

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

MINUTES

April 10, 2025

Lāhainā Civic Center, Social Hall

CONVENE: 6:00 p.m.

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

EXCUSED: Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst
Keone Hurdle, Legislative Analyst
Maria Leon, Committee Secretary
Lori Ann Tengan, Committee Secretary
Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui Residency Office

ADMIN.: Marcy Martin, Director, Department of Finance

OTHERS: Jo Anne Johnson Winer, Executive Director, West Maui Hospital Foundation
Thomas Daya, Director of Operations, Boys & Girls Club of Maui
Maria Michel Ramos
Dan Jaeger, West Area Director, Boys & Girls Club of Maui
Kili W.B.
Noe D.L.G.
Wendy Moore
Michelle Cendana, Volunteer Board Member, West Maui Hospital Foundation
Rick Nava, Board Member, West Maui Taxpayers Association
Carolyn Auwelo, Director of Operations, Lāhainā Community Land Trust
Miriam Keo, Office Manager & Compost Coordinator, West Maui Green Cycle
Kekai Keo
Patty Copperfield, Transportation Director, MEO
Jeremy Delos Reyes, Founder, Kaiāulu Initiatives
Debbi Amaral, Program Director, MEO Head Start
Theo Morrison, Executive Director, Lāhainā Restoration Foundation
Hedy Udarbe, President, Lāhainā-Honolua Senior Citizens Club
Peter Fard
Katie Austin, Secretary, Kaiāulu Initiatives

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

Ginger Prince
Elle Cochran
Autumn Ness, Executive Director, Lāhainā Community Land Trust
Shannon I‘i, Vice President, Kaiāulu Initiatives
Mikey Burke
Gretchen Losano, Owner, West Maui Green Cycle
Adam Lee, Founder, Kaopala
Yayoi Hara
Jordan Ruidas, Organizer, Lāhainā Strong
Junya Nakoa
Kanani Pu‘ou

Others (20)

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . It’s now 6:00 p.m., and we are at the Residency Area Meeting for West Maui. We’re so grateful to be here. Thank you very much, everybody. It is now 6:00 p.m., April the 10th. I am...I am the Chair of this Committee, Yuki Lei Sugimura. And we have your Councilmember, Tamara Paltin, who will introduce our fellow Councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Just some housekeeping. The women’s restroom is out this door, and the men’s restroom is out that door, and food is until it’s gone. Help yourself. And from my end over here, we have Councilmember Shane Sinenci on this end from Hāna.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Then we have Councilmember Tom Cook out of South Maui. Our Chair, Yuki Lei Sugimura, is coming from the Kula Upcountry District. And we have Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez from the Island of Moloka‘i.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And we have Councilmember Gabe Johnson from the Island of Lāna‘i. We have our Finance Director as a resource here. First, you guys are special, and her name is Director Marcy Martin. And I’ll let the Chair introduce the rest of the Staff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think you forgot to introduce the most important person, George Vierra, who made the food by...and...and not by demand, by command, right? And we’d like to thank Carl from *Akakū*, who is filming this tonight. So, we are...we will be playing back the whole meeting on...through *Akakū* and filming it. And we don’t have anybody who’s not here being able to come online because we didn’t set ourselves up for that kind of

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

meeting, but we are very happy to have *Akakū*'s support. From Committee Staff, we have Maria Leon--is Maria here or there?--Maria's there. Lori Ann Tengan, as well as Ellen McKinley, and Keone Hurdle. Thank you very much. Finance Director, she was introduced, and I want you to know that we asked her to be here as a resource because we were getting questions about real property tax assessments. So, if anybody had questions regarding your real property tax, it will be due at the appropriate time, but we thought if you had questions, you can have a one-on-one talking to Marcy Martin. Marcy, would you like to say a few words? Where did she go? Oh, there.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you. Yes. And I want to thank the Budget Committee for inviting the Department here today to talk about real property taxes. And it's especially important in Lāhainā right now. So, assessment notices were mailed on March 15th, and like the past few years, values have increased due to the general market conditions. And so, in this year's budget, the Mayor has proposed a tax rate decrease for the Owner-Occupied class, and tax rates are part of this budget process. Once we certify values on April 17th, this body and the Council will be deliberating on tax rates. So, your opinions, and testimonies, and letters are encouraged. So, the County of Maui offers a variety of targeted tax relief, and I just wanted to real quick review those. We have our Owner-Occupied exemption, which gives you \$300,000 off the value of your home plus the favorable rate. And applications are due December 31st, and you only apply once for the home exemption. Then once you have your home exemption, you may be eligible for a circuit breaker credit, which is an income-based tax credit, and that is by application each year. And this past...was it in November?--the Council passed new criteria for the circuit breaker program, which is going to allow more people to qualify. So, if you're feeling like, I don't think I can pay my taxes, that's a good avenue for you to pursue. And the application period for that is August through December. And then the newest program is the long-term rental exemption. If you are renting long-term to someone for a year or more, you can get a \$200,000 exemption plus the Long-Term Rental tax rate, which is also favorable. And you can double up on your long-term rental exemption and your home exemption. So, if you have two houses, you can get the home exemption in the house you're living in, and then the long-term rental exemption in the second home. And I also wanted to mention that homes destroyed by the wildfire, and homes located in those burn scars, are exempt from real property taxes again this fiscal year. That was passed by Council this November, Ordinance 5727. But even though you're exempt, I want to remind you to make sure your mailing address is up to date at the Real Property Assessment Division, because you will want to receive mail from us. And when you do become taxable, you'll want to be notified. And we are located at the Kahului Service Center. We're open Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 4:00, and we're very reachable. You can call us, you can email us. Phone number is 270-7297. Email is rpa@co.maui.hi.us. So, any time of year, if you have a question about your assessment, you can reach out to us. And I am available for questions right now. I will go out to the patio if you want to meet with me one-on-one. And thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Tamara wanted to introduce some other important people.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I neglected to mention my Staff also helped set up all of this. I have Christian Balagso right over there. And Angela Lucero will be serving as our mic technician, if you need any adjustment assistance. And we are going to try and take youth, and kūpuna, and those on the bus first, so that, you know, if they have to go to school tomorrow and ride the bus home.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Yeah, we...as you signed in, we asked you to source yourself. So, if you need...if you're young or if you're a kūpuna, that you would be able to testify earlier than...than everybody else. So, this meeting is being televised through *Akakū*. So, thank you very much. We will now take public testimony. And if you would like to testify, please identify yourself by name. If you do not want to be identified, then I'm sure you would have told us when you signed in, and we will sign you in as to how you signed up. You...if you can also submit comments on mauicounty.us/agendas. And when you do testify, after you state your name and we begin, the clock is three minutes. And if...to finish, you'll have another 30 seconds to complete your testimony. We...we will also take written testimony, and we want to encourage you to submit that because then we can look at it later. So, at this time, please call up the first testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the first testifier is Jo Anne Johnson Winer, to be followed by Maria Michel Ramos.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MS. WINER: Gee, I thought they'd get the kids first. I...I guess there's an advantage to being kūpuna. Anyway, Budget Chair and Councilmembers, thanks so much for coming and enduring the traffic. As President of West Maui Hospital Foundation, I just wanted to update you on our grant request, which is included in the Mayor's Budget. I've provided each of you with a copy of what was submitted, and it's under Office of Economic Development. Since we've been advised by Administration that there are no CDBG-DR funds available for our West Maui hospital, we will continue to seek private financing. Because the hospital has been shown on the recovery plan for Lāhainā as privately-funded, it requires us to embark on a capital campaign. We've also been advised that the County requires updated architectural and engineering plans, which will cost around 750,000, and we're going to do our best to secure this through donations or other grants. Since construction costs are at such a high level due to material expenses, we're looking at approved alternatives that may help us to reduce these costs. Modular forms and fire retardant blocks are being used throughout the country, and even here in Hawai'i, provided the building codes are updated to accommodate them. This could be a huge help to reducing the overall cost for our project. The \$20 million State special purpose revenue bond is still in effect. However,

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

the timing is not ideal for floating bonds, and we have not sought additional help from them at this time. And we'd really appreciate your support for our grant request. We acknowledge that the Council has always supported our project because you recognize that Lāhainā must have services that are critical to our safety and our welfare. These needs were not being met before COVID or the fire, and things continue to deteriorate with each passing day. I know you understand that West Maui needs and deserves a hospital. Whatever you can do to make it possible will be a blessing for those of us who live here now, as well as future generations. Thanks very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Former Councilmember, really.

MS. WINER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody have questions? Seeing none. Next testifier. Thank you.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Maria Michel Ramos, to be followed by Thomas Daya.

MS. RAMOS: Hello. So, I'm here on behalf of the Lāhainā Head Start, and how it has benefited my daughter, Alia (*phonetic*), and it has helped her to socialize more, communicate, be patient. She has grown a lot from the time she has started to now, and I am grateful for Head Start, and I am positive it will help other kids in the future. And also, the Lāhainā teachers have been really good to not just my daughter, but everybody. And thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very nice. Any questions? Seeing none. Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Thomas Daya, to be followed by Dan Jaeger.

MR. DAYA: Aloha kākou. My name's Thomas Daya, Director of Operations of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui, and on behalf of the thousands of youth we serve across six different clubhouses, and soon to be, hopefully, eight, with one of them being on Moloka'i, I just want to give you a big mahalo, and hope for continued support in doing what we do there at Boys and Girls Clubs. Without Boys and Girls Clubs, thousands of youth...hundreds of youth a day, thousands of youth a year, wouldn't have a safe, fun, and positive place to go. Many of the kids we serve, some have supportive relationships at home, others do not. Some have a place to do homework, others do not. But at Boys and Girls Club, everyone has access to academic success programming, and a place to do their homework, workforce development, social-emotional learning now, where we have a mental wellness specialist going around to six clubhouses. As we've known, the mental health needs of our youth have increased. We have work-based learning programs, where youth can earn stipends and get...get ready for the workforce. Sports, fitness, and recreation every day so that kids are staying healthy and fit, something we know that's good for their overall well-being. The arts so they can express themselves, and so much more. And if it wasn't for the County's support and all of you here today, we wouldn't be able to do that. We'll be

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

having a few youth, and our West Maui Area Director testify as well, and talk about a place that's near and dear to my heart, the Lāhainā Clubhouse. And I...we just ask...humbly ask for your continued support, and hopefully a 5 percent increase in the future. As we know, the financial needs have increased over the years, as well as the needs of the youth. And the one beautiful thing about Boys and Girls Clubs, we never stop. We will do whatever it takes through any storm, through any fire, through anything going on, to ensure that the kids have supportive relationships, staff they can go to, and a place. And if we have to find different locations because our site's inaccessible, we will. Our team's incredible, they stand by the youth, and it's a program that I've seen affect youth 8 to 18, and even just leaving the Lāhainā Clubhouse today, alumni stop by and say hi and show how they're doing in their world. So, you guys have an incredible impact on the youth in this community by supporting us, and I just want to thank you all because I feel blessed in getting to do what I do. And, you know, we're always going to do more and more each year so that the kids can grow and develop to be the best versions of themselves. So, mahalo nui loa, and I hope you guys have a great night.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? No questions. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Dan Jaeger to be followed by Kili W.B.

MR. JAEGER: Well, it's always tough to follow TJ. He's so passionate and knows the organization so well. My name's Dan Jaeger. I'm the West Area Director. I'm not the Lāhainā Clubhouse Director. We do have a young man in that position. My position was actually funded by a private donor to do capacity building out here on the West Side, and I started about a year ago. A number of different programs and partnerships, including an art therapy program, an overnight camping program, Ukulele with Jason. The list goes on, but that's not really what I'm here to talk about. What I was going to reference tonight was really the evolution of our operation out here on the West Side over these basically last 18 months, of which, again, I've only been here a year of, but the real...the real story is that the Boys and Girls Club never stopped serving the youth. Whether it was operating out in Nāpili Park or out of a hotel, or out of a great, great partnership that we had with Lāhainā Intermediate School for quite a while in their band room, and...and then eventually into a couple of the modulars, and then finally a return to our clubhouse on Shaw Street in January. And that was the opening with the kids, and then we did, of course, a more public grand opening in February. But, you know, the...the fact that...that...that this organization is there for the kids, as TJ said, no storm, no fire, nothing's going to stop this organization. I'm so proud...so proud to be a part of it. I can tell you that I've been in the nonprofit world for over 30 years--I won't mention which organization, it's one particular for most of the time--and we...we'd have to fight to generate revenue, and we did that by charging the families and charging the community. And this organization, the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui, the fact that they provide this service to these...to the...we always talk about serving the kids. I always say, you guys, don't forget, we're serving the families. We're serving the workforce, so we're serving the whole community. But for this organization to do this at no charge and no fee to the families through the support of the County, as

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

well as the support of many donors and foundations, it really is amazing for our families and...and our kids. So, we appreciate your support so very much, and we're about to have some of our youth come up and speak. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for your service. Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Kili W.B., to be followed by Noe D.L.G.

MR. W.B.: 'Ano'ai me ke aloha. I am Kili. I am a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Maui, Lāhainā Clubhouse. I've been a member since August 2024. I learned about the clubhouse from a few friends, and also from the August 8th We Are Lāhainā event. Through the months I've been at club, the programs I've learned to enjoy is eSports, Money Matters, and dodgeball. Through the other few months, I've met many amazing people that have changed my life, and they also gave me a sense of belonging. We, as the youth of Lāhainā Clubhouse, want to thank you guys for supporting us, and we want to mahalo you guys for all the work you have done. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: There's a question for you, if you could come back. Oops. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sorry about that. Thanks for coming back. I have a quick question for you. You mentioned eSports. What games are you playing?

MR. W.B.: Right now, we are trying to get some of the kids into a few other games--Mario Kart, Super Smash Bros. We're also getting a few of the kids into one of the more active games, Just Dance.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Just Dance?

MR. W.B.: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Where you dance on the thing and you get the score?

MR. W.B.: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And it's a sport, so the highest score wins?

MR. W.B.: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's amazing. Thanks so much. Thank you, Chair.

MR. W.B.: Of course.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very cool. Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Noe D.L.G., to be followed by Wendy M.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

MR. D.L.G.: Aloha. My name is Noe. I am a member of the Boys and Girls Club of Maui Lāhainā. Sorry. I've been attending since June, 2023. I like coming to the club because of the variety of games, sports, and activities. The clubhouse has helped me become...has helped me become more confident and social. I like coming...well, sorry. First...when I first joined the club, I was very shy and timid. I wouldn't even talk to the staff themselves. I would keep to myself, and the more I kept coming, the more easier it became to be able to talk with the rest of the people, and I started becoming more active, joining more programs, and I like coming to the clubhouse. So, after that, we...sorry. After that, I made a lot of new friends, and, well, events happen, but I started joining into programs, and my favorite...my three favorite programs are eSports, D&D, Torch Club, where I sit as treasurer. One thing I've learned at the club is to respect others. This skill...this skill allows me to be more compassionate, and help others. I have most fun when I'm playing soccer at the club, and it allows me to be active and learn new things. I couldn't have experienced these things without your support. Mahalo from the Boys and Girls Club.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very well done. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Wendy M., to be followed by Hedy Udarbe.

MS. MOORE: Hi. My name is Wendy Moore. I go to the Lahainaluna High School, and I've been attending the Boys and Girls Club Maui Lāhainā Clubhouse for four-and-a-half years now. I would say my favorite programs to do are Keystone, volleyball, and snack shop. Keystone is a little program that helps us not only to get to know each other, but also to get to know ourselves within our teens who are 14 and up. And I sit as our vice president. And I remember whenever I first came to the clubhouse, I was 11, and the teens there who were in Keystone inspired me so much, and I never thought I would be here as a 15-year-old...only 15, being our vice president and the oldest, and one of the most longest-going members there. And after the August 8, 2023 wildfires, it was very weird to go to a park, or a hotel lobby, or my middle school at the time band room, and have to call it a clubhouse. So, whenever I got the news that we were moving back to our clubhouse, I was very thankful to be in my second home, which means so much to me, and I couldn't have done it without your guys' support. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very nice. Thank you. No questions. Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Hedy Udarbe, to be followed by Ginger Prince.

MS. UDARBE: Hello, everyone. Can everybody hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. UDARBE: I'm Hedy Udarbe, President of the Lāhainā Honolua Senior Citizens Club. I'm here to ask to support all programs that impact our seniors. With the wildfire behind us, the seniors are slowly getting back to normal. They were devastated when the Kaunoa West Center was engulfed in fire. That's the place where they do their monthly

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

meetings. You know, they do a lot of activities over there, and like I said, they were really devastated. So, at that time, Arleen Gerbig, being the president, diligently tried to look for a location where they can hold their monthly meetings. She asked the help of Debbie Cabebe. Debbie is the CEO of MEO. Together, they found a place, and MEO opened their door to the Lāhainā seniors, and they found a room where we can hold our monthly meeting. You should see their faces when we told them that. Happy, thankful faces. Finally, they're able to meet their fellow members. They get together, contact each other, chit-chat together, keeping touch of what's going on, and slowly, they heal together. They're such a close...I'm not from Lāhainā, they are such a close-knit family. This is what I observed. So, I would like you to please continue to fund the MEO transportation. I'm here to ask for that. There are many seniors who can no longer drive. Pretty soon, I will be one of them. So, they depend on the MEO bus to take them to the Queen Ka'ahumanu Shopping Center, Maui Mall, Walmart, Target, to the doctor's appointment, post office, or excursions that are sponsored by the MEO. Transportation also allows them to take...I mean to join the activities of the various senior centers throughout the community. Activities like aerobics, tai chi . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . oil painting, and computer classes--which I do need that--where our seniors learn new skills. Many of our seniors live alone. Attending these activities helps them make new friends and interact with other seniors, keeps their minds alert and their bodies strong.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much

MS. UDARBE: MEO drivers . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . are very...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. UDARBE: Am I out of time?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have any questions?

MS. UDARBE: Can I just share one case scenario before I go? I would like to share a scenario where a dialysis patient from Rainbow Dialysis was being driven home at 8:30 in the evening. On the way home, the MEO driver noticed that the patient's arm for the fistula--this is where they put, do the dialysis treatment--is bleeding and dripping in blood. The MEO driver made a quick decision. Instead of taking that patient home, he called this...she called dispatch and informed her of the situation. Dispatch called Rainbow Dialysis was...because that area...I mean, Liberty Dialysis. So, the patient came from Rainbow. On the way...the Liberty Dialysis is closer. So, the driver took the patient to...to Liberty Dialysis. The nurse was already waiting for them out there because the dispatch informed them of the situation. And the nurse went in the bus, assessed the situation, and look at the patient, give proper treatment, change whatever is needed to be...do whatever was needed to be done, and the patient was driven home safely. So, if there are so many, but if I do all that, we're going to stay here all night. Thank you so much --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

MS. UDARBE: -- for listening.

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

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Ginger Prince, to be followed by Elle Cochran.

MS. PRINCE: Aloha. My name is Ginger Prince, a long-time local kūpuna, and I'm not as well organized as all these young guys that are...kids that are doing so well. I kind of just speak from the heart. And I'm here to ask any consideration that can be given to the land trust because as we all know, Lāhainā was about the people. And we've lost so many people. And the land trust is really helping keep them in their lands, and getting back to their lands, and that's...that's the heart of Lāhainā. So, any consideration that can be given to the land trust, that's what I'm here to beg for. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair...oh.

MS. COCHRAN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I'm kūpuna, but I'm not really. I am, but I'm not. I can stay up late, so you can put me last. Go ahead and put me last.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier will be Michelle Cendana, to be followed by Rick Nava.

MS. CENDANA: To the County Councilmembers, Staff, and honored members of our community, aloha and good evening. I'm Michelle Cendana. I'm a proud resident of West Maui, a volunteer board member of the West Maui Hospital Foundation, a retired U.S. Army soldier, and a full-time real estate broker on our island. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on one of the most critical and urgent needs facing our community today...the construction of the West Maui Hospital. Currently, West Maui residents rely on a single highway, our only route in and out, to access the nearest hospital. This highway becomes a dangerous bottleneck during accidents, natural disasters, or even routine traffic congestion. In emergencies, the 45-minute to one-hour drive to the central hospital can, and has, cost lives. I've heard heartbreaking stories from families whose loved ones didn't survive the journey. One friend of mine gave birth in an ambulance on the side of the road before the Pali. She lost a significant amount of blood, and required an emergency blood transfusion upon arrival at the hospital. The outcome could have been far worse. No mother, no family, should have to endure that kind of fear and risk. During the COVID pandemic, I became the primary caregiver for my father as he battled cancer. I rushed him to the emergency hospital or emergency room multiple times, often in the middle of the night. I recall one night in particular, after hours of waiting, I was told he would be admitted. Relieved, I drove back to Lāhainā and arrived home just after 9:00 p.m. Within 15 minutes, I got a call that he was being discharged, and needed to be picked up immediately. I explained that I needed at least

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

30 minutes of rest before making the drive back for my safety, and the safety of others on the road. That night never left me. As a real estate broker, I once worked with an 81-year-old client who pleaded with me not to grow old on Maui because of the limited access to healthcare. She had already visited the ER several times in the short period I knew her. All I could say was, ma'am, if the good Lord allows me to reach your age, I hope there's better medical care on this island. Eventually, she left Maui. That should never be anyone's only option. And now, as West Maui continues to heal from the devastating August 8, 2023 . . .(timer sounds). . . wildfire, the need for a hospital has never been more urgent. Our community has been through unimaginable loss and trauma. Building the West Maui Hospital is not just about convenience. It's about resilience, preparedness, and protecting lives in the face of future emergencies. Hope is not a strategy. I cannot wait until I'm 81 to take action. I stand in strong support of building this hospital, not only for the residents who live here now, but for the generations who will come after us. West Maui needs this hospital. We need your support at every level of government . . .(timer sounds). . . to make this plan a reality. Our community deserves timely, reliable, and compassionate healthcare. Mahalo nui loa. Let's make it happen.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Next testifier, please. Rick Nava, I see you walking up.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Rick Nava, to be followed by Carolyn Auwelo.

MR. NAVA: Thank you. Aloha, everyone. I'm Rick Nava. I am representing the West Maui Taxpayers Association. I actually had a chance to review the budget. I was trying to compare it from the previous years. But the one thing I wanted to share also is that for the last three years, I've stood here and we've been advocating for our Parks and Recreation, especially for the playground here in Lāhainā. Please, please, please take care of our playground. This is the only thing that we have right now. When you talk about mental health, those are the kind of things that would help our children. So, please provide us with playground equipment. Those playground equipment was actually donated by the Hyatt Regency Maui. So, if you could please upgrade that, as well as fix our aquatic center, that would be very helpful. The other thing that I'm very concerned, as we all know, safety, health, and welfare should be our priority. I am very concerned, the decrease on the budget from \$17 million to 3 million for MEMA. I don't know exactly what's going on, but there is an increase in public...for Police and Fire Department, but to have a \$13 million decrease [sic] in...in the emergency...MEMA, I'd be very concerned about that. So, please take a look at that. The bypass, I understand...I fully understand that this is an issue with the State. However, with the \$1.6 billion that we received from the Federal...you know, and I've been attending all these meetings, and everything about the 1.6 billion is about housing. Well, you know, the bypass actually saved a lot of people's lives, including my family's lives. To rebuild the town and not include the bypass being extended to the north, I think that's kind of like neglecting our responsibility in providing safety for the people of Lāhainā. You know, we need to really take a look at that and see what we can do with the 1.6 billion. I'm told that it...by the State, that it was at 55 million at one point. Maybe it's more

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

now, but we're dealing with 1.6 billion. I know it's not in the budget, but I'm hoping that you guys could push for that. The...I've been listening to a lot of the talks about everything that's going on here. I am very concerned--by the way, I'm also the Chairman of the Board of the Maui Chamber of Commerce--I am very concerned that nothing is being said about our small businesses. No grants, no money, nothing was going on. We need to get these people back. When we had the COVID, grants were given to some businesses to get...to get them back off the ground. And right now, people on Front Street, the owners there, they're really looking for help. You know, I've talked to a lot of people. A lot of these people are actually leaving the island because they can't...you know, they're...they're tired of going through the process. They don't know the process. And I've actually talked to a lot of people. And now you've got all these people here in Lāhainā that's building all these humongous homes with the same road. And again, this is all about safety right now. I know that's not part of the budget, but since I have you as an audience, I'd like to go ahead and share that with you. And it was actually six pages, but I cut it down because I only had three minutes. So, anyway, bus services. Please, please, please. . . .(timer sounds). . . You know, we need to look at the bus services so that people can go back to Kahului to work. You know, they can come in to work here, but when you stop the bus at 9:00, most people work from 1:00 to 9:00, 2:00 to 10:00, 3:00 to 11:00. They would love to take the bus into Lāhainā, but they're not be able to go home. So, anyway, I heard the bell. So, thank you so much. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. No questions. Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Carolyn Auwelo, to be followed by Miriam Keo.

MS. AUWELOA: I'm a little shorter. Yes, thank you. Hey, aloha. I'm Carolyn Auwelo. I was born and raised in Lāhainā. I serve...I'm one of the founding members, and now I'm the Director of Operations for the Lāhainā Community Land Trust. And I just wanted to come...and I've been able to thank many of you individually over the last year, but I want to thank you collectively as a Committee again for your support last year. We can't emphasize just how much your support, and confidence in our team, and what we're here to do has meant to us. And we have leveraged it, and been having an amazing season of growth this past year. We have, just this afternoon, verbally accepted our seventh property. It's actually coming by way of a donation, a planned-giving donation that we're blown away by. And to me, it's just a testimony of what we're seeing grow in our community where more and more people are seeing hope for our future, for our community to still have a place here for generations. And so, a lot of...this is being made possible because of the support of you folks, and the many other donors and funders that have believed in this...in this mission. And so, thank you. We have our first four insurance-gap participants about to sign paperwork, and we are working diligently to get the next ten in the queue. Again, thanks to a lot of support from you folks. And to me, this is...this is really where some of our most important work is. This is where we're helping our...our homeowners rebuild and successfully get back home. With the escalating prices, I mean, we couldn't have a more perfect storm with now the tariffs, and the changes to shipping, and the struggle is so real. Families are doing everything

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

that they can, figuring out every strategy, turning over every stone. And we're so grateful that we can come and...and stand in that gap with them, and help. But there's so much more need. We will...we will quickly have spent out the allocation from last year. We are actively fundraising, but we could really, really use more support to help us continue this important work. We have created amazing partnerships with the LTRG, with Hawai'i Community Lending, and Hawai'i Community Assets, and the myriad of volunteer organizations that are coming here to help also. And so, we are doing everything we can to just partner with all the...all the great folks that are helping to...to get our Lāhainā residents home. But, you know, at some point, there...there sometimes just needs to be that financial assistance. And so, we're so excited because we can now say that Maui County has land that is permanently protected for the local community in perpetuity. That's the first time I think we can really say that. That's an awesome win, guys. And we are only going to get better and have more. And it's...but it's because of the support of...of our...first, our community, who believed in this...in this mission, and this vision, and then you folks, and then, you know, all the other funders and people that have come alongside us this past year. So, thank you so much. Please know that the need is still so desperate. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . We're getting more calls all the time. And I wish...if there's one regret I have this past year, I wish we'd been keeping track of every call we received, and all the folks we were able to redirect, or even just give them hope and...and help them to know like, wait, it's not over yet, there's going to be a way to do this. And just getting them directed to the right places to get the right help, and...and the...the sales we've been able to prevent in that way, that...that, to me, is a win. We don't have a measure on it yet, but we're trying to do better at keeping track of that kind of stuff now. But, you know, we're getting more and more calls all the time. The realities are becoming clear for a lot of families, and we want to be able to continue to meet that need. And we thank you so much for your support. And thank you . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Mayor Bissen, for putting us in his budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MS. AUWELoa: Any questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Question from Member Sinenci.

MS. AUWELoa: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Carolyn.

MS. AUWELoa: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And mahalo to the crew for all your guys' great work. I did...my question was, are you...is the land trust pursuing Open Space in Lāhainā as well?

MS. AUWELoa: We have the option...we have the ability to, but our community's most desperate need right now is affordable housing, and that's where the greatest opportunity has been, and need. So, we've been mostly focused there. We have explored

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

a couple of Open Space options, and there's some conversations going on, but we haven't...we haven't closed on any of those yet.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Because I...I...I saw that in the Open Space, there are some funds for...for the Lāhainā area.

MS. AUWELoa: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So...yeah.

MS. AUWELoa: Yeah. We're in communications with actually a few other County departments and other community organizations to see what role we might have to help.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, good.

MS. AUWELoa: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

MS. AUWELoa: Thank you. Yes, good question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Auwelo. Mahalo for your testimony.

MS. AUWELoa: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: To clarify, as you were listing off some of the organizations that you've partnered with, that the Lāhainā Community Land Trust has partnered with, I couldn't help but notice that Hawai'i Community Foundation with the Maui Strong Fund that collected money to help Lāhainā was not listed as one of the organizations that you named in your testimony. Did you not receive any funding from Hawai'i Community Foundation yet?

MS. AUWELoa: That's correct, Councilwoman. I'm sorry that I can't report that we've had any support yet. We have not. We have been working diligently to try to express our need, and satisfy the needs of the application process. It's been about a year we've been going through the process, and we have yet to receive any support from HCF.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Shameful. Mahalo for your response, and I hope everyone here heard that, and put pressure on them to have them donate to the Lāhainā Community Land Trust.

MS. AUWELoa: Thank you.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions? Seeing none. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Miriam Keo, to be followed by Kekai Keo.

MS. M. KEO: Aloha mai kākou, Councilmembers. Thank you for being here. My name is Miriam Keo, and I'm here today to advocate for the continued financial support for West Maui Green Cycle. Our vital mission to divert food waste and compostable materials from our landfill is super important. You know, there's differing opinions on the urgency of climate change, but scientific consensus is clear. Greenhouse gases like methane pose significant threat to our environment, and in 2024 alone, West Maui Green Cycle successfully diverted more than 535,000 pounds of food from the landfill. This reduction in methane emissions is equivalent to taking approximately 165 cars off the roads for an entire year. Beyond the crucial environmental benefits, our work directly addresses a pressing local challenge, our diminishing capacity of our landfills. By diverting significant amounts of food waste, we're extending the lifespan of this critical infrastructure. Furthermore, this diverted waste is not simply discarded, it's transformed into a valuable resource. And our commitment extends to the next generation through our expanding school programs. In addition to our established lunch food-waste collection program, we're now collaborating with the garden teacher at Princess Nāhi'ena'ena, providing hands-on composting education to our keiki. We teach them essential skill of source separation, and also demonstrate the transformative process of turning food scraps into fertile compost. The students actively participate now in building and maintaining compost piles at the school, and they will eventually witness firsthand the efforts in their school gardens. Over the past year, West Maui Green Cycle has experienced significant growth, necessitating a move to a larger facility that allowed us to expand our capacity and impact. We have also forged valuable partnerships with organizations like the Maui Huliau Foundation, whose mission aligns with ours in diverting waste and promoting sustainability. On a personal note, as a fire survivor who has experienced a profound loss of my home and community in Lāhainā, the work we do at West Maui Green Cycle has been deeply healing. Witnessing the transformation of discarded food waste into life-giving compost has been incredibly eye-opening for me, and it reinforces the importance of our work in nurturing our kaiāulu. The positive impacts of our efforts directly benefit the people of Maui, and particularly the ongoing recovery efforts of Maui Komohana. The continued financial support of West Maui Green Cycle is not merely a request, it's an imperative investment in the environment and economic well-being of Maui County, especially as we rebuild. My employer has actually already sent a detailed email outlining our specific funding requests and supporting statistics, and we are deeply, deeply grateful for the support you have provided to West Maui Green . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . Cycle thus far. We're confident that with your continued partnership, we can further expand our impact, strengthen our community, and contribute to a more sustainable future for Maui. Mahalo.

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

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Did you put in an application to the Mayor's Budget and get funded --

MS. M. KEO: No, we did not.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- for...for FY '26? What...what is the ask?

MS. M. KEO: 350,000? 350,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Kekai Keo, to be followed by Patty Copperfield.

MS. K. KEO: Aloha mai kākou, and thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Kekai Keo, and I'm an employee of the West Maui Green Cycle. I'm here to advocate for the continued vital support and funding of our programs. Like many in our community, I experienced profound loss in the August 2023 wildfire, losing both my home and my livelihood. The opportunity to return to Lāhainā for work with West Maui Green Cycle has been incredibly meaningful. It allows me to reconnect with my home, and contribute directly to the recovery and well-being of my community. Beyond the personal significance, I want to emphasize the crucial role West Maui Green Cycle plays in our community resilience and sustainability. Our composting initiatives are reducing landfill waste, and creating valuable resources to local agriculture. Our...on a personal level, as a single mom, the job has been an immense blessing, the flexibility it offers me to provide the care to my toddler's needs. I am deeply grateful for a supportive employer who understands the challenges faced by working parents. The continued support of this Council is not just about funding a program, it is about investing in our community's recovery, environmental health, and the well-being of its residents, including working families like mine. Your support is imperative to our continued success, and our ability to serve West Maui. Mahalo nui for your time and consideration and all the funding you guys have done for us. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Patty Copperfield, to be followed by Jeremy Delos Reyes.

MS. COPPERFIELD: Aloha, Chair...no, you're good. Aloha, Chair and Councilmembers. Mahalo for your time. I'm trying to keep mine short and sweet with stats, okay. Over the last three years, MEO...sorry, intro. Patty Copperfield, I'm the Transportation Director for MEO. Start with that. Over the last three years, MEO has transported over 550,000 rides across Maui County, including Maui, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i. These trips enable residents to access rides from dialysis and work, to school and shopping, often when no other transportation options are available. In the current fiscal year, MEO has

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

delivered 137,056 human services trips ,with 32,000 specific to youth transportation, helping our keiki access partner agency programs like Boys and Girls Club, safely fostering growth, education, and stability for working families. 14,000 trips have been directly related to dialysis, providing nonemergency medical transport for patients requiring dialysis treatment multiple times a week. For Adult Daycare and Hale Makua, we've transported about 76,000 trips so far this year, ensuring our kūpuna can access structured care and companionship in safe, supportive environments with partner agencies. Employment transportation has been just about 7,000 trips for this year, supporting the local workforce with rides that sustain household incomes, and contribute to the local economy. When it comes to senior nutrition programs that is part of Kaunoa, we've transported about 5,400...54...5,400 trips this year, transporting kūpuna to Kaunoa congregate meal sites. These rides not only are about nutrition, but also promote socialization, wellness, and mental health. Senior services, there's been about 4,500 trips this year, providing transportation to kūpuna club meetings and community events like the upcoming East Maui Taro Festival that help reduce isolation and maintain connection to culture and community. We've operated just about 4,700 trips for this year, specific to specialized transportation that provides access to daily programs that foster independence for Ka Lima O Maui, Arc of Maui, Laakea Village, and Easter Seal participants. Our rural shopping shuttle has operated just about 4,200 trips this year, giving rural families access to critical rides to appointments, banking, grocery shopping, and essential...essential appointments necessary to live their lives. I respectfully ask for your continued support in these programs because the work we do is tangible, and the impact is real, measurable, and deeply felt across Maui County. Mahalo for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well done. Any questions? Oh, Gabe Johnson has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. Copperfield. I appreciate the service you provide, especially for the Lānaʻi folks who come over for the shopping trip. I assume it's your division that goes and picks them up?

MS. COPPERFIELD: I cannot take all of that because Rose is a phenomenon on that side.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I know Rose brings them down --

MS. COPPERFIELD: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- to the harbor on Lānaʻi.

MS. COPPERFIELD: She brings them down. She starts the process, and she works with my planning staff to make sure it gets going. But it's definitely...she takes the bulk load on...on that one.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: We're so thankful for both of you guys. One thing I'm questioning, though, is...for clarifying, is, you know, post-fire, you have to go down to Mā'alaea now. How does that change your budget? Does it change you need more

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

drivers, you need more buses, you need some more on gas? Has...have you found an increase by running that program because you have to go farther?

MS. COPPERFIELD: Well, not necessarily farther because prior to the fires, it was Lāhainā coming out to Central. So, if anything --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. COPPERFIELD: -- now the...now the participants have way more time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. COPPERFIELD: So, way more baggage. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: More shopping.

MS. COPPERFIELD: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Great. Thank you for that clarification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's true, I saw it. All right. Thank you.

MS. COPPERFIELD: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Jeremy Delos Reyes, to be followed by Debbi Amaral.

MR. DELOS REYES: Yeah, we get three minutes, or can we just jam?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Three minutes --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and 30 seconds to . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. DELOS REYES: Well, you guys all right if I go twice because I'm going to represent one entity and then represent myself. That's okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MR. DELOS REYES: For real?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We know you're one person.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

MR. DELOS REYES: All right. So, aloha...aloha, gang. Thank you for coming tonight. So, I'm going to represent Kaiāulu Initiatives. Kaiāulu Initiatives was what I started right after the fire. It was initially to...the idea is to remove all the dry brush and the invasive species. It was in hopes of bringing the cloud line down in Lāhainā to recharge our aquifer, and in doing so, we found out that the mental health aspect was even greater. To this date, I think we had postponed, or hopefully stopped, six suicides already. Three of them was literally hunting me down and coming to see me, and I just took them up there and we hung out for about eight hours. And one of the gentlemen told me he had a gun in his head, and he said, let me go find this guy. So, you know, the mental health aspect of that is...is amazing. What we're requesting is funding and support through the West Maui Economic Development Fund. We're looking to help get our resources going. We just spoke to Na Kūpuna O Lahaina to try to get like a kūpuna and keiki day up there, where all the...all the uncles and aunties can just come, make lei, talk story, make...play music, and share mo'olelo of Lāhainā, and wherever the wahi is, and share with our generation and our community here. If you guys attended the CWRM meeting a couple of days ago at Lahainaluna High School, the...the information is not very positive with our aquifer and our salinity levels. So, it's even more so to show support for West Maui to regenerate our aquifer, and to recharge our aquifer. You guys can see Honokōwai Valley is one of the only valleys in West Maui that has not...does not have an in-stream flow standard. So, therefore, Kā'anapali Hillside, the coffee farms, and all the hotels below it is still drawing water with a water use permit, which can be revoked at any time, but CWRM doesn't seem to want to. We are in a water crisis throughout the island, not just West Maui. And so, if...with your guys' support, we can really push forward to helping that and find a solution for water. I'm going to speak personally now, is what I really would like to see happen with the budgeting process is, we all saw the report of the proposed pay raises of all lawmakers and all employees of government. I think--correct me if I'm wrong--I saw the operating...the Managing Director's pay is 380,000, somewhere around there is going to be--whew, that's a lot of money, gang. So, right now, the problem that we're having with the rebuild in Lāhainā is that everybody's building illegal. We're not worried about infrastructure from the County, meaning parking, EMS vehicles access, and we're just creating the same hazard . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . as before, whereas you guys saw at Mill Camp. I suggest, why don't we take some of that pay raise money and fund better employees for the County? You guys have three building inspectors right now...I believe so, three. I would love to be one building inspector. I cannot be one building inspector for 60,000 a year, it's just not going to cut it, right? I can go out and make 170,000 a year being a construction worker. So, if you guys going to pull the card, I can better serve you guys by being better paid. And what the hell are we doing with everybody else? . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Why we cannot pay our employees, our...our County workers better, so we can attract more qualified workers, so we can attract competent building inspectors, competent employees for the County, to service everybody here that you see. Other than that, mahalo for your time. Any questions, gang?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You always have the best personality. Thank you. Oh. Member Cook?

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

MR. DELOS REYES: Hey, you guys heard that, huh? Best personality. I like you guys write that down. *Akakū*, it's recorded. Anyway, sorry. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Hey, thanks for your testimony, thanks for all your service. I know that you really engage, help the youth, help everybody. I just want to say like one of the challenges we have is paying people more. The Council wants to give people more, we do the budget and stuff, but we get hurdles and stuff with the public employee unions like that. So, it's not...it isn't that we don't want to, and...and the community, by continuing to speak up, and continuing to advocate to pay the people who work for the County more, the rank and file, the people who are actually in the street, actually driving around doing the work, you'll help us help them. Thank you.

MR. DELOS REYES: Mahalo. Yeah. Sorry, go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you want to...Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You wanted to...

MR. DELOS REYES: Yeah, so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Did you want to respond to his --

MR. DELOS REYES: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- it wasn't a --

MR. DELOS REYES: So...so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- question, it was a comment, but...

MR. DELOS REYES: Yeah, but Mister...Councilmember Cook, you're absolutely right. But, you know, even though the Council wants to do this, how...like...so I pose these questions to all our lawmakers, right, all our representatives. How do you guys fix the problem? What legislation do you guys have to pass? What bills do we have to pass to make that more accessible? I mean, I no like really hear about the union. I no like really hear about this and that. I just like hear how can we make it happen, right? So, like, teachers, they...there's such a teacher shortage that they said, you know, we're just going to give you one two-year course, and then you can become a certified teacher, which I think is kinda crazy, but they did something to fill the gap. What can we do to fill the gap besides saying like oh, it's 'cause of this, it's 'cause of that, let's just fill the gap, let's pay our...pay our community members. I mean, shoots, any one of these guys for \$100,000 paycheck, I guarantee you they would sign up, right? I would. So, anyway, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Perfect segue into my question. Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Delos Reyes. Okay. So, to clarify, you said that as a construction worker, you get paid 170,000. Do you make more than your boss?

MR. DELOS REYES: No. My boss still make more than me.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, if you saw the salaries proposed by the Salary Commission, you would see that the deputy...many of the deputies were about 170,000. So, your question was, how do you fix that? So, if your boss makes more than you, then shouldn't the bosses of the County make more than their...those that work under the deputies and the directors?

MR. DELOS REYES: So, in my head, that's comparing apples to oranges, right? So, I understand you got to get...you got to pay higher to attract the work...the quality worker. I understand that. My point is, we're not doing that for the actual workers.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. And what --

MR. DELOS REYES: Yeah, yeah. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I'm saying is, if the boss is capped at a low rate, then those below them...

MR. DELOS REYES: Should be capped.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, how can they make more than --

MR. DELOS REYES: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- what their bosses make?

MR. DELOS REYES: Right. Yeah. No, I agree with that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, you asked, how do we fix it? And this is one of the ways to fix it. You raise...you increase the...the pay for the ones at the top so that everyone below...you know, rising tide lifts all boats, and then it doesn't just stop there. So, like Member Cook said, they're...they're in unions, HGEA, UPW, but it's mostly HGEA.

MR. DELOS REYES: Right. Right. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, the membership of HGEA needs to put pressure on their leadership when they do collective bargaining that they need to advocate for appropriate raises, especially for Bargaining Unit 3 and Bargaining Unit 13, which are mostly women because of the sexism and patriarchy in the system. Anyway,

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

that was my clarifying question about if your boss makes more than you at \$170,000, and then answering your question that you had posed to us. Mahalo for your testimony.

MR. DELOS REYES: Roger. Roger. I just like follow up with that is, I would love to see that, right? So, if you increase the boss' pay, then it should follow-up, right? Everybody should follow-up.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Absolutely.

MR. DELOS REYES: 100 percent, it should.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Absolutely. And what Mr. Cook...Member Cook did not clarify is that this Council not only wants to and has tried to...that we are, by approving salary supplements, such as retention and sign-on bonuses to kind of get around the unions for not appropriately advocating for their membership.

MR. DELOS REYES: Awesome. That is awesome. I guess from the public perception, just from public optics, the pay goes up, the employees no follow. That's just the public optics what we see. I don't see the background stuff, right? But public optics, you can say, we're going to pay the Administration higher, we're going to pay the bosses higher, should follow. 100 percent, I agree. But the public optics is, it does not follow. And we still stuck.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 100 percent.

MR. DELOS REYES: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. DELOS REYES: So...and mahalo for your guys' time, gang.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait one moment.

MR. DELOS REYES: Oh, one more question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just to clarify, we're going into collective bargaining negotiations, so the timing of it, yeah, that happened. And then you go into collective bargaining, and you going point to that, right? So, that's...that's part of it. But --

MR. DELOS REYES: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the other thing, too, we're...we're...we're trying to do is redescribe all the positions. Because if the position description talks about typewriters and like that, the pay is very low. And if they haven't been updated since the '90s, and that's before like smartphones and stuff like that, that's part of the reason the pay is low. And we're also going to take a look at the rules and the regs of the

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

Personnel Director and see if we can make changes to State law in how they classify the different classes. You know, I guess the...the thing is, you have to classify low...or they like to classify low, and so then the pay is low. So, those are some of the things that we put in the budget too, is to look at the rules and regs of the Personnel Director. When we went to DC, Member Sugimura and myself, we...there's this consultant company that's funded by NACo, so it's part of our organization that can update position descriptions and things like that. So, those are some of the stuff, but it's...it's in the budget as like, you know, to pay consultants to update this, to do this, do this.

MR. DELOS REYES: Awesome. Thank you guys. Have a great night. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Come visit us anytime. Next...next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Debbi Amaral, to be followed by Theo Morrison.

MS. AMARAL: Aloha, Chair, County Members. And I want to say mahalo to the Lāhainā community for just having this opportunity to be here. My name is Debbi Amaral, I'm the Program Director for MEO Head Start. And I just want to recognize the fact that the County has funded Head Start for many, many years. And right now, we have 160 children and families that are funded through the County, serving eight centers, one being in Lāhainā. I'm going to share with you some of the statistics because it makes a difference, and the investment that you make in...in the youth and the families of our communities. So, the workforce development that happens by the support and the facilitation of Head Start classrooms makes an economic impact in Maui County. So, we have 95 percent of families attending extended day centers that...that the County funds, have...have at least one or two parents working, so that makes a significant difference. 41 percent of families receiving assistance are two-parent households, and 59 percent are single-parent households. 36 percent of the Head Start employees that we currently have are either current or past Head Start parents, and out of this number, four have a degree or a credential in early childhood services, in early childhood, and one is currently enrolled in college to get her degree. Three are actually students of Head Start that returned now as...as employees. The classrooms provide a safe, predictable, consistent learning environment for children, which many of them have...may not have that at home, and parents that are participating are engaged. I have one parent that is from Moloka'i. She is a veteran and a single parent of two children. 122 children will be transitioning to kindergarten. And with that, I just want to say thank you for the support, for the investment that you've made. I know that you also have invested in the Imagination Library, which our families are participating in, and if families don't know about it, it gives free books to children from birth to five. So, if you haven't signed up, please do. And I also want to thank you for Kaina Bornacosi being our Early Childhood Resource Coordinator. She's a gem to work with, along with Lori and Jessica. I sincerely appreciate the support. And thank you again for the investment because it's...it's long-lasting. Mahalo for your support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Debbi.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

MS. AMARAL: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good job.

MS. AMARAL: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions? Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Theo Morrison, to be followed by Peter Fard.

MS. MORRISON: Aloha. My name is Theo Morrison. I'm the Executive Director of Lāhainā Restoration Foundation. Thank you very much for coming to see us in West Maui today. I am here to ask your support for two items that are in the budget. The first one is the Historic Groundskeeping Grant, and we've actually had this grant for 20 years, but I just felt the need to remind you how important it is, and make sure it stays in there. It's for 191,000, and this is a grant that we use to maintain all the parks and open spaces in Lāhainā. After the fire, the whole town, as you know, was closed down, so the weeds just went crazy. And the Army Corps came in and cleaned the big stuff, but there was a ton of other stuff left in the grass, and we had to hand-rake it out before we could even bring in the mowers. So, we're out there every day. You can ask Zeke, because he knows, because he drives by often, he sees our guys out there. So, it's a real important grant, and I hope you can keep that in the budget. The other new grant that we just received--or we just heard about, I should say, because it has to go through the process--is 1.8 million from the Office of Recovery, and this is for the architectural drawings, and the planning permits, and stuff like that for the three County buildings that we maintain. So, that's the Old Lāhainā Courthouse, the Old Lāhainā Prison, and Hale Aloha. These are public buildings. We're also getting FEMA money for that. We've been working with FEMA for over a year to...just the whole process you have to go through with them on that. In total, we're restoring eight buildings. We own five of them, and then the three County buildings, so that the money, the 1.8 million, would just be used for the County buildings. So, it'd really help us a lot to get that going. Right now, we are in a master planning process. We've raised \$300,000 to hire a planning firm, and that process will finish in July, which is kind of good timing, and then the other grant would...would kick in for the...those three County buildings. Do you have any questions? Any questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Thank you for your good work, Theo.

MS. MORRISON: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Peter Fard, to be followed by Katie Austin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can I ask how many more testifiers? I'm wondering if we should take a break.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

MR. FARD: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine more. Okay. We're good then.

MR. FARD: My name is Peter Fard. One, I apologize about bringing my dogs. I'm one of the post-fire indirectly-affected residents on Maui. I've been homeless for about...since last January, I've been couch surfing. No one's been able to assist me. Anytime I call anybody who's supposed to help with indirect fire people, they're either out of funds, don't want to help me, I get redirected to go someplace else, and it's just been a nonstop hassle. We have two weeks left at Camp Olowalu, and we don't know what to do after that. I'm a small business owner. I'm a U.S. Air Force veteran, and you guys have to really do something. This is getting ridiculous. There's a lot of people out there who think that you guys can't help us. We can't get help. We can't get housing, you know. And me and my dogs are living in our business vehicle right now. You know, two weeks after Camp Olowalu, we can't camp out on the street. We can't park on the side of the street. We can't go to a homeless shelter because they're full. What are we supposed to do in two weeks? If you guys can, please look into that and help us out. Elle, I'll be calling you tomorrow to discuss it more. I have contacted Jill Tokuda's office, and they have actually witnessed all the unfair things. As far as HCF, I've gone down the entire list. They need to donate. They're taking their money, they're paying themselves off. They're delaying every year so they can continue and have money, and that money is supposed to be for people like us. It's getting ridiculous, you guys. Please help. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin? One moment, Peter. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I just wanted to clarify. You said indirect fire. If you could clarify?

MR. FARD: So, because of the island closure, we lost work. We had to go on unemployment. Unemployment didn't pay us enough. I lost my place. I didn't want to be a part of the eviction moratorium because that could mean my credit. If I was a part of that eviction moratorium, I would not have the money to pay my landlord this whole entire year. I would be in a worse position than I am right now because I wouldn't be able to get a place. I did the responsible thing of leaving and finding him a fire survivor to move in, but that put me into the streets.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And to clarify, of the things, like more rental assistance with like...

MR. FARD: More rental assistance. HIHP has been delayed. They are not contacting me back. It's taken me a month to get into contact with them, do all their work, send their information in, and I still haven't been able to get a contact back. I keep emailing, I keep emailing, and the only person right now in this entire world out of the government and the State is Ms. Samifua (*phonetic*) over at Jill Tokuda's Office right now.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then somebody also...some people this morning spoke about the narrowness of rental assistance. Have you looked into what the qualifications are?

MR. FARD: So, here's how rental assistance works. You fill out your application. You wait 90 days. 90 days, you're supposed to be homeless. And then if they select you...let's say randomly you have...they have money and they select you, you have seven days to find a place. It is literally the most impossible thing on Maui. And if you don't find a place within that seven days, you can reapply and put yourself back into the back of the list.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And other than that obstacles, you would qualify for the rental assistance?

MR. FARD: I would, if they would just give it to me.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. FARD: I've...I've applied with MEO. I've talked to Aloha United Way. Catholic Charities is out of money. I've...I've been through every single route. The only assistance I can possibly get at this point is HIHP, and they've been ignoring me for a month.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. FARD: Thank you. Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Before you ask, can I have your contact information?

MR. FARD: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: If you could leave it with that desk?

MR. FARD: Absolutely. Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, you say you're currently camping? Camp...

MR. FARD: We're...we're Camp Olowalu for 14 days. That's the maximum they have. And I don't know what we're going to do after that.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And who manages that?

MR. FARD: I don't know the owner, but it's private.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Is it...is it...is it full?

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

MR. FARD: That campground is honestly empty because there's...there's no other place that we can go. So, a lot of people can go there for 14 days, but that's it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Can you leave and go back?

MR. FARD: You can come back next month. So, you're...you're basically homeless on the side of the street for 16 to 17 days.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, a safe place to stay would be what you need if you can't find a house?

MR. FARD: Correct. Otherwise I have to risk MPD kicking me out every night.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. Thank you so much for coming and --

MR. FARD: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- and sharing your experience. It's painful --

MR. FARD: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- but it's real. And we feel you, man.

MR. FARD: Thank you. Appreciate it. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Katie Austin, to be followed by Elle Cochran.

MS. AUSTIN: Aloha, Councilmembers. Thank you for being in Lāhainā tonight. So, my name is Katie Austin, I am here with my Kaiāulu Initiatives hat on tonight. And we are requesting any sort of assistance we could from the West Maui Economic Development, Cultural and Environmental Fund. You know, I wanted to throw a number out there, but honestly, we don't know. And this is the first year that we've been doing Kaiāulu Initiatives. And for those of you that don't know what we're doing, right after the fire in November, it all started with a Facebook post from Uncle Jeremy, like who wants to head up the mountain and put some natives in the ground? And it has ballooned into this unimaginable, amazing space. We're currently located on 2.2 acres up mauka right from here. We are looking to expand. We have cleared all of that dry, invasive haole koa, like all the brush that's around those 2.2 acres. We would like to keep going, and we're putting all natives in the ground. Like he said, we're trying to bring the cloud line down, and we need fencing because there's some pesky cows up there that we don't like. And we just need a lot of things to maintain this. And one thing I'm super proud of is like we had no clue what we were doing. We're not farmers. We were literally community members, like we need change. Like nobody has done

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

anything with this land for so many years. And it is truly the sense of hope that like it brings me so much hope. And like he said, it keeps me going. The mental health aspect is unreal. We have keiki groups up there constantly. We're hosting Hawai'i Tech Academy for six Mondays in a row. We have Kula Kaiapuni kids coming up. Like it is just an...it's an amazing space. I would ask everybody to come up and check it out. So, whatever we can do would be absolutely amazing. And I just appreciate you all for everything. Also land trust, yes. And...and then also too, to maybe look in this year's budget about tax increases for second homeowners so that we can...when the Minatoya does hit the County Council, we can have a revenue stream to account for what takes away from the Minatoya. So, mahalo.

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

MS. AUSTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, one moment.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Austin.

MS. AUSTIN: Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: How...I'm sorry, I missed it earlier. How much for Kaiāulu Initiatives that you folks are asking for?

MS. AUSTIN: 30 grand.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 30. Okay. Mahalo.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ask for more.

MS. AUSTIN: I mean, I don't even know. As much as you have, you know, as much as we...I mean, that 30 grand, like, we need machinery. We need fencing ASAP. Those cows...like cows love ti leaf, and I'm like, I'm going to...but yeah. So, as much as possible, and we just...because we want to keep going. We got 2.2 acres. We're looking for a lease for over 500 acres. That's money. And we haven't realized how much money it costs to do this. And we would rather stick in-County and not...of course we can't rely on anything Federal right now, but...you know.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I hear a hamburger fundraiser?

MS. AUSTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Couple things. I can put a line item for Kaiāulu Initiatives, but it still needs to be applied for as a grant. That's okay?

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

MS. AUSTIN: Perfect, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I got my update from Cynthia Lallo, and I had put in for Mālama Maui Nui, but then they got from another one. So, this fiscal year ends June 30th. I can contact the Chief of Staff and say that you wanted to apply for Mālama Maui Nui's 40 grand for this year?

MS. AUSTIN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. AUSTIN: Yeah, that'd be awesome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. DELOS REYES: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. Okay. Thank you.

MS. AUSTIN: Thank you all.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: He like buy the two acres.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Elle Cochran, to be followed by Autumn Ness.

MS. COCHRAN: Aloha. Thanks, Council, and for being here. So, lots to vet through the budget, but I wanted to highlight a couple items that I thought worthy to bring up. On page 8, item 8...page 7, item 8, it's a green building and resilient housing grant. There's 100,000. I don't really know what the details are in that one. And in conjunction, on page 9, the Department of Housing, item 3, experimental demonstration housing projects fund for 4.750 million. And so, what I've been trying to do is gather all the alternative...alternative like housing options. You know, like maybe you're hempcrete, maybe you're a bamboo guy, maybe you're a...you know, one company I've been talking with a lot is Robert Tucker of Castleblock. And it's like a composite type of building material. So, it's...it's prefab, it's modular and things. Why I'm trying to get a Code that allows that type of building here because it's...it's inexpensive, very economical, it's resilient, fire-retardant, right? It's...it's built to withstand hurricane, it's mold-proof, it's sun-proof, it's salt-proof. It's...I mean, all these things where...and R&M is cut out of the picture because once you put it up, there's no treating, painting, termite-proofing...all this stuff. So, I think with these two items, experimental housing and resilient housing-type efforts, I think...please look into different companies that have these capabilities as we rebuild Lāhainā. And this goes for the...the community land grant, this goes for...you know, I want to get support from you folks for

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

Hale Mahaolu, not just their projects, their organization, you know, social service, but we're trying to partner the State to build...rebuild Lāhainā Surf and Front Street Apartments in a big master planning. And I think this type of building material will expedite that process even quicker. Same for the West Maui Hospital, which I'm so supportive, and glad to see there's a line item for that. But I think the...the sky is the limit in looking at alternative housing options for our town to rebuild their permanent homes, but also government to build the buildings we need...in particular Lāhainā, but just in general. You know, when you're talking about new...well, we're the schools, but when you're talking about any type of offices or whatever buildings, even when we want to look at...there's a couple items for Lāhainā community centers coming up, which I'm so happy to see. The senior center, the bus stops and shelters, and...I mean, the list just goes on and on. So, please, I want to look into more what that...what that entails, these resilient housing and new green-type building options. And I...I think any CIP projects, please keep in mind . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . that we have to build back for safety, health, and wellbeing of our community. And that really goes for evacuation routes, you know, extension of the bypass, but it has to be a conjunction of all of us putting our funding together for that one because it will...it did save lives, but it could have saved a lot more lives. So, I have a lot more, but I will send each and every one of you some emails in every department, a lot of emails and questions to clarify, but I'm just here to help assist in any way that I can. So, mahalo for your time and being with us.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much --

MS. COCHRAN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Representative Cochran.

MS. COCHRAN: Yeah. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You sound like you're still a Councilmember.

MS. COCHRAN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, here's Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I just was wondering on the alternative housing experimental stuff. Did you put that feedback into the CDBG-DR action plan feedback? Because I think that CDBG-DR monies is what they're going to use because 80 percent and below, yeah, Lāhainā Surf, Hale Mahaolu, all of those things. So, did you let John Smith know about that?

MS. COCHRAN: No. I mean, not in particular, but I've let John Smith know a lot of things, but not...not specifically for that. But I can, and --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Because --

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

MS. COCHRAN: -- but I will follow-up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I don't think County money is going to fund that build back of it. It's the CDBG-DR money.

MS. COCHRAN: Okay. And just a follow-up, just to ask for support in...you know, efforts with permitting if possible. I...thank you for the demolition permits, but, you know, we got SMAs and things of those hurdles to...to move forward with. So, just in that aspect, in trying to expedite. But I also support a Maui Adult Daycare using temporary use of the building that is still existing there, along with your West Maui County Council office too, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. We just signed the lease, and then we're going to bring in the electric and stuff, and then hopefully Maui Adult Daycare can sign the lease with the Administration.

MS. COCHRAN: Oh, good. Okay, great. Good to hear.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. COCHRAN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. COCHRAN: All right. Thank you. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Thank you very much, Ms. Cochran. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Autumn Ness, to be followed by Shannon I'i.

MS. NESS: Hi, everybody. Twice in one day. I'm here to talk about something different, not the land trust. Speaking on my own behalf. I'm actually here to talk about RPT. Even though we aren't technically there yet, I imagine that as some of you are listening to community members, going over...and going over departmental budget line items, the mental math about how are we going to pay for all this is already happening. So, at this stage in the process, I wanted to share a perspective that is really new to me, and that I'm gaining a deeper understanding of this last few weeks, as the Lāhainā Community Land Trust and our team connect with local business owners to better understand their needs, their workforce, and how we can work together towards a thriving Lāhainā. What we are hearing from them has been incredibly eye-opening and pretty frustrating, to be honest, and I hope it informs your decisions about tax structure in ways that generate funds for critical needs in our community. We are all familiar with the stage in the budget where this body kind of tinkers with RPT rates to generate revenue, and the yearly debate about whether to increase taxes on hotels and resorts. We're also familiar with the old narrative that resorts bring visitors here, and

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

then those visitors go into the community and spend money in locally-owned restaurants, at locally-owned activity companies, et cetera. In talking with local businesses, I am understanding very clearly that that narrative, that model, is dead. That is not real. We are hearing from multiple businesses in all sectors--boat tours, restaurants, surf lessons, kayak tours--in the last couple of years, the resorts have been all systems go on initiatives to keep guests on property, spending more...more money on property that goes to the offshore corporate owners of these resorts, and not into the pockets of our community. From increasing onsite daily parking fees to discourage folks from having cars and freedom, to starting their own surf schools in-house, paddleboard rental companies, they are hoarding more and more of the dollars that visitors bring to Maui. Every year, less and less of the revenue that visitors bring to Maui stays here, and more of it is siphoned off every year to multinational resort companies. Yes, they pay TAT, but we know that doesn't come to Maui like it should. If we recognize that the old model of let the resort to bring visitors here so they can spend money on our community is dead, then we also have to understand that the only real way Maui County can guarantee that visitor spending actually benefits our people is through real property taxes. So, please, as you listen to community members from across this County, as you listen to our hardworking Staff in every single County department share with you so much unmet need, and you think about how we're going to pay for it all, please consider doing the one thing you can to make sure that the resorts route funds generated through the visitor industry back to our community where it belongs instead of shareholders off-island, and raise their RPT taxes...or RPT rates. I learned just yesterday that an average per night hotel room was in the \$400 range just two years ago, and this year it's in the 800s, and people are paying that. Increasing RPT rates . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . on resorts that may translate to something like \$2 a night per room is something that that visitor won't even notice, but will make a huge impact on the lives of these people in our community that we know, and love, and we look at every day. So, please consider doing that. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Autumn. Any questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Ness. Mahalo for your testimony. So, to clarify, you're saying that the activities that local people used to have, or still have, are competing with hotel-owned activity programs that tourists pay to the hotels...to scuba dive, or learn to surf, or whatever?

MS. NESS: Yeah. What we're learning--this is really new to me too, so I wanted to share it with you guys early on--what we're learning is before, the concierge at a resort would like refer you out to XYZ Aloha Surf School or whatever, right? And then that's...and then they might take a cut or whatever, like a referral fee, but that's...now, they're making their own in-house rental agency. So, they're...they just keep it all, you know? Yeah. And that's a...that's a huge diversion from how it used to operate, you know?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that clarification, Ms. Ness.

MS. NESS: Yeah.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. NESS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Shannon I'i, to be followed by Mikey Burke.

MS. I'I: Aloha mai kākou. Mahalo for coming to Lāhainā. I want to start off by saying that we did not receive Hawai'i Community Foundation Maui Strong Fund either. 'O wau nō 'o Shannon I'i, kupa of Lāhainā. Mahalo for the opportunity to speak on behalf of Kaiāulu Initiatives as well, and the work being done to heal, protect, and restore our home. This evening, I stand here to request support from the West Maui Economic Development, Cultural, and Environmental Fund, specifically \$60,000, or any amount available to continue the critical work we are doing on the ground through Kaiāulu Initiatives. For too long, 'āina in Lāhainā has been neglected, overgrown, dry, and vulnerable. As we saw on August 8, the price of that neglect is devastating. We are actively clearing fire-prone...sorry. We are actively clearing fire-prone lands, working by hand with our community day after day, but we need more resources to continue this work efficiently and safety...safely. The work that many in the community are actively doing is tiring, volunteered, but extremely rewarding. At the same time, we are planting drought-tolerant natives to begin reforestation while inviting back the cloud line that once cooled and protected our place and space. These plants are not just tools for mitigation, they are teachers, reminders of our identity, and anchors for future generations. Everything we do is rooted in culture, from the plants we select to the way we mālama them. We teach mo'olelo and include our cultural practices and protocol. We're not just planting trees, we're replanting pilina, restoring relationships between kānaka and 'āina, which is so super-duper important. I believe it's just like returning us home to who we are. Kaiāulu is doing hands-on hard work that government cannot do alone. We are from this land. We know its stories, we carry its memories...but to keep going, we need your support. This work has been extremely healing, rewarding, but most especially, hope-seeing and changed in the little mango that we've gotten, the little milo seeds that are starting to...to come up, the blooms...those are all, like, the visions of change. I can see like the cloud line starting to move, just all of these, but obviously...like the human resource is like really hard to find. And we've really been thriving off of the volunteers that we have, and we just want to continue to do the work. I know that this is going to take a long time, but we've already seen, just within one year, how much of a difference that it has made. So...yeah. Oh, and sorry, I also want to kako'o the West Maui Hospital, the Parks, MEO, West Maui Green Cycle, and Lāhainā Community Land Trust.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Miss...Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez?

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. I'i. Mahalo for your testimony. So, to clarify, Kaiāulu Initiatives applied for funding with Hawai'i Community Foundation, and that...did not receive any funding?

MS. I'I: Yeah. Unfortunately not.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: How much did you apply for?

MS. I'I: I'm not the funding person, unfortunately. A 100,000?

MR. DELOS REYES: 60,000.

MS. I'I: 60,000, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 60,000, and zero?

MS. I'I: Zero, unfortunately.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Zero received. Okay. Mahalo for that clarification. And then...so, we...we took up the Department of Human Concerns today, and what it sounds like you folks are doing is mental health support, and there's \$500,000 in the Department for mental health support. So, you can also look --

MS. I'I: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- into that...that pot of money. Okay. Mahalo, Chair.

MS. I'I: Mahalo nui.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, and then Member Paltin has a question for you. Sorry, I'm not the Chair, but I love what you're talking.

MS. I'I: E kala mai.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We were just talking, and...with my Staff. So, I'm going to try and put in a budget amendment for this fiscal year for the 40,000 that Mālama Maui Nui didn't apply for. The Chair was just wondering, do you guys have a nonprofit or fiscal sponsor?

MS. I'I: We do. We have a nonprofit.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. I'I: Yes.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, that's good, right? Okay. Thank you. So, we'll follow-up on how to apply for the reprogrammed --

MS. IT: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- budget amendment funding.

MS. IT: Mahalo nui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, that's nice. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Mikey Burke, to be followed by Gretchen Losano.

MS. BURKE: Yeah, that's good. Thank you. Aloha mai kākou. I'm here in individual capacity tonight, but as you can see, in Lāhainā, we all wear many hats, so it could get kind of weird. One of the things I like to do is to come up and advocate for protecting and even increasing whatever's already in the budget. My first budget meeting was when my son was three years old. He has special needs, and he was attending Head Start because he needed to be in a least-restrictive environment. And I will credit them for my showing up here every year, and so I want to advocate for MEO Head Start, MEO Kūpuna Services. They...they need to increase the capacity, especially out here in West Maui. So, whatever you guys can do to help them do that, please do. Protect everything in the budget that's related to kūpuna and keiki. We need...we need every single penny we can get for that--Boys and Girls Club, MEO, all the things. Parks and Rec, please protect that funding. Increase that funding. When you go to all the parks in Lāhainā, it's pretty dismal right now. Part of it is because we had to let go of the water. Okay, understand that. But a lot of the parks that we have, we don't even have seating in the park. It's hard to find a trash can in the park. There's no shade in the park. There's a park in Wahikuli that has a playground area, but it's for kids who are kind of preteen, so five...you know, seven and up, I think. There's not even stairs to get onto that play structure. So, the people that use them are toddlers, preschoolers, early childhood, right? They can't even get onto these structures. So, please take a look at our parks. Honokahua, the water...we can't even wash off at that park. Right now, it's MIL season. We're surfing over there. The kids can't even wash off. So, please protect the funding you have in Parks and Recreation. I support West Maui Green Cycle, 350,000. Kaiāulu Initiatives, 1.3, I think you said, 1.3 million. Please, any watershed funding...any watershed funding in the budget, please, please protect that. We need to make sure that we are working on our watershed. If we don't start...we should have started ages ago, but the best time is to start now, right? Okay. West Maui Hospital, always. Lāhainā Restoration, she's doing an amazing job. Please give her whatever money she has in the budget, and if she can tell the story of the real history of this place, then give her more money. Who am I missing? Lāhainā Community Land Trust. I would be remiss if I didn't come up here to mahalo you guys. It's not about the funding, it's about the fact that you put your hat in the ring when nobody else did, right? It could have been a million dollars, it could have been \$5,000, but you guys said, take a look at this land trust and support them. And because you did that, we had

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

. . .*(timer sounds)*. . . funders coming from all over the place to do it, funders that weren't HCF, right? So, we want to mahalo you for that. And I know you spent a lot of time with Autumn today. She's absolutely right. We're coming up to this cliff. We had an opportunity to save seven parcels, but we're coming up to this cliff right now in our community, and it's going to be seven people at a time coming at us, and we need to be able to help every single one of them. So, whatever you can do to protect the funding in the budget and increase that funding, we would be so grateful. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I haven't had a chance to surf this calendar year, so what's going on at Honokahua?

MS. BURKE: It's MIL surf season right now, and that's their base camp. That's where they practice, you know, three times...two, three times a week.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm familiar.

MS. BURKE: Yeah. And so, they can't...the...the shower, the public shower is not available because it's...it's not working, and it hasn't been working for a while now. And so, they have to use other sources of water, and you don't want that, so please fix it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the watershed, there was no money for Aloha Pu'u Kukui because they were transferring from Living Pono Project to their own nonprofit. So, do you support their ask of 500,000 as a late entry to the budget?

MS. BURKE: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. BURKE: You know what else I support?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What else?

MS. BURKE: There's a Lāhainā resiliency hub that's needing more money, and that's coming through the long-term recovery group. So, if you have not seen them put in a grant yet, then I would support them coming to you to ask for help for their Lāhainā resiliency hub. Did I get that right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you support moving the resiliency hub projects from the Office of the Mayor to MEMA?

MS. BURKE: Yes, I do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more questions? Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Gretchen Losano, to be followed by Adam Lee.

MS. LOSANO: Okay. I wrote...I wrote some stuff down so I don't go off into the kuahiwis and never come back. So, first of all, you know, Lāhainā community is so incredible. Please support Kaiāulu Initiatives. I was just up there for mental health this morning. Please support the community land trust, MEO, the Boys and Girls Club, and the hospital. And mahalo for all of your guys' support for West Maui Green Cycle over these last several years. It began as a wish 18 years ago, a way that I thought I could serve our Lāhainā community, and it started becoming a reality right inside the Council Chambers in 2015 when I first met my business partner. Since then, it has grown and evolved into a business that can now sustain itself, and even grow to be several times the size that it is right now with our current equipment. This year, we have finally hit our stride with compost collection and processing, and we are able to provide nutrient-rich compost for the very important restoration projects of Ka Malu 'Ulu o Lele. We have composted 703,000 pounds of compost this past year alone, with 113,000 pounds of that being from the school composting program. We are about to start our curbside collection program, and we are working with awesome businesses like Maui Huliau Foundation, Ku'ia Agriculture and Education Center [sic], Kaiāulu Initiatives, The Nature Conservancy, and the Haleakalā Biochar, to compost more feedstocks, provide dynamic compost, and compost application education and consultation for end users. I'm here to ask for your support for funding for our school compost program. We have grown this special program to include multiple schools and outdoor classroom compost education. With the future uncertainty surrounding the Department of Education, it is more important than ever to safeguard sustainability programs like ours to ensure our keiki have access to a dynamic hands-on approach to food security education that will inform the infrastructure they will support as they become leaders of our tomorrow. We want them to grow up not even thinking twice about food as a resource as opposed to trash, and how it is critical and readily-available building blocks of healthy soil necessary for our locally grown food sustainability goals. It is an absolute privilege and honor to provide this unique program, and we are so hopeful you will put us in as a line item for this fiscal year's budget, or as a permanent line item, so we may continue . . . (timer sounds). . . to grow and expand this program for Maui keiki for many years to come.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Gretchen.

MS. LOSANO: Mahalo.

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

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Adam Lee, to be followed by Yayoi Hara.

MR. LEE: Hey, aloha. Thank you for the time. My name's Adam Lee. I'm here from O'ahu with my wāhine, Ileana (*phonetic*), who will give you some paperwork. I wanted to bring

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

a project just to your attention. Post-fire, we saw a long-term...a need for long-term permanent housing, so we funded our nonprofit and purchased a lot in Nāpili, specifically to make permanent long-term rental housing. And so, we'd love to collaborate in any way with the Council and community. The city's been good about helping with infrastructure and things, and also working with the State as a 201H affordable program. The project will be specifically for displaced generational Lāhainā residents, and it'll be a permanent long-term rental housing. As part of the program, we have senior housing, we have a community center. We're farmers in O'ahu, so our specialty is shoreline native plants, restoration, forestry, and fruits. So, in any way that we can collaborate together, just want to get to know you guys. And the community's been great, and very supportive of the project overall. Also, it serendipitously is the same property that the Lower Honoapi'ilani Highway was going to be relocated into. So, in 2022, the County and DPW came up with a plan to relocate the highway because of erosion, and it just happened to cut through the lot that we ended up purchasing. So, during the due diligence, I saw that, and then in the design, we included the road replacement in the plan. So, it...it would probably save the County quite a bit of money, and we're happy to just, you know, donate it, or...or however we need to, to make it happen. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions for Mr. Lee? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Mr. Lee. Mahalo for your testimony this evening. So, your experience in doing a long-term affordable housing rental?

MR. LEE: Yes, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You did that?

MR. LEE: I have background in real estate, farming, and affordable housing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: On O'ahu?

MR. LEE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. LEE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MR. LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next test...oh, you have a question? Next testifier. Okay.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Yayoi Hara, to be followed by Jordan Ruidas, who is currently the last person to stand up.

MS. HARA: Good evening, everyone. Thank you. My name is Yayoi Hara. And basically, I ditto everything Mikey said. So, just...then I'm just going to cut into a longer thing that...I mean, I did the survey, and everything was number 5. Everything was high priority. I mean, everything, what everyone is saying tonight is like, yes, please support all these programs. We need all these programs. I went to the CWRM meeting the other night, and the situation sounds very dire. I was surprised when there were a couple sort of drop the mic moments, when one guy said, you know, returning the water to the streams will help replenish the aquifers. And I was like, oh, gosh, did anyone else hear this? Drop the mic, you know? And then another one was that the yield that we are drawing from the wells, it's not sustainable. I mean, I know that everybody knows this, but I was like, wow, it's so just in our face, and dire, what are we going to do about it? So, just wanted to bring that up. The other thing is, I know everybody's in support of the West Maui Hospital. I understand the need for emergency and long-term care in West Maui, but we're having a shortage of doctors anyways. My parents are in their 80s. I change out their primary care person probably once every three to four months because their doctors...the doctors keep leaving. Can we not figure out a way to beef up the clinics that we already have on the West Side, like Maui Medical and Kaiser, working to have a small, long-term care facility plus an emergency triage facility instead of trying to build out a hospital? Because we're not going to find the people to staff the hospital. And that's all. And then ditto everything Mikey said.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Yayoi. Is...does anybody have questions? Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Jordan Ruidas, and that's the last testifier signed up.

MS. RUIDAS: Aloha. Thank you guys for all being here this evening. My name is Jordan Ruidas, and I'm a proud member of the Lāhainā community, and an organizer with Lāhainā Strong. I'm here to advocate that funding directly benefit our keiki and help rebuild the hearts of our town, starting with our parks and public spaces. Lāhainā has been through so much in the face of unimaginable loss. What keeps us going is our deep sense of community and our kuleana to future generations. That's why I'm urging this body to prioritize and allocate monies for the creation of shaded playgrounds at both our Lāhainā Park and Kelaweā Mauka Park [sic]. Our keiki deserve safe, accessible, and comfortable spaces to play, heal, and just be kids. With many families still without permanent housing, shaded playgrounds are not a luxury, they're a necessity. These parks are more than just recreational areas. They're gathering places, spaces for healing, and symbols of hope and resilience. We can't talk about recovery without investing in places that hold our community together. I want to also speak to the broader issue of housing justice in Lāhainā. The reality is that too many of our homes, especially condos and short-term rentals, are sitting empty while our families remain displaced. We need to put people before profit. I strongly support raising taxes

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

on vacant homes, condos, and nonowner-occupied units since we will be hearing the--oh sorry--since we will begin the process of phasing out some of the vacation rentals after budget. It's time we hold absentee owners who chant about loving our community accountable, and ensure that the monies generated off our lands actually support and serve those who live here. By taxing these vacant and investor-owned properties at a higher rate, we can generate revenue that stays in the community to fund parks, affordable housing, mental health services, infrastructure that our people desperately need. Lāhainā deserves spaces where keiki can thrive, and a community where our families can live and not just survive. I would also love to kāko'o the other amazing organizations, like Kaiāulu Initiatives, Lāhainā Community Land Trust, West Maui Green Cycle, MEO, Boys and Girls Club, and all the other folks that have come up here and gave amazing testimony. We're all working together to piece back the recovery of Lāhainā. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Thank you. Can you do last call?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, I see someone approaching the microphone. If anyone else would like to testify, please prepare to testify after.

MR. NAKOA: Thank you. Howzit. I wish...oh, Junya Nakoa. Just in case you guys never know.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Oh, I never know.

MR. NAKOA: But wish Alice Lee was here because I gave everybody else one chance for talk because Alice Lee say I'm only me talking. But you guys heard Lāhainā, okay? You guys heard the stuff we need. All the stuff they went talk about tonight, we need that buggah. Okay. And you know what? Right here. You know where we stay right here? This is the only community center we get here in Lāhainā, okay? So, when you guys close 'em for a stupid basketball tournament, during the days that they get 'em, which is Thanksgiving, us, Lāhainā, we jam up, yeah? Yeah, we're...we lucky because we know how to survive, yeah? You know, be resilient. So, we...we make things happen, yeah? So...and then getting back to the parks, oh, boy. Thirty years I've been coaching baseball, okay? From Little League all the way to high school. All the way from Little League to high school, every park I ever coach at, hmm, jam up. You know, we get puka fence. You got to make sure the kids don't run into the fence, bumbai they get hurt, all that kine of stuff. After the fire, they just went fix the one down there, yeah? The Lāhainā Recreation. We went play nighttime games on 'em, which was awesome, okay? We...Upcountry, went come play us. We went host them. You know what was so shame? No more enough rubbish cans. Hey, overloading. So, lucky the guy who come clean the parks, we know him, we tell him, hey, give us some rubbish bags. So, we do...we do the due diligence of putting...bagging 'em and putting 'em away. So, all that kine stuff, I've been saying for how many years, okay? I know in the Parks' budget, they say they're going to do one community center over here, the buggah went say. How long going take before we going get 'em? How long, yeah? We don't know how long. Like, thank you, Tamara, she went put in the budget for a batting cage in Nāpili Park. How

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

long that buggah went take? And all it is, is one fenced area. And even when they started 'em, I was living down the beach. Okay. And then I see 'em, I go check 'em out. They took almost...I don't know, about six, seven months for build the damn thing. I tell 'em, give us the money, we do 'em. Okay? Give us the money. You guys like us help you guys out, community help da kine? Give us the damn money, we do 'em, we do 'em. I going make Jeremy do 'em, and the Keahis, but there's somebody going do 'em. But we gotta work together. And then, I know you guys went talk about the wages of the workers, yeah, the rank and file. . . .(timer sounds). . . And you guys went talk about unions, yeah? I used to be one union rep for 14 years. So, I know what you guys talking about, okay? So, now, instead of you pointing finger at the union, union pointing finger at the County. How we...how about us guys come together and figure 'em out, okay? I go call those buggahs up. You know, like how much times I call you guys up? UPW, HGEA, they going to get my phone call from me tomorrow, okay? Because we got to figure out how we can get rank and file up here. I don't give a damn about the people above, like you guys are saying, yeah? The higher...the higher guys get da kine, I don't give a damn about them. I...I...I . . .(timer sounds). . . worried about the rank and file. Make sure we can get them funded, their wages. And also, house these buggahs, okay? House 'em, so they no run away. Yeah, you make sure they get enough money, and then they get a roof above their head, and then we go grind and drink beer, let's go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for Mr. Nakoa?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. I get one, I get one.

MR. NAKOA: Oh, thank heavens.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On your list of people you're going contact besides the unions and the County, I just checking if you contacting the State. Because each county get one vote when it comes to collective bargaining, and the State get like six. So, even if all the counties band together, we cannot overcome the State. So...

MR. NAKOA: The State is the legislators?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, the admin.

MR. NAKOA: Admins, so which is the Governor? Oh, no worry, I get his number.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Attorney General, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It is Governor.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, it is the Governor.

MR. NAKOA: It is the Governor, yeah?

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, they get...they get more votes than the County. So, when you do the collective bargaining, each county get one vote, and then the State get four or six, depending, I guess, on the five.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Five, I think.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Five or six, depending on which bargaining unit and all that. But even if the County was to vote for a raise, the State has the most votes.

MR. NAKOA: Even though that's County employees?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's...that's what is the meaning of collective bargaining, like Hawai'i Government Employees Association, not County employees.

MR. NAKOA: Then how come these buggahs always point fingers at each other? How come County point finger at the State, State point finger at the County? And then now you telling me make 'em work together? Aiyayai, aiyayai. I think I can make some magic. Watch, I going call 'em up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I just sharing what I learned.

MR. NAKOA: Nah, only...yeah. Thank you, cuz. I just tired of everybody pointing fingers. Okay. Make something fricken happen, damn it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more testifiers?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, we can do a last call. If anyone would like to testify...oh.

MS. PU'OU: I no think I need a mic, but I mean, cool. Aloha, everybody. How you guys doing? Kanani Pu'ou of Lāhainā. Raised Lāhainā. Not going leave Lāhainā. I'm not going to say who I work for...but although I know Theo is here with Lāhainā Restoration Foundation, I think another important fact is that Lāhainā was once the capitol, and I think history needs to be brought back into Lāhainā. We need that. We cannot be doing this as one, you know, like just tourism attraction. All we get is one sign, one small sign, outside of Lāhainā, that's it. It's like, this is the capitol of the Kingdom. That's it. That's all we got. But now that everything is down, right, how can we revive this? And how can you guys kind of...I mean, we need kāko'o, we need support. We need to do this because I think was in 1960, there was a plan to revive this, and it never came to light. So, that's something that I've kind of been passionate about within the last...I don't know how many years, I'm not going to say how old. But being a keiki of this 'āina, every day I learn something new, especially about history. The fact that we live and we thrive in this community, this kaiāulu in Lāhainā, and how important and significant we were to not only just Maui, but ko Hawai'i pae 'āina, right? The State. Well, I no like say State, but the ko Hawai'i pae 'āina, I think that needs to be implemented. I think that needs to be something that might be put in a budget. I don't know. I'm just here as a independent, passionate kānaka, and proud person to

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

be from this place, right? So, I...I don't know how we can do that. I know that's...might be asking for too much...or too little, I don't know. But in collaboration with these guys, Lāhainā Restoration Foundation and every other person in the community. All these people in here, they know as well. I support them 100 percent. Give 'em all the money. Give 'em...especially...yeah, Mikey, that's the one. 1.3, yeah? But I think that we definitely need that to bring back history. Even our own keiki. I was a kumu once at Kamehameha III. Our own keiki don't even know our history. Something is wrong with that. If we are born and raised in this...this land, we should be knowing our own history, especially someplace that's rich in history, as far as Lāhainā. So, I don't know what you guys can do, but if we can add that in the...wherever you'd like to stick 'em in, yeah. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Kanani, for your testimony tonight

MS. PU'OU: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: With some of our Members here, we did create the...the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. So, I know that...I don't know if you've been in contact with them, but they are...are visiting all the different districts, including Moloka'i and Hāna. So, I think maybe you would start with there. They have...their mission is...or for this budget is Ke Kahua, resetting the kahua. So, maybe that would be your first...or maybe invite them into...

MS. PU'OU: We actually have.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Mahalo.

MS. PU'OU: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good.

MS. PU'OU: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. So, any money that the County gives is usually applied for. And I just was wondering if...if you're aware that 'Ōiwi Resources is giving out grants, and their application period is now until the 25th.

MS. PU'OU: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. PU'OU: Yes, we do. Yeah.

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

April 10, 2025
Lahaina Civic Center, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. PU'OU: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Last call?

MS. MCKINLEY: Okay. This is the last call for testimony. If anyone else would like to testify, please stand up and approach the mic now. Okay. Here's the countdown...three, two, one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, there's no one else who wants to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please close public testimony.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS (excused: TK, ALL, and NUH)

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Everybody, thank you very much for being here, and give yourselves a big hand. This meeting is now adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 8:02 p.m.

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Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 44 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 6th day of May 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck