

**MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC HEARING  
MINUTES**

**MAY 21, 2024  
9:00 AM**

Pursuant to §92-3.7, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the meeting was conducted as a remote meeting by interactive conference technology, via Microsoft Teams, <http://tinyurl.com/2p9zhjr2>.

In person testimony and viewing: Council Chamber, Kalana O Maui Building, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, 200 S. High Street, Wailuku, Hawaii.

Video recording of meeting available at: [www.mauicounty.legistar.com](http://www.mauicounty.legistar.com)

TIME MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: 9:00 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

<b>Councilmember</b>	<b>Pres.</b>	<b>Abs.</b>	<b>Exc.</b>	<b>Time(s) In/Out (during meeting)</b>
CM Pro Tempore Tasha Kama	√			
Vice Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura	√			
CM Tamara Paltin	√			
CM Gabe Johnson	√			
CM Keani Rawlins-Fernandez	√			
CM Tom Cook	√			
CM Nohelani U'u-Hodgins	√			
CM Shane Sinenci	√			
Chair Alice L. Lee	√			
<b>TOTAL PRESENT</b>	9			

**Council's proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for the County of Maui**

*No legislative action was taken.*

**TIME MEETING ADJOURNED:** 2:23 p.m.

## TRANSCRIPTION

Council of the County of Maui on 2024-05-21 9:00 AM - Public Hearing - Fiscal Year 2025 Budget

on the meeting agenda. To be added to the testifier log online you can raise your hand in teams. If you are here in-person, you can go to the chambers and let them know that you would like to testify. The first person signed up to testify is chief pelletier, testifying on cr24-29 and followed by samantha wilson. Ls >> I love you very much. >> okay. Good enough.

[Laughter] >> aloha. It's a pleasure to be here. It truly is to see what we just witnessed. That is -- there's no more precious resource than the future of our children, and it's really grateful, council member keani rawlins-fernandez, your opening on behalf the council member paltin was phenomenal. It was very poignant and council member johnson, I did not know you speak fluent japanese, [Kwhao -/], everybody has hidden talents and treasures. The - reason i am here, this council has made public safety a priority, it truly truly has and to take the pillars of 23 1st century policing of technology and we need to look forward. In reviewing the fire department's after-action recommendation 14.1 was very specific, and they state -- states that they need to expand and enhance their aerial capabilities.

There is an opportunity that came up from the bffd committee that we had one of the council members, I believe it was council member cook mentioned and I sat over there and said we would love to do that in fiscal 26. However, there's an opportunity to move a little quicker and the reason why I think that is so important is this county cannot afford to wait and be beholden to the answer of we have none. Because right now, there's no night-time aerial capability for an air unit at all. It does not exist. The police department can build it. The police department can build it and we'll use the fire department to partner with, and to support them. And we'll share our resources with them. So what I would like to do is support council member cook's amendment to move the monies, so that we can procure the equipment, so we can put it in the air unit. I'm happy to come before the council and give a whole presentation of what this will look like, how we'll build it because it will be with us for the next ten years plus.

It's not insignificant. It really mirrors what fire has, but this will be a law enforcement-led, law enforcement-driven, law enforcement-used airship that the county can use as needed. I would just say this, as you are dropping chemical to fight a fire, the other airship can be filling up. Now you can go ahead and have redundancy and have a much more efficient mechanism, also the outer jurisdictions. I have been here two-and-a-halfer years and I have seen six districts, three of them treated differently because we're an island county and we cannoting alike we're not. They have been not been treated with equity on behalf of the state and on behalf of the county since their existence. And they deserve no less in public safety.

And so what I would humbly ask is that we support this resolution. Is that three minutes? >> yes. >> thank you. >> you can take 30 seconds to conclude. >> in conclusion, we cannot afford to wait, and there's an opportunity to move and in order to save 1.5 million dollars, which is why I'm trying to move a little more [Skpw-ed/] Expediently on this. I would ask that we can get this resolution, so I can purchase the night-time equipment, and that we would build something that five years ago was not capable, but because it's capable now, we can do it.

>> member, any questions? vice-chair sugimura. >> just a question, if you want the chief to be here when the item comes up? That is one. For the members, for you chief as you are standing there, do you have a budget? >> you guys haven't voted on the budget yet. >> well, for the whole project? >> yes. I do. >> so if you could share it with the members. >> so we're looking at a very similar budget to what fire currently has, \$2.3 million annual for the ship there's about a million dollars of technology that needs to go into that ship prior to the \$500,000 would be for the night-time equipment prior. There would be a much more detailed proposal, like I said, that I can come in and present that. But you would be looking at in a ballpark of \$2.3 million. I would simply say this, the angel fund says the price of a human being is 1.5. I think that is grossly inaccurate.

I do not think there's a price on that. I think if we use -- if we put out one fire with this bird, it pays for itself. If we save one life, it pays for itself. So \$2.3 million is the price of the air unit. And I would also mention that other jurisdictions in the state have it. And so we should be looking at those things. >> so one more question. >> go ahead. >> what does a \$500,000 do? Because you are talking about now something else. >> it purchases the night-time capability, the technology for the night-time capability. >> buying equipment with the \$350,000? >> yes. >> it's not for rfp to find out with a we need? >> I would spend that for an rfp, yes.

I'm going to get \$500,000 and create an rfp, have someone bid on the rfp and need certain monies every year. It's 2.3 ish every year and we'll have an air unit, which right now we don't and we don't have any night-time capabilities. So when there's a fire at 3:00 in the morning and the air ship can't fly. >> my more clarifying questions? Member rawlins-fernandez. >> mahalo, chair. Member sugimura asked the council if we needed chief pelletier to be here when the item comes up? >> I don't need chief to be here, he already offered to do a full presentation in committee and that would satisfy, and be a better time for a fuller discussion, instead of during public testimony. Mahalo, chair. Mahalo chair for being here member

palt begin. >> thank you, chair. Thank you, chief pelletier for your testimony. I just wanted to clarify and mainly for the viewing public, this is just night-time operations; it's still would not have worked, because it would be not appropriate in high/high wind s. ) The AUGUST 8th fire was 80 miles an hour, you won't be able to fly in that no matter what. Right now you can't fly during the night-time no matter what, it doesn't exist.\r\n\r\nTo build the technology to use that airship at night-time and would oallow for full use of that with fire as they deem necessary. Thus, accomplishing their recommendation on their after-action. So I'm kind of giving you atwo'fer, if you will, I'm allowing us to have a police mechanism, and I'm also helping expand the maui county firefighting capabilitis with ang air unit. That is what it is. Right now, there is no night-time capabilities and that is the biggest concern that I have. >> thank you. I just wanted to clarify, so that it wasn't any anguish on the survivors' part, like oh, if we would have had this- >> oh, no, no way any helicopter could have gone up tat day.\r\n\r\nThere would have been nothing they could have done, as far as that. >> on the last -- on the previous election, there was a fire that night, and that night it could have helped because the winds weren't strong on last year election night. So just strictly night flight, not high wind flight. >> yes, ma'am, and what is great about the current contract, which we hope to duplicate in a sense, because of the way the company that has that work, bcause it's private, they can actually fly if the rescue rated, they can fly in higher wind, which gives a better chance for success in certain operations. >> thank you. Thank you, chair. >> vice-chair sugimura.\r\n\r\n>> your talk of equipment, high wind and flying whatever, are you also, whatever your purchasing with this \$500,000 rfp for equipment, for night use, will fire be able to use it with their helicopter? >> so if you are asking if I could just put that into their bird, the answer is no and example why. If you buy a car without air conditioning, you don't add air conditioning after the flight configuration of the existing helicopter, you can't now go and add components. It doesn't work like that with an airship. And so this has t be built a certain way. And so the specifications of what we want, it would not work like that. Great question.\r\n\r\n>> any more questions? Pro tem kama. >> sorry. So this is to be used to purchase a piece of equipment. >> yes. >> that is going to be able to help in terms of night-time flying. >> yes.\r\n\r\nSo -- >> so what we're putting this in, what is that equipment? Are we buying? >> I want to buy equipment to put in a helicopter, because next year I'm going to come in front of you in budget and say I need money for a helicopter. It's going to be \$2.3 million. And so that -- I'm just telling you, but here is the problem is that the county is on notice, the county is on notice that we don't have adequate airships and don't have night-time capability. I'm trying to give you a solution. I'm trying to help that.\r\n\r\nSo what is the price? You tell me? If \$2.3 million is too expensive to save lives at night, okay. But I'm not comfortable with that. So all I'm doing is trying to help. So if people don't like the fact it costs money, I can't -- my budget is never going down. I'm not going to sit here and tell you oh, -- it's not going down.\r\n\r\nCell phones, \$500, ten years ago, five years from now, they are going to be \$2500. Salaries keep going up. So if I can cut money, great, I will cut money any way I can, but reality is the cost of public safety, the cost of government keeps going up. So we have to realize that, but we're on notice, on written notice that we lack night-time capability and we have insufficient. So we can't afford that. So if we can save lives, let's save lives. >> members, any more clarifying questions? >> one last one.\r\n\r\nWhere would this piece of equipment be installed into? >> it would be in a helicopter. They are going to put it in a helicopter, and then there's going to be -- they will put it in a helicopter and I still have to do, I have to then have some of my personnel trained, and we'll have a dedicated like flight crew team that will go with them, night vision goggles and these different thing thats this the pilots and crew will have them. You think about operations at night. If there's hostage rescues, if there's barricade situations, if there's homicide subjects all at night-time, let's just use hana moloka'I lana'I, right now I can't get to them. I had a situation in moloka'I with an armed individual and couldn't get rouses resources to the island until the next day. I know there was a lady that jumped off a cliff in moloka'I and they couldn't get to her.\r\n\r\nThis would at least help to try to find individuals like that. So that is why we're trying to -- you say what about at night? The sme equipment we're going to by as a thermal imaging. And the optimum time for thermal imaging is 1:00 in the morning. >> thank you, chief >> thank you. Thank you, chair. >> any more questions?\r\n\r\nNot, thank you very much. >> thank you very much. I appreciate it. >> chair, the nextter is samantha wilson, and she will be followed -- >> I'm sorry. >> chief, before you leave, would you be able to return when this item comes up for discussion? And be a resource? >> I'm happy to do whatever you need.\r\n\r\n>> okay. I'm not sure when that would be. We'll give you a call. Any objections, memberses? >> he said he had prepared some financial information. So i hope he can submit that to the members when we discuss the item. >> am I doing my whole presentation?\r\n\r\n>> no you are going to be answering questions. >> I will be back with the whole presentation. >> you will probably just be answering questions. >> okay. >> can he provide his written summary of what the finances would be? >> do you have that >> I do, although it's not finalized maybe you could send it to us and when your item comes up. >> can I send it to you, or play the game that I can't send it to you.\r\n\r\n>> send it to us. >> okay. I'm just asking. >> we'll consider that as preliminary information, okay? >> perfect. >> thank you. >> thank you.\r\n\r\n>> so then we have our

next testifier. Sorry to keep you waiting. >> this is samantha wilson testifying on cr24-49 and poled by francisco goya. >> aloha. >> very good. >> thank you. My name is sam wilson, I have organized the aloha classic windsurfing event over the past 10-11 years, covid was in there as well. When I moved to maui, I came here, because of windsurfing. And many, many people have from all over the world come to this beautiful place for windsurfing. When I got here, I realized there were no competitions. So I contacted event coordinators and it was five years since the last world championship aloha classic. I was able to bring it back with the support of our community and our wonderful county of maui. We have always had financial support for the event through the county and this year I'm coming here to say please support this event again financially because it makes a big impact on our community. After the [2350- eur/]S last year, we were and to rally together in a positive way for collecting tourism to come to our island and I just think it's so important to continue this tradition, and you know, it's the best place in the way to wave sail and windsurf and people love looking at it. It just really means a lot to our community. I think that is what brought so many people to the north shore is the image of windsurfing. So let's continue making this event happen and continue to promote our bust island with the sport of windsurfing and we would really appreciate your financial support as well. Thank you. >> thank you. Members, do you hve any clarifying questions? Vice-chair sugimura. >> thank you very much for the work that you do. How much are you I the budget or how much money are you requesting? >> we're requesting \$25,000. >> the name of your line item? >> aloha classic. >> and office of economic development? >> yes. >> thank you. >> any more questions? If not, thank you very much. >> thank you, council. >> chair the next testifier is francisco goya, testifying on cr24-49, followed by kelly dudwa. >> hi. Thank you everyone. I just wanted to bring this -- this is not a painting -- this is atual picture. I just was my way working and there was a line of kids going on a fieldtrip with their school. They all asked me is that a painting? I said no, no, a picture. So I just wanted to share with you what was shared today. It's a pretty amazing sport, that unites a lot more tan just sports, a way of connecting with the environment,. And you know the whole dynamics of the thing, but the wind, you can't see and you are standing on water. So for to make windsurf board to work you have to really connect and unify those forces. So it makes you be really present in the moment, and I guess, that is why I moved from argentina, as for me growing up, you know, in 10 million people city of concrete, I wasn't very, how you say? Inspired by the world unless I was in the water, windsurfing, and so back then, before the internet and everything, I just fell in love with the way this sport made me feel. Yeah, it brought the best, I think, out of me, and I think that we can share that with future generations of maui. I feel like since I got here, I came in love with sport and I came here, I was seeing like european sport. And then when I think back, I look back at how the people came to hawai'I first, and how they traveled the islands, and they experienced this magic and it wasn't very different than our outrigger sailing canoe and the same as surfboard. I believe windsurfing is today that. I believe I share the same feelings that when I'm windsurfing out there the way the first hawaiians felt when they were here. Thank you. >> thank you. Members, any clarifying questions? If not, thank you very much. Next testifier. >> chair, the next testifier is kelly dud wa, testifying on bill 84 and followed by autumn. >> how many more do we have after that we have a total of eleven signed up right now and MS. Dudwais no. >> council, my name is kelly dud wa, site coordinator for the university of hawai'I moloka'I education center. I'm here today to testify in support of the bill 84, which is on the last item on your agenda. And it's up for second and final reading. This bill supports the district boundary amendment and change in zoning for the two tmks that encompasses the campus's five acres. The change from interim district to public/quasi-public is in line with the county of maui moloka'I's community plan, this was created with significant community input. I want to express heartfelt gratitude to the council to get the bill to this point, and for supporting the expansion of higher education opportunities in the moloka'I community. You are all notified of the unfortunate news that the funding for this project as designed is no longer available. While this is a significant setback, I still find hope in the resilience and resource when asked the people of moloka'I, they will bring life to this 'aina and find creative ways to support the educational pursuits of our island residents. This will allow us to continue to move forward in this endeavor. Thank you. >> thank you, members questions? Vice-chair sugimura. >> clarifying question. What funding was cut? I don't know about that. >> our vice chancellor circulated the memo regarding the funding of this project. >> any other questions? If not, thank you very much. >> chair next testifier is autumn, and autumn, when you get on, if yu could let us know what item you are testifying on. Autumn will be followed by leslee milner. >> aloha. Thank you -- sorry, I have a houseful of kids right now and trying not to be districted. Autumn nes testing on believe of the land trust and here on behalf of the land trust to thank you for the package of funding from various pots in this budget dedicated to the mission to keep lahaina lands in lahaina hands. While I'm the only one standing here thanking you I'm part of a much larger team of folks that take this kuleana very seriously. And are working at the warp speed to be able to meet the needs of the west maui community. The line items in the county of maui budget, even though they are not official official yet, have already unlocked additional funding opportunities both locally, and across the continent. Your

faith and investment in lahaina community trust is strong for us to leverage and we're so grateful. We have about adopted by the northwest land trust coalition, who helped us put together an incredible team of consultants would have shown success in building land trusts specifically focused on anti-displacement post-disaster and advising us on the creation of a whole lahaina come home program.

That you guys know that populations who faced displacement are a federally-protected class and we have every intention of you noting that and every signal tool at our disposal for the lahaina community. I'm so proud of this team, the community and the folks who have been through this before stepping us to help. Currently working with two landowners including appraisals, both of landowners have expressed that they need to sell for various reasons, but to make sure that they sell into the community and not out to the higher bidder. After this first-round we're prepared to scale up quickly, if needed. Hilt published a report right after the fires, and the quote from the report this one says, "expansion of community ownership of real estate in west maui is one of the few solutions that promises it make homeownership accessible and build family wealth with minimal consequences that family, community and statewide scales." So we're banking on that, and moving towards that with offering that we have, community ownership has roots in the civil right and black sharecroppers competent with white wealth and land hui was created as resistance to grabbing plantations on royal between kanaka and 'aina and say if you cannot compete in this crazy real estate market alone, let's try to protect some of our lands together. I just learned recently that the original text of necessity is the mother of invention is actually from plato and I think that is the origin story of lahaina community land trust, our need is the creator, our community is in need, struggling with real estate forces beyond their control before and post-fire >> three minutes thank you for standing shoulder to shoulders with us. >> members, do you have any clarifying questions?

Member rawlins-fernandez. >> mahalo, chair. Aloha, mahalo for your testimony. I was wondering if the part of your testimony, where you identified this displaced residents as protected class is case law or where is that? >> I can answer more specifically, but the city of seattle, and the city of san francisco both have anti-displacement housing policies that have withstood legal challenge. So we're working with their city attorneys on developing programs in that same sphere. >> awesome.

Mahalo, chair. >> any more questions? If not, thank you very much. >> thank you, good luck today, guys. >> thank you. >> chair the next testifier is less le milner testifying on cr24-49, bill 88 and 92, to be followed by jiah nishita. >> good morning followed by >> so I will start with cr . But they also see it as having a role in a forestry and rebuilding work going forward.

So that is the reason for that request. To provide the department with a little more flexibility in case it needs to be issued as a contract. I provided marked up language in the written testimony. For the east maui water authority, if we could just amend the equipment personnel from three to four. Funding was added for a poosing, but the epi wasn't updated so we can get that position created we need to have the epi number updated. On behalf of the department of housing and human concerns they reviewed their account and they don't feel they can accommodate a cut of \$1 off \$100,000 would and ask for a reduction, either to \$60,000 or \$30,000 and I provided options in the written testimony on what would be impacted by that. But I'm happy to provide more details, if there's questions.

To restore the funding for -- [Speaker not understood] And to move the environmental grants back from dem, to oed. And then our last request are for the revolving funds, in the affordable housing fund, if the body would consider adding back in the conditional language for the projects. We have also got an amendment on the agenda today, we're just not sure now, because it's a loan, everything has to happen concurrently, and we're just not sure it's all going to happen by JUNE 30th. We're not asking to add additional funding because the 2024 funding will rollover, just the conditions. So that if it's not executed by june 30th, we can still get that paperwork done. The last one for G.E.T., there's currently a line item for \$33.4 million. We would ask that is split into two line items to make it very clear what the operating expenses are, and what the capital improvement expenses.

So no change to the project and no change to the dollar amount, but to clarify which is which for purposes to adding to appendix c and other things. Those are our requests for the cr. Do you want me to pause for questions or keep going? >> director mil, nor, I'm sure all of us memorized what you just said. [Laughter] I think when the items come up, we'll ask you for clarification. >> I plan to be here all day, chair. We have a chair here ready for you.

In the meantime, any clarifying questions? Vice-chair sugimura. >> can you send what you are reading from? I think I have it in my office, but if you don't mind sending it, so the members have it. >> yes, chair I will send it correctly to the members. >> and just clarifying question, I know she is going to be here when the items come up, G.E.T. Is to be used for construction and. >> speak into the mic.

>> what was the split for G.E.T.? >> I believe it's okay to use G.E.T. For operations related to the waste costs, the debris landfill costs. I would defer to corporation counsel about that. But the split is to make I clear \$1 million for one purpose and \$17.4 is for another, just to make it very clear, which are cip costs to be reflected in appendix c. >> thank you. I would look forward to what is in writing and its date of birth disseminated. I have questions. >> anybody else with a clarifying question? If not, thank you.

>> thank you, chair, for bill 88, which is the G.E.T. Amendment too briefly clarify this is adding funds that are already reflect in the fiscal year 25

budget, as the estimated balance. We're just adding em this to the 24 budget to make it very clear, as we cross from year-to-year where that balance is coming from. And for bill 92, this is the johnson controls amendment. This is a request from the department of finance. It's a fiscal reporting thing. In our single audit we did have an audit finding related to this J.C.I contract, because it wasn't reflected. We spoke with our auditors and they felt it was appropriate to reflect in budget bill, even though the money isn't necessarily coming into the california foundation for independent county's pocket and going back out.

They felt it was the best way motto have an audit finding again related to this project. That is all, chair. >> any questions on the portion of the testimony? If not, thank you. Next testifier. >> chair, the next testifier is managing director jose [Kwrao-eufr/] Nishitia, 2006ing on c24-49, followed by dick mayer. Good to see you, I mo you are here to give back money; right?

>> [Laughter]. >> aloha, chair, aloha council members, I feel I MISS You so much, I haven't been around you in so long. But no, appreciate allowing me to be here today to testify before you folks. I wasn't planning on testifying for this, but since I saw awesome up, I wanted to note that we're in support of the land trust, and just a note for organizations, and shout-out to them too, they did come and talk early with us about structuring the program and how we could best work together and cooperate on any type of utilization of funds. So for organizations, and for council members, too, and working on different types of proposals it's great to come in early and shout-out to them for doing so to help us structure it properly. The piece i actually here today council member sugimura I believe will be [Phro-epz/]Ing an amendment for us regarding the acquisition of kula community center property. As many of you MAY have been aware, council gave us approval last year to bid at auction for the land, and not to get into the whole history of everything, but now we're here today with the opportunity to acquire it outside of the auction process. So we came to resolution with the landowner, happy to talk mre about this later, when the amendment comes up, but we're really excited for the kula community to b able to keep tis in community use in perpetuity, and happy to answer any questions or be available later, too, if needed.

>> questions, vice-chair sugimura. >> while we have you, part of this land purchase is 131 shaw street and if you could explain to the members why we're using or proposing to use \$700,000 from that 131 shaw street property? >> thank you, chair. Yes, so I think what was in the budget proposal was \$2 million, and that property being referenced is the salvation army adjacent to moku hula. We did do an appraisan on the salvation army property and it came back at approximately \$1.3 million. So we're revising our estimate that we had previously anticipated down to about \$1.3 million ad asking to reallocate towards the kula community center purchase. Thank you.

>> thank you very much. >> any more questions? If not, thank you. >> chair, the next testifier is dick mayer, MR. Mayer, if you could let us know what item you are testifying on, please? >> can you hear me first? >> yes.

>> okay. Thank you. On two items. 24-49, resolution and 24-50. First item is the kula community center. I'm so pleased that the county now will be going ahead with this purchase. As many of you know, been on the conscience for a long time, the kula community association is first asked by the mayor and council what are our high-prioritys? S in the kula community center land is something that we had had no. 1 or no. 2 for over ten years and I'm so happy this is finally being done. At that time, the price ws \$274,000. Would have been able to get it. Recently we heard with regard to the free-market venture it was maybe \$750,000. Now we're hearing \$900,000, all of those numbers are well below the value that you will be getting and we as a community will get up country for this center, including tennis courts, self of them pick ball. Gate ball costs for the elderly and community center itself, parking. It's a real resource, and so -- I'm so happy and really on behalf of the whole community up country, to thank the administration for negotiating this and the council members hopefully today will include it in the final budget. The second item, do you want me to answer questions at this point or go on to the second item?

>> members, do you have any questions? There are no questions, you can go to the second item. >> thank you. The second item is 24-50. Which is the settlement agreement with regard to the boards and commissions. I'm very pleased that we have hopefully have a resolution on that. That it will be resolved and hopefully adopted today by the council, and hopefully, we can move forward and get all of the boards and commissions operating at their proper level, they won't have quorum problems once we bet all of the members appointed. I'm pleased to see that issue is finally going to be resolved.

I want to thank all of you for working on that. That is my testimony. >> any questions stp in the not, thank you very much. >> next testifier. >> next testifier is testifying on cr24-49, followed by jeff we oka. >> L.A., good aloha, good morning, council members. First of all, my pnumber is 808-264-0139. The reason I stand before you today for bill 60, whatever happens, happens, but I'm testifying in the situation about misc.

Aain, I a approached by many community members that our watershed is dying. Mi kona is on the hillside of wailua iki, sam Mccoy, who is a former misc employee approached me devastated, and angry, and made a phone call with no phone call back. What is happening? Is accountability of misc to do teir due diligence of what it was created for. It was started with mai kona, and I have been a volunteer since 1994. I document the hana highway on a daily basis and watch the trees die, the rust fungus overtaking. Mi kona is in ha'iku. Did you know that?

They just now recently, and you all have my number, I will send you the picture of this dog I got purchased in

australia. Within 15 minutes that dog got bit and he didn't want to go back. I would challenge anybody to challenge me. The funding from county of maui, we talk about transparency, and accountability. Whatever you folks decide, ois, they have been doing a great job, but whatever you folks decide remember east maui is not about just water. If we have no watershed, we have no more water. Where are we taking this?

It's quite disturbing to see monies from over \$2 million being dumped into a dog, and a handler, and two people from australia, to come here and train this dog. I also can send you, because now you all have any phone number, the infestation in hula'ina, which is right past hana airport with little fire ants. >> three minutes. >> they do five people formi kona and just laid somebody off. So i encourage this person to file for unemployment, so you folks can see what is really happening. Mahalo. Ch tank you, members, do you have questions?

Member paltin. >> thank you, chair, thank you kamalu for yur testimony. I'm not clear what you are asking for for bill 60? >> well, they were going to take it out of ois and go into the environmental. >> oh, okay. So you just want it back into ois is what you are saying? >> well, I think they are doing a good job, because the accountability, the deliverables. >> so do you -- ae you saying not to give misc money?

>> well, that, too. I think somebody else should be in charge of misc. >> and who -- do you have another agency? >> I don't have another agency. But put out the bids. There needs to be new leadership. There needs to be new leadership.

We need heliacs. I will take you to the mountains. I will show you the damage it's creating ." okay, so you are saying that epns can't put out a new bid. >> the request is to transfer. In my view as a person, I'm here testifying on myself as a hana resident, east maui life-long. That is important to know that whichever department that you folks decide that is why we have council members, nine council members, to make that decision. But what is the purpose that it should go to environmental instead of -- if we want to call it ied, but ois?

That we keep on tracking the misc program. >> keep on tracking the misc program. Thank you. Thank you for your testimony. Thank you, chair. >> member cook. >> thank you.

My clarifying question, you said the dog was bit, and that was it? >> yes, they spent three days in hana. >> what did he get bit by >> fire ants. More disturbing is the resident that reported the fire ants. That resident reported he has trash pickup, see how it's spreading? How can we not say that that trashcan from that property is not going to hana landfill, and spreading from there? Every time the rivers run, we're going to contaminate the whole hui lana.

The property next door refused treatment. They said they are going to use vibration. >> thank you. >> any more questions, members? If not, thank you very much. >> mahalo. >> next testifier.

chair, the next testifier is jeffre euoka, testifying on bill 9, followed by tess herman. . Good morning, council members. >> good morning. >> I will be quick. I know you have a couple of tings to do today. Just wanted to make clear for bill 89 we have them here when the matter comes up we ask to your support for the minor change and listening to the budget director, I think we support that. We would drove have our loan agreement signed before JUNE 30th, but I you can't go, we're fine with that.

Thank you very much, if you have any questions. >> any questions? Vice-chair sugimura. >> if I understand what you said, you are correcting the name to icann ha phases 1 and 2, to what name? I kana ha partners llp? >> the loan was in the budget was for pacific development group. The name of the entity that will actually be taking technical name of the entity taking the loan is icanna partners lp, just part of the tax credit structure.

>> so it's clarifying the name just to be legal with the loan documents. >> changing the name. >> changing the name. >> yeah. >> okay. And that corp. Counsel is going to get your banking on corp.

Counsel getting these documents done? This is for fiscal year 24 budget. >> we would like that, but if no can, no can. So the fy'25 backup would be acceptable, also, or we would appreciate that, also. >> so we'll ask corp. Counsel. Thank you.

>> okay. Thank you. >> any more questions, members? If not, nxt testifier. >> declare, the next testifier is tess harmon testifying on cr24-49 and she will be followed by jordan molina, currently the last person signed up to testify. Testifying on cr49 about bill 70 on believe the dem. So we're concerned about the name change, and the use change of this revolving fund.

The existing highway beautification and disposal of abandoned vehicle or derelict vehicles revolving fund has a pojected revenue for next year of \$1,977,000 roughly. And since it's a projection, this fund could actually receive fewer monies than this. The existing programs, one that is in a section that I run, the abandon vehicles program and also some other litter control programs and tree-trimming that uses the existing fund is projected to expand around \$1,658,000, leaving a balance of roughly \$300,000. So that \$300,000, I guess what will be used to athey t the tourism-related congestion and as chief pletier said earlier, the government is not getting cheaper, the abandoned vehicle program is going to get more expensive next year, because we just bot the rrs and ifbs back. So we're concerned that even at its highest projection \$300,000 might not be sufficient to address such an important problem such as traffic-related tourism congestion ad we hope that is taken into consideration. Thank you. >> questions, members? If not, thank you very much.

>> thank you. >> chair, last person -- oh, sorry, member paltin has a question. >> im sorry. I missed that. Member paltin. >> thank you, chair. I'm not sure if I missed it, did you have a suggestion of where -- how to rearrange it?

The funds? >> I just think for sup an important issue as tourism-related traffic congestion to look for a larger pool of funds to be actually able to effectively manage that. I'm just giving you a head's

up that particular fund doesn't have that much expendable income available. >> okay. And you didn't have a suggestion of where, just not there? >> yeah, I would think that tourism-related traffic congestion would be more relevant to, like, transportation, or one of those offices. >> okay.

Thank you. Thank you, chair. >> thank you. >> another question? Vice-chair sugimura. >> thank you very much for the work you do, by the way thank you. >> you're wilma awesome.

>> likewise, I was looking for the bill and to make sure we got the name correct first reading of bill 70 maui county code to update remaining references to high beautification and disposal of abandoned or derelict vehicles revolving funds to the currently name of highway beautification abandoned vehicle and tourism-related traffic congestion revolving fnd, you are good with that >> we're concerned if you are adding tourix-related traffic congestion to that fund there might not be enough money existing in that fund as it is without tourism-related traffic con getting to be able to effectively address tourism-related traffic congestion and might threaten some of the existing capacities of the usages of that fund, which is abandoned vehicles, some litter control programs, tree-trimming which is shared between a fur existing divisions now. >> okay. I think that concern was hana use of the visitors thank you very much. >> thank you next testifier. >> chair the last testifier currently signed up is jordan molina, director o public works, testifying on resolution 24-91. >> good morning, members. Jordan molina director of public works and quick shout-out to tess herman and for the debris clean up and lade the vehicle adjudication effort, one the first tiers of egg clean-up we did and to recognize her. Requesting consideration from the council on resolution 24-91 is, seeking to get consideration for action on the floor today.

This reso brings forward the alternate program standards for the maui wildfires debris removal pursuant too ordinance 55-62 as, as well as establishing the deadline for debris removal. The adoption today will help ensure that the department can maintain the moment in reaching the finish line with debris removal of it's been nine months since the fireb, and seven months since we began the right-of-entry process for collecting property owners to sign up for debris removal. As of yesterday, we have processed 2200 application, with 1950 approved. Remaining is 250 applications in review, and at this day, on 21 propertis have not taken any action to begin their debris removal. As of yesterday, 500 parcels are fully cleared, ready to receive permits with 575 waiting the final close-outs and they will be ready for permits as well. As repopulation commences into lahaina, it's critical to get the remaining debris out of lahaina neighborhoods. It's essential to completing the clean-up of laina and necessary mechanism for our success.

The times of approval is critical, so that we can move forward with enforcement proceedings for those that haven't completed the debris removal. While we still have the support of fema and those on island to assist the county with abating those properties that haven't cleaned up yet. What is the key-key pact factor is the available of the temporary disposal site to which only army corps of engineers is able to operate. So we want to be able to work through the procedures with these property owners get them to a place of enforcement to have army corps assist them with their clean ups before they are -- before he they close down their contracts and no longer available to us. Regarding the standards in document before you, these are all the same protocols that the army corps is following to a tee. We did pilot one articlat program parcel, this is the kuparlingtons that last day we completed their clean-up program under the alternate program with the final report received and approved. Right now we're tracking approximately sim parcels in consideration for alternate program out of the 2200 in lahaina that we have cleaned up.

So that is the reason for my request today, and thank you for your consideration. >> questions, members? Vice-chair sugimura. >> thank you. Thank you very much. You gave very important data. So of the 2200 applications for debris removal, that only six parcels are using the alternate method, which is their own individual.

>> correct. That is what we're tracking correctly. The main driver is the owners wanting to retain portions of their structure. So under the army corps program it's all-or-nothing. So we're working with those owners to figure out what is best for their options to move forward. As par as the total program right now, it's about six that we're tracking. >> do you expect a lot more >> I don't. Of the 21 or so that are have no applications in, those are all fully destroyed structures and for them, it's pretty clear.

There are of the 200, I believe, 80 applications are so that are under review. There could be a handful that end up deciding to opt-out, but there's ---- not tracking any at this point in time. >> thank you. Very important data. I totally support that we pass this. Thank you. >> any more questions?

Member paltin. >> member paltin. >> thank you, chair. Thank you, director molina. I think that is great numbers. A couple of clarifying questions. Has the county attempted to reach the 21 that have not submitted an roe? >> we sent out initial letters to nudge them to properties that are no roes and continuing that outreach. We have a handful of contact information from the re-entry program. So fortunate because these numbers are smaller and manageable, that allows us to put more outreach to the owners to try to get them resolved. >> so you reached out, but they didn't respond? >> correct. These are unresponsive owners at this point. >> and >> the other question, the timeline that MS.

Wade announced at wednesday night meeting I believe is contingent on the county securing the eminent domain landfill site and constructing their own temporary disposal site? Because if people take the alternative program, they can't take it to the army corps temporary disposal site and immediate to take it to county's



temporary disposal site, is that moving along with the timeline that MS. Wade had given to the community, that it will be able to be available? >> yes. So the last [Tkwa-egs/] Indications I got from sideline later this summer to be able to accommodate the greece loads in large part because it's gotten to this small number. So that helps us to be able to manage through the debris loads anticipated for central maui. >> and SEPTEMBER 15th was the deadline.\r\n\r\nI think MS. Wade said, so it could be all good, if it's later this summer? For the program, yes. >> item. I'm supportive. Thank you so much for the information, and all your work on this. >> chair the last current person signed up to dev is tia penman, testifying on I believe cr24-49. >> aloha council members, can hear me okay?\r\n\r\n>> yes, thank you. >> wonderful. I apologize, I wasn't able to tune in earlier. I did hear thoo there were some questions about the misc program and misc funding. I would be happy to answer any of those. I would like to say that I am extremely proud of the work that our hana miconia crew is doing some of the most dedicated staff longest-temple work to control mikona day in -- maybe not day out, but it's hard and grueling wrk. They also serve as the vital team in east maui, when there are calls about ac and the little fire ant work out there.\r\n\r\nSo it's a vital team that has been doing important work for a long time. In terms of how long? I know we get that questions regularly, why aren't we done with it? When mikona was first discovered in east maui it was already recognized it was much larger than the infestation was larger than people knew or expected. So really for a very long time, it has been a containment program to keep it out of the intact native forest, and so that extent, I think we have been very successful. Do we need to do more? Absolutely.\r\n\r\nDo we need to re-evaluate where we are? Yes, we're in the process of doing that. And I would very much like to be able to share that with you over the next several months of a revised management plan for mikona. Also understand there's a question about our little fire ant detector dog. I'm so excited about this program, and about this resource. I know it was just covered in the maui news this is something that we have been trying to bring to our program for really more than a decade and we have worked with really the wrld experts on little fire ants. The idea that it was encountered, I'm sorry, I just heard this secondhand that the dog encountered ants and was taken out of operation.\r\n\r\nThat is just incorrect. The dog is in transition after having been trained in australia. So the place that we're at right now is transitioning the dog to live ants. So that they know how to find the live ants and not just the scent that is on the paper. But I think this is going to be a good game-changer in terms of helping us identify the extent of known infestation and also confirming when we have eradicated. Those are the main thing that I would like to share with you and again to thank you for your support and continue continued concern about invasive species. Thank you.\r\n\r\n>> members, questions? Member paltin. >> wow. Thank you, MS. Penniman for your testimony. We just received previous testimony that something about the dog being bit and being out of commission from an employee under the oed testifying on her own behalf. My clarifying question is I think the misc grant is currently under epns.\r\n\r\nGiven the previous testimony, do you feel comfortable if the grant moves from oed, or from epns to oed? >> I really think it's a great idea to have all of the environmental grants in the department of environmental management. With staff person who has background with an agency that the focus is environmental management. I think that would be -- I think that would be a really good fit for it, and that would be my preference at this time, yes. >> is there any concern that they would need to hire more staff, and that hasn't happened yet? >> we have committed to doing whatever we can to make it be as smooth and functional as possible. I know that concern was raised by the council earlier.\r\n\r\nWe have been doing the grant-making process for a very long time. So hopefully, it wouldn't be too burdensome. >> I'm kind of a a loss, because I mean, I was in the other direction, but it seems like one agency is preconceived ideas and maybe not accurate? I'm not sure what course I'm going to take moving forward, if I'm able to stay on the call? Thank you so much for your testimony. Thank you, chair. >> thank you.\r\n\r\n>> thank you. Member johnson. >> chair, just to clarify, right now, misc is in oed right now, is that correct, MS. Penniman? In fy'2024? >> we did not get any fy'24 funds through oed. >> okay. When I heard the dog story about getting bit, I immediately assumed by another dog, but it's not bit by any dogs or any ants or anything; right?\r\n\r\n>> no, it was not bitten by any dogs or any ants. There are -- we, as a project of the university of hawai'i, we have to follow the institute where animal care and use committee protocols, all staff go through training. Our handler position has been certified. The people who are training us are literally world experts and to find little ants and care very deeply about the well-being of their animals. >> can I clarify? Why was -- why didn't you get any oed funding from this past year? Did you submit an application?\r\n\r\n>> yes, we did submit an application in JULY, and I think, I think it just had to do with the -- this funding didn't end until -- this funding didn't come online until MAY, or fy'23 funding didn't come online until late, I think part of the new transition, and in fairness, there has been expressed concerns. So it didn't come online until late and as was explained to us, the oed was planning to just skip fy'24. >> oh, okay. Thank you for that clarification. Thank you, chair. >> any more questions? Vice-chair sugimura, and then member sinenci. >> thank you.\r\n\r\nSo I'm looking at our budget book and it says grant to maui invasive species committee \$2.8 million. It is in epns, in the department of environmental management. Confirm? >> MS. Penniman? Or fy'25 is what you are talking

about, chair? Yes.\r\n\r\n>> that is my understanding of what the council had elected to do. >> so based upon what you just said, there was funding in 24, but misc did not get it. Is that what you said earlier? >> that is correct. >> so how did you survive? >> it's -- it's -- I would say the biggest impact for us was over the last year, s it's -- there are many things -- many times we have not been able to hire staff or get supplies, because of some of the challenges related to the funding -- the funding timing. So because we didn't have county funding come on when we thought it would be, we had to spend down funds in another grant.\r\n\r\nIt's a little -- we don't have typically don't have funding that comes on. Can you still hear me? >> yes. >> I think she answered the question. >> okay, I think she broke up. Or she paused a little bit. >> can you still hear me?\r\n\r\n>> we can hear you. >> question from member sinenci. >> no question, chair, just to see if she can stay on when the item comes up? >> MS. Penniman? Hello? Is she still on? \r\n\r\nDoes anybody know if she is still on? >> can't hear her? >> I think I'm back. Am I back? >> okay. >> where did you go? [Laughter] >> I went into the world of ethernet and disappeared.\r\n\r\nI apologize. >> we had a request if you could standby, well not standby, but be available when we take up this item for discussion. Would you be able to be a resource person? >> yes, of course. >> okay. Could you give us your number, or do you have the number, joyce? Could you give us the number, so we can call you.\r\n\r\n>> 808-28 -- I will put it in the chat. >> okay. Very good. Any more questions? All right. MAY we have the next testifier. >> chair, there's no one else currently signed up to testify.\r\n\r\nI see MR. J.C. Lau making his way to the podium. If you could let us know which item you are testifying on, please? >> 24-49. >> okay. >> I heard more japanese this morning than I did hawaiian. So the hawaiian word of te day, MR. Sinenci, is kala.\r\n\r\nWith the ka hacko above the a's. The king was very wise with his own currency printed out, because it seems to me we're getting more and more hooked on the united states currency dollar. And I have a question, I will find out later, a rhetorical question, where the bonds, the bond monies? I kind of got an idea what bond money is, but I don't have any money, so it doesn't really matter. Where is the bonds printed? I would like to see one of those. And also, why do we have an old white guy from virginia on our money? Thank you for your time, MADAM Chair.\r\n\r\n>> thank you. Next testifier. >> chair, there's no one else currently signed up to testify. This is last call. If anyone would like to testify, please signify that now. Again, last call. And the count dune is 3, 2, 1. >> members, any objections to closing public testimony and accepting written testimony moo the record?\r\n\r\n>> no objections. >> so ordered, MS. Clerk. >> thank you, MADAM Chair, we have no business under item h. I, so we'll move to j, communications. Currently there's no one signed up to testify. So we'll give last