

**GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND
TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE**
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

May 11, 2023

Online Only via BlueJeans Link

CONVENE: 1:33 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Chair
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Vice-Chair
Councilmember, Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
(arrived at 1:38 p.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (arrived at
2:10 p.m.)

EXCUSED: Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member

STAFF: Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
David Raatz, Deputy Director, Office of Council Services
Richelle Kawasaki, Legislative Attorney
Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst
Paige Greco, Legislative Analyst
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

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

Axel Beers, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Johnson
Dawn Lono, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Gina Young, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Sinenci
Susan Clements, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
U'u-Hodgins
Jared Agtunong, Executive Assistant to Councilmember

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Cook

Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Johnson

Lois Whitney, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kama
Michele McLean, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Lee
Noelani Ahia, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Rawlins-Fernandez

Sarah Sexton, Executive Assistant to Councilmember
Rawlins-Fernandez

ADMIN.: Victoria J. Takayesu, Corporation Counsel, Department of
the Corporation Counsel
Cory Lynn Vicens, Boards and Commissions Secretary,
Office of the Mayor
Kali Arce, Director of Agriculture

OTHERS: Bruce Bowman
Deputy Koa Hewahewa
Kenton Werk
Mike Moran
Faith Chase
Chase Leigh Traphagen
Andrea Kimiko Kealoha
Fawn Sherie Kukunaokala Helekahi-Burns
David C. Weiss
Michelle Lynne Gould
Richard “Buddy” Anthony Nichols
Phillip Warren Stephens
Mark Deakos
George-Ann Kealoha
David Nakama
Plus (3) other people

PRESS: *Akaku Maui Community Television, Inc.*

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good afternoon. Will the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting of May 11th, 2023, please come to order. It is 1:33 p.m. I’m your Chair, Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins. Members, in accordance with Sunshine Law, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Starting with Committee Vice-Chair Tamara Paltin. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha ‘auinalā kākou. Broadcasting live and direct from historic

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Lāhainā Town. I have with me in the room Angela Lucero and Christian Balagso, and we have no testifiers waiting to testify at this time. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Aloha, Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha, Chair. (*Audio interference*) to meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Councilmember Gabe Johnson, aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There’s no testifiers at the Lāna‘i District Office. I’m alone in my work...workspace. Mahalo.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Councilmember Tasha Kama is excused for the moment. Council Chair Alice, aloha and good afternoon.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha, aloha kākou, and looking forward to your meeting as usual.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez is also excused for the moment. So, we will move on to Councilmember Shane Sinenci. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha ‘auinalā, Chair. I’m here at my home office with an Australian Airedale, and there are no testifiers at the Hāna District Office.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. And Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura is also excused for the moment. We have with us today Corporation Counsel Victoria Takayesu here for all items. Aloha. Thank...

MS. TAKAYESU: Sorry. Aloha. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Secretary for Boards and Commissions, Cory Vicens. Aloha.

MS. VICENS: Aloha, Chair. Aloha, Councilmembers.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. The nominees joining us today as requested by the Committee Members are Chase Traphagen, Andrea Kealoha, Fawn Helekahi-Burns, Lois Prey, David Weiss, Michelle Gould, Kyle Caires, Richard “Buddy” Nichols, Wakon Childers, Ricky Sanches, and Phillip Stephens. We also have our awesome Committee Staff, Kasie Apo Takayama, Paige Greco, Pauline Martins, David Raatz, and Lei Dinneen. Please see the last page of the agenda for information regarding connectivity. Regarding testimony, testifiers wanting

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to provide video or audio testimony should have signed up in the lobby, joined the online meeting via BlueJeans link...BlueJeans link, or called in on the phone number noted on today's agenda. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas as well. In accordance with the Sunshine Law, testimony can occur at the beginning of the meeting, but cannot be limited to the start of the meeting. The Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and as well as the item is called up on the agenda. All individuals...all individuals logged into the meeting shall be...will be added to the testifier sheet, even if you do not intend to testify. So, please state so in the chat. If you do wish to testify, please state in the chat your full name and organization, and the agenda items you would like to testify on, and your preference to testify at the beginning of the meeting or as the agenda item is called up. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff and they will identify and refer to you as "Testifier" and assign you a number. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Chat should not be used to provide comments or discussion beyond signing up to testify or to notify Staff you do not wish to testify. Please be courteous to others by turning off your video and muting your microphone while waiting for your turn to testify. Once you are done testifying or do not wish to testify, you can view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. Staff has been monitoring individuals joining us today at this meeting, and we will do our best to take up each person in an orderly fashion. Thank you all for your cooperation. We will now call on testifiers wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting. Staff, please call up the first testifier.

MS. GRECO: Chair, the first testifier is Bruce Bowman.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aloha. Mr. Bowman. Yes, you can please join us at the podium. Thank you.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

MR. BOWMAN: Distinguished Council, appreciate being here. I'm going to introduce my...my son-in-law, and I...I'm Bruce Bowman, former owner of Bowman Termite and Pest Management. Three years ago I...well, actually three years ago we...we turned the business over to our kids, and Wakon is my son-in-law, and he's the person in charge of the company, and he's done tremendous in the time that he's worked in the company. But I can't see with my glasses, I can't see without them. Wakon's lived in Hawai'i for about 24 years. He came from Oklahoma. He came as a...he was aspiring to be a Major League baseball player, and he came and played for Les Murakami, and...and played on...on UH baseball team. My daughter got sight of him...my middle daughter Jill got sight of him and thought

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he was kind of an attractive guy. And so, she knew Jamie Aloy, who was also a teammate of Wakon's, and Jamie...she asked Jamie to introduce her to Wakon. So, that's...that's how that happened. Now 20 years later they have a family of three, and I have three grandkids, and he's run the business for almost 20 years. Wakon is a computer whiz. He...you know, when you graduate from UH and you're a Division One baseball player, you don't study the most difficult subjects. And so when he was through with UH, he didn't know what he was going to do. He was a sociology major, but then he went back to Oklahoma and got his Master's Degree in educational technology, and there he excelled. He came back to marry Jill, my daughter, and he worked in our company. He taught us...he...he taught an almost impossible person to learn computers, which is me, to learn basically learn them a little bit. But anyway, he...he really developed our company, and in the process, he took over full charge of the company, and he's just done a tremendous job. So, he's worked in the company for nearly 20 years, and...and I'd like to...I know he's so qualified for any position, but he's my son-in-law, I'm proud of him. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. One second, one second. Members, do we have any clarifying questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Okay. Thank you so much. At this time I'd like to acknowledge that Member Rawlins-Fernandez has also joined us. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair, mai Moloka'i nui a Hina. I'm at the Moloka'i District Office, alone here at the office, and we have no testifiers. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Staff, next please?

MS. GRECO: Chair, the next testifier is David Nakama. Mr. Nakama, you're unmuted on our end, if you want to testify, please unmute yourself and begin your testimony. Chair, we're hearing no response. That's the last person we have signed to testify at the beginning of the meeting.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Oh, we have a message.

MS. GRECO: The person in chat is saying they want to testify on the second item.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Do they want to go now?

MS. GRECO: Deputy Koa Hewahewa, if you want to testify right now, you can do so. Please unmute yourself.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Okay. You guys can hear? Aloha kākou.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Aloha.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Hey, aloha. [*spoke in Hawaiian*] Aloha kākou. Deputy Director of Department of Agriculture. Aloha, Chair U‘u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin, and Members. I am here just briefly to testify on item 2 of Resolution 23...23-95, I believe, on the appointment of members to the Kula Ag Park. So, as of January 2023, the Department of Agriculture has been assuming the role of oversight and management of the Kula Ag Park, and our Department has been working really closely with the Office of Economic Development on the transition of this management. And today, I just really want to briefly testify in support of today’s nominees for the KAP committee, nominees Kyle Cody Caires, Robert “Bobby” Pahia, and Richard “Buddy” Nichols. These nominees together bring a wealth of knowledge and wisdom that will be a long-term benefit I believe for the Kula Ag Park, as well as...as well as our County agriculture community. I want to express appreciation and gratitude to the nominees for their willingness to serve. That is all. I hope you all are well.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: One second, Deputy. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to clarify, I think Bobby Pahia already was approved, he just needs to --

MR. HEWAHEWA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- take the...the new oath of office that we had agreed to, and then...and then he can serve, I think. We need to change the footnote at the bottom of our boards and commission listing because we filed his resignation after we fixed the...the oath of office. Is that your understanding as well?

MR. HEWAHEWA: Yeah, yeah, I was briefed on that as well. I just wanted to make sure...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Perfect. Thank you.

MR. HEWAHEWA: And you know, provide support and testify in support of him as well. So --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Perfect.

MR. HEWAHEWA: -- awesome (*audio interference*).

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Thank you folks.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you so much. Members, do we have any other questions?
Seeing none. Thank you so much. Aloha.

MR. HEWAHEWA: Aloha.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Staff?

MS. GRECO: Chair, the next testifier is Kenton Werk, to be followed by the individual
signed up as Davew.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. GRECO: Mr. Werk, you are unmuted on our end. If you’d like to testify, please
unmute yourself.

MR. WERK: Yes, I did not sign up to testify.

MS. GRECO: Okay. The next person signed up is the individual signed in as
D-A-V-E-W.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I’m up for a nomination to a committee, so I’m not sure I’m
here to testify. I believe I’m just going to answer some questions.

MS. GRECO: Thank you. Chair, there’s no other individuals that have indicated they
wish to testify.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT BEGINNING OF MEETING . . .

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Let’s proceed with our first item on the agenda.

GREAT-2(12) NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS
(RESOLUTION 23-121, COUNCIL ON AGING)

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: So, we have before us Resolution 23-121, entitled “RELATING
TO THE APPOINT OF CHASE TRAPHAGEN TO THE COUNCIL OF AGING FOR

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THE MAUI COUNTY [sic].” Resolutions 23-93’s [sic] purpose is to approve or disapprove the Mayor’s nomination of Chase Traphagen to the Council of [sic] Aging for a term expiring on March 31st, 2024. The 60-day deadline for the Council to approve or disapprove the nomination is May 23, 2023. A copy of the board listing has been uploaded to Granicus. Your Chair received five requests from the...Vice-Chair Paltin and Members Johnson, Kama, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci to invite all of the nominees on today’s agenda. So, at this time, I would like to request opening comments from the Mayor’s representative, Ms. Cory Vicens.

MS. VICENS: Aloha, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. In front of you we have reso 23-121 and this is for Ms. Chase Traphagen, and she is replacing Ms. Debbie Cabebe who has stepped...vacated her seat on the Council of Aging. Chase is a...a Maui raised and educated individual who moved back to Maui in 2019 with her fiancé at that time to help care for her mom. She was living on the mainland, she was ready to come home, and unfortunately, these circumstances brought her home sooner than she anticipated. Since then her mother has passed away from cancer. She is newly wed, and looks to raise her family here. In her own words, she said she came back because my background in healthcare and administration gives me many skills that she feels that will be advantageous, especially on this board, the Council of Aging, having recently just been the caregiver to her mother as well. She does have a BA in psychology and social work. She is ready to serve her community. She fulfills a Kihei empty seat, so we are very pleased that she is willing to step up and serve her community. The Mayor is grateful for her wanting to participate in this way. I believe that she is...can speak further for herself. She was going to be here to provide her own introduction and testimony.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Mahalo. At this time I would like to request opening comments from our nominee, Ms. Traphagen. If you’re available.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Hi, Council.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Aloha.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Hi, and good afternoon. Thank you for having me. Yeah, I’m Chase Traphagen. I was born and raised on Maui. I’m actually living in the home I grew up in, in North Kihei. I’m happy to be back home, obviously, you know, not under the best circumstances, but there’s a reason that I was brought home, and my husband and I are happy to be back, and like Cory said, raise our family here, our future family here. Yeah, I don’t know if you have any questions for me or...

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We do. This was just a brief introduction, and then we’ll take more testimony, and then if you could hang out on the line, and the Members

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will have an opportunity to ask you some questions.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Okay. Staff, do we have anybody else wishing to testify on this item?

MS. GRECO: Chair, there’s one person, that is George-Ann Kealoha. George-Ann, if you’d like to...

MS. KEALOHA: I...I’m not testifying.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. Thank you.

MS. KEALOHA: George-Ann Kealoha is not testifying.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. GRECO: Chair, there are no other individuals signed up to testify for this item.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Seeing if there...there are no more individuals wishing to testify, without objection, I will now close oral testimony for item GREAT-2(12). No objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: Close oral testimony for GREAT-2(12).

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. As a reminder, written testimony will be continued to be accepted. Okay. So, we will be doing a three-minute question period per Member with a one-minute follow-up round. Is that okay with everybody? Awesome. Okay. Seeing as...oh, there are only two people in the Chambers with me today, if anybody has any questions, please raise your hand and we can go from there. We have any questions? Member Johnson, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. So, I just wanted to ask...well, first of all, how do I pronounce your last name? I beg your pardon.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Traphagen.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Traphagen, Ms. Traphagen.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Ms. Traphagen, you know, the position that has been vacated is Debbie Cabebe, she's the CEO of MEO, and I just wanted to know if you have any...can you speak on some of your interactions with nonprofits in Maui County, if you have any?

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Most of my experience with nonprofits was in California, which is where I moved from. I moved from Maui to Southern California for college, and then ended up getting a job there and staying there. So, most of the bulk is there. But I'm just kind of getting back into things. I moved back at the end of 2019, obviously COVID happened, but just starting to...you know, the Cancer Center really helped when my mom was diagnosed, and they've been a great support, and also Maui Hospice. So, that's something that I look to get involved in. It was a little bit hard for me to at first, just with going through everything I did with my mom, but looking to give back in that way to them because they were a great help. I also...I'm a realtor. I do a...I have a booth at the Kukui Farmers Market every Saturday. I don't sell homes over there, I'm just a community resource for the market, and giving back, I give out free waters and just free...free resources, answer any questions. I'm just there to see my community. So, I do also try to raise money for different nonprofits or individuals mostly that can go directly back to Maui instead of larger corporations that are nonprofit. So, I like to keep things, like you said, on Maui and just give back to the community directly as...as best as possible.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Traphagen. Thank you for your answer. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Traphagen. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve, and so sorry to hear about your loss. I just was wondering, the background in healthcare administration, if you could speak a little bit to that in...in the perspective of the Council on [sic] Aging. Like do you have things that you've seen or ideas to...to try and help aging folks in a...

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Yes. So, not...not specifically, my background was...I was working at a substance abuse treatment center in Southern California. I worked there for ten years so I grew with, you know, each year, and I ended up as an administrator. There were different ages, so it was 18 and...and...and older. So, I saw a range of, you know, younger people, and also, you know, in their 80s, believe it or not, that were coming for drug and alcohol treatment. Actually moving back to Maui is what got me interested. I changed my major after taking a drug and alcohol education course at MCC at the time. So, while I don't have specific ideas, I know that everybody is different, and not one specific thing works

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for everybody. Obviously we need to kind of come up with a collective idea that will help as many people as possible. But I think I do have that experience from my previous job, and then just wanting to care for the community and...and the people we have here that have, you know, been around, and just giving back to them. So, hopefully that answers your question.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, yeah, that's great. I just wanted to follow up, and...and tell me if it's a wrong question, you don't have to answer it. But were the folks that were like in their 80s, was it because of prescription...prescription medication that they came to...

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Mostly prescription, and...and alcohol as well.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, oh, oh.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Yeah, those were kind of the main.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah, I can see how that...that perspective would be really helpful on this. Because, you know, like especially the Oxys and things like that, people don't mean to get addicted to it, but then we have a surgery or something like that and --

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Absolutely.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- difficult.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you so much.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Members, do we have any other questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Traphagen. My condolences to you and your ohana, and mahalo for your willingness to serve on this Council. My first question is regarding attendance. Do you foresee any challenges or foreseeable issues with...I think they meet --

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- every other...at least every other month.

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MS. TRAPHAGEN: Yeah, correct. I do not. I actually attended one of the meetings last month, the April meeting virtually just to kind of get a feel what it was like and everything. So, no, I...6 months out of the 12 months, one day. I...I do my own schedule as a realtor, so I'm pretty flexible, unless there was some sort of emergency obviously that came up, hopefully not. But no, I don't see any problems with attendance.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. And then you already answered my next question regarding your experience with the commission.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I usually ask nominees if they want to, you know, share a little bit more about how they envision contributing to the board or commission so this council.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Can you repeat the...repeat the last part? It kind of cut out, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, how you...if you would like to add anything additional to how you envision contributing to this council.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Yes. First of all, I really like to learn from my peers, and just how things are...are being done. Obviously I attended one meeting, but there's, you know, people that are on...on the committee that have been doing it for much longer. So, just learning how...how things work, and kind of getting their opinion on things, and seeing what they think the...the greatest need is, and really going from there. And then hopefully kind of chiming in and coming up with new ideas as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Yeah, checking out the agenda, there's some of...you know, they have like different projects and initiatives like home delivery and fitness (*audio interference*). I...I attended last week a workshop hosted by MEO, and I think it was Care and Compassion, it's a national nonprofit, and one of the things that they presented on was like how we have birth plans, end-of-life plans and educating and encouraging more people to...to outline --

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- their end (*audio interference*).

MS. TRAPHAGEN: And...and that was something actually, you know, with my mom that my mom was young, so she was in her early 60s, but that was something I never thought I was going to have to deal with at my age, you know, in my

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mid-30s, but learned early on, also with my grandparents and...and just coming up with...you know, it's something that's hard to deal with, especially for family members, but something that's definitely necessary and does make things much easier in the process.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Traphagen. I'm supportive . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . --

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- of your nomination. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And mahalo, Ms. Traphagen. My questions were asked, but I did want to mahalo Ms. Traphagen for attending Council on *[sic]* Aging's meeting last month. And the Council of Aging does fall under my Committee, Social Services, so look I forward to working with you on the council. Thank you.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: All right. Thank you so much.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Do we have any further questions?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair, my questions have been answered. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. No further questions? Okay. At this time I'd like to entertain a motion to recommend the adoption of Resolution 23-121.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So moved.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: So move.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I guess we're fighting for second, but motion made by Council Chair Alice Lee and second by Councilmember Tom Cook. Any further discussion? No? Oh, Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I'd just like to thank the Administration for bringing us such a great candidate, thank the candidate for her willingness to serve, and looking forward to hearing great things.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Totally agree. Thank you. Okay. If there's no further

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discussion, all those in favor, please raise your hand and say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, hello?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that’s seven “ayes,” zero “noes,” two excused. The motion carries.

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

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmembers Kama and Sugimura.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 23-121.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Members. Thank you, Ms. Traphagen. This item will move on to full Council for its consideration.

MS. TRAPHAGEN: Thank you so much.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Okay. Moving on.

GREAT-2(13) NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS
(RESOLUTIONS 23-132 AND 23-133, VARIOUS)

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We have before us Resolution 23-132 and Resolution 23-133, entitled the “APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE MAUI PLANNING COMMISSION FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI;” and the “APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE SALARY COMMISSION FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI,” respectively. Resolution 23-132’s purpose is to approve or disapprove the Mayor’s nomination of Andrea Kealoha and Fawn Helekahi-Burns to the Maui

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Planning Commission for a term expiring on March 31st, 2028. Resolution 23-133's purpose is to approve or disapprove the Mayor's nomination of Lois Prey to the Salary commission for a term expiring March 31st, 2028. The 60-day deadline for Council approval to approve or disapprove the nominations is June 19th, 2023. A copy of the board listing has been uploaded to Granicus. At this time I'd like to request opening comments from the Mayor's representative, Ms. Cory Vicens.

MS. VICENS: Thank you, Chair, Councilmembers. I'm going to take the candidates in the order that they're listed on the nominating page...exhibit. The first one is Ms. Andrea Kimiko Kealoha. Miss...Dr. Kealoha, I...is a born and raised Native Hawaiian young woman who went to King Kekaulike. She did part of her education on UH Manoa, and then she went on to Texas A&M to complete her doctorate in oceanography. She came back home, she is raising her family, she has a two-year-old, and she is currently at the University of Hawai'i, Maui College. Beginning in August she will be at the University of Hawai'i Manoa with a...she has a promotion to...as a professor there. This nominee also can fill the conservation designee that the Maui Planning Commission does not have as well. She is a resident in the Pā'ia District. Many of you have in the past with our candidates asked a question of our nominees, and that is, do you believe in global warming. Miss...Dr. Kealoha would say yes immediately. This was the topic of her dissertation, 154 page on coral reef ecosystems health and response in climate change and environmental stressors. At the UH Manoa, her department heads were happy to hear she was serving the Maui community in this capacity as Pā'ia...on the Pā'ia Advisory Committee, and that she was on the agenda to be a...as a nominee for the Maui Planning Commission. When we spoke initially, I asked her what she...why...other than her education and her knowledge of the environment and climate change and et cetera, what made her maybe consider being a candidate. And she said to me...so I'm just going to read this here, indigenous people intuitively understand environmental process, and are uniquely positioned to excel in careers in the environmental fields. I have done that, and now I would like to serve my community with that knowledge, and I see that through participation in our local boards and commissions. In addition to her work with the UH, she is also involved with the Pā'ia...Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center as a board member, the Pā'ia-Ha'ikū Advisory Committee, and the Maui Navigation Team, the Holomua Marine Initiative, and in Aquatics Resource. As I said, she is a mother. I...last time I spoke to her the other day, she was just finishing a workout. Tremendous amount of energy. I think the type of nominee and individual that would serve this board and is qualified to do so. The Mayor thanks you for your consideration, and we look forward to a discussion on this.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We're going to take up Dr. Kealoha, Fawn Helekahi-Burns, and Lois Prey all at the same time, at least right now. Do...would you like to say other

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things about the other two nominees as well?

MS. VICENS: Sure, yeah.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. VICENS: Okay. So, the next nominee for the Maui Planning Commission is Ms. Fawn Sherie Kukunaokala from...Helekahi-Burns. She has a nice, long name. She is our representative for East Maui, as well as the Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner designee. She, as I said, fulfills the Hāna District. She is born and raised. And she is very embedded in her community. She is with the UH Maui College Hāna Education Center as a site coordinator. And this committee was her first choice, and she is happy to serve wherever there is a need. She felt serving on the Hāna Advisory Committee has positioned her and it was beneficial as an introduction to what the Maui Police...Police...the Maui Planning Commission takes on themselves. To be a part of this is important to her because it...not only representing East Maui, but as well as being the cultural practitioner, she feels it is a role she is committed to and honored to be asked to fulfill. In her spare time she farms and is a musician. She is President of the Na Leo Kakoo (*phonetic*) Hāna Farm...the Hāna Farmers Union United, the Hāna Chapter. She has been in the past a parent of athletes, and has participated in Hāna School events. As I mentioned, she is a Hāna Advisory Committee...was a Hāna commissioner as well. The next candidate is Ms. Lois Prey for the Salary Commission. Let me just get there. So, Ms. Prey has been in the Maui community for 35 years. She is committed. If you...I would be taking more than three minutes of time to describe all of the...her activities and the boards and commissions that she sits on. You have that in front of you. And she's retired, she is in Kihei. She brings a wealth of knowledge just of our own community from the Board of Ethics, Committee on the Status of Women. She currently is on the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, Kihei Resort Association, and the Kihei Resort relief manager. So, this is obviously an individual who believes in serving in her community in various...there's a variety of committees and boards that bring...hold her interest. She did say in her application, and in speaking with her as well, that being a part of the boards and commissions, whether it's serving in the community in a non-County of Maui board or commission, keeps you active and keeps you current on what is happening. And in this day and time, it is very important as...whether you're a kūpuna, you are a Gen X or Gen Y to stay current if you want to be contributing in your community and aware of what is happening. So, she continues to do that, and it's important to her to do so. That is Ms. Lois Prey.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. VICENS: Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: At this time I’m going to ask for some opening comments. Ms. Prey, since you’re up here, I would ask you to please introduce yourself really quickly.

MS. PREY: Thank you, Ms. Vicens.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. PREY: Pardon me.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Can you please introduce yourself really quickly?

MS. PREY: Should I...

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah, you can just introduce yourself, and then...

MS. PREY: Okay. Should I give my speech?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Sure, just a quick one, and then later on the Members will have an opportunity to ask you some questions.

MS. PREY: Oh, okay.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. PREY: Presently I live in Kihei with my husband for the past 35 years. When I first moved to Maui, my goal was to be active in giving back to the community. By joining County commission and boards gave me a current awareness of the existing problems we face in Hawai‘i. I feel I can contribute any knowledge I may have to be helpful in future decision making. I was honored to receive outstanding service leadership awards from Mayors Alan Arakawa, Michael Victorino, Senators Mazie Hirono, Brian Schatz, and being an election official for the past 25 years until the election board changed to post office mailing. Also awards from many nonprofit organization, chairing many fundraiser events. Thank you, Councilmembers, for taking the time for meeting me today.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you very much, Ms. Prey.

MS. PREY: Okay.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: At this time I’d like to also say hello to Member Sugimura, who has just joined us.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good afternoon. Sorry I'm late.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Prey.

MS. PREY: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: If we have Dr. Kealoha or Ms. Helekahi-Burns online (*audio interference*) they'd like to also do a quick introduction of themselves, we can start with Dr. Kealoha please.

MS. KEALOHA: Aloha. Can you guys hear me?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aloha. We can.

MS. KEALOHA: Oh, okay. Mahalo for just allowing me to be here today. And thank you, Cory, for the introduction. That was just a...a real introduction, so I don't...I'm not going to repeat anything. But I'm from Pā'ia, I'm born and raised, and my family has been in Pā'ia for, I don't know, five or six generations now, so I'm very dedicated to the integrity and the health of...of...of my community and my place. And yeah, I'm excited for the opportunity to hopefully serve on the Planning Commission. So, mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Dr. Kealoha. Thank you for being here with us today. Ms. Helekahi-Burns, if you're also on BlueJeans, if you'd like to give us a quick introduction. Aloha.

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: Aloha mai kākou. Hello. And mahalo for this opportunity to be able to be a part of the Planning Commission. We had a prior introduction of who I am, but definitely one of the greatest reasons of me being a part of the Planning Commission, knowing that there is some changes of my schedule that I have already foreseen. But just to be a part of the process and knowing that there is a voice from East Maui that is on the Planning Commission as we move forward in development of the Island of Maui. Our perspectives are quite different from all the different areas of the Island of Maui, and we just definitely...as a community member want to make sure that the perspective of East Maui is being representative...represented on this developmental level here on Maui. So, mahalo everybody, and to my questions. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo. Before we get into (*audio interference*) Staff, do we have any testifiers?

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MS. GRECO: Chair, there's one testifier so far, and that is Mike Moran.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aloha, Mr. Moran.

MR. MORAN: Good afternoon, Chair and Committee Members. Mike Moran for the Kihei Community Association. We're testifying on 2(13) on the Maui Planning Commission. And as far as we can tell, we have a conundrum here. Now, maybe we're...misread something but our understanding is the citizens approved a Charter commission number 4 in the last election, which says Maui Planning Commission must have one member from every Maui County Council residency, and it's pretty clear the seven current councilmembers [sic] as listed on the...the County website, none are from South Maui. We have, I think, three from Wailuku, Makawao, Kula, and Lāhainā. So, we have none from South Maui. Now, our understanding was this is Charter change took effect upon approval. So, if that's the case, and...and neither of the nominees are from South Maui, aren't we violating the...the Charter? Now again, unless we're misinterpreting something, these look like, from our perspective--not that we know them personally--but these look like two stellar candidates, the kind of candidates we believe should be on the Maui Planning Commission, and have missed out for many, many years not getting these type of candidates. But we need some kind of clarification, if...if that is correct that the Charter is requiring this, then we don't have anybody from South Maui, and we don't know how we would proceed from there. So, that's the reason that we're testifying today on this matter. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Mr. Moran. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Moran, for your testimony. It does say up on the top at least one, and no more than two. So, you're suggesting one of the three from Wailuku resign, is that...because I believe Kahului is also not represented as a Council district. So, just --

MR. MORAN: Well --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- just...

MR. MORAN: -- we're...I'm sorry. Yeah, I'm...we're not quite sure how to rectify the situation. It seemed like the logical thing would have been when you had two vacancies to do what you did for East Maui and...and get a nominee from there, and then we expected that it would be somebody from South Maui to fill in. That was our expectation, and that's what we addressed to...to the Mayor's representatives and said that, that hey, there's nobody from South Maui on there, and so, that's what we expected would happen. But we see it didn't happen, so

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we're not really...don't have a solution to it, we don't know how to rectify it, but it seems like if that's the law, if that's the Charter, I don't...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I mean even...even appointing someone from South Maui we'd still be in violation because there wouldn't be anyone from Kahului either. But the...the handout that we have that was uploaded to Granicus still lists Kellie Pali as South Maui, so I'm not sure if that's part of the situation and...and if she is indeed in the Wailuku-Waihe'e-Waikapu District, then we're also in violation of the Charter because not more than two. So, yeah, I agree, we're in a conundrum. I guess the lawyers will have to sort it out. Thank you so much for --

MR. MORAN: You bet.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- pointing it out.

MR. MORAN: And again it's...it's really difficult. As I said, these are the kind of candidates that we're seeing here that we advocated for, so we don't...you know, we're only volunteers, you guys are getting paid. You're...you're stuck with fixing this situation, we're not, so we don't have a suggested solution. And you know, we can...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. MORAN: I'll just quickly say that Kellie Pali has...did grow up in Kihei, but I mean she has stated on the floor that she lives in Wailuku. For the last several months it's been listed on the...the Administration's website as her being in Wailuku, so that's...they have been where the pick-up came, but now we've got it. So, thank you for...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Moran. Does anybody else have any questions for him? *(Audio interference)*.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good day, Mister...and thank you, Chair. Good day, Mr. Moran. I think Kellie Pali, doesn't she term out like in 2024, in a year?

MR. MORAN: That's what the website says, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Correct.

MR. MORAN: There is...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So --

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MR. MORAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- so, I...I feel as like the Kihei representative, Kellie's been doing a good job. She's...business is apparently still in Kihei, and this is...I think this is one of the challenges that our community has, to have...you know, she's been in Kihei, she's been doing that, she moved only for a few months, and then she's going to term out. I'm hoping that we have some flexibility in people's ability to serve and so that we...we don't make it even more difficult...like I want to serve but I don't know if I'm going to have to move because of my job or something. So, anyway, I...I hear you, I think that we do want to abide by the Charter. I'm hoping that we as a community can have some flexibility and respect for people who are serving currently. And to my...to my knowledge, Kellie's been doing a good job, she's very level headed.

MR. MORAN: We certainly have no objection to her or to any of...of the...I mean that...that's a...a charge, to volunteer for a five-year term where you're meeting twice a month and you're doing tons and tons of homework. And again, we're not...we're not attorneys, but when we see this is what the Charter says, that...that...I guess that that's what Member Paltin said, this is something for the lawyers to decide. So, we just wanted to bring it to attention, and hope there is a way to rectify it. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Mr. Moran. Chair, did you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Only for Corp. Counsel, not for Mr. Moran.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. I think we're going to get into it after testimony as well. Thank you so much. Staff, do we have any further testifiers?

MS. GRECO: Chair, there is one more testifier, that is Faith Chase.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Mahalo. Aloha, Ms. Chase.

MS. CHASE: Aloha, Chair U'u-Hodgins. I believe this is the first time I am testifying in your Committee as Chair. Nice to make your acquaintance. Welcome to the job. I am speaking in strong support of Fawn Helekahi-Burns to the Maui Planning Commission. You could not find a better candidate. I particularly love that she is so rooted in her community, and she has a global perspective. And she's super oluolu, you know, she's very pleasant to work with. So, I think that sometimes when you get into serious conversations, she'd be the right one to have in the room. I don't know any of the other names. I do want to make a comment...actually I know Buddy. What...what item is that? Nobriga, if I'm...if I have it correct. I would just say for the Kula Ag Park, I mean...

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MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair? Chair? I'm sorry.

MS. CHASE: Am I out of order?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: That's another item.

MS. CHASE: Oh, okay.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: So, if you want to testify on that item as well, you can at that time.

MS. CHASE: Oh, wait for that item. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Ms. Chase. Do we have any questions *(audio interference)*? No, seeing none. Mahalo. Staff, do we have any further testifiers?

MS. GRECO: Chair, there are no other testifiers for this item.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Members, seeing there are no further testifiers wishing to testify, without objection, I will now close oral testimony for GREAT-2(13).

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: Close oral testimony for GREAT-2(13).

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo. As a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. Let's begin with our discussion and question and answers for Resolution 23-132, the nominees for the Maui Planning Commission. Again, Members, we're going to be doing a three-minute questioning period with a one-minute follow-up round. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Chair, before we question the nominees, would it be all right to have a statement from Corporation Counsel if we are in...okay to do this?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Absolutely.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

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

MS. TAKAYESU: Yes, thank you. Although the Charter does require the...the nine members must include at least one and no more two members who reside in each

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Council residency area, the two nominees are not only excellent, but they would meet the criteria as being East Maui and Pā'ia. There is an issue because now we have three Wailuku Councilmember...board members...commission members. I'm sorry. So, I think what will have to happen is the Administration will have to review those current three residents and either have a talk with them about perhaps resigning or requesting removal of one of them. But I do not believe that that affects these two nominees because these nominees are from East Maui and Pā'ia. The bigger issue is having to address the three Wailuku residents.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo. Member Paltin, does that answer your question? Okay. Chair?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yes, thank you so much.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I don't think that exactly answers the questions because there would be...have...then we (*audio interference*) two people from Makawao, Ha'ikū, and Pā'ia.

MS. TAKAYESU: You are allowed to have no more than two.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, the...the other question is, when was the effective date of the Charter amendment that passed?

MS. TAKAYESU: I believe it was January 1st.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair? I'm sorry, it was...that was one of the few amendments that didn't have an effective date, so it was upon approval.

MS. TAKAYESU: Okay.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo. Okay. Are we ready to move on into discussion? Members, if you have questions, just feel free to raise your hand. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Did you want us to do one nominee at a time with all the Members, and which nominee did you want us to go with first? If that's the way you want...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I was going to...yeah, so I was just going to do the...the nominees for the Planning Commission. So, you're welcome to ask either one of them questions since they're both here with us today...or right now. So, feel free to ask either one of them your questions.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. First question for Ms. Helekahi-Burns, do you believe in

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global warming? Or sea level rise and climate change?

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: So, believe...you know, I've...I've pondered upon that question because I got a heads up on the questions that was going to be asked. But the belief of it and the sight of seeing it is definitely two different things. You know, the theories behind it and the data that have been gathered across the world is a little bit different when we're looking at it every single day. And why I say that is because I...I walk every morning down at Kapuakahi (*phonetic*) down by the ocean, and I see that it might not be as high, but when the bigger waters come in, the higher tides, it is washing up higher.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay, perfect.

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: So, I do --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: -- I do see that.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And then my next question would be for Dr. Kealoha. I just was wondering, I see that you're also on the Pā'ia Advisory Committee. Through the Maui Planning Commission, would you continue on that one as well?

MS. KEALOHA: No. I...I would resign from the Pā'ia-Ha'ikū Advisory Committee because I think that one is...then reports to the Maui Planning Commission, right? Yeah. So...yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Great. I think that concludes my questions. Thank you so much for your willingness to serve. And thank you to the Administration for fulfilling our needs of conservationist and cultural practitioner...right? Or I'm sorry, did I assume that, Ms. Helekahi-Burns, would you satisfy the role of cultural practitioner?

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: I believe I do.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thanks. I didn't want to assume.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And yes, Ms. Helekahi-Burns does qualify for the cultural practitioner on the Planning Commission. And I just had a question for her on that topic. Ms. Helekahi-Burns, in your current capacity working as the site coordinator for UH Maui College Hāna Education Center, do you apply these cultural practices within your job capacity?

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MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: I utilize it as much as possible, especially in decision making. I find it very comfortable for me to stem back to my roots and to knowledge of my kūpuna just to be able to give me a better perspective of not just what is up to date, but what our kūpunas have practiced in the past, and what I've seen that have worked. So, it's more based upon the knowledge that I've seen that...that really works. And I've, you know, continue not...not only in my job per se, but continue to practice Hawaiian cultural traditions throughout...throughout my lifestyle here in Hāna.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Mahalo for that. And then it looks like you were the program facilitator for Kukulu Kumuhana, and can you briefly just share your duties as that program facilitator?

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: So, as a facilitator for Kukulu Kumuhana, I would...I had a philosophy of education that Hawaiian education couldn't be all...be absorbed within the four walls, and so I supported a lot of education outdoors utilizing our environment, and not only that, but Hawaiian education as we're able to bring into our...the experiences of our kids, especially the kids of Hāna. And doing really...it might seem very simple; however, it's very structure building in their foundation of who they will become in the future. So, Hawaiian education utilizing our plants is pretty much my biggest...my biggest pursuit.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo. Thank you for that. And then it looks like...my last question is, you served on the Hāna Advisory Committee to the Planning Commission before. And so, I understand that every month, the Planning Commission will send you the Staff reports for you to review, sometimes with all of those you...I...I believe you remember all of those things that they sent you in the mail. Are you able to go ahead and . . .(timer sounds). . . kind of review them and read them?

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: I...I definitely got the books from the Maui County and I...I was able to utilize that...those information to answer questions that I had. You know --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: -- to get more indebted understanding of what was before me before my meetings.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo. Thank you, Chair.

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: Mahalo.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That was my time.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Members, do we have any further questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. I guess I'll start with Ms. Helekahi-Burns. Aloha.

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: Aloha no.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your willingness to serve on the Maui Planning Commission. So, I'm just going to ask the three questions, I guess. First, do you see any concerns with attendance? I think it's twice a month...yeah, twice a month.

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: So, I got the full gist of when the meetings are, and I am willing to sacrifice vacation days for these...for these meetings because it means that much...it means that much to me. And I also read up on the...the role of it too. 50 percent within 120 days, so...of the meetings that's missed. So, yes, I'm...I'm aware about that. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. And then the second question...well, I guess you've served on the Hāna Advisory Board, so you understand the work and what is expected, so I'll skip to the third question. If there's anything additional you would like to add on how you envision contributing to the Maui Planning Commission?

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: You know, I'm looking forward to learning, you know, the new revised special management area rules. I have looked at some of the highlights that was posted on the Maui County website, which is really makai to see what the County is...where they're moving towards. So, I'm definitely looking forward to being more accustomed and knowledgeable about the SMA rules. I'm definitely looking forward to reading the Department Staff reports and learning how this process goes so I'm able to be able to do my job the best as I am able, my abilities. And I'm also looking at some of the evaluating permits that have come through and, you know, mock trial type of...type of...type of approach, like what would I do, right, if this was...if I was on the commission at that time. And so, that's pretty much my understanding, is that ma ka hana ka 'ike, as we go in and we work in...in this realm and in this venue, that we will gain more knowledge and have a better understanding of the process and the importance of this commission.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I can hardly contain my excitement for you two nominees, you're just both so impressive. Okay. I think those are all

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my questions for you, Ms. (*audio interference*), and then I'll ask the same questions (*audio interference*) Dr. Kealoha. Attendance, do you see foresee any concerns with attendance twice a month?

MS. KEALOHA: No, I don't.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then...okay, you served on the advisory board as well, so you have experience. And then is there anything additional that you'd like us to know, the public to know, about how you plan to contribute to the commission?

MS. KEALOHA: Yeah, I mean I'm...I'm really passionate about doing science, I mean I'm a scientist, so I'm passionate about doing science though that supports management, that's relevant to managers. I work with a lot of resource managers here on Maui and...and throughout Hawai'i, so I understand management and the challenges that we face with resource management. But I would really appreciate the opportunity to learn more about the process, get more involved in government, and...and actively use science to inform management. Yeah, I'm...I'm excited. I appreciate the opportunity.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, are we also asking...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, are we also asking questions of Miss...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Shucks, you kind of cut out. Can you repeat yourself?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I didn't...I cut myself out because I couldn't --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- remember her last time.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, Ms. Prey.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Lois?

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah. So, we were going to do...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Prey, Prey.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah. We were going to do the Maui Planning Commission first, and then we can move on to her. I will say though, she just needed to leave, so we’re going to have to ask Ms. Vicens to stand in her place, I think. But we’re going to do the nominees for the Planning Commission right now, and then we’ll move on to her.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sounds good. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Members, do we have any other questions for our two nominees at the moment? Seeing none. I’d like to entertain a motion to recommend the adoption of Resolution 23-132.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Second.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Motion made by Councilmember Sinenci and seconded by Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura. Unless there’s any further discussion at the time, I’d like to entertain a motion to recommend Dr. Andrea Kealoha and Fawn--sorry, I’ve been drinking coffee because I woke up too early and now my tongue is all twisted--Helekahi-Burns’ name be placed on Exhibit “B” for approval, and that conservation, natural resources or climate change designee be added to Dr. Andrea Kimokeo...you see, Kimiko Kealoha’s name for Exhibit “B.” Can I have a motion for that?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So move.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you so much. Motion made by Councilmember Sugimura and seconded by Councilmember Sinenci. Any further discussion? Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Sorry, I just was clarifying we’re designating Ms. Helekahi-Burns as the cultural practitioner, and designating Dr. Kealoha as the conservationist?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes. The resolution already states Ms. Helekahi-Burns as the cultural practitioner, and so we’re just adding on the conservation language for (*audio interference*) Kealoha.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Got it. Thank you. Same...same discussion as last time, I'm super stoked with the selection, and super stoked with the willingness to serve. And excited to see what you ladies can bring to the table.

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: Yeah.

MS. KEALOHA: Mahalo.

MS. HELEKAHI-BURNS: Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Any further discussion? Okay. Seeing none. If we could...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, hi. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Mahalo, Chair. I speak in support of the motion to amend, as well as the main motion if this amendment goes through, which it looks like it will. Both candidates are highly qualified for those two seats for the cultural practitioner and the environmental conservationist. And I'm so excited, and...that I think this is going to probably be the first time that there will be a majority of wahine on the Maui Planning Commission. I think so. I was just counting. I could be wrong, I don't know. But either way, I love it. So, I...I am also excited because when you get a majority of women, no offense to the men, a lot of stuff get done. Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Any further (*audio interference*) on the amendment? Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sorry about that. Sticky fingers. Yeah, I also want to rise in full support. And as far as what Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez says and gender parity, yeah, that's really great that we...we have a good balance, and I would encourage the...the...the Administration to look at other boards and also look where we can have better gender parity. So, thank you so much, Chair. Mahalo.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Johnson. No other discussion? Great. Seeing none. All those in favor of the amendment please raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, eight "ayes," zero "noes," one excused, Councilmember Kama. The motion carries.

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

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember Kama.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: AMEND RESOLUTION 23-132.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Mahalo. And now hana hou, main motion as amended.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, eight “ayes,” zero “noes,” one excused. The motion carries.

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

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember Kama.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 23-132, CD1.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We got an extra vote too while we were at it. Mahalo. Okay.

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Now let's return to Resolution 23-133, the nomination of Lois Prey to the Salary Commission. I would be implementing a three-minute questioning period. Seeing as she left, we might be a little bit quicker. We're just going to have to go on her application and Ms. Vicens for the moment, but Members, do we have any questions? Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I guess my questions are going to be for the Department. I'm not...I'm not sure how to ask questions to the applicant when they're not here, so I figure I'll just ask maybe during the interview process she might have mentioned. Because on her...on her application it says she wanted to, you know, tackle the existing problems we face on the Salary Commission, I'm wondering what problems she was speaking to. Maybe that was done during the interview process, I'm not sure, but maybe if someone can speak on that, I don't...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sure. Ms. Vicens?

MS. VICENS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson, for that question. Originally Ms. Prey had expressed interest in the Liquor Commission or the Police Commission, so I believe that that concern was directed towards that. When her application came in, I had seen all of the different boards that she had served on. We had an opening on the Salary Commission. And we queried her about her interest in possibly sitting on the Salary Commission so we would have a full body as we address our current voting on salaries at this time. This is a critical period for the Salary Commission. Ms. Prey was open to it, and said she'd love to, she just wanted to serve. She was excited about what the Administration was doing, and willing to be placed wherever we may need. And I think you can see that from the variety and the various boards that she's already served on. So...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, I...I...oh, go ahead.

MS. VICENS: I hope that answers that for you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I...you know, I appreciate that. The Police Commission, is there any openings? Because we need some women on...on that commission, seriously. That's where women go to file complaints, and if it's...it's a majority male board. It's just easier if we have some women who can...on that board. We...we don't have any. So, I...I...I mean I would like to ask more questions on this applicant. I'm sorry, I don't want to throw a wrench in it, but I would really hope that she would go for the Police Commission because we need her on that. So, that's kind of where my stance is. I wish I could have had more time to talk, but I...I'm kind of out of time, and she's not here. So, thank you so much, Chair.

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Johnson. There are three women, I think, on the Police Commission (*audio interference*), but I hear what you're saying. Mahalo. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Vicens. I do see a vacancy on the Liquor Control Adjudication Board. Was that her first choice? Mr. Harold Cathcart served as long as he could, and...and then he resigned, and he passed away. So, I just was wondering, I mean I love to give people what they ask for, you know, because that's what...there's an opening.

MS. VICENS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, the Mayor is aware of the opening on the Liquor Control and Adjudication Board. Ms. Prey is...she wants to be on the Liquor Commission, and they do have --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, not the --

MS. VICENS: -- different --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- Liquor Control?

MS. VICENS: -- they have different functions. And to Councilmember Johnson's point, I think that the Police Commission is where her heart lies, and if...she did say to me, if something opens up in the future, will you consider me? I'm willing to serve to help fill this position, but will you keep my application open for that? The Administration --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MS. VICENS: -- was willing to do that with her.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And...and she's not interested at all in the Liquor Control Adjudication?

MS. VICENS: At our previous conversation, was not. And I --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Okay.

MS. VICENS: -- can't speak for her in this moment.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: All right. Because the Liquor Control Adjudication, it's kind of weird, one person says Wailuku, one person says Lāhainā, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i, and everyone else just says Maui. So, I don't know if South Maui is represented, but I guess you only need to have one person from each island and then the rest

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from...okay. Interesting fact. Thank you.

MS. VICENS: Thank you for the question.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Do we have any further questions?
Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. After hearing Member Johnson’s comments, you know, Ms. Prey obviously has a lot of experience and looks very assertive, and I would so love to have her on the Police Commission, so, to...to stand up for, you know...you know, those in the community that may be coming before them. So, it...it looks like there’s one opening that may have happen (*audio interference*) resigns before then, but since it was something she (*audio interference*) a commission that she’d be interested in, would that be something that perhaps if she like gets onto the Salary Commission now, if later when it opens...a position opens on the Police Commission, if it’s something that she would like, it could be considered then?

MS. VICENS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. So, that was part of our discussion with Ms. Prey. She...I think you saw her, she’s very determined to serve in this community. And she said to me the other day, are you sure there’s nothing on the Liquor [*sic*] Commission right now? And I said we’ll have one opening in 2024, and we will...and I agree that there is not enough women, and we...it just has to do with the interest that the applicants, the...are putting forth to us. And so, I think that would be something that we could definitely communicate out, that we are looking for women to serve on these boards that tend to be a little bit more male dominated, I should say, or interest. I mean that’s where a lot their interest tends to be. So, we’d like to see that as well. But we did say to Ms. Prey that would make her a consideration in the future. And we never know what’s going to happen over the next six months as well. There may be an opening that occurs just organically, and then we can fill that as needed. Thank you for the question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Vicens. I...you...you said Liquor, but I think you meant Police, yeah, when you said that you’ve...you looked at it with her and that there was going to be a position next year?

MS. VICENS: I’m sorry about that. I had Liquor Adjudication still on the brain.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. No, I just wanted to...that’s awesome that she feels so passionate about that. Okay. All right. That’s...that’s...okay. Because she looks like a fighter for the community, and that would be awesome to have her there. Okay. Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Mahalo. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Sorry, I just wanted to clarify with Ms. Vicens. The person terming out on the 24th [sic] would be a Lāna‘i resident. So, I imagine it would need to be filled by a Lāna‘i resident. And then the other clarification that I...I wanted to make was, after July 1st, would it still be within the Mayor’s purview to select Ms. Prey because of that Charter about the independent selection board? Is that go into effect? I don’t know if that’s --

MS. VICENS: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- a question for Corp. Counsel.

MS. VICENS: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. So, you...I’m sorry, I didn’t have that list for the Police Commission in front of me, but that is a Lāna‘i resident, Mr. Matthew Manu, who will term out in 2024. As I, you know, just stated a moment ago, this...an opening, a vacancy on this Police Commission could happen organically. Either way, she is on the list. With regards to the independent nomination board, that is effective of July 1st. The Mayor will put forth his nominees for this body to take up and consider. Once that occurs...they will, you know, grab from what we have, and then be responsible for recruitment and vetting and sending a list up to the Mayor to make his selections off of. So --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. VICENS: -- it will still flow through the office, the office will take it up to them, they will put the list together, and the Mayor will choose from. I think an individual like Ms. Prey will have no...it will not be an issue with her being recognized as somebody who . . . *(inaudible)*. . . serve and would do so well.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Great. Thank you for that clarification. It makes perfect sense now to me.

MS. VICENS: Thank you for the question.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Do we have any further questions? Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Can you hear me? Okay. Good. So, if the...if a position opens up then she will leave the...the Salary Commission and then join the Police Commission. Is that the plan, Ms. Vicens?

MS. VICENS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. I’m going to

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just tag off of Councilmember Paltin's question regarding the independent board. Who gets selected will be out of the control of the Office of the Mayor and who goes on the list. Now, on the applications we make notations of what their preference is. This candidate, we have made the notation that it is her preference, that she has been willing to step up and serve in this capacity, but it is her...again, her preference to be considered for the Police Commission. So, she will additionally be put...we will, you know, make the recommendation to put her forth. What the independent --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, then...

MS. VICENS: -- nomination board will do is out of our control.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, if that were to happen, we're going to have to find a new...a new person for the Salary Commission, correct?

MS. VICENS: The independent nomination board will look to its list and put those names to the Mayor and bring that forth to you. That is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. I kind of...Councilmember Paltin mentioned it, and I...I agree with it, that we want to give people the commission that they want to serve on. I feel like, you know, the old adage of happy workers are productive workers, if you wanted that...if that's your choice to be on it then you're probably going to really carry that torch far. So, I...I look forward to, you know, seeing her on that and seeing how that goes, but thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Johnson. Any further discussion before we continue? Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I'm supportive of Ms. Prey's nomination for this position. I think that the Administration doing outreach, doing interviews, communicating with various people has been extensive, and we need people on the various commissions to be filled. What may happen in the future is important, and I respect that, but we're dealing with this today. And we have a experienced, very proactive member of the community willing to serve, and I think it would be prudent to fill the position and respect the Administration's work. So, I'll be supporting this. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Cook. Any further discussion? Okay. Seeing none. I'd like to entertain a motion to recommend the adoption of Resolution 23-133.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So moved.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Motion made by Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, second by Council Chair Alice Lee. Unless there’s any further discussion at this time, I’d like to entertain a motion to recommend Ms. Lois Prey’s name be moved and placed on Exhibit “B” for approval.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So move.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Motion made by Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura and seconded by Council Chair Alice Lee. Any further discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor of the amendment, please raise your hand and say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Aye. Sure. What? Staff, can we please do a roll call?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Gabe Johnson

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Tasha Kama.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Excused.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

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MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Committee Vice-Chair Tamara Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Committee Chair Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that’s six “ayes,” two “noes,” one excused. The motion carries.

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair U‘u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin,**
 Councilmembers Cook, Lee,
 Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sugimura.

NOES: **Councilmembers Johnson and Sinenci.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember Kama.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: AMEND RESOLUTION 23-133.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Now, hana hou, main motion as amended. Staff, can we please do another roll call?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yes, Chair. Proceeding with roll call vote. Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: *(Audio interference)*.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Member Johnson, we couldn’t hear your vote. Do you mind doing that again please?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Tasha Kama.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Excused.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye with reservations.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Committee Vice-Chair Tamara Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Committee Chair Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that’s seven “ayes,” one “no,” one excused. Motion carries.

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

NOES: Councilmember Johnson.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 23-133, CD1.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, Members. These items will move on to full Council’s consideration, and congratulations to these three women. At this time it is 2:57, if it’s okay with the Members, if we could take a ten-minute recess and come back at 3:08. I think that’s ten minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No objections.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. At this time we are now in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 2:57 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:17 p.m.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome (*audio interference*) from our recess. It is now 3:17 p.m. and I’d like to continue.

GREAT-2(14) NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS
(RESOLUTION 23-139, BOARD OF ETHICS)

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: So, at this time we have before us Resolution 23-139, entitled “RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF MERRITT KEO KAUFMAN TO THE BOARD OF ETHICS FOR THE MAUI COUNTY [*sic*].” Resolutions 23-139’s purpose is to approve or disapprove the Mayor’s nomination of Merritt Kaufman to the Board of Ethics for a term expiring on March 31st, 2025. Since posting the agenda, we have been in contact with Ms. Vicens, and our understanding is that some things have come to light, and I will request opening comments from her at this time. Ms. Vicens?

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MS. VICENS: Thank you, Chair U'u-Hodgins. And thank you, Members. With regards to Resolution 23-139, the appointment of Merritt Keo Kaufman to the Board of Ethics for the County of Maui, the Mayor respectfully would like to withdraw this nominee from consideration for the Board of Ethics at this time.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Ms. Vicens. Before we get into discussion, I'd like to do a last call for testimony for item GREAT-2(14). Staff?

MS. GRECO: Chair, there are no testifiers signed up for this item.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Members, seeing there are no individuals wishing to testify, without objection, I will now close oral testimony for GREAT-2(14). No objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: Close oral testimony for GREAT-2(14).

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. As a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. Members, seeing as the...Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, my apologies, Chair. Go ahead.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sorry. We will be...I guess we don't need a question and answers part because they're going to remove it. So, as a formality, we will disapprove the nominee. Do you have any...anybody would like to say anything before we continue? No. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Recommendation?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Ms. Vicens?

MS. VICENS: Chair, I'd just like to add another point. The Mayor is appreciative of this individual's willingness to serve. The decision was based really solely on further vetting, and that maybe this was not the best fit, this board and this commission, for the qualifications that he brought to it. So, I just wanted to make sure that was noted on record.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. At this time I'd like to entertain a motion to recommend the adoption of Resolution 23-139.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So move.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Do I have a second?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Second.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Mahalo. Mahalo. Motion made by Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura and seconded by Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. If there is no further discussion, I would now like to entertain a motion to amend the resolution by amending the first BE IT RESOLVED clause to strike “approve” and replace it with “disapprove.”

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Motion made by Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura and seconded by Councilmember Cook. Again, this is just a formality. Any discussion required? No. Seeing no further discussion. All those in favor to the amendment, please raise your hand and say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that’s eight “ayes,” zero “noes,” one excused. Motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: AMEND RESOLUTION 23-139.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Now we return to the main motion as amended, so, hana hou. Please raise your hand, all in favor say “aye.”

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COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's eight "ayes," zero "noes," one excused. The motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 23-139, CD1.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, Members.

**GREAT-2(15) NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS
(RESOLUTION 23-140, BOARD OF VARIANCES AND APPEALS)**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Continuing on. We have before us Resolution 23-140, entitled "RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF DAVID C. WEISS TO THE BOARD OF VARIANCES AND APPEALS FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI." Resolution 23-140's purpose is to approve or disapprove the Mayor's nomination of David Weiss to the Board of Variances and Appeals for a term expiring March 31st, 2027. The 60-day deadline for the Council to approve or disapprove the nomination is June 20, 2023. A copy of the board listing has been uploaded to Granicus. At this time I would like to request brief opening statements from Ms. Cory Vicens.

MS. VICENS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. You have in front of you the nominee, Mr. David C. Weiss, for the Board of Variances and Appeals. Mr. Weiss just recently termed out as the chair on the Board of Ethics. He served his full five years. He is from the Wailuku District. David is the CEO of a company, Hospitality and Leisure Hawai'i LLC. It actually is the parent company

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and recently acquired Maui Dive Shop and Ali'i Nui Catamarans. Dave has been in the Maui community and has raised his family, had multiple businesses, and has been productive and a leader. We saw no conflict of interest with this member, especially with the amount of businesses he's with, the type of businesses, in serving on the BVA. He...my experience of Mr. Weiss having staffed the Board of Ethics and as a chair that I worked with is that he is...takes into consideration all the information and the facts, and makes decisions based on what is in front of them at the time. He is happy to serve again. His company is happy that he is serving in the community, and feels that it is as important to them as it is to him. I believe he was going try and be on. I know he had some time constraints, so I would let him speak to anything else that would...this body may have regarding questions, et cetera.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Mr. Weiss, are you on our call? If so...

MR. WEISS: I am. Can you hear me?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes. Aloha. If you could --

MR. WEISS: Okay.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- please just give us --

MR. WEISS: *(Audio interference)*.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- a brief introduction of yourself, that'll be great, and then we can move on to questions after testimony.

MR. WEISS: Thank you, Chair and Members of the Council. Yeah, my name's David Weiss. Hard to follow that intro. Thank you, Cory. As Cory mentioned, I've been here 43 years, I've raised my family, I have now grandkids, all my kids moved back here. I have just recently, as Cory mentioned, our company RED Hospitality and Leisure Hawai'i has acquired our first acquisition on Maui, Ali'i Nui Catamarans and Maui Dive Shop, a legacy company of 40 years. I...I've...I'm very pleased to serve again. I found the Board of Ethics very rewarding. My company, as Cory said is...is supportive of my time and to serve, and I'll be glad to take any questions.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo. Staff, is there *(audio interference)* to testify on this item?

MS. GRECO: Chair, we don't have anyone signed up for this item.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Members, seeing there are no individuals wishing to testify on this item, without objection, I will now close oral testimony. No

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objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: Close oral testimony for GREAT-2(15).

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. As a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. Members, we will now move on to questions and answers, and again, we will be implementing a three-minute questioning period with a one-minute follow-up round. If you have any questions, just please raise your hand. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Mr. Weiss, for your willingness to serve. I just had a couple clarifying questions. Your current employment is at Aquakane?

MR. WEISS: No, that Aqualani was my previous employment that I was...I retired after COVID.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh. Can you repeat it again? Aqua...

MR. WEISS: Aqualani was a company I ran for a number of years; however, I retired when...when COVID shot everybody down.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. And then at the bottom it says four years of college, just whereabouts did you get your degrees?

MR. WEISS: Well, I didn't get a degree. I spent four years at Ventura College --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh.

MR. WEISS: -- Community College, I changed majors two or three times, and then moved...moved here when I was 20...22, so I didn't...and I...that was it for me.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Got it. Thank you, Mr. Weiss. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Weiss, for your willingness to serve. I just was wondering your knowledge of this board as to, you know, giving...if people having appeals and giving variances, you know, the Board of Ethics is like, you know, wrong or right, morals and like that. I just was wondering your familiarity, you know, if...if somebody shouldn't be doing short-term rentals or hotels and stuff. As a hotel person, what...what would you

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say is a good enough reason to give a variance for that?

MR. WEISS: Well, I have followed what...since this nomination came up, I'm very familiar with the Board of Variances and Appeals. I'm very familiar through the...our local news all the different appeals and variances that have been fought over for years. I'd like to believe that I have a reasonable understanding of complex issues, that I can understand...gather the information, formulate a question, make an objective decision. But again, I...I'm very well aware of--mostly through our local reporting--of the issues that have come in front of this board over the many, many years I've been here. So, I...I feel that again, I can...I...I have a reasonable understanding of, like I say, these complex situations.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Just...so, you're in the hospitality industry and if somebody is not allowed to be doing a hotel due to zoning or other factors, what...what would be your considerations?

MR. WEISS: Well, I might clarify that we're in the hospitality industry by virtue that we operate commercial catamarans and a commercial dive boat. I don't have any affiliation with any of the hotels. Our company does. But as a member of the committee, I'd be objective. And...and I don't necessarily know that any prior information that I would have would help me to--help me or hurt me to make an objective decision, it's really based on the facts in front of me.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And...and what is your understanding of how a variance can be given?

MR. WEISS: You mean what's the purpose of a variance?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Or what are the qualifications?

MR. WEISS: Well, the qualifications are, there's a request made in front of a board on behalf of a developer or a development, and asking to overlook or set aside the current zoning laws to make an exception. And I know that every time that maybe the Planning Commission or the Council . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . has said no, that someone's going to come in front of this board and ask for a reconsideration.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. I...there were specific criteria, but my time is up. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We can come back to you, Member Paltin, if you have any questions afterwards. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha, Chair. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Weiss, for being willing to serve. The Board of Variances and Appeals is, to me, a very important

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board. It's pretty much it's...I look at it as the people's board. My familiarity with it in the past is knowing people who...who...who did things that were...anyway, there...there might be slight variations in a setback, there might be conditions where somebody didn't like break the law, but the County took a...Planning Department might have taken offense with it, and the Board of Variances and Appeals sort of is the level...anyway, it's a very important board, and you being objective is important. And I'm glad...I'm glad that you're willing to serve, and I think that this is the board that people can have the opportunity to clarify what the rules and regulations are, what the department's interpretation is, and it's quite often just plain people and not necessarily developers. So, have you watched or listened to various proceedings, and seen the type of cases that come before the board?

MR. WEISS: Actually, since this came up, I've reviewed probably the last six...eight meetings online, read the minutes, I understand some of the more pertinent cases that are still pending. I believe I understood the issue, I understood the appellate argument, and...but I did try and familiarize myself with what's current...what's been going on, a little precedent that's been set, and what's in front of the board as currently.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for your willingness to serve.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Cook. Any further questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Weiss. Mahalo for your willingness to serve. Okay. So...shoot, I think they meet monthly, yeah. Do you see...

MR. WEISS: Twice a month. Twice a month.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Twice a month. Twice a month, twice a month. Okay.

MR. WEISS: Every other Thursday.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Good. You know how often they meet, done your homework. Do you foresee any challenges with attendance?

MR. WEISS: No. And actually, in five years on the Board of Ethics I missed one meeting, and that was after COVID we opened up, I got to go back to Texas and meet my granddaughter that was six months old. So, other than that, I made every meeting, and chaired a couple years, two-and-a-half years out of it. So, yeah, I see no problem.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Congratulations.

MR. WEISS: Thank you. Number three.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You spoke to your experience with the BVA, and then is there anything additional you would like to add to how you envision contributing to the BVA?

MR. WEISS: Well, the previous question regarding the people's seat, I noticed...I looked up most of the members, and a lot of them are in the trades or something to do with building. I...I...I believe that I would serve again as a neutral observer. I don't have a dog in the fight as far as any development. I know I probably wouldn't have to request an advisory opinion because I don't have any conflicts. And again, like I said earlier on, I...I...I followed along fairly carefully with the previous minutes, and believe that I could have rendered an objective opinion had a vote come my way.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you have a background in the zoning and...because it's also includes like general plans and permitting? I think it's...

MR. WEISS: Definitely not (*audio interference*). Nothing other than my own residential neighborhoods that we've had issues with building violations and encroachment in a lot of different areas, but not professionally, no.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Mr. Weiss. I don't know if that went through.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Do we have any other questions? If not, we can return back to Member Paltin if she has any other questions. Member Paltin, do you have any other questions? You were kind of interrupted earlier. You're welcome to continue if you have any more.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I don't...sorry, I don't know the answer, but I just recall the Planning Department telling us that you can only get a variance for specific criteria such as it's like, you know, a unique circumstance and some other stuff. But I...I don't know the answer, and I just was wondering. I guess the lawyers will direct them and tell them how, right?

MR. WEISS: So, that would be my feeling, is that I...I thought to myself I don't really know the answer to this, but through the course of...it seems to be the appellate and the requestor for a variance have counsel. It will come up during the discussion, pros and cons of and why or why not, and I'm sure there's Corp. Counsel in there. So, I don't think that would hinder my ability to understand

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the situation or...or formulate a question or provide...or come to an objective decision.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Good answer. Thank you. Thank you for --

MR. WEISS: That's all I got. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- for putting my mind at ease.

MR. WEISS: You're welcome.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Yeah, just clarification, Mr. Weiss. You mentioned something, some issues in your current neighborhood.

MR. WEISS: No, this was far...I'm sorry, this was long in the past. My current neighborhood is...is pretty well controlled. This was 35 years ago in a North Kihei neighborhood that...and currently is...zoning laws had...were really ignored in there, and we tried, but we never took it front of the Variances or Appeals, we just appealed to the Planning Department. And I worked...I was the president of the homeowners' association at that time and we worked really closely with the County to try and get it under control, but it's just like illegal rental and too much parking. But no, not in my current neighborhood. I moved about 15 years ago.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Any further questions? Okay. Seeing none. Mr. Weiss, I hope that your experience in helping our County make ethical decisions on the Board of Ethics will carry on to your hopeful tenure at the BVA board.

MR. WEISS: Thank you also as well.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. At this time I'd like to entertain a motion to recommend the adoption of Resolution 23-140.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So move.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Motion made by Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, second by Council Chair Alice Lee. Any further discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor please raise your hand and say "aye."

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COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's eight "ayes," zero "noes," one excused, Councilmember Kama. Motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 23-140.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. This item will move on to full Council's consideration. Congratulations, Mr. Weiss.

MR. WEISS: Thank you very much for the support --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. WEISS: -- and aloha.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aloha. All right. Members, let's continue on.

**GREAT-2(8) NOMINATIONS TO BOARDS, COMMITTEES, AND COMMISSIONS
(RESOLUTIONS 23-94 THROUGH 23-97, VARIOUS)**

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Before...we have before us Resolutions 23-94 through 23-97 appointing members to the Conservation Planning Committee, Kula Ag Park Committee, Maui Redevelopment Agency, and the Urban Design Review Board for the County of Maui. There are no deadline for the Council approvals or disapprovals for these nominees. A copy of the board listing has been uploaded

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to Granicus. Let's begin with opening remarks from the Mayor's representative and the nominees for each board, committee, or commission. We will then do a last call for testimony before taking questions and answers from the Members. First, Resolution 23-94's purpose is to approve or disapprove the Mayor's nomination of Michelle Gould (Reappointment) to the Conservation Planning Committee for a term expiring March 31st, 2026. At this time I'd like to now request opening comments from the Mayor's representative, Cory Vicens.

MS. VICENS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. You have in front of you the nominee for the Conservation Planning Committee. This is a reappointment of the University of Hawai'i representative Michelle Lynne Gould. Ms. Gould was willing to continue her service on this committee, and hoping that we...they have a plan in front of them to continue the work on that and move forward. She is, as I said, at the University of Maui College, and she says in her own words, I served on the Conservation Planning Committee in the last term, and she attended all meetings. She does teach environment and ecology at the UH Maui College, and have professional connections and experiences with different conservation organizations in Maui. She leads a water quality research class at UH Maui for several years, and she is also the Vice-Chair of the Sustainability Committee at UH Maui College. She is also the Interim Principal for the Investigator of Hawai'i-One-Ag, enhancing agricultural education at UH Maui College. She...I hope that she is on the line. She can speak to her qualifications probably better than I. But I think, and the Mayor does agree, that this is a nominee that we would like to see continue in her role and representation from the university on the Conservation Planning Committee.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. If Ms. Gould is on the line, if we could request some opening comments from her as well. Aloha.

MS. GOULD: Hi. This is Michelle Gould. Yes, I was serving on the committee last term, and I believe where we left off was looking to develop a GreenPrint. And I've been teaching at Maui College for almost ten years now, I can't believe it's been that long, and teaching ecology for most of that time. And I know you mentioned my involvement with water quality research, that was actually through Dr. Kealoha, who was just appointed for another committee today. Yeah, I guess I can't think of anything else that's relevant here, but I'm open to any questions.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo. We will hold off on questions for a little bit, but if you could please stick around, that would be great. Okay. Let's continue with Resolution 23-95. Resolution 23-95's purpose is to approve or disapprove the Mayor's nomination of Kyle Caires (Reappointment) and Richard "Buddy" Nichols to the Kula Agricultural Park Committee for terms expiring on March 31st, 2028. At this time I would like to request brief opening comments from the Mayor's representative Ms. Cory Vicens.

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MS. VICENS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmembers. The next nominee is for the Kula Ag Park. This is Mr. Kyle Caires, and he was the former chair of this...of this committee when her...his term expired. Mr. Caires is very involved in our community. He also holds...we should call him Dr. Caires, as he does hold a PhD in animal science from Washington State University. He is glad to continue to serve. As a matter of fact, when he went to his first meeting when he was first appointed, he went to the first meeting and they nominated him as vice-chair, and he willingly accepted. When he went to his second meeting they nominated him as the chair, as there was the departure of some members, and he accepted that. He did some...in his words, some cleanup on this committee, and he's excited to continue the work that they have been doing. He thinks that his engineering side and members are not aware of that we can bring to this committee. So, further development, and not just about the land, but development for the small farmers there as well. I hope that he is available to speak on his own behalf. The Mayor fully supports him and hopes that this body will too.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Would you also like to give us a brief introduction to Mr. Nichols?

MS. VICENS: Yes. Sorry about that.

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

MS. VICENS: So, the next candidate for the Kula Ag Park is Mr. Richard...or Buddy Nichols, as he's known throughout the Maui County. He is a fourth-generation farmer, and in 2012 he actually turned that over to his daughter to take a holder [sic]. As a...as a former farmer he understands the challenge a farmer experiences, whether it's through Mother Nature or financial. So, he has been an excellent guide for our startups and small farming community, and we think that his experience will lend itself, a different type of view and assistance to those at the Kula ag farm [sic]. He is a member of the Farmers Union United and a past board member. He is also worked with the CTAHR and other university staff and programs. As I said, he's well affiliated and working in partnership with...from the USDA to the Planning and Zoning, he's a 4-H. He has a very broad understanding, and as I said, starting from farmer all the way up to farmers find money to continue doing business in the County. So, that is for 23-95.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. If Dr. Caires or Mr. Nichols is on the line, if they would also like to give us a brief introduction of themselves, now would be the time. Dr. Caires? Oh, Buddy Nichols. I see you, you...you're welcome to go. Please introduce yourself. Where did he go?

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MR. NICHOLS: Sorry. Okay. Good afternoon. I hope you all can hear me and everything's fine.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We can. Thank you.

MR. NICHOLS: Yeah, I'm Buddy Nichols. I've been...I live on Maui, and I oversee the entire State of Hawai'i, Guam, and (*audio interference*) for USDA in the Farm Loan Program. I work very extensively on Maui and through the Farmers Union organization, Master Farmers program, Ag Leadership program, numerous different programs. Yes, I did turn my farm over to my daughters in 2012, and decided to get an 8:00 to 5:00 job versus working 24 hours a day. We all know that Mother Nature is in our control...is out of our control, she is in control. So, the program in which...is so important that we make all of our lands sustainable through family farms. The things we need is land and water and human resource and financial resource. The County provides is land and water, huge, huge. Great benefit to the farmers so that we can feed our people, and that's what I'm all about. I've lived on farms all my life, lived...we had a sustainable farm. All the generations ahead of me made their living off the farm. I lived in Australia for a year, and worked on 33 different farms in that country. Farmers are farmers no matter where we go. Family farm, that's what produces the food that we get all...that we all need to live on. So, enough of my blabbing and carrying on, but I'm looking forward so much to the opportunity to help more farmers, and help the County of Maui provide this great opportunity for our families and our farms here in the ag community. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Mr. Nichols. It's my understanding that Dr. Cairnes had to (*audio interference*) off, so we will continue to move on. Next we have Resolution 23-96. Resolution 23-96's purpose is to approve or disapprove the Mayor's nomination of Wakon Childers to the Maui Redevelopment Agency for a term expiring March 31st, 2028. At this time, I would like to request brief opening statements too. Ms. Vicens?

MS. VICENS: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Councilmembers. You heard the testimony from Wakon Childers--make sure we get that right, Childers--earlier and...and we appreciate that, his perspective. Wakon did move here with his wife, who was Maui born, and he was taken into the fold. At that time, 20 years ago, there were only 8 employees with Bowman Termite; today they have 50 employees, they're on four islands. And Wakon was telling me this morning that he actually reviewed 60...from the outer islands 60 schools and their need in their programs before coming here. So, he's a very quick learn. He's also...he does have his master's, which he attained here at the University of Hawai'i in educational technology. And so, it's been beneficial to him with their own business in bringing technology into the forefront and making their company more efficient. So, why does he want to sit on the MRA? He feels, as a general

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manager, he has the understanding of what it takes to be running a business. He can look at plans and...from whether it's plumbing or the structure itself or what can happen, what other ideas may be available, especially if the...the Wailuku area. And he asked the questions based on what's in front of him. We think that he is a great candidate for the Maui...the Maui Redevelopment Agency. It is a small led committee, and I think that he'll have an excellent voice in helping shape what we have going forward in the future. I will let him speak to the...introduce himself and answer any questions in the future from you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Mr. Childers, please come and introduce yourself. Thank you.

MR. CHILDERS: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Councilmembers. My name is Wakon Childers. I was born and raised in Oklahoma. I've lived in Maui for almost 20 years now. I...I am the President of Bowman Termite and Pest Management. I've been with my father-in-law at that company since I moved to Maui. Seen a lot of changes in that amount of time. I remember the highway when we had two lanes when I first moved here, so I've seen a lot of development. I've seen things change for good and for bad, mostly for good. I mean I...I think that our community is a thriving community. And I'm really, really excited. I'm kind of a little nervous to be in front of you all, but...but I'm very excited. I made the commitment in November, I thought it was time, you know, I'm 45 years old and I have children, I have three children. I raised them here in Wailuku, Maui. I want them to live and thrive here. I made a choice to serve, and I wanted an opportunity to do something. So, when I did look at this redevelopment agency, you know, I...something I do on my day to day at Bowman Termite is I review plans for various termite projects. I...speaking this morning...or speaking to the Administration this morning or...I...I...or I'm sorry, I explained that I was looking at 60 schools this morning...or it was actually 18 schools, 60 buildings, so I had to review those, go over them for fumigations. You know, I...I do that quite often actually, so I'm pretty versed with looking at plans when it comes to structural civil architectural. I know...I'm kind of self taught with plumbing, so a lot of stuff I've taken I learned on my own. I know that I can be helpful. And as far as technology, you know, I am kind of blabbering on here but, you know, I graduated from the University of Hawai'i at Manoa. I had a BS in sociology. I also had a master's degree there from educational technology. I am very good at integrating technology into whatever it is that I'm part of, whether it be at a school, whether it be at a corporation or a company, and I'm sure that I can bring that aspect to whatever I do.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Wonderful. Thank you so much. We will call you back up for questions and answers. Thank you. Okay. Last not but not least, we have Resolution 23-97. Its purpose is to approve or disapprove the Mayor's

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nominations of Ricky Sanches, the reappointment of; Phillip Stephens; and Harry Hecht for terms expiring March 31st, 2028. At this time...interesting...I'm going to ask Ms. Vicens for brief opening comments on these three nominees.

MS. VICENS: Thank you, Chair. This is for the Urban Design Review Board. Of all of our boards right now, this is a board that is in critical need. It requires engineers, architects, land architects, and we have, and from what I understand, historically a hard time retaining individuals, whether there's a conflict, too busy to serve, whatever it may be. Of the three candidates, the first one, Mr. Harry Richard Hecht, we spoke on Monday, and he said he would get back to me. He was conflicted. He is currently on the...the BVA, and...and also the president of his resort condo, the homeowners, and he wasn't certain whether he would be able to fulfill his being on two boards, especially the Urban Design Review Board. Last night he...we connected again, and he said he would like to gratefully withdraw his name. It would be...he didn't want to miss any meetings, and he felt that would be a disservice to this board and to the community to do so. He would like to be reconsidered in 2024 when he comes off as president of his condo association. So, the...the candidate Mr. Harry Hecht will be withdrawing his name to serve on this board. Mr. Ricky Sanches...of all of our nominees today, Mr. Sanches--and I...you know, I don't know have any insight into--so, hopefully maybe in his own volition he has been able to join this meeting and participate. He is a Lānaʻi...and comes from the Lānaʻi district. He is a reappointment to this board. And he is with Ricky's Plumbing, and he is the owner of it. Again, I did not get to personally connect with Mr. Sanches, but from what I understand he has been a good contributor to the board, and his experience is valued again. And he also fulfills the Lānaʻi district on this board. The third candidate on here comes from Molokaʻi, and that is Mister...sorry, Mr. Stephens. I met Mr. Stephens back in January when we were looking at a nominee for Molokaʻi, and he expressed an interest in being in the Urban Design Review Board. This is the first time that he is...put his name forth as a member of our community to serve in the County of Maui. He just felt it was time that he did that. He is known on Molokaʻi as Uncle Mango, and he reminded me of that again last night when I called him Phillip, and asked me to call him Uncle Mango. So, that is what he goes by. He is self-employed. He moved back to Molokaʻi back in...sorry, I had that in my notes...anyway, he moved back with his family...really because he wanted to be closer to home, and he went on to be back in Molokaʻi. He was with Sylvan Dale Ranch. Since that time he does work with the Director of the Hawaiian Homes, DHHL. He has an understanding of the structural insulated panels, and has worked with builders in helping bring some of those Maui builders in bringing those over to Molokaʻi to do some work. So, he's doing consulting over there on Molokaʻi. He's familiar with HUD laws and Federal laws as it relates to building there. He is involved with several different professional organizations. The Lāhainā and Hoolehua Hawaiʻi civic clubs, and the Kalamaula Mauka Homestead Association as a president. He is a graduate of the

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Kamehameha Kapalama campus. If Mr. Stephens is on the line, I will let him continue his introduction.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo. If Uncle Mango is on the line, I'd love to hear from him as well.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: *(Audio interference)*.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. If not, we can continue and hopefully he can come on when we do our questions.

MR. STEPHENS: Oh, aloha. I'm sorry.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aloha.

MR. STEPHENS: This is...this is...this Uncle Mango. Aloha, Keani --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Hi.

MR. STEPHENS: -- and the Councilmembers. Yeah, I'm new to the Blue..BlueJeans, so wrong buttons I was hitting. As...as --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: No worries.

MR. STEPHENS: -- the sister...as the sister said, yeah, I...I...this is the first time I'll be coming out and to try to try help our people, but I've been doing this for a while in other capacities even before I left the islands about...I left the islands for about ten years up in the mainland and ended up running a ranch in Colorado for a number of years. Crazy Hawaiian up in the Rocky Mountains, but it was time to come home. And in these past six years since I've been home I've seen so many things changing and so, I would like to just...if I can...if I can be of help, especially in the rural and the urban areas, that's what I would like to do.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo. At this time I'd like to ask Staff to do a call for testimony before we continue on to discussion.

MS. GRECO: Chair, there are no individuals signed up for testimony for this item.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Seeing as there are no individuals wishing to testify, without objections, I will now close oral testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: Close oral testimony for GREAT-2(8).

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. As a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. Okay. Let's continue with discussion for Resolution 23-94, Michelle Gould. The reappointment for her space on the...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Chair, did...

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Hi.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Kali Arce wanted to testify.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Is she on the line?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: In the chat.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, she had to leave the meeting, and so, she said she'd submit written testimony.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay. My bad, sorry. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: No worries. Thank you for following up. Okay. So, we are going to move on to discussion for the reappointment of Michelle Gould to the Conservation Planning Committee. Again, we're going to do a three-minute questioning period with a one-minute follow-up round. If anybody has any questions for Ms. Gould, your opportunity is now. Please raise your hand. Member...Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Gould, for your willingness to serve. I just was wondering, because it's a reappointment, have you guys been able to meet and make progress, or...or are we not there yet?

MS. GOULD: That's a good question. I actually don't know when our last meeting was because...well, the vast...last meeting that I attended was some time around Thanksgiving, and then we had, I think, you know, problems with the holidays, scheduling, and getting enough people to come for quorum. And then after that I hadn't received any messages until I got a call yesterday asking if I wanted to continue, and I...yeah, I haven't heard.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Great. Thank you so much for sticking with us as we iron out these kinks. You know, this is a new board and commission, and listening to your qualifications and seeing your application, I'm so happy to have you in on this base level. So, thank you so much, and thank you for the update as well.

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I will...you'll have my full support.

MS. GOULD: Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Ms. Vicens, you have something to add?

MS. VICENS: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Member Paltin, for that question. That is accurate. The Conservation Planning Committee has not met since last November. There have been some quorum...I think it has just been the regrouping. I had this conversation with Staff yesterday, you know, what were some of the obstacles that were in the way, and how we can move forward. So, number one is regrouping, getting the meetings back on track, and we'll work with our Corporation Counsel, as well as the Staff, to make sure that that happens. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo. Members, do we have any more questions? Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Just to add to the conversation, we did bring up the conservation committee in the WASSP Committee, and we had the bill to extend the GreenPrint that the Council voted on, and then we also went ahead and extended my participation as the Councilmember on the conservation committee. Can check back with Mr. Molina, who's...who's our current Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Do we have any (*audio interference*) questions before we continue? No? Awesome. Seeing none. I'd like to entertain a motion to recommend the adoption of 23-94.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So move.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Motion made by Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, second by Council Chair Alice Lee. Unless there's any further discussion at the time, I'd like to entertain the motion to recommend Ms. Michelle Gould's name be placed on Exhibit "B" for approval.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So move.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, thank you. Thank you. Motion made by

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Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, seconded by Council Chair Alice Lee. Is there any further discussion? Seeing none. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I speak in support of the motion to amend to approve Ms. Gould, and then I think the motion will...will pass, and then I support the main motion as amended to approve Ms. Gould. And wanted to echo Member Paltin's sentiments of mahalo for sticking with us as we figure this out, and for...for your work at the college, UHMC, with sustainable sciences. My office made that amendment to have you folks on, have a representative from there because the work that you folks are doing is...is so important. And from this GreenPrint, I think, you know, will be really valuable to the County and, you know, on behalf of the community. So, mahalo for your work. I think...I want to say we allocated funding for contracting, I can't remember. I remember we discussed it, maybe Member Sinenci remembers. But yeah, mahalo. I support. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Any further discussion before I call for the vote on *(audio interference)*. Seeing none. All those in favor, please raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: AMEND RESOLUTION 23-94.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Main motion as amended, hana hou our vote. All those in favor "aye."

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COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's eight "ayes," zero "noes," one excused on both motions.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 23-94, CD1.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Okay. Let's continue. Let's move on to Resolution 23-95, the nomination of Dr. Kyle Cairns, the reappointment of; and Richard "Buddy" Nichols to the Kula Agricultural Park Committee. Members, again, we will have a three-minute questioning period with a one-minute follow-up round. Members...Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Nichols, so much for your willingness to serve. I just had like one theme of question. I see that you live in Kihei, and you know that Kula water runs downhill in Kihei. And I just was wondering, do you spend a lot of time in Kula or like, you know, the proximity, or just because USDA like how did...how did...how did your interest get sparked for the Kula Ag Park? Do you do farming in Kula as well?

MR. NICHOLS: Yeah. Of course, I've...I go over all the entire island, you know. But yeah, that water flow that goes through there, you know, we had quite a...you know, and the conservation districts had a State meeting, and we were there, and we went through all that to look at how the development is going, what to do with that water. That's a big drain off area, no question about it, and we get a lot of erosion. So, conservation is what we're talking about here. You know, I work with NRCS very closely and so we have an opportunity to do that. As far as the Kula area goes, of course, it's got its own challenges, and all the ecosystems that

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we have are all different. Where the park is, it's a great opportunity there because it's an entirely different ecosystem than what we have in Kihei. Because of my work with the farmers, all...on all...the entire island, Moloka'i and Lāna'i, everybody is different, every farm is different, so we have that opportunity to look at the farms on an individual basis and the challenges that Mother Nature brings them, but that's farming, you know, so that's just kind of what we do. So, sorry.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, no, thank you so much. I'm almost excited for the Kula Ag Park Committee as I am for the Maui Planning Commission. I mean, of course, we don't need to ask Dr. Caires any questions because he's an expert, and now with you from the USDA and Uncle Bobby, it's exciting times. Thank you so much.

MR. NICHOLS: Yeah, yeah. Yeah, they're good people.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Full support.

MR. NICHOLS: I'm...I'm excited to work with all of them because they're extremely good, intelligent people that's got a lot of...a wealth of information. I use them every day, and I refer to them.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And...

MR. NICHOLS: And I've had presentations to us...and I'll...I'll shut up now. So, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah. And now we have the Department of Ag. And maybe we can move some of that implementing actions from under the Mayor to Ag, so it's --

MR. NICHOLS: Yeah. Yeah, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- exciting times for ag. So...so excited.

MR. NICHOLS: Yeah, yeah. Yeah. COVID is...COVID changed all of our lives, and it also is helping ag in a different way because we get our crops directly to consumers. Making price --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you so much.

MR. NICHOLS: -- makers instead of price takers. Okay. Enough of my speech. Sorry.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Nichols. Thank you, Chair. Exciting.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Member Sugimura (*audio interference*) Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. This is a committee that I sit on to represent the Council, and I will tell you that the two nominees are just awesome. I just saw...this is how awesome Buddy is. I just saw him at the listening session for Congresswoman Jill Tokuda. He is in touch...I mean I...I...I...when I saw your name for the Kula Ag Park Committee, I just thought what a blessing because the wealth of information that you can bring to the...many of the farmers that are too hard working and won't be able to go these kinds of meetings, and as well as you...you have a funding knowledge of how to help them. And it is always, you know, like you say, farmers need land, water, human resources, and...and money, right, and therefore, you can bring not only your knowledge, but also the money part because of what you do, you know, in your work. So, I'm excited to have you on the board. And, of course, I'm super excited of Dr. Caires to get reappointed because I have worked with him for the Kula...I mean for the...on this committee, as well as the axis deer committee, and all the different things. I think with...with Dr. Caires, when I first called him, he was actually on a horse helping somebody on their farm on a Sunday and rounding up cattle. I'm just so...I mean what more could you say, right? This guy lives and...and breathes agriculture. So, both of them, my overwhelming support. Thank you very much, Buddy, for all that you do. I look forward to working with you.

MR. NICHOLS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you --

MR. NICHOLS: You too.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: -- Member Sugimura. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Mr. Nichols, for your willingness to serve. So, it looks like the...the next Kula Ag Park expansion is geared toward more organic farming. So, I just wanted a...if you have any experience in your 30-plus years of farming with organic?

MR. NICHOLS: Yeah, we not...at USDA, we offer an organic program. I happen to be the...the representative for Hawai'i on the national committee for organics. And I work with quite a few organic farms, and my daughters turned our farm into organic, and yeah, it...it's...it's a good thing. Interesting financials for organics, but we've been able to utilize that...the fact is that people are willing to pay for it, so we're willing to produce it. Yeah, it's good. So, thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, that...okay. Enough said. That answered my question. Mahalo. And then for Dr. Caires, Chair. Dr. Caires, I know that there were...

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: I don’t know if he’s on the line, but you’re welcome --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, he’s...he’s...

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: -- to continue. Yeah, unfortunately, I don’t think he can join us right now, but please continue with whatever you might need to say about him.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then I can just present. Maybe Mr. Nichols could also. So, it looks like in some of the plans, there are some other nearby properties for more expansion of the Kula Ag Park. So, I don’t know if you could speak to future expansion of the park...with this new expansion and...and us putting in the...the infrastructure, the water infrastructure, possibly looking at nearby lots that the...the County could acquire to expand the Kula Ag Park. The other question I had was, some of these farm leases are 50 years, and so for those elderly farmers that have kind of, you know, already did their farming during their early years, and now they still have, you know, another decade, maybe two, left on their...on their leases. Is there a process where...or they can...not surrender, but give it up to other farmers out there that...that might want to...that can, you know, actively farm versus some of the...the elderly farmers that...that have...are stuck in a long lease.

MR. NICHOLS: You’re asking...you’re asking me, sir? You want me to respond? Yeah. Yeah, as far as leases go, yeah, they need to be adaptable to going across generations. No question about that. They need to be moved from generation to generation, whether it’s within your family or the next generation to come so that that land is utilized. That’s so key . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . we only have...you know, there’s a limit to the land. So, there’s only so much, so we need to be...we need to make sure we can pass it on and it stays productive. As far as land made available, there are plenty of farmers out there that want...that need land to get started with. And I also look at the County’s role as a...as a kind of, if you will, a bit of an incubator type of business, as these guys grow and develop and produce more crops, they can start acquiring more land on...on their own as well. So, we’re talking about multigeneration family investment. That’s what it...that’s what ag is, it’s a multigeneration family investment. We got to keep our kids on the...on the property, that’s why we have 4-H program, FFA program, so on and so forth. So, yeah, that...there’s things we need...yeah, there’s things we can develop, or we should develop, or we should incorporate somehow legally to make that happen for . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Mr. Nichols. Mahalo, Chair.

MR. NICHOLS: Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Do we have any other questions, Members --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: -- before moving on? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just a quick question. Do you foresee any concerns with attendance?

MR. NICHOLS: Pardon me?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Attendance. Do you...do you foresee any challenges attending meetings?

MR. NICHOLS: Oh, no. Oh, no. Oh, no. No. It’s a priority in my life. A priority above my job and everything else to serve my community. When I was on the master gardener thing, they wouldn’t pay for my way, so I had...I took time off, no problem. So, I’ll do whatever it takes. That’s not a problem. For a farmer, I understand.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Nichols. And I...you’ve already answered my two other questions I usually ask the nominees. So, mahalo, and mahalo for your willingness to continue to contribute to the community. Mahalo, Chair.

MR. NICHOLS: It’s an honor and a pleasure. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. If we have (*audio interference*) other questions for our nominees, I’d like to recommend...I’d like to entertain a motion to recommend the adoption of Resolution 23-95.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So move.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Motion made by Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura, second by Council Chair Alice Lee. Unless there’s any further discussion at the time, I’d like to entertain a motion to recommend Dr. Kyle Caires and Richard “Buddy” Nichols to the names be placed on Exhibit “B” for

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approval.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So move.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Motion made by Councilmember Sugimura and second by Councilmember Tom Cook. Any further discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor of the amendment, please raise your hand and say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that’s eight “ayes,” zero “noes,” one excused. The motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: AMEND RESOLUTION 23-95.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yay.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Main motion as amended. Please raise your hand and say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, again that’s eight “ayes,” zero “noes,” one excused. The motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 23-95, CD1.

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

MR. NICHOLS: Thank you. Have a great day.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: You too. Next we have Resolution 23-96, the nomination of Mr. Childers to the Maui Redevelopment Agency. Again, Members, we'll be implementing a three-minute questioning period with a one-minute follow up. He is at our podium now, Members. So, if we have any questions, please raise your hand. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Childers, for your willingness to serve. I just...I guess my main question is, what is...what is your vision of Wailuku, and where it is now, and where...where you'd like to see it be?

MR. CHILDERS: Well, you know, I (*audio interference*) and I spend a lot of time in...in town. I would like to see more of what started pre-COVID when we were having the open, you know, walks in front of the 'Īao Park...Park [*sic*] Theatre and...and, you know, having those Saturdays and events out there. I've...I spent a lot of time down here. My daughter does dance, so we...they've been doing dance at the 'Īao Parkside. I would love to see that particular area become more lit actually, at night, so that we have more lighting in that particular area. And maybe possibly...I mean I was reading through some of the...I think it was the review, the Wailuku Redevelopment Area plan last night, and it did discuss a little bit of blight that has, you know, that we are starting to see on a certain end, I believe it's the north end down there. I...I would like to see a little bit of cleanup of that, or at least have a say in that, or at least look into that a little more. But that just...that's what comes to the top of the mind.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Cool, cool. And...and do you have a preference, certain colors of light, I guess, affect the seabird. Just that it's lighted, but not...not to harm seabirds --

MR. CHILDERS: Yes. I...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- or...

MR. CHILDERS: Yeah. I...I (*audio interference*) there's a light ordinance, especially with the...I wouldn't want to make it anything brighter than just having some light for walking up and down the side streets. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: (*Audio interference*) perfect, perfect. And then I guess in terms of like the historical aspect of Wailuku, and the culture, and are you...are you familiar with...with those aspects?

MR. CHILDERS: So, I took a read last night through the plans, and I did learn quite a bit about the historical...of the...of the history of Wailuku, and I will certainly be reading into that quite a bit more and learning more about the...the old type of architecture that was there. So, the...the plan itself is...is very well written, you can learn quite a bit about the history of Wailuku there. I read it all last night, I will probably read it several more times if I become a member.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Awesome. And I think for my last question, who...who do you go to like for advice on cultural things? Like I know...I mean not the whole state of Oklahoma, but it's...it's kind of like small towny-ish too, and I'm not sure if you're from a small town or anything. But in terms of like I don't suppose they have a lot of Hawaiian culture there, so I just was wondering, do you have somebody --

MR. CHILDERS: Well, I...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- that . . .(*timer sounds*). . . advises?

MR. CHILDERS: Well, I (*audio interference*) so I'm...I'm indigenous. So, and I've meet, you know, quite a few friends and peers here in Maui, and in Hawai'i in general. So, I...I understand, you know, the culture...I...I don't understand the culture, so I don't want to say that, but I understand the...the need to keep cultural values. And, you know, to be quite honest with you, I've learned more about culture here having lived in Hawai'i than I ever did in Oklahoma. You know, the...the Native Americans' culture was pretty decimated, so as far as, you know, learning my language and things like that, I...I didn't really have those opportunities. So, to see a thriving Hawaiian culture here, it's...it's amazing, and I...I'm interested every time someone speaks of it. So, you know, I learn from my peers and I...my

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knowledge would be about 20 years or so.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you so much, Mr. Childers. That's the time. It was very nice meeting you briefly virtually, and thank you for your willingness to serve. Thank you, Chair. I'll be supporting the nominee. I kind of got chicken skin.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Agreed. Thank you, Member Paltin. Members, do we have any other questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Childer...no, I said it wrong.

MR. CHILDERS: It's okay. It's Wakon Childers.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Childer...Childers. Wakon Childers.

MR. CHILDERS: Childers, Childers, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your willingness to serve on the MRA. Member Paltin kind of got most of the responses I would have asked questions to. So, I'll just ask about your attendance. Do you foresee any challenges with attendance for the meetings?

MR. CHILDERS: No, I did look into that last night. The agenda and the minutes seem to show that there was like a monthly meeting, and I don't have (*audio interference*) attending monthly. I am available quite often in my...as my role at the company as president and head. I'm...I'm available, and I can make myself available most any day.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, did you ever attend any of the meetings, or watch a recording or review any of the meeting minutes? Are you familiar with the work that they do?

MR. CHILDERS: (*audio interference*) the meeting minutes last night for a couple of the meetings. I know the last one was cancelled, but I just briefly went through and looked at it last night. I was actually notified yesterday I...that I would be coming today, so I just...I tried to take a look at and see what I could do. I pretty much read the website. Learned everything I could on there.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for making this a priority on a short notice. I appreciate your willingness to serve. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Mahalo. Member Sinenci?

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just a quick question for Mr. Childers. Have you...are you familiar with the Maui Academy of Performing Arts? I understand that they own several buildings in the area, and so, they're focused on expanding the...the whole...the performing arts up in Wailuku.

MR. CHILDERS: Yes. So, pre-COVID, my daughter was a member of MAPA, or the Maui Academy of...yes, of MAPA, so I'm familiar with the organization. I...she...I...is no longer in that organization. But, you know, I...I am aware...I've looked at a couple of those buildings actually for termites, so I am aware of the state of a couple of those buildings. And...and I am actually aware of a lot of those buildings downtown as far as a termite inspector. I've been inside them, looked at structural elements, looked at, you know, the state of them. So, you know, I know that there's some need for fixing up down there.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Great. Thank you. Maybe they could get a discount. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, real fast. Be...one of the benefits of sitting (*audio interference*) is you get to talk to the people who are seated in the Chamber, and I got to talk to him during the recess. But I just want to say besides supporting you, thank you very much for your commitment to one of my favorite towns. But he sat the whole time with his father-in-law, Mr. Bowman, who's also sitting here, so I just wanted to say it looks you have a, you know, a good relationship with generations, and I appreciate your interest. So, thank you very much. I fully support. Call for the question.

MR. CHILDERS: Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I would love to, but you guys keep asking questions. Nah, just play. Okay. Do we have any more questions? If not, I would love to continue. Great. So, at this time I'd like to entertain a motion to recommend the adoption of Resolution 23-96.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Second.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Motion made by Councilmember Cook, seconded by Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura. And unless there's any further discussion at this time, I'd like to entertain a motion to recommend Mr. Childers' name to be placed on Exhibit "B" for approval.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 23-96, CD1.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Congratulations. Thank you so much. All right. Lastly, we have Resolution 23-97, the nominations of Harry Hecht; Ricky Sanches, the reappointment of; and Phillip Stephens or Uncle Mango to the Urban Design Review Board. Questions will be limited to three minutes--aloha, Chair--with a one-minute follow-up round. Members, at this time if you have any questions, please raise your hand. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Once it was clarified that the candidate was Uncle Mango, I don't think I had any more questions for that nominee. I guess my only question is if the County can hire Mr. Harry Hecht as a civil engineer because, you know, we need those. Other than that, I'm all good. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: All right. Anybody else have any further questions for the two nominees at this time? Okay. Seeing none. Right now I'd (*audio interference*) recommend the adoption of Resolution 23-97.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So move.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Motion made by Councilmember Sugimura, second by Councilmember Cook. And unless there's any further discussion at this time, I'd like to entertain a motion to recommend Ricky Sanches and Phillip Stephens' name to be placed on Exhibit "B" for approval, and Harry Hecht's name to be placed on Exhibit "C" for disapproval.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So move.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Member Sugimura, motion made; Member Cook, second. Any further discussion? Seeing none. All those in favor of the amendment, please raise your hand and say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, I don’t see --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Chair Lee.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: -- Councilmember Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Chair Lee left.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: So, I believe that’s six “ayes.”

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Six “ayes.” Okay.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Three excused.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yes.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Three excused.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: The motion carries.

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

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmember Kama, Lee, and Sinenci.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **AMEND RESOLUTION 23-97.**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Main motion as amended. All those in favor please raise your hand and say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Hana hou.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED AYE.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Hana hou.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that’s six “ayes,” zero “noes,” three excused. The motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Kama, Lee, and Sinenci.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION 23-97, CD1.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you, Members. This item will move on to consideration. At this time this concludes the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting. Thank you very much, Members. The time is now 4:29 and this meeting is adjourned. . . .(gavel). . .

ADJOURN: 4:30 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



NOHELANI U‘U-HODGINS, Chair
Government Relations, Ethics, and
Transparency Committee

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Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 73 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 21st day of June 2023, in Kula, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck