

**BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 1, 2024

Helene Hall, Social Hall

CONVENE: 6:04 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: Ellen McKinley Committee Analyst
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Maria Leon, Committee Secretary
Jennifer Yamashita, Committee Secretary

Additional staff

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:

Dawn Lono
Gina Young
Don Atay

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:

Kate Griffiths

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

Sarah Sexton

Residency Area Office (RAO):

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

OTHERS: Victoria Rose K. Castro
Bailey Spry, Grants Manager, Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike
Dennis Ka'aihue
Heidi Lea

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

Lipoa Kahaleuahi, Executive Director, Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike
Barry Chang
Dawn Lono
Earle Medeiros
Bill Furhmann
Chris Sanita, Principal, Hāna High and Elementary School
Becky Lind
Claire Kamalu Carroll
Sam A. Akoi, IV
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros
Carolyn Diliberto
Senzi Moswane
Tarisai Mazinyani
Smanga Zondi
Eswara Praveen Raju-Chichadi
Laurie Smith-Kaukini
Mary Brook
Others (10)

**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*). . . What a beautiful place we're in. Thank you, everybody, for being here. I'm elated. Hāna is so beautiful. My name is Yuki Lei Sugimura, I'm the Chair of the Budget, Finance, Economic Committee. And we are here to hear from you of what kind of possible budget priorities you may see that is important for your community. So, at this time, I'd like to introduce your Councilmember Shane Sinenci, and he'll introduce the rest of the Members, as well as his Staff, and he can say a few words. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Mahalo, Member Sugimura. On our far right, from the West Side, we have Member Tamara Paltin. From South Maui, we have Member Tom Cook. From Central Maui, we have our Pro Tem Tasha Kama. From the Wailuku District, we have our Council Chair Alice Lee. And of course, Budget Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura. On my far left, we have from Molokai District Office, Ms. Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. From Lānaʻi District Office, Councilmember Gabe Johnson. And then we're missing Councilmember Uʻu-Hodgins tonight. She has a birthday party for her family, so she wasn't able to come tonight, but she sends her regards. Mahalo...real quick...mahalo, everybody, for joining us on your Monday night for our kick-off of the...the budget district hearing season. So, we're starting here in Hāna. So, mahalo for coming and welcoming all of our Councilmembers. The Council received the budget from Mayor Bissen last

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

Monday, on March 25th, and so we are happy to see that the Mayor continued to fund the Hāna District cultural funds for our Aloha Week Festival, our kalo festivals, and our limu festivals. The Mayor also recognized our nonprofits, and funded their important work in our East Maui communities. The Mayor also funded the newly-formed East Maui Water Authority, the Hāna Dialysis Center, the Hāna Youth Center, Hāna School student travel, Maui Invasive Species, the air ambulance program, and the Abandoned Vehicles Disposal program. For the Hāna Civic Center, the Civic Center remains a priority for the Parks and...and Recreation Department. And for an update on our Maka'ala'e paving, Maui Paving Company has been hired to do the work. We still are waiting for when that...that project will come through, but we'll let you guys know. So, again, mahalo, everybody, for coming. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. We really appreciate the hospitality of Hāna, and we received it as we came in. You left the Hāna Cultural Center open so that we could stop by and see it. We also saw the Habitat for Humanity, that development project. I...I guess we'll hear about it eventually from Member Sinenci, but that's a project that we have supported...or the County has supported. It's been years, and waiting for that to happen, right? Besides being able to visit with Queen Ka'ahumanu, and we started our blessings for today. That was very beautiful. Thank you very much for...Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, for the lei, and Member Paltin for draping it, and whoever--somebody from your Staff made an...oh, Dawn Lono?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It was from Dawn Lono. And--oh, I...I forgot to introduce our Hāna Staff members. Ms. Dawn Lono, Mavis Medeiros, Gina Young, and Don Atay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. I'd also like to...before we start, I wanted to introduce our Staff which came here this morning...this evening: Maria Leon back there, Jennifer Yamashita--thank you--Megan Moniz, as well as Ellen McKinley. So, thank you very much for all your effort, everybody. So, today this meeting is in-person only. We're not even filming it for *Akakū*, so it'll be our meeting with you. And Staff is taking notes of what you are talking about so that we'll have it as part of our records. And if you have any written testimony, please also share it with us. I...everyone can speak for three minutes on any subject matter in the budget. We only have one budget, and so therefore, when you get up, you can speak about anything that you feel is important. You can also submit testimony on eComment if you are interested in doing that with our mauicounty.us/agendas. And if you're still testifying after three minutes, and then you'll be given 30 seconds more to complete. So, that...that's basically our kind of parameters that we'll be working under. So, at this time then, do we have anyone who has signed up to testify?

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

MS. MCKINLEY: Yes, Chair. The first testifier is Victoria Rose K. Castro, to be followed by Bailey Spry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Victoria?

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. CASTRO: Sorry, I didn't expect to be chosen so soon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. CASTRO: Hi, my name is Victoria Rose Ku'umele Nanea Castro *(phonetic)*. Born here in Hāna, lived on the mainland for two years, and I'm back. I'm a senior in high school. I'm probably not going to be talking for three minutes or three-and-a-half minutes, but I'm here to represent Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, as well as the aunties over there. I'm just going to be talking about some of the things Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, being a part of it, was able to help me discover things that I've liked, and things I might pursue as a career in the future, one of which is getting my certificate in food prep and food safety, though I wasn't a part of Ma Ka Hana during that, it was during the summertime. And later on, Auntie Babette, she asked if I could join the culinary team there, which I did. And I got my knife certificate there, my knife handling certificate so I could, I don't know, get more scholarships hopefully for when I go to college for culinary, most likely. Being a part of Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike really opened my eyes to all the possibilities that we, as the youth--or yeah...yeah...yeah, as the youth, can express ourselves and find ourselves. Like, I had no idea that I would want to be part of the culinary programs like I do now because I had trouble squeezing a lemon back on the mainland. It was very strange to even think that I'd be pursuing this career. This...not only do I work in the culinary for Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, but I also work in the garden, or the māla, which is why my pants are so dirty. I'm...I'm sorry. I was pulling weeds before I came here, and I was working on other things. I've learned so much about where our food comes from, and how we prepare our foods, and talking to elders, both here on Maui, in Kahului, in Hāna, and even on Kaua'i, which was recently. I'm writing an essay about it right now. Sorry, I kind of forgot where I just was. When I went to Kaua'i, I had a goal to learn more recipes so I can write them down in a book and create a recipe book for Hāna where, you know, there's all these aunties' and uncles' recipes that we might not have when they're gone, which hopefully is not soon. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . But I kind of strayed from getting their recipes on Kaua'i, but instead, I learned skills that I use here in Hāna at my work, like how to properly get rid of African tulips. I learned their history there. I didn't mingle too much with the other...other nonprofit organizations, though I wish I did. I'm a little shy, so I didn't want to talk too much.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

MS. CASTRO: Oh, my God. Really?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thirty seconds more.

MS. CASTRO: . . .*(laughing)*. . . That's so surprising. I didn't think I'd talk for that long.
Just thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Good job, Victoria.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Any questions for Victoria? See none. Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Bailey Spry, to be followed by Dennis Ka'aihue.

MS. SPRY: Okay. Aloha, Councilmembers. Thank you for your time, and for the opportunity to provide testimony for you today. I'm Bailey Spry, I'm the grants manager at Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, and I'm here as an advocate for continuing County funding for our educational nonprofit. I want to first mahalo you for the years of support and incremental increases to our line item. Your Staff's availability and accessibility have streamlined the proposal process and the reporting process for us over the years. The County's diligent...diligence and rigorous processes have empowered us as a nonprofit to raise the bar on our reporting and internal organization systems, which in turn have prepared us for--to steward larger awards. Consistent support and backing from the County, alongside other Hawai'i-based funders, have garnered us both local and national acclaim, and has led to gifts such as the one we recently received through Lever for Change. Given our growing funding landscape, I just wanted to highlight the significance of the County funds from Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike. With less than .02 percent of the County's annual budget, which is 4 percent of the County's grant management funds, we're able to engage over 350 East Maui youth every year in meaningful work-based learning opportunities, like Victoria just described, and an additional 100 beneficiaries, the majority of whom are kūpuna, through our local food hub, kūpuna hale builds, and home and safety renovations. County funds allow us to provide a paid apprenticeship program for vocational students of Hāna School to gain skills needed to become self-sufficient adults in Hāna. Over the years, County funds have allowed us the flexibility to respond to the

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

evolving needs of Hāna students, kūpuna, and their families. Most recently, OED funds supported our organization's initiative, Mālama i Nā Hulu Kūpuna, where educational endeavors of our K-through-12 youth feed and house our kūpuna. This year, Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike used County funds to leverage an additional 66 percent of our budget. So, for every dollar, we were able to leverage two more dollars to support. Funding from the Couy...County continues to act as a stamp of approval from our local Government, which does not go unnoticed by additional funders. County funds have supported professional and workforce development opportunities for youth, including knowledge share in advanced workshops. Is that my time? Okay. Let's see...I'll be turning this in, and it will be in my written as well. I'll kind of skip ahead. So, Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike continues to ensure alignment with County goals and objectives for economic development...development by sustaining in our two-decades-old approach to vocational training programs while still expanding into new territory for economic development. So, one of our newer initiatives, I Ku Nā Loea, or readying the masters, seeks to build income capacity among apprentices by focusing on resume building, and increased professional development, and training documentation. I Ku Nā Loea is redefining, as well as documenting, our educational experiences here at Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike while working towards culturally relevant certifications that can equate to ...*(timer sounds)*... real-world income increases. So, you can read the rest of my testimony in person. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions for the testifier? One moment. Could you come back? Could you come back? Bailey, question for you is from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Spry. I just was wondering, do you post the documenting of the projects?

MS. SPRY: The documenting of the projects?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

MS. SPRY: For--so, what I was referring to was just one of our newer initiatives. Not currently funded by the County, but something that we are working on as a...as a nonprofit for workforce development. So, we're basically working to document just, like, the...the wealth of knowledge and information that Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike has accumulated over, yeah, 20 years for the first time in just a more...in a more organized process than we have before.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering if you post it? Like, is it accessible to the public, the documenting?

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

MS. SPRY: Not yet. No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. SPRY: It's through...it's through a Federal grant currently, but hopefully something--what it will result in is resumes and...yeah, eventually some form of documentation. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MS. SPRY: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Dennis Ka'aihue, to be followed by Heidi Lea.

MR. KA'AIHUE: Aloha kākou. My name's Dennis Ka'aihue from Ke'anae. First of all, I would like to say the things that I see in the Chamber, yeah, that...that I see good. You know...oh. Awareness, focusing on the issue, clarity, defining the facts and . . .*(inaudible)*. . . collaboration, sharing interest to the issue, trust, judgment, and decision is based on facts and trust. Balance. The practice of aloha, ho'oponopono, and huna. That's...that makes me feel proud that you folks are showing good leadership. Okay. So, I going move on to my message now. Oh. Okay. My message is...is climate change, okay? Efficiency Solutions and Circular Systems is where my understanding and experience as kahu lapa'au. Very little has been mentioned on climate change, and importantly, its impact in every discussion and planning on the preparedness and response. Our air and water are already polluted. We are consuming more bottled water and filtered water. The plants and fruits show signs of cell growth defects--the leave's colors and dwarf fruits. Sea level is continuing to rise, and the air we breathe is becoming toxic because global waste travels long distance in the higher atmosphere, then rains down on the Hawaiian Islands. Studies and research are still ongoing, but little efforts are being done. We are experiencing global weather change. My idea is that online...to get online with the County and listen in, and observe what is on the County level, okay? So, I would like to meet some of the team on the Efficiency Solutions and Circular System and see them during their discussions on the climate and weather issues. So, I think my email...well, I'll give you my email later. Okay. So, now I want to share my message with Hāna Highway. So, my closing message is in support of the...of the ongoing Hāna roadwork...mile marker 19, 22, 24, and there's two more that I haven't really pinpoint yet. Road shoulders asphalt cracks, 4- to 6-plus feet, okay, and expanding. Concrete barricades, it's not really set in place, okay? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . And tourism warning signs should be posted, not Kānaka signs.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

Nobody understand that. If you go down...a couple of miles down here, you look at the Kānaka signs, they just go right inside, okay? The...the idea is safety, all right? We haven't been...been having...we're going to be having pretty bad weather. So, things are changing, and we need to change our strategy, okay? So, tourist restrictions --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

MR. KA'AIHUE: -- to go...to going into unknown ponds and...and streams. I think that's a necessity because I have chased out three or four of them. But I get feedback. Oh, I don't see the signs, okay? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So, I think that should be enforced too, okay? So, flood sirens --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Ka'aihue, can you wrap up?

MR. KA'AIHUE: -- when we have flood sirens --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you wrap up? Can you wrap up?

MR. KA'AIHUE: -- siren...siren...when we have flood sirens, we should use the sirens. Yeah. Okay? So, I think...any questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One second.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Ka'aihue, for your testimony --

MR. KA'AIHUE: Um-hum?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- tonight. Have you noticed some of the Hawai'i Tourism Agency's kind of tourism stops at --

MR. KA'AIHUE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- Kailua?

MR. KA'AIHUE: That's still not enough.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Have you noticed those? That's not enough, you're saying?

MR. KA'AIHUE: Still going through the signs with a Hawaiian--where you go to the watershed, they get Kānaka signs there. They get too much...they saying...that even me, I can't understand it. So, you got to take it down.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It's only a pilot program --

MR. KA'AIHUE: And put it...put it...put it pretty big.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- for...for two more months. So, it...it will end in two more months. So, do you support it being longer? Longer than two months, this pilot program?

MR. KA'AIHUE: I'm...I'm talking about signs, not money.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. KA'AIHUE: Yeah. So, just...just if they see the County sign, yeah, they will respect it, like how they did mile marker 19, yeah? It's clear.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. KA'AIHUE: But I'm talking about mile marker 22, when you come into the...the...the watershed. Yeah. They get a red sign right there, big. And you see all kind Kānaka wording kind.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KA'AIHUE: It makes sense, yeah?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KA'AIHUE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MR. KA'AIHUE: Oh, yeah. Okay.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Heidi Lea, to be followed by Lipoa Kahaleuahi.

MS. LEA: Aloha kākou. Mahalo for the journey out here. And I'm really excited to be at this stage of the year again. So, I am...I live in Kealaku, and I've picked up a lot of information from my household because I live with Dawn Lono, and Scott Crawford is my husband. And so, through that course, you know, I just have to say that a lot of information comes to me. Today I learned it was Tsunami

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

Awareness Month, and that in 1946, we had a tsunami with 159 deaths in Hawai'i. So, I happen to wear multiple hats. I manage a vacation rental property for hānai Auntie Māmā, who's 86 years old. It's her only source of income, and she couldn't do the work that it takes to run it. And so, I took that over during the pandemic to help her. I am also the Executive Director of the Hāna Business Council, and I work as an affiliate liaison this last year for what has emerged to become the East Maui Food Alliance, working on a commercial food hub and a facility for our community that will be a multi-year project ahead. I am also the facilitator for monthly East Maui Ready meetings, which you may want to attend. We just put an advisory out to inform people against going to both Waioka and Kaihalulu, and fortunately, that did get some media outlet. One of the projects in the last five years that I've developed with Dawn, and Scott, and the Business Council is the hanamaui.com website. We had a great meeting. We have our monthly meetings the last Wednesday of every month with East Maui Ready. We had not only Amos and Everett from MEMA, and we learned that there is going to be a community-dedicated liaison for CERT training and to work with East Maui as well in the works. You know, they're still working on staffing, but we also had the new chair of our Maui COAD--East Maui Ready is a member of COAD, the Maui Community Organizations Active in Disaster--Thelma with Catholic Charities. And we're...I'm just excited because we're building network. I really think we need to make sure--the Business Council's been asked to try for funding for resiliency hub funding that's available this year, and I want to make sure that that's married with the work that we're doing with our community food hub and this commercial kitchen project, if we can. Shane and I have also been talking. We've been in discussions around the wastewater issues, the long-term solutions that will be needed to transfer . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . the cesspool systems. One of the reasons why Waioka, we're advising not to go there is a recent--Surfrider Foundation found higher than--well, just unhealthy levels of Enterococcus bacteria, which is human-waste bacteria basically, which all that cesspool is coming down there. And it's one of, like, three places in all of Maui that has these high levels, so--and the rest of them are super-populated areas, so here we are . . .*(laughing)*. . . letting things go, but we can...we can make a change. And they've got to be 'āina-based solutions, and we have to do it together. I'll just close with our kūpuna are essential, and to have that multi-generational engagement and connection . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . is what it's going to take. We've lost a lot of people who were very active a couple decades ago as being representatives for our different ahupua'a, and I think, you know, what we're going to be working towards is having youth representatives really be engaged in...in our community, environmental emergency planning, and building those kūpuna networks so that we're bridging that all through the Maui...or Hāna District. So, mahalo, again, for your time. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Does anybody have questions for her? See none. Thank you very much.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

MS. LEA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Give our best to Scott.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Lipoa Kahaleuahi, to be followed by Barry Chang.

MS. KAHALEUAHI: Aloha mai kākou. My name is Lipoa Kahaleuahi, community member of Hāna and Executive Director of Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike. How was the poi? It was all right? Okay. . . .*(laughing)*. . . I'm glad you enjoyed it. That was made by one of our graduate teachers. Mahalo. First, yeah, just want to start off with gratitude and mahalo for all of you and your support, but also want to extend that mahalo to all of those that come behind you, besides you, your Staff that you recognize that are here, those that are back in your offices responding to our emails, working through our reports, ensuring that due diligence is followed and executed. I want to highlight that because that is what has led to our organization's fiscal processes and practices being up to date and up to par to receive such funding Statewide, Federally, and, you know, internationally, even, with one of our...the most recent gift. And so, I want to mahalo you for, you know, growing with us, growing up with us, and...and sometimes guiding us to...to, again, being able to be up to par with what is expected for organizations our size with...and with our depth. It's already the...the final quarter of this fiscal year, obviously, as you know. And so, so far, as of March 15th, our team has already harvested 15,000 pounds of food, have impacted the lives of roughly 506 participants, 134 of those are kūpuna that we serve on a weekly...on a rotating basis. We've led youth in a combined total of over 25,000 hours of hands-on vocational and place-based training and education, and executed 16 building projects. We also know that this...these numbers are also representative of the faces and the lives that we've been able to touch by serving our own community: the young mother that we've been able to ensure has supplemental veggies and produce free of charge that can be used in her meals for her 'ohana, the kūpuna that we might be able to house that was previously houseless, any many more projects and programs. I do want to speak specifically to that gift that we were able to receive...receive, and hope that you will continue to support our organization. We have grown immensely over the years to be able to use every taxpayer dollar that comes our way to the penny, and so we ask for your continued support. Organizations, again, at our size and caliber rough--usually should have 6 to 12 months of cash reserves. Over our 24-year lifespan, at best, we are humbled and proud to say that we've gotten by with, at...at best, two

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

months, and now with this gift, we're able to secure that longevity in our...for...for the betterment of our community. So, mahalo for your continued support, again. As Heidi shared, many of us wear many hats, and so, I just want to mahalo all the other community organizations that you continue to support, primarily Hāna Arts . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . whom we partner with on Hāna School's campus to provide supplemental opportunities for our youth. I want to give a shout out to MEO as well. I mean, they have gone above and beyond for our youth, from coaching...from after-school programs that youth may not otherwise be able to stay at campus for because they don't have transportation, but also in being able to partner with us to send our kids out to...to opportunities elsewhere. And last but not least, would like to ask for your continued support of nonprofit organization Ke Ao Hali'i. Mahalo for helping us to acquire lands, and bring them back into community stewardship, and get through acquisition. I wouldn't say we're completely . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . done, but mahalo for getting us this far, and please join us in continued management. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. What was the name of the last organization you mentioned?

MS. KAHALEUAHI: Ke Ao Hali'i. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Ke Ao Hali'i.

MS. KAHALEUAHI: Save Hāna Coast.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Anybody have questions? Seeing none. Good job.

MS. KAHALEUAHI: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Barry Chang, to be followed by Dawn Lono.

MR. CHANG: Aloha, Councilmembers. Thank you for coming out and joining us. Speaking for Hāna Canoe Club, and we want to thank you guys for past, present, and future considerations. We know it's times not that good, but we will--especially this funding, send it to Lahaina. We'll gladly give it up. You got extra, we'll take some. And also to MEO for transporting our keikis. We're way out here, regardless of our...a major event just to get there. And last, we acknowledge, as Lipoa said, all the nonprofits in Hāna. We have also acquired Kau'iki Hill, so the canoe club, Ke Ao Hali'i's all responsible for our...our mauna right here. So, thank you.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions? Thank you, Barry. Seeing none. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Dawn Lono, to be followed by Earle Medeiros.

MS. LONO: Aloha. I'm not testifying on my own behalf. We had some calls to our office today, and I took dictation over the phone and was asked if I could read it at the meeting because number one, MEO was not able to bring our residents from Ke'anae, especially our kūpuna, out for this meeting. So, Auntie Joe...Janet Redo asked me...Janet Redo asked me if I could read this to you. On behalf of the Ke'anae community, my name is Janet Redo. I am a resident of Ke'anae, Maui for more than 65 years. I am speaking on behalf of the residents of Ke'anae and Wailua Nui communities. We are requesting a concrete pavilion to be erected at the Ke'anae Baseball Park at the Ke'anae Peninsula. It is to be used mainly for the community meetings and other needs. We request that the Council will consider funding for this pavilion in this budget term. Thank you for your consideration, Janet. Please excuse the typos in the . . .*(laughing)*. . . And then from our Festivals of Aloha Chairperson, Bill Sides, an awesome human being, and he has just done a fabulous job over the years with this...with this event annually. Our Festivals of Aloha organization is the last in the State that each year, runs around 17 events over eight days, and is called Aloha Week. We sold 1,295 ribbons last year. By comparison, Lāna'i sold less than 200. Our long-term plan is to have the festival become a destination event that Hāna would be noted for . . .*(laughing)*. . . Sorry. To this end, we need adequate and accessible funding. We rely heavily on volunteer help. Folks volunteer to chair our events, and we get discounted rentals, and et cetera. It is truly a community-supported festival. In 2023, the festival encountered significant cash flow problems that seriously undermined the credibility that we had with our supporters. And this was a very, and continues to be a very serious problem. I am dealing with it right now daily. To date, there are still folks, including myself--Bill Sides--who fronted large sums of money, and have yet to be reimbursed by the County for their expenses. If a person volunteers to help our festival, they shouldn't have to suffer financially. To improve things, we would like to see more funds available specifically to Hāna, and have a larger percentage, 70 percent, available upfront. One key to a successful festival is bringing in top-notch entertainment. Quality entertainers are booked well in advance, and we want to see a deposit to...we want to see a deposit to secure a commitment. The County regulations require that service be rendered before payments can be made. I am sure that rule fits some of the situations, but only serves to have us expend personal funds that won't be reimbursed until months later. This event was held in October, and this is now April, and reimbursements have not yet happened to pay for expenses of this event. I would like to think something could be done to make it less financially burdensome for folks who are only trying to serve their community, Bill Sides.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. LONO: Any questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Thank you very much for reading in their behalf.

MS. LONO: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody have questions for Dawn Lono? Seeing none. Thank you.

MS. LONO: I just want to say one more quicky thing. I was going to write something up and have pictures and stuff, and I didn't get a chance to do it. But we have a County-owned...two County-owned houses here in Hāna that house our police officers, right, on the road next to the museum. And they have been allowed to deteriorate into deplorable conditions, and these are facilities that we, as a County, own. And we are short on housing, we have a very difficult time finding housing for our professionals in our community--our teachers, our police officers, our firemen--and we're allowing these houses just to deteriorate. And it just seems absolutely uncalled for...for...to allow that to happen. So, I would just like to see some attention on that. I did bring that to the Mayor's attention when he came for his budget meeting last year, and I gave him pictures and everything. But I don't really see anything in the budget that addressed it, so I just wanted to bring that up as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. LONO: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for mentioning it. Oh, Miss...Member Paltin has a question.

MS. LONO: And I have pictures on my phone of it if anybody wants to see them.
...*(laughing)*...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Lono, for your testimony. I...I just was wondering, maybe we can work something out with Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike?

MS. LONO: Yeah. And--but it's County...it's a County-owned facility, so yes. It could...I'm sure that we would work with them. But it's more than just...you got to see the pictures.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. LONO: And part of it is the general maintenance. Even the yard, like, there's a tree growing through the deck, okay? There's a tree growing through the front deck of the house. How does that happen?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are...are they putting police officers in there?

MS. LONO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. LONO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the police officer didn't cut it down?

MS. LONO: Apparently not because it's there. And like I said, I have pictures I can show you. And I'm not sure--I was trying to talk to Lieutenant Krau about who maintains...they have somebody who maintains the yard on a regular basis, but it's only a limited amount of maintenance. I think they only, like, cut the grass. They don't weedeat and do trimming and all that kind of stuff. And it's...it's pretty deplorable, and that we just...we have to do better. That's all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for bringing that to our attention.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Could you...could you send those pictures to the Committee? That would help us.

MS. LONO: Yes. I will. I will.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

MS. LONO: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, are we done? Okay. Thank you very much, Dawn.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

MS. LONO: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for everything you do. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Earle Medeiros, to be followed by Bill Furhmann.

MR. MEDEIROS: Aloha, everybody.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aloha.

MR. MEDEIROS: Aloha. I went eat after you guys. Ono, the meal. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, I full mana already. But I want to ask...I was asked just first time to thank you guys for supporting the Hāna Canoe Club, yeah, for past and future...for the future. I don't paddle anymore, but we opened up the Hāna Canoe Club, yeah, in 1977, '78, somewheres around there. And we had one kick-ass team. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Nobody could beat us. . . .*(laughing)*. . . But, you know, keep supporting, especially for the kids, the keikis. I mean, you got to take them off their cell phones, got to take them off--we...we got to sidetrack them nowadays, man. That's a big problem we're having, yeah? All over. So, thank you so much, and aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions?

MR. MEDEIROS: Any...any questions? Any questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Seeing none.

MR. MEDEIROS: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Bill Furhmann, to be followed by Chris Sanita.

MR. FURHMANN: To see you guys, some that I've known for decades, some so high in a canoe in Kihei jumps out, bounces his head off of the sand. Now he's a Councilmember. So, I've been to Molokai, we paddled over there. I've been to Lānaʻi. Before the hotel, with Hōkūleʻa, Mānele Bay, Hulopoʻe, beautiful. Now you guys--well, my...my condolences. And Kihei, we say Kamaʻole. Lahaina, Wahikuli, sleep with the canoes. Down Kahului, Hawaiian Canoe Club, Nā Kai ʻEwalu. Yeah. Hāna Canoe Club was...I was one of the original directors, one of the coaches for the kids. Now I just sit and watch. Anyway, my issue is not about money that you guys got to spend, its money that I'm asking you to give

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

back to the local people, and that's in the TAT accommodation tax. For people like us, if there's a funeral, people hospitalized, family parties, we may have to stay overnight. We paying the tax, okay? I work at the hotel. I still work...78 years old, I still working. But there's tax exemptions for big shots that come in from the mainland. They don't have to pay no tax at all. We--they just pay the basic rate. So, isn't there some way...in the County TAT there be some kind of exemption for the local people, that they don't have to pay the additional 3, 4, 5 dollars every night to stay? The hotels are now charging \$300 and up in Kahului, hitting you with resort fees, so you get a little water jug, and they charge you another 25 bucks for that, and all that is subject to the TAT tax. So, you know, save us a couple bucks. We can go to the funeral and give it more to the...to the families, or spend some time with our families, or some who have to stay for business, or if we got to stay overnight with loved ones in a hospital, it saves us a few bucks. And I think that's within the realm of the budget, to control the revenues and how the revenues is collected. And that would be my request. Thank you.

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

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Chris Sanita, to be followed by Becky Lind.

MR. SANITA: Aloha mai kākou, esteemed Councilmembers and community. I'm Chris Sanita, and for over 11 years, I've had the honor of teaching and leading Hāna School. And from witnessing its inception on our campus to now collaborating closely with the powerful nonprofit organization Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, as the principal, I've seen first-hand the transformation...the transformative impact it's had on our haumana. Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike's goals and outcomes extend far beyond what meets the eye. In an era where staffing teachers has become increasingly challenging due to the weighted-student formula and budgetary constraints, Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike has been a beacon of hope. Thanks to their support, we've had five skilled adults working with our middle- and high-school students as teachers, funded and facilitated by Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike. The results have been nothing short of astounding. Their provision of electives, such as the cultural practices, agriculture, Makahiki, 'ōlelo Hawai'i classes, culinary arts, building and construction apprentices, ku'i kalo for K-12 students, and kūpuna meals has enriched our students' educational experiences exponentially. Through Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, our students gain real-world training from experts and educators on the path of expertise, experiences that our school budget alone would not be able to provide. Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike not only impacts lives, but also enhances work-based learning and offers exceptional training and employment opportunities for their instructors. So, I just wanted to say thank you for considering supporting their profound impact on our school, and together with Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike and other nonprofit organizations, such as Hāna Arts, and not nonprofit, but MEO--it really has a huge impact in our school. We have

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

experts, community members, and sometimes people coming from abroad that don't have teaching credentials that I'm not hobbled to worry about trying to hire and manage my budget through them. So, our...our electives are profound because of Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike and Hāna Arts. And to plug MEO, I just--it's going to make me cry, just see--there's former students driving MEO buses, taking current students back to Wailua Nui so those boys and girls can play sports. It's astounding. So, mahalo, and please consider to keep funding it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for the work you do...very much.

MR. SANITA: Thanks. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the principal of...thank you. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Becky Lind, to be followed by Claire Kamalu Carroll.

MS. LIND: Stop. Sorry. Hello. Aloha, Maui County Council. My name is Becky Lind, and I am testifying--oh. Oh, there we go. Awesome. There we go. My name is Becky Lind, and I'm testifying to you today both as the Executive Director of Hāna Arts and as the co-chair for the Festivals of Aloha, Hāna. First, I'd like to mahalo you for your continued support, and to advocate for the sustained and enhanced funding of arts and cultural programs in our community. The value of these programs, especially in a remote and rural area like Hāna, cannot be overstated. They serve not only as a bridge to the indigenous culture, but also as vital tools for education, creative expression, and economic development. East Maui's rural location presents challenges in providing diverse educational and economic opportunities, so the programs offered by Hāna Arts and the Festivals of Aloha, they play a crucial role in overcoming these challenges. They offer accessible, high-quality arts education to nearly 400 students at Hāna School, and cultural engagement opportunities that are otherwise limited in our community. Through the hula, mele, ceramics, and 72 creative sessions a week, through our partnership with Hāna School and Kula Kaiapuni, we aim to uplift our youth and adults alike, encouraging a thriving environment where arts and culture are celebrated, and where individuals can explore their potential. Let's see...as we continue to plan, we continually run into the issues of the community kitchen that has been in disrepair. This hinders our ability to successfully and efficiently produce these events, including taro festival and limu festival. I know they had some...some issues. Festivals of Aloha specifically suffers from another issue, which is the bottleneck of the funds, as--so, we would like to ask for your support and streamlining this, as Aunty Dawn had mentioned. I respectfully ask you to recognize the critical role that Hāna Arts and the Festivals of Aloha play in the Hāna community, and the importance of the old Hāna School and Community

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

Kitchen. I advocate for your continued and increased support to ensure that these programs and the community kitchen facility receive your backing so we can continue to provide these essential services and contribute significantly to the educational, creative, and economic vitality of Hāna. Mahalo for your consideration and for your ongoing support of East Maui. When finalizing your budget, please remember our community. Remember Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike, Hāna Business Council, Ke Ao Hali'i, MEO, Hāna Farmers Market, and all the others. It really takes a village. I'm confident that together, we can ensure a bright future for the Hāna community. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions? Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Claire Kamalu Carroll, to be followed by Sam A. Akoi, IV.

MS. CARROLL: Thank you. Aloha and thank you for making the trek all the way out here. I'm the one that leaves in the dark and come home in the dark, but in these few moments, it's worth that, I love my community so much. So, let's first--this is my priority, that old school. I brought it to the Mayor's attention. We're working on our fourth year. Devastating. Our nonprofit organizations have been displaced. MEO moved back in, Hāna Arts moved back in. Three years ago...two years ago, this will be my third year, somebody approached me because there's no place for our nonprofits to go. So, they pitched out the idea. Tada, we get Hāna Youth Fest. Partners, Ho'omauna--wait--Ho'oikaika Partnership, Hāna Arts, the Hui, they all come in. It's, like, once a year. We have been so deprived. They took away the dentist. If you want to go to the dentist, you get Hawaiian descent, catch the MEO bus. Thank you for them. They got to go make appointment, three months wait. This was all hunky-dory six-month project. It has been broken into. The doors are broken. The windows have been smashed. MEO vans just vandalized. This is what we face in Hāna. Now I want to address Water Authority. This is one article I--if you folks could look up. Rate...water rate increases, 500 to 1,500 increase in water rates, article in 2018. I'm asking the Council today that we need common sense, what we going after. I'm lucky I get County water. Anybody on County water, we blessed because we have agriculture out here in East Maui, and we are the forgotten. This is the challenges. Another thing I would like is spend a little money to put on the no parking signs up at the old school, no parking 8:00 to 4:00. This is another--we forgot about our community. This one big baseball town. You know how we have to double, triple, quadruple park? We're going to take them. Why? We get no parking. We stay sitting in Hāna Bay. We own from the pine tree, County, to the end of the showers. The rest is not County. We addressed visitors, but we really forgot about our community. You know, MEO--my grandchildren . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I get seven grandchildren, almost all of them attending Hāna School. It wasn't for them like everybody spoke. We had the most attendance in sports

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

this year. Everybody complains to get into East Maui, nobody complains that East Maui--and we no grumble because you know why? We love Molokai. We love Lānaʻi. We love Lahaina. East and West, we get plenty in common because the alumnus is here. We respect others, but please don't forget about our community. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for Ms. Carroll? Please give our best to your dad and mom.

MS. CARROLL: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier and the last person currently signed up to testify is Sam A. Akoi, IV.

MR. AKOI: Aloha, everybody. Long time no see. Ho, what a wonderful...lot of wonderful faces. I see all you guys, Tom Cook, Tamara, Auntie Tasha--ho, Alice--Yuki Lei, Shane, Gabe, Keani. Aloha. My name is Sam Akoi. I reside in Kīpahulu, Maui. I like to thank you guys. I mean, this...this April budget time coming up is a really--you know, it's going to be really...really pushing on you guys' part. But I ask all you County...County Council members to...to please, to support all our County Council...Hāna Council...County Councilmen, you know in any endeavors that you're going through in the budgets. You...you heard...you heard it all today, you know, from multiple nonprofits and stuff. I ask to keep on supporting the nonprofits, keep on supporting our...our emergency--you know, the fire, EMTs, or EMR, or--and police, you know? Support them. Support our churches, you know, here. Supporting our community, you know? Kīpahulu, we...we got that rock scaling that went on and stuff, you know? I live right there, and, you know, we need...we need to get that...that fencing up already. And...and the undertow on the ocean side, the paving needs to be continued. I think Kīpahulu--I'm...I'm part of the Kīpahulu Association. I'm a board member. I think we put in for a speed table over there. Then coming...coming at Wailua and...and, you know, that...that tourism pilot thing that's going on, you know, I was a part of that too. So, you know, keep on supporting that. Two-and...two-and-a-half months they'll be done, and then we can figure out what we're going to do from there. Thank you, guys, for...for supporting the paving down at ʻUlaʻino. That was awesome. Thank you so much for just supporting our nonprofits. I hear Kamalu--you know, it's...it's the whole community talking about, you know, our schools and stuff. Our County Council is in...in--you know, you guys know where they're at, the...their buildings. You know, I don't know how it's going to look like, you know, for...for that, you know, up. For me, I would say just tear it down and rebuild them up again. I mean, that's...that's the best thing, you know? And about our...our . . .(timer sounds). . .

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

wharf over here, it would be really nice to see our wharf rebuilt in case of emergency. In case our roads broke down and stuff, we can...we can bring in supplies to...to...to Hāna. So, that's another one too. I know that came up a while back. But yeah, I just encourage all of you to...to...to work together in hand-in-hand. Whichever moku you from, you know, that you all work together. Work together so you can solidify and...and, you know, lock down everything of the needs of every ahupua'a or moku. But yeah, I'd like to thank every one of you for--you know, just drive home safely. Nice to see you guys again, you know? Have a blessed evening. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Akoi. I think we have questions. Oh, Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Huh? Oh, I had no question for Mr. Akoi, but I just wanted to remind the Members that you voted for him for a second term on the Conservation Committee for East Maui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. AKOI: Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody have questions? Member Cook has a question?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, thank you. Can you hear me? Does this thing work?

MR. AKOI: 'Ae.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Better...better than my hearing aids.

MR. AKOI: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I wanted to ask...the issue with the school and historic...that's part of the problem, right? Historic buildings --

MR. AKOI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- you can't work on it, pretty humbug like that? That's...I'm a builder. That's something that is occurring in multiple places on the island --

MR. AKOI: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- and it's a challenge. I just want to ask the community, especially Hāna, because it's a tight-knit community--people listen to you. And

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

when it comes to culture, and history, and preservation, I think your voice resonates and has power. I'm hopeful that we, as an island community, can address those rules because they're not working for us. Kihei School...Ke'anae School --

MR. AKOI: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- I worked a little bit with Bush (*phonetic*) guys and Junior (*phonetic*). I was looking at trying to renovate it. And since it's on, like, two different historic reser--you know --

MR. AKOI: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- it's just rotting away --

MR. AKOI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- and not being able to be worked on. So, I just want to--I don't know how everybody feels, but if people feel similar to what you just said, it would help us, and it would help our community for that voice to be written down and communicated that--I don't have the words. You guys have the words--like, allow us to make our community a living, breathing --

MR. AKOI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- place, and honor the past, but not if it's when kind of all bust wooden buildings.

MR. AKOI: Yeah. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, my question if you would be...if you...if you agreed with that, and if you would help?

MR. AKOI: Yes. Yes, I will. I'll work...work with...with Shane and the community. Thank you, Tom.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Akoi. No other questions. Thank you very--any more testifiers?

MS. MCKINLEY: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, and she is currently the last one signed up.

MS. OLIVEIRA-MEDEIROS: Aloha, Councilmembers. I wasn't going to come up, but there's so many people that complain on Facebook, so...they're not here. So, if

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

there's one thing that they complain about the most--and it's already funded, but I don't know what you guys...or if you can do anything about it--the paving, the roads from Maka'alaie all the way to Kīpahulu or Kaupō. Not--you know, we have some funded already, right, Shane? Shane has some funded, I think two miles in Maka'alaie, and another couple in Kaupō, maybe Kīpahulu. But in that time, the four years that passed, all the other two miles are all puka now. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, it just keeps getting worse. What else on Facebook...I saw just today that they want to build--what kind of business--bicycle, jeep tours, and glamping down at lower Ke'anae. That's kind of sad. It's...it's...that's the last pristine place, it seemed like, you know? So, if you guys hear about that, or if come to you guys, that's something that Ke'anae...a lot of Ke'anae is against, anyway. But that's all. Thank you guys for coming out.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mavis. Any questions? Here's...Member Paltin has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Where...where they would be doing the glamping? Not on the old YMCA one?

MS. OLIVEIRA-MEDEIROS: No, somebody called Black Rock something --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Black Rock Cycle --

MS. OLIVEIRA-MEDEIROS: -- just bought it a couple years ago. And he's been applying. He got denied for a long building. I think he wanted to keep his bikes and jeeps inside of the building, and he got denied that. And now he's trying to extend his house, and that's in review.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. OLIVEIRA-MEDEIROS: That's what I found, but...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. OLIVEIRA-MEDEIROS: Oh, yeah. And all the other stuff. They all talked about the Hāna Community Center, and...and Ke Ao Hali'i, and Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike. Please keep supporting them. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mavis. Any more testifiers?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Carolyn Diliberto, and she's currently the last name we have over here.

MS. DILIBERTO: Hello. Hello. Hello. Hello, everybody. My name is Carolyn Diliberto,

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

and I've been here for 13 years. And I'll be 80 next year. And I no longer have a vehicle, and so I'm very dependent on MEO. Very, very dependent. I do walk from my house in the subdivision to the market. I go to the physical therapist at Hāna Health, and he thinks that's a great idea, and so do I. So, I'm not kind of giving up yet. Very dangerous to try to walk here. The...the places where you can walk are grassy, and not flat, and have broken, rusty remnants of...of street sign posts. The telephone wire structures that hold the...the poles up, you...if you're not looking up, you're going to walk right into them. And the cars go by really fast, especially the tourists, but also locals. And you have to walk in the street here on the highway in certain places. You don't have a choice. So, you have to stop and wait, turn around and wait for the traffic, and then rush out into the street, and then rush back, go around the phone poles, which also block. And...and I'm not here to talk about wishing we had places to walk, but I wish we did. We don't. It's very dangerous. But they...the people who are...who are the...the day...day-to-day people who run the MEO are so conscientious, and so helpful. Some of the people who come on the MEO are very badly disabled. And last week, we went to Kahului. They needed lunch, and...and MEO people went and got their lunch because it was too difficult for them to physically go inside to get food. They couldn't be more thoughtful and careful, and are always making sure that everybody has seatbelts on and follow the rules of safety and rules of the road. And they're very, very impressive. Very impressive people. And just make it possible to get to Kahului. I don't have another way to get there. And I have to go to Kaiser or wherever, and they make it possible. I don't know...I don't know what I would do if we didn't have that assistance. It's...it's very, very important. And I'm...I'm still new to the service. It's only been--where's Mary?--it's only been maybe two months at the most, so I'm far from being an expert. And of course, there is all the local . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . transportation available as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. DILIBERTO: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you.

MS. DILIBERTO: Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions? Okay.

MS. DILIBERTO: Questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Members, I think what she's talking about is the--and we heard about it--is the Greenway, right? Hāna Greenway and MEO Transportation, yeah? Thank you.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

MS. DILIBERTO: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Senzi Moswane, to be followed by Tarisai Mazinyani.

MS. MOSWANE: Good evening, everyone, to the community of Hāna at large. My name is Senzi Lemillicent Moswane (*phonetic*). I am originally from South Africa. I am here for an agricultural internship in Hāna Fresh. Also Hāna Health, we have a clinic there. So, this contract that I'm on is for a period of one year. And since I'm a resident of this place now, I feel the need to speak about the Maui Economic Opportunities, which is the MEO Transportation. So far, since I've arrived here, I have been having so much gratitude for this organization of the MEO because it has helped us in so many ways. First of all, we come from different countries, the...the Hāna Fresh workers, so obviously we don't have cars around here, so we depend on the MEO to transport us to different places--our local stores, to explore the place, see the beaches around, and all the lovely places here--because part of our program is for the cultural exchange. So, getting to know different places and different people is a great opportunity for this program to us. So, I just want to edge the point that I would love for the MEO to continue being in use for the community as it is bringing great service. It is helping the elderly. It helps us, the farmers from around across the world. And it's just a good organization, and I'm grateful for that. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions? None. Thank you.

MS. MOSWANE: Thank you, ma'am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Tarisai Mazinyani --

MS. MAZINYANI: Yeah. Hello.

MS. MCKINLEY: -- to be followed by Smanga Zondi.

MS. MAZINYANI: Oh, okay. Yeah. So, you can call me Tari for short. So, I am from Zimbabwe. It's a long way from where I am right now. And one of the things that I was telling myself was, you know, it's never easy to go to someplace new and adapt and all, but what I can say for sure is that MEO is making my life way easier because I got here, like, three weeks ago, and I have free transport. So, if we can continue getting these services, that would be awesome. Thank you.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions for the testifier? See none. Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Smanga Zondi, to be followed by Eswara Praveen Raju-Chichadi.

MR. ZONDI: Greetings, everyone. My name is Smanga Zondi. I'm from South Africa. I would like to thank the opportunity to be here in front of you to testify on the services we get from the MEO, and also from the opportunity that made us to be here because if it wasn't for Hāna Fresh and Hāna Health, maybe we wouldn't have been here. So, we would like to thank that opportunity, and we would like to thank that--you know, when you get to a place, you...you like to go around, and get to see people and see places around. So, if it wasn't for the MEO, we would be stuck there in the farm and get bored. You see, when you are a farmer, you come back around 4:00. You are tired, you want to sleep, you do one thing every day. So, during the weekend, you get to go out. And you cruise around, get...get to refresh your mind. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions? Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Eswara Praveen Raju-Chichadi.

MR. RAJU-CHICHADI: Hello. Good evening, everyone. My name is Eswara. I am from India. I...I'm in an internship program in Hāna Fresh. Yeah. First of all, thanks for MEO, for a great opportunity. And, like, yeah we...we have no transportation here when we all are here. I'm here for eight months, but I never used MEO. I never known. I recently known about it, and also, I used it only once in last week for our groceries. Groceries is...it's a big problem for us. It's, like, when we have to go somewhere, we have to ask someone to drive us there. Not everyone are free to take us every time, but MEO, it's a good opportunity for us, it's...to use. I don't have much to say. I don't know what to talk. I was feeling nervous. I never talked like this before. So, thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You did good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, before we call up the next testifier, Chair Lee has a question.

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's what I told her.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I know certain parts of Africa. Jambo. Jambo is one of them, is a greeting. But what...what is the greeting from your place, Zimbabwe?

MS. MAZINYANI: It's...well, it depends on the time of the day. For example, if it's in the morning, you say mamuka sei.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mamuka sei.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. No, but what about hello?

MS. MAZINYANI: Hello is like mhoror.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Pardon me?

MS. MAZINYANI: You say mhoror.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Mhoror?

MS. MAZINYANI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

MS. MAZINYANI: Yeah. It's like hello, hi.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Next time we're in your country, we'll remember that.

MS. MAZINYANI: Okay. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

MS. MAZINYANI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for sharing that with us. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Laurie Smith-Kaukini, to be followed by Mary Brook.

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: Hello. Oh, you guys full? Piha?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: Yeah. Good. Well, I'm here, so I have three hats. I'm going to take one...two of them off. I going take the County of Maui off because I work for

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

the County of Maui, Parks and Recreations, and I'm going to take off the mama hat because I don't need it. But I'm going to talk as an individual from this community, and it's because I work for the County, I know what's happening to most of the stuff. As you can see, where we're standing and sitting in this building, we really would like to see this building fixed, and even extended because Hāna has been pouring in with lots of people now. And all of our kids and us, we're making more people, so, you know, we need a bigger place, you know? Parties nowadays, it's not 300, it's 500. This is only max 300, this building. So, it would be nice to have...either fix this place up, or someplace else where we can go to to have our community functions or personal-kind stuff like pā'inas. Also, our basketball court or volleyball court up at the ballpark, this past winter, we had community sports. And we had a volleyball league that I run because I work there, so I run a community league during the night. But out of ten nights in our schedule, we could only play five nights because of the weather. Our weather has not been very nice to us, and so we could not complete our league. And, you know, the people who play the teams, they have to pay, you know, because they got to use the facilities and...and all that stuff. You guys know the mumbo jumbo with that. But in order for them to enjoy themselves, you know, socialize and get exercise and stuff, you know, we need a place for them to go to. So, if we can have a gym because I personally do not want to see a covered court because at the ballpark is the most beautiful place. If you're looking from the old school looking out, you can see beauty everywhere. And if you gonna put up one building over that, it's going to just block the beauty. I no like see that in the future. What I really would like to see is a gym here in Hāna because Hāna School's gym is just taking up with all the kids going on up there. They have too much stuff going on for our kids. But we need something for our community where they can get out, they can use the gym, play basketball, volleyball, or even have events inside. So, that would be really nice. . . .(timer sounds). . . So, the property that's on the other side of the Hāna subdivision, I know that it was meant for some kind of park over there and put up a pavilion or something. That is a nice place to do something like that. We can have an outdoor, what, amphitheater like the zoo has one, or something like that for our community. We just need a place for our Aloha Festival, Taro Festival. I mean, everybody got to go down to the ballpark. There's no parking, nothing. How can we do that in Hāna? But we still do it, yeah? Amongst all the disagreements and all the pilikia that we got to go through --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: -- we still do it. . . .(timer sounds). . . Yeah. So, anyways, look into it. Please, do something. I like see something before I hala this place --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any --

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: -- before I leave this world.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions?

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: Okay?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Just a response to--and thank you for bringing that up. For the Pa'ani Mai Park, the parks do have an access road; however, we're still waiting from the ranch to get the approval to get that access road from Uakea, the bottom road, up to the park. But...so, we're still waiting on...on some of those agreements with the ranch at this point.

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: I was...I was 40 years old that --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And it's still going on?

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: I'm 60 now. Hurry up, Shane.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. It's still going. Okay. We'll work on it.

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: Yeah. Please. And you know what? Talk about that access road. That is the best place for our kids in this subdivision to go because they have to walk up on the main highway. And if you walk up there or go through there and you see that place, it's so dangerous. I'm surprised that not one kid would get hit yet by a car. No parking. How...how the families all going go up there? You take five families up there, no parking, yeah? So, I no understand why no more. Can we do something about that one, please? Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I have a question, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you have a question. Oh, please --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Laurie. Laurie.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Come back, please. Laurie?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good evening.

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: Hi.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And thank you for your hospitality this evening. I wanted to ask you, you talked about expanding this facility. Do you know if this facility can go

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

up?

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: You mean that way, up?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Yes.

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: I'm not sure.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Because if you wanted to expand, you'd have --

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- to go either out that way or that way, right?

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: We need to go that way and that way.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: Up, I think, is up to you guys for go up. I have no idea.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well...well...well, my understanding is that if a community wants something, then the community has to continue the dialogue in terms of whether you want to go up, out, or whichever way --

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: Ah, maika'i.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- and help to guide that conversation.

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: Um-hum.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Because in the end, it is you that is going to have to live with this. And I think for many of us, we'd want you to tell us how you want it to look in...in terms of aesthetics, and then we can help facilitate that. But that's --

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- how it should be, I think.

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And then when I think about your gym that you want to do--I mean, I don't know this place, but you folks do. Where do you think would be a good place for a gym to be? And if you get community people to work--like, how Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike and Ke Ao Hali'i, right? You all started with just a

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

conversation, and then people got together and actually made it happen. So, whenever you want things, that's how it happens, right? So...so, somebody thinks about it, you all talk about it, and then the vision comes to life. So, just wanted to put that out for you.

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: Mahalo for your 'ike.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MS. SMITH-KAUKINI: I appreciate. Shane, see you later.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)*. . . Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Mary Brook, and she is currently the last person signed up to testify.

MS. BROOK: Good evening, everyone. My name is Mary Kau'i Kala Brook, and I am the branch manager for East Maui for MEO. And I just wanted to take the time to thank you folks for all the help that you guys have supported, all our Hāna programs, as well as ours as well. And as we move forward to this new year, I am excited of a lot of things that can happen for Hāna and the growth that it has shown this past year, but I'm also thankful for the time that you guys actually listened from the last meeting. So, I've been employed with MEO for a year and four months now, and since then, we've been blessed with a new bus--actually two buses. Thank you. And also, a lot of our community members talked about having satellite phones for safety. We've received that, as well as our defibrillators. We received all of that. And currently, I am working to train my crew on its usage, and make sure that it's installed on all our buses so when we are on the Hāna Highway, it's there for our client's usage. And also, the cleaning of the branches on the Hāna Road--now I'm...I'm assuming some of you rode the Hāna Road, or --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

MS. BROOK: --drove, it, right? It's unpredictable every day, right? So, all of those branches that was there--so, thank you so much for cutting that because our buses are really high, and we tend to hit that...but we don't want to, but it's...sometimes it's just there, and we just have to go around it. But thank you for that and clearing that up because it's been really helpful in the success and moving forward for MEO because we want to expand out here in this way. And also, just to let you know, we did expand towards--I know the group...Kīpahulu group came up here. We did expand this year, covering areas in Koali area, Ha'u and Maka'alae area, where we have the resources and if it's safe, you know? So, we are doing that, as well as carrying out our Ke'anae and Nāhiku areas that

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

we've been helping out our clients there to get where they need to go as well. So, just wanted to thank...take the time to thank you guys for all your support, and ask for your continuing support as we do grow. And thank you for the buses because it's been such a blessing to the people of Hāna, as well as all the other programs that we support, as well as the lifeline. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Any questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MS. BROOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody else have questions for her?

MS. BROOK: No?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. BROOK: Well, have a good evening. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Kauʻi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Kauʻi. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, there's currently no one signed up to testify. If anyone would like to testify, please indicate now. Chair, I don't see anyone else.

. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much, everybody, for being here. So, we're going to close public testimony. Tomorrow morning, we're going to meet at 9:00 in the morning to start our budget meetings. I'm going to ask Shane to do a little summary tomorrow based upon what we heard--because we didn't televise it for *Akakū*--if you don't mind.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I know you're taking notes, so...and...and then we'll verify it with the...you know, the--our Staff that's here. But thank you very much. I really appreciate hearing your voices, and we'll see you again next year. And you can always come and testify at...with our Council. We're online. You can call in, so you don't have to drive all the way to Wailuku, but you can come in through online. Teams is our platform. And thank you very much for being here. Hāna is so beautiful. I love hearing the ocean all night, it's so serene.

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

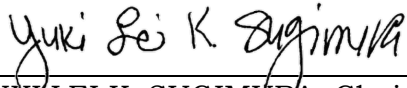
April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

ACTION: **DEFER** pending further discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 7:30 p.m.

APPROVED:



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

bfed:min:240401-East Maui:ml:lt

Transcribed by: Logan Tsuji

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 1, 2024
Helene Hall, Social Hall

CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 33 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 1st day of May 2024, in Wailuku, Hawai'i

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Logan Tsuji", is written above a horizontal line.

Logan Tsuji