

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

MINUTES

April 11, 2025

Mitchell Pau'ole Community Center Hall

CONVENE: 6:03 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member

STAFF: Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Jennifer Yamashita, Committee Secretary
Criselda Paranada, Committee Secretary

Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokai Residency Area Office

OTHERS: Kawika Gonzalas, Teacher, Kaunakakai Elementary School
James Rarick, President, Moloka'i Community Health Center Board of Directors
Kealohapauole Spencer-Basa
Greg O'Shea, Board Member, Moloka'i Community Health Center
Deldrine Kau'i Manera
Matt Yamashita, Vice-President, Sust'ainable Molokai
Stacy Helm Crivello
Iolani Kū'oha, Teacher, Molokai Middle School, Hawaiian Language Immersion;
President, Molokai Arts Center
Jamie Winfrey, Captain, Maui Police Department
Emmanuel Bello, Police Officer, Maui Police Department
Kimberly Ka'ai, Principal, Maunaloa Elementary School
Kyle "Ikaika" Bishaw-Juario, Police Detective, Maui Police Department
Justin Luafalemana, Head Coach and President, 'Āinapa'a Wrestling
Tiale Tancayo, 'Āinapa'a Wrestling
Avonlea Takashima, 'Āinapa'a Wrestling
Nylah Elaban, 'Āinapa'a Wrestling
Leah Shaye Takashima, 'Āinapa'a Wrestling
Izabella Morikawa, 'Āinapa'a Wrestling
Kananikala "Kalā" S. Bishaw-Juario, Kaunakakai Elementary School
Tehani Kaalekahi, Executive Director, Sust'ainable Molokai

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Robert Nerveza-Shizuma, Molokai Clean Energy Hui; Sust'ainable Molokai
Tanya Davis-Mendija, Project Manager, Sust'ainable Molokai
MP Kamakana, VP, Molokai Homestead Livestock Association
Tylor Tanaka, Board Member, Friends of Molokai High School; Vice-President,
Molokai Alliance for Native Artisans
Kawaipuna Kalipi, Moloka'i Heritage Trust
Kuulei Arce, Kūpuna Program, Moloka'i Rural Health Community Association
Alice Kaahanui, Executive Director, Molokai Arts Center
Alexa Dudoit
Liko Wallace
Zhantell Lindo

Others (20+)

PRESS: *Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.*

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. So glad to be on Molokai. Thank you very much for letting us share your beautiful community. It is now 6:03 p.m. I am Yuki Lei Sugimura, the Chair of this Committee. And I'm going to turn the mic over to your Member, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, to introduce the other members.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha nui, everyone. Mahalo everyone for coming tonight to our Budget Committee hearing. Okay. So, I'm going to introduce everyone. To my left, mai Maui hikina from Hāna, Councilmember Shane Sinenci. From the Makawao-Pā'ia-Ha'ikū District, Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins. Mai Maui komohana from Nāpili, Councilmember Tamara Paltin. You heard from our BFED Committee Chair, but she represents Upcountry, Yuki Lei Sugimura. From Lāna'i, Councilmember Gabe Johnson. And representing the South Maui District, Councilmember Tom Cook.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want to introduce your Staff?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. And as you all know, my hard-working Staff. We have our Community Outreach Specialist Zhantell Lindo. And Keomailani Hanapi Hirata. Okay, anybody else?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. I also wanted to thank Cris Paranada, Committee Secretary, who is with us; Jennifer Yamashita; and Megan Moniz, our Attorney. So, those are the Staff that is going to be putting this on.

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ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY
OF MAUI (BILL 41 (2025), BILL 42 (2025), BILL 43 (2025), BILL 44 (2025),
BILL 45 (2025), BILL 46 (2025), and RESOLUTION 25-83)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we're here to hear from you and what you may think the budget priorities are for the Fiscal Year '26 that we have, and for...we're going to...we're here to listen, so we look forward to hearing from you. When you come to the podium, your name will be called by the Staff in the order that you signed up. You have three minutes to talk about anything on the Budget...on the Budget, and 30 seconds to complete. So, we look forward to hearing from you. And the Members may have questions from [sic] you, so after you give your testimony, give a brief pause in case the Members want to ask you further questions. But, thank you very much. And can we have the first testifier?

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MS. MONIZ: Mahalo, Chair. The first testifier is Kawika Gonzalas, followed by James Rarick.

MR. GONZALAS: Aloha. My name is Kawika Gonzalas. I'm a teacher at Kaunakakai School, and I'm also the 2024 Teacher of the Year for Molokai, Lāna'i, Lāhainā, and Hāna Complex area. Thank you. Thank you. Today I'm here to speak in support of the Maui Economic Development Board. For the past 24 years, I have been teaching science, technology, engineering and math, and computer science in the classroom. In addition to numerous school fundraising efforts, funds from the Maui Economic Development Board, or MEDB, have supported my teaching of STEM programs, not only financially, but also by providing many learning opportunities for our students and teachers. This past year, some of my students attended Engineering Day on Maui held on February 25th. My students were exposed to real industry professionals and engaged in discussions with them. Additionally, my students participated in hands-on activities, such as building a Bluetooth radio from scratch. These experiences provided them with a clear understanding of the innovative problem-solving skills required in STEM fields, ultimately fostering the stronger interest in pursuing related careers. Furthermore, with MEDB's purchase of an app development program, my students expanded their digital design skills, building upon last year's project where they created digital versions of 'ulu maika stones for Hawaiian video games—'ulu maika is Hawaiian bowling--this year, they designed functional 'ulu maika apps. One of these apps was a simulation that allowed users to adjust the angle, strength, and spin of the 'ulu maika to hit a target. These are fifth grade students designing these. We're also currently working on 'Ulu Maika Robotics, 'Ulu Maika 3D-Modeling, 'Ulu Maika VR, and we are working on a short film directed by award-winning director, Matt Yamashita, entitled "Ulu Maika." All of these projects have, in some way, been supported by MEDB. The types of support and resources provided by MEDB help to keep our students and teachers up to date with the latest technologies available, and also helps to excite and engage our students in learning. As an educator, it makes my job a lot easier when my students are enthusiastic about their learning, and when I have the tools and resources available to teach them in computer science. Thank you, County Council, for your many years of

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support to our island through the funding of MEDB. I respectfully ask that you continue your funding of the Maui Economic Development Board, as it has truly made a world of difference for our keiki. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Aloha, and mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You are very impressive. Congratulations on your statewide award, and you have questions from Member Paltin.

MR. GONZALAS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One minute and . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Gonzalas. I just wanted to clarify when you came over for Engineering Day, were some of the engineering professionals County engineering professionals? Like they worked for the County? Because we really need engineers.

MR. GONZALAS: Yeah. I am not sure. She's going to speak...Kalā is going to speak about...more about Engineering Day. I wasn't there, but I know that there were many different engineering professionals there. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Sorry.

MR. GONZALAS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But if they want to work for the County, we're hiring.

MR. GONZALAS: Oh, yes. Definitely. Yeah. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much, and congratulations again.

MR. GONZALAS: All right. Thank you. I thought you were going to ask when the film was coming out. Nah. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is James Rarick, followed by Kealohapauole Spencer-Basa.

MR. RARICK: Aloha kākou. Thank you very much. My name's James Rarick, I'm President of the Molokai Community Health Center Board of Directors. And on behalf of our

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board, I am here today because I wanted to thank the Council for the significant financial support that you've provided to us previously. I stood up here about a year ago and make a significant request for funding to support our dental expansion project. I'd also like to update you on the progress of that project. We are more than 50 percent complete with the construction phase now. We're on target to complete the construction phase of the project by June 30th. And once we complete this, we will have twice the space that we've had previously. In addition, we've just hired an additional dentist for our staff and hope to soon have additional dental hygienist on staff. So, this is going to make a real big difference in our ability to meet the dental needs here. This project has been extremely timely within the last couple of years. We had two longstanding dental practices that closed here on island. In 2024, we saw 500 new patients added to our patient list, and we currently have a ten-day...or a ten-page waitlist for people who are still seeking nonurgent dental care. So, again, I just really wanted to say mahalo for your support for this really important project. It's going to make a huge difference in our ability to meet the needs for nonurgent dental care for the residents of Molokai. I also have given you a flyer. We're going to have a grand opening, and in appreciation for your support, we would love to see any of you who can attend that grand opening for the dental clinic on August 9th. I did not come today with a specific request, but I will say I believe very much in the mission of the Health Center, and I really hope that you guys will continue to provide support to us going forward. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Mahalo, Mr. Rarick. Mahalo for your testimony. There's a question. Come back. Pssht.

MR. RARICK: I'm sorry, I'm having a little hearing problems.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, the funding that you requested last year, I made one of my priorities and included in the budget for 330,000, and it's again in the budget for 330,000. Is that sufficient?

MR. RARICK: Yeah. I think it is for the dental expansion project for this phase. But as you know, we also have a medical department, a behavioral health services department, and...you know, nowadays, it's just such a struggle. And we are trying very hard to work, you know, collaboratively with other providers on island, with Nā Pu'u Wai and with the hospital, so we can definitely support that. But I do appreciate what you've provided, and thanks for clarifying that it wasn't just last year, but we've also gotten funds this year, so greatly appreciate that. And we will...we will get back to you with more specific requests in the future, for sure. Okay, yeah. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oops. Thank you very much. Next testifier, please.

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Kealohaopauole Spencer-Basa, followed by Greg O'Shea.

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MS. SPENCER-BASA: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha.

MS. SPENCER-BASA: My name is Kealohapauole Spencer-Basa. I'm an employee at MEO Head Start, but I'm here to represent as a parent of a child who attends. Through your continued funding, it has greatly impacted my son's ability to be enrolled in school full-day. It has also given me the flexibility to go to work without having to pay for child care. As you know, in this economy, it's very expensive. Head Start's accommodations have provided a safe space for my son to learn in a general education setting with gen ed peers. My son is autistic, so...and Head Start has provided him advocacy, and I'm forever grateful for that. He has made incredible social, emotional strides since attending Head Start, and it's been an impactful piece to his developmental journey. So, with your continued funding, I feel this would impact other children like him, as well as any other child attending Head Start. Mahalo for listening.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anybody have questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Next testifier, please.

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Greg O'Shea, followed by Deldrine Kau'i Manera.

MR. O'SHEA: Prescription? Yeah. Aloha kākou.

MS. LINDO: I just wanted to help you.

MR. O'SHEA: Too short?

MS. LINDO: Okay, go ahead.

MR. O'SHEA: Thanks, Zhan. My name's Greg O'Shea. I've been recently hired as a County employee, but I'm here tonight also, and more importantly, as a member of the...Board Member of the Molokai Community Health Center, and as a U.S. Navy Veteran. Each of these roles gives me a deep appreciation for what this community stands for, and for the vital support that you've all provided us over the years. Thanks to your funding, the Health Center has been able to serve the most in-need families without private insurance options, kūpuna managing chronic conditions, and young people struggling with mental health. That same funding has kept our veterans' organization afloat through some challenging times, and giving those who have serve our country access to a space to heal, to connect, and to find a kuleana back here at home. Your support has not only touched lives, it has saved lives. But I must tell you, as someone who has just joined the ranks of County employees, and sees the need up close every day, we're at a critical point. The demand for services is rising. The Health Center is stretched thin. And without continued and possibly increased support, we face the real possibility of worsening health outcomes. Health issues impact every part of a community...limiting work, straining families, increasing costs, and weakening the overall well-being and

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resilience of our population. So, tonight, I want to thank you not only for what you've done, but for what I hope you will continue to do. Please keep standing with us so we can keep standing with the people who need us the most. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. O'Shea. So, what department are you working with? And welcome to the County.

MR. O'SHEA: Thank you very much. Management Department IT.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Oh, great.

MR. O'SHEA: If you turn it off and turn it back on, it usually fixes it. Yeah.

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

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Deldrine Kau'i Manera, followed by Matt Yamashita.

MS. MANERA: Aloha. Thank you for coming to Moloka'i. I know you folks are really busy, so mahalo nui for being here. My name is Deldrine Kauinohea Kapuni Manera, I am a lifelong resident of Moloka'i. And before I go on, I wanted to say I'm on the Maui County Council on Aging, so tonight I'm speaking on behalf of myself as a resident of Moloka'i and not of the Council. And also to Moloka'i, if you guys have any issue with kūpuna, let me...let me know. Please come talk story with me. Mahalo. The issue tonight is about the kūpuna nutrition, you guys. I'm quite sure you folks have heard that here on Moloka'i--and I don't know who does...I know Rowena just sent me a whole bunch of email, I'm not going to read it--but definitely here on Moloka'i, the kūpuna are getting lunches from the school. The school lunches are good for school kids. They don't align with the kūpuna nutritional needs. So, I think that's something that we all seriously have to consider. We're all going to get older, and one day just might need a home-delivered meal, or a congregate meal from the County, or whomever else. On Moloka'i, we've got the Alu Like kūpuna program they're contracted with the hospital. Their meals are kind of cool. I like their shepherd's pie, so ono. But the high school get like corn dogs, cheese pizza, pepperoni...you know, it's high in sodium...potato chips with the hamburger. I don't even know if the kūpuna can even chew the potato chips. So, my thing is, it should be a meal that is nutritional, that's ono, that's appealing, and that the kūpuna going eat. I know kūpuna that feed the dog their food. That is so wasteful though. That is so wasteful spending. And to me, it's like you put money where the kūpuna going ono and eat the food. So, I think that's where I'm at, at this point. On Moloka'i we have Sust'ainable Moloka'i, and I'm so happy. I was talking story with John Villarimo, and hopefully we can have something partner with Kaunoa to provide or supplement healthier venues for the kūpuna--taro, bananas, papayas--you know, that kind stuff they ma'a. They ono eat that kind food. So, hopefully we can do that for Maui County. This is a nice opportunity for this Council, really. This is a nice opportunity. You folks like get votes. Change the food for kūpuna, and everybody going vote for you guys because that's amazing. Nobody did it. Nobody. So, you guys have a

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big challenge. I challenge you guys to do something about it. And...yeah, I think that's it. And we will be working closely to...with the ...*(timer sounds)*... is that my ring-a-ling? We...and I shouldn't say I...will be working closely to see that this kuleana comes through you guys. We have to do it for our kūpuna. Mahalo nui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, do you want me to? Okay. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Deldrine. How many meals do you serve?

MS. MANERA: I'm glad you asked. Forty-six home-delivered meals, and thirty-eight congregate. So, this is with Kaunoa. I should have grabbed the data from Alu Like, but I think they have like 20-somewhat home-delivered meals. I'm not too sure about the congregate meal side because that varies. But, definitely the home-delivered meal kūpuna are kūpuna that are homebound. They cannot go to town. They cannot go get one lunch box at Ku'u lei's program. And they're the most vulnerable. I'm sorry?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Every day delivered?

MS. MANERA: Everyday, except holidays...eh, and they no eat weekends, so...no, I'm kidding. Weekends, no more. I'm playing. I've always said how come no more for Saturday and Sunday, they stop eating, or what? And then on holidays, no more. So, it's kind of like ahh, especially for the kūpuna that are alone at home, yeah, how they going eat? What are they eating holidays? What are they eating? Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They don't double up on Friday? Like this is Friday, Saturday, Sunday?

MS. MANERA: I think so. I think Kaunoa does that. Alu Like does not.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is Alu Like from the County or...

MS. MANERA: 'A'ole. They're private. They're nonprofit. Alu Like has funding from Executive Office on Aging and other sources. So, that's Federal, yeah, grant monies.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then how come some guys is Kaunoa and some guys is Alu Like?

MS. MANERA: I think you have a preference. Alu Like also caters to our--I say our, because I used to work for 30 years with kūpuna, so we--our clients have to be Hawaiian, yeah. So, yeah, be Hawaiian. And then if the spouse is non-Hawaiian, we cannot tell them you cannot bring your Filipino husband...that ain't cool. So, they come as spouses, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And which one was the high sodium one, the Kaunoa?

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MS. MANERA: The school, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the school is County...Kaunoa?

MS. MANERA: Mm-hmm.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And like for a suggestion, you would start by calling up Rowena?

MS. MANERA: I'm sorry?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Of where to start to change the high sodium, you would start by...like...

MS. MANERA: Well, I'm coming to you guys. I'm pleading with you guys to start with the budget, you know. If we have to keep the same amount of money, I understand. The school gets an "X" amount of money to provide meals for an "X" amount of people. I get it. It does not belong with kūpuna. So, if we can be creative...like I was talking story with Sust'ainable Moloka'i. Maui get one huge agriculture community. Eh, how about some papayas, how about some bananas? Bring them over to Kaunoa, we can make boxes for the kūpuna when we deliver the meals. I don't think it's a...it's a no-brainer. Really, you guys, when you guys think about it. It's actually really simple. I like talk story with you guys when you guys go do 'em, yeah? We go do 'em. We go. We go. We do 'em.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess we go try start with call Rowena.

MS. MANERA: Okay. The Office on Aging. Okay.

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

MS. MANERA: Mahalo nui. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next?

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Matt Yamashita, to be followed by Stacy Helm Crivello.

MR. YAMASHITA: Aloha. Thank you for coming to Moloka'i, and for all the work that you guys do. And aloha to the Moloka'i community, and for all the work you guys do for our community and our County. Just going to kind of free-flow this. I'm here tonight to kind of advocate for and then talk a little bit about film industry and video production. I'm Matt Yamashita, I was born and raised here on Moloka'i. Been a professional film maker since 2020. I got my start in film as a high schooler here at Moloka'i High School. I went to film school. I'm now an Emmy Award-Winning filmmaker, and been doing this full-time, travel all around the world, and all around Hawai'i. Even tell a lot of stories within Maui County as well, especially for our local nonprofits. And, you know, when I

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came home after college 25 years ago, I was the only filmmaker on this island, from this island. Today you got Dan Emhof, you've got Kelly Pauole back there, you got Mikiala Pescaia, you got Jana Park Moore, you got Nainoa Langer, you got Kahale Ramos Naehu [sic]. So, these are all filmmakers from Moloka'i today that I work with regularly. And it just goes to show you that in this world where media has grown and expanded rapidly in the recent decades, that it is an industry that provides work. And not only provides work for individuals, but also helps us to uplift the stories of our communities, of our culture, and the stories of the nonprofits and the people in our communities that do amazing things so that people can be aware of what they're doing, and they can get the support that they deserve, and the recognition that they deserve. So, a lot of my career has...again, has been, you know, working with nonprofits, and telling their stories, and helping them also to attract more funding for their programs, and for their organization, so they can expand. Sust'ainable Molokai is a good example that before I became a board member, which I am now, I did a bunch of videos for them. And, you know, I can see over the years the impact that story telling has for our nonprofits and our organizations. And I know there's funding in the bill. Mahalo, Keani, for putting in...that in there...I mean not the bill, but in the Budget. That's going to support a program that kind of revolves around video production for nonprofits, and they actually...I was having a conversation with the new Film Commissioner, Brian Kohne, awesome guy, Maui bradda, I think he's going to do amazing things. He has my full support. But, you know, that was one of the ideas we were kicking around, that we came up with together was this idea of hey, how do we...not just encourage big film Hollywood to come and do business and inject some funding into Maui County, but how do we support our local film makers, our local story tellers, our local content creators, and simultaneously boost our local economy and support our nonprofits? And so, that idea was borne out of that. . . .(timer sounds). . . So, I'm just here to support that, and to thank you guys for putting it in the budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for Matt Yamashita? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Yamashita. Mahalo for your testimony. So, to clarify when you say that...like during the story telling for the nonprofits, and then they seek funding, are you saying that this has a potential to be a multiplier...to have a multiplier effect in bringing more funding to our island?

MR. YAMASHITA: Oh, 100...100 percent a multiplier effect. And I've seen it first-hand over and over through the years, through the work that I do, you know. There's so many nonprofits that are doing amazing things that very few people know about, especially the smaller up-and-coming nonprofits that don't have the funding to do the outreach. So, when you can tell their story and get it on social media, and maybe even put it on *Outside Hawai'i* on OC16, like the awareness for what they do expands tremendously. And then funders see it, and they can be...also take those videos when they're going after grants, and they say, here, this is who we are, this is what we do, this is how it impacts our community, and this is our community. Because through video, you can see the people who are being served, you can see the places that are being cared for,

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you can...you know, the story is so powerful. And so, yes, 100 percent, it's absolutely a multiplier. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And so, your idea is to support the film industry and film nonprofits by providing funding to do video production for the nonprofits?

MR. YAMASHITA: Yes, absolutely. Yeah. That's...it's all kind of...it's all interconnected, right? I mean again, big film and then small local...what we do on a daily basis and the people we work with builds up our capacity as filmmakers so that when the big projects come in, they're not bringing people from the mainland, they're hiring us. Like I'm working for Nat Geo next week on Maui, right? I mean, so that's the level we want to be at. But the only way our local content creators can get to that level is if we have consistent work. And so, the County, you know, putting some funds into this kind of thing is going to help that as well. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome, mahalo.

MR. YAMASHITA: Okay, mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. Next test...oh, Tamara has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Yamashita. I just was...wanted to clarify, you know, in terms of production, I watched the...I got to watch the *Lāhainā Rising* [sic] documentary, and they were saying that, you know, just to get a guy to get the color right is 30 grand, then you got to pay for like the sound to match the...the story, and that's another...like it could be 20 grand or whatever. Is there those people that we would pay the 30 grand or the 20 grand here in Hawai'i that can do the work, or is it like you send it to Hollywood, or how does that work?

MR. YAMASHITA: 100 percent, we got all the talent and capacity. Even on Moloka'i, like the people I named...we shot a film called *Kala* last year, a 20-minute short film. It's been playing on Hawaiian Airlines, it went through film festivals all across the world.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the color was done locally?

MR. YAMASHITA: Everything...right here. 100 percent...100 percent on Moloka'i except for our DP, who was a friend who I flew up from the Cooke Islands. 100 percent on Moloka'i. And I've also done feature documentaries that have broadcast in every state, as well as across Europe...100 percent on Moloka'i. I did the color myself. I have people I can work with that do all of those post-production services, production services, pre-production services. We have amazing talent here...Moloka'i and Maui County and Hawai'i.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is Brian serving as a connector? Like oh, these guys need to do color...oh, there's someone in Maui County that does color here, call this guy...is he fulfilling that role?

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MR. YAMASHITA: You know, he just stepped into the role, right, pretty much. And so, I think he has all the ability to do that, and know how to do that, he has the connections to do that. And I'm sure, from a conversation that I've had with him, that that is part of his priority. And I think that is one of the key roles of a good film commissioner is to connect the dots for productions --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To keep the money local.

MR. YAMASHITA: -- and keep it local. Keep the hiring...the hires local, keep the money local. Again, we have amazing talent in Hawai'i, and it's on this really fast trajectory. There's a lot of momentum. If you go to Hawai'i International Film Festival, every year more and more locally-produced films. Last year was the most ever by like double, I think. So, we're on a good path, and it's a good industry for Hawai'i.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. YAMASHITA: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Stacy Helm Crivello, to be followed by 'Iolani Kū'oha.

MS. CRIVELLO: Aloha, Council. My name is Stacy Helm Crivello, I am a longtime forever resident of Moloka'i. I want to thank you for coming here. I want to recognize, first of all, all of you, and especially our Moloka'i representative, Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. I'm here segueing off of Matt. You know, nonprofits are...are the...we're the ones that patch up the pukas that government fails to, or are not able to have the capacity to meet the needs of our community. And many of us wear many hats to try and perform the work that we need to do. So, I'm here tonight to advocate on behalf of some of the community nonprofits, as well as volunteers. But, you know, the work cannot be done without the kālā. And we know we have to depend on our generous County of Maui. I think this is the only County that is so generous with helping our nonprofits. So, I'd like to start off with...and of course, I'm going to give a bunch of applause, a tip of the coconut pāpale, to our Councilmember and the rest of you. You know, last year sometime, I believe my nephew, Kekamaikaikamaikalani Helm, approached Councilmember Keani, and I went along with him, looking for funding to start his after-school boy's...youth boy's canoe...canoe club with Ke Kui O Moloka'i. And I'd like to say thank you, because the work that was with community, Department of Human Concerns, as well as our Council, came out very positive. They entered the Ka'iwi Channel Race...young men, still in high school...and they made it until the finish line. This week, they had the honor of traveling to Tahiti, and today's live stream, I think they won their va'a race against some fabulous paddlers. So, these are all Moloka'i High School, as well as Kamehameha School young men. So, thank you. It was initial

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funding that came through because he needed paddles, he needed all the different equipment...and I hope we can hana hou again to support such worthy needs because they also learned about mālama 'āina, the mauka to makai. So, that's a natural, but for many it's not a natural. It's learning. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Ooh, I pau already? Is that it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 30 seconds.

MS: CRIVELLO: Huh?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 30 seconds.

MS: CRIVELLO: Oh, is that all we have?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Three minutes, 30 seconds.

MS: CRIVELLO: Oh, okay. Gee, I gotta make fast then. Okay. And then the...so, I move on to again, another nonprofit I was...founded to try meet the needs of our health, physically and mentally. As many of you know--our community knows this--that we lost two of our seasoned physicians. So, we do not have the kind of primary care that we need, as well as behavioral health. So, Pūlama Ka Heke, which means to cherish the best, went ahead and approached Department of Human Concerns, and we were able to be awarded a grant to improve the mental health services . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . on Moloka'i, which means that we will be bringing behavioral specialists on the island. Again, thank you, County of Maui. I wish to further add that the kind of help that we have from the Office of Economic Development for another nonprofit, Kalamaula Homesteaders Association. Mahalo for the funding that we've received, and with the support of our Councilmember. And then, I want to segue off Kawika Gonzalas, kind of mahalos for MEDB, but I want to extend that mahalo. You know, if it isn't for the Council, the monies wouldn't go to MEDB to administer. So, again, I thank the Council for the kind of support that we have that helps with the education of our young people. And they do fabulous work. Again, it all starts with the kālā and the resources that we need. And again, I can say mahalo for myself as a kupuna . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I thank you--wow, you guys really like get me off here--okay. So, I want to...we have our kūpuna care program, which is...has been funded out of the Office of Economic Development, I think now it's transposing out to Department of Human Concerns. Thank you, Councilmember, for making that a regular thing because we all enjoy it, and it does make a social impact on many of the lives of the kūpuna that participate. So, I'm here to advocate on behalf of my community to say mahalo nui. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, yeah. Very good. Stay right there. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, could you summarize all the things you have put in the budget that she's talking about?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, no. What I was saying is that I...because of Sunshine Law, as you're familiar with, everyone is supposed have equal amount of time,

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and I was just going to ask if you got everything in your testimony, if there was anything else you wanted to highlight that you may have missed because it's short.

MS. CRIVELLO: I think I got just about everything that I wanted to, but...you know, the contributions that...whether it's MEO or many of our nonprofits and entities that most of us are volunteers, but the work that needs to be done is to care for our island. And many of...many of you are no different that we gotta wear plenty hats, but we gotta tip the hat all the time for go beg for money. So, we go to different troughs, and it helps. So, mahalo nui.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Crivello.

MS. CRIVELLO: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And of course, we can always talk stories here.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, so if you want to submit to us what you have on your thing.

MS. CRIVELLO: No, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We want to make sure we get what you were reading real fast. Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. CRIVELLO: Thank you. I'll just knock on her door. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier. Thank you. Thank you, Stacy.

MS. MONIZ: The next testifier is 'Iolani Kū'oha, followed by Jamie Winfrey.

MS. KŪ'OHA: Aloha. Aloha, nā lālā ka 'aha moku'āina o Maui. 'O wau 'o 'Iolani Kū'oha, he kumu 'ōlelo Hawai'i mau ma ka kula waena o Moloka'i a he kama'āina wau. Ke noho nei wau ma ka 'āina ho'opulapula o Ho'olehua ma ka hikina Moloka'i hānau 'ia i ka makani Ho'olua, kēlā makani ikaika e hānau ai ka mana'o hou i loko o nā keiki o kēia 'āina. Ho'olua is the wind of Moloka'i, a powerful force that births new ideas within the children of the land...of the 'āina. Aloha mai kākou. I am 'Iolani Kū'oha. I am a teacher at Moloka'i Middle School with the Hawaiian Language Immersion, as well as the current president of the Moloka'i Art Center. I'm here today to express my strong support for the Maui Economic Development Board, the STEMworks Program, MEO Transportation, and the Moloka'i Arts Center because today, these organizations create a foundation of opportunity for our keiki. As a teacher, I see firsthand how MEDB STEMworks Program empowers our students with real-world experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math, like how Kumu Kawika has shared. They're not just learning from a textbook, they're coding robots, building QR codes for our--we have a māla, kanu Hawai'i māla, it's a garden, they do flight simulations, exploring Hawaiian plants through a scientific lens, and they build curiosity, confidence, and connection to both 'āina and innovation. But now, of the...none of that would be possible without MEO transportation, because how we going get to the huaka'i. As a school, we rely on their support to take our

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students on huaka'i field trips that are essential to hands-on learning, whether it's going to the community meetings, or visiting the wharf and seeing Hokulea, or participating in a health care day. MEO makes these educational journeys possible. And finally, as president of the Moloka'i Art Center, I humbly ask for your continued support. Mahalo for all of your support. The MAC is more than a studio, it's a vibrant, quaint space where students express themselves, connect with local artists, and build skills through our partnerships. With schools, we offer classes, internship visiting artists, workshops, mea Hawai'i workshops, and exhibits that develop their artist potential for our entire kaiāulu, our community, for our keiki to our kūpuna. In a small place like Moloka'i, these programs are lifelines. They give our students access, equity, and a future of full promise. So, please continue to fund and support MEDB, MEO, and the Moloka'i Art Center. Your investment changes lives, believe me. I've seen it in my classroom, in our studio, in the eyes of the next generation of leaders. So, mahalo nui loa no ka ho'olohe 'ana mai. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Kū'oha. Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to clarify, are you getting the MEDB STEMworks in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i?

MS. KŪ'OHA: Yes, I am.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And how do you get...like you just request it?

MS. KŪ'OHA: Yep. I am a STEMworks educator, and I just wanted to share this years'...we went to the science...State Science Fair, my students. In the Maui competition, they placed second and third in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. Yeah. They did very well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you have to be an MEO [sic] STEMworks educator to get the...I mean MEDB STEMworks educator to get the curriculum in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i?

MS. KŪ'OHA: Oh, I translate it myself.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. KŪ'OHA: I have to translate everything myself.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You want to share it with Kula Kaiapuni 'o Lahaina [sic]?

MS. KŪ'OHA: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Mahalo, mahalo, mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Chair. Next up is Jamie Winfrey, to be followed by Emmanuel Bello.

MS. WINFREY: Aloha, Budget Chair Sugimura, and Honorable Members of the Maui County Council. Thank you for the opportunity to address you today. My name is Jamie

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Winfrey, I'm the Captain of the Maui Police Department here on Moloka'i. I'm here to request your support for critical investment in our community safety...18 million to renovate the decommissioned National Guard armory, where we are seeking a 25-year lease. This project is a vital step forward for our departments, a bridge to better serve our community, while we plan for an even brighter future. For over four decades, since 1979, we've operated out of our current facility. It served us well, but we've outgrown it. Worse, it sits in the flood zone. When heavy rains hit, County crews have to drain our parking lot, and we stack sandbags to keep water from rushing through our front door. This isn't sustainable. It hampers our ability to respond quickly and effectively, putting a strain on both our resources and our officers. In 2012, the construction of the fire...the new fire station was completed, and the Maui Fire Department moved from next door and escaped the challenges we continue to endure. The armory offers a practical, immediate solution. With 18 million, we can renovate the solid facility into a modern headquarter, upgrading structure, adding essential technology, and creating the space we desperately need. A 25-year lease gives us stability for the next quarter century, ensuring we can operate without the constant threat of flooding or the limitations of an outdated building. But let me be clear, this isn't our forever home. It's a strategic move, a way to meet our needs now while we work toward our long-term goal of constructing a brand-new, purpose-built facility down the road. Think of this as a strong foundation, not the final chapter. It buys us time to plan responsibly, secure funding, and design a cutting-edge police station tailored to Moloka'i's future, while providing the response our community needs during storms and flooding. This 18 million investment is more than just building. It's about giving our officers the tools to keep Moloka'i safe today while saving resources wasted on flood mitigation. It's about bridging the gap between where we are, and where we want to be. It's about building and maintaining strong morale. With your support, we can make this happen, strengthening our department and our community for the next 25 years, and setting the stage for something even greater beyond that. Mahalo for your time and attention.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anyone have questions? Here comes a question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Officer Winfrey. Did you guys have plans for the flooding building--or Captain, sorry. Captain Winfrey, do you know what's going to happen to the building that you're in now?

MS. WINFREY: No. It's a County-owned facility, so I'm not sure what's going to happen after we leave.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you, Captain.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Wait, one moment. One moment.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you for your testimony. So, the existing National Guard facility, is that a State building?

MS. WINFREY: It's...yes. It's on State property.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And have you guys submitted for the lease?

MS. WINFREY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You have?

MS. WINFREY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: They have? Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, any other questions? Seeing none. Can somebody check my mic, it's not working.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, it is.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you hear me?

MS. LINDO: Member Sugimura, it's because they all feed. So, Darin has to mute off and on so that it doesn't --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You know how we don't turn it on --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, yeah, yeah, it's always on. Okay, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: He's manually making it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're manually making it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, it won't reverb.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Talk slow. Okay. Thank you very much.

MS. WINFREY: Thank you.

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Chair. The next person up to testify is Emmanuel Bello, to be followed by Kimberly Ka'ai.

MR. BELLO: Aloha, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha.

MR. BELLO: First and foremost, I'd like to thank our Honorable Chairwoman, Yuki Lei Sugimura, and our Honorable Members for our County Council. My name is Emmanuel Bello, and I am testifying on behalf of the Maui Police Department. I am here today in support of two important topics. First, the relocation of our current police station to the Hawai'i National Guard armory building; second, and more specifically, I am here to request additional funding in the amount of \$20,000 for

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our summer Molokai Youth Leadership Program. I am the community police officer for the Island of Molokai, and since becoming a police officer almost nine years ago, I have spent the majority of my career serving the community of Molokai. During my time of service, I have witnessed the deterioration of our facility rapidly escalating. The flooding within the parking lot of our station poses a serious safety concern for the general public and officers. The holding cells in our station do not have operable water to the water faucets due to ongoing plumbing issues, and our air conditioning system often freezes over. I believe relocating the station as soon as possible to the best...is the best solution to resolve these issues. Next, I'd like to share a bit about our cadet program. For the past four years, MPD has hosted a month-long Molokai Youth Leadership Summer Program that is free of charge and open to all eligible teens. The program consists of 10 to 20 students attending Molokai Middle School and Molokai High School, grades 8 through 12, and ages 13 through 18. The program...sorry. The program provides students with uniforms, learning materials, leadership training, and specialized training. In the program, cadets are expected to uphold a standard of conduct, and will receiving training in a paramilitary-style environment. Cadets will perform daily physical training, which includes running, weight training, and swimming. The cadets will have a daily classroom curriculum, to include crime scene investigation, first aid and CPR certification, criminal law procedures, police defensive tactics, report writing, a mock district court hearing, and many more. The cadets will be trained by other first responders, to include the Maui Fire Department, AMR paramedics, Molokai General Hospital personnel, DLNR officers, and the National Park Rangers. The goal of this program is to provide local Molokai youth firsthand experience into law enforcement operations, and provide leadership development opportunities that could help them to pursue a career in law enforcement or any other public safety profession. Similar to the Junior Lifeguard Program, our cadet program has the potential to address the challenge of filling vacancies by recruiting within our community. In addition to strengthening community cohesion . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . cadets and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 30 seconds.

MR. BELLO: Okay. Cadets and their families have reported a substantial development in self-discipline, pride in themselves at home and with each other. I am requesting funding in the amount of \$20,000 to assist with raising cost of uniforms, materials, computers, transportation, and to advertise...sorry, the program in our local newspaper. And with that all being said, I humbly ask for your consideration in this matter. Sorry, kind of nervous.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Officer Boteilho [sic]?

MR. BELLO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony.

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MR. BELLO: Oh, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Two things. One, I have gone to, I think, three of the four graduations for the program, and I know you folks do a killer video –

MR. BELLO: Awesome.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you know, showing the parents, the families, what their, you know, children have gone through in that week...month-long program. I'd love for my colleagues to be able to see that video, if possible.

MR. BELLO: Yeah. So, unfortunately I wasn't able to get the video. I'm so sorry about that. I was really trying, but I wasn't able to get it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. And then my second question is, I know it's a summer program, if...I know you're asking for \$20,000 for a summer program.

MR. BELLO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have fall break, winter break, and spring break as well. If we were to provide like a...kind of like a mini-program within the intermissions and provide funding, would that be something you folks would be interested in doing?

MR. BELLO: Oh, yes, definitely. We'd be able to do more programs throughout the year. Yeah, definitely.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, 20,000...so, maybe double? Or like 40,000 or something?

MR. BELLO: Oh, I'd really appreciate that. Yeah, thank you so much. Anything you guys can. Oh, anything you guys can give, I'd really appreciate it. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Officer Boteilho.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Officer Bello. As you were talking, I was trying to think. I didn't see 18 million in the CIP for the National Guard building, and so then I just was wondering, is that--when you speak to the Chief or the Police Commission, are they aware, and is that a priority of theirs as well...but maybe not this year or something?

MR. BELLO: Are you talking about the cadet program?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The National Guard armory.

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MR. BELLO: Oh. So, I think the Chief has been in contact with everyone, and he's been planning it. I'm not sure exactly of the particulars or the details of it, but I really do believe that we really do need a station, and it'll be so much helpful for the community and the officers as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, thank you. I mean, I believe you, but –

MR. BELLO: Awesome.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I don't want to...you know, if he's not prepared, I don't know how. Thank you.

MR. BELLO: Thank you.

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

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Kimberly Ka'ai, to be followed by Kule [sic] "Ikaika" Bishaw-Juario.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Dan, do you need a recess?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Dan, do you need a recess? Dan, do you need a recess?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Dan, do you need a recess?

MR. EMHOF: We just got disconnected real quick, but it's reconnected. So, we're checking on the Facebook.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, do you want us to recess five minutes?

MR. EMHOF: Yes, could you recess five minutes?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Recess five minutes. So, it's 6:57...7:03. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 6:57 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:09 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Okay, we're going to start the meeting. It is now 7:09, and thanks for the brief recess. We needed to have Facebook with our *Akakū* or Daniel get rebooted. So, here we go. Next testifier.

MS. MONIZ: The next testifier is Kimberly Ka'ai, to be followed by "Ikaika" Bishaw-Juario.

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MS. KA'AI: Aloha, Budget Chair Sugimura and Honorable Members of the Maui County Council. My name is Kimberly Ka'ai, and I'm here today wearing two hats...first, as a proud wife of a dedicated police officer with the Maui Police Department for almost 21 years; and secondly, as the principal of Maunaloa Elementary School. From both these deeply personal and professional vantage points, I stand before you to strongly advocate for the continued support of MEDB, and the urgent need to allocate County funding for the renovation of the National Guard armory as the temporary site of the Molokai Police Department. Being a school leader, ensuring the safety and well-being of my staff and students is always of utmost priority. Safe operation are crucial for the well-being of everyone who visits our campuses, and contributes to the overall success of any organization. As a wife of a police officer, it's disheartening to hear and see the state of their current facilities. Sorry. Poor air conditioning; plumbing issues; second, third-hand gym equipment are just some of the deeply concerning issues my husband and his fellow colleagues deal with. In addition to the physical deterioration of the environment, it also affects the safety of our officers, as the location is in a flood zone, where we often see the entire parking lot underwater during heavy rain. Police work is inherently stressful and can expose officers to traumatic events. Prioritizing their safety and well-being by providing safe working conditions is needed, and a renovated facility would provide a safer and more functional environment, allowing them to focus on protecting our community without unnecessary added stressors from their workplace. A well-functioning police department is a cornerstone of a safe community. When our officers have the resources and facilities they need, they are better equipped to respond to emergencies and engage in proactive community policing efforts that directly benefit our island community. The condition of our public buildings also send a powerful message to our community, but more so, our children. Prior to administration, when I was a teacher, we would often take our students to visit different public buildings, like the Fire Department...and visiting a run-down police station can inadvertently convey a lack of value of those who serve and protect us. Allotting funding for a more modern facility would demonstrate to our community the importance we place on public safety, and the respect we have for law enforcement professionals, serving as positive role models for civic responsibility. When you think about their safety and well-being, and invest in our department . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . who we rely on to keep our community safe, it sends a message that they are valued. While I understand that renovations require financial investment, I firmly believe that it's time to make the necessary investment in the safety and future of our community. Delaying the necessary relocation potentially compromises the safety and effectiveness of our police department, ultimately impacting the well-being of everyone on our island. Mahalo.

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

MS. MONIZ: Chair, the next testifier is "Ikaika" Bishaw-Juario, to be followed by Justin Luafalemana.

MR. BISHAW-JUARIO: Aloha, Members.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hi.

MR. BISHAW-JUARIO: What you heard from was just our family and my co-workers. I don't need to tell you guys who or what I represent, but I'll tell you who I am. My name is Kyle "Ikaika" Bishaw-Juario. I'm currently the detective, and the only detective here on Moloka'i. I have served this department for 22 years. I'm born and raised on this island. I've pretty much watched the stages of that building, yeah. Again, yeah, constructed in 1979. Although it deteriorates, yeah, I've been up in the rafters. I've been on that roof, holding it together, and doing my part, yeah. Part of our Moloka'i way is to make it work, right? Out here on Moloka'i, we make it work, whatever we have to do. But, it's time for us to get a new department, a new station. As part of my responsibilities, I oversee 3,100 evidence items that we've seized for our cases. Much of these cases are still pending. In the process...or in the past, there has been six accounts where we've had to evacuate our station, and that's when we had the tsunamis. And in that process, what we do is we upload all of our safety equipment, all of our vehicles, all of our...our light towers, our ATVs--all of this equipment has to be moved to higher ground. Evidence is not one of them. There's no way of moving 3,100 pieces of evidence. That thing will stay, and that thing will diminish if a tsunami hits. But that is the priority, yeah, is our safety. Because the police work not going stop, yeah, especially after a natural disaster. It will not stop, yeah. In fact, it'll probably intensify. So, we, as the department, have to be ready to respond should that day come. We pray for it every day not to happen, but the reality is the clock is ticking, yeah. We have an epicenter about 90 miles away, yeah, constantly erupting, constant earthquakes is right over there. How much time will that give us to respond to some kind of natural disaster that happens 90 miles away? By reallocating these funds and getting us to the armory gives us a strong foundation--5,200 square feet as opposed to 1,700 square feet, yeah...2.5 acres, yeah. You've heard from Officer Bello with our new...with our cadet program. What he didn't mention to you guys is, this cadet program doesn't happen inside our facility because we can't fit the kids in there. So, we borrow the gym next door to run this program. Now, imagine a facility that can accommodate us, yeah...us and whatever program, whatever future that we have in store for this island in one facility. And give these children the opportunity to actually know and what it feels like to work in an actual police station. Yeah, this is our vision for our future. The ironic part, yeah, for all of us who serve this community is, we don't have the luxury of being with our families in times of disaster, yeah. We kiss them goodbye, and we leave...we leave them at our homes, and we're going to go to a flood zone to work. That's hindsight. So, our families know that we're going to a place . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . that possibly will get wiped away. Yeah, 22...22 is the number, yeah. Twenty-two is the number of employees, sworn and nonsworn personnel, that work in that station, not to mention the families behind those 22 members. So, you're asking them to leave their homes, to leave the comfort of their families, and to go work over there, yeah. I'm here, whatever the solution, we need a new police station. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Officer Bishaw-Juario. Somebody...I don't know if it was from you, this --

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Captain...Captain Winfrey.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, from Captain Winfrey. Is it...is it planned to be done in phases? Because it still has the design, and then the permitting, and then construction?

MR. BISHAW-JUARIO: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, this fiscal year, would it be just the design, and possibly permitting?

MR. BISHAW-JUARIO: Some construction, hopefully. If this process moves along, we're hoping to be in construction within a year, as my Chief told me.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, if it's in phases and the whole thing is 18 million, how much is this fiscal year?

MR. BISHAW-JUARIO: That's above my paygrade.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. BISHAW-JUARIO: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry. Aloha. Mahalo for your testimony, Officer Bishaw-Juario. Just to expound, so the armory is an already-constructed facility, so it would be renovated and retrofitted for that space, which is why...my understanding is, which is why some of the construction could take place, and relocation could happen quicker than constructing a new facility; is that correct?

MR. BISHAW-JUARIO: Yes. Let me give you an example. That building, 5,200 square feet, is constructed of concrete and steel. Also, part of that facility, yeah, so we have items that we have to keep secured--money, drugs, and firearms, yeah. In that facility right now, currently, there is a safe that is 15 feet by 7 feet long that can safeguard the entire...whatever we have in stock right now and continue to serve beyond that time. So, it's there already...I mean it's one less thing to look...you know, to have to plan for.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Officer Bishaw-Juario.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, excuse me. So, during the break I did speak to your team, and I understand that it's something that Chief Pelletier has already spoken to you about.

MR. BISHAW-JUARIO: Yes.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: And that you're working with the military--I don't know which branches--but because it's a National Guard building, you are in talks with them already.

MR. BISHAW-JUARIO: Yes, we are.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I guess we better check with Chief, see what's up. Thank you. Thank you very much.

MR. BISHAW-JUARIO: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, the next testifier is Justin Luafalemana, to be followed by "Kalā" Bishaw-Juario.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, you remember when Chief was on the phone, and I said, this was one of my priorities?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Did he know?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I asked him on the phone, remember? We talked about it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. LUFALEMANA: Aloha. Thank you guys for having us here tonight.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MR. LUFALEMANA: I'm Justin Luafalemana, head coach and president of 'Āinapa'a Wrestling team. And before I give my testimony, I'd just like to thank the Molokai Police Department and all their staff. Thank you guys for everything you guys do for our community. I really appreciate it. So, on behalf of the 'Āinapa'a Wrestling team, thank you guys for your guys' support and your guys' continued support in getting our kids, our wrestlers, off island and opportunities to travel and compete in the wonderful sport of wrestling. I'd just like to thank the County...Darin and all his staff. Tomorrow we will be having a tournament here hosted by 'Āinapa'a Wrestling Team and Maui Style League here at the County gym. Thank you guys so much for having that, and making it possible to grow the sport of wrestling here on Molokai. So, great opportunities. However, we do know that the County gym right now needs--just like the police department--needs upgrades too. So, with that being said, 'Āinapa'a Wrestling team, as Officer Ikaika mentioned, Molokai, we make it work. And right now, we making it work at my sister's house for practices under a 20x30 Ez Up with mats on the ground. And we have 35 kids that we work out with. So, yes, we want a facility not just for the

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wrestling team, but for all the other sports events, right? For basketball, volleyball, anything that requires a gym. Kihei gym, when we go Maui to compete, is beautiful, right? Great facility, and it can house a lot of people. So, we ask you guys for your continuous support to keep helping us to travel. It is expensive. We do use the boat a lot to shuttle, you know, due with limitations on Mokulele, but we no take no for an answer. We try to get our kids off island to compete. And we're so grateful that other islands realize that, and Maui has now returned, and they're coming to support us. We got over...about 100 kids coming tomorrow to Molokai to support 'Āinapa'a Wrestling Team, and to build the sport of wrestling. So, great opportunities for our kids. And with that being said, you know, I just wanted to leave it up to some of my leader wrestlers here. The club is female-dominant, I just want to say that. The club is female-dominant. Women's wrestling is the fastest-growing sport in the nation, and it shows, on and off the mat. However, we do still advocate education is number one, and then with that being said, sports help them to set their goals, right? See where they want to go, a direction in life. Going to...if they want to get higher education, just reaching those goals...long-term goals. So, we want to thank you guys, but we do need continuous support, and to getting our kids off island and competing, right, so that way they can get that experience. We've been going to Maui and O'ahu, great competition, great experience. Just with the kids traveling is amazing. Some of them don't get to travel. Just a wonderful experience for them, but we're making it work. Even when we go off island, we do stay with the Girls and Boys Club, they're a big support of us. . . .(timer sounds). . . We stay there, and we just try and get a lot of support. Boss, I know the time is up, but I wanted to turn it to any of these wrestlers to see if they want to say anything.

MS. TANCAYO: Aloha. My name is Tiale Tancayo, and I'm a wrestler on 'Āinapa'a. And we want to thank the Budget Committee for funding us, and allowing us to wrestle on Maui and O'ahu, and even Vegas...and we have these opportunities to wrestle off-island. And we want to ask for 30,000 to keep being able to wrestle off-island have our own facility to wrestle at.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Good job, Tiale.

MS. A. TAKASHIMA: Hi, my name is Avonlea Takashima, and I'm a wrestler from 'Āinapa'a. I think that...I think that the 'Āinapa'a deserves the money because--because all the 'Āinapa'a wrestlers, the kids, they all love wrestling, and they all--they all work hard to get to tournaments, and work hard for the tournaments. And I think that they deserve to be...have good equipment. Thank you.

MR. LUAFALEMANA: Good job.

MS. ELABAN: Hi, my name is Nylah, and I wrestle for 'Āinapa'a now. I used to live in Lāhainā and wrestle for Lāhainā, but after the fires, I had to move here. I thought I didn't have anything to do when I came, and I thought I wasn't going to have any friends, but 'Āinapa'a Wrestling took me in, and treated me as their own. And I created a bond with them, and I can call them my family now. And this wrestling program has helped me a

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lot through my wrestling career and has made me a better wrestler than I was before.
Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nice.

MR. LUFALEMANA: Good job, Nylah. Good job. Good.

MS. L. TAKASHIMA: Aloha, my name is Leah Shaye Takashima, you guys just heard my daughter. This was a last-minute thing, but I was so passionate about our wrestling team that I did want to come up here and speak on behalf of our team. I've watched this team and the leadership in this team take our children so far. It's been such a blessing when they were able to tell us, you know, I don't only have to take one kid, I can take three of your kids. That was an amazing burden taken off of my shoulders. And just to watch my kids, you know, the level of determination, and just how well-rounded this club is allowing my children to be...you know, teaching them their civic duty by coming here and speaking to advocate for themselves and the things that we need has been such a...it's been impressive. It's been impressive. And so, I'm just so incredibly blessed, and I just wanted to be able to say that these children are deserving of our funding. These children work hard, and we want to see that their hard work is rewarded. You know, and in times like these, these are the opportunities they get to show off all the hard work that they've done. And I hope you guys take the time to, you know, cross those t's, dot those i's, and see what you guys can give to us because our children here on Molokai deserve it, and they also need it. So, thank you guys for your guys' time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. LUFALEMANA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Quick question.

MR. LUFALEMANA: Oh, question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. LUFALEMANA: Izabella, you like talk? Come.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yessah...come.

MR. LUFALEMANA: Just tell them where you from and why you here.

MS. MORIKAWA: My name is Izabella Morikawa, and I'm from Maui. I come here to support Aīnapa'a Wrestling.

MR. LUFALEMANA: Good job.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, okay. Aila (*phonetic*), either for you, Justin, or Leah Shaye, question...follow-up. Mahalo for all of your testimonies. Wonderful job, everyone. So, the travel funding is something that Member Johnson and I spearheaded because he's Lāna'i, I'm Molokai, and Mokulele is very costly. I was hoping that you could share a little bit about the amount of fundraising you folks do, just so that my colleagues understand how much you guys work to also contribute to the cost of travel.

MR. LUFALEMANA: Yes, totally. So, we fundraise consistently. Next week, we'll be here at Earth Day fundraising, while the team is down in Hāna. So, some parents that can't make it to Hāna, they'll be over here fundraising at Earth Day. So, whatever community events that do have, we try to fundraise...even at the Makahiki, that's a big one, where we do a lot of plate sales, food sales, drink sales, that...and we also try to sell our t-shirts, a lot of merchandise, whatever we can do to help get any type of funding. We do run like an 'ōpala tent that we kind of go with the parties. They give us the slop, we separate the slop, the trash, recycles, we do all of that too. And fundraising does help, man. We try to keep it going. But yes, 'Āinapa'a does do fundraising. Anything helps, just trying to make it work, and keep these kids going, and keep loving the sport of wrestling.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Mr. Luafalemana. Because they're like nonstop fundraising. So, the amount of money we contribute, they like match or exceed. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just was wondering, does the County let you guys run concessions tomorrow?

MR. LUFALEMANA: So, tomorrow at the County...at our tournament, we are having a concession. So, just having a tournament here, with the turnout of people, it's big. It can help us actually generate funds too. So, it's a big thing to us to even have a tournament here. I mean a lot of hands, honestly, right. We was over here working, and the way things flow was not...not coincidence. Like we was made to come here. And I'm so grateful that we're here tonight, and thank you guys for listening to us. But yes. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, the next testifier is "Kalā" Bishaw-Juario, to be followed by Tehani Kaalekahi.

MS. BISHAW-JUARIO: Aloha, Chair and Members of the County Council. After hearing that testimony, I understand if we're not going to get our police station, but I'm going to try again. And so, I'm a wife of Detective Bishaw-Juario, and I'm here to also advocate for the renovation of the armory for our police officers. It is a little frustrating, or a lot, to

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just feel overlooked at times. And he's been in the department about 22 years, and...which means our family and my children...our children, have witnessed all of his physical and mental trials that he's gone through. And this would just bring the morale up for them, and I think they deserve it. So, that's all. We just want to mālama our officers. And to go back to Mr. Gonzalas' testimony about MEDB, I also work at the school with him. And I hosted...or I escorted three girls to the STEMworks, which was Introduce a Girl to STEMworks [sic] Day. And these girls are from Molokai, they don't get to travel. And leaving Molokai, they were so nervous just to go to Maui. They were like I don't want to leave my mom for overnight. This is too much. And I had to ensure them that, you know, they were going to take care of us. And they gave us a beautiful place to stay. The girls had so much fun. They were mentored by a bunch of Maui Electric women that are rebuilding Lāhainā, and they got to meet women engineers, and build us a Bluetooth speaker box, which they all got to take home. And it was so awesome to see them working with the tiniest little screws, and becoming empowered, and thinking I can do that. And I just wanted to say mahalo for allowing us to go, and let our students experience these things. And it was such an awesome experience for me to be able to go. So, thank you for supporting our community, our students, our wrestlers back there, and mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MONIZ: The next testifier is Tehani Kaalekahi, to be followed by Robert Nerveza-Shimizu.

MS. KAALEKAHI: Aloha, Council Chair, our Molokai's own Councilwoman Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, and Honorable Councilmembers. My name is Tehani Kaalekahi and I am the Executive Director of Sust'ainable Molokai. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, and for your continued support of our work in the areas of food, energy, climate change, resiliency, and land back. With previous...with previous County grant funding, we've made real progress in building food system resilience for our island. Our Mahi'ai Moa and cattle feed pilot programs are not only increasing local food production, but also deepening community engagement and food sovereignty. MP, thank you for coming back, will share a little bit about our cattle feed pilot program. Thanks to your support, we've also completed Phase I of our food hub expansion and resiliency center, which includes a community needs assessment, feasibility study, site selection, and concept design. Tanya will share more about that in her testimony. We're also deeply grateful for your role in advancing the Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan, and supporting the creation of a food access coordinator. This has already strengthened local collaboration and is helping us build our equitable community-based food system. Looking ahead, we humbly ask for your continued partnership in two key areas: \$100,000 in operational support to sustain and grow our ongoing programs; and support for our renewable energy planning initiative, which focuses on energy planning for all of Molokai, and aims to align food and energy resilience for our island. Robert will speak more to that. Together, we can continue building a thriving, self-sufficient Molokai that uplifts our people and protects our 'āina. Mahalo nui loa for your time, support, and commitment to our island. In closing, I also want to say that I support all those who have testified thus far, and all those who will testify--be testifying after me. Mahalo.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mahalo to you. Any questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Kaalekahi. I was wondering if you're open to partnering with Kaunoa for the nutritional needs for the seniors?

MS. KAALEKAHI: Yeah. Aunty Kau'i that came up earlier? On it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And how much would that cost?

MS. KAALEKAHI: You know, I feel like we just started that conversation, so --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. KAALEKAHI: -- I don't have a dollar amount at the moment. But happy to work on getting you some more information.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. April 17th is our priorities deadline.

MS. KAALEKAHI: April 17th. Okay, I go call Aunty Kau'i and then communicate with Keani's office, yeah? Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. So, this ties into one of my priorities that I'm going to be trying to do Countywide. So, we want to have grants for folks like yourself if you think you would work with this...in this framework is that, you go buy the food from the farmers, and then you can serve it to the people. And is that how you're doing it now? Or what is your model now on how...I know you mentioned a pilot project, I'm curious to learn more about it, but is that what you guys generally do?

MS. KAALEKAHI: We do a number of things, and that's one...that's one of them, is food access.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. KAALEKAHI: So, we do...right now, we got a grant to do free food boxes. We're doing a total of 3,900 from May...from February through May, and that's all fresh produce and protein.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is that something sustainable? You could do that year-round if you have the funds for it?

MS. KAALEKAHI: If we had the funds for it, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. KAALEKAHI: And that is one of our objectives.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Well, I'm sure we'll talk later. Thank you.

MS. KAALEKAHI: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions? Okay. Thank you.

MS. KAALEKAHI: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, the next testifier is Robert Nerveza-Shizuma, to be followed by Tanya Davis-Mendija.

MR. NERVEZA-SHIZUMA: Testing, testing. Okay. Aloha, esteemed Members of the Maui County Council, and a big aloha to our very own Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. My name is Robert Nerveza-Shizuma, and I am here on behalf of the Molokai Clean Energy Hui, as well as the Energy Sovereignty Program at Sust'ainable Moloka'i. First, mahalo nui to all of you on the Council and the broader Maui County for your consistent support across Sust'ainable Molokai's initiatives. Although energy sovereignty and the Molokai Clean Energy Hui has not received direct funding from the County of Maui, the Molokai Clean Energy Hui will have a renewable energy implementation plan within one to three years, and we'll return with opportunities to support us in that endeavor. Second, we are grateful that this Council continues to invest in hazard mitigation. Molokai has worked towards having its own hazard mitigation plan, in addition to Maui County's hazmat plan. We would like to ask your help in requesting Tetra Tech to use existing reports, such as the CERAP 1.0, or the Community Energy Resiliency Action Plan 1.0 report, and the Council-funded Climate Change Sea Level Adaptation and Resiliency Plans that already have comprehensive summaries of community outreach and engagement here on Moloka'i. These results can be used to drive emergency planning decisions as it relates to critical infrastructure here. Tetra Tech's intention to utilize an online only one-time survey is not only duplicative, but it would be a fraction of the results that we have already collected here during the past couple of years for community outreach in CERAP and the climate change report. Tetra Tech's proposed method of community engagement was open for a short time with an unknown amount of marketing for Molokai residents to participate in, as outlined in the CERAP 1.0 report. Online surveying is not a community-preferred method of engagement outreach here. It would be strategic for Molokai's hazmat plan to incorporate published community outreach and engagement results instead of going strictly off of the online surveys administered from Tetra Tech. The County of Maui's hazmat plan for Molokai is essential for unlocking FEMA funding for community co-design renewable energy solutions for bolstering Molokai community's disaster and energy resiliency. And third, some of you may recall Leilani Chow's presentation last year on Molokai CERAP. One of the projects you have already learned about, and will be coming to fruition soon, is the fast-track community-based renewable energy project at Kualapu'u Rec Center. So, big mahalo for the Council's support in this process, and a shout-out to Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative for spearheading and

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planning the development of that project. We have been working with National Renewable Energy Lab and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory to advance some next projects in CERAP. Projects that we are pursuing are geared to provide energy sovereignty and clean energy to the Molokai community in a way that provides economic relief to our residents in the long run. I hope you all share the pride and excitement we feel because as partners . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . you all have excelled in being staunch allies to CERAP. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Do you want to give us your testimony? Oh.

MR. NERVEZA-SHIZUMA: This?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And your...yeah. And is there another...is there another book that you can share?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, we have the electronic copy in my Committee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good. Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MR. NERVEZA-SHIZUMA: Mahalo. Thank you.

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Tanya Davis-Mendiya, to be followed by MP Kamakana.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You guys want to take a break?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We did, yeah?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, is that long enough?

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Aloha, Councilmembers. Mahalo nui for being here. My name is Tanya Mendiya, and I am a project manager at Sust'ainable Molokai. We...thank you so much for supporting us in our Phase I of SM's food hub facility project, which we call 'Umeke 'Ai, a sustainability and resiliency center. Oh, wait. No wonder I cannot read. Inclusive of a food hub, which includes food storage, aggregation, and maker space, incubation kitchen, dedicated space for a permanent Maui Food Bank site, community space for everyday use by the community. Mahalo also to Director Kali Arce for working with us, and Jill Tokuda's office on behalf of the County of Maui Ag Department in 2023 for the inclusion of 'Umeke 'Ai food hub into the Federal budget to acquire the HUD CDI funding for acquisition and infrastructure to support our efforts. As mentioned earlier, Tehani...by Tehani, we were able to gather key information in Phase I, and request your support to help us move forward into Phase II of the project, which includes site selection and due diligence, working towards site acquisition. Incorporating the HUD application process, which includes an environmental assessment, and to develop more so our architectural designs and continue consultant work for financial modeling, strategy, and operations. Currently, we have two small grants through the EP&S, and

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that's for renewable energy analysis and the living building registration that will inform site selection and also due diligence. We have been a part of the Maui Nui Resilience Hub network with over...with other organizations throughout the County, spearheaded by Makale'a at Living Pono Project and Baja from the Resiliency Hub Collective...Collaborative for the last two years. The hui has been working with Josh Cooper within the Mayor's Office as well, and we would like to advocate for recurring annual resiliency hub funding in the budget for each district, and highlight the importance of implementation of the hubs, and not waiting for another disaster to happen. We are requesting 200,000 for Moloka'i towards staffing and implementation, and kind of just to highlight that Baja has been working with the County to kind of like...kind of identify Moloka'i Sust'ainable, hopefully, as one of those key organizations to help move this forward, and as well as the other hubs within the organization as we meet every two weeks. So, yeah. Thank you so much. And then I kind of wanted to touch as well on the kūpuna program you kind of mentioned earlier. We currently have...like within our mobile market, within people can actually purchase Kupuna 'Ai boxes that are given freely to, you know, whomever, and its given through, I think, the...Arce, yeah. Is that? Yeah. So, it is going to that program, and then they distribute to the kūpuna. So, if...yeah, that can be continued and...but that is like our community actually purchasing through the mobile market, which is part of our...one of our food sovereignty programs. So, yeah. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Anybody have questions? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I'm so sorry, I forgot your name.

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Oh. Tanya Medija.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, thank you, Tanya. The request for the annual allocation for the resiliency hubs, do you think it would be 200,000 annually?

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: So, this is kind of on the request of like Baja and those we've been speaking with through our resiliency network. They kind of wanted us to go to our community, Council, and whatever, and kind of like push for that. Because we knew that there was funding coming down from the Federal. And last year, when we asked Josh like, what happened to that funding that was allocated? he said oh, it wasn't allocated yet to anybody. And I think they redistributed that funding, which was meant for specifically food hubs. And we were kind of like oh, where did it go? So, it was kind of...we've had our meetings, and I know on their end they were going to ask Josh for --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And when you say food hubs you mean resiliency hubs.

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Yeah, yeah, sorry. Resiliency hubs. Yes, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you didn't get the 200,000 allocation from this fiscal year?

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MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: No, no. Yeah, every...I think speaking with him, I think he told us nobody got it. Because even on Makale'a's side, like from Living Pono and all the other groups that we talked about --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, one more question. I'm sorry.

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the Mayor's Office, Josh Cooper that you're working with is political cycle, if this Mayor goes, possibly he might not stay.

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I was going propose to move the money from the Mayor's Office to the Emergency Management Administrator's Office. And he was open to it because they're kind of hired, not political. And I just was wondering if you would support that.

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Oh, yeah, yeah, of course, yeah. I mean definitely, you know, tell them about it. They'd be very excited about that, yeah. So, we can know exactly like where the funding has gone, or where it is going to be going.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I mean they talked to us about the resiliency hubs, but I didn't understand that all the money that we put towards resiliency hubs in this fiscal year did not get to the people.

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Yes. We wasn't too sure like what happened. Because in our meetings, we have at least 30 organizations that meet, you know, within this --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You met with Baja for West Maui too --

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Oh, yeah, yeah, exactly. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and Makale'a.

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: And so, one of our last meetings, maybe in the past month, we wondered where that went. And then one of his due diligence was to go find out where it was reallocated to because none of us got it. Like nobody in the resiliency hub network got any of that, so we were like, okay, so where did it go?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did you try fill out like an application to have the money come through?

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Yeah. That was the other question we had, like okay, we're all waiting for an RFP. And I mean this is coming from Makale'a as well, right. Like yeah, they didn't have it either, so...yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'm going to call them up and see more information. Thank you. That's very enlightening.

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One moment.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Ms. Mendija. Mahalo for your testimony today. So, in this years' budget, there's a million dollars allocated for a shade structure at One Ali'i Park. A million dollars...whew. So, when we had Parks before us, one thing we talked about was perhaps the shade structure also being PV panels so that it could at least generate solar...solar energy and provide shade for a million dollars.

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Yeah, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is that something that you folks like...would like, you know, working on resiliency hubs?

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Um-hum. Yeah. So, like the whole idea is to become like non...like just off-grid type. So, yeah, definitely. We went and visited...especially, you know, they talk about the Kihei one, and that that was a good example of how that...and we see it all over. But yes, integrating water catchment systems, we do have concept designs already like created for energy efficiency, and everything like that. So, off-grid.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. DAVIS-MENDIJA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, the next testifier is MP Kamakana, to be followed by Tylor Tanaka.

MR. KAMAKANA: All right. Okay. Aloha, Council. So, my name is MP Kamakana, I'm the VP for MHLA, better known as Molokai Homestead Livestock Association. So, we worked hand-in-hand with Sust'ainable on a program created for basically livestock beef-producing. So, we had a case of TB that happened in 2019, just to keep you guys updated. Our herd has not been...has tested negative. So, basically, we haven't had indemnity monies like previous ranchers had, so we had to figure out a system...or basically, a way to move animals from Molokai. So, with teaming up with Sust'ainable, we came up with a program to try and basically keep the beef on island. That's what our program is trying to do at this moment. We had a previous funding from the County,

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which helped us acquire a lease, and basically get started with this program. So, as we're doing it right now, currently at the Molokai Ag Park. And we've had about 120 head run through there and we moved it through MLC, better known as Molokai Livestock Co-op, that's our on-island slaughterhouse. So, that being said, we're trying to keep the beef industry on Molokai, and move it through a farm-to-table type of sale. Our things that we've got so far, we wanted to basically build this program for other people to try and influence ranchers to keep their beef on island. Again, because of the stipulations with the TB, a lot of ranchers has been pretty much not influenced with it. There...a lot of their lands were being poorly managed because of deer, so they haven't been interested in moving and continuing their lifestyle with producing cattle and beef on island. So, with programs like this, it influences other ranchers to start doing things with their land, and basically managing it in a better way...or it gives them an option to continue doing what they do. So, on behalf of myself and our organization, and with Sust'ainable support, we'd like to just say thank you, and hopefully we can continue to do our thing out of Molokai. . . .(timer sounds). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Perfect timing, huh. Any questions? Thank you.

MR. KAMAKANA: Thank you.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, the next testifier is Tylor Tanaka, to be followed by Kawaipuna Kalipi.

MR. TANAKA: Okay. Aloha, Councilmembers, Chair, Budget Chair. Thank youse for all for be...coming to Molokai to hear us and plead our case for money today. Nah. I wear many different hats, so as I go along, I'll kind of share my position each hat. But my name is Tylor Tanaka, I am a community advocate, business owner, event leader, and all kine stuff in the community. So, the first thing I want to talk about is our community events here on Molokai. I would like to thank Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez for putting in those monies in for Kulāia and Molokai Kamehameha Festivals this year, and hope we get to continue that again. These events do foster economic growth. They help our community members kūkākūkā because we're just having less and less space, right, to come and meet each other...unless we going to each other's house and stuff like that. So, mahalo. I want to share that a company in Hawai'i, a wide-known company that makes \$18 million a quarter, usually supports every event that we put on here on Molokai. They have an office here. Today I got a text that they will no longer be supporting us because it doesn't align with their goals. So, I just want to stress how important that the County...I don't want to isolate them out, so...but we can talk in-person if you just want to know who that is. So, that is for the community events. I sit on many, many teams. So, the next one is, I am a board member for the Friends of Molokai High School. We give out about 30,000 to \$40,000 a year in scholarship grants to the school. We do that through our endowment fund. We rely on the stock market, but recently we've been tapping into the travel for students. We want to advocate for that. 'Āinapa'a, the middle school, the high school, we want to continue to support that. Next is, I wanted to introduce the Molokai Alliance of Native Artisans. It's a newly formed nonprofit, I'm the vice-president here on Molokai. These are a group of businesses who make physical products, whether manufacturing off-seas or designing in-house here. It's a...consists of 11 members now. We're having an open house on the 17th to invite

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more members, but I want to thank you guys for putting money in for the Made on Maui for them to participate, and to advocate if we could have some type of funds similar . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . for Merrie Monarch and Made in Hawai'i. Secondly, I am working on bringing the Saturday Market back here into Kaunakakai. I've been working with my landlord of my office, the Trust of Gary Gallagher. They're not ready to move on some legal issues they have going on, that they're not ready to take that on, but they're interested. So, I went across the street. The library and the State Building is interested, so I'm going through that process to move that big Saturday Market, bring it back into town. Because a lot of people have come to me, and they said they're not making the same amount of money as they would at other locations. . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . But, yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, did you get to finish your list, and...or you can send it in writing.

MR. TANAKA: No, that's my list.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's your list? Perfect timing.

MR. TANAKA: Yeah, I was...oop.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Buji. Anyone have questions for him?

MR. TANAKA: What?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: She wants the tea. Off the record.

MR. TANAKA: Oh, you like the tea? Come see me later. It's hot.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you.

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Chair. Kawaipuna Kalipi, followed by Kuulei Arce.

MS. KALIPI: Aloha nui, Councilmembers. I just wanted to echo what our community has been saying, and just mahalo nui loa each and every one of you for first coming here, and continuing to serve this County, especially this community. We appreciate it. I want to take some of my time to sing the praises of a few of our previous people that they didn't get to fill in for themselves. The 'Āinapa'a Wrestling Team, they practice four days a week, and they're trying to do it five days a week. That's a lot of child care...35 kids, five days a week, choke child care. That's a lot of money the County is saving. And also, the 200K that Tanya is referencing that she's asking for the 'Umeke 'Ai project, once they get past that initial phase, once they get past Phase II, it unlocks \$1.3 million that Jill Tokuda has already set aside for acquisition. So, the \$200,000 is a huge investment, it unlocks \$1.3 million. Super support everything everybody else has also said. The events that Buji was mentioning, that provides for our local economy...like 'Āinapa'a and other community members that just need a little bit extra to get them off-island, X, Y, Z. And now I'll do my testimony. Aloha nui, my name is Kawaipuna

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Kalipi. I work for the Moloka'i Heritage Trust that you folks seeded, and I want to just say mahalo nui for seeding the Moloka'i Heritage Trust. Our goal is the same when you folks gave us that initial investment, and we are going to buy Moloka'i Ranch. So, I'm here not to ask for funds just yet, but to give you folks an update, and of course, sing their praises and your thanks. So, since that initial investment, we've been able to secure over \$1.7 million in additional funding. That's almost a 30 percent, or 30 times an increase off of your initial investment. Mahalo nui loa. In addition to that funding that we've been able to secure, we've also successfully been able to partnership...partner with the Conservation Fund and the Brown 'Ohana for 900 acres in Wailau and Waialua Valley that will go directly back into community stewardship. And our eyes are still set on buying Moloka'i Ranch, so I look forward to continuing developing a relationship with this County and seeing how we can get this County facility out of a lease and back into your hands. Mahalo nui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions? No questions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Miss...Chair, and Ms. Kalipi. Did you mean like move the facility, or buy the land?

MS. KALIPI: Buy the land.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. KALIPI: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because Molokai Ranch owns the land.

MS. KALIPI: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you.

MS. KALIPI: Yeah. And I also want to say that I fully support any monies that you give to the Lāhainā Community Land Trust. All the monies. More. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, the next testifier is Kuulei Arce, to be followed by Alice Kaahanui.

MS. ARCE: Aloha, Councilmembers. Mahalo for coming. I am Kuulei Arce, and I represent the Kūpuna Program, Moloka'i Rural Health Community Association. Kūpuna Program, aka Kuulei's Kūpuna Program. A lot of kūpunas cannot say the long name, so they just say, yeah, Kuulei's program. So, anyway, I wanted to...we started Fiscal Year 2022, right, like right when we thought COVID was almost pau. So, our mission was to bring our kūpuna out of confinement, being at home for so long. So, when we first started, it was only supposed to be for six months. Here we are today, 2025, we're moving into 2026, and we're still here. So, mahalo for that, the continuous support all the time. You know, watching our kūpuna after this...since 2022, now I have a closer relationship

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with them, and it's hard. I see them moving from a touch of dementia to like full-blown dementia, where they are now home-bound, they cannot even come out. Our program brings a lot of energy for them. We do...we have so many programs that we bring and we coordinate for them. I think I counted like about 50 different things that we do. And it ranges from exercising--you know, tai chi, pickleball, stretches, painting via Zoom, we have sewing classes, we have lei hulu classes, we have lomi for them, we have...and it's sad because of our air...you know, our air situation, you guys know about that. But because they cannot travel, we try to bring whoever we can-- specialties over, and spend the day here, and service our kūpuna. So, one of them is Dr. Pitt, he's a podiatrist. So, he comes over every month, and he services...we load him up. He serves like 40 kūpuna in one day...not even a day. He comes in at 7:30 and leaves at 3:00. But we slam him tight because we want to serve as many as we can. The other one is the eye doctor here, Dr. Almarales. She takes our kūpuna, serves them, and we pay for their co-pay. And she's always telling me, thank you. Because if it wasn't for our program, our kūpuna would not visit her. They have cataracts, they have all kinds of conditions, and they wouldn't see her if they had to pay the co-pay. And of course, you know, to us it's \$30, \$50...but to them, it's like \$100. That's a lot of money they gotta pull out of their pocket. So, we collaborate with them. We work with Sust'ainable Moloka'i. They've been giving us kūpuna bags that the public buys for \$35?--whatever it is--but the public buys it, it goes back to them, they distribute to us, we distribute to the kūpuna. And it's fresh vegetables and beef. Sometimes I like take some stuff out from the bag before I give 'em to them, but I don't, I don't. I promise. But, you know, it's working together and...you know, a lot of people said, that we work with what we got. And that's exactly what we doing. Whatever we can work together and collaborate on different things, that's what we're doing. . . .(timer sounds). . . We work with Home Pumehana, we use their space so that we can have stretch classes, so that we can have classes on dementia to teach their keiki on how to care for them...not teach the kūpuna, it's too late for them to learn that part. But we have computer classes, we teach them how to get on Zoom so that they can paint, so that they can check their newsletter every month so that I can tell them what's going on. Every month they send a newsletter, and they're so thankful. But for me, it hits hard because we lost a lot of kūpuna while...you know, their aging process, a lot of them are experiencing dementia . . .(timer sounds). . . and--I know, I know, I heard--but it's very...it's gratifying to see what we've done so far, and how much they appreciate us. I mean they appreciate us so much that they no care if we're on a diet, they bring us pastries, nuts, candies...every single visit, they make. And we serve...so just before I'm done, but I just wanted to say we're serving over a thousand kūpunas from the age of 65 and up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fabulous.

MS. ARCE: The oldest is 98 years old. She still comes to our program, and does her podiatry, her haircut, and her lomi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Thank you, Kuulei.

MS. ARCE: Okay. But we did have to stop taking more kūpunas because we have maxed our services. We have maxed the people that are doing the services. Oh, and that's another

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thing. We have created over 21 jobs, including five staff in that office that we have. And I wasn't going to ask for more money, but I was thinking about it. You know, we're stationed in a home in Ranch Camp, a two-bedroom. We utilize the bedrooms for lomi. If they're not using it for lomi, we have one-on-one consultations for Medicare, Social Security. We don't have the kūpuna call the Office of Social Security, we have them come over and talk to them. Because you cannot listen to somebody with the accent and try to understand what they talking about. You gotta make changes to your Medicare, you going to call on the phone? No. So, we bring somebody over, and they talk to them one-on-one. So, our house that we rent, we utilize every single corner of that house for something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. ARCE: Okay. I got it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Kuulei.

MS. ARCE: But thank you very much again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: If you have it in writing, you can give it to us...or you were just talking?

MS. ARCE: I just talking.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. ARCE: I no more time for write, I so busy with kūpunas.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait one second.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Ms. Arce. Mahalo for your testimony. Really quick. Do you folks provide service for like end-of-life plans and, you know, wills, estate--estate planning?

MS. ARCE: Yes. So, we have brought over different people from all of those little things, like Kōkua Mau I think it is. So, they do stuff like that. But we always hook up with them, we bring them over...or we do Zooms, and we bring the kūpunas to the house and we have Zoom classes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. ARCE: So, yeah. We're always listening to their needs and trying to provide something for them.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So awesome. Thank you. Next testifier.

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MS. MONIZ: Chair, we have three testifiers left. Alice Kaahanui, to be followed by Alexa Dudoit.

MS. KAAHANUI: Aloha, Committee Chair Sugimura and Councilmembers. My name is Alice Cabael Kaahanui, born and raised on Molokai. I'm the Executive Director for the Molokai Arts Center, testifying in support of funding to the Office of Economic Development to sustain grant programming to the MAC and our partners, including Moloka'i Rural Community Health, Molokai...Kuulei's Kūpuna Program, MEO, Molokai Middle School. First, I would like to say mahalo to Maui County for supporting the various programs and organizations to serve our Molokai community. We partner with many of the organizations coming before you today, and I realize those partnerships happen in part because of the resources provided by the County of Maui. On behalf of the MAC, thank you, Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez for allocating funds through the OED. Our Hawaiian Arts program will get a much-needed boost this summer because of that funding. This year, we celebrate 15...our 15th Anniversary of our nonprofit arts education organization. What started as a little ceramics and pottery hui has grown to support artists of all mediums--from painting, to weaving, print-making to screenwriting--artists are storytellers. And by supporting programs like ours, you help all genres, all ages, keiki to kūpuna, to tell stories of our very special island home. Our artists and residents program, partly funded by the Laila Twigg-Smith Fund [sic] of Hawai'i Community Foundation brought artists from all over the world. Those artists taught classes and workshops, and created art tied to our island culture, and Molokai left a lasting impression on each of them as well. Last year, we helped establish the MAC Saturday Market at MCHC, which is the Moloka'i Community Health Center, another partner. It provides a venue for over 40 visual and culinary artists, farmers, and crafters to help stimulate our local economy with Molokai-made and Molokai-grown products. Molokai musicians donate their time and talent to enhance the weekly festival-like atmosphere. We recognize the challenges we may face this next fiscal year in light of cuts to Federal, and possibly State funding, for our arts and culture. We hope the County of Maui will step up to help fill those gaps. Finally, I'm also for--a former co-owner of Molokai Bred--that's without an a--and Ho'olehua homesteader. I support funding our County's fairly new Department of Agriculture and its programs to support our small farm businesses, efforts to increase self-sustainability, and focus on maintaining our rural way of life. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you.

MS. KAAHANUI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, the last two testifiers are Alexa Dudoit, to be followed by Zhantell Dudoit [sic].

MS. DUDOIT: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Councilmembers. Thank you for coming to Molokai. It's nice to see you in person for a change. I am here to just quickly say that I'm in support of the armory for the...the armory development for the Police Department, and the

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amount that they're asking for, for 18 million. I'm also in support of the youth programs for our Police Department, which is another 40K, I believe. And to round that off, I would like to ask for an extra million to support our Police Departments to have them have more beats on the island. We've been having a lot of things going on our island, people are concerned. We've been having a lot of community meetings. We feel the police force needs to be beefed up. They can't do it without money, so I'm coming to you to ask for an extra million to support our Police Department for more beats on the island, and for any extra things that they may need--equipment, their programs. And that's about it right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. One question. Are you with the Police Department also, just not uniformed tonight?

MS. DUDOIT: No, I'm not with the Police Department. I'm sorry. I should have said that I do volunteer my time with the MMAC Committee with Chief Pelletier. I've been in support of him from the very beginning. I felt that he is a strong candidate for the position, and he has proven to me, in my eyes, worthy of everything that he's done so far. He's a man of integrity.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. DUDOIT: He has great character.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're community. You're a supporter of the Police Chief. Okay. I just wanted that clarification.

MS. DUDOIT: Okay. So, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions? Member Paltin.

MS. DUDOIT: Any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I'm sorry, again. I missed your name?

MS. DUDOIT: Alexa Dudoit.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, no wonder.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Alexa Dudoit. Thank you, Ms. Dudoit. I just was wondering. I had two questions. On the one million more per beats on the island, are you aware that if Molokai has vacancies in their police force? Like it takes money, but it also takes bodies for more beats.

MS. DUDOIT: Right. I know that the police force is, of course, always looking for candidates to join the police force. I know you might be thinking that a million is a lot, but...

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. Was your idea for like the existing folks to work like this?

MS. DUDOIT: Yes. The existing police force to expand their beats on the island so we can have...right now, my understanding is they have one police officer going east, and one police officer going west. That's what they cover. So, if we can get more beats across the island...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I just wanted to ask you, as part of the MMAC Committee, does the Chief share with you that he does intend to do the National Guard armory?

MS. DUDOIT: Yes. In fact, we just had our meeting couple of weeks ago, the first Wednesday of the month, it's usually we have a Zoom meeting. Because we don't have funding for me to go there, so I do a Zoom with him, as well as the other people that sit on the Committee. And we discussed the armory, and we've discussed extra funding for the island to cover the beats. So...but I know it doesn't start there, it starts here with you, and you all to approve monies for the Police Department so that they can have extra beats on our island.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean usually we give them what they're asking for. And then the other thing about the extra million dollars...like in the last fiscal year that we have rest parts for it, it's like \$8 million on Carryover/Savings, which means that's \$8 million we gave to them that they never used. So, I just was wondering --

MS. DUDOIT: Okay. Jamie, you gotta start using the money, yeah. If not, I cannot ask for more money. But, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, it's not just...I mean I'm not saying Molokai have \$8 million --

MS. DUDOIT: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I mean the Maui Police Department as a whole.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The Department combined.

MS. DUDOIT: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But I mean if you wanted to...if he had extra money that...I mean, he had \$8 million or whatever, I mean...I think he can put it where it needs to go if he sees the need.

MS. DUDOIT: I'll talk to him about that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Talk to him about that.

MS. DUDOIT: I will talk to him about that. Any other questions?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

MS. DUDOIT: Thank you so much, Council.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you.

MS. MONIZ: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MONIZ: Sorry, we have two more testifiers...Liko Wallace, to be followed by Zhantell Lindo Dudoit.

MS. WALLACE: Hi, Councilmembers. Welcome to Molokai. I just wanted to come up at the end after listening to everybody, and just giving their support...my support for their plea for what they need. Because as it was said numerous times, we make do with what we got. So, takes a lot for people to come here to ask for your support to finance what we are doing here. And I would really like to put my support behind moving the Police Department to where they're asking to be placed temporarily, which is the armory, which seems to be a suitable place at the moment, and eventually locate a place for a permanent place. As they said, it does not look very good to be in a place that floods, and everything is going haywire...and we bring our kids there, and say, look at our Police Department...and we're supposed to be proud of that, and they're under water whenever we rain. So, I totally support them. I hope the money can be allocated towards moving them there, and then to a better location. I don't know where this goes because I'm not sure who's in charge of this, but certified kitchens for our island. All the County facilities have been shut down. So, when...as all the clubs come to...or organizations to fundraise, we need a certified kitchen before we can produce the products that we're going to sell. And there are only a handful, if that. Because once all the County facilities have been shut down, we're limited now to, I think, three or four. So, that's not enough. The Kaunakakai gym that was mentioned, I also heard that the Molokai High School gym will be shut down for a couple of years because they will be doing some much needed repairs. So, more than likely, they're going to be using this gym or Kaunakakai School outside court or Molokai Baptist Gym. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So, you know, that. And then my support behind the kūpuna program. My mom has learned a lot from being there. And like she said, the haircuts, and...you know, she learned how to make lā'au lapa'au, and...you know, all kind of field trips. So...yeah. Continue to support that program, and all the other ones that came up and asked. Thank you so much for hearing my support of the programs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. WALLACE: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions?

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I want a demonstration from her mother. Demonstrate the lā'au lapa'au.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, this is the last testifier. Thank you.

MS. LINDO: Aloha, Council Chair...BFED Chair Sugimura and, of course, our wonderful Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, and all of the amazing Councilmembers. Mahalo nui loa for coming to Moloka'i. My name is Zhantell Lindo, and I am here to support all of the programs that you've heard today. I do see the urgency for the Police Department to move, but I want to stress what Captain Winfrey said. I believe this is a 25-year temporary solution. It cannot be the permanent solution. With the SLR-XA lines moving up, and the way that our town is slated to move in the next so many years, there has to be accommodations past the 25 years in order that a community can truly thrive, and we can beef up our Moloka'i Police Department to the way it needs to be done. I also like to especially support the cadet program. I personally have had children that I adopted from the streets that were able to graduate from there, and I have seen the tremendous amount of confidence, support...and these are trauma kids who came from both sexual and mental abuse, and didn't know anything about community, just about survival. And so, after one year...one month in the program, and graduating from there, I have seen a significant change in her academics, in her ability to be a community contributor, and just in an overall responsibility to her family and her community. I also would like to just speak on the resiliency hub situation. I want to support turning that monies over to MEMA. I think that without MEMA's inclusion, none of that money should be used for resiliency hubs. Because MEMA is the lead agency, it only makes sense that they lead this charge. And the current model that has been trying to be blanketed throughout all districts of Maui County is not sufficient for Moloka'i. And so, I would like to see more community outreach on that also in the design phase from the beginning with these projects. And then lastly, I would also like to talk about funding for homeless outreach initiatives that help support small organizations and churches that are able to contribute in their small way, whether from one to ten individuals, that help homelessness or unsheltered. Our church...thank you for the members who are able to go and visit. I will do a video for those who didn't . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . and I just want to say thank you. Our church alone does homeless outreach, safe sleeping and parking zone, hospice rooms, 48-hour stay away inclusion for people who cannot go back because we don't have a men's shelter. We're working with Kahale Makua *(phonetic)* to try to do a kūpuna health...day health center on our property, and that's just some examples with absolutely zero funding. So, my proposal is that the Council consider looking at some of that homeless outreach money that is currently given . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . to Family Life Center, and look at distributing through a grant-funding program in allotments of 30,000 to \$40,000 per organization to help with construction and maintenance of buildings in current church or facilities to upgrade so that in rural communities especially, we can start to house individuals immediately. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have any questions? Member Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Lindo. The other day when Director Tsuhako told us...you know, like last fiscal year I put extra money for Maui AIDS, and it...they never get the money until December and March, but the money that the Department, when allot to them, they got it right away. And so, if we change what they got...because they said they pre-load their grants, you're okay with it taking a little bit longer because we changing their plans? Because...I mean, we can put the money wherever, but in my experience in working with Director Tsuhako, if she no like give 'em, she no give 'em.

MS. LINDO: Yep. I think we're okay with that. Because right now, we functioning with zero...zero capital, right? And so, I think together as a hui, I've identified on island at least four churches and private properties that would be willing to do something like we do at Kaunakakai Baptist Church. And so, I think we can start with the design and like project phase, that by the time the money comes online, we'd be shovel-ready.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Good to know. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. LINDO: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No other questions? Thank you very much.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, we have nobody else signed up to testify. Would you like me to do a last call? This is the last call. If you'd like to testify, please let us know right now. If not...three, two, one. Chair, there is no one else that wishes to testify.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you everybody.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS. (excused: TK and AL)

ACTION: **DEFER** pending further discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It is now 8:26, and this meeting is adjourned. And I want to thank all of you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us, and always be in touch. Thank you. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 8:26 p.m.

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CERTIFICATION

I, Terianne L. Arreola, hereby certify that pages 1 through 45 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 6th day of May 2025, in Makawao, Hawai'i.



Terianne Arreola