

# **GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **M I N U T E S**

**September 27, 2023**

**Online Only via BlueJeans Link  
West Maui**

**CONVENE: 9:14 a.m.**

**PRESENT:** Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Chair  
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Vice-Chair  
Councilmember, Tom Cook, Member  
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member  
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member  
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member  
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member  
(arrived at 9:18 a.m.)  
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member  
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

**STAFF:** Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst  
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary  
Maria Leon, Committee Secretary  
Shelly Espeleta, Supervising Legislative Analyst  
David Raatz, Director, Office of Council Services  
Richard Mitchell, Legislative Attorney  
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk  
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka‘i Residency Area Office  
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office  
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency  
Area Office  
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia Residency Area  
Office  
Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui District Office

Angela Lucero, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Paltin  
Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson  
Christi Keliikoa, Executive Assistant to Councilmember  
Paltin  
Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci

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Don Atay, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci  
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama  
Gina Young, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci  
Haunani Madela, Executive Assistant to Councilmember  
Rawlins-Fernandez  
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember  
Johnson  
Laura McDowell, Executive Assistant to Councilmember  
U'u-Hodgins  
Lei Sickels, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama  
Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama  
Sarah Sexton, Executive Assistant to Councilmember  
Rawlins-Fernandez  
Susan Clements, Executive Assistant to Councilmember  
U'u-Hodgins

**ADMIN.:** Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel,  
Department of the Corporation Counsel

**OTHERS:** Mikey Burke  
Maleko Burke  
Kumu Liko  
Kumu Kanoe  
Kumu Kala  
Kumu Kalama'ehu  
Kelli Keahi  
Jackie Keefe  
Mike Whitehead  
Art Ford  
Brandon Kaina  
Tiare Lawrence  
Mitch Kepa  
Katie Austin  
Daniel Skousen  
Ray Catugal  
Keli'i Grothmann  
Jeremy Delos Reyes  
Naiwi Teruya  
Amber Diamond  
Michele Lincoln  
Adam Morsi  
Julia Colangelo  
Richard Prata

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Omar Madrigal  
Jamie Lee  
Annie Franzenburg  
Melissa Benedict  
Lonopele Cabanilla  
Snake Abraham Ah Hee  
Myrna Ah Hee  
Ariele Balagso  
Madison Gardner  
Ho'olai Cabanilla  
Jake Kane  
Ron Siliado  
Tashmere Ward  
Alfy Basurto  
Paele Kiakona  
Kekai Keahi  
Tiffany Teruya  
Mario Vendetti  
Richy Palalay  
Owen Kahahane  
Norm Bezane  
Imi Kaleleiki  
Kaliko Storer  
Kumu Ku'uipo  
Gretchen Losano  
Welo Noury  
Peter Fard  
Ke'ala Cabanilla  
Lindsay Elam  
Thomas Oliver  
James Bruggeman  
Dale Williams  
Justice Villaren  
Walyn Christian  
Michiko Smith  
Keeaumoku Kapu  
Uilani Kapu  
Courtney Lazo  
James Lumpkin  
Matthew Nichols  
Stephen West  
Cheryl Alcantara  
Shansi Boaz-Vasquez

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Lopeti Tu'ua  
Mary Beth Chin  
Jose Molina  
Virendra Nath  
Brett Kaye  
Russell Pomaika'i Kuamo'o  
Kiha Kaina  
Malinda Wade  
Terry Restivo  
Joani Morris  
Gianina Restivo  
Kekoa Landsford  
Suzette Felicilda  
Kapali Keahi  
Miss Lizzy  
Juenlee Brown  
Dan Brown  
Desiree Mendez  
Aina Kohler  
John Sarter  
Foster Ampong  
Kecia (Kesha) Joy  
Haili Shim  
Kalena Shim  
Kamuela Kakaako  
Laurie Lei DeGama  
Naki Kanekoa  
Thomas Hovsepian  
Manu Akana  
Mona Cherry  
Mark Deakos  
Jacque (Jackie) Sinenci  
Deborah Flores Van Alstyne  
Smita Paul  
Junya Nakoa  
Uilani Walker-Baricuatro  
Cord Munoz  
La'akea Webb  
Lawrence Cabanilla  
Alicia Leopoldino  
Puanana Felicilda  
Makena Laurion  
Astrid Magallon

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Lorrie Betsill Nielson  
Damon Williams  
Nainoa Ah Hee  
DeAndre Takahashi  
Heidi Mehlich  
Francisco Jimenez Salgado  
Christine Borge  
Justin Dickson  
Jared Kahaiali'i  
Jacob Howard  
Jesse Hinchcliff  
Kieran Clark  
Paul Pelkey  
Tehani Kuhaulua  
Joshua Reeder  
David Cooper  
Lana Albright  
Kanamua Balinbin  
Leimana Hassett  
Darri Alvarez  
Kaipo Kekona  
Lauren Palakiko  
Michiko Smith  
Kai Nishiki  
Micah Kealoha  
Sanford Hill  
Kulamanu Brown  
Kaliko'okalani Teruya  
Gretchen Losano  
Kristina Mau  
Naim Ferguson  
Kauai Kaina  
Robin Yardley  
Jasmine Valdez  
Noelani Keawe-Aiko  
Elle Cochran  
Kumu  
Telesia Vehikite  
Andrea Cesarek  
Susan Pcola-Davis  
Lopaka  
Katie Wilson  
Manuel Kuloloio

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Mark Deakos  
Lava  
Katherine Wissner  
Tara Rojas  
Charles  
Cheryl Hotta  
Saul Goode  
Maika'i  
Dayna Moore  
Gina  
Christine Chow  
Cammie Coleman  
Sara Glussi  
Suzette Felicilda  
Sarah Pajimola  
Lisa Awai  
Mona  
Plus (800) other people

**PRESS:** Melissa Tanji, *The Maui News*  
A'ali'i Dukelow, *KITV*  
*Civil Beat*

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**GREAT-14      RESOLUTION    23-194,    RELATING   TO   DEVELOPING   A  
COMPREHENSIVE RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY PLAN IN  
RESPONSE TO THE ISLAND OF MAUI'S TRAGIC WILDFIRES OF  
AUGUST 2023)**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . .(*gavel*). . . Will the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting of September 27th, 2023 please come to order. It is 9:14 a.m. I'm your Chair Nohelani U'u-Hodgins. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. I think this only applies to one person, but we have to say all the words anyway. So, Vice-Committee Chair [*sic*] Tamara Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Councilmember Tom Cook. He's online, I believe.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha, Chair.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Aloha. Is there anybody with you, Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No. No, I'm--I'm in my home office alone. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah, mic on.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha. I'm Gabe Johnson. There's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District office, and I'm here, and ready to work. Mahalo.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. And aloha to all the Members who are here. And a huge aloha, and mahalo to each and every one of you out there.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha, everyone. It's so wonderful to see you. I'm so glad that you took the time to come and share with us today. Looking forward to it. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez will be joining us in a few minutes. We have Councilmember Shane Sinenci. He says aloha, and good morning, guys. And then, last but not least, Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good morning. Good morning, everybody. It's...it's so exciting to see so many of you. And we look forward to learning from you, and hearing what you have to share with us. So, thank you for being here. Thank you very much (*audio interference*) the hotel, fabulous job. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. We also have with us our Committee Staff. To our right we have Kasie Apo Takayama, Clarissa MacDonald, Pauline (*audio interference*). Can we get another mic over there? We have Richard E. Mitchell, our Legislative Attorney, and Pauline Martins. For those of you joining online, please see the last page of the agenda for information on connectivity. We have one item on our agenda today. We have before us Resolution 23-194, entitled Developing a Comprehensive Recovery and Resiliency Plan in Response to the Island of Maui's Tragic Wildfires of August 2020. Resolution 23-194's purpose is to develop a comprehensive recovery and resiliency plan in response to the Island of Maui's tragic wildfires of August '23 through a series of complimentary

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ordinances and resolutions. We are here in Kā'anapali today to hear from you guys, the voices of the West Maui community. We want to listen to your needs, your concerns, and what you envision for West Maui moving forward. We understand that the community may share stories that are difficult to hear, speak, and relive and your well-being is of the most importance to all of us. So please share what you feel comfortable with. Since GREAT-14 is the only item on the agenda, I will now open public. As a reminder, the purpose of today's meeting is to just hear from and there'll be no legislative action taken today. For today's meeting, we will be prioritizing individuals who wish to testify in person so we can do our best to hear from everyone attending this meeting in West Maui today. More specifically, we will be receiving testimony first from the in-person keiki joining us today and the kupuna who need to leave, followed by all other in-person testifiers and then and online testifiers. You should have signed up in the beginning as you were entering the ballroom. If you need to complete the form provided to you by Staff by entrance, then you will be placed on a testifiers log. Testifiers wanting to provide video or audio testimony should have signed up in the chat via BlueJeans link or called in to the phone number noted on today's agenda. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff and they will identify you and refer to you as "Testifier" and assign you a number. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas) as well. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item and if you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. For those of you joining us online, the chat should not be used to provide comments or discussion beyond signing up to testify or to notify Staff you do not wish to testify. Please be courteous by turning off your video and muting your microphone while you're waiting for your turn to testify. I have an entire paragraph here on decorum, but I'm just gonna ask you guys all to please on our best behavior and so that we can all hear the testifiers. So I'm not going to read it, but I trust you all. So Staff has been monitoring individuals joining today's meeting and we will do our best to take up each person in an orderly fashion. When the Staff calls on you to testify, they're going to call the next three people to testify as well and we have some reserved seating right here up in the front so if you guys could queue up so we can hear from as many people as we can today. I would appreciate it. Thank you guys all for your cooperation. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez is here with us today. Did the mic fixed or do we need to give her this one?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Test. Test, one, two.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Member Rawlins-Fernandez, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka. E kala mai for my tardiness. I...I guess I don't have to say where I'm here, it's a public place. But



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part of the reason I was late is I--I printed the West Maui Community Plan along with the maps. And then I pulled out a lot of the action items, and put it on a one-pager, and I left it with Uncle Ke'eumoku. So, he has some copies for you folks. It also has the QR code, if you'd like to pull up the digital copy on your phone or device. It's so wonderful to see you all here. Mahalo for coming.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Before we call our first testifier, Member Paltin is going to say a few words as well, and then Staff will call our first testifier. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair U'u-Hodgins. Aloha, West Maui. Thank you so much for showing up. Thank you to the Westin for hosting us. We would have liked to come a little earlier, but it was difficult to find the...a space to accommodate West Maui. So, thank you very much for allowing us to use your space. I just wanted to give a little County Council Committee 101, as some of you may have not participated in this kind of forum before. We're the Legislative Branch of the County Council. So, our powers are to make County laws, and control the budget to some extent. So, that's in our realm of things to do...the community plan, County wastewater, County water, County roads; those types of things. And I'm not trying to discourage you for, you know, just letting it all out of everything what needs to be fixed. But I don't want to raise any false expectations that we can solve all the problems. But the problems that we can solve, we want to. And so the purpose of this Comprehensive Recovery and Resiliency Plan in Response to the Tragic Wildfires is to try to pull out the things in you folks' testimony that each of the Committees can work on. Like Member Cook has Water and Infrastructure; Member Johnson has Agriculture, Diversified Economy, and Public Transit; and those types of things. So...so, that's kind of the purpose. You can ask questions in your testimony, but we won't be answering the question. As part of the process, that's just how it goes. Members, if they don't understand what you're saying, they can ask clarifying questions. But because there's so many testifiers, we really do not...it's the rules, but also because there's so many testifiers, we don't want to get into a discussion with any individual testifier so we can try to get through the testimony as expeditiously, and everybody have their opportunity to talk. And so everybody will have three minutes. If you don't get a chance to testify in person, and you want to write your mana'o out, the official way to do it is [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas), look at today's meeting, which is September 27th, and then go to the eComment. Danny Boy Palakiko also created this QR code if you wanted to write out your mana'o as well. He distributed 500 flyers, and ran out. So, I have also posted that on my social media, if you wanted to share your mana'o that way. So, there's a couple of ways to write in as well. Hopefully, that addresses some of...any confusion people will have. We're really looking forward to hear from you folks, your vision for Lāhainā in the short term, midterm, long term and, you know,

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also any solutions, suggestions that you have to offer. But if you need to just let it out and vent whatever is on your heart and in your na'au, that is okay. We're here for you for that as well. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, Member Paltin.

**. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: So, Staff, if you could please call the first keiki testifier. Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. The first testifier is Mikey Burke with Ke Kula Kaiapuni, to be followed by Maleko Burke, Kumu Liko, Kumu Kanoë, and Kumu Kala.

MS. BURKE: Welina me ke aloha. My name is Mikey Burke. My 'ohana have been in Lāhainā for four generations. My kūpuna came here from Moloka'i and Hawai'i Island. It's hard to condense everything that needs to be said in the time allotted for testimony, so here's a Cliff Notes [sic] version of what I believe needs to happen in Lāhainā to move forward. First of all, there are too many decisions being made about us without us. Everyone loves to pimp out Lāhainā, then sit back and collect the millions of dollars, only to improve your districts and make quality of life better for your residents. Guess what? We're done. You want the money so badly, pimp out your districts. Lāhainā has been raped long enough. Your turns [sic]. Launch the illegal boat tours from your noncommercial boat harbors, approve permits for surf and snorkel lessons on your beaches, give short-term rental permits for every other zip code than 96761. Sound ridiculous? Exactly. If it's unimaginable for your districts, then it absolutely should not be entertained in Lāhainā. You wouldn't tell an abused wife to return home to her wife-beating husband because he's been...she's been with him for decades, and she needs him, right? Exactly. Stop telling Lāhainā to do the same. And if you haven't already noticed, STRs do not serve Maui any longer. End STRs for good. When we rebuild, it needs to be done with residents being the priority. Everything else, like businesses, will fall into place as the support needed for the residents. If you build with tourism as a priority, then we will face the same imbalance and abuse as before. We are done. And as we rebuild, we need to take into account all the cultures that make up this town, with Kānaka Maoli people and practices taking the lead on these efforts. Why? Because while everyone is concerned about the rebuild from the ground up, only the Kānaka Maoli of this place are envisioning the rebuild starting from the ground down. The 'āina and the wai need to come first. After we take care of the 'āina and the wai, we can focus on the physical structure and infrastructures. Some requirements should be temporary

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emergency housing should be in northwest Maui, from Kā'anapali to Kapalua. It should not be in the fire-prone area south of Puamana like all these backroom conversations are insisting. Front Street and all of the shoreline communities should be turned into open-space park, and memorials, and celebrations of what Lāhainā once was; the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom, the bread basket of this pae 'āina, the melting pot of all the wonderful cultures that make up this town. Build walking and bike paths, restore Moku'ula and Mokuhinia, make Front Street the biggest cultural center Hawai'i has ever seen. Do not build the structures along the shoreline again, as we've been discussing managed retreat for years. Fortunately, and unfortunately, a large part of the managed retreat has already been taken care of. Design the town and neighborhoods to have wider roads, sidewalks, and greenways...nonnegotiable. Change the planning and building codes to require the planting of native trees or fruit-bearing trees on each property being rebuilt. And just like a new build is required to have solar hot water, you can require a minimum solar plus battery too, and it will be cheaper to include in the build than after the fact. Restore Ka Malu 'Ulu O Lele, and not just refer to it. Design better evacuation routes in these neighborhoods so there are two ways in and out, minimum. And since infrastructure has to be redone, expand R-1 water reuse to be able to supply all the new subdivisions and commercial areas, and water --

MS. MACDONALD: *(Audio interference)*.

MS. BURKE: -- the greenways, and open spaces. Mayor Bissen announced a new emergency --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. BURKE: -- permitting office specific to the rebuild efforts. Site this office in Lāhainā, and expedite development in the areas that are approved in our very thorough and vetted West Maui County plan. Focus on the newer subdivisions that already meet updated codes, and get them going ASAP when we bring older neighborhoods up to code. Design with people in mind, the Community Plan in mind, mauka to makai. I have a lot more, but I'm going to respect your time. So, mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. And again, can you please email the rest of your testimony to us? We'd appreciate that. Thank you very much.

MR. BURKE: Hello. Oh, sorry.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: No, your turn.

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MR. BURKE: Hello. My name is Maleko Burke. I am 13 years old. I used to live in Lāhainā. I go to the Hawaiian Immersion School of Lāhainā. I would like to see an automatic fire protection system. I would like to see all the historic sites restored in Lāhainā. I hope that Front Street is fully restored. I hope that the banyan tree can make a recovery, but most importantly, the...the old...the native plants to Lāhainā. I want to be able to move out of these hotels...for me and my friends to move out of these hotels, and into West Maui where towns are normal, and neighborhoods already exist. I don't want to live south of Lāhainā because it will easily burn. I want to...have Lāhainā to be there for us, and not the...for the tourists. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Before you begin, can I ask Staff to call the next three testifiers so they could please come in the queue.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the next three testifiers are Kumu Liko, Kumu Kanoe, Kumu Kala, and Kumu Kalama'ehu.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Please begin.

MR. LIKO: Mai ke komo 'ana o ka lā i Ha'eha'e a i kona mo'e 'ana iho ma Lehua, aia ku'u welina iā 'oukou e nā lālā o ka 'Aha Kalana a me ke kaiāulu o Lāhainā. Aloha. 'O wau 'o Liko Rogers. He kumu kaiapuni ma Lāhainā no 'iwakālua a 'oi makahiki a he kanahā mau makahiki o ka lō'ihī o ko'u noho 'ana ma Lāhainā nei ma ka...mai ka piha 'ana o ko'u makahiki 'umikūmākolū. My name is Liko Rogers. I have been a Hawaiian immersion educator here in Lāhainā for more than 25 years. And I have been a resident here for over 40 years, since I was 13 years old. I'm here today to speak on behalf of my 'ohana, my school, and my community. My main concern about the rebuild of our town is the future safety of the residents of Lāhainā. We need to be assured that this type of thing can never happen again. We need responsible land management by those who own those fields of dry grass that was the root of the Lāhainā fires. We need the power lines buried under the ground. I understand this is expensive. Well, so is cleaning up after a fire that devastates the whole town. We need...we need a better emergency plan for Lāhainā, to include more evacuation routes. We need to make Lāhainā safe. I would like to turn your attention to those people over there. We have brought with us our haumana, or our students. These are the keiki of Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Lāhainā who are rooted, and grounded in their culture and language. As part of their education in Kaiapuni program, they learn to become stewards of their 'āina. Whether it be through traditional oli, or through their actual testimony here today, it is important to us, their kumu, that their voices are heard, and they are under...and they understand that they have a say. No, not only a say, but a kuleana to stand up for what they believe is right for their community. These keiki, and youth, along with their counterparts in

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the English medium schools, they are the future of Lāhainā. We come here today as a kula to ask for your support in our vision of establishing a pre-K through 12th grade standalone Kaiapuni, or Hawaiian medium school, to retain affiliation --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. LIKO: -- with Lāhaināluna High School. In our vision in the rebuild of Lāhainā, we see this Kaiapuni school being built back up on the hill as a place where Kaiapuni education can thrive, and continue to support the rich history and culture of Lāhainā. Mahalo.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the next testifier is Kumu Kanoe, to be followed by Kumu Kala, Kumu Kalama‘ehu, and Imi Kaleleiki.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah, can you help her, please? Thank you.

MS. KANOE: Mai ka ‘ohu ‘ana mai o ka ua Palipō i ka ‘ohu o Honokāhau ma ka moku o Kā‘anapali a i ka nene‘e ‘ana o ka ua Pa‘ūpili i uka o Pa‘upa‘u ma ka moku o Lāhainā, aloha nui kākou. ‘O Kanoelani Steward kēia a no Lāhainā mai au. Mahalo nui ka hō‘ea ‘ana mai i ko kakou aina aloha. Mahalo nui for being with us in Lahaina today. I am a kumu Kaiapuni here with our entire ‘ohana of Lāhainā, and our keiki Kaiapuni. And I grew up down Māla on Ala Moana Street right next to Lāhainā Jodo Mission, and I am just one of thousands who were impacted by the deadly wildfire on August 8th. Our Nagasako family home that we lived in on ‘A‘a Street was completely destroyed. As you guys listen to all the mana‘ō that will be shared today to develop a comprehensive recovery and resiliency plan for Lāhainā, I hope that you keep the voices of our people, our...our kama‘āina with generational ties this place, at the forefront of every decision that you make from here on out. As ‘ohana continue to search for long-term temporary housing, I believe that our emergency efforts should be focused on places more north of Lāhainā, where people have access to safe water, and safe access to stores and local businesses that we can continue to support. In regards to the rebuild, and vision of Lāhainā, I'd like to share a few writings from our Hawaiian language newspapers that were printed in the 19th Century to share context and perspective of a collective vision. In an article written by Daniel Kahaulelio in *Ka Nupepa Kuokoa* in 1867, he writes, “Ma mua aku o ke kū ‘ana o nā wilikō ma Lāhainā nei, ua ‘ike ‘ia aku nā kahawai o Kaua‘ula, Kanahā, Kahoma, ua piha pono i ke kalo.” “Before there were sugar mills in Lāhainā, Kaua‘ula, Kanahā, and Kahoma, rivers and valleys were extensively filled with kalo.” In 1898, Kahaulelio writes in another newspaper called *Ka Lei*

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*Rose O Hawai'i*, as he reminisces about his younger days, “‘A‘ole e ‘ekolu kaulahao mai kahakai mai, e ulu ana nā lo‘i kalo nunui. E hele ‘oe mai kēlā pe‘a a kēia pe‘a o Lāhainā, aia nā lo‘i kalo e ulu ana ma mua a ma hope o kauhale.” He talks about Lāhainā being an ‘āina momona, an extremely abundant place, and that not even three chain links from the ocean, there are numerous kalo patches everywhere from every corner of Lāhainā. You could see kalo patches growing in the front and back of all the kauhale. Written in 1880 in *Ka Elele Poakolu*, our ‘āina is described as ulu wehi wehi, as a lush place where plants thrive, and it lists mea kanu, or plants, that were a familiar sight in that time in the moku of Lāhainā. ‘Ulu, kukui, koa, kō, niu, hāwane or loulou, and the pū hala. In the article, it continues to talk about the maka‘āinana at that time, the people that tended to ‘āina, proudly residing in Lāhainā with humility under the rich canopy of ‘ulu. “‘O ka maka‘āinana ho‘i e noho ha‘aheo ‘ana me ka ha‘aha‘a ma lalo o ka malu ‘ulu o nā ‘ulu, i ‘ōlelo ‘ia ai, ‘o Ka Malu ‘Ulu o Lele. He ‘umi kaukani ka nui o nā kākāka o Lāhainā o ia mau lā, e kahe ana a e ho‘okena ‘ana i ka makewai o nā lo‘i kalo, lehulehu he kaukani a ‘oi.” The stream waters were flowing freely, and quenching the thirst of over 1,000 lo‘i all near the--all near the ocean in Lāhainā. The people that you see in front of you today are the maka‘āinana of this day. We aloha and tend to our ‘āina the best way we know how to. We continually show up to protect this space that we love, this place that has fed us, and our ‘ohana in so many ways. These are just a few excerpts of what Lāhainā used to be like before our streams and springs were dewatered, and before our ‘āina was taken over by --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. KANOE: -- sugar and plantation plantations...pineapple plantations. These articles from our Hawaiian language newspapers not only give us a picture of what used to be, but gives us hope of what can be, of what our Lāhainā could potentially look like. Instead of building all those businesses along the ocean in Lāhainā Town, think carefully and critically about those businesses. Who did they serve? Did they serve our people, the people with generational ties to this place? Did our people benefit from them, or were those businesses continuing the legacy of an extractive industry? And if those buildings and businesses did serve our people, move them back up uka. We're all aware of the current status of our climate, and we all see the effects of sea level rise, especially as we drive to the other side, as the ‘ehukai splashes on our cars as we drive by Olowalu and Ukumehame. Instead of allowing those businesses to occupy our ‘āina along the ocean, plant the trees in that area that our kūpuna talked about over and over again in our Hawaiian language newspapers. Plant the kalo, thousands of kalo patches. Plant ulu, kukui, koa, ko, niu, hawane, and the pū hala...and the pū hala. Grow food, and resources that will continue to sustain our cultural practices, and contribute to the mauili ola of our people. Grow these plants and

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trees so that this generation that you heard earlier --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. KANOE: -- and see in front of you, and the ones that will follow, no longer have to read about what Lāhainā used to look like way back in the day, but they can see it for themselves, they can utilize it, and they can be proud of the choices that we make today. Hālau Lāhainā, malu i ka 'ulu. Mahalo nui.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the next testifier is Kumu Kala, to be followed by Kumu Kalama'ehu, 'Imi Kaleleiki, and Kaliko Storer.

MS. KALA: Ke aloha nui iā kākou. Mahalo for having this here. And I'm just overwhelmed by all of our community that's out here. Because we're all here for one purpose, which is our 'āina, Lāhainā. I'm a kumu at Ke Kula Kaiapuni 'o Lāhainā. I'm also the educational director at the Hui O Wa'a Kaulua. At...at the foundation of this...right, we already know we are in climate change. Like this is it, yeah, it's happening. And so, if we are going to prepare to be resilient, our 'āina and our wai comes first. When you put that first, everything else will fall into place, yeah. And so to echo what I...but to echo what all of who came before me just said, our kūpuna knew. They wrote about it. *Malu 'Ulu o Lele*. Ulu, that's the food that's going to feed us. The kalo, all of those mea kanu, and they all want to be there. They...they can thrive there. They've been there for thousands of years. Also too, when you put that wai back, that feeds our kai, yeah. We need those reefs to counter what is happening. We keep building businesses on the shoreline...that's not happening. Just like Kumu Kanoe said, you got to think about why those people are there, yeah. Is that a wa'a, yeah, that's going to go out there, and educate our keiki, and teach them how to mālama kai, mālama 'āina? Or are they just there to take money, and send it off to somebody else? A'ole hiki, yeah. Not only that, our kaiāulu needs to stay here, yeah. No push them out to Olowalu, or Ukumehame, yeah, where there are no resources, yeah. They need to stay here, so we need to build that infrastructure. Something else that I heard earlier, bury those lines, yeah. Brah, the money that we spent right now, no matter that expensive...brah, we spent more just trying to...right now, trying to recover that. We have to change because we are dealing with this now. What else? Gosh, man, there's so much to think about. But I...I heard evacuation routes. Yes, we have to. We have to. Yeah. So, we have to change our minds, and change what we're doing. And why are we doing this? For our keiki, for our mo'o, yeah. Moku'ula, yeah, Kihawahine. What was her kuleana? Our resources, our wai. We need to mālama that first. Mahalo.

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Excuse me. Can you please come back?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the next testifier --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Member Paltin has a couple questions for you. What was that, Kasie?

MS. KALA: Maikai.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Mahalo. Mahalo, Kala, for your testimony. I just wanted to clarify about what you said about evacuation routes. Lāhaināluna, Princess Nāhi'ena'ena, Lāhainā Intermediate, Lāhaināluna...just clarifying about the evacuation routes. Do you...as a kumu, are you aware of the evacuation routes for all those schools with the one way in, one way out?

MS. KALA: Yeah, that cannot happen. Because, yeah, it's just one way in, and one way...one way out. So, we need to have more than one. There has to be, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Mahalo.

MS. KALA: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I got a question.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your testimony. Just to let you know, some upcoming bills I'm writing is to bury the power lines. There's a bill coming through the pipe to bury the power lines.

MS. KALA: Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. And real quick, before you begin, I know three minutes feels like a short amount of time. But you should know that this won't be your only time to provide testimony. We will continue to hear you, and we will continue to listen to what you have to say. So, if you feel like three minutes is not enough, shoot us an email, reach out, give us a call. And also we will be back, and we will be back in Chambers. So, say what you need to say now, and no pressure to say all the things because we're going to continue to listen. So, please come forward.

MR. TAKAHASHI: Aloha kākou. Aloha. Howzit. My name is Kalama'ehu. I'm a makua voluncheea...volunteer for the Kula Kaiapuni 'o Lāhainā, and I'm all about



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audience participation. So, to the 'ohana of Lele, we're going to do a little exercise, and I want you guys to take a listen to what I'm going to say, yeah. If I say eō, and you agree...can I see this...we're going to just practice right now. Eō mai. You guys got to say eō. Eō mai.

AUDIENCE: Eō .

MR. TAKAHASHI: Eō mai.

AUDIENCE: Eō .

MR. TAKAHASHI: Eh, you guys pretty good at this, yeah. Okay. Sorry, that was before my...we not starting the timer yet. Hold on. Okay. Aloha kakahiaka. Kalama'ehu Takahashi. For those who cannot be here, we stand together here today. For those who cannot speak, we lend our voices in solidarity. For those of us who had passed, let us honor and preserve their legacy by moving forward with pono. We must prioritize our...our 'āina, 'ohana, and community first. There's no room for visitors, and the tourist industry, and a century-old tactic that has indoctrinated and imprisoned us in servitude to the...to the perverse idea that the people who have the most kuleana to this place should be spending our lives in servitude to...to these capitalist beasts, and their superiority complex that treats us as subhuman. Eō mai.

AUDIENCE: Eō.

MR. TAKAHASHI: Let me tell you a little story. On Monday, as our keiki over there...as an entire school, we took our keiki to Kapalua Bay to holoholo, and learn about our lawai'a pono from our mākua. We encountered tourists who told our keiki, who are fishing now, learning their traditional cultural practice in our place, yeah. They told us...what they tell? Oh, yeah. We encountered tourists who were fishing to move so they could set up their beach day because they needed shade. Yeah. When some of our mākua attempted to reason with them, letting them know about the situation of the keiki, and the community, guess what they said? I don't care. Why should I? I came here to enjoy my vacation. And while they're trying to call the cops and argue about the right to be there, their toddler got swept up in the surf, and toss around. And it was one of our makua...our makua that took care them, pulled them out of there. But for an American ego...and a desire to dominate supersedes the natural instinct to care for their own children. That is the sickness that we deal with, that hurts us every day with micro aggressions, and blatant disrespect for our keiki, 'ohana, and place. Is this the industry that you are so desperate to save--colonial domination over the genealogical right and kuleana of our keiki and future? No more. We refuse to let this deadly mentality and system dominate us any longer. Eō mai.

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AUDIENCE: Eō.

MR. TAKAHASHI: Where temporary emergency housing should be for West Maui, between the two fire stations where it should not be...not south of Puamana, not Olowalu, not Launiupoko, not Ukumehame. Members of the Council and Josh Green, get out of bed with Peter...with Peter Martin, and come tend to the garden. E huli ka lima i lalo. Replant, regrow, reseed the future of Lāhainā. Cultivate a true sense of trust and solidarity in the community you so boldly claim in the resolution, and divest from this perverse mentality before the soil goes fallow forever. We already have to deal with your mess. No more. Pau already. No rezone to prioritize private purveyors. Our 'ohana come first. Eō mai.

AUDIENCE: Eō .

MR. TAKAHASHI: We are replanting, recultivating --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. TAKAHASHI: -- our ea, our sustenance, our --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. TAKAHASHI: -- Maoli. Kalo, ulu, niu, mai'a, return of the *Malu 'Ulu O Lele* restoration of local...restoration of the loko of Mokuhinia. Reconsecrate Lāhainā. Not as a paradise with no rules, laws, and civil structure, but the piko, the center, the capital of the Hawaiian Kingdom...a center of abundance, healing, humanity, and due diligence. It is how we survived all this time. We know and are informed by our genealogy from time immemorial. It is how we will live on forever. This kind pilau stuff, enough already. You guys had your chance to build, build, build how you see fit to control the resources and policies, to cause the conditions that set the stage for this disaster. People stayed in their homes to protect all they worked for under this system, to protect...that they work bone...well, worked to the bone for their entire lives for scraps, and to cling to it until we perish? Never again. Lāhui consciousness is about abundance for all, peace for all, safety for all. Let the community--not the developers, not the speculators and transplants, and surely not the American imperialist ideologists--plan for our future. If you still talking tourism, if you still talking building more, and you still talking taking our resources for this economy...or for this tourism, whatever, for their play, no can.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

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MR. TAKAHASHI: Roger. You are perpetuating the problem, and you need to either pivot and align with the broader Hawaiian national consciousness and local community, or go back where you came from. Whether it's 3 months, 30 years...if you think that you deserve to flourish at the expense of our 'ohana, you are sorely mistaken, and should book your flight now. Whoa, whoa, whoa. Eō mai. Eō mai. Take it easy. Take it easy. Expand R-1 water use to provide green . . .(inaudible). . . --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. You going to have to wrap up, okay.

MR. TAKAHASHI: Eww, okay. Buh, buh, buh, buh, buh. Sorry, should be fast. Our cries for justice and aloha are...and 'āina sustainability sovereignty fall on ears fraudulently deafened by the kani kani of the keni keni. 'A'ole mākou a'e minamina i ka pu'u kālā o ke aupuni, ua lawa mākou i ka pōhaku. To be truly disaster resilient, we must divest from the system that caused disaster, and understand the Hawaiian way and Hawaiian Islands in security of all forms. Almost pau, like--maybe like five more e'os, and I'm out. Yes. Buh, buh, buh, buh, buh. We're going to go...we're going to go back to our little activity, gang. You have solidarity in the proclamations, but where stay? Solidarity must include the willingness to decentralize power, and recalibrate our political structure to ensure the humanity, and the people, and integrity of the resources entrusted to the longest-standing stakeholders, the lineal descendants, and long-term multi-national integrated 'ohana, working with the understanding that we prioritize the integrity of Hawaiian history, sense of place, practices, and culture. Eō mai.

AUDIENCE: Eō.

MR. TAKAHASHI: Quality public Hawaiian education. Quality public Hawaiian education is a key factor, and priority, and right for everyone in our community, and lāhui, especially during this time of uncertainty. Eō mai.

AUDIENCE: Eō.

MR. TAKAHASHI: Our 'ohana come first, particularly the 'āina, wai, and ea. Eō mai.

AUDIENCE: Eō.

MR. TAKAHASHI: Everything that we have accomplished was done so without any hesitation, no questions asked out of the aloha, and need to persevere, and heal the maoli of our people, place, and pilina to...the systems and policies that confine us will never liberate us. Eō mai.

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AUDIENCE: Eō.

MR. TAKAHASHI: Our culture, our people, are truly resilient as we stand here today despite all of this happen, to continue to participate under duress in these colonial processes. Eō mai.

AUDIENCE: Eō.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. TAKAHASHI: For --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Wait, sir, we're at seven minutes at this point.

MR. TAKAHASHI: Oh. Sorry, guys.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: So, I appreciate your passion, but we going to have to allow other people to speak.

MR. TAKAHASHI: Thank you, guys.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Okay, and also, if you could please email that to us, that'd be great since we going to have to internalize that one. There's also speakers outside if anybody wants to go outside. I know it's best to kind of be in this place, but just in case, if you need a breather, you can see still hear what's going on--outside, what's going on inside. So, just letting you guys know. Staff, next testifier, please.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the next testifier is Īmi Kaleleiki, to be followed by Kaliko Storer, Vela Noury, and Kumu Ku'ūipo.

MS. KALELEIKI: Aloha kakou. 'O Ka'imi Hōkūlani Kaleleiki au. I was raised in the wahi of Lāhainā for most of my life. And my ties to this place go back generations. I remember my...sorry...I remember my father telling me stories about his childhood in Lāhainā, and it's so different from my own today. He told me stories about the manō, and about how his family would sustain themselves off of this land, yeah. And weeks before the fire, I was working as an educator for Hui o Wa'a Kaulua, and I was--I was sharing these stories with my students. And I was telling them about Mokuhinia, and why we're named Malu 'Ulu O Lele. And the questions I kept getting are, where is that? Because when you look around, it's...it's not the same. Our people are self-sustaining, we are resilient, we are...we do not need these industries that are in place today. And I know that might be controversial, but I believe that to be true. And I think the way we have

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handled this whole situation just proves that. It's time to put...it's time to put those...it's time to put our people first. All of my life I have seen us being treated as second-class citizens in our own home. And we are told that we...we need these outsiders in order to survive, and it is not true...it is not true. And if we had the wai, and if we had the 'ulu, and the niu, and the kalo, we wouldn't be where we are today. So, it's time to put that back in place. And just to reiterate, it is 2023. We have the infrastructure, we have the technology to avoid this. It is...it is time. And again, to reiterate the other points, don't...well, I don't believe we should be putting people south of Puamana.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. KALELEIKI: We should keep them in their wahi. This...they should not be separated from their homes, especially now, with everything going on. Okay, mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Before we take the next testifier, I do want to let the kūpuna standing know that there are a few seats in the front. I saw a couple people walk in, look around, and walk outside. Now that I know they can hear me, there are seats in the front if any kūpuna want to come and sit down. But if we could please have our next testifier. Thank you very much.

MS. STORER: Welina mai kākou. 'O wau 'o Kaliko Lehua Storer. Noho wau ma Leiali'i, Lāhainā. I'm a graduate of Lāhaināluna High School, class of 1998. I was raised under many mentors such as Earl Kūkahiko, Jr. I have a great understanding of what Lāhaināluna has birthed, and you're looking at them. In 1831, 1835, David Malo became a scholar, and the purpose was to build scholars, and to create the...the 'ōlelo no'eau that many of us have a deep understanding is ho'okahi nō...ho'okahi wale nō leo a ua lawa. One voice is enough. And that voice is...our kūpuna teach us...our 'ike kūpuna is simple, the mea kanu have been planted for such a reason. If we know that Pu'u Kukui, at the summit, has been the second rainiest place on earth...simple. If our keiki understand 'auamo ke kuleana, they understand kūlia i ka nu'u...again, it's simple. We're one voice. And we don't just have an understanding of today. We have understanding from things that had been written from 1831. If our keiki kaiapuni, our keiki of Lāhainā, understand 'ōlelo no'eau, my charge to all of you is to understand it as well. Aloha.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Kasie, can we please have the next three testifiers? And as a reminder, we do have a few seats up here for those waiting to testify, we can get them in the queue. Kasie?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the next testifier is Vela Noury, to be followed by Kumu

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Ku'uipo, to be followed by Kumu Kauna'oa, and Kelli Keahi.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Kasie, you can hana hou the names, but maybe little bit louder? They cannot hear in the back.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Kumu Ku'uipo, Kumu Kauna'oa, and Kelli Keahi.

MS. KU'UIPO: Waipunalau me ke aloha e kākou nei. 'O au 'o Kumu Ku'uipo Valco (*phonetic*), he kumu ma ke Kula Kaiapuni o Lāhainā. I am the third grade teacher at Princess Nāhi'ena'ena Elementary, and I'm actually from the ahupua'a of Waikapū on Wailuku side, and I only come here on behalf of Lāhainā to...not on behalf of Lāhainā, kala mai, but in support of Lāhainā, its people, and its community on what they have to say with the understanding that the rebuild of Lāhainā should be for Lāhainā, by Lāhainā, and nobody else. Eō.

AUDIENCE: Eō.

MS. KU'UIPO: With this understanding, I'm in support of whatever the Lāhainā kaiāulu has to say because I have seen within the last week their capability to, within their hurt and with everything going on, rebuild a kaiapuni for our keiki on this side in Lāhainā kaiāulu, pretty much from scratch. And we have moved so that we can be in our second year...second week...kala mai...ha'alulu, kēia...in our second week of kaiapuni on our huaka'is doing what they need to do, and teaching our keiki that it does not take a standing building to create the community, the education, and the knowledge that they need to grasp from the land, right. No, laila, me kēlā mana'o, I feel that Kaiapuni o Lāhainā should also, as we have mentioned before, come together to be as one. Because we have seen the lengths and bounds of what it has done for our keiki, what kaikaina-kaikua'ana relationships can do for these haumāna, and also what our 'āina can do for us if we just bring it back, help it flourish, and put it back...put all the systems back where they belong as ahupua'a once flourished, and helped us rebuild our community in that way. Mahalo.

MS. KAUNA'OA: Ke aloha nui iā kākou a pau. 'O wau 'o Kauna'oa Garcia, ke kupa o ka 'āina o Kaululā'au. No Lāna'i mai au. He kumu kaiapuni au ma Ke Kula Kaiapuni o Nāhi'ena'ena. Ua a'o wau no iwakālua a 'oi makahiki. Aloha, everybody. I am a kupa. I am a native of Lāna'i Kaululā'au. And if you know the story of Kaululā'au, Kaululā'au is from Lāhainā. So, my ties to Lāhainā is that Lāna'i and Lāhainā connection. And I do have kūpuna from Lāhainā as well. Aloha, everybody. I've been a teacher over 23 years as a kumu kaiapuni on O'ahu, on Lāna'i, and on Maui at Kula Kaiapuni O Nāhi'ena'ena. I've been here for almost 13 years with Kumu Liko, and I wanted to let all of you know here that that's the mana'o I wanted to focus on was education. Mahalo e nā kupa o

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Lāhainā no ko 'oukou hō'ike 'ana mai i ko 'oukou mau mana'o kūpa'a i ka 'āina, i ka wai, i nā ali'i o kēia 'āina nei. Yeah, so, if you don't know the history, Lāhainā is rich in the ali'i that established our education system...our public education system. Kauikeaouli, Kamehameha 'ekolu, he established that for our keiki, and it's still here till today. And if you don't know, it was in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. Our education system was in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. And I'm here to let you guys know, if you already didn't know, Kula Kaiapuni o Lāhainā started school on August 14th. So, like Kumu Ku'uipo said earlier, we went back to school. We are not going to wait for anybody to tell us that we need to be back with our keiki. We all knew that for our keiki to holomua, and progress through this 'eha, they need to be together, we need to be together. And we didn't wait for the DOE to tell us, you can go back to work today. We went back to work the week after this 'eha. We met, we planned, and that is the result. Our keiki are back at school at Honokahua. Our mākua, our kaiāulu, is so ikaika that they took on that kuleana, and didn't wait for the DOE to tell us, yes, you can go back to school. We are back at Kula. We are huaka'ing every day. We go to a wahi pana of Lāhainā every single day so that they can see the importance of this place --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. KAUNA'OA: -- and the various places of Lāhainā that give us that mana to holomua.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. KAUNA'OA: So ke 'olu'olu...could you please tell whoever you need to, we need a Kula Kaiapuni o Lāhainā; our own school for our keiki. And mahalo nui for all the kupa of Lāhainā. Holomua kākou. E'o.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Velo Noury, to be followed by Kelli Keahi, and Jackie Keefe.

MS. NOURY: Kala mai. 'O Welo ko'u inoa. My name is Velo Medeiros Noury. I am from Lāhainā. I've been here...well, our family has been here for many generations, to the point where my great grandfather's Hawaiian name is actually Keka'a. So, we have a lot of ties to Lāhainā. My entire immediate family lost all of our homes in the fire. But anyways, point being, my husband is not from here. He's from a French island in the middle of the Indian Ocean. The island is probably the same size as Maui, but it looks like Hawai'i, and there's 900,000 people that live there. They had every single stream running. And not like Kahoma. Somebody told me, oh, Kahoma is running. I live next to it. If that's running water, I don't know what...I don't know what that is. My faucet runs faster than that stream. But every single stream we drove over in his home island was gushing with water. They have cane; that's part of what they do for their

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agriculture. They have tourism. But they figured out, with the French Government, how to kind of balance it out with 900,000 people. We have like-- what they said, 120,000 people that live on Maui. I know we have way more that visit, that's probably who takes all our stuff, but I don't understand why we can't have the same things when we're the second-most wettest place in the world. Unless I missed something after all the years...all the years that I haven't been in school, that changed, and we're no longer the second wettest place, then I have to go study up. The other part is, we're Lāhainā. Lāhainā. It says Lāhainā. Why don't we have things other than electric? Why is electric our main source of...or what's it called...Hawaiian Electric, why are they the only source of electricity in Lāhainā, that we have to focus on trying to bury these wires? You know, the day of the fire made me realize that as much as I thought we were ahead of the game, and we have all these wonderful things, and we're so advanced...we were stuck with nothing. With crappy poles and crappy wires that fell down every time, like the times before, and now, unfortunately, they're back up again. And now they're going to be buried. Why can't we do solar? We live by the ocean. My husband, same island, they have hydro where they actually use the water to make electricity, and they desalinize it so that they have fresh water to use from the ocean as well. Worried about it moving up? Why don't we use some of it? I don't get some of this stuff. I'm...sorry, I'm...I...I'm a hula dancer, and I take care of my kids. I'm here because my daughter is in Kaiapuni, and I'm from Lāhainā. But a lot of things don't make sense to me, why there's so much things that we're saying...being saying no to. The buildings, why--when we rebuild, why is it going to take so long for all these permits? What about these permits? All the zoning...why does the zoning stay the same? My daughter...we went to San Francisco, she was trying to figure out how nice they build all their stuff. And they kind of build vertical because their land is, you know, limited, and the fact that they have people who have a...a business, and they live above their business. Why can't Lāhainā be like that? Why was it restricted that --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. NORAY: -- we have to be separated from our businesses because that's what they say. But that's just some food for thought that I...been running in my mind all this time, and I just wanted to put it out there, but thank you. Mahalo.

MS. KEAHI: Aloha. My name is Kelli Keahi. I am a Lāhainā resident whose house did burn down. I have been displaced to Wailuku. And since I have been over there, I haven't been back to Lāhainā very often. But coming in today, I got here really early, and signed up to testify. And one of the things that I...I saw was just how our island is dying. Everything's dead. It's...it's just dried up. The very essence and the beauty of what this place used to be is no longer. The people are being suffocated out of here, and we...we can't go back to what was not working before



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this fire. We cannot. We have to move on. We have to do better, and do better for the people. One of the things I would like to really see is accountability of the land and the landowners. And we have to have somebody in place to make sure that there are fines, and penalties, and...and...you know, like repercussions for not taking care of that land. There should be...you know, whether it be goats, or sheep, or cattle, or something up there grazing to keep the grass down. What have we not learned from 2018? And...and...and today, we lost our town because we did nothing from the 2018 fire. Look where we are now. It's sad, you guys. As far as the town being reconstructed, my family builds. We built our own home in Lāhainā, and we had to have a certain standard of way we built our house, which was, you know, historical. And then I see all these homes on Front Street that look like something out of L.A., you know, box, and squared, and...and modern. And I don't get how those guys got away with that, but we had to be held to a certain standard. We got to have standards in the rebuild. And if we're going to be an...an historic town, it needs to be historically rebuilt. And there has to be repercussions for people that are breaking that. I'm sorry, but it just...let's all be fair here. As far as Māla Wharf, and as far as Lāhainā Harbor, we need to make sure that Māla Wharf is for the residents. We can no longer have businesses conducting business out of Māla Wharf. Lāhainā Harbor needs to be rebuilt to sustain those businesses as well, and they need to come out of Lāhainā Harbor. No more Māla Wharf. It's...it's...it's pau. It shouldn't even be up for discussion in closed doors without the residents there to have a say about it. We fought long and hard for Canoe Beach, as far as businesses down there. That's our practice field for the canoes, and for the high school, and...and the canoe clubs. And I don't want to see, you know, these boat businesses over there trying to have access through Waikuli [sic] so they can launch their boats, and, you know, conduct their business over here. We're not ready. Lahaina Town is not ready for all of this. You know, we're going back to work, but we...we got to do better this next time around. You guys, please, please, accountability. And get the roads fixed. We got to have access all the way down, and out, and not be trapped. I was --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. KEAHI: -- on the other side of Lāhaināluna, and getting out of town was really hard because the poles were all over the road. We can't have poles next to the road anymore, you guys. Do better.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Staff, can you please call our next three testifiers?

MS. MACDONALD: Yes. The next testifier is Jackie Keefe, to be followed by Mike Whitehead, and Art Ford.

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: One second. So, if you heard your name, please come sit down in the front. We have a few seats reserved for the next few testifiers. Thank you. Please begin. Thank you.

MS. KEEFE: Aloha mai kākou. To heal the sea, we must heal the mountain. Everyone's footprint on the 'āina matters. This week I've met all sorts of experts who are working in their own way towards that exact cause. If we bring them together, we can expedite the regeneration of our 'āina. Every regenerative agriculture farmer I've met recognizes the need to heal the soil. I met expert...I met soil experts whose passion is using microbiology to accelerate Mother Nature's natural processes by 100 times or more. That could be talking about breaking down debris in the zone. They're using science and technology to perform soil restoration. Brew Hut Maui wants to make this program free and accessible so that it's easy for all of us to participate. They've already...they're already working with some hotels to help eliminate their use of pesticides. I ran outside...I ran into them outside of here when I got here today. Westin is one of their companies that they're working with. George Purdy, a pioneer in LiDAR technology, and creator of the Lāna'i Dry Land Forestation Project, is ready to partner with these farmers and soil experts to significantly speed our recovery by working with technology. Drones with LiDAR technology allow for the detailed mapping of Maui's topography changes over time, while letting one person cover much more ground, and faster. This is what was expressed to us. That is a huge win, and a prayer being answered by the farmers. George has partnered with schools all around Hawai'i to teach about LiDAR drones, and set up a pilot training program through UH. And his long-term plan is to create a mesh network of drone pilots in Hawai'i. These are great jobs for our community. The thing about George's LiDAR mapping that has regenerative farmers so excited is the fact that he is also a Hawaiian farmer. He understands planting according to the Hawaiian moon calendar, and designing contour swells based around changing rain patterns. He grew up on Maui, and has watched the effects of desertification get worse with time throughout the County. I think we all understand that we're at a pivotal moment. It is time to stand up and take a hard turn off our current path. We have this chance to truly heal our town. We must grow deeper roots, and restore our soil, and those deep roots will help rebuild our water table. We can't grow that ulu if we don't have water. We must still work to fight for water rights, but we must do this in tandem with rebuilding and refilling our water table. It is important that we do this as a community, united. Right now, Maui County just needs to open the door to technology. Under the Emergency Proclamation, Maui County can say that we need LiDAR to map the topography of Maui as a part of the recovery for land restoration, and it's funded. It's incredibly important that we jump on this opportunity to catch up with the times. We must also remember to stay united as a community, and lead with aloha, and then we can talk about the walkable Front Street that we all want. Thank you.

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Please come forward. Thank you.

MR. WHITEHEAD: Aloha, my name is Mike Whitehead. I'm an '84 graduate of Lāhaināluna. First of all, this could take a little longer than three minutes. I think the rules should be changed because what happened to Lāhainā was not typical for a community meeting. This is not a typical community meeting. For myself, to get my frustrations and my ideas out in three minutes is kind of tough. And I understand we're trying to watch it, but this shouldn't be...those rules should be changed. Four minutes, five minutes maybe, but even that is too short. First off, the narrative bothers me. This was not a wildfire. This was a planned and choreographed fire of Lāhainā Town, and our town was burnt. I don't like seeing it, or hearing it called wildfires. We all know this was planned. At least that's my, and from everybody I've spoken with, believes. Why was there no water in the hydrants? I know people who were in the neighborhood that burnt watched the hoses go down. Where are the firemen who called it in, and said there was no water? Second...I'm going to move this along just because I'm trying to be respectful of your rules, even though this should change. Land, we should all be allowed to build back. And those that want to relocate because of the devastation, and can't handle it, or are not...don't want to deal with it, they can relocate. If they sell their land, there should be a moratorium to selling land to outside investors. Only Lāhainā people should be able to buy. Get a list of everybody that doesn't own a home in Lāhainā--renters, long-term residents--not the...not the kid on his parents' dime living in Lāhainā, and buying it through them...him. It should be residents of Lāhainā. You should have a list, and any parcels that come up available should be available for Lāhainā residents, that you give us the opportunity. Airbnbs, vacation rentals, all permits in Lāhainā, single-family homes should be revoked. That is what drove us out...that's what drove us out, and drove up the property values. McMansions, I heard in an informational meeting, were going to be allowed to put back their original home. That should include Front Street. All those McMansions were built in the '90s, and the County Government, the County Departments...everybody turned a blind eye. They were built within the setbacks. I know because I was in construction back then. I renovated two homes on Lāhaināluna Road that were built in the '30s without taking down the roof. They got burnt in the fire too. If we're held accountable for building the original home, no McMansions should be. The original house should be, and if it was within the setback law, that should be allowed. But if not, then it needs to be moved back if they're going to change it. But no more McMansions on Front Street. If you want proof that we're treated differently, like it was said, I was being held to accountable for National Historic District below the road for my windows, and yet the McMansions were being built because I didn't have a fat envelope of cash to pass under the table. That's the reality. That's the reality of what we live in. The rich take, and we don't. You

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want proof? Who allowed West Maui land to sell parcels of the mountain? They're carving the mountain. HC&S didn't own the mountain, nobody owns that. If anything, it's for the Hawaiians. But yet, we're carving into the mountains up there, and no one's saying nothing. Why? Who allowed...and they just posted the anniversary, like they're proud. Who allowed the Cliff House to be renovated the way it's been renovated? That's not historical. I watched that roof come down. If the roof came down, there was no building it back because it's --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. WHITEHEAD: -- on the ocean. I understand it's three minutes. I'm still moving along. I'm almost done. Mortgages, everybody who lost a home, the Government should be putting pressure on any bank that has a mortgage in Lāhainā, and giving at least a year, and taking that 12 months, and putting it on the back end to give these homeowners relief from their loans. Not taking a...not giving them a freebie, they'll pay it, but give them some freedom because they need help. We all need help. Get the list of renters, I talked about that. Sorry, I'm just losing track...kind of just got a wave of emotions that come up. We need to build. The toxic land...the narrative is the land is toxic. They want to...it's not inhabitable. That should be the choice for all of us to make. Some won't, and they will go with it. But when I...I was in the Zone 1 that was cleared, and it's like everybody telling me about ten years, this could affect you. And it could. But like I said, I worked in these old plantation homes, I renovated two of them with just a simple painter's mask. That was 20 years ago. I'm still here. No signs of cancer. Everybody's different. Everybody should have the freedom of choice to go back to their land and build. The opening, it's going to be tough. We're focusing on August 8...I mean October 8, but you know what? It's going to be tougher for everybody because maybe some of us are dealing with it, and deal with it better, but that there's a lot that I've seen that are freaking out in our community, and still can't handle it, and still can't deal with what happened to our town. It's only going to get worse. We got Halloween right after that, Thanksgiving rolls along into it. And then we're already going to see Christmas decorations. How do you think we're all going to feel? Should we open? I don't think so. I don't think so. But we need relief given. People who have loans, people who are unfortunate to work. I am fortunate, I have been working. I'm still paying my bills. But we need help, and we need you guys to be different from what we know of our County Government, the State Government, and our former Maui County Council. Of all those years, we watched them give away Lāhainā because they don't really care for us. Thank you for your time. Sorry went over.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Sir, before you begin, I'm going to ask for the next three testifiers so they can start queuing up as well.

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MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next three testifiers are Brandon Kaina, Tiare Lawrence, and Mitch Kepa.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Sir, please begin. Thank you.

MR. FORD: Committee Members, my name is Art Ford, and I've been a resident here on Maui for 23 years. I've been coming to Maui since 1969. My first-born son was born here in 1973, I honeymooned here with my wife in 1970. And the one thing I want to preface this with is how I'd like to apologize to all...all of you that...for your losses in Lāhainā. You know, I...I feel...I feel a certain responsibility because I think many of us saw this coming. You know, over the years, the fires, and the...the winds that blow here. And, you know, I sat on my hands and didn't...I...you know, it's always let's let somebody else do it. You know, the Government will take of that. Well, it didn't happen, and we need to be a collective voice in moving forward with rebuilding Lāhainā. One of the things that I've seen in my many years that I visited and lived here is, I've seen with overtourism that locals have been pushed out. It's been a slow erosion of this progress. An example of that is the golf courses down in Mākena. You know, at one time we had two courses down there...we were welcomed as kama'aina. And now it's a gated community, we're not welcome. Three million dollars to buy a lot down there. I've seen this over and over. Unfortunately though, I will share something with you--corporate America owns West Maui. They own West Maui. We talk about the economy, getting...getting back to work at low-paying jobs. There's very few of us that own businesses here in West Maui. This is an example here, all these hotels. But I'm not going to talk about the past though, I'd like to move forward, and I want to give some constructive issues that we can move forward with. Again, I was...I came to Hawai'i in 1968 thanks to the U.S. Navy. We have faced an onslaught of overtourism, and big money investors buying up our properties, helping to contribute to a huge housing shortage for locals. I just read an article today that said that there are more Hawaiians today living on the mainland than there are living here in Hawai'i. There's something wrong with that picture...something wrong with that scenario. I'd like to propose a few changes, and some of...some of it is going to be redundant, I know we've already talked about it before. But I'd like to plan a future here in Hawai'i where locals can once again experience a gathering place, including...I won't see it myself in my lifetime, but my...my grandkids will, and I hope this will be --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. FORD: -- a gathering place for...for them to come to in the future. The changes I'd like to see, number one, is the utilities underground. That's...that is long overdue, and it's redundant. Remove Front Street. Our greatest enjoyment here has come from the times when Front Street was closed. Let us make this a

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walkable, attractive greenbelt. Relocate the school, and make a nice park where we can all enjoy it without the congestion. Extend the bypass now. Extend the bypass. That's a gauntlet down there. It's scary to go...come down the Kiawe Street. It was poorly planned. Another suggestion is, remove the tracks of the old sugar cane train, and let's create a bike lane, and a walkway. And last, but probably just as important, I think all the workers here in West Maui need to have better pay so we don't have to subsidize...we're not having to --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. FORD: -- subsidize your housing. Thank you very much. Aloha to all of you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, please come up.

MR. LANDSFORD: Good morning. My name is Kekoa, and Maui resident for over 42 years. I just want to say aloha to the brothers and sisters. Like I said, the 'ohana from Lāhainā. One thing right now I'm feeling is that I will never forget August 8, and I know what I was doing. But when I don't forget that...what happened, I was in Kihei when...you know, that reminds me of the anger I feel today, every day, but we still moving on. So, I just wanted to make sure that we never forget what happened. And hopefully, I'm using that to motivate myself to...to stay on top of what we're doing, and...and I appreciate the community of Lāhainā. Like I said, I been here over 42 years, and I've enjoyed Lāhainā. I'm a musician. I've enjoyed all of that, and I just want to give the people of Lāhainā my condolences, care about you guys. I came to just share my mana'o, so I going start doing that. Lot of people said what I was thinking about, but, you know, just some simple things that we can...there's so many things. I just want to say a few things that we can wrap our minds around it. I feel like this generation is awesome. You guys are awesome as you take on these problems. My generation, they kind of moved on already, but you guys are carrying the torch. So, I cheer you guys on, my aloha to you guys with that. So, one of the things bothering me was, oh, wow, the utility poles fell down, and it really...a friend of mine was showing me a video. He was trying to get out of Lāhainā, and the...the poles were falling down, they couldn't get out. So...so, the way my mind thinks is like, okay, man, those utility poles, we got to ban them, or get rid of them. And so, I'm glad to hear that there are concrete movement in that direction...so awesome, thank you for that. There's other concrete ideas that I think we can come up with. And so, I'm starting to hear the ideas, but one of the concern for me--water. So, right now, I live in...I live in Kula. If I get caught watering my garden, trying to feed myself, I get one \$500 fine. I think that's the...the situation right now. My son was telling me, so I got to take his word. But that...that doesn't seem right because I live in...part time I live in Kihei, North Kihei. And every once in a while, to escape, I got to go out Mākena, La Perouse way. When I go that way, I see all this beautiful,

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lush, rich homes, condominiums they building. Eh, I no see no dry grass. So, I wonder about the water situation; is it fair? How can a few people, you know, gain from...from the water doing...you know, I just...that's the whole thing. So, me as a private person, trying to water my garden --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. LANDSFORD: -- oh. Yeah. So, like I said, I just want to...I think there's some beautiful . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I want to thank our people here. You guys are awesome. I know you guys got limited powers, but I know you guys going to do you guys' best, and I just want to participate in this situation. Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the next testifier is Brandon Kaina, to be followed by Tiare Lawrence, Mitch Kepa, and Katie Austin.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. After Tiare testifies, we're going to take a short ten-minute break. Please continue. Thank you.

MR. KAINA: Aloha, my name is Brandon Kione Kaina, Jr., born and raised here in Lāhainā. Councilmembers, thank you for taking the time to hearing the people of Lāhainā. I hope you take all testimonies from today into consideration when making decisions for rebuilding our community. I ask that our leaders be as transparent as possible, and provide us all the information that we need to give us comfort and peace of mind. I am hoping that we are able to have permits approved quickly to allow Lāhainā families to rebuild their homes and local businesses. Replace those luxury homes, Airbnbs, with local businesses, especially the businesses that have been around for generations. If possible, please allow for free classes and trainings for the people to be qualified and licensed if they want to participate in clearing out the debris within properties. We don't want to see mainland companies coming in when we can employ our people, and give them this work opportunity. Many of our family, friends, and neighbors are skilled craftsmen, engineers, and builders, who are knowledgeable and experienced. So many people are hurting, and I think this will help some to heal their wounds by being able to physically be part of the rebuild of Lāhainā. Families have worked so hard to build from the ground over the years. And I'm here today because I'm so worried for my kids' future. They won't be able to know the Lāhainā I knew, but we can at least fight for them to have something similar. But if you don't involve us, the people of Lāhainā, we won't have that. Involving the local residents in rebuilding of our town will ensure that the process is rooted in community values, needs, and hope. It will promote a stronger sense of belonging, economic growth, and in the long run, creating a more vibrant, resilient, and sustainable community. We hear rumors of plans, but we don't really know what's coming, or what's factual. Please keep us informed, continue

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to ask us for our input, don't ignore us or leave us in the dark. We are a town that have so much pride, and that will never change. We are Lāhainā.

MS. LAWRENCE: Aloha mai kākou, Councilmembers. Mahalo nui for coming to Lāhainā. My name is Tiare Lawrence. I come from seven-plus generations of Lāhainā, a graduate of Lāhaināluna High School, several of my family members, including my 81-year-old tūtū, lost their home. And I now, fortunately, have the kuleana to house my family in Pukalani. The recovery and resilience of Lāhainā must be centered around adopting traditional and cultural knowledge. With that being said, the restoration of Moku'ula and Ka Malu 'Ulu O Lele must be at the forefront. The greenbelt and food forest that once protected Lāhainā must be restored, and the springs of Moku'ula set free so the mana of Kihawahine can flourish and protect Lele once again. I testified in front of this Council several times against unfettered, irresponsible development projects that include Makila Rural Town [sic], Polanui Gardens, Makila Kai, Olowalu Mauka, Olowalu Makai, Olowalu Town. My main argument then was the lack of water resources, building in a area that is historically known for massive fires, and that these lands should be utilized for agriculture over gentleman estates and luxury swimming pools. Thank God the communities fought against these pilau projects. Otherwise, you would have had not one, but three towns perish in the August 8 fire. As we move into unchartered waters, the Council should implement the following. Build true workforce housing on public, not private land, with priority to multi-generational families. End short-term rentals in Lāhainā...pau, lava. No more businesses...no more businesses makai of Front Street, restore the beach on Front Street, make preapproved building plans to help streamline the permitting process, add more staff positions at the Planning Department with specific focus to Lāhainā. Implement community planning for coastal areas regarding sea level rise, pass legislation that requires large landowners to do fire abatement. I would even go as far as creating a different tax rate for lands that are deserted, unproductive, to incentivize these landowners to do agriculture activities that shall include farming, rotational grazing, plant nursery, packing, processing, and a slaughterhouse. Require MECO to bury the electrical in and around Lāhainā Town. No rezoning of land without community input, build out a wastewater treatment facility in Lāhainā that will allow the use of R-1 water to help restore local agriculture, regenerative tourism, work with the State DOE to relocate Kamehameha III School to a permanent location in upper West Maui, purchase the school campus for a County park, request DLNR and DOBOR to have next week's October 3rd meeting in Lāhainā and not on Zoom. I'm asking the Councilmembers to please send a email to Dawn Chang and Meghan Statts and Ed Underwood. You know, this has been such an --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.



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MS. LAWRENCE: -- emotional time, and I know a lot of us...I...I keep thinking that I ran out of tears. I...I...it...it just keeps coming, but I'm asking the Council to do whatever it takes to keep Lāhainā in Lāhainā. I know for myself, I...I live in Pukalani because I couldn't afford to live at home, and I would love so much to be able to move back home one day...and I know a lot of my family feel the same sentiment. So, I'm asking you guys to stand behind the people...the multi-generational families, most importantly. In closing, I want to mahalo...I want to mahalo Tamara Paltin, our West Maui Councilmember. She has worked tirelessly with such grace, empathy, compassion, love, and aloha for Lāhainā. I humbly ask the Council to support our Councilmember because I truly believe she is a voice of the people. Lāhainā is not for sale. Keep Lāhainā lands in Lāhainā hands. Aloha.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. It is 10:35. We are going to take a ten-minute recess, to return at 10...well, now it's 10:36. So, now we're going to take a ten-minute recess, to return at 10:46. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 10:36 a.m.**

**RECONVENE: 10:53 a.m.**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . .*(gavel)*. . . It is 10:53, and will the GREAT Committee please reconvene. Kasie, if you could please call our next three testifiers so they can come out into the queue. I'm not too sure if anybody heard me in the beginning, but we have some reserved seating up front for those who will be testifying next. So, Kasie...thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Mitch Kepa, to be followed by Katie Austin, Lawrence Cabanilla, and Alicia Leopoldino.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Katie Austin.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Katie Austin, please come. Thank you.

MS. AUSTIN: Aloha. My name is Katie Austin. Thank you all for listening to the people, it is going to tie into what I'm saying. An uncle in this room installed in me forever the need to listen. If you not from here, listen. If you don't know about the subject, listen. Keep listening to the kūpuna, the people of this land, listen. I'm speaking out now because I feel the Government hasn't been listening for years. The struggle for so many things have been ongoing for generations for families in this room, and the people in power have not been following through with that

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basic teaching, to listen. Tourism, for so many years, took precedent over listening to the people. My first thing is water rights. No private entity should own our water, point blank. I don't know why this is still a question. No privatization of water rights whatsoever. Give the water back. Streams should flow, restoration of Malu 'Ulu O Lele. Native plants, like ulu, should be at the forefront. Hold West Maui Land Company and Peter Martin accountable, literally. Like their negligent actions for years...and take a stand against it. It has gotten us to where we are now, and you all, especially everybody in this room, have the chance to make a change. We don't have to keep doing the same thing over and over again. Prioritize the people over tourism. Hurry to rebuild should really be focusing on the homelands. Get our community back on their lands while the restructure of Front Street and businesses can happen later. We need regulations in place now that will deter offshore buyers. One way to do that is ban the transient vacation rentals now within homes in our community so that these vultures aren't circling. I also agree with the historic building guides, not to control how locals will rebuild their homes, but to make sure we don't have these monstrosities popping up, and that Greg Browns can't pop up in the middle of Lāhainā. Also, Lāhainā Harbor needs to be rebuilt as the only source of commercial activity on the West Side. Māla Wharf needs to be reopened how it was intended years ago, as a community boat ramp. There will be no commercialization, whatsoever, out of Māla Wharf. I, personally, picture a town of abundance...not by wealth, or tourism, but by the 'āina and the wai, which has been portrayed to me through years of stories of past generations. Not what we saw at...as our town just before the fire--dry, barren, crispy, and used by tourism. We can bring it how...back to how it should be, but we just...everybody...the Government needs to just listen. Thank you. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Kasie, can you please list the next three testifiers?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the next testifier is Lawrence Cabanilla, Alicia Leopoldino, and Daniel Skousen.

MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: Thank you for letting me speak, but I resided in Lāhainā for the past...almost 80 years. I was born and raised in Lāhainā, and grew up, and made a family, and I'm a sixth generation. And just by hearing the person before me, I think most of the people in this room have more than what, you know, I can say. But I can share that during my time, I've seen the growth of the economic engine as agriculture to tourism. And we suffered through those days, but, you know, we...we survive. And the only thing that I can kind of come up and talk about is the multicultural that we have in Lāhainā, you know, that I've experienced through the years in the Filipino group, the Japanese group, the Chinese group, the Hawaiian group, and whatever we have. And we've shared these throughout the years that I grew up, and that was the most happiest time

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in my life. And I also try to teach the children, and share with my friends and family that, you know, by sharing this kind of events in life, like gatherings, getting together, spending time, grumbling, being happy...you know, hash out what you have to hash out, and at the end of the day, you can smile. So, even if the...there was a very bad disaster in Lāhainā, I still can smile, you know, because of these kind of thoughts. And the only way that I know how to bring these things together is to have Government be involved, and get functions where we can have a Filipino Day, a Japanese Day, a Hawaiian Day...you know, all those kind of things. Gather these minds together, and build one mind and one body, and Lāhainā will be body of what it's supposed to be. I sorry. I love Lāhainā. Lāhainā is the only place for me. And Lāhainā has...I live in the middle under the blue sky. I live makai...makai is the ocean, and mauka is the mountain. And I don't think you can find any other place than that --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. LAWRENCE CABANILLA: -- and who...who makes it all is the people. So, thank you again.

MS. LEOPOLDINO: Aloha, everybody. I'm not used to doing this kind of thing, but like my dad said...I think what he's trying to emphasize is that the people need to come together as one, no matter what nationality we are, or what culture we're from...because that is what made Lāhainā what it has been, and what it will be again. And I agree, Lāhainā is not for sale. Unfortunately, you know, the time that it's taking to get everything in order, and the lack of transparency for the community, and the people to know what direction we're headed in with the rebuilding of everything...you know, our homes, our businesses, and where are...where are we headed, really? What's the plan? That a lot of times they'll be frustrated, and they'll give up, and we'll eventually be forced to move away for one reason or another. So, you know, the thought that Lāhainā isn't for sale, it's in the heart of every person that lives in Lāhainā, and that has been affected, and not been affected. Indirectly, I think everybody has been affected by what happened, and it should not have happened. It was...it's...totally should not have happened. So, we need to come together, and rebuild it the way that it should be, and the way that it was, so that we can continue with the uniqueness of the people who make Lāhainā what it is. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Kasie, can you please call the next three testifiers?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the next testifier is Daniel Skousen, to be followed by Puanana Felicilda, to be followed by Keli'i Grothmann.

MR. SKOUSEN: All right. Thanks a lot for giving me the chance to come share a few of

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my...my thoughts. My name is Daniel Skousen. I've lived in the Lāhainā area since 2009, and previous to that I was out in Hāna. I was teaching out there for a number of year...well, for a handful of years. When I was a...when I was a kid, I moved here to pick pineapple, and I've worked and boarded. I saw this area when it was a little diff...a lot different than it is now. It was a lot greener, and there was a lot more vegetation around. So, I've seen a little bit of change in my...my life. Not near as much as most of you, but I still have seen a lot of change. And when I was...you know, I have to think back when I was a kid, the world's population was like half...half of what it is now. And all of us know that change is inevitable. As...as there becomes more people, it becomes more demand on resources, it becomes more necessity to, you know, create more housing, to create more jobs, more, you know, opportunity. Where I spent part of my life in Utah, I saw the same things a lot of you are complaining about. You know, I saw the agricultural...the...the farms disappear. I saw the...you know, the natural resources disappear. I saw the...you know, everything getting paved over and developed. You know, that was really hard for me, and that became a place I didn't want to really live. And when I came to Hawai'i, and...when I was 15 in '93, and I saw that it was, you know, the country feel, what I...what I wanted to be...where I wanted to be...that kind of opportunity. And...and, you know, being in a place that could be what I thought was self-sufficient...which we are not self-sufficient, right. Those...as we know during COVID, you know, stuff falls off the shelf pretty quick when the boats stop coming in. I think that's what...what a lot of people want, they want to be self-sufficient. They don't want to be reliant on...you know, on the outside, reliant on them like beggars, you know, wanting to be on welfare. There's people here that...they want to work hard. They want the opportunity to...to create a self-sufficient, you know, society where they can provide for their families. And we need the agriculture back. We need bigger lots where people can have their own self-sufficient farms. We don't need to be jammed in these small little communities. All this land around us, and it's just sitting there vacant, not doing anything, needs to be opened up where people, especially people that are deeply rooted here, that want to work the land, can do it. They want to work, they want to, you know, grow things...they need to be able to do that. So, it's not too late here, but we're at the valley where...you know, if you ever go to Utah Valley, that whole thing's been just developed out, no more farming. All the...you know, the poor deer and elk come down, there's nowhere to go but in the road to get hit. So, I mean the thing...it's not too late here. There's still a lot of open land, a lot of opportunity to get agriculture back, and to be self-sufficient. When I came...when I was staff reduced during the recession, 2009, we had a...you know, the economy was hit hard, and Hāna reduced their staff size. I was brought here to Lāhainā side, teach health and PE. And it was really difficult for me going down Front Street. It was like offensive to me, having come from Hāna, just like all...it was just so different, right. So, after a year I actually went back to Hāna, and then I...I came back to this side,

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and I've been here since. But it's kind of grown on me, I mean we did...it did...as a teacher --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. SKOUSEN: -- teacher I don't make that much money. I think I net \$3,800 a month after 17 years of teaching...like I can't provide. So, what do I do for...to provide for my family--I've got five kids, four small ones at home is I...I clean toilets, I clean vacation rentals. That's become the way I provide for my family. I would like...you know, that's what I've had to do. So about 40 percent of my necessary income comes from my job, and the rest comes from vacation rentals. I know a lot of people don't like 'em, but hey, do what you gotta do to provide for your family, and not...you know, not be a beggar. But I...I love everybody. I consider everyone my brothers and sisters. And I...I know I may not look like some of you, and I may not be as deeply rooted, but I believe we're all brothers and sisters. And the prayer at the beginning of the...this meeting I think was...was beautiful, and it made me...I...I definitely felt touched by it, and I hope that we can all, in peace, find unity, and...and...and rebuild in...in a quickly, timely way. And...and I thank you for your time.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the next testifier is Puanana Felicilda, to be followed by Keli'i Grothmann, and Jeremy Delos Reyes.

MS. FELICILDA: Aloha. Aloha, all our families from Lāhainā. Imua. Imua. I'm not a speaker, but thank you for being here to hear all of us. I am...not was...now, I am born and raised in Lāhainā on Māla Front Street. We've lived there all of our lives. We've raised my seven children in Lāhainā. When we grew up, it was an old plantation camp. Fishing and plantation was our living. Our parents...my dad worked at the Pioneer Mill. He was...he lays the water lines in the...in the fields. Coming home, he went fishing. Our whole family in Māla were fishermen, and they were great fisherman. And today, you know, when I look back, it's so sad because we have all these million-dollar homes on the Front Street where we live, where we all grew up. And today, you know, they sell for like \$8 to \$5 million, which that was our home, our home street. And our people in Lāhainā, we grew up with them. We knew almost everybody in Lāhainā. Even the Filipinos that came in, Japanese, we all each had a camp. We were Māla Camp, we had Kiawe Camp, we had Japanese Camp, you know, and the Filipino Camp...they were all our people. And the ocean was always open to all of us. We would all walk from Māla, we would walk to Kā'anapali, where we swam until late evenings. We went to the beaches, pick up our limu, fish, everything. And as the years went by, everything just boomed. It wasn't Lāhainā anymore. We couldn't walk to Front

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Street because we didn't know a lot of the people. And if we pass by, we saw somebody, we toot the horn and wave at them because we knew them. And what has happened today, it's sad. We've lost everything. All our...even our friends who passed, we lost every one of them. And I feel that the minutes that we get is too short, we...there's so much our people want to express, but we are timed, you know, and it's sad. You know, I...I look at all my cousins, and my children, my great grandchildren who lived with me. They're...they lost everything in that fire. So, who's responsible for that...that fire? Who's responsible? You know, this has been going on for how many years.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. FELICILDA: I know. I mean even the...even the eight...the 2018, same thing...people lost homes. But this is worse, we lost the whole Lāhainā. Place we grew up, people we went to school with. You know, it...it...it's so hard to keep on expressing, but there has to be something done. Our water system...you know, there's nothing in the rivers. We used to swim in the rivers. There's nothing today. And, you know, it's...there's no...what more...you know, I...and besides all this, you know, there's things that have to be done for us. We all want to be in Lāhainā. You know, there's too much tourism for all of us. You know, we have to think about our --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. FELICILDA: -- people. Our people is most important. And I thank you, and I also want to thank you...with all this devastation, my husband couldn't take it. He wanted to come to Lāhainā and see when our house was gone. Everything he worked for is lost, and the week later, he passed away. You know, it's heartbreaking for him because he raised all of his children, and we all raised there. He couldn't take it. He wanted to see Lāhainā, and we didn't want him to come to see how our place was. Because we live right alongside the highway, so he saw it, you know. And now I have to prepare a funeral for him because he couldn't take it, what happen to our home, our children --

MS. MACDONALD: Five minutes.

MS. FELICILDA: -- and our great grandchildren. But we wish you would do a lot more than just listen, but talk for us. Back up our Lāhainā people. Infrastructure, water, building...they should stop building because there's no more water for all of us. But that's all I...please listen to us. Thank you. Thank you very much.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Next testifier is Keali'i Grothmann, to be followed by Jeremy Delos Reyes, and Naiwi Teruya.

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MR. GROTHMANN: Mai ka pi'ina a ka lā i Kumukahi a i kona welo 'ana i ka mole o Lehua. Mai ka nu'a o Mauna Kahālāwai no ka malu i mālama 'ia nei kēia hālāwai, a i ka moana hohonu o Kanaloa haunawela, 'ano'ai ke aloha nui iā kākou a pau loa, aloha. 'O Henrietta Moana Secretarial ko'u makuahine, 'o Richard Masahiko Grothmann ko'u makuakāne, a 'o wau 'o Keali'i Kaua'onui Kalaukoa Masao Grothmann. Ua mālama nui 'ia au i Kohala, eia nō na'e, he kama au na Kamalālāwalu a he lālā no Lāhainā no ka 'ohana Secretarial a no ka 'ohana Kalaukoa. I am Keali'i Grothmann, a descendant of Abraham Kalaukoa, a Hawaiian legislator at the time of the rightful government, the Hawaiian Kingdom, whose granddaughter, my great grandmother, Margaret Kalaukoa, is buried in Maria Lanakila with my Auntie Joanne Nāpua Secretario. I'm a Hawaiian language, hula, and cultural teacher in Japan. I see firsthand how our culture is prostituted by the tourism authorities who practically beg the Japanese to come and spend their dollars here. I have to kill two birds with one stone in Japan. I teach the Japanese about the true Hawai'i in hopes that they know better about who we are, as well as being able to generate my own income so that I don't depend on the landowners...the landowners in this neofeudalistic system. We cannot afford the land, so now we are subjected to the whims of those that do. We need to put more focus on the Native Hawaiian community, and other local communities in general, and ground it in Hawaiian values. I would like...many people have many of the points I'm going to say. I would like to see more funding into our Hawaiian culture and Hawaiian language programs at the public school, as well as our immersion school. Establish that pre-K to high school Kula Kaiapuni. Create more spaces for our 'ohana to gather as it was . . . *(inaudible)* . . . earlier, you know, so we can pick it...picnic, transmit our knowledge within central Lāhainā, rebuild Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, and return the waters. We've been asking for that for generations now, yeah. Allow us access to beaches without having to pay for parking because the free parking beach spaces is nele, it's not enough. Look down the road, 30 spaces, but we got to pay for parking. You know, make affordable housing so that our families, even me, have a chance to return to Lāhainā, or have a home without needing to work two jobs, or sell our souls to the modern plantations, a/k/a the hotel industry, yeah. The American way is to solve problems now so that we can live in comfort. But the Hawaiian way is to solve problems now so that all our descendants can live comfortably. Because ultimately, our decisions will affect our descendants, and I always say, be a good kūpuna. The fire was a freak event, but the wind was not. That was the Kaua'ula wind that comes once every generation. My grandmother told me about that wind, and how it burn...it came through with --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. GROTHMANN: -- Ke'opuolani...mahalo...Ke'opuolani came, and the devastation is

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always left in its wake. The difference is, there was water then, but not now. It's great to hear about the lines being buried, but we have to ensure that when the wind comes the next few generations, there is water ready because Lāhainā will never fade. Pio'ole i ka makani Kaua'ula. No laila, e nā luna, ho'olohe mai, e ho'olohe pono i nā 'ōlelo a mākou e ha'i aku nei iā 'oukou no ka mea 'o mākou a pau loa, 'o Lāhainā. A no mākou wale nō ka pono o ke koho 'ana i ke ala e ola ai kātou. We are Lāhainā, and it should be only our right to choose what Lāhainā should be. Ua pau...mahalo. Ua pau 'o Lāhainā i ke ahi a e ola mau nō kona mau pua. Lāhainā was destroyed by the fire, but its descendants shall live on forever. Aloha no.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Jeremy Delos Reyes, to be followed by Naiwi Teruya, and Amber Diamond.

MR. DELOS REYES: Aloha. Yeah, that's good. Yeah, I have a lot to say, and three minutes ain't going to cover it. But I hope aunty...aunty's testimony went hit you guys. So, I'm going to point out some bad things first, yeah. As we started off, there was a comment made by Alice...Chair Alice Lee that, why does Hawaiians not value education. I don't care what you say about not being inflammatory, the fact that you think that way and you ask that question is inflammatory to everybody, not just Hawaiians. Okay, so I pointed that out. I calling one, two, three...you three guys. Historically, you guys have voted for pro-development in West Maui. You guys have always voted that way, right. Look at what happen. And I got to live in one house with...I got to keep rent down so locals can afford for my rental unit. I can charge all the money I like, but I like...I like keep locals in Lāhainā, so I got to do that. The next two Councilmembers, Nohe, and--who's that--Cook. We watching you guys. We going watch how you vote. Your dad, Bruce...eh, the Union leader, we...we kind of see how we voting. I hope you going vote the right way. I hope you keep all these 'ohanas, and give them availability. I kind of angry, gang, so I sorry.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That's okay.

MR. DELOS REYES: First thing --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: But if you could just keep it on subject, that'd be great.

MR. DELOS REYES: -- first thing, we going go...future...for the future, we moving forward, eliminate all short-term rentals. Eliminate all of 'em. I no care where. Yeah, you guys like short-term rentals? Put 'em in your neighborhoods, put 'em in your district you guys represent, put 'em all next door to you. Because I got to come home to tourists yelling woohoo, spring break, right next door to my house. When you guys approved this legislation in Maui County, I hope you guys



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take the responsibility for the hostility that these tourist going come into. I hope you accept that responsibility, right. Because if I got to assault one tourist because they running around pissing in my yard because they too drunk for go back to their rental, I going knock them out. So, I hope you guys take that responsibility when you guys pass these type of legislation allowing these short-term rentals, allowing tourists to be in our neighborhoods. I hope you guys take that responsibility. Before we...we start rebuilding, how about you guys meet benchmarks...the County, the State? I no more housing. Every day I wonder if the Red Cross going kick me out. I did everything. I followed FEMA, I followed the Red Cross, I still have no housing. I don't know where I going. There is no rentals that I can afford. I gotta pay my mortgage. I gotta pay one rental that's doubled in the last three weeks. Now, for your guys' information, my second mortgage, the bank just called my loan. So, I got to come up with that money in addition to. How I going pay that off? So, we talking about land grab, gang. The banks is forcing this land grab.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. DELOS REYES: I no care about three minutes. Everybody is worried about their kids going back to schools in West Maui, where the State cannot even clear the fire hazards that's existing right now. By the way, so you guys know, been an educator...I'm still an educator at Lāhaināluna High School for 22 years. There is no evacuation plan for the school...zero. Nothing. We rushing to put kids back into school where they belong, what they need, but you guys cannot even plan fire mitigation on State land. DOE and State own that. And so, we putting our kids right back into this hazard without a fire exit. Put inspectors back in, right. Why, right now, it's complaint-based for neighborhoods? I beg you guys, please, drive up to upper Lāhaināluna. My truck cannot fit in these neighborhoods. How you going get one fire truck in there? How you going get one ambulance in there? Why are they allowed to build with so much families inside?

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. DELOS REYES: Because there's nowhere to go. There's nowhere to go. You guys heard aunty, get their grandkids living with them because there's nowhere to go. But yet, you guys pass...what is it...you guys pass developments for the rich, for these tourists that came in day two after the fire, these tourists told me at Kā'anapali Royal, the...the owners, you don't belong here, you not welcome here. I no care your house went burn down. These are the owners of Kā'anapali Royal telling me this, yeah. So, if you guys like go talk story with them, talk story with them, that's the owners. Yeah, there's many stories that way.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I'm going to...I'm going to ask you to wrap it up some, okay. And

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if you want to, you can always email us the testimony.

MR. DELOS REYES: How about we have water for the community? We need water.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Keep going. Keep going.

MR. DELOS REYES: The water for the community comes first. I like you guys know that. Grand Wailea, 770 million gallons for their pool comes from the West Maui aquifer. All the developments in South Maui comes from West Maui, but we no can water our yard. We cannot wash our car because we on restriction, yet Honolua Ridge, Kā'anapali Hillside, Kahana Ridge, Launiupoko, Olowalu...all get nice pools and water...green yards. Why is that? Tie that system back in. Tax...tax the out-of-state residents. Tax the homeowners. Give exemptions to multigenerational families, but tax the crap out of them. Make them pay. The Westin Hotel, Starwood hotels, make it a mandate that 50 percent of their...their profits stays on Maui, not --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. DELOS REYES: -- goes to corporations.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sir.

MR. DELOS REYES: Power lines --

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

MR. DELOS REYES: -- power lines gonna be dug and buried. But there was a community member...a Government official that said...and I quote, the cost for that is astronomical. You guys lose one life, that's astronomical.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sir.

MR. DELOS REYES: And what I saw...the lives that I saw....you guys lost over 300 lives.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay, wait.

MR. DELOS REYES: What is the price at that point?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sir, we have a question for you.

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

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Can you...can you --

MR. DELOS REYES: Yo.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: -- wait for a second? And then we're going to have to move on after her question. But I'm happy --

MR. DELOS REYES: I'm not...I got one more thing for say.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: *(Audio interference)*.

MR. DELOS REYES: All meetings should be held in West Maui, no matter what. You guys should be here in West Maui at least once a month, if not more. And in fact, Yuki Lei, Tasha, Shane...I like you guys have your guys' District meetings in your area.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. DELOS REYES: Give all the people...look how much people here? I love you guys. It should be here.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. DELOS REYES: You got question? Go ahead.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: No, no, no. Member Rawlins-Fernandez has a question for you, and then we're going to call the next testifier. Oh. And then Member Paltin has a question for you, and then we're going to call the next testifier.

MR. DELOS REYES: Roger that.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay, go.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. To abide by Sunshine Law, I was just going to ask you what the remainder of your testimony was going to be because, you know, we're held by laws and rules.

MR. DELOS REYES: Yeah, yeah . . .*(inaudible)*. . . was all over here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's okay. I...I...you finished before I could ask my question to complete your mana'o with us.

MR. DELOS REYES: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But I...I do have a question...two questions. It's not clarifying, sorry, Chair. One, you mentioned burying the lines, and I think that...I was wondering if you think that that is too little that you're asking for? That perhaps the community should own the energy here, and have a co-op, and...and control its own microgrids?

MR. DELOS REYES: So, the microgrid --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And...and then the --

MR. DELOS REYES: Oh, sorry. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- a second question is, I...I've heard people say, multiple times now, that there's not enough water, but I understand that there's an abundance of water. And rather than there's not enough water, is it, perhaps, your understanding that it's about how the water is currently distributed, that is. Mahalo.

MR. DELOS REYES: So, first question, power, yes, every home...I don't know if you guys aware of this, County Council, but every home...like let's...let's take Wahikuli, for example. Every home gets a battery, solar panels on their roof. It become their own independent battery, right, which can power them...I think if Wahikuli neighborhood alone could power ourself for like nine months without any kind of infrastructure from...from MECO or HECO. As far as the water question, there is an abundance of water. There's also wasting water. So, since West Maui Land Company built Launiupoko, the increase of water banks, or reservoirs throughout West Maui has increased, I think, 400 percent because they're wasting water. Now, I don't know if you guys remember, Launiupoko...above Launiupoko Beach Park had a huge water cannon just so that they could show use, that's all it was for. So, is there enough water? That's a dangerous question because we already hit salinity levels that's not appropriate. So, meaning we have already exceeding our holding capacity for West Maui. So, there should be no developments except for housing for all of us. There should be no luxury developments anymore...gentleman estates. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for --

MR. DELOS REYES: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- answering my question. So, it's not about the amount of water, it's how water is used. And it's not about the amount of housing, it's how housing units have been used.

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MR. DELOS REYES: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. DELOS REYES: I had to think about that. Sorry.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Delos Reyes, for your testimony. My clarifying question was, when you mentioned about the no evacuation route for our schools up Lāhaināluna Road. Like if there were a fire to start at Kuialua, or...Kuialua and Lāhaināluna Road, the entrance to the Princess Nāhi'ena'ena subdivision, were you planning on testifying at the House meeting in Kapalua tomorrow, at 1000 Kapalua Drive off Office Road, Harvest Chapel, Kumulani? Because I'm concerned about sending my kids to those schools with no evacuation route if a fire should start near Nāhi'ena'ena subdivision, how all of our public school children would be allowed to evacuate with no buses. Harvest Chapel, Kumulani, 9:00.

MR. DELOS REYES: Yeah. I --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: You can answer that.

MR. DELOS REYES: -- I wasn't aware of that meeting. As everybody knows, that the communication in West Maui is sporadic at best. So, I wasn't told about that meeting. I don't have the luxury, and the time. I...I not saying anybody else...I not throwing anybody else under the bus, but me, personally, I don't have the luxury and time to be on Internet or social media all day long. As you...as you know, Tamara...Councilmember Paltin, that a lot of us is just...we trying to help out our community. So, I will be there if I can, unless I got to go work, but if...I no more sick days. If...I...I...I commend you guys for being here, and I thank you guys for being here. If you guys can be here more often, as you can tell, we going be here because this is our home, yeah. Lāhainā...Lāhaināluna is Lāhainā. And as I said this before, Lāhainā is Lāhaināluna. So, love you guys. Mahalo.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Naiwi Teruya, to be followed by Amber Diamond, and Michele Lincoln.

MR. TERUYA: Aloha, Councilmembers. And aloha, Lāhainā. Before I start stating my opinions on the rebuilding process, I just want to say that we are not ready for the tourists to come back right now. Josh Green, that's a bad call. He's a medical doctor actually, he is not a psychologist, and that's what we're doing right now. The trauma...there's stages in trauma. The keiki are still going through the first stage, I'm still going through the first stage. The kūpuna, they might not even

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like recover from the trauma because we no more time. We get choke time for certain things, and little time for like the really important things. And trauma is huge. Mental health, that's important. I learned that being an adult, you got to take care your mind. You have to. And you going spit the tourists in front of us before the keiki go back to the school is really, really demoralizing, and that's why we angry. A lot of guys said a lot of important things that I wanted to mention today, like the restoration of Moku'ula, the resurrection of Mokuhinia. And I say resurrection because when you add the water into the land, the life comes back. Why...imagine one day the keiki don't have to fish out of this moldy fountain water, they can go fish out of Mokuhinia. Imagine that. Just for thought. And absolutely, all the makai businesses around Front Street, you know, we had...some of us feel connected to it. A lot of us don't really know...the feeling is kind of mush...you know, but should not allow that to be back. We should have bike lanes. I'm tired of almost trying to kill somebody by accident by...just by driving down Front Street. That's safety. This is the number one topic is safety because we were not safe during this, and we did not feel like anybody had our backs. You know, we did the hubs up at Princess Nāhi'ena'ena in the parking lot as long as we could. Then the DOE said one week after, you guys got to go. And we're like, well, what about the people that live up there still? Who's taking care of them? And then weeks later, Mayor comes in. Too late, we did it already. But you see that we feel abandoned, we don't feel safe. And now get the...get the voting table out there for vote...for register for vote. I don't know if I want to vote for anybody. But I just...I just want to say there's a big diverse community in Lāhainā, we all know that. The culture needs to be the center, and then everyone else can just be with us together, because that's...people talking about the piko, they talking about the circle of life, and the connection from the mountain to the sea.

MS. MACDONALD: Thirty [sic] minutes.

MR. TERUYA: Thank you. Wow, you said 30, yeah? Anyways, you know, we in this together. And individuals like myself, all we have is time. So, we're going to make sure that this is done right because we can't be stewards of this land if there's no water. Aloha. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Kasie, can we have the next three testifiers, please?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Amber Diamond, to be followed by Michele Lincoln, and Adam Morsi.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. DIAMOND: Good morning, neighbors. My name's Amber Diamond. I'm a single

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female, small business owner, and I lived on Front Street. I employed just under 20 employees here. We all evacuated safely, including my neighbor and his little brother that swam --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Can you please face the mic because then we can't hear you, and it's also being recorded, so then everybody else can't hear you too. Thank you.

MS. DIAMOND: Just under 20 of us evacuated from my property, including the neighbor and his brother, who swam to safety. We're really passionate about everything that's going on, and I'm a little nervous, and I'm a little frustrated. So, I'm going to get through this, but it's not in any specific order. It's been very hard for us to chase around Red Cross, SRT, SBA, and our resources because it continuously changes. We need some sort of system where everybody is talking to each other so that everybody could get the resources that they need in one area, and not have to chase everything around. We need accountability for the land negligence, for people who were not taking care of their land that are landowners here, whether it's public or private. And that includes...not limited to the previous cleanups that we've needed to have over in Kaho‘olawe after World War II. That is still not cleaned up, but somehow paid for. We need to move the elementary down from Front Street. The parents don't need to battle for a parking spot to pick up their...their keiki. Speaking more about the evacuation, it's not just where we were shuffled into a death trap behind the Civic Center with only one way in and one way out towards the fire. There was no second entrance there. There's no second entrance at the new high school in Kihei, there's no second entrance at the sports complex on the wai side. These are death traps. And having our keiki go back to these death traps is gross negligence on all of our behalf...parents and neighbors alike. I need a daily State address from our Mayor. I don't know how you guys feel about this, but this was...this all happened on 8/08. To me, this was a terrorist attack, and the President shows up to every...every world disaster within days, but why did it take Biden two weeks to show up over here? Why was Starbucks pulled out two days before? Why is there not a difference in all of our electricity bills on the South Side if those windmills were going Mach 100 that day? I drove by the substations, and they did not pop. Where is all the power going for those windmills --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. DIAMOND: -- when half of the island wasn't using power that day? I'm going to close in this. You all are moving at the speed at the Internet, and we are moving at the speed of life. We have multicultural families on the island, and I need...when we rebuild the...Lahaina, I need the signs to begin in ‘Ōlelo, English can be second. The signs need to be in Hawaiian. We need unemployment to

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kick in, whether you lost your job from the fire, whether you lost your job after the fire, or whether you are on a furlough. Unemployment...everybody who was employed on Maui, that needs to kick in now. I would like to restore Lele. I would like Alanui Moi to become the new Front Street. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Next testifier, please.

MS. LINCOLN: My name is Michele Lincoln, and I appreciate all the testimony here, and I wish I could stay all day, but I have responsibilities elsewhere. I just want to appreciate what uncle said earlier. When people ask me why I insist on living in Lāhainā, and I said because it's a snapshot of what heaven's going to look like with all the different cultures, and people together, and how we live together in harmony. That's a beautiful thing, and that doesn't happen in a lot of places, so I'd like to stay if possible. And speaking for myself, as someone who lost my home, my neighborhood of 40 years, and two long-term rental dwellings that were a major source of income for our family, we want to rebuild as owner-builders, and we have a crew and tools to start right now. What's stopping us is the roadblock and Government bureaucracy. If people want assistance, they can wait for reentry. But as long as the neighborhood has been inspected by the EPA, then access could be immediate to enter at our own risk. You can still give us passes, and protective clothing. You can still have guards and police stationed strategically throughout the community. But at the rate we're going, two years to start rebuilding doesn't pencil out. At the informational meeting on Friday night, the Red Cross housing assistance said they can last up to 18 months, insured housing allowances are 24 months, but for most policy amounts, that's not a last...long enough to last the two-year allowance. Insured rental properties cover 12 months of lost revenue. That means in ten months before we go to the stipends run out for that. This means we need to start building now, which translates...the United States Army Corps of Engineers cleanup of debris and final EPA clearance needs to be complete by February 8, 2024, not longer than six months from the start to the finish, we get Federal funding. So, it needs to be done within a timely manner. Hire local, interisland, and continental U.S. debris removal crews and equipment to accomplish that goal. And while the cleanup takes place, assist the build back of Lāhainā so each zone can begin construction as it's cleared of debris and deemed free of toxin. This enables the building process to start sooner than four months from now. Continue using conveniently located venues, like this, or at the Civic Center, and locations in Kahului, whatever it takes. At these locations, make available draftsmen with County Code knowledge at fair market fees to draw up plans. Make available engineers and architects to stamp and submit those draft plans for immediate permit approval at fair market fees, insurance covers cost, or FEMA for the uninsured. Hire retired or off-island draftsmen, architects, engineers to expedite this part of the process. Provide housing for them like you did for FEMA and



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National Guard personnel. The same goes for inspectors. Hire qualified individuals for a temporary assignment to rebuild Lāhainā quickly and safely. Have inspectors for each zone assigned to a certain number of dwellings and businesses. This may need to be 40 to 50 inspectors, it...which would include electrical and plumbing inspectors as well. Building...builders could submit requests for inspections 24 hours in advance, and it gets done within 48 hours. Houses and business in the SMA would --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. LINCOLN: -- would still have the scrutiny required by law, but expedite plans and approvals of other agencies. Follow the community plan. A single story, 1,200 square foot home, would take approximately three months to build, but that crew, once they get it framed, can start going on to the next home, creating the snowball effect. The Maui Planning Department would take care of business as usual for the rest of the island, but a special team would take charge of the rebuilding of Lāhainā. Solicit more Federal funds for the uninsured, and underinsurers [sic], and provide qualified draftsmen, architects, inspectors at a reasonable rate to get the job done quickly and safely. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Can you please email that to us? And then Chair Lee has a question for you.

MS. LINCOLN: When I get access to a computer, I could definitely do that --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. LINCOLN: -- hopefully over the weekend.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Or you can always leave it with the Staff too if you feel comfortable sharing that, but Chair Lee has a question for you.

MS. LINCOLN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Ms. Lincoln. You mentioned that, at the rate things are going, it doesn't pencil out. So...and you mentioned examples of expediting the permitting process, and so forth. But another challenge that we have is, a lot of the transmissions line...transmission lines have been broken, so that part of the infrastructure needs to be redone--sewer and water. But --

MS. LINCOLN: So...can I answer --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sure.

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MS. LINCOLN: -- the...how...from our perspective? So, in the time that it would take you to be working on the infrastructure, we could be building houses. We plan on...well, I lived in a...a 1932 cane house that was from lumber from the Olowalu Sugar Mill, repurposed from that. And we plan on building post and pier with tin roofs. I mean we liked the old cane house, we're going to do that again. So, if...if we can do that with...with...we would have our primary residence. They changed the law in 2019, which allows our size lots in Lāhainā to have two smaller accessory dwellings. We had the rental property across the street that would have a single-family dwelling, plus two accessory dwellings. So, we could have six rentals in by the time you guys get...our...our houses get done, you'll have the infrastructure. We don't have to wait for the infrastructure, you...when you have the...the...the inspectors come, and that's why you have them on hand...when you're laying out the strings for where your property is, if they go, hey, you're a foot too close to the property line, they can move it over. That's why you have inspectors as part of the process. We're skipping the...a cumbersome thing, but we can be getting our whole house built, and then you can hook up the utilities as it comes ready, so...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. LINCOLN: And...and...and just...just looking at the big...I don't know what order you're going in, but we're in Section 9D. And so, for example, you went through section, whatever the other day, and let people in --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. LINCOLN: -- but we know people on that street. So, if you could...if they're done, and they sign off, and they can have the debris removal, we could be building their houses even before our house gets built. But we need to do it as time . . .*(inaudible)*. . . You can't wait until everything's cleaned up to get it done. We can start right now, and then hook up to the utilities.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I appreciate your testimony. If...if you don't have access to a computer, if you don't --

MS. LINCOLN: I will...I will --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. LINCOLN: -- I...I will get it done. Thank you.

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. LINCOLN: It's important.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next three testifiers are Adam Morsi, Julia Colangelo, and Richard Prata.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. MORSI: Thank you. My name is Ahmed Morsi. All my friends call me Adam, my Hawaiian name is Keola Mau Loa. One of the themes that I think keep arising today without being mentioned is, we're all tired of being...living as second-class citizens. All of us, we're all done, and tired of being second-class citizens. We're all fed up and tired of the Planning and Zoning Departments' blatant discrimination against second-class citizens. Me, personally, and a friend of mine, purchased a two-and-a-half acre of ag land in the Puunoa District off of Hokiokio. I own a quarter-acre of that land, it's agricultural land. And because of the zoning, and the ridiculousness of what's going on, I was forced to put a tiny home on a trailer so I can live there with my family because that's all I can afford. I'm being reasonable, and I'm being realistic with my financial situation. Because of the hocus pocus that goes around, people in that neighborhood have these McMansions, as my brother was mentioning, on agricultural land, and they have one or two plumeria trees, and they get away with doing whatever they want to do. On two-and-a-half acres of land, agricultural land, we can put multiple units to house multiple families, and be able to farm to have people eat off of that land. It...this isn't some kind of rocket science or math. Really, I don't understand how these people can live in these McMansions, and get away with all of the stuff that they're getting away with. Meanwhile, if we wanted to just put a little small thing, we're getting pushback, I'm getting sued, I'm being served by the community...your neighbors up in Puunoa. We're trying to create housing for everyone, but your neighbors up in Hokiokio and Puunoa don't want that. They don't want to see you down there because it gets in the way of their view. Today, they have no coffee shops to go to Lāhainā. Today, they're perched on top of a disaster zone. We are living in a disaster zone. We have an immediate solution, we have space, we want to help. We want you to assist us with legitimate legal, comprehensive, logical zoning and planning because we have space. The next time I hear somebody say, we don't have space to build on Maui, I'm going to poke my fingers in their eyeballs.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

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MR. MORSI: There's more than enough land, there's more than enough resources. Please help us manage it. We can take care of ourselves, we just need help to manage it because we're being pushed back by the first-class citizens, our neighbors up on the hill who don't want to see us around. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Julia Colangelo, to be followed by Richard Prata, and Omar Madrigal.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Can you repeat those names, please, Kasie?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Next testifier is Julia Colangelo, to be followed by Richard Prata, and Omar Madrigal.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Maybe we can move on to the next, and if you would still...or they would still like to testify, we can keep them towards the back...towards the end of the day, but we can continue with our next testifier.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Next testifier is Richard Prata, to be followed by Omar Madrigal, and Jamie Lee.

MR. PRATA: Wow. Wow, this is going to go down in history, this meeting...20 years from now they'll be talking about this meeting. I moved here in 1989 from North Shore, O'ahu, landed at Kapalua Airport with \$400 and a surfboard under my arm. I showed the porter guy my...the address I needed to go to, kind of looked at me like another fricken...but anyway, so he said it was in Nāpili. And I was like, which way is Nāpili? So anyway I went up there to Nāpili, and long story short, I ended up renting a room in Lāhainā, \$450 a month. I said, wow, that's a lot, and that's how much things have changed since then. But what...all I wanted to say was, everyone in this room...everyone in this room can be a part of the legacy of the rebuilding of Lāhainā, whatever we do...whatever we do, we can all be a part of it. In 20 years, like I say, they'll be talking about us. I probably won't be here, but they'll say, I remember that guy, he did this, he helped do this, whatever it was, not complaining about anything, just do it. Like right now, I'm volunteering at the Honokōwai hub, and I'm doing it because I don't have a job, and I'm not worried about that right now. What I'm worried about is that I want to be known as a part of the rebuilding of Lāhainā in whatever shape, form it is. We just got to do the work. Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Omar Madrigal, to be followed by Jamie Lee, and Melissa Benedict.

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MR. MADRIGAL: Aloha, guys. I am not from Maui. I moved here at the age of 14, okay. I have worked hard to get a piece of land here, okay. I got a business four, five months ago, everything went to the fire. Well, we get a letter on the mail from the County because we got too much garbage outside of our house. But all these landowners, it's grassy area, and they don't clean it, they don't do anything to it, and the fire could have been prevented if they do secure burnouts. Maui has enough money...enough money to do all that. They burn sugar cane through years. I got here when they were doing it still, okay. And as soon as something happens in your neighborhood, and somebody's not happy with it, they send a letter to the County, and they tell you that you got to clean your land. What happen to all those lands? What happen to all these people, they have these lots...masses of land, and they don't do anything with it? There's a lot of people here that need housing too. People, they need to be...place to live, and the only developers are the big guys with money. When everybody else try to build a little 'ohana and all they do is, oh, we cannot pass your permit, you don't have enough land for do that. That's not fair. And another thing, a lot of people going to lose their houses, and the reason why is because the banks are coming right now because they want their payment. A lot of people used their forbearance through COVID, and these companies are not allowing to do it again. And that needs to be addressed to the Government because they cannot lose their land because they cannot pay. That was part of the deal...you cannot pay, you lose your land. That's everything I have to say. Thank you, guys.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Jamie Lee, to be followed by Melissa Benedict, and Lonopele Cabanilla.

MS. LEE: Aloha kākou. Aloha kākou. Oh, Jamie Lee inoa. I'm from the Moku of Wailuku, my son and his family lived here. As a matter of fact, my mo'opuna was planning on going to kindergarten, Papa Mālaa'o. He's not there. He is with his mother and his father because of the trauma. They're "one of...two of the missing children" because they did not want to bring their children to school. They're still working through their trauma. So, I told my son, you better call them, let them know that the kids is okay. Anyway, I'm not going to...going to try not to repeat what has been said, because there's been a lot of things said. And I appreciate each one of you that are here, it is your job to be here. I know that, and you never call in sick. But your hands are tied to a lot of the decision making at this time because there's been a proclamation. And we know that the proclamation, we cannot make these decision. It is the...it is in the hands of the Government. It is in the hands of the Mayor that made these proclamations. We, the people, have to stand with that. All of us are here to make a difference. How little it may be or how great it may be, our keiki has come out and do the olis. I'm very, very grateful. I'm from the Island of O'ahu. I came here as a teen, went

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to Lāhaināluna School, lived in Olowalu at Teen Challenge. I have four children who are teaching Hawaiian 'Ōlelo, who are speaking it, who are keiki o ka 'āina in their...their hands are in the ground. And I teach them to respect and to love the land that they're...that they're living. My daughter is a college professor, she cannot even afford a house. We had to buy some property in Hāna for our ancestral family...our lands for them, so they can have when we are gone, okay. This is what I want to say, and it...and I will close with this. I don't have a whole lot because there's been so much good mana here, and I really appreciate it. Everyone who does community...in my belief, who does community service, who is part of the Council, who is Senator, who is Governor, it is our kuleana to put forward the Hawaiian Kingdom. It is the Hawaiian Kingdom that we are supposed to be speaking for, okay. With that said, we are supposed to be trying to make these changes for your people, whatever nationality you are. Doesn't matter. We are multi-generational and multi-nationalities, but we are here in the occupied Kingdom of Hawai'i. And if we are supporting that Kingdom, then we need to continue to do this with our votes here, our Senators...they're supposed to be in Washington --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. LEE: -- begging that. Three minutes, but that's all I have to say. That's what we are going...that's what we are here to do. So, if you're going to be involved in the community, that's what we are...we are promoting our Hawaiian Kingdom. And everybody has already said everything, and that's the mana that I've received. Mahalo nui. Aloha.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Melissa Benedict, to be followed by Lonopele Cabanilla, Heidi Mehlich.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Is that...oh. Oh, okay. Okay, come.

MS. BENEDICT: I just want to start by saying aloha, and I'm so sorry to everyone who...aloha, and I'm so sorry to everyone who has lost anything in this fire. I moved to Maui in 2019 from the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area in Washington State just two years after the Eagle Creek fire that nearly devastated the place that me, my parents, my grandparents, and my great grandparents all grew up. The Oregon Eagle Creek fire burned so large, and such high winds, that it was jumping across the Columbia River, which--to those of you that don't know, the Columbia River is about a mile wide at some places. And the Columbia River Gorge is known to get hurricane force winds up to 70 miles per hour. So, these winds were starting spot fires in Washington State from Oregon due to blowing hot embers across the river. A couple of years ago I stood in the parking lot of Safeway as traffic was jammed, watching burning embers falling all around

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me, meanwhile next to no evacuation notices were given to Lāhainā outside of, maybe, Launiupoko, I believe. This is the fire that got very close to Lāhaināluna High School, which apparently doesn't have an evacuation route planned for its students. I went home to Nāpili immediately as soon as I could get through traffic, and I packed a go bag because I had seen the Eagle Creek fire, and I know what fires can do. I've also worked for the U.S. Forest Service for a couple of years, and that involves forest fire training. And so, I...I was very scared of this fire. That was the day that my trust was broken within the local government here on Maui as regards to them being able to keep us safe from fire. According to DLNR's website for Hawai'i land burned percent...the percentage of land burned per year in Hawai'i exceeds the national average, and some years surpasses the Western states. So, why doesn't Maui County have more resources to fight fires? Why was the County not more prepared, especially when there have been so many fires in Lāhainā in the recent years? There were warnings to this. Going forward, Lāhainā needs proper emergency evacuation routes and plans, especially for the schools. I would also like to say that I can't help but think this entire time, isn't it ironic that we sit here surrounded by acres of lush green golf courses full of ponds, with large fountains of water continuously streaming out, for a meeting about the fire that destroyed Lāhainā as firefighters fought with dry hydrants just three miles south. Kā'anapali is a city built for tourists. Right now, we are surrounded by multiple high-rises that all towered above what Lāhainā was, even before being reduced to ashes. It's clear who water belongs to, it's clear who West Maui's water belongs to right now, and it's not the people of Lāhainā, it's tourism. Anyone with eyes can see this. The future of Lāhainā is dependent on the return of water rights back to the people of Lāhainā to grow the ulu and taro again. Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Lonopele Cabanilla, to be followed by Heidi Mehlich, and Snake Abraham Ah Hee.

MR. LONOPELE CABANILLA: So, aloha, everybody. Yeah, I'm Lonopele Cathcart Cabanilla. Just like say, first and foremost, condolences to everybody, family and friends, that is devastated from this, and who we lost. And now I just going talk about what we all stay dealing with right now with the temporary housing, we staying in hotels, and all this unclear information that keep coming to us every day. For example, we being told, oh, we going be good in the hotels there till February 10th, but you talk to the people that's onsite, and you get one different answer. For example, my cousin got told her due date, October 31st comes up, you on your own. How is that true? This...this is adding stress onto what we already been dealt with. This is crazy. So, if you guys can help...I know you guys get limited power for things you can do, like you said, but, yeah, I think you guys can do a lot. So, going off of that, I mean the most important thing, priority-wise, is getting us all back into our town for build our homes. Talk about all these

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timelines, two years for get back in there and build. That's crazy, that's ridiculous. And I telling you it's ridiculous because it's...you get more resources...more than enough resources for get everything cleaned up. You guys see how fast it moved when you allow other people for help. So, allow that to happen so it can be...yeah, be able for us to build faster. You know, I scared...I don't know if everybody understand how the permitting process works with all you guys, or the County, like really, I scared for all my family, everybody in here because nobody really understand. Personally, I was trying for build one home through all of this, it's been a year and a half over, I never receive my permit. And nobody really understand that this is how long it takes. This is ridiculous. You guys talking about creating one other permit committee for fast track the permits, or expedite. I cannot trust...I cannot trust that. I cannot even believe that because you get one permitting process that...the thing take almost two years for get one regular permit. I mean I'm not trying...trying for put anybody down, or anything, but I just saying to me, that's ridiculous. That's just one...I don't know if I can say that, but that's one shut up answer, and everybody for just kind of be quiet, and be okay with it. That's not okay. You got to...you got to use the...what you get...the Department you get. You guys get the informations [sic] for everybody who live in Lāhainā, all their home plans, everything. Should be fast. Not gonna take that long for put up the buildings...or not even the buildings, the houses. Because the buildings, like I said, that's last. The businesses, that's last. Priority is the homes for the families for go back, let us get in there and build, and do what we need to do. Set everything up the right way, not how was because obviously, the thing never work. Look at what went happen. And that's pretty much all I have to say, I get plenty more for say, but I no like get too off track. So, priority first, let us in there, let us build. No more this too long of a timeline for build, that's ridiculous. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Wait, wait. Sir, can you please come back? Member Paltin has a question. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Lono. I just wanted to clarify the part about the timelines for the hotel, and how they're asking you to...when...when you have to leave, and things like that. Is that for people that did already register with the FEMA?

MR. LONOPELE CABANILLA: Yes. We all actually went register with Red Cross and FEMA, and that's what was told. So, I don't know, we getting these instructions, we following 'em, but we getting different answers from what was told on Friday from the people that's actually there to...that we got to go see. So, that's what I meant on that, yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And then did you...with the different answers that you got, did



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you take that to the Disaster Recovery Center, and tell them that you getting different answers about what was told on Friday, and that now people are saying, like after October 31st, you're on your own?

MR. LONOPELE CABANILLA: No, I never take that, but since you told us that that's what we should do then, yeah, I guess we will. I mean like I said, there's no clear information on what to do. We...we lost here. So, yeah, thank you for that, and we will...I'll do that if that's what we...needs to be done in order us for stay longer.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: That...that was told to me, make sure everybody register for FEMA before September 29, and if you encounter different answers, go to the Disaster Recovery Center and have them walk you through. Because supposed to get, guarantee, six months, but they going try move people into rentals with rental assistance before that so it's not six months everybody got to go look for a rental.

MR. LONOPELE CABANILLA: Okay, yeah. We'll definitely try and look into that, but yeah, we did register through Red Cross, and also FEMA, so that's what's being told.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And...and just contact my office if...if that doesn't work out.

MR. LONOPELE CABANILLA: Okay, sounds good. But, again, priority, let us build. Let's go.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Heidi Mehlich...Mehlich, to be followed by Snake Abraham Ah Hee, and Myrna Ah Hee.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. And as she's walking up here, I just want to let everybody know, right now it's about 12:06. And we're going to be doing lunch at about 12:30, just...just to prepare, okay. Thank you. Please go.

MS. MEHLICH: Aloha Maui. My name is Heidi, and I'm 14 years old. I was a Lāhaināluna student. I'm from Maui even though I don't really look like it. I want to ask you for it together, we are all Hawaiians. Together wins. I have friends all over the world, literally. The world is watching us. Hawai'i is the heart of the earth. What a beautiful time to be alive. Speaking for the children, we demand good education, safe education, education in person, and not online. We ask for a safe school. Health is number one. Thank you for listening.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, I just wanted to clarify, are you also going to tell this to the State House Representatives tomorrow at --

MS. MEHLICH: I'll try.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- at 9:00 a.m. --

MS. MEHLICH: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- 1000 Kapalua Road, just off Office Road, 9:00 a.m.

MS. MELICH: Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Because they have decision-making authority.

MS. MEHLICH: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Snake Abraham Ah Hee, to be followed by Myrna Ah Hee, and Madison Gardner.

MR. AH HEE: Aloha. I'm Snake Ah Hee, yeah. Born and raised in Lāhainā, 1946 in...at Prison Street by Tutu House, yeah, down Wailua. There's...there's so much changes when I grew up in Lāhainā going Kam III School with no...no shoe...no slippers on. We were pretty much hard...hard life, but in a way, we kind of enjoy what we had. You know, this...so much things happening in Lāhainā that I wish that we can get it back how it was, you know, in the coming years, or coming...you know. But when the first...that...we had to move from Hawaiian Homes because of the fire, so I stayed in Kahului that...that...that night. When I came back from...go to Lāhainā, when we came by the bypass, when I seen the devastation of Lāhainā, you know, I was crying, you know. We pretty much...you know, we born and raised in Lāhainā is...you...you're part of Lāhainā already, you know. But it's a...it's so hard for us to try and get everything back together. It's not easy, you know. Even I used to live in Launiupoko too, by tūtū folks used to live in Launiupoko, that was our home too, yeah. So, there's lot of things I can go back real...you know, long time ago that I grew up, you know, in Lāhainā. But I just wish we can get Lāhainā back the same way I...I was...it's not only for me, it's for my...all my grandkids too, yeah. I got 15 grandkids, you know, but I wish they can have the things I had when I grew up, yeah. Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Myrna Ah Hee, to be followed by Madison Gardner, and Ho'olai Cabanilla.

MS. AH HEE: Hi. Aloha. Thank you for having us. And, oh, I love it, Lāhainā is here. My name is Myrna Ah Hee. I've been in Lāhainā my entire life, for 60 something years...I old. Anyway, so...but, you know, I...I love Lāhainā the way it was. It's hard. I know got to do stuff, got to make safety, got to make...I mean a walkway down Front Street, what the hey. Driving and parking there was so dangerous,

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you know. But yet, we do need parking structures, I guess, to keep everybody, you know, able to come and enjoy Lahaina like the way it was, but...and also, you know, a lot of our newer subdivision were by developers. You know, you had Fong Construction, you had Hawaiian Dredging, you had Arisumi Brothers, Hicks Homes, you know. And it...I see that...I don't know how fast, but a lot of...we're going to need help like that to help expedite everybody getting back on their 'āina. You know, I am so fortunate, but we did lose a family home down at Kaua'ula subdivision. And I did watch the fire as I went to town, and having my son call me to tell me to turn around when...when I was by Bubba Gump's, and just watching. I have pictures of black smoke. It's like I don't know...even know how I made it, but my son told me, turn around, go south. Went down to the harbor, just watched Lāhainā burn. I...I...I couldn't believe what I was seeing, and I just wanted to get home to my family. And then the phone went out, it's like how the heck does that happen? You know, so infrastructure-wise, I...I mean how...how does it happen? I know we didn't have electric from 5:00 in the morning. But I was lucky, my husband made me coffee at 4:00, so by the time I got up I had a cup of coffee, and, you know, just...okay, you know, I'm happy. But, you know, I did record myself outside in my yard listening to that wind, I got it recorded. It was spooky. It was a...standing there, it had...you just...there's nothing, and then all of a sudden there's voo, voo, voo, voo, and this wind coming. It's like...anyway, so, I did follow my way out of Lāhainā, and I just...I was...went to the police when I was at Launiupoko, can I go back? It's like aunty, no, you know. So, anyway, I stayed, and I waited till the morning. I know my husband was going crazy because --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. AH HEE: -- I was...I couldn't call. So, little things like that, that we take for granted--Internet, cell phone service, water--you know, it...power, you got to figure that out. But anyway, I...I just...I...I do want to see Lāhainā kind of the way it was, but yet, improvements with...as far as...you know, evacuation, oh, my gosh...and just all the infrastructure that we need to be safe. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Madison Gardner, to be followed by Ho'olai Cabanilla, and Jake Kane.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. GARDNER: Aloha. My name is Madison Gardner. And I moved here about ten months ago now, and when...before I did that, I thought it was so cool seeing the word aloha, and how it meant hello, good-bye, and love. And that was something

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I wanted to be surrounded by. And that is something that has just spoken so true to me throughout all of this, is the...the community has really backed the...the spirit of aloha, and they have acted behind it. The...the day the fire started, I...I was...I lived off of Lāhaināluna, and I had a friend come to my house to make sure I had somewhere to go. And I ended up staying with somebody that night, and I...I didn't know these people until that night. But they were willing to house me, and the...so much of the community has really acted behind the spirit of aloha, and really used their actions to back their words, and the spirit. And actions really do speak louder than words. And the community has done a lot to...to really show that, and back it. And that being said, I don't feel like that same backing has necessarily been showed [sic] with our Government, and the local leaders, especially through all of this happening. And I've had so much faith in the community I've been surrounded by, and it would be amazing if this same community was able to have that same level of faith with the people that were representing us beyond our --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aloha. Aloha.

MS. GARDNER: Yeah, beyond that. And so, it...I don't know necessarily the steps it takes to get there. But when it comes to giving your word, the aloha spirit was the word that was said from before I was even here, and it rang true. So, every words that you guys say in the...when you listen to us...I mean it would be awesome if you guys are able to back that with the level of action that I feel like the community, and the people here, really deserve. Because we've had...everybody here has had everybody's backs from the get go, and the only people that...it...it's really been kind of a toss in the air with is when it comes to the local...officials, really. And I know it goes so far beyond you guys, and so far beyond like everything. It's just...it would be really nice to have that same level of faith in the Government. And I don't know what it's going to take to get that, but it...it's wild, not having faith in the people that are speaking for the majority, and it...yeah. Yeah. Aloha. Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Ho'olai Cabanilla, to be followed by Jake Kane, and Ron Siliado.

MS. H. CABANILLA: How you do this? I no like break 'em. Okay. Aloha kākou. My name is Ho'olai Cabanilla. I come from a bunch of different Lāhainā families--the Cabanillas, the Kauhanes, Kaumeheiwas, and the Sodeitanis--and so, I stand here proud today just to share some mana'o. Just based off of what I been hearing today, I feel like there's...there's two teams here, yeah. There's a...the rewrite, W-R-I-T-E, and the reright, R-I-G-H-T, yeah. And so, I think now is a good turning point for us to shift from...we keep rewriting, with that W word, over and over again...and kind of not working, yeah. You know. so maybe we go on

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the reright side, yeah, the R-I-G-H-T. And...and part of that being I think that...I think we need to put pressure...just like us, as a community, we may be the irritating mosquito in your ear right now. You hearing plenty stuff over and over again. But how about you guys be the irritating mosquito to other people? Like let's put pressure on private developers, or even Bishop Estate, like let's put pressure on them, you know, to take care and mālama and share their land with the people that live here so that they can help us, yeah. And maybe put pressure on everybody else in the County...I think Maui County should have acquired land on this side...more land on this side a long time ago so that should...you know, in this case of the disaster that we had, the County would have already had the land ready for, you know, temporary homes to be built. They no got to...we no got to go through Hawaiian Home Lands, we no got to talk about West Maui land, we no got to talk about all these private guys. Because you know what? Maui County, we get 'em already. But that's not the situation we in, yeah? We're on the rewrite side, we going keep rewriting the same thing, and hoping for different results, yeah. I think that's the definition of insanity, yeah. You keep doing the same thing over and over again expecting a different result, and that's not what's happening. So, I think that if we can focus on the reright side, you know, before more of our kūpuna pass away. I think it was Puakea Nogelmeier that said every time a kūpuna passes away, that's an entire library of information that is gone. And so, if we wait for, you know, all our kūpuna...my uncle came up here, you know...if...if we wait for all these guys to pass, guess what? You not going have anybody else for ask how Lāhainā should be, or how...what Lāhainā should look like, or eh, tell me again what was...you know, I...I know Bubba Gump's is Bubba Gump's now. My mom them guys know 'em as Lāhainā Broiler. Not going have the people like that because all our libraries going be gone. So, you not gonna have the people and the resources to pull from to...to continue the beauty of Lāhainā, yeah. My...my great grandfather brought his brother from the Philippines, you know. And now...guess what? Now families got to decide who going stay because they got to send their family away now. They cannot keep their family here. They cannot bring anybody else from their family here. They got to send them away. So, maybe if we can put pressure on everybody to reright instead of rewrite...you know, just a little bit mana'ō there, but, yeah, that's...thank you for your guys' time. Mahalo.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Jake Kane--Kane--to be followed by Ron Siliado, and Tashmere Ward.

MR. KANE: Thank you, Council, for being here, appreciate you guys. And I appreciate you guys being our mouthpiece, and speaking to the ears that need to hear it. The community has been amazing though this. The people who stepped up and made the hubs first was the community, the people who were in there putting out the fire was the community, right...the people who are going to rebuild needs

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to be the community. Okay, got some notes. I run a small tree service on the West Side, I've been doing it for 15 years. Lot of these trees that are burned, I've been servicing for 15 years. We put our pride and our dignity into our work, and everybody in here does the same thing with their industry, yeah. Everybody puts their pride and their dignity. And it hurts me to see these Federal Government agencies come in and hire out contractors from the East Coast. That's not acceptable. My personal experience, I got to meet the EPA arborists, two guys from Wisconsin. That's not right. All these people here, we could build Lāhainā with these people. We don't need these government contracts going to outside sources, okay. Another thing, we need that dignity. My boys, they need the dignity to go out there and work through their pain, their loss, their suffering, to rebuild their town, to rebuild our town, to share our dignity with the rest of the community. So, please, be our mouthpiece. I just want to mention...I want to do a shout out to CNHA, the Council of Native Hawaiian Achievement. They've been great, they've been putting on classes. We went through some OSHA classes, they're doing HAZWOPER classes. So, shout out to those guys. Another thing I'd like them to do, and maybe you guys could bring attention to it, is...I know that I've fought fires with some people in the back in 2018. I was out there with the people fighting the fires. Where's the volunteer firefighters? How many? Everybody. Everybody. Where is the training class for that? Yeah. Because the community is the first people to step in and save the day. So we want that. I also want to mention, FEMA operates under the Stafford Act, Section 307. Real quick, I want to just read that. Stafford Act, Section 307, preference shall be given to the extent feasible and practical to those organizations, firms, and individuals residing, or doing business primarily, in the area affected by such major disaster, or emergency. There's no --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. KANE: -- there's no contractors that should be from outside the State. Just much respect, love, and thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: One second, sir. Member Kama has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you very much for being here.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Here, you want this one?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you very much for being here. So, my

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question is, you had mentioned in your testimony that...you had aloha'd [sic] CNHA for your HAZMAT training, and then you mentioned...and you asked where the volunteer firefighters were. Were you asking if maybe our help, and seeing if CNHA would be able to maybe conduct that kind of a training too?

MR. KANE: Yeah. Yeah, whoever...I don't know who stands that up, but --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh. Okay.

MR. KANE: -- if you stand it up, I bet every --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. KANE: -- every...everybody in here would volunteer to go and take that class.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Okay. Well, thank you. Thank you so much, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. We were told in Committee the other day that the assessment and monitoring contract would go to a local Hawaiian-owned business, and that was the contract that would assess the trees. And I just was wondering if you guys were aware of that? I guess it did request for qualifications, or request for proposal...that they're giving out a contract to assess all the trees, and if they're in a hazard to fall down, or not last five years, they would be removed by that contract. I was just wondering if you had heard of that one?

MR. KANE: I'm...I'm aware of that. The problem with that is it...it took us a week of my wife, and I, and an office manager, to figure out how to get registered with FEMA. Like we're all going through so much right now to try and navigate the bureaucracy of how to get in the back door to get a contract is too much time. So, we need somebody up there vetting these contractors, and their subs. Because they've hired the main contractor--EQM or World Solutions--to do the assessment, and then they sub out to whoever. Who's vetting them? I mean if...if you...if...if you guys can't find somebody to do that, then we'll set up our stations in front of the National Guard, and we'll check IDs. You're from the East Coast, go back to the East Coast. You don't have a contract here.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: They had told us that no contract has been selected yet. So, my understanding is they haven't selected the contract, but that they were going to select it locally.

MR. KANE: I'm...I'm aware of that one, and working on it. The one that is egregious to

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me is the EPA coming in immediately, and meeting their two arborists from Wisconsin. There's over 20 arborists on Maui, there's over 100 in the State. I mean, I have all the qualifications needed to do that work. And it's not just me in the tree industry, it's everybody's industry, right. Everybody who...the divers out there doing rescue operations. How many skin divers out here could go and do the rescue operations, and the...and the...the search work, right. Like the community can do it. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. KANE: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Ron Siliado, to be followed by Alfie Basurto, and Paele Kiakona.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. We're going to have Mr. Sidadel [sic] testify, and then we're going to take our lunch break, to return at 1:30.

MR. SILIADO: Aloha, kākou everybody. Thank you all. Just want to give my condolences to all the 'ohanas, and...who...who lost homes, and lost families, yeah, just my deepest condolences. And thank you, Chair Nohelani, and Tamara...Vice-Chair, for allowing this meeting, we really appreciate it. I represent the ILWU Union. And little bit history, my mom graduated from Lāhaināluna, 1958, she still alive. She going be 83 October 6, and she's all broken up. But I lost family in this fire. I lost two uncles and one aunty. So, I have six families lost homes. My mom was raised on this side, West Side, but I was raised on the West Side O'ahu. So, I been with this Union 40-something years. A little bit about this union. The containers that coming in to the docks, the Kaiser Mobile Medical stuff coming through the docks, was all expedited...whatever we got. Our number one goal was to get water, food, medical supplies for the kūpuna. All the kūpuna that went talk, I really love you guys so much. But my boss, the president of this union for Hawai'i, number one goal was to get supplies in. We had guys...boots on the ground, you guys probably know who was, they was going through everything. Guys was telling them stop, you know, was telling them F...you know. So, FEMA, Red Cross wanted to get involved with them, they told 'em, no. We going do what we gotta do for the community, nobody stopping us. We coming straight, full on. So, all politics on the side, that's something about the union. I mean people get good and bad thoughts about the union, but we here to support everybody; every single one of you guys, also you guys. And we want everybody to work together in this because going take the whole State of Hawai'i for...for...for rebuild Lāhainā. Not going take just Lāhainā, going take the whole State. And if we can expedite stuff through the barges for anybody, feel free to call the president of the union because he's...he's...he's heartbroken. He's



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on O'ahu, Chris West, but he's a unreal guy. We all hurting. Another thing we want to do...first of all...I'm sorry. I went thank them, but I went forget to thank the GM, Josh Harshgrove [sic], he allowed us to have this meeting here. And I hope we going get thousand more meetings here with all you guys here. Because we need you guys for speak, and be the ones that going rebuild Lāhainā, not nobody else. And then one other thing is the jobs. Us guys, union guys we...we...we want the jobs to stay in the union. We get carpenters, we get backyard guys who can work carpentry, plumbing, electrical, whatever. We no need license, permit.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. SILIADO: Okay. And then I just want to end this with a thank you. Aloha, everybody. I love all you guys, and we have a booth on the corner over there. Please come, read the resolution that we trying to speed up the process of you guys rebuilding. Please come, and look at that booth, and share your mana'o with us so we know what we going do going forward. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you all. We are going to go to lunch right now. We're going to go to lunch right now to return at 1:30. This recess is now...this meeting is now in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS:                    12:30 p.m.**

**RECONVENE:        1:38 p.m.**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . .(gavel). . . Good afternoon, everyone. It is 1:38, and will this GREAT meeting please continue. Before we start with our testimony, we do have a couple of announcements to make. So, one, as Member Paltin was saying earlier, tomorrow the State House is going to have a meeting about education, their Schools Working Group, at...remind --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: 1000 Kapalua Drive, which is just off Office Road, Harvest Chapel at Kumulani.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. So, if you have issues related to school, they will be around tomorrow to hear your concerns, 9:00. As well as the State Senate will be here tomorrow as well at the Civic Center to hear your concerns about insurance-related issues at the same time. I know. But they're there. Oh. Well, the State Senate does have written testimony. I know it's not the same, but they do have some if you would like to do that as well...it is online. And then before we begin, Member Cook, if you'd like to say a couple of words, please.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I'd like to send my warm aloha to all the Members...all the...well, all my fellow Councilmembers. But everybody from the Lāhainā community that has come today for this very important meeting, I want to explain, I'm not there today. I got sick on the weekend, and was tested positive for COVID. So, I'm currently at my home office in Kihei in quarantine for the week. I've been online, and watching, and listening to all the testimony, and I will...my heart is with you all. I'm listening, and we'll work diligently to get our community rebuilt within the *(audio interference)* how you want. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Cook. Kasie, can you please call the next three testifiers?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The first testifier is Alfie Basurto, to be followed by Kekai Keahi, and Tiffany Teruya.

MR. BASURTO: Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Alfie Basurto. I'm a Tongan boy raised in California, and...man, why do I get so emotional so fast, man. But Lāhainā is my home, got five children, our home was destroyed by the fire. We were located next to the wharf in Lāhainā. And just like everybody here, man, we lost tremendously. You know, I think it's really important that in...in all of our stewardships, and...and in all of our roles, we have to take self...some self-assessments. And I think right now, something that we're all noticing is that we're failing on all levels right now, otherwise we wouldn't have so many upset people right now. And I think so for...right, because for myself, right, if I...if I'm sucking as a dad, if I'm sucking as a husband, right, I'm like well, what can I do to be better? You know, and I think that a lot of that falls on us, a lot of it falls on you, as a Council. It's...it's very true, and we can't keep sucking, it's just not an option anymore, right. There's a lot at stake. There's four points I want to talk about here. Where to live, right. We've got...we're refugees in our own home. That is horrific. Should never be a thing, but it is today. So, there is some miscommunication at the ground level, it's really easy to clear that up. You just have someone tell them, hey, you got a place to stay for...even two months would be nice because that level of anxiety, that is automatically reduced. Because right now, we're being told we got 30 days. That's...that spikes your anxiety, it stops the healing process, you...it's hard to be a good parent, a good spouse, a good friend when you think in 30 days, you're about to get displaced. It's really difficult, okay. So, better communication, please. Evacuation efforts...listen, we got to talk about evacuation efforts because there was a huge failure there. I'm not here to speak ill of firefighters or cops, it's not going to help, and...but what happened was there was very little to no evacuation. I'm a retired cop, California. I participated in wildfire evacuations as a police officer. Strategically we go home to home, street to street, evacuating all the residents. Sir, you got to go. No, it's my home. Sorry, you got to leave, it's fire coming, you're gone, let's go. The

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training was not in place. I'm saying this because this cannot happen again to Lāhainā, cannot happen to another island. The training exists. It's not like...we can't close our eyes and ears, and pretend the training doesn't exist. It exists. If you're a cop, you become --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. BASURTO: -- a firefighter, okay. So, we need to talk about that. I'm almost done, so sorry. Now, we have land that we are going to donate, my friend Adam spoke about it, in Puunoa Estates, two and a half acres. I've emailed each one of you right after the fires. I stated we have land that we're going to give to everyone to place a tiny home, to live for free for the next two years. We don't profit from this. If I could say to a family, hey, I got you for two years...anxiety gone, healing begins, and they're like right on, I feel good, I got a place to live, I got a place for my kids to live. So, the...if you got--if you want to find us --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. BASURTO: -- our website is rebuildmaui.org. You can reach out to us. We've got someone who's donating two tiny homes, we can put it up there. But the zoning prevents us from putting more tiny homes. It's flat land, undeveloped, it's perfect for a few families. It's not the answer for our...all of our problems. Like I got...I'm a family of seven, it's not going to solve our problem. We're not going to live there, but there's a lot of families here who'd be like...or kūpuna who be like, I can live there. Give me that...I'm...I'm down. Let me...I got two years of life to go, and no...don't pay a thing. The infrastructure issue is not an issue, it's self-contained. It's got water, it's got solar...it's ready. It's...it's good. It's perfect. Ocean views so you're not in some obscure, gnarly place. It's beautiful. Okay, the last thing I want to say...the last thing I want to say is, I'm part of this other organization that's...it has...it's called HUA. It's Heard, Understood, and Acknowledged. It's a virtual system...it's like a virtual civic center. Why this is important...because when you guys hear it...you guys may have heard it before, but I need to tell you now so when you hear it again, you...you...you latch onto this. It's like a virtual civil [sic] center where FEMA, Red Cross, SBA--all the service providers can come together virtually. Because at one point, everyone's going to withdraw from here, there's going to be no more people at Civic Center providing services. What happens to all the needs that still exist? They still exist, and they need to be acknowledged, and they need to be serviced. So when you hear about this...this...this effort...again, it's another nonprofit, and when you hear about it, some of you have, please...please inquire about it. So, thank you for letting me speak.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

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MR. BASURTO: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Kekai Keahi, to be followed by Tiffany Teruya, and Mario Vendetti.

MR. KEAHI: Aloha. My name is Kekai Keahi. I no have to repeat anything everybody said. I think our community is unreal with how they express themselves. So, I going focus on something else. What I worried about is, in the rush to rebuild, we go back to what we was doing before that went kind of put us in this situation. And what I referring to is the water. The Launiupoko aquifer, which is...consist of Launiupoko and the Lāhainā Town, up to the Civic Center, and the Honokōwai aquifer, which consists of all of Honokōwai...you guys need to understand this. In the Honokōwai sector, there's a sustainable yield that you can draw from the ground that you can draw consistently. We have surpassed that sustainable yield. We at 106 percent, we have no water. In the Lāhainā section, we at 95 percent. So, even if we wanted to build more, we don't even have the water capacity to do so. In fact, 20 years ago they already started to witness the salinity levels in these wells rise. And so, what was the County's reaction to that? Divert Kanahā Stream, dilute this water, and then serve it back to the community. So, we had one problem. They so-called fixed it by illegally diverting the stream, and then they issue out more permits. And guess what? We right back to the same position again, and we back to that drawing salt water from aquifers again. So, what is the solution? We produce about 5 to 6 million gallons of R-1 water. Okay. Right now, we just dumping them down into one injection well. The County was sued because of that, right. That R-1 water, we can use for irrigation. We just need to develop the system, and the infrastructure to get this water back across to Lāhainā, and use this...gang, we should go to one dual meter system. One for R-1 water that you can use for your grounds, wash your car, keep our parks green so we not paying that \$500 fine when we overuse our water. The second is for the drinking water for your home. By using that 5 or 6...well, let's just say 5 million gallons of R-1 water, we keep 5 million gallons of that water in the ground to replenish our aquifers that's already depleted...5 million gallons a day, 35 million gallons a week, 1,820,000,000 gallons a year we save, and replenish our aquifers with that water. Simple math. But if we don't push that use of that water, and we going think we going build back, we headed for the same disaster. We cannot go back to doing the same thing. Some of you may know, I...I kind of --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. KEAHI: -- did like a cute little challenge on Facebook, let's...eh, let's try and reforest Lāhainā, and then I got like 50 kukui trees, and the thing went explode. People

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from all around the State want to help. Maui High School, and their Ag Department restructured the entire ag system . . . *(inaudible)*. . . was telling me to reforestation of Lāhainā. If you guys understand, the trees that we need to reforest this area going bring that water back. We going pull that rain out of that mountains like the...like the Hawaiian proverb, yeah, when you...where...where the forest go, the rain go. So, we got to change our mindset. Get rid of that continental ideology that we holding onto, thinking that our resources are limitless, that we going continue for build as if we get water forever. We live on one island. We need to go back to what...what we understand about islands. Island people all around the world know how for live on the planet earth better than anybody else because what is earth but an island in the universe.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. KEAHI: So, we understand about conservation. So, that's what I get about the water, and I think that's something real doable. If they can build the rail that we pay for too also over here, we should be able for put in one pipe in the ground and bring 'em across to Lāhainā, pretty simple. One more thing, and this is what I fear, is that because we in the heat of things right now, people energized, but over time, we going get lazy. We need to dominate the discussion, we do need dominate the meeting, we do to be here every single meeting. Because if not, we...we...we going go back right to what we was doing. When I say dominate, we need to dominate the system, the meetings, everything about how we going rebuild back our place.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mr. Keahi, real quick, because we have to abide by Sunshine Law, my clarifying question is for you to finish up your testimony, then you have more time to speak, okay.

MR. KEAHI: Hah?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Go ahead.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: So --

MR. KEAHI: I get...I get one deaf ear, sorry.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, so what else did you have to say? I have to ask a clarifying question so you can finish your speech. So --

MR. KEAHI: Oh, okay.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- what else do you have to say?

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MR. KEAHI: Pretty much that's it. But I just kind of like reflect on that 2018 when we had the fire, and we asked the County that we need to bury lines, and that comment, they said it would be too expensive. We cannot...we was okay with that comment, and we kind of...we went on our way. Now, nobody...you better not be okay with that comment today if they thinking about saying it's too expensive. You guys got to fight. Dominate the situation. Aloha, guys.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Kasie, can you, please, call the next three testifiers?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is Tiffany Teruya, to be followed by Mario Vendetti, and Richy Palalay.

MS. TERUYA: Oh, thank you. Aloha. 'O Tiff ko'u inoa. 'O Kaleiupu a me Ka'aiawahia ka inoa o ko'u 'ohana. No Lāhainā mai au. Noho wau ma Honuakai i kēia manawa. I never ever thought I had to say that, but that's what we all going through right now. I come from generations from Lāhainā. What I was going to start with was, we need to set the waters free, but, you know, he already said that. And I think that's an awesome solution for what he's saying. So, you know, that was that. After the water situation, because we do need that first, I would like to see more secured housing for kūpuna and the working class of Lāhainā families...a solution to diversify to stop West Maui from having to count on tourism for survival. We need mandated fire...firebreaks everywhere. And the idea of burying the electric lines, or solar, or hydroponics, or whatever, are all great ideas. It's ideas for solutions. This is why we here. This is why you are here. Lāhainā was once known as Malu 'Ulu O Lele, where it thrived with green, with water, with life. Lāhainā wasn't dry before. We never have evacuations 'cause of fires. That wasn't even a thing, at least I no remember that, and I only 37. I do remember ulu trees, noni, mango trees, star fruit, even lychee was all over Wahikuli. Ulu trees, mango, noni, choke plumeria trees, was all over town when I was young. Now, most of it, if not all of these fruit trees, are completely gone because our water is sparse. I would love to see the restoration, and protection of Moku'ula and Mokuhinia, our most sacred place. I would like to see the stop of commercial activities down Māla Wharf. This boat ramp was built for the community, and now it's overrun by commercial tours. I work at Star Noodle, so, you know, every night at the sunset time, you see these cruise boats come in, and they come in fuckin' close. I mean I don't think that's legal for how close they coming in. They coming...like they touching reef kind. That's not okay. We make videos, I know people send them in to the DLNR, nothing happens. The next night, they still there...they there every night. I would like to see you guys hold these private developers and greedy business owners accountable for the wrongdoings they have always committed, and they keep doing it in our community. I like see Peter Martin and everybody like him banned from Maui. I

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like 'em 86'd. I know that's wishful thinking, okay. I get it. And I know some of you guys up here is for him, I know that too. But, you know what? It's the truth, it's how we feel. I look at our town, our homes, our 'āina. We look like one...one war zone in Baghdad. This went happen because we never have water.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. TERUYA: I look Launiupoko, still green, their yards, and pools full of water. That no make sense to me. We need to see control on rent gauging. I would like to see vacation rentals gone from every neighborhood. On the whole island. Lots of us lost everything, and the very little some of us may have left, we going fight for that. I going. We will always fight this fight. We tired of being ignored. And I know Tamara Paltin been fighting hard because I see that. I asking everybody for fight harder for your districts and our County. Help us against the Governor and his affiliates. The Governor rushing our kids for go back school into one danger zone so parents, you know, "get child care" so they can go back to work, and service the tourists, right. That's why I feel it's being rush, and that's some bullshit.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. TERUYA: We need you to kāko'o us on every issue and every concern. You guys cannot expect us residences [sic] that, you know, work in the tourism industry for give out aloha. I mean I no feel like we capable of that right now. Kapo aloha no exist right now, at least not to me. And I feel like I can talk for plenty of us. Why? Because we...we mad, we angry. If something no change, and decisions keep being made without public input that affects us and our town, which then affects our whole lives, civil disobedience is inevitable. Put the residences [sic] and our keiki first, and get our water restored. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Next testifier is Mario Vendetti, to be followed by Richy Palalay, and Owen Kahahane.

MR. VENDETTI: First of all, you guys need acting lessons because you smirking while she's talking is...as...as she's talking about how we need to get rid of Peter Martin. I see smirks across that table. And you want to...you want to talk about water, I know for a fact the water in Honokōwai is being illegally diverted to the hotels. They renewed the lease that was not their right to renew. So, that's being illegally diverted, and I'm sure it's happening on the rest of Lāhainā. You want to talk about evacuation routes, how about the eight-foot-wide tunnel the County put in on Lāhaināluna--from Lāhaināluna down to Front Street that every family could

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have evacuated through. But no, nobody knew about that, did they? Brand new fiber optics, brand new water pipes. Do I need to go make a video of that? I'll do that next. And the Governor, Josh Green, all he does is lie through his teeth. He sits here and tells us no tourists until October 8th. I find tourists the very next day in the Papakea. What are they doing in Honokōwai? Why am I kicking out tourists out of our camp every single day stealing our supplies? Coming up to me asking for Dramamine for their cruise so that they don't have to buy it at the store. Taking our toilet paper, taking our water. Why am I kicking out undercover Feds, FEMA, Air Force, whatever the fuck they are, coming in acting like they're volunteers, trying to spy on me and John? So, everything the Governor is doing is the opposite of what he tells the public. So, if he's covering up every action, hmm, to me, that seems like these theories that Josh Green, Joe Biden, Bill Gates, Larry Ellison--all of this is too obvious. The Smart City Plan --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. VENDETTI: -- was shut down, and so now he puts an emergency proclamation taking away all zoning and rebuilding codes so that he can do whatever the f-- he wants. And I need everybody out of Lāhainā. We need a third-party investigation, one that the Governor does not have any control over, or Joe Biden. Fuck, let Trump do it. Let me do it. But there's so much corruption in Hawai'i's Government.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. VENDETTI: I don't care that --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: You can wrap up. And I'm going to have to ask you to stop swearing, okay. This is a public meeting, and we cannot have that language. But I appreciate --

MR. VENDETTI: *(Audio interference)*.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- the passion, but we cannot be swearing. But you can continue, and I'll give you another 30 seconds.

MR. VENDETTI: The only way Lāhainā is going to get rebuilt for the people is by taking down Josh Green, and every single person getting paid off with him. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Kasie, can we please have the next three testifiers?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Richy Palalay, to be followed by Owen Kahahane, and Norm Bezane.



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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Can you please say her name again?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Richy Palalay.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, Rich.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are you going to call in? I doubt it.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Are they online? Because we're doing in-person testimony first.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who's there?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Maybe we can go to the next testifier?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Owen Kahahane, to be followed by Norm Bezane, then Paele Kiakona.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Owen left.

MR. KAHAHANE: Good afternoon, everyone. Everyone before me has pretty much spoken on behalf of what I feel, and how we should try to make the plan for a better Lāhainā. I just want to go back to the day of the fire, and on that day, I was working at the hotel. And from where I work I can see Lāhainā, and I could see the smoke getting closer. And I realized at 5:25 it was getting close to my home in Lāhainā. And I asked my supervisor to leave work because I need to check on my...my mother, she's 87 years old at the time. There was no evacuation. There was no radio announcement, no siren, and that's my big concern. If I didn't have the decency and the grace of God to kick me behind and get home, my mother wouldn't have been alive today. And I blame that on the system. It is BS that we had to go through that, and we need to protect the future of Lāhainā Town by making it work. What are the plans? There was no evacuation. There was no...like the brother said earlier about cops going in and telling people it's time to leave. If I didn't make it home that time, my mother wouldn't be alive today. So, I leave it in your hands. You...we need to figure out a way to make this work, and stop having this go over and over with the electrical lines dropping. We're rebuilding, and putting up those power lines, and it's useless because every four or five years, they snap, break, and then there's another road block...road closure, and we're getting tired of this. This has been going on for 50 years, okay. Let's make a plan. It's time to stop and think about the people in Lāhainā because we have nowhere to go. We need...we need a new hospital that we been talking about for how many years? We can build that stupid bypass, and where did it go? It stops at Keawe Street. Give us more

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roadway for us to safely leave Lāhainā when it is...if there's a tsunami, or the fires. Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Owen Kahahane, to be followed by Norm --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That was Owen.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Next testifier is Norm Bezane, to be followed by Paele Kiakona, and Peter Fard.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Kasie. As a reminder, we do have a few seats up here if you guys want to queue up. If you hear your name, you're welcome to come sit down. Kasie, I think Tamara said Norm left. Next...Paele?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Next testifier is Paele Kiakona, to be followed by Peter Fard, and Ke'ala Cabanilla.

MR. KIAKONA: Hi. Aloha, guys. I am Paele Kiakona, I'm a resident of Lāhainā. And, you know, the state that we are all in now, not only in Lāhainā but across the State of Hawai'i, we're in a state of exploitation. Haunani-Kay Trask puts it as our people, our environment, and the culture is the prostitute, and the State of Hawai'i is the pimp. But even in that transaction, the prostitute makes something out of that. So, we are not...I think she puts it lightly, actually. We are not in a state of prostitution, we're in a state of unknown slavery to the system. We are the slaves to this system. We're the slaves to this system, and our kia'i, our vigilant community, and our hopeful keiki are the ones who bear the brunt of this...of the aftermath, leaving us to pick up the pieces. Now, there are so many open wounds that need to be addressed today, but I'm going to try to focus on just two. The first topic in creating a more resilient and...resiliency plan for the future is...is to give the community more opportunities to sit at the table and let our voices be heard...because we don't deserve a seat at table, just that, because we own that table...and any issues that arise that was created at the State and the County level. Who came with the solutions? The community did, yeah. So, I was kind of hoping I would get the crowd, prior, involved in this, but just as an example, can I get a show of hands of how many people in here were consulted about the October 8th reopening of tourism on the West Side? I don't even have to look behind me because I know there's not one hand sent up now. Now, how many people in here, show of hands, who want the October 8th date to be postponed, and are not ready for tourism to return to Lāhainā? Okay, that being said, that's my 500 people that was here against your 200 people, Josh Green, yeah, spreading lies like he always has been. Secondly, I would like to touch on this tour...our tourism industry. Now, as we look into this future, especially in Lāhainā, there is a clear need for a more authentic Hawaiian

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experience. What has been sold, that cliché image of...that has been sold to our visitors of endless sunshine, sandy beaches, and rainbows, barely skims the surface of the profound richness of Hawai'i, and its people, and its culture. That narrative is peddled...that is peddled is a cheapened ideology appealing to the...to the masses. But there's a cost at selling cheap. We attract transient interest, missing those who'd value our true essence. We've been selling in bulk on an island where resources are finite. So, it's time we shift that narrative from Hawai'i being a mass destination to...to a place of invaluable experiences, and underscoring the unique essence and the values of our island. But before we speak on tourism, because we have all of our eggs in one basket right now, we should diversify our economy, first and foremost.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. KIAKONA: Now, we need to incentivize regenerative tourism, tours that incorporate ideas of aloha 'āina. And in our peak season in Hawai'i...or in Maui, we have 100,000 visitors on the island. If a quarter of them went up into the mountain, and was able to replant, and get an authentic Hawaiian experience, and plant just four trees--if just a quarter of them went, that's 100,000 trees that we could be replanting, yeah. Our State still generates revenue, we rejuvenate and revitalize our environment, and we have a workforce paying to work for us. This is a holistic opportunity that's a win-win across the board, even though the State of Hawai'i does not deserve to win. We also create an industry that incentivizes Hawaiian culture and Hawaiian language. So, we're going to create a need for that. So, down the line, we're going to need people to be working...people can...our entire system can huli...our entire education system can huli, and we can prioritize --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. KIAKONA: -- giving Hawaiian language and Hawaiian culture to people. And I think...sorry, I'm going to get through my testimony, and get to the end. Last thing I want to share is in regards to...in regards to people struggling financially, and that being basically the sole purpose of why Josh Green made his decision to open October 8th because of finances, right. Governor Green still has \$200 million in discretionary funds that he can use to support Lāhainā without any legislative approval, and that's over \$25,000 per family, per displaced resident in Lāhainā. So, that's also an option.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Peter Fard, to be followed by Ke'ala Cabanilla, and Lindsay Elam. The next testifier is Ke'ala Cabanilla, to be followed by Lindsay

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Elam, and Justice Villaren.

MS. K. CABANILLA: Aloha mai nō kākou e ka 'ohana o Lele. 'O wau nō 'o Ke'alaho'oipoleimaile Cabanilla. My 'ohana have lived in Lāhainā for generations, Cabanilla, Shimabukuro, Sodehani, Kaumeheiwakauhane. I am here today because of them, and many, many more. Tourists should be the very least of our worries in our time of grief, and in our efforts to plan and rebuild Lāhainā pono. Push back on Governor Green to delay the opening of West Maui to tourism that is scheduled on the exact date that marks two months since the fire hewa. There's already a petition with over 8,000 signatures circulating, I'm sure you are aware of that. Let us grieve, let us breathe. I also want to kāko'o and reiterate what has already been said about looking back to move forward. Ho'i i ka 'ike kūpuna, ho'i i ka 'āina, ho'i i ka wai, kahe ka wai. There are more solutions there, there will be more solutions that will reveal themselves to us that have sustained our kūpuna and our 'āina for generations. I want to close with this 'Ōlelo no'ēau that just as Anakala Kai (*phonetic*) has mentioned earlier, and a bit more of my last mana'o. Hahai nō ka ua i ka ulu lā'au. The rain follows the forest. I strongly believe that as a vital part of our efforts to rebuild Lāhainā, is to restore Malu 'Ulu O Lele, Moku'ula, and Mokuhinia. Mahalo nui a e ola ka lāhui Hawai'i.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Next testifier is Lindsay Elam, to be followed by Justice Villaren, and Wallyn Christian.

MS. ELAM: That's good. Thank you. Aloha. Good afternoon. My name is Lindsay Elam, and I want to thank you all for being here. I'm not putting down any one of you, but I would especially like to thank Councilmember Paltin for everything you been doing, and making sure our West Side families are taken care of. A lot of the things that were said before I came up, I agree very much with. You know, a lot of our families are hurting. You hear a lot of things about numbers, you know, 18,000 houses, 20...or no, sorry...1,800 residents, 2,200 structures. Lot of times when we talk about numbers. we forget that each one of those numbers has more numbers behind it, and those numbers are people, yeah. These are my people. These are my grandchildren. My granddaughter, Isabella, had to escape the inferno of that fire when her mom was nine months pregnant. My grandson, Xavier, was born ten days after the fire. And guess what? He's been homeless since birth. He was born on August 19th. He has lived in three different places in that time. And guess what? He's got two more days at his current location, and he has to move again. That will be place number four. He is a month old. The only thing my granddaughter asks is to go home. She doesn't understand that her home is not there. My grandchildren are homeless. These babies have no home. There has been so much negligence. They don't deserve that. They don't...none of the kids do. You see how many children are still here? How many

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were here this morning? Why? Because they have nowhere to go. What is their options?

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. ELAM: Take a bus all the way to the other side, and be that far away from their parents? I read something last night which did make my heart a little bit happy, that in approximately 95 days, we're going to have a...a temporary school up by Kapalua Airport, right. How about we get all those same families somewhere to live? How about you get my grandbabies back in a home so they won't be homeless anymore? Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Justice Villaren, next to...to be followed by Wallyn Christian, and Michiko Smith.

MS. VILLAREN: Aloha, Council. My name is Justice Kalaukalani Faith Villaren. I was adopted. I was also a Kane originally. I'm a resident of Lāhainā. I was born on O'ahu. I was raised in the Moku of Waiehu, and I also resided in California for seven years, up and until 2011. Historically, the Water Commission was established by the U.S. Government and the State of California through the California Water Commission Act of 1913. It was the Legislators' first attempt to address water rights and tension between large landowners and smaller farmers by allowing the agency to give the authority to administer permits and licenses for surface water. Since the 1800s, large farming companies sought to use water from California's last ancient lake called Lake Tulare. They were pumping water upstream out of the lake to irrigate the farmland of Central California, eventually sending the state into what you see today...a severe drought, unstable ecosystem, fire-stricken dry land. And by 1935, farmers drained out over 95 percent of that body of water. What the U.S. Government has, and continuously fails, at doing in its own motherland is the exact outcome of what has happened here in my home. On September 9th, Chair Dawn Chang of the Water Commission was elated to discuss solutions. Solutions that have already been suggested in the past, and have failed extensively through one, the reclamation of the Swamp Land Act of 1861; two, the Green Act of 1868; three, the Wright Act of 1887; and even failed through four, the last...the Water Commission Act of 1913. These are your same, if not similar, governing solutions to our waters. The Commission today, they stick us in the same circle of failed repetitiveness, and still, they prioritize the large farmers and developers here. Private purveyors control 75 [sic] of West Maui's water. That leaves all of us only 25 percent of West Maui water. That's criminal. Today, an agenda has been formed by large foreign agriculture or real estate developers. They are buying out our land, quiet titling with local nonprofit names and different LLCs, and rebranding themselves as community leadership. Private land and well-owner, farmer, and agriculture developer like Kā'anapali

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Coffee Farms Estate [sic], and Maui Grown Coffee are also affiliated to Mahi Pono. Or Pomona Farming, a Central California-based farming company, specialized in small water consumption farming to mask the thousands of gallon [sic] of water that they pump to the cities in California...their biggest cities. You showed us all the pending well permit applications since the fire. They're all there. You call it climate change, I call it greed, lust, and vanity. How is it that a single Kā'anapali Farm Estate can be sold for \$4 million, and be called sustainable and ethically approved? That system is corrupt, and proven failure time and again. The only resiliency plan you should prioritize is one that frees the stream flows and groundwater. Bring back the waters of Mokuhinia, reestablish our rich, native aquaculture through our local ea, our fishponds, prioritize traditional wetland kalo farmers. Think about also bringing in maybe similar style rice pond fields because not everybody eats taro, right.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minute...three minutes.

MS. VILLAREN: Replant our ulu breadfruit, put a five-year cap on even applying for state residency. I just want to say that the spikes in water levels that you saw in 2020 and 2021, that is because Maui got a break. Tourism stopped, and our island replenished on its own in nine months. Traditional native practices is the only sustainable way for all from mauka to makai. Mahalo.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Wallyn Christian, to be followed by Michiko Smith, and Ke'eaumoku Kapu.

MS. CHRISTIAN: Aloha. Before my three minutes start, I just want to give all my love to the people of Lāhainā. I am from Honolulu, Hawai'i. For those of you who do recognize me, I'm the one that was 12 minutes on the last hearing. My heart goes out to you guys. My...my grandma is from Maui. If she was alive today, she would die in a second to watch how the Government has taken over from the people. With that said, okay, now you can start my three minutes. I'll try to keep it under that this time, I promise. You know, when you look at the Mayor...Mayor Bissen, and I spoke about this, he's nowhere to be found. I don't know if he's working with the people because I'm from Honolulu. From August 29th until recently, he disappeared while the people perish, while the people suffer. When you take that oath of office as a Mayor, you're telling the people of that County that you will do whatever it takes to protect them, and to provide for them, and to fight for them. He's done none of that. As a City Council, I'm asking you guys to do an independent investigation on the Mayor, on the Police Chief, on the Fire Chief, and find out why they allowed the people of Lāhainā to perish in the fire. This is my problem, I waited...I waited to come to Lāhainā because I wanted to respect the people, and their grieving. They haven't even started grieving. You've heard multiple testimonies. The keiki who was here, I cried when they pule. I

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don't even know that much Hawaiian. I cried. That's who all of you are supposed to be fighting for, including your Mayor. That's who you supposed to be fighting for, for our future. My kids and my mo'opuna had to move off this...off...off the islands because it's too expensive. You guys want to talk about money? I been hearing a lot of testimony. You guys say it's too expensive to put the lines underground. Well, stop charging our people, and start charging all these hotels that are asking for the people to come back in. I'm going to tell you this...I'm going to read this because I can't remember it. What they pay in taxes--hotels, rental cars, and airlines--none is owned by our people. Not one company is owned by our people. They pay State income tax, they pay State GET, they...they pay land lease, airport for rental cars, they pay landing fees for the airlines, they pay airport rent for their airlines, hotel state surcharge on hotel rooms. That's just the top. I mean I can go on and on. Where's that money? That was my question on the first hearing, where's the money? Bezos gave \$100 million--and I am going to repeat it because it needs to be repeated.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. CHRISTIAN: Where is the money? The money should be going directly into these people's hands. I've heard testimony of how everybody can come together as a community and rebuild Lāhainā. We need the Government to step the hell out of the way, and let the people start rebuilding. I mean this is...this is what I'm going to say. All of you get paid by the people. Start working for the people, start doing for the people. I heard a testimony about someone saying how the Hawaiians don't...don't--what is the word, guys?--don't value education. Hewa. Our Hawaiians are one of the most smartest people on this earth because we can live off of the land, we can live with each other. We don't need all of this technology to survive. You owe the people an apology on public.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. CHRISTIAN: How dare. All I ask is that you guys hold these people accountable for the mass genocide that happened in Lāhainā. I drove through the town today, and I was with my friend, and I cried because I could see the spirits of the keiki screaming, the kūpuna screaming, the people screaming. Even the police officers. Whoever they took orders from, hold them accountable. Hold them accountable, and hold it publicly, not behind closed doors. Let the people see what they have to see. I didn't want to go too far because these people...the...the people of Lāhainā have spoken. I don't need to fight for them, but I will stand up. My promise to all of you, in Honolulu, there's a bunch of us that are fighting for all of you...nonstop. We go to the meetings, we go to the hearings, we stand up. We put our lives on the line, not for...not for glory, not for social media, but for the people. And I will gladly take it all the way to the end for all of you.

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Mahalo.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Ke‘eaumoku Kapu, to be followed by Uilani Kapu.

MR. KAPU: Kala mai au. I thought had somebody before me. I'm Ke‘eaumoku Kapu. I live in Kaua‘ula Valley. I just wanted to refresh everybody memories. This never happen the first time...2007, 2012, 2018, and I think Yuki was there. Was at Lāhainā High School when the kuleanas came, and it was under Alan Arakawa. And we reminded that Council back then, this...this thing going happen again. 2021, over 2,000 acres went burn, all in the kulā‘iwis. We knew that this day was coming. We fought hard to make sure that this Council really knew what was coming, really knew what was coming. So, I hate to say, but you guys are the watchdogs today, and basically are also responsible of what had happen. 2023, August 8, may that serve as a reminder. Will it happen again? Oh, yeah, it's gonna happen again. So, in 2018, we lost all our homes in Kaua‘ula Valley. And then additional, I think, seven homes--two in Launiupoko, probably about another five in Lāhainā Town. The people came to our aid in 2018. Nā ‘Aikāne o Maui serves at...at a...as a hub in 2018. The many people throughout the State of Hawai‘i, as well as Maui, came to support Lāhainā Strong in 2018. Now, 2023, it's our turn to give back. So, we immediately went into the distribution of food and resources for our people. Now, the whole town. We're right over here at the end of the cul-de-sac at Sheraton Hotel on the Nā ‘Aikāne o Maui Community Distribution Hub. Also, Nā ‘Aikāne o Maui serves as the cultural monitors in Lāhainā Town to protect the properties of our community. There's a lot of things that are happening that people really don't understand, especially a lot of the looting that's going on. So, we took action, Nā ‘Aikāne o Maui --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. KAPU: -- to make sure that these things are protected so when the families do go home, that there'll still be heirlooms, and things...traditional, cultural properties, cemeteries, burials, are well protected. That's our responsibility. And we only giving back pertaining to what was given back for us, and the support in 2018 when a lot of our kuleana lost our homes. We reminded Alan Arakawa at that time that we need to start sitting at the table, and start figuring out how we, the community, needs to be a bottom to top kind of management system, not a top to bottom. It should have never been that way. That now is the time. I think the Government needs to start listening to the people. From 2007--this is the fifth fire.



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MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. KAPU: Why we never learn anything back then? Why we never learn anything in 2018? How come nobody came to us when we argued? This wahine in 2022 got arrested for an illegal pipeline that was being put in by Mr. Martin, the guy that is instigating all this bullshit. You guys need to batten up, and look how green his neighborhood is versus all the other properties above Lāhainā, on how much our place is dried up, and going through some serious climate changes at the same time that neighborhood is flourishing with swimming pools, nice gated communities. When are we going to wake up? When are we really going to wake up to make sure that you guys' responsibilities are for the residents of this place. We going wait, we going figure it out. At the same time, we not going play nice anymore. We played nice too long. We followed the rules, we followed the law, and nothing came of it. Blatant irresponsible excuses that we got to bear with all the time when all of a sudden the . . . *(inaudible)*. . . is about affordable homes. Now what? What we going create for our people now, the ones that are waiting? We dealing with the Federal Government, that's the whole reason why we needed to get in there to make sure that the Federal Government needs to be put up against the wall when it comes to the management of our own resources. So, I'll end at that.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Mr. Kapu.

MR. KAPU: I just ask from the beginning, we want to be at the table. Not at an advisory level, I sat in too many advisories already. We want action.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. KAPU: Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mrs. Kapu. Thank you. Oh, Jade can help you if you need help with your mic.

MS. KAPU: No, it's good. I no like shift 'em, and then gonna have to shift 'em back for the taller person than me. All right. Aloha mai. My name is Uilani Kapu. I am here to speak out on behalf of a lot of people that have spoke to me when I opened up the hub. I had people cry, talk about what their visions were. You know, it's hard. It...it...it's hard because we talked about 2018, brush abatement. That never happened, and look at where we at now. Brush abatement is big. You want to buy property, you maintain it. All these large landowners that buy properties, and don't do anything because they don't get their housing passed or whatevers, they still have to maintain it, and they don't. And this is what we get out of it. Of course, we want to sit at the table, but I think we should have our

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own forum, and we should put our own vision together without County, State, and Federal Government, and then present it to you folks. This is what we want, this is how we want it, and this what we're gonna do. We're just going to move forward, and we're going to do it. But speaking to the State offices, you know, they're saying that we can't build on shoreline. I have news for you, a lot of our kuleana owners are along that shoreline, and they deserve what's rightfully theirs. So, what are you guys going to do for them? How are you guys going to relocate them? You guys got to think about that because that's one avenue that has not been presented. But they want to know what's gonna happen to them. And I hope we can nip this in the bud about everybody having to move every time. Because like they stated, it's not stable. You know, people are going through a lot. And, you know, we sleep down here because that's where our people are. You know, they're sleeping out. They're not even at home. We sleep at the hub. We're there to serve them when they need it. So, I don't know how anybody can walk into a place, and feel comfortable, and be able to sleep at night when so much people are houseless. So much people are going through trauma. You know, I watched a video last night, and they were sharing their 'eha. They were sharing what they're going through, and I cannot...I cannot sleep at night knowing that our kids are out there wondering when they're gonna go home.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. KAPU: When are they gonna have a house for themselves to go back to? And how can the parents explain it to them, we can't. They not gonna bring their kids back to a place that they have no...they can't see their toys, they can't function. That's gonna be so devastating for them to even do that. So, I think we, as a community, need to sit down, and we need to start planning out how we envision our future moving forward without Government involvement because it takes too long, and we got to do it, and we got to do it now. Mahalo.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Courtney Lazo, to be followed by James Lumpkin, and Matthew Nichols.

MS. LAZO: Aloha. My name is Courtney Lazo, I'm born and raised Lāhainā. First, before I go into my testimony, I just want to share, we've been running our own wellness checks for our community...these QR codes that you see on our shirts. So, I'm going to read some of the top priorities that our community has been asking for, and their concerns...number one being Lāhainā lands in Lāhainā hands; two, community-led recovery; three, restoring Malu 'Ulu O Lele, historical sites, and wetlands; four, affordable housing; and five, infrastructure upgrades, widen the roads, move water, sewage inland, et cetera. 57 percent of the people who filled out this form have keiki in their households, 40 percent have kūpuna, and over 50 percent of our Lāhainā community wants to be a part of the recovery,

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and they want to volunteer. We don't stand here in front of you guys asking for handouts, we just need our voices to be heard. Looking forward towards the future, we envision a West Maui that celebrates its rich history and cultural diversity. Let's commit to replanting ulu, banana, coconut trees, and kalo, restoring the lushness of our surroundings. The revival of Malu 'Ulu O Lele is an essential step towards preserving our historical legacy. We must develop a vibrant historic district that pays homage to Lāhainā as more than just a plantation village and a whaling hub. This district should celebrate the various cultures that shaped our community with their churches, such as Wo Hing, Jodo, Waiola, Hongwanji, and Maria Lanakila, serving as proud symbols of our shared heritage. A comprehensive master plan should be devised to ensure that the preservation and reconstruction of these sacred sites. Moving on, to expedite the process of rebuilding, we propose the establishment of an emergency permitting process office in Lāhainā. This dedicated office will streamline the necessary procedures, ensuring efficient, and swift reconstruction efforts. Now, in light of the current landscape, we propose a moratorium on short-term rentals. By halting the rebuilding of short-term properties, we can redirect our focus towards providing housing for our local residents, ensuring that their needs, our needs, are prioritized during these trying times...or even better, doing away with short-term vacation rentals in our residential neighborhoods. We don't need them. We need homes for our local community. We need mortgage and interest deferral programs for at least a period of three years. This compassionate measure will provide much-needed relief to our residents, allowing them to rebuild their lives without the added burden --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. LAZO: -- of immediate financial obligations. Oh, and we need a hospital in West Maui. We've needed one. So, yeah, please add that to the list. And lastly, I understand this is a County Council meeting, and we mahalo you guys for being here. It's probably not easy to stand in front of the Lāhainā community, or sit there and listen to us, but mahalo. But I don't know if Josh Green is still on island. I know he was here yesterday at Kapalua. Most of us didn't even know he was having a meeting or a press conference until it popped up on our phones. But in case you are here, and listening, somewhere in the back, or watching online, we invite you to Lāhainā for a listening session like this, preferably before your reopening on October 8th. You have yet...you have yet to sit with our community, to hear our voices, and concerns, and I think it's time you do. Your recent decisions haven't included our community --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. LAZO: -- and right now, from where we stand, it looks like you put profit over

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people. Nothing about us, without us. We look forward to a listening session with you, Governor. Mahalo.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Wait, wait...come back.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Lazo, for your testimony. My question...I...I think it's...it...it's so smart to put the QR code on the...on the sleeve of the shirts, and that everyone's participating in it. Broadly speaking, you know, like everyone can get behind affordable housing, a hospital, but the devil is always in the details. And so, we're going to need the community to be able to engage with us when the details start coming out so that the recovery is done together, kākou effort. Would that initiative that you folks have be able to have that level of feedback with the detail as the details are proposed from the community, and then everyone have an opportunity to provide their feedback on that?

MS. LAZO: Yeah, we can provide what we have, and we'll figure out the rest. I mean Lāhainā's waiting to be heard, so we'll get it, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Amazing.

MS. LAZO: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. LAZO: Yeah. Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is James Lumpkin, to be followed by Matthew Nichols, and Stephen West.

MR. LUMPKIN: Aloha, my name is James Lumpkin. I've been in West Maui for 17 years. All my material possessions were burned at 360 Front Street, which is now being called Zone 14A. This disaster is a failure on the civic authority's political system. It's not a natural disaster. As so many people have pointed out, it's a failure to act on warnings, and that created knowledge of raised risk that weren't acted on to make change. Many good points were made here today. I'd like to just reiterate that I believe building beyond resources is a poor decision. What resources need to be considered are roads, power, foods, and obviously, what's been repeated over and over is water. The question was asked, it's not that water is not available, it's how the water is being distributed. And that water needs to be

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distributed to the people for things like Moku'ula, Mokuhinia...Mokuhinia, Malu 'Ulu O Lele, and I also think those things fit into the idea of rejuvenative tourism, to repeat Paele. Thank you, Councilmembers, for being here, and I'll put anything else in an email.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Is Steve West next? Is that what Kasie said earlier?

MS. MACDONALD: I have Matthew Nichols next, to be followed by Stephen West.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay, Matthew. Okay. Matthew, and then Steve. Thank you.

MR. NICHOLS: So, on our lunch break we went back to our Hāna Kai Hotel, and we were told by Red Cross we were being kicked out in 72 hours. Due to Red Cross not knowing what 'ohana housing is, they have put people in the wrong things, and so they can't separate them. So, we are all listed as a...a nine-person household instead of three. They are unwilling to help us. I've been to over eight hotels, and 40 hours sitting there. On Monday, I sat there and watched as a lady cried because her kids can't come back to this side because she's being kicked out of her hotel. As I sat there for three hours, freezing, waiting for someone to speak to, waiting for someone to get housing...because after the fire, I've lived in a food truck. Up until a week...two or three weeks ago, we had nowhere to go because we chose our animals because they deserve a place to live too. Not all of our animals survived. So, today, when I left you, I told you there was a fire burning on this island right now, a fire burning as we speak in this meeting, and there's nothing that people can do. Do you know how hopeless we feel? I'm not even from this island. I've lived here since July, and I moved here to be with someone that I loved because they're from Lāhainā, born and raised. And I believed in this lifestyle, and in this thing of being aloha. What aloha is there? I was told 72 hours, and kicked out, and I walked down this pathway, and there's tourists playing beer pong on their lanais. You want me to sit there and tell you I'm not going to revolt? You want me to tell you I'm not going to do nothing when this is what's looking at us. A week after the fire I worked at a shave ice shop, and I had a tourist look at me because I'm white, and have the nerve to say should I stay on this island...island, or should I go because my money's pumping your economy? Do you know what that feels like? When you go home at night, and you look around your homes, and you see your photos, and you see your belongings...we have nothing. I have nothing of my grandparents anymore. I have nothing. I don't get to look at a photo of anything, I will never get these photo [sic] back. No one from Lāhainā ever will. And you know what's the most disgusting thing I heard today? Your high school has no evacuation plan. The amount of mass shootings going on in this country, and there's no evacuation plans for your schools? Do you not feel ashamed of yourselves sitting in front of us? Do you want to know something? I'm from Tucson, Arizona, where water

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rights are for the people. The water should go 50 percent for us, 50 percent for something else. I drove around Hāna for the first time two weeks...this week. Half of it's beautiful, half of it's green, half of it is a barren wasteland that looks like the desert I came from. This is a --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. NICHOLS: -- tropical island. Where is the water? You know where the water is? It's running down the sidewalks of the hotels. I counted six times a day the water is...the grass is watered. I grew up in a place that grass doesn't need watering for two weeks. You have to mow your grass once a week in this area because you're overwatering. You don't need to mow your grass for once a month in the mainland because it survives. You are literally stealing from the people, and giving water to who? To tourists? So I have one last thing for you. There's 2,000 places that got burned, right. Hana O Kai has 2,000 kitchens, 2,000 bathrooms, 2,000 washers, 2,000 dryers. If a tourist comes to our island and you want them to pump their money into our economy, they don't deserve a kitchen. They can eat in our restaurants, where you want the money to go. At what point are you going to have --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. NICHOLS: -- have decency? I hope that you care about the amount of words said as the amount of time you've counted to each one of us. And the last thing I have to say...Madam, in your blazer, please be humble next time you come before us because I have five shirts, three shorts, and not even enough underwear to get through a week. So, please, don't sit here in your nice clothing, and remember that we have dirt nothing but the...but what's been given to us. I have clothes I can't even fit in.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Stephen West, to be followed by Cheryl Alcantara, and Lopeti Tu'ua.

MR. WEST: Aloha, Councilmembers. And my name is Stephen West, I'm a business agent for International Longshore Warehouse Union. And on behalf of all of us, our sincere condolences go out to everyone that's lost anything in this fire. We're here for you now, and we'll be here for you in the future. As Brother Ron pointed out, we've brought some various supplies to the hubs. We're here for you. So, I wanted to bring out just a couple points. I testified in front of the Council last meeting, and I just want to touch base on a section...Section 105.2.1 of Title 16.26B, and it provides the County to expedite the permitting process. This is

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the...this is a...this is in the Code. And basically 105.2.1, reconstruction of dwellings and accessory structures, there's a number of points, and if I read all of my testimony, I would be going over. So, there's a number of sections, one that's most important, it...it allows the Planning Director to forego any charges to the...the...the applicant. So, they would not have to pay permitting fees. I would strongly urge the County to make that so people of this community could do it without even asking. Because it's...in the Code, it says they must ask. So, anybody that's listening, please spread that out. You're going to have to ask. But hopefully the Council can...and work with the Mayor's Office and Planning Director to make that automatic. Also H, it deals with illegal construction. A number of the plantation homes, there was no planning, there were no plans, they were constructed. There's no record of them. I would hope that when these applicants go to the County, they would basically understand by just...they've been paying taxes all this time, the County would not deem it illegal. They would basically grant the permit, and then as well...you know, they're going to have to follow the law. That is understood as far as the Code and the building is, all that. But I would just hope that the County would please recognize those structures to be rebuilt. And then the most important thing for me is that, you know, the multigenerational wealth in this...in the plantation areas, it...it has to continue. And we've heard today various people saying that they've already had the banks on their backs. We've got to find a way. We have to find a way, as a community, to protect all those people. It would break my heart to see anyone lose their home. And lastly, the...the --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. WEST: -- the...the issue that I feel strongly about, and I felt strongly about this, is that transit vacation rentals--TVRs, Airbnbs--do not belong in our neighborhood. Please do, at the very minimum, a five-year moratorium. You know, our...our children have been our greatest asset, and our greatest export of this County. Over 2,000 children leave this island, and don't come back every year. That's not right. So...and then the...the...the bypass. We got to look at the bypass. Maybe ask the President, the Governor, to ask them to...to waive all the administrative...you know, do an administrative order to allow --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. WEST: -- that process to move forward. And I'll shut up. Thank you very much for your time. Aloha.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Steve. Oh, wait. Steve, Steve.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Mr. West. Mahalo for your

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testimony. Mahalo for taking such a strong position as a ILWU lobbyist...or representative --

MR. WEST: I'm a representative.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- agent? Representative.

MR. WEST: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: When we do introduce legislation, will you please bring your force to come and support the legislation when we --

MR. WEST: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- introduce those things?

MR. WEST: We are...actually, we're in the midst of that right now. And, you know, it's just...we have a lot of members that are hurting right now. We're actually working...we're getting back to our roots. We're working from the ground up...the bottom-up organization versus a top-down organization. So, we're rebuilding, and, yes, we'll definitely show up.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. West. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Kasie?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Cheryl Alcantara, to be followed by Lopeti Tu'ua, and Jose Molina.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . .

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Cheryl Alcantara? The next testifier is Lopeti Tu'ua, to be followed by Jose Molina, and Virendra Nath.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is that for me?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Huh?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Did you get a paper?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Lopeti?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: He left.



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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay, he left.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Jose Molina, to be followed by Virendra Nath, and Brett Kaye. The next testifier is Virendra Nath, to be followed by Brett Kaye, and Russell Pomaika‘i Kuamo‘o.

MR. KUAMO‘O: So nervous. Aloha, everybody. Heee. I just like to say, you know, everybody lost a lot, we lost everything. So, the best thing for them to do now is regroup as a...as a family, as a people, as a nation. Come together, and take back Hawai‘i. Reinstate the government, and, you know, the Kingdom...the Polynesian Kingdom, we got to get ‘em back. We got to bring ‘em back for the future of our keikis. We no need them living in the mainland, brah. We need them living home where they belong. You know, half our family are up there. We want to bring them all home. And thank you for that. Mahalo.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Before you leave, can you please state your name?

MR. KUAMO‘O: Russell Pomaika‘i Kuhaililoa (*phonetic*) Kuamo‘o Kekona.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MR. KUAMO‘O: All right.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Brett Kaye, to be followed by Kiha Kaina. The next testifier is Kiha Kaina, to be followed by Malinda Wade.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Can they hear us in the other room, or outside if they're waiting outside? Do you know? Outside can hear? And the other room can hear too, yeah? Okay, thank you. Outside cannot hear. The outside speakers are off. We can turn those back on. Yeah, we're going to take a ten-minute recess, we be back 3:10. . . .(*gavel*). . .

**RECESS: 3:01 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 3:26 p.m.**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: . . .(*gavel*). . . Okay, we're ready to begin again. It is 3:26, and will the GREAT Committee please reconvene. Staff, if you could please call our first testifier?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Thank you, Chair. The first testifier is Lopeti Tu‘ua, to be followed by Jose Molina, and Virendra Nath.

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MR. TU'UA: Talofa lava. Olo'u igo o Lopeti Tu'ua. Thank you, folks, for having...or having myself here as long...along with the rest of Lāhainā as a voice. I'm here today to speak to you on behalf of the rebuild, and as long as...along with making Lāhainā resilient to something like this happening again. As far as the rebuild of Lāhainā, the first thing that comes to mind for myself is two things. We have those who come from Lāhainā, and those who live in Lāhainā. For me and my family, no matter where I live, I come from Lāhainā. We are Lāhainā. With that being said, no matter where I go, or where I reside, I wear Lāhainā on my forehead and on my chest. I don't wear it on my back. Everybody knows I'm from Lāhainā. Why? Because I come from Lāhainā. So, as far as the rebuild, all of you folks, what I ask from you is to listen to the people who come from Lāhainā. No disrespect, honestly, it doesn't matter if you live in Lāhainā. The people who come from Lāhainā will have only the best interest of Lāhainā. So, listen to the people who come from Lāhainā, not live in Lāhainā. That is so far irrelevant from the future of Lāhainā. You have to listen to the people who come from Lāhainā. As far as Lāhainā being resilient, as far as something happening like this in the future, back to the same thing, you have to listen to the people who come from Lāhainā. This is my son. His name is Loyal Lauliloa Namakuola Tu'ua. Talofa. Say talofa. He doesn't talk yet. But back to what I said about coming from Lāhainā. Unfortunately I have two other children, Vailana Vaaia (*phonetic*) Tu'ua, Vasai . . .(*inaudible*). . . Lopeti Tu'ua. They know Lāhainā. Not...my daughter comes from Lāhainā, my son was born in L.A., but when I called my son and I told him what happened to Lāhainā, he said how sad he was about Lāhainā burning down because he love this place. For him, unfortunately, he'll never know the Lāhainā that I know, and that I knew growing up. So, all I ask is that we listen to the people who come from Lāhainā so when we do the rebuild, he'll know at least something about the Lāhainā that I knew, and that I know. Moving forward...after that, what I wanted to say was that I'm a Samoan. My mom was born...my mom was born in America, my dad was born in Samoa. My mom graduated Lāhaināluna 1971, I graduated 2003. So, I'm from Lāhainā. And as far as what I was going to say is, being a Samoan, born and raised in Lāhainā, we're all Polynesians. We're on the same wa'a, however...so --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. TU'UA: -- we're on the same wa'a, but we have to do....what I have...we have to remember is that if --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. TU'UA: -- we're all in the same wa'a. As Polynesians, we have to paddle in the same direction. This flag right here is the same flag that me, as a Samoan,

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brought to Mauna Kea the very next day after they were at the cattle guard. Why? Because although we're in the same wa'a, I'm still paddling in the same direction. And you guys have to all remember that. We're all in the same wa'a, but which direction are you guys paddling in? Remember which direction you're paddling because you claim you...you're in the same wa'a, but remember, you're paddling in the same direction. Because if not, it's not going to work. And do it for him, because this is the future right here, he's looking right at you. E o mai. E'o.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Jose Molina, to be followed by Virendra Nath.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Can you say the next two testifiers again please, Kasie?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Next testifier is Jose Molina, to be followed by Virendra Nath, then Brett Kaye. The next testifier is Virendra Nath, to be followed by Brett Kaye, and Kiha Kaina. Brett Kaye, to be followed by Kiha Kaina, then Malinda Wade.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Brett? Brett...Brett's not here, Tom said. Maybe we can move on.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Kiha Kaina, to be followed by Malinda Wade, and Terry Restivo. Malinda Wade, to be followed by Terry Restivo, and Joani Morris. Terry Restivo, to be followed by Joani Morris, and Gianina Restivo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We can save them for afterwards if they come back.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Suzette Felicilda, to be followed by Miss Lizzy, and Juenlee Brown. Miss Lizzy, to be followed by Juenlee Brown, then Dan Brown.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Can you please state your name?

MR. KEAHI: Aloha. My name is Suzette Felicilda.

AUDIENCE: . . . *(laughing)* . . .

MR. KEAHI: Thank you for having us in your presence. My name is Kapali Keahi. I know she not here because she told me she was leaving. So, I just wanted to say that I think --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Wait, hold on. Did you sign up? Because then we can mark you pau after this. What was your name? Can you just --

MR. KEAHI: No, I did not sign up.

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh.

MR. KEAHI: I came little bit late, so I figure it's no use in signing up. I know had over 130 people signed up. So, there's no use.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: This is true. No, you're fine. We just --

MR. KEAHI: Okay.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- if you did, then we would have just marked you as pau. But you can continue. You have three minutes.

MR. KEAHI: Okay. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you, Suzette. What I was going say is, I think...I think I should just say that there's certain things that are very pressing that I think the Council can help us with. Of course, we all no like the idea that we opening up for tourism on the 8th. Of course, we all know tourists already here. I think you can put pressure on the Mayor, and maybe the Mayor can get all the mayors from the different counties to put pressure on the Governor to stop this madness before it even happens. I think that's pressing. Because what is even more pressing than that is because we know that get plenty people still not sure of where they going, that they getting kicked out at this very moment. So, it's uncertain for them where they gonna be living. I mean I don't know what FEMA or the Red Cross says about that, but we know we hearing differently. So, it's like...you know, it's kind of plantation mentality all over again. You know, like, okay, your mama, your papa just got burnt at the stake, and are you done crying? Get back to work now. Get back to work. I think that's what is happening, yeah, plantation mentality. Plantation mentality. We got to end all the plantation mentality. So, take care of our people. I think we need at least...we need a stabilization plan for those of us who look...for those of our families who affected by this fire, no more place for live, you got to take care of them first before we start to take of any tourists. Okay. I think that's kind of pressing right now. Because I don't know how many times we going be talking about the build back. This is not the first time we going be talking about that. Get some stuff that going come later on down the line, of course. So, let's just deal with something that you could probably handle right now. Something that you should be doing right now is putting pressure on our Mayor. And guarantee...eh, I talk to...I talk to the Kaua'i mayor too, guarantee he be in on pressuring the Governor for pushing back this open-up date. So do that for us right now. Take care of that right now.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. KEAHI: Mahalo.

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Wait, Suzette [sic], you got to come back. Member Paltin has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And, Chair, Staff asked if you could just state your name again for the record.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: If you could --

MR. KEAHI: Okay.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- state your name for the record, please?

MR. KEAHI: Kapali Keahi. Aloha.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Wait, wait, wait. No, she does have a question.

MR. KEAHI: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So, I just...I just wanted to clarify. We heard meetings where the Mayor, or the Governor, or Red Cross, or FEMA says that nobody going be displaced because the tourists coming back. So, instead, what we seeing is the 40 hotels being used as shelters, just shuffling all the residents around, moving from the Fairmont Kea Lani, Andaz, you get 24 hours, now you got to go to Hyatt, or Nāpili Shores, they no care that you kids is in school in Ha'ikū or wherever. So even though they not being displaced to the streets --

MR. KEAHI: Um-hum.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- you saying that is still unacceptable because we not just cattle that can be moved (*audio interference*).

MR. KEAHI: Absolutely. Thank you for not putting words in my mouth because that's exactly what we thinking. That's exactly what we thinking, and that's exactly what we saying. Like my cousin Albert said, who you are is where you come from. And for all intents and purposes, we no like leave Lāhainā, we want to stay here. There's no reason why these hotels cannot open up. Get...I mean the amount of rooms that...the amount of units that there are in this industry can swallow up all of Lāhainā quite easily. Of course, it'll probably be just a matter of dividing everybody up perhaps, but get plenty room for us. I know that already. So, that being said, I mean all of us in Lāhainā, we in it for the long haul. We know that. But this industry? Come on, only two months and you just like give up already? They got to be in it for the long haul, too. Why? We built this industry. We built

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this industry. This industry is dependent on us. They like us get back to work because...because they know, even the Governor knows--and this is why this is very much plantation mentality--that once we get back into the grind, it's hard to stop. So, it becomes not only a distraction, but a deterrent. It's...is a deterrent, it deters us. Now, you think we going go work all day, we like go to one meeting at night, you think that's what we like do? You think that's fun? You think that's part of the quality of life for the people who live here? Of course not. We no like go to one meeting at night after we just pau work all day, slaving in the...in the...in the tourism industry...or whatever industry. So, this is all a deterrent, deterring us from being parting the...part of the solution, deterring us from be...being at the table. So, that's why we got to push this back right now, and get it happening before the 8th comes. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you for the clarification.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Kasie, can you please call the next three testifiers?

MS. LIZZY: Aloha. I am...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Can you please state your name for the record?

MS. LIZZY: I am Miss Lizzy.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. LIZZY: I worked for Princess for four years and Kobe Steakhouse. People are literally dying of heartbreak. To one of the great Hawaiians, we love you, Pili Kekai. Please be with us now. To the families of Lāhainā and the students I taught, I know, and love, to your lineage, your 'ohana, your genealogy, your island culture, to your home, unto Hawai'i, stand proud. I am sorry you have had to witness bombs, smoke, desolation, poverty, death, and horror. I'm sorry there was no warning. I'm sorry you were trapped in gridlock with no communication. I'm sorry when you were burnt, tired, and hungry and shell-shocked. The Government took your First Amendment away, and would not let you look back. Lāhainā, we the people must work united against the government who has failed you, and work toward the self-sustaining goal of the Hawaiian Islands by the Kānaka Maoli. Fight against the government who barricaded you in, who took your voice and silenced you. The government no listen to you. The Mayor no listen to you. The DOE no listen to you. I spoke out at the DOE meeting August 20th at the MACC. My testimony has disappeared. All of our testimonies have disappeared. Bus our keiki across the island? Put our schools into one school, into one area, with no evacuation route? This pisses me off. Whoo. What will happen next? What will you do? When will you do it? I call upon the Kānaka

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Maoli to lead us out of this darkness. There are five things we need now. Number one, give us our water back. Water is life. Number two, rebuild every Hawaiian home. Number three, give kids a safe school, a safe school. Number four, self-sustain the Lāhainā community without tourism. Number five, honor the lives of every human lost. Everyone has face value. Then after this, we can start to breathe with the sacred aloha of our island, not the tourist industry propaganda and sentiment that sells aloha for a price. God hear our prayers, please send us angels. Hallelujah.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Kasie?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Juenlee Brown, to be followed by Dan Brown and John Sarter.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. BROWN: Aloha, Members of Maui County Council and my dear Maui residents, my name is Juenlee Brown, and I’m a resident of Lāhainā in the Kahana area. And I’m proud to say that all four of our children are Lāhaināluna graduates and...and then some. Our business shut down last month, and our employees lost their homes. So, this issue of recovery and resiliency is very important to me. Thank you for this chance to share my ideas about how to rebuild, how to move forward. First, I believe there have been so...so many ideas here. I’ve been here all day, you guys have a lot of work to do. Anyway, I just wanted to add that. But moving forward, first, I believe that we should plan the restoration of Lāhainā around a new town center that consists of a memorial, a museum, a cultural center, a park, and a playground. Alongside our memorial site, we should construct a museum that preserves the rich history and cultural...culture of our town. If done properly, this could become a major destination on the island for visitors and locals alike. I feel that a public gathering space, a park, and a playground designed around culturally relevant themes would also be a great benefit to the community. We must always remember that we do this work in service for future generations. Next, I propose that we reclaim the oceanfront as green space. If we push back redevelopment by 500 feet from Baker Street to Shaw, we could create an area roughly equivalent in the size of Ala Moana Beach Park. That...the...the continued prosperity of Ala Moana Shopping Center shows that increased distance from the ocean can support successful commercial activity. This move will also mitigate the effects of the expected incoming sea level rise. Whether it becomes a County, State, or National park, I believe it is of critical importance to preserve this...this area as green space. This is perhaps the only chance we will get to convert this land into a public area that everyone will be able to enjoy. And further, I suggest that we rebuild Lāhainā as a pedestrian-first town. There are many benefits to this approach. A stronger

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sense of community, improved physical and mental health outcomes, increased safety for pedestrians and cyclists, higher retail value, revenues from increased foot traffic, and of course, reduced motor vehicle emissions. Rebuilding Lāhainā first for pedestrians and second for low-speed electric vehicles, that would also meet several health and sustainability goals set by Maui County and the State of Hawai'i. Several major tourist destinations already have successful car-free mandates, and I include these examples in my written testimony, which was nine minutes long, but anyway. So, now is the...this is my recap. Now is the time to take bold steps to a truly sustainable and resilient future. My written testimony includes detailed evidence to support these suggestions, other towns that are car-free. If anyone is interested in the full report you can email me at [kokuafirst@gmail.com](mailto:kokuafirst@gmail.com). I understand we have a long road ahead that begins today, and I want to continue engaging with everyone about the collective vision to rebuild Lāhainā. Mahalo for listening.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Ms. Brown, [kokuafirst@gmail.com](mailto:kokuafirst@gmail.com)?

MS. BROWN: Yeah.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. BROWN: So, I also have the QR code to that nine...six-page testimony, and it has a bibliography of all the references of the CitiesAlive, other car-free areas, the other resources that have EV micro mobility businesses. Anyway, it's just really extensive, so --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. BROWN: -- I...I think I sent it in the eComments too.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. BROWN: Did you want a copy also?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That'd be great. I'm happy to take that. Thank you. Mr. Brown, you're welcome to come up. Thank you very much.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Dan Brown, to be followed by John Sarter, and Foster Ampong.

MR. BROWN: Aloha. My name is Dan Brown. My wife already covered it. My four children grew up in this town. I've lived...I've lived the last 41 years of my life in Lāhainā, most of it in Lāhainā Town. Three of the first four places I lived were



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lost in this fire. My business was impacted. I'm blessed I didn't lose everything, but my employees did. And I...I have no employees now because they've all been dislocated to the other side of the island. It seems minor to me compared to the great losses, and my sympathy to all who lost loved ones and possessions, and...and all of us for the trauma we've suffered. Whether you live in Lāhainā or not, it's affected all of us, I believe. I...it seems premature to talk about what I'm talking about, but it is on the resiliency and the planning. I spoke...I testified at the last meeting, and I went out and I did do what I said, I talked to a contractor, I talked to some other people in the business, and really thought about what do we need from the Council on the planning side. And...and you mentioned as a Council that...when you questioned me, that you will have a...are working on having some boilerplate, some preapproved plans that could move things forward for people. And I realize that's a wonderful idea, but then I started thinking, in the houses I've lived in and the places I've been, that we don't match the mainland model of a house, right? We have a house, we got tūtū here, we got daughter and granddaughter over here, and we've got these multifamily, multigenerational homes. You're not going to get that plan from somewhere on the mainland, right? And...and I think that we really need to have community input when we make...when we go to rebuild Lāhainā because everybody knows what those houses were like. If you...if you've lived in them or you've visited them, they weren't just a three-bedroom house with one bathroom or, you know, it doesn't look like that. And to try to make...force people back into that colonial model, or whatever you want to call it, that's not us...that's not. And we need to really look at hey, can we have four things connected together by a breezeway, and have that...that approved, right, so that people can live good lives in their houses instead of being stuffed where they were. And, you know, variances for the density because we all know some of those houses had way more people than what it looks like on the County tax map key. And...and...and we're going to have...you know, you have maybe 2...1,800 homes, right, were lost, that's not 1,800 families, that's probably three times that number. And when we make our planning, we really got to look at that as we do it. The other one that was suggested to me from someone with some expertise and doing...gathering information, and I'm always concerned, like this morning, I really felt that the community was here. And like someone said, when people get back to work, I won't be able to be here, other people won't be able to be here, but we also have communities that there are fewer of them...you know, we know who's missing. I only saw a few of the Japanese community here. I haven't seen a representative Filipino population. And to have caucuses that are separate from this for people to give their ideas, and to have someone, you know, maybe provide a facilitator who could take notes and do it, but to provide an opportunity in a hotel ballroom or even a beach park --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

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MR. BROWN: -- to say how we're going to...how we're going to hear the voices we're not hearing. Because we're hearing the motivated people who don't have to work today are here, but a lot of people are missing out on giving their input, and we need everybody to help rebuild this. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Kasie?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is John Sarter, to be followed by Foster Among then Kecia Joy.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Foster Among, to be followed by Kecia Joy and Haili Shim.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I don't see Foster. Maybe we can start with Kecia, and then Heidi...Haili. Okay.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Next testifier is Kecia Joy, to be followed by Haili Shim.

MS. JOY: Aloha. Hi. My name is Kecia Joy, Maui resident for about 20 years, and water protector, kiai. Good to see so many of you here that I have worked with before. I would like to find out about this meeting tomorrow, it was mentioned earlier. It's...it's hard to keep track of...I want to be able to speak as...as much as possible and...and to share as...with the community as much as possible on the upcoming. So, I would love to know more about that. I would love to know if there's a way to find out what your ideas are, and how we could engage in speaking, you know, together in that, and hearing what your thoughts are. And how we could be helpful to you guys as well. This is a huge job that you're all tasked with actually, and the world is watching, everybody's watching, and we want to help you as much as you want to help us. And so, how can we...can we do that? I also wanted to speak about in 2011, we had like a big tsunami issue. I was living here, and I happened to be in Kihei. We had plenty of warning, we had, I don't know, six hours for that wave that was going to hit at 3:00 in the morning. And I just remember the sirens that went off over and over again warning us, and I remember an intercom where voices could come over that siren and say please evacuate, you have a tsunami coming. Is...is there a capability for someone to come on the sirens to speak? And why didn't that happen to come on and say okay, we have a fire, it's not a tsunami, it's a fire, so get out. I just wanted to bring that up because I just remember that from the last tsunami issue. I definitely want to restore the water. I stand for the water. I...I...Mokuhinia and Moku'ulu...Moku'ula is, I think, one of the more inspiring

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things that we could restore, really, on our planet, one of the most sacred places. And so, if we could focus on that, you're going to uplift your community big time if that can be happening very fast. And even showing that that's an intention that that could happen. I don't even know how 75 percent of our water got to be privately owned. I just don't understand. That's...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You can't own water.

MS. JOY: Yes, exactly. Exactly.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . That's for everybody.

MS. JOY: It's for everybody. I don't...I don't know how this happened, but, you know, this disaster has...has happened to wake us up. We're all awake. We are raw, we are feeling everything, we are feeling our tears, we are feeling each other, and...and we get to do this as a community together. Also I was in the ReStore, Habitat for Humanity store recently, and I asked --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. JOY: -- you know, if they were...you're going to help rebuild, and they said oh, my gosh, we...when the time is ready, they have hundreds of people ready to volunteer, and that just made me just fall in tears. So, I hope the permits go very...there's no permitting fee, and that things can go swiftly, and know there's a huge, beautiful group, massive amount of people that are ready. I love the volunteer firefighters idea. And lastly, the...there needs to be a healing and wellness center here in Lāhainā for the people to recover, you know, their emotional, their mental, their physical. I do warm water aquatic therapy, and I want to offer anyone who is having some PTSD to come in the warm water, and I'm giving free sessions. Unfortunately, the only warm water pool I have is in Ha'ikū, but I would love to offer that to those who...who really need it. So, listen to the indigenous wisdom, they're holding the keys in their bones for the future.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. JOY: Thank you and aloha.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Can we call the two next testifiers, or however many we have left? Well, in this room.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Haili Shim, to be followed by Kalena Shim, then Kamuela Kawa'akoa.

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MR. SHIM: Aloha mai kākou. First, my thoughts and prayers goes out to each and everyone's family who's lost and seeking...who...who's mourning through all this. And so, I come from...I'm a graduate of Lāhaināluna High School/Jackson High. I'm a great...great-great grandson of Alice Kunane Banham, who was the matron dean of Lāhaināluna back in early 1900s to mid-1900s. She was also the composer of the song Yonder Lāhainā Mountains. From Kahakuloa, Honokōhau, Punalau, Honolua, Nāpili, and now residing Lāhainā, my indigenous tribe of people had lived in simplicity for thousands of years, and we...I hope that the...that our no'ono'o and Planning Department of the people who makes these decisions, plans for building 20 years prior to holding a community meeting starts to trust in the process of Akua and the people. I pray and ask that God grant us more time to change. Planning, communication, organization, execution, and belief is what I look at to today. When I saw Waiola Church, as I was watching it burn down, former...Waine'e Church, you know, changed to Waiola Church, that is where all my ancestors are laid to rest today. And that's all I have. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Kalena Shim, to be followed by Kamuela Kawa'akoa, and then Laurie Lei DeGama.

MS. SHIM: Aloha mai kākou. 'O wau nō 'o Kalena Shim. Noho mai au ma Punalau. Kupa o Lāhainā. First thing, forgive me if I'm a little jittery. My dad decided we going talk halfway through everybody went testify, so kind of winging it right now. But I think my most immediate need for this meeting is to postpone the opening, you know, of October 8th. The tourist not our priority, yeah, stability of our people should be priority. Yeah. Keeping everybody in Lāhainā and safe long term. One other big thing is water. We all know, yeah, vice...wai is life. Return the water to the right place. Moving forward with rebuilding, you know, there's...there's...there's two different type of greens in this situation I believe...actually, there's three. Josh Green, get money green, and then get 'āina green. Yeah. My question to you guys is, which one you believe in, which one you going stand up for, which one you going fight for? Yeah. Which one...which one you guys like your mo'opuna grow up to love, embrace, and cherish? Because my ancestors before me, they...I believe they live through me, you know, my father, my grandfather, my great grandfather, my great grandmother who fought for water rights in Honokōhau. Yeah. We in this all together, but this is just the start, yeah, and we not going go nowhere. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Kamuela Kawa'akoa, to be followed by Laurie

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Lei DeGama, then Naki Kanekoa. Kamuela Kawa'akoa? The next testifier is Laurie Lei DeGama, to be followed by Naki Kanekoa.

MS. DEGAMA: Aloha. My name is Laurie Lei DeGama. I lost my home at 534 Lāhaināluna Road, with my uncle who I care-gave for over 20 years in it, to the fire. I am born and raised here. It's amazing that there is this much people who have made it. There was no warning, there was no cell phone service, hence the importance of sounding the alarms, which were silent that day. It was survival made for all of us...or mode for all of us. Everyone has a story, most of the stories are traumatic, and their story of trying to escape. Many didn't make it because there was no access or alternative routes. They got stuck on Front Street or behind Mill Camp. There would have been more fatalities if the already old cane road gate were not broken and made accessible. I want to know the count on how many remains were found, not the count on the people missing. If you know Lāhainā, we all know everything going on in Lāhainā, and that 100 count is not the whole truth, only part of the truth. The fire five years ago should have wiped out Lāhainā, but luckily the winds stopped when the fire came up to Lāhaināluna Road. Four houses by my house burned, my house was spared, why? Because there was a County truck parked right in our driveway watering my house. We need more trucks that hold water and can shoot water. Forget the hydrants. They were empty once again, they say, because there was no water pressure. Nothing was learned from the fire five years ago. We had to lose homes, family, and a town to be seen. This is my third fire where I live--five years ago, the fire on the...five years ago, and the fire on the mountain, and then this last one. My daughter is afraid to live at our home again. I don't blame her. How do we tell our kids it's safe to rebuild and be there when we, as parents, know if nothing is changed, it won't be safe? She wants to make sure we stay and she can go to Lāhaināluna. She got that Luna spirit already. We have to do better, and protect the future of our Lāhainā. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Naki Kanekoa, and apologies if I get this one wrong, Thomas Hovsepian...Hovsepian.

MR. KANEKOA: Thank you. Aloha. My name is Naki Aweawe Kanekoa. Forgive me for my glasses, it's kind of like my comfort space. Okay. I am not from Lāhainā. I am born and raised on the continent. I'm what we call a diaspora Hawaiian. Okay. That being said, I have been privileged to be close to this community for over 11 years working at the Feast at Lele. And that being said, I've had a lot of different opportunities to talk about the tourism industry and the amount of extraction that it caused. That is one point. Okay. Waste is the major issue. For indigenous people, this kind of catastrophe hits home so much harder. Okay.

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Being Kānaka Maoli, our ways would have prevented all of these things. So, the first thing that we said, Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, Keawahine. That's why these things were kept sacred, yeah, above the wants and needs of men, women. Only for the needs of the keiki, right? So, the waste is what you folks are so exposed to on every level because you are between us and the higher-ups. You are our konohiki, right, you guys are the ones who look out for us. You guys witnessed the waste, the water, the waste, money, the wasted land, yeah. That is what we need you. We--I say, Lāhainā especially--need you to keep track and be really accountable, yeah, for that waste because when we turn that around, then we have more water, we have more land, we have more money. And it's not just for Councilmember Paltin who's doing the work here in Lāhainā, it's you folks when you go back to your districts, back to your people, and remind them what we're doing. We're pivoting, right? Just like we did in COVID, we can do it again. There's this thing I learned called Lāhainā Strong, yeah, and I got to witness that very closely. 2018 I was there, I got stuck here. Yeah. And my folks live here in Hawaiian Homes. I saw some of the neighbors here. This community has raised up like no one else, and the world is watching. You folks have the opportunity to change the game at the level of konohiki, and then you push on the ali'i, those higher-ups, and I'm talking indigenous because this is the plan, you guys. That is what Lāhainā strong has always been. Starting on indigenous, but we welcome all the other communities. Why? Because that's what makes us strong. So, trying to come back to point. I appreciate you guys --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. KANEKOA: -- for being here, I really do. I know that it's not easy to take criticism, but I want to remind you guys, these people in Lāhainā are world famous, okay. The world comes to Lāhainā, they come to see us, they come to see them, so the world is watching. They all have a little place in their heart for Lāhainā and Maui. And us as Kānaka, we see these leaders here rising up. Some of them have always been leaders like Ke'eaumoku, some of them haven't. Some of these younger guys are rising up, some of the younger women are rising up, you know, and that is who you need to support. Support these leaders who are coming up, push on your higher-ups. And I know it's just being redundant, but I want to pinpoint the waste. Talk about waste of water, waste of money, waste of 'āina, and it all comes back to indigenous systems, no waste nothing.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. KANEKOA: Mahalo again. Aloha.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Next testifier please?

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MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Thomas Hovsepian, to be followed by Manu Akana, and Mona Cherry. The next testifier is Manu Akana, to be followed by Mona Cherry, and then Jacque Sinenci.

MR. KEKONA: My name is not Manu Akana, my name is not Foster Ampong, but I do have a short time limit, and if nobody objects in the room, I'd like to have an opportunity to speak so I can go.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That's fine. If you could just say your name for the record.

MR. KEKONA: I am signed up, so you can check me off as done when I'm done.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Can do.

MR. KEKONA: My name is Kaipo Kekona. You guys heard a lot of what is the dire need today and now, and I support all of that and can get behind it. Like the opening of the 8th, and the need for housing and stability and all of that stuff, super high priority immediately right now. Concepts, understanding why the Council is here, and the capacity of the Council. I will do my best to speak to those limits. I...and then we hear everyone speak of the water and Moku'ula, Mokuhinia. Understand...coming from a stance advocating for that system for over 20 years now, it is very enlightening to see our community be familiar with just its name. A deep understanding and concept of its significance to the ecology and environment of our wahi, what made it unique to our location, why our location was named Kingdom capital by our ali'i speaks for itself...knowing that water was a bigger issue for Mokuhinia. I am a part of Na Aikane O Maui Cultural Center. Mokuhinia, speaking to that subject, is roughly in the size of ten acres in its original footprint. Today some housing are in there. I'm pretty sure those are gone. I'm not saying that they have to be relocated. Salvation Army was within the site, that is gone, it may need to be relocated. 505 Shops was in the site. So, these things I'm painting out so we understand what it looks like in the capacity of rebuilding this structure that was instrumental to the success of Ka Malu Ulu O Lele. When you want to speak to Ka Malu Ulu O Lele, you have to identify the intricate parts that made that successful. And knowing the timeline of that establishment in order to get us there today and the resources we have available are intricate parts that you, as a Council, have a very influential piece in making it possible. Water was a limit, Na Aikane O Maui had applied for the water use application through the State process for Mokuhinia. If you understand the awai system that is today present alongside Mokuhinia that exits out next to Kam III --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

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MR. KEKONA: -- the only time you see that full of water is when it rains. Other than that, it was always set at eight inches. Well systems that were reestablished recently had brought that water system down to zero. Today, if you get a chance, I don't really recommend it, but you go and look at that canal today, and it's filled, and there's no reason to fill it because there hasn't been any rain. So, that lack of demand for water that our town currently had and ran and maintained that is no longer being used, is showing itself in springs in the pūnāwai of our community, of our wahi. If our rebuild is in three years away, we'll start to see more of those pūnāwai of our kūpuna present again. 505 Shops is a perfect example as well. Their basement level always floods after two hours of the pump system not running there. That's what exits out into the kai in front of Lele, Feast --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. KEKONA: -- of Lele. Those things are intricate parts that you need to keep an eye on. And then understanding if we look at climate change, which I believe was instrumental to the fire systems as well, I'm not pointing fingers at anyone else. Knowing that those systems in place that are no longer there, that will be impacted by sea level rise, are things that we consider as far as water demand. I'm just talking about water today, there's a lot more that we can talk on. I would like you guys to...I'm already out of time. I'd like you guys to develop policies that regulate buildings going forward to be required to implement native foliage. It doesn't have to be native, it can be mangos, it can be moringa, can be all that jams that we love in our community anyway and we embrace for years, decades. Incorporate those into some policy specifically for Lāhainā so we don't have to go and say that we're canvassing this for the County of Maui, but we can address Lāhainā specifically. Look at policies that would provide green energy. Requirements in that subsidized --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . We just talking.

MR. KEKONA: -- by the government funds. Sorry. I'm way over four minutes, and I totally cut in line, so I going just stop there.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. KEKONA: And I look forward to talking to you guys again, and any time after.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?



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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Go ahead. Wait, wait, wait.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Quick question. Aloha, Mr. Kekona. Mahalo for your testimony today. I just wanted...my clarifying question, I actually have a clarifying question. In your testimony, are you...is the point that you’re trying to make is that when we are calling for the restoration of certain things, such as Malu Ulu O Lele, Mokuhinia, Moku‘ula, that the current footprint would need to be redesigned in order for that restoration to happen? So, when there --

MR. KEKONA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- when people are saying that, that it’s kind of assumed and included in that, in their testimony if...if...to understand fully what individuals are saying when they testify?

MR. KEKONA: Absolutely. For context, water use designations will need to be adjusted in order to reestablish the original footprint of Ka Malu Ulu O Lele. We will not be able to allow certain activities to take place within our watershed. Some of those hotels that were housed within the burn zone of Lāhainā are no longer present. I have families that raised their kids off of working in those hotels, so it probably is a sensitive subject there. None the least, those things have drawn numerous amounts of water, and if now...if there was ever a time where we could speak to the proper allocation and use of water, this is that time, and maybe those hotels and larger consuming entities of our resource may be reconsidered as we move forward in developing our town. I’m not speaking that this is like written in stone, so nobody attack me when I walk off the mic, but we may have to consider some of those things. And those allocations would then be available for efforts like the restoration of Mokuhinia. Because if we’re going to move forward currently right now with our status, and try to get Mokuhinia reestablished, this has been an effort in the making for a long time. There’s reasons why it hasn’t established itself yet, so we need to find the best situations that we currently have to make those things possible. Maybe the wharf becomes Na Aikane O Maui Cultural Center in the future, who knows, but that would limit some of the water allocations that was consumed there. Just thinking outside the box.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that clarification. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Wait. Member Paltin has a question for you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Kekona. I just was wondering if you could clarify

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the restoration of Loko O Mokuhinia, what...what that looks like in physical form.

MR. KEKONA: Well, Mokuhinia is what is identified in our culture and tradition as a kuapā. It's an inland fishpond. Inland fishponds are not commonly spoken towards today in our society, in our infrastructure. It's because it requires an abundance of fresh water. It's different than an ocean fishpond, right. The loko i'a that we are commonly speaking to today was consisting of different fish because they lived predominantly off of a higher salt content. Kuapā, our inland ponds, predominantly more consistent with fresh water, and so it gives you different ecosystems, which provide different algae blooms, which spawn different fish. So, when you look at that, and you understand...studies today are being done around the State with kuapā and loko i'a that have already identified the impacts...the positive impacts that it makes on multiple different levels. Runoff systems, water quality, fish populations, our estuaries are replenishing, the longshore fisherman are finding the pelagic fish closer to shorelines where these fish systems are established. Our kūpuna didn't live the fabulous dream life that many of us foresee. We've come to places in time where we were responsible for the depletion of natural existing resources, but we were quick to identify our error and adjust to the environment based on our consumption. These are the intricate parts that we miss today. People speak of ahupua'a constantly, threw all that out there way too easily, in the name of developments most often, and maybe some environmental studies, but they miss all the intricate parts that made an ahupua'a successful. Loko i'a and kuapā were the kidneys and livers of our ecology, and those are instrumental in moving forward whatever you want to talk about...food security, tourist industry. You want to move into climate smart changes, those are all going to be one big grab of a success in establishing...reestablishing the footprints of our kūpuna. Kau i ka mehe o nā kūpuna, walk the footsteps of your ancestors, they're there for a reason.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Mona Cherry, to be followed by Jacque Sinenci. The next testifier is Jacque Sinenci, to be followed by Deborah Flores Van Alstyne.

MS. SINENCI: Kākou. Thank you for having me and them. All the families, their loss in homes and family members, my condolences to all of you. I am blessed to be residing in the...one of the most important wahi pana's in Lāhainā. And this wahi pana is so special that as a little girl, I used to go and go visit my friend, and stay over for weekends, you know. And I find out that her dad is Uncle Sam Ka'ai, and then I go away and live in...live my life, and I come back, and I'm blessed of being able to live there, permanently if I wanted to. I learned a lot. I...I lived there for like seven years, and learning that Honokōhau Valley supplies Lāhainā

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all the way out to maybe even Launiupoko with water, is just wow, the resource that comes from this valley. How much more special can this be? What hurts me is there were times where we're out in the yard, and I going go take a shower, and I grab my handle with the hot water and the cold water, and nothing is coming out. And I'm going, how can this be? The water coming from this valley and we don't have water, what's going on? But for some reason...and we don't have any notice from the Department. You know, when this thing went happen on the 8th, August 4th, Honokōhau Valley had no water service. There was no water. We thought maybe get one leak or something, but no notice from the Water Department as to why we don't have water. So, it's like okay, well, I guess we no more water, and it's been going on for the seven years I've been living there. So, I've tracked every day until we get water. It's not until about...I don't know, maybe a week and a half ago we got water back. We ask around the neighbors, hey, you know what, what's going on with the water in the awai, our awai system? Just tends to just dry up.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. SINENCI: One day it's running, the next day it's bone dry. You know, I'll go and I'll look at the stream, and I'm going wait, Water Department says there should be like at least 9 million gallons of flow in the stream. Not even...it's not even maybe 3 or 4 inches up from the bottom of the river, and it's like why do we have not...if we suffering like this, how's Lāhainā? How is Lāhainā? And then yet, we have tourists going and swimming in their pools and their Jacuzzis and, you know, just water features and everything, and it's like, you know what, cut all that stuff off. They get the ocean that they can swim in, they don't need the swimming pools. It upsets me because I'm --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. SINENCI: -- I am from Lāhainā. I'm an '88 grad from Lāhaināluna. A lot of pride. I have lineal descent. My great grandmother is a Kukahiko. Kahu John Mahele Kukahiko from Waiola Church and his family. And it's like after when we found out, it took us a day and a half to find out what happened to Lāhainā because we wasn't aware of no cell service, no electric, no nothing, because we live off the grid. But what about all these people? Until we actually drove the car out and realized Kapalua was like both sides of the highway with cars and people trying to get connection. And I'm like this is crazy, like I cannot believe this. One of our nephews came over to borrow gas so he could go backside Kahakuloa way to go get supplies, and I was like why you need? And he's like well, Auntie, Lāhainā is gone. And I thought to myself I...I cannot picture that, I cannot picture this. Until we went Friday, we just went to...for a drive, and by the time we reached by the Cannery we had to turn around because the roadblocks was still there. And

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I thought oh, my God, my...my classmates, my friends, my family, how they doing? My nephew lives up Lāhaināluna. Until I see everything on the...on the cell phone as far as whatever...I mean not cell phone, but after the fact. Friday, I pull up at Nāpili Market, and there's this guy...there's this guy, and he just looks so lost. So, I kind of stop, like bruddah, you okay, you need help or anything? And he's like I just like off this island. I just want to go back to Big Island and forget it. And I said why? He said because I live right there, Lāhaināluna Road, I never even have chance for grab anything, was just like this. And he looked beat, he really looked beat. And I said is there anything I can help you with? And he said I just waiting for one jump from my friend so he can go to the airport.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aunty, can you take up like the next 30 seconds and wrap up?

MS. SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. SINENCI: My thing is. the vision I've seen is our capital needs to be returned to where it's rightfully place and it's Moku'ula, Mokuhinia, Malu O Lele. It needs to be brought back. I stand here today before you folks. Thank you for your time and thank you for letting us voice ourselves. But yeah, it's going to take some years, but we're strong and we'll get through this, you know, we'll get through this. We got the mana, so thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Deborah Flores Van Alstyne, to be followed by Junya Nakoa. The next testifier is Junya Nakoa, to be followed by Uilani Walker-Baricenatro [sic].

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your turn.

MR. NAKOA: My bad. I walking slow over there.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That's you, come on up.

MR. NAKOA: Yessah. Aunty told me...Aunty told me for be good early this morning when I first went show up. She told me for be good. I say okay. No, no, this morning I said no, but just now I just said yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hold you to it.

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MR. NAKOA: Yeah. Okay. Aunty, no whack me in the head too much.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. NAKOA: Okay. Yessah. Not going be three minutes. Nah. Mahalo, Nohe, for coming out here and respecting Tamara. And Tamara, mahalo all you guys for showing up. I told you guys come over here, you guys did. Mahalo. Shoots. Okay. I being nice, Aunty. But again, I going back to...I not going...I no more da kine long story because I going be here forever, but Lāhainā first, tourists after. Okay. We said that during COVID. Did we learn anything about COVID? How we going reopen, yeah? You guys went rush, you guys went shove 'em down our throat, the government. We got slammed here in Lāhainā. All kine angles, you know, this and that, so just October 8th, no good. The buggah no good. And I no...okay. The thing just no open 'em at October 8th 'cause going get some scraps, guarantee. Not joking. Going get some scraps 'cause people who work in the hotel industry, bartenders li'dat, said I no can serve somebody when I'm so pissed off at them for coming. Yeah. So, going get that kine, that's just one of the stories. No sense I tell the whole story, going be long time. Yeah. So, that was one. The Mayor had a Friday meeting over here in Lāhainā about the new Lāhainā group, yeah. We had zero communication to the people that was talking, but we had to listen, we did listen all night. We had no communication that way (*pointing*), zero. Okay. That's the one in Lāhainā. But then I heard the meeting on Sunday, on the other side, they had communication. They went listen to the people going that way. Why they never do that to us guys in Lāhainā? We got zero. Okay. That's the kind disrespect we get from...we getting from the government in Lāhainā. I've been telling you guys that. How much times I going tell you guys that? Yeah. We make the most money in tax dollars, that's why you guys like hurry up open tourism because the tax dollars. But we...how much kids get, sorry, but we get the shit end of the deal. Yeah. We...our...our...everything is junk, the roads, the bypass never make, but still get one...one...one rail, you know. Everything happen. Okay. Sorry for the parks, guys. Well, I going yell at them. I...I play...I coach baseball. All the other parks is cherry, Lāhainā park is junk.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. NAKOA: Unsafe, very unsafe. Okay. The old Mayor, he came and he told us that. We had the all-star tournament, we coach the West Maui. Supposed to be in West Maui that tournament, all-star, but we couldn't, Little League never like 'em because was not safe, so we had to play...Lāhainā had to host 'em, but in Kīhei. So, what I trying to get is, respect us Lāhainā guys, listen to us Lāhainā guys. Lāhainā important, very, very, very, very important because that's why you guys like us hurry up and open. Two months, what the heck is that? Geez. You know,

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another thing is communication. You guys is the first step, okay, because I get to...finally get to talk. Yeah. You know, you guys listening. Go now tomorrow...where the guy went?

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. NAKOA: The Senator, he going hear me tomorrow. Okay. I went Honolulu, I had...I went talk to Kurt Favella guys, then I went to talk to Sylvia Luke. Yeah. Oh, yes, sir. They still stay here. Yeah, Honolulu. Yessah. These the buggah...these buggahs went stay with me, he go yell at them too. But yeah, you know what I mean, we trying every which way to get a message out there, but nobody listening. Today, I never like talk until after. You know, I no care, I not here for the yeehee, you know. I want you guys for hear Lāhainā, and you guys heard ‘em. Yeah? You guys heard ‘em. Communication. You guys got to go yell at them. Sorry, you guys went put in the spot because Tamara going tell the Senator guys same thing. I hope my...I hope my State legislators show up tomorrow ‘cause they going be part of the yelling. Yeah. Same thing ‘cause we no...we like learn from our mistakes, guys. You know, you guys heard ‘em, all the...the...the...with all the fires in da kine, never learn nothing. COVID, no learn nothing, reopen, hurry up. No...no seem like you guys learning. In baseball, I tell the kids no scared make mistakes, as long as you learn from ‘em. And look like you guys not learning from ‘em. Look like you guys not learning from ‘em. Lucky my kids not here, I going to tell you go sit down on the bench. Yeah. Okay. I no care, I going be little bit more long because one thing everybody is talking about is temporary housing. Yeah. I been bussing my ōkole since August 9th to get this going. I have a product that can be done real quick, it’s fire retardant. I not going say fireproof because we just seen what happening with the fire. The buggah is hurricane proof up to 150 miles an hour. Termite proof, ho, my house is hold up by the termites holding hand. You know, I no like spray ‘em bumbye fall down my house. Bumbye fall down my house. But yeah, so this product is good. We tried working with a private owner, developer, but, you know, we still kind of get one chance. The door little bit open for work with that guy. We might have one other piece of land, we don’t know, we going try ‘em. We trying everything. This guys trying and trying and trying. I don’t know what the government is trying to do because no...we no see nothing. You only telling us go here, go here, go here, three days here, one month there, one week here, and that’s all the thing. And I think I pau. Mahalo.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. NAKOA: Mahalo. Mahalo.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Uilani Walker-Baricenatro [sic], to be followed

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Cord Munoz.

MS. WALKER-BARICUATRO: Aloha. I'm Uilani Walker-Baricuatro. I'm a widowed mom of two traumatized girls and a traumatized dog. As many others here, my home of 23 years was reduced to ashes. We cannot go back to my mom's house because her house is burnt down. I can't go to my sister's house because her house is burnt down too. While I'm stressed from hopping from Airbnb to hotels and signing up for resources, I'm struggling to find a home for my family on my income alone. In addition to finding a place to stay to rent, I have to pay for my mortgage for a home that no longer stands. My monthly expense is going to be at least \$8,000 a month, and I actually can't even find a decent rental for less than \$4,000 that allows pets. We have houses on the resource site for 10,000 for a three-bedroom home, 20,000 for a three-bedroom house...on the Maui Resource Center--fucking link, sorry. This alone will deplete my insurance and savings that is required from FEMA in order for them to help me, leaving me with no money to rebuild my house when they comes to time with today's costs. On top of that, next year I'm going to have to pay for inflated property tax to a home that doesn't even exist. As many others, I'm trying to figure out how are we going to survive for the next few years while our families are forced to put a smile on our faces and see all these visitors come? Can you take care of us first? Can you take care of the Lāhainā people first before you guys open it up to the visitors? Can you make us the priority? Can we be the priority before the tourists? Why do we have to fight and rally to get our voices heard? Like we come first, we should always come first. We've grown up here, we help everybody here. The community came to help each other first. Like where are you? Share the water with us. It's given freely from the sky, all those millions of gallons of water that evaporates from the pool every month could have gone to our 'āina instead. Why do visitors get to drink and pee in these freshwater pools and we cannot have it in our loi, or in our backyard gardens? Protect us from the inflated property taxes. Help us with the resources we need so that we're not forced out of our own hometown because we cannot pay rent and our mortgages, and deplete our savings and can't rebuild our house, and we can't afford it anymore. We're going to be priced out for sure. Help us rebuild Lāhainā that we all can be proud of together. The world is watching us, Lāhainā, what everybody is doing, so show us that our government cares for us. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Wait, hold on. Can you...I'm sorry, but can you please come back? Member Paltin has a question for you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Baricuatro. Sorry for your loss. Just was...they should be having property tax bill on Friday Council meeting for referral to Committee, but might need support from the community to pass it. So, just wondering if you can keep an eye out, and rally support for that?

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MS. WALKER-BARICUATRO: Why do we have to rally support for a property tax to our houses that burnt down? Why can't you guys just automatically give it to us?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Because I need five votes.

MS. WALKER-BARICUATRO: Why do we have to fight for it?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I need five votes, that's why.

MS. WALKER-BARICUATRO: Five votes for what? Why can't we just have it? Like the hotels can pay for the inflated prices. Our homes don't even exist for us to even pay for this.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: If I don't get five votes, it won't pass. That's how it works. There's nine of us.

MS. WALKER-BARICUATRO: Who do we have to get to vote? What kind of support do we need? We don't even know that. I have no idea what I'm supposed to do to get this.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: There is nine people on Council, I'm one person. You need five votes.

MS. WALKER-BARICUATRO: So, what do we have to do, why can't we do it here? Like it's another...I have to work. I'm a...I'm the only one in my family that's taking care of my girls, and I'm still working part-time. Now, how am I supposed to get away from my job that's providing income that I can barely afford because I got to pay somebody else's mortgage along with mine, and you're going to make me go to another meeting that's going to take away from my income to provide for my family. So, what is it that you want from all us to make this happen?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just need five votes.

MS. WALKER-BARICUATRO: What do we need to vote? So, what...what do you need?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I speak for Lāhainā.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We want to see all nine.

MS. WALKER-BARICUATRO: What do we have to do to get you to help us and vote for us that we need our property taxes like...



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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I think if I can clarify what Member Paltin is saying, she's just saying she hears you, and we will have something in front of us. If you want to, you can come. You don't have to, we don't...we...we will remember you.

MS. WALKER-BARICUATRO: But how would...how do we even get this knowledge out for the people that can come, for the people who cannot come?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sure. So, it's on our website, we have an agenda posted...

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

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: What was that? Yeah, we do...we do PSAs as well. Member Paltin's really good at like posting it on her Facebook and stuff.

MS. WALKER-BARICUATRO: Um-hum.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: But if you cannot come, one, we will remember you; and two, you can always send written testimony. And I mean honestly, Junya Nakoa is always reminding us that you guys are here too, so, you know, but we will remember you. I understand it's very hard, and I do appreciate you coming. Thank you.

MS. WALKER-BARICUATRO: Thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Can I make a quick comment please?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Cannot because we are already...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is everyone okay if I make a quick comment real quick?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. You...you --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Here's...here's the thing, everybody.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- can have like one minute, okay --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: This...this table --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- aunty.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- right here is the one that's gonna vote...what they just talked about. So, the people here are asking all of you here right now, vote. They don't need to be here to go to another meeting, and she said --

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- it’s taking away from their time.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: You folks are getting paid by their taxes, so you should automatically say everyone here and everyone else who was here earlier is asking you for that help.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We hear that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And...and I want to say one thing, property taxes --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. You have to wrap it up.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- is really crazy in Hawai‘i. Give these people a break. And this moratorium on the rent, that they’re charging our people \$10,000 for a three bedroom --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- you folks have the power to stop it. Stop it.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Auntie. Thank you. We have to...we have to go on. Thank you. Kasie, can we please have our next testifiers?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Cord Munoz, to be followed by La‘akea Webb.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Can you say that again?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Cord Munoz, to be followed by La‘akea Webb.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: I don’t think Cory [sic] is here, Kasie.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is La‘akea Webb, to be followed by Makena Laurion.

MR. WEBB: Okay. Aloha mai kākou. O La‘akea ko inoa. No Lāhainā mai au. My name is La‘akea Webb, I’m born and raised here in Lāhainā. My Lāhainā family, the Kanihos, go back generations to our wahi. Today I stand before you to tell you what the community has been voicing for generations. I’ve been very hesitant

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to testify today because this is my first test...my first time testifying, but I feel that it is my kuleana, as a young Kānaka here in Lāhainā, to...to use my voice and to give my mana'o as I've...I've...as I...myself and my...my immediate family have also been impacted by these fires. Today I am proud to have ko'u mau kūpuna speaking through me and guiding me, guiding the future that not just Lāhainā, but all of Hawai'i needs. I stand before you today so that Maui can set the example. My family, we lived in Wahikuli on Kahoma Street so the...our whole neighborhood, my house included, is completely decimated. Growing up, my mom who just had to leave because she works in...we all work in tourism, but she just had to leave to go work for, well, for tourists that are here while we are all grieving, including her. Growing up, I've always heard stories from...from my mom, my kūpuna, about our wahi from plantation days, from my great...my great papa John, who was...who used to work at the...at the Mill Plantation and all that, and that has really always sparked my curiosity and my own, you know, wanting to know more about our history and my people. I learned...I learned more about my...our history my senior year, and I used Hawaiian History...like preserving Hawaiian history sites as my senior project when I was a senior. I learned a lot about places here in Lāhainā, and just things like that, that has always sparked my curiosity. I would like to talk about my own experiences with the whole evacuation process and how that was like. There was absolutely no communication whatsoever from anyone, and witnessing the...the smoke coming out from...seeing it from Wahikuli, coming out from Lāhaināluna, like no one knew...in my neighborhood, no one knew what was happening, no one knew what...what we were going to do. And by that time because the winds and everything the traffic was horrible, and there was no communication, so we all just decided to evacuate on our own terms with no government nothing, no sirens sounding, nothing. So, that's something that really needs to be obviously fixed in the future if you haven't already heard it before.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. WEBB: Coming out...or coming more towards with the opening of tourism and everything, I'm also speaking for my...my hoalohas who are back in the States to pursue higher education because they are not here to testify. This is my thoughts, and a lot of my hoas thoughts on the opening of tourism on the October 8th. There's no binary when it comes to the future of Hawai'i, tourism is what we're used to, and it's the most familiar thing for many of us to lean on because it's what we've been taught to accept as a solution for decades. Hence, while tourism may still occur within Hawai'i, it is not the solution, and should be addressed and understood as an extremely complex problem. The past should prove more than ever that tourism will not work to uplift the lāhui. It was designed to bring us down, so how in the hell would it suddenly bring us back up?

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MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. WEBB: And...and why would the industry be willing to uplift the people it's been subjecting for decades? Skipping ahead. I just hope that, you know, we...in the future, for my generation or for the generations that come after me, as you've heard in past testimonies, that we build Lāhainā in how us Lāhainā people hope to see it, with self-sustaining food security, to restore ahupua'a systems. Give us back our water. We...you've heard that for years, you've heard our people crying for years, our oppression and everything. Like come on, like get ahead, like we're...we're still suffering, my generation, we're still suffering. Like make Lāhainā 'o Ka Malu 'Ulu o Lele again. Ola i ka wai, ho'iho'i ka 'āina and restore Moku'ula and Mokuhinia. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. We have a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. In your testimony, you said that your hoaloha who are away at college are not testifying, and I wanted to find out if it...if it's because they don't want to, or they don't know that they can via BlueJeans? Because we have a BlueJeans meeting link, and they can testify from where they are.

MR. WEBB: I really just feel like it's kind of like all of the above because they're kind of, you know, doing their own thing now. And that's another thing I wanted to touch on with my testimony with hearing them. A lot of my friends, and I know that there's been statistics coming out in the news that a lot of Kānaka are moving away, which is, you know, a big thing that's happening. And it hurts me to learn and know about a lot of my peers, my...my hoas are...you know, have expressed that they don't...that, you know, they can't see a future here because of what's happening, because of what the government has continually, you know, been displaying. And it's just a huge slap in the face that...you know, that we still have not seen anything being done for us to stay here. And, you know, I even fear for my own...for my own, you know, future about that. I don't even know if I'm going to be staying here soon. Just everything, but yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I would love to talk story with you more about that. If you could contact my office, and I can talk story with you and your hoā about it.

MR. WEBB: Yeah. Aloha.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

MR. WEBB: Okay.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Makena Laurion.

MS. LAURION: Makena Laurion.

MS. MACDONALD: Sorry.

MS. LAURION: ‘O Mākena Haliakaoakalani Lourion ko‘u inoa. My name is Makena. I am from Maui, and my mom’s side of the family is from Lāhainā. If any of you remember Hop Wo Chinese Bakery on Front Street, that was my family’s, the Hussey family. If Laura Lei is still here, I’d love to talk story with her and give her a hug. Yes. I lived in Wahikuli with my boyfriend and his sister. We were that day experiencing the Kauaula winds and the heat of the rapidly spreading fire. We got evacuated with only minutes to spare. That fire claimed our home, a lot of my family history, and some elder family members that did not make it. A couple months before the fire I was accepted into Keola Donaghy’s program at Maui College titled Ha‘ina Ko Wehi to preserve...oh, celebrating West Maui through mele. To preserve its history through songs written in both English and ‘Ōlelo. When the fires happened, I was displaced, along with so many others, and unsure of what we were going to do moving forward, but we did move forward because that’s what we do. Art reflects the times we are in, and we need it more than ever to heal our collective pu‘uwai, our hearts. Our project will reflect what happens here in Lāhainā moving forward, and our songs will tell the story of what was, what is, and what will be. Now, I want to write songs about revivals of Hawaiian ways, of ‘āina taken care of and wai flowing again, kalo growing abundantly, ke wahine returned home, our lāhui rebuilding Lāhainā to what they want it to be, to what our ancestors would be proud of, all of the truly important things. I don’t want any of us younger generations to miss this clear opportunity to do better, and not have to look back at what we could have done. What I have to say is that all of us have a chance to seize this pivotal moment of life. We have a chance to rereight, R-I-G-H-T, like the woman said before me. We can rewrite West Maui history. What we do in the aftermath of this will shape the future of not just West Maui, but all of Maui. The community is watching, and yes, the world is watching. I really do hope the words and stories shared with you today will never leave your minds as you speak for us, and advocate for us, to those in higher positions of power. Let us have courage to really listen, individually and collectively, to whatever inside of us urges us to do the right thing and act accordingly. Mahalo.

MS. MACDONALD: The next testifier is Astrid Magallon, apologies if I mispronounced

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the last name, to be followed by Lorrie Betsill Nielson, and Damon Williams.

MS. MAGALLON: Aloha. My name is Astrid Magallon. I've been here eight years from El Paso, Texas. I moved here with my two kids. My son is now 20, my daughter is 14 years old. I moved here because I am an artist and Lāhainā...as I researched where I fit in the world for a long time with my family, Lāhainā was one of the most inspirational places full of art, culture. It's just a phenomena. And so, on...on the 8th, I almost died. I barely made it. It was really traumatic. I sought refuge at a friend's house that has been here for 26 years, and has seen so many of the...of the considerations for this beautiful place, and I sought refuge there with him. The reason...I'm...I'm a shy person, I...I communicate...God knows how I communicate. In the time I've been here, I worked with the tourists here on Front Street as a concierge. I also worked at the galleries. I had recently gotten a job at the House of Fleetwood. So I was...I've...I've seen the whole...I was learning the history, I was learning the ways, I was praying to be here, I had prayed to be here, and I'm praying to still be here. I don't know why these things happened, just like I see much of the community doesn't know. And the reason I want to speak of what I experienced that day is to also have it on record not just for you, for the people of Lāhainā, but as we say, the world is learning, and there are just things that are completely not making sense. And I don't know where to ask these questions, and I don't know if you are the ones that ask these questions, but these are valid because there's obviously blocks. So, on that day, I was supposed to be here at 10:45, I woke up in Kihei, dropped off my daughter to Kihei Charter at 8:30 in the morning. For six to seven years I commuted that highway on that two-lane road. I had become a road expert. I had seen what it took to drive, the miracle that it was to drive. By the way, I just want to say, this is a miracle, this is two months of traumatized homeless people that have provided such intelligent solutions to some of the most intricate problems of our world. If they can do it, if they're here be...if they're here being respectful and loving, I don't understand why these things have to happen in these ways. So, as I drove here, the first thing I noted was around 9:30 at Olowalu, traffic had halted. When I woke up and I drove over here and I've seen fires and I've seen everything, I'm like there's nothing to worry about. It was a beautiful day. I was going to work. I was happy to come to work here. At 9:30 the traffic was halted at Olowalu and it was perfect. People could have driven to Kihei. This is 9:30 in the morning. By 10:00 there was a block down Hokiokio...a block. This at 10:00 in the morning prevented people to enter Lāhainā. I witnessed the burning from 10:00 in the morning 'till 8:00 p.m. when I finally got out of Lāhainā. So if there are fires...I was almost dying at 2:30 p.m. I called my daughter at 2:30 so I did have phone services.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, we need to call a recess.

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*Note: BlueJeans loses connectivity.*

CHAIR U’U-HODGINS: Sorry, ten-minute recess. Is that okay?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: And we’ll pause your time and then you can pick up.

CHAIR U’U-HODGINS: Yeah, yeah, we’ll absolutely pause your time. So right now it is 4:56. We will return at 5:06. We are now in recess. Sorry. Thank you. Okay. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 4:56 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 5:22 p.m.**

CHAIR U’U-HODGINS: . . .*(gavel)*. . . It is 5:22. Will the GREAT Committee please reconvene. Our BlueJeans went down, so thank you very much for your patience as we figured that out. It is violation of our Sunshine laws as Miss...well, Member Rawlins-Fernandez explained as well. We’re going to ask you to continue your testimony, but while she’s walking up here, I’m going to remind everybody that...she had some time left, but hold on. So, today we’re going to do the in-person testimony, that’s what we’re prioritizing, and we will take online testimony in the Chambers, and we will recontinue this meeting on October 3rd, Tuesday, 1:30. Just FYI for the people online joining us, we will be in the Chambers and online. Same BlueJeans link in the Chambers, Wailuku. So, we will be recessing. But we’re going to have you complete your testimony, and can we restart her time? Thank you. Thank you very much for your patience. I appreciate it.

MS. MAGALLON: Hello? Hello? Mahalo. Well, again, I think the...the reason that I really just want to make my testimony be on the record is because I definitely witnessed something that makes no sense. And I think in order to heal, and what I’ve learned about healing of our minds, our hearts, and everything, is understanding is key. And this...this is such a catastrophe, such a phenomena, it’s...it’s beyond words. That I know that understanding is going to take time, and I’m committed to that. In the eight years before, I...I...I worked really hard to get here, I’ve been working really hard to be here, and I’m committed for that, I’m committed to...to Lāhainā, I’m committed to Maui, I’m committed to this...to the goodness of this world.

*Note: Lights turn off.*

MS. MAGALLON: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . We’re in the darkness.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Sorry, one second.

MS. MAGALLON: No worries.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Did somebody like just turn off the lights or...sorry.

MS. MAGALLON: No worries. This is just --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, there we go.

MS. MAGALLON: -- the phenomena...the higher...of higher things, right. No worries, this is beyond us. So, the most important thing that I wanted to express here is that I witnessed the burning for 12 hours. I was lucky to live through that. I literally stood in flames with fire all around me. I don't know how I'm alive, and this is truth, and it's baffling my mind deconstructing it. I know that at 10:00, there were blocks to get into Lāhainā before there were fires. I know at that point there was communication. I know that at 2:30 I called my daughter, I called my son, and I called my mother to tell her goodbye, and she was like, nothing is going to happen to you, and I'm like, mother, I'm...I don't know how to get out of here. I've been going through it all day long, how am I going to get out of Lāhainā. At 10:00 in the morning when I made it down through the bypass, I made it through the back. I thought the safe place was the Lāhaināluna neighborhood, right? I...my friend lived right behind the...the smoke stack, yeah. So, I'm there from like 10:00 in the morning stuck. We went on a moped around, I saw how many cars from...from Lāhaināluna stuck, and I'm coming from Kihei with clear roads. I also know that here at the Westin, at the Hyatt, there's huge golf courses where many cars could have easily been evacuated. And my question is, after I faced death, and I'm so happy to be alive to take care of my daughter --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. MAGALLON: -- I'm so happy that I have a home to get to and take a shower and get ready to spend a day here with this beautiful community. And in these two months that I've been processing the trauma, crying, all of that, and I know that people are in the park going through it with just music and rainbows and like going out of their minds, right? So, that's why I want to make this timeline because apart from the future that I'm envisioning, that I see the experts, the future is freaking beautiful if it doesn't get blocked. So, what I beg of you is unblock it. I'm here to unblock it with you, yeah, I'll do it. Here's the timelines, let's call it out. Why? Why were we blocked? Why was it blocked at 10:00? Why am I dying at 2:30, and people are still dying five minutes away? Why does O'ahu have advanced military co-services, things that could fly in minutes, and there's flames, and people not being evacuated in minutes. I am almost fully confident



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that if somebody would have told me that morning you're...you know, you're almost going to die and many around you will, I would have yelled on Front Street to all my OPC [sic] boys, and they would have evacuated Lāhainā --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. MAGALLON: -- in two hours. I thought that thing was going to take two hours. So, I'm only honoring that story with you so that we can continue to say what happened, what happened, what happened? Yeah. I'm sorry.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MS. MAGALLON: Aloha. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just wanted to clarify. Thank you for your testimony. So, 10:00 in the morning, the road was blocked at Hokiokio --

MS. MAGALLON: Hokiokio.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- and the bypass?

MS. MAGALLON: I thought I was...I...I got a notice not to come in to work around 9:30, but I've been coming back and forth, so I actually had a backpack I wanted to pick up on Front Street so that I could back and clean my house. So, at 10:00 in the morning I came down, and it was the police with a barricade. When I came back up Hokiokio, I...I still made a judgment call. I was like there was no fires, it was kind of windy, traffic was cool, they were shaka'ing, they were letting me through, I could have gone back to Kihei.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Hokiokio --

MS. MAGALLON: Hokiokio.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- and the bypass.

MS. MAGALLON: Uh-huh, right there.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So, they diverted you down to...

MS. MAGALLON: No, they diverted me back up. I went back up the highway at 10:00 in the morning, and I still...like I saw from that part, Lāhaināluna was already saturated...to Kihei, it was packed. So, I made a left turn, and I'm like I'm going to go behind Safeway to Front Street. I didn't...you know.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: At 10:00 in the morning?

MS. MAGALLON: Uh-huh. I realize at this point I just had to witness. And honestly, what I witnessed behind Lāhaināluna, that's another thing, it was saturated...pardon me, it was...it was covered in cars. When I got rescued, my friend literally last minute in his moped came. Okay. It was so covered in...I don't even know how I didn't die just from smoke. I had been smelling the smoke since 1:00 p.m. At 2:30 when my friend rescued me in the car, we had no way out. We had...everything was blocked, everything around us gone. These are kids. These were the keiki right there five minutes from...from Front Street, you know. These number...I...I've also...you know, my car burnt down, and somebody was really cool and lent me a car, and that's how I've been driving over here, and I'm realizing I'm a witness, I'm a total witness.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Do you mind if you kind of write down a timeline and send it to us?

MS. MAGALLON: I have it. I absolutely...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Can you please send it to us?

MS. MAGALLON: I...yeah. But this thing took 12 hours, and the biggest question I have is for the atrocity of these flames, at 2:30 p.m. when I still had phone service, how long would it take the National Guard, the military, to arrive to Lāhainā and evacuate one, two kūpuna, elders, children? How much water do they have to save this town? So, in these blocks, I see a lot of design already, and I'm curious. I also...we had our...our sister that is working hard that has nowhere to restore, that her debt is like \$8,000 already, you know, and she's here begging for you guys...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. MAGALLON: One more. Begging for you guys and all you guys are saying is, I need five votes, and I'm like all of you are votes. What does it take from us...what does it take from us, you know, so that you have your votes and that we can start protecting our people so that what we build doesn't feel that unsafe?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. MAGALLON: Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you for sharing.

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MS. MAGALLON: Aloha.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you for your patience too. Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Lorrie Betsill Nielson, to be followed by Sanford Hill.

MS. NIELSON: Hello, everyone. Hi. First, I would like to say thank you to the Council for coming to Lāhainā and for taking the time to meet with us, and most importantly, to listen to us. Second, I would like to thank my community for all of your efforts. I thought I knew what ‘ohana meant before the fires. I’ve lived here since 2008. But having returned on Monday, and then the fires started Tuesday, and having two families drive to my house, one with their ears still on fire from a fireball hitting the back of his head...it was right in the...that moment when I understood what ‘ohana meant. And for ten days my neighborhood in Kahana Wai was a hospital, literally a hospital. And so anyhow, thank you to my community. I know that for me at least, even though I’m from Texas, Maui will be my final resting place now on earth. And with that, I wanted to take one minute of my time to honor the lives that were lost, and taking just a moment to represent also the mourning that we each feel in our heart. So, I started the timer.

*One minute of silence.*

MS. NIELSON: I...I get so emotional when I think about everything that happened, and I hear these stories of people trying to escape and getting gridlocked, and someone like Ian Dyckman getting a call from his parents saying goodbye. I can’t even fathom, and it just breaks my heart. And I somehow had the privilege to go the first three days immediately into the impact zone and walk it all, and I saw things that ironically have not given me nightmares, but have just fired up my passion to help. And so, with that, with my last minute or two, I just want to give you an outsider perspective, which I am an outsider. I landed here on October 30th, 2008 with a corporate job that bought...brought me here from Texas. Immediately after stepping into the breezeway to get off the airplane, I felt a sense of peace I will never forget. I believe that peace was a peace telling me that I was home. Three months after landing, I was beat up by two local women for mistakenly cutting them off on the highway via my blind spot.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. NIELSON: I was chased off the road and again beat on, being yelled at as they did to go back to where I came from, you haole, you do not belong here. Even still,

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walking through 2009, I knew that this land is where all the roads of my life led me. Today, I stand here as a Betsill who, since '92, has been helping rebuild the island. I myself have owned three businesses here, and with my husband, an additional two. For me, I'm not leaving this place, I refuse to live here any longer and not be a part of the solution. For many years I was a part of the problem. I was running around like a chicken with my head cut off for almost a decade. I was busy, I was not paying attention, I was not helping. I was living here benefitting from the land, our 'āina, and not giving back the way I should, which is what I feel a lot of us do. And we are so busy trying to afford to live here that we forget to stop and just pause and look around us and actually participate. So in --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. NIELSON: -- so in closing, I want to share a few sentiments that I have. For years I've been hearing about water, can we please just give the water back? Like I'm from Texas, I don't know why the, like, private landowners own the water, like, they should just give it back. Peter Martin gave two acres to the Olowalu Fire Station, I'm happy to, like, help advocate to get him to give us the water. And then, you know, it's too much to put in, but I really want to see infrastructure, I want to see a bypass built. You're not going to build 400 new homes in Pulelehua, and then not give me an opportunity to get out and get gridlocked when the fire lines burn down my home in Kahana Wai. So, we need that bypass extended immediately to Kahana if we're going to spearhead Pulelehua. I was with the Governor yesterday, I heard all the plans about the temporary school. That is where I am choosing to spend my time, is on the education of these children. Even though my kids are at Maui Prep, I'm still helping out the education. So, if anybody wants to help with education here, I'm your girl. Thank you guys for coming. I really appreciate you guys so much.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Sanford Hill, to be followed by Cord Munoz.

MR. HILL: Aloha kākou. My name is Sanford Hill. I am a local born kama'āina kūpuna. I lived at Hale Mahaolu on Lāhaināluna Road where a tragedy happened that could have been prevented, should have been prevented, and is a failure completely of all of the people who are responsible from the Federal, State, Maui County, Hale Mahaolu, the landowners, it goes on and on, and it's something that's been a problem for a long time that nobody dealt with, and now my friends, nine...eight of them are dead. And these are all kūpuna, all between 70 and 90 years old, you know, who died, burned to death. Everybody has known that this fire was coming. In 2018, I watched the fire come down in the middle of the night

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to about 50 yards from my place. I was one of the last people to leave. The...and when I left, a house was catching on fire literally across the street from me on Lāhaināluna Road. I left, there was no Fire Department there, there was no nothing, I...and the wind was blowing straight at me about 60 miles an hour. I thought my place was gone because the houses already across the street was catching on fire. When I came back the next morning, to my surprise, only one house had burned to the ground. I couldn't figure out why that fire never spread until my neighbor told me, who lived next to it, that his friend had been driving a County water truck down the road, saw the house burning, turned in and emptied the whole 4,000 gallons on that house. If that hadn't happened, it would have burned down five years ago, there's no question in my mind. So, for five years--I don't know who knows about this, I mean obviously the County should know, it was a County water truck--that they could have done stuff to prepare for this. They could have very cheaply bought a number of those brush-fighting trucks. They could have put...I mean for the amount of money that we've lost, they could have sprinklered [sic] the whole thing, but nobody did anything. Hale Mahaolu itself, the management had no plan for us to evacuate. On the morning of August 8th when the first fire started, which I could see, literally the one that they caught on video from the...from the powerline, I could see it from my house. There were a couple fire engines that came and...you know, and we were sent a message to evacuate. So, I went down at about 7:30 and talked to the housing manager. She kind of said, well, you might think about it. At that point the wind was so strong, it was blowing the shingles off of the...the shingles off of the house and they were already projectiles. And it was already way too dangerous for elderly people to be there. They should have really evacuated us about...you know, in the morning. About 9:30 she came up, and I had already moved my --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. HILL: -- stuff ready to evacuate. She came up, she...they told me the fire was 100 percent contained, that there was no threat. So, I actually thought okay, there's no threat. I left to go to the other side for a dentist appointment. When I left Hale Mahaolu at 1:15, there was a fire truck on Kalua (*phonetic*) Street right there went stop. Made me think okay, this is under control. It's the middle of the day, it's not night, nothing's going to happen. The traffic was already stopped up all the way up Lāhaināluna Road. I went up, went to Wailuku. When I was coming...after about 2:30, 3:00, when I was coming back from the dentist appointment, I saw the Wailuku Fire Department by the plantation heading back to Wailuku. They were the ones that were in...somebody told them to go back. I don't know who, but they left a fire in the middle of hurricane --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

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MR. HILL: -- force winds that eventually blew across and started the fire. Literally we were the third or fourth place that burned. I wasn't there luckily for the fire, but a lot of my friends were, and they described it just as terror. The staff left and left them there. They literally said they didn't have any room, one of the...the resident manager, and eight people died. So...and out of 34 units. All of this could have been prevented, and the people that...everybody needs to be held responsible. It's time for everybody to admit that this is a failure, systemic failure of our government system to protect the people that live there, especially the kūpuna. And something needs to...they need to take responsibility, and take responsibility for what happens to us. You know, we're never...I can't get into any other place. I was paying \$144 a month rent. It doesn't exist. There's more people that want to come to Maui than there's physical land available. That's the fact. And somebody's got to deal with this problem. I might have to move to Kaua'i. I don't want to, but that's the only place I could get. I can't even get a letter to put me in front of the ten-year waiting list to get into any elderly place on Maui in Hawai'i. It doesn't exist. So, all these things everybody's talking about is bubbles, it doesn't exist, you know. So, what's going to happen to us? You know, somebody's got to come up with a real plan--and not put us into modular homes run by the homeless shelter, which is kind of what's going to happen to us, I think. You know, eventually there's no housing, or the housing is so expensive that we can't afford it, we're going to all end up in modular homes that they're going to build out of container stuff, and that's where we're going to get stuck for years. So, in closing, I think that, you know, this is you guys' kuleana, your responsibility, and you guys need to take responsibility for it. Thank you very much for coming down and listening to us.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. HILL: All right. Aloha.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Cord Munoz, to be followed by Damon Williams.

MR. MUNOZ: Hey, gang. Okay. So, I just had some thoughts from today. It's been very emotional, and I'm going to try and keep that limited so I can get some good points across to you folks because there's some ideas that need to be talked about. There's a template for success in rebuilding. In California, the wildfires that ravaged that place, thousands more structures were lost, less lives were lost surprisingly because they...they had a plan and they...they acted on that, and then they coordinated to evacuate properly, which is what we need to look to in the future. But I'm going to talk about what you guys need to do for us like right

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now in the next coming weeks. Okay. So, the first priority, that people need housing first, yeah, before we can even have tourists come back to deal with it. Obviously, people want to be able to go back to their land first, and I think that's going to be a big benchmark when people think it's okay for tourists to come back. So, we got to focus on getting people housing. Even temporary, but semi-permanent, you know, people shouldn't be moving between hotels like that, that's not fair, not to them. And especially when get FEMA, Red Cross workers, all that, all them get to stay in the same room and help us. That's good, but locals should be priority number one. Okay. If you are going to shut down tourism, obviously you need to get the housing done quickly, but people need aid, financial aid to pay their mortgages, and they need mortgage deferrals or, you know, they need to move it to the back of the note. So, definitely coordinate and work on that. So, people have to keep paying their mortgages if they're going to have a chance to go back to their land, yeah. So, the most important process about rebuilding is going to be not how many buildings we get back or percentage, which is going to be...you know, people will judge that first by how many buildings come back, but by how many people are able to recover spiritually and mentally, and go back to having a normal life, and feel safe in where we live. So, I propose that you guys create some kind of committee or initiative for mental health, focusing on mental health, and for specific groups, like cultural groups, religions. There's different facets you guys can attack mental health, yeah. And community should become a focus for all of us too. So, from the hubs I had a good idea where in this rebuilding time, we have block captains...this...this came from the Sonoma County model. So, you guys have it divided to neighborhoods already, but if we have like one or two captains that could represent that neighborhood, then each community could be represented easily, and their thoughts could be conveyed at these kinds of meetings faster. And then we can coordinate with individuals instead of like a mass group of people. That being said, organizing the information and delivering it to the community is important. So, you guys have to have a singular message delivered from us, your...people you represent --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. MUNOZ: -- to the Governor and the other offices that need to hear it, and they need to send us help. That being said, on O'ahu and other places, they have aid waiting for us in containers, and Uncle Jon Kinimaka is here, he asks for stuff every day on Facebook, and local people have to come and bring cases of water and whatever. But they say they have all this stuff, and they don't let any of us have any of it. There's containers over at...by old Lowe's full of stuff and we don't...and we need things. So, make sure you...start facilitating us getting the funding, all this money, all these nonprofits and stuff, get it to us, get the food to us. The community organizers that are here in this room, we're more than

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capable of helping you guys deliver all this stuff and supporting our community, and we want to. And the people will step up to be block leaders, you just have to ask, yeah. Yeah, the mental health is important. And then of the kūpuna and the kids too, important, so make sure you...it's a full spectrum, yeah.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. MUNOZ: Like having that block captain and neighbors come together is going to be part of people handling their trauma and being able to express themselves. A survivor of a disaster has to tell their story over 30...30 times, 36 times before they can fully start to cope with it. So, the more opportunities people get to speak out, the better. So, public forums beyond County Council meetings. So, like we can just come together as community and we can, you know, talk story, that would be great. Like organized events like that would be really cool. Let's see, the containers.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: If you could take a couple seconds to wrap up.

MR. MUNOZ: Yeah, sure.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: And then also if you could, if you'd like --

MR. MUNOZ: Yeah.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- can you please state your name?

MR. MUNOZ: Oh yeah, my name's Cord Munoz. I'm born and raised from Lāhainā, so thank you. I've been coordinating with some of these organizers from California. They work with like United Policyholders. Actually, Yuki, you know. Annie, I just had a meeting with her yesterday. But they have all these resources for us, and they're willing to help. Like their whole community is willing to come here and help us. Like they're not even from here, but they want to do this for us. So, like we have to be careful who we trust, and who is going to influence our community in the coming years, and all these decisions are really important. But just meeting with that lady yesterday, I already knew that those people can be trusted because they've been through it. They're...they're an organization created by survivors and for their own community. So, they did it all themselves, you know. So, we're...us the people are going to be important. Not just us chanting to these guys to get it done, but together, we have to make it happen. And then just one thing. The one thing you guys can do is pass the law. We got to...they...in Sonoma, they reduced permit fees for construction. They held it at a flat cap, but you should just get rid of it, permitting fees, because the County can afford it. There's...there's funds to make sure that they don't have to pay for



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that. That's typically like 1-1/2 percent to 1.8 percent of construction cost, so that could be like \$30,000 on like a...or more on a standard house. Yeah. Even an ohana is expensive. And then, you know, people talked about infrastructure. I was like we need to hire twice as many firefighters, and we need more fire stations. We need a hospital. We need ambulance services to this side...or increased ambulance service if we're not going to get a hospital immediately. Okay. And then with the double...the double firefighters, we can have those guys, when they're not fighting fires, they can be up in the...in the hills cutting firebreaks, they can be managing the land up there, the tree trimming. Like instead of having HECO or MECO do it, we can give the money to them to keep the powerlines free of fire hazards. Make it a fire bureau, you know, so they...they can preemptively rid us of the dangers, you know, and have a board. And like just the stewardship of the land, that whole concept is great. Like we have so much empty land, and people who need places to go. They could farm the land, work the land, live a sustainable life, and then contribute to the community, create an economy not based on tourism. And I like Paele's idea of regenerative and...and ecotourism.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. MUNOZ: That's really cool. But thanks for listening.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Can you please send us your testimony too?

MR. MUNOZ: Yeah, sure. I have --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MUNOZ: -- I have just notes here, but I'll...I'll write it out.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That's fine. I appreciate it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, and then Yuki has a question for you as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo for your testimony today and for your --

MR. MUNOZ: Oh, yeah. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- patience in waiting all day --

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MR. MUNOZ: Oh, I...I appreciate --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- to testify.

MR. MUNOZ: -- you guys being down here too, and, you know, we're going to get this together, and any animosity toward you guys shouldn't be until after this is solved, made right. Because you guys are in power right now to make it happen for all of us.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Absolutely.

MR. MUNOZ: So, we trust you guys.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're here, and we're...we're not leaving. My question is...so, did you study the Sonoma County fire and rebuild? Is that...

MR. MUNOZ: I've only just started meeting with these guys, but --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. MUNOZ: -- from the statistics they told me, like the county that was 95 percent rebuilt, they were mostly insured, and they had --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No businesses.

MR. MUNOZ: -- the help that...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. MUNOZ: Yeah. They had the help of their city planner and the neighborhood planning and their permitting department to expedite things. And that --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. MUNOZ: -- getting that rebuild started immediately was crucial because insurance only covers the 12, 24, or...they're going to...and increase it to 36 months. By the time that three years is pau, if you haven't started rebuilding your house, you're going to be da kine, shit out of luck.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah.

MR. MUNOZ: So...

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin just met with the Sonoma County supervisor about five days ago --

MR. MUNOZ: That's great.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- this past weekend.

MR. MUNOZ: Yeah, they're very --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, she'll...

MR. MUNOZ: -- they're very intelligent people, they know --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. MUNOZ: -- exactly...they've...they've been through our whole timeline already, and they have a lot of resources we could use, so important to network with those people.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, mahalo for bringing that up.

MR. MUNOZ: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

MR. MUNOZ: I can help too if can. Let me know.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Cory...

MR. MUNOZ: Cord, C-O-R-D.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Fantastic.

MR. MUNOZ: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Cory [sic].

MR. MUNOZ: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And I...I want to connect with you, and...exactly, I think all of us have been inspired by--his name is James Gore, and he is the...I guess he's the Chair of the Sonoma County --

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MR. MUNOZ: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- Council. And he shared with all of us about, you know, his plan, and I hope to see us all implement a portion of it. But I really would like to talk to you because I'm reading the same thing you're reading.

MR. MUNOZ: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MUNOZ: And then just...just...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, can you connect with me?

MR. MUNOZ: Yeah. Sure, I would love to. I'll give my contact to somebody outside maybe.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MUNOZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. Or you can call me. I can --

MR. MUNOZ: Yeah, sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: -- I can give you...I can give you mine also.

MR. MUNOZ: Yeah, yeah. I can get your number from Annie, I think.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah, right.

MR. MUNOZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'm going to meet with her tomorrow, Annie.

MR. MUNOZ: Okay. Oh, perfect.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: You can come.

MR. MUNOZ: Okay. Yeah, let...I'll be in touch with her then. And then yeah, one last thing. Like the two communities--Paradise, California, their fire happened after, and Sonoma...you know, Santa Rosa, California, their fire happened first. But

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Santa Rosa at this point, it's 95 percent, and Paradise is 35 percent. I was going to say...that's because most of them were underinsured and low...like zero insurance. So, that's...that's going to happen. But the...to them, 35 percent is successful rebuild because the people that still live there are able to live a normal life, and they've dealt with their trauma properly. So, I can only hope that for all us in here too. Because...I'm getting emotional, see. I didn't want to do this, but man, it hurts. And everybody in here has a voice, and a story, and you should never be afraid to tell it.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Damon Williams, to be followed by Christine Borge.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: She left.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Christine Borge, to be followed by Justin Dickson. Justin Dickson, to be followed by Jared Kahaiali'i. Jared Kahaiali'i, to be followed by Jacob Howard.

MR. KAHAIALI'I: Hello. Thank you for being here, and for so long.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Laura, can you please help with his mic?

MR. KAHAIALI'I: Oh, sorry. Okay. I wasn't planning on testifying today, but it's...it's been such an inspirational day that I...I took down some notes, and I created a Christmas wish list. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Thank you for being here. I was wondering if it would be possible at all to be able to create some kind of a committee that would be able to establish some sort of accountability for organizations that are donating money--Oprah, Jeff Bezos, any other local nonprofits--to kind of just see where that money is going and making sure it's equitably being disbursed. And then is there any sort...I know that the County had placed a lawsuit against HECO, is there any sort of consideration for that being applied towards Alexander and Baldwin for the agricultural lands that they have that weren't being used for agriculture, and were tinder? That would be great. And then I believe Chief Pelletier, he said that it's going to take two years for a review to come out for the events as they unfolded on August 8th. Is that for real? Like that's very...it seems very long, and I don't know, for me personally, it feels like it would create more suspicion. And then what is...what else is there? Construction for workforce housing. I notice that a lot of the workforce housing do have at-market homes that have to be put for sale. Is there any way to put a moratorium on having those at-market houses for sale, and having that exclusively for workforce housing so that we can get housed sooner rather than later? And can we

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rebuild...speaking about rebuilding, is it possible to be rebuilding our infrastructure with subterranean infrastructure for electricity, not having these telephone poles that always seem to break in the wind. That would be great. I know it's going to be more of a cost, but it saves you from having a town go down in fire again. Another thing with rebuilding, and I know this is more of a Federal level ask, but the Jones Act. If we can put some kind of a moratorium on that, that will allow us to get supplies from people a lot more soon, and at a less of a cost. But again, that's a huge thing. I know it's been touched on every time we have a natural disaster here, but hey, who knows? And then I heard the comment of the other person that had a...was talking about the intercoms with loudspeakers, speaking of rebuilding. I used to live in Japan, I lived there for two years, and they have an amazing intercom system where they are actually able to tell you hey, this is an alarm, there's a fire down here on that street, be careful. Or hey, we're experiencing an earthquake, you're going to have aftershocks coming in a few seconds from now. That would be a great part of the rebuild. And that's pretty much it, that's all I had to say. Thank you so much for your time, and I appreciate you all being here.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Before you leave...good job. If you would like, can you please state your name for the record?

MR. KAHAIALI'I: Oh, I'm so sorry. My name is Jared Kahaiali'i.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Jacob Howard, to be followed by Jesse Hinchcliff.

MR. HOWARD: I'm not as tall as that...as that guy. Aloha. My name is Jacob Howard. I'm a 23-year-long resident. I moved here when I was nine years old, I'm a single dad of two children, and...oh, I'm sorry. I'm not close enough? I'd like to open my statement by bringing to attention a 173-year-old law, the Resident Alien Act signed in 1850. This law needs to be revised, along with many others, as we know. This law gave right to the foreigners and non-Hawaiians to buy land. Currently, the State of Hawai'i is the largest landowner here, followed by Alexander and Baldwin and the U.S. Government, along with Jeff Bezos, Mark Zuckerberg, Larry Ellison, and...and many more. Much of this land was purchased after the 100-year lease was over, without payment to any of the Hawaiian bloodline. These agriculture lands should have been handed over to their proper families, and then paid for the lease, use, and trashing of their promised lands. The government should provide subsidies for the people to farm their land the way they see fit, to provide for their families with the land and water as their birthright. East Maui Irrigation and West Maui Land and Pine has

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created what we call a natural monopoly, just like Hawaiian Electric has, and they are still illegally diverting the water. The 'Āina Kūpuna Bill should also be set in action, whereas Hawaiians should not be taxed yearly for their land, causing them to lose their inherited lands, which also breaks the Eighth Amendment. Currently, all of the County parks are dry with no irrigation, while the luxurious homes and hotels of these...of this island have pools filled and lush yards and golf courses. In 2020, out-of-state residents purchased one-third of the homes across this island. And Maui lodging for tourism is currently over 21,000 in between hotels, condos, vacation rentals, and timeshares...being Hawaii's biggest profit margin for the tourism, while there's no housing for the local families. These locations have taken public beach access away for years illegally, many being illegally built to Code. Status Section 205A-43 and the Planning Department Rule 11-5 states all lots abut the shoreline must remain 40-foot setback. A lot of these lodging locations are illegally grandfathered in. In places such as Costa Rica, the maritime zone laws puts a setback at 200 meters, or 656 feet from the shoreline, the first 150 feet being public. This rule cancels grandfathered builds, requiring demolition of any buildings breaking these codes. In 2022, Maui County's fiscal year budget was 8...or 843 million estimated claimed for affordable housing, infrastructure, and tourist funds cuts, but not as delivered as we would expect.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. HOWARD: For...sorry. And I know that you guys are the County and you have to deal with the State personally. You guys aren't able to do what you guys would like to. A lot of times you are cut off by the State, such as the TAT. And we all understand that, you know, the vacation rentals and all these are...have made it very hard for us to live here. There should be an anti-vacation...vacation rental and Airbnb, such as Venice, what happened out there, and pushed almost every resident out of that location. Along with people from the mainland purchasing out without even being here. A lot of people that own houses here do not even live here. I don't want to break timing because I know there's many people behind me, but you all, as State and County officials, are voted in by the people, paid for by the people, and should act for the people, or can also be --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. HOWARD: -- voted out by the people, and removed and replaced by the people of Hawai'i. And we all appreciate you very much, and we understand you all work hard. But I don't want to take time, I know you've been on your clock, so...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much, we appreciate it.

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MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Next testifier please? Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: -- is Jesse Hinchcliff, to be followed by Kieran Clark. The next testifier is Kieran Clark, to be followed by Paul Pelkey.

MR. CLARK: Hi. My name is Kieran Clark, and Lāhainā is my hometown. I'm not a very good public speaker, and this is my first time testifying. I just wanted to share some observations today. I remember being in Pā'ia during the pandemic lockdowns and seeing graffiti that said are we really waiting for a return to normal, or are we ready to build something new? I have not heard a single Lāhainā resident that is a peer of mine that wants to return to normal, and I think the community here has shown that they are ready to build something new. For my testimony, I want to touch on why that may be. Why don't people want to return to normal? I've heard it said that we ought to judge a system not by its intention, but by what it actually does. What is it that this system has done? A few things mentioned today. Our system has priced out Kānaka Maoli into a diaspora, allocated natural resources to the biggest buyer, and chained the working class to a tourist-dependent economy. Sorry, I'm...thanks. But it's not just the fact that we're dependent on tourism, on top of that we collectively produce millions on top of millions, if not billions, in value through our labor, but the profit is privatized and shipped to offshore investors or into the pockets of an elite few. They then can do and use the money we produce to further impoverish and gentrify Maui, all while the working class lives just about paycheck to paycheck. I heard Naiwi [sic] testify way earlier, brought up mental health, but the form of economic organization--oh, I lost my spot--that we have hasn't been good for our mental health, even before the fires. Many people drinking heavily and doing all kinds of things just to take time for themselves because we are underpaid and overstressed. Another way to say this is people are being taken advantage of. We don't want to return to a system that continues wealth stratification, a system that continues the practice of settler colonialism, we want to take steps towards self-sufficiency and away from dependency on the United States and its capitalist class. And that's because they see the working people as natural resources to be extracted from and exploited. When we learn the history of this place and this land, we see that the situation we're in is because of U.S. occupation. It is because of settler colonialism, militarism, and white supremacy.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. CLARK: That is the context from which we are rebuilding in. These are the forces we're up against, and we're only going to have meaningful change if we continue



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to hold meetings in Lāhainā, where our community and leaders can be present, heard, and allowed to act on the decisions Lāhainā makes for themselves because we have to wonder what we will rebuild, and for whom. Meetings need to happen in Lāhainā, so thank you for this one because it's a start. And just to tag on one last point. The banks charging people mortgages, they're colonial institutions, and the only reason we have to listen to them is through State-sanctioned violence. And I think Lāhainā has seen enough violence, so please block them. Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Kasie, can you please call our next testifier?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Paul Pelkey, to be followed by Tehani Kuhaulua.

MR. PELKEY: I'm...I'm permanently totally disabled. I...I kind of like what some of these people are saying about mental health, but then I think they're falling off track. You know, just recently, Hawai'i's been investigated and a lot of other states by...by the Judicial Ethics Committee on the 20th. When I do not see anybody from Hawai'i like Senator Schatz giving in, and in these type of...in these type of investigations. As the Attorney General Garland, and we...we find many attorney generals have been doing the wrong thing, and especially during 2021. And being permanently totally disabled myself, I was brought over here, being in the food and beverage business and working for the University of California, and thrown in isolation and shipped over here. My mother thought I was surfing or something like that, but then to find out in 2023 she was dying of cancer. And...and in our tradition, we do not take pictures, we...we...I will go back home, take care of her, even if she's denied military hospice, and be by her side. Give up my caregiver and...and do what I have to do. And at a private military event where Mr. Sam Farr was speaking, as I was looking for my mom's...for a military hospice, he can stand up and...and stand up saying we're going to build a high tech military hospital on the West Side. I know better. And this was during the Obama days. And this is just totally disgusting. And that...and knowing that the NIH is not to be trusted, and certain other organizations that are...that are be...that are being investigated. And when...when I...I come over here by the Santa Cruz Act...Mental Health Access Team by Jim Ellis and Gary Reaves, and...and...and with cohorting with Beverly and HUD housing and...and the access team here in Maui, they'd rather deny everything. And...and basically back...back in a couple years ago when I was fairly observing all you people, you know, and then it came up that there was a blight...there was a special meeting put on the top of the agenda and that...that...that puts...that makes really good attention for someone like me with a background in construction and development --

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MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. PELKEY: -- operating engineers, and I'm also an...a professional EMP as an emergency medical professional. And...and when I see everything is being shifted by everybody who sits up here, you know, I...I think about cronyism. And...but on my last part, last...just last night there was a gentleman named Sterling Higa of staymovement.org. He had a hell of a lot to say, you know, and expressly under...under the County Council Housing Title Number 9. And then I would bring up one last thing is to look up LAFCo. LAFCo was invented by --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. PELKEY: -- in San...in San Mateo to change government all over the state. And that's all I...that's all I got to say is, do your homework, and do it right. Because a lot...a lot of you people may not be in your positions, but then I hope for all you people to act properly because just like Hunter Biden and everybody, we will impeach, we will take every bit of order, you know, that we have to do --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. PELKEY: -- to protect our Hawaiian properties, and to do what's needed.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. PELKEY: And there will be civil disobedience, you know, and we don't want that, do we?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: No.

MR. PELKEY: Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MR. PELKEY: Thank you very much.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I appreciate your testimony.

MR. PELKEY: And with my disabilities, I...I...I don't do Internet and everything like that, and I would expect someone to get ahold of me since I'm staying at the Royal Lāhainā. Thank you very much.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Kasie, can you please call our next two testifiers?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Tehani Kuhaulua, to be followed by Joshua Reeder.

MS. KUHAULUA: Hi. Aloha. Thank you guys for everyone here staying as long as you guys did. It was a long day, and...and I didn't decide to testify until after lunch. I wasn't going to say anything, but...anyways. Aloha. My name is Tehani Kuhaulua. I come from six-plus generations of Lāhainā, the Rickard and Kauhane ‘ohana who have been dedicated to this community for generations. I graduated from Lāhaināluna per the request of my grandma, Donna Gomes, one of two that we lost in the fire. The second was my cousin, who stayed and helped my grandma try to save our Rickard family home on Lāhaināluna Road. My grandma was a very stubborn, strong, and proud woman. Like many here today, my grandma took huge pride in being from Lāhainā. She was born and raised here. She loved Lāhainā. My grandma died exactly one week before her 72nd birthday. This fire could have been prevented, and I, with others, would have still had our loved ones with us here now. Today I'm speaking on her behalf. I know if she was still here today, all she would want to do is go to home to Lāhainā. I stand here today and ask you to please listen to everyone who spoke before me, and have the best intentions about the future of Lāhainā. My family had to escape from the fire, and have been displaced since. All my time since the night of August 8th has been dedicated to helping them find long-term housing, and helping the community in hubs in Kelaweā Mauka that is community-based and have been doing it on their own since. We have no time to grieve my grandma, Lāhainā Town, and the life we once had, if you have any power say to push back the opening on October 8th, please do. We need time to grieve, find housing, plan funerals, and slowly put our lives back together. Our sadness is turning into anger. This housing crisis has been a problem way before even the pandemic. The fire just made it ten times harder for all of us locals to afford. And like said many times over today, Lāhainā people know what's best for Lāhainā, nobody else. Nothing about us without us. We will not be quiet this time. It's time to put Kānaka first. We have been silenced for far too long, and are done with profit over people. Hawai‘i will not be Hawai‘i without Hawaiians --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. KUHAULUA: -- and the residents who have lived here for generations. If we all get priced out, there will be no one to service the tourists that our government is so focused on putting first. Will they serve themselves when we are all gone? Mahalo.

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Kasie, can you please call the next two testifiers?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Joshua Reeder, to be followed by David Cooper. The next testifier is David Cooper, to be followed by Lana Albright. Lana Albright, to be followed by Kanamu Balinbin.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: You can come, Kanamu, and then when you're ready you can come, you...whenever you're good...Lana...Lana Albright. Okay.

MR. BALINBIN: Ooh, okay. Aloha. My name is Kanamu Balinbin. Born and raised in Lāhainā. I have many emotions going on right now...sadness, worry, and anger. The day after the fire...or the day before the fire, I was at S-Turns worried about my son in Wahikuli, so I jumped on my...I jumped on my go-cart because I knew the traffic...the powerlines were down, and I went over to get him. The anguish on everybody's face that were looking for the kids that we had to pass by. We picked up about seven people on my golf cart to hang on so I could take them to where they had to go. I going never forget that moment. People worried about their kids, worried about their houses, worried about their loved ones. I was able to grab my son, and lucky I did because the house he was at in Wahikuli burnt down as...as...as most of all Wahikuli did. The very next day, my friends and I started the hub down at S-Turns, and we been down there every [sic] since...ever since, 50 days straight working down there. On day...on day two, Angus McKelvey called us up, saying bruddah, we get stuff flying in from Honolulu, we know you guys need stuff. But that day that we started the hub, people from all over the island...the first truck that came was Hāna with 32 generators, and we know that they need the generators, and we told them you know what, put the...put your guys' name on the generator because we like give 'em back to you guys. And they told us, we no need the generators, we gave...we gave 'em to you guys for keep because we know you guys...you guys need 'em more than us. And I broke down with them, we all cried. Had people that...that were my rivals in Wailuku who came down with truckloads of stuff to give to us, and we looked at each other, we said, you know, we were rivals at one point, but right now is the time for love each other, and that's what we doing right now. All Lāhainā right now, we all loving each other, and we taking care of each other. Shane Sinenci went hook me up with one guy, Adam Lee from O'ahu who been sending us tents, supplies, and all the kine stuff that we need. And we never wait for any other county government, we took care of ourselves because that's what Lāhainā does, we take care of ourselves. Because I've testified before this Council before on other matters, and nothing has happened. Monster houses being built illegally, nothing happens. I need you guys to step up right now and make things happen. The tax deferral thing for these people who need to pay their taxes...shine that. Please get these people all the help that they need. In my heart, I feel that Lāhainā

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can be its own county with our own leaders. We get some solid leaders over here. And right now, I'm...I'm...I'm furious. I'm having a hard time to speak --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. BALINBIN: -- but I'm doing my best to keep my composure. I might be small, but when I get angry, people know me how I get. I not scared for scrap, and I feel like scrapping right now, but I...I...I got to hold myself. And I'm really afraid that when the tourists come, the anger going be out...going be unleashed...not by myself but a lot of local people here. And on that part that we take care of ourselves, you know, I was able to speak with one of my friends that own hundreds of acres on the right side of the airport up Mahinahina, and he is already willing to share some of that land to build housing for people. We going show you guys, if you guys can...we need the County to fast track these permits for us to build these houses. We have houses that are very affordable, and we have...and...and the company comes from O'ahu --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MR. BALINBIN: -- the company comes from O'ahu and they want to use Lāhainā people to build these houses. I know all the Lāhainā people want to help to build their own houses, whether it be the people who are living there or family members. We need your guys' help, please. You know, I am...on my Hoopai side, we come from the Pi'ilani bloodline, we still have our ahupua'a in...in Hāna, and it is my...I feel that it is my responsibility to help the Hawaiian people get back to their land and get back on their feet, especially in Lāhainā right now.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. BALINBIN: That's all I get to say. Thank you very much.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Lana, are you ready, or do you want to wait for a second? Okay. We will...

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Leimana Hassett, to be followed by Darri Alvarez.

MS. HASSETT: My name is Leimana Hassett. Wow. I was born on Kaua'i, lived in Lāhainā since I was about five. I come from Kauwai and Kupahea families. My ancestor is buried above the L, his name was David Malo. My 'ohana lives on Wainee Street toward Waiola Church, where he once lived. On August 8th, my makuahine, who's here, yeah, was searching our street Wainee relentlessly for my 77-year-old tūtū wahine who was trapped in the middle of Lāhainā with no

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warning, way to get out, and no one to let her know what to do. I will save the details of her experience because I think we...we lived it a little bit too much already. But our ancestors were the ones to guide and help her keep safe while she ran away from and through the firestorm, and watched our houses burn all night. Ho'olai Cabanilla said earlier really well, we need to listen to our kūpuna. My tūtū kane taught me early on that if I'm scared or lost to call on our kūpuna for guidance and help. They were the original scientists who put generations of knowledge they learned from our honua to work, which is the ahupua'a system. David Malo wrote a lot of it down in the book *Hawaiian Antiquities*. There's plenty of research on it from other people, and additionally you can refer to the...to how Lāhainā used to be at its peak. So, in this time of being scared and lost, like my tūtū kane said, we should look to those who came before us, the ancient ones. Western and foreign practices will never be sustainable in these islands. It has obviously not worked already. So, I think it is mandatory to include local Hawai'i conservationists and cultural and environmental professionals to utilize their expertise in the ways of the past to ensure a safe and sustainable future for Lāhainā. Aloha.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Kasie?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Darri Alvarez, to be followed by Lauren Palakiko. The next testifier is Lauren Palakiko, to be followed by Michiko Smith.

MS. PALAKIKO: Aloha kākou. Aloha, Council. Thank you for being here to hear us today. I'm Lauren Palakiko, I'm born and raised here in Lāhainā, and I currently reside in Kaua'ula Valley. We need to be smart with our rebuild, and we need to plan this before we get started. I believe we need new laws and moratoriums to protect the people, land, and water of Lāhainā. What are our goals? Protect our water and regreen the land, restore streams, and use the water efficiently. Use R-1 water for parks and golf courses. Place moratoriums on water features and excessive private pools. Plant edible and native trees. Reforestation up mauka. We need to become sustainable. Lāhainā is virtually its own island once you pass the tunnel, and we've really felt that after the fire. We need more farming. We need new industries that are not tourist reliant. And bury the electrical lines. Yes, it's expensive, but what's more? Having fires devastate us with every windstorm, losing lives, homes, our town, businesses, and our livelihoods? The aftermath of having to rebuild everything and lawsuits, we're investing the right way one time, preventing future fires. At least start with the poles along the highway and the main roads. Pivot the Pulelehua project for the displaced, and give first right of refusal to those who lost their homes. Do it soon so people can take advantage of the FHA disaster loan. Provide temporary housing up north. I heard a rumor that Peter Martin is trying to offer land for temporary housing. While this looks like a nice gesture, he's offering a drought wasteland that is

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extremely prone to more fires, and already known to not have enough water to rebuild...or to build at all. Hence, him continually trying to fast track development approval and bypass the EIS, which would show the detriment of his plans to our land and water. Don't do this to our people. Up north has more water, which is why it's greener and cooler. There's also stores and schools up there, and safer clean air to breathe. Regarding the housing crisis, consider placing a moratorium that prohibits out-of-state investors from buying real estate, at least under a certain price point. I believe this will make homeownership attainable for our local people. And mahalo for hearing us all. This is a once-in-a-lifetime chance to remake our town, and we have one shot to get it right, so may God guide us through it all. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Kasie?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Michiko Smith, to be followed by Kai Nishiki.

MS. SMITH: Okay. Aloha. My name is Michiko Smith, I'm from Lāhainā. Until you start focusing on what needs to be done for the people of Lāhainā, rather than what is politically or ecologically possible, this...there is no hope for us. We cannot solve a crisis without addressing and treating it as a crisis. The Governor is making decisions to move forward in the wrong direction, a direction in which history repeats itself, the history of stolen land and water, the history of displacing native people to tourism. Repeating the sad history cannot, and should not, be the future of Lāhainā. We must learn from our mistakes, rectify the injustices because our community is scared, broken, still traumatized. Some can't even start their healing. We are facing unimaginable losses as our government continues to fail us. The people of Lāhainā lost homes, family, culture, and our history. You are failing us. You are failing us by not keeping a clear message on how to use the resources like FEMA, Red Cross, and et cetera. Many have been moved three-plus times, even more than that, knowing my friends and family. Many you did not...maybe you did not lose your home and are trying to relate to us, so please have empathy, please have compassion. Realize we need homes, we need safety, resources, and stability because stability is important for our future, but not tourists, and not yet. Please let us heal. The spark of the fires happened from poor electrical grid management, and the fuel of the fires comes from the deserted sugar and pineapple plantations. The care of the 'āina needs to change for the survival of the next generation of Lāhainā people. I hope in my generation, we can move toward renewable energy for family homes, cultivate more native plants from mauka to makai, and have...and give dignity to culturally significant places, such as Moku'ula. The future of Lāhainā will take time. Our focus should be directed to what the people need right now. People don't know where they are going to sleep or where to take their families,

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and that is terrifying. Are you able to house 5,000 families somewhere over...somewhere other than the hotels? According to an article written in *Maui Now* in 2022 --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. SMITH: -- Maui has the largest rental supply in Hawai'i, with over 200,000 available units per night. Where, and for who? I would like to say mahalo to people like Kaipo, who started a hub on the West Side because he understands what the people need right now. We need hope, and we see it come from our families helping one another, and see it from the plants rising from the ashes, and it's something that the government did not provide. Hope comes from the people of Lāhainā. Mahalo.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Kai Nishiki, to be followed by Kulamanu Brown.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. NISHIKI: Just as...Kai Nishiki, speaking on my own behalf. Just as was done in 2018, we are being rushed back to status quo, to go back to everything that put us in this perilous position. We watched in horror as electrical lines are slapped right back up on wooden poles, our children right back into schools in the hot zone with no evacuation plans, pushing residents out of hotels. And to add insult to injury, on the anniversary of this horrific tragedy, inviting tourists to be served Mai Tais by our grieving community at those same hotel pools residents are not allowed to use right now. Putting thousands in jeopardy without a community-based disaster preparedness plan for West Maui. Why? Has West Maui and her...her many families not served these corporations well, with billions in profits taken offshore over many decades? Can we not let her weep and grieve and grow healthy and strong for even a few weeks before putting her out for sale? Forcing her to service tourists? If your mom or your sister were widowed, or lost a child, would you expect her to host parties and open her home up for visitors within weeks? I think not. For decades the West Maui community has driven the economy of our County, provided the lion's share of revenue, and also borne the most impacts--horrendous traffic, congested and unsafe living conditions, degraded quality of life. All of our canoe clubs pushed out of their communities into one small area at Hanakao'o. Our fishing community pushed out of Lāhainā, and still being pushed out of Mala for tourists. Our residents, our workforce, pushed out of our neighborhoods, out of affordable condos and homes so they can be converted to short-term rentals for tourists. Our children's schools in tsunami inundation zones. Lack of medical care. The list is endless. Right now, we don't need to be pushed to open to tourists, to be pushed out anymore, pushed



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to give more. Like many have said, we have nothing left to give. You are here, and we mahalo you for that. You are here asking us, what do we need, what do we want? We need to be lifted up and supported. We want you to hear us and take action based on what you heard. Take action based on what you heard. We need you to say yes to what we are asking for. Say yes to every huge investment that is needed now to pay for the infrastructure, fund the foundation of everything, long-term housing for our people, save schools and childcare out of the hot zone for our keiki.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. NISHIKI: When solutions are proposed, we need this Council and the Mayor to say yes, the State, the Federal Government to say yes, we will find a way to fund it all for you, Lāhainā, for you who have sacrificed so much, who have paid the ultimate price for so many years. We need to come...we need everyone to come together and put personalities, petty disagreements, politics, on the side and support this community. I have one more paragraph. It should be like less than a minute. Is that all right? Employ emergency grant writers and experts to go after all the Federal funds necessary. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, grid resilience funding, Federal Hazard Mitigation post-fire grant program. There are so many opportunities to make a resilient community. Perhaps consider putting West money...West Maui under an emergency proclamation. Financially support our community to serve our community, and do all the construction necessary. Underground utilities lines across West Maui, enact legislation requiring undergrounding of electric lines, invest to treat R-1 to potable standards, install transmission lines to serve all of West Maui, change DOH rules to allow gray water usage, solar generation to stabilize our power grid, safer roadways, brush abatement, replanting and watering of food forests, protecting our community. Moving Honoapiʻilani Highway and all of our water and sewer lines off the coastline. Support the landward migration of our beaches, do community planning for our shorelines, and implement managed retreat. Pretty much just look at the West Maui Community Plan, and the Climate Action and Resiliency Plan, and implement it. It is the perfect time. Mahalo.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Kulamanu Brown, to be followed by Gretchen Losano. The next testifier is Gretchen Losano, to be followed by Kristina Mau.

MS. LOSANO: Aloha, Council. Sorry for coming up here in like army fatigues, but it's freezing in here. Mahalo, you guys, for being here. My daughter was maybe going to testify, and she told me that she didn't know what to say because five years ago, almost to the day, we lost our home in the flood in 2018, and we've had a really long recovery process. It takes many years to move to another community, and then reintegrate into your old community and my husband and I ended up

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getting a divorce, our family got displaced from each other, and her father just lost his home in the fire. So, it's understandable that she doesn't really know how to articulate. This community has already said so many brilliant, important things, proposed so many brilliant and very feasible solutions in moving forward. There's a couple things that I wanted to talk about really specifically. The first thing, this is really obvious, and I know a lot of people have talked about this, but the October 8th date, that is...I don't know, Josh Green is out of his mind. That is...that's the craziest thing I've ever even heard of. As somebody who's gone through this before, it's...it's insane. Please do whatever you guys can to make sure that doesn't happen. We've already experienced personally several altercations between our keiki and these incredibly rude tourists. I mean just think about the kinds of people who even want to come to a disaster area. They have told us personally they don't care about us. They called...they called our babies dirty islanders in front of all the Kaiapuni Makua, all of...all of the teachers, and all of our keiki. They said that to our faces. And that's even before we're supposedly open, so I can't imagine what is going to happen moving forward. But like Kanamu was saying, there are some people who are just...they've had it, and...and this is going to go on for a long time. So, please. Anyway, you guys have heard this before. The one thing I haven't really heard, but is really, really important, please make sure there is a robust and immediate stormwater mitigation and treatment plan. The kolea are already here. It looks like Lono season is coming much earlier. We have like a couple weeks before we're going to get a lot of rain probably, and there's real risk of our groundwater getting contaminated --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. LOSANO: -- if we...if we don't do something. So, I'm not quite sure exactly all the different departments that are working on this, and I think a lot of times we assume that something so obvious is going to be addressed, but coming from someone who had no intention of starting a commercial compost facility, I kept waiting and waiting for somebody else to do it, and then I realized nobody else was going to do it. So, if you guys could just please just make sure that there is a really good plan in place for that, and...and it really needs to happen soon because we got two, three weeks maybe before that rain starts coming. And the socks are good, but not when the heavy rains start to come. So, anyway, yeah, please make sure. So, mahalo, you guys, so much for coming to the West Side, we really appreciate you guys, and listening to us. So, okay. Aloha.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Kristina Mau, to be followed by Kauai Kaina. The next testifier is Kauai Kaina, to be followed by Robin Yardley.

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MS. KAINA: Aloha. My name is Kauai Kaina. I'm going to do my best to not cry. Okay. Thank you for this opportunity and for coming here. That alone means so much to us. I am born and raised here, and I wanted to come up and be angry, and tell you guys what we're going through, but I knew if my grandma was here, she wouldn't be proud of that. So, instead, I'm coming here and hoping that you can just feel the emotions that me and everybody else is going through right now. So many people have already shared their testimony and their knowledge, and it...you know, I'm glad they did because they're so much more knowledgeable than I am in so many of these topics. And instead of, you know, pointing out those points, I just want to talk a little bit about my feelings. I know the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the rebuild, but before we can even rebuild, we need to first heal. And how do we start to heal? We can start by holding people accountable, just giving us the truth about everything that happened that day. That's all we're really asking for first. We're tired of seeing everybody point blame, we just want to know the answers and...to the questions that nobody is answering right now. That would be a good first step, in my opinion. And then, of course, as everybody has mentioned, the next step to closure would be to allow us to go back to our family homes. I'm one of the fortunate ones that can say that my home is still standing, but my family...my entire family lost all their homes, including the property that all of the generations before me grew up on in Wainee, close to the hazard zone. I know, and I understand, that there are processes and guidelines that we must follow for our safety before we can go back to those homes, but if we can just, I don't know, somehow ask them to speed up those processes, whether it be bringing in more resources from the mainland or EPA, whatever it is for them to help so we can just have that closure first.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. KAINA: Sorry, it's going to probably be longer than three minutes. I think that the history of our people, even in the more recent history, is a great stepping stone for us. Our kūpuna have taught us so much, and we can learn so much from our history in how to rebuild our...our...our community. It is so hard for me. I do work in this industry, the tourism industry, and it's not hard because...I signed up for a hard job, but it's more hard because I'm trying to stay strong for my family. I'm fortunate to say that I am still fully employed, so I can pay for my bills, you know, but...and so many people can't say that right now. So many people are without jobs and have to pay all these bills, mortgage. If they had more than one home, they're paying for more than one mortgage, they're paying for rent. And so many people are already making plans to move off the island, and we don't want to see that. We want our Lāhainā people to stay in Lāhainā, but with the timelines, it's...it's just been a little...it's too hard for them, they can't do that. I'm so sorry. I'm most concerned about our people that are going

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through mental health issues right now. Who knew that would have brought that out for us, right? My story is not unique, and there's others that have experienced tenfold. I can say that I know where all my family was that night, and some people are still waiting for that closure. I've had to move my babies, I have two babies, to the other side of the island so they're living with one of my sisters, who is currently moving place to place, but they've been blessed to have a home for the next four months. My mom and my sisters are caring for my babies because they're traumatized, and they needed to be in school. I'm very big on education. The week after, I tried to find schools, I called, went to so many lengths to get them enrolled into school. It was so hard to watch them in the hotel, be surrounded by all the other families that are still grieving, and they're still here. It was really hard. My son, who is only six, would walk around the hotel crying and apologizing to the people, almost like taking on the burden himself. And that was when I decided that it was best for him to move to the other side. I do see them on the weekends when they come back to Lāhainā. This past Saturday it was pretty windy, and from our hotel room we were eating lunch. My daughter, who's three, looked out the window and she asked me, mommy, are we safe? And I was confused. I said yes, of course, you know, what's going on? And she said it's very windy. She asked next if the hotel was going to burn down because that's what caused the last fire. And I had to reassure her that we were safe, and what had happened on the 8th wasn't what we want to consider normal, and it should not happen again. That is why it's so important that when we're going back to make the plans for rebuilding our community, we keep our children in mind. Because they're going through this with us, and they're going to remember. I'm sorry. We need to give them a better future. We do trust in you to make the right decisions for us and I know it's going to take some time, but we do trust in you. And thank you for this opportunity. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Robin Yardley, to be followed by Jasmine Valdez. The next testifier is Jasmine Valdez, to be followed by Noelani Keawe-Aiko.

MS. VALDEZ: Aloha. Thank you for being here today. My name is Jasmine Valdez. I was raised in Lāhainā. And along with many, I request that all testimonies heard today, and that will be heard moving forward as Lāhainā will show up, should be the deciding factor that all decisions made for rebuilding the land and community to agree to include the community input to assist and guide how you will provide for the displaced and affected families, and for the future generations. And these testimonies should be the influence for the final decisions, as this will bring peace at a time that is so uncertain. Stop the inflated taxes and mortgage payments for homes that are not there, and moratoriums on the rent, that needs to happen

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immediately so that families can be placed in homes long term. Emergency plans, especially emergency routes, underground electrical lines, sustainable energy efficiency for the homes and agricultural lands, the focus of rebuilding with the input of the community. What has been lost and damaged, families displaced, and for who has been lost and we may continue to lose by 'ohana moving away or physically lose and suffer mentally for years to come. We need accountability. And how the County and government needs...reacted needs to change now to prevent, for the survivors and the generations ahead, to have to go through and endure this just to plead for help. And to do what is right, and provide stability for all so that we can protect the people of Lāhainā to get their voices heard. Restore the water, agricultural lands, and provide homes needed and provide financial and mental assistance to the residents of Lāhainā as we wait to rebuild Lāhainā, and return our residents back to their homes. Transparency and clear communication on the recovery ahead so that the residents understand what is happening, and how it will allow them to return to their lives and homes that they once had before the fires. My family generational home is on Lāhaināluna Road, and so is so many, and in Lāhainā. It's waiting for us to return. And for all the planning, the meetings, and the decisions, please be clear and transparent with what is being done by communicating thoroughly to each family that is being displaced, are displaced, and are waiting to return home. I wasn't there for my family on the night of the fire, I was at work. So, vote for what is right to get the needs of Lāhainā met, putting Lāhainā people first. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Kasie, can we have the next two testifiers please?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Noelani Keawe-Aiko, to be followed by the final testifier in person today, Christine Borge.

MS. KEAWE-AIKO: Aloha mai kākou, 'o Noelani Keawe-Aiko ko'u inoa. Noho ma Lāhainā, ku'u one hānau, 'o Papakōlea, O'ahu. I have resided here in Lāhainā for 26 years, raising my children, six children, and nine grandchildren now. We have...I just want to thank all of you for being here and giving us this opportunity for speaking on behalf of our people of Lāhainā. I'm very proud to say that I...for the 26 years I've been here, I've been able to experience the strength of our community, and at this time it's an exhibit of that, and how everything is coming together in support of everybody going through the things that they're going through. I ditto and I support everything that was said today. I've been here from this morning. And I appreciate everybody. The one thing that sticks in my mind is, as a community, we have to dominate, that includes all of you. You guys are part of us, right? And speak on behalf of us. And the first thing that comes to my mind is the restoration of our water first of all, right, and everybody has said it. But I do visualize our Kingdom, our capital, our 'āina, our plants, the

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things that we live off of, and that we know how to live off of alone within our ahupua'a. Within those 26 years I've been able to pass that down to generations. I am an educator, I'm a part-time teacher in the Hawaiian Studies program in Kūpuna Component, I'm the coordinator for this complex that includes Maui, West Maui, Lāna'i, Moloka'i, and Hāna, so canoe complex is what...is what I do. So, unfortunately, because I have that responsibility, I'm able to maintain that part-time job. I've been in this position from the start of COVID until now. I've taught four years prior to that in the classroom. I...my first and utmost important thing that I ask you folks is to support us in our education for our children. What our Punana Leo and Kaiapuni was expressing this morning about how they just took charge and they went and they did what they had to do for our kids, I'm so appreciative of that because that had, you know, supported one of my grandchildren.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. KEAWE-AIKO: Now we have three children, grandchildren that are attending our schools at Citizens Church which was something that's going to be held up until the temporary...or until they open up the schools up there. It's still a little unstable, but we see it coming to forth. So, what I'm...so the restoration, education, and stability. Now I'm going to move to housing. As a single parent raising all of my children here on Maui, I've been able to do the things that I could do for my children. We finally got solid in this community within the last couple of years, two to three years. Myself, three households, my three daughters lost everything. One of my daughters had some of my stuff, all of my stuff, everything lost, right?

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. KEAWE-AIKO: Those are just things, they're materialistic things, and not important to me. My family is important to me. My kids are all over this island. They're in Kihei...yeah, they're in Kihei, and no...the kids have to go to new schools, new friends, all this stuff. So, that...you know, we just...it's a lot to get used to, right, as families, as 'ohana. What we've been experiencing, and I'm going to get to this last point because of the fact that it's affecting me as this...I'm going to call myself a mano wahine of my family to hold things together. Tourist industry, we been...we're grateful for Sands of Kahana housing us from the time we got in there until today. Unfortunately, we're housed by an owner who is...one of two owners that live in the building, which is two doors away from us. We've been harassed. Two days ago she left a phone in front of our house and was recording us. Why? Because my kids are laughing, because they're playing, because we're having a good time? Nothing outside of that. So, my concern is, what's going to happen when the tourists come back? They have no idea what

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us Native Hawaiians, what our culture is like, and what we do. Our kids are first. I don't care what you read in one book, but our kids are first, our 'ohana is first. Everybody on the two sides of us, all around us, are important in healing, in life, in love. And this is what I've come to say today, and I just wanted to share that with everyone. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Christine Borge.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I see her making her way up. Is that our last testifier on paper for right now?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: We can return to Lana Albright after that.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. BORGE: Sorry, you called me earlier when I was three hotels away, so I walked.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That's okay. Come, come.

MS. BORGE: Okay. So, what we need is land. It'll be years before you get the land back in Lāhainā. It might even be...you know, it's toxic. So, I was thinking...because I'm a realist. I work in a hotel because I have to. It's not my passion, but I need medical, I need a job, I have bills to pay. My passion is to grow...work the land, grow food, and we need to have a different way to survive on Maui. We...Hawaiians were the greatest agricultural society in the world. We can rebuild that now, but there are people in Lāhainā that own 5,000 acres, and they're hiding behind the Christian church and saying they're going to help us, but it's time for them to put their God, which is money and power aside, and help the people. If you have 5,000 acres, why don't you give 500 back to Lāhainā? Because when Jesus came, he didn't come to help the rich, he came to help the people. And with that, we can have an ahupua'a starting from the mountain opening up at Moku'ula. We can learn how to take care of the land, grow our own food, follow the traditional Hawaiian ways. We don't need Korean natural farming. Hawaiian farming is way better, and we can live off the land, we can sustain ourselves, we can grow housing. Look at a place, Wai'anae, it's called Kahumana Farms, 70 acres. They have sustained a community there, and they're willing for all of you to go there, stay there for a weekend, and they'll show you how they did it. They have a café there, they have CSA boxes, an organic farm. They have...you know, people can stay there like in ecovillage. But on Hokiokio Road, back in 2017, this is Peter Martin's little foundation, Ho'omoana Foundation. They dedicated 23 acres to put a transitional housing there. It's

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been sitting there, all the permits have passed. You can do what Kahumana Farms did in Wai'anae, it's successful, you can do it there. And then you can rebuild Lāhainā. Give us an ahupua'a so the world can see like Hawai'i, we don't really need America, we can sustain ourselves, give us a chance. Tourists want to come? Well, maybe we don't need those people who need to shop at ABC. You want to come to...to see how real Hawaiians live, and you want to support us and see the village life, then come then, that's ecotourism, but we don't need all this fluff anymore.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. BERGE: I think that's it. We need land. That's all I wanted to say. We need land.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Lana, did you want to come and testify?

MS. ALBRIGHT: I'm gonna try to do this, and I might not be able to...it was incredibly hard. I was in Lāhainā, and that should not have happened. We didn't have power, I didn't have cell service, we had no Internet. I tried getting out of Lāhainā from 10:30 to 3:30. Lāhaināluna was bumper to bumper, and all of the neighborhoods were gridlocked. It was hot, it was beautiful, it was windy, it was dusty. I kept turning on the radio to have a better understanding of what was going on, and was listening to some sense of leadership, and there was nothing all day on the radio...all day. I could have done more, I could have evacuated people, but I had no idea. I got to Nāpili, and by that time we hadn't had power since 4:00 a.m. and automatically everybody was helping each other out. Food trucks were going to restaurants for ice so they wouldn't lose food. They were cooking whatever they had. They were feeding people for free. The community has been helping each other since the very, very beginning, and today it's so moving because you're in a...a room full of people who really do care. We're talking about people...a bunch of people that don't...I feel like there's a huge disconnect from the Governor and the Mayor, and there has been since the very beginning. They want to talk to the world when they need to talk to the residents. They want to open it up before we have even figured out our lives. The Chief of Emergency Management resigned, and there was a new one in place, and on the 1st, you guys decided not to sound the test alarms for global silence. We had been mourning since the 8th, and we are still mourning, and we will be mourning for our entire lives because what happened was not okay, and it will never be okay. Governor and the Mayor are going to write what they want to write, and they're going to say what they want to say, and that's why it's so important that all we keep talking to one another, and we keep sharing our stories because we know the truth, and we care. And we prove that day after day.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.



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MS. ALBRIGHT: And I'm...I don't know. To do the 8th as an opening is just insensitive and painful, it's hurtful, and there's so much we have to do. And we've stayed in lines hours to get our mail, hours for FEMA, hours for Red Cross, and we're all speaking to one another, and we're all in communication, and we're all helping each other out, and we continue to do that. And I just want the Mayor and the Governor to know, as they're...wherever they are, and they're making whatever announcement, we're here, and we care. And we want to help, and we're listening, and we want to show up. We need to know where we need to be and what we need to do because we will. I am not from Maui, I've been in Lāhainā for ten years.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. ALBRIGHT: I came here to fish and to dive and to spearfish, and to be able to provide for myself. And I've been just embraced by the community, and they have shared their secrets and their tips, and it's a gift that I want to share, and that I've been so blessed to have been taught, and that I can learn. And I just want to say that there is no branches, there is no fruit without the roots. And the people of Lāhainā are the roots, and that is why people come to Maui and that's why they visit is for local knowledge, for the beauty of it. And if you take that away and you don't give back, there is no Hawai'i, when people can't stay and they can't go off to college and they can't come back. Thank you. Again, this is just the beginning, so thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Do we have any more testifiers? No. If you guys want to come and testify, you're welcome. Come. If anybody else wants to testify before we recess this meeting and take more testimony online on October 3rd, you're welcome to do so right now.

MS. COCHRAN: Aloha, County Council. Thank you so much all of you for being here. I've been in your seats and...yeah, so I just appreciate it. I haven't been public since this all started. I've spoken to a few of you on the phone, and you've come to visit me personally. I appreciate that because as a State Representative, I haven't had many State officials come and physically visit me. When I do get the opportunity to even be on Zoom in any meetings, they're dismissive of me, they overtalk me. They talk about Lāhainā like they know it more than me. I've been here...in two months I've been here for 59 years of my life. I was eight years Councilmember, Chair for Infrastructure and Environmental Management, and now I'm a State official, yet I'm not given the time of day, you know. And you folks know where I live in Lāhainā, Kelaweā Mauka, where nobody came. It was mentioned in the testimony earlier, no government came. When I went back home three days in, after sleeping on a dog bed over on Kapunakea Street at my

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tenant's home, which by the way, 48 homes back there still have no power, but yet four lots down, the gas station is open, the convenience store is in full bore, but what happened to the 48 homes behind there? So, again, I started...myself and Jon Chee and Steve McQueen and others, and Auntie Cindy Williams, we started our little mini hives, our hubs within Kelaweia Mauka, Kanakea Loop. Then I was like, you know, more people are coming back, we have 100 homes still intact, we are below bypass. Word has been on the streets that nothing survived below bypass. We are, I'm alive, I'm here, and 100 homes still. So, Kelaweia Mauka Park is built for Kelaweia Mauka, and I went there. I put up one by 10x10 tent, a table and a chair, my banner, just to say hey, I'm here, you know, trying to represent, trying to bring something home to the people, and now that area has grown. And I'm so thankful for this community. And, you know...and again, it's been grassroots, it's been the people just coming from all areas, from Hāna to Moloka'i, and it's just been a beautiful thing where people just pitch in and do it. So, I am very appreciative. Josiah Nishita did come by on your folks' lunchbreak. He came by to say hi. He came by to ask what are the needs here at the park, Elle, this is a County park. I said yeah, that's why I took it, in order to bring it for community, you know, build it up for community because it is County. And so, water hopefully will be coming, and power. So, in the meantime, you know, it's building and it's growing, and again, it's all for community members, you know, and that's what I've been there for day in and day out. I'm sorry I wasn't here in the mornings, but I was at the...the hub to take care of people. I've had FEMA there seven days a week to take care of registrations --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. COCHRAN: -- to get people following up on their...their registrations. We also talked about today, which I'm very happy, it's a new division they're going to start. Because they learned from us, it's different. Most of them are from Puerto Rico, they've been through disasters, so they understand where we're coming from, they've been in our shoes through disasters. So, it's been wonderful to hear them and...and their stories, they can relate. And so they're going to create a...a division or an arm in FEMA because a lot of people...like they said, they want open and transparency. There's people pointing fingers all over, go there, go that, and they still have no...you know, they haven't rectified the issues that they have, the anger, the frustration, the confusion they have. So, they're going to go canvassing, they're going to go door to door and ask every single person in the neighborhood, what...have you been taken care of? If not, what is the issue? We're going to follow you...get case management and follow you from start to finish and make sure your answers are...your solutions are...are taken care of, you know, the solutions come (*audio interference*).

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MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. COCHRAN: So, I said please, and please set up your tables and chairs right here up Lāhaināluna Road, and we will make it a point to let the community know they're here for you. So, I just want to share that. And thank you. Please keep me in the loop on everything. Chair Lee, you've been awesome, thank you so much, and all of you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. And it looks like we have a question, but just for the record, Rep. Cochran, can you please state your name?

MS. COCHRAN: Yeah, Representative Elle Cochran. Sorry, I forgot about saying who I am.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I got it. Thank you, Chair. Good evening, Elle. Thank you for coming. I know...I spoke with you before about the hub needing water, and you said it's coming. Can you give us an update on when...when...is there a timeline? And if it doesn't happen on that timeline, please reach out to me.

MS. COCHRAN: Okay, I will. And I know I spoke to Councilmember Sinenci as Parks Chair too. So, currently, the Department of Water Supply has a baseyard right on the bottom right-hand corner of the park, so they're trying to figure out how the system works. Because they shut it down a while back because of drought, right, and so a lot of the sprinkler heads are there, but it looks like maybe heat did get to a lot of them. And when we did open up some of the boxes just to look, it looks like some of the mains are maybe burnt, and have been in disuse for a long time, they may be frozen, so I don't know. But hopefully...there's a spigot right there next to the fence where we could tie in some hoses, but you know, I'm not going to go cockroach water from the County. So, that's...wouldn't be a good thing for a Rep.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, I guess my follow up is, do you need a water buffalo or is that faucet okay?

MS. COCHRAN: Yeah. There's a water buffalo in the...on Kanakea right now, also down in the little parking lot as you enter into the park and the baseyard, but it would be nice to have one on the site itself just for the use of the...you know, the community up there. Because it's a long haul when you got to go fill up things and bring them up along the hill and all that. You've been there, you've seen all the --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

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MS. COCHRAN: -- road...road work...works.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Rep. Cochran.

MS. COCHRAN: Yeah, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Councilmember.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Chair Lee has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Representative Elle Cochran, I just want to thank you for coming, I know how busy you are. I just want to ask you...because we were talking about priorities tonight, and I know you've mentioned some immediate priorities. But would you say, because you and I have been working on this, that one of your long-term priorities is the creation of a West Maui hospital?

MS. COCHRAN: Yes. And former Councilmember Jo Anne Johnson-Winer is very instrumental in that, and I know if she wasn't so tired, she would be here today to testify on that behalf. I did hear testimony mentioning a need for a hospital, especially now we don't have Kaiser Clinic. We don't have Maui Medical Group. We have zero medical facilities. So, it's more so important that we get that done. The one and only item that I got pushed through this past legislative session was the \$20 million SPRB, Special Purpose Revenue Bond, and we are still...and Jo Anne is still looking to...to reach out to you folks, the Mayor, and everybody, to be the grantor for the bond, and to...so, it's...that's still really needed. She's seeking funds through USDA and others. So, it's not a dead subject, it's...and again, more so needed now than ever. So, we're praying and hoping that the...you know, we get support through the County in order to move that forward. So, I...I appreciate that...that question on behalf of the hospital.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

MS. COCHRAN: And just to follow up on your priorities, you asked about priorities. Remediation is really key. The State has started a task force and committees, and I'm not too happy on what the kuleana is of these. I guess committees or task force, you can say. Because I had to clarify with Speaker Saiki, you know, I'm the Co-Chair for Environmental Remediation, and I said, so...but the charge of these committees and task force are to observe, and to get information about what's going on in Lāhainā with the disaster, then compile all that, create a report, put it towards the community, and then...in order for us to make decisions in January, and then vote on those come May. I said, I got real-time issues now...remediation issues now. Not until next year, May, I can't wait for that. So, it's challenging, to say the least. But...so, remediation, there's a plan with Tapani

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Vuori, and I would reach out with him and also John Chee, who is in my neighborhood. They've been working together about the runoff issue.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. COCHRAN: And I know Gretchen mentioned groundwater...that too needs to be addressed. But the runoff into our oceans right now would be detrimental for generations, or maybe even for a lifetime.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. COCHRAN: So, it's important. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you so much.

MS. COCHRAN: And thank you very much for being here, you guys.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. At this time, which we're done with in-person testimony...

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: I'm sorry. We have one more individual signed up to testify.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Telesia.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, I was going to ask for a quick recess so I can confer with Staff. But, do we have any more in-person testimony that didn't testify before? You're welcome to come to the front. I think Auntie is going to come, and then you can come too. Come.

MS. KANUHA: I can speak now. Sorry. E kala mai. Okay, my name is Makalapua Kanuha. I was not going to testify, but there's so much in our community, and I just needed to say and share my experience on that day. So, I live up in Kelaweia Mauka III, right above the...the bypass. And that day, my husband and I were sitting looking out of our picture window, and just watching this unprecedented storm. It never, ever happened, seeing people's shingles flying off, and praying to God that our roof and the roofs of our neighborhood doesn't fly off. We did make a decision after the fire started getting whipped up with the wind, and it

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went right over the bypass, right onto the tree, and just the wind that's out of control. And it just shot right down to Kelaweā Mauka II and I. My kids actually live at Leiali'i, and thank God, my home is still there...not at Leiali'i, but Kelaweā Mauka. And all three of my children still have their homes at Leiali'i, so...along with the rest of our neighbors. But I wanted to share something, is that after that day...because I told my husband, hook up your boat, and we're going to go to our other daughter's house in Kahului because the kids are worried. Connectivity was off. We couldn't like call anybody and...but my other daughter was in Hāna, and she was working. So, we could contact her, and then she contacted her siblings. So, anyway, as we got to Kahului, the weather was very different. There was no wind at all...kind of mind-boggling. And even in Hāna, no wind at all. So, the next day, we made a trip back to...to help our community, but three days after that, we stood up our command center. And in this community effort--it was a collaborative effort, with myself, Keeaumoku Kapu, as well as Archie Kalepa, Tamara Paltin, and Kaipo, and our other community members--together we formed the West Maui Community Aid, and that's what we called our hui. And every morning, all of these leaders from all the different pods, yeah, from Nāpili Noho, as we would call it, Nāpili Noho --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. KANUHA: -- our other cousins down at Kahana...our cousins, the Lum Lungs down at Kahana Boat Ramp, as well as Kanamu...you heard Kanamu. Kanamu then would attend our meetings as well from S-Turn, Honokōwai Park, Kelaweā Mauka. We had our two families up there servicing our community. And that went on. The wonderful thing is that at our command base, which was in a...I say it's an undisclosed location, but it was in the back of the Amphitheater at the Civic Center because the...the Center down below was actually used already, it was a very sensitive location at this time, and the gymnasium was off limits as well. So, I said, you know what, I'll take the Amphitheater. 7:00, the sun is coming up very hot. But, you know what? We needed a location to be in alignment with Administration so that they would know what the needs were for our community in Lāhainā.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. KANUHA: And...sorry, tita, this going take a little longer than four. But I appreciate that. So, I just wanted to share that there was connectivity. And so, we actually had pilots at our command center because supplies were being dropped off by airplanes, by helicopter, by boats that was coming from Moloka'i, from wherever. We even had this disaster team that came from Amazon that was sent by Bumpy Kanahele...because we had no connectivity. So, he called me...or I called him, and we connected. And they stood this command center up in two days under

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the direction of Amos Lonokailua-Hewett. I'm not an incident commander, but we needed the help to help our leaders in our community to support our community. So, I just wanted to say...you know, share that, and I was actually invited to go and be on a panel. Because I'm in this industry as well, and I'm displaced, so this is my hale right now. It's been my hale for a whole week...now, I think, two weeks...here at the Westin Maui Resort and Spa, along with the rest of my community members. However, I was asked by HTA, because my full-time job is at the Royal Lāhainā Resort and Bungalows, but as soon as this happened, I pulled the pin, and I've been on LOA ever since because I'm not ready to go back to what I do. As long as my community will need me, I will be here. But I was asked by HTA to come and speak on a panel, and I will take the story of my community with me to that panel about October 8th, and how it's not a good time for our community, and they need to heal. Our people need to heal. This wise man once said, people, place, and profit, in that order. People, place, and profit. And that was by George Kanahele. So, again, thank you folks so much for being here, and I just love all the testimonies of our community, and mahalo. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Aunty. Would you like to come up? If you could state your name for the record, and then you can begin your testimony.

MS. VEHIKITE: My name is Telesia Vehikite. I was not even planning on coming here today. But as you all know, why I'm here is because of what everyone is here to talk about, August 8, 2023, and everything that happened on it. I'm pretty much sure everyone's statement is the same as mine, but I'm going to get straight to the point, to the reason why I'm here. I'm here to talk about grieve, I'm here to talk about closure, I'm here to talk about shelter, and I'm here to talk about reassurance. We haven't had time to grieve. I come from a big family and a big church community. I turned to the room, and I...and I watched this video from the very beginning. I haven't seen any of them here, and there's a reason for it. Because they're still in devastation, they haven't got the help. They're still worrying where do they go to next because of all these temporary 30-days housing, and just having these last-minute notice being tucked underneath our door of our rooms saying that you have 72 hours, or 24 hours, or three hours, to pack our things and leave. Today, I was given the reassurance, when I applied it with Red Cross, that we have at least until October 30th for our stay, only to find out today in an email that we have until the 29th. Thinking that by next week, I can have time to grieve. No. Now I won't be able to have time to grieve. Now I have to go back and worry, what do we do next? Where do we go to next within 72 hours? I seen on the email that our zone is opening up so that we can go to our home and find some sentimental value to hold as closure. How can I put closure to something if we haven't even grieved? You can't put closure to something if you haven't given people the time to heal and the time to grieve. We

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can go look at our property, we can get sentimental value and hold it close to us, but how are we going to hold it close to us when we haven't had time to grieve because we're so worried? Where do we go to next? Because we haven't had those promised yet. Maybe promise us something to where we're promised until next year so that way we can at least have time to put the peace, and find healing in our, you know, minds and our body and our soul and our heart, and hold our families close together. Because now we're having a reopening on October 8th. We're either worrying about work, we're either worrying about where do we go to next while we're at work. I haven't had time to even study for an exam of mines that's coming up next week also. I don't even know if I'm going to pass it because my mind right now is scattered all over the place. And I'm sorry, and that's the reason why I'm here. I'm here to testify with the people also because it's just full of hurt that is going on right now, and it's the same hurt that we're feeling that happened on August 8th, 2023. We're going to at least need legitimate --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. VEHIKITE: -- legitimate shelter. And promising us on a black and white, in writing, signing, that you and your family that is being displaced--because we weren't displaced in the beginning--has a place to stay at. Because holidays are coming up...that, I haven't mentioned. We haven't even had time to think of that. Because again, we're still thinking of where do we go to next. And that's the one thing that is always coming up. And I know it's not only in our mind, it's worrying a lot of families and everyone here, is where do they go to next? Can you guys take that off of our shoulder so that way we can at least have time to grieve, and actually put a closing to this? I'm a good citizen, and we all are good citizens here in the State of Hawai'i. Each dollar emblem says, "In God We Trust." In God we trust, but don't put United States of America there because we cannot trust them taking care of us.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. VEHIKITE: That's all. I'm going to leave. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Wait, wait. Can you please come back? Can you please come back? Thank you. Member Paltin has a question for you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you for your testimony. I just wanted to clarify, are they not telling you after the 72 hours where you would be?

MS. VEHIKITE: We're...today I was...my whole plan was to come here also, but because I got that letter, I had to go back and forth to the Civic Center, back to the shelter where I'm at, then they sent me back over there because their computer froze.



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It's just so full of...I'm just drained and overwhelmed. And they say not to worry, but how am I supposed to not worry if I don't have anything in writing promising us? I know I have home insurance. But again, we don't know how long this rebuilding is going to be. Home insurance can only cover up to so much. They shouldn't be asking for that right now. They need to ask...and let us know that we're going to take care of you guys. Home insurance is there for a reason. But again, the government needs to be here for a reason, so that's why we're here.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And so, just to clarify, it was Red Cross that sent you an email or a paper --

MS. VEHIKITE: It was coming from the company.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: The hotel?

MS. VEHIKITE: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And you're signed up with FEMA and Red Cross?

MS. VEHIKITE: Red Cross. Um-hum.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: You registered with FEMA?

MS. VEHIKITE: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And the hotel...Red Cross didn't notify you, the hotel notified you?

MS. VEHIKITE: I asked them if Red Cross notified them? They say no, it's our job. So, I had to go back to Red Cross and do a re-register, even though I'm already registered in their system, and they sent me back and forth. And then also went to...came back to FEMA, I was told to go to the FEMA at the Civic Center, which is what I already did in the beginning, and then they sent me back to go to where my shelter is, there's a FEMA there. And I'm just so drained out. You know, it's...we're not supposed to be going through this. We didn't ask for this.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: What...what hotel was it?

MS. VEHIKITE: This is...what is that...Honua Kai. Yeah. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much for sharing. At this time...oh, come Jacee.

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MR. LAW: Jacee Law, Kula Uka. I just want everybody to know that there's churches up here in Kula that you can come to, and it's a safe place, and nobody will bother you because they don't pay any taxes. The cops ain't going to come up here and bother you. And just wear your red shirt because it's the Kula Roman Catholic's color, and...yeah, they get plenty land up there that...that County Council doesn't charge them any taxes on. So, mahalo for you coming out here in Lāhainā. Sorry for your loss, everybody. I'm with you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Jacee. Okay, it is 7:36. I'm going to request a ten-minute recess, so I can talk stories with my Staff so we can see where we're going to go. So, we will come back at 7:46. Thank you. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 7:37 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 7:49 p.m.**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha. It is 7:49, and--thank you. Will the GREAT Committee reconvene for a few seconds to make an announcement that we are going to take a quick dinner break, and return at 8:30. So for right now, the GREAT Committee is going to go on a dinner recess until 8:30. And when we return, we're going to take some online testimony. 8:30 until 10:00. Okay? Okay. It is 7:49, and we are in dinner recess until 8:30. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS: 7:50 p.m.**

**RECONVENE: 8:39 p.m.**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha. It is 8:39, and will the GREAT Committee please reconvene. We have one more in-person testimony, which we're going to begin just shortly, and then we will start with our online testimony. Andrea, if you can begin, your three minutes starts now. Thank you.

MS. CESAREK: Aloha. My name is Andrea Cesarek. Please forgive me for taking up this space. I'm not from Lāhainā or even Maui, I live on Kauaʻi. I want to say on behalf of Kauaʻi that we feel you. I may not know you or your loved ones, but I mourn with you. There's part of me that has been feeling guilty going about my life, enjoying Kauaʻi, when I can only imagine the pain over here. I came to Maui to attend a prayer ceremony on behalf of the people of Lāhainā and the ʻāina, and to see what I could do to volunteer in some way, and to hear these stories from the mouths of the people directly because there's lots of things being said around the Internet. And to be honest, it's really hard to tell if these things that went down were complete incompetence of a corrupt government who refused to listen to the pleas of its people time and time again, including the fires of 2018 when a

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smaller scale version of this happened, or a much darker intentional land grab of prime real estate that the Kanaka never planned to sell. A lot of people around the world believe this whole thing was intentional, and the way the survivors are being treated, it isn't convincing anyone otherwise. Whatever the truth, you all have been elected by the people to be their voice to do the right thing. From an outsider's point of view, it appears to me that someone in the government needs to step up and unite these relief efforts. All I'm seeing are grassroots efforts by the people, while donations from the outside world were being blocked. What is that about? For example, trying to find volunteer opportunities to do while I'm here was not an easy task. A Google search didn't provide much help, and it took quite a while to figure out where I could be useful. It wouldn't be that difficult to have somebody put together a list of resources linking families, agencies, volunteers needed, help offered, and donations requested in a centralized place. We live in what is supposedly the richest country in the world. We are sending billions to Ukraine. You need to get loud on behalf of these people. It's not unheard of our military rebuilding the homes and communities in foreign war-torn countries. Why can't the military come over to Hawai'i and rebuild these people their homes? So much of our tax money going elsewhere, and when our people need it, you...they think \$700 per family is going to fix anything? You may not have a ton of power making State or Federal decisions, but you have a voice, and you can use it on behalf of these people. These tourists want to come back to Lāhainā, the ones that can afford to stay in 1,000-a-night hotel rooms? Why not tax them and give that money straight to a fund for supplies to rebuild these people their homes? Why not start a general Habitat for Humanity sort of effort to pull all these resources together, to rebuild these homes, and forgive the taxes. My prayer is that all of you get loud, do more, and let the rest of the world know what Lāhainā needs, and how we can help.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Do you have any clarifying questions? Thank you so much for your testimony. I appreciate it.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifiers are online. First testifier is Lopaka, to be followed by Susan Pcola-Davis. Lopaka, you're unmuted on our end. You need to unmute on your end. Okay. We'll return to Lopaka. Next testifier is Susan Pcola-Davis, to be followed by Katie Wilson.

MS. PCOLA-DAVIS: Aloha. Am I on okay? Well, I spent breakfast, lunch, and dinner with you, I might as well go to bed too. Okay. All humor aside. We're here today talking about the Resolution 23-194, Recovery and Resiliency. What is a resolution? Will it build trust, or collect dust? Filed in a binder? Can you be held accountable? What does it mean for each of you to approve this resolution? The only part of it that's important that I read is this resolution states with the understanding that residents directly impacted by the wildfires have the most

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relevant expertise. I ask all of you to take an oath to stand by that one sentence. Go out and find our expertise if you believe that. If not, you break trust. Every Councilmember should have by now a draft of a policy for evacuation, notifications, duties of all . . . *(inaudible)*. . . system that is . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Every Councilmember must request the Director, the Department of Water, to make the Maui water distribution system viewable. The direct...oh, I...I have been testifying at the Board of Water Supply also. The Director indicated they cannot share publicly due to an issue with national security. Water is the first infrastructure that needs to be planned for Lāhainā. Nothing else works without the water. You can't plan without an understanding of the water distribution system. There are promises, but the promises are not in writing. Whether it's Governor Green, the Maui Mayor, the Maui's new advisory committee...they all proclaim the people of Lāhainā will design the recovery and resiliency to their land. But how many groups do we have right now? We have the new Lāhainā Advisory Board, the County of Maui Office of Recovery, two Council Committees--the Water and Infrastructure Committee and the Water Authority Social Services and Parks Committee. We have three different authorities advise of Maui water...Maui County Water Authority, the Department of Water, and the Board of Water Supply. So, I took some things from the Board of Water Supply meeting, and I don't want to really waste my whole time on this, but they beg --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. PCOLA-DAVIS: -- for a full-time Board of Water Department communication specialist. Oh, come on. So, what happened to the water? Why weren't the hydrants working? According to him, the power outage stopped the water from pumping. There was no ability to pump the water. There were not enough generators on the pumps. The Director of Water says he cannot afford to put generators on all of the pumps. That was beyond reality for me. Okay.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. PCOLA-DAVIS: The Council Committee --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Susan.

MS. PCOLA-DAVIS: -- reached out regarding water. Okay. So, there's two committees--the Water and Infrastructure Committee, which is meeting October 2nd; and the Water Authority Special Services and Parks Committee meeting, October 2nd. When did they last talk about the water? Inside my written --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Susan.

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MS. PCOLA-DAVIS: -- report, I added --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Susan.

MS. PCOLA-DAVIS: -- all--I hear you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you.

MS. PCOLA-DAVIS: I just want to say that I added all my references that are available to you, and that...remember two things. If your children go to school and come home saying the water tastes funny or yucky, believe them and report it. And if you get a glass of tap water and see it's milky or cloudy, if it doesn't clear up, call the Board of Water. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Okay. So, Member Rawlins-Fernandez is going to help us with the timing. When you have 30 seconds left, she'll hold up a yellow paper that says 30 seconds, and then when it's your three minutes, she's going to hold up a purple paper that says stop. So, thank you very much. Thank you, Susan. I know we called Lopaka first, and I think he's back on --

MS. PCOLA-DAVIS: Oh, no questions?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- so if we could hear from him now? Do you guys have any questions? No. But thank you very much, Susan. We appreciate your testimony. Lopaka, if you're still on and you would like to testify?

MR. IOKEPA: Mahalo, Vice-Chair Tamara. Mahalo, Chair Nohelani. My name is Lopaka Iokepa. I'm an heir of a native tenant descendant from Lāhainā, and I currently reside on O'ahu. I first of all would like to start with giving my condolences to all of the 'ohanas over there in Lāhainā currently dealing with the...the tragedy and all of their losses. I'd like to give my blessings to all of those families, and pray that God keeps them in his vision and his sight. With regards to the Board, I'm curious as to why--or the Council or Committee--I'm curious as to why the Council has yet to initiate an investigation under their powers of the Charter, specifically Article 3, into the departments and the functions, and how they responded to the disaster and emergency. Primarily because Lāhainā is--you know, as everyone knows--was the first capital of the Hawaiian Islands. And, you know, it's a very significant place because, you know, it represents the first indigenous government recognized by the United States, yeah, and that recognition by the United States happened in 1843. And to put a fine point on it, you know, Lāhainā is where the 1839 Declaration of Rights and the 1840 Constitution of the Hawaiian Kingdom outlined the three classes that had vested rights in the lands of the Hawaiian Islands, yeah. And that was the king, the

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chiefs, and the native tenants. And so currently, there is a lot of testimony being provided, and I'd just like to urge the Committee, and the Council in whole, to consider prioritizing the native tenants who have the territorial sovereignty and political sovereignty over the Hawaiian Islands. These are the Hawaiian Islands, and they are the only population who have yet to express their sovereign will. And throughout this meeting, I've heard the expressions of their sovereign will in many ways, shapes, and forms. And so, I'd like to ask this Committee to consider, or the Council to consider, possibly getting an...getting an investigation going immediately into the matter and...you know, instead of putting the cart before the horse and starting this whole planning...development planning and recovery planning. However, I do understand that, Chair, you have already submitted a resolution to the Committee. So, I only ask two questions. Why does the Council feel it's necessary to delegate their authority to do an investigation to a committee, as opposed to taking up the responsibility themselves, from which they assume under the Charter? And that in any process going along that they comply with the preamble to the Charter, which says that --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. IOKEPA: -- the effort of the Council and the...the County is to follow the philosophy of the motto declared by King Kamehameha. And so, mahalo.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They cut you off, yeah?

MR. IOKEPA: Yeah.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much for your testimony.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I hope you recorded that.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: You're...you're being recorded. Thank you so much. Members, any clarifying questions? No. Seeing none. Okay. Next testifier please.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Katie Wilson, to be followed by Jen Peterson.

MS. WILSON: Aloha. Thank you, guys, for being here this late at night. I've been watching since 8:30 this morning, or have been on since 8:30 this morning. I hope I'm not repeating anything the other people have said. I do respect your time, but these are my concerns. Rebuild permits, what are they going to cost for people who live in Lāhainā? Typically rebuild permits are 2 to 3 percent of a build. Is that money going to go to the County, to the State? Have they considered capping the rebuild cost, or possibly the permits are free, considering the negligence involved. The hospital, we need one. We're basically an island

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over here. Evacuation routes for Lāhaināluna. We're sending all our kids up there, but one of the ways to get out is currently blocked, being Honoapiʻilani Highway. They can only get out through the bypass, from my understanding currently. Is that going to be opened so there would be two evacuation routes? I mean I just...it seems like we're putting everybody back in the same place. What if it happens again? Yeah. I think that's...I think that's it. Thank you for being here. Oh, lastly, my husband is the one who encountered the tourist with Kula Kaiapuni on Monday, and just want to have a verified record that these people told him and the children that they did not belong there at Kapalua Bay. This woman's baby fell into the water, and my husband pulled the baby out of the water while her infant was in a car seat on the waterline where the waves were crashing at high tide. These are the kind of people that are here right now, and I hope that's not what's coming, but that is very real, and what's happening right now. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR UʻU-HODGINS: Thank you very much. We do have a question from Member Paltin. Thank you for testifying today.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Katie. I just was clarifying, the two routes out, if they opened Lāhaināluna Road below the bypass, it's still just Lāhaināluna Road. If...if there was a fire at Lāhainā Inter like how it had on August 8th, right across from Lāhainā Inter, then that's the only one way in, one way out. Correct?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes. So, we're putting our kids in a one-way--

MS. WILSON: Right. So, we're putting them in a one-way-in, one-way-out situation again. I mean --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's the only part of Lāhaināluna --

MS. WILSON: Shh.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. So, to clarify, what we want is another way out besides just Lāhaināluna Road.

MS. WILSON: Multiple ways out, and...and I don't understand why it would take so long to build a road. Somebody said the bypass was going to be six to seven years. I believe after Hurricane Ann [sic], a bridge was built in between islands in three days.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. WILSON: Thank you.

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Okay. Kasie, next testifier please.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Roxy Vilorio, to be followed by Kalea Freda.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Hi, Member Cook. We miss you. Can you please call...oh, okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi. This is . . . *(inaudible)*. . . and I just want to go ahead and give my time up to the rest of the...to anybody else who wants to testify.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Okay, Kasie.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Kalea Freda, to be followed by Lava.

MS. FREDa: Hi. Thank you for being here all day and listening to everybody. Hi, Tam. I am just going to talk...I mean, I don't want to sound redundant, because I think you guys already kind of know what to plan out in terms of prioritizations within the community and what they've already stated. Everyone has already stated safety, economic impact, and what the community needs. And then, you know, high priority...high priority projects and estimated timelines, like essential public services, like the healthcare, education, and public safety. But what I really want to talk about is how to fund these things. So, like, no one has really talked about that, and I think a lot of these...you know, everything that will need...will be needed for the rebuild is a lot of money, obviously. But I haven't heard in any of the meetings anyone talking about tax increment financing. And that's a really big thing. Tax increment financing actually uses the infrastructure of improvements...so, it funds the infrastructure for all improvements, and like the redevelopment and rebuild, and they use the tax revenues generated from the increased property values within these districts, and then they are redirected towards the financing of these improvements. So, I don't know if you guys understand that, but look it up. I mean, our country has gone through many years of tax increment financings with a lot of redevelopments, and...and they basically use our potential revenue of our...of our land values in helping rebuild the town. That's it. Oh, and...and hey, you guys...I mean, like HECO, you said that...you know, I know that Gabe Johnson said that he was going to put the lines...he was drafting a bill to put the lines underground and stuff. But HECO is already putting up more poles, and they're putting up wooden poles, and they're staging them up at coffee farms. Like, they're not putting them underground...like they're already replacing lines with wooden poles. I mean, it's already being done. So, the draft of the bill, like, thank you, but I mean, shouldn't we have done this after the first fire? I'm not trying to say that you guys didn't do a good job, but I'm just saying there's a lot of after-the-facts, and...I mean, what are we going to do after they put up the poles? Are we going to pay for them



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to take them down? Sorry. Okay, bye.

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Members, any questions? Seeing none.  
Thank you very much for your testimony.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Lava, to be followed by Tara Kahaialii Diego.  
We'll return to Lava. The next testifier is Tara Kahaialii Diego.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We can maybe call the next testifier, and if they're...they still  
want to testify, then we can do...we can do them later.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Manuel Kuloloio, to be followed by Mark  
Deakos.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. KULOLOIO: Aloha, Cousin U‘u. Can you hear me?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We can hear you. You're ready to go.

MR. KULOLOIO: My heart is heavy because my Dad, Uncle Les, introduced me to the  
Lāhainā Kahana and Nāpili families, where he was the Race Director of the Maui  
County Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association in the late ‘70s and early ‘80s. Uncle  
Earl Chief and Auntie Barbara Kukahiko, Auntie Mary Helen Lindsey, with Auntie  
Rose Pua and Uncle Edwin Ned Lindsey, Bull Kaya, Auntie Leimomi Ferreira,  
Uncle John and Auntie Keola Lake of Lāhainā, Uncle George and Auntie Pua Paoa,  
Auntie Suzie Duro of Kahana, Uncle Jerry Nuesca and Uncle Moses Keahi of  
Nāpili, Uncle Abraham Snake Ah Hee--I never knew Abraham was his name until  
today--Uncle Aimoku Pali, Auntie Pauline Lehua, Naleieha Pali, and Uncle Pali,  
that was Uncle Aimoku's brother I believe who was the head chef at the Lāhainā  
Broiler...the best steak with the best view in the world. My mom, Lucille, took  
me to hula classes for my sister, Leina‘ala, every weekend with Kumu Auntie  
Emma Farden Sharpe at that small building with the dizzying reflecting glass by  
the Wailuku bridge at the edge of St. Anthony School. I think it was some kind  
of roofing business later on. In its press release at 11:15 today, titled, "Lending  
a Hand in Lāhainā," the Federal Bureau of Investigation quotes one agent, "I've  
never been through something like that before. Lāhainā was such a vibrant,  
colorful place. Everything was in gray scale, even the water was black." One FBI  
in Honolulu's ERT deployed to Maui, Special Agent Earl Asato, whose mother  
grew up near Lāhainā, told his 11-person team that, "No one has seen to that  
magnitude" what they will see in Lāhainā. Tamara, you, as the Lāhainā

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representative, and this entire County Council need to show up tomorrow and testify at the Hawai'i House Special School Working Group and demand DOE Superintendent Keith Hayashi to turn over to the FBI the remaining 49 count of "active contact, not yet achieved\*\*\*", which means, includes families that HIDEOE called and left a message that has not yet been returned. Otherwise, you demand the Maui Police Chief Pelletier, whom you selected by the Maui Police Commission...commissioners in which you have the advise and consent power to do it. The USS Port Royal (CG73), commissioned on July 9th, 1994, as the 27th and final ship of the Ticonderoga-class guided-missile cruiser, was one of two original cruisers for the U.S. Navy's linebacker program, which provided theater ballistic missile defense capability --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MR. KULOLOIO: -- as a test . . . *(inaudible)* . . . to detect, track, kill, intercept, and interact with other national assets to shoot down ICBMs. As of 2009, it was only one of three Ticonderoga-class cruisers to be equipped for the Aegis Ballistic Missile Defense Program. It was originally to be outfitted with the experimental shipboard mountain, a high-energy laser weapon system. The USS Port Royal was decommissioned on September 29th, 2022. To the Council and to the people of Lāhainā, you must deliberate, and you must decide which destroyer do you want to choose...a Flight 1, a Flight 2, a Flight 2A, or a 3?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. KULOLOIO: Keoni...Keani --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: If you could, yeah.

MR. KULOLOIO: -- Tasha, Shane, Tamara, you need to go upstairs to see Mayor Bissen, and have a private meeting with the SRT Uncle Bob Fenton. You need to convene a one-of-a-kind planning consortium that includes PBR Hawai'i with Kimi Yuen. If Jeff Merz of Group 70 International, if Jim Meerman *(phonetic)* of . . . *(inaudible)* . . . wants to help, good. It needs to include Maui's own Summer Brothers, Planning Consultants Hawai'i, and Wailuku's Munekiyo Hiraga. And you must --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Manny.

MR. KULOLOIO: -- with the cultural consultants in collaboration, U'u, with U.S. Senator Brian Schatz, Andy Weiner, U.S. Representative Ed Case, his former Chief of Staff, now Congress...excuse me, County Councilwoman on O'ahu, Esther Kia'aina, a lobbyist, a heavy hitter, Dennis Dwyer --

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Manny.

MR. KULOLOIO: -- and former State Senate Chairman and Congresswoman and HART Chair, Colleen Hanabusa, with Jennifer Goto Sabas, and a gentleman --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. KULOLOIO: -- named Neal Thomas Goto. Why?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much.

MR. KULOLOIO: Why...why, U‘u? Because on June 10th, 2021, some of you here, including Mr. Sinenci, and including Auntie Yuki, planted native species in a field of vetiver grass as a nature-based water reuse alternative to injection wells. Imagine every Lāhainā student and their families planting ulu trees on Kamehameha Day, on Kamehameha School lands, State lands, State Department of Transportation Highways, County of Maui rights of ways, to revive the Malu ‘Ulu Olele, like how Auntie Maryann Kelly, the famous ethnographer, the Assistant Professor of Ethnic Studies at UH Manoa, and the noted 1848 Great Mahele Scholar documented in her pivotal book, *Mamala O Kona*.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you very much, Manny. Thank you.

MR. KULOLOIO: Or Dr. Diane Ragone of Kahanu Gardens. The National Tropical Botanical Gardens and --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: I know.

MR. KULOLOIO: -- Dr. Noa Kekuewa Lincoln, a Maui boy, realized instead of moving from left to right, you must think --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Manny.

MR. KULOLOIO: -- what you want at the very end on the right. Then, U‘u --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. KULOLOIO: -- all your actions to the left must trigger, support, and facilitate the end product we envision, an --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

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MR. KULOLOIO: -- iterative process. Last sentence.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. KULOLOIO: Though not perfect, and I can attest to all the failures, that is why the Kaho'olawe UXO Clearance and legislation was one of a kind.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. We only have until 10:00, and we have a bunch of people we need to hear from, so we really appreciate your testimony, and we've all been getting your emails. So, thank you very much. Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Mark Deakos, to be followed by Lava.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Mr. Deakos.

MR. DEAKOS: Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. Mark Deakos, 27-year resident of West Maui. First off, so sorry to those who have lost so much. My heart goes out to all of you. As a haole scientist from Nāpili, I'll tread lightly with my testimony and suggestions today. Many will say there's no need to build back better. We need to build back the same. I know this comes from a place of mistrust on who will be rebuilding and how. But what if we could rebuild by first and foremost, respecting and celebrating the cultures and peoples of Lāhainā, but instead of building old school with toxic materials that give our children cancer? They're so energy inefficient, we have massive electric bills and carbon emissions. So water inefficient, we deplete our aquifers, divert our streams with landscaping that repels water, exacerbates stormwater runoff. Adds to the heat island effect, with wastewater gets injected into our oceans, that requires a car to get anywhere, that takes away access to beaches and public spaces. These are all consequences of traditional design. But we know how to build better. We know how to build affordable homes with no energy bills, because all your energy comes from the sun. Buildings that are net positive water that recharge aquifers, don't drain from them. Let me say that again. Buildings that recharge aquifers, not drain from them. Personally, I've eliminated black water for the past three years with some very simple design changes. And we know how to treat gray water from the showers and sinks and put that back into the aquifer. We know how to collect and make use of every drop of rainwater, putting it...before putting it back into the ground. We know how to control storm water with simple landscape design changes that stabilize soils, provide free healthy food with very little effort. We know how to create natural firebreaks with native trees that double as shade trees, that trap moisture, that reverse the heat island effect. We know how to build with nontoxic materials, with natural light, natural ventilation, so your keiki live in healthy, happy homes and classrooms. Access to work, schools, and necessities without the need for a car. And we can do this by sourcing local

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materials, local talent, and supporting local economies. We know how to build all these because there's a framework known as living buildings. And no, these aren't hippy grass shacks. These are some of the most beautiful and inspiring affordable homes, schools, offices, daycares, wastewater treatment plants, even multifamily high-rises, being built across the country with only net positive impact on people and planet. We know how to build these at the cost of traditional construction using local talent. We know how to provide incentives to make them cancel out. We even have one on the Big Island, the HPU Energy Lab in Kamuela. I'll close by saying we don't have to rebuild making the same mistakes as the past. We owe it to our keiki to rebuild back smarter buildings that remember and celebrate the people and cultures of Lāhainā, but through a lens of regenerative design. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Any questions for our testifier? No. Seeing none. Thank you, Mr. Deakos. Kasie, next testifier please.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Lava, to be followed by Leilani Digman.

MS. LAVA: Hello, everyone. I wanted to start by giving my heartfelt condolences to all who have lost so much. There's been so many beautiful words and wise solutions here today that have been heard from people, and it actually is very inspiring. The devastation is overwhelming, and thank you to everyone who is working hard to make things better. In my heart, I do know and believe that some, including those here today--Councilwoman U'u-Hodgins and Rawlins-Fernandez leading here today--have been and continue to work tirelessly to make things better. The unfortunate reality is they are constrained by legislative rules, like they can only ask questions today, shackled by bad decisions, and delay from the State, an incompetent sold-out Governor, and dictated to by Federal Government's involvement messing everything up. Victims were promised housing security. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been donated to Maui. Where is the Red Cross and United Way money? Where is the transparency and accountability? How many people today alone were notified that they had just hours to be out? Immediate public transparency needs to be demanded. It is a requirement for 501(c)(3) nonprofits, but it must be demanded for it to be provided. How can people already be shuffled like cattle from place to place, while the Red Cross and FEMA don't leave their expensive rooms? The Federal military is right in Hawai'i. They built huge full-scale hospitals during COVID...pop-up military bases and tent cities around the world in war zones, but nothing on the West Side...nothing? How can that be? Thank God the community hubs have come together from families who, most and some are out of work, already housing folks displaced and paying the increased utility bills, and then also, they help provide the daily urgent needs of the community hubs while they're struggling themselves to pay their own bills. And more importantly, when so much donations and supplies

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have been made, just sitting right there on island, but controlled by other organizations. There has to be a better, more efficient way to do this. When the useless Governor and Mayor have wanted to pass legislation and proclamations that work personally for their needs, they did it quickly. Things can be done. We've heard many great solutions in testimony today. Some are overwhelming and long-term, but many can quickly be done, and don't cost anything, to help people immediately in the community. For those Councilmembers present, maybe you can help to make a commitment to the following, either by a nod of head or on your social media. I tried to take some notes of what we've heard throughout the day of things that can happen. The first is support a three-year multi-year interest-free deferral for the victims' property taxes at Friday's meeting. I think this would give some much-needed security, and...and some peace to these families who haven't even had a minute to grieve, and now they're getting bounced...they don't even know where they're going to live. Number two is commit to temporarily stopping short-term rentals so that housing can quickly be focused on locals. Give the people a place to live, and the deserved time to properly get back on their feet and grieve their loved ones and their homes. Number three, I get that budget and time is tight, and . . .(inaudible). . . --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. LAVA: -- but--I can go fast--but can a motion be passed to put together that includes locals that mandates immediate and weekly transparency of auditing donated funds to Red Cross and United Way that are supposed to be for people? Can legislation be passed that will allow permits to rebuild to protect from predatory developers who may try to take advantage? Can they immediately remove Mayor Bissen with a vote of no-confidence? Shame on him for not participating again today, when all of you took your time to come to the West Side. And can...most important, can you stand up and immediately commit to passing a motion blocking any West Side lodging, especially those with kitchens, from going to tourists, and fight the Governor on this on October 8th. At a bare minimum, these impacted families need their housing secured before tourists can come in. The people have proven they can come together. They've given everything when so many have nothing right now. They take care of each other and the community. Give them a chance to be a part of these solutions. History shows that great leadership can rise from devastation.

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. LAVA: This can be done and it can happen.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Lava. Thank you very much. Any questions, Members?

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MS. LAVA: Please, if someone can stand up and help and take...you guys can do it. It's intimidating, but you guys can do it. Just someone needs to stand up and lead.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. You guys have any clarifying questions? Thank you very much. We appreciate your testimony.

MS. LAVA: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Katherine Wissner, to be followed by Tara Rojas.

MS. WISSNER: Can you hear me okay? I just want to thank every one of you for being here past...well past 5:00, dedicating your attention, your mana, your focus to the people. It's just a beautiful thing to see all of you paying attention. You know, I just want to start today by saying that Hawai'i is America, and if we are America, we are not immune to the laws of supply and demand. When the Governor will allow tourists to enter into the West Side, there will be demand for housing. There will be a demand for people to have shelter in the form of tourists renting on a short-term basis for vacation purposes. And again, I just want to echo the cries of people, you know, everyone on the West Side who has stated that they aren't comfortable, that there aren't ready, that they're not done grieving, that we don't have enough aloha to have tourists and visitors come in yet. I pray that each one of you will continue to advocate for that deadline or that...the reopening date to be pushed back. Because we are not immune to the laws of supply and demand, if the demand for vacation rentals is there, then...if it's not there, then STR owners may be more incentivized. If...if the demand isn't there, meaning that if the Governor pushes back the deadline and they're not...and he does not allow tourists to enter, that there would be no demand from visitors to enter into the West Side, which would then potentially encourage STR owners to open up that property longer term on an STR basis, or potentially for a long-term basis. And so, you know, I wanted to just read from Chapter 19.65.070, that initial short-term rental home permits are valid for a maximum period of three years. I'm just a citizen. I'm...I'm not a lawyer. And I just...you know, I'm just some...here to throw out ideas that...is it possible for us to have an STR respite, where any STR owner who had been granted this permit is then saying...could then potentially say I'm going to rent on a longer-term basis for six months or a year, and then have their permit be extended for the full term of what they were initially awarded, but not have to go through that permitting process all over again. According to 19.40.040...and again, I'm not sure if this would apply to those permits because this is conditional, but if those permits that are initially awarded are then rescinded because they want to offer their housing on a long-term basis or on a six-month rental, that they...if the

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application is withdrawn or returned, the same or similar application will not be accepted for processing sooner than six months from the date of withdrawal or return. So, how can we implement a system that would allow STR owners --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. WISSNER: -- to feel comfortable pausing their STR, and transitioning it into a longer-term six-month rental? The other thing that I wanted to bring up for the County Council is that in Chapter 3.48.466, the taxation for exemption for long-term rentals that, again, six...six-month and month-to-month don't qualify for that exemption. And so, how can we as a County, and how can the Council, encourage potentially to have those exemptions created to...additional exemptions created to give more incentive for people who own STRs to give that housing to citizens of Lāhainā who have been displaced? I think again, just one more statement, you know, how can we use funding again to incentivize some of these --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. WISSNER: -- STR owners to...to transition to a long-term rental. Perhaps there's some sort of award or some sort of tax exemption.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you very much for your testimony. Do we have any questions? Thank you. Staff, can you please call our next testifier?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Tara Rojas, to be followed by Cheryl Hotta.

MS. ROJAS: Aloha. So, before my time starts. This is Tara Rojas. My heart and sympathies go out to and are with Lāhainā Maui 'ohana. You know, since this is the GREAT community...Committee, Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency, I'm going to talk about...talk to and about holding all these leaders, you know, in this system, accountable, all of the leaders...especially Governor Josh Green and Mayor Bissen. Okay. So, my testimony starts now. Oath. A solemn promise...promise, often invoking a divine witness regarding one's future, action, or behavior. Similar definitions, vow, sworn statement, promise, pledge, avow, affirmation, attestation, word of honor, word, bond, guarantee, double E...guaranty with a Y. A sworn declaration that one will tell the truth, especially in a court of law. Each took the oath, and then gave evidence. For example, under oath, having sworn to tell the truth, especially in a court of law. So, according to the Hawai'i Leaders Oath of Office, Section 4, All eligible public officers, before entering upon the duties of the respective offices, shall take and subscribe to the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United



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States, and the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as to the best of my ability." As used in this Section...this Section, eligible public officers means the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, the Members of both Houses of the Legislature, the Members of the Board of Education, the Members of the National Guard, State or County employees who possess police powers, district court judges, and all those whose appointment requires a consent of the Senate. And I'd like to say all of these people mentioned were absent, especially immediately and while the fires were happening. Okay. So, Josh Green, sworn in as Hawai'i Governor on December 6th, 2022. In his website [joshgreenforhawaii.com](http://joshgreenforhawaii.com), he states: "What I believe: The people of Hawai'i deserve an effective government that takes action rooted in our shared values. Every day I will work to build affordable housing for Hawai'i families, fight homelessness, protect our environment, and reduce the cost of living in our State so the next generation can have a future here." My take, we see that, by his continued actions, that the community is not his priority. His definition of "people of Hawai'i are businesses, hotels, and developers." Okay. His...his statement. Our values and vision for Hawai'i's future. He says, "I ran for Governor because Hawai'i needs elected leaders we can trust to tell us the truth, keep us safe and informed, to care about working families, and to be transparent and accountable to the people." My take, we see an actual emergency and actual action that he fails, all capital letters, FAILS, in this whole statement. Yeah. Along with most people in our islands, we share the values of family, community, respect for basic human dignity, and responsibility to future generations. My take. The Lāhainā community, whose voice matters number one, most and foremost, clearly stated, let them heal. Stop and remove this October 8th opening date immediately, Josh Green. And he states right here--I'm almost done--"We believe that the young people in Hawai'i should not have to leave our islands because they can't afford housing or find economic opportunity here, that working people should earn a living wage, and no one in our State who works full time should live in poverty" --

MS. MACDONALD: Three minutes.

MS. ROJAS: -- "that no parent should have to--okay--that no parent should have to choose between earning a living and caring for a sick child, or between buying food or affording medicine." My take. You, Josh Green, right, and everyone accountable, you're hearing about the people leaving and all these testimonies. There is no wage and no financial support. There is no work. The jobs and incomes are lost. Poverty, how would you describe the current...current situation in Lāhainā? No...there's no poverty among tourists, and for whom the Governor and Mayor want to reopen, although in staggered stages, starting with Ritz Carlton, Kā'anapali first, right? And finally, the keiki...keiki. Keep them always and first and foremost in your thoughts in every thought and action you do. So,

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there's more to this, but basically, he's saying that no one should go chronically hungry or homeless in their islands. Again, to his statement --

MS. MACDONALD: Four minutes.

MS. ROJAS: -- and what did he do after the emergency disaster? He is nowhere to be found.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Ms. Rojas.

MS. ROJAS: Wait, wait. Let me just finish. Sneaking out of his hewa--Build Beyond Borders meetings and other meetings, he sneaks out. Only the community providing for the community with their own finances while paying him, you know, you all. Well, we pay for him and you all. And finally is this...so, Richard...former Judge Richard Bissen, which is Maui Mayor now...and with this. During his campaign, he focused on the platform of kama'āina prosperity. His efforts aimed to address some of the most pressing needs that Maui faces, including out-of-reach housing prices, the disappearance of good-paying jobs, and care for Maui's environment and economy. That's for him. Members, in testimonies, plural, that we heard, it's true that effective families who lost everything that are still paying price-gouging mortgages, property tax on nonexistent properties, and lastly, having to worry that the bill on --

MS. MACDONALD: Five minutes.

MS. ROJAS: -- Friday to address--okay--will not be guaranteed approved...will not be guaranteed approved by all nine Members. So, Tamara Paltin, and, you know, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, we know that you guys will...will go, you know, support this. So, please, all of you all, let's go. Alice Lee, Yuki Sugimura, Tasha Kama, Tom Cook, Gabe Johnson, Shane Sinenci, Nohe U'u-Hodgins, please vote for that bill on Friday so that we have all nine Members. So, give the community peace of mind, and they're allowed to heal. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you so much, Ms. Rojas. Any clarifying questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The next testifier is Saul Goode, to be followed by Maika'i. We'll return to Saul Goode. The next testifier is Maika'i. We'll return to Maika'i. The next testifier is Dayna Moore. The next testifier is Gina, to be followed by Cammie Coleman. The next testifier is Cammie Coleman, to be followed Sarah Glussi. Next testifier is Sarah Glussi, to be followed by Suzette Felicilda. Next testifier...next testifier is Sarah Pajimola, to be followed by Lisa Awai. Okay. The next testifier is Lisa Awai, to be followed by Mona. Chair, Staff has not received

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any further requests for testimony. I'll do a last call for individuals wishing to testify...three, two, one. Chair, seeing...oh, we have someone wishing to testify.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aloha. You're welcome to testify.

MS. KUAHUIA: Aloha. I'm sorry, can you hear me, okay? Aloha. My name is Krysha Kuahuia. I'll try and make this quick. Sorry. I know it's been a long day for everybody. I just wanted to, I guess, say it was more about the reopening that's happening on October 8th. We have four keiki. They are born and raised here in Lāhainā, as well as my other half...e kala mai. This is very emotional for all of us. They were born and raised here in Lāhainā. My other half is born and raised here in Lāhainā, as well as his family--many generations here from Lāhainā. I want to testify more on the reopening that's happening on October 8th. I wish Green...Mr. Green was here to listen. I don't know where he is. Same with Bissen. I feel like they both...should both be...be there with you all today to be hearing us. We are not ready to have tourists back in Lāhainā. Not right now. We cannot go back to work and have to serve these tourists, having to put a smile on our face, knowing what we just went through. The reopening was supposed to happen on October 8th. Today we went down to Kā'anapali...tourists everywhere...everywhere, sitting in the bars, sitting on our beaches. It's not October 8th. Today is September 27th. We have seen tourists at the hubs taking essential items that our family needs. We understand that there is a need...we're dependent, unfortunately, on tourism, and we know that it needs to happen. But now is not the time. The other thing I want to say--sorry, I will get through this as quickly as I can--the reopening of schools for our keiki should be one of the main priorities. The health and safety of residents here in Lāhainā should be a main priority. I just think that having these tourists back is going to set us far back. Okay. I'm sorry. I will stop now. I know it has been a long day for everybody. Mahalo for your time. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. We appreciate your testimony. Thank you. Members, do we have any clarifying questions? Thank you. Do we have anybody else wishing to testify?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, Staff has not received any further requests for testimony. I'll do a last call for individuals wishing to testify. Chair, we have someone in the Ballroom wishing to testify in person.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, come, come. You're welcome to come. Come.

MR. CHARLES: I am also in --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: First, can you please...if you want to, can you say your name?

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MR. CHARLES: Charles.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay, Charles. Thank you.

MR. CHARLES: I want to say that I am in strong disagreement of opening up the West Side on the 8th. At the Governor's press conference, he said he's been told by people that we should keep the West Side of Maui closed for two years. His reply is that this is too long. So, I think to myself, okay, 24 months is too long, but 60 days is okay? He says...when he announces that he's going to open up on the 8th, he says to the world, come help us heal. And I think, strangers from...from other parts of the world? The people that will help us heal is the community who came when we didn't have anything...brought food and water and clothing at boat ramps on this side of the island from other parts of this island and other islands to help us, who I think themselves are traumatized by all of this. It showed...demonstrated, without a word, their love and their aloha. It's those arms I will fall into that will help me heal. You know, it's a little bit late, yeah. The mind is going a little bit slow right now. There was a couple of points I wanted to make. You know, by opening up this side also, with...as this woman just before me said, without having the time to heal, when tourists come, you know, are we expected to be jovial as they are frolicking in the surf and drinking Mai Tais and partying? They're...they're having a good time. They're...they're on vacation. It's understandable. We're not saying don't come to Maui. But this side, as the woman before me said, we really aren't ready, and we haven't had the chance to heal. Because not only are we dealing with trying to find housing, you know, where I'm at, they're telling me I have to leave on the 30th of this month...in a couple of days. So, there is no time to...to heal when you're trying to get the essentials of life. So, mahalo. I know it's been a long day for you. It's tiring, and then myself trying to make...trying to make this cohesive and understanding to you. Aloha. Mahalo.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. And thank you too, for staying late. It's late for us, but it's also late for you too. So, thank you. Staff, I saw we had Ian wishing to testify.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair. We have Delilah Rodrigues, and then Ian Mullanog.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Delilah, if you're ready, we are.

MS. RODRIGUES: Aloha, guys. First and foremost, can you guys hear me?

COUNCILMEMBERS: [*Gave thumbs up*]

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MS. RODRIGUES: Okay. So, first and foremost, I mean I want to thank you guys for sticking it out all day. I have been following on BlueJeans in and out throughout the day. I wasn't able to make it there in person. But with this...you know, being this late, I just wanted to say...or make mention that hopefully, what you guys take away from today, if anything, remember our State motto. Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina ika pono. The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. This is something that we, as Hawai'i residents, learned from small kid time. And to see what our 'āina, our islands, have become, it's heartbreaking, and I know that you folks can see it as well. So, just keep that in mind. And about the...my main point was the reopening on October 8th. We, the residents, the families from Lāhainā, we're still healing. I have a 12-year-old boy...son, who is taking it hard, as is many of our other keiki all through Lāhainā. They want to go home. They want to get back to some kind of normalcy and see their friends, and we're...we got relocated to Central...some place that my boys know of, but that's not home. And just last night, you know, he's in school, but he's struggling. And one of the biggest struggles is that he's upset because the people that they are taught in school that's supposed to be there to protect them, to...you know, the...the people that matter, I guess, aside from Mom and Dad, to him, he feels like he's been failed. Why are we allowing tourists back on the 8th, and he cannot even go back to school yet? He hasn't seen his classmates. He hasn't seen his friends. So, if anything, you know, take...he's not awake, or I'd have him up here with me. Take that into consideration. I know you guys are doing all that you can, and we appreciate everything. I appreciate everything that you guys...even going to Lāhainā. That's a big step. But please, keep that in mind...property taxes, all of that. We...we're struggling with everything at this point. We went from knowing what we would do day in and day out and how to survive and most of us working two, three jobs, own one business, work two jobs. We never had time with our kids, and now you guys expecting us to go back to work to serve tourists, and our babies are at home...they're hurting. They're confused. They don't know, you know. So, just kind of keep that in mind, and thank you for allowing me my time to speak. You guys have a good night, and travel safe to wherever you guys gotta go back to, okay? Have a good night. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you so much. Good night to you as well.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Next testifier is Ian Mullanog. Chair, there are no further individuals signed up to testify at this time. I'll do a last call...three, two, one. Seeing no other individuals signing up to testify.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Ian. Ian. Okay. He is not around. All right. Members, seeing as there are no individuals anymore wishing to testify, without objection, I will now close oral testimony.

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**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. As a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. So, for those listening, if you didn't get your voice heard today, or you weren't ready, please send us written testimony. We're going to read it. We're going to hear you. And again, this isn't the only meeting we're going to have, so you will have other opportunities to share with us. Members, just as a reminder, this is scheduled for no legislative action. So, this was just for us to hear, and take it all in, and to listen to the testimony, and we can later discuss matters relating to developing a comprehensive recovery and resiliency plan in response to the wildfires of August 2023. So, if there are no objections, I will now defer this item.


**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**ACTION: DEFER**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. This concludes the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee. I appreciate you all, Members. The time is now 9:43, and this meeting is adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

**ADJOURN: 9:43 p.m.**

APPROVED BY:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
NOHELANI U'U-HODGINS, Chair  
Government Relations, Ethics, and  
Transparency Committee

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Transcribed by: Tricia Higa, Daniel Schoenbeck,  
& Terianne Arreola

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CERTIFICATIONS

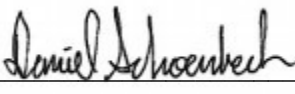
I, Tricia Higa, hereby certify that pages 1 through 95 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 7th day of November 2023, in Mililani, Hawai'i

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tricia Higa


I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 96 through 159 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 7th day of November 2023, in Kula, Hawai'i

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Daniel Schoenbeck

I, Terianne Arreola, hereby certify that pages 159 through 186 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 7th day of November 2023, in Makawao, Hawai'i.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Terianne Arreola