

KŌMIKE ALOHA ‘ĀINA
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

June 19, 2025

Online Only via Zoom

CONVENE: 9:09 a.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member (left at 11:15 a.m.)
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (left at 10:17 a.m.)

EXCUSED: Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member

STAFF:

Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst
Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Lori Ann Tengan, Committee Secretary
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Keomailani Hirata, Council Executive Assistant, Molokai Residency Area Office
Mavis Oliveira, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Jared Agtunong, Council Executive Assistant, South Maui Residency Area Office

OTHERS:

Kapono‘ai Molitau, Director of ‘Ōiwi Resources (Items KA‘A-1(4), -1(5))
Kekai Robinson, Deputy Director of ‘Ōiwi Resources (Items KA‘A-1(4), -1(5))
Kāhealani Colleado, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Specialist, Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources
Kaiea Medeiros, ‘Āina Advocate, Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources
Amira Limayo, Grant Coordinator, Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources (Item KA‘A-1(4))
Kepa Revelle Aikala, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i Specialist, Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources
Christie Trenholme, Deputy Corporation Counsel (Items KA‘A-1(4), -1(5))
Josiah Nishita, Managing Director, Department of Management (Item KA‘A-1(5))
David Raatz, Director of Council Services (Item KA‘A-1(5))

Others (17)

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. ‘Eiwa minuke i ka hala o ka, oh, i
hala o ka hola ‘eiwa ma ‘umikūmāiwa o Iune i ka makahiki ‘elua kaukani

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‘iwakāluakūmālima. E ‘olu‘olu mai, e ho‘omalū ke Kōmike Aloha ‘Āina. ‘O wau ‘o Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, ka luna ho‘omalū o kēia kōmike. It is 9:09 on June 19th, 2025. Oh. Will the Kōmike Aloha ‘Āina please come to order. I'm your Chair, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. There are currently no testifiers at the Molokai District Office, and today is Juneteenth, a Federal holiday. In the U.S., it's celebrated annually on June 19th to commemorate the end of the practice of Americans enslaving Africans and their descendants for their entire life for profit for their lifetime of enslavement, even after it was made illegal in the United States. Today, we have with us Committee Vice-Chair Tamara Paltin. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. I'm going to need to step out at about 9:45 to take my keiki to the kauka, but I can be mobile.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then from Kīhei, we have with us Committee Member Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha, Chair and...and Committee. Good morning. I am in the Kīhei Regional Office this morning, which currently have no testifiers, and I'm looking forward to your meeting. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Committee Member Tasha Kama is excused. And we have with us in the Chamber Council Chair Alice Lee. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. And I think in Hāna, we have with us Committee Member Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Hey, aloha kakahiaka kākou, mai Maui hikina. Aia wau ma ‘ane‘i ko‘u lumi hālāwai. Mahalo. No testifiers in Hāna, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And I believe in Kula, we have with us Committee Member Yuki Lei Sugimura, and I do have in my notes that you requested to be excused at 10:30.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, good morning, everybody, aloha, and I'm in Kula doing this meeting. And yes, I...I have another meeting to attend, so thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And we have two Non-Voting Committee Members, Councilmember Gabe Johnson and Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, who are always welcome to join us. From the Administration, we have with us, from the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources, Director Kaponō‘ai Molitau. Aloha.

MR. MOLITAU: ‘Ae, welina mai ke aloha iā ‘oukou a pau. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. And Deputy Director Kekai Robinson.

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MS. ROBINSON: ‘Ae, aloha kakahiaka.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And when we get to the item, I'll invite you to introduce everyone. The whole team's here. And...oh, it looks like...oh, okay, over there. And then from the Department of Corporation Counsel, we have with us Deputy Corporation Counsel Christie Trenholme. Aloha. And later, from the Department of Management, we'll have joining us Managing Director Josiah Nishita. Today, our Committee Staff, we have Committee Secretary Lori Te...Lori Ann Tengan; Senior Legislative Analyst Kasie Apo Takayama; Legislative Analyst Kristen...Kirsten Szabo; Legislative Analyst Tiare del Castillo; Legislative Attorney Megan Moniz; and Council Services Assistant Clerk Lei Dinneen. We have two items on today's agenda: Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources Strategic Plan, and Maui County's Transition to a Bilingual Government. Since these are both 7(B) presentations with no legislative action, we will jump straight into the presentations for each item before receiving testimony. To...okay.

DEPARTMENT OF ‘ŌIWI RESOURCES STRATEGIC PLAN
(KA‘Ā-1(4)) RULE 7(B)

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, let's see. For the first item, the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources Strategic Plan presentation, the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources was established by Charter on July 1st, 2024. We appropriated funding in the Fiscal Year 2025 to support the Department in conducting a strategic plan to guide their way forward. The Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources quickly contracted the work out and completed their plan within the time frame, or even quicker. On February 6, 2025, KA‘Ā discussed the development of a strategic plan, and I'm happy to invite the Department to present their five-year plan...five-year plan today. So, joining us for this item are Director and Deputy Director, as well as their team. And if there are no objections, I would like to designate Director Molitau, Deputy Director Robinson, and the--anyone else that they invite from their team to speak, and the Administration personnel identified as resource persons, in accordance with Rules 18(A) of the Rules of the Council.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, everyone. Okay. We'll proceed in this order. Deputy...or Director Molitau from the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources, and if Corporation Counsel has any opening remarks? No? Okay, okay. We'll just do the Department. Okay. Okay. So, Director Molitau, aloha.

MR. MOLITAU: ‘Ae, welina mai ke aloha. [*Chanting in Hawaiian*] Welina mai ke aloha iā ‘oukou a pau. ‘O wau iho nō ‘o Kaponō‘ai Molitau, ke Po‘o Kumuwaiwai ‘Ōiwi. Ke mahalo palena‘ole no ka ‘ākoakoa ‘ana mai iā kākou a pau i kēia kakahiaka nani loa nei. Eia nō na‘e ko mākou hui ‘ana e pili ana i ko kākou hō‘ike ‘ana i ka...kēia palapala nei, ‘oia ho‘i ka strategic plan. A no laila, ke mahalo palena‘ole no ke ‘ākoakoa ‘ana mai. Good morning, everyone. Thank you for allowing us, the team of Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources, to be here. I am Kaponō‘ai Molitau, and I have the pleasure of serving

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as the Director of the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources. And we are humbled to present the 2025 to 2030 Strategic Plan to you, and thank you for having us. Here sitting with me, I have Deputy Director Kekai Robinson. We also have with our team our two language specialists, Hawaiian Language Specialists Kāhealani Colleado and Kepa Revelle. We also have on our team, seated here is our ‘Āina Advocate Kaiea Medeiros, as well as our Grant Coordinator Amira Lacayo...correct? Limayo, kala mai. And we are here to go ahead and paipai and support one another as we go through this particular hō‘ike to all of you. There, provided for you, was the QR code for the Strategic Plan for those that needed it. The...the table of contents, really, is...is to get an introduction for all of you folks, to make sure that you understand who our staff is, our department overview, or ‘Ōiwi mission, our divisions, our goals and objectives, and finally our conclusion, followed by any questions. We start with a ‘Ōlelo No‘eau, and it reads, ‘O ia ke kahua e kū ai ka ‘Ōihana. Ke ala ia e pono ai ke kanaka a me ka ‘āina o ke Kalana. And this is really a strategic plan that builds upon foundation. It serves as the kahua, or the foundation, the stones upon which our department itself will stand. Moving forward, this approach will empower the Maui County to make informed decisions that protect, perpetuate its indigenous resources, enhancing community well-being, cultural vitality, and environmental sustainability for the benefit of all residents. Our department overview, our Umu...‘Ōihana Kumuwaiwai ‘Ōiwi, is established to provide cultural stewardship, guidance, and advocacy for Maui County's indigenous resources. I wanted to stop right there and let you know that that is really that kahua, or the fundamental components, for why this particular department exists--in our eyes, is to make sure that we become the voices for those that don't have voices--the definition for ‘Ōiwi because we...we have this particular conversation with folks. Aloha, we are from the Department of ‘Ōiwi. People think it's an acronym, and so we have to give them the definition. The ‘Ōiwi Resources encompasses all elements of the universe observed, remembered, and cared for, from the lofty layers of the heavens to the verdant land and the depths of the ocean, embodying the physical, spiritual, and genealogical ties that sustained and define kānaka. And when we give that particular ‘Ōiwi definition to folks that we...we introduce ourselves to, it opens themselves up to quite a bit more dialogue, and questions about our department. Quickly, about our framework. Here is one I think that everybody understands, that our ocean does not divide us, but it connects us. And our Kānaka Maoli ancestors for generations have relied upon the ocean as a source of fi...food, navigation, building communities, relationships. So, making sure that this becomes a framework that en...encompasses all of Maui Nui is really, really something that we treasure here at this Department. We want to make sure that our mission is always to uphold and advance the rights, and responsibilities, and stewardships of ‘Ōiwi Resources, ensuring their protection, sustainability, and integration into governance, community practices for the benefit of present and future generations. That's really, really a big lift for...for our mission, for the Department of ‘Ōiwi, but we think we're doing a pretty darn good job in this first year being stood up. Kekai?

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo. I...I can...‘ae, mahalo. From our very first day here as the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources, when we were just a party of two, we thought about what kind of kuleana was handed to us through...through the work that has been done before us, and what kind of kuleana do we have as we look out into the community, and

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what our community needs. And so, this is not the first time that the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources has presented on our three main goals, our three main objectives, and our three departmental divisions: Kīpuka, Kumuwaiola, and Pai Ka Leo. In our Kīpuka, you know, we understand that--safeguarding and stewarding lands of concentrated natural and cultural importance. Being able to provide our decisionmakers, our lawmakers, with good information from an ‘Ōiwi lens, from an archaeology-anthropology lens as well, combining the two so it's exponentially more powerful, and our decisionmakers can make good decisions when it comes to ‘āina, when it comes to ‘Ōiwi, and the resources that sustain our community. In Kumuwaiola is championing...championing the life-giving sustaining elements of the natural world, our wai, our ‘āina, our kai, our lani, our iwi, and all of the...the land stewards, all of the caretakers of these life-giving resources, taking care of them, you know, uplifting them, and in their servanthship of...of the community. And Pai Ka Leo, which...which this Council, this Administration, is...is moving forward, and we'll talk a little bit about Pai Ka Leo and how that is happening. But we're excited that there has been really significant movement and progress to empower and uplift Native Hawaiian voices, and to reinvigorate the use of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, specifically in government. And very appreciative to those who came before us, and set up the framework for this day and this time to...to come around.

MR. MOLITAU: We'll share a little story real quickly. The...about five months ago, the...there were five manu ‘alalā that were released into the Kahikinui Reserve area, and we were very fortunate to be a part of that blessing, to help conduct the...the release and the pule for...for that. And knowing that we were just a very young stood-up department, it was important for us to...to lend that voice to those same juveniles of manu ‘alalā so that they would have a...a great send off. And we...I bring this story to you because we just got an email last week that the pairing, a male and a female, just laid their first set of eggs, manu ‘alalā, on Maui, which tells me that our hulu kūpuna are...are thriving. And so, within the kumuwaiola, and within the kīpuka, if we give...if we give our elements an opportunity to thrive, and we give our...our natural elements the framework to thrive, they will. So does the...the...the opposite of that happen. If we don't allow for that to happen, then they don't have the opportunity to thrive. So, I wanted to share that because we are kind of like that fledgling manu ‘alalā, where we've stood up our particular department, and we are now laying the foundational pieces for...for it to move forward. We're really excited for that ‘ohana. Hopefully everything will...will tend to holomua.

MS. ROBINSON: Amen. So, through our Strategic Plan process, we've identified with our community, with everyone who participated in the process and engaged with the Department of ‘Ōiwi, and our strategic planners, these five goals and objectives. And we'll go through each of them one-by-one, and give you some specifics as far as, you know, each of...each of these goals that the Department is going to be focusing on for the next five years...for the next 200 years, really. Goal one, our Loina Hawai‘i, or protocols for cultural stewardship. And it reads, reestablish ‘ōiwi perspective and narrative in governance processes and ‘ōiwi resource stewardship. So, some of the specifics include supporting bilingual government initiatives; supporting our fellow County departments with cultural sensitivity training in recognizing ‘āina that is of

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special cultural importance; to strengthen the pilina between the County and their understanding of ancestral burial sites, and appropriate protocol for access; uplifting the appropriate use of place names, and I think that's something that is important to our entire community; blessing and pule as foundational practice; and to empower our cultural leaders, our colleagues, as practitioners across Maui Nui to go ahead and execute cultural protocol as appropriate.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. MOLITAU: In our goal number two, Kūkala Kaiāulu, this particular regular community touchpoint goal create systems of communication between the community and our Department. We are very open, and making sure that this is an important component for...for not only our community, but for Maui County and all of the other departments to make sure that there is open communication and dialogue. So, these are some of the touchpoints that we have. Newsletters and web...website updates to provide transparency on initiatives. Community engagements through workshops and community forums and meetings. Native Hawaiian resources and ‘āina organization, networking, and centralizing directors for cultural stewardships. Really important that we have this...this kama‘ilio, or conversation piece, as a foundational component for all of us to be able to lift up each other.

MS. ROBINSON: Goal three is one of our biggest priorities and focus. You will see at the top there that it...it...it indicates the Hālau ‘Ōiwi Arts, and providing dedicated spaces for cultural learning. And it doesn't have to be necessarily only physical building spaces, but we're also looking at ‘āina, reconnecting our residents and our visitors to cultural practices, language, and values. So, we're very excited for the Hālau ‘Ōiwi Arts. I think it will be a centralized...you know, a centralized area where our community can gather...our community of hula, our community of arts and culture practitioners to share from. Education and community empowerment, as a goal for us, I believe, is going to be so important in how we move forward, and have the framework of our...of our Department, you know, priorities...what we focus on. I going change to the next one.

MR. MOLITAU: Kahe Wai Ola, our goal number four, grants and funding opportunities. A very exciting piece for...for the Department of ‘Ōiwi, creating grant and funding opportunities and strategic partnerships within the...with the purpose of preserving and stewarding the ‘Ōiwi Resources of Maui County. This year, being stood up for the first time, we...we had grant resources that we...we started to administer, and we did our first round of that. We're very proud of this particular engagement with our community. Within this particular grant application period, we received about 25 grant applicants that we were able to go ahead and go through, and nine recipients this year were part of the first year of funding for this particular grant opportunity. Now, all of the grant opportunity for Maui Nui stretches out from the Island of Molokai, all the way up to Hāna, and here in...in Maui County, or Maui Central. We're very, very excited to see some of the outcomes of that, and we look forward to expanding on this Kahe Wai Ola for our community to move forward.

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MS. ROBINSON: Goal five, and our last goal, He Ali‘i Ka ‘Āina. It goes with much, much respect. This ‘ōlelo no‘eau, in its entirety, is he ali‘i ka ‘āina, he kauwā ke kanaka...we are but the servants of our ‘āina. And so, established processes for natural resource advocacy. And we mahalo the Council and the Mayor for allowing for us to have an advocate in our Department. But when we look at this, it's some legislation to protect culturally-important ‘āina here, across Maui Nui...protect these spaces, and establish specific protocols for access. Also, looking at the legi...legislation that we need to protect intellectual rights of kānaka ‘ōiwi, as well as ‘āina, and responsible ‘āina stewardship. Sacred source advocacy is really important, but to recognize the elements of our natural world as sacred sources worthy of rights of nature, protection. So, that's something that we hope to work towards in the next...in the next five years.

MR. MOLITAU: And so, really quickly, we wanted to take the opportunity to say mahalo to this Council for allowing us to be able to finalize this particular strategic plan, which is...there's a hard copy for you, as well as part of your Granicus. And if you have any questions, we are more than happy to answer them.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Beautiful. Mahalo. Okay. And ho‘omaika‘i on getting this done. . . .(laughing). . . All right. We...well, before we go...before I open it up for questions from the Members, we'll receive any testimony on this item. Testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up in the Chamber lobby, join the online meeting via tinyurl link to connect to the Zoom meeting, or call in to the phone number and enter the meeting code noted on today's agenda. Written testimony can be submitted via eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. For individuals wishing to testify via Zoom, please use the raise-hand function by clicking the raise-your-hand button on the bottom bar. Staff will ask you to enable the microphone and video prior to your turn to...to testify. You can unmute yourself when you are called upon by clicking on the microphone and camera buttons in the lower-left portion of the screen. For those calling in, please follow the prompts via phone...press star-9 to raise your hand, and when it is your turn to testify, press star-6 to unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hands. For those on Zoom, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. I will then call the name you're logged in under, or the last four digits of your phone number when it's your turn to testify. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of the testimony. Oral testimony is limited three minutes. Staff has been monitoring the individuals joining today's meeting by phone and by video, and we will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. I will now call on the first testifier. Okay, I'm opening the log.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY KA‘Ā-1(4). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And our first testifier, and only testifier signed up right now, is Jen Mather. (pause) Okay. Oh, where'd she go? I saw her earlier. Ms. Mather?

MS. MATHER: Yeah. Can you hear me? I don't think I can --

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

MS. MATHER: -- turn on my video, which is probably better because I am in --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, we want to see your face.

MS. MATHER: -- Home Depot. Oh, but --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can we --

MS. MATHER: -- you don't want to see my--oh, okay. Start my video. Okay, it's letting me now.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, I want to see your storeroom. Thank you.

MS. MATHER: I'm at Home Depot. I'm so sorry. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please proceed.

MS. MATHER: All right. Aloha. ‘O Kamaho‘i wau, akā, ‘o Jen Mather ko‘u inoa Pelekānia. Sorry, I am in Home Depot, and I'm going to try and listen for the honk-beep warning today, so sorry about yesterday. So, testifying on the strat plan of the Office of ‘Ōiwi Resources. One of my ‘āina kūpuna is actually Haneo‘o, where our family loko i‘a still feeds the people of Hāna Moku. So, it's nice to see it included in the pages of this document as the ‘āina where the sun first touches us here on Maui. So, thank you to Director Kapono‘ai and...is it Deputy Director Robinson? That was a wonderful presentation, and a great strat plan to be put in place. I think it also states in there that the Director of ‘Ōiwi Resources will work with the Director of Planning on a Cultural Resources Management Plan. I think this is really imperative, especially at this time. Because like this is the only document that at least I know of--and I don't know everything--that speaks directly to these types of resources, and it deals with like more tangible things, and it was written in 1984, and then it was never updated. So, if we could get it updated, that's wonderful. And then I know that the staff from the office are supposed to be at the commissions under the Planning Department, and I just want to make sure that they're there at the CRC meetings because that and MPC is going to be like the...the super heavy lifts for those volunteer commissions with the Lāhainā rebuild. I believe that's ex-officio by ordinance, if I heard Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez at one point state that, so good stuff there. I love the Kumuwaiola Division will establish a repository for all of our cultural material. I sent a really long crazy proposal to them about a repository a while back, and I keep bugging folks about it at budget, so yay. I think reminding people that these bullet points in the strat plan though, are like not exhaustive, right? That...that's really key. It's not only emergency events or ongoing desecration that unearths our cultural material, right? It's like if we get every cultural research firm that has cultural material that hasn't been returned to the ‘āina, for whatever reason, then they can send that to the repository for safekeeping, cataloging, et cetera. And then lastly, I really appreciate that this strat plan is going to like gauge its...its success based on the pilina that it grows with other parts of our

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government. Because all of those other parts, they try to steward our resources here on Maui, and in my humble opinion, that's all ‘ōiwi kine things, right? Water, safety, planning, housing, human resources, public works, parks and recs, environmental management--every one of those things, those tangible, intangible things, like they're all ‘ōiwi resources, and they stated that in their strat plan. So, if they're able to have this guide, not only this ‘Ōiwi Department, but like lay the framework for other departments to understand how ‘Ōiwi Resources is going to integrate in with the kānaka paradigm that Deputy Director was talking about. That's like super paramount to the success of these islands going forward, how we see them going forward. So, yeah, I'm super proud of them. Thank you. And thank you for like going out into the community, and integrating all of that information that we sent to you . . .(timer sounds). . . into this, so I saw that. Yay. Honk-beep. All right. Mahalo nui.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Mather. Members, any questions for our first testifier? Okay. Seeing none. We'll mahalo you for your testimony. Okay.

MS. MATHER: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Next on our testifier list, we have Kai Nishiki.

MS. NISHIKI: Aloha. Good morning --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

MS. NISHIKI: -- Chair and Committee. Wonderful presentation, and very happy to hear that there is natural resource advocacy position. And, you know, just here to advocate for our shorelines, and public access, and responsible ‘āina stewardship, as was mentioned. I...I tuned in a little bit late, so I may not have heard if this department will be addressing...or looking at coastal hazard mitigation. I think we can all understand that our shorelines and coastlines have incredible intrinsic value. However, you know, with the Western thought process, there's...it's...it's very capitalistic, and so folks look at like what is the economic value. And so, with coastal erosion and...and hazards, there is a market adjustment that...that is needed, where our shorelines are actually...and all of the structures on them are changing from these incredible financial...you know, they...they...they consider them an asset, and actually, it--they are, at this point, unfunded liabilities. And so, you know, our County, looking into the future, we want to protect their intrinsic value to our community and to our culture, but also looking at the revenue generation, and how the County needs to really look at how we are going to pivot away from relying on our shorelines for that monetary income that...that is coming off of them, and really, return them to the public. And, you know, really, our shorelines should be parks, and open space, and places of...of cultural reverence. And...and...there just needs to be a switch on...on how we view our coastlines, and who they're actually feeding. ‘Āina is that which feeds, so who are they feeding? Are they...are they feeding our...our souls, and our culture, and...and...and the needs of the community in the ways that they...that they should be? So, I would hope that this Committee and this Department could help to inform and educate folks

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on how valuable our coastlines are for themselves. Oh, kala mai. Sorry. I didn't hear anything. Pau. . . .(laughing). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, not yet. You had like ten seconds left. I...I was just --

MS. NISHIKI: Oh, oh, oh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I was just showing you the time.

MS. NISHIKI: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You can have your ten seconds back.

MS. NISHIKI: Okay. . . .(laughing). . . That's okay. I think you get the point. I could go on forever. Mahalo. Love our shorelines and our coastlines, and I just want them to get the attention that they deserve. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Nishiki. Members, any questions for our testifier? Okay. Seeing none. Mahalo for your testimony today. Okay.

MS. NISHIKI: Bye.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. All right. That completes our list, and I know we have an individual in the Chambers who would like to testify?

MR. LAW: Aloha kakahiaka, Luna Ho‘omalua Rawlins-Fernandez. O wau Jasee Law, Kula Uka, Waiakoa Ahupua‘a. You guys aren't going to believe this, but I actually am having a hard time thinking of something to say. Because of the...the culture, I feel like I'm like...not invading, but I'm like...I'm in like a different class here, so I'm...I'm...but I'm...my ears are wide open, and I'm trying to learn. So, welcome, Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources, to ka papahale ‘ewalu, the 8th Floor. And real quick, I thought of...I always use the analogy of being in a lifeboat. So, all my life, I was on a United States ship, and a dozen years ago, I was forced to walk the plank. And there was an island, and I swam to it. Now, if you're catching the analogy, if you're floating around, and you don't have a life jacket or anything, and you--there's an island, you don't care which island is...is...it is, you're just going to go to it. So, I washed up on the shore here of Maui, and I really appreciate the...the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources helping me out, and teaching me the...the...the culture and stuff. So, yeah, that's about it, I just appreciate really a lot you guys being here. And don't get frustrated with me if I come by your office a little bit too much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Law. Seeing no hands for questions, we'll thank you for your testimony this morning. Okay. Okay. Okay. So, I'll do a last call for testifiers. Anyone wishing to testify, you may unmute at this time and proceed with your testimony. Okay. Hearing no one unmuting, any objections to closing public testimony, Members?

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COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY KA‘Ā-1(4) . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Mahalo. All right. I will now open the floor to questions. I usually start with my Committee Vice-Chair. Okay. . . .*(laughing)*. . . I know she's a little--juggling, so we'll go to Member Tom Cook. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm not going to put a timer. I'll just let you folks ask the questions that you want to.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So, my question's for Director. Curious...communication with CWRM, and how the interactivity of the Department and resource management. Water is foundational. So, I'm just curious about how...how it's going to...what the expectation is to be working with like CWRM, which is kind of the deciding gateway for West Maui water and development. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Kumu?

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Councilmember Cook. It's an interesting dynamic question. I think one of the things that we understand is we only have a finite resource of...of wai, and I think collectively, the discussions that we all agree upon is that that particular resource is important no matter where you're at. No matter if it's on West Maui, or if it's in East Maui, or if it's in Molokai, or Lānaʻi, that particular wai has to be cared for in a manner in which we care for our kūpuna. I think that is first and foremost in...in all of the conversations that we've had. In terms of managing that particular resource, I am not very familiar in the...in the entirety of other management practices' work. We are currently working on...on strategic plans on how we develop intellectual, cultural responsibilities about management practices, and allowing that to be upheld in...in their own discussions and...and how we can help move that forward. Again, my understanding of wai is a complete different understanding of how CWRM may look at it. I look at it from a cultural holistic standpoint in terms of where...where wai originates from, where wai kahe goes into, where wai becomes part of the pūnāwai, and from the kiki wai, it...it brings us the water that we need to sustain ourselves. Now, that amount of time takes quite a bit of time to get there. And again, that resource is very finite, and when we...when we run out of water...we never want to get to that point. So, that...that is a collective thought that we all share, and how we can, at the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, lift the cultural mindset on...on how we care for wai is...is our kuleana.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I'm...yeah. I asked that question with a really good heart because that's one of the...I see the Department's intentions, and I see the challenges that we have for Maui County, and for Maui, and West Maui in particular, and striving to identify the...blend the cultural, scientific, economic, all of these different aspects. And...anyway, I'm glad you're at the helm, and I've always been impressed so

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far with the Department, where the intentions are. And I guess I just said that. That's kind of a tough question, and I don't mean it to be intentionally a tough question. I was just like...that's something that I hope that we can all work together on, to cultivate the respect for the resource, and also identify and accept the various needs for the resources, and really, collectively work together to manage it and ex...yeah, be stewards. So, thank you, Chair, and thank you, Director.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Cook. And I see our Committee Vice-Chair is ready for her turn.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director and Deputy Director. It's funny that Cook was asking about the water resources for West Maui. I was going to ask about your involvement as we move forward with the South Maui Community Plan.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Kumu?

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo nui. Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Councilmember Tamara Paltin, for the question. I think I'm going to go ahead and turn this one over to...to Deputy Director to answer. She's been really involved in...in this particular document that is circulating for consideration, as well as our team of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i specialists that have been highly involved in...in making sure the document has its correct placenames, correct glossary of index or ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i terms that...that are important for this particular document. Deputy Director?

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo. Thank you. Mahalo, Chair. Thank you for the question. You know, for the South Maui Plan, I'm going to be very honest, it...it has been our first experience with working with community plan as a Department from this lens, with the ability to affect what is, you know, discussed, to be a part of the discussion, and to be involved in that discussion. And so, really appreciate that. Part of our...so, part of our involvement was being present, and we have only been present since July. I know Central Maui Plan is coming up too. And so, to be very honest, it has been our first experience in working with community, with County on a community plan, and realizing how important it is to driving what happens in our community, and in those specific communities into the future. So, for this very first opportunity, like Director shared, our...our kuleana basically felt to use of appropriate names for ‘āina, definition of that, and making sure that the document that was being published by the County, by the Planning Commission, didn't have any ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i faux pas, and didn't have any other kinds of--you know, anything that we could give good guidance and advice on, we...we did. As far as getting into the...the meat of how things will be implemented, we are invested and committed to watching very closely how that happens in South Maui, and contributing where we can. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank...thank you. I wish we would have had that . . . *(inaudible)*. . . in West Maui. There was so many things we...we weren't 100 percent sure about. Like, you know, even . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Ka Malu ‘Ulu o Lele, and all of that. So, stoked that you're...you're . . . *(inaudible)*. . . the community for South Maui.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. Okay. Next--I'm going to follow my list so I don't miss anybody--and that would be Council Chair Lee, followed by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right. I did have a question. I noticed that...it's a beautiful plan you have. I didn't notice any timelines on there.

MR. MOLITAU: So, when we...mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Councilmember Chair Lee, for the question. So, when we first discussed this particular plan, we discussed with...with our...our contractor to make a plan that was...our timeline was seven generations. And obviously, from the Western standpoint of that, that is something that is unachievable.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. That's kind of how long it takes to get a permit in the County.

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. MOLITAU: I'm going to keep that one. Keep that one. That's a great one. But when we...when we thought about it, it's...it's that kind of thinking that we wanted to make sure that we...we laid as a foundation platform for this particular Department. We didn't necessarily make any timelines for this particular strategic plan in terms of Year 1, Year 2, to this five-year strategic plan. What you will notice is, within some of our goals, already one, two, three, four, and five, we are...we are in the thick of it currently. That...that allows for...for us to continue to navigate what that looks like and feels like for each of the departments that we integrate with. So, in...in regards to like Loina Hawai'i, which is goal number one, that doesn't have a particular time frame for Year 1 through 5 about developing protocols, it just exists. And so, those existing protocols are one that we continue to...to help uplift, and we...we work where our departments are currently at. And so, if some current departments are...are at a level that...that we know that they're maika'i with, or they're good with, and we can kind of enhance their 'ike, or their kuana'ike as we call it, for...for other aspects of that Loina Hawai'i. And so, we...we look at that as part of our integration plan. It doesn't necessarily have a year, or a set month that we are going to accomplish. I think what we're moving towards is our...our next step is for that...the integration plan of what we see for these five specific goals, and where we can see them in the 5-, 10-, 15-year mark. And really, our...our...our benchmark for that is how we see the pilina, or the relationships, for everybody, for all of these particular goals to get towards.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. That's good. I just want to add that what Member Cook brought up is a very contentious issue that has no easy solutions, and West Maui is very limited because of their distance. So, that's not, to me, that much of a divisive, you know, issue there. I mean to me, it's workable. But the rest of the island--for instance, South Maui, which is coming up--people...some people, especially in East Maui, don't want to share the water. I'm not talking about surface water, I'm not talking about the streams, I'm talking about groundwater. So, you know, those are kinds of issues and challenges we're going to come across. And I...I'm hoping that...that

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you can be prepared for it because without water, you know, we...we cannot have progress, and we cannot have life. And I'm sure you know that. So, anyway--and by the way, I haven't seen Kama around.

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo...mahalo, Chair Lee. Kama is...is being...busy being a 19-year-old young man --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

MR. MOLITAU: -- going holoholo, and enjoying his summer.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's good.

MR. MOLITAU: And then Ka‘ehukai is just a recent graduate, so he's --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Congratulations.

MR. MOLITAU: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. MOLITAU: But in regards to that particular issue of wai--and I didn't get a chance to say this to Member Cook, but I wanted to just kind of explain that...that when we look at our history of wai and...and waiola, it...it's this long, right, in our...in our history of Hawai‘i. We are at a point in our time where we...we are considering wai, and how we manage it for this amount of period, but we're not considering all of that kuana‘ike from time past. And so --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Um-hum.

MR. MOLITAU: -- what we bring to the table is that amount of ‘ike for us to consider. And if we take the amount of consideration of...of that brilliance of our kūpuna from long ago on how they use water that helped to...to care for an island that saw thousands and thousands and thousands of residents prior to any...any plantation era, any...any consideration of what we have today, then we need to really take a look at that ‘ike. Because it's so important. It's so valuable that it...it allows for us to be able to navigate some of the answers that we may be looking for, but we're not even considering. So, as Westerners, I would say that...take a look at some of that amazing amount of intellect, ingenuity, and engineering feat that our kūpuna thrived for thousands of years prior.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Um-hum. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair Lee. Okay. Next is Member Sinenci, followed by Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Director Molitau and Deputy Robinson. Very visually stunning presentation, and with the substance to

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match. I was...I was going to ask about...you know, and I think Ms. Mather maybe touched upon it little bit, about the other departments kind of adopting the same type of cultural protocols, maybe the Loina Hawai‘i, particularly, you know, those departments that may kind of have relationships or...or with he mea Hawai‘i. And that was one of the...the questions I asked the team when they...when they met with all of us, is that...and...and the Mayor's Office did move the archeologist and some of the...the other...you know, into the new Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources. So, what...are there...did...has the Department gone to, or maybe looked at, some of the other County departments that may have kind of a cultural aspect to it that we could also, like the archeologist, move into the department?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Kumu?

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Councilmember Sinenci. This is an exciting question for us because it...it allows for us to be able to integrate not only into our County departments, but also our partners in the...in State. We'll give you an example right now, that the collaborative efforts between our...our State Burial Council, our...our State Land and Natural Resources, and our kuleana, as our Department of ‘Ōiwi, how we care for very sensitive sites, and how we care for our iwi kūpuna. This collaborative effort could not have been achieved if it was not for the...the effort from both sides...from our County Department of ‘Ōiwi allowing for the cultural practices, and the intent for caring for such...such iwi kūpuna, such sensitive sites, et cetera, as well as for folks that are here on Maui in the Burial Council, as well as those that are a part of DLNR, to know that...that that kuleana will rely on...on both achieving the best outcome for our...our iwi kūpuna and our culturally-sensitive sites. And so, we're excited to be able to work with them. Also, I think that translates into the question about other county governments. I think it's the other way around. This Department of ‘Ōiwi is...is really the trendsetter, and I think it's been heard by...by other county departments that...that there isn't one that is like it in any other county. And they look forward to...to at least seeing how this moves forward, how this unfolds for the County of Maui, and how this particular format could be utilized in their own county. I've...we've already had calls from Hawai‘i County, and folks that...that are a part of that group, to see how they...they can establish that. We had great communications with others from Kaua‘i County as well, and then we look forward to having those collaborative conversations moving forward. I know Deputy Director gets an opportunity to go through different kinds of training programs, and so I'll let her explain a little bit about that because I think it's really important for her to get over to the other moku to see how they're...they're conducting themselves as well.

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo. I wanted to acknowledge that this strat plan is a blend of what--the thoughts of our department, as well as the community, and our county department colleagues and counterparts, so appreciate everybody for participating in that. And that the strat plan has developed into kind of...kind of a way for us to acknowledge that ‘ōiwi resources, and ‘ōiwi concerns, and ‘ōiwi perspectives are a part of every function of the County, and it should be every function of the County. Formally...formally acknowledging that is...is so important. Are we trying to bite off more than we can chew? I don't...I don't think so. We're really trying to go slow, steady, and...and this

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strategic plan allows for that...to outline the priorities, and then from there, continue to move forward with integrating ‘ōiwi perspective, and really inserting ourselves into where it's important to pay attention to ‘ōiwi perspectives. And so, I think, when it comes to looking at how other departments, you know, interface and engage with the ‘Ōiwi Department, which I...I think was your question, is how are the other county departments, and how are we engaging, and how this can be of guidance? And so, yeah, it's going to be ongoing work. It's going to definitely be ongoing work for us to --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: ‘Ae.

MS. ROBINSON: -- yeah, work alongside other departments. But I do get the opportunity to learn more. I appreciate Managing Director for taking us on excursions so we can interface with other counties, and other state entities. I see...I see Member Cook shaking his head. They've been so informative and so educational, so I appreciate my Director for allowing time for us to go ahead and...for...for me to go ahead and do that. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: ‘Ae.

MS. ROBINSON: -- ongoing work.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo.

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair. Nice to see you, and thank you for this good work and presentation. So, in your presentation, Director, you mentioned there are grants that you...it sounds like you...you recently reviewed, and you awarded the grants? And I wonder if you could give us a summary of what kind of grants they were, and what you look forward to. It sounds like you...you were looking forward to seeing the outcomes, but...

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Whatever you can share.

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Kumu?

MR. MOLITAU: ‘Ae, mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura. I'm going to have our amazing grant coordinator come up, and...and talk to you a little bit about...about that question. She's so nervous right now coming up. But it allows...it...it allows for that question to be answered by those that take care of that kuleana. So, hele mai, come.

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MS. ROBINSON: I think one short thing that I could add if that's okay, Kumu --

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah.

MS. ROBINSON: -- is that the grantees that we looked at in this very first round had objectives and goals, events, and opportunities that they steward, and that they...ways that they serve the community that align with the Department's divisions of Kīpuka, Kumuwaiola, and Pai Ka Leo. And so --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Yeah, and I...I remember you folks giving us that list of awardees during Budget session in the departmental request that we sent you, and then you responded, and we did get that information on the specific grants. So, mahalo. And welcome to your first meeting. Aloha.

MS. LIMAYO: Mahalo. Mahalo. Magandang umaga, Chair. Magandang umaga, Councilmembers. Thank you. I humbly stand before you...sit before you with years of experience in the grant world. Just a little bit about the grant process that we went through for the ‘Ōiwi grants. It's a competitive grant process that went out as a news bulletin to the different community organizations that applied. We received 25 applications. It was an outside grant panel of different community members, County staff that reviewed the grants, of five panel reviewers, and we chose nine outstanding different projects from community organizations that are currently being funded by the County grants, but also new grants that we look forward to just learning and connecting with the different community projects, and learn more about how we can help through our department.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I guess I was just wondering if you could, you know, give us a little summary of the kinds of grants that you awarded. And I...I...I thought...I thought maybe you were doing new grants. You're saying that these are existing grants that were awarded from the ‘Ōiwi Resource, and not really connected...or connected to the strategic...strategic planning philosophies?

MS. LIMAYO: My apologies. They are new grants. So, we are focused on our three main divisions, the...the Kīpuka, Kumuwaiola, and the Pai Ka Leo. And they're different nonprofit organizations that care for the land, just different cultural resources. The ‘Ōlelo Hawaiian language, we have three organizations from each of the divisions that were awarded the different grants.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. And in my email from April, I got a--this is...this is regarding SHPD, and a connection for SHPD--and the time it takes to get answers from SHPD, I did refer it to Dr. Six for a response for a grading permit, and they're still waiting. And so, they emailed me, actually last night, asking about, you know, is there any way of expediting this? And I just wanted to take the opportunity to find out if you had any SHPD connections that could be of assistance.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Kumu?

MR. MOLITAU: ‘Ae, mahalo. Thank you, Chair, for that. And then mahalo nui, Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, for the question. I do remember having that email correspondence with you and Dr. Janet Six. I know that the response was in regards to her reaching out to Dr. Lebo about the grading permit. I haven't reser...received any correspondence since then as well from Dr. Lebo in regards to that, but I will follow-up.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Is that the contact, the primary contact for SHPD that we have?

MR. MOLITAU: I...I believe Dr. Lebo is the...the State Archeologist, and so she would be the...the one that would oversee the archeology for SHPD.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. I thought maybe that there's another contact that I could reach out to instead of waiting, but okay. Thank you for your good work. And I know I see you often out in the community, and the work that you do. I really appreciate it, so thank you.

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay. My turn. All right. So, again, ho‘omaika‘i, and mahalo for the presentation. Okay. So, I...I don't think we have this...the one-year brochure, or pamphlet uploaded, but this one has like the first-year key goals for 2025 and 2026, and so we can get this one uploaded, I think. I don't think we did, yeah? And so, for the first year--and I'm looking through them, through all the bullets, and so many, you've already...you folks have already hit, or are in the process of, so that's amazing. And I know for the Strategic Plan, the five-year is like more high level. And so, for the first year, for timeline, at...at least for 2025, 2026, this one has dates on it. And then I know--mahalo for making it to Molokai, and I know you folks also went to Lāna‘i. And when we talked story, one of the things that we talked about is...so, in addition to a County-level strategic plan, talking story with the different moku, and having more moku-specific goals, or vision. Would you share a little bit more about that?

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo nui. Yes, we did speak about regional-specific goals, and I think it's important to acknowledge that. You are absolutely right, this initial strategic plan is high-level, kind of that first-five-year goals. And we really wanted to kind of just set the stage for what's coming up next...kind of give us, and the community, and the Administration, and our legislators a little bit of a roadmap to where our minds are at when it comes to the way we will serve our community of Maui Nui. And so, you know, we look forward to kind of...not kind of, but we look forward to working with our community in those specific regions to see what their concerns are, and how they align with the goals that we've established for the Department of ‘Ōiwi. Kumu, you have anything to add about regional...regional-specific? So, we did take the time to go ahead and visit different districts across Maui Nui, learning so much. We went there to listen.

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We are definitely in a space where we can carry those concerns, uplift them in these spaces where decisions are made, but I think it comes first with a good understanding of what the community issues, and challenges, and successes are.

MR. MOLITAU: And I'll add a little bit about...about when we...when we're thinking about our kaiāulu and our...our community, they're...they're the ones that are going to lead that particular effort for us. And so, when we think about areas, such as...say, the Island of Molokai, I think about expanding a Department...at least presence there. And I think about having that presence because it should be led by that community, and...and having someone that will be there to be able to hear the concerns, to uplift the community, and the dynamics of our communications back and forth. I...I think that's important for every moku that...that we're...we represent collectively. And I also believe that that collective effort enhances the Department of 'Ōiwi's outreach. It also enhances our 'Ōiwi's ability to...to see the...the cultural intellect, and the needs of...of that community collectively. So, each...each kaiāulu is different, and their needs are different, and their...their desires, as well as their...their concerns are different. And so, I believe within this particular regional plan, you know, I think the only area that we need to come out and...come and visit is Councilmember Sinenci's 'āina. We look forward to...to making that opportunity to get out there and...and listen to their community as well. So, that...that is the...one of the main objections, again, is to...to have a community-led presence within the Department of 'Ōiwi. and help that lead the next regional plans.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And then in your presentation, he ali'i ka 'āina, servanthship--and we often use stewardship--and I...I love that it said servanthship, you know, especially when we're...we're talking about finite resources, like water. And if a system is built to create scarcity, and--it...it makes it even more finite, right? So, the built-in infrastructure that's based on extraction, that poor environmental and ecosystem management, then we're going to continue to promote and foster scarcity. And capitalism relies on scarcity. Scarcity drives up cost. Last night, I attended the East Maui Water Authority's Community Water Resource Planning, and one kūpuna talked about using our water to make more water...you know, a future based on abundance, which is the opposite of scarcity. And it...it requires proper caretaking of the watershed, our 'āina because wells and transmission lines don't make water. Trees, foliage that gather water from the clouds, and bring it down to the 'āina, that's how we get water. And so, I...I...I guess in choosing to put servanthship in he ali'i ka 'āina over stewardship, what were some of the things that you're hoping to communicate in...in choosing those words? Because we know that words have mana.

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo, Chair. This particular 'ōlelo servanthship was...was given by our 'Āina Advocate, Kaiea Medeiros. That particular lens comes from...from a mahi'ai lens, comes from putting your hands into the 'āina, kilo, being able to observe, and then also being able to understand the dynamics of...of your surroundings, and the...the seasonal changes that happen. When we think about servanthship, and we think about...about the kuleana of...of this particular conversation around wai, that's a huge one. That's a huge lift. That 'ike kūpuna that was shared with...last night by that one tūtū, or kūpuna, about allowing water to make more water, that is kuana'ike. That is a style of

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cultural intellect that needs to be looked at, and needs to be integrated in...in the way we do our management practices today. And that's an unwavering belief system, I think, that goes with every practitioner in Hawai'i, every kūpuna in Hawai'i, that understand that kuana'ike. Now, is it...is it something that is understood through the Western lens? Not all the time. But I believe there is an ability to go ahead and bridge the two. And when you can bridge the two, and work collaboratively in understanding that both are valid, and both are equally important, then we can uplift all of the kuleana that is necessary for our entire kaiāulu that we serve. You're correct that our resources are finite, and once we don't have any--and I believe Chair Lee also said that, that water is that source of all life--and we need to be mindful about how that is...is managed, how it's cared for, and ideally, how it's...how it's around in the next seven generations. Yeah. That conversation should be ideally important in...in how we look at this particular resource...and all of our resources, really.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. My last question is regarding testimony that we received regarding the Cultural Resource Management Plan. Before the pandemic, I...I believe the Department of Planning contracted some folks from like Ohio or something. And they came to Molokai . . .*(laughing)*. . . and Molokai said, uh, no, thank you. We'll...we'll...we'll do our own. . .*(laughing)*. . . Anyway, so I...I...I...you know, that was like right before COVID, so I...I don't know what happened with that contract. So, I can...I can try find out. Have...have you folks talked story with the Planning Department on updating the Cultural Resource Management Plan? I know in the Charter, under Section 8-8.3, the Planning Department is to prepare, administer, and enforce the Cultural Resource Management Plan. So, it...it falls directly under their kuleana, their department. But I guess if you could share, you know, like...on...I think it also says in collaboration with the Director of 'Ōiwi Resources, so the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources does play a role with the collaboration. And so, for this specific document, the Cultural Resource Management Plan, has there been any discussion? And looking for...you know, forward-looking, how do you see Department of 'Ōiwi's role in like getting that going? . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo, Chair. The testifier is absolutely correct. The Cultural Resource Management Plan is *[sic]* not been updated since 1984, which means our Cultural Resource Commission has been working from a plan from 1984. What year is this? This is 2024...2025.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: '25. . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. ROBINSON: Yeah, I'm off. We're almost in '26. And so, it's important to update the Cultural Resource Management Plan, it is important to the Department of 'Ōiwi. And we have had just one--I'm going to be very honest, just one conversation with the Department of Planning. I think we were shocked that the plan was from 1984, but we are quite shocked by a number of different, you know, older plans that exist. I think what happens is, it doesn't adequately identify, or acknowledge the information that we've garnered since 1984 to 2025. . .*(laughing)*. . . And so, it is really important to update that Cultural Resource Management Plan. I think it will give that commission, especially, a really good understanding of...of...of the cultural resources, and their

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importance across Maui Nui. My understanding, though, is that the Cultural Resources Commission kuleana is to deal with the Historic District areas on...on Maui, and so I...I don't know what the good solution is. Is it looking at defining additional historical districts across Maui so that our...our communities can feel secure that sensitive cultural areas will be acknowledged, and...and cared for appropriately, and respected in that way? I don't know if it is expanding kuleana for the Cultural Resources Commission. I don't know if...if Planning is the most appropriate house, now that there is a Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources. And I'm just being very honest, that it may be an opportunity to shift that commission, or rehouse that commission, in something that I think aligns better with the kuleana that they have, and the folks who have volunteered to work as members of the Cultural Resource Commission. So, I mean, we're committed to doing what we can to help update the management plan. And yeah, mahalo for that question. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that response. I look forward to working together with you on making some of those things happen. Okay. I will ask for a show of hands if there are any additional questions on this item. We have our second item. We can take a quick break, and then we'll return. We are at bare quorum, so I'll...I'll...I'll need all three of you to come back while Member Paltin is, you know, juggling. Any other questions for this item? Okay. Seeing no other questions...wait, let me grab my notes, just in case I miss anything...okay. All right. So, okay. There is an...this item was posted for no legislative action, so if there are no objections, I will defer this item. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Members. Okay. It is 10:28, and we'll just...10:40? Is that good? Okay. All right. The Kōmike Aloha ‘Āina is in recess until 10:40. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:29 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:44 a.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(gavel). . . Will the Kōmike Aloha ‘Āina please return to order. It's 10:44 on Juneteenth, and we are on our second and final item of today, Maui County's Transition to a Bilingual Government.

MAUI COUNTY'S TRANSITION TO A BILINGUAL GOVERNMENT (KA ‘Ā-1(5))

RULE 7(B)

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Joining us for our second item is Deputy Director Kekai Robinson of the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources, as well as Director Molitau again. And we have with us Managing Director Josiah Nishita from Department of Management

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as...and a representative from Department of Corporation Counsel. Wait, I have to assign them under Rule 18 again? . . .*(laughing)*. . . I'm not going to do it. All right. I've also invited Director David Raatz from Office of Council Services to be with us today, and we'll invite both Managing Director and Director Raatz to join us on the floor after the presentation. We'll proceed in this order. I'll invite Director to provide the presentation, I'll invite Managing Director to--if he has any opening remarks, and then we'll open up testimony, and then the floor for questions, okay? And...oh, is it Di...oh, okay. We're working on the presentation? Oh, there we go. Okay. Director Molitau?

MR. MOLITAU: ‘Ae, welina mai ke aloha iā kākou a pau i ‘ākoakoa mai nei, ma kēia hālāwai nei, e pili ana i ka ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i no ke aupuni o ke Kalana o Maui nei. He mahalo a nui iā ‘oukou, no ke ‘ākoakoa ‘ana mai, no ka ho‘olohe ‘ana mai iā mākou i ko mākou hō‘ike no kēia ‘oihana. He ‘oihana nui kēia, he kuleana nui kēia a he waiwai nui kēia. Good morning, everybody. Thank you for allowing for the Department of ‘Oiwī to continue to speak on this subject matter in regards to bilingual government. We are...we are happy and...and proud to be able to go ahead and showcase a little bit about...about this presentation on bilingual government. I'm going to go ahead and turn this over to Deputy Director Kekai Robinson, and we'll go back and forth.

MS. ROBINSON: ‘Ae, mahalo. Aloha kakahiaka. Mahalo to the Chair, mahalo to our Committee Members of the Kōmike Aloha ‘Āina. Excited, excited to be here. It is an...very momentous occasion. I feel like there is a lot to celebrate in this legislation, so we're going to go ahead and jump right into it. Chair mentioned earlier words have mana. Really look at this very initial slide that says Bilingual Government. I mean, it's incredible. We are...we are in a...in an incredible time, where we have this opportunity to operate in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and in English as a County Government. I want to go ahead and jump into it, and I think it's important to pay attention and bring to light, again, the background, and how we got here. So, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is specific in its formality when we use it in a government setting. So, there is casual language that we can use at home, casual language that we use amongst our friends, and in the community. So, this is an opportunity for us to further explore formal ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in this government setting. It is worth reexamining, and taking every opportunity to share how we got here, and the history of how we got here, so that we never again make the mistakes of the past. Up until 1900s, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i was used in our government for government proceedings. In the illegal overthrow and the takeover of the Kingdom of Hawai‘i, assimilation was occur...encouraged and enforced. And so, the use of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, the support from the government, the funding, decreased, and it resulted in the prioritization of foreign cultural lifestyles, including foreign language. English, in Hawai‘i, is a foreign language. And I was reminded of that yesterday by...by our staff as we spent time at the college. In 1978, through the Hawai‘i State Constitutional Convention, the Constitution was amended to include and designate ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and English as official languages of the State of Hawai‘i. In 2022, Maui County voters established the ‘Oiwī Resources Department. A lot of work went into that from our County, our Council, our Administration. And what I wanted to show here is that in 2024, so just a short few months ago, Bill 127 was introduced, and it was passed unanimously. And I wanted to share that page. And it...it makes my heart so happy to see that it was unanimously, unanimously approved. And you can see all nine aye. And ‘ae means yes in ‘ōlelo

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Hawai‘i too, and in English, you have that A-Y-E, but...yeah. It's...it's so important. And really, I'm just moved by this progress towards acknowledging ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as one of the official languages. I wanted to show here how it--we align as a County with the State. You could see here that in the State Constitution of Hawai‘i, what I referred to, the 1978 Amendment, that English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai‘i. The preamble of the Charter of the County of Maui aligns with this Article 15 from the State, and it states that we, the people of the County of Maui, mindful of our Hawaiian history, heritage, and culture, and our uniqueness as a four-island County, dedicate our efforts to fulfill the philosophy of ua mau ke ea o ka ‘āina i ka pono. That's so important. Bill 127 intends to support that in meaningful ways in our local government. You want to add anything?

MR. MOLITAU: Just a little historical background on the...that particular terminology, ua mau ke ea o ka ‘āina i ka pono. It was created by Kamehameha III, Kauikeaouli, and during his time as king, and during that time, that particular establishment of the Constitution, ua mau ke ea o ka ‘āina i ka pono is now translated that the life be perpetuated in righteousness. Today, that ua section is...is also translated as e mau, may continue to be perpetuated in righteousness. ‘Oia nō.

MS. ROBINSON: ‘Ae, mahalo. So, you can see here, Bill 127, it's really two pages, three pages long. It's...it's quite a small bill, but its impact is going to be enormous. And so, I wanted to share that...that it is quite a short and sweet bill that, again, is momentous. The ordinance takes effect in September, but we've already been working with our boards and commissions secretaries to collaborate on best practices and best process, and working on a model that is reasonable in timeline and work production. So, what we're looking at is, according to Bill 127, all official public meeting agendas will now...must be published in English and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. So, it does take effect in September. However, we...we have begun working with all of the secretaries of the different boards and commissions, of which there are 40...near 40. And we have reached out to the Office of Council Services. I know that they're in transition with ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i specialists in...in that department. But we also recognize that especially for this Committee, KA‘Ā Committee, that there are translations, even though it hasn't been mandatory, that have been taking place within the County. And so, we acknowledge that, and respect that you have been doing it, and hope we have opportunity to work with Office of Council Services in collaborating. I think right now, for the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources, we have been mainly concerned with reaching out to boards and secretary...commission secretaries to answer their questions, make sure they're comfortable, and see how we can collaborate and work together to accomplish this. So, here...here's some important points that we wanted to make. So, all official public meeting agendas must be posted in English and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i beginning in September, but we wanted to point out that we are using July through September as kind of a test period, a transition period, where we're going to work with the secretaries to mock translate and...and make sure the flow, the workflow, is comfortable, and reasonable, and appropriate for everyone. Forty boards and commissions, plus Council...Council Committee meetings, and that's...that's a big number to translate. In accordance...and...and in conversation with Corporation Counsel, and the Sunshine Law requires that agendas be posted no later

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than six days in advance of the meeting. When we talked with the secretaries, some of them work a few weeks in advance, and sometimes meeting agendas are right up to the...right up to the wire. So, we are asking for some grace, and opportunity for our department to, you know, have a reasonable amount of time to work with those agendas in translating them into ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. OCS and ‘Ōiwi, we will collaborate. I know, again, OCS has ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i specialists in...in their department, and we're hoping that in our collaboration, we'll figure out what that workload looks like. But definitely, we would...we are looking forward to collaborating. That's the key, right? That's how we're all going to get it done. What I wanted to especially point out, that Corp. Counsel was very clear with us, is that the agenda in English and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i must be published within the Sunshine Law's requirements. That means that if we're not provided with adequate time to translate the agenda, and it doesn't get posted, there are the same consequences for when agendas do not get posted. And so, the meeting may possibly be cancelled. We hope that we never get there, but it is...it is part of following this law, that... So, secretaries, you know, have...we've met with them, and we've talked about what is a reasonable amount of time, what is adequate for us to complete the work that we need to do? And I think it's...there's going to be a couple of variables, so...when it comes to adequate timing. So, the length of the agenda is definitely going to drive what is a reasonable amount of time for translation. Also, we are currently working to prepare templates. So, if you look in the agenda, there is sections, what we call mea ma‘amau, or portions that are the same every time. So, we can create templates that are already translated, and our ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i specialists will be just working with the portions of the agenda that are new. So, that...that affects what adequate timing is, is are the templates ready for that? And the Committee secretaries and the...the boards and commissions secretaries have been really good about forwarding their templates for us to begin the work now. So, there's a lot of preparation work that's happening. Even though the law doesn't go into effect until September, there's a lot of prep work that we're doing right now in our Department. And so, I really have our ‘Ōiwi...our ‘Ōiwi Department ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i specialists to thank for that, Kāhealani Colleado and Kepa Revelle. Also, our Department secretary, who is going to be directing and keeping us all in...in...in order, all on time, and, you know, guiding who is working on what agenda...so thank you, Dee Dee (*phonetic*). Anything else to add on that portion? So, the transition is...is already beginning. We...we're already working on it. I'm going to show you kind of what we shared with the Committee...I'm sorry, the boards and commissions secretaries. So, this is the flowchart...the work flowchart for translating agenda. So, typically, the secretary will create the agenda for...they will work with their board or their commission--ola--and they will...or their Committee to set the agenda. That agenda is forwarded to Corp. Counsel and...as a draft, and at that point, that's where ‘Ōiwi Department would like the opportunity to start working on the translation, understanding that there will be a final confirmation of that document. So, when Corp. Counsel returns the agenda to each of the boards and commission secretaries, that's the point where we finalize the document, and return it to that board or commission secretary. They will finalize the agenda, meet...we will make sure that it is exactly mirrored in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, and the secretaries are responsible for posting those agendas. So, looking at the six-day requirement, we need to work backwards with what that looks like. Again, depending on the length of the agenda, what's--how involved it is, you know, it...it really determine what the timeline looks like. And so, we did an

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example of what that will look like. We took one of the advisory councils, the Affirmative Action, from a past meeting, and did a short test run for us, and how that would look, and how that would work out. Now, I would point out, if you look at the translated agenda for the Kōmike Aloha ‘Āina for today's meeting, you will see that the ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i translation is integrated as a part of the agenda. In other words, there is one single agenda with ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and English on the single document. If you look at our example, there is an English agenda, and there is an ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i agenda. And so, this is where I think our transition time, and working with a document, and working with the process and the flow is going to inform what that's going to look like. And I would just offer personally, when the agenda is integrate...when the agenda is translated, and the ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is integrated into the agenda, if you look at that, it will always be subtext to the English. It's...the agenda has the English, and then beneath that, you will see the ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i translation, and it is typically offset in its appearance and italicized to indicate that it's a different language. Not quite sure how the ‘Ōiwi Department feels about having ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as the subtext to a...an English document, and I feel--and Director, you can chime in on this too--but my personal opinion is that the spirit of bilingual government is to uplift ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, and put it in its rightful equal place with English.

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah. So, what you see there as an example is...is our Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources highly suggesting that ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i be equally standing to your English agendas that you see in the example so it's not considered subtext anymore.

MS. ROBINSON: And so, my teacher hat says, wow, it's so great to have the English by the Hawaiian. If you have ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i learners, they see it...it's integrated right there, so we don't quite...so, we have a strong suggestion that let's...let's accomplish this how it's written, and in the spirit of how it's written, to acknowledge them on equal footing. And maybe there are other, you know, conventions that we can use to incorporate them as one document. Perhaps, you know, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i then English, or something like that. Anyway, we like go ahead and move on. So, here are some questions that came up when we met with the boards and commission secretaries. And again, we have yet to hui with Office of Council Services, but what the deadline...what's the deadline for posting ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i? So, the translated ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i agenda, including all of the revisions, changes, cancellation, it carries the same requirements, deadlines, consequences as the English agenda. And therefore, our secretaries are asked to provide reasonable lead time for ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i translation. We kind of talked about that earlier. Are the other documents, like attachments, meeting minutes--a lot of times in the agenda, there are links, or hyperlinks--are they going to be translated? As enacted by law, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i translations are required...they're mandatory for official public meeting agendas only. So, at this time, we don't imagine that we'll be translating any of the attachments to the agenda, minutes, any of the hyperlinks--because it may change where you get hyperlinked to--so we're going to leave those there. And what kinds of support will Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources be providing to support this effort? So, we're going to go through that here, but some of the ways is, we're providing our secretaries with a QuickLook desktop reference manual, an online resource, and we intend to hold quarterly workshops. One really good thing that came up out of providing support for the secretaries is, they had mentioned a lot of times, they do work with ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i,

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whether they have questions on how to use diacritical markings in the course of the work that they already do, and so they're excited to have an opportunity to dive deeper into 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. And it will hopefully guide the...the other work that they do as well, in doing that appropriately and correctly. So, Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, again, we hope to develop like a QuickLook manual so that the secretaries, if they have any questions in regards to some of these topics that we'll go over, they have something that's on their desk they can look at quickly. An online resource allows for us to update it. So, if there's any updates, any additions, anything that they're concerned about that we can provide, you know, lessons for, or additional information for, an online resource would be very helpful because it allows for us to update...and it also allows us to add links to additional information. So, if we have a secretary who really wants to dive into 'Ōlelo Hawai'i--numbers, letters, and things like that--they will have a link to take them to additional information. Internally--and not listed here--but internally, our department is working on a lexicon, and hopefully, in the future, perhaps an advisory...an advisory collective of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i folk out in our community who can help to advise. It's really important. Again, there...there is a difference between informal and formal language use. It's...you know, there is at-home 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, and really high-level academic 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. It's been 100 years since there have been, you know, the oppor...there has been the opportunity to conduct ourselves in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in a very formal setting-like government, so developing that, and looking at how we can expand, and teach our community, and provide for our community these resources. The County of Maui will be providing a high-level academic resource in...in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. It's incredible. Sorry. So, some of the topics that we will be providing to our secretaries, and our Office of Council Services, is, of course, a timeline, but a list of common vocabulary words, common phrases, some information on perhaps contributing in some ways to the translation of the dates, the times. We don't want them to feel like it's their responsibility solely to try and translate. We definitely realize that kuleana will belong with us. But there has been interest expressed in wanting to understand what the agenda looks like in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, and so we want to, and we will work to help them expand their understanding of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. And then finally, you know, talking about our...our quarterly touch points...the opportunity to meet online and talk story with our 'Ōlelo Hawai'i specialists, talk story with Kumu Kaponō'ai and I about any questions they may have. A lot of times folks are like, I don't want to ask the question, I'm embarrassed, it's going to be a silly question. No, no, no, it's not. And you have us at your disposal. I hope the County secretaries and other employees will take advantage of that. So, specifically geared for assisting and supporting our secretaries, and serving Maui County's Boards and Commissions, and OCS, to support collaboration between the secretaries, and then to receive feedback on how the process is going. So, mahalo, and...and we're open for questions in regards to Bilingual Government. I know we're very excited to do so. So, thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So are we. Okay. Before I open testimony, I will ask for any clarifying questions. Member Cook, do...do you have any questions?

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Does it have to be a clarifying question? . . .*(laughing)* . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go ahead, ask your question.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes, I have a...I have a question. So, the time frame for implementation of this, it's...it's been a challenge to date, as you said in your introduction, for the Staff to meet publishing guidelines, the...the criteria. I think part of that is because there's sometimes review, interactions, modifications, changes until kind of the last minute as far as the proposed legislation or reso. So, you may have already said it, and I didn't catch it, but what's somewhat the timeline for implementation?

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Member Cook, for the question. So, we are still under the same laws that...the Sunshine Law that requires that agendas be posted six days in advance, and it's going to be a learning curve, for sure. I...I appreciate your question. I don't know that I have the answer, but I do hope that in our...our practice runs from July through September, we can figure out what that timing looks like. I fully understand that there may be revisions and changes--or cancellations even--that may happen last minute, and it has been an important concern to the secretaries as well...how do we handle that? We will find out. . . .*(laughing)* . . . I...I don't have a better answer than that, kind of like we...we're going to test it out.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, that...that...that's a...yeah, no, that's a fine answer. And actually, it's a very...it's a very accurate answer because none of us know, and it's a work in progress. And I said that not so much to, you know, bracket you in in when this is going to happen, as to kind of just clarify for myself and everybody that it's...it is a...it's already challenging, the legislative process. I think this hopefully will help all of us become more refined. But...and my colleagues will laugh, but I'm going to work on my pronunciation, and . . .*(laughing)* . . . I'm going to work on my diversity, and...and being able to understand and speak better. Now, my--I'll just...this might be inappropriate for a clarifying question, hearing...having hearing aids...this thing, so I think might have to spend some time up close with both of you, or whoever's doing the tutoring, and I think we can have fun doing that. I need to apologize to Chair because I have an 11:30 meeting, and so I need to leave and get ready. I want to thank you for your presentation, and wish you both a wonderful day.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Cook. Before you leave, I just wanted to express my appreciation for that commitment. Oh, you can't hear good? You want me to speak louder? . . .*(laughing)* . . . Oh, now you're muted. I didn't hear what you said because you're muted, but you have to unmute first.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I apologize. I can hear you. I'm down to one hearing aid, so I'm using my left ear.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, got it, got it. . . .*(laughing)* . . . I said I appreciate your commitment to ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, to...to learning to pronounce a little better, and I wanted

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to find out from you if you were going to start getting your agendas translated for WAI Committee?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I believe that's the intention, and so I'll work with Staff, and...and that's the way forward.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. ‘Ā ‘oia. Okay. And lā maika‘i, you have a good day as well.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Have a good day. Aloha, all.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY KA ‘Ā-1(5) . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We'll open up for public testimony. I see one individual on the list to testify. Oh, shoot, my computer is not working...okay. James Langford. And also, Members, we are down to bare quorum again, so please don't leave. Mr. Langford, if you would like to --

MR. LANGFORD: Hey.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, there you go. Okay. We can hear you.

MR. LANGFORD: I'm un...I'm unmuted. My...my hair's a little too fabulous to be on video, but, hey, this is kind of a cool moment in time. So, I...I got to testify on the first Bill 127, you know, showing how English is an inferior way to communicate because it's literally the pidgin of German maritime law, so it's an inverse of Hebrew mathematically. So, trusting in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i truly allows truth to come through. And I just love you guys for dealing with all of the nuances that goes into bringing the truth to light under decades of...of hard time. Yeah, so God bless us all, and I think we're doing the right thing. I don't know. So, I love you. Alice Lee, how do you keep a straight face when I tell all these jokes? Ooh la, sista. All right. I love you guys. Take care. Get out of here, you goofs. Take care.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, ke akua pū. Okay. Anyone --

MR. LANGFORD: Aloha kākou, yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Anyone else wishing to testify? Mr. Law?

MR. LAW: Aloha, ka ‘Aha o ke Kalana o Maui. It's Jasee Law from Waiakoa Ahupua‘a, Kula Uka. I appreciate the...the effort being made to put the agendas in ‘Ōlelo Hawaiian. And reading it and speaking it kind of does something to your brain because one or the other doesn't really do the same thing as both of them together. And I'm pretty sure Queen Lili‘uokalani is happy wherever she is right now, and I'm happy in my na‘au too

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that I'm able to participate in this moment in time. And I'll...I'll use the analogy of the castaway again on an island. There's a spring...fresh spring water flowing, and you're thirsty, you just came up off the beach out of the saltwater, and there's a barrel that says made in USA water on it. Which one would you rather have? That's the question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mis--

MR. LAW: And then...sorry, I wanted to express my confidence in Mr. Raatz...and you Councilmembers that are getting a raise, I hope you give Mr. Raatz a birthday present.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing no hands for questions, we'll thank you for your testimony today, Mr. Law. Mahalo. Okay. I'll do a last call for testimony. Anyone wishing to testify may unmute at this time, and proceed with your testimony. *(pause)* Okay. Hearing no one speaking up to testify, if there are no objections, we will close public testimony on this item, and proceed with questions. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY KA‘Ā-1(5) . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And if there's any written testimony, we'll accept that into the record as well. Okay. I will invite Managing Director Nishita and OCS Director Raatz to join us on the floor, and then we can open it up to questions. I'll start, Chair's prerogative. . . *(laughing)*. . . So, you know, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i has been enshrined as an official language in Hawai‘i Constitution, but this is the logistics and investment that's required to actualize ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i as an official language. Otherwise, it's just words on a paper. I guess, you know, as we're...we're talking about how we would make this work, one of the benefits was that-- . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . oh, my time's up. . . *(laughing)*. . . --that it would give the Administration an opportunity to standardize the agendas for all the many boards and commissions, and...and that, you know, would have value in and of itself. So, I guess we're...we're working through it, and...there was a question there, but I guess I'll go to Director Raatz first then. Okay. Oh, Director Raatz, you didn't want to join us on the floor?

MR. RAATZ: I'm fine here. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay, okay. All right. So, you know, they're...they're working through 40-ish, 41 boards and commissions, and figuring out what resourcing, capacity, you know, staffing will require...will be required for...you know, to carry out the kuleana of translating all those agendas in that very short time frame. We have eight Committees, and my Committee was supposed to be the pilot, and then all the other Committees, you know, follow suit. And that hasn't happened, and it's not OCS' responsibility, it's our responsibility as the Councilmembers. So, we have eight Committees, and then--shucks, I didn't invite the Clerks, but Chair Lee's here so she can speak to that question, which is about translating the Council agenda. Okay. So, does OCS have the capacity to translate the eight Committee agendas?

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MR. RAATZ: Thank you, Chair. We appreciate the opportunity to comment. And first, I want to say, I thank the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources for that excellent presentation, and the...the spirit of cooperation. We look forward to working with the Department as we move forward on this project. And as you mentioned, Chair, the...‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is an official State language, so while I agree with the Deputy Director, this is a milestone, and it's a momentous occasion, it's actually expected, I would say, since the 1978 Constitutional Convention. So, I appreciate the Council enacting this ordinance to establish the requirement, giving us some lead time, and the work that our Hawaiian Language Communication Specialist has done in the pilot project with this Committee has been very informative and helpful. And we would welcome, as you alluded to, other Committee Chairs following suit, and doing some practice runs of ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i meeting agendas before the September 1st requirement kicks in. But the short answer to your question, we believe we do have the capability, and we look forward to working with all the Committee Chairs, and with the Department, in moving forward in complying with this ordinance. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo for that response. And then I...I guess follow-up question to Chair Lee for...so, that's Committee agendas, which is under OCS purview, and then the...the Clerks is responsible for the Council agenda. So, Chair Lee, do you think we will be able to get our Council agendas going?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Eventually. Maybe not seven generations, maybe a couple.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, thank goodness. . . .(laughing). . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. The County Clerk has fewer resources, as you know, so I think it might be...it might take a little longer. And for those of you who don't know, the Committee agendas normally consist of two or three items, so it's not very lengthy...except for maybe the Budget Committee, that's very lengthy. But my agenda usually consists of 60 or 70 items, so it's...it's long. And so, we would have to have somebody full-time on...on it. So, it'll...it's going to take time, but we'll get there.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. At least we have the assurance that it won't take seven generations, but you do have the deadline of September of this year. Okay. Okay, I will...I have more questions, but I'll open it up to the Members for any other questions...just by a show of hands. Committee Vice-Chair Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I thought it was just going to happen for us. I didn't know we had to do the work because I don't post the agenda...I mean myself, you know? It's the OCS Staff that is assigned to our Committee that does it. But I really enjoyed the conversation about how to put it on the agenda. And if all things are equal, is there a problem with putting English sub...below subtext to ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i for anyone--lawyers, people?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think maybe we can ask Director Raatz. I was...that was one of the questions I was going to ask with OIP. And I...I know the State Legislature

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does lead with ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, and I think the Honolulu Council also has some things that lead with ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, with English as the subtext...or the translation below. Do --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: You know, for educational purposes, like Deputy said. It's --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, yeah. You mean integrated, but --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Integrated --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- English below with --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- but--yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Hawaiian --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Um-hum. Because when it's equal but separate, I guess, it's not as much educat...or not as easy educational. Because you got to look at this one, and then look at this one. But if they're on the same page, educational, it's kind of easier. And if subtext doesn't necessarily denote unequal, does it matter which one is the subtext? And...because traditionally, English is the unsubtext [sic]...the text --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, the...the...the formatting of my Committee agenda was designed by me. And the reason I decided to integrate and not have separate documents is because I didn't want ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i to not be looked at. When we were discussing the logistics, as they are discussing now, I went through the process of, what will it look like? And you...there's...you have to format it in a way that, you know, you'll be able to read it clearly, that the...you know, the dates and the, you know, public notice. You know, certain things are highlighted so that it's easy for the public to see immediately. And I...yeah. So, I...I...if it...initially, it was going to be...you know, the English was going to...or the proposal was for the English to be posted to comply with Sunshine Law as the notice requirement, and then ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i be an attachment...and that, I felt, was definitely not equal. And so, that was part of why I integrated them, so that it would be one document to comply with Sunshine Law.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And now that that path has already been forged, could we say, we want it like KA‘Ā Committee, but we want the English to be the subtext?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So, Director Raatz works the most closely with OIP, and I don't know...I don't think...we'll just ask Director Raatz. . . .(laughing). . .

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: . . .(laughing). . .

MR. RAATZ: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember. Yeah, I...I think...again, because ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is an official language under the State Sunshine Law, which governs our meeting agendas and...and furthers open government principles, I...I don't think the Office of Information Practices would tell us that there's anything wrong with having

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‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i come first, or vice versa. And I think we would work with each Committee Chair on...on formatting your meeting agendas. I...I don't think they all have to be uniform necessarily, you know, especially as we're going to be in a trial period for a little while. We could try a couple of different formats, but--so, we'll try to be as...as flexible as we can, based on each Committee Chair's preference. Thanks.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And then logistically, would I tell you right now, or do a PAF, or an email?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So, how would the Councilmembers indicate to OCS that they would like to have their agendas translated?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And...and mine would go something like, I'd like it to be exactly like KA‘Ā Committee, but flip the English and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. Would that be --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, we're going to do that, so...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, then I'd like it to be exactly like KA‘Ā Committee. Would it be okay to say something like that?

MR. RAATZ: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember. Yeah. So, each Committee Chair, we would recommend that you express your intentions to your lead Legislative Analyst, who has the primary responsibility of putting together your meeting agendas. And just as a quick aside, while we're talking about logistics and, again, alluding to what the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources mentioned, translation takes time. And we would encourage our Committee Chairs to please keep that in mind as we're...we're putting together meeting agendas, and maybe give your Legislative Analyst a little bit more advance notice than has been the standard for some Committees. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I guess like mostly for...for my Committee, we're working off a master agenda, and then occasionally, we'll throw in some 7(B)s out of nowhere. And so, maybe in the free time, they could begin the translation of the master agenda items that are possibly pulled out as sooner than later, or we can indicate on the master agendas, no need to translate this because it probably won't see the light of day, or things like that?

MR. RAATZ: Thank you, Chair. That's a great idea. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And then I guess previously, we had heard that denationalization is a war crime, and...and not being able to speak the language, and like that. So, then this is kind of taking active steps to undenationalize [*sic*]...or nationalize? Or we're not familiar with international law?

MR. RAATZ: Thank you, Chair. I wouldn't call myself an expert in international law, and I...I don't feel competent to register an opinion on...on that comment at the moment, but thank you for raising it.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: On undenationalizing [sic]?

MR. RAATZ: Yeah, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I'll yield to my colleagues.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Question for you, David. Okay. So, Nalani is still with us, and she's the chief person to do translations, and I know we were looking for somebody...a second person. Did we hire that person?

MR. RAATZ: Thank you, Committee Chair, and thank you, Council Chair, for that question. So, yes, we do have a position, Hawaiian Language Communication Specialist, Ms. Fujihara, who is our translator on Staff. We're very fortunate to have her working with us. We did actually recruit to get a second Hawaiian Language Communication Specialist, knowing that this ordinance was...was headed our way. We were unsuccessful, unfortunately, in that recruitment, so as you may recall, during the budget session, we didn't ask for additional funding for that position to actually be a part of OCS. If somehow the right candidate presented themselves to us, we would work with the Council to...to try to get that person on board. It would definitely be a benefit to have a second translator on Staff, but we don't have that capability right now. So, we...we may very well need to, at some point, contract out assistance with translation with community members who have expertise, maybe through the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa or other institutions. So, it...it is a concern. Thank you for raising that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Of course, you could ask the Deputy or Director here for help. Yeah, that's one of the concerns. It's just not that easy to find good interpreters, but we'll keep trying. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think if we increase the pay, it may attract more people. Okay. All right. Member Sinenci, did you have any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And I didn't have any questions just...just yet, but mahalo for this. I did want to recognize the...again, and share in the...you know, the gravity of this moment. I'm...I'm reminded of all the things that we had...we did to get to this point. We did visit last...last week with some Native American tribes, and...and a lot of these Amer...Native American tribes, they...they too are grasping on to their native languages too. And then I know some of the tribal members have...have followed the Pūnana Leo Hawaiian model to...to increase more native-speaking in their...in their schools, so...and then, of course, you know, looking at all the different...the books, and the newspapers, and...and all the things that our kūpuna did during this...the 1800s, so that we could still have our 'Ōlelo Hawai'i today. So, I just wanted to congratulate everybody in the work that has been made up to this point, and e ola mau kākou. Mahalo.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Any other questions, Members? Okay. I have questions then . . . *(laughing)* . . . for ‘Ōiwi Department. Yeah. I think it would--or...or Managing Director. We discussed the rollout--so from September--well, we're...we're working on it now to September, when the...you know, the...the target date of having all Committee, Boards and Commissions agendas translated, and then posted maka ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. Do...okay, two questions. One, do we...do we have the...enough resourcing, staffing to get that done? And then two, are we eventually going to...is it going to be centralized, or are there thoughts to have folks in the other departments that staff multiple boards and commissions to have someone in their department?

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Chair, for the question. I will say this. We've had that...that similar discussion within our Department, amongst Department...Deputy Director and myself, in regards to what this would look like. We...we also have two Hawaiian language specialists on board, and knowing the...the workload is...is a heavy lift. There are...there are particular components that are in place that are mea ma‘a mau, as we say it in ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, that are the standards that would always be translated to. So, those are not the...once we set those in place, those...those should be maika‘i, those should be ready to go. I think the...the...the construct of the actual agenda items are going to always be something that is...is time-sensitive for...for our Staff to...to be...be ready for. Is it central right now? It will be. I...I believe we...our goal is to...to eventually see that ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i components, or even ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i specialists are found in other departments so that collaborative effort can...can build upon an existing lexicon that we are creating currently. That will...will be an exciting time, I think, for the County of Maui and all of its departments once we raise that bar of Hawaiian language--not only translators, but speakers--within each of the departments, to be able to...to have these palapala, or these documents in place in a timely manner, and then we can see the...the evolution of...of where we want to go from there.

MR. NISHITA: Chair...Chair, if I can just add, you know, kind of an operational perspective. I'm glad Councilmember Paltin brought this up previously about the master agendas because not all board and commissions, you know, function similarly to Committees, in that they would have more of a similar kind of operational perspective that Council would have with the Clerk's Office, in that many of them do not have all their...what is going to go on the agenda ahead of time. So, as you folks may be more familiar with what's happening...you know, what happens with the posting of Council agendas is, routinely, you'll get stuff up until 11:59 a.m. of the deadline for posting. And there are many times that we're there through the night just getting the English version out, yeah, within the, you know, posting deadline. And...and I think new information maybe that has developed since some of the earlier discussions was, you know, the...still subject to potentially the...the, you know, OIP and Sunshine Law requirements in terms of posting deadlines. So, I think in terms of like operational impacts, especially as you look at like time for translation for some of these boards and commissions, or for Council, who may not have their items ahead of time, or know--like they're picking and choosing from items to post, you may need to, you know, evaluate an extension of the...you know, the posting requirements. So, like Council, you have noon seven days prior. You...you

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might need to consider moving that forward to allow more time for that translation to occur, seeing as they won't have the information ahead of time...and it's similar to some other boards and commissions too. We may need to evaluate when items can actually get on to the agenda to afford that opportunity if it will be subject to those requirements. So, just...just a matter of perspective, and thoughts for consideration.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And then I have a follow-up question for our Council agendas. So, some of the items that we post on our Council agendas are transmittals from the Administration. Would the Administration be able to send a translation for those items for posting?

MR. NISHITA: If...well, so, for the Council agenda, all that gets posted on the agenda is the bill titles, or the, you know, resolution title --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. NISHITA: -- or...or like a subject matter of a County Communication. If you're saying can the bill titles or resolution titles be translated prior? I mean, that's potentially possible. We are also working on items up until 11:58 a.m. that then get run downstairs at 11:59 a.m., so, you know...and then some things are very, you know, urgent, and critical, and whatnot. So, it's just some things that we'll have to consider about being able to meet posting deadlines and whatnot, in which case things may just have to end up being delayed to...to meet the requirements. But it's just practical considerations to think about.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Managing Director. Committee Vice-Chair Paltin? Oh...oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I'll yield to --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Miss --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- Ms. Trenholme.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Deputy Corp. Counsel Trenholme?

MS. TRENHOLME: Oh, thank you, Chair. One other piece on the flowchart, it says it goes to Corp. Counsel, but also the...for the boards and commissions, there's the...the chairs that ultimately approve the agendas, and they're volunteers. So, sometimes they...you know, they have full-time jobs, or responsibilities. So, that's one operational piece we might want to consider too, that they can't get back to us as quickly as, you know, full-time County employees.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Committee Vice-Chair Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I had a question on the presentation from the Deputy Director when she was speaking about at-home ‘ōlelo, and the formal ‘ōlelo for

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government. My English is not formal, good English when I speak, and I...I assume my ‘ōlelo is also not formal, good ‘ōlelo. But when I check my minutes, and Committee reports, and legislation, the English is good...better...gooder [sic]. . . .(laughing). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: They're verbatim. . . .(laughing). . .

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: More good.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, however we say it is how it shows up on the meeting minutes because our Committee meetings are verbatim.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Committee report and legislation is more good. And is that how it is for formal government ‘ōlelo? Like when you speak, it's how you speak, but the writing part has to be the formal government ‘ōlelo?

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo. Thank you so much for bringing that up. I think it was important to bring up that there are different levels of formality in all languages, and so I appreciate you acknowledging that. When...the question you are asking is kind of like are we...you know, is there a much different language? And with my teacher hat on, we always point out to everyone that there are...if you have one thought, there are 40 different ways to express that in Hawaiian. And so, what this opportunity allows for is the opportunity to use more higher, more better...more...more better, higher...more gooder [sic] --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Gooder [sic].

MS. ROBINSON: -- opportunities for higher-level academic Hawaiian language use. We --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: The college vocabulary?

MS. ROBINSON: Yeah, the college vocabulary, as versus...versus...and not only the vocabulary, but the phrasing, the opportunity to use more advanced sentence patterns. The possibilities are, you know, going to be pretty...or become pretty apparent, what we'd like to...or how we'd like to say certain things as a County. And it's important...again, back to the very first piece that Chair brought up, words have mana. And so, expressions, idioms, however we are going to express that. I think what's going to happen is, we will start thinking in Hawaiian as well. And so, our values, and our character is going to start aligning with the language that we're using. It's an opportunity for us to return to those...those values, those characteristics, through language. Is it going to re...be much more difficult for the everyday ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i speaker, someone who can communicate in Hawaiian? It may challenge you. It will definitely challenge us as well as interpreters, as translators, to look at how government was conducted. What kind of words, and patterns, and, you know, grammar did they use when...when, you know, government and politics was conducted in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i? These are all incredible pursuits that the County of Maui is allowing for right now. And so, yeah, I...going be good-ish, yeah? . . .(laughing). . .

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: When...

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Even --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: When I --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- came onto this Council, I wasn't able to continue as much in papa ‘ōlelo for immersion, for my...my children's immersion because we were doing the West Maui Community Plan, and they meet a lot of nights. So, being on this Council is not the excuse, but I'm not where I could be. And when I was in the papa ‘ōlelo, and trying to think to translate, for me, the easiest way was to read the word...the sentence in English, translate for me into pidgin, and then translate it into Hawaiian. And my...my grandmother raised me mostly when I was little, when my mom was working, and she didn't speak good English. So, like pidgin would be kind of my first language, and then I would get in trouble at home for speaking pidgin. And my mom made--like she never speak pigeon. And then when I went to college in the mainland, I'm like, oh, my goodness, everything you saying. . . .*(laughing)*. . . And she's like, I do not speak pidgin...or I do not...I speak good English. I'm like, what is pau? Pau is not good English. . . .*(laughing)*. . . But that's...that's...I think that's why my English is not that good...or...or it's not that good, but it helped me when I was in Hawaiian language class to be a makua for an immersion student, to...for the--what is it?...syntax, or sentence structure--to think from English to pidgin, pidgin to Hawaiian. It was the bridge for me. But I imagine that the Pidgin English syntax is not necessarily the government formal ‘ōlelo syntax, sentence structure, so then I would be starting from scratch. Me and Member Cook, we can be in the same classes. Go ahead.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...I can see the challenges, but I can see also...it's okay to...to not be perfect...the interpretation to not be perfect because we will have a recording in writing, and a regular recording of the meeting. And so, you know, there...whatever the translation is doesn't have to exactly match the...the English version because, you know...and...and like...and...and there's always a beginning, and then since this is a trial period and, you know, we have to be flexible. But I have a...I have a question about the language. When I talk to my dog, which is every day, I talk to her in some Hawaiian words, yeah? Why is it that the Hawaiians repeat the words? Like when I tell her, time to moi moi or kaukau...why do you say moi moi? I mean, is it...is it one moi or two mois? . . .*(laughing)*. . . No, no, really. I mean, do you repeat...is that the normal, to repeat certain words, kaukau, moi moi --

MS. ROBINSON: Yes. Yes. The --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- ‘au‘au, you know?

MS. ROBINSON: The quick answer is yes, it's called a reduplication. If you...one of the greatest resources is our Puke Wehewehe ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, the Hawaiian Language Dictionary.

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And the reason why it's one of our incredible resources is, in the beginning of the book, there are a lot of grammatical, you know, opportunities to learn the grammar of Hawaiian because it is not a language that is born of English. I think there are many Polynesian languages that are related to each other, and it is as distant as...as it can be from a language like English. I...I would share that in the past, I've had students who don't speak English, and only speak Japanese...but because Japanese aligns so closely with Hawaiian, was...was easier for them --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

MS. ROBINSON: -- to grasp ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i because it was very similar. Like Member Paltin brought up, the...the arrangement and the pronunciation of, you know, vowels and consonants, the use of words and the thought patterns were very similar. And so, again, English couldn't be further from the...the Polynesian language family. So, it's an...an interesting relationship between English and Hawaiian. And so, even though we cannot...we can get very close to an English translation, it's always an equivalency...so as close as we can get, as close as equivalent --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Um-hum.

MS. ROBINSON: -- to what English is saying. Sometimes we have to go ahead and dive deeper into, well, what's the root meaning? What are you trying to get across in English? And so, it's not a literal translation. So, these are all the activities and opportunities that, as translators, we're going to be deep-diving into as we get into, you know, this...this legislation that requires for agendas to be translated. And again, we look to OCS, and thank them for the work that they've done in the past with Nalani.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Um-hum.

MS. ROBINSON: We look forward to working even closely...even more closely . . . *(laughing)* . . . more closer with her, and yeah. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And kaukau is pidgin.

MS. ROBINSON: Oh yeah, pidgin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Mea‘ai.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, it is? Oh. Oh, I didn't know that.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Mea‘ai.

MS. ROBINSON: And pidgin --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Plantation. From plantation.

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MS. ROBINSON: Yeah, pidgin is another interesting --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, I didn't know. I thought was Hawaiian.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Because I think ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i would be mea‘ai.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: ‘Ae, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: But my mom said that when dinner was ready, it would be like makaukau, and maybe that could be something? I don't know. But it's pidgin, right?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Because it's --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: It's kind of hard when you speak pidgin.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- it's actually...it does...it's not any other language. It's not Chinese, it's not Filipino, it's not Japanese. But that's the first time I heard anyone theorize that it's from makaukau.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: That's what...I don't know. She's...she's not Hawaiian.

MR. MOLITAU: I think some of the historical perspectives of that terminology, kaukau, comes the time when they use to have the kaukau tin --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Um-hum.

MR. MOLITAU: -- and that's where they would put all of the food. And so, kaukau would reference into that particular tin. And this is during the plantation era that...that they would utilize that terminology. Yeah. And then really quickly, to the pidgin component, which is a...a kind of a ‘ike Hawai‘i component, like the more bettah [sic] term, we would refer that to like the...the terminology ‘oi aku ka maika‘i, which would be then translated to more good or more better, more gooder [sic]. Yeah. And that...that, you know, just elevates that...that consciousness, that it is...it is an actual language on its own that...that we can utilize to...to help elevate even ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i concepts. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...mahalo, Kumu. Is that...did you say tin, like...or...and that's...

MR. MOLITAU: The kaukau tin can, where you would put all your food in when...like your bento plate.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. So, it's from Japanese?

MR. MOLITAU: I think it was a conglomeration --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Um-hum.

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MR. MOLITAU: -- of...you know, you had all of the different ethnic cultures, and when they would come and all hele mai, ‘ai, or come and...come and eat, folks that...that had food within their...their containers, that container would be considered a kaukau container.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ah, so it's like musubi? It's like...it's --

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- born in Hawai‘i, but it's not Hawaiian, or any other specific culture. Like a...like manapua. . . .(laughing). . . Okay. Any other--oh, I see Member Sinenci.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .(laughing). . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. I just wanted to share. Yesterday we had a testifier named Ka Mana‘o‘i‘o, and so we...when we kept saying Ka Mana‘o‘i‘o, it...it...the...the word was familiar, but we didn't know where we heard it before. So, we ended up--okay, it's from a song, ka mana‘o‘i‘o, ka mana‘olana...and then both Councilmember Nohe and I came to the conclusion it was the himene ‘Ekolu Mea Nui. And so, I think if...a lot of our Hawaiian songs, if you look for the--I mean, they come with English too, so...I mean I think...I learned a lot of the Hawaiian from...from Hawaiian songs and himene too, so you can...that's another way to kind of translate Hawaiian to English. That was...but that...I thought that was funny yesterday.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Okay. Any other questions? Oh, follow-up question for classes on...for...since we're talking about it. Do you have any updates that you can share with us, and how Councilmembers, or Staff, or OCS would be able to find out about the partnership, or any progress?

MS. ROBINSON: Thank you, Chair. You're referring to the Bill 117 partnership with UH and the classes --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Um-hum.

MS. ROBINSON: -- there? So, we've been in contact with them. This...we're taking this summer to schedule with the University of Hawai‘i Maui campus and their coordinators to go ahead and schedule the classes as we've outlined. Some of the classes will be conducted and administered through the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources, especially some of the classes and workshops that we added. So, for example, ‘ōiwi...excuse me, iwi kūpuna, and the care of ancestral burials, and...so there...there was a list, I think, of about 14 different workshops. So, we're working it out with UH. We should be able to have a schedule for County employees by the end of summer, and we're looking at starting as near as this fall to go ahead and hold some of the classes. It will be...we're still working this out with the University of Hawai‘i, but what we intend to do is open up the class to County employees, and have an in-person component, and that in-person component would host maybe 20 to 30 employees, and then record that

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session, and make that available to County employees to access the video and that information. And in specific regards to learning opportunities for our County employees, specifically for the boards and commissions secretaries, support staff, even we would open it up to commission and boards chairs if they were interested in not only having access to the resources that we will provide and...but attending and joining us on our...our quarterly workshops. So...so, like Kumu mentioned, it's centralized for now between Department of 'Ōiwi and the Department of Council Services. We will work together. Our translators, we hope, will collaborate together and support each other. But this is an interesting point that was made by some of our secretaries. They are very interested in learning 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. And so, part of...and the dream to possibly decentralize it from 'Ōiwi and...and install folks in each of the departments is this opportunity to possibly train staff that is already in different departments, and elevate their understanding, and their engagement with 'Ōlelo Hawai'i to the point where they may be able to also become translators themselves. And so, the dream would be that we would work...work with board secretaries who are interested and...and invested in it. It could get to the point where they translate it and they provide it to us, and we would paka, or we would edit...we would review and edit. That could be, I mean, an amazing opportunity to grow the skills of our own County employees. The dream. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I love it. Mahalo. Okay. Any other questions or comments? Final remarks, closing remarks?

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo, Chair. Just final remarks. That...that we are living right now in a time that...that is an amazing historical component of...of the Coun...Kalana o Maui, and the County of Maui. We have an opportunity to...to uplift not only our...our 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, but our...our County Government in a manner in which is...I think for those kūpuna that are just on the other side of the veil, would be proud of...of watching and...and listening to. And so, I will share this last thought that...that my own kupuna would tell me. And he would say, e nānā i Hawai'i i ku'u mau maka, look at Hawai'i through my eyes, and if you look at Hawai'i through my eyes, you will see what is important. And that, I believe, is...is a 'ōlelo no'ēau that I live by daily, and...and that Hawaiian perspective of language will continue to...to grow. And to...to see an amazing Kalana o Maui be a part of this...this historical moment, and...and push to...to elevate our...our language of this 'āina, language of this land, is...is one that I think here...us at the Department of 'Ōiwi, we say pā ka na'au. Pā ka na'au is a word that means, you know, straight to the gut, it feels really, really good. And so, we look forward to being a part of this process. We know it's a lot of work, and we look forward to the work. Ola.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: E ola. Mahalo, Director Molitau, Deputy Director Robinson, Managing Director Nishita, and OCS Director Raatz, for being with us. If there are no objections, Members, we'll close...or sorry, we will defer this item. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. It's 12:03 on Juneteenth, and the Kōmike Aloha ‘Āina is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 12:03 p.m.

ka'a:min: 250619:lt

Transcribed by: Logan Tsuji

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CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 42 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 22nd day of July 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai‘i

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

Logan Tsuji