

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 3, 2024

**Online Only via Teams
Council Chamber, 8th Floor**

CONVENE: 9:17 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair (In 10:53 a.m.; Out 2:55 p.m.)
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (Out 2:42 p.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: James Krueger, Senior Committee Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Committee Analyst (back up)
Jarret Pascual, Committee Analyst
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
Yvette Bouthillier, Senior Committee Secretary
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Additional staff

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tom Cook:

Jared Agtunong
Stacy Takahashi

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:
Axel Beers

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tasha Kama:
Davideane Kama-Sickels
Nayleen Kamai
Evan Dust

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tamara Paltin:
Angela Lucero

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Executive Assistants for Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez:

Sarah Sexton

Haunani Madela

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:

Dawn Lono

Gina Young

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura:

Michele Yoshimura

Jordan Helle

Jennifer Matsumoto

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins:

Laura McDowell

Susan Clements

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office

Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lanai Residency Area Office

Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office

ADMIN.:

Lesley Milner, Acting Budget Director, Office of the Mayor

Patrick McCall, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

Shane Dudoit, Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation

Roxanne Pasalo, Administrative Officer, Department of Parks and Recreation

Samual Marvel, Chief of Planning and Development, Department of Parks and Recreation

David Yamashita, Planner VI, Department of Parks and Recreation

Mary Kielty, Chief of Recreation, Department of Parks and Recreation

Karla Peters, Maintenance Superintendent, Department of Parks and Recreation

Lisa Almeida, Parks Permit Officer, Permit Enforcement Section, Department of Parks and Recreation

Marc Takamori, Director, Department of Transportation

Kauano Batangan, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation

Rogerene "Kali" Arce, Director, Department of Agriculture

Koa Hewahewa, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture

David Nakama, Grant Coordinator, Department of Agriculture

Jeffery Jurickovich, Agriculture Park Maintenance Specialist, Department of Agriculture

Lauren Nelson, Food Access Coordinator, Department of Agriculture

Kaiea Medeiros, Agriculture Advocate, Department of Agriculture

Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the

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Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: JD Wyatt, Executive Director, Ka Lima O Maui
Patty Copperfield, Transportation Director, MEO
Patrick Saka, Controller, Ka Lima O Maui
Michael Kahahane, Director of Operations, Ka Lima O Maui
Chad Espiritu, Ka Lima O Maui
Andrew Hosaka, Ka Lima O Maui
Kepano Panela, Ka Lima O Maui
Margie Kopito, Ka Lima O Maui
Bobbie Kanuha, Ka Lima O Maui
Others (12)

Personnel Resources

David Daly, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.

PRESS: Akaku: Maui Community Television, Inc.

**ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI** (BILL 60 (2024), BILL 61 (2024), BILL 62
(2024), BILL 63 (2024), BILL 64 (2024), and RESOLUTION 24-66)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 9:17. Sorry for the delay. Today is April 3rd, our third day of deliberations as we review the Fiscal Year '25 Budget from the Mayor for the County of Maui. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura. I am the Budget Chair, and wanted to welcome you and know that this meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. And any of you that are not in the Chambers, when you do call your name...when your name is called, please announce if there's anybody in the vehicle/workspace with you today, and minors do not need to be identified. So, I'm going to...let's see, Vice-Chair Kama will be arriving about 10:30. Member Cook, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Oh, we got to get from Chair Lee what our greeting is. Good morning. Good morning, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning. And the day...the day is...the word is hoi and it's from the country, the smallest country in Europe, Liechtenstein. Liechtenstein is the country, and the word is hoi. So, when they come to Maui, you go hui, hoi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hui, hoi. All right.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm here alone in my workspace. No one's here with me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Hoi --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hoi.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office. And I'm here and ready to work. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hoi, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hoi. Aloha kakahiaka kakou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kakou. There are no testifiers currently at the Molokaʻi District Office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Uʻu-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU HODGINS: Hoi, everyone. Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, Chair. And hey and hoi. I'm here at my home office, and there's no testifiers...I'm by myself, and no testifiers in Hāna, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're in your home office? Is that what you said?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. When we were in Hāna --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Members, we got to see his office when he's at the Cultural Center, and he's in the middle of the Cultural Center with a desk. I should have taken a picture. It's amazing, right. He always has the most beautiful backgrounds, his virtual backgrounds, but he is squished in the middle of two rows of artifacts, I think. But thank you for your dedication, and thank you for opening that on Monday so Member...Members got to see it. From the Office of

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the Mayor, welcome, Lesley Milner, Acting Budget Director. Department of Parks and Recreation we have everybody in force. Patrick McCall, our Director. I think I saw him. Good morning. Good morning. Shane Dudoit, our Deputy Director. Thanks. I see him driving around checking out places early in the morning. You're working so hard. Admin Officer Roxanne is...oh, she doesn't have to come down here. And Sam Marvel--I love your name--Chief of Planning and Development. Mary Kielty, Chief of Recreation. Karla Peters, Maintenance Super. Oh, she's not here today? Oh, okay. Lisa Almeida, who we speak to often, Parks Permit. It's nice to see you here. Department of Transportation who will be joining us or maybe in the Chambers is Marc Takamori, Director; Kauanoe Batangan, Deputy Director. Department of Agriculture, Arce...Kali Arce, Director; Koa Hewahewa, Deputy Director. Department of Corporation, Kristina Toshikiyo. And our amazing Staff, we have from the Office of Council Services Yvette Bouthillier, Committee Secretary. Thank you, Yvette. James and Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Committee Analysts. Jarret and Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analysts, who been working side by side and very hard to get us through this budget. Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney; Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney; and Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk. On the last page of the agenda is information on the meeting on connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED meeting. And before I go into our agenda, which is one item, BFED-1, I wanted to ask if Member U'u-Hodgins could just do a brief review of our last night...our...our meeting that we had in Pā'ia.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Before I give the brief overview, I would like to thank everybody for coming. I think it makes a big difference in hearing from our community in their own space, and sometimes, you know, people feel more comfortable doing so there. Sometimes we feel a little bit too comfortable as we saw last night, but I do appreciate everybody's patience. So, anyway, on to the summary. We had a great turnout from the community last night. We heard over 45 residents testified last night at Pā'ia-Makawao-Ha'ikū residency area Budget meeting. Residents, Mama's Fish House staff, the Ha'ikū Community Association, and the Maui Fire Department expressed concerns regarding Holomua Road, which has become a significant wildfire risk. The Pā'ia Merchants Association requested support for Pā'ia Town, which has been inundated with tourists, unsheltered, and increased criminal activity. Residents expressed support and continued for the funding of Pā'ia Clean and Safe Program. They ask for additional foot patrol by MPD and would like traffic and parking surveys to be done to help address the congestion in Pā'ia Town. Testifiers also discussed toxic dumping, wastelands at Cut Mountain, and the need for an open space management plan to care for our County-owned parcels. Malama Hamakua requested additional funding to continue maintenance of the Hamakualoa Open

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Space Preserve. Additionally, we heard widespread and passionate support for social services, including MEO Head Start Program, Maui Behavioral Health Services, Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center, environmental efforts such as eradicating coqui frogs, and especially preserving and purchasing open space at the Pauwela Lighthouse across the Ha'ikū Community Center. We also heard from Captain Fukuda and Captain Smith of the Maui Fire Department, and they summed up the community's sentiments by reciting the Fire Department's mission to protect and preserve life, environment, and property. We had a resident show up and speak out in support of funds to protect our community. We also heard one testifier talk about the request for Ho'okipa dawn patrol, which later in talking to your Staff I found out that the gates are open at 5:30, so dawn patrol is available for those people if they choose to do so. I do also want to recognize that the men who helped us shut down last night were there until about 10:00 last night, and they are the same people to open up the gates at 5:30 in the morning, so they have a long day, and we appreciate those Staff members a lot. Anyway, thank you so much. That is the summary. I appreciate you guys again. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good job. That was...my list was 52 testifiers. I don't know what the...the Staff had, but it was very, very well attended. I think Keani mentioned that in your...or last year it wasn't as packed.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, it was very different. But appreciate all of your attendance. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I...I just had a question, clarification for Member U'u-Hodgins. I thought that the lady that testified about the gates was saying that Surfrider paid for that to open at 5:30 and what they wanted was to stop Surfrider paying for that. Is that...is it the Parks that are paying for the early opening now?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: I think so.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: I think the...the head's nodding. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Perfect. So, we did that already.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Yeah, we did that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Check. But I...I believe that when this first came up when all of us were getting email messages, parents were saying my kids want to go

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and surf and they can't go because the gate's locked there and, you know, that kind of stuff, and Surfrider stepped in and then eventually Parks took over. So, thank you for solving that problem. Okay. So, Members, as you know, we have one item on our agenda, which is the Mayor's Proposed Fiscal Year '25 Budget for the County of Maui. And we're continue...continuing on with our deliberations for this budget and we'll begin with a presentation from the Department of Parks and Recreation, then go to Transportation and...and Agriculture, followed by public testimony. And then we'll take questions from the Councilmembers for each department. And we plan to adjourn at 4:00 so we can then head off to a 6:00 Budget meeting in Upcountry at the Hannibal Tavares Community Center. So, Members, at this time then I would like to remind everybody that we would like to, you know, end this meeting at 4:00. So, if...if we're not finished by that time, then we can take questions from the Members. So, as a reminder to you, if any of you had questions from yesterday's meeting, it's due at 9:00 this morning to staff.bfed@mauicounty.us, and that will be sent off to the departments that we have met...we met with yesterday. And right now, I'd like to welcome Director McCall and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Thank you very much for being with us. Maybe you can introduce your team, Director.

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

MR. MCCALL: Thank you, Chair Sugimura. I did...yes, we...I do want to point out we missed one person in introduction, and that is our Master Planner --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry.

MR. MCCALL: -- David Yamashita --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's my friend too.

MR. MCCALL: -- who's here. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry, David.

MR. MCCALL: We...I guess we didn't plan to have him here, I'm not sure. But of course, we're...we also have our Deputy Shane Dudoit; Mr. Sam Marvel the head of our Planning and Development Division; Ms. Lisa Almeida, the head of our Permits and Enforcement Section; and our Recreation Chief Miss...Ms. Mary Keilty. In the gallery we do have our Administrative Officer, Roxanne Pasalo. And we plan to start today with a presentation by Deputy Dudoit.

MR. DUDOIT: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Councilmember Sinenci, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins, Councilmember Tom Cook, Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Council Chair

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Alice Lee, and Councilmember Tasha Kama, who's not with us yet. I'd like to start off by thanking you guys and helping us through this process. Last year was a very rough year for everyone, and I thank you for being patient with us. I feel that we can do this together and we can move Maui forward together. And we strive to do that through your recommendations as well as the Mayor's Budget. Let's start with our overview. So, our Department of Parks and Recreation of the County's numerous parks, recreation areas, and recreational service programs for the residents of Maui County. The Department also coordinates with other County departments on enforcement of rules and regulations for Parks and Recreation facilities and their use and Countywide beautification. Here we have the bald and the beautiful. We have our Administration Program, we have our Maintenance Division, we have our Recreation and Support Services Program, we have a Planning and Development Division, and we have a Permits and Enforcement Section. Under our operations we have our Administration Program, which consists of our Administrative Office, Safety and Training Section, Grants Management Section, and our Master Planner. In our Maintenance Division we have our Administration Staff, Beautification, Construction/Maintenance, the Waiehu Municipal Golf Course, our Recreation and Support Services Division. We have an Administrative Staff. We have our PALS session...Section, our Pool Section, and we have all our district supervisors. In Planning and Development Division we have our Admin Staff and we have our CIP. And in our Permits and Enforcement Section, we have our Administration Staff and we have our park security officers. A quick overview of our Department. We have 427 community ambassadors, 344 civil service. We have 28 part-time employees...ambassadors, 316 full-time community ambassadors, and currently we have 83 vacancies, which is approximately 19 percent. We do have over 2,500 acres of developed park land, 130 playing fields, 22 community centers, 10 gymnasiums, 22 playgrounds, 3 campsites, 24 beach parks, 8 swimming pools, 31 outdoor courts, 47 tennis courts, 6 skate parks, a municipal golf course, and approximately 315 acres of newly acquired land. Budget summary for FY '25, is our Administration Program is at 8 percent with \$3,468,069. Our Maintenance at 20 percent, a little over 8-1/2 million. Our Recreation and Support Services a little over 30 million, and our total being about \$43 million. In your *(audio interference)* you asked for certain things; here are our vacancies in each program, division, or section. In Administration we have five vacancies at the 35 percent vacancy rate. In our Maintenance Division we have 12 vacancies, 16 percent vacancy rate. In our Planning and Development Division, we have three vacancies, which is a 43 percent vacancy rate. In our Rec and Support Services, we have 45 vacancies, 16 percent vacancy rate, and in our Permits Division we have 19 vacancies, 61 percent vacancy rate. Next, we have our capital improvement projects. Would you like me to go through all of them? Okay. Pages of them. So, feel free to reach out to us, we'll send it to you. I mean you can have a copy of this presentation at...as it has been sent to the BFED Committee. As far as grants go...yeah, I got to go next slide. I'm the one pushing the button. Funded Grant County Subsidy Program. We fund two

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grants totaling \$236,000. We lease property and right-of-entry grants we award. We have 30 lease property grantees and seven extended-term right-of-entry grantees. We...our pending lease and right-of-entry grants, we have three pending lease applications and four extended-term right-of-entry applications that are pending. We lease property awarded to the County, and that's ten lease property agreements for us by private entities. Our rates and fees. We are asking or requesting a \$1 increase per fee type for the green fees, excluding the student rate. Estimated increase in revenue is \$73,000. This is based on the last two fiscal year averages of total rounds of golf. I do play golf quite often at Waiehu and talk to those that play golf there, and none of them have told me that they wouldn't support a \$1 increase. They enjoy playing on the course; it's very beautiful. It's one of the most manicured golf courses on the island of Maui. And at the rate they are playing at, they are privileged to be there. This increase is being requested as the golf course has seen an increase in the cost of utilities, operational supplies, ground maintenance equipment, materials and parts needed to repair an aging fleet. Next slide. Revolving funds, as I won't read this word for word, but we do have two revolving funds. One is the Ocean and Recreational Activity Fund established by the Maui County Code. This is also referred to as CORA. And it is used for salaries, the purchase of equipment, maintenance of County property. Expenditures from the fund shall be through appropriation set forth in Appendix A2 of the annual budget ordinance. We also...there's also an additional fund established of the Maui County Code. This fund is entitled the Maui Interscholastic League Fund, and the stated purpose is to provide grants to County high school participating in the Maui Interscholastic League for sports-related travel expenses and sporting events. All fees paid to the Department for Hawai'i high school athletic events are deposited into the fund. And I'll end with our wildfire impacts. The impacts of the wildfire were profound, from daily operations immediately following the fires to the multiple cancellations and rescheduling, problem solving, and adjusting for facilities and calendars to meet the immediate demands of shelters and distribution centers. Staff were involved in all aspects physically, emotionally, and mentally. Crisis and post-trauma counselors are needed for those who were there on the days of the events, and some of our employees have sought [sic] that out already. And for those who continue on for Lāhainā, the toll mentally has been very significant. The loss of the West Maui facilities due to fire devastation and repurposing for disaster recovery has had a significant impact. Parks' properties are proven to provide a source of mental and physical wellness for members of surrounding communities. It must be a priority to restore any surviving facilities into a safe space for all community members to find solace and healing in the months and years to come. It would be thoughtless of me to not recognize all our employees that stepped up on August 8th to open shelters, to take in donations, to move donations without being told what to do. Our employees were superb in providing a service to the entire County of Maui on that day. Also, HFA (ph.) and their shipping and the coordinating of shipping and moving donations from the harbor to the shelters, to Lāhainā, and all of that was coordinated through our Parks'

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personnel from your PC-1, your nighttime, part-time guy to your Director, Deputy Director, chief management. Everyone stepped up to provide what we think and what we believe is a critical service and something that we are proud of, and I ask you to be proud of that as well. I know we're going to go through this budget and things are going to be said and things are going to be not, but believe me, our employees are very passionate about what they do. And I thank you guys for your time. And let's go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well done. Thank you very much, Deputy Director.

MR. DUDOIT: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And so, we're going to actually hear from the other departments, and they do their presentations before we go into public testimony. So, I'm going to call a short recess so we change out. James, do we have anybody here or is everybody doing it virtually?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're calling them. Are they coming?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I'm...what I'm going to do is I'm going to call a...call a recess to 4:43 until we get everybody here. How fast? You said couple minutes?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, 4:45...9:45. 9:45. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 9:41 a.m.

RECONVENE: 9:48 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . *(audio interference)* Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 9:48, and we will be taking up Department of Transportation, and they are doing it virtually.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we have Director Takamori, Marc Takamori and Deputy Director Batangan. I think Pam Eaton from MPO is also listening in. Director, please do your opening remarks.

MR. TAKAMORI: Good morning, Budget Chair --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- and Committee Members. Thank you. I'm Marc Takamori. I am the Director for the County of Maui Transportation Department, and with me is my Deputy Kauanoe Batangan. We apologize, we...we were thinking we were going to be going up after Parks after discussion, so we are still in Kahului. We didn't have the...I guess within five minutes we wouldn't be able to make it up to the...the County Building from Kahului Service Center. So, again, apologies. We'll be there in person when it comes to our, I guess, our time for questions. So, we will see you in person then. Kauanoe will be doing the PowerPoint presentation, so I...so for us, will the Council Staff be sharing the presentation or do you need us to share it from our side?

MR. KRUEGER: Whatever your preference is. We can do either.

MR. TAKAMORI: Okay. If you have the PowerPoint, then maybe it's best to have you share it, and then Kauanoe will just let you know when to go to the next slide.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . in Granicus, presentation?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Okay. Thank you.

MR. BATANGAN: All right. Aloha kakahiaka kakou, Chair, Members of the Committee, and general public. My name is Kauanoe Batangan, Deputy Director of Transportation for the County of Maui. Can I ask for the next slide, please?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, there's a bit of a delay, Kauanoe.

MR. BATANGAN: Okay. Understood. Thank you. So, the Department of Transportation's responsibilities are set forth in the Charter and date back to the Department's creation in 2002. Those responsibilities are listed in here. They are planning and implementation of all modes of transportation in Maui County, including those in the air, land and water. Planning and development...or and developing an efficient program to facilitate the rapid, safe, and economical movement of people and goods in Maui County, and coordinating Maui County's transportation programs with other County departments and with State agencies and the Federal Government. Okay. Next slide, please. This is our organizational chart. We are responsible for six programs. The Maui Bus Fixed Route, Maui Bus ADA Paratransit, Maui Bus Commuter, Air Ambulance, Human Services Transportation, and Park Maui programs. Additionally, we are administratively tied to the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization, or Maui MPO, which is responsible for facilitating the planning of Federally funded or regionally-significant transportation systems on Maui. Next slide, please. Our

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Department's budget is broken down into three funding sources, the General Fund, the Highway Fund, and grant revenue. The General Fund covers our Administration Program, the Human Service Transportation Program, the Air Ambulance Program, and the Park Maui Program. The Highway Fund covers the Maui Bis Fixed Route, ADA Paratransit, and commuter services, as well as any matching funds necessary for the County to secure outside grants. Lastly, we have grant revenue, which are the grants that we secure from outside of the County. Next slide, please. With regards to the General Fund, our Administration Program funds our salaries and our office admin operations. The increase in our salaries and wages is largely attributed to the proposed expansion position, which is our Grant Specialist. There are also increases due to step movements and increases pursuant to collective bargaining agreements or directives from the Salary Commission. The General Fund account covers all grants awarded by our Department, which goes towards our Human Service Program, the Air Ambulance Program, and the MEO Bus Replacement Program. Within the Administration Program's operations budget shown here, are funds for MEO to purchase one 24-passenger accessible bus for use on the island of Moloka'i. With regard to the staffing, the Department is currently allocated 11 E/Ps but currently has only eight employees. We have three open positions; two are in active recruitment with scheduled interviews, and one was just finalized by DPS and recently posted for open recruitment. The Department is requesting one additional E/P, again, to assist with grants. Next slide, please. As previously mentioned, there are two main grants the Department administers, Human Service Transportation Program and the Air Ambulance Program. The Human Service Transportation Program includes services for seniors...senior services, senior nutrition, Maui Adult Daycare, youth...youth transportation, rural shuttles, and dialysis. The 3.7 percent requested increase will allow for MEO to cover increased Staff salaries and fringe benefits. For the Air Ambulance Program, the Department provides a grant to the State Department of Health for the air ambulance services. Next slide, please. The final program covered by the General Fund is Park Maui. These funds will cover contracts for our Parking Operator, parking management systems, signage, and other operating expenses. With the Wailuku garage now open, rates and fees have been transmitted to the Council for Wailuku Town only. Please note that the Department would like to request one amendment to the proposed rates and fees, and that is to remove the language requiring residents to scan a valid Hawai'i driver's license at a kiosk in order to receive two hours of free parking in the garage. After the August 8th wildfires we held off on purchasing the scanners and will instead utilize our parking attendants to verify eligibility for these two free hours. Next slide, please. The Highway Fund supports the Maui Bus Fixed Route, ADA Paratransit, and Commuter Services, as well as matching funds necessary for the County to secure outside grants. These grants include bus and bus-related equipment and Maui MPO funds. Also included in the Public Transit Program are our bus stop and maintenance funds, which includes a contract for shelter pressure washing on a monthly basis and trash removal three times weekly from each sheltered

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stop. Next slide, please. Oh. Grant revenue funds are allocated for the different type of Federal funds expected from the Federal Transit Administration and for the Maui MPO. Grant revenue includes FT discretionary and competitive grants, Congressional discretionary funds, and other transportation grants. The increase in grant revenues are directly tied to the Maui MPO funding requests. There are currently two grant-revenue-funded E/P positions that fall under this, and they are the Maui MPO Executive Director and Staff member. They are administratively tied to our Department. There are no current vacant positions, though the MPO is requesting two additional E/Ps this next year. Next slide, please. For capital improvement projects in FY '24, the Department is requesting...sorry, FY '25, the Department is requesting continued funding for the bus stops and shelter project and for transportation baseyard project. The Department continues to plan and construct bus stop shelter improvements at higher-ridership stops and based on community feedback. Improvements are also considered as long as there is adequate right-of-way space to handle the installation of a shelter. The Department has secured land for a future Transportation baseyard in Central Maui, and these funds will support the planning and design efforts for the project. The Department will in the future be applying for Federal funds for construction of the project itself. And the next slide, which I believe is the last one. Okay. Yeah. So, that concludes our presentation. We're happy to answer questions now or be available when you guys deliberate afterwards.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much *(audio interference)* Batangan and Mr. Takamori. We're going to hear from the Department of Agriculture and then call the departments back after we hear testimony, and then we'll have questions from the Members. And do we have Department of Ag here?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, we're waiting for Department of Ag. Okay. Thank you very much, Marc and Kauano. Well done.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. We'll see you soon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we'll see you soon. We'll call you back.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Members...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, I have a question. Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Oh, in person. Member Rawlins-Fernandez? And I didn't see you. Go ahead.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's okay. A suggestion for your consideration, for the Committee's consideration. Tomorrow we're going to be taking up four departments. I...I think it's a better use of the departments' and, you know, their teams' time to present virtually like the Department of Transportation just did. And then after we close public testimony, then we invite them to join us in person so that, you know, we're...we're allowing them to utilize their time as best they can since we don't need the entire team here in person like Parks, you know, so generously did this morning and then has to sit in the gallery until we finish hearing from the other two departments and public testimony. So, for everyone's consideration. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, I'm open to that. I really appreciate Parks to be here in person. I always say, as you know, to be in person is way better as far as being able to have contact with the Members and getting questions answered. So, yeah, I'm open to that. Yeah. I will let you know tomorrow and hear from I think Director Arce. Members, are you okay with that? Thumbs-up? Yeah? Okay.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is Koa here with you? You have...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. You want to give it to our Staff?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thanks for being here. Sitting up...setting up. Members, for your information, Department of Agriculture initial letter and responses are number 8 in Granicus. Department questions and answers are number 58. And, also, page references for our budget bill for 2020 is operations, pages 2 to 3 as well as Appendix B Rates and Fees, Appendix B, page 3. Welcome, Director. Thank you for being here in person.

MS. ARCE: Aloha. Good morning, everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MS. ARCE: Apologies for the delay. We had miscommunication. Okay. It's just myself. Koa might be coming in. So, thank you for bearing with us. The Department's mission is set forth in the Charter to provide advocacy and reduce regulatory barriers on all matters that relate to agriculture. The responsibilities listed here I'll summarize. Develop a sustainable regional agriculture system, increase agricultural opportunities, ensuring locally grown agricultural products, promote

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natural resource generation and protection, promote sustainable farms of agriculture. The Department's organizational chart reflects 10 employees that have been established (*audio interference*) the 12 that we were allocated. We will be recruiting for the 11th position soon, which is being established in the Department of Personnel Services. The Department of Agriculture's budget is divided up as salaries, agricultural operations, and agriculture equipment. The salary increases are pursuant to collective bargaining units. Sorry. And you'll also see on the lower bar the 12 allocated positions. We established six positions...we started with six positions in the Fiscal Year '24, and I've established four positions this fiscal year working on one and potentially two more, so a total of one position and two half-time, so total of three positions. We have our Deputy Director Koa Hewahewa joining me. Within the (*audio interference*) operations budget is the funding for the Department's grant program. The grants budget will support the following award categories that will be...that will provide competitive grant funding to the farming, ranching, value-added projects, and to agro businesses. The Department leads the CRB Working Group for Maui County which includes Department of Environmental Management and Mayor's Office, along with partner State and non-governmental agencies. Together with Department of Environmental Management, . . . (*inaudible*). . . and Hawai'i Department of Ag, \$200,000 grant proposal, which will be awarded to the County green waste...to the County Department of Environmental Management for a green waste hauling project from Central Maui to be processed into compost at the landfill. Central Maui will lead both the project and manage funds, and this funding is expected this fiscal year but may likely not be received until next fiscal year. And just to elaborate on the relationship with the green waste is to...as a source of mitigating the CRB spread, which CRB likes to use compost for breeding areas. The booster pump relocation project will make improvements to the service lines for water to be transmitted to the new Kula Ag Park. The plans and specs are 95 percent complete and awaiting Department of Water Supply to comment. And the final bid documents are being prepared, and we can go more into that later in the questions if there are any. The Upper Maui Park expansion is still ongoing, and also, we'll talk more about that if there's relative questions in the second part of our...of our meeting here. This is our contact information. And thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Deputy Director, you want to say anything?

MR. HEWAHEWA: Just mahalo. I had a lot to say previous, so sorry for being late. I was in a recovery meeting before this. But mahalo for all your guys' time, creating space. And this morning I was thinking about what I really wanted to say. I know it can feel a bit contentious in here like me versus you, you versus me, but I think we all one and the same. And I'm just hoping as we move forward, you know, I'm not saying take it easy on us, but maybe take it consciously and we find ways to work together and hopefully have a good meeting together. And I think we all...I was thinking about it this morning and why am I here? I maybe

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wanted all of us to reflect on why we chose to be in this position that we are in right now. Such a privilege to be living, to be breathing, and I think we all here for the same reason, to be mindful, to keep our integrity, and to serve the better purpose of our community. And when I talk about communities, I'm not just talking about people but our plant environment, our animals, our 'āina, and our wai. So, things I just wanted us to remember why we do it. I know it's hard being in your seat, and it's hard being on the hotseat up here too, but we're here because we care. And you know, as the week goes on, I just hope and pule for everybody get through this, we get through this together, and we look forward to the conversation later. So, mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Deputy Director. We're here because we care. You are so true. And thank you for thinking about this and giving your heartfelt opening comments. So, at this time do we have any testifiers? We do? Okay. So, we have testifiers. And just to let everybody know our processes, that now we have to take testifiers from the community testimony, and then we'll bring back Parks and have Ag...Ag...Agriculture next and then Transportation last. So, at this time then for opening of public testimony, testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up in the lobby, join the online meeting via Teams link or call in to the phone number noted on today's agenda. Testimony on the budget is not limited to the departments scheduled today, so in other words anybody can speak about anything that's in the entire budget. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items as the item is called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by checking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone, star five to raise your hand and lower your hand, and star six to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifiers' list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hand. For those in Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is called. Staff will then call the name you logged in under...under the last...or under the last four digits of your phone number when it's your time to testify. At this time, Staff, are...will enable...at that time, Staff will enable your microphones and video. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff; otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item, and I'll give you 30 seconds to wrap up if you are still testifying. And once you are done testifying and if you wish to...do not wish to testify or do not wish to, you'll be also...you can also view the meeting on Akaku Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We will now call the first testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the first testifier is Ka Lima O Maui, followed by Patty Copperfield.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Jarret.

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MR. PASCUAL: And Ka Lima O Maui is online. Their microphone is disabled on our end. I apologize, enabled.

. . .PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. WYATT: Good morning, Council and Chair Sugimura. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. We have members of Kalima that would like to testify in support of the County Parks and Recreation Division Fiscal 2025 Budget. I want to just start with a brief overview of Ka Lima O Maui and the activities that we contract with, with the County. We have been providing grounds and custodial services to Maui County for over 46 years now. We provide a vital community service in that we maintain some of the most used and enjoyed properties by our community and the visitor industry on island. We ensure that these properties are safe, sanitary, and welcoming. And we have over 13 grounds and custodial crews working in the community five days per week. I want to give you some statistics because these are really pretty amazing about the...the clients that we serve and the Staff here at Kalima. We have over 50 adults with disabilities that comprise 75 percent of our crews that are out in the field every day. Daily we service 31 different County parks or pools, and often we service those...those properties twice daily. In total, after the...the year, we served a total of 14,000 different services to the...to the County Parks and Recreation Department, so we are very busy. I'm always really proud of our crews. Are highly reliable. Our teams are up usually at 3:00 to 4:00 in the morning and don't finish their days until 11:00 or 12:00. Over half of the clients that we have employed here at Kalima, they have 15 years or more service. So, the opportunities that are provided for those that we serve through our contracts with the Department are substantial and...and meaningful to them. That group provides a total of 700 years of experience working in Maui County Parks properties. So, it's an amazing opportunity that...that we have, and it's all through our partnership with Maui County and the Parks and Recreation Department. Our oldest tenured and seniority worker at Ka Lima O Maui is 42 years, and he's been telling me he's going to retire soon, but I don't believe it because he's just a great worker and he loves what he does. Ka Lima O Maui, we provide extensive support to our clientele. We do that so that they can maintain and live happy, productive lives. The jobs created by our partnership with Maui County Parks and Recreation Department are essential to our clients' well beaming...being and sense of meaning and purpose. And by that, I mean the opportunity for them to...to have the right to earn a paycheck, which paydays around Ka Lima O Maui are the funnest days to be here because of the joy on their faces of...of earning that paycheck. It's...it's critical to their self-esteem and their sense of self-worth. Our mission of enhancing lives through self-reliance is anchored by the work that we do with the...the County Parks and Recreation Department, and our partnership really is that is a success for...in creating endeavors and fostering the growth and recognition that disabled community

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deserve. We appreciate your support, and we thank you again for the opportunity to speak. We know how busy you are. And if there's any questions, please let me know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do we have questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier please.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Patty Copperfield, and that's currently the last individual signed up to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MS. COPPERFIELD: Good morning. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha.

MS. COPPERFIELD: My name is Patty Copperfield; I'm the Transportation Director for MEO. I wanted to testify today for BFED-1, specifically when it comes to transportation and public transit in Maui County. First off, thank you folks for what you do for our community.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you bring your mic closer?

MS. COPPERFIELD: Oh, sorry. My first time. Okay. Thank you, folks, what you do for our community. I do not envy what you have to do. But I...to give you overall idea of what MEO does for public transit in the County, we provide two separate contracts through the Department of Transportation, which is the human services, the traditional MEO, the pink and white busses everybody sees around in the community. And that provides services throughout Maui, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Hāna, Maui. We also have the Paratransit contract, and that is the complementary service to the Maui Bus Program that is specific to persons with disabilities that are...and unable to use the traditional bus stops around in...on Maui. I would like to ask for your folks' support in the Mayor's Proposed Budget for this year and to continue to support public transit. When it comes to numbers, I'm a numbers person for what we provide for the community. To give you a quick summary. Currently with our closing of February's numbers, we have provided transportation throughout Maui County for the Human Services Program to...with 127,000, almost 128,000 trips throughout the County of Maui. And the biggest performing portion of our contract is the expanded rural shuttle for Moloka'i, and that is about 26 percent of our ridership because they do not have the Maui Bus that Maui has. A lot of folks use that service. For our Paratransit Program, as of end of February we have...that's almost 3,400 billable hours towards that contract. I know I have the numbers. So, with the closing of February, we had about 5,200 trips that occurred in February for Paratransit, and it's significantly higher because we were operating on a fare free that was in

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direct relation to the post wildfires. Yeah. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . And that's all I have.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's all...oh, perfect timing. So, you say your February totals was 5,200 trips --

MS. COPPERFIELD: For Paratransit --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for Paratransit.

MS. COPPERFIELD: -- for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right?

MS. COPPERFIELD: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Thank you very much. Anybody have questions for the testifier? Thank you. Thank you also for signing for...to be a board and commission person. Thank you.

MS. COPPERFIELD: Oh, yeah. I know, I didn't get to meet you guys in person, but now I have. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgin's Committee. Okay. No...no questions. Any more testifiers?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, if we're able to circle back to Ka Lima O Maui, I believe they indicated that there's multiple people that would like to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MR. PASCUAL: And if possible if they're able to identify themselves before they speak, that would be much appreciated.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ka Lima O Maui?

MR. WYATT: Yes, thank you, Chair. I'm sorry, I apologize, we have about six different testifiers so I'd like to *(audio interference)* and let our Controller testify. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can everybody introduce themselves as they speak? Oh, I know who this is. Nice to see you, Pat.

MR. SAKA: Good morning.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good ahead.

MR. SAKA: Good morning, Councilmembers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please introduce...

MR. SAKA: My name is Patrick Saka, and I'm the Controller for Ka Lima O Maui. We have contracts with the County's Parks and Recreation Department for grounds and custodial services at more than 50 locations throughout the island. The people providing the services are largely disadvantaged consumers who by working on these contracts provide for on-the-job training for competitive employment positions in the community and increases their self-esteem and self-reliance. We ask for your continued support of these contracts and services in Fiscal Year 2025. Thank you for this opportunity.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for Mr. Saka? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MR. SAKA: Thank you.

MR. KAHAHANE: Hello, Council. My name is Michael Kahahane. I'm the Director of Operations for Ka Lima O Maui. I wanted to first off say thank you for the support for everything we do. You know we work with our partners, our counterparts in the Department of Parks led by Director Pat McCall and his team there. Our crews enjoy providing jobs and creating opportunities for workers with disabilities. As my . . . *(inaudible)* . . . have said they're out there across 30-plus County parks and facilities maintaining it and keeping it up to a working standard. Our crews enjoy maintaining a safe and clean facility all across the parks that Maui County has that we partnered with, and they enjoy keeping it safe for our community. I just want to say thank you for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, are you done? Okay. Anybody have questions?

MR. KAHAHANE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Seeing none. Thank you very much --

MR. KAHAHANE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Mr. Kahahane. Next testifier.

MR. ESPIRITU: Good morning, Council. I'd like to take the time to thank you guys for your support of Ka Lima O Maui. My name is Chad Espiritu. I've been with Kalima for almost two years. I enjoy working with a lot of these people here. And I enjoy being a part of the company. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for Mr. Espiritu? Seeing none. Thank you very much for your testimony.

MR. ESPIRITU: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MR. HOSAKA: Oh. Good morning, Council. I'm Andrew Hosaka. Been working for the...Kalima for about...this is my fourth year, so...yeah. I...I enjoy working here, me and my brother, and stuff like that. And it...they gave us like a really good opportunity to...they just have this opportunity to work here. And like because my brother is autistic and everything so it...it gives him an opportunity to work, and I get to work with him and everything. So, I'm happy to have that and everything, you know. And thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Hosaka. Anybody have questions for him? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Just say what you got to say. Go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more testifiers? Oh, there.

MR. PANELA: Good morning, Council. My name is Kepano Panela, and I like this job. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Precious. Anybody have questions? *(audio interference)* I'm sorry.

MR. PANELA: Panela.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Padela *[sic]*.

MR. PANELA: Panela.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Panela.

MR. PANELA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Mr. Panela. Anybody have questions for Mr. Panela? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MR. PANELA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

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MS. KOPITO: Margie Kopito, and I love this job.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What is your...what is your name again?

MS. KOPITO: Margie Kopito.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Margie?

MS. KOPITO: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Margie. Okay. Thank you. Any questions for Margie? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MR. WYATT: And thank you, Council. We have...everybody else is out on the jobsite. So, appreciate the time and...and for your efforts. We do really appreciate all that you do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And we appreciate you. Thank you very much. Any more...

MR. WYATT: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more testifiers?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, that is currently all the individuals that have signed up to testify. If there's anyone out in the Chamber or on Teams that would like to testify, please come up to the mic and begin your testimony or use the raise-your-hand function on Teams and Staff will unmute you. And I will provide a brief countdown. Three...two...one. Seeing none. Chair, no one else has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, I'm going to close public testimony and always receive written testimony for our information. At this time, with your permission, I'm going to take a ten-minute recess, and then Parks can come and re-setup during that time. Is ten minutes okay? You want...

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies. Just...just for the Committee's information, if you choose to recess now, you likely won't be able to close testimony.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So, we need to take...we need to start doing --

MR. KRUEGER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- testimony. Okay. We got to do the Sunshine thing before we can...yeah. Okay. Go ahead. So, do we have to get Parks to set up?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we just can't close public testimony. Okay. All right. So, I'm going to call recess. We'll come back at 10:35 and 10:00...10:55. Yes. 10:35. The math. Okay. Here we go, 10:55. . . .*(gavel)*. . . 10:35. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 10:26 a.m.
RECONVENE: 10:48 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It's now 10:48 and we have another testifier. Welcome.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the current testifier is Bobbie Kanuha, and he's in the Chamber. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Bobby Pahia *[sic]*. Is that what I heard? Kanuha.

MR. PASCUAL: Bobbie Kanuha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Kanuha. Bobby Pahia retired. Bobbie Kanuha? Here he comes. Thank you.

MR. KANUHA: Aloha, everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hello.

MR. KANUHA: My name is Bobbie Kanuha. In 1997 to 2004 I work on Kaho'olawe. I was so blessed that Dan Inouye sent seven of us non-military to the bomb school in Texas A&M. So, all I'm saying, this whole thing in Lāhainā, it was just one fire. That's all it was, just a fire. It wasn't a nuclear blast; it wasn't radioactive material like they had in Pohakuloa. Pohakuloa, Schofield, Kaneohe Marine Base, Makanalua Bombing Range in Kalaupapa also that. So, with all this going on and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Kanuha?

MR. KANUHA: -- and...yes?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We don't have Kaho'olawe on our agenda.

MR. KANUHA: Excuse me?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: We...we don't have Kaho'olawe on our...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Chair, he's...he's talking about Lāhainā and the fire.

MR. KANUHA: Yeah, I just going through the whole thing because you guys going through so much committee discussion, back and forth, back and forth. So, I just going make this real clear. Only because my 'āina on the backside of Kaupo is in jeopardy, I know it. Because now where I live in Wailuku, they putting boxes...wherever they can put one yard they put one box. I can...one box one place for sleep. The thing getting out of control. My street getting so dense and nobody care about the sewer line. You...you just...everything...so this is the way I look at it. Building department, this is what you guys doing. As long as you get the money, build the house, build it to Code, no worry about the inspector, he going come later. So, that's way I looking now, everything is rolling right now. All over the corner, down here in Kahului, the boxes is popping up all over the place. I can see them. No need...because my parent and my uncle when we had our place out in Kaupo, so we was thinking the same thing. So, I told my father dad, he said boy, we going build one chicken coop, we going put one hazardous shack, all our fuel, all our chemicals, we going put them in there. So, now Dad, going be insane, we got to get permit for all this thing right here, that's nuts. So, all I'm saying because of...and the land out there, my neighbors are Jonathan Starr, Spalding (ph.), Dennis Rackard (ph.), Jimmy Haynes, he own the petroleum. I mean I get all the people. It's kind of like I'm the little house blocking the railroad. You know how dry out there? And our 'āina, all green. So, that's why with all this . . . *(inaudible)*. . . this thing is . . . *(inaudible)*. . . I so overwhelmed because it's affecting our families. My grandpa's side and my grandma's side. I just came to show that I work on Kaho'olawe. . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . These are the shirts that you work on Kaho'olawe. These are original shirts. And I believe, aunty, your husband was working with me on Kaho'olawe. Koa. Yeah. Yeah. These are the original right here, the original shirt. So, now we talking about...we talking about Parsons, we talking about Martin, we talking about all these big...and down in Kihei, Boeing...Boeing down Kihei already. So, you know that whole tech park, that thing connected to up mauka. You know what I'm saying? Stay up mauka, so everything going roll down. And that's why all I'm saying is do the right thing and go according to the truth. That's all I like say, because you know why, my land...our land is affected. This whole thing going affect our land. We going to go tax, boundary, they trying to steal our land. They cannot steal my land because come from my tutu man. My grandpa out there back in the day, only my grandpa had phone and Kaupo Store next to one headstone and the ranch had phone, Kaupo Ranch. Well, I call them the...the ranches' association. That's what I call them, the ranches' association. You know what, I going wait for you guys. I going be out there waiting for you guys. You guys, please, do the correct thing. And agriculture, we can do so many things with agriculture. We can. We can do it. I know we can all do it. We just got to be...we

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just got to understand each other and go for the truth. That's all we got to do. We no can fight, all this kind. Fight is easy, but you know what, you do it from your heart . . . *(inaudible)*. . . But if you connected, stand straight. The antenna no can stand crooked, the antenna got to stand straight. . . . *(timer sounds)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KANUHA: Your positive and your negative.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Kanuha.

MR. KANUHA: Please do the correct thing. Please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KANUHA: Because you know why, our land is in jeopardy.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KANUHA: Thank you very much. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions for Mister...

MR. KANUHA: Oh, okay. Yeah. You get . . . *(inaudible)*. . . you getting older.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you for sharing your t-shirts, Kaho'olawe t-shirts.

MR. KANUHA: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more testifiers?

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, that is currently all the individuals signed up to testify. I can do a last call if you'd like?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, please.

MR. PASCUAL: This is the last call for oral testimony. Please come up to the podium or raise your hand on Teams if you would like to provide testimony. And the countdown is three...two...one. Seeing none. Chair, no one has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Members, at this time then I'd like to ask your permission to close public testimony. We will receive written testimony regarding BFED-1.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No objections, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Oh, Member Kama. Hi, Vice-Chair. Nice to see you here.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good morning. It's good to be here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. All right. So, now we have...we're going to be with Department of Parks and Recreation. Members, for your questions, we have one round of four minutes, then we'll go to if need be two and three round. The third round of three minutes. So, at this time then I'd like to open it up with Member Sinenci. This is your Department. Member Sinenci, four minutes. And then I'll go to Kama, Lee, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins, Cook, U'u-Hodgins, and then start again. Member Sinenci?

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
Administration Program
Maintenance Division
Recreation and Support Services Program
Planning and Development Division
Permits and Enforcement Section

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo to the Parks Department for their presentation his morning. I just have a couple questions for this first round. Has the Department considering...considered hiring tree trimmers? I see that there's \$400,005 for tree trimming for...for the Department. So, my question is, what are the, I guess, the benefits of contracting out these services?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: This is in the Budget Details...

MR. MCCALL: Yeah. I...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, go ahead. Yeah.

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MR. MCCALL: The Department currently hires tree trimming contractors for the majority of the non-contracted tree trimming or removals as we don't have...for majority of, I mean, of the non-contract tree trimming and removals. As we do...we don't have tree trimmers within the Department. The pros of contracting the...contracting out the services is that there are many...one, there are many qualified contractors familiar with the parks, and they're also available to complete the work when required, and we...we currently have standing contracts with them.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Director, for that. I know the County has been sued for maybe falling branches and things like that. Has there been any litigations against the...the Department lately due to tree...tree limbs?

MR. MCCALL: No, there has not.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Great. Thank you.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. And then my question, Chair, was I know we passed the...the pesticide use on...on...on pesticides for parks. So, has the Department received any trainings in the alternative uses of organic fertilizer or...or pesticides?

MR. MCCALL: Again, thank you for that question. The training was received by (*audio interference*) of Dathic Perspective (ph.) as recommended by Beyond Pesticides. Our beautification team attended the training as well as...and as well worked with the recommended products. The County operations have changed in that all the products utilized in the County fields and parks are pursuant to the Code change. Pesticides and fertilizer on the County property, that Code took place...the...took effect in 2022.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Awesome. Thank you for that. That's great news, Director. And then my other questions--and Chair, let me know if my...my timer rings. Has there...as far as motor vehicle maintenance, you guys have a regular schedule to maintain the life of your vehicles?

MR. MCCALL: We're currently working on putting together a better schedule. We have one in place now. But we're looking at updating the system using our Maintenance Connection software.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. . . .(*timer sounds*). . . All right. That was my timer. Thank you, Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member Sinenci. Next, we have Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I want to begin with...I got quite a few questions under one question, but let me just go and...if you need help or if I need another round, that'll be okay. So, the Department is proposing seven million budget allocation for services under page 618 of the Program Budget. So, what object codes are considered by the Department to be services? And I have another question to follow up too, so if you want, you can answer that or you can look for it and I'll continue reading. And...you ready, Mister...okay. So, in 915019B, parks permit enforcement there is \$40,000 under the object code 6132 professional services with a note that it's for support for the transition to new permit software as in the Budget Details. Is the consultant already onboard? And is this a contract extension or will a new RFP be issued for this professional service? Do you want me to...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Go ahead. Thank you.

MS. ALMEIDA: Councilmember, thank you for the question. The Department is hopeful to go out for RFP.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. That's...that's answer to the second question, yeah? So, you...I guess you're still looking for the first answer, Pat, but I can continue on if you want or stop and go.

MR. MCCALL: If you'd go on to the next question, I'm going to ask our AO to address the object codes, Ms. Roxanne Pasalo. She's coming down to the mic. Oh, she...she's ready to do it; she had that list with her. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. PASALO: So, sub-object codes that belong to services would be like your 61 sub-object code. So, that includes like for us the big-ticket items are contractual services, which...which is like your Kalima, your Moloka'i Occupational, your refuse and your portable toilets. It would also be your repair and maintenance for grounds, so that's like for your irrigation expenses. 6138 which would be your repair and maintenance for contracts; those are vendors that we contract by POs. 6125 are your maintenance agreements, which are your pest control...excuse me, your pest control and your AC maintenance. There's also our security alarm systems under that...that Code, 6145 and 6132, which is

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professional services. A lot of our master planning consultants are...are coded under that as well. And then of course sewer and cesspool.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. So, Chair, are we going like we did last year according to divisions or we're going to do CIP later or...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, right now we're...we're taking Parks.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I have a...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, I think she means do you want us to go like how Environmental Protection Service?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I think that their Department is --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Just go the whole thing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- so diverse --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, I have --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- that we're just going to ask.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- one CIP question, that's all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fine.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, the Department has many capital projects that only...that have only scheduled funding in FY '25. That's on page 195...915 of the Program Budget. Of the following projects, which ones will be completed within 18 months of the start of FY '25? So, the Lānaʻi Youth Center/Skate Park, Fifth Street courts resurfacing improvements, Makawao Boys and Girls Club roof replacement, War Memorial Football Stadium and track rehab, Central Maui pickleball courts, Waiehu Golf Course pond liner replacement, and Keopuolani Field lights replacement.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Marvel?

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for that question. Okay. So, of that list --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MARVEL: -- the Lānaʻi Youth Center and the Lānaʻi Skate Park will both be completed. The Fifth Street courts will be completed. The Makawao Boys and Girls Club roof replacement will be completed. The War Memorial Football

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Stadium and track rehabilitation will not be completed. The Central Maui pickleball courts will not be completed. The Waiehu Golf Course pond liner replacement should be completed. And the Keopuolani field lights replacement will not be completed.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. But it's here that it's supposed to...that means...so the budget you have is for the 18 months, right, but it won't be completed in the 18 months. Is that right?

MR. MARVEL: Correct. The funds will be encumbered but the project --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. MARVEL: -- construction will not be completed.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. That's good. That's all I had, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much for your questions. So, next we have Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hello, Parks Department. For the County Council I'm the self-appointed representative for Waiehu Golf Course and I...I take it upon myself to do site inspections eight times a month at the golf course. Okay. So, I notice that you raised the fees \$1. And so, you don't have to answer now, but maybe you can send us an email or put it in writing. What percentage...and by the way, I support that. \$1 is...is really not significant. However, I would like to know what percentage of the players at the Waiehu Golf Course are out-of-state players. Okay. Unless you have it now. And then...and what is their rate? Is...is their rate going up? Okay. That's one. And then --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- having to do with...oh, yeah, on the golf course --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- I want to make a complaint. Number 9 and number 13, you...you folks have to realize that most...the vast majority of players at the golf course are not professionals. So, when you make 9 and 13...I mean...yeah, 9 and 13 difficult, you're just losing income because people like me take longer to finish the hole. Okay. So, from a practical point of view and income generation point of view, please make number 9 and number 13 more reasonable. And then finally can you explain why two new park caretakers and two new painters are needed when the Department has many long-term vacancies? Can you answer that?

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MR. DUDOIT: Chair Lee, thank you for the question. We will have a tee box for you on 9 and 13. Should be done by this Friday.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thanks.

MR. DUDOIT: The Alice Lee tees.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. But what about the questions on the park caretakers and the new painters?

MR. MCCALL: In regards to your painters' question, the Department has had only two painters for over 30 years, and when you consider the increase in our facilities. We'd like to see our restrooms and...and our ADA striping, et cetera, repainted every five. Adding these two positions would allow us for this preventative maintenance to occur. The reason the positions were left unfunded was due to the decrease in the proposed budget and to allow for the Department time to create the new positions. If left unfunded, the positions will remain vacant, and we'll continue to be requesting funding in FY '26.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. Oh, and one...I meant to ask also on the completion of the clubhouse at Waiehu Golf Course. I know it had many challenges being an old facility, but any idea when it's going to open?

MR. YAMASHITA: Yeah. Thank...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know I'm sure a lot of people want to use that clubhouse to rent, you know.

MR. YAMASHITA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Especially...especially the people in Waiehu and Waihe'e, they've wanted a clubhouse for them...for the community for many years, and the Waiehu Golf Course would...would be a perfect place for people to gather in that community.

MR. YAMASHITA: All right. Thanks for the question. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . That's a...that's a good question. And the first step is to finish the master plan for the clubhouse, and we've had some...several challenges with that, but we're getting close. I'm trying to finish up a financial feasibility or just an analysis of a new clubhouse. I want you to know also that...though that a meeting area and a community facility for the clubhouse is part of the...the concept and we do have a concept, but we just need to finish up the financial analysis.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Department. I just wanted to clarify...and thank you for resending this 15 pages of vacancies. But I wanted to clarify, and I'll send a written correspondence for tomorrow morning that not all of these 15 pages of vacancies are supposed to be filled right at this moment because you have all the PALS site coordinators and aides and stuff, so that really...I mean it's vacant, but it's not intended to be filled right at this moment anyway, right. So, I guess I'll send in writing and...and you can respond in writing to clarify which ones are full-time vacancies and which ones are vacant because they're not meant to be filled at this time, and I think that would give us a more clear picture. My other question kind of in relation to Member Lee asking about the park caretaker and maybe to some extent the painter, one thing that we did towards the end when we had Police, thanks to Member U'u-Hodgins, was instead of defunding any particular position, we just took a chunk out of salary A category and you can move around the money as needed as you fill the positions. And I...I believe we took out some money for specific positions last year. I was wondering did that affect negatively your ability to hire anyone or were you able to do just that, move around the money in category A to fill the vacancies for positions that you could fill? Like did it work how it was intended?

MS. PASALO: Yeah. We actually appreciated that, where you guys just did a chunk instead of a position because it gave that...gave us the flexibility to move positions as we needed as eligible as came up. So, yeah, thank you for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Were you unable to fill any of the positions because of the chunk we took out?

MS. PASALO: No, we were still able to fill the positions that we...we got less for, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Okay.

MS. PASALO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you for clarifying that. My next question is the Rotary...one of the rotaries or three of the rotaries in West Maui got a lot of money, and they wanted to build a playground. And I don't know if you guys recall, we...we kind of got slammed in West Maui over the Lāhainā Rec Center playground. They were looking for a place to build the playground. They were talking about the ten acres between the hotels, and I was like you could build that there right now as a benefit to the hotels when recovery is done or you could fix the one that everyone local uses. And so, I just was wondering would...would you accept that help so that when that area opens up maybe the kids have a nice new playground with a shade cover?

MR. DUDOIT: Councilmember Paltin, thank you. After the fires we've had a lot of people

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that want to donate playgrounds to Lāhainā, and we're just in the process of when it gets turned back over to us. We've been in talks with these guys, and they're just waiting for us until...we got a timeline of when it's going to be back. They are willing to help, and we definitely would accept their help. You know going through the proper process through you guys if they did want to donate --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. DUDOIT: -- these playground equipment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, we might have all new playgrounds?

MR. DUDOIT: Yes. It's a very...it's a very high possibility.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's nice. Then the other question, I seen in the reading that you guys needed to do soil sampling and stuff before it opened up. I just went to email you folks too, this guy from like UH that is doing free soil sampling of not house areas but also house areas if people ask. The only thing is you got to request before April 15th. So, I was wondering if that's a possibility to request for them? Even if the Department and County does its own soil sampling, at least it could be an independent third party too because sometimes we hear the testifiers . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . not really trusting us.

MR. MCCALL: Yes. I...I just glanced at your email this morning and...and yes, we'll...we will look into that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Awesome. And...and please let me know how it goes.

MR. MCCALL: Oh, okay. And --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. MCCALL: -- Chair Sugimura, if you don't mind, I did receive the information to answer your questions. In FY '23 there were 7,967 non-resident rounds, so about 10 percent. That rate is...their rate is \$65 regularly, which is much higher, and that's one of the reasons their rates kind of...they help us defray costs. They also...and that's on weekdays, but it's \$85 on weekends. And yes, their rate is going to go up as well by \$1.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, that was Chair Lee's question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was Chair Lee. So, you know what, we can...we can talk about that when it's her second round.

MR. MCCALL: Oh, that was Chair...okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Just keep everybody in order.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Unless it's answered.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Member Johnson then Member Rawlins-Fernandez and then Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, everybody. Thank you for joining us. Brought the whole team. It's always good to see us working together. Page 624 in the Program Budget, I'm curious about the rentals for mobile trailer offices, current offices being renovated at the War Memorial Gym. So, why are we renting and not buying mobile trailer offices that can then be used in Lāhainā when the renovations are complete? For example, the Department of Ag is buying a 20-foot shipping container office for \$30,000. So, you know, once the project is completed with the renovations, you have yourself a trailer that could be used in West Maui where there's a critical need for those types of...can you guys respond to that?

MS. ALMEIDA: Hi. Thank you for the question, Councilmember. So, at the time that we procured or went through the rental process, the process for procurement is different. So, with the timeline and the constraints that we were given to just relocate from the construction, it was not the intent to have trailer rentals; it was actually our...our last resort. So --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. ALMEIDA: -- at that time that was the method we chose.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Thank you for that clarification. The next question is you...you kind of responded it in some of your written responses; I want to say it's number 15 that Councilmember...Committee Vice...Committee Chair Sugimura asked. So, basically, it's about the Urban Forest Management Plan. Please describe the Urban Forest Management Plan and explain why this grant will be administered by the Parks Department. That's page 636, Program Budget. Which position will lead this project, and does the Department have the capacity? Can the grant funding be used to fund positions? And then I saw your answer to number 15; it says did your Department apply for any grant funding in FY 2024 and how much was...and then you responded the Department applied for Urban Forest Management Plan grant from DLNR when the Planner V transferred to the Department of Management. So, can you clarify that? It went

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to...what happened with that?

MR. YAMASHITA: So, the...the person...as you may know, we usually have another planner, and she left to work with the MD's Office in the Office of Resilience...Recovery. And that's...that's part of I think the Department's interest in trying to address a range of issues. And because the planner had a connection and understanding to urban forestry issues, especially at the State level, especially because she's on this citizen kind of commission, she had a real interest in the project, applied for it. When we received it, it made sense for that project to move with her because we certainly with now just one person, one planner, we don't have the capacity to take that on.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is that a permanent thing; they're...they're now with the...the recovery and they're not coming back?

MR. YAMASHITA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. YAMASHITA: Well...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Budget has a comment.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Yeah, thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. Yes, we didn't find out about the Staff transition until we were well into the budget process, which is why it remained under Parks. This will be one of the departmental requests where we ask for this grant to move to Management because that is a permanent transition of that employee over to that department. In reviewing, we also noticed that apparently one of our edits to the Program Budget did not take, and the Pals' description remains under this program. So, just for the record, this would be an Inflation Reduction Act...Act grant through DLNR Kalanui [sic] Urban and Community Forest Program for Maui to serve as a guide --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .(inaudible). . .

MS. MILNER: -- for managing and (audio interference) the County's urban forests, including park trees and street trees. So, just for the record. I can also provide that in writing when we send the letter.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. MILNER: But my apologies for that.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Wonderful. Thank you for that clarification. Okay. So, I'm going to kind of ask about . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I'll wait for second round; it's a bigger question. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second round. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo and aloha, Parks Department. Mahalo for being with us today. Okay. Okay. On page...in the Details, page 17-21 there's an item for Internet connectivity for 30,000. Would you explain that? It's under the Parks Program. 17-21. And then while you're looking for that I was hoping to get an update on the...I was trying to find the name of the software that we spoke with in previous Parks Administration that they acquired to help with tracking maintenance. Oh, what is it called?

MR. MCCALL: It's...it's called Maintenance Connection, Councilmember. Yeah, Maintenance Connection...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Stealing Deputy's thunder.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah. Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: How's that going?

MR. MCCALL: We have...we've begun some training and we're going to...we're scheduling out training for district personnel. And the...the goal is to schedule not just their training but then schedule the inspections that would put in with it, and that will help us towards tracking that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome.

MR. MCCALL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Mahalo. Okay. Did you find the Internet connectivity? I'm just curious about what it was. I was trying to look for information on it and I couldn't find it. It's not a super big deal. It's not like I'm going to cut it or anything, but.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah, that was...that was for stuff at the golf course, Internet connection at the golf course with the new system that was implemented this year for...and we needed to update that...that connection so that we could manage that better.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And that's like fiberoptics or...okay.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah. We...I can get back to the...I can get back to you with the specifics

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of that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then since we're on the topic of the golf course, in previous years we had, you know, worked with the Department, and it was shared with us like that the private golf courses have more of an edge on our County golf course when it comes to fees because they're able to be more flexible with seasons and give discounts or, you know, just to...to have the flexibility of being more attractive at certain times and then raising the cost at certain times to maximize when they know that there's going to be a lot of traffic. Whereas like ours is kind of like set. In...in discussing increasing the fee by a dollar across the board, was like seasonal fees discussed? I don't know what the seasons would be. That...I would leave that to our resident expert Chair Lee. But was that discussed?

MR. DUDOIT: Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. The reason we keep our fees at the same way is because the courses are full every single time. On the seasonal rates for the private courses, when the tourists come in and it's an attractive season, they jack up the rates. When it's slow they keep their rates down so the locals can go golf on these private courses. So, that's basically how that works. Does that answer your question?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, so did you discuss kind of mimicking that...that rate structure?

MR. DUDOIT: We've never...we've never tried to go into seasonal because we are so busy all year around. Okay. Seasonal rates did not prove to be beneficial when we tried in the past, so I guess I wasn't here. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Yeah, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . for that information, and mahalo for the phone-a-friend.

MR. DUDOIT: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member Cook then Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair. For the Parks, what's the expected completion date for the Department's vulnerability study for coastal properties? And is this study similar to the beach parks vulnerability and adaption...adaptation study that began in 2020? It's on page 616, which is part of the Program Budget.

MR. YAMASHITA: Thanks for the question. Thanks for the question, Councilmember. The projected completion right now is the end of this year. The first few years of

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the study--we started back in 2020 I believe--we focused on a few key areas. One is the analysis or the assessment I should say, of...we looked at 64 beach parks. So, we conducted an analysis, came up with a ranking, developed some really broad strategies, six, and then also developed a web...a webbed...an interactive web tool, which if you haven't used that, I mean it's really pretty wonderful. Our consultants did a great job with that, Tetra Tech. So, the second phase of the project really focuses on how to use the information. So, there are a couple things. I mean there are several things we're doing. And I should say also that the study was done for not just the public but really for us. So, the focus is on how do we use this information right now. So, one thing that we're looking at is--we are in the process of doing this--developing rapid-response plans to focus on the 12 parks that have a low adaptation potential. And so, in these rapid-response plans...and they're not really complicated, but they essentially, again, is for Staff. It lists several things. One is triggers for implementation for specific responses. How do we know when we need to do something? Second thing is a scope and a sequence for these actions. Third thing is a detailed adaptation strategy that goes beyond the broad strategy. Fourth thing is it lists project partners, affected groups, key contacts. And then also the last thing is a list of really general estimated costs for specific actions. So, that's...there's one more thing I just want to mention really quickly, and that's that in addition to that we're also looking at adaptation pathways for a few sites, which essentially provide a phased approach that's flexible because we're responding to situations that are fluent and are changing. So, when you think about an adaptation pathway as opposed to a plan or a master plan, that it just gives you more flexibility and it encourages people to be just flexible in...in what happens.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So...so some of the triggers might be the rate of erosion of a particular location impacting a structure or vegetation. And so...and then I'm just following along. So, it's...it's a very long-term, broad thing. So, the...do you feel comfortable and confident that this plan is adaptable and that it's...that it is helping?

MR. YAMASHITA: Yes. Thank...thank you for the question. That's...that's a good question. But yes, the rapid-response plans are a reflection of the things that we've had to deal with on a weekly basis, monthly basis. When something happens like what's happened down in South Maui, at Puamana Beach Park, at many other beach parks where all of a sudden through high-wave activity, any number of other events, now we have...and this...this is one of the examples. You have iwi kupuna that are now exposed. And I think when this started maybe, I don't know, five years ago, we really were trying to figure out what the...our response would be. Another example and this is...for me it's the ...*(timer sounds)*... is when the pavilion at Baldwin Beach Park back in...I don't know which...which time was this, but it was several years ago, and there were a bunch of Park Staff standing around and I was one of them looking at this pavilion that was hanging out over the...the sand. And we were trying to figure out what do

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we do now? Who do we call?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, this plan now is...gives the employees the tools to address situations like that?

MR. YAMASHITA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, guys, for being with us today. I would actually like you to continue on your statement with Baldwin Beach Park pavilion. So, what is the plan now?

MR. YAMASHITA: Thank you for the question. The plan for the whole beach park?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Sure, that and the pavilion as well.

MR. YAMASHITA: Well, I can't speak to the pavilion; that's more of a maintenance question. At the time we just...the decision was should we remove the whole pavilion now or should we just remove part of it and hope that it...it...it lasts for a few more years. Baldwin Beach Park is a really interesting example of how we're going to have to deal with beach parks in the future. We started out with--and we call it now an interim master plan--back in 20 maybe '18 before we really had enough information to...to think about adaptation at our beach parks. So, long story short, we're going to be updating this interim plan probably starting next year in 2025. We're...we now...we're now calling these plans for beach parks adaptation plans, and so we're folding into what we've learned from all this vulnerability study and assessment and integrating that into the way we plan for these beach parks. And so, Baldwin Beach Park will be the second one to have an adaptation plan. In the meantime, dune restoration was always seen as a really big part of what needed to happen at Baldwin Beach Park. So, with the help of UH Sea Grant, we actually have a plan and money, and this is through UH Sea Grant to do a dune restoration project at Baldwin Beach Park.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay.

MR. YAMASHITA: There are a lot of things going on all kind of on the same track, and it's hard to keep track of it. And I know the...I think we all know the community is really anxious to get started, but we're trying...this is a whole new strategy. We're trying to do it the right way, and we've...there have been many efforts to engage with the local community, which really is a big part of the whole adaptation strategy as well.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U HODGINS: Okay. Thank you so much. On one of your slides, I saw Pā‘ia Gym reroofing replacement. Yay. I wonder if we could talk about that though because if we’re going to reroof obviously the roof but the walls cannot handle a new roof, what are we going to do? Because I love that gym. I played volleyball in that gym. My dad played basketball, boxed in that gym. My grandma played volleyball and basketball in that gym. So, we miss our gym. When are we going to get it back?

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for that question. Yeah, the Pā‘ia Gym roofing replacement is really not the proper name for that...that project.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MARVEL: It started...it started as a roofing replacement and the more our engineers and consultants looked into it, it became clear that the entire structure had issues. There’s extensive termite issues throughout the building. It’s also a historic structure too, so you know, any...you know, any changes made to that building will have to be coordinated with SHPD. And so, we’re in that process now of coordination. We have...we have a historic architect, a consultant that just works with historic buildings that’s going to help us navigate that process through SHPD. And we’ll have to make some decisions about...yeah, higher-level decisions on whether the gym can be saved and...and built in its current location or if it might need to be . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . built somewhere else. But it is a...it is a...

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U HODGINS: I don’t know where else in Pā‘ia that gym would go unless you...we own more County land in Pā‘ia, but I mean, you tell me.

MR. MARVEL: Yeah. The...

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U HODGINS: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . We could talk about that later, but thank you.

MR. MARVEL: Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, I have a couple of questions for my first round. And I notice that on Budget Details page 17-3 we’re asking...you’re asking for a Public Information Officer as other department. So, my question is how do you now utilize the communication team in the Office of the Mayor? Because they have a pretty big team that I’ve seen grow over the years and...because with the disaster I’m sure that communications is even bigger or needed more. But I just wondered what you...what you may...how you utilize the Office of the Mayor and what your system is.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question, Chair Sugimura. We currently...the

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majority of our use of that office would be through press release at this time. And we feel that we would be in a better position to communicate with the public if we had a PSO...I mean a PIO that could number one, work regularly on our website, updating that. Also be...kind of handle day-to-day communications with public inquiries. We currently spend an enormous amount of time between Deputy Dudoit and myself and oftentimes kicking it off to other Staff members responding to those types of issues that we think a Information Officer could one, do that current, you know, do that daily responsibility, but also limit the need for it by constantly updating resources. We'd also...we also think that that way we could use...this person would be kind of a, you know, full-time...assist our Recreation Department with getting out information regarding programming and recreational programs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. MCCALL: Assist our Permits Department in --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. MCCALL: -- in those issues.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director, I get it. Thank you.

MR. MCCALL: That's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. MCCALL: -- what we'd like to see.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I...I want to talk about a question that probably Member Johnson might have. So, Program book, page 923, Fifth Street courts resurfacing and improvements. For Fiscal Year '24, 7,000 was appropriated for renovations. No additional funds were listed for subsequent years, so why is the Department now expecting \$2 million for Fiscal Year '25? That's probably a question for Mr. Marvel.

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for the question, Chair. The funding that we're requesting this year is for construction of the project, and this is based on information we received from the engineer's estimate based on the...it's based on the...the actual construction costs. So, this would be...this would be for construction, allow us to put the project out to bid this summer and...and hopefully --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MARVEL: -- get started.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, your...this is just part of the phasing of a project as it develops?

MR. MARVEL: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. MARVEL: Yeah, previous funding was for design and planning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Program book page 922, Lānaʻi Youth Center and Skate Park is asking for a million dollars. The additional funding is the youth center. Explain the million-dollar request and is this a change order?

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for that question, Chair. So, this...this request is for...part of this request is for a MECO line extension that's required to bring power to the facility. So, that's the...the majority of this. Some of the other funding will be used to...to allow us to deliver a DOH certified kitchen, which is something that the community really needs and wants there. So, this will allow us to do that. And then anything remaining will just be for construction contingency for the project to make sure that we're able to complete it fully and on time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. You talked about the MIL Fund, and so I looked at it, and I got an email from Joe Balangitao who's the MIL...I don't know his title, secretary, but there's \$103,319 in there, and you might be hearing from the MIL. He said he'll...he'll like to use it, Director. So, you can anticipate a call from him or if you want the contact, I have that too. So, going back to Baldwin Beach Park, David, one of the things that...or an organization that we heard about...well last night everybody loves Pāʻia Youth and Cultural Center, and we do too. But part of their renovations is in Baldwin Beach park. So, I know there was a lot of discussion last term about that. So, what is the status and everything . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Oh, I can...I can wait.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, is it...oh, okay.

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for that question. We are in coordination with them. With their renovations, it kind of is a group effort because we're also doing the...the parking lot at Lower Pāʻia Beach Park. It kind of all interacts together. But we've been...we've been in coordination with the youth center on the improvements and working together as a team to get that done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. So, everything is proceeding smoothly then. Thank you very much. So, next we have round two, and it'll be three minutes per person. We'll start with Member Sinenci then go to Member Kama, Lee, Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And just to . . .*(inaudible)*. . . my next couple questions. On Monday night we received a lot of testimony from the Hāna community about the Hāna Civic Center. So, for Mr. Marvel, what is the...the new timeline of the project, and is there a new estimate of funding that's needed with this new timeline?

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for that question, Councilmember Sinenci. Right now, we're probably looking at about 24 months to complete the project, and this really will depend on getting the building permits for the project. We're estimating a year to get permits, so you know, if those were able to be expedited, we could probably finish the project sooner. We are making good progress, there's a good team in place. We've got a meeting with SHPD this month that hopefully resolve the historic issues. And you know, we're doing everything we can to deliver that project to the community.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then we have enough money to complete the project?

MR. MARVEL: We do.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then last year Member U'u-Hodgins had a proviso for the playground for the Pā'ani Mai Park. Is...what is the status of...of that...of that project?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . in there, right?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for the question, Councilmember. Currently, the east recreation district is putting...the Hāna District is bringing in...I believe you're referring to the swing set that is being replaced and it's the...it's on order and the final pieces are being put in...into that order and that will be installed. I do not have a timeline on that right now, but I can get that for you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. I thought it was a separate...I checked with...with Member U'u-Hodgins' proviso. But which brings me to the next question; has there been any CIP projects that has lapsed in funding due to delays to the construction?

. . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for the question. You know our goal always is to encumber the funds that...that we receive in --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay.

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MR. MARVEL: -- the budget, and for the most part we've...we've done that. We were able to encumber around 90 percent of our funds last year. There were I think maybe one or two projects that did lapse mostly due to the bids coming in over budget. And our process for that is to...is to typically go in for a budget amendment and try to get the right amount to rebid the projects.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Marvel. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to bring your attention to page 637, which is the Parks and Rec. On the very bottom it says recreation and support services districts, and it says this...this section is comprised of six districts, and it has east/Hāna, west/Lānaʻi, south, and then Wailuku, Central, Molokaʻi. So, I counted seven, so what are the six? And I guess south means South Maui although it doesn't have it there. Is that right? We're on page 637, recreational support services.

MS. KIELTY: Just clarify, we do have Wailuku --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. KIELTY -- Central, West Maui...under West Maui also though is Lānaʻi --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MS. KIELTY: -- they fall under them.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. KIELTY: And then we have east and Hāna will fall under east.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Yeah.

MS. KIELTY: And Molokaʻi.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I got that.

MS. KIELTY: Oh, it have been the splitting of Wailuku and Central --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. So --

MS. KIELTY: -- that got...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- is Wailuku/Central one or...

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MS. KIELTY: It's now two. It used to be all Central.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Yeah. Okay. I got that now. Thank you. . . .(inaudible). .
. question. That's it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's it? Okay. Now, we'll go to Chair Lee, and you can share
with her your information regarding golfers.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Who, with Mary?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Your question, they had an answer for you. Unless they answered
already.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. Oh, I see. I see. What's the answer?

MR. MCCALL: Yeah. Okay. Thank...again, thank you for that question. Our data
shows that in FY '23 there were 7,967 non-resident golfer rounds, which is
approximately 10 percent of the rounds played. Their rate is now \$66 on
weekdays, \$66 per round, and \$85 per round on holidays...I mean I'm sorry, on
weekends and holidays. And --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: -- all rates are going up by the...the \$1 increase.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. That...that's very helpful to know. That's a little high
because what's not in there is the...the \$12 or \$24 cart fee, so you add that on
to the green fees. I just wanted to mention too, is there a lot of use of the...the
Old Pā'ia Gym, Parks Department?

MR. MCCALL: It cannot be used due to the roofing and other structural issues.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. You may want to check, across the street there, there's
this place called the La'akea Foundation project, and I believe that they're...I
think they're phasing out or closing down. That's 60 acres that the County had
during my time as Director of Housing and Human Concerns. Originally, I had

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proposed to do senior housing over there, but the Mayor wanted something else. So, you may want to check there because that's...it's a lot of acreage that perhaps you could move the gym across the street. So, that's one suggestion. But thank you, I don't have any more questions on...on Parks. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have Member Paltin, Member Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I'm not sure who this question would be for, but I do recall having to come in budget amendments for the CIP being overage. I noticed in the Department of Environmental Management, page 851, 1128 CBS they have a Countywide wastewater system modifications water sewer rate for when the bids come in high. Is that something that they're only able to do because they're self-funded or is that something that you folks could do? Like they put \$2 million in and when the bids run high, I think they just pool for it so they don't have to like come to us every time. Is that something that you guys could do or want to do?

MR. MARVEL: Yeah, thanks for that question. Yeah, they...I...I'm not sure on whether we can, but it's something, yes, we would...we'd like to do, and I think it would save everyone's time if there was a...we do have a parks facilities' item that has some contingency funds, but it's...it's not a large amount.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

MR. MARVEL: But if, you know, if we had more there, then we'd be able to ultimately award projects when we need to and...and save time and money for rebid. So, yeah, it's something that we would look into.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Just an idea. And then I was wondering about the water and sewer rates. We were told about a sewer increase, I forget the percentage, but I was wondering if that was factored in. And then water rates for the...there's not really all that much water in the burn zone and like for that one swimming pool that's closed and like that. So, has the water rates I guess for the Lāhainā District been adjusted to reflect that some areas don't have water service or has all the water service been restored?

MR. MCCALL: Not...thank you for that question, Councilmember. The...not all of the water service has been restored, but we didn't reduce the amount budgeted for because we're really not sure of the time schedule of what was allowed. One of the issues with Lāhainā was, you know, we were...as you well know, we were in a drought condition, and so we weren't able to water prior to the fire other than the use from...we have a facility with our own well there. And the...we were able to...in...post fire we were able to start irrigating some of the parks where we...where we do have water again and we will continue to do that. We're just

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kind of in that state of flux not knowing when it's coming back, so we kept the money in the budget for that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then did you want to reflect the sewer rate changes or . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . because I'm not going to put that as my priority, but if you guys want to do it as your priority, be my guest.

MR. MCCALL: We'll have to get back to you on that. I want to get some clarification just exactly where that will play in. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The next Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, and then Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. This question is going to be about the Department's opinions on electric...electric power...electrical lawn equipment. So, basically the...does the Department have any electric-powered maintenance equipment? Does the Department have a plan or a timeline or a cost estimate for replacing gas-powered equipment with electric equipment? For machinery and equipment budgeted for purchasing this year, please indicate which equipment will be gas powered and which will be electric. If purchases are not expected to be electric equipment, please explain why the Department defers *[sic]* gas-powered electric equipment. You know myself as a farmer I used to stay away from electric equipment because it didn't have the power, but nowadays it is next level. And...and you think about the amount of emissions that these short...short-cycle engines do, they're...25 percent of greenhouse gas emissions are coming from the...the small, little gas-powered machinery equipment. So, does Department have any...anything to respond to?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question. We do have a listing that we'll provide to you of all of the electric-powered equipment that we have within our Maintenance Division. Our Recreation Division doesn't currently have any. The division does not have a timeline in...in Maintenance or...or Rec for converting over to gas-powered equipment. We're in the process of evaluating the current electric equipment. The early attempts I know in the Recreation Division were similar to what you experienced on your farm. Not...not just the lack of power but also the battery life.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. MCCALL: And one of the issues as we go forward converting...if...if we are to convert to electric equipment will be the needed updating of all of our baseyards to allow for charging stations because we'll have to...to charge...or just the number of outlets that will be required, et cetera. And...and the...we...we've had corrosion issues with electronic equipment, especially the park...the beach park areas and the golf course. And those areas electric-powered equipment just

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proved to be more costly.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Even with the cost of gas going up so high you find that it's...it's...okay. I see --

MR. MCCALL: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- you guys nodding your head. All right. Thank you for that. I...I...I'll get into my next question then. In FY 2024 was the Arborist...Arboriculturist II in Department of Public Works or another ISA-certified arborist able to attend and supervisor all tree maintenance conducted by the Department of Parks and Rec?

MR. MCCALL: Okay. So, the...when...before any tree maintenance is done, we bring the County Arborist to do an assessment and...and then...and, you know, come up with a plan and then that work is done. When we use contract services, they have arborists on staff, and so yes, that...that was been done. I think as we talked about in our appearance in Council regarding the Arborist position, we are extremely grateful to the work that the current Arborist does. He's very...he's...he cooperates and works with our Department extremely well.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great.

MR. MCCALL: It would be wonderful I'm sure if he had support.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: And with...within, you know, his current placement . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MR. DUDOIT: Real quick to add to that, Councilmember Johnson. The Arborist has a yearly plan of what trees he goes and trims throughout the year for us. So, we basically don't do that at all. Yeah. So, he helps...he helps us and does all the trimming.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It sounds like he's assisting you...or I mean you're assisting him in his duties then. Is he...

MR. DUDOIT: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Because he has a plan.

MR. DUDOIT: He has the plan and we fund it.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Great. Thank you so much. Thank you, Cahir.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez then Member Cook and Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Okay. Before I forget, I...I wanted to thank the Parks Department for the work with Johnson Controls Countywide but, you know, especially on Moloka'i. And for working with our Ho'āhu Energy Coop in providing community energy in Kualapu'u. And...and Deputy Director for his work with Boys and Girls Club and the 'Ainapa'a Wrestling Club. So, my first question is regarding the contract, and it can be found on page 17-55 under the rec and support services. The Moloka'i occupation contract for Kalima...oh sorry, for Moloka'i occupational contract which is kind of similar...so both the MOC and Ka Lima O Maui is...I think it's professional service. And...and our...so with the Moloka'i occupational contract, I know what it was initially intended to do, similar to like Ka Lima O Maui. Can you provide an update on how that contract is going, if it's still carrying out the deliverables as intended?

MS. KIELTY: So, the MOC, Moloka'i occupational...thank you for the question. It's...it's going...it's going well. We're...we've just had to put all our contracts out for bid, so we just received a new bid from them. The District is grateful and satisfied with the work that's being done. And we feel, you know, it's along the same lines as with Kalima, it's giving them a great opportunity to be, you know, work within the community and...and give back. But yeah, it's...it's going well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then for the Mokuula and Mokuhinia plan and development, I think that 250,000 was moved from Nā 'Aikāne last year. We had talked with the Nā 'Aikāne folks about doing that work, and now that it's moved to the line item Moku'ula and Mokuhinia plan and development, can you explain what the new intention is if there's a different intention in moving that funds?

MR. MCCALL: Ms. Milner...this is something we're in discussion with, and so I think Lesley has a better answer for you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes, there was a right-of-entry granted for the organization that received the funds but that has lapsed at this point or they didn't receive the funds this year but they did receive the right-of-entry and that has lapsed at this point. In discussion with Parks and some other departments, we determined that perhaps opening up

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that opportunity to . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . multiple organizations might be more effective for the coming year, so that's why the change in language. And Parks and Management and in consultation with us and Finance, we're trying to work together to move things forward.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Milner. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My questions for Parks relates to CIP. Is there communication for the Parks Department CIP and the other...and the other various departments' CIP? And this is my question I'm getting at is it seems that the...the delays in being able to get permitting and implementing projects is...goes across all the departments. Has...like the Pā'ia Gym historic issue. In Hāna it's a historic issue. And a lot of those rules are made with good intentions, but I think they need to be a reality check along the way. And so is there communication with all the different CIPs and the different directions or is it pretty much just separate?

MR. MARVEL: Yeah, thanks for the question. Yeah, there is...there is communication. Most of the CIP coordinators within the County know each other and so I think there is a lot of communication, you know, informal communication back and forth about the issues. And yeah, we've seen the same thing that...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, thanks. I'm going to...I don't mean to be rude, but I don't --

MR. MARVEL: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- have much time. It just strikes...as a...as a contractor and a builder and recognizing that delays...the cost of delays and the...the amount of time...Staff time continually talking about a project over a two-year period it's sort of soft dollars because everybody is getting paid anyway and it's not necessarily budgeted to that project but it's impacting the project. So, I'm just asking and requesting if somehow you can kind of put a dollar figure on that, talk to the other directors. If we collectively as government departments can identify and...and put a price tag of time, money, delay, impact to the community and then address those agencies, whether it's SHPD, whether it's Department of Health, State agencies often that are a little outside of our jurisdiction but very impactful to our ability to implement the things that we're funding and that the community is requesting. But whatever we can do legislatively if you bring to our attention, I think that the Council would...would very welcome that. But I'm deeply concerned about the consistent delays in implementation of projects. When we went to Hāna and the people...people don't understand and it...and it doesn't make sense, common sense, like what's taking so long? What's taking so

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long? And I just want to thank you all for your work, your persistence. And that's the thing, everybody cares so much and everybody's working so hard and we're willing to fund it and the people need it, but what's up? So...and my...my closing that. Now my next question, the vacancy . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . the vacancies in the Permitting Division, if there's anything that can be done to assist in mitigating the processes required. So, whatever needs to be done that the people in that Division feel more appreciated and it's a more desirable place to work, let us know. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Departments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. To follow up on what Member Cook just said, as you know, that's what I did was permitting for so long and there was a lot of times I wish I didn't have a job because it would have been a lot easier for people to do their own permitting, especially when people are just trying to fix their house. But anyways, I know we touched a little bit on the resurfacing of the Pā'ia Bay parking. I wonder if you could just update the status on that for me.

MR. MARVEL: Yeah, thanks for that question. We...so we were able to award a construction contract for both the, you know, permanent lot and the interim lot that we'll use during construction, so the contracts have been awarded. We're in the process of disassembling the Wells Street temp lot, so that material will be used for the interim lot at...at Pā'ia Bay. We still have to work out some issues with the permitting, with the SMA permitting, and once that is...is finalized we'll be able to start construction hopefully soon.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay. And how long do you think that project is going to take, the resurfacing?

MR. MARVEL: I believe it's a six-month construction contract.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MARVEL: I'll have to confirm that and get back to you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay. And then for whatever reason there's extra asphalt, please throw it on the basketball court right there. Anyway.

MR. MARVEL: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you. I wonder if we can get an update on any enforcement at the drum circle at Pā'ia...at Baldwin? As you know, Friday nights gets kind of nuts out there, yeah, and it's a little bit wild. It's little bit wild. So, any update on enforcement, what we can do out there? It's bananas.

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MS. ALMEIDA: Thank you for that question, Councilmember. We are out there every Friday. Usually there's three or four park security officers and roughly 150 to 200 participants in the drum circle. On occasion we do request MPD assistance; it really depends what the infractions are. If we can deal with it, we will. Our main goal at that time is to clear the park.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: I know this isn't you but I...since you just brought up MPD and your coordination with them, all the people that park on Hāna Highway where it clearly says no parking, are they issued tickets do you know?

MS. ALMEIDA: If it's outside the post and rail and our jurisdiction, then it is not us. So, I do believe they are issuing tickets but --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay.

MS. ALMEIDA: -- they do...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay. Yeah, yeah, it's not you. Thank you. And I have a...I have another question, and it's kind of hair splitting, but since we're doing that anyway. For...I see that there's a meal allowance and the total for the meal allowance is \$9,000, and I see that it's separated through the different areas except for Hāna, Lāna'i, Moloka'i they have a zero meal allowance. Central Maui get 1.8--and this is only thousands of dollars--East Maui get 2, West Maui get 1, South Maui get 2, Wailuku get 2.2. How come some get zero meal allowance? I...I know everybody hungry, so what is that about? . . .(timer sounds). . .

MR. DUDOIT: Roxanne, would you be able to answer that, please?

MS. PASALO: So, meal allowance is usually paid when there is OT involved. Those districts are...I don't want to say rarely, but those districts have fewer OT hours than the others, so we can usually cover it within like just the program budget, so we don't need to request more money.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Oh, okay. So, if people have to work overtime, then they get like a breakfast covered --

MS. PASALO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: -- lunch covered...

MS. PASALO: It...it depends on how much hours the overtime is.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay.

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MS. PASALO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you. Well, then you have to let us know how much we owe for the two men who stayed late last night for their dinner.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They were good.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. MCCALL: I believe they've put in a request for Mama's Fish House . . . *(inaudible)*.
. .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's good. Okay. So, my three minutes is speaking of Johnson Control. So, I want to know if your Department has interaction with that company for our lighting? Probably the answer is yes.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for the question. And yes, we do, we have quite a bit of interaction and work with Johnson Controls on lightings, some restroom fixtures, with irrigation projects. The...some...the pool...the pools were...converting over to I believe...sorry, I'm being interrupted here. And we...we have some solar projects as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. With Johnson Control?

MR. MCCALL: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, everything's going good?

MR. MCCALL: So far.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, yesterday we heard that lights were changed, and it was not changed to the new lighting ordinance requirements, and I wondered if Parks is fine?

MR. MCCALL: I am not aware of that, but we can look into that. I believe we've...when you say you heard that, are you referring to a Parks' --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, no, no, no.

MR. MCCALL: -- facility or --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

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MR. MCCALL: -- with another --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Environmental...

MR. MCCALL: -- department?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Environmental Management.

MR. MCCALL: Oh, okay. Yeah, we...I don't believe we've had that issue with our facilities.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good because you have a lot of lights, so can you check? Thank you very much for not having that situation. Going to my community for CIP, which is the report of lapsed...park lapsed...lapsed funding. So, under Waiakoa Gym...oh, I'm sorry wrong one. For Makawao Boys and Girls Club roof, there's 100,000 that was lapsed, and this is for...lapsed 12/31/24. CBS 7862. And then going to my community, Waiakoa Gym improvements, 430,000 that was allocated, and then it says encumbered 345,798. I just want to make sure we're all good with Waiakoa and the Makawao Boys and Girls Club.

MR. MARVEL: Thank you, Chair. As far as the...the Makawao project, I believe that 100,000 is due to lapse this December but we will be encumbering that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MARVEL: -- with...with --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good.

MR. MARVEL: -- the funds. And the Waiakoa Gym, the funds are encumbered, and the design is in progress. We have it in our...in our six-year plan as...to be renovated.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Very good. And let's see, the parking lot in Lāhainā, which is page 48, Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund, as we know the revenues from the fund is from . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . proceeds collected from a parking concession in Lāhainā and now with the wildfires. Is the parking lot being utilized for paid parking? If not, where is the anticipated revenues for the Fiscal Year '25 coming from? Or was it whatever was collected before the fires? So, page 48.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question. We don't anticipate that lot to be generating funds any...in the near future. We're really not sure when it'll come back online. There is money currently in that fund, but that was what we were discussing earlier with Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez's question. And we...we're working on how those funds are going to be distributed.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. So, Members, that concludes two rounds of questions. It's now 12:12. We can continue on for one more round or you want to break for lunch and come back?

MR. DUDOIT: Pound 'em.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can we do both?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, what?

MR. DUDOIT: If you going eat your food, I like some too then.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I got more questions than one round. Or if we can talk fast, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we have...you want to...you want to just proceed and then we can excuse the Department? Does anybody else have questions? Oh, I see Shane Sinenci has his hand up too.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I don't either. So...okay. Member Sinenci, we'll start with you, then we will go to Member Rawlins-Fernandez and then to Member Paltin. Oh, I'm sorry, Paltin then Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And I just have one more question for the Department. On Monday night we had a request from the Ke'anae community of possibly putting a pavilion down at the...where the bathrooms are at. So, my question is, can the Department consider the planning of such a pavilion possibly in the CIP Countywide Parks facilities contingency funds?

MR. DUDOIT: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Can?

MR. DUDOIT: Yeah.

MR. MCCALL: We...thank you for that question, Councilmember Sinenci. We can consider it and we'll look into it. Because of its location, obviously there's quite a few issues that will have to be issued. But yes, we...we can look into that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Okay. Great.

MR. MCCALL: And...and...

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Auntie Jen (ph.) will be very happy.

MR. MCCALL: And...and also Mr. Marvel has a comment on that.

MR. MARVEL: Thank you. I just want to add...add to that. We do have funding right now for a upgrade to the septic system at that bathroom right now. It's...it's really needs to be upgraded. And I think that project would need to be done first before we added any other infrastructure to...to that area just to make sure that we have the capacity to handle any...any additional crowds at that park. So, I...I think we do that first and then take a look at...at this other project.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. I do understand that it does flood during...or overflows. I think we built it on a...on a taro patch. Thank you though.

MS. KIELTY: Excuse me, Councilmember Sinenci. To answer your prior question about the swings. So, we just got the timeline. They're due to arrive April 29th. We already have the frames so once we do receive the swings, we'll be doing the install shortly thereafter. That's --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that --

MS. KIELTY: -- Pā'ani Mai Park.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- update.

MS. KIELTY: Yeah. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great news. Then we have Member Paltin then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll...I'll let them go first so I can rapid fire mine.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Okay. Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . get time.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, mahalo. So, okay, just two quick questions regarding the beach park plans and...and then other...other park plans. So, is the Parks Department working with other departments or agencies to manage our beach parks and other park facilities as like resiliency hubs during

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emergencies? Like so anticipating that this will come up and...and it has and it will continue to, and keeping that in mind and, you know, like in the design and in the planning stages.

MR. DUDOIT: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. I think yes, I think with the tragedy that happened in August, I think moving forward we will need to try and build into something. I think we are working with OED right now to build some resiliency areas in...on Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Hāna, and possibly in Lāhainā in the hard-to-reach areas. We have the containers for them already, so it's going to be solar powered, and a lot of it is going to be funded through OED but on County Parks' properties.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that doing that work. Will that be on existing park facilities or are we expanding...

MR. DUDOIT: It's going to be existing park facilities that are unused area. It's a small footprint--I think it's maybe 1,200 square feet--so we've identified some places in our parks that we could fit those, and I think Kilohana is one, Kualapuu, in Hāna next to the...I think it's the old cafeteria, and also on Lāna'i.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful. Mahalo for that update. Okay. And then my last question...so in looking at the CIPs, you know, when we brought up the budget amendment and learned that funding wasn't put into the budget for the renovations of the offices at the same time that the...the gym itself is being renovated, is that something that was brought up, discussed that...that can be added or amended with a contract so that, you know, your offices are renovated too?

MR. MARVEL: Yeah, thanks for that question. We did...we did look into that and I think we may run into some issues with permitting in that case causing us to kind of have to start the process over. So, there's a limited amount that we can...we'll probably actually be able to do with the gym project. We may be able to do some...some interior renovations but it's...it's unlikely we're going to be able to do a major renovation there. Unfortunately . . .*(inaudible)*. . . to be separate project.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that update. I'm sorry to hear that. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Member Paltin? Rapid fire forward...oh, sorry --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Johnson. Go ahead, Member Johnson.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sorry. Thank you, Chair, for allowing us another round. This...these questions are going to be about PALS. Okay. So, on page 643 of the Budget Program, it says anticipate an increase in enrollment in upcoming session. So, please explain the anticipated increase in PALS' enrollment in the upcoming session. Please provide the details on the number of PALS' locations, staffing, enrollment for FY '24. Please provide details on the projections on needed PALS' locations, staffing, and enrollment for FY 2025. Please provide past PALS' enrollment data for winter and summer showing the number of children attending under the full rate, reduced lunch rate, and free lunch rates. What has been the revenue from PALS in recent years? Now, that's a lot of questions about PALS, so if you want to get an overview, but that's where we wanted to find out. Thank you.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question. And yes, it is coming in a written response to you. In general, the...the best answer, overall answer is it's our goal to provide the services equal to and greater to pre-COVID status. Okay. So, we're increasing the number of sites each time as we go along as we get more applicants to the program itself but also to the job as well. And we're opening up more sites and that's basically the result in the increase in projected numbers.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, we dipped because of COVID, I remember that, and then the slow gradual increase --

MR. MCCALL: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- back to where we were and then adding more.

MR. MCCALL: We...we're hoping...you know, it's our...it's our goal.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. MCCALL: And we're...this we won't reach pre...we don't expect to reach pre-COVID status but we're getting close.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: A lot better off than we were last year.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. You know as you guys know, Lānaʻi didn't have PALS, and I know the folks are still working and the kids still need someplace to go. So, thank you so much for working on that. Thank you, Chair.

MR. DUDOIT: And just to add to that, Councilmember Johnson, last year we weren't able to open the sites because of the workers, and we appreciate you getting the money and doing it. As we are moving forward with that, we'll be able to open

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more sites and I think that's going to be the increase in our children.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. Yeah. Thank you for that.

MR. DUDOIT: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. So, I found on page 920 your contingency, maybe if it's not enough this year you might bump it up next year. But I was wondering about the CIP Coordinator positions, P27496 and 29399, if that's a duplication of the work for 921, the Countywide construction project management. And you asking for 2 million to manage the construction because those positions are vacant or are you anticipating needing two CIP coordinators plus \$2 million for construction project management? Page 921.

MR. MARVEL: Yeah, thanks for that question. So, due to the vacancies we've had with those two positions, that's 50 percent of our CIP coordinators are vacant right now. There's just been a...you saw it on the slide earlier, just a huge backlog of CIP projects. We have 53 projects right now, and there's 2 CIP coordinators managing those. So, this...this money for outside consultants is, you know, in addition to. If we fill those two positions, we would still use all of this to, you know, to manage all the projects that we currently have. You know the idea is to get that number down to a manageable number that we could...we could manage with our Staff that we...we have. But we're optimistic about filling the...the vacancies going forward.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then that being said, all of this FEMA damage survey of park facilities, I didn't see any CIP or...of that. So, in this Fiscal Year '25 we're not expecting to expend any money to fix these things?

MR. MCCALL: We...we will be expending funds. We don't have a CIP level, but we're doing maintenance, repair, et cetera, and also developing a longer plan as we get more into the...to the areas that were affected.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. That's good to hear. And then the other thing in the vacancy list there's a handful of positions that says posting not required, do not post. Is that because you're intending to promote without examination or something like that?

MR. MCCALL: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. All right. And the Maui Community Correctional

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Center work line, I guess we put money in it even though the position...the thing was obsolete this past year. I don't know why we did that. But who is doing the work that they used to do?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question. Currently, that work is being done by our Staff and that's one of the...the urgencies caused by the vacancies. You know we...we have more work, less people. And...and so...and that's...also makes that Kalima contract extremely important as well. And...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is it possible to expand that contract with Kalima or they have the...that's all they have?

MR. MCCALL: Right now, we're kind of at the . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . at the limits. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the Kelaweia Mauka/Makai Park I visited it a little while ago, it looks beautiful. Is that C4 grasses though? Because it was being watered in the middle of the day which even any kind it's not really great to water in the middle of the day, but if it's C4, they transpire at night.

MR. DUDOIT: So, that is a Bermuda grass, which is a C4. The reason we were watering during the day is because it was newly planted, and it needs to be watered so it can catch. So, when that's completed then it's going to be only watered at night.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. DUDOIT: That was just to get the roots going.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Great, great. And then are we removing the trees at D.T. Flemings without crowns and is the trimming budget enough to cover that?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question. And yes, we are, and yes, it's going to be taken in this FY '24 Budget.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, nice. Okay.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the parks in the burn zone, are our park caretakers having to maintain that or are they being reassigned to other jobs?

MS. KIELTY: Yeah, thank you for that question. So, the south crew of the West Side, they currently maintain Launiupoko, Ukumehame, Papalaua, and Kelaweia Mauka which you just spoke of. They do not go within the burn zone at this point in time. After they finish their rounds on those parks, they go back up and they split up and they go to the other parks with the other crews.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then I guess the last question is about the uniform allowances, the wide variation. I just was wondering the reason.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question. We're going to have our AO explain that.

MS. PASALO: So, uniform allowance is given to our UPW Bargaining Unit 1 employees, our Bargaining Unit 3 recreation series, so that's your rec leaders, rec techs, and then our Bargaining Unit 3 pool guard positions. The wide variation, the 27,000 in the administration budget is because we actually purchased the uniforms so that's where it comes out of. The smaller amounts in the other divisions is to pay for the uniform allowance per the union contract.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. So, you purchase it but you don't wear them?

MS. PASALO: No. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay, okay, okay.

MS. PASALO: We purchased it for the whole Department, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. Got it. That makes more sense. And then I guess my last one would be about that Pā'ani Mai Park. I thought that Member U'u-Hodgins wanted like a full playground, not a swing set. I'll let her clarify if...if she wants to, but I thought that was a different thing that Member Sinenci was asking about.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you, Member Paltin. It might be a different thing. I know we went back and forth about this last fiscal year. I want to say there was some conversation too about Kamehameha Schools being near...nearby, but I don't remember the update. But thank you, Member Paltin. Yeah. I mean honestly--and I'm not speaking for Member Sinenci at all--but something is better than nothing because we heard that they had nothing. So, if a swing set is what we started then okay, but --

MR. MCCALL: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: -- I think the closest park for them is Giggle Hill, and that's when it's not super rainy.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for that question. The...we are finalizing the agreement with Kamehameha Schools for that playground. There's just some . . . *(inaudible)* . . . need to be taken care of in that ROE. But also, we are also currently with Mr. Marvel's department and Mr. Sinenci's...Councilmember Sinenci's Office and the Mayor's Office, we are currently doing several meetings formulating a plan for

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that particular park.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yay.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, I lied, one last question. So, we have 11 Park Security Officer vacancies out of like 14 or 16?

MS. ALMEIDA: Thank you for that question. We actually have more than that. I think we have...I have 6 positions that are filled out of 21.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And I just...I don't have solutions for you, but part of the problem is the pay or is that the main problem is the pay and we cannot tell collective bargaining what to pay and it's not able to be described as something else that's more money?

MS. ALMEIDA: So, we did an initial inquiry with the Department of Personnel Services and it looks like we will be putting together a packet for submittal for a possible new classification creation that will allow a career ladder. But I mean, we don't have any certainty on that, but that's our hope.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the timeline for that would be in Fiscal Year '25?

MS. ALMEIDA: Probably one to two years.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Two year...one to two years.

MS. ALMEIDA: -- before that gets through if it's approvable. Right. Because that's going to go Statewide.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and the other two park caretakers and the two painters, have they been described already by DPS or we're just at the very start of that whole process?

MS. PASALO: We're at the very start of that process so we would be requesting to create position if approved in the Fiscal Year '25 Budget.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and just an overall process question, when you folks put these expansion positions in and you submit it to the Mayor and the Mayor approves it to be in his budget, does the Managing Director know about it? Because he's the one that has to approve it to be sent DPS too. So, is it an inclusive process or only the Mayor is like yeah, I'll allow this expansion and then

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it still has to run through the Management Department? Or when you include it in your budget is the Managing Director like yeah, we can talk about this?

MS. PASALO: In terms of...I'm...I'm not sure who oversees it in the Mayor's Office. I don't know if Budget could respond to that question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. PASALO: Thank you.

MS. MILNER: Go ahead, Director.

MS. PASALO: No, after you.

MR. MCCALL: The...the painters' positions are currently described. All right. So, that...in that particular case. But we meet regularly with the Managing Director and so these types of issues come up and they're aware that we're...we're looking at this and we're kind of all of the same mind here. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Because I mean every...not just your Department but plenty of the departments ask for these questions [sic] and then year after year they're still not described by DPS and then everybody is like oh, it's with management, oh it's with DPS, oh it's...and so it's just I'm...I just wanted to clarify if the Managing Director was involved in the process of getting it put in the budget because then one year later when it's not described yet then we can ask him why. Okay. That's it. That's it for me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- for that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- extra ten minutes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next time we have to have Roxanne sit down here. Thank you very much for knowing your job. Thank you. Members, so at this time we're going to still continue after lunch. It is now 12:32, so you want to take a --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- one-hour lunch or you want to take an hour and a half?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, but we're not going to continue with Parks after lunch?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, no. I'm going to excuse them. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I just want to get this meeting into the next...right. I'm going to recess it. So, you want to take a one-hour lunch? Hour...okay. So, 1:32 we'll see you back here...1:35 we'll see you back here. And this meeting is now in recess, and we'll have Transportation and Ag after recess at 1:32...1:30...1:35 when we get back. So, thank you very much. Thank you, Parks Department. You did a great job and answering all our many questions. Thank you. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 12:33 p.m.

RECONVENE: 1:41 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome every...everybody to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. We have our afternoon session with two departments. Department of Transportation who's here today, and then we'll continue with Department of Ag and that will be the last Department today. And I hope to recess or adjourn this meeting at 4:00 and continue tomorrow.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CHAIR SUGIMURA: As you know...we're fortunate we have the Director and the Deputy Director here in person, and you all know that their things are on initial letter and response was on number 26 in Granicus. Department question letter is 55 in Granicus. And...and then their presentation this morning, if you want to look at it again, was number 78. So, at this time I...I want to open up the floor, Members, for questions to the Department. I really appreciate you being here. And so, the first round of questions we'll start with Member Johnson and go to Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook, U'u-Hodgins, Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin. And will be four minutes the first round, three minutes the second round, and if we need another third round we'll see. Okay. So, at this time, Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Department. My first question is going to come no surprise. Please provide an update on FY 2024 funding for a feasibility study of the County operation of an inter-County ferry system. Is additional funding needed in FY 2025 to complete the study?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember, for the question. The RFP went out last year, we received two bids, a contractor was selected, and we are working to finalize the contract now. The bids both came in under the allocated funds, so no additional funds are going to be required in FY '25. We will finalize the contract, they'll get started on work, and there will be a presentation to the Council before next budget cycle so that you guys can have the findings before your deliberations in FY '26.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great news. Thank you so much. Okay. I'm curious about the...the bus ridership and the...and the fires and the effect upon. So, please detail how Maui Bus ridership and revenue were impacted by the August fires.

MR. BATANGAN: Chair? Thank you, Councilmember, for the question. So, after the August 8th wildfires we suspended rates and fees on August 9th because we were utilizing our public transit services for evacuations of West Maui residents and visitors. And then we were utilizing the same services for non-emergency medical transports, to provide transport services to people at non-congregate...at congregate shelters and then non-congregate shelters. We were transporting volunteers and first responders. So, we waived all rates and fees. Those got reinstated on March 1st of this year. And when we reinstated the general fares, we then also then kicked off the fare-free program that you guys had implemented through last budget cycle. That was originally supposed to begin at the beginning of the calendar year, but since all rates and fees were waived, we...we delayed it until rates were implemented again. Ridership predictably decreased after the August 8th wildfires and slowly started to creep back up. In March it was around the same time or it was at the...around the same ridership levels as it was pre-fire. Is that correct? Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, good. Great to hear that. The next question I'm going to ask is in regard to the Park Maui Program. Please breakdown the \$2,317,231 proposed cost for contract services for the Park Maui Program. That's on page 797 of the Program Budget. What contractors are utilized and what is their scope of work?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair? Thank you, Councilmember, for the question. I apologize, I have to flip through my notes here. Okay. So, we have three contractors for the Park Maui Program onboarded currently. Diamond Parking Services, they're roughly \$1.5 million for FY '24 and they're the parking operator; they provide services for parking management, parking enforcement, revenue collection, counting, and reconciliation. They issue the permits. They help with maintenance of the facility and customer support. Dixon Resources, they are

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about \$600,000 for FY '24. They're our parking management consultant, so they help us design the program and have been with us through implementation of the...of the parking services technology and outreach. And then SKIDATA, they're a little over \$3-1/2 million for FY '24. They are the providers of our equipment . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . for the Wailuku Parking Garage. Thank you, Councilmember.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, next we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez then Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Department. Mahalo for being with us today. So, my...well, I have the same questions as Member Johnson. One question that we heard brought up last night at the Pā'ia District hearing was about using a couple of the areas there for Park Maui. Is there a plan to utilize some of those areas?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember, for the question. We don't anticipate expanding Park Maui out of Wailuku Town in this coming fiscal year. We're still trying to onboard Staff to help with the program. And you know, with everything going on, we were just trying to wait and pause. Initially the program was designed to be Central Maui so Wailuku, West Maui, and South Maui, and those were for beach parking. Once the fires hit, we kind of put a pause on the program. We rolled out the implementation of Wailuku because the parking garage came open, but we don't have plans to expand into Pā'ia or Ha'ikū at this moment.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. For the parking garage, do you have an update on like the stats of like how...of the usage and if it's meeting some of the . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. BATANGAN: We'd have to follow up in writing, we didn't prepare any of that --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, it's okay.

MR. BATANGAN: -- for today.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, yeah, yeah. I...I was just wondering if it was like meeting what your expectations were or...but it's fine.

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MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No need to follow up in writing.

MR. BATANGAN: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question for the Department, how many of the remaining 66 uncovered bus stops are slated to be sheltered in 2025? That's page 780. And according to the combined budget ordinance, page 26, these costs could be covered by bond funds. I'm curious how much they cost per unit. I think it was 600,000 was the budget and there's 66 of them.

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember, for the question. I don't know if we were able to figure out where your 66 uncovered shelters came from, but the Department does continuously plan to improve unsheltered stops. We constantly ask for about \$600,000 a year so we can continuously improve stops as we go. We do have the...the...so we are still doing improvements from what you guys allocated last year and the previous year. How many are going to come up in this...how many are going to be constructed during this fiscal year is going to be dependent upon how quickly they can get permitted.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, thank you. Not to interrupt you, but I don't have a lot of time.

MR. BATANGAN: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I just want to...my favorite subject, permitting.

MR. BATANGAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Does that continue to be an issue and is there any...is there any...do you foresee and feel there's any progress that the Administration is making in the...to enable you to do the...these projects?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

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MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember, for the question. It continues to be an issue. I do think we're getting a little bit better. The bottleneck tends to be SHPD's capacity, and that's largely because any underground utilities on our right-of-ways need to...well, okay, not all the time but a lot of times they need to be rerouted to allow for our structure to be built on their area. And you know, that just takes time. So, the Department...I mean I guess the Administration has been making progress in getting our permits, but the bottleneck continues to be outside of the...the Administration's control.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, when you have to dig in...if you're going to do a foundation and there's utilities under the structure, you have to relocate the utilities or you have to dig down to make sure you're not impacting the utilities?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you, Councilmember, for that question. With regards to...any time...any time you have to dig, we have to go through that process. There are certain times where we the Department will have to agree to if anything gets damaged...let's say like a waterline breaks and Water Department has to go in and fix it, if they...if we have our shelter over the damaged area, they might have to take out our shelter to actually fix the issue. So, then we take on that liability to fix it again.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

MR. TAKAMORI: So, it just depends on what's under...under the right-of-way. And I guess a lot of like if you think South Kihei Road or the Lower Honoapiilani Road in...in...in West Maui, the right-of-way isn't that wide so a lot of utilities are typically in the road or on the side, right? So, when you try to install a shelter on the side, we are taking up pretty much ten feet of right-of-way on one side to actually do a shelter which then we may or may not have to relocate certain utilizes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Well...

MR. TAKAMORI: So, that adds to the cost.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Right. And then that...that...so that makes it a variable. But my first question was like how much does each one cost? They're all going to cost a different amount because of what you're going to encounter.

MR. TAKAMORI: Correct.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So, I...my...did the bell ring?

. . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. You...you heard it in advance.

MR. BATANGAN: We're happy to follow up with any additional questions you have in writing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you. Yeah, you have to do a right-of-way permit so you have a phone number and then there's a whole list of people that they have to run through and sometimes they...not all of them are triggered. They kind of know where they are. And one sometimes triggers another and there's like a weird process.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Yeah, yeah. It is...it is a confusing process that is so many variables. One of the issues we heard last night...first of all, thank you so much for being here. One of the issues we heard last night is that there might be somebody living in the Ha'ikū Community Center bus station or bus cover area. Are you aware of that? If so, can we...I don't know what we can do, but that disallows it from its intended use.

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember. No, we were not aware that somebody was living in one of the shelters. The Code does prohibit that. So, what tends to happen is they move the 40 feet away from the shelter that they're required and then just use the shelter for shade throughout the day. But then it just becomes an enforcement issue. So, we can...we can let our...our friends at...at Human Concerns and...and Police know about this incident.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. BATANGAN: Can we ask that you provide further information on which shelter so we know where to send people?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Yeah. I know...

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MR. BATANGAN: And it doesn't have to be here, you can send it --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: I'll...I'll send it to you.

MR. BATANGAN: -- in writing after.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: I do know that when I went to the Ha'ikū Community Association meeting last week with Member Sinenci, I did...I did notice somebody in there, but I don't go there all the time to notice that that person might be living in there, but I'll get that information to you.

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you. I appreciate it. Okay. And then on page 23-11, for your Administration Program I see that you guys have a 47,000, near 48,000 increase. I'm just curious on what that's going to cover for you folks in the operations for our Admin department...your Admin Program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Got it?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you. Thank you for the question, Councilmember. So, the...the expansion request of the 47,900 is actually part of the increase in dues for the Maui MPO and so that's actually...that's the part of the County's 10 percent match for the Maui MPO's Federal funds. The other 10 percent would come from the State in the same amount. And the expansion request will help the...will help fund grant-funded positions for the Maui MPO. And...and we do have your questions that you guys submitted to us and we will provide it back to the Council tomorrow once we finalize it, but we do explain further what the positions would be doing that we got from the MPO.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Great. Thank you. I appreciate that. That's all for me, Chair. I have no further questions for Transportation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And mahalo for the...for being here with us. My question was just following along the lines of the Park Maui Program. Did you mention how much revenue is anticipated from the program over the next year?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. BATANGAN: So, thank you for the question. The anticipated revenue for the Wailuku Parking Garage at the rates and fees that are proposed is approximately \$60,000. So, I just want to note that this is slightly different from what was reported in that budget. I had made some assumptions that I later learned were false, and so with additional information I want to make sure to update you guys on that. So, I had overestimated the initial projections and want to make sure it's clear. We...we're given updates from our consultants. And so, if the rates and fees proposed are adopted which are for the Wailuku garage, it would be about 60,000.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you, Deputy. And then did you mention why the amount from last year was reduced by \$1.4 million?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember. So, when we had projected revenues last year, it was with the expectation that the Wailuku Parking Garage, Wailuku Town, and the South and West Maui beach parking would all be implemented. After the Lāhainā...or sorry, after the August 8th wildfires, we only implemented the program for the Wailuku Parking Garage.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Got it. Okay. Thank you. And then my...my other question was Member Johnson mentioned the Lānaʻi ferry feasibility study that was completed. Are there any more Federal grants and DC specific for ferry systems? Has the lobbyists --

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- found any?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. BATANGAN: So, thank you, Councilmember, for the question. So, we're aware of three Federal grants that would help with the ferry system. By designing it the way that we had proposed in our study, which allows the boats to be used in emergent situations should like West Maui or South Maui be cut off along the palis again, that could potentially open up an additional one. We have an outstanding request with the Federal Department of Transportation to put together what those funding packages might look like for our jurisdiction, and that will be included in the ferry feasibility study once it's finalized and presented

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to the Council.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that update. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Vice-Chair Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, on page 794 of your Program Budget regarding the Air Ambulance Program, when was the last salary increase for the Air Ambulance Program? Do you know?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember, for the question. We'd have to get back to you --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. BATANGAN: -- in writing. It's been a long time.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: It's time for them to get a rise, what do you think? No, no.

MR. BATANGAN: So, the way the program works is --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. BATANGAN: -- we give a grant to the State Department of Health and they contract out the service. So, you're correct in that the contract has increased over time but the amounts that they've asked the County for its share has not increased in quite a while. I can get back to you in writing --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. BATANGAN: -- with when that might be.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That sounds good.

MR. BATANGAN: But we'd have to dig pretty far back through our records to get that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I think they work hard, and I think that they deserve it. Anyway, regarding staffing for the Park Maui Program, who is and/or are the contractors retained by the County for this program? And why are we contracting for these services and not creating County positions?

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MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember, for the question. So, there are three contractors --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. BATANGAN: -- for the program. One does parking operations, so they do like the collection of revenues, they're the attendants that are there to help people. We have one consultant who helps advise on the structure of the program. And then we have one contractor who provides basically the technology, the...the...the...they're the vendors for all of the machines that we have.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, great.

MR. BATANGAN: We are currently trying to hire staff within the Department to oversee the program. So, that would be one E/P. But we...we still contract out the operations for it. There are currently more operators than there are total employees in our Department, so that would require a significant shift in...in the Department's model if we were to go that route.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay. Good answer. So, regarding the Public Transit Program, when was the last salary increase for the Public Transit Program employees?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. BATANGAN: I'm going to answer and let me know if I'm answering your question correct...if I'm interpreting your question --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. BATANGAN: -- correctly. Okay. So, our...all of our services are contracted out.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes. . . .(inaudible). . .

MR. BATANGAN: The rates that employees are paid are largely determined by our contractors. Some of them have to follow guidelines that we set just because there are Federal regulations placed on us --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

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MR. BATANGAN: -- and most of our...our public transit services are...are Federally funded. So, a lot of them follow those guidelines. I can't off the top of my head tell you how...when each of those pay raises have occurred. Maybe Director Takamori can answer better.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair? Thank you, Councilmember Kama, for that question. Basically, because our Maui Bus contracts, we do require the contractors to pay prevailing wage --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- so that means that pretty much every year there is some type of increase based on prevailing wage from the...from the State that provides that pay scale. So, I believe that the next...the next update may be July 1st.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, that makes sense because just want to make sure with all the low wages that are floating around in our County that, you know, even...even if we have a lot of consultants, we just hope that they would pay our local people the wage that they need and they deserve. So, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next, we have Chair Lee. Four minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. I too was interested in the...the status of the...the feasibility study for the ferry and looking for...forward to the results. Now, with...you have several long-term vacancies as of your December 31st report. Would it be possible to take one of these and redescribe it to a Grants Specialist position rather than ask for an additional position?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember, for the question. We are in active recruitment for all three of them, of the vacant positions. Two of them we have scheduled interviews coming up, and the last one...well it actually just got...the last one just got posted in February and we're...we should be receiving the list of candidates shortly. So, we're actually in active recruitment for all three of them. And all three of them would really be helpful for maintaining our current operations. So, we'd really prefer not to redescribe any of the open positions.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How long did you have those vacancies?

MR. BATANGAN: The longest one would be the...the Transportation System Analyst, which is a position that Director Takamori has return rights to. So, it's an LTA position, and that's why it's been hard to fill. But that one got posted in February 20...February 2023. The Planner V position that is open was only posted in April of 2023. It's under continuous recruitment, and we've made three offers but haven't had anybody accept those. And then the Program Specialist III position, that one was just posted at the end...or I guess February 2024. So, that one hasn't been open very long.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, two of the three have been open pretty long, right?

MR. BATANGAN: Over a year, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, over a year. Okay. Thank you. That's all I have.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Next, we have Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Department. I was wondering if there's a timeline for a replacement on the low diesel bus that was destroyed by the fire?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair? Thank you, Councilmember Paltin, for that question. We did lose one diesel bus in the Lāhainā fires. We are working with the Department of Corporation Counsel Risk Management Division on getting insurance monies for it. And we've also been updating our diesel bus specs for it because what...our understanding is whatever...whatever FEMA doesn't...whatever the insurance doesn't cover for us to get a replacement bus, FEMA will cover. So, we're going to go...we're going through that process. So, it...we may be going out to bid at the ending of this fiscal year or for sure we'll be going out to bid next fiscal year to replace that bus.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are we fronting the money or are we waiting for the insurance and FEMA reimbursement?

MR. TAKAMORI: I think we're...I think we're fronting the money.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then my understanding is two bus stops that we did not own were also destroyed, and I just was wondering your strategy on those going forwards.

MR. BATANGAN: Chair? Thank you, Councilmember, for the question. So, there were two...as you said there were two shelters that the County did not own which were destroyed in the fire. One was our West Maui Transit Hub, which was the Wharf

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Cinema Center. So, we would defer to the landowners for reconstruction of that. The second one was a bus shelter that was built by the Lāhainā Rotary clubs, and we could reach out to them to inquire about rebuilding it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Sounds good. In the past I...I had received some complaints that I forwarded to the Director about the air ambulance not being able to fuel at night sometimes. I was wondering if there's been any follow-up on that or any further issue that you're aware of?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair? Thank you, Councilmember, for the question. So, we...after receiving those communications from you--I believe it was last budget cycle? Okay. We had reached out to the Department of Health, which contracts out the air ambulance service for the County of Maui. Their representative was not aware, but we asked them to keep looking into it. I don't remember what the resolution was, but we can follow up on that. I do know that we did have them pull the logs of refueling. I remember that was transmitted to the Department. I just can't...and I...I did see that they were refueling at night. I...but I can't remember if all of the concerns that you had posted to the Department were...were answered and can follow up again.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Did I provide you the medic that was telling me the complaint?

MR. BATANGAN: I don't believe so.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. BATANGAN: But I don't know if we would need to. We...we...because we looked into it as if it was just an...an issue. I don't think that the person raising the concern was of importance; it was more is this solved, and we didn't want to get any personnel involved.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Perfect. Okay. Thank you. And then at one point with the Lāhainā diaspora being relocated to Kihei but still wanting to go to school in Lāhainā, there was not adequate school bus service from Kihei to Lahainaluna. Were you folks able to help with that at all?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair? Thank you, Councilmember. So, the Department isn't able to charter vehicles. Because of the Federal funding we receive, there are restrictions on that. We were able to do so during the emergency response because . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . it was in...it was to protect lives and property, but we don't have that flexibility now. What we had communicated to the Department of Education was that...you know, so Department of Education is responsible for their own public...I mean their...their own transit for their students. That's a separate contract and a separate vendor. So, we connected them with our Federal

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partners and some of our philanthropic partners to potentially get additional money to expand those services. But it would be up to the Department of Education to procure those additional services. We cannot because of the Federal restrictions we have.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No can. Okay. Got it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, Department, I have some questions for you, and this is regarding the bus hub. So, what is the status of the bus hub? And I went to drive through it, very beautiful. Actually, I went last night after I came back from the Budget meeting. I was just wondering where we are. There was a security guard there, you know, very good, well protected, and there's gates, security gates, and waiting for the bus to drive in.

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair, thank you for the question. The status of the transit hub, we just had a transit hub status meeting with our Staff and contractors and the construction contractor. The latest schedule that's provided today shows a certificate of occupancy being issued on April 26 or around that date. So, it...it's basically been pushed out a month since the last time we were provided a update...updated schedule. We did take a...we did have a onsite walkthrough with Kaahumanu Center and Councilmember Kama who...who lives next door so she could see the status of the hub. And Kaahumanu Center is aware of status updates because we are trying to be transparent with where we are with the schedule.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. So, you're going to invite us to the grand opening?

MR. TAKAMORI: Absolutely. We're going to have a party when it's done.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: A big party. Big.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's great. Congratulations. It's been really a lot of work for the Department with your limited Staff, so appreciate your hard work. And Director, program book page 968, transportation baseyard facility. The funding requested for the project for Fiscal Year '25 is 2.6 million from the Bond Fund. And my question is, is it eligible for the Bond Fund? Because the description that it is...the funding is for planning, design, engineering, and construction management which is not building. So, I was just wondering if you could enlighten us regarding that. And it says that the construction is slated for 2027. So, I'm wondering if the bonding should be at that time. Director?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair? I...I think I'm going to ask the Acting Budget Director for some --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

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MR. TAKAMORI: -- some guidance on that. We did put it in. We are planning to do plan and design, construction management with those funds, and I guess the detail of it, it's cash versus bond. I'm not quite familiar on the best strategy for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, all of the projects that we included as bond funded, we felt were eligible to be bond funded, but if you would like us to put that in writing, I'm happy to provide more details.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah. I think based upon what the bond counsel said, so can we just check on that?

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: James and Kasie, can you...can you check? Okay. So, based on that. And I wanted to talk about MPO, and I don't really have a page number, but I do know from participating in the MPO, which some of the Members are, is that Pam Eaton, who is the Executive Director, detailed out what these E/Ps were that...or planning E/Ps for the MPO. And I don't know if you can speak for her, Director, or you know, Deputy, because you're both involved with MPO. But I believe that some of the funds to pay for these positions were coming from State funds or Federal funds, so it was being supplemented somehow so that the justification for these additional positions. I don't have the numbers. We can ask you in writing if you need it more because I know you're not Pam Eaton.

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair, thank you for the question. We...based on if those are the similar questions to what was provided in writing to us, we did get a response from Executive Director of the MPO Pam Eaton, so that would be in our response that would be transmitted tomorrow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you do have that then?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I don't have any more questions on that. So, Members, you need a round two? Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't get all of you. I didn't get you?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have a round...you have a round...okay. So, I'm going to start round two and it'll be three minutes, and Member Johnson first, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook, U'u-Hodgins, Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin. And that's

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round two for three minutes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You don't have any more questions?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Me too, I'm done.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I'm done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Who has? Member Johnson, he's first.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank...thank you, Chair. This is in regards to the Transportation baseyard CIP. Okay. Can you give us an update? That's different than the bus hub that you guys were discussing of course. So, can you give us an update on the Transportation baseyard facility? What work was undertaken with the 2.6 million? And then how...how is the new construction scheduled to proceed on July...July 1st, 2024, under the \$20 million? That's on page 969, Program Budget. When the...when on page 968 that the funding is in 2027.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for the question, Councilmember Johnson. Yeah, that was...that...that is an error. So, the Department isn't planning to start construction until Fiscal Year 2027 once the planning and design portions are completed and construction funding is secured. So, while the allocation estimate of construction funds is allocated in the correct fiscal year, I...I do believe I know what you're referencing where it does have a date that starts next...beginning of this next fiscal year. So, that is an incorrect date. It is still estimated to maybe start construction in Fiscal Year '27. With regards to the planning and design, we are...we are in the process of securing a consultant to help us move forward with the planning and design portion of the facility and the buildout. It is going to be done in phases because it is a large parcel. I think...I mean the facility would have a maintenance facility including bus charging --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- infrastructure and...and office space for workers as well.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sounds great. The...the consultant that you're working with, is that going to be in the 2.6 million? The fees that they're going to charge us?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. I'm going to move on to another, bus...bus stops, we're always been concerned about it. So, does the Department consider other factors such as local weather, tree canopy, population vulnerability, et cetera, when determining a bus stop should receive shelter or other amenities? And then just the idea of it does it have to be a bus stop, why not tree canopies, you know, just something to get people out of the weather? So, that...that's my question. Is it other factors that you look at when deciding?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair? Thank you. Thank you for the question, Councilmember. We do. We do look at different factors. In terms of though changing the design of a standard bus stop shelter, we...I guess the program got started when we got funding to do planning and design and what...what did the community want the shelters to look like. So, at the time we did community outreach and that's kind of how we came up with the current design that we're using. If we start to...start changing the design then you might need to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Cost more.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- solicit more feedback because it is changing . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . what the...the look would look like.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I understand that. It's just from having nothing to something, maybe there's something in between. My time's up.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, thank you for that response. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, did you say you have no further questions? Yes? No?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. For my second question, how's the hybrid vehicles working for the...buses working?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair? Thank you for the question, Councilmember Cook. It's...it's...I think the...I think the public really likes riding it because it is neat technology because it does...it is able to...even though it's a hybrid and there is a diesel engine, the engine is able to kick off and the bus is able to run on battery. So, sometimes like I think within...in the Wailuku area we do have green zones set

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up where when the bus has enough electrical charge in the batteries, and it hits the green zone the engine will turn off and then run on battery. So, sometimes you may see the...the newer blue buses drive up on High Street and they'll be very quiet, and then there are other times where it needs to charge and so the engines might still be on.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Have we been using them long enough to have an assessment whether the repair and maintenance costs is higher/lower?

MR. TAKAMORI: I believe that because it's much newer, there is much less maintenance issues in comparison to our much older transit diesel buses.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, good. Next, we have Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: I don't have any further questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No questions.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. My second round question was about the Planner III and Planner IV positions. Were those specific for the MPO?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Following up on Chair Sugimura's questions.

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember (*audio interference*) Yes, those are requested by the MPO. Their duties would be with the MPO, and there wouldn't be any overlap. The MPO's administratively attached to the Department, but they are separate and distinct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. And then are...will their salaries...will these amounts be paid with the State or Federal funding through the MPO State and Federal funding program?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair? Thank you, Councilmember. Yes, it'd be largely funded through the Feds. I believe the...the breakdown is 80/10/10. So, the Feds would pay 80 and then there's a 20 percent match that would be split amongst the

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County and the State. So, our...our portion of their salary would be 10 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Got it. All right. Thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- you very much. So, Member Kama, you said you had no questions?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee, you have questions? Oh, I don't see her.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Are you there?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is Chair Lee...did she leave? Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know I do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I put stars next to the...every time you ask questions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, how many stars do I have?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yours shining bright.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was wondering if you knew our return on investment on the lobbyist. Like have we gotten great stuff since we hired that dude?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Dude. Go ahead.

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair? I would say yes. A lot of our new buses too, like our hybrid electric buses we actually were most likely successful with the help of...of...of...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mr. Lobbyist Dude?

MR. TAKAMORI: Yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. TAKAMORI: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Cool. Well, that's good to know. And then last night we heard requests from some folks about a Pā'ia-Makawao-Ha'ikū loop, and they said they have like maybe 250 employees working in the area but not enough parking, Pā'ia merchant people or something. There's like 40 lot stalls. And I just was wondering, what would be involved in making a Pā'ia-Makawao-Ha'ikū loop or talking to the merchant folks about like, you know, does everybody need to drive to work or do some people want to ride bus to work or--I mean I think they asked for more parking lots, but who wants to pave over paradise, you know?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question. So, depending on...depending on if we were to create a new fixed route to do something like that, we currently pay our service provider \$145 per hour and we typically run...depending if you run it like for 16 hours a day, so you start in the morning, you end in the evening, then you do that every single day. That's what the...what's what the cost of a new route would...would be.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are we saving any money on not circulating through the burn zone or no savings from that?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair? So, thank you for that. We...we did end certain routes, but we did restart others in different configurations because we no longer have the Wharf Cinema Center as a hub. So, now we actually have routes that would start at Queen Kaahumanu Shopping Center, soon to be Kahului Transit Center when we relocate over. But basically, that driver drives a four-hour roundtrip. So, you're driving from Kahului to basically the mid stop point...I mean via Maalaea to Whaler's Village all the way to Kapalua and back, and then they do it one more time again. So, it's an eight-hour --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Poor guy.

MR. TAKAMORI: -- it's an eight-hour day for the driver, and it's basically two times going all the way out to Kapalua and back. So, we did have to interline couple...couple routes. Instead of, you know, Kaahumanu to Wharf Cinema and then Wharf Cinema up to Kapalua. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the last question is kind of general. You know when you have that planner series...or Planner V position and it's been a long time to fill and, like, I guess Planner Vs are few and far between, is it possible to hire anything up to a planner with that . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . recruitment? Like if a Planner II qualified person applies for the Planner V one and you just need

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the warm body and you can train them up to Planner V, can you pick up a less-qualified person at less money even though the vacancy says Planner V?

MR. TAKAMORI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you for the question, Councilmember. I would probably defer that to Department of Personnel Services in terms of how best to work through what their guidelines are. So, usually if it's a Planner V, we are recruiting at a Planner V. I think if you were to say we should start at a Planner III level, then I think you would have to then do some...I don't know what's involved in making that change, if that has to go through another review or whatnot. And then I think once you hire at that level, then you possibly can increase.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess I was asking from your perspective, is it better to hire someone you would train up to a Planner V or just have it vacant for ten years?

MR. BATANGAN: I think we would prefer to have help than no help because right now it falls on the Director and myself. But in terms of recruitment, I think it would take a reorg because we're allocated a Planner V. So, the only applicants that we are sent are those who qualify for that level. It's not like we get somebody at a Planner III who we could train up. The way the model works is we only get the applicants who qualify for a Planner V.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Good luck with that.

MR. BATANGAN: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Personnel comes tomorrow, you can ask them that question. Can I finish with round two? Anybody have any questions more? If not, we're done with Department of Transportation. Gabe, you're fine? Yeah? Okay. Thank you very much, Marc and Kauano. Thank you very much for your hard work.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you very much.

MR. BATANGAN: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. We look forward to the bus hub opening. Thanks for working on it and...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Looking forward to it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we're going to change out and then...so, Members, next we're going to have Department of Ag. And I see...I see Deputy Director and Director waiting to do a change out. So...you want to recess five minutes? So, come back at 2:34. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 2:29 p.m.
RECONVENE: 2:35 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back, everybody. It's 2:35.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Appendix B – Rates and Fees

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I've asked Department of Transportation to be here in their rates and fees because of Park Maui. I'm sorry I missed this because I believe that Deputy Director Batangan answered some of the questions that I had, the impact of the rates and fees that are being proposed under Appendix B. And the Ramseyered version is page 49. And he did say that the impact of the rate increase would be 60,000. Is that correct?

MR. BATANGAN: Chair? So, we said that the estimated revenue from the Park Maui Program if the rates and fees for Wailuku garage were adopted as is would be 60,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. And do you intend to lease...this is...this came to my office and might have come to some of the other offices. Do you intend to lease a number of the stalls to the State Judiciary? You know when they have people that are the volunteering and on the jury, and we got these email messages like are...are they going to be able to park in the Wailuku Parking Garage at no rate...at no fee?

MR. BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No cost.

MR. BATANGAN: So, the Department took operational control of Park Maui in February. Before that, it was...we were, you know, supported by the Department of Management. My understanding from the transition meeting was that the conversations with the Judiciary had always been that parking passes could be available, but they'd have to be purchased. So, whether or not there is...they're

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fully purchased by the State Judiciary for jurors or there was some kind of cost share agreement created between the County and the Judiciary, those would be open questions that needed to be resolved. But there was never an intent for us to just give out parking passes for jurors.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Deputy Director, do you know if those...are there other arrangements before Park Maui? Was there any exchange of money? Did the State pay anybody? They're expect...they're anticipating it's going to be free from the email that I got.

MR. BATANGAN: That was not what we were told during our transition meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. BATANGAN: So, we would have to circle back and make sure that we're on the same page with the Judiciary. But as of now there's nothing in the rates and fees which would allow for them to have free parking passes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Anybody else have questions regarding this? No questions? Okay. So, then that'll then conclude this, and it'll come up in decisions. Department, you want to say anything before we change out?

MR. BATANGAN: I would just like to ask that you forward the communication from the Judiciary so I would know who to follow up with --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. BATANGAN: -- on their end. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I think I did send it to the Department, but I...I...I will. Yeah. No, that's okay. Thank you.

MR. TAKAMORI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Thanks for your hard work. We'll...we'll see you back one day.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Department of Ag, you want to come down and we can switch out? Lesley, do you want to say anything? You've been so quiet. . . .*(inaudible)*.
. . .

MS. MILNER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Enjoying the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . You're going to like not want to see us that much, yeah. Okay. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Ag. You have a question? Oh, I'm sorry. What did...you want to bring down your Staff? Okay. How many people and how many chairs do you need?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you want to take a short five-minute break to set up? Is it...or is it set up?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Can they fit in here? Okay. Why don't you come down, whoever. Okay. So, Members, we'll do Department of Ag, four minutes one round, and then three minutes the next round. Welcome. Welcome, welcome. So, Director, you can introduce everybody. Hi, David. Nice to see you.

MS. ARCE: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon again, Councilmembers. This afternoon I have with Deputy Director and I our division leaders. We have David Nakama, our Grants Division Grant Coordinator. We have Jeff Jurickovich, our Ag Parks Manager, and Lauren Nelson, our Food Access Coordinator. We have Kaiea Medeiros coming later and he is our Ag Advocate leader in his division.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson, would you like to take the first four minutes?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Certainly. Thank you. New Department, fresh faces, I love it. I'm so excited that you guys are here, so thank you. I wish I had longer than four minutes to chat, so I'm just going to jump right into it. Were you consulted about the Department of Water Supply's 20 percent Agriculture water rate increase? And how do you think this will impact farmers?

MS. ARCE: Chair? No, we were not consulted. Your question in the BFED questions were the first time that we were aware of it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Have...have you...have you done any outreach to farmers about a 20 percent increase or has any of the farmers reached out to you about a 20 percent increase?

MS. ARCE: I have not done any outreach and I have not received any inquiries regarding that. Maybe Koa has or other Staff maybe.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

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MS. ARCE: Maybe Jeff has, but --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It was a surprise to me as well.

MS. ARCE: -- I'm not familiar with it. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I'm going to get into some of the funding in regards to the invasive species. So, the...how will the County grant subsidy for \$1 million for agriculture recovery be...recovery be distributed? What is the anticipated percentage of funds to be used for invasive plants and animals versus to address theft and vandalism? How will funding for invasive plants or animals be different from grant funding to MISC?

MS. ARCE: Chair? Okay. Your first question is regarding the...what was the number...the dollar amount you said?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: 1 million for agriculture recovery.

MS. ARCE: Okay. So, we have funding that is being proposed for a grant bucket and that would be for different organizations and individuals to compete for like the rest of our categories that we developed. Our Grant Coordinator can elaborate more on that if that wasn't enough information. Your second question, can you please repeat again?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: How will funding for invasive plants or animals be different from grant funding for MISC?

MS. ARCE: So, we don't, first of all, oversee the OED --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Of course.

MS. ARCE: -- funding for MISC.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. ARCE: We are discussing with HDOA and MISC and MOMISC on how the Department can be a third line of action to defend on invasive species. We're going to rely on them to take the brunt of the --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. ARCE: -- response activities, so not to be redundant. We're also going to welcome helping them in any way, but it will be with a MOU or MOA of some kind so that it's spelled out clearly that even though we're doing jobs that they will do, we're there to assist --

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. ARCE: -- them when they call on us.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Please.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Yeah. Chair? Yeah, before it was in animal...animal...or feral animal recovery, and then we changed it to agriculture recovery, just have a bigger pool of applicants come in. So, just make it a little bit more general and we can open it up. We're kind of switching and moving with the tides from what we learned last fiscal year. So, as we move forward, I think we're going to see a lot of that movement. So, we're excited about the new change, and we'll...we'll see how it goes. So, it's open, competitive.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great. Thanks for that. How...how will the Department ensure 300,000 for professional services for a coconut rhinoceros beetle invasive species campaign is not redundant with MISC? This is the coconut rhino one. Is 300 grand enough?

MS. ARCE: Chair? May I defer to our Food Access Coordinator who's leading the CRB...well not leading but keeping the pulse on it for our Department?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Please.

MS. NELSON: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha.

MS. NELSON: I do not have a specific CRB budget ahead of me, but as the Department of Agriculture, we are coordinating the CRB response working group for Maui County. And this will...this will focus on every phase of response from prevention to supporting Cecile Powell's work to build out composting . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . facilities on island so that we can prevent the need for external inputs such as contaminated potentially materials coming from O'ahu. So, within this work our focus so far has been on education and outreach, so we'll continue those programs. We are in the process of working with CRB response team based on O'ahu, CTAHR, Maui Invasive Species Committee, Moloka'i Invasive Species, Hawai'i Invasive Species --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. NELSON: -- committee, and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture to ensure that our work is non-repetitive. And also, our focus is primarily in just coordinating the Maui response and making sure that our islands are a priority because really

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the focus Statewide is on, you know, Kauai just had like more detections just came up this week. Hawai'i Island has detection, so we need to focus of these Statewide resources to be on Maui County to ensure that we aren't exposed, to make sure that we have a regionally specific tailored, a response plan. Just given the nature of CRB, the impacts to Ha'ikū will be vastly different than --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. NELSON: -- Kihei.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. NELSON: And so, we're in the process of developing that tailored plan. And then education and outreach to support it. So, this 300K I know will go to support that work, have more educational outreach meetings. We had a series of trainings already this spring, and so we'll continue to train our landscapers, tree trimmers, and folks who work with green waste and agriculture who might see this damage and can report it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Nelson. My time's up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then Cook, U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Aloha, Department. Mahalo for being with us today. Okay. I guess I'll stay on the CRB. So, are you aware that EP&S also requested 200,000 for CRB for specifically to manage green waste?

MS. ARCE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. ARCE: Yes, I cowrote that grant proposal with Cecile Powell and submitted it --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh . . .(inaudible). . .

MS. ARCE: -- on behalf of the County.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, is there overlap? Is the intention to collaborate and how does the...the 2...the 200,000 and the 300,000 not overlap?

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MS. ARCE: So, it's not overlap; it's a direct grant from the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture for the one specific project, and it's on behalf of the CRB Working Group. The Department of Environmental Management will run the project and manage the funding and report on the...on the proposal, the grant funds. The 300,000 that we have in our budget is...the request is for those groups of...like the campaign, some campaign and educational work that is tied to invasive species. In the explanation is what you're referring to, right? So, that's going to be part of any work that we need to do to educate people on CRB. So, it's a different pot of money. It's a grant that Sharon Hurd had emailed us about to...to apply for.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Okay. So, I just want to make sure I'm understanding this correctly.

MS. ARCE: Right. It's additional.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, the 300,000 would pay for the educational material and outreach?

MS. ARCE: So, the 300,000, some of it would be used for any other future educational campaigns or workshops that would be organized for our Arborist, our landscapers, the industry groups, and even communities to make them aware and upgrade their skills in responding to invasive species. Kicking it off with CRB and in the long run we do want to address other invasive species that impact agriculture crops.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, for that budget it doesn't cover personnel costs, it covers like the cost of like printing --

MS. ARCE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- or radio ads or other kind of --

MS. ARCE: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- outreach? Okay. Mahalo for explaining that. And then I wanted to go to Kula Ag Park. So, you're proposing a Kula Ag Park field office, and then the Starlink is being proposed for that field office, and that's because it's...it's kind of like out of the way of infrastructure. So, there wouldn't be like fiber optics. And...but there's potable water in that area or they wouldn't need potable water or how would that work?

MS. ARCE: Chair? Thank you for the question. So, we want to establish a field office there for a couple reasons. One is to have presence in the park for our tenants, and to have access and direct contact between the tenants and...and the

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Department. The second thing is to have our Staff that will be doing maintenance there to have a workspace there and cut down on the travel time from the Maehara Building here in Wailuku to Kula Ag Park. And eventually we will be increasing the...the Staff so that we can have maintenance done more frequently . . .(timer sounds). . . and because we have investments in there, which is...one of them is the fence line, and we want to make sure that we, you know, have the Staff there to take care of it. There's no potable water. It's important for them to have a workspace as well as the communications and health and sanitary reasons. So, that's what the funding will be used for. But the quotation that Jeff had provided was \$1,000 and...and assuming one Starlink, I'm not sure on the...how it works, but we'll work on that. And the second pot of funding...the second thing that we would use the funding for was the...10,000 for the...I have it here, hang on. I don't want to mess up the...the words. The off-grid solar kit so we're independent. And we'll also...the third thing is to be a model of how...how a Department can work off-grid, and it kind of stems my work in Moloka'i as working with homesteaders that don't have anything and they have 35-40 acres. Yeah. So, that...so that was the...the whole like initiative in that. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Yeah, maybe an atmospheric water system. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good idea. All right. So, welcome, Mr. Medeiros. Next, we have Member Cook --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- then U'u-Hodgins . . .(inaudible). . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: My question for the Department, how's the relationship with Maui County Department of Agriculture and Mahi Pono? Communication and...and collaboration or...

MS. ARCE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. ARCE: Yeah. Just clarifying, did you say Hawai'i Department of Ag?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, no, Maui. Like you...like our Department of Ag and Mahi Pono.

MS. ARCE: Oh, Mahi Pono.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. And I'll tell you...I'll tell you what I'm thinking. I was

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talking with people...my kids' grandpa worked for Maui HC&S forever, and his was irrigation farmer. Anyway, the plantation irrigation system I understand could provide water to Kula Ag Park, like some of the ditches, et cetera, if we utilized them could get water to Kula Ag Park. If we could get surface water to Kula Ag Park--and there's a big if--I'm...I'm parroting what I heard, so if I'm wrong you can let me know. That if we could get surface water there so we're not using potable water so we would have...not an abundance but sufficient water to farm, that we could potentially put a small treatment plant there that we could have potable water. That a lot of the things that are inhibiting us from actually like the park thriving would be...that may be a path forward. And I was just curious because for us to do right now all the treated water and pumping it and the expense of providing water that we're subsidizing appropriately. I highly believe that we should subsidize ag water, but it's very expensive. So, is any of that dialogue...does that resonate at all?

MS. ARCE: Thank you for the question. We have begun dialogue and Koa and Jeffery can elaborate on the meetings and visits that they had accomplished already.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Yeah, I mean we just the...the beginning dialogue and we're still building this out, but for our CIP project it's definitely more meetings with them. Jeff and I met with Mahi Pono on the 30-million-gallon reservoir that is adjacent to the Kula Ag Park just to check out the whole water delivery system which is part of our...our CIP in developing. And then we are also planning a site visit with Mahi Pono sometime later this month, correct, Lauren? So, more investigation and meetings to be had. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Great. I mean if we could get...yeah, it's just so expensive to get water. I'm glad you're looking at all opportunities and then utilizing whatever infrastructure we may have that's from before that we could constructively use now. That's it for now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Thank you, Member Cook. Member U'u-Hodgins? Member Sinenci to follow.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I was just looking at the Ag water rates because I have Ag water at my house.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: So, yay for us. Anyway. On the booster pump for the Upper Maui Ag Park, I understand that you guys are still waiting on Water to

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comment so that you can continue with your permitting. I'm surprised Member Cook didn't ask this question because he loves to talk about permitting. I don't blame you though. When did you guys submit your permit and how long have you guys been waiting to hear from Water? I'm not asking to throw them under the bus but if you could just give us perspective.

MS. ARCE: All right. Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. ARCE: So, I will defer to Jeffery. As far as permitting, we haven't even reached that yet to my understanding, but Jeffery can elaborate the work that has been occurring and the discussions that have been happening with our engineers as well as our contractors.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay.

MR. JURICKOVICH: So, the booster pump project, that's we're working with Water Department and our last CIP meeting about two weeks ago that it's getting close to going out to bid for the booster pump project.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay. Cool.

MR. JURICKOVICH: Which...yeah, it's getting close. And then separate...separate project for the storage of the water because we need some more storage as well at the ag park to hold that. But yeah, from what I understand, it's getting close to going out and Water is working on that currently.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Oh, cool. Okay. I know this...this morning I think it was said that you guys are waiting for them to comment. So, I guess you guys are just playing ping-pong with comments. Deputy Director, you have a comment?

MR. HEWAHEWA: Yeah. Chair? I'm not sure if we had...we had some resources online. I don't know if from Management we have Dan Schupack available, but if not, we can provide more comments in writing a little later.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Sure.

MR. HEWAHEWA: But if Dan is on, if you want to provide any update on that part, that would be awesome. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you, Deputy Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is he on? I don't see him.

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MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . 43 participants.

MR. KRUEGER: We...we don't see Mr. Schupak on at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay. I can...I can hold off for written comments. Thank you. I wanted to discuss kind of what Member Johnson was saying too about the coconut rhinoceros beetle. So, last night when we were talking about coqui frogs with MISC, I know it's different, but we were talking about eradication versus contaminate, and I know that we have to deal with this with all kinds of invasive species. So, does the expansion request for \$300,000...are you guys envisioning eradication, which is always our first option, or containment?

MS. ARCE: Chair? I'm really careful on using the word "eradication" because it's a promise that we're making the community, and I don't want to promise or commit that we're going to do that when we don't even know ourselves if we can provide that services.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay.

MS. ARCE: So...so that's the answer for that. What was your second...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Oh, it was just or containment. I don't know a softer word for eradication but if one exists...

MS. ARCE: So, yeah, as I mentioned earlier, we will be the third line of defense. So, the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture as well as MISC and MOMISC are willing to offer training to upgrade our Staff to be prepared when they call on us if they need to call on us. And we have a half-time position that we're establishing with the Department of Personnel Service that will have some small responsibility in invasive species response.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Yeah. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Oh.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Chair? . . .*(inaudible)*. . . couple comments. I don't want to get in trouble. I was always in favor of eradication, but the softer word is management that they use. But you know, like when we hear the State talking about eradication to management, it's not a roadmap that I want to follow. You know I really want to...just looking at the fragile environments within Lāhainā and Kula right now, it's a big...big issue that we need to look at more alternatives and options. And part of the CRB working taskforce, we're actually looking internationally and across seas with our cousins through the Pacific who are highly impacted by CRB, and lots more mitigation efforts and strategies are

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coming our way. So, we're stoked with all the work from DEM, the Office of the Mayor, specifically Tuki who's reaching out to Fiji and, you know, like eastern Asian Pacific where actually they produce the most coconuts, and that's where CRB is from. So, we got to kind of look at the strategies that they're developing. And in Hawai'i we're known that to look at coconuts as ornamental when before the value was food. So, just the education part, that 300,000 is really a small drop in the bucket on really what we have to do to educate our community, government spaces, and just about the value of niu and...and everything that it's going to impact. So, I just kind of wanted to clarify that we cannot say these certain words but, you know, the...the priority and the...the intent and purpose of taking care of the situation is very high on our radar. So, mahalo, Councilmember --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. HEWAHEWA: -- . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: For sure. Thank you. I mean last night we heard over and over and over again about how invasive and destructive coqui frogs are, the little red fire ants, and so whatever we can do to prevent another invasive species. And of course, deer all the time, right? So, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And mahalo, Director Arce and Deputy Hewahewa and Staff, for being here. Just to add to the conversation, some farmers have said that they've been able to go on...considering the coconut rhinoceros beetle like you could just get some traps off of Amazon. So, I'm not sure that was something that was shared with us. My question was for the Grants Manager and the Grant Coordinator positions, are those positions going to be just focused on securing more funding from the State or the Federal governments or are those positions going to be focused on managing our agricultural grants to farmers?

MS. ARCE: Chair? I'll...I'll start answering Councilmember's question, and then I made our Grant Coordinator if he has further comment. But the...the Grants Division was just formed in 2023 with one coordinator and one Grants Management Specialist. We began Fiscal Year 2024 with an additional Grant Management Specialist. At the start of the fiscal year...at the start of the calendar year we had received a transfer of the 50-plus OED grant...agriculture grant contracts. So, our Staff has been managing those 50-plus contracts. And we also have an additional contracts that were generated from the awards that our Department had awarded for our grants subsidies that we were allotted in the previous fiscal year and for this fiscal year. We have...one of the two Grants Management Specialist has a small percentage of...of her FTE, 15 percent to secure...identify

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and secure grant funding, but we are unable to meet that goal right now because of the load of work that they have in the management alone for the existing contracts. But we do aim to increase our capacity and we're doing it carefully to make sure that our Department is also built in a balanced manner so that we're not only top-heavy in one...one kind of ag discipline but that we have Staff that cover a majority of topics that may come up in agriculture. We are looking at that the long...the short story to that is we're in discussion with Ulupono to maybe have them contract a...provide funds for us to contract a grant writer for one to two years until we can establish our own and request for E/Ps to be allocated to us in the future fiscal years.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you. Thank you, Director. And some of us visited with Senator Hirono last month at...in DC, and she had a whole list of...of different Federal grant funding specific for agriculture. So, if we can find that list, we'll forward that to you. My other question, Director, was is there a need for premium pay within the Department?

MS. ARCE: Chair? Thank you for the question. I'm not educated on premium pay. I think that's a question that...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Over...over...overtime pay.

MS. ARCE: Overtime. We haven't...we haven't had a need for it and I'm...I've expressed to our Staff to keep their workload within our work time. There may be times when we really need to do it, but we're evaluating it on a case-by-case basis.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, great. Thank you for that, Director. Thank you, Chair.

... (timer sounds) ...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Next, we have Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Department. How's it going? I guess my first question would be in regards to vacancies. I know that you say that there's no vacancies, but there's two positions I believe that were funded last year. It's that they haven't been described and so it's not vacant because you can't post it is what you're saying?

MS. ARCE: Yes. Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. ARCE: Okay. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, we do have...we did receive the full funding and we're currently establishing the one full-time and two half-

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times which were the two positions that we were funded for.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then it does look like you're asking for a full 12 months. In my opinion, you guys have been the fastest I've seen describe and fill positions once they've been described because we got some departments where the position hasn't even been described for five years. So, good job. Maybe you can run a workshop for the County on how to do that. But in your answer, it does say that it takes an answer of five to seven months to establish a position with DPS and until closing applications. So, that being said, for these two positions which will turn into one full and two half-time positions, do you still envision needing the full 12 months? Like when did the process start and all that.

MS. ARCE: Yes, I do. The --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. That's all.

MS. ARCE: -- three are in --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. ARCE: -- they're in the pipeline.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. ARCE: They're moving up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the next question would be have...I...I love to see how you're coordinating with EP&S. I was wondering if you had all coordinated on the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan in regards to food composting. Because when I looked at their draft for that, it only had have a master trainer class on food composting and diverting pre-consumption food to food banks. I know they said that a lot of them...a lot of it is possibly diverted to the pig farmers. One of my Staff is a pig farmer and he was not able to...they were not able to get the...the food waste from the schools since the schools stopped making the kids...since they stopped using...rewashing the plates and stuff and use the kind that you throw away, and then all the kids would throw away the forks and stuff into the thing, so then you can't give that to the pigs. In the Lāhainā West Maui Green Cycle is training the kids to separate it and compost that food, but I'm not sure of the rest of the schools, how they're doing that, if they're still throwing away the plastic forks and the plates. And so that...that food waste can no longer go to the pigs. Is it then being...Mr. Gerry Ross said 75 tons a day or something. So, I was wondering if you guys are collaborating with EP&S, DEM on the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan for food composting outside of Lāhainā. I don't know that West Maui Green Cycle is addressing food waste from the

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schools outside of Lāhainā.

MS. ARCE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. ARCE: Yeah, thank you for asking about that. We've had communications with Director Agawa and Recycling Manager Cecile Powell on where is the specific boundaries on what...who is going to do what. And they were very clear that they are going to retain that portion in their...in their Department but gave us . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . a list of things that they would like us to integrate with...with them or help them out with. And really quickly, what it is, is having our Department identify the standards for organic compost.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Nothing about DOH...oh, go ahead. I mean if it's okay.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Chair? I'll...I'll just be quick. I just wanted to let...inform you that we have been...having conversations with Gerry Ross. And just right before the fires we were planning a site visit with Director Agawa, Director Arce, and myself to go out and...and figure out what the barriers and regulations are and how we can actually see stuff move forward. So, conversations every...are being had and we just got to rekindle those relationships moving forward. So, just wanted to share that. But I...as she stated, Director Arce stated that Director Agawa wants to assume that...that role with composting, but we'll collaborate however we can moving forward.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'll...I'll wait until my next round because I heard the bell.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I have a question for you. This is on the expansion of Kula Ag Park. So, what is the status of the \$20 million that you have received or the County has received and how...how much progress have we made?

MS. ARCE: Okay. Chair? We've been requesting the letter with the clear directions from Representative Yamashita's Office multiple times, and our Secretary has the details on how many times we did. And the most recent one was two weeks ago I called his person in charge and made a verbal request and she...she asked me to send an email letter. I returned from vacation yesterday and that recent of the letter has not come, so we're not able to begin the encumbering process or whatever process it takes for that legislation money.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're saying you haven't got...well I really wanted to know the progress of the project but you're saying you haven't received the \$10 million

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from the State or...or --

MS. ARCE: No. And...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- you're not able to --

MS. ARCE: No, we're not able to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. ARCE: -- we're not able to start the process because we don't have the directions on how they want us to draw down the funding. But Jeffery has more of the details on the...the status, but I wanted to answer about the funding because it's tied to the...the project making progress.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, the County put in 10 million so you have 10 million right now and you're trying to access the additional 10 from the State which was the request. And we could follow up with a letter or if you need some help with that, but can we have a progress on the project? I was really wondering about the project.

MS. ARCE: Yes. Jeffery can give the progress on the project.

MR. JURICKOVICH: So, the UMAP project update would be currently working with the CIP coordinators, and booster pump project as we talked about is going to go forward soon. That'll be the first phase of the project. And then I would guess the next phase, maybe you call it phase two, would be additional water storage. Because what we have is we have a reservoir at the Kula Ag Park currently, but it doesn't have the capacity to hold enough water for the new UMAP. So, we've looked at several different options, and I'm...we're leaning towards getting close to a final decision getting some estimates on some costs and actually adding an additional storage tank/concrete-lined reservoir at the Kula Ag Park next to the existing reservoir. The current reservoir there is about a 1.5 million gallon reservoir, and we're looking at adding another 2.5-million-gallon reservoir directly next to that. That would allow us to use the same line which goes from the Reservoir 40 where we get our water from Mahi Pono, other side of Omaopio. That's a 20-inch line that's already in that goes directly to...it goes directly to the Kula Ag Park, and then those two reservoirs could be interconnected, and then that would allow...they would just...the infrastructure's really there other than the holding...the tanker, the reservoir to hold the water. And then utilizing that same 20-inch line to go back down to the UMAP, and then there'd be a small portion of that would have to be additional infrastructure to get it from Omaopio down to UMAP, which is a very...which is a very...it's not very far. So, it's the most...most efficient way to go utilizing the most infrastructure we have. It'll allow us to hold the 3.5...approximately 5 million gallons of water on site. And

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then to familiarize yourself . . .(timer sounds). . . at the Kula Ag Park the water...currently the reservoir there, there's a pump in that system that pumps up above the ag park, and then that gravity feeds the water back down to the ag park. So, once it's up there...and that I don't know the exact size of that reservoir, but it's approximately three million gallons. So, that would give us approximately eight million gallons of storage on site, and then that would also...another benefit of that infrastructure wouldn't be much pumping other than the existing pump which we're doing anyway. So, for future for...for maintenance and for...to get our best pressure, it would be a gravity-fed system. So, I mean the least amount of mechanical items there could be. And then --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. JURICKOVICH: -- if we get the approval now, we're working with...with Water now to get...get some estimates on the cost and hoping to be able to move forward with that and secure the land to put the new reservoir on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, I'll send a question in writing. This is booster pump and that's great. Just I know that the UMAP has...is like a whole 'nother project I think, right? It's not really...the booster pump was old from when I was earlier on with the...but anyway, I've run out of time. So, at this time then we can go through round two. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Since we're on the topic of ag parks, you know, right, is there a budget or any...or a position in FY 2025 tasked with exploring the feasibility of additional County ag parks?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department?

MS. ARCE: So, to answer your question, no. We have our hands full right now and I think it would make sense to postpone that until the...we have enough capacity. I want to make sure that we're able to fulfill what we committed to, finish that out, and do an excellent job before committing to new projects. Just not to say that it's off our radar. And we do understand the need and the desire to have ag parks. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. So, my next question's about Lānaʻi. So, what will be the criteria and selection process for the \$100,000 for Lānaʻi agriculture? That's on page 115 in the Program Budget. Is there a small farmer preference?

MS. ARCE: Go ahead.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Chair?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. HEWAHEWA: I think it's...you know, we're working on the details, but island based Lāna'i specific. Small, big, and it's open competitive. You know just wanted to show that we wanted to prioritize Lāna'i and more applicants to apply, and then they're also eligible for the rest of the open competitive funds.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. HEWAHEWA: I'm hoping that answers the question.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, this is in regards to one of your positions, and that's on page 113, and it is the waste and resource regen spec. Why is the Department not funding this position and how will it impact the Department's operations? I think Councilmember Paltin spoke on that a little bit. What item in the budget supports the County and Department's goals to support local composting? So, is there anything in the budget that we can really hone that goal to support composting?

MS. ARCE: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Page 22 draft of the Department of Ag...the...the strategic plan you guys were talking about doing that.

MS. ARCE: Yeah. So, we...we put that position on hold and determined to develop other positions that we...we need right now that is critical. Only because we're still trying to determine where our place is...is in the compost, you know, the compost area. And even though we grew from two to...to ten, we still trying to initiate solid projects with --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. ARCE: -- our new leaders. So, again, the answer for that would be same like my previous responses. We're probably going to postpone that and look at it later in how we can integrate that position. And my thoughts are to tie it into our food security department with --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. ARCE: -- with Lauren, and she'll have input in that.

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. . .(timer sounds). . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member...Member Rawlins-Fernandez then Cook, U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I forgot to earlier mahalo you all for coming to Moloka'i to do the food survey...I don't remember what it's called. Sorry, you can correct me after I hand over the mic to you. And for breaking out the grants from the cost of operations for the Department. I think in the PowerPoint it makes it really clear the cost for operating the Department, so mahalo. Okay. So, I wanted to follow up on CRB one more time. And so, I think the last time you came before us I had brought up the REPI grant, the Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration, and I forwarded you the email with the person...Christian...Kristin Thomasgard, and she's the one who manages the grant for our DoD. Because the military brought in the CRB. And so, they should be funding our efforts to control the pest. I would like to say eradicate too. Because we know that the...the CRB doesn't just go for niu, it also goes for loulu, you know, which already almost went extinct. And it...it could go for other of our native plants which already are experiencing a lot of, you know, external pressures. Do you have any updates on that? The REPI grant.

MR. MEDEIROS: All right. So, just a quick update on, yeah, the REPI grant. So, that was a grant that was applied through the Office of Innovation and Sustainability and our Office of Economic Development. So, they're the ones that are leading the REPI grant, that specific grant effort. But I think that there is potential to amend that grant. And...and from...from my understanding is that that REPI grant is going to be a multi-year grant that the DoD is going to offer to us, to the County. So, if not this year, then perhaps next year. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mahalo. And so that one is for the Auwahi Watershed project or one of the watershed projects, right?

MR. MEDEIROS: Yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. And I think there was also a potential project on Lāna'i, but I think that may have not gone through.

MR. MEDEIROS: Yes. I think that one currently the REPI grant is specifically for kind of the Kula moku and looking at a mauka-to-makai approach. So, it might include Auwahi, but they're looking at the whole system.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Yeah, I...and I...I

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don't...I'm hoping that it's not one or the other. Since the military brought the CRB here, they should be responsible for cleaning up their mess. Okay. And then would...okay, so two things. Grants, so one, mahalo for the funding for the 100,000 for Moloka'i, and it's for ag programs. Do...do you have like an idea of what programs you're thinking? So, you know, Moloka'i and Lāna'i. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . And it's island specific but...and then how the application process would look.

MS. ARCE: Chair, I'd like our Grants Coordinator to respond on that, please.

MR. NAKAMA: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, David.

MR. NAKAMA: Thank you for that question. The grant is open competitive, so there can be a variety of projects that they can apply for. And if it's...if 100,000 isn't enough, then we can kick in the Maui funds to...to support.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...so like what kind of applicants are you thinking, like what would the program look like?

MR. NAKAMA: Well, in the past we had applicants that had the egg farm applicant, but that one didn't go through, but not...not too many Moloka'i applicants this past fiscal year. But it is open so they can apply, you know. I mean we don't have specific idea of what they...they're going to be applying for or what projects we're supporting, but if they're in alignment with our goals and missions then, you know, of course we're going to look at it. And...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I'll wait for my round three. I...the...the information that I was trying to understand I think is maybe similar to what Member Johnson was asking.

MR. NAKAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But...but I'll...I'll pause and when we --

MR. NAKAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- when I...when it's my turn again.

MR. NAKAMA: Yeah, basically not specific projects that we're thinking, it's...it's whatever, you know, the community think, you know, the farmers are thinking.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next Member Cook, Member U'u-Hodgins, then Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Did I say...I hear you say a 20-inch waterline? Ho, I got excited, cuz, when you said that. I was going like that's exactly what we was talking about. So, is there...I mean what is the infrastructure requirements for Kula Ag Park Phase II? I mean how much...how much work is there to get it prepped and ready? Ballpark.

MS. ARCE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. ARCE: May I have Jeffery answer that question please?

MR. JURICKOVICH: So, infrastructure for UMAP, how much is involved, that's the question?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, I mean for grading and roads and getting it so that you could provide leases and people could actually utilize the property because I heard it's a little rough right now.

MR. JURICKOVICH: It's rough. I mean the largest portion of this project is getting water there, and then once we get the water there, it'll be the grading and then the, you know, the internal utilities, which will be the waterlines within the parks, the roads. The fence is just about completed. So, it depends how far and how far along we want to prep the lots. If we just leave the lots and give them some lot boundaries, then it's really just going to be some roads and getting them a water meter set up on the lot. If we're going to do a little bit of cleanup on the lots that's...there...there's an option to do that. If there's funding for that, then it would be a little bit longer. But ultimately the...I mean the water, once the water gets there the rest is...is a lot simpler of a process to do considering it's a farm lot. And as I mentioned how many we have and how much we can prep these lots in advance for the...for the tenants.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I mean it sounds like \$10 million could get used up real well and real efficiently pretty quick.

MR. JURICKOVICH: With the...with the water system or with --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

MR. JURICKOVICH: -- the gray...with the water system...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: With the...to put in a reservoir, to put in the pipes and get...move forward with it. So, the land's there, the need is there. And

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so...anyway, if I could --

MR. JURICKOVICH: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- write you a check, I'd write you a check, but I can't.

MR. JURICKOVICH: I believe the majority of the cost is going to be just getting the water there. Like you said, once the water is there, the land is there, we get our property corners established, the roads, and then we're...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, what are the barriers to getting the water there?

MR. JURICKOVICH: The barriers of getting the water there is finalizing the plan for the...well for the...for the...for the water system. So, we're still looking like as I mentioned the...the cost of developing this additional reservoir. And then the...the design phases really once we get that going it's finding somebody, you know, getting a contractor to do the work for us. And then, I mean, that's the biggest barriers is getting it lined up and ready to go and then finding somebody to do it if it's within our budget.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Do we have the design...is that funded, the design? Is that something that's a work-in-progress, is it a...is it phased? Is it going to be like one design or is there steps to being...getting it designed?

MR. JURICKOVICH: For the...for the water system itself or for --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Sure.

MR. JURICKOVICH: -- for the water system? Well, currently there...there was...there's four options we were all looking at, and...well, there was three and then we added an additional one which...which is what we just discussed putting the additional water storage there. So, I mean that would be the first step is...I mean the first is the booster pump, second is getting the storage tank. If...finalizing that . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . plan and then getting that built. And then design and...and the construction of that. And then next I guess I would call it Phase III would be, you know, working in the park and getting the waterlines throughout the park and the lots lined up, and then the roads.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair? Would you allow me one brief more question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Let's go to Member U'u-Hodgins, and then we're going to have one more round.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: That was a no. No, I'm just joking. On page 110, goal 1, item 2 where it says grant funding secured from State and Federal

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sources. So, 2024 was 2,500,000, and then next year hopefully is 4. Besides the REPI grant that Member Rawlins-Fernandez was asking about, what other grant sources do you think we're going to apply for and secure?

MS. ARCE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MS. ARCE: So, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins, we...that four million, those numbers were estimated by...by myself anticipating what our Grants Division might be able to secure. But as I commented earlier, we're still ramping up to be able to secure our own funding. So, when we get to that point, we'll probably put more realistic numbers but right now it'll be zero, and we anticipate the funding to...that we would secure will be likely Federal, maybe a small part State funding like we had just experienced with HDOA offering us that grant opportunity. Potentially...how do I say it? Non...yeah, like non-Federal and non-State. If we have...if that Ulupono-funded position goes through.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. On page 1-8...no, I'm sorry, 1-7, we have \$3 million for the MEO microgrant and that's a continuation from last year. So, all the three million was expended last year? And if so, how many grants did that cover?

MR. HEWAHEWA: Check, check, one, two. Okay. Yeah. Chair? Mahalo. Stay working. Okay. Now, we invited our Executive Director Debbie Cabebe and David Daly from MEO and if you guys wanted to provide any updates on that, that would be great at this time. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think that's very direct. Yeah. If you don't mind, we can --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: They've been here all day --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- designated them as resource.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: -- so I figured we'd ask the question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I didn't realize...I didn't realize why they were...I thought they were here for Transportation, right, and listening in, but sorry about that.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Mahalo for coming.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Should have done this earlier.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please accept them as resource, Members.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. DALY: 118 I believe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more...

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U HODGINS: And you think you continue to do that next year as well for 2025?

MR. DALY: We are currently in the process of...we’ve awarded 110 this current session and we’re looking to...we’re disbursing funds as we speak.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U HODGINS: Cool.

MR. DALY: So, we’re looking hopefully in that same number. I think we’re going to be right around between 115 and 120. Really, it’s hard to tell until probably June or July to see how much money is actually leftover.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U HODGINS: Okay. And to spare me doing public math because unlike Tam, I don’t do math. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . 25,000...yeah. 25,423, is that usually about the grant amount or does it vary?

MR. DALY: It can...it can go up to 25 and it’s really based off of what the ask was. Whatever the ask is and whatever the award number is, that is what that number will be. So, it literally has been anywhere from \$6,000 all the way to 25.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U HODGINS: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. Member...well, before...anybody else have questions for him before he leaves? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U HODGINS: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I guess the...I guess what you have to say is don’t leave, but Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I have a question for Mr. Daly. Mahalo for being here and waiting. Appreciate you managing our microgrants, the County’s farmer microgrant.

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Come on down.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, the condition to give preference to Native-Hawaiian-owned farm businesses, women-owned farm businesses, and equity to our rural areas, Moloka'i and Lāna'i and Hāna. So, I recently asked my office to get from your office the report because there's a report required at the end of the year to explain exactly the questions that Member U'u-Hodgins asked, which is the number of grants, the amount that was allocated or distributed to each grantee, what the project was, and to explain how the...the preference to women-owned, Native-Hawaiian-owned and equity to the...the three rural areas. It took...it took a couple tries and we're still waiting on FY '21. But is that report being transmitted or was being transmitted to OED and now to Department of Ag without being prompted or...

MR. DALY: That report...'22 or '22 and '23 were given to Office of Economic Development. '21 the request came from OED and that's where the information went to.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, FY '21 is completed? Because --

MR. DALY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- my office requested that information and we...weren't . . .(*inaudible*). . .

MR. DALY: That is...that...all that information is ready; it's got to be just emailed out.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then...so there isn't like a narrative on there explaining how based on the...the total number of applicants that preference was given to Native-Hawaiian-owned, women-owned; it...it just shows whether the business is Native-Hawaiian-owned, whether the business is women-owned and...and the locations of each of the grantees. It doesn't give that statistic, so there's no fullness of information so that in reading the report I understand that of the, you know, 300 applications received, you know, preference was given in this way. It doesn't have that kind of analysis. Do you do that kind of analysis?

MR. DALY: So, just so I'm clear on your specific question, you're asking how we went through the process of giving eligibility as far as Native Hawaiian and women-owned?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And ensuring equity to the three rural areas.

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MR. DALY: Right. So, there was a point system that was used in our scoring that included the farm and operation of the farm, as well as whether it was a woman-owned farm or a Native-Hawaiian-owned farm, and points were given for each of those categories. And then that's how we used to determine eligibility in the award for each farm applicant.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...but the women-owned and Native-Hawaiian-owned isn't an eligibility requirement; it...it's a preference?

MR. DALY: When you say requirement, it was...it was shown in the application that it was owned by a woman . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . more...50 percent owned or more, and same as Native Hawaiian. If they were an applicant and they proved their Hawaiian heritage, then they were given priority score based on that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And equity in the three rural areas?

MR. DALY: And...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But it...because it's not explained in the report.

MR. DALY: The...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, it...it would be great --

MR. DALY: Oh, the equitable distribution...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- if it was explained in the report.

MR. DALY: -- was based off of our total number of applicants from each island, and then the percentage of awards that we could base off of that number off of our \$3 million award, and we did the numbers based off of that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. DALY: So, it was the total number of...say for instance Maui Island had 200 applicants and Moloka'i had 50 applicants and Lāna'i would have 7 applicants, then we just did a percentage of the total number based off each number that came from each island. So, we broke it down to, if my memory is somewhat correct, there were 23 awardees from Moloka'i, 7 from Lāna'i, and the remainder came from Maui Island, not broken down by district but identified by district.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: When you do the FY '23 report that'll be...or '24, '24 report that'll be due at the end of this fiscal year, will you please

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include that analysis? And I'd love to get the analysis for the FY '22 and '21 and...and '23 as well.

MR. DALY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. DALY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

MR. DALY: Absolutely.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Buzzer went off. Is there anybody else who has a question for MEO? If not, we can excuse him. Thank you, Debbie, for being here all day.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Oh, just had --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just had a question if --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- she's going to...he's going to send it to her, would he send it to all of us?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, maybe we'll make a request from...and get the report from you for everybody. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, we got it.

MR. DALY: I'm...I'm...I apologize, I couldn't hear you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So, we're going...we're going to ask the copy of the report be sent to everybody. Okay.

MR. DALY: Yeah, that would be fine.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. DALY: Yeah.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. All right. Thank you for being here all day, MEO. And next we have questions from...did we have Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: No, he got to go.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, just for my second round of questions was on page of the Budget details 1-8 on the agriculture operations infrastructure and education, I believe 2.1 million. Will these programs be conducted by the...the agriculture Department or will they be conducted by outside organizations?

MR. HEWAHEWA: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Sorry, can you repeat the question, Councilmember Sinenci? So sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Will the...for the agriculture operations infrastructure and education, are these programs conducted by the Department or will they be conducted by outside organizations?

MR. HEWAHEWA: Be conducted by us. It's open competitive. A little bit more general pool of fund. Kind of like what I said earlier.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Yeeha, it's in that category.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, it is. Okay. All right. Okay. That was my only clarification, Chair. Thank you, Chair.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next, we have *(audio interference)*

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. For my follow-up questions, you know, the coconut rhinoceros beetle education, is that extended to our own County workers? The Parks Department said that they trained their workers, but we have like 20 trees at DT Fleming without crowns, and he didn't know about it and it was like...they were like that for a couple years. So, I just was wondering

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like how good is that training for our County workers if nobody noticed that 20 coconut trees didn't have any crowns and never told anyone? And there's one right in front of Member Cook's stall also that doesn't have a crown. So, I just was wondering like how great is this coconut rhinoceros beetle education that nobody is even looking at the coconut trees?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department?

MR. HEWAHEWA: Chair? Mahalo. Yeah, mahalo for that clarification. I think I brought that to their attention.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. HEWAHEWA: When I was out there at DT Fleming, I was like hey, 20 crowns. But the training happened previous to finding that. But you know, we're hoping for more training to come later. But they were invited, every department...we actually put an invite out that had anything to do with some kind of response for the training. So, more trainings to come later, and we...we definitely want to emphasize those efforts with our Department...with our County government. So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Awesome. And then...

MR. HEWAHEWA: -- and...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, was there more?

MR. HEWAHEWA: Yeah. Lauren, please.

MS. NELSON: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just limited time, so.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

MS. NELSON: The training has been recorded and added to Workday, so Parks Department is welcome to require their employees to take it, and we did invite Parks Department for our in-person training at UH Maui College in January. We did have many Parks' members actually take the training and get credit on Workday.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, awesome. And if it was recorded, would there be any harm to, like, uploading it to YouTube and putting it on our social media so that more people can see it?

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MS. NELSON: We can work with our social media response to share the YouTube videos that the trainers CRB response have already uploaded onto YouTube. And while crownless palms are unfortunately a great breeding site for CRB, it's not indicative that CRB damage is presence. Bore holes and the V-shape cuts oftentimes are better indicators, although they can be caused by other things too.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And then for the Starlink, how many...you said you weren't sure if you were going to do multiple or not. Do you know where you're sourcing the Starlinks from?

. . . (timer sounds) . . .

MS. ARCE: Chair, maybe Jeff has more detailed answers for Member Paltin.

MR. JURICKOVICH: That was just some online research, so an estimate of what it would cost to get a Starlink out at our ag parks, at our baseyard, or...if...at our field office.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And do you know how much data you would need or how many users you would need to support?

MR. JURICKOVICH: You know I haven't...we haven't looked into the exact details of this, the specs of it yet. So, it was approximately \$1,000 to set it up from what I saw, and I believe it was about \$100 a month. How much data we...we would need I haven't researched. I know we won't need much.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then for the off-grid solar kit, you're going to have batteries with that?

MR. JURICKOVICH: Correct. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I heard the bell, so I'll wait for my round three.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, just in the Budget Bill on page 2, maybe this is Budget Office, Hawai'i Farmers Union, it says Hawai'i Farmers United Union, so I think there's a typo there.

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair. I was typing too fast.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You what?

MS. MILNER: I was typing too fast. I apologize. That will be included in our request for edits.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's great. And then...so I...I think you answered most of

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my questions especially with the...the ag coop. So, ag coop, that feasibility study is done.

MS. ARCE: Chair, thank you for the question. We have not...we have not started any feasibility study; we're looking into it. We're trying to meet the needs and finish the initiatives that we accomplished. And the other reason is we need to determine exactly what we're going to be having the study look into. And I want to really take some quality time to determine that without just jumping into something just because there's funding for it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. ARCE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're not quite ready. Okay. So, that's all the questions that I have. Round three, Members. So, anybody...you...you have? Okay. You want this to be two minutes?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, mine will be short.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Two minutes? Okay. Okay. Member Johnson and then I saw Member Paltin's hand.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, I'm going to ask about electrifying our...our...our equipment. So, 1-9 you have \$80,000 for a riding mower for Kula Ag Park maintenance. How's the Department feel about electrifying our equipment for that...for example that one or...or any kind of equipment you'll be buying?

MR. HEWAHEWA: Yeah. Chair? We had discussions about it but we just don't have energy yet at the Kula Ag Park so --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. HEWAHEWA: -- we need energy to charge the batteries.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. HEWAHEWA: But Jeff, you had anything you wanted to add to that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One day. One day.

MR. JURICKOVICH: Yeah, currently we...we just...we have a string trimmer and a blower and keep it simple to keep going right now. But once we do get the ag field office built with power, I...I would like to switch over to electric,

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battery-powered equipment for small equipment.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. JURICKOVICH: The large...the mower, the larger equipment, more of an industrial style and for our usage out there, I don't believe they would be a very good option to get electric, something of that large.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I used to...like they're...they're coming up with so much more powerful electric equipment now; I think it'd be wise just to revisit it. I know it's down the line, but just please consider it.

MR. JURICKOVICH: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Last question. Farmer's market on Lāna'i, any updates, anything we can add?

MS. ARCE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. ARCE: Yeah. I'll begin and maybe Lauren can chime in. So, we are making sure that we understand what permitting, what administrative things are needed on our part. You know we are part of the County, but we're restricted by our own processes. So, Lauren and I are coming up with the checklist of what we need to do, and there's multiple things tied to that that we also need to do. Is looking at policies and rules and...that we might want to develop, and work with Parks if...to see . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . how we can make use of their land. And we have to make that...have that meeting --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. ARCE: -- with Director McCall.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Within this fiscal year would you say?

MS. ARCE: Yeah, he knows about it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. ARCE: We dropped the bug in his ear.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Wonderful. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member Paltin?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, my last two questions are in relation to fallow ag lands and non-food ag. The...the Fire Department is...I think they're adding a bunch of fire inspection Fire Fighter IIIs I believe for the WUI areas. And you know, at last night's meeting we heard Mahi Pono was going to cut firebreaks around Skill Village and stuff like that. And I was wondering what do you envision as your role to, like, liaise with the firefighters and fallow ag and the susceptibility to fire? Because I mean that could significantly cut into the ag recovery one million if all of our ag and everything...everything burns down like how it already did in Lāhainā. And then non-food ag, are we considering like promoting less purple orchid leis and more local lei?

MR. HEWAHEWA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Yeah, I mean that was a high concern for me to...to look into the firebreaks. My kids go to the school at Hawaiian immersion in Pā'ia, and we were one of them that actually called to have the firebreaks cut around the school in Pā'ia. And so much more towns are susceptible, and looking at all of that is...has become a high priority. However, like our Department just really don't have the capacity to do that, but I already started to look at the codes that have, you know, brush abatement with other departments from Planning and Fire and we...we started the discussions. And you know, we're hoping that eventually we can start to put some of that into our...our duties as we expand our Department. Second question would be definitely the non-food-producing agriculture. It seems like they felt like they were getting neglected, so we wanted to make sure that we...we prioritize them, and we're talking like native plant nurseries, you know, and expanding some of that kind of stuff. And our florists is very much important to our community. So, mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm very impressed with this Administration. It's the least purple orchid lei I've seen of all the administration, and so go team. Yay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Go team.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No purple orchid . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That concludes my questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That concludes your questions.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Department, for being here and being here in force. Nice to see your Staff, you know.

MS. ARCE: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Councilmembers, for allowing us this time. And I'd like to also mahalo our Staff that's here with us as well as in the audience, and Shannon holding down the fort. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Thank you . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. HEWAHEWA: Yeah. And I just wanted to extend and apologize for my little soapbox emotional remarks this morning, but you know, just mahalo everybody. Mahalo for the sacrifice, and we all in this together. I just was telling the Staff this morning one stick easy for break but more sticks together little bit more stronger. And I really want to appreciate our Staff like Director Arce said for coming and support. We're a small Department, but we're looking at being a powerhouse as we move forward. So, mahalo, everybody.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Appreciate it. Appreciate what you said this morning about here because we care and you...you certainly do exude that, you know, as part of who you are. So, appreciate...appreciate you even thinking about that before you, you know, gave our speech, but that's...one Sunday evening I got a call from Koa Hewahewa worried about funding for Department of Ag and, you know, I was just like God, this...this kid is amazing. And then I got...

MS. ARCE: Thank you for the 99 questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you had 99 questions.

MS. ARCE: We're working to get it to you, our responses.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U HODGINS: Sorry.

MS. ARCE: Oh, and yesterday makes 100.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's how important we think your Department is. And thank you, Members. So, this is going to be the end of our meeting today. It is before

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4:00, so we made it. And see you all tonight at 6:00 at Hannibal Tavares Community Center. And we just heard that we're going to have Akaku there to film the rest of the meetings, including Lānaʻi and Molokaʻi. So, I'm glad that we can do that. I'm sorry to the --

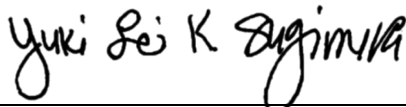
COUNCILMEMBER UʻU HODGINS: No, we're fine.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- other two that we didn't. But I thought that would be important so that their voices can be heard and seen by, you know, greater than the nine of us. So, at this time, this meeting is now adjourned. And as you know, tomorrow we have Personnel. Everybody always talks about Personnel. So, tomorrow at 9:00 we have Police, Water Supply, East Maui Regional Community Board, Liquor, and Personnel. So, Members, this meeting is now adjourned and see you at 6:00. . . .(gavel). . .

ACTION: Recommending **DEFER** pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 3:56 p.m.

APPROVED:



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

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Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 119 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 14th day of April 2024, in Pahrump, Nevada

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Daniel Schoenbeck", is written over a horizontal line.

Daniel Schoenbeck