

# **BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**Council of the County of Maui**

## **MINUTES**

**April 21, 2026**

**Online Only via Teams**

**CONVENE: 9:07 a.m.**

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

**STAFF:** Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst  
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary  
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst  
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney  
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney  
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst  
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst  
Lenora Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk  
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

**ADMIN.:** Kristie Wigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the  
Corporation Counsel  
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor  
Marcy Martin, Director, Department of Finance  
Maria Zielinski, Deputy Director, Department of Finance

**OTHERS:** Kiana Kauwe  
Alika Maunakea, Professor, John Burns School  
Ruben Juarez, UHERO  
Glen Kitagawa, Scouting America  
Leif Adachi, Scouting America  
Richard "Remi" Mitchell

Saumalu Mata'afa

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

**April 21, 2026**

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Joseph Kutney  
Amimath Grumet  
Karolina Glover  
Kai Nishiki  
Angela Sarsona  
Matt Bachman  
Diana Schembri  
Jim Langford  
Christopher Salem  
Brittany Akai  
Tom Crowley  
Nicole Hokoana  
Monique Duplantis  
Serena Fukushima  
Casey  
Jasee Law  
Others (19)

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

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**ITEM 1:            PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY  
                         OF MAUI** (BILL 55 (2026), BILL 56 (2026), BILL 57 (2026), BILL 58  
                         (2026), BILL 59 (2026), BILL 60 (2026), BILL 61 (2026), BILL 62  
                         (2026), BILL 63 (2026), BILL 64 (2026), BILL 66 (2026), BILL 67  
                         (2026), and RESOLUTION 26-63)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance,  
Economic Development Committee. It's so exciting to see people --

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- in the Chambers. And I hear voices. It is now 9:07 a.m. And my name  
is Yuki Lei Sugimura. I'm the Chair of this Committee, and I would like to welcome  
everybody and say that this meeting is being...and conducted in accordance with the  
Sunshine Law. So it looks like we have everybody here except Chair Lee. So Chair Lee,  
when we call your name, tell us who's with you in your...in your workspace. And minors  
do not need to be identified. Good morning, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hola.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hola.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hola. Yeah. Hola, kākou. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm here, alone in my workspace, with my little kitty. She's looking...she's actually talking to the birds right now --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- but nobody else. And I'll be joining you after lunch. I have a couple of doctors' appointments this morning. Hopefully, you guys can carry on without my vote. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Be hard. All right. Welcome. Member...Vice-Chair Member Batangan. Hola.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Hola kakahiaka and hola, kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hola, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Hola. Hola and good morning, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: There's nobody in...we have staff in the Kihei office, but nobody is over there. Looking forward to today's meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hola to you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Hola, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District office. And I'm here and ready to work. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. Member Paltin, hola.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hola, kākou and aloha kakahiaka. Streaming live and direct from the Council Chambers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And hola, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. Aloha kakahiaka, kākou. It's nice to have a filled gallery today. Nice to be here in person. No testifiers at the Molokai District office. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Hola, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha and hola, Chair. Què pasò.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Uʻu-Hodgins. Hola.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, everyone. Hola.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hola. Okay. Great. Assisting us with today's meeting is a competent BFED Committee Staff. Thank you very much for working very hard. And we have invited resource persons from the Administration, which include the Budget Director, she's online; Director of Finance, standing by; Deputy Corporation Counsel Wrigglesworth. Thank you very much. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED Committee meeting. And we have one item on the agenda today, which is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year '27 Budget For The County Of Maui. Members, I will be taking testimony after opening comments. So I wanted to, if you would allow me to, do a moment of silence. Sunday, we had the passing of Governor Ariyoshi, which you may have heard. I have a special place in my heart for him because was the first, really, person that I worked for when I started working in this...in this field. And so...and in 1982 I had the honor of working on his re-election...last...last re-election campaign, also besides being a staff for him. Probably my greatest memory about him is when you went to see him, he had a sign on his desk that said, "The buck stops here", and he truly lived that. He was fiscally sound. He created community plans for the State of Hawai'i...or plans for the State of Hawai'i and they have...we have continued using it till this day. He died on Sunday. He was 100 years old. I tried to visit him, but his family said at some point they weren't accepting visitors. Out of respect, I appreciate that, and I look forward to when we'll have a ceremony to honor him. But at this time, if you would allow, please have a moment of silence for our Governor. . . .*(moment of silence)*. . . . Thank you. So we will continue our deliberations on the Fiscal Year '27 budget. We'll start our discussion with the Department of Environmental Management and continue with the Departments of Finance, excluding Countywide expenses, Fire, Public Safety, Housing, Human Concerns, end with Liquor Control. So those are the departments we'll be taking up today. I have asked Staff to distribute Exhibit 1 and a summary of yesterday's changes by department showing what we added, a net total of 2.6 million to the budget. Have we distributed it? No. Are we going to? Oh...okay. So that will be distributed to you today...this morning, I guess. Before we start our discussion, we will begin by taking public testimony. I can tell we're going to have public testimony with the number of people in the audience. So, thank you very much for joining us. So if you are a testifier wanting to provide testimony, you should sign up with staff, join the meeting online versus *[sic]* on Teams link, or call in to the phone number noted on today's agenda. Testimony on the budget is not limited to the departments scheduled today, but you may testify on anything in the budget, County budget. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas) as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony from agenda items at the beginning of the meeting. And for individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. And if calling in, please follow the prompts via phone, star five to raise and lower your hand and star six to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hands. For those in Teams, Staff will lower your hand. Once your name is added, Staff will then call the name you're logged in under, or the last four digits of your cell number when your time is called. At this time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. Please ensure your name appears in Microsoft Teams as the name you prefer to be referred to or as anonymous if you wish to testify anonymously. If you're in person, please notify Staff that you would

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. And if you're still testifying, I'll give you another 30 seconds to complete your testimony. Once you're done testifying, or if you're...if you do not wish to testify, you can also view this meeting on *Akaku* Channel 53, Facebook Live or [mauicounty.us/agendas](http://mauicounty.us/agendas). We will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. Could you please call up the first testifier, please?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the first testifier is Kiana Kauwe, to be followed by Alika Maunakea.

MS. KAUWE: Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Kiana Kauwe, and I live in Kahului. My toddler has been a part of the Tūtū and Me program for almost two years now, since she was just seven months old, and she's now two and a half. As a parent and also an early childhood educator, I support funding Tūtū and Me, a high-quality program, and urge the County to step in after the loss of the federal funding. I did relook at their website, and it stated that Tūtū and Me, their teaching teams, it costs about 600,000, and each teaching team supports two sites, and we're losing all four sites here on Maui. So, so sad. Tūtū and Me has just been an amazing program. Through this program, we've built lasting friendships with other children and their parents. We've played and intentionally designed open-ended centers that support young children to grow and learn, and we've gone on huaka'i to places all over the island that we would never have visited otherwise. But what I cherish most is how this program has strengthened the relationship between my toddler and her grandma. They build block towers together, match puzzles, paddle in cardboard canoes, paint kickballs, and so much more. All of these moments support and strengthen their relationship, and research shows that relationships are everything in the early years. Positive interactions are the foundation for children's future learning and success. Without Tūtū and Me, grandma and my toddler would be at home every day while I work. With limited stimulation, my toddler can become fussy, and then grandma has a hard time managing her challenging behaviors. I really don't know what our family is going to do, come this Fall when the roughly other 200 Maui keiki just like us, you know, won't have Tūtū and Me as an option. There are very few options for children under three in our community. The only other program I found that accepts two-and-a-half-year-olds, it starts at about \$1,400 a month, and also has very limited space. My child isn't quite ready for a full-day preschool, but she definitely needs more than staying at home. And this program, it really fills that gap. It gives children a chance to learn and grow in a safe, rich environment while strengthening the bond with her grandmother. So, in summary, I'd just like to say that when we as a community invest in our youngest keiki, we're building stronger families, stronger relationships, and, really, a stronger future. So, thank you so much for your consideration. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Member Paltin, Member Batangan. One moment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your testimony. I was wondering if you were...if you knew if it was a done deal because is it the president's budget, and then Congress has to do what we're doing to the Mayor's budget? So could

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

Congress put it back in, and are you in touch with our congressional representation?

MS. KAUWE: My understanding is that they put...it was Native Hawaiian funding, and they put in the education budget zero, and previously it was like \$15 million, I believe, was allocated to Hawai'i, something like that. So I know that Tūtū and Me waited until last week to let families know, and they were telling us the whole time they're working on securing funding. So I know they have secured some fundings. So they're keeping some sites open. Like, Moloka'i has site, some sites in the Big Island, some sites on Oahu, but all of Maui is closed. All of Kauai, those programs are all closed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is it only for Native Hawaiians to do it?

MS. KAUWE: No. There's...it's prioritized Native Hawaiians, but it's open to, like, other ethnicities as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So it was kind of in the wrong area. If it was not only for Native Hawaiians, and then it maybe would not get cut?

MS. KAUWE: I don't...I don't know the back story about the federal funding, but my understanding is there's no federal funds that are coming in. So I know there was a bill passed, going through the legislature, but even if they get that money, it's not going to come in time for the August when the school year starts.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Which legislature? The state or the federal?

MS. KAUWE: It's the state. I think there was an FCIL bill, but I'm not sure where that's at right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'll yield to my colleague.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Can I ask you restate the funding request? So, you said it was--

MS. KAUWE: I don't know the funding request, but I do know from the website that it's 600,000 per teaching team, and each teaching team supports two sites. So in Kahului, we had a teaching team that Monday, Tuesday, they're supporting us. And then that same teaching team also works with Kihei and supports 40. It's like about 40 to 15 children at each site.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you very much. I guess for Member's situational awareness, this is one of my priorities. I had gotten a slightly different funding request number from the adminis...the program administration. So I put in for 1 million rather than the 1.2. I will likely have questions for Tūtū and Me staff when it...when should any of them come up, but I just want the members to know that this is...that this is one of my priorities. And I guess I will let the public know, too, that we are fighting for this.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MS. KAUWE: Thank you so much for championing this on behalf of all the families who...this is just such a beloved program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Members' information, when this comes up, it's Partners in Development Foundation. It's not called Tūtū and Me legally, I guess, but it's a program.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: The organization is Partners in Development. The organiz...the program is called Tūtū and Me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah. Thank you.

MS. KAUWE: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I'm sorry. I had a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. I'm sorry. I didn't know Member Johnson had a question.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. I'm trying to do the math here. So there's 1.2 million in the Mayor's budget and it sounds like they need...okay. You said, right. So two sites, and we need four. There's four sites. Okay. So there's four. I see. I see. Okay. Thanks for that clarification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Alika Maunakea to be followed by Ruben Juarez.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. MAUNAKEA: Aloha Chair Sugimura, Vice Chair Batangan, and Members of the Committee. E ola kākou. Mahalo for this opportunity to share testimony today. My name is Alika Maunakea. I'm a Oahu resident testifying on my personal capacity but also my professional capacity in serving as a co-director of the Maui Wildfire Exposure Study at the University of Hawai'i. I am in support of BFED-1. As you know, the 2023 Maui wildfires were not only the deadliest natural disaster in our state's history, they represent an ongoing public health crisis. While the destruction was immediate, the health impacts are still unfolding years later. Through the Maui Wildfire Exposure Study and the Maui Health Registry, we are conducting the only comprehensive longitudinal effort to track these impacts and connect residents to care. To date, more than 2,000 Maui residents have participated, receiving lung function testing, biomonitoring for toxic exposures, mental health assessments, and clinical referrals. In the aftermath of the fires, Maui West has shown significant declines in self-reported health, high rates of depression and post-traumatic stress symptoms, measurable lung impairment months after the fires, and elevated heavy metals associated with wildfire ash and smoke exposure. Many of these effects would not appear in hospital data until they become more severe and, of course, much more costly to treat. In response to this,

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

within BFED-1, we support HOALA, the Health Outreach and Aina-Based Life Course Alliance. It's the first of its kind initiative designed to establish Maui's first permanent rural prevention and disaster recovery health system. HOALA brings essential screening, early detection, and recovery services directly to the families most affected, ensuring that Lāhainā, Kula, and Upcountry residents are not left behind. The wildfires exposed severe gaps in access to preventative and specialty care and created long-term public health risks that will persist for decades without intervention. Entering our third year of follow-up, many residents continue to experience respiratory impairment, elevated cardiometabolic disease, toxic exposure concerns, and profound mental health burdens, including PTSD, depression, and anxiety among both adults and children. These challenges are compounded by further disasters like the recent Kona storms, as well as systemic provider shortages across Maui, forcing families to wait months for specialty care or travel to Oahu or even out of state. High uninsured rates, geographic isolation, limited transportation, and the absence of pediatric and school-based prevention infrastructure further deepen disparities. Without action, these health burdens will escalate and drive increasingly...emergency health system costs and remain vulnerable to adverse impacts of other disasters. HOALA is expected to reduce the need of the limited specialty care on Maui through promoting early detection, prevention, and risk mitigation. Mahalo for your time, and I'm happy to take any questions. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the testifier? Oh, Member U'u-Hodgins and Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Member Sinenci, I know this is one of your priorities. If you want to go first, please do, and I can go after if that's okay with you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. I just wanted to...the program is HOALA, and I put Maui West. Should we be changing the wording?

MR. MAUNAKEA: It's an extension of Maui West, but HOALA is the goal.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And your fiscal sponsor would be?

MR. MAUNAKEA: University of Hawai'i.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: University of Hawai'i. Okay. Thank you for that.

MR. MAUNAKEA: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Out of curiosity, so you have...remind me, I know you said it, but I lost it. Is it goal of 5,000 residents annually? Right now, you guys have served currently 3,000 residents.

MR. MAUNAKEA: 2,000 residents.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: 2,000.

MR. MAUNAKEA: And we're hoping to expand that to 5,000.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay, hoping to expand that. Do you test firefighters as well?

MR. MAUNAKEA: Anyone, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MAUNAKEA: And we have included first responders in our cohort, as well as including firefighters and the County response agencies.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you.

MR. MAUNAKEA: So anyone, it's open, really, to --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Do you guys go to, like, to the stations and go, hey?

MR. MAUNAKEA: We have done...we have done as much as we could.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay, good. That's awesome.

MR. MAUNAKEA: There's some resistance and hesitancy---

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

MR. MAUNAKEA: --amongst the firefighters and other first responders to participate, for many reasons. But they have...we are aware of other screenings that have been done amongst that population.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. MAUNAKEA: So we're connected to the program there. And so, we're hoping to kind of combine information as well. Because, of course, they've been exposed, in some cases more heavily than others. And yeah, on a recurring basis.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Right. And they always have higher cancer levels than most. They have a 10-year shorter lifespan than the rest of the community. So it'd be interesting to see, like, the difference and have a, like a test pilot in what we see on every

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

day and as that whole town. And then what they have to deal with on a regular. So, thank you. I appreciate that.

MR. MAUNAKEA: No, I understand. Michael . . . *(inaudible)*. . . was a firefighter on O'ahu, in Wai'anae, and yeah, I understand the concerns of the impacts that he experienced.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Right. Thank you. I appreciate that. Thank you so much.

MR. MAUNAKEA: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Ruben Juarez to be followed by Glen Kitagawa.

MR. JUAREZ: Aloha. I'm Ruben Juarez. I'm the HMSA professor in Health Economics at UHERO, University of Hawai'i. We are seeking \$2 million co-funding from the Maui County to the University of Hawaii RCUH to help HOALA expand Maui-wide and serve 3,000 individuals through prevention, diagnostic, community navigation, and referral to care. This will complement funding that we're hoping to get from the state of Hawai'i as well as potentially funders. So the program delivers, as Alika said, diagnostic services. Diagnostics is really important. That includes lung health screening, respiratory recovery, cardiometabolic health, diabetes prevention, cancer prevention, trauma-informed mental health assessment, and, as needed, connect them to a consultation with them, toxic exposure biomonitoring, and a warrant referral pathway into Maui's healthcare system and community support networks. This investment will allow us to strengthen network of trusted community partners and doctors to help bring services directly into communities across Maui, as I mentioned. So the goal is not only to screen, which is what we are doing that right now, but really to prevent and connect individuals to care. So we are partnering right now with organizations across Maui, and this will allow us to continue supporting these community health navigators at Roots Reborn, Maui Medics Healers Hui, Healthy Mothers-Healthy Babies Coalition of Hawai'i, Hui No Ke Ola Pono, Tagnawa for Maui, Maui Healing, and the American Lung Association of Hawai'i. So County support is...I think it's a local investment in the people of Maui and help us expand these partnership networks and unlock broader co-funding needs to build stronger Maui wildfire prevention system. I'm here to answer any questions. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. I just want to...before you leave, I remember...I'm sorry, I'm trying to look at you past my computer, so pardon me. But I remember when you came to testify with Member Sinenci's Committee, and probably the most striking thing...I'm going to make a statement and tell me if this is what I remember correct. But you said that struck me that if we don't do something, we're going to have a whole community with depression. So your work, to me, was very important. So, thank you for continuing.

MR. JUAREZ: I really appreciate it. Yeah. So, right now, we're seeing the depression rate, for instance, for individuals in Maui is one in two. So, like, one in two individuals actually

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

have clinically diagnosed depression, okay, affected by a fire. And what we are seeing...and we just published this report, by the way, I'm happy to send it to you, last month, came up in JAMA psychiatry, is that this not only affected individuals, obviously, in Lāhainā and Kula, but it's actually Maui-wide. At a lower level, okay, but it's Maui-wide. So, like, everyone is struggling. So it is important that we address this in a sustainable way.

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

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Glen Kitagawa, to be followed by Leif Adachi.

MR. KITAGAWA: Good morning, Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and honorable Members. My name is Glen Kitagawa. I am the District Chair for the Maui Nui Scouting America. I also currently...or recently joined, I should say, the Executive Committee of the Aloha Council as the Maui representative. I'm testifying here today in support of \$500,000 to upkeep, develop, and maintain Camp Maluhia. Mahalo for your time and allowing me to speak in support of Camp Maluhia. Camp Maluhia is a jewel of Maui. She continues to serve as a community asset, hosting many activities and events throughout the decades. As stewards of Maluhia, Scouting America hopes to find a way to continue her unspoken mission. I believe that it's helped to shape many youth and redirected many adults alike into becoming productive members of society. Within Scouting, there is an organization known as the Order of the Arrow, directed entirely by youth across the Pacific, through the continental U.S., and across into Europe. We are known as the Honor Society of Scouting. The organization is divided into areas of responsibility and shared geographic interests. I know of two youth in recent history that have developed their leadership and team-building skills at Maluhia, and they promise to shine light on Maui and beyond. The first being my son, Braden, who was elected by his peers as the Lodge Chief of Nā Mokopuni O Lawelawe, which encompasses all of Hawai'i, American Samoa, and Guam. He is in his second term and has served for the past 16 months. Last year, he led a contingent to Tama Hills, Japan, to attend a conclave, which presents training opportunities for youth and adults and also to elect a Section Chief for Section G-19. This year's conclave was held at Camp Pupukea, hosted by none other than Nā Mokopuni O Lawelawe. Similar activities were held with a taste of Hawai'i added to the experience. Nevin Weiner, the second youth that I mentioned earlier, was elected as our chief and promises to serve further opportunities or provides further opportunities, and he plans next year's conclave, possibly at an international destination. I firmly believe that the opportunities for leadership and training that we provide them at Camp Maluhia directly contributed to their ability to stand before their peers with confidence, to be entrusted with these leadership roles. I once again humbly ask for your support of Camp Maluhia as we continue to navigate these trying economic times. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KITAGAWA: I'm open for questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Okay. Thank you.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MR. KITAGAWA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier. Thanks.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Leif Adachi to be followed by Richard Mitchell.

MR. ADACHI: Good morning, everybody. Thank you for having us back again so soon. I am the representative from Camp Maluhia. My job is the camp ranger, so your support would directly be one of my things I will take care of. I don't have a speech prepared. I do have an offer for you, though. If anybody wants to come up and see camp in person, I don't remember any of you within the last six years stepping foot on camp. So if you want to come and see in person, let me know. I will definitely make time in my schedule. We'll drive around in my go-kart, and we'll show you exactly where your help and your funding is going to go to help with camp. Alright. Right now, we have a lot of roof damage from the last storm that needs to be repaired. We have our pool that needs to be upkept. Every building needs to be painted, and our goal for this year is to not lose any buildings. So, upkeep and maintain and improve. So, thank you guys very much for your support. It's going to go a long way to keeping camp useful for scouts and the community at large. Any questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you.

MR. ADACHI: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody? I don't see anybody. So I just want to say thank you very much. I think you're a retired police officer?

MR. ADACHI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. So, thank you for continuing your service to the community. And this is one of Member Batangan's priorities that you'll hear about. Or Member Paltin. Sorry, I didn't see you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Adachi. Are you guys going to continue to hold the camp for the kids of the parents that are...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Imua.

MR. ADACHI: Yes. What's it called? I can't remember. They come in August, September, every year. We have our usual groups that come every year. Hope Chapel, Narcotics Anonymous, all of the...a lot of the big church groups. So we're finding...we have a lot of smaller groups start to coming back.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The incarcerated one is just once a year?

MR. ADACHI: Yes. Yes. They come in, I think, either September...or August or September.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So but you're still having that?

MR. ADACHI: Oh, yes. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions? Seeing none, thank you very much.

MR. ADACHI: You're invited. Anytime you guys want to come up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Richard Mitchell, to be followed by Samaulu Mata'afa.

MR. MITCHELL: Morning, Chair. Morning, Vice-Chair. Morning, Members. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Department of Housing's budget. There are four items both Deputy Director Mata'afa and I would like to briefly touch on. They all relate to the Affordable Housing Fund. But before I do that, I'd also like to discuss a project that recently came to my attention through Member Cook, and also through a separate discussion with Member Paltin. That's the Cove Beach Park development. I took the liberty of visiting the site a week or two ago so I could understand where it was. It appears to me to be a very flat site. The property owner, project developer, has a fully entitled and permitted project. They haven't pulled the permits, which is great because then the clock of the permits hasn't started to tick. My recollection is about a 32-unit development. The appraised land value is somewhere about 2.5 million. My recollection is they're asking for about 8.5. I'm very supportive of consideration, if Members are thinking about doing this, of trying to acquire the property and its entitlements in part because all that work has already been done and our ability to produce affordable housing will be expedited. I can't quite tell yet what the square footage...the price per square footage is for the project. I haven't seen the drawings, but I think there's an opportunity here to look seriously at trying to have a good faith negotiation to acquire the property and all of the permits. With that said, I'd like to discuss exclusively, and Deputy Director Mata'afa, who is right here, and I invite him to come a little closer. I don't bite. I'm going to talk about three of the items. I'm going to leave one to Deputy Director Mata'afa, and I'm going to first remind the Members that as a department, we instituted an RFP process for our affordable housing fund. And we did that so that we could have a rigorous approach to evaluating projects. That's not how it was handled immediately preceding the formation of the Department of Housing. And we've created a separate evaluation committee that has folks outside of the department so that we can have some distance from the evaluation. The number one criteria is the readiness of the project. And the goal is to sort of avoid the tendency to pick projects from people you know and your friends and just get it to be more rigorous. So the three projects that appear to be, that I'm going to talk about, affected, that have gone through our process are Aloha House, and the representative for Aloha House, Nicole Hokoana is here in the audience. If she could just raise her hand so that folks can see her. The

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

Habitat for Humanity and . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I believe Matt Bachman is online. Okay. And then finally, our funding request for developing County-owned land. Deputy Director Mata'afa will address the PARUS program funding that's also being proposed. The Aloha House project is asking for a million dollars to acquire supportive housing for individuals who, my recollection is, are below 50 percent of AMI and provide wraparound substance abuse services. This belongs in the Department of Housing's budget, and they did submit a response to our RFP for proposals, and they went through the vetting process with our Committee and they were highly ranked. With Habitat for Humanity, I visited Member Sinenci in Hāna and spent the day with him. Again, thank you for taking the time with me to show me the community in that particular project. And that project has admittedly languished for a while, but I think it's positioned now to move forward. I've actually walked the site. It's a wonderful site. I think 25 lots, 10,000 square feet, approximately, per lot. The road is there. It's only missing power. And so, we just need to push this forward for the East District, where they haven't seen development since the 1970s. To cut this out is devastating. We're trying to push forward development in every district. And then finally, to delete the million dollars we've put in the budget ...and we've gone through a process of discussing with the administration's CIP staff, what we need to push forward in developing the Kīhei parcel. To delete that is to hobble our Housing and Community Development Division. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . They have been doing a great job in pushing forward the Komohana Hale project, pushing forward the redevelopment of the Hale 'O Lā'ie project. And if you take this out of the budget, you prevent that division from moving forward and developing County land. So I urge you to leave it in. And I'll hand things over to Deputy Director Mata'afa. I'll stay here just to make sure we get all through all four, and I'll stay here for questions. Thank you, Member Paltin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's a continuous testimony.

MR. MATA'AFA: Thank you, Vice...thank you, Chair Sugimura, Vice Chair Batangan, and Members of the Council. I just wanted to talk a little bit about how the department notifies the public of our RFP process. So around August, what we do is we start scrubbing the application, making sure that we address the concerns that both the Council and the community had from previous years, and putting those concerns in our application process. So, up front, we're doing that around August time. What we did in...on September 13th was we announced that the application process would open on September 20th. So giving the public about a week's notice that coming up on September 20th, you'd be able to apply for the Affordable Housing Fund. The public had...and entities were able to have a 30-day period to respond. What we also did is we keep a running list of awardees from the past. We email all of those awardees that were about to open the process as well. So just to set the tone of how the department issues the RFP, I think that piece is important. The department does have a really good relationship with the PARUS entity, which is the Permanently Affordable Rental Unit Strategy Program. We've given funding in FY25 in the amount of \$3 million. And then just recently in our HO-3 letter, we were able to execute a grant for a little over \$1 million on April 6th. So we have a good relationship with them. We did not receive a proposal for them...from them in our FY2027 funding round. And I just wanted to make that point clear, but we do have a really good relationship with the entity. And I'm open for

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

any questions that the Council may have. And Director Mitchell's here as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members, any questions? Member Paltin, Member Batangan.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Um, thank you. I just was wondering about...like, you said, don't raid those projects that we had. What about raiding Ku'ikahi instead for either PARUS or Cove Park as they got to come back to us for changes and stuff. They're not as shovel-ready as the Cove Park, who has the permits in hand. Or, I mean, maybe the PARUS who just has to go out and buy. I mean, I would have liked an annual report from the PARUS, like what did you buy, how big were the units, and things like that, like how we got from the land trust. But still, it seems like a shovel-ready thing more so than the Ku'ikahi. Just...that's my question.

MR. MATA'AFA: Thank you, Chair Sugimura. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin for that question. So I wouldn't recommend cutting funding from Ku'ikahi. They, along with all the other proposals, submitted a project, submitted their proposal and the funding request. And cutting it might be detrimental to moving that project forward. What's required for Ku'ikahi to move forward is to amend their resolution. They have a Chapter 2.97 resolution that they need to change because they're making substantial revisions to the project. But once that occurs, which should be pretty harmless, it's able to move forward to the next steps for development.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. So when you...the department came before us, I asked a series of questions about the Affordable Housing Fund, trying to get a sense of what was a priority, how did things come about. I didn't get this sense from you then. Like, I asked why you committed 100 percent of, or 99.8 percent of the Affordable Housing Funds to projects in this, leaving nothing for us to be able to dedicate to this cycle. I asked, you know, for what was a priority this year, what needed to be fully funded this year through the Affordable Housing Fund. And I didn't get any of this type of feedback from you at that time, which is why I proposed the offsets that I did. So I'm...I guess I'm a little frustrated with the lack of communication. And this is...might be just me venting at you for frustrations that I have for all departments, where we don't really have a sense of what is truly a priority, what is a luxury, and what is...and how we can be a part of this decision-making process. I also didn't get the sense from the applicant that they understood that the process was changing from how previous years were, were handled. You know, you mentioned you had a great working relationship with them, too, but so did Member Kama. And this was one of her...one of the projects that she created and one of her biggest legacies. So, you know, I'm probably not going to back down on this particular funding request given, you know, the love and care that she put in, but I would like to take this second opportunity to ask for direction on how we can get funded, given the structure of the RFPs that went out and the commitments that have now been made for the Affordable Housing Funding. Can you help...can you help me figure out a way to see this project move forward?

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Chair, and thank you, Member Batangan, for the question. If I could just take a moment to address a couple of your earlier comments. My approach with department communications with Council is to give you more information than you ask. We spend an inordinate amount of time crafting our responses and sometimes say more in the response than the question actually asks to avoid missing information or to avoid you feeling as if you're not getting the responsiveness from the department. So I think that shows in our communications, that sometimes are unbearably long, but the goal is...thank you for the chuckle and the cough there. The goal is to give you a lot of information. During the budget process, the affordable housing evalu...application evaluation process, we had a number of applications, not just the nine or so that got into the budget. We had, I believe, 13 to 15, if my number serves me correct, and the evaluation committee is looking at...the first priority is readiness. And that's so that when we propose to you that they be funded, they are prepared to move forward with the project. So what ultimately gets into the budget isn't everyone who applied. It's just an evaluation of the top candidates with whatever amount of money is ultimately put into the budget. Last year, I recall that there was at least one project that didn't make the cut for us. And instead of putting it in the affordable housing fund by cutting projects, the Council put it...where was that project? Yeah, yes, you raise General Funds to put it in the Affordable Housing Fund, that's the Lipoa Investments project. So we work really hard to communicate fully, and we will work even harder so that you don't feel as if the department isn't communicating with you and that you feel frustrated. I leave it to your good graces and your colleagues to find ways to fund the PARUS project if you wish to like to have it funded. But I urge you not to cut projects that we have gone through a rigorous process to evaluate and to include because we're trying to make this process that we've instituted as objective as possible. And if Deputy Mata'afa has any other comments, I'll let him speak.

MR. MATA'AFU: Thank you, Chair. And thank you for that question, Councilmember Batangan. When we went through the process last year in FY 2026, there were a number of concerns that the department worked collaboratively with the council to institute into our process moving forward. Two of them were addressing the AMI categories. So from 80 percent to 120 percent AMI, that was included in our application process. And then we also looked at adding county-owned parcels as a priority for our application scoring review process as well. Another concern that came up was the water system development fees. So, in our applications, what we did was we asked specifically and explicitly to the developers as they're proposing the projects to call out if they're going to use the Affordable Housing Fund requests in the FY27 to address the water system development fee. So we, as far as collaboration goes, we're taking notes from you guys this session, and we will be including some of the things that you guys...that are important to you guys and putting that into our applications moving forward. So if there is anything that you guys see that we can improve on, we're always open to collaborate and adding that into the next fiscal year funding round.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. You know, as you...thanks for being here.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

I really appreciate you guys. I know you're busy and thanks for the overloading of the information. You know, just like in our Women Helping Women proposal, we bonded a lot of that. So how about the PARUS? PARUS, can we bond, use bond funding for that?

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you for the question, Chair. Member Johnson. I would defer to our administration, the budget staff to discuss that issue. I know it's complicated, and we're not prepared to respond to that with specificity now.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I know we have to own it. Are we...can we...can we buy it and then bond it?

MR. MITCHELL: Again, same response as before.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Just a second question, Cove Beach Village, this proposal here, can you tell us who the owner is?

MR. MITCHELL: I'll defer to Member Sinenci. I'm sorry, Member Cook. I'm sorry. No, Member Sinenci. Member Cook, who initially brought the project to my attention. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The developer is Gal Cohen, who's in...based in Kihei.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So going back to...I'm really...okay. Well, maybe we'll have to talk about how we could bond it, but basically, do you mean we're going to buy it and then lease it? Is that...is that the strategy?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Point of order, Chair. I think we're going kind of a little bit more into deliberation. I know Director probably can't come back again, but I just wanted to flag that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. I'll wait till we can talk offline. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I have one question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you guys for being here. I know you said you guys have a good relationship with the PARUS individuals, and then Member Paltin asked for maybe some information. I'm wondering if you could provide us any information about what the previous year's funding has provided the County and our people, but if you could share any of that, either in writing or right now, I would appreciate it.

MR. MATA'AFA: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins, for that question. We can provide a response in writing.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Just one more quick clarification on the over providing of information. I had heard when you spoke that you no longer needed the 670,000 contractual service for Huliau apartments. And I thought that you had said that you would also provide that in writing. And I tried to look through HO-2 and HO-3 last night. Admittedly, it was past midnight, and I couldn't find it. So I just wanted to verify that that's what you said.

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Paltin. That's exactly what we said.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, cool. Thank you. Winning. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So when this item comes up, is it okay if...I've talked about Cove Beach. Do you want to have them as resource?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's okay with me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: There's just lots of questions. Yes.

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you, Chair. I can be available, but my information is limited because I haven't had any interaction with the property owner.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

MR. MITCHELL: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- maybe we have similar information. We have the handout. All right. Anything else, members? Seeing none. Thank you very much --

MR. MATA'AFA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: --Director and Deputy for being here. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Joseph Kutney to be followed by Amimath Grumet. Apologies if I mispronounced your name.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Kutney? Are you online? Is he online?

MS. MACDONALD: He's supposed to be in the Chamber, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, in the Chambers? Oh, I see. Coming with baby.

MR. KUTNEY: Hey, good morning, everyone.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. KUTNEY: I've got my assistant here to help. My name is Joseph Kutney, and I'm a parent at the Tūtū and Me program. My older son went through the program, and my daughter attends it now. And she's wearing her field trip shirt right now, and she's wondering, she's kind of wondering about this field trip, wondering when the fun starts. I told her it's a civil duty field trip. But right now...right now, all four of the sites, Makawao, Kihei, Kahului, and Lāhainā, they're all closing at the end of the school year due to lack of federal funding. Tūtū and Me and me is unique in a way that...sorry guys. Do you want to hold this? Thanks, Azu. It's a unique preschool in that the parents, kūpuna, they learn alongside with the children. It ranges from infancy to all the way through age four and helps our children build a strong connection with the culture, the community. There's really, really nothing quite like it. It's the best part of my week, and my daughter every morning says, Tūtū and Me. She just wants to attend it every single day. She loves it. And if this program goes away, families like mine won't just lose out on early education. We'll lose a sense of community. We'll lose a place that strengthens our families, helps our kids thrive. So I'm asking your help to keep the Tūtū and Me program alive on Maui. And if the County approves the funding, it'll have a lasting impact on our keiki, our families, and our island. I thought Kiana did an excellent job earlier really explaining everything, so I'll kind of keep it short and sweet with that. I know there's some questions about funding. And to clarify, I spoke with the CEO assistant, and she had mentioned that the funding would go through the PDIF organization, Partners in Development, and it would be earmarked or designated directly towards the Maui sites. So to kind of clarify that. But yeah, thank you guys so much for your time and consideration.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much for being here.

MR. KUTNEY: Yeah. Thank you guys so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Amimath Grumet, to be followed by Karolina Glover.

MR. GRUMET: Aloha. Thank you so much. My name is Amimath Grumet, also known as Azu. I'm actually a parent for Tūtū and Me. I attend Tūtū and Me with my two young kids. It's a...I would say this really had...I'm sorry. As a displaced family from Lāhainā fire, at the time I was pregnant with my second child, it affected me really, really strong. And in a way, it was devastating to lose your house and everything. And I had no place to take my kids and go. And to build...rebuild that relationship I had with my young child, it was really hard for me. But without the Tūtū and Me, Tūtū and Me, if I didn't attend Tūtū and Me with my first-born, I do not know how my mental health would be. Tūtū and Me, this program helped me to rebuild and reconnect with my child. They gave me this safe environment to really reconnect and to love my child. Reminded me what a mother's love and what a parent needs to be. The facilitators, they were like,

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

checking on me, checking how I'm doing with my child. Like, this is a huge, huge thing. It's a huge thing that...I'm so sorry. I'm really sorry, but I have gone through a lot with the fire. And I don't know how I would survive with my two toddlers if this wasn't there, if this program wasn't there. So I urge all of you, if you could please support this amazing program. There's so many families that are being, like, supported with this. It benefits so much. And we really want you to help and support in whichever way you can. And yeah. Mahalo. Thank you so much.

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

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

MS. GLOVER: Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MS. GLOVER: A little bit nervous. My name is Karolina Glover, and I am a mother of two young children living in Maui. My family and I have been part of the Tūtū and Me program for the past three years. We were directly affected by the fires, and during such a...during such a difficult and dark time, this program has truly helped me to find my way back to stability and connection. It gave us a place of support, comfort, and community when we needed it most. Tūtū and Me has been incredibly important for my children's development. It supports their learning, social skills, and overall growth in a very nurturing and positive environment. The teachers are truly wonderful. They are caring, dedicated, and create such a warm and welcoming space for the children and families. I especially appreciate how creative they teach Hawaiian culture in a way that is engaging and meaningful for the children. It is beautiful to see our kids learning through songs, activities, and shared experiences. It has also been so meaningful to connect with other parents and build friendships. Meeting people who participated in this program more than 20 years ago, I think even 25 years ago, shows the deep history and lasting impact Tūtū and Me has on our community. This program means so much to our family, and I kindly ask you to support and continue funding Tūtū and Me on Maui. Thank you for your time and consideration.

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

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

MS. NISHIKI: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha.

MS. NISHIKI: Committee Members. Kai Nishiki. I am testifying on the use of the Managed Retreat Fund. And I wanted to start by acknowledging the deeply painful situation occurring at Pā'ia Mantokuji, and that this is not just about erosion, that it is a cultural

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

and spiritual crisis and that it deserves real compassion and thoughtful long-term solutions. But we also have to be honest about what is happening physically. That shoreline is part of a dynamic coastal system, and it is changing rapidly. The ocean is not going to stop, and if we try to fight those processes without fully understanding them, we will fail and likely make things worse. I support the idea of looking at this at a regional scale. That is exactly the direction Hawai'i needs to go. Nature-based solutions, dune restoration and sediment management and, yes, implementing managed relocation. What I cannot support is how this is being approached. Right now, there is a request for \$2.5 million from the County's Managed Retreat Fund, and yet there is no clearly defined project being presented. At the same time, this applicant is pursuing legislation at the state level to exempt themselves from environmental review and coastal regulations. That combination should give this council serious pause because what it signals is not a commitment to transparency or long-term resilience. It signals an attempt to move forward without the very safeguards that exist to protect our shorelines and our communities. We have to remember what this fund is for. The Managed Retreat Fund was created to move development out of harm's way, to reduce risk, protect public safety, and restore shorelines. It was not created to fund shoreline hardening or maintain the status quo in areas that are clearly eroding and at risk. Using public funds for that purpose would be a fundamental misuse of this program and, importantly, we already have better examples right in Pā'ia. The Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center is going through permitting and environmental review to relocate their structure inland and restore the shoreline. This is managed relocation in action. We've also removed structures at Baldwin Beach Park and are restoring dunes. The Kapukaulua project is rebuilding natural systems that allow beaches to migrate inland. These projects show us the path forward, move development back and let the shoreline function naturally. So let's be clear, relocation is not just theoretical here. It has already been evaluated. Cost estimates to move the structures at Pā'ia Mantokuji in the range of two million dollars have reportedly been provided to the County as part of prior permitting. So this is not an impossible option. It's actually a viable and real one. There is also funding available to support that approach, including this very fund, which has already been used at this site. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So the question before you is not whether there are options. The question is whether we are going to use public funds to support long-term solutions or to continue a cycle of temporary, ineffective interventions at the shoreline. It is my understanding that there may also be ongoing compliance or enforcement issues related to unpermitted work within the shoreline setback and SMA area. At a minimum, this request should not move forward without a clearly defined project, full agency review, input from Coastal Zone Management, UH Sea Grant and DLNR OCCL, and a serious evaluation of relocation as the primary strategy. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . The bottom line is if this applicant, I'm wrapping up, wants to use the Managed Retreat Fund, it should move structures out of harm's way, not fight a losing battle against the ocean. I would be first in line to fully support the use of this fund to pay to relocate the structures and I have met with the applicant just last month. And so, I just urge you folks to reconsider this proposal. And I have lots of information that I provided via email to the BFED Committee in addition to all the Councilmembers. Mahalo, I am available for questions.

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

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Kai, thanks for the information. Is the applicant the church?

MS. NISHIKI: The Pā'ia Mantokuji Mission, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. NISHIKI: I met with them last month.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: In addition to the structures, isn't there a big graveyard over there?

MS. NISHIKI: There...there is, Chair, and when I met with them on site...and I'm going to refer you to what I provided via my email, is that in meeting with them, they had stated that the graves, while the structures are considered primary and the graves are considered secondary, and they do not intend to request protection for the graves, it is that the families are reportedly being given the option to remove the remains. And they noted that testing has shown human remains are no longer detectable in the soil, so most families are choosing to take some of the soil and place it in an urn. And I suggested the possibility of creating a memorial on site while they're relocating the structures.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, thank you. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I was reading other papers till after midnight last night, so I didn't read your email. I was wondering, I wanted to clarify what you said about not doing environmental review and not following coastal regulation. Can you clarify what you meant by that, as well as the compliance and enforcement review?

MS. NISHIKI: Yes. Unfortunately, at this time, the applicant is at the State legislature proposing legislation that would exempt them from Chapter 183C, HRS, relating to conservation districts; Chapter 205A, relating to Coastal Zone Management; Chapter 343, relating to Environmental Impacts; County shoreline setback, and variance ordinances; and County building permit requirements related to coastal resilient structures. And that is SB 3169 and HB 2490. When I was meeting with them last month, I urged them...I actually urged them to pull their legislation completely because I thought that it would set terrible precedent for the entire State.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And then you said SB 3169, HB 3490; is that correct?

MS. NISHIKI: 2490.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 2490. And was there a reason given for this state legislation in the legislation?

MS. NISHIKI: They felt that the permitting structure was too cumbersome. And so, they just want to be able to do whatever they want to do and not have any oversight, and they

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

wanted this to be a pilot program under DBED and so also highly problematic to have a non-regulatory agency in charge of a pilot program.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the exemptions from these are for building a structure or restoring a structure, not moving it back?

MS. NISHIKI: It was all related to some sort of plan that they would not even reveal to legislators when they were asked. It could range for anything. It's just they want to do something on the shoreline, most likely involving engineering the shoreline, and not retreating at all. And when I --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the compliance that they're not in compliance with, can you clarify what they're not in compliance with?

MS. NISHIKI: Well, I'm not a zoning and enforcement inspector, but they have been to the property, and there is enforcement actions ongoing. And so, I would urge you folks to reach out to the County Zoning and Enforcement Division and primarily to reach out to Coastal Zone Management, Tara Owens. She can provide extensive history and discussions and the current status of the property.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. NISHIKI: But there's definitely issues here.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. This is actually one of my priorities, so tomorrow I'll give you folks more information. I'm not going to do so right now in testimony. But just for Members' information, the two bills in the legislature didn't pass. They're not going to pass. So it's not going to pass. So I understand Ms. Nishiki's concerns, but just as an FYI to you folks, that's not going to happen. But tomorrow I can get more into it.

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

MS. NISHIKI: Thank you.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Angela Sarsona to be followed by Matt Bachman.

MS. SARSONA: Aloha. Good morning, everyone. My name is Angela Sarsona. I am a stay-at-home mom. I've been staying home with my three children for the last 11 years. I previously worked for Four Seasons Wailea, and I've been a resident here on Maui for the last 35 years. I'm here today to speak on behalf of Partners in Development Tūtū and Me Traveling Preschool. I have been attending Tūtū and Me with my children since

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

2019. My son Sam entered the program at age two and completed it by age five. Sam learned so much at Tūtū and Me. Number one, is how to share. My favorite was how to share. My daughter Hailey was actually born into Tūtū and Me during COVID and attended via Zoom, and then we went back in person. And Tūtū and Me has enriched our lives in so many ways and taught my children so many things, and they've made their first friends there that they're still friends with today. I also have, myself have developed many lasting relationships with the other caregivers and the teachers. We support each other. I truly believe that it takes a village to raise a child, and Tūtū and Me is our village. Excuse me. For the last seven years, it would be just a shame to lose this program because it enriches our lives, our children's lives, the caregivers. It enriches our Maui community. Tūtū and Me also strengthens the bond that I have with my daughter every time we attend site. My daughter will be graduating from Tūtū and Me this year, but it would be a shame for the future generations of Tūtū and Me to miss out on this wonderful program. I humbly ask you to fund Partners in Development Tūtū and Me...excuse me, Partners in Foundation Tūtū and Me Traveling Preschool. Thank you all for your time. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you for being with us.

MS. SARSONA: Yes. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Matt Bachman to be followed by Diana Schembri.

MR. BACHMAN: Good morning, Chair, Council Members. My name is Matt Bachman, and I'm the Executive Director for Habitat for Humanity Maui. Nice to see you all again. I'm here to testify regarding the strong support for the full \$6.595 million for the Hāna housing project, and I'd like to thank both the Director and Deputy Director for, again, prioritizing this project. As you know, we serve Maui, Lānaʻi, and Molokaʻi, and we've been building here for nearly 30 years. Hāna is not just another project site. It's one of the last places on Maui where generational families are still rooted. We all know the pressures that they face. Families are being priced out, or they're being pushed out by overcrowding, and when they leave, they don't come back. This project is about keeping Hāna families in Hāna, teachers, kūpuna, working families, who are the backbone of the community. I want to point out that this project is an affordable housing project, yes, but it is a home ownership project, which is very rare. As I've been looking through the budget, there are quite a few affordable housing projects that are affordable rentals, which I am all for, and completely support any affordable housing. But I did not see any affordable housing home ownership projects, specifically none from a non-profit, and again, as Director Mitchell said, there has not been an affordable housing project in Hāna or a new project since the 1870s. As I mentioned, this is by a non-profit, and it's at 80 percent or lower of AMI. A lot of the affordable rental projects that we're seeing are for 80 percent and over, so even if this project wasn't in Hāna, there's still such a great need to provide affordable housing home ownership to our islands. It creates stability, it creates generational opportunity that affordable rentals generally don't, and

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

it gives a family a reason and a way to stay here. Just to mention again, this is non-profit developed, unlike the other for-profit ones that have come along, and we are not only reducing, we are increasing, I'm sorry, one of the ways to...pathways to home ownership and reducing any of the funding would be reducing those pathways. I respectfully ask for you to maintain the full 6.595 million allocation. It's not just about the units, it's about who gets to stay in Hāna, and I want to point out that the funding is strictly for the cost of the land acquisition and the cost of the closing costs. The land acquisition is not just the land. As Director said, it already has a road, it has water meters, it has a fire hydrant, and there are signs that are already up. All we need to do is get the power in, and then we're ready, really, to put those shovels into the ground. . .  
..(timer sounds). . . I thank you for your time, and I'm available for any questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for Mr. Bachman? Seeing none, thank you.

MR. BACHMAN: Thank you, Chair. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Diana Schembri, to be followed by Jim Langford.

MS. SCHEMBRI: Hello. Can all of you hear me because I am virtual?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. We can hear you.

MS. SCHEMBRI: Oh, wonderful. Wonderful. Aloha kakahiaka Chair and Councilmembers. My name is Diana Schembri, and I'm speaking on behalf of my husband, Ben, and our three young keiki aged four, three, and one and a half. The Department of Education submitted a zero dollar budget for the Native Hawaiian Education Program, removing it from the federal budget in the next fiscal year, 2026 through '27, and this lack of funding would directly impact the Partners in Development Foundation and Tūtū and Me programming here on Maui, forcing all the sites to close, which would be just devastating for so many families, including ours. My 'ohana is kindly asking for your support to sustain the Partners in Development Foundation, which oversees the Tūtū and Me programs. It's been such a blessing to our 'ohana. We live in Ha'ikū, and we're a part of the Upcountry location in Makawao and have found so much joy with attending this program. Our site's scheduled for every Monday and Wednesday, and we look forward to Tūtū and Me every week. Our keiki will even wake up on off days and ask, we going to Tūtū and Me? I want to go. It's so cute. This program is so incredible in so many different ways. They have it set up where young keiki start singing and dancing as a whole group in the beginning of class, leading into story time, led by the leaders and teachers and educational learning, and then it breaks out into independent play with numerous play stations with different types of stimulation and toys for all ages one through five. Even newborns can go, too, but you know they're being held by mommy or daddy or caregivers. They have infant stations and toddler stations and games and stations. Our keiki never get bored. Best of all, they're learning to share and socialize with other keiki. We began coming to Tūtū and Me when our oldest daughter was two years old and our middle daughter was one. Our son wasn't even born yet, and the girls

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

have both benefited from this program and developed so many social skills, motor and gross skills with all the different play stations and have also received Hawaiian culture education, such as learning the alphabet and numbers in Hawaiian language, and although tough to teach young keiki the alphabet and sign language, it is presented and attempted. My husband and I try to learn it too. So kudos to the teachers and the leaders. My oldest was very, very shy when she started at age two, but because of the wonderful exposure Tūtū and Me has given her until age four, she's transitioned into preschool very easily because of all the wonderful routines she learned, going twice a week. Now we attend with our three-year-old daughter and our one-and-a-half-year-old son and find so much joy in seeing how much our keiki love going. They need more fun exposure to familiar faces, and Tūtū and Me provides that. Myself, husband and keiki have found a tremendous sense of community with this program, as once a month we go on field trips around the island and submerge into the culture while opening their learning experiences. Studies have shown that the most impactful stages . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . and brain development happen within the first five years of life, and Tūtū and Me has provided a full circle of wonderful necessities such as learning, socializing, confidence, Hawaiian culture, routine, and, most importantly, fun.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. SCHEMBRI: Some of these field trips include...oh I'm almost done. I only have, like, two more sentences. Some of the field trips include beach cleanup, whale watching, plantation tours, animal exposure, Kula agriculture education and whatnot. We cannot lose this program, desperately for your help in securing the funding to keep this program going on Maui. My husband and I know that our keiki wouldn't be as confident and prepared to transition into preschool or kindergarten without Tūtū and Me. So, mahalo nua loa *[sic]* to all of you council members and allowing me the time . . . *(timer sounds)*. . .to express Tūtū and Me and how important it is. Thank you.

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

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Jim Langford to be followed by Christopher Salem.

MR. LANGFORD: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Vice-Chair, Councilmembers. I hope you're all doing well. I wanted to testify today on my personal behalf. Just witnessing and in favor of the Tūtū and Me program as well, seems like an obvious way to mitigate folks' mental health, which seemed to come up earlier in the day too. So just from the mental health perspective, I'm really grateful to you folks because you have an intimate understanding of the PTSD that folks can go through, based on their life experiences prior to the wildfire and how intense those things can come up emotionally for people. You notice parents, you know, brought to tears. You guys also brought to tears, you know, and the other...and me too. I was crying this morning when they were testifying, especially the brother who brought his baby up and, you know, that's just...that's kind of probably what you guys feel like with all the chaos that goes around. You folks, so on the mental health note, and in support of the funding for the mental health projects. I wanted to say thank you folks for witnessing me go through my post wildfire PTSD, and how I

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

created software and how intense that those initial years were while I was working through it and want to apologize to anybody if they felt the effects and the emotion of that PTSD as well as I did. I'm also diagnosed with some of the things that were mentioned earlier today, but I'll keep that private. So I'm very in favor of the mental health programs, very in favor of the Tūtū and Me program. That's just a direct way you can bring inertia to other things that were mentioned today, which is relationships and how those relationships, they get preference no matter what. And that's okay. That's how life works. And that's how a community works. So I was inspired hearing the Housing Director speaking about things that are more in line with what I do, which is develop software that gets money. Yesterday, we heard the timeshare, Real Property. That was me. I wrote that software. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So 20 million a year, you're welcome. So I'm hoping to come in later in the week and bring in some software that isn't on the Mayor's budget, but I believe...and I've sent it to you folks, and I believe it'll really benefit everyone financially. It's a perfect way to get...to maintain that 1.6 billion for all of us.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MR. LANGFORD: Yes, ma'am. God bless you. . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions? Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier, please.

MR. LANGFORD: Thank you, Chair.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Christopher Salem to be followed by Travis Liggett.

MR. SALEM: Okay. As always, just calling to confirm that the microphone is working.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. SALEM: Okay. Thank you. Good morning, Chair and Members of Maui County Council. So as a resident of West Maui, I'd like to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude and support for the HOALA program. Definitely, hits home per se. That said, today's prepared testimony continues to focus on the budget, specifically as it now relates to the Director of Finance and with the hope that, as you stated, Chair, the buck stops here. Maybe that sign should be duplicated. Yesterday, Director Martin appeared before this Council, and I bring to your attention a follow-up letter that was sent to Director Martin confirming that during this budget session and consistent with the Maui County Charter, a complete leisure of the thousands of unaccounted for private developer infrastructure must be completed under her duty and authority. I raise this issue again because for more than 25 years, since I first discovered these agreements and noticed the County Councilmember Joanne Johnson and Kathy Kaohu, there still remains no complete accounting, no tracking mechanism, no formula of assessment of the developer debts owed to execute during the annual budget process. I wonder why you just don't adopt by ordinance that this all was a big mistake like the Upcountry water

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

bill. And so, we all can stop listening to me and speaking to this issue. Since most of you weren't here during those times, every year for almost 10 years, Councilmember Joanne Johnson aptly stated that during budget hearings, the unresolved issue has become like Groundhog's Day. Well, it's reared its ugly head once again during these budget hearings. Director Martin has informed me that she cannot speak or respond to our budget requests because she is being advised by Corporation Counsel not to do so. That's in writing. Corporation Counsel has no lawful basis to obstruct the Director of Finance from carrying out mandatory duties imposed by law. Since 2010, it's been law that these agreements and corresponding notice of intent must be tracked and acted upon once capital improvement projects are funded. You're in the process of doing it again. So the question for this Council is simple. How can the Council account for any of these when there's no list as presented? So no one can deny that these thousands of agreements were executed by county attorneys, and they intentionally shifted tens of million dollars of private developers' obligations onto the local residents, blah, blah, blah. I believe that many on this Council with political agendas are completely disregarding the courage and efforts of your predecessors on this Council. No one is willing to join them in slamming the door on Corporation Counsel's dishonorable conduct, which just happened again by advising the director to not account. . . .(timer sounds). . . I will finish for these agreements. My final statement is, again, is why doesn't the council just shred by ordinances agreements and call it all a big mistake? That's all. At the end of the day, aren't you all kind of sick of smelling this fertilizer and listening to the only person who's actually been harmed by these agreements and prevent others from being... joining me on that list? Thank you for our time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier, please

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Travis Liggett to be followed by Brittany Akai. But I do not see Travis Liggett online anymore. So if we can move on to Brittany Akai.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, could you please go back.

MS. MACDONALD: Akai, yeah. I just promoted Brittany.

MS. AKAI: Aloha, Chair Lee, Vice-Chair Sugimura, and County of Maui Councilmembers. Can everybody hear me okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. We can hear you.

MS. AKAI: Okay. Thank you. I'm here testifying alongside the other Tūtū and Me people. I work for Partners in Development Foundation. And as you have heard, there's a lot of support from the Maui community for Tūtū and Me Traveling Preschool. And I did have a testimony planned, but I also wanted to address some of the questions that were asked earlier in the hearing. We are...our programs are open to all families, even though we have previously gotten funding from the Native Hawaiian education program. We do serve all families, no matter the background. Another question asked was about the Native Hawaiian education program. And if there's any future, you know, like funds

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

coming out. As we know to, as of today, April 21st, there is no update on a future grant competition for the Native Hawaiian education program, which has previously brought in millions to the state. We did submit an application with DHC for 1.2 million needed to fund six sites across Maui County. We have matched funding for one third of that budget, and we are kindly asking for your support for the two-thirds that are left. As previously stated, . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . those by our families, there is an estimated of 600,000 will fund one teaching team that serves two sites. So I just wanted to confirm that as well. And I do kindly ask and thank you all for your support and your time today and for just want to mahalo the families, as well, for providing their testimony. And I can answer any more questions that you folks may have, or, if not, pass it on to our leadership, and we will definitely follow up with you all. So, thank you again for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. You have a question from Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha Ms. Akai, mahalo for your testimony and for providing us answers to some of the questions that the Members asked. Okay. So I guess the Native Hawaiian Education Act brought in \$46 million to Hawai'i, 15 million of which went to Partners in Development, with a portion funds Tūtū and Me. Two sites on Moloka'i, four sites on Maui. I understand that the four sites on Maui are already closed; is that correct?

MS. AKAI: As we are planning to finish out the school year, so they are slated to close. We did want to give our participants a heads-up, but the current grant cycle goes until August 31st of this year.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. One of the parents---

MS. AKAI: But I do want to note that our...I'm sorry for interrupting.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, go ahead.

MS. AKAI: Our programs, our Tūtū and Me program does go on a summer break. So it follows the State's DOE calendar.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that clarification. I was speaking to one of the parents earlier, before the meeting started, and she said that the sites on Maui were already closed and two sites on Moloka'i were still open, which didn't make sense to me, but mahalo for clarifying. So the program will go to August and the fiscal year for Congress starts on October 1st. So are you working with our congressional...is the organization working with the congressional delegation to advocate for the funding for the NH...Native Hawaiian Education Act, NHEA?

MS. AKAI: Yes. We are, you know, having conversations with them and just letting them know what's happening in our islands, definitely. And we will continue to talk with our congressional staff. And as someone mentioned before, we were trying to push for our FCIL bill, House Bill 2019, this legislative session, but unfortunately it didn't make it

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

through. Sorry, but to answer your question, yes, we've been in communication in DC.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. And to be clear, I would support funding now, and then we would have it if we need it. And if we don't need it, then, I mean, it would end up being...serving the community in a different way. So, mahalo, Ms. Akai. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin, followed by Member Batangan.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Akai. I don't know too much about the federal government, but would it help if you let them know that you take, also, Caucasian people? Or, like, if it says "grandmother and me for all kids?" I just was wondering because, I mean, these are odd times.

MS. AKAI: Definitely. Definitely. We have been continuing our advocacy as, you know, our Partners in Development name and also still sharing, you know, Tūtū and Me, I get what you're...where you're coming from. And we do share that we do service all families. And it's bigger than backgrounds, right, and ethnicities. It's kind of supporting those critical early stages from zero to three and also school readiness. So we also advocate for that as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, it's bigger than backgrounds for us, but it doesn't seem to be bigger than backgrounds up there, just sawing... from what the (*inaudible*) folks say.

MS. AKAI: Definitely. We've been trying to adjust our words...not adjust our wording, but, you know, try to cater to the various parties that are in Washington, D.C. And just sharing that our programs are family strengthening and that the economic outcomes of, you know, investing in our early learners does show \$1 invested today is a \$7, you know, outcome in the future. So just trying to push that language as well. That would may appease to a different audience.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maybe let them know that there's Christians in there too. Just...just saying because you're trying to...trying to watch the news and all. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. AKAI: Definitely. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Ms. Akai. Can I clarify the funding request that you guys are making? Like, what would be needed to keep the facilities on Maui open? I know that 1.2 million was allocated for Partners in Development, Tūtū and Me program in the Mayor's proposed budget. But subsequent to the Mayor releasing that proposed budget, your announcement to close the facilities

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

on Maui came out. So I'm guessing the request for money is on top of what's proposed, or am I misunderstanding?

MS. AKAI: Um, to my...so I'm under, um..and correct me if I misunderstood --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So, I guess do we just fight to protect the 1.2 that's already being proposed, or do we need to add on top of that to...in order to keep the preschools, operational for next year?

MS. AKAI: Yes. The 1.2 reflects the two-thirds that is still needed to sustain the remaining sites in Maui County.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So we don't have to add additional funding on top of that.

MS. AKAI: For Maui County, no, but we greatly appreciate your support...for that

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Understood. Okay. So we don't have to add, we just fight to protect the money that's already being proposed in the Mayor's budget.

MS. AKAI: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. AKAI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Rawlins Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I just want to make it...make sure that it's, it's very, very clear, that it's not just Maui Island that's threatened, it's also Moloka'i's programs. And so, we're not just protecting Maui's programs, like Moloka'i's programs since it's countywide, correct?

MS. AKAI: Right now, we have that one third, you know, for all of...we count Maui County as a whole...in the, you know, future slated. It was shared that the Moloka'i sites are part of the group that will continue. But looking ahead, we are, you know, still looking for...we will look for future funding for the Maui County as a whole, including both islands. I'm sorry if that didn't provide clarity. If not, I can definitely follow up in writing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Does Moloka'i programs need the help, the support, the funding too, or just Maui programs?

MS. AKAI: They are the one third of Maui County.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: May I, Member Rawlins-Fernandez? So the announcement that came out last week said that the four sites on Maui would be closing, but that the two on Moloka'i would continue to operate next school year. So when I said for Maui Island, I was referring to the next school year. I believe what Ms. Akai is saying is that, you

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

know, they had already secured one third of the funding needed for Maui County. Those funds are the...are going to the two sites on Moloka'i. And then the two thirds that are still needing funding are the four that are on Maui. Is that correct, Ms. Akai?

MS. AKAI: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay, so to directly answer Member Rawlins-Fernandez's question, I don't think there's a question about whether or not Moloka'i's programming will be affected next school year. It's a question of whether or not we can secure the funding needed to keep the four sites on Maui operational. And the 1.2 in the Mayor's proposed budget is sufficient to make...to ensure that that happens.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So August 2026 is when the Maui...four Maui sites would close and August 2027, if funding does not come in from Congress, the two Moloka'i sites would close.

MS. AKAI: Yes. We will continue to fight, but that right now we're looking at, like, a year-by-year, hoping to secure multi-year partnerships. But yes, looking at the next year, we will need to...you know, the fight still goes on.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

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

MS. AKAI: Thank you for everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for clearing questions up. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Tom Crowley to be followed by Nicole Hokoana.

MR. CROWLEY: Aloha, Chair. I'm monitoring two meetings at one time. Sorry about that. Tom Crowley, I've been traveling for the last two weeks and that's why you haven't seen me as you usually do. That's good news for me. I had a great time traveling. It's bad news for my business. The reason I was traveling is, I have no business. Just, just, you know, just as an fyi my bed and breakfast business is off by 90 percent. It's just incredible what has happened to the homestay business on Maui. Everyone I know is in the same boat. They have no...they have no business in the future. So be prepared for a very, very low productive year, I think, coming up. I will have comments tonight in the Real Property Tax hearing about my property taxes' rates being increased by 45 percent in Tier 1 and 67 percent in Tier 2. But I'm not going to take that time right now because I do want to comment on the water rates that have been proposed. And I don't know if you've gotten past that or up to that yet, but as you know, we tier our water rates, and we have kind of punitive tiers set up for people who use a lot of water, and there...you know, there's policy behind that. But in the past year, I have heard from so many of my neighbors who have gotten outrageous water bills, and they haven't understood why. And I've tried to explain to them that this tiering is...is part of it, but it's also complicated by the fact that they don't always read an accurate read every

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

month. So sometimes they don't get read for three months and then they get hit with one bill and all this stuff falls in this highest tier. And now I see in this budget, we have a top tier of over 50,000 gallons at \$19.80 per a thousand gallons. And that's almost 10 times the amount that we charge at that at the lowest tier. And I think that this is going to become more of a problem where if you don't have a really accurate number every month, that...that, that would be...that would be problematic. I also find it unfair to me. I have a larger water meter. I have a three-quarter inch water meter because I did the right thing. I said, okay, I have all these fixtures. So I got the larger water meter, and I get charged for a large water meter. I also have a cottage, and I have a house. So ...so there is more water usage, but then these rates kind of pile it on. And when we look at what we charge to multifamily dwellings, and we...we make it just \$5.09 across the board. I'm getting charged, you know, the...the highest rates for just my domestic water use. And then when I start doing irrigation water, it goes up dramatically. So I'm not in favor of any of these increases. I know that you're going to increase it to some ...some extent, but I definitely am not in support of this 50,000 gallons. I want to point out something that happened to me last year. My pressure regulator that's out of the street that regulates . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . how much water pressure comes through, it began to fail. And when it did, it let higher water pressure come through. Unbeknownst to me, that was making my irrigation use more water. I didn't find out until...like, I didn't kind of figure it out until two months of \$500 water bills. And after I did, then I...I was able to figure out, oh, I need to change this pressure regulator, put a...put a new one in that...that properly regulates the pressure. And then my usage went down dramatically. But again, with this \$19.80 water rate for everything over 50,000 gallons, boy, that would really hit me. I mean, it hit me hard enough at \$13.20...*(timer sounds)*. . . But so...so when you get to the water rates, please consider those things. And I'll see you tonight about the property tax rates. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Yes. I was wondering where you were. So, nice seeing you again, Mr. Crowley. Any questions for him? Next testifier, please. Oh. Oh, sorry. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Crowley. I was wondering if that particular testimony you had sent in by email because I needed to use the bathroom for the first part.

MR. CROWLEY: I did not send it in, but I will go to the...I'll write it up, and will send it to you. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Yeah. You can just email it to me or to the record. I was the only one in the bathroom. Thank you.

MR. CROWLEY: I appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. No other questions. Thank you very much. Next testifier. See you tonight.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Nicole Hokoana to be followed by Monique

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

Duplantis.

MS. HOKOANA: Hello. Aloha kakahiaka kākou. ‘O wau ‘o Nicole Emmalia Hokoana. No Mauinuiaakama mai au. Aloha, Chair and Vice-Chair and Committee Members for hearing this testimony today. This morning, I'm here to speak briefly in support of the Aloha House affordable housing proposal, to ask that the full requested amount of 2 million be awarded. Before I begin, I'd like to acknowledge the housing affordability crisis we are in. Honestly, if I didn't live in my childhood home, I'd be struggling to afford housing as well. So I understand the magnitude of this problem, and I appreciate everyone's dedication to resolving it. I have a few key points about what sets our affordable housing requests apart from perhaps other RFP submissions that were received by the Department of Housing through the competitive bidding process. First, readiness. This project can be accomplished right away. There are existing wraparound services to support the ongoing rehabilitation of the participants we serve. The properties acquired will remain in affordable housing in perpetuity. It's sustainable. Program participants contribute a program fee ranging from about \$350 to \$500 a month. No ongoing investment is required. Next, our housing is not just affordable, but it's accessible. The participants we serve, whether we're talking about folks struggling with mental illness, addiction, or the formerly incarcerated or both or all, we serve all of these groups. These participants often can't afford or access housing due to the barriers of their backgrounds and their conditions. They won't qualify for affordable housing projects. They are often unemployed until we support them in regaining meaningful employment. They lack credit worthiness and must develop life and employment skills in order to reengage in community. Our project makes housing both affordable and accessible for these individuals. Rehabilitation services and recovery housing go hand in hand. We directly serve and transition participants from chronic illness, homelessness, and incarceration to recovery. Our funding request is not for services. The rehabilitation and wraparound care are already paid for through existing contracts and are delivered at the property, such as long-term case management for mentally ill and treatment and recovering...monitoring services that typically occur off site. Recovery takes years and is also lifelong. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Our big vision is to move continually towards best practice integrated care. Treatment services that provide medical, mental health, and addiction services and supportive housing to help transition individuals is the type of housing that is represented in the RFP. In conclusion, I urge the Committee to maintain the request, and I'm also here to answer any questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Hokoana, for all that you do. Okay.

MS. HOKOANA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: First things first is you said, you know, this was an RFP process that you went through with the Department of Housing. How long did that process take you guys to go through?

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MS. HOKOANA: Well, the RFP was about a month. It took about a month to respond. It's typical that we have a month, and it's typical that it takes a month to pull all the pieces together.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So you're ready to go.

MS. HOKOANA: We're ready to go.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. The idea that...you know, in your testimony, I really appreciate the population you serve, and maybe I missed it, but just for clarification, do you have numbers, like how many people in a year?

MS. HOKOANA: Aloha House serves approximately 8,000 individuals a year --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: 8,000.

MS. HOKOANA: -- at varying levels of care, inpatient, outpatient. There are stages of recovery, subacute and acute stages where we're bringing in people from homelessness. We're stabilizing them medically. We're stabilizing their mental health, and also, they're treating their addiction. And then as they proceed through our care, they need recovery housing for relapse prevention, for ongoing engagement in community to get...I mean, to get back into employment. And this can take up to two years, I would say, to have like solid footing ready for, you know, a little more resilient to then qualify for affordable housing rentals and projects, you know, which I, God bless, like, that's where I want everyone to be too.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. And my last question is, are you guys the only one that does this on the island?

MS. HOKOANA: No, I would say that there are some. I mean, there's not many, but there are some high-end recovery facilities on Maui and in our State. We've served Medicaid population. There's also more additional...there's always, like, some for-profit entities in community.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. That's a key point, that you're different than those folks, that you're not high-end, you're serving the Medicaid popu...Medicare or Medicaid population, right?

MS. HOKOANA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for that. Thank you, Chair. No further questions.

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

MS. HOKOANA: Thank you.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, our last testifier before circling back to Travis Liggett is Monique Duplantis.

MS. DUPLANTIS: Aloha, my name is Monique Duplantis. I'm here to testify for Tūtū and Me. I'm a parent of two, and my family participates in the Tūtū and Me program in Lāhainā. Tūtū and Me is more than a preschool. It is a place where our children build early learning skills, connect with Hawaiian culture, and feel a sense of belonging. As parents, we are guided in how to support our children's development in a respectful, culturally grounded way. This program has helped our family create strong routines, better communication, and a deeper connection to the community. For my child, this program has.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, did we lose you?

MS. DUPLANTIS: For my child, this program has supported social, emotional growth, patience and learning how to interact (*inaudible*). For us as parents, it has provided tools and supports that are hard to find elsewhere, especially in a setting that's on a Hawaiian values and community. On islands where access to affordable, high quality early childhood program is limited, Tūtū and Me fills a critical gap. Losing it would not only impact individual families but also weaken the broader community. I respectfully ask for your support to sustain Tūtū and Me Traveling Preschool on Maui. This program is an investment in our keiki, our families, and the future of our community. Mahalo for listening. Thank you.

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

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, I still don't see Travis Liggett online. And the next testifier is Serena Fukushima.

MS. FUKUSHIMA: Aloha. My lunch break testimony. Get the baby downstairs. She's napping. I have a monitor here, but aloha mai kakou. My name is Serena Fukushima. I'm here on behalf of myself and my 'ohana. And I'm here today in strong support of the Partners in Development Foundation or PIDF. These programs have made a real difference in our family's life. Catching my breath. My 'ohana has been deeply blessed by the Tūtū and Me program, the Traveling Preschool and the Keiki Assets Account or KA'A program. Tūtū and Me is so much more than a preschool. It's a place where families feel seen, supported, and connected. Our program meets twice a week in our Upcountry community in Makawao, Hongwanji. The curriculum is rooted in cultural values and includes thoughtfully curated learning stations, mele, dance, storytelling, and community-based huaka'i that nurture both keiki and makua. Please come and visit us if you have a chance. It creates a space where our children can learn while staying connected to who they are and where they come from. Since my daughter started earlier this year, I've watched her truly blossom. Her confidence has grown, her

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

social skills have improved, and her love of learning shines more every week. Just as importantly, I found community there too. The kumu have been like extensions of our 'ohana and the relationships we've built with other parents have been a true lifeline during these early years of parenthood. Through Tūtū and Me, we also enrolled in the Keiki Assets Account program. This program gives families financial literacy resources and seed funding for savings accounts for our daughter. It helps us think long-term, not just about surviving here on Maui but about creating a future where our keiki can truly stay and thrive here. These programs have been life-changing for us. They provide culturally grounded education, family support, and financial empowerment that strengthen not only our daughter's future but our entire 'ohana. Now due to federal education funding cuts, PIDF is facing a \$20 million loss statewide, forcing the closure of 17 locations, including its virtual and home caregiving program, and all Maui programs, not just Tūtū and Me, all of their programs. These services are offered at no cost to families like us. And for many of us, they're not simply extra activities sprinkled into our week. They're essential. For many of us, Tūtū and Me is the only accessible opportunity for our keiki at this age to experience a truly meaningful, culturally grounded early education, and structured learning environment, one that sets a strong foundation for a lifetime of learning ahead. Without immediate action, these closures in September will deepen educational inequities, reduce access to early learning opportunities, and remove critical support systems for Maui's keiki and our 'ohana, with Native Hawaiian families and our rural communities bearing the most significant impacts. Maui County has always shown leadership in putting our keiki and our community first. I humbly ask you to help protect these programs from closure. Investing in our keiki today is investing in the future of Maui. Mahalo nui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? I see none. Thank you.

MS. FUKUSHIMA: Mahalo. Come visit us.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there's currently no one else who has signed up to testify, although I do see somebody approaching the podium.

MR. LAW: Aloha, 'aha ke kalana. I was walking slow because I like that Travis Liggett guy. Some of the things he says about the purification of the water treatment plant over there. Aloha kākou, aloha everybody out there in TV land, ohayo Chair Kashiwa Sugimura. The topic of the day seems to be the keiki kula, the keiki school there. I got out of the Pukui-Albert Dictionary when I looked up tūtū, and I thank you for wearing those little shirts on the cute little kids there because it's...they got the macron over the vowel. So the dictionary says it's usually pronounced tūtū, but if anybody knows Hawaiian more better than me, the T is pronounced K. So it's kūkū and not tūtū. And the definition is granny, grandma, grandpa, granduncle, grandaunt, any relative or close friend of grandparents, generation, and parentheses, often said affectionately. Apparently, a new word as it has not been made, been noted in legends and chants. Okay. And so, that's your Hawaiian lesson for today. Thank you for including Bill 62 in your papa kumumana'o because, as you know, I'm very interested in environmental

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

protection and the landfill stuff. So, hold on a second. Oh, yeah. Okay. Thanks, Shane. I'll just jump right into it. On Tuesday, November 5th, 2019, the Environmental Agriculture and Cultural Preservation Committee invited some people here to talk about waste reuse and energy generation. And that was, like, right before COVID. I remember, like, we were in a meeting, and they had to cancel the meeting because it's declared an emergency. But I would like to see...I don't know which. I heard that you all was going to go over the Environmental Management Division. And I would just like to...I'm going to be listening real hard for any money you put in there for the waste to energy conversion stuff. Especially the Hāna landfill. It's like anybody in the whole world knows about Hāna, and we want to protect Hāna from being a big pile of trash like . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .Pu'unene over there. And so, yeah, I heard the bell. And thank you, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, for being here today. I just wanted to suggest that if you guys don't fight as much with the Chair, then you probably get out of here a little bit sooner.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the testifier? Thank you. All right, next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair, we have another individual signed up, Casey.

MS. CASEY: Hi. Can you guys hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. CASEY: Hi. I wasn't planning on speaking, but I'm doing so out on a whim in strong support of Partners in Development Tūtū and Me program. I'm sorry. It's been an incredible, meaningful part of my family's life. As a mother of three boys...sorry, I'm sick at home. As a mother of three boys, two of which have graduated from this program, I've witnessed firsthand the lasting impact it's had on their growth, confidence, and early learning. The program not only prepares keiki for school but also strengthens family bonds by involving parents and caregivers. When I found out I was expecting my fourth son, one of my first thoughts was how excited I was to once again be a part of Tūtū and Me. Knowing the positive foundation it's provided for my older boys, it gave me so much comfort and joy looking ahead. It was heartbreaking to learn just yesterday that the program was going to be closing on Maui. This program is more than a preschool. It is a community, a support system, and a very vital resource for families like mine. I'm deeply grateful for the time we've had with Tūtū and Me, and I sincerely hope there is a way to continue or restore this invaluable program for future families in our community. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, I still don't see Travis Liggett online, and there's nobody else signed up to testify. Would you like me to do a last call?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, last call, please.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MS. MACDONALD: If somebody would like to testify in the Chamber, please let Staff know, or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call. Three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Members, with your permission, I'm going to close public testimony and accept written testimony on this item.

**COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.**

**. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Members, it is now 11:07, and I would like to...would you like to take a break, or you want to just do this until 12 and take a lunch break?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think we can't take a break until after we have some discussion, meaningful discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Let's have meaningful discussion. Okay. So we are going to take up Environmental Management, which is what we were trying to do yesterday, so we are continuing. We have four Member priorities in this. Member Paltin, we're going to take you, and then we will take a break.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. I did have some other amendments in addition to my priorities. What is your preference about how to...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. What I'm going to do is take it up in the order that it is in Bill 55. So I'm taking up priorities now, and then I'm going to Bill 55 and take up the items as it exists in the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay, priorities for DEM now. And then my amendments are within DEM, but we'll do them after the priority. Is that what you're saying?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. So we're doing priorities now, and if you could go through...I have, for you, one...U'u-Hodgins, Paltin has two, Johnson has one for...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I had one amendment to Wastewater that wasn't a priority. It's not money, but you wanted to do it after the priority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We'll take that after.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, got it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure, let's see. I move to add a new condition to Environmental

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

Protection Grants to read as follows: "Up to 300,000 must be for a grant to the Maui Ocean Center Marine Institute." And the white paper is attached to their South Maui residency area testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin and seconded by Member Johnson. Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This is a grant condition, but it is a little bit like a Countywide priority. They restore...the main reason that I'm supporting this, though, however, even though it's Countywide priority, is they restore coral reef. They...I don't know if you know, but we've had a spate of luxury yachts or commercial catamarans beaching themselves in our Marine Conservation District in Honolua, and they do some significant damage to the reef. And what this Institute does is they go and collect the little coral pieces and they grow them, and then they stick them back on the reef so that they can be fixed. And I really would love to charge the owners of the boats that did the damage, but there's no mechanism for us to do that. The other point I wanted to make is people that...meteorologists are predicting this El Nino to be the most significant El Nino since, like, 1877. And our coral reefs are what protect our islands. Like, you know, if they say trees are the lungs of land, coral reefs are the lungs of the ocean. So it's the relief that we'll get from having these folks continue their work that is, I think, federally and state mandated, but unfunded will pay back dividends. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I'm happy to support or happy to second this. It was one of my alternate priorities. I'm really appreciative of them coming before with a white paper. I'll add to what Councilmember Paltin said is, you know, not only are they farming the corals that break off from boats, they're trying to find ways to make it heat tolerant corals, where you can breed them for traits that are going to be beneficial. So they're doing that. They're doing sea turtles rescues and all of the things in regards to helping the sea turtles. And I did a site visit. I did a tour of their...their facility, and you can just see the passion these folks do. This kind of work, you know, you have to be passionate about it. And I see them doing it. And Tapani has been great over there at the Maui Ocean Center. I just am really happy that Councilmember Paltin brought this up. And I'm really happy for all the work that they do. And, you know, during their testimony, they mentioned, I think the quote was like 33 billion. It's...the price of our reefs are priceless. So, not necessarily want to put a price tag on something that's protecting all of us and we all use and help feed our community, but definitely full support in this motion. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. I'm totally supportive of this and grateful for that you're including it. They're doing good work. Pretty remarkable. There's a lot of work to be done in Maalaea Bay and the South Maui coastline because of the flooding

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

and all the different impacts. And they're...they're definitely doing some really good science to mitigate that. So, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anything else, Members? Okay. If not, all in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, eight "ayes." One excused, which is Chair Lee.

**VOTE:       AYES:       Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       Councilmember Lee.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:       APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You want to continue and finish the four or you want to take a break? It's 11:14.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm good to keep going, but I did use the bathroom out of recess. So if you need--

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, then take a break.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Let's announce. Okay. Shane's going already. Okay. So let's come back at 11:25. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS:       11:14 a.m.**  
**RECONVENE:   11:28 a.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Oops. Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee [sic]. It is now 11:28. We are done with Member Paltin's first priority, and she's not back. So next, we have Member U'u-Hodgins.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I move to increase the EP&S grant, Environmental Protection Grants, by 40,000--thank you, Shane--for a new total of 840,000 to add the new condition to Environmental Protection Grants to read as follows: "Up to 40,000 must be used for the grant to Ha'ikū Community Association to support the Ha'ikū Stream Testing Program." You folks--oh, I'll wait for a second.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Motion made by Member U'u-Hodgins, second by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. You folks heard from the Community Association [*sic*] at our Budget Hearing. They do a lot of testing of the stream in both of our districts to ensure that the public is safe, as they enjoy swimming in the stream. It'll be offset by the deleting Mālama Hāmāakua Maui in this section, but don't panic. I did move it into another section, so don't panic just yet. But that is...that is my proposal for now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discussion? If not, all in favor raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who's missing is Chair Lee and Member Paltin is not here. So that's seven?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion carries.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**        **AYES:**        **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**        **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**        **None.**

**ABSENT:**        **None.**

**EXC.:**        **Councilmembers Lee and Paltin.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**        **APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next is...Member Paltin is not coming back, then, for a little while. Member Johnson, you're next.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Chair, I move to insert a new line item, 13, Nāulu Cloud Revival for 2,400,000 with the following conditions, I, up to 1.1 million must be used for Mālama Haleakalā Foundation; two, up to 740,000 must be used for Uhiwai O Haleakalā; and, three, up to 500,000 must be used for Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson, and second by Member--oh--Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. We discussed this in the ADEPT Committee last year, Members may recall. The Nāulu Cloud Bridge stretched from Leeward Haleakalā to Kaho‘olawe. It was once a constant ecological phenomenon that was documented in cultural practices and traditional knowledge. The cloud bridge brought shade, and rains, and formed...and formed one piece of the lei of clouds that circled Maui Nui. These proposals fund reforestation, native plants, and seed propagation, invasive species removal, and partnership with Mālama Haleakalā Foundation, Uhiwai O Haleakalā and partners and Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission on two islands. We have white papers and received presentations from each of these community partners. And as you all know the rain follows the forest. This proposal follows cultural wisdom and addresses resiliency by bringing back natural weather patterns, by restoring land to its natural habitat. This in turn will protect us from fire, flooding, and drought. We need to bring back the health of the islands to ensure the health and safety of its people. This project is a long time coming in its first year of many that will seriously address climate change and resiliency. I...I...hopefully...or I respectfully ask the Members' full support. I usually say "expect".

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I expect . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

ALL: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Any other discussion? Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. We heard from some of the people that you were working with to create your proposal, and I know we heard about it some, but please remind me what kind of trees they're going to be planted. I know we were talking about potential restrictions, so I was wondering if you could give us some information on that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. There's a lot of information on the white papers, but, specifically, they were talking about the koa trees replacing the --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- Black Wattle.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And as many firefighters mentioned, the Black Wattle is really bad for fire.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. Do you have that white paper with you?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes, I do. You want me hand it down to you?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I would love that. Thanks.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It...I...let me --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want to --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I can just hand it down to you for now and --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, because we heard from...we heard from one of the testifiers yesterday. I...I think, if I remember...I wrote it somewhere. So it was like 100 and something acres for Kaonoulu...Kaonoulu Ranch.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And then was about Mālama Hāmākua, is that...are they

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

going to be the ones who are planting it on Kaonoulu Ranch?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And then Kaho'olawe Island Reserve, what are they going to do on that island?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. They're all in...all the answers are in the white papers. And I...I didn't want to go through them right now because it's about seven pages of...of documents I just passed down to you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yup.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you going to submit the white papers?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Most definitely.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So everybody will have a copy of it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Wait, can he answer me? Can he answer what's going to happen on Kaho'olawe, please, because I don't think we're going to be planting koa trees over there.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. Right. Well, I...I...I --

ALL: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, yeah. Girl, you don't have it memorized?

ALL: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I just joking. I don't blame you because I don't either.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can you summarize?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. If you could as I...as I flip through your choke papers with stuff that goes way over my head.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Let me...let me --

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, I didn't see any Kaho'olawe stuff on here. This is just

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

the Kaonoulu Ranch stuff.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And the Haleakalā one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you'll get it, right, Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I mean, I don't...don't get me wrong. I see how they're going to be...they're going to benefit. I just don't see how--here, you can have this back--you can...be able to plant trees when Kaho'olawe doesn't have the soil. That it's...it's a red hard clay, and they also don't have water, but, nonetheless, I'm supportive. I'm just curious. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more discussion? If not, all in favor say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we have eight "ayes," one excused, which is Chair Lee. Motion carries.

|              |              |                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>VOTE:</b> | <b>AYES:</b> | <b>Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.</b> |
|--------------|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

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|--------------|--------------|
| <b>NOES:</b> | <b>None.</b> |
|--------------|--------------|

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| <b>ABSTAIN:</b> | <b>None.</b> |
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|                |              |
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| <b>ABSENT:</b> | <b>None.</b> |
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|              |                            |
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| <b>EXC.:</b> | <b>Councilmembers Lee.</b> |
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**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:    APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, I skipped you. Do you want to take your chance now, or you want to wait?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair, real quick, can I...I'm sorry to interrupt you. I just wanted to make clear that the...my priority that we voted on about 4 1/2 minutes ago --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- for the EP&S stuff was to also include deleting the line item in that area for Mālama Hāmākua. Just making sure that was clear --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- that was . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- because you said, "Don't worry, I'm putting it somewhere else".

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But I wanted to make sure that was with my motion so that they're not in both places. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. So, Member Paltin, it is your grant number 2.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I just want to thank whoever gave me this nice thing in order with numbers. Wow. It's...I feel like Christmas.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. My second motion of the day is to condition...add a new condition to Maui County Wetland Grants to read as follows, "Up to 250,000 must be for a grant to Mālama Kakanilua for Hui o 'Āina Kūko'a ". And I did submit the white paper to the Staff last night, maybe around 12:00 or 1:00, not sure, lost track of time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, second?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Go for it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, somebody.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I'd like to move to amend Councilmember Paltin's proposal and move it over to the Office of 'Ōiwi, which where it was originally. It was my priority from --

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

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No. The 250,000 for Mālama Kauka --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Kakanilua.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you. So, for . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Move it over to there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: EP&S, is that what you...did you just say EP&S?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 'Ōiwi Resources, he wanted to move it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 'Ōiwi, sorry. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm amendable. I don't mind.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, you don't mind.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No objection.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So then would I take it up with we get to 'Ōiwi Resources and withdraw right now? Yes?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'm amendable to that. I'll --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . okay. So you guys got that, right? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I'll...I'll do what he said and take it up when --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We're going to put this aside and take it up later, not today.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Just...just to let everybody know, I did speak with Cody *(phonetic)*; he's supportive. I did speak with Kekai Robinson, she's supportive. So I think...you know, Deputy Director. So I think everybody is...is willing to do it this way.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm willing to do it this way --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Withdraw.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So this is going to be...I'm going to withdraw. I'm going to move this to 'Ōiwi at the appropriate time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. There is...okay. Can I clarify that question?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sorry, I'll ask that question for the record. Are you adding the funds when you remove it...oh, move it to the Department of 'Ōiwi or are you going to condition grants that we already have in there?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: We're going to condition. There is a pot of \$700,000 in there --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- that we will condition it for.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I'm going to move it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, we're going to take up. . .*(inaudible)*. . . where's my sheet?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did have some cuts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we are...one, two, three, four. We are done with the Priorities and Operating Budget. So I'm going to go through the Bill 55, Admin. Program, General Fund, pages 5 to 6. Does anybody have any proposed amendments here, A account or --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, shoot.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- B?

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I think I have a proposal. I move to decrease funding in category A --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, this from your list, your huge list. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- by \$22,108.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oops.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Could you clarify where?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I...was it second by Member Sinenci. I think that's what I heard. Yeah? Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, my recommendation is the not-yet-created Grant Specialist FY'26 expansion position, reducing the 12-month request by 4 months. But that's just a suggestion, justification, recommendation. They're free to do what they want if we accept...if you guys accept this proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That...that's fine. I had other cuts, so that's fine.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Director Milner is on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I did hear from the Department that this position is almost complete in the creation process, and they do hope to have it filled by the end of this Fiscal Year, which is why they included the 12-months funding. The rest of the positions in Admin., I believe, are full, so they don't really have any flexibility when it comes to funding. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm willing to withdraw it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So that's from this spreadsheet, you're withdrawing that --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- whatever -- okay. I going to cross it out. All right. Does anybody...Member Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. Well, so I have a question for the Budget Director if...regarding the last --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner. Oh, there you are.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Budget Director, how about Department's 32 vacancies, 4 of which are inactive but still funded in the budget? So the Department will have wiggle room to fund the positions. One is to reduce the funding for Administrative Program P00567, page 73 in budget details, by six months, Department requesting a full year. Reduce funding \$33,162 plus fringe. This is FY 2025 expansion position request; position title has changed three times since then. Department is still awaiting approval on its reorg, which started in March of 2025.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . are they General Fund? My question is --

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- oh, if that's General Fund --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Sewer Fund, or Solid Waste Fund, or EP&S Fund?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's P00567.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: P00567.

MS. MILNER: Yes. Thank you, Chair. That was the Grant Specialist position that we were just discussing that they expect to fill by the end of this Fiscal Year. As for the Department's other vacancies, I believe those fall under the Special Funds. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So basically, the Department is asking for no cuts at all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For that . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, there will be cuts, but Member...or Chair Sugimura was just asking for the general-funded Administration Program at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So we're just kind of going down.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: There's...there's, like, four different pots of money for DEM; one is General Fund, one is Solid Waste Fund, one is Wastewater Fund, and one is EP&S.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have a proposal for the Wastewater Fund, but when the time is right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Batangan, how about your list?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You don't have, okay. All right. So for this, Administration Program, we just talked about it; there's no amendments for this. Wastewater Administration Program, Sewer Fund, page 6 in Bill 55; is there any...yeah. That's your thing. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I know this is Mr. Nakagawa's money but my proposal, I...I move to decrease Category A by \$500,000 and put that \$500,000 instead, to fund the CBS-5031 sewer-funded CIP to be able to reduce the bond. And then the 325,150 fringe transfer, I would like to put in their Capital Reserve Fund. That's my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's your motion. Is there a second? Second by Member Cook. And did you get that? Is it writing somewhere --

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On my little paper with pencil --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that I did last night in the midnight hour.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Do...do you --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Can I ask that you repeat that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So which is the...which is...which pot are you looking to reduce from?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: A.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm looking to reduce Category A, Wastewater Fund, by \$500,000 and relocate that \$500,000 to Capital Improvement Project CBS-5031. And then the fringe associated with the \$500,000 Category A cut, I calculated to be, like, \$325,150, and I'd like to move that to the Capital Reserve Fund for the...the sewer project for Waikapu Country Town, like in the Wai'ale area.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So you're cutting Category A, that's Department of Environmental Management Admin. Program or the Wastewater Program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wastewater.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wastewater.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wastewater.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So that's page 6, B, the Sewer Fund; that's the one you're --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- you're talking about. Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And they can cut it from wherever they want, Admin., Operations, I'm flexible. Are we in my discussion now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So for my discussion, they've consistently had over \$1 million of carryover in Fiscal Year '23, '24, '25. And I know this isn't cash money but seems excessive when people talk about how much carryover we have. So I'm just giving this a try, taking 500 grand out of the Sewer Fund for those vacancies that Member Cook was referring to and reducing the bond. And then the fringe associated with it, I'm going to move over to the Capital Reserve Fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good, very creative. All right. Any other --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I like being creative in the midnight hour.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Can I just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- confirm? So the total amounts that you're proposing to reduce are tied to the positions that Member Cook had mentioned or this is separate?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't know what Member Cook was mentioning, but he was mentioning not the General Fund. So it could also have been possibly the Solid Waste Fund or the EP&S Fund, additionally.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Sorry, can you remind me, then, how you came up with the...the cut amount?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Fiscal Year '25's carryover was, like, 1.9 million, and I just picked the number. And then Fiscal Year '24 was, like, 1 point something million, Fiscal Year '23 was 1 million something. And so, you know, if it's our money to do with what...that's what I'm going to do with it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have any discussion? If not, let's vote.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies to interect...interject. Staff just wants to clarify. So under the Wastewater...for the Sewer Fund there's two A pots. There's one for the Wastewater Admin. Program and one for the Wastewater Operations Program. This one's under the Wastewater Operations Program.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wherever they want to take it from, it's...I'm good with it.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, but . . .(*inaudible*). . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. KRUEGER: Yeah, for the...I...I think the...the Committee --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Probably.

MR. KRUEGER: -- needs to select one of those two pots.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, then in --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Probably Operations, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that case, Operations --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, Operations.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- because there's more people in there.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MR. KRUEGER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anymore --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, there's Director Milner.

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

ALL: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes. The Department would rather have that come out of Wastewater Operations, but they would also prefer that the cut come from the B Account rather than the A Account, if that's something that could be considered.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm...I'm amendable.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. MILNER: And then, because you were also allocating some from fringe, I just...I don't know if you want to increase--Eric's going to kill me--the amount of the cut to account for the fringe to transfer the Capital Reserve Fund, or if you just want to do the 500,000 for the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did want to move the fringe to the Capital Reserve Fund. If it creates a problem, I'm...I'm okay with them coming for a budget amendment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Eventually. Okay. Anything else, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That is it. Okay, all in . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, we still got to vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we got to vote.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Wait. So the motion has been amended?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Motion...I friend...accept that as a friendly amendment to change it from Category A to Category B, Wastewater Operations, 500,000, and dump it into CBS-5031 with the fringe going to the Capital Reserve Fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . got it.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In the amount of \$325,150 is what I calculated the fringe as. But, you know, late at night we make mistakes, so I won't be offended if anyone fact checks my math.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)*. . . You're happy math. Okay, Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I guess I just want to start by stating that I support both moving the fringe and Eric killing Lesley as part of this...this discussion.

ALL: . . . *(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But I also want to...just this note that I have...so I guess one of the things I've learned throughout this process has been how difficult it is for us to make targeted cuts without a real sense of what is a true priority for the...the Departments, and what is, you know, luxuries that we can live without. I would also say that as somebody who had created departmental budgets on the Administration side, I also did appreciate the flexibility that the Council gave to us to be able to, you know, make those determinations as...as it came up. So I appreciate the approach that Member Paltin had taken. You know, I had initially tried it when we first started yesterday. It didn't quite work out the way I had intended. But I'm glad I had first, you know, taken that track. You know, I think it was a good learning experience for me as well. My thoughts have evolved, and I...I still support this line of thinking and, you know, appreciate the...the thought that went into being more fiscally responsible but also giving the departments the flexibility they need to maintain operations, so thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Thank you. Okay. Ready--oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I...I...I...well, first of all, I don't support killing Lesley. Lesley cannot die. We need her. . . . *(laughing)*. . . She's the best and the most important. Okay. And then second, I...I support the motion on the floor. And then last, I just wanted to re-describe needs versus luxury. I wouldn't describe it as luxury. The way I understand it, as a councilmember, is contingency, and we cannot predict the future. This is when we're setting revenue. And...and once it's set, like, that's it. We have to wait another year to set it again. And so, if departments...you know there's been so many emergencies that have come up that was never anticipated before we set the budget, that I understand the departments, you know, wanting to make sure there's enough flexibility there that they're not going to have to...they're going to have the...the money to pay people, they're going to have the money to complete the projects that they intend to complete. Anyway...and so, I...I...I wouldn't describe it as luxury, I would just describe it as, you know, contingency.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm not sure if this is for Ms. Milner or Ms. Wrigglesworth. I'm assuming the reason why they would prefer the cuts to Category B --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: B.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --as opposed to Category A is to utilize the A funds for --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Overtime.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- overtime and, thus, the fringe need is decreased. Is it okay to cut the fringe knowing that the A category will be used for overtime, and that, likely, we won't fill the positions? And so, we only need 30 percent of fringe instead of 100 percent of fringe, and then we can then cut it and move it to the Capital Reserve.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Corp. Counsel...was that for Corp. Counsel?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Annually, it can change?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Thank you, Chair. I don't see an issue with that, but I would...I would defer to Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Sorry. What I was asking was if you wanted to cut the full 8 to 900,000 from the B Account rather than from the fringe as I believe the fringe is calculated based on the positions. I also realized I don't know if the transfer to the Sewer Fund needs to be a cut. I think that can be...sorry, the transfer to the Capital Improvement Reserve Fund, I don't think that needs to be a cut. I think that just needs to be a condition that's added to the budget. I believe under Wastewater Admin., you would just add a condition for the transfer of that amount under the B Account to the Fund. So that wouldn't necessarily be a cut, it would just be an added condition. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Could we put a condition that A carryover savings at the end transfers to the Capital Reserve Fund at the end of the Fiscal Year?

MS. MILNER: We don't always know the carryover savings right at the end of the Fiscal Year, so that's why it's usually incorporated into the next year's budget process. I think I need to have further conversations with Corporation Counsel and OCS about if that was something that the Council wanted to do, the appropriate mechanism, whether it would be a Code amendment or if it would need to be in the Charter. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because the only reason I ask is we keep carrying over the savings and yet our sewer rates keep increasing. And so, like, you know, we need a break somewhere. Like, why are we carrying over all these savings and still getting nine percent sewer rate increases every year. And if we're going to do that, I'd like to see it go into the Capital Reserve Fund so that we're funding the projects in that way.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Go ahead.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But if it's not going to be fringe, I'll just stick with the \$500,000 Category B cut, and we can work on the Capital Reserve transfer through legislation or something else in the future, if I'm still around, in January.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. And, Budget Director, I'm glad you're still with us. Can I ask...I don't think I followed what...what you were saying when you said that we would just need to condition the funding rather than cut funding because if we're moving accounts...money, wouldn't we need to reduce it on the bottom side?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Batangan. Yes, sorry, I was not talking about the 500,000 that's moving to CIP.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, I see.

MS. MILNER: For that one, yes, you would reduce the bond. But what I was saying is for the money that you were talking about transferring to the Revolving Fund...the Capital Improvement Revolving Fund for Wastewater, that would be a condition rather than a cut because that's just a transfer out of the Wastewater Admin. budget over to that fund.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So with Member...okay. Maybe I'm getting myself confused now. But she would...are we still including the fringe as part of the...the proposal before us?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're not doing A anymore.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Category B doesn't have fringe . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. So the 500,000 is a cut because that would require us to reduce the bond amount. But the A...the...the fringe is still included in your motion for...that would impact Category...or --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: A but --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- A or no? . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . -

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, we moved it from Category A to Category B --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: B.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- at the request of the Department. I'm amendable to that.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mr. Krueger was just mentioning that that project is not bond-funded. And he was saying that a countywide project that is, we can reduce that bond instead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

MR. KRUEGER: So...so, Chair, my Staff is...Staff currently sees two sewer bond fund projects in...in...under DEM. One is the Countywide EPA Compliance Wastewater Reclamation Facility Renovation Projects. That one is \$4 million in bond. And...but there's one other one, which is under Wailuku/Kahului Community Plan Area that says the Waiehu Kou Wastewater Pump Station Modifications. That one is 1 million in bond funds.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll...I'll take the second, Waiehu Kou reduce bond fund by half mill.

MR. KRUEGER: Sorry, there is one more.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. KRUEGER: Oh. No, apologies. There...there isn't...I didn't see one more. So Staff will --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: CBS --

MR. KRUEGER: -- treat this as going to Waiehu Kou Wastewater Pump Station Modification .  
. .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, CBS-5526.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So the proposal before us is to take --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 500,000.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- 500,000 from the B Account to pay for that, reduce the bonding for that project that Mr. Krueger had just mentioned by 500,000. And then on top of that, decrease the fringe associated with it from the B Account.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: There's...there's no fringe --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No fringe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- from the B Account. If we want to try and put --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So it's just the 500,000 that we're considering --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think if we want to try move some of their carryover to Capital Reserve, somebody had said that we might need to pursue legislation, which can be done if we're still around in January.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So, the proposal before us is just the 500?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just the 500 to offset the bond funding.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you, Member Paltin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, very good.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mr. Krueger.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we got that, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks for your help, folks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thanks for your creative thinking. So, Members, no further discussion. Let's vote. All in favor raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who is missing is Chair Lee. So it'll be eight "ayes" and one excused. She will return.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**        **AYES:**        **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**        **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**    **None.**

**ABSENT:**     **None.**

**EXC.:**        **Councilmembers Lee.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**    **APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anything else for Wastewater Operations Program? And I think the Department is sending their appreciation that we're not cutting A, so thank you, Member Paltin. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Member U'u-Hodgins and I have a meeting with the WIR team --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- to prepare for the conference at 12:00.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We go to recess, then, yeah? Okay. All right. So we are ending right now, Wastewater Operations Program, Wastewater Admin. Program. I think we're done with that. And we will pick up after lunch. It is now 12:01. Come back at 1:30, Members? Yeah. Okay, this meeting is in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:**        **12:01 p.m.**  
                 **RECONVENE:**    **1:34 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back. Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 1:34. Thank you very much for...for being here, all of you. And Member Paltin gets a prize because she was here first. Have to figure what the prize is. Just kidding. But you really are...you're always here first, so thank you. We left off...we're in DEM. We left off at Solid Waste Admin. Program...Management Fund, which is page 6, 7. Does anybody have any amendments? Solid Waste Management Fund, anybody have any amendments? No? Solid Waste Operations Program.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I really wanted to cut but, you know, there's no interfund transfer, so it's not really...and their carryover is...is minimal. They're doing a great job. They got choke money because of the debris transfer, so --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I'm going to let them go on their merry way.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So Eric Nakagawa and gang will be happy.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. That's not...Eric is not too happy with us. It's the other guy.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Scott Rollin [*sic*]...Kehano.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, Kehano.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mike Kehano.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Kehano.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: He picks up --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mike Kehano.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- he makes sure my trash gets picked up.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And EP&S program...so it's Environmental Protection Sustainability Fund budget bill, pages 7 and 8. Anybody have any amendments to this? You do? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to delete 100,000 from number 5f(7), Green Building and Resilient Housing Grants, and then subsequently decrease the supplemental transfer to the Environmental Protection and Sustainability Fund, 100,000, freeing up 100,000 of General Fund money.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yay, that's a prize. Good job.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And it's creative too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And it's creative. And good math, right? Those are all your categories.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That didn't take too much math.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 100 to 100. Okay. Anybody have any discussion? That's a motion?

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

Oh --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's a motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- James has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee has a second. So Member Paltin and Chair Lee made the second. Any more discussion? If not, let's vote. All in favor raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now, who are we missing? Member U'u-Hodgins is going to be online, so she's not here yet. So that is eight "ayes," one excused, Member U'u-Hodgins.

**VOTE:       AYES:       Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and  
                              Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,  
                              Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Moving right along here. Capital Improvement Projects.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I have another motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have another motion for what, same? EP&S?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Same place but number 14, Renewable Energy Program Grants.  
I move to decrease the appropriation by \$50,000 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and decrease...then subsequently decrease the supplemental transfer to the Environmental Protection and Sustainability Fund accordingly.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 50,000, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 50-50.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 50.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you're adding one, right, is what you said? You taking from one, and you're giving to the other.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No,. I'm freeing up 50 grand cash for you folks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yay, another prize.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin and Chair Lee is the second. Any more discussion?  
Oh . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Renewable Energy Program Grants, decrease 50,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? All in...all in favor? All in favor? Okay. All in favor say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who is missing is Member U'u-Hodgins. So eight "ayes," one excuse.

**VOTE:       AYES:       Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and  
                              Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,  
                              Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVE.**

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. I'm going to take up my other one, instead of in EP&S, in OWR --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- based on guidance from Member Johnson.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we...we are done with EP&S, then, correct?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have...oh --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- not EP&S.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, it's not EP&S, it's Admin. I missed it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Admin. So we got to reverse.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, if...if...if you're ready. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can reverse.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead, under Admin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I move to delete the 2.5 million from Ma'alaea Village Association to support efforts eliminating the use of injection wells at Ma'alaea Village.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You got that James and...okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Page 6 in the budget bill. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Page 6. Second by who? Oh, Member Sinenci. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then I'll discuss.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, please.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So I supported the 1...I can't rem...1.5

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

million last year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then when we had DEM before us, I asked if there's an overall plan for this because last year I supported the 1.5 because there was a matching 1 million EPA grant to support this effort. And the overall project was estimated, you know, like a year or two, to cost like \$8 million. But we know how much the cost of projects continue to increase.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So without, like, a total plan, like, what I asked DEM, and I...I don't think we got a response for that question yet, regarding, you know, at what point...how much is the County is going to spend overall on this 8-plus million-dollar project.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I...I guess I don't want every year to find out it's more, it's more, it's more without knowing what is being asked of us for the totality of this project. So that's the reason.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Chair Lee and then Member Batangan.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Does...does this project support the Atherton Housing Project development?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ma'alaea --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the Ma'alaea condos.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's just that the Ma'alaea Village, and that person who's been testifying, Mr. Liggett, or something --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Liggett.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- that's his project?

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. It's --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Tapani Vuori. I think Mr. Liggett mentioned that he was removed from that project for a reason that hasn't been verified by me --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and I don't want to repeat.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: When appropriate, I'd like to speak to it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member...Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I think I might need some context for this one. I...if I remember correctly, there were talks about a Community Facilities District for this, or am I thinking the wrong project.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's right.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: This is the same one?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That...that's correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They didn't want to do it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Well, yeah, if you can get a county grant rather than a county bond, I would much prefer that too. So how much are we in on this project at this point?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: One point something.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, like 1.5 million and then they got...they got a --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And so, they're asking for another two and a half --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- this year?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then they got a 1 million grant from EPA --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and they're asking for another two and a half this year --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- from County.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member--oh, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook, and then Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think Member Sinenci was the seconder --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second, yeah . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- so he would talk first, and then Member Cook, then me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry, I had to move my computer screen, now I can see you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, thank you, Chair. Just for...a question for Member Rawlins-Fernandez. It is to delete the entire funding or delay...delay the funding?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Delete it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Delete it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, until we get an answer about how much the County is going to be expected to contribute to the overall cost of the project.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry, Chair Lee, too.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi, just quick question, Mr. Cook. Is this cash or bond?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This is cash.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Cash, General Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Now, who's next? Member Cook, then Member...I think we kind of going all over, but Member Paltin after that.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I'll speak to this. I have...I was very resistant to this in the beginning because I also felt that it wasn't the place for the County to be funding it, and I thought a CFD would be appropriate. The...the...all of the owners, a lot of them are not residents, it meets the State criteria, they're not being fined, it is polluting the bay. And I've signed on board, and I'm supportive of this because of the...the impact that's happened at Ma'alaea Bay. My thought processes of how we were going to get paid is they're paying transient...transient accommodation tax, it's not a direct nexus, but that's my thought process is they...we're taxing them, we're going to use some of that money for the environment. It's not my preference, but I really...I...I'm convinced that it's the responsible thing to do for the ocean environment there, to do this. The other thing that I...that I...that got me on board with this, what they're doing is the very regenerative type of sewage treatment plant. They have the area from Mahi Pono that...they have a lease. And the way that they're doing it is a really good example of how I think our county could start processing wastewater without it being "the industrial process of now." So the two reasons, I think it is a valid experimental...it's a proven experimental system that I think will be possibly a real good example. And the second reason is I really want to clean up the bay, and although it's painful to fund it like this I feel that it's warranted. So thank you for letting me share.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin. Thank you, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll speak in opposition of this motion. I think they did say the full cost would be around 10 million. The reason I'm speaking against it is, similar to Member Cook, the whole...the bay is really trashed. I guess, you know, that used to be known as a pristine area. The wave, itself, was known as freight trains. It hasn't broken consistently except for that last code red Ma'alaea swell where, you know, the boat went through the restaurant at Mala, which is in Lahaina, but that's how big the swell was, like the mast went right through the restaurant. But...and you could see guys getting like...I don't know it was, like, six-minute barrels. But what I had heard was when they got out of the water, they were just covered in, like, bites and gross stuff, like the water quality is really bad, brown. And before, when they closed the Pali, before all the mud runoff from over there goes straight into the bay, so it's...it's kind of...so many things have been tried to help clean up the bay. They...they put oysters in there, and then the oysters got ripped off, and then it was, like, a failed pilot program. And they're like, make sure you don't eat the oysters because, you know, you're going to get sick. But also, you know, because of Bill 9, I guess a little bit what Member Cook is saying, they're not going to have that revenue anymore. And if these are going to be housing for local people, then they're not going to be able to address the sewage issue, which I think was part of the reason why the Ma'alaea community didn't want to push for the NPDES permits for Lahaina because it was precedent setting in that all injection wells would

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

then need a NPDES, and the State of Hawai'i never had given out a NPDES permit, and still hasn't really done it satisfactorily. And so the ocean and us converting what is transient housing to resident housing through Bill 9, taking away their revenue source, and the ocean belongs to all of us, including the creatures in the ocean; we're not thriving right there, so I won't be supporting the motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But, I mean, I...I wouldn't mind the 2.5 million but still --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- six-minute barrels.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Some valid points were raised, and I also probably won't support this. I won't support this. You know, I think the term they called Ma'alaea was troubled, a troubled water, or something. It was a...there's a technical term when it's so polluted that it's just...it...it really needs a lot of help. So I also want to remind everybody that the Ocean Center has a pipe that brings that water in, and that's the water they use for the aquarium. So it's...it's pretty bad out there. I...I...at the end day, the reef, the ecosystem, the creatures, they don't care about our dilemma. They just know the water is dirty, and they can't grow and thrive in there. And people eat those...those tako and the fish that out...that's out there. So I want to try...I...I know it's been a uphill battle for them to get...you know make this happen, but let's not delay it anymore. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody...did you...Chair Lee. Oh, sorry about that, Chair Lee. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. What about switching it to a bond project? No?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Just . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, we don't own it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, would be nice.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, I see. I see.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I see.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It wouldn't be nice.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and then I have something to say too. Who else has something to say? Member Cook did already. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, you want to speak about this?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So I don't know how much is generated in the TAT there. But when we try to increase the rates on nonowner occupied, that's where money can also be generate from because they're also nonowner occupied and TVRs. I think I would be more supportive if it was our residents living there, but it's...it's not, it's mostly used for commercial purposes, and they should take responsibility if they are making money and exploiting the area. I don't not support this project. I guess, my question for my colleagues would be how much of the 10 million are we...you're...you support all \$10 million minus the 1 million EPA grant? Like, at what point...because we're...we're piecemealing the money right now. Like, we don't know the entirety of the plan. Generally, when it's a CIP or, you know, whatever project we're supporting the...the construction of, we...we have an idea of when the funding is going to start, and when it stops. And with this project I asked that question and I didn't get an answer. So I think, you know, as...as we...and I see Budget Director turning her...her video on because that...to me that's an...like, we need to know what the commitment that we are, you know, making on behalf of the...the taxpayers.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They did submit an additional EM-2 answer yesterday. I don't know if you read it, but I don't...it has a Gantt chart. I can pull it up.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Was it...so the Gantt chart is the construction, or does it include the funding? And I see Budget Director; may I call on her?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes. EM-3 is in process, so we hope to get it to you soon. But for purposes of this discussion, the total project cost is currently estimated at 12.48 million to 16.14 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

MS. MILNER: We've had discussions with them, and the Mayor has currently pledged to support the project up to 9 1/2 million, that includes the 1.25 from last year and the 2 1/2 from this year. It will be spread over years. But I would also add that we made it very clear to the Ma'alaea Village Association that any funding appropriated to them is contingent on Council approval and there are no guarantees for that funding. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci. Excuse me.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I was just thinking if we could delay the funding and not put it into this Fiscal Year budget until the following until, you know, they can start --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Get the information.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- collecting all...how much they actually need.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That would be my proposal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Budget Director, so what's the plan for the remaining balance for the Association?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Batangan. The 2 1/2 million this year will allow the project to go shovel-ready. And then we've been working with Ma'alaea Village Association to determine their needs as each year progresses, but I know they're trying to get this done sooner rather than later. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So I guess that gives me some unease. If we are not given the full project timeline and funding plan, it's hard to make a determination as to whether or not this is going to really move the needle, or if they're just going to keep coming back. I know that the...this Mayor has, you know, committed to supporting up to a certain threshold, pending Council approval. I personally am with Member Rawlins-Fernandez on this one. I feel like the benefits to the Association have been privatized, and they are publicizing the...the expenses and the environmental damage. And that, you know, they're asking us to then, you know, fund the cleanup. I would be supportive of helping via our bonding system, that would allow for cheaper financing for the Administration...or to the Association and would probably push for them to move in that direction. But I do hear my colleagues that, you know, there is environmental degradation happening and it's hard not to act when we can. But I...I don't feel good about committing General Bond...or General Funds for this, one, because of the precedent and, two, just the specifics of the project itself. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Cook, and then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thanks. Actually, this is an interesting thing because I'm so in agreement with the not funding it, and I just came up with something. Is it possible to earmark the transient vacation tax from that facility because it's substantial, for this? I'm just...I'm just like...I don't...I don't want it to come out of...out of the taxpayers' money. I don't want it to be like a give me, give me. And it is because that tax...that

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

tax base is for a variety of things, and I'm trying to...in my mind, I justified this previously with the nexus between the...the transient accommodation tax that those people are paying to pay for the stuff, the mess that they're making and --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: TAT goes straight into the General Fund, which this is coming out of the General Fund --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. But --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So it's --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- so --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. And I'm just...there again, when I say I agree with you, I mean it was a big leap for me to shift gears and be supportive because I felt that they should do a CFD. I felt that...all the things that you've expressed and being at the Ocean Center, and going out to the bay, and going to that park, and going to the harbor, and looking and just going like, I don't like it, but we can do something about it and...anyway enough said. I...I just say that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- not in agreement with . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I'm just...I'm agreement...I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Let's vote.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- I'm going to vote for it to...to vote against the motion to cut it, but I feel a lot of alignment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin. Oh, and, Member Johnson, you want to speak before we vote?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second and final, I'll just say that, you know, back when all the processes were getting created, Maui County, as well as Ma'alaia Village Association, or whatever they were back in the '60s, '70s, or whatever named, got bad advice. The County was the one...I mean the County was told to do those near-shore injection wells and that it wouldn't be a problem. But then, you know, science, and the dye test, and reality, hey, it's a problem, you know. And it would have been great if Mayor Arakawa would've just solved it without going to court, and we wouldn't have paid extra money, and maybe we would've had water by now, but that's not what happened. And then I guess...I forget the guy's name that testified before that grew up at Ma'alaia had said that they were...they never wanted to be hotel, they never wanted to do all these things, but they were pressured into becoming hotels and doing this. And so, it's not like the folks that were there set out saying, like, we want to do hotels, we want transient

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

vacation rentals. It was the government, or the system, or whatever it was at that time that pushed into injection wells, and like that, and it's basically when you know better you need to do better because at that time that was, like, considered, I guess, you know, better than doing number one and number two in a dirt hole and covering it up with dirt. You know, like, oh injection wells, that's a new wave. And then science happened, and reality happened, and they're like, no, no, that's not good. And they're like, what do you mean it's not good? We just invested however many millions into injection wells because you said that's the wave of the future. And then it's like, well, we discovered it's...oh, sorry, messing everything up. So I wouldn't put the blame on them for trusting science and listening. I don't know what that guy's name was, Peter or something. He's going to...might come and say, like, we never wanted to do this. This is what they made us do and whatever, so...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Was it Gannon *(phonetic)*?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sounds familiar.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But yeah, that's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I mean, for guys that are just--Cannon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For the new guy, he didn't get to hear that last year, so just saying like we can't just point the finger at them because that guy was around, grew up there, he remembers the story and how he might share it if he gets word. That's all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No, no, no. Chair Lee . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Chair Lee. Okay, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So I'm...I was just wondering if we could...I could ask Corp. Counsel a question. If...if there's any kind of liability to the County because the County is allowing...in a sense, allowing this pollution to occur?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Corp. Counsel.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: I...I want to double check on this. But I do...I don't think, right now, the County is...is on the hook for this. However, right, it's a...it's a...it's a resource for the whole county.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The harbor is a resource for the whole county?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Just the marine resources that --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: -- in that area. There's business there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. For my second, final, you know, Councilmember Paltin brought it up, but basically it's past policies that enable this...this thing to continue and this pollution to keep...keep happening. So I...I feel like, you know, we're kind of locked in to...we got up clean up from the old decision-makers. But what Councilmember Batangan brought up is something that I often say, and I really...that really hits the nail on the head on this situation where they privatize the gains and socialize the losses. These are short-term rentals, they make hand over fist when...when the business is booming. And...but now all that doo-doo water, we're responsible to clean it up. Remember, Members, there's that...the bill that I was proposing about the 20 percent of the TAT goes for the CARP, a section of the CARP to help clean that up. Not really a green fee, but basically, you know, these kinds of things could help. So at this time, in today's decision, I would support keeping the money in there. But long term, that seems to be what we...we have to untie the knots of bad decisions that we're dealing with, but also that privatizing the gains and socializing losses, we have to look at that and see the folks who are making all that money, and they can't come here with crocodile tears when it comes...when we have to make those hard decisions. So that's...that's all I wanted to bring up. I...I...I appreciate the...the, you know, attempt to have this good discussion, but I...I really can't support it at this time. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . memories of this, right? So we had a former Councilmember who thought we could use State Revolving Loan Fund, remember that, and not eligible because it's private, exactly right, you can't bond it, you now, it's not...and then the other thing that was proposed was for this to be connected to the Central...Central Maui Wastewater Reclamation Facility, but that they didn't want. So I don't know if that opportunity is still available to them, and now they're trying to do something else. So it needs leadership, I think, and...and maybe there is, and we just not talking to the right person to have a definitive answer. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Just speaking to that issue, the issue with that was time. The expectation is that they will have theirs up and running before the Central

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

Maui wastewater system is running. I'm super disappointed with the delays that continue to happen with that. That's one of my funding issues. Anyway, I think that was the issue, it wasn't that they didn't want to, it was because it was going to add another four years to not having a treatment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, time is ticking away, you know. And I think that it's a matter of how you can find the funding to pay for it and the longer you wait it gets more expensive. So are you...are you all ready to vote? So the vote is to delete this from the budget on page 6, item number 2, which is 2.5 million to be deleted. Are you ready...I guess, let's call roll call, I think I can...oh, yes, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Rawlins-Fernandez?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. You called me Member Johnson. . .  
*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I know we almost identical. . . *(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In the eyes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: In the eye part, yeah, . . . *(laughing)*. . . but that's sincere, eye. Budget Director. Oh, there you are. Okay. Okay. In the Gantt chart that we received from 2025...sorry, I was trying to look for the answer on my own, is this just an explanation of what was done with the 1.25 from County...million from County and 1 million from EPA? Or what is...what is the Gantt chart telling us?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I'm pulling it up right now, but my understanding was that the Gantt chart was the timeline for the entire project.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. So it says, due date, and they all have, like, 2025. So it looks like it was all from, like, January 2025 to January 2026. Like, start date --

MS. MILNER: I just got it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- due date, duration.

MS. MILNER: Sorry, I had to scroll way down. . . *(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(laughing)*. . .

MS. MILNER: Okay, I see. Yeah, let me look at --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, like --

MS. MILNER: Okay, I apologize, no, that's the...not the entire...that is the project timeline through site work initiated August 2026. But I think they anticipate completing the work rather quickly. But yeah, the construction would start in Fiscal Year '27.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. So --

MS. MILNER: And I can get clarification on the overall timeline.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it. So what it's saying here with the due date of 2025 and the completion at zero percent, it's saying that it...they had projected that it would be done by 2025, May, October, April, but they didn't get it done. So, like, the building permit didn't get done by December 2025.

MS. MILNER: Yes. I believe they are still in the permitting process. It looks like they anticipate having their DOH permit submittal this September and the building permit in October.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Mahalo for --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: One last question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Chair Lee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And so, Director Milner, so how much of a balance will there be? You said 12 million, right? 12 million is the...the end number.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair Lee. Yes. The project estimate currently ranges from either 12 1/2 million to a little over 16 million. So that would be if we provide 9 1/2, that would be about 3 million to 6 million they would...or 3 million to 5.5 that they would need to provide.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And...and they're going to provide it by getting a loan or...of some kind.

MS. MILNER: They've received 1 million in funding from the EPA, and 250,000 from a private donor, and I think they're looking for other funding sources as well.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sorry, Chair, point of information. If the County does buy the ferry, there are federal grants to help fix up small boat harbors, maybe --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- that'll help with the infrastructure. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else? Always thinking. Okay, let's vote. So the...the motion is to delete this. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, we're still looking at the same motion, right?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: After...okay. And we hope they come back and give us more information. Sounds like..all right, roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, beginning the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins excused. Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoe Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that's four "ayes," four "noes." Motion fails.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, tie, tie.

MS. MONIZ: One excused.

|              |                 |                                                                                               |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>VOTE:</b> | <b>AYES:</b>    | <b>Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Rawlins-Fernandez and Sinenci.</b> |
|              | <b>NOES:</b>    | <b>Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, and Paltin.</b>                                         |
|              | <b>ABSTAIN:</b> | <b>None.</b>                                                                                  |
|              | <b>ABSENT:</b>  | <b>None.</b>                                                                                  |
|              | <b>EXC.:</b>    | <b>Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.</b>                                                             |

**MOTION FAILS.**

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, I thought I saw Nohe log on a little bit earlier. Is she...is she with us?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...Member U‘u-Hodgins, did you log on?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Hi, Chair, I'm...I'm here --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- but I logged off right when the roll call was taking place, so I have no idea what you guys just voted on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . So we're vote...oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But I am in my car with a minor right now, soon to have another minor in about two minutes. But I didn't...yeah, I have no idea what you guys just voted on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: All I know, it was a tie, tie.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Tie, tie.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Then I recommend you --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Welcome.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- log off because I don't think our rules allow you to be excused if you're present in the meeting, and you would be the deciding vote in this matter.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. See you guys later . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. I...I think her video would not be on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so can.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can, Nohe.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That...that would...that would, like, make you officially present is your video being on because you could have...be logged on and be at the bathroom, you know what I mean?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: That is true. I am driving --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- without your video on.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- right now so I couldn't turn on my video because that would be a bad . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: She's driving.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So, the vote was --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- on the Ma'alaea wastewater facility for 2.5 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And the motion was to delete it and --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- have them come back and it...motion failed. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Point of order, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Can I ask our OCS Staff what constitutes being present in a meeting

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

because I'm pretty sure you participating in conversation means that you're present.  
And --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We...we finished the vote.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- if I remember our rules correctly, silence is yes, right? Like, if you...if you don't vote while present --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Like you...you --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, that...that it's recorded as a yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: There's no --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --. . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, there's no abstention.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Correct. So I...can I ask Staff to weigh in on...on this?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who's the expert? Peter.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MR. HANANO: Thank you, Chair. From what I understand, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins was not on when the vote was taken, technically. I mean, she was...Chair...Chair didn't recognize her --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

MR. HANANO: -- so I would say she wasn't present.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. That's right.

MR. HANANO: And --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. HANANO: -- I don't --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. HANANO: -- think she -- I mean, she didn't vote, obviously, but I don't think she was recognized either. And I think after the vote was made, then she came on. So that's my...that's my opinion.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I'm ready to move on, Chair.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MR. HANANO: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're talking about procedure and process, my favorite. So . . . *(laughing)*. . . I...I...I agree with Member Batangan, if you are physically present in the Chamber, and you're...you're silent, then your...your vote would be in the affirmative. If, you know, you're...you're physically here, but you're in the restroom then, you know, you're excused. If you're logged onto the meeting but your...your video is off, or we cannot see you, like how sometimes we say like, Member Sinenci, we can't see you. And so . . . *(laughing)*. . . yeah. And then...and then he'll, like, come back into the video, and then he'll vote, then...you know, then the vote will count. But if a video is off, and we can't confirm that a Councilmember is present, in front of the...the computer in order to vote, then we would --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You don't have to be in the bathroom. You can just be in the gallery, too, as long as you're not on the floor. If you're on the floor, then your silence --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I wasn't going to go that deep into detail but --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just saying.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- true. Okay, if you're not in your seat. But sometimes I voted, like, coming down the walkway.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On the floor, you got to be on the floor.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I...I wasn't trying to argue this to flip the vote, just to be clear. I...I'm fully comfortable with the motion failing, and us moving on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. We're good. Oh, good discussion. All right. So, any more motions. So where we are is CIP in DEM. So CIP is on Bill...Bill 55, page 21 to 22. Does any Member have any amendments? No? None. Okay. Next, we have Appendix A, Part I, Grants. Anybody have any propose...this is page 39. I don't see anything. Appendix A, Part II, Special Revenue Purpose. As a reminder, the following funds are under this department: Countywide Sewer Capital Improvement Reserve Fund (Section 9-14, Revised Charter of the County of Maui (1983), as amended; Chapter 3.98, Maui County Code), which is on page 51.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was going to decrease the increase to five percent, but we already did that last year, and it didn't work out well. So I'll save you guys two hours.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I have a question for Budget Director. The Countywide...are you there, Budget Director? There. I see you. Okay. Thanks. The Countywide Sewer Capital Improvement Reserve Fund increased by 6 million for Fiscal Year '27, totaling \$9,798,101. In Fiscal Year '26 the estimate...the estimated and total balance was 3,798 and 101 [sic] with no anticipated revenue for Fiscal Year '26. Can you explain the additional 6 million and where did it come from?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair, I can look into that. But my assumption is that the additional estimated balance may be to prior year appropriations that weren't fully encumbered.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ahh.

MS. MILNER: That those funds then went back into the fund...or funding that was encumbered but not fully needed and it went back into the fund. But I can get you exact information on that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. It's like carryover savings-ish [sic]?

MS. MILNER: In a way, but it stays within the Revolving Fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. If you could get back to us, then. Highway Beautification, Abandoned Vehicle, and Tourism-related Traffic Congestion Revolving Fund (Section 3.25.030, Maui County Code) which is on page 53 as well as the Naval...Naval Air Station Kahului Airport (NASKA), as we grew up knowing it, Sewage Pump Station Fund (Chapter 3.52, Maui County Code), which is on page 55; Vehicle Disposal Fee Fund (Chapter 3.27 Maui County Code), which is on page 58. These are the proposed...oh, are there any proposed amendments to this? It doesn't look like it. So we will move on. Next, we have Appendix B, Rates and Fees. Appendix B, Rates and Fees, page 5 to 11, increases for sewer...sewer rates increases for reclaimed water services, increases for refuse collection fees is here. Are there any proposed amendments to rates and fees? I see none. Okay. So we will move on. So that is the end of the Environmental Management. Yay. Moving on. The next Department that we have is Finance. There are no Members' priorities, and this is excluding County...Countywide. No Members' priorities. Operating budget is on page 8. Are there any amendments? Member Paltin...which is A and B Account. Yeah, Finance but not Countywide...excluding Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll just do them one at a time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to decrease A1, Category A by 18,919...sorry, \$18,900.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that's to...my recommendation on how that's applied, or if I get a second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci gave you a second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. My recommendation on how that is applied is to decrease the Accountant I Fiscal Year '26 expansion position that hasn't been created yet by four months.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is it on your sheet? Is it on your sheet, this one?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's on my sheet, yes, under A-D-M, Admin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's the one that say number 8. It's like 5-5-8.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Any discussion? . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All my Finance cuts, I did talk to the Director when she gave us the certification, and she didn't raise any red flags to me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . you're fine with this? Oh, you're making one at a time or a few at a time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For the benefit of our excellent Staff, they been working so hard, I don't want to confuse them. So if we're ready to vote on this one, I'll do my next one next.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, ready to vote? All in favor raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So it looks like nine "ayes." Member...oh, Member U'u-Hodgins. Maybe it's eight "ayes," one excuse, Member U'u-Hodgins.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:       AYES:       Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:     None.**

**EXC.:       Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for my next I will be decreasing B1, Category A by \$22,108, b is the Accounts Program, folks, Accounts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Second is Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for this I'm decreasing the Fiscal Year '27 expansion positions, both of them by two months. So from eight months to six months. And Finance has really stepped it up in filling their vacancies, doing DM89s, their recruitments and retentions. I wouldn't even recognize this Department's Category A from, like, six years ago. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that's my discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, any more discussion? If not, all in favor raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's eight "ayes" and one excuse, Member U‘u-Hodgins

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for my next motion in c(1), Category A, I move to decrease by \$43,272.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second? Second, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So this is a Senior Clerk vacancy, inactive and vacant since 2019. So just helping them, you know, rip that Band-Aid off, defunding it for 12 months. They may want to...you know, we have a problem with the Senior Clerk, like who can live on that kind of salary, really. So they might want to reallocate it, or whatever, like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If you have a couple kids you...you could qualify for 30 percent AMI, you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second job,. okay. Member...all in favor, Members? Okay. Raise your hand, say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we are at eight ayes and one excused, Member U‘u-Hodgins.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:      APPROVE.**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for my next motion, Category A and D, which is Motor Vehicle Licensing, these are all Fiscal Year '27 expansion positions. They ask for eight months of funding, I'm going to give them four months. And I understand the...the switch is to focus on customer service and less wait time, so that's why I'm not totally defunding it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I said the amount, yeah, 62,000 . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 62,000...what...how much? 400? Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any more discussion? No? Okay. All in favor raise your hand, say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Eight “ayes,” one excused, Member U‘u-Hodgins.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**        **AYES:**        **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

**NOES:**        **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**        **None.**

**ABSENT:**        **None.**

**EXC.:**        **Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**        **APPROVE.**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for my next motion and final one in this department is f accounts. I don't want say this is the. . .*(inaudible)*. . .of Finance but there's been absolutely no movement on these Accountant II positions, which had been created in Fiscal Year '21. So I'm completely defunding them, \$122,568 cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You got that? You got that? Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for my discussion, I'll just throw in there that Treasury is the shining star of the entire Department. Good job guys, so proud of you. And I believe Purchasing too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Ready to vote, you guys?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, let me...Treasury is not the shining...Purchasing is the shing star.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Treasury needs to work on their act.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So the motion is for...how much is it? One --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 122,568 Treasury cutting because no movement since Fiscal Year '21 when these Accountant II positions were...were asked for. So yeah, my bad. Treasury, let's get it together. Purchasing, good job.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Gold star. Okay. All in favor? Yes. Oh, second was Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Roll call. Okay. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair...Chair, proceeding with roll.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Wait one second. Can I...Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can I have a little bit of discussion? At least I...you can understand why I'm going to be voting no. I'm not sure exactly why the Treasury Department did not fill its position, but it has been doing a good job because they made \$30 million for us in this last Fiscal Year, so that's why I'm voting no.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I would say they can't fill it until they create it, then they can't post it until they create it. And it's never been done since Fiscal Year '21. So, just saying, good job on collecting but position creation not so much.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

# Council of the County of Maui

**April 21, 2026**

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins excused. Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that's seven "ayes," one "no." Motion passes.

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.

**NOES: Councilmember Lee.**

**ABSTAIN:**           **None.**

**ABSENT:**           **None.**

**EXC.: Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION: APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. So we are basically done with...oh, you have something, Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, but before I make another motion Budget Director is asking to be recognized, so I'll...I'll hold off.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you so much, Chair. Yeah. You guys were moving fast and furious on that one. I did have a request from the Department of Finance for possible reconsideration of the cut to the Accounts Program. That program was 50 percent full, they are now completely staffed, and these two positions are specifically to address some of the internal controls findings. They've been getting very good candidates for positions of this type and feel confident they can fill them quickly. Thank you, Chair.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do they need to undergo a reorg. to create these positions? You probably wrote it down, but I don't remember the answer.

MS. MILNER: No reorg. is necessary for these positions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'm open to a reconsideration.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you want the full eight months?

MS. MILNER: Oh, yes, please, if the body is willing to consider it. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to reconsider the Accounts Program vote.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And you're going to change it to eight months; is that what you said?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Depending if the reconsideration passes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Okay. Reconsideration. All in favor raise your hand, say, "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So that's eight "ayes" and one excused, Member U'u-Hodgins.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **Councilmember U‘u-Hodgins.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:      RECONSIDERATION.**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll withdraw my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You withdraw your motion.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No objection.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You got that. Exhibit A in motion. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I had three positions that I was targeting to cut, but two of them overlapped with Member Paltin's, so I'm trying to do some quick math on the fly. There were two Service Representative Is and four Service Representative IIs in the Motor Vehicle and Licensing Program. The explanation for the expansions was to help the Department --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did you make a motion?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, I move to cut one of those Service Representative Is and two of the Service Representative IIs in the Motor Vehicle and Licensing Program. I'll...actually, I'll separate them so I can have time to do math. I move to cut the salaries in...for a Service Representative I in the Motor Vehicle and Licensing Program in the amount of \$20,848.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And if I can get a second, then I can explain my thinking.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I need a second. Member Cook.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- for discussion.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. So the explanation given for these Service Representative expansion positions was that the Department wanted to better be able to meet their target wait times. But then when they came before the Body, they explained that they were already hitting those target wait times. So I didn't see the need for six expansion positions to help them achieve those targets and figured we could cut the funding for half of them, one Service Representative I and then two of the Service Representative IIs, given that they've already met the objectives that they were trying to achieve by adding these EPs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So it's a decrease of \$28,848?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Clarifying. This is...oh, sorry. Clarifying question. These are for the expansion positions?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So this is the one that you didn't cut half funding for. You...you cut half the funding for the Service Representative IIs, but there's a Service Representative I that I'm proposing to fully decrease the funding for.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So Chair... are you done?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee has a question also. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, we're in discussion, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: There's a motion on...on the floor, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, please.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So I'll be voting no against this because have you been down to DMV lately? I've been in...waiting kind of long, so I don't think they hit all their

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

targets yet. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And then question, again, for Member Batangan. So we've been using the amount...or we been using the example of the position as the justification for the amount of the cut to Account A. But your motion is specifically to that position. So the clarifying question is whether it's to that specific position or if Account A-Salaries.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Yeah. I would amend it to be a cut to the A Account rather than to the position itself so that the Department would have flexibility.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But I...I...I would still move to cut the...that funding amount and the explanation for that...that number is what I had previously stated. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Oh, bless you. Do we have...do we have a location of where these positions would be at?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I see Director. Okay. So we have Lāhainā, Kihei, Pukalani and another Kihei.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Milner.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...yeah, I see --

MS. MILNER: Thank you --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Go ahead.

MS. MILNER: -- Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. Yes. The Service Representative I that is under discussion right now is a back-office position that would be in the Kahului office.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And I see Director Martin on the call as well. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So I think we were hoping that Director Martin would pop up for questions. We had her on call for RPT.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: She...she's...she's...she's online.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I know, but this is --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- kind of like asking a Department a question, which we didn't allow any of you to have. So I'm a little bit hesitant of opening that door. Then you're going to saying, well, Kauanoë did it so how come I can't do it. So she...she's not there anymore. Okay . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So the way it works is Ms. Martin would whisper in Ms. Milner's ear --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ear . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and then we ask Ms. Milner whatever the question is.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That is true if it's operation stuff.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Please whisper quickly. . . . *(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And she's sitting in front of Ms. Milner. Okay. Member Batangan, you're...who had that question?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I asked which --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- where these locate....or where they would be located at.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Member Paltin found the answer.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. So I too have been in the Kahului Center with long lines, and I'm a little hesitant to cut the...this the DMV, man, they need all the help they can get. I --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . . *(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- that's all I'm going to say. You guys been there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I'm supportive of this. It's not much and it's a point on basically the position...not eliminating the position but the fact that they...the issues with having it funded and it...whether it need to be funded. I'm a big fan of DMV. I'll tell you, Kihei has...is...no, big fan. Kihei is awesome, polite, helpful, fast, and I'm

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

just sharing with you. It...it's been like wow. And the last three times I've been in...and I give them \$500-check, so I'm not very happy. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: But I just wanted...for them, everybody working there, this is not a criticism of the Department at...at all, this is just a little tweaking the financing. And I...I just wanted to say that they were doing a great job.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Batangan, second and final.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I guess I do appreciate the wait times that some of my colleagues have experienced. I...I guess my response would be that my proposal is in response to the statistics that the Department themselves *[sic]* have reported. And so, if you're telling me that you need expansion positions in order to hit certain milestones, but you're also telling me that you're hitting those milestones, I'm probably going to question them. So I don't want to question the lived experiences of some of my colleagues. And, you know, we can always do better at providing services to our constituents, but I am then going to ask that the reporting reflect those experiences. Thank you, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Let's vote, yeah? Ready? Okay. Is this going to...oh, it's going to be roll call, I think, for --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Chair Lee. Roll call, please.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

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

**April 21, 2026**

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins excused. Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that's three "ayes," five "noes," one excused. Motion fails.

**VOTE:**       **AYES:**       **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmember Cook.**

**NOES: Councilmembers Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.**

**ABSTAIN:**           **None.**

**ABSENT:**           **None.**

**EXC.: Councilmember U'u-Hodgins.**

**MOTION FAILED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we need Nohe back. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I have a cut, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. So I'm on page 264 of the...the Budget Detail...Proposed Budget...yeah, 264 Proposed Budget. Basically --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Program.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, yeah. I move to reduce...or I move to eliminate...or delete in the Administration Program-Machinery and Equipment, and I'll give you the numbers, 907014...14C-7032 under Software Programs, \$50,000. If I get a second, I can --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Need a second. Second, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The cut of the 50,000 for software to track internal control procedures and assess risk, that's...that's what we're cutting. So the funding may be delayed until the completion of professional services and consultant report on addressing and enhancing internal control processes and procedures. Basically, they're paying a consultant to report to them on how to enhance internal control processes. So I would prefer them to wait till the report to be done so that that software would...would address something in the report. You don't want to buy the software before the report is done because what if the software is not recommended by the report. The report is saying this is what you need to get to help enhance internal control processes, so I think they're tied, and it's literally the cart before the horse. So I would prefer we just delete that until that report is done, then we could have the Administration put in the funds for whatever software they would deem necessary.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins just joined us. Hello. So we're deleting 50,000 as described by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I will also add that the letter is in the response, was in FN-2.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. FN-2.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And, Chair, I think Member U'u-Hodgins wanted to do her disclaimer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes, please. Thank you. Hi. I'm at my personal residence, and I do have two minors with me at home. Sorry, I know I missed a lot. The back country roads don't really have good service. Plus, I don't want you guys to like look up at my face while I'm driving, so I would not turn on my camera. But I'm here now, I've been kind of listening off and on, sometimes it cuts out some but thank you so much for your guys' patience. I appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Welcome. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And Director Milner is on the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Milner, and then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. Yes, I have spoken to the Department about this, and the internal control software can be set up concurrently

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

with the finalization of the report, it doesn't have to wait until that report is complete. The hope is that we can start this in the Finance Department, have it up and running. So as soon as we have those results, we can launch the software countywide and really address any concerns raised by the report. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I have now helped to get two softwares [sic] for us set up, and sometimes it does take phasing. So you would meet with the...the company that designs the software for you, and you do, like, a phase. Well, I don't...I don't know how this one is, but I know, like, when we were working with Tyler Technology [sic], for example, in doing...when we were trying to figure out a better system for like our meetings, and then we...well, we ended up with CivicPlus instead of going with Tyler Technologies. And we also had OpenGov, and that was, like, a whole process in and of itself. So having done that, I know that sometimes it...it...it's done in phases, and it's sometimes paid in phases, and sometimes you...you need to work with the developer to design the...the software, you know, to...yeah, to customize it for your needs. And so, I don't know if that's what this is for, but that's some experience that I have to share. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That said, I'm not going to support the motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just don't want to be pennywise, pound foolish if we're talking about internal controls and fraud risk. So I probably won't support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Can I ask Budget Director to come back online. So part of Member Johnson's explanation for wanting to cut this is because he wanted the results of the report to come out and that would then inform which software we would be procuring. Has there been communications with the auditors of the report that gives the County confidence that this is the software? Like, I...I don't mind spending the money to procure software to this effect, but I want to make sure that the concerns raised by Member Johnson when he made this proposal have all been addressed before we...before we make our decision.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Batangan. No software has been procured yet. We will have to go through the RFP process; that's another reason why we want to start the process sooner rather than later. But the County does feel they have enough information from the documentation that's been received to date to put together a successful RFP to get a software that can address the concerns of the auditors. Thank you, Chair.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more discussion? Okay. Ready for the vote. So the...the motion is to delete the 50,000 and wait for...we...until we have more information. Member Johnson, is that what you're saying, before we spend 50,000?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. And, you know, in the...in the letter it said that they could delay it, and now I'm hearing different from the Department. So that's why I proposed the cut because I asked them. Now, I'm kind of in a conundrum because, you know, I want to work with the departments. I don't...but when the letter comes back says they...they don't...they could delay it and now on the floor it's a little bit different. It's 50,000, Members. I...I...I still kind of feel like if we're going to go through this process where we ask you...ask the departments questions, and they say, yeah, we...you know, we can wait and then now it's a little bit different, they can always come back and...and use...use --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do a budget amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- you know use the other funding...use the budget amendment. So I, personally, would like to keep it, but, you know, it's the body's, you know, this decision. We could do it by a vote and that'll...that'll solve it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Let's vote. Is it roll call or you guys are fine? I can't hear.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Probably roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Roll call. Okay. Go ahead.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: No.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that’s three “ayes,” six “noes.” Motion fails.

**VOTE:**       **AYES:**       **Chair Sugimura, Councilmembers Cook and Johnson.**

**NOES:**       **Vice-Chair Batangan, Councilmembers Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**ABSTAIN:**   **None.**

**ABSENT:**   **None.**

**EXC.:**       **None.**

**MOTION FAILED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any others, Members? Okay. Very good. Wait, let me take away all my papers. So...and any more for Department of Finance? We're done, right? Accounts Program, which is page 8, A Account, B Account, Accounts Program. Or Real Property Assessment Program, which is on page 8, A Account, B Account. Motor Vehicle Licensing, page 8, A Account, B Account. Purchasing Program, page 8, A Account, B Account. Treasury Program...these are your super stars? Is this the one? Or is it Purchasing? That's your superstars. Okay. A and B Account any --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No cuts to warm bodies.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No cuts to warm body, she said. CIP, there are no capital improvement proposed for the Department of Finance. And we're talking, now, about Appendix A,

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

Part I Grants. Members, are there any...and this is on page 39 and 40. Are there any proposed amendments to this? None. Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenues, are there...there are no grants for special purpose revenues for this, Department of Finance. Appendix B, Rates and Fees, Rates and Fees Ramseyer version 12...pages 12 to 18, aside from real property...RPT rates there are now fees for license plates and low-speed electric bicycle registration. Are there any proposed amendments to rates and fees, Members? You have? Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . Never mind.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, coming up, then.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we going to do it last. Okay.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. All right. Members, we are kind of done with Finance.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies to interject. I think yesterday the Committee had a discussion about real property tax maps, but I think the motion was withdrawn. Since we're on Department of Finance, I'm not sure if the Committee wanted to handle that now since that's Appendix B for Finance.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'd love to handle that now. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I remember what the motion was.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'd like to strike the language on page 16 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- at the top that says, real property tax map CD ROMs --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and replace it with...I move to replace it with real property tax maps files.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because who uses CD ROMs?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The olden days.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do I have a second?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seconded before your motion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. And then my discussion would be, who uses CD ROMs anymore? I bet the new guy doesn't even know what that is.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

ALL: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I'll weigh in on this for a minute. No. Nobody uses CDs, but people use flash drives and other digital media. I believe, from my experience, when...for county projects, any kind of projects, they want it to be a digital file instead of paper so it's easily transferrable. So if we could maybe change that to an electronic file. An...an acceptable electronic file.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm okay with the friendly amendment. Should we call it e-file? Is that good enough or what?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, we could...how about we ask them?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, yeah. Let's ask them.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Ask...ask the Department and find out what their preference is and see if...if we're on track?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They...I...I did ask them and their response was files, but, like, I'm open to electronic files or e-files, Ms. Milner. Digital...digital files?

MS. MILNER: My understanding was that Director Martin felt that files was sort of all-encompassing of both...of any sort of digital file. But if the body would prefer to make it tax map key digital files, I think that would probably be fine.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'm open...I'm amendable to that friendly amendment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was going off of the Director's response to my question, but digital file, it works for me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You're good, Member Rawlins-Fernandez? All right. Member Batangan, are you fine? You're the youngest one here. You would be able to relate.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: What is the CD that you're all talking about?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Point made. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Cash deposit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

|              |              |                                                                                                                                         |
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| <b>VOTE:</b> | <b>AYES:</b> | <b>Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.</b> |
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|  | <b>NOES:</b> | <b>None.</b> |
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|  | <b>ABSTAIN:</b> | <b>None.</b> |
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|  | <b>ABSENT:</b> | <b>None.</b> |
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|  | <b>EXC.:</b> | <b>None.</b> |
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**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: And then just confirming, we're not taking up Countywide at this time, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We're going to do it last. Okay. So we are done with Finance, and we're going to pick up, next, Fire...Fire, Housing, Human Concerns, and Liquor is last.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, I don't know about you, but I could use a break.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But if the body's will is to keep going, I will just walk out but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can...let's take...you want to take a break to 3:00?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No, no. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

ALL: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Take a break to 3:00, okay. Are you guys fine? . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:        2:51 p.m.**  
**RECONVENE:    3:07 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)* . . . Welcome back, everybody, to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 3:07 p.m., and we're trying to be like Member Batangan and call everybody back. Who was first? Was it you? It was Shane who was here first. Thank you.

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

ALL: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We're all laughing and having fun, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Something.

ALL: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we're on...we're on Department of Fire and Public Safety, and there are no Member priorities on this. In Operating Budget, which is on page 9 of Bill 55, Members, are there any amendments for Category A or B? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure. Oh. I move B7a(1), Category A, to decrease the appropriation by \$94,556.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I need a second.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. This is from Fire's Admin. Program, and it's taking Fiscal Year '26 expansion positions that are still in reorg. and decreasing the funding by four months for four of them as a recommendation, justification. Of course, they are free to do with this cut as they please --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- like all my other ones.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Batangan, did you have your hand up? No. Okay. All right. Members, any discussion? All in favor raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That makes eight "ayes," one excused is...or nine "ayes." Motion carries.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: -- I...I don't think --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, there's Chair Lee. One, two --

MR. KRUEGER: No. I think Member Cook is --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Cook. So eight...that's right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's right, eight "ayes," one excused, Member Cook.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **Councilmember Cook.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for my next motion I move to decrease c(1), Category A, appropriation by \$300,000, which they can do with as they please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member...Member Sinenci made the second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For my discussion, this is based on Fiscal Year '24, '25 having in excess of \$3 million in carryover savings, and even Fiscal Year '23, which had the wildfire in August of 2023, had quite a bit of carryover savings so that's the justification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So 300,000, delete 300,000?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? All in favor, Members, say aye.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee, “aye?” Okay. So that's eight “ayes,” one excused, Member Cook.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **Councilmember Cook.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next cut was going to be in e. But, Chair, I was wondering if you would allow me to change that cut to a move in...a revenue-neutral move to be taken up at Countywide because I did see that your...one of your priorities was to provide additional supplemental funding to Bargain Unit 11.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For firefighters.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Bargain Unit 15 is also under the Fire Department, and they have not gotten their...as far as I know, their contract.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I don't anticipate it'll be much better than Bargaining Unit 11 because why would you do that. I mean, usually it's based on, you know, whatever. And so, I don't want to create any kind of animosity between different first responders under the same department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So my cut for Category e was going to be for 150,000 with, like, close to 100,000 in fringe. And I was wondering if we could put that aside when you take up your Countywide one for Bargaining Unit 15 just so that, you know --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Same, same.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- they still don't have a contract yet, and we don't want to be like, oh, the Council likes one type of first responder in our Department better than another type of first responder in our Department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. So --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because somebody stopped me at the gas station yesterday and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Asked you that question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- had some words.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So hey, I agree. The bargaining unit with the Lifeguards, when I talked to their Chief he was saying --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ocean Safety. Ocean Safety.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- oh, I mean, Ocean Safety, sorry. He was saying that they don't...they're not even under negotiations yet, and they have to wait. So, hey, if we can do something, that's great. So what is the total amount for Bargain Unit 15? 150,000?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So my --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 250.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- my proposal is it'll be, like, 200 and...shoot public math...\$47,545 that we're taking from their A Account and their fringe and putting it next to your Bargaining Unit 11, supplemental, when that time comes. But, I guess, at this point the motion would be to decrease Category A 150,000 for e.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then the rest of the money is --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The rest of the money is fringe money --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that...and we'll put it at the Countywide time --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and stuff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is there a second? Second, Member Sinenci. So...okay. That's good. You have a question --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I did my discussion in the motion, sorry --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You did your discussion. James . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- same time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: James, do you have a question?

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MR. KRUEGER: Oh. No. Apologies, Chairs. Just so...just to clarify, this is for the Ocean Safety Program, you're...you're transferring funds to . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I guess at this time I'm just cutting 150,000 --

MR. KRUEGER: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- but I'm telegraphing that I'd like to move it someplace else when we take up that section of the thing because I don't want, like, you know, oh, you like those first responders better than these first responders or anything like that.

MR. KRUEGER: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And they're probably the last bargain unit to get a deal, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, they got to wait, so sad.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But, you know, if they get an exorbitant, like, 16 percent raise, you can have this 250,000 for your Firefighters --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can be --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- because, you know, same thing, we don't want one group of first responders thinking we care more about another group of --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- first responders, especially in the same Department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm trying to have no scraps in the parking lot or anything.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, understand? So this is going to be deleting the 150,000, of which it'll appear at the appropriate time on Countywide, right? Okay. So this is to be taken up later. Any other amendments? Member...Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I have...I have a cut.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, but we didn't vote yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So this is what? One, two, three, four, five, six, seven of us. Seven. Oh, there's Chair Lee. So who's missing is Member Cook, eight --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Batangan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and Batangan. Okay. Two of them. So, seven and two excuse.

**VOTE:       AYES:       Chair Sugimura and Councilmembers Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:     None.**

**EXC.:       Vice-Chair Batangan and Councilmember Cook.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Lot of coffee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson, did you say you have something?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I'm going to move...move to cut \$65,000 from Category B, and...on page 9, Department of Fire and Public Safety, A is now for the Administrative Program, and this in the Budget Bill 55 for...so that's a total remaining of...a 65,000 cut, a total remaining of \$2,029,081. And that's deleting the purchase of one motor vehicle priced at 65,000, and that answer from the Department is in FS-2.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Did I get a second?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin. Okay. So Member Johnson and...and Member Paltin second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you're...you're exactly deleting 65,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: 65,000. It's a vehicle. The response from the Department is in FS-2. And the total that would...they...they would have is \$2,029,081.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's...it's the Admin. So...I'll have to look at that response to them but --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So that'll be eight "ayes," one excused, Member Cook. Two excused. Oh, Member Batangan. So, seven and two.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**        **AYES:**        **Chair Sugimura and Councilmembers Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**        **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**        **None.**

**ABSENT:**        **None.**

**EXC.:**        **Vice-Chair Batangan and Councilmember Cook.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**        **APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any others?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Yes. Okay. The second one is...is the uniforms. Okay. So I move to, again, page 9 in the budget... 55, reduce Category B by 71,656. And that's in Department of Fire and Public Safety, "a" as in alpha, Administrative Program. This is...oh, and if I can get a second, I'll explain what it is. Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson, second by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: This is a cut in funding for hats and ties for ceremonial uniforms. This funding is not essential for Fire and Public Safety. And the response is in FS-2. And if you call...remember...or if you recall, Members, I asked them on the floor, and they said, well, Oahu has those but it is not essential, so it's just...that's...that's the response and that's my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody have anything to say? Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. I can understand your...your motion but I'm going to be voting against it because if you look in every department, including ours, you'll find things that are not essential. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody else? Okay. Oh, Member U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Roll call, Chair, please. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So I'm going to say that considering all that the fire...fighters and,

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

you know, police, they do... having these kind of ceremonial...not resolution, uniform is special, and I'm going to vote against this because I think that they deserve to be special and recognized. And if...if this is going to add to their...our appreciation for what they do, that I think that...well, that's my rational. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll move to amend the motion to decrease the decrease by half, and then we can get half the folks their hats and ties this year and half the folks their hats and ties next year, like the radios that we did for Police that time, but then I made it my priority, so that didn't work. But I think hats and ties are less essential than radios.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So that's motion and I guess I did discussion before I got a second. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is there a second for this amendment? No. I think...I think Nohe wants to speak. Is there a second for this, half of it?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, I'll second it.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure. I'll...I'll --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. When I asked Chief what this was for...I know you guys heard the ceremonial stuff and Oahu does have it, when they graduate their recruits and then Maui County has never had it. They say it's to provide ceremonial uniforms for only drivers and captains, so not majority of everybody, it's just a small group of people. I'm okay to, like, find a middle ground and go half, but I wouldn't want to take it out. Unfortunately, we have had reason to have ceremonial processions, and I wish that wasn't the case, but then when we do do that, they just dress in their blues, which is what they use for regular, everyday work so they have blood and all kinds of stuff, typically, on it. And so, these would provide them the more formal wear. So I'm okay to find a middle ground and do half, but thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other comments? Okay. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This is on the motion to amend, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Excuse.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Excuse.

MS. MONIZ: Excused. Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Motion carries.

MS. MONIZ: Motion carries, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MS. MONIZ: It's six "ayes," one "no," two excused.

**VOTE:        AYES:        Councilmembers    Johnson,    Lee,    Paltin,  
                                         Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:        Chair Sugimura.**

**ABSTAIN:        None.**

**ABSENT:        None.**

**EXC.:        Vice-Chair Batangan and Councilmember Cook.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:        AMEND.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Main motion as amended.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Main motion is amended. Okay. Main motion as amended, Members. All in favor raise your hand, say "aye." This is going to be...okay. All right. All in favor raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And we have one...one...two excused, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook and Member Batangan.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      **Chair Sugimura and Councilmembers Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **Vice-Chair Batangan and Councilmember Cook.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:      APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, I have one --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- one more. All right. So, second verse, same as the first. Department of Fire and Public Safety, b. Training Program, page 9 in the budget bill. I move to reduce Category B by 115,000, leaving a total appropriation of \$1,003,185. If I get a second, I can explain why.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Second for discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. The Department is only requesting 45,000 of the Index Code, 911421B-6129, be kept in to finish the training yard repavement. Remember, Members, this...oh, FS-2. This is the one they wanted to phase the...the pavement, so this is a way to use some of that money.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I could ask Director Milner if it's General Fund, but I'm...I'm 99 percent sure it's General Funds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That would be my question, if it's General Fund cash.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, this is General Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ready to vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor...oh, Member U'u-Hodgins. No? Okay. All in favor --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Wait, hold on, I have a question --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- if you don't mind.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I thought when we...when you asked this question, they said it was nearly complete, unless you're talking about something else. Maybe Director Milner can please . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins. Yes. It is nearly complete, which is why the funds aren't needed in Fiscal Year '27 now. They were able to do a significant portion of work this year with Fiscal Year '26 funding. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. I just don't want to spend millions of dollars on trucks and then have them drive over really junk pavement, and then there's no reason to spend millions dollars on trucks. But if they don't need the money, I'm okay to cut. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, all...no more discussion, all in favor raise your hand, say "aye," deleting 115,000.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So that looks like eight "ayes," Member...Member Cook is excused. And just for your information, this was my cut too. I was going to propose, so same, same, for the same rational.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **Councilmember Cook.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVE.**

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair. Okay. Since I'm in charge of...for sandwiches after the public hearing...I mean before the public hearing, I have to leave your meeting right now, and I'm my way to the building.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yay. Okay.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, she...has sandwiches. Okay. Thank you. Next, anybody has any more? Wait, I think that's it. Okay. So...oh, wait. Sorry, that's my rationale. So Fire/Rescue Operations Program, page 9, any amendments, program? None? Any...any A or B Account? None. Okay. Page 28 for me, Fire Prevention Program, bill...page 9. Are there any amendments? Seeing none. Ocean Safety Program, page 9. Any amendments, A or B account? Seeing none. Are you saying something Tamara?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. We already did it, the amendments. Remember?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. We already did. Okay, you already did yours. Capital Improvement, page 22, 23. Are there any proposed amendments? I don't see any. Appendix A, Part I, Grants, 40 to 41. Are there any amendments? Seeing none. Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenues. As a reminder, the following funds are under this department: Fire Hazard Removal Revolving Fund, page 3.68...(Chapter 3.68, Maui County Code), page 51; Fireworks Auditor Fund (3.95 Maui County Code) [*sic*], page 51; Plan Review, Processing, and Inspection Revolving Fund (Fire) (Section 16.04E.060, Maui County Code), page 58. Are there any proposed amendments? Seeing none. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are we on Rates and Fees? Not yet?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, we're on Rates and Fees.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, exactly where we are. Appendix B, Rates and Fees, on page 18 to 30...to 20, 18 to 20. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On page 19, Aerial/Special Fireworks, I would like to multiply that ten, \$110 times 10. You can do the math.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Don't you just add a zero at the end? Just move the decimal point.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: 1-1-0-0.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because, you know, fire.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I hope it helps stop it but...all right. Who's the second?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second is Member Sinenci. Discussion. All right. So we just increased the fee to 1,100 . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Can I actually ask for the...so who primarily pays for aerial and special fireworks? Are these primarily done by hotels. . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I know the Ritz-Carlton [*sic*] does it a lot. I can watch fireworks from my lanai.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. So I guess if you were a private citizen, you can also, you know, buy permits. But I see lots, I don't know if they buy permits.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. I see a lot of unpermitted ones that I know for sure happen.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, I see the Budget Director popping on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Director.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: She's going to tell us we got to change State law or something.

MS. MILNER: That is exactly what I'm going to say . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. MILNER: HRS Section 132D/10, Sub 2 sets the fee of \$110. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, can't change it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got to lobby that Fire Marshal guy or girl that they just hired.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Withdraw, right, your motions? We can't do this.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Withdraw.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But what a statement. All right.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Is there a fee for dynamite use?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Does somebody know that?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Under the Fire?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mister...Peter Hanano or Corp. Counsel.

MR. HANANO: I'm not...I'm not sure if there's a fee, but --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Don't blow us up.

MR. HANANO: You...you . . .*(laughing)*. . . there's...you probably need some kind of permit, special permit or something, to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Special permits. I'll look for it.

MR. HANANO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So you're fine, Member Sinenci, with that question...or answer?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Training program, budget bill, page 9. Are there any amendments to Category A or B? Seeing none.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: All right. Chair, where are we now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Training Program, page 9. We did already? . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . oh, because we did the 115, I'm sorry. I'm stuttering. Okay. Okay. We're done with the Department. Anybody else have anything for Fire? Oh, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci, you're fine? So next is the Department of Housing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Sinenci has more on Fire.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, Chair. Under Department of Fire, Public Safety General Fund, to increase for...on page 19 at the top, increase for explosive materials as stated in Section 65.9.2 from 100 annually to 500 annually.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is...we can do that. I was wondering if somebody's going to say Maui County Code. Can you say if you're increasing it?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: From 100 annually to 500 annually, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, which...which line is this one?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: For explosive materials --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Materials. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- in Section 65.9.2, page 19.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Okay. Any more? We're ready to...oh, motion made by Member Sinenci, second by...I heard some enthusiasm here. Tamara Paltin? Okay. Member Paltin. Okay. 100 to 500, increase.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Member U'u-Hodgins.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Can...can I have...or unless Member Sinenci has it in...from...in front of him where it says as described in Section 65-9.2 [sic], what...what does that include? I'm okay to support, but I just want to know what we...what we're raising it on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So one of the attorneys may help us. Corp. Counsel or --

MR. HANANO: Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. HANANO: -- I'm looking it up right now. I would need some time to look up that section.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. HANANO: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Like, I'm...like I said, I'm okay with it, but typically --

MS. MILNER: Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- like when we would use explosive it would be for grading, and it would be interesting to have it in Fire.

MS. MILNER: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director. Yes, Milner.

MS. MILNER: Sorry. Thank you. I'm not looking at exactly 65, but I'm looking at 16.04E.160, which says explosive materials permits will be required as indicated below to manufacture, sell, dispose, purchase, store, use, possess, or transport explosives within the jurisdiction. Flammable and combustible liquids and tanks is number 3, so it doesn't specifically state. It just states that they have to be used...it...it...the permits are required for the manufacture, sale, disposal, purchase, storage, use, and...and possession or transportation of explosives. And I'll defer to Corporation Counsel if they've been able to take this time to find 65.9.2. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Corp. Counsel, or somebody.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Thank you, Chair. I think we need a little bit more time to research this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Thank you.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I also see in our County Code for explosive materials in 16.04E.160 that fees must be in the annual budget ordinance. I think...so that's when it would be set.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we're in the right place. Okay. You folks are still researching.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And, Chair, just to add to the discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And I understand that what...we normally use that for grading and grubbing, for explosive material, but times these...you know, we just considered the Kaho'olawe Resolution where explosives, you know, cracked their...their water table. And so, I just want to be...as we move forward in the County and trying to keep as much water resources, specifically our aquifers, that we're not using...we want to monitor this...this use so that we're not cracking our water table and the water lens. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's a concern. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I agree, which is why I'm just trying to make sure that we're going to address it in the right place. That's...that's really why I'm asking.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh. Member --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But I can't find but I know everybody else has found something similar. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Well...I mean, being that it's in Title 16, that it's probably involving Public Works and public infrastructure, and et cetera. So I know that on Molokai we have a lot of blue rock and when, you know, doing septic that's basically what's used to be able to put that underground. So I...I guess, as Member U'u-Hodgin [sic] is trying to avoid, you know, the cost of this increase being passed onto, you know, like, our local homeowners...yeah, and I only know that this happens because my papa used to do this work --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- on Molokai. And so, my dad used to do the dynamites to create the cesspools.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: 200?

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I don't know. I just want us to...I'm...I hear what you are trying to stop, and I'm supportive of that. But I also want to ensure that we aren't inadvertently passing that cost to, you know, our residents too, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I agree.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair, I'll be open to if Members have another figure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you want to come back, Member--oh, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Maybe we can hold this discussion because I...I don't...I'm not against this at all. I agree with Member Rawlins-Fernandez, and I'm...I'm just trying to make sure that this is in the right spot because it's interesting that it's in Fire but it's a Public Works issue. So I just...I want to make that we're adjusting the fees so that we can get the impact we desire. Do you mind holding this on the side, Member Sinenci, and we can come back after we get some information? Because I know we're trying to take a break and you guys got to eat sandwiches, and I got to come back at 6:00...or we got to come back at 7:00, so --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- I don't want this one thing to trip us up. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we can put this on the side and come back. And...and Corp. Counsel and Mr. Hanano needs to do research; is that right?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right, Members. So I'm going to continue on with Fire, then. So, the Rescue Operations Program, page 9. Any...any amendments to category A or B?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Huh? Oh, we did. Oh. I...was I going backwards?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Sorry. I shouldn't have organized my pages nicely. . . .*(laughing)*. . . You're right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're on Rates and Fees. I don't think anyone

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

else had any amendments to it. So I don't know what's after Rates and Fees. I'm trying to buy you time, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Trying to find time. Nothing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Find time...buy you time while you find your notes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. We are fine.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But I think it might be done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are done. So we going to --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And we're going to set that one on the side.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're going to, yeah, come back to it. Can you...got it. Okay. All right. So now we are in Housing, Members. And there are three priorities for Department of Housing, and they are for Member Paltin, your Residency Area 1; and Chair Lee, who is getting our dinner together, Hale Mahaolu; as well Councilmember Johnson. So we will take Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I also have one. It was separated...so it's under this Department but it's put into the Revolving Fund. So is the plan to just take up all the Revolving Fund one time? Or do we take it under the Department? Because if so, then I have one under here too under this Department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, are...when you say Revolving Fund, you meant the Affordable Housing Fund?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- a different housing...a different revolving fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: A different fund. Okay. So --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, but it's under Housing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Voluntary deed restriction.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, voluntary deed restriction.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we are going to...we're in priorities. So we'll find what your priority

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

is, and we'll add it to this section.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It is a priority.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So we'll add it. Member Paltin first.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to insert a new line item, grant to Lahaina Community Land Trust in the amount of \$6 million.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin and second by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, fortunately or unfortunately, the wildfire settlement is about to occur. And at that point many homeowners will know whether or not that they have the monies to rebuild. We want to help the people that have a gap in the rebuilding and that's their only home that they live in. And we hope to pick up other homes of, you know, potential non-owner-occupied, off-island owners to put more Lahaina residents into those homes. I'm not sure everyone had a opportunity to read the annual report they submitted and hear the testimony in Lahaina, and just from the closing of their annual report to April 4th this year, the numbers have already grown in...in many of the categories, and I'm super impressed with all their hard work. They give community members hope. The Yadao 'ohana was there. They were one of the first to the finish line in the insurance gap money partnership between Hawai'i Community Lending, Ho'ōla iā Mauiakama Long Term Recovery Group, and Lahaina Community Land Trust. And they provide an inspiration for the rest of the homeowners trying to return home. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, anymore? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I speak in strong support of this motion. Mahalo, Member Paltin, for making this one of your priority items. I, too, am very impressed with the program and how quickly they're able to secure housing, and lots, and provide...support families with the gap funding so that they can complete the construction of their...their homes. You know, we heard a testifier that day...or that night at...in Lahaina at the Lahaina hearing talk about how more than funding for mental health, we need funding for housing because so much of the stress is financial stress, and stress coming from housing insecurity, and the cost of having to rent while, you know, folks are just trying to get home. And the...just the peace of mind and, like, this is the investment in our community. So at the very least, I am supportive of 6 million of...of this additional 6 million to the budget. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other discussion? Member Sinenci.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Just wondering, I know they asked for an additional 2 million.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's already in there.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It's already in.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's in...it's in Affordable Housing Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So this would be addition. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This is the additional.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I think Member Paltin, she's been doing all her deletions and trying to get the 6 million. Is that your offset? That's what it looked like.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, second and final is just that, you know, this \$6 million isn't just \$6 million with the way this group is able to leverage county funding. I think in their annual report they raised over 9.5 million with the initial 6 million that the County leveraged. And then from the Kalua'ehu program, which is small businesses in the community, in the first however many months, they leveraged 50 grand. And there's so many partnerships within the community where if you buy their products, they donate a portion. Like Merriman's caesar salad, you get \$1 to the Land Trust, Ku'ia milk shakes gives \$1 to the Land Trust and so many more. It's all in the annual report. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Members, any other discussion? If not, all in favor raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook is back. Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next. So we have Chair Lee here. Are you ready to talk about your priority? Countywide. . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Not yet. I'm still getting organized.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can you skip over me, please?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next is Member Johnson. Countywide 3.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yup. This is in regards to transitional housing for victims of domestic violence. So I move to...let's see here. I move 4.5 million for the acquisition of dwelling units to be leased as housing for victims of domestic violence.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson, second by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Proposing that this be a County CIP using General Bonds, General Bonds now, since units will owned by the County. And that's on page 23 of the budget ordinance. My office has been working with Sanoë Ka'aihue...Ka'aihue, Executive Director of Women Helping Women, for the last month or two trying to locate housing. And speaking with the Administration, there's maybe an opportunity to work with the State and use a property in Kula. That leaves direct needs in South Maui, West Maui, Molokai, and Central. Hāna and Lāna'i will also need transitional housing in the future. So, Women Helping Women's Domestic Violence Hotline doubled in calls after the fires, while rents are also skyrocketing, housing inventory became extremely limited. Transitional housing allows victims, especially those who are financially vulnerable, to the opportunity to stabilize their lives, rebuild, stay safe, and, if they're mothers, too, protect and take care of their children. Department of Housing already has a similar model with Na Hale Kupuna and are in full support of acquiring housing units to lease

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

to Women Helping Women for transitional housing. Housing needed is...housing needed is...is single family and apartments. With the TVR phasing out and units potentially entering the market, this is an opportunity to assure transitional housing for those who have dire need. Working with the Departments and Sanoë has been kind of...very...it's good to see us all trying to solve this problem, especially when the demand is so great. And again, Members, this is a bond, so I ask for your support of my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have comments? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I'm supportive of the proposal. I guess my concern is, like, how limited would using bond funds be because I would support General Fund too.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, I...let me...we could call...bring up Director Milner for that. But as you all know we were just talking about, like, it has to be county-owned. So the...the...so maybe Director Milner can add to that. You're asking for limitations on bonds. Is that what you're saying?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I just...you know in...because it's...a Fiscal Year, as we all know, goes very quickly. And just the mechanics of making that happen within a Fiscal Year, identifying a site, or a house, or apartment building, or a condo, whatever it is. And then, you know, like, how quickly that'll like close, especially if it's a bond, it's not like General Fund. And I see the Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Mahalo, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. Yes. If the County would be acquiring these properties and they can be capitalized as County assets, it's acceptable to use bond funds. But as with any CIP, the funds would need to be encumbered by the end of December 2027, 18 months. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So I have a comment. Member Johnson, I think you mentioned the property in Kula.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I want you to know that my community has been working on this property. I...I think we're talking about the same thing, and I think if somehow this ended up to be what you're talking about, communication, please do communicate with my community because Kyle Ellison and a bunch of people have been trying to get that...those houses --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- that's been sitting vacant connected to the wildfire. So if somehow the use is going to...and...and what's happening is because it's been sitting there, it's HHFDC, Department of Health, and we've had site visits, couple site visits about those

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

houses. And the County is supposed to...I think is saying that they'll take it over. But somehow communication needs to happen so that this doesn't just change, and my community is thinking something else.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So if you would please --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, this...this doesn't like, you know, require that that must be the place. You know, as long it's county-owned --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- we want to find places in all the districts but those --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- I list...I listed some of the districts that are really important.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So whoever mentioned that, then just give...if they say, oh, like the houses in Kula, say, okay, go talk to Yuki. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because I tell you my community has been working on that, so just communication again. Okay. Oh, sorry, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Johnson. I'm wondering if you could provide us a list of potential properties that are going to help spend down this 4,500,000. Do you have a plan? And if you don't have any specific properties, could you tell me how you came to this number?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So the...the Department is going to work with, you know, Sanoe of course, on what parcels or what properties that they're going to...what works for her and what works for the Administration. There isn't a list right now, 101 Street, you know, there's no address...or tied to it. It's what comes up that fits the model, right? That...that is like...Sanoe was saying, she, like...you know, for her...for a single family or a single person, they want an apartment. But some folks have children with them, they might need a house. So the...it's just...it's not marked for a particular address, per se.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And you're planning on buying about how many spaces or units with this \$4.5 million?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, hopefully, one in each district or some of the districts...you know we...nine districts ideally, but we probably won't have that kind of money. But a house...or for example, an apartment on Lānaʻi it will be much cheaper

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

than, say, an apartment in, you know, West or South Maui. So if something comes up, they'll work with each other, and they'll go and...and purchase it with those bond monies. It's hard to say, you know, this is tied to this apartment because that apartment could go tomorrow, right? So, we're...it's a pot of money that the Administration can use, working with Sanoe guys, to find a place that the County would own, and then they could lease it to her to fi...that's...that's a valid point, that sometimes the...I'm sorry. She...Councilmember Paltin mentioned that off. But it is important to have a little bit of privacy when we talk about Women Helping Women.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No, for sure. I don't want any specific addresses.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But my...my concern is, like, we have a year and something to spend...18 months to spend a bond fund, but it's not...it's easy to spend money sometimes, but when you're trying to look for a specific type of--Chair, your...your volume is on--type of home, it might not be as easy, especially when you said they were trying to look for some of the condos for single family and those are sometimes ready, sometimes not. But I understand your point, I don't think we should advertise the addresses either. I'm just curious how quickly they can expend that money without anything in mind.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, yeah...well, I would just say that the demand is there, right? And if the Administration and Sanoe work together, I think they can do it because Sanoe is going to be telling everybody, these are our folks, and this is what they need. And if the Administration is sincere about wanting to house these folks and buy these units up, there's the...there's the money, and they can go and do that. I mean, we always want to put a candle under them to...to make them go a little faster as government goes slow, but this is something that's sometimes crisis level and emergency level. We want...we want to have those units set up for folks to come in.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to let Member Johnson know that we do have a triplex for sale in East Maui. If Ms. Ka'aihue is interested, I can send her the MLS. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Needs. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Again, I'm supportive of this effort. Since it's going to be county-owned, I think we would...they we would need to...we would need to approve it. Right, Budget Director? If the County is acquiring property, the Council would still need to approve the acquisition. And if we're approving the acquisition, I believe the address becomes public.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, you're muted.

MS. MILNER: I clicked above the microphone. My apologies. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes. There would need to be a resolution for the acquisition of the properties which would involve the address of the property being posted on a Council agenda. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director. I'm not saying I don't support it, I'm just flagging that for our awareness.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member U'u-Hodgins.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. And to make it very clear, I'm...I'm supportive. I just want to understand how this works. So if we buy it with bond funding, primarily the homes in this county are on an average of 50 years old, at best. Can we use bond funding to renovate as well? Because you're probably going to need somebody to renovate, and if not, are we paying for the renovation? Or...I mean, I would love a brand new turn-key home, but reality is if you're going to try to buy something in all the different, you know, regional areas, they're...like, you cannot buy a brand new home in Pā'ia or Makawao, so I just saying.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Can, maybe, Budget Director answer that, if that could be used for renovations and what that may look like? Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes. Bond funds can be used for renovation of county assets. There are some requirements that need to be met, but I...I think we can definitely have that conversation. There's no prohibition on using it for renovations. As you've seen, we've used it for renovations of different buildings that the County has acquired over the last several years. An alternative, if there are concerns about the addresses being posted publicly on resolutions, it wouldn't be able to be bond funded, but you could do this as a grant to Women Helping Women for the acquisition of property. And I...I just wanted to throw that out there because you've been talking about concerns about the addresses. But I defer to the body on how they'd like to proceed. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good point. All right. Members, any more discussion on this? Let's take a vote. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is this...okay. So we have...everybody is here. Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

**VOTE:       AYES:       Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member...now, Chair Lee, your proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Not yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Not yet. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It looks like she's here, though.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, she's here. Okay. Then we're going to move onto the Operating Budget, which is --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, you have one, too?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, wait. You have...you have.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have Revolving Funds. You have one too? Yeah. So are you going to take up the Revolving Funds under the Department --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- that manages the Revolving Fund or when we do all the Revolving Funds?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So we're taking up your priority.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. I guess part of the confusion we're having is that the matrix that was created had a separate section for the Revolving Funds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But the table that you had distributed for the order in which I think Departments would come up didn't have a special line item for Revolving Fund. So we're...I guess we're just trying to figure out --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Where...when --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We're...we're doing it now, just like we did Agriculture, Humane Society --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Revolving Funds.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. So I guess --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Just personnel stuff we're doing later, right, is what we're doing?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I know the fringe ones we're doing later, and then the County one we're doing later.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah. Okay, that's correct.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But...because he had questions because I have one in the Affordable Housing Fund and then...well, potentially, because apparently, it's no good for me --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- to try to make an appropriation there. But Member Rawlins-Fernandez has had one and I believe she was waiting first.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I move to condition \$2 million to be used for the Voluntary Deed Restriction Program under Revolving Fund P, Homeowner Programs Revolving Fund, Chapter 3.34 Maui County Code.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second by Member Sinenci. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, second by Member Sinenci. Any discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Expanding the pilot program that we have for Molokai.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. How's it going?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We had to do a Code amendment, remember? The bill just passed on Friday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So they're...they should be announcing the launch of it soon.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Steps forward is the main thing, right?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. So once we get it going, I want to keep the momentum going so that there will be funding, more funding for it because there's been a lot of interest.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. Members, all in favor raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:      APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. And this one I might need some help with. This is the PARUS program that was...that came up earlier. You know, I had wanted to condition \$3 million for the program in the Affordable Housing Fund. I don't know exactly how to navigate this now that we've heard from the Director about it --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Michelle.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Which one . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- being...about use of the Affordable Housing Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- is on a Revolving Fund?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can somebody mute...mute the Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee, your mic is on.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -Do you have the GPT?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I'll...yeah, I guess if...if the body is open, I'll make a motion to add \$3 million...or a \$3 million appropriation in the Affordable Housing Fund for the PARUS Program. And then through discussion I may have to amend that to move it somewhere else. But I...I would like a motion on the floor so we can have discussion and...and then --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is there --

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- I will ask for help.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is there a second? No. Okay. Is there a second for...okay. Second for discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook made your...is your second.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, thank you, Member Cook, for the second. So the PARUS Program is with the Homestead Community Development Corporation. This was cofounded by Councilmember Kama; it's one of her big legacy projects. The request is for \$3 million. 100 million...or \$1 million for property improvements to existing PARUS properties located in Kihei, Wailuku, and Lāhainā. And then \$2 million for acquisition of up to three additional residential units that will be permanently dedicated to affordable workplace housing within Maui County serving households up to 140 AMI. You know, I had tried to appropriate money from the Affordable Housing Fund and proposed cuts. I don't think I quite know how to propose this now that we've gotten pushback from the Department. I will say that, you know, reflecting on what the Director had shared earlier, I do support the Administration's efforts to go through RFP, to have a, you know, more rigorous vetting of the projects to ensure that they're all shovel-ready. I just don't think that the applicant or my office had understood that the entire Affordable Housing Fund would be appropriated and that for...that this body would not have any opportunity to appropriate affordable housing funds. And I guess I'm struggling with that because I don't know how...what that means for priorities like this, or for, you know, the \$8 million acquisition along the cove. And so, I'm going to ask my colleagues for some help on how to advance this request. You know, if it meant getting like, the rating sheets from the Administration so that we could see which projects, you know, were most shovel-ready and most worthy, and then we could make our own determinations, if we wanted to swap something out. I don't...I don't know what the answer is, but I don't think that the...I guess I'll end it there and ask my colleagues for help because I do see a hand. Hopefully, it's not a question and more of a helpful suggestion on how to navigate this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, then Sinenci after.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, shucks, it was a question.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But I can help if I understand more, I guess.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I guess...so Member Kama normally works with this organization to. . .*(inaudible)*. . . RFPs and, you know, unfortunately she was in the hospital at the time when that round happened. There was no opportunity...well, we...I think the applicant and the office had thought that this budget session would be an opportunity

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

for them to then be able to seek the funding that they were asking for if they missed that one. I don't think that --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But why wouldn't they put in a application?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I...I...I can't speak to what happens --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- in the fall. All I know is that --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Then my other question is the 1 million that you're asking for renovation for existing PARUS units in Kihei, Wailuku, and Lāhainā, so is there nobody living in the units that they acquired?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. I don't have that off the top of my head. I do know that some of the properties do need roof repairs, and that there was a proposal for solar and battery. So, like, I don't think that would necessarily require them to vacate the property.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is there anyone from the PARUS that would be able to come speak to us as, like, a resource to answer questions? Or is that...I mean was Member Kama the PARUS?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I know she had worked very closely with their executive director, Robin Danner, who I did not call for to appear today. I didn't realize that we were asking for resources during our deliberations. And so I...I told them--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean not...I mean, at any time during this whole budget process, like at any time. But...and then, so we don't know how many units they have, how many...if there's anyone living in the units, we don't. I mean, I guess, there's just so much that we don't know. I'll...I'll leave it at that. I mean, it would be helpful for me if someone from the program, like, you know, gave us some information about what happened to the last over \$4 million we gave them. Like, if there's...and then the other question I have is, I know this is what you said, can anybody rent the units, or is it restricted?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: It's not restricted.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So there was a...I...I would have to amend the proposal that was submitted and that has been distributed. It is not only for people who are Hawaiian Home beneficiaries, it would be open.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Anybody in the county?

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I do think that there are some AMI restrictions that were placed on the program.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If it's from the Affordable Housing Fund --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --there is a...but no, like, background, no other, like, what you're born as restrictions?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Not to my knowledge. But I guess if you have these questions, I can reach out to representatives and ask that they make themselves available for this body.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I guess, I mean, I don't...I'm not ready to vote on it, I have so many questions. Is would be what I have to say.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. I think, Member Paltin asked my question about the they didn't apply so they wouldn't be on the list with the Department, the panel that...that went through all the projects that submitted their application?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, that is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then this would be a DHHL project? It's not?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No. The organization is the Homestead Community Development Corporation. Robin Danner is the person who Member Kama had worked with. She is very well known within the Homestead Community, and that's how Member Kama had first made contact with...contact with her, but this is not a DHHL project.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh. So it wouldn't qualify for any of the DHHL fundings or...or even then the percentage that we put aside for DHHL.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you want to hold this on the side until we can get some of these things answered.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sure. Thank you, Chair. Provided your willing to revisit the...the item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we'll revisit this. Chair Lee, you have your project?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .Can I have a ten minute recess?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. I think. I think there might need to be a withdrawal at this time, and we'll revisit at a later time.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Mahalo, Member Paltin. I...I withdraw the motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We made...had a motion. Member Cook...Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So the question that I had earlier is...well, there's less than 3 million in funds that's not appropriated from Affordable Housing Fund. And so, I...I mean, I guess, it's just something to flag because if we are going to approve both a 3 million and a 4 million condition under the Affordable Housing Fund without removing anything else, then we would need to put more money back in there. That's all. Mahalo, Chair. Just the process because there is less than 3 million that was not appropriated in the Affordable Housing Fund that we received from the...the Mayor. And so, what would be the process, like first dibs or, you know...I mean, I guess we would have that discussion because Member Batangan has a 3 million and Chair Lee has a \$4 million condition under the Revolving Funds. But Chair Lee had offsets for Real Property Tax, so it looks like there is a plan for that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I would also...since she's collecting herself, I would also like to add that there has been a new proposal that the Department supports for \$8 million, right, or \$12 million, whatever. So, they're...you know...even the Department themselves are asking that we appropriate more from the funds.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think Member Sugimura has something up her sleeve. Chair Sugimura has something up her sleeve for that one.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Recess? Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can do a recess. And when does Chair Lee want us to break? 5:00?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(laughing)*. . .She's talking about for the sandwiches.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, um 5:00.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, um.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay, so we can take a break so you can organize whatever. And come back at like, what? 4:21? It's okay? 4:21. . . .(gavel). . .

**RECESS: 4:11 p.m.**  
**RECONVENE: 4:22 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 4:22. And we are...we'll hear from Member...Council Chair Lee on your priority in Housing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right. On page 9, I...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 55.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. The big...yeah, Appendix A Part II Special Purpose Revenues. Oh no...no. That's not the one. It just says...it's the...it's the big version of the...of the small version they gave us earlier. Just turn to page 9, it says Housing. It says Housing. And then, okay. I'm proposing to increase...this is for the increasing the Housing, the Hale Mahaolu Homeowners and Housing Counseling Program by \$165,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second, somebody.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. That's a motion to approve.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want to explain?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Discussion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Okay. I think most of you are familiar with Hale Mahaolu's Homeownership Program because they have been doing it for...since I was Director of Housing, and that was back in 2000...in 2000. So, you know, they have a very sustainable and very successful program and...and if we give them more money, they're able to help more people.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. They're good. Any further discussion? All in favor, raise your

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

hand, say, “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine “ayes.” Motion carries.

**VOTE:       AYES:       Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anything else, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. I was very, very impressed with the group that came before us in Lāhainā. That was Holo...what was that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ho‘ōla iā Mauiakama Long Term Recovery Group.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Yeah. That’s the one. Anyway, I would have loved to support them more substantially, but my neighbor right over here is proposing \$1 million, so I’m going to withdraw my proposal of \$4 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good. Thank you. Very good. Okay. We will revisit Member Batangan’s at a later time. Got to figure out how to do that. Anything else? Member Batangan?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I just...when you say anything else this is just in the Department, right? So, if I’m at the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- the budget ordinance. Under the Housing Program-General, I’d like to add one EP.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So...and they would go from 27 to 28.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: To 28 EP?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes. No funding attached, just the EP.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Batangan. Second by Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. So I am proposing an update to...or I'm proposing a code change in the long-term rental program. It was started by Member Kama, I've continued working on it with the...the Director of Housing and the Director of Finance. The Director of Housing indicated that if we were to adopt this, he would need an additional EP to support the changes. So I'm asking for one EP to the Department in their Housing Program to support this work, should the Council adopt my proposal at a later date. If we don't, then we just leave it unfunded.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members...Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm supportive. But what is the position?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Um, I don't know. He didn't tell me what...like a specific title. He...so I guess the work would be to verify that landlords are complying with...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh. I see the Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes, it would be a Housing Specialist position to assist with this long-term housing program to put it in place. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you need us to specify what level Housing Specialist, I, II, III, IV, V?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Since there's no funding, I don't think there's any need to do that at this point because we don't need to determine the salary until they determine what position needs to be created. Thank you, Chair.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Housing Program Specialist.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? All in favor, raise your hand, say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine “ayes.” Motion carries. Thank you, Member Batangan.

**VOTE:       AYES:       Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and  
                              Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,  
                              Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U’u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:   None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You cannot...you cannot talk about me when your mic is on, Chair Lee. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Unless you wanted me to hear.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, anybody else have any additions?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I have conditional language on...in the Department of Housing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Under Revolving Fund. And that’s on the...staying with the giant matrix of our...of our list here, it’s on the ultimate page of the matrix.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What page is it?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The second to the last page.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you don’t have the numbered one?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I...I don’t have it numbered, so the... second to the last page of our condi...of our matrix. Okay. That’s page...page 35. So I move to amend the

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

first condition....wait, wait. I move to amend the condition, let me get here, amend the condition for First-Time Homebuyers Fund. Homebuyers Program Revolving Fund (Chapter 3.34, Maui County Code) condition to read as...well, should I wait for the motion? Or wait for a second before I?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um. You have a second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Condition to amend to read, number one must be disbursement of grants for qualified Maui County residents participating in the First-Time Homebuyers Program. So what that mean is I'm removing that 30...I'm sorry, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Moved my Member Johnson, seconded by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's the motion. Go ahead. Okay. Moved by Member Johnson. Seconded by Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Ditto. Ditto.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, the Department of Housing indicated they're working on the rules for the First-Time Homebuyers Program and the program has been underutilized and not being kept up with the rising costs of houses. In changing this condition, gives them more flexibility. It used to be saying, you know, up to \$30,000. The cost of homes, this \$30,000 is just not cutting it. It allows them...it takes that number off the table and allows them to come up with a number that would feel...would fit for that first-time homebuyer. We can go back and forth, should be 60,000, should we keep it, but I just remove it and let the Department decide so that they can work with the folks on those individual bases. So that is the reasoning and that is the explanation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other comments?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry, can I just make sure I'm looking at...it's page 54 of Appendix A; is that correct?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Appendix A, Part II.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Tha'st where you're adding the language.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Appendix A, Part II.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Under P --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Homeowner Programs Revolving Fund. . .  
*.(inaudible).* . .

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: --Thank you.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay? All in favor, raise your hand, say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine “ayes.” Motion carries. Member U‘u-Hodgins there.

**VOTE:        AYES:        Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:        None.**

**ABSTAIN:     None.**

**ABSENT:      None.**

**EXC.:        None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:      APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next. Anybody else? No? You’re fine? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Thank you. So, Appendix B, Rates and Fees. Any amendments to Rates and Fees? Ramseyer version is pages 21 and 22. Okay. That’s it. Then we are done with Housing, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. I had a question for Ms. Milner. The fee waivers, did that adjustment get put in the Mayor’s budget proposal, that legislation that we passed just prior to going into budget?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner. I got to do my Housing, yeah?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. If that’s the ordinance that just passed, no it was not incorporated as it didn’t...it was not included in our changes for Fiscal Year ’27. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh no. We probably got to do that, then. I was not prepared to do that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So while you’re looking, can I do my Housing Project?

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Do it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Then you can do research. Okay. Members, so we all heard Cove Beach Village yesterday, and then Director and Deputy came and spoke to us or maybe more Director. So this will be new. It's a...it's an alternative as I did not do Kaahumanu Church. So it is Budget Bill, page 23. How do you read this? New appropriation for Cove Beach Village to include land...land entitlements, permit, water, and meter. And proposed, add a new appropriation for up to 8.62 million for Cove Beach Village land entitlement program and water meter in South Maui, to read as follows: D. Department of Housing, I) South Maui Community Plan Area, a. Other projects (1) Bond Fund, iii) Cove Village [sic]...Cove Village, Cove Park Village and it is for 8.8 million, \$620,000 and, as you know, it's a 82 unit, 82...oh sorry. Kanani Road is the address...sorry, 82 Kanani Road, Kihei, TMK (2)3-9-016-0064 I'm...I'm sorry, 004. Thirty two, 32 units. Apartment building with elevator, 66 parking stalls, and 13 storage areas. And the offset of this is Kihei Community Plan Area, Bond Funds South Maui Community Park. Remove funds from the South Maui Community Park, 25 million from the Bond Fund appropriation for 6 million, \$8,620,000 from the Bond Fund, and the total addition or reduction is 16,380,000, which is the excess, and reduction of 20...oh ,that's right I just told you. Twenty-five million, addition of 8...purchase of the land is a net, and the results is 16,383,000 unused bond.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ready. Call for the question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Already. Okay. Okay. Go ahead. Any questions? Go ahead, Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, I...you know, this parcel I have not done a site visit to, so maybe I'll rely on the District Rep, but does that area flood? And will...will it get flood insurance if we do.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's not in the flood zone. It's mauka from the Cove, probably 400 yards.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, it's far.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Up from the Cove and South Maui...South Kihei Road. It does have flood swale next to it. It has the new...I should know the name of it, but the new Senior Housing that Mayor V opened about six years ago.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's really...it's a great spot. I...if I may ask, Chair, did you have "up to" that amount?

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. That's my only question. Thank you. You can go on.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I...because it...it basically says on it to a subject to appraisal and review. So, --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It doesn't say, "up to". I can put "up to" in it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I think that would be prudent because basically the Department of Housing is going to be negotiating on it. And also, to let them know that it's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- subject to negotiation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I'll add that. So the write up, can you put in "up to". Yeah. Can you add "up to." So for --

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- appropriate...

MR. KRUEGER: The Staff will note that adding language like "up to" into Appendix C for these sorts of things, it's a bit unusual. We...we do note that the Budget Director has turned on her camera, I'm not sure if she has something to add.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah. Okay. Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. Yeah. I think the Department does have some concerns here between the land price, which is valued at approximately 2 and a half million, and the requested purchase price currently for 8.6 million. I know they're willing to have conversations with them and enter into negotiation. I just worry that putting a full 8.6 million sets an unrealistic expectation for the seller that that is what the County is willing to pay which may not be the case. As you are proposing to bond fund it, the other option is if you maybe bond the land cost right now, and then we can come back for an amendment once negotiations are concluded. So that, you know, we're not overpromising what the County might be willing to pay for the property. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. So the County would own this?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And the County asked us to do this? I mean the Admin was asking us to do this?

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think that Mitchell, Director Mitchell came and said...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director Mitchell said yes?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- that he was...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then, we have an appraisal?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Where? Where is that appraisal?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: They just read it during testimony.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: What the number was.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So they never gave it to us.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: They didn't...they didn't provide any.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, okay, okay. All right. So we usually get an appraisal. Okay. I...I am supportive of the Budget Director Milner's recommendation of only putting the land appraised value and not mislead the buyer into thinking that we're going to spend excess amount of taxpayer dollars when we don't have that projected amount.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So if you only putting...my...my proposal is for the 8....8,620,000. It's not 2 million whatever the appraised value. Is that what you just said?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I understand what your...you said in your motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I'm saying I don't support that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I support what the Budget Director is recommending. Because it's bond, it can be changed any time. Like it...it's not like we're...it's not cash, it's not General Funds, so we wouldn't need to adjust the rates, we would just make the amendment because it's like a loan. So I...I don't --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It doesn't make sense to over-commit --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and pay a higher price than it's, like, actually valued at.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think what the...the representative said yesterday...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The developer representative?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Because of course, they want the...the most money they can get. I mean, of course they're going to ask that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So this not only the land, right? It's with the permits, and it's the plans, and infrastructure, and everything is ready to go.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Again, I support it, just not at 8 million. It's a bond, so we can change it at any time. The Admin supports it, they can change it at any time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I'm supportive of it. I just wanted to basically be clear, that "up to" and the County can negotiate it. Is basically that price is for the land, and entitled drawings, and plans, et cetera. So the Department of Housing Supply...Department of Housing has to look at it, access it, and make a determination of the value of that, and what they're going to do with it. So I'm very supportive of us passing it like this, I just want to make it sure that there's no expectation that that's a commitment for that amount, and it's "up to."

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And the Department has the opportunity to negotiate it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other...Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. So I don't think I'm following this funding mechanism. So I guess my initial concern was that I don't like the way that we were...we would be starting off a negotiation by saying, you know, what we would be willing to pay for, you know. I kind of like the...the model that Water has taken, where we appropriate funding so that they have money in the account to show good faith, and that, you know, they then negotiate with different owners, you know.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They do a deal.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Correct and then come back. I...I really don't like the way that this has come about, you know, at the 11th hour, with very little details. I don't...I have not seen plans, I've not seen what these permits entail. You know, we were given an appraised value and what an asking price is and then asked to make a decision. That's a little bit, you know, too large of a leap of faith for me. But I don't think I'm following what was discussed earlier about the bonding being able to be changed later. Do we need to bond anything at this point in order for the County to negotiate? So they...we have to bond at least the appraised value of the land in order for them to negotiate. Like, so is there any reason why we would need to take action now? Because I...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think it's because we're doing budget, right?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. But there's nothing that would preclude the Administration from coming to us with a budget amendment for a specific bond amount in the future, right, because that's not going to be impacted by the amount of taxes that we would have to raise through this budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I guess given that feedback, I would probably vote no to both the motion on the floor and the proposal from the Budget Director and just ask that the Department reach out and then come to us with a more fully developed proposal. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'll be voting yes because it's...it's rare to have an opportunity to buy prime land that's fully entitled. The entitlement can take 10 years, you know, and...and with this county, maybe 20. So...and what we're doing now is not spending down anything, it's allowing the project to be negotiated. And then they're going to have to come back to us. So then at that time, we could, you know, add conditions or whatever we need to do. And the idea of...of a bond is better than cash, and the only thing we have to do is set aside the amount of interest payment. So I think all in all this is a good deal, even though it's a last-minute proposal. You know, that's how we...that's how we roll a lot of times a lot of things come in at the last, you know, the last hour. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I have two questions for Director Milner. First off, can you restate what the price of the land was, appraisal 2 point something or.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. My understanding from the Department is that it's approximately 2 and a half million.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So if we amended the proposal, the 2.5 million, and you...and you guys...and we...it passes, but then when you guys get into negotiations, Director and they're saying no, we want 8 million, do you have to come before us for more bond? You just can go and do the bond, right? You don't have to come before us? Or...that's what I want to clarify on.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. No. If the negotiated price is higher than what would be in the budget, we would come back to the body --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. MILNER: -- and get approval for that, both in the budget and in the bond ordinance. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So you...so we'll let the...I'm...in my opinion is we'd let the Department negotiate, come back and give us the number, and then we would vote on that number. But I will say this. Lānaʻi has fully entitled land, county-owned, hasn't been built for how many years. So we have to...we have to take all things in consideration. You know, I love the fact that it's fully entitled land, I love the fact that it's surround by infrastructure, I love the fact that it's not being flooded, but where's the political will? Like, if they're really going to push for this, then they certainly could go and negotiate and come back with us on a number. So I don't...I'm kind of concerned about giving the full price, if you --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- if you hear that from me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So I just want to add that. I'd be open to amendment to make it a 2.5, and I would vote for that. But that's my stake. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I agree with Member Johnson in that this is the political will right now, us attempting to fund it, and us attempting to work with housing providers. And so, I hear you because what happened on Lānaʻi shouldn't have happened, and this is why we now have a Housing Department, so we can do better at this. And that...and that...I agree with you, it shouldn't have happened, and that's why you've worked so hard to get it done now. And now we are also in the scenario where we could have some fully entitled land. I was looking at the RPT. So the assessed value is about 2.25, I think. But that's only what real property tax is saying it's worth, and that's usually quite significantly below what the market value is, as we know. For better or for worse, that's what happens. And I'm happy to do the bond funding for, like, 2.5, so we can show good faith, in that we do take this seriously and then do some

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

negotiations to not, like, alert the landowner now that, you know, this is our ceiling. But I think Chair Lee is also correct, absolutely, in where the price is going to come from is from the entitlement and the time that they've been holding onto this property, I want to say for about ten years. On RPT, you can look at the Kiva links...oh, I'm sorry, it's not Kiva links anymore, it's the MAPPS links where it shows you what has been reviewed and approved, and it shows you the building permits...well, numbers, not necessarily the plans, and the grading, and all the things that come with. And I believe their SMA is done, which is quite costly and time consuming. And as Chair Lee was saying, this process sometimes can take upwards of 10 years, 20 years, which is why I was trying to do some Council initiated change in zoning so we can expedite that process. Again, Member Johnson, I agree with you, this is the political will, we recognize that change does need to happen. And I'm happy to support, like I said, the 2.5, but let's bond that part and then have Housing Department also show their political will and negotiate, and we can go from there so that we're not just going here you go, thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I...my position is the same as Member Batangan's. If this is such a great deal, then why wait until we have to adopt a budget to pursue it. Go pursue it now, go negotiate now. If the asking price is 8.6, like, you don't go to a car dealership and, like, pay the first thing that they say. You negotiate. So if we're going to put 8.6, like...why...anyway. If that's what it ends up being, then, you know, like that's on them, the Administration, but go pursue it now. Why...why wait until we...until the fiscal year starts July 1st? You don't have to wait if it's going to be all bond funded. Go...go now. I'll be voting no on your motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. So I...I would vote no on the motion as it stands. But I got to say, I found the discussion from Members Lee, Johnson, and U'u-Hodgins pretty compelling and would be open to an amended motion. I don't mean to just leave my colleague from Moloka'i hanging now that she sided agreement with me. But not on the motion, I would vote no to the motion as it stands, but I...I'm saying that I did find the discussion from Members Johnson, U'u-Hodgins, and Lee pretty compelling and would be open considering the amended motion. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, anybody else? Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I move to amend your proposed priority to 2.5 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 2.5.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So that's the motion, 2....2.5.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Director Milner was mentioned, 2.5, correct and whatever Director Milner said, I thought it was 2.5.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson, second by Member Paltin. Any more discussion for the amended version? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. I think by passing this, and it's sending a message to the Administration of the Housing Division that we're supportive, and that also we expect them to do their job, which is to evaluate the project, holistically, to make an offer that's works. This is kind of a big step for the Housing Department because it's a project that is shovel-ready, and that they can move forward. So I'm supportive and hoping that we collectively can move with Member Johnson's amendment and move on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So the motion is amended for 2.5. And all in favor, raise your hand and say, "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we have nine "ayes." And motion as amended.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: One team, one dream.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Nine "ayes." Okay. Members, so my dream is...yes. Motion carries.

**VOTE:       AYES:       Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and  
                              Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,  
                              Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVED.**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. I'm ready for mine.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. You have one more. Oh, wait. Let me just say what my dream is, I hope one day --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Tell us your dreams.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I hope one day that --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And all your hopes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- this project can be like Kula Malu, which is in Kula. I always hear about how the county-built housing, and all these people come to Farmers Market, and they love it and I tell you there's...there's hope. I don't know if...I don't know if the developer would sell to us at this price, but all right. Next. Member.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hopes and dreams over. Moving on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hopes and dreams over. We need lots.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm going to need...I'm probably going to need, assistance from Corp. Counsel on corrections . . .*(inaudible)*. . . but under Page 22, Residential Workforce Housing Policy Incentives and Exemptions. I move to add 2.97.150(B), on the right-hand side, under where it says 2.97.070. And that residential work force housing units under 100 percent AMI will receive a 100 percent fee waiver and residential workforce housing units between, I guess, 101 or above 100, to 120 percent AMI will receive a 50 percent fee waiver, to be repaid in...in the case that the house moves out of affordability.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies. So it sounds like Councilmember Paltin, you're making a motion related to Ordinance 5977 related to all those fee waivers.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's correct.

MR. KRUEGER: So those fee waivers affect a multitude of departments across Appendix B.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I would say in accordance with 2.97.150B.

MR. KRUEGER: So I...I guess Staff would just wonder if...if the body would want to consider just, you know, a broad amendment to Appendix B to incorporate the fee waivers as needed by Ordinance 5977 and with the understanding that Staff will, you know, iron out the language to make sure it's reflected appropriately.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Totally what I meant. Thank you for interpreting my pidgin to

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

your English.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Member Johnson agrees with his second.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Member U‘u-Hodgins has her hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Member U‘u-Hodgins. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I’m so sorry, Member Paltin, I didn’t hear what page you were referring to.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 22 in Rates and Fees. Appendix B. Sorry, Appendix B Revenues, Page 22 in the Ramseyer version.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 22.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: So this is for the Restricted Workforce Housing Fast Track Development Application Fee?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Right below that, on the left-hand side, it says Residential Workforce Housing Policy Incentive and Exemptions. So it would be below that, and it would be...the motion to amend would be...James, can you repeat it in English?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes. So the motion before the body would be to amend Appendix B to incorporate the fee waivers as described or as related to ordinance 5977, across the Departments in Appendix B.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That’s what I meant.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: And then, are you trying to do, like, for all the fees when they come in, or for 2.97, because on page 37, which is Public Works, there’s an exceptions for fees, with for building permits. I’m not too sure if that’s your intention. But I understand what you mean with the 50,000 because that’s a lot of money. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I’m amenable to what the attorneys deem appropriate for the place.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Yes, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, is your hand up?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. Mahalo. So I am on...in Appendix B. Is the motion written down somewhere? No, yeah? I mean for us to see.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In James' head.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: In James...it's written in James' head. Okay. And okay. So I...I guess my concern is the word "waiver" because wait...because what are...what are we waiving? Because it's, like, across departments.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Fees.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So it...and that includes, like, Water?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't think Water is...we didn't do Water because Water is self-funded. We did Wastewater Assessment Fee for Facility Expansion in the Kihei Regional Wastewater Treatment System; Driveway Permit Fee; Wastewater Assessment for Wailuku-Kahului; Impact Fees for Traffic and Roadway Improvements in West Maui; as well as Kihei, Makena; as well as Hāna; as well as Makawao-Pukalani-Kula; Wailuku-Kahului; Pā'ia-Ha'ikū; Grubbing and Grading Permit Fees; Plumbing Permit Fees; Electrical Permit Fees; Building Permit and Building Plan Review Fees; Subdivision...Park Dedication and Assessment Fees; Subdivision Filing Fees under Subsection 18.24.010A; Subdivision Construction Plan Review Fees under Subsection 18.24.010D. So, like, the ones that aren't self-funded...general-funded.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. But Wastewater is self-funded?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. But it's --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Is this the Kihei --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Assessment Fees for Facility Expansion.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not the Wastewater Fees themselves.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Okay. I just want to make sure our departments are made whole with . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: With General Fund money.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We didn't...we didn't do self-funded because it's hard. That was, like, step 2 for my...whoever comes after me.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: As long as the departments are made whole, and

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

we will address all of that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you okay? Yeah. Okay. Okay, James got it and Kirsten. All right. So you guys want to vote? You ready?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, can I just make sure I understand the proposal before us? So Member Paltin, you're proposing to incorporate the fee waivers or reductions that were adopted in a previous ordinance, correct?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes. I think Member Kama's proposal, Lipoa Apartment Projects, may be able to take advantage of this because they have signed their residential workforce housing agreement, and that's one of the criterias that would allow Director Mitchell to then waive the fees for the resid...for the 120-percent-and-below AMI units.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. I guess I'm just trying to make sure that I understand we're not creating any new waivers or anything, that these were all concepts that were previously discussed and adopted, and all we're doing is incorporating them into Appendix B.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, because Ms. Milner said when we adopted it, they had already done this section, so that's why somebody else had to do the work instead of them.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Understood. Chair, since this is Ms. Apo-Takayama's last budget session, this might be a good parting gift for her.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's a good reason. Okay. Members, all in favor, raise your hand, say, "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**        **AYES:**        **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**        **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**        **None.**

**ABSENT:**        **None.**

**EXC.:**        **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**        **APPROVED.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anymore?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I don't know. This is her last budget session, though. Because she just got, um. Oh sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anymore? Are we done, then? We finished the whole Housing? Yeah. We did, yeah. Okay. Okay. We are done with Housing. And we will then...okay, these are the choices. Right now, it's 5:00, which we're supposed to break, right, to go to dinner, and we have Human Concerns and Liquor left for tonight. And Human Concerns has 20 priorities, so there's a lot from Members. Liquor should be pretty fast. But this is my question. We are kind of behind because of...there's a lot of enthusiasm with the many testifiers that came this morning, so we...not that we lost half a day, but we basically stopped at 11:30. And so, we couldn't really continue on. I want to know if, after the public hearing, after the Real Property Tax public hearing tonight, can we recess today, now, and come back at 7:00 and talk about...yeah, 7:00 p.m. and...and talk about this, Human Concerns and Liquor, to catch up. 6:30? Okay. You think it's going to be fast? Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I do have to cook dinner for my kids, so I hope we're almost pau soon. I wish I had Chair Lee's sandwiches, but I'm not there. I'm okay to come back at 7:00 if we have, like, a...if we try to monitor ourself best and hopefully end by 9:00 so I could say goodnight to my children. But if we could put some sort of parameters on how long our discussion is going to be with the 10 million proposals we all have, I would appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, again. Human Concerns is...is the next big chunk that we need to talk about. So if we can...Chair Lee is just suggesting now recess till 6:30, not 7:00. Your mic.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The reason why I say 6:30 is because we may not have hardly any

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

testifiers because we're only talking about ranges. Yeah. How imp...you know, nobody really cares that much except Tom Crowley and maybe two other people.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So we don't want to be finished by 6:10 and then wait till 7:00 to reconvene. That's why I said 6:30.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So what I want to know is, would you like to recess this meeting, then, till 6:30? Yeah? Looks like everybody can, for tonight. It is tonight. And what I would like to do is tackle Human Concerns because it's huge. Well, it has those 20 priorities from Members, as well as Liquor. And if we do this tonight, then tomorrow, we have Management, Mayor, 'Ōiwi Resources, Parks, and Personnel Services, and Planning. Oh, and Police. Oh, okay, up to Police tomorrow. So I'm trying to catch up because, you know, we're behind right now, and I'm trying to make it so we don't have to stay very late. So, thanks for making this sacrifice. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Housing and Human Concerns usually take long, as well as Office of the Mayor with OED under it. The calendar or the decisions week department cross-walk goes to Thursday. So it doesn't have Friday on it. I don't want to go Friday till midnight, so I'm supportive of trying to be aggressive.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But I...I...my preference would be to take, like, two smaller departments like Liquor, 'Ōiwi Resources, and DPS, or something. And then that way, you know, we'll...we'll just get the small departments out of the way. And then we'll be rested and ready for Department of Human Concerns with all our many proposals.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So you're saying that for tonight, at 6:30, the departments to take up, then, we'll put aside Human Concerns till tomorrow, right? And we'll take up Liquor, 'Ōiwi, and DPS tonight.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That would be my suggestion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Planning.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The more the better.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How about Water? No?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Transportation.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Transportation should be.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How about Transportation instead of Water.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Transportation. All right. So we got Liquor, 'Ōiwi, DPS, and Transportation. Look at that, now we're ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Planning. Did we say Planning?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We have Planning. Okay. This is good, this is good. And then, I hope to finish. Hey, thanks for committing to work extra tonight, and we will have a fun time...evening. All right. So this meeting is now in recess, and we will reconvene at 6:30 tonight. Are you guys fine with that? Okay. And we did say what departments we're going to take up. Thank you, Chair Lee, good idea. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**RECESS:           5:07 p.m.**  
**RECONVENE:       6:40 p.m.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)* . . . Welcome back to the recessed meeting. It is now 6:40. And thank you very much, all of you, for staying so we can plow through some departments. We're going to take up Department of Liquor Control. Please go to page 13 on Bill 55. Anybody, there's no priorities from Members. Does anybody have any amendments for Liquor Control, A account, B account? None? Capital Improvement, this Department does not have any. Appendix A, Part I, there are no proposed grants for the Department of Liquor Control. Appendix A, Part II Special Purpose Revenue. As a reminder, the following funds are under this Department: Liquor Education Fund (Hawai'i Revised Statutes 20...281-16, 281-17(2), 281-17(3)) on page 54. Members, are there any proposed amendments? None? Okay. So, we are done with...oh, Liquor. Wait a minute, there's more Liquor. Appendix B –

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair. Member U'u-Hodgins is trying to get your attention online.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Sorry. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I have a question for Budget Director. On page 55, number 2, for the Disbursement for Underaged Drinking Prevention Program, that's limited at 22,000, is there a reason it's limited there, or can we increase that funding?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The reason? Yeah. It's State Law.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: State law.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So right now at the Legislature, Senator Hashimoto is hopefully putting a bill together that'll increase that percentage, but that's mandated by State law.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: But can we add to it is my question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Not add . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I tried both before. I tried adding to it, and I tried changing State Law before, but I didn’t succeed at either of them.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. It’s just that when we were talking to the families when we were doing the host bill, we’re trying to figure out what to do, but okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Also, in Liquor, Appendix B, Rates and Fees, on page 22-25 on the Ramseyer version, there’s no proposed rate changes from the Administration. Do you have any proposed amendments? No. Discrepancy. So on page 22 on the clean version of Appendix B, and in Appendix B inadvertently omits fees for licenses of several classes that can be found in pages 22 and through 23 on the Ramseyer version of Appendix B. Number one: under Restaurant class, a fee for beer is missing. Two: Retail class is missing. Three: the header for the Dispenser class is missing. So therefore, the discrepancy on page 24, and the clean version of Appendix B and Page 25 on the Ramseyer version of Appendix B note the penalty assessed shall not exceed the sum of \$2,000 under HRS Section 281-91. The penalty assessment amount should not exceed \$5,000. So Corp. Counsel, who’s going to change these discrepancies or correct these discrepancies?

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Thank you, Chair. I just spoke to Budget Director about this. And so, she is double-checking with...with the Liquor Director. But we...these changes...these changes can be corrected.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. So we’ll wait for that correction from Budget Director Milner, is that correct? Huh? What? Okay. So I’m going to defer this item...not defer this. I’m going to continue on. We’re done with Liquor.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies. The Committee could probably just incorporate the correction now if they wanted to by motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: It would just be to incorporate the...the missing classes in the clean version that are present in the Ramsyear version, that’ll just be the motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You can just make the motion.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And so, you guys got that, right? James and Kirsten.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Chair Lee. Second by...who wants to--

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second by Member Sinenci. All in favor, say, "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, it is eight...nine "ayes." There's Gabe Johnson. Okay. nine "ayes."  
Motion carries.

**VOTE:       AYES:       Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and  
                              Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,  
                              Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVE.**

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I just saw Director Milner just popped up. Hello.

MS. MILNER: Hello. Thank you, Chair. Yes. I just spoke with Director of Liquor, and he's

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

fine increasing 3763 and 3768 from 2,000 to the new maximum of 5,000. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So you got that? Yes. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: My understanding is under Rosenberg, you can just make the motion. Like, if Staff gives you notes to make changes, like, you can just make the motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And we can second it. That's what Chair Lee said.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I will...I will do that. Okay. Nothing else for Liquor, right? Done. Next. Department of 'Ōiwi Resource. There's one Member priority, from Councilmember Paltin. Grant to...to add a new condition for Mālama Kakanilua.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Save time, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, this proposal was originally under wetlands, but I accepted a friendly amendment from Member Johnson. These folks are stewarding the wetlands, I think it was between Waipu'ilani and Waiohuli in Kihei, and, you know, given the recent mud floods, I think this is really timely. They testified at the South Maui Budget Hearing and want to support all their efforts so Kihei's not continually under mud.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, ready to vote? All in favor. Oh, you want to say something?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please do.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I speak in favor of the motion just as I did earlier and in favor of continuity because this grant is currently under Department of 'Ōiwi Resources.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you guys need the details: \$250,000 under 926001B-6317 as a line item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Condition.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Condition. All right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Member Johnson had his hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. I don't see you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's fine, Chair. The Councilmembers took the words out of my mouth. I was going to say everything they just said. They said it, so I'm ready to vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes." Member Cook. Motion carries.

**VOTE:       AYES:       Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yay. Okay. Operating Budget, Page 16. Members, are there any amendments or for Category A or Category B? You have one, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just had a blanket move. I move to reduce Category A a. (1)

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

\$140,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If I get a second, I'll...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, that was a motion?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I said I move, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Reduce Category A, yeah by 140,000. So you're going to discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Was there a second?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So they had a number of expansion positions. Some were at zero dollars, and some were for eight months. I didn't do a straight four months across the board decrease because that would be a decrease of \$164,180, and this decrease is 140,000. So it's a little bit more than four months of funding each. I'm not sure which of these positions require a reorg and which do not. But that was an ambitious list of positions to create in...within four months. So I didn't do a straight four month for each position, I did 24,180 extra, than straight four months.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And to make up the 140,000, correct? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To make it be 140,000 instead of 164,180.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more discussion? If not, ready to vote? All in favor, say, "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Everybody's on, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, your hands up. Nine "ayes."  
Motion carries.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**        **AYES:**        **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**        **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**    **None.**

**ABSENT:**     **None.**

**EXC.:**        **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**    **APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nothing to Category B? In this section? Very good. Capital Improvements, there's no proposed CIPs. Appendix A, Part I Grants, there's no proposed grants for the Department...Department of Ōiwi Resources. Appendix A, Part II Special Purpose Revenues, as a reminder, the following fund is under the Department: Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund, Page 52 to 53. And, Members, are there any proposed amendments? Doesn't look like it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I missed the boat when you got to Part B. I wanted to propose that we cut about \$20,000 from the B budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: If I can get a second, so I can--

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: It seems --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: --like there are some...there's a couple things that seem inflated. For example, they're asking to roughly double the size of their Department, but they're

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

not funding all of the positions. So roughly like a third more people, but they're asking for...for fourfold increase in registration and training, roughly double in airfare. You know, I think it's kind of excessive to have \$50,000 worth of advertisements for the Department. You know, there's...and \$20,000 to do blessings. You know, I just think that there's a little bit of bloat that we could adjust it or at least ask for more additional information on in the future. And would like to ask that they be a little bit more thrifty.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Especially with the travel and trainings.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So it's \$20,000 is the cut? Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I won't be supporting the motion because the travel is pricey within our county. And this isn't the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources for Maui island, it's for Maui County. We know how expensive it is to fly to Moloka'i, to fly to Lāna'i or take the boat. And in terms of blessings, I think...I think that number is actually devalued. If...if you know the extent of all the blessings that they've had to do to mihi, some of the things that have been done in Lahaina, that have been done in the Royal Complex, that have been done to iwi kūpuna, and I...I might be wrong, but when I...when I see Director Molitau after some of the more involved blessings that he's had to do for some of the things that should not have occurred, to me it looks like it takes a...a huge toll. And this is our first in the State Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, and, you know, we've all seen the types of blessings that occur at ground-breakings, or, you know, munyagi (ph.) or whatever, and...and these types of blessings are not those types of blessings. It's...it's on behalf of the County, for things seen and unseen, and I'm not sure I'm qualified to fully explain it, but that's the best I can do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Member Paltin. That is fair. I didn't consider the extent of the services that they provide. You know, from the position that I had previously served in, I had a very limited view of the kind of things they do. So I would see like a large contingent going to Washington D.C. for the Kamehameha Lei Draping Ceremony, those were the kind of things that I was thinking of that seemed excessive. I hadn't thought about the numerous blessings and ceremonies here on island and throughout our State. But I do appreciate you bringing that up. I still think that the explanation for the increase is...some of the increases seem a little excessive, and...but I see where you're coming from. Thank you, Member Paltin.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? So it sounds like we want roll call, right? Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, I also won't be supporting this. I...I think there's...while Member Batangan thinks that some areas might be excessive, I see some areas that might be under, such as construction materials for burial site, construction materials to mālama iwi kūpuna. During the emergency and as, you know, things come

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

up, so one of the things that Department Director Molitau explained to Moloka'i on Sunday when Mayor had his meeting regarding the storm that he was going to start making kits for...for iwi that end up becoming exposed in the storms, by the tides. That way, they can be revered in the way that they should be. And anyway, so all of that takes a lot of time and a lot of material. And so, if this is what they're estimating, then I, yeah, I don't want to touch it. Like Budget Director said, this is a small department. So there isn't, like a lot of fat to just kind of like make up for anywhere else. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. No. I do find those compelling, and if the seconder of the motion will permit, I can withdraw.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. You withdraw? Okay. You withdraw your... Okay. All right. So we are done with Operating. Next, CIP, there's no CIP. Appendix A, Part I Grants, there's no proposed grants for the Department. Appendix A, Part II Special Purpose Revenue, and in this is Hawaiian Cultural Restoration Revolving Fund 52 to 53, and are there any other amendments? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I see Budget Director turned her video on, so I just wanted to make sure we didn't miss anything or do anything--

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. No. You didn't miss anything. I did just want to flag in the departmental requests, the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources let us know about several pending grants that they have. We provided a list; we would just ask for the body's consideration of adding those to Appendix A Part I so that we don't have to come in for 10 or 12 amendments over the course of the Fiscal Year as we are hopeful that they will be successful in all of their applications. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So moved, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So moved. Is there a so second?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. All in favor.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did have a question for Budget Director Milner.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just checking, that's in addition to the 2 million they already brought in?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, this is in addition

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

to the funding that we acknowledged in Fiscal Year '26.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Can you guys help me understand how this works? So if a department applies for a grant, we would recognize it now even though it's not secured? So how does it appear in the budget if we get it and if we don't get it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director can acknowledge that. But yeah, it goes into this pot and the grants are listed.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. There's Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Batangan. Yes. They're listed in Appendix A, Part I. If they are CIP, those funds are also included in the totals provided in Appendix C. When the grants are received, the departments are required to provide a notification to Council as stipulated under the General Budget provision. And if they don't do that, they're not issued an index code to use those funds. So the Council receives notification if and when any of those funds are received by the County. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you. And there's a just a side note, is that there's a catchall, too, so in case there's like more, that there's actually some funding in that...in this section. Just when you look at it. All right, Members, all in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This is a nine "ayes." Okay. Good.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:      APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good. So Appendix A, Part II, we did that already. Are there any other amendments? Seeing none. Okay. Rates and Fees, there are no proposed rates and fees for the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources. So we are done with this Department. Okay. Put that down. Department of Personnel Services. Member Batangan, you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER BATANGAN: No, I was talking . . . *(inaudible)*. . . looks like Member Johnson . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Sorry. Hi, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I have a cut for Personnel.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So in the Department of Personnel Services, Page 17 in the Budget Bill.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I move to reduce Category B by 35,000, leaving a total of \$1,124,080. Can I get a second? I can explain.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Gabe John...Member Johnson. And second by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. The reduction by 35,000 is to save costs on training spaces by utilizing county-owned properties. That’s reduction number...the

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

item number is 908012B6235. So basically, I would really want them to utilize county-owned properties instead of paying for, you know --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Rentals.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- spaces to train. Hopefully, they could save some money by doing it that way. So that's my cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. So my question for Member Johnson, I know, like we can...we can hope for things, but I don't...I don't want to like, cut things and, you know, I don't know the actual situation. Did we...anyone ask them that question in one of the transmittals?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I may be inclined to vote for this at another time when we have the...a response from the Department. I just don't want to be willy-nilly cutting things that I don't know what I'm doing the County...the impact of it. So I won't be supporting this motion. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody else, any comments? Okay. Roll call.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I had a question for Member Johnson. Was this training for their staff or training for County employees, did you know?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, I don't know that but could I ask Director Milner. But basically, I'm just...was looking for cuts, and I thought that would be a place, but Director Milner knows.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I had read somewhere that want...somebody wanted to do a training with all their staff off-site. I don't know if this is the one. All my responses are getting jumbled in my head.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director Milner. There.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember. Yes. I think the one you're thinking of is the all-staff training that's on...off-site is either the Countywide Grants training or the Corporation Counsel all-staff training.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh yeah, Corp. Counsel.

MS. MILNER: I do know that Personnel does have training sometimes that is for all employees. And so, they wouldn't fit into a county property. So that's why they need the funds to

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

find somewhere like Maui Arts and Cultural Center or elsewhere. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Okay. That's the answer. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Yeah. And if, ah...I mean...I'm not...I understand Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez doesn't support it and that's fine. But if other Members are in support of this, I'll ask...ask you to call for the question. But I'm open for a discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. This is the one department that we keep hearing that kind of creates issues from the other department, and they could probably benefit from the training, I'm assuming. I'm not talking bad about it, it's just, you know, like this one department is bottlenecking some other ones, so I...I need them to like get all the training they can and do all the things so that we can all do all the things. But I hear you. I don't know if I would support it at this time because we don't really have many places. Like, pretty soon all of us are going to have to find someplace else to hold these meetings because we're not going to be welcomed on the eighth floor. And I know it's really difficult for us to find someplace, and we're only, you know, nine of us, if we don't count the other personalities and a couple OCS Staff. So I don't know where people would go. But I...I hear you. So but for me right now, until I have more information, it's going to be a no for me. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. If I could just respond, Chair. I mean, \$35,000 for a rental of space for one year, to me, for a small department, seems pretty significant. I know we were instructed to find some cuts; this would be one of the places I would look for. But, you know, I'm open...this is...again, I'm just trying to find the cuts, and this was one of the proposals.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's up to the body, really.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You want us to vote?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure. Let's do roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohe U‘u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: No.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Kauanoë Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Motion carries.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that’s four “ayes,” six “noes.” Motion fails.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That’s...that’s 10 people.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . We’re all tired.

MS. MONIZ: Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What did you say?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: That’s 10 people...6-4.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

MS. MONIZ: Sorry, 4-5.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry, motion fails.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm...I mean, if you want to count my vote twice, I'm totally down, but. Okay. Thank you, Chair.

**VOTE:**        **AYES:**        **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook and Johnson.**

**NOES:**        **Councilmembers Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**ABSTAIN:**        **None.**

**ABSENT:**        **None.**

**EXC.:**        **None.**

**MOTION FAILED.**

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci said that was the extra personality voting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Cut that 10th guy's salary. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And office space and equipment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion fails.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then there's your 35,000, Member Johnson.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: CIPs, there's none. Appendix A, Part I, Grants, there are none. Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenue, there are no grants or special purpose revenues for this department. And Rates and Fees, there's no...it has no rates and fees. So this is done. What time is it? Pretty good. The hard part is coming.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What? Why are you jinxing us?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . I know everybody...everybody is being quiet.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Member U'u-Hodgins, are you coming down with a bad cold? You sound...your...her...your voice.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I sound terrible. I know I sound like a pubescent child trying to mature and can't find my way. I think I was sick, and this is just like the remnants of being sick, or...or could be I was screaming my head off at my son's track

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

meet and this is the residuals of losing my voice.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, oh, oh. Maybe.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Or a combination of both, I'm not too sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That sounds like fun.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well as long as you're not getting sick. That's the main thing.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, Department of Planning. There are no priorities. Operating Budget, Page 9 to 10 on Bill...in Bill 55. Are there any other...are there amendments for Category A and B? Planning.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You got one. 150 Category A.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Shoot. I move...I move to decrease Category a (1) Category A by \$150,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, motion, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez, second. Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...sorry. This is just based on historical carryover savings amounts, that I picked that number, and they can apply it how they choose.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry, Chair, can you help direct me? Where are we?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So we are Page 9 to 10, Bill 55 and this is Planning Department.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Page 9 and 10. And we're talking about Category A. Any more discussion, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: From me? No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. None?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm done.

**April 21, 2026**

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MR. KRUEGER: It's tie...it's the offset tied to one of her priorities.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hold on, hold on. What...James, what priority is it associated with?

MR. KRUEGER: It's associated with her Countywide number 3, I think that's a Human Concerns priority.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to reduce Category B by \$188,500 –

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- on her behalf. She's going to second for me.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So we're reducing Category B by 180,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: \$188,500.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Eighty-eight? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair, was...was that the one I...I was going to pick up as a priority? Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, were you? Same-same.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh. So, you're... yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sorry . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: She's finding money for all the other ones that didn't go through.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(laughing)* . . . Okay. Members, anyone want to talk about it, or we're ready to vote?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ready to vote.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Actually, I would like to know what was the justification for the figure?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: She was looking for money for street medicine.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I see.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. So I understand that the 188,500 is for Project Vision, I support. But do we know what the impact will be? Like --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That's...that's one of...I'll take it up in my priority.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, no, no. I understand that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I understand that part, but if we're reducing it, reducing a hundred...okay. So, for example, other Councilmembers will say there are positions, expansion positions that were set for eight months that we're reducing to four months, and this is how I calculated this funding. I understand that 188,000 is for a specific priority, but do we know what the impact will be?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I can tell you that in Fiscal Year '25, Category BC had \$1,345,383.09 carry over.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Carry over. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that in Fiscal Year '24, they had 1.2 million and some change.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. I'm supportive. I just want to make sure that we weren't cutting too deep.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we're good, right?

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Oh, Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: Mahalo, Chair. Yes. In the Departmental Priorities, the departmental request, the Planning Department did say that they could reduce their B budget by \$200,000. So they can absorb the 188,500. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we can change it.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I move to amend. . . .(laughing). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Make it 200,000.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Don't complicate things.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll accept that as a friendly amendment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, it's 200,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So will I.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Budget Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Thank you. All...it's 200,000. So all in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes." Motion carries.

**VOTE:**        **AYES:**        **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**        **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**        **None.**

**ABSENT:**        **None.**

**EXC.:**        **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:        APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So now we're doing...no...no other, right? No other amendments. So therefore CIP, there's no proposed amendments. Grants A...Appendix A Part I, Page 42. There are none. Any amendments, Members? Seeing none. Appendix A, Part II Special Purpose Revenues. The following funds are under this Department: Landscape Planning and Beautification Revolving Fund, page 54; Special Management Area Revolving Fund, page 58. Are there any proposed amendments? Seeing none. Okay. Rates and Fees on the Ramseyer version page 32 to 36, various fees increase. Members, are there any proposed amendments to the rates and fees for the Department of Planning? I wish we could change Appeals instead of \$4,000, but we're waiting for

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

their study to happen, so. There's no amendments for this. We are done with Planning.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Might as well just take Prosecuting Attorneys too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure. We should take Human Concerns. Okay. Department of Transportation.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, you want to do Prosecuting Attorneys?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm going to do Transportation first. Sure.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, I guess I just would have concerns about calling departments up when we didn't let them know that we're going to call them up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's...that's up to --

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No, no, I guess Prosecuting Attorney. Because with the list of departments that we had, that we've been going through --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- we had said on the floor before we went...for sandwiches.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Does anyone have any cuts for Prosecuting Attorney?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is your concern, Sunshine Law, because it's not a Sunshine Law concern.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: No. I guess I just wanted the department head the opportunity to be next to the Budget Director in case we started doing loopy things because it's late and we're --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't have any proposed cuts.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: She can get them on the phone while we do Transportation. But I don't have any cuts for Prosecuting Attorney, do you?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maybe Gabe does. I don't know.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: If we're taking up Transportation that does give them an opportunity to do it. I just was concerned that we were taking up Prosecuting Attorney before Transportation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very fair. Department of Transportation, Member priorities, there are none. And Operating Budget, page 17, and it is...do we have any amendments for

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

Category A or A or B for Transportation?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I have language, proposed change in language, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I think I'll maybe I'll wait till I get to Rates and Fees.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: When we get to Rates and Fees, I'll . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So next, we have Humans Services Transportation Program on page 19. Any...any amendments to Category A or B? Oh, we're doing Transportation. Yeah, page 18...on.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah, it's. I have it on page 19 on mine. But it's the Human Services Transportation Program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, 19. You're right. You're right, it's 19. You're right, 19.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: I guess, Chair, I am conflicted out of this one so, I will be recusing myself, if you guys take it up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, aww. Okay. Okay. Next is Air Ambulance Program General Fund, which is Budget Bill, page 19. Any amendments to Category A or B? No. Okay. We're good. We're good. We're good. Hey, here's one that has Gabe's name written all over it. Ferry Program-General Fund, Budget Bill, page 19.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You skipped Park Maui. Not that I have changes, just letting you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think that would...coming later, yeah? So Bill...I'm sorry. So, Ferry Program, page 19. Any amendments to Category A or B? Seeing none. Administration Program-Highway Fund, page 19. Any amendments to Category A or B? Okay. None. Public Transit Program-Highway Fund, Budget Bill, page 19. Any changes or amendments to Category A or B? None.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But Chair, it looks like the Department has something they would like us to consider.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, here. Here is Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Batangan. Yes. The Department had been asked about costs for additional security at the Kahului Transit Center. So that was provided in the Department requests. The estimate that they've gotten is \$170,000, which would be under the B account, in Section G, which is the Human

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

Ser...no, not Human Services Transportation. Sorry, the Public Transit Program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So this program.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair,

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So we're going to add this to this on page 19, under the B Account.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we're going to add 170,000 for security; correct?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do we also need to do an interfund transfer from the General Fund to the Highway Fund?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes. We will need to increase the interfund transfer to cover the additional 170,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's okay because I've got offsets later on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So you got that right, this is for security, and that's great...at the bus hub. I will ask for Members' vote. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez and the second was from Member Batangan. Did you?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I have discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, we're...every time we're doing a priority, we're looking for cuts, but the departments don't have to find cuts? When they're adding stuff for the budget for security? It's a little tricky, you know, it's a moving target and a lot of spinning plates, and as...I mean, it's doesn't seem that fair. But, Director Milner, I mean...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I got a \$180,000 cut that they put in OWR-3, so that'll offset it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. I believe Housing had also proposed a cut of 670,000, which I don't believe the body took up earlier. So I think that will offset some of this as well. Thank you, Chair.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's on my priority matrix.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Moving targets, it's kind of hard. All right. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But I...I understand what you're saying, right. All of you have worked really hard to find cuts and it was hard, so appreciate your observation. So this time, we're going to vote on the 170,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. So when the Department brings their requests to us, we don't have to vote for it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I mean, we bring it...they bring it to us, and if we think that's important on...for our community, then we vote for it. The Department submits their budget requests to the Mayor, and I'm sure the Mayor does his own chopping, as Member Batangan probably knows. So I know from all these years of budget that they submit a much higher budget than what we receive when the Mayor transmits it to us. So they do get cuts, just not, you know, necessarily by choice. The Mayor works on that and does that, and then we cut it some more.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And we add. Okay. Members, at this time, you want to vote? Shall we do a roll call vote? Oh, on \$170,000 for security at the bus hub. Okay. Is it roll call?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Not me. I'm supporting it. Supporting it, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes." I support this.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**        **AYES:**        **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**        **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**    **None.**

**ABSENT:**     **None.**

**EXC.:**        **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**    **APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This Department has Capital Improvement, page 26. On the Budget...Budget Bill, are there any proposed amendments to the Department of Transportation CIP? Any amendments to CIP? None. Appendix A, Part I Grants, page 44 to 45. Are there any proposed amendments to Department of Transportation? Seeing none. Special Purpose Revenues, Appendix A, Part II, the following fund is under this Department: Parks [sic] Revenue Fund, page 57. Are there any proposed amendments to the Special Purpose Revenues for the Department of Transportation? Seeing none. Appendix A.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I thought Member Johnson wanted to give students older than 24 but under 55 fare free.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. We're not in Rates and Fees?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're coming...right now we're coming up to it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Still Revolving. Okay. Never mind.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are Rates and Fees now, which is 53...52 to 53 Ramseyer version. . . .(coughing). . . excuse me. Thanks. Are there any proposed amendments for changes from Administration? No. This should say from Rates and Fees. Anybody has any...who had it? Member Johnson, you have a amendment to Rates and Fees?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. On page 51 of the Appendix B, Public Transit Fares, I'm going to amend the language. Okay. So basically, we're moving the age, the ages of the students, okay? So it will be reading as including Seniors...oh man, it's dark in here. Okay. Including seniors (55 and older), paratransit eligible and persons with a physician-certified disability fixed route card, Medicare Card holders, students with

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

valid I.D., County of Maui Employees with valid County I.D.s, so we're just taking out the ages 24 and under.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You guys got that? You got that? Okay. Member Johnson and the second by Member Sinenci. Any more discussion? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Chair, if I can discuss.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait. Go ahead, Member Johnson --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- your motion.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So in TD-2, the Department said change would have "minimal fiscal impact". This change would extend the fair free benefit to students who are 25 to 54 years old. Those 55 or older are covered under seniors and this change would help remove transportation barriers for nontraditional students and residents seeking workforce development opportunities. I mentioned on the floor before, my mother got her bachelor's degree nursing in her 50s. So students of all ages. Okay. That's my, that's me speaking to the motion. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Batangan.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. I will also be supporting this. When I was with the Department, we did receive a request from UH Maui College asking to expand the ridership for students. You know, there are some nontraditional students who attend the school who would like to have benefited from this, and the amendment that Member Johnson is proposing would give them that opportunity. So thank you, Member Johnson.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. I too want to support this. I...you know, in my community we see a lot of young parents that began their...their families early, right out of high school, so they didn't get a chance to go to college after high school. So we see more at an older age wanting to...to get their degrees. So I'm supportive.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Anybody else, Members? Seeing none. Let's vote. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Eight “ayes.” I’m sorry. Nine “ayes.” Motion carries.

**VOTE:**        **AYES:**        **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U’u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**        **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**        **None.**

**ABSENT:**        **None.**

**EXC.:**        **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:        APPROVE.**

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, Members.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thanks. Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That offset for Housing was under my Management Priority, but I didn’t do it when we were in Housing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We can go back after Prosecuting Attorney.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No objection going back at the end of Prosecuting Attorney.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Prosecuting Attorneys is on page 17. Does anybody...there’s no priorities for this, yeah. Okay. Anybody have...oh, this is very simple. Does anybody have any amendments for Category A, Prosecuting Attorney, on page 17? Seeing none. For Category B? Seeing none. Do they have Rates and Fees? I don’t have any of those sheets.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, no, it appears to be nothing for Prosecuting Attorney. No Appendix A Part II, no Appendix B.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. No grants?

MR. KRUEGER: Oh. They do have a --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. KRUEGER: -- Appendix A, Part I on pages 43 and 44.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So can you read that.

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. So...so, for Prosecuting Attorney they...they do have an Appendix A Part I List of Grants, those are pages 43 and 44 of Bill 55.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oh, they have lots. Okay. No. Does anybody have any new amendments for Prosecuting Attorney? Seeing none. So...oh, Ms. Milner, Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Mahalo, Chair. Yes. In Prosecuting Attorney's letter there was a question, I believe it was in PA-3, it may have been PA-2, there was a question about the cost for 24 North Church Street, and they did request an increase in funding for that. It is bond funded. And if the Department would like an offset under the Police departmental request, there's a reduction in bond funding for on of their projects that more than offsets this additional 3.35 million for North Church Street. We've had the design folks come in now. Costs are coming in higher, as everyone is aware, for projects, and there was also some damage during the recent storms. So that's why we'd ask for consideration of those requests. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Also, so Prosecuting Attorney has CIP, then, right, because of that repairs that they're doing to that North Church Street project, right?

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: Yes. And we'd also like to ask --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MS. MILNER: -- for an update of the Appendix C description to specifically state that funds may be utilized for planning, design, and renovation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So moved.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So that's...that's an amendment. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Wait, before we vote, can you articulate the amendment? I don't think I quite followed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: A change to bond fund...oh, she'll say it again, and I'll say "so moved" again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Increase to Capital Improvement Projects, Appendix, I'm sorry, increase to Capital Improvement Projects Department of the Prosecuting Attorney for 24 North Church Street. To increase the appropriation under bond fund by 3.35 million, and to update the description for the same project in Appendix C to add funds may be used for planning, design, and renovation as a separate sentence at the end of the description. Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So moved.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair, may I add the offset that was proposed --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: -- to the motion on the floor.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, it's for Police.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Can I ask that...that offset be transmitted to us in writing for when we get to Police.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I believe Budget Director has all the departmental requests. That...that's enroute to us.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. I'm just not as convinced that the offsets are also going to be transmitted. I want to make sure that we get those too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uhm.

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: But I understand the motion on the floor is for the increase, and I'm in full support of that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

VICE-CHAIR BATANGAN: So if the will of the body is to take that up...you know, take up the offset when we get to Police, so be it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Chair, Budget Director was the one that told us we could reduce the 200,000 instead of the 188,000, so she's already shown good faith on her end.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Done. Any more for Prosecuting Attorney? That's it. Yeah? So, are we done with all the Departments? You want to take up Human Concerns?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No. Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh no. I missed the offset –

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For Police?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I missed the offset in Department of Housing because I don't read like Chair Lee to get a remind...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So we...we have two items for Department of Housing. I don't have any objections going back to Housing. Member Paltin and Chair Lee both have items.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, I gotta pull out my notes. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This is the offset for my increase, my Residency Area #2, which is under the Department of Management, but the offset was under the Department of Housing. That's why it's kind of difficult to remember. I move to delete Category B Index Code 924003B-6112 by \$670,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And explain.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: First by Member Paltin, second by Rawlins-Fernandez. This is a decrease in contractual services for Huliau Apartments. They thought it was needed, but the existing entity, I think he said when he came before us for his opportunity, was going to continue on in this Fiscal Year and maybe next year, they might need this. I

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

thought that's what he said.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. That explains it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Jump the gun.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All in favor, Members raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes." Motion carries. Very good.

**VOTE:       AYES:       Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and  
                              Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin,  
                              Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U'u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:       None.**

**ABSTAIN:   None.**

**ABSENT:    None.**

**EXC.:       None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:     APPROVE.**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are actually done.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Can I...can I add to this --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair Lee also has an item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry.

CHAIR LEE: --I withdrew, you know, the big one. Can I add a new one?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, I would like to...this is Revolving Fund.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You need your mic, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Revolving Fund in Housing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Affordable Housing Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no, no. This is a Revolving Fund in Housing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Which one?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It is the Homeowner Programs Revolving Fund. Okay. Okay. Now, the 'Ohana Assistance Program, you know, the one --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That you've been trying to do. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- that was lost in space. Anyway, to add 1 million to that program so that it'll go from 2 million to 3 million. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So that's on that's P on page 53; is that right? Homeowner Program Revolving Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is that a addition or a condition?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's a condition.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: A condition to the Revolving Fund. So I'm adding 1 million from that fund to the 'Ohana Assistance Program.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: She's conditioning 1 million from that fund?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. So...so now it'll have a total of 3 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That'll be Number 3.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: On that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because right now, it shows a balance of 11 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So I think it can afford it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're taking...you taking.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. So it'll have 10 million left.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you...you have that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Page 53 in your Revolving Fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then the Number 3 is on page 54.

MR. KRUEGER: So, Chair, apologies if Staff could ask for clarification. So there is a condition under the fund. Number 2 must be for disbursement of grants up to \$100,000 each for qualified Maui County Residents participating in the Ohana Assistance Program. This is a separate condition that would reserve 1 million specifically for the 'Ohana Assistance Program? . . . .*(inaudible)*. . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It has 2 million already attached to that Program. You see that? Do you see that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Trust me, there's 2 million. Okay? And we're adding one more. So, 3 million.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you believe her on good faith there, Mr. Batangan?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

MS. MILNER: Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Budget Director, please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Director.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MS. MILNER: Sorry. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. Yes. Generally, the 3 million that's transferred over from the B Account in the Operating Budget, 1 million is set aside for first-time homebuyers and 2 million is set aside for 'Ohana Assistance Program. But the way the conditions are written, it doesn't limit that, it just says the grants can't go over 100,000. So I think another condition would be at...need to be added that says, 3 million is for the 'Ohana Assistance Program or that condition needs to be modified to add that somewhere. Or we can provide that guidance to the Department as part of your legislative intent, however the body chooses to. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Maybe you...you can think of better language because if there's no limit, then why did somebody put 2 million down there.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. No. There's no 2 million in the Revolving Fund. I think you might be looking at the Operating Budget Details where I think it says 1 million for First-Time Homebuyers.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MS. MILNER: And 2 million for Ohana. But within the Homeowner Programs, there's not a cap.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I want to trust you on this. Yeah?

MS. MILNER: Okay. I've already. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And this has not been the most trustworthy program in the works. What was that?

MS. MILNER: I've already texted the Department that you want them to award 3 million next year.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh. Thank you very much. That'll make me very happy.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Answer to the program.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, you know, I guess to add the words "at least" wouldn't be helpful either, or would it, Budget Director? I'm just trying to make sure, yeah, that right now there's 11 million. And just because I'm bringing this up, somebody might swoop that 11 million, and now we're back to 2 million, right? How...how do I make sure that it has at least 3 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because Lesley said so.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. If you would like, you can say, instead of "must

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

be"...so starting the second condition with "must" you could say "at least \$3 million must be for the disbursement of grants", and you can continue on. So that won't limit it to 3 million, but it's saying you want them to use at least 3 million.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Did Staff get that word...that wording? Our Staff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, they did.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: They did. Oh. Okay. Thank you very much, Lesley. Now...now I have to put it into a motion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second. . . .*(laughing)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Done. . . .*(laughing)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And I already discussed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All in favor.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wait. I move to amend it to say "provided there's at least 30 applicants." Right? Because how are you going to give out the money if there's not an applicant, right?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. It's "up to."

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, you said "at least." You said, "at least 3 million must be for disbursement of grants of up to 100,000." So if we don't get 30 applicants.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Then they're not going to give grants to nobody. I mean, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Then so how can they "must be?" So I'll add at the end "provided there are at least 30 applicants."

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. If...if that's...I'm trying to appease the Budget Director and go with her language. But if she agrees with what you're suggesting, I have no problem. Do you, Director?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Director Milner, do you agree?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. I don't think that will provide any issues. And I don't see Corp. Counsel jumping on the mic, so I think that's fine. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Corp. Counsel is sitting with us. She's smiling. So Director Milner, before

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

you leave, one...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: She's not going anywhere. . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We should...you know what, we should finish this.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We have to vote. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I have a question. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(inaudible)*. . . before we can vote, because your question regarding this motion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. Mine is.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. My question is regarding this motion. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The amendment motion?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The amendment motion?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. The move to amend.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I thought that was a friendly amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because it doesn't make sense other ways.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Alright.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right? It's a friendly?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll...I'll defer it to Corp. Counsel.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, because there's, like, stipulations, so you'll have to, like, qualify to ensure that the funding --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, provided there's at least 30 qualified applicants.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So I'm supporting that language.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The friendly amendment. Chair, is it okay to hear from Corp. Counsel?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: I guess I would want to know, can...do all of the 30 applicants have to be in before any funds are disbursed or...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

MS. WRIGGLESWORTH: Well, then, how would you know? I think I might change the language at that point, then, because you might be violating that provision if 30 don't come in.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You have better language? Anybody? Let's go outside and find out. We want to...let's get through with this meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Provided that the "at least 3 million" applies to the 30 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 'Ohana program.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- because you can't --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: How about...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- "must give 3 million" without having at least 30 applicants. But you can start disbursing the money as the applications get approved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Let Tom give it a try.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Director. Director Milner.

MS. MILNER: What about a "may" instead of a "must"??

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. So "at least 3 million may be disbursed...at least 3 million may be for disbursement of grants up to 100,000 for each qualified Maui County residence [sic]...resident participating in the 'Ohana Assistance Program." Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sounds good.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, because now, you know, with your bill with the two units, ADUs on property.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's not my bill, that's a State law.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, I thought shepherded it, but anyway.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We didn't pass it yet. We got to pass it by December 31st.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So the idea is that it supports something like that.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. I got it. My bill was to expand the size of ADUs to up to 720 square feet.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. You build two, one can be funded by the County.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more...Member Rawlins-Fernandez, you have...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I just wanted to make sure that I...I don't have the Admin Rules before me, but when...when Chair Lee brought up the two ADUs, I wasn't sure if she was alluding to getting two \$100,000 grants.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Just wanted to make sure that...that...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. It would be pretty hard for them to do that because first of all, they have to rent those units out in perpetuity to low-income renters, you know, income qualified people. And so, it's...you know, it's not like it can be turned into BNBs or something like that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So just one? One, only one...one property can only –

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm pretty sure --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- qualify for one \$100,000 grant?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We didn't anticipate two at that time or three. But, you know, we could talk to Housing on...on the Administrative Rules. I don't know if it applies to more than one. I don't think so because nobody anticipated more than one being built.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Ready, set, vote.

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes." Very good. Thank you very much.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

**VOTE:**      **AYES:**      **Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Batangan, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.**

**NOES:**      **None.**

**ABSTAIN:**      **None.**

**ABSENT:**      **None.**

**EXC.:**      **None.**

**MOTION CARRIED.**

**ACTION:**      **APPROVE.**

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, everybody. I wanted to hear from Tom.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I have.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Tom did speak.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Tom, you were going to say something?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: My...my comment was going to be that the verbiage previously sounded like it could be you had to have 30 applicants to trigger that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I know it sounded kind of weird.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That’s what she said.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And that was my challenge, but it got addressed. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So on the same section, number 1. One of the things that we’ve heard is that the Office of Recovery gave out \$600,000 First-Time Homebuyer. Somebody from Kula qualified, that was really amazing to me. Our First-Time Homebuyer is 30,000, and when the departments came, I said, “Are you going to review that number?” because it’s so low. right? I would love to make this a little higher, Director Milner.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I thought Gabe already addressed that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair.

MS. MILNER: Thank you --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, we did that.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you did?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's getting late, Members.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You chaired the meeting. It was today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What is the amount?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I just did that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: He took out the money amount so they can use their discretion. He said, "must be for disbursement of grants for qualified Maui County residents participating in the First-Time Homebuyers Program." Where were you?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I was not here.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I think we should end it. You know, we're getting little loopy, Members, and we did a lot of work. So I'm ready to end this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So that's done, then. Anything else, Members? Hey, he even read my mind, this is getting dangerous. So what we have for tomorrow is Department of Management, Department of the Mayor, Department of...Department of Management, Depart...Office of the Mayor, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Police, Public Works, Water Supply, and then Countywide we're going to do last. Oh, you want to do one more tonight?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If you mean Concerns? She did not.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For tomorrow. Yeah. I didn't. Yeah. Human Concerns for tomorrow.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So we doing Human Concerns, Management, Mayor, Parks, Police.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Human Concerns, Management.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We didn't finish...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And if we feel ambitious, we could do, like, Public Works, or Water, or something.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So you said Human Concerns, Management, Mayor, Parks, Police.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Police, and Public Works, and Water Supply. Those are all the ones we have left.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What are we doing Thursday for? Are we taking a break Thursday? Is there surf coming.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Surf? Garans ball-barans for you. But I guess what I'm saying is, yeah, actually I'm going into Thursday, but if we could finish as much as we can tomorrow, let's hope that we can finish.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So you're saying all of it, and we're not going to finish. Got it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We're not going to finish, but I hope we can.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Be ready...be ready for anything.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We will go as long as we can, right? Yeah? You guys fine? Okay. Good job everybody.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. You too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are actually done for tonight. James, Kirsten?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, just apologies. There's just one thing for the Members. Because the RPT hearing was tonight, if anyone needs, if anyone had any new ideas for valuations for tiers for RPT, if you could send that to staff.bfed by 9:00 a.m. tomorrow. And we can send a second letter, if need be, if there are any. If they're aren't, then we're good. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you, everybody, for being here. We have made great accomplishments so that we can proceed on with the rest of the week. My goal is that we do not have to stay till midnight. You know, so as long as we can chug along, I think we're making good time now, we caught up. We had...huh? We what...choo-choo . . .*(laughing)*. . . Thomas the Tank.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: James, I just want to clarify, you know, when we sent in the range of rates, those were my tier suggestions. Did...did you guys get those?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes. And so, yours and then Councilmember Sinenci submitted one, and then we sent in some other generic ones from the Reso that was posted at today's hearing. So that...that letter should have went out today. And then because the hearing happened tonight, we just wanted to make sure if anyone had any new ideas based on tonight's meeting if we needed to send more, if we could just do that as soon as possible tomorrow morning.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I'm sending it right now, click and send, here you go.

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

**April 21, 2026**

---

MR. KRUEGER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else, Members? Thank you for dinner, Chair Lee and Member Batangan...and, or Chair Lee. Whoever. We are done. Meeting is done. See, you tomorrow at 10:00, right? Okay. See you tomorrow at 10:00. Meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

**ADJOURN: 7:50 p.m.**

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Transcribed by: Tricia Higa

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

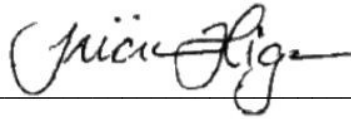
**April 21, 2026**

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CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Higa, hereby certify that pages 1 through 203 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 20th day of May 2026, in Mililani, Hawaii

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

Tricia Higa