Boys & Girls Clubs of Maui operations director, discuss Maui Economic Opportunity services on June 17, 2022.

identified top needs as lack of access to basic health care and services for mental illness, disabilities and drugs abuse; homelessness for the sheltered and unsheltered; and a culture of poverty.



MEO’s Better Business Bureau Charity Seal licensing renewed

Maui Economic Opportunity had its Better Business Bureau Charity Seal Licensing renewed through August 2023.

The 57-year-old Maui County nonprofit meets the BBB Standards for Charity Accountability, which “can be a strong influence on donors

when they are making their decisions,” the BBB Wise Giving Alliance said. More than 71 percent of accredited charities participate in the Charity Seal program.

The BBB alliance “believes that both soliciting organizations and the contributing public will

benefit by full and accurate disclosure of all details that a potential donor might need or reasonably wish to have in reaching a decision on where a contribution of time or money should be directed.”

“We value the BBB Charity Seal as further validation that our fiscal practices are

trustworthy,” said MEO CEO Debbie Cabebe. “As a recipient of federal, state, county, foundation and private grants, MEO is regularly audited and employs strict financial controls to ensure that grantors’ money is being spent according to their directives.”



120 rental units to be built at Ke Kahua

The average folk who live in Maui County struggle to pay rents and mortgages that have reached heights never seen before.

As providers of rental assistance, MEO has heard the heart breaking stories. Many residents have been forced to the brink of homelessness or to leave the islands due to the high cost of living - with housing consuming the lion's share of budgets.

MEO has partnered with Hale Mahaolu and Highridge Costa to build the Hale Mahaolu Ke Kahua Affordable Housing Community in Waiehu.

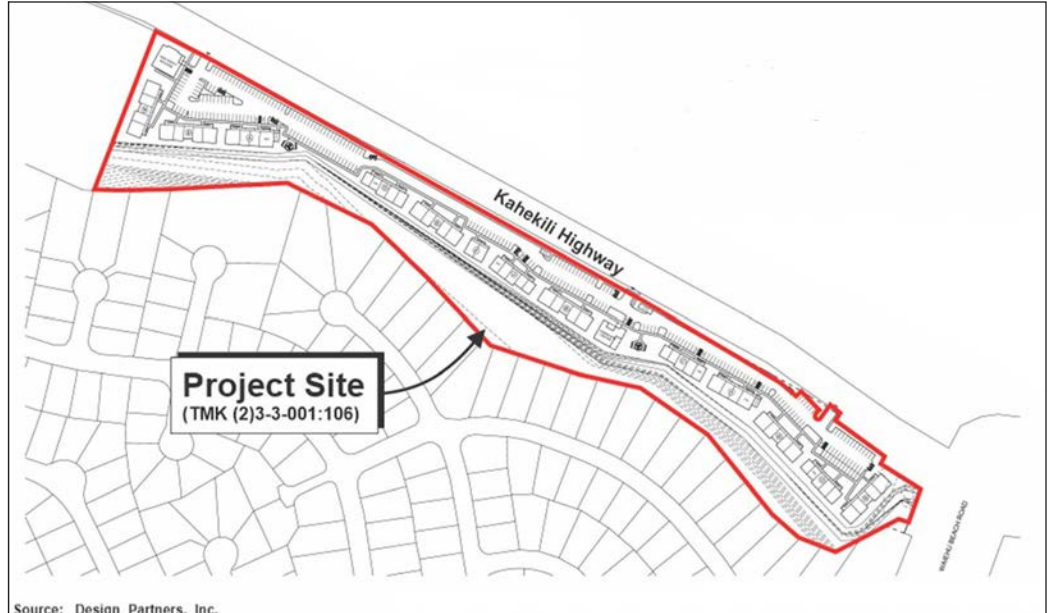
All 120 units are for lower income families - between the 30 percent (\$30,330 for a family of four) and 60 percent (\$60,660) of average area median.

The project is affordable because MEO is offering the 11.5 acres at the corner of Waiehu Beach Road and Kahekili Highway for virtually no cost. MEO is not benefiting financially from the project.

The land was given to MEO in 2005 by Stanford Carr. MEO has attempted several programs at the site through the years but none proved viable.

Turning the site into affordable housing was a win-win - using an asset to help relieve a critical need.

The project will consist of 13 two-story buildings with one, two and three bedroom units; a nonprofit building; a clubhouse; on-site laundry facilities and 274 parking



Source: Design Partners, Inc.

stalls.

Rents and utilities could be as low as \$569 a month depending on income.

The project is currently seeking land use and housing entitlements and lining up funding. If all goes well, the project could begin construction in 2025 with completion in 2026.

There have been a few headwinds. A Native Hawaiian family's claim for the property was turned away by a 2nd Circuit judge and trespassers had to be removed.

"We are pleased to be part of a project that will make a dent in our affordable housing shortage," said CEO Debbie Cabebe. "With families on the edge of homelessness or crowding into homes, this is an opportunity for the community and for us to make the highest and best use of an asset while Helping People. Changing Lives."





From Our Clients . . .

“

I don't like being helped. Normally, I do things on my own my whole life. But I learned to be humble and just accept the help. Take it while I can. It's there for a reason. And so I did! I took the help. I met some good people with good intentions, and I am GRATEFUL for that!

EDDIE RODRIGUES

“

MEO has been a godsend. MEO has been one of the best things to happen to the county of Maui from transportation services to everything they offer, small business help, rental assistance, everything. It's just an awesome, awesome program.

CYNTHIA CATUGAL

“

MEO Inc. is honestly by far the best program for ohana with children who need and want the best education. I am a single working mother of a 4-year-old and the program gave us 'the light' at the most crucial time of our lives.

ABRIDA LAYNE

“

MEO has been an important part of my life because it has helped me connect to my community and fellow youth around the island and also the 'aina. I have been able to do so much for my community while having fun with other kids my age and I love it.

LA'AKEA WELLS



Youth Services

Director Dane Ka'ae works with Moloka'i youth on a suicide prevention activity in April 2022.

Noel Sanchez

of Transportation helps a participant to the Kupuna Aloha Celebration in July 2022.





MEO Gala: Back in-person in style

More than 250 attendees of Maui Economic Opportunity’s “We are ‘Ohana” Gala fundraiser, which included Gov. David Ige, enjoyed a night of Hawaiian music and entertainment by Jeff Peterson and Amy Hānaiali’i and learned about the breadth of the nonprofit agency’s reach.

The amount raised from sponsorships, drawings and live auction at the April 30, 2022, event exceeded goals, said CEO Debbie Cabebe.

“We are so thankful for the generous support of the community,” said Cabebe. “The funds raised will help us fill the gaps between grants and any shortfalls.”

Peterson, a Grammy and Na Hoku Hanohano award winning slack key virtuoso,



ShootingStarMaui photo

Mayor Michael Victorino greets Yaemi Yogi, emcee Kathy Collins.

and Hānaiali’i, a Grammy nominated and Na Hoku winning singer/entertainer, filled the King Kamehameha Golf Club in Waikapu with their music.

Kathy Collins served as emcee, and Rod Antone drove the live auction and Raise the

Paddle giving.

Those in attendance included Ige, who joined MEO’s first Gala in 2018, Mayor Michael Victorino, Maui County Council Chair Alice Lee and MEO Board President Bard Peterson.

Gala Sponsors

- **Sustainer.** Atlas Insurance Agency.
- **Advocate.** Alexander & Baldwin, Inc., Bayer, First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaii Petroleum, Inc., Highridge Costa, ILWU Local 142, Maui Health Foundation, Maui Soda & Ice Works.
- **Supporter.** Aloha Care, Bank of Hawaii, Employers Options, Equitable, Goodfellow Bros, Inc., Hale Mahaolu, Hawaiian Electric, IBEW, Local 1186, Mahi Pono, Service Rentals, Soderholm Sales & Leasing, Torikildson Katz, Hetherington Harris & Knorek.
- **‘Ohana.** Ecolane, Hogan Financial, Maui Economic Development Board, Munekiyo Hiraga, Pacific Media Group, Skog Rasmussen.
- **Venue.** Lloyd and Sharon Sodetani.
- **Donors.** Central Pacific Bank, HEMIC, Marmac Ace Hardware, Whaler Associates.

Contributors to the drawings and silent auction follow:

- Southwest Airlines, California Hotel & Casino, Hana Maui Resort, Four Seasons Resort Maui, Ko Restaurant, The Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua, Cane & Canoe, Alii Kula Lavender, Flatbread Pizza Co., Gazebo Restaurant, Island Art Party, Joel’s Food Truck, Ka’anapali Beach Hotel, Ka’anapali Golf Courses, Leoda’s Pie Shop, Mama’s Fish House, Maui Dive Shop/Alii Nui, Maui Golf & Sports Shop, Maui Jim Sunglasses; Maui Specialty Chocolates, Monkeypod Kitchen, The Old Lahaina Luau, Roy’s Ka’anapali, Star Noodle, The Maui Cookie Lady, Tin Roof, Wailea Golf Club and Ka Uakea Legacy.



ShootingStarMaui photo

Amy Hānaiali’i and Jeff Peterson headlined the MEO Gala held at the King Kamehameha Golf Club.



Grants That Fund MEO

County of Maui

- Transportation – Human Services
- Transportation – ADA Paratransit
- Transportation – Vehicle Replacement
- Head Start Afterschool and Summer Programs
- Kahi Kamalii Infant Toddler Center
- Youth Services
- Underage Drinking Prevention Services
- Rental Assistance Program (RAP)
- Enlace Hispano
- Being Empowered and Safe Together Reintegration (BEST)
- Planning and Coordinating Council Senior Coordinator
- Maui Independent Living Center Program
- Senior Fair
- Project Graduation
- Business Development Center Microenterprise Program
- Agricultural Micro Grants Program
- Business Development Center Core Four Scholarships

State of Hawai'i

- CIP Transit Maintenance Shop
- Impact Grant for Community Based Profiles
- Employment Services for Low Income Persons and Legally Permanent Residents
- Senior Farmer's Market Nutrition Program - SOH funds
- OHA Ai Hua Farmer's Market Nutrition Program

Federal (Including State/County/ Foundation Pass Thru)

- Head Start – Federal
- Head Start – Federal COVID CRRSA
- Head Start – Federal American Rescue Plan
- Childcare Stabilization Fund
- USDA Child Nutrition Program
- USDA Child Nutrition Program – Emergency Operational Cost Reimbursement Program
- Community Services Block Grant
- Community Services Block Grant – CARES Act
- Community Services Regional Performance and Innovation Consortium
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)



Andrew Zehr from Makana Aina Farm is working on his new water catchment system, purchased with a Maui County Agricultural Micro Grant, which was administered by MEO BDC.



Jaymarvin Bautista, a junior at Maui High School, picks up cigarette butts on Nov. 17, 2021, at the Kahului Harbor Breakwater as part of an MEO Youth Services activity connected to the Great American Smokeout.

- Community Development Block Grant Rental/Mortgage Assistance Program

Private Foundations

- Agape Lanai Microloan Fund
- AT&T Foundation
- Bayer Ohana Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Bayer Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- Botton Foundation
- Nuestro Futuro Foundation – Moloka'i Youth Services Kāohi Prevention Program

Other

- Weatherization Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP)
- Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program
- National Farmworker Jobs Program
- Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP)
- Maui Emergency Rental Assistance Program (Catholic Charities CARES Act)

- Construction Industry of Maui
- Head Start Federal – In-kind
- Hawaii Energy
- Maui Homeless Alliance
- Maui Senior Planning & Coordinating Council
- MEO Transportation
- Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) In-kind



Fiscal Summary *(October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2022)*

Revenue by Source

County of Maui grants	\$11,800,096	62.25%
Federal grants	5,826,840	30.74%
Net assets released from donor restrictions	510,706	2.69%
In-kind contributions	371,219	1.96%
Investment Income (loss) - net	(304,692)	-1.61%
Private foundation grants and other contributions	216,458	1.14%
Program Income	178,182	0.94%
State of Hawaii grants	133,769	0.71%
Fundraising (net)	84,741	0.45%
Rent Revenue	77,274	0.41%
Other income	62,368	0.33%
Total	\$18,956,961	100.00%

Expenditure by Service

Transportation	\$9,659,338	48.25%
Early Childhood Services	2,917,364	14.57%
Management and General	1,949,465	9.74%
Economic Development	1,805,193	9.02%
Crisis and Emergency Assistance	1,467,525	7.33%
Employment and Training	488,765	2.44%
Other Federal Programs	448,134	2.24%
Reintegration	428,950	2.14%
Youth Programs	301,581	1.51%
Other County Programs	197,346	0.99%
Special Projects	135,054	0.67%
Weatherization Assistance Program	106,152	0.53%
Enlace Hispano Program	81,701	0.41%
Fundraising	31,230	0.16%
Total	\$20,017,798	100.00%

Expenditure by Function

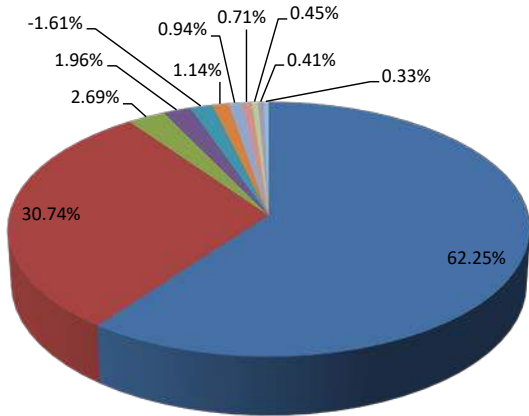
Program Services	\$18,037,103	90.11%
Fundraising	31,230	0.16%
Management and General	1,949,465	9.74%
Total	\$20,017,798	100.00%

Summary

Revenue	\$18,956,691
Expenditures	(20,017,798)
Increase(Decrease) in Net Assets Without Donor Restrictions	(\$1,061,107)
Increase(Decrease) in Net Assets With Donor Restrictions	9,365
Decrease in Net Assets	(\$1,051,742)
Net Assets Beginning of Year	28,196,564
Net Assets End of Year	\$27,144,822



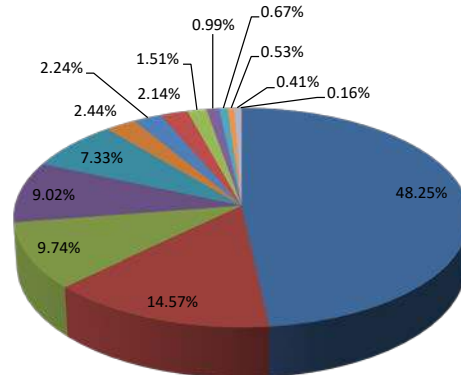
Revenue by Source



- County of Maui grants - \$11,800,096
- Federal grants - \$5,826,840
- Net assets released from donor restrictions - \$510,706
- In-kind contributions - \$371,219
- Investment Income (loss) - net - (\$304,692)
- Private foundation grants and other contributions - \$216,458
- Program Income - \$178,182
- State of Hawaii grants - \$133,769
- Fundraising (net) - \$84,741
- Rent Revenue - \$77,274
- Other income - \$62,368

Total - \$18,956,961

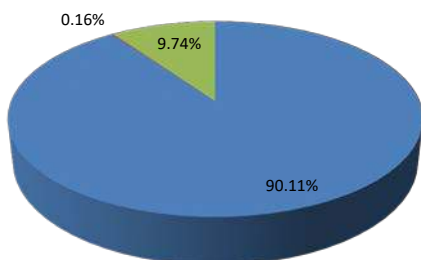
Expenditure by Service



- Transportation - \$9,659,338
- Early Childhood Services - \$2,917,364
- Management and General - \$1,949,465
- Economic Development - \$1,805,193
- Crisis and Emergency Assistance - \$1,467,525
- Employment and Training - \$488,765
- Other Federal Programs - \$448,134
- Reintegration - \$428,950
- Youth Programs - \$301,581
- Other County Programs - \$197,346
- Special Projects - \$135,054
- Weatherization Assistance Program \$106,152
- Enlace Hispano Program - \$81,701
- Fundraising - \$31,230

Total - \$20,017,798

Expenditure by Function



- Program Services - \$18,037,103
- Fundraising - \$31,230
- Management and General - \$1,949,465

Total - 20,017,798



PHONE NUMBERS

MEO Family Center	(808) 249-2990	Youth Services.....	(808) 243-4315
Business Development Center	(808) 243-4318	Hana Office.....	(808) 248-8282
Community Services	(808) 249-2970	Kahi Kamali'i	(808) 249-2001
Early Childhood Services.....	(808) 249-2988	Lana'i Office.....	(808) 565-6665
Human Resources	(808) 249-2990	Moloka'i Office.....	(808) 553-3216
Fiscal	(808) 249-2980	Transportation	(808) 877-7651

LOCATIONS AND MAILING ADDRESSES

MEO Family Center

99 Mahalani St.
 Wailuku, HI 96793
 Mailing:
 P.O. Box 2122
 Kahului, HI 96733

**Kahi Kamali'i Infant
 Toddler Center**

97 Mahalani St.
 Wailuku, HI 96793

**Transportation
 Department**

3957 Hansen Road
 Puunene, HI 96784

Lana'i Office

1144 Ilima Ave., #102
 Lanai City, HI 96763
 Mailing:
 PO Box 630068
 Lanai City, HI 96763

Moloka'i Office

380 Kolapa Place
 Kaunakakai, HI 96748
 Mailing:
 P.O. Box 667
 Kaunakakai, HI 96748

Hana Office

1501 Uakea Road
 Hana, HI 96713

