

**MAUI COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

**January 5, 2026
9:00 AM**

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

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

Video recording of meeting available at: www.mauicounty.legistar.com

Roll Call

Councilmember	Pres.	Abs.	Exc.	Time(s) In/Out (during meeting)
CM Kauanoe Batangan	✓			
Vice Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura	✓			
CM Tamara Paltin			✓	
CM Gabe Johnson	✓			
CM Keani Rawlins-Fernandez	✓			
CM Tom Cook	✓			
CM Nohelani U'u-Hodgins	✓			
CM Shane Sinenci	✓			
Chair Alice L. Lee	✓			
TOTAL PRESENT	8		1	

Reso 26-1 "AMENDING RESOLUTION 25-5, FD1, ON THE COUNCIL'S STANDING COMMITTEES' VOTING MEMBERS"

	AYE	NO	EXC	Time Deliberations Began	
CM Batangan	✓			Time Motion Made	9:12 a.m.
VC Sugimura	✓			Motion	Adopt
CM Paltin			✓	Maker	Sugimura
CM Johnson	✓			Seconder	U'u-Hodgins
CM Rawlins-Fernandez	✓			Time Vote Taken	9:16 a.m.
CM Cook	✓				

CM U'u-Hodgins	✓				
CM Sinenci	✓				
Chair Lee	✓				
TOTAL VOTES	8		1	MOTION PASSED	

Time meeting adjourned: 9:20 a.m.

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Well, the special meeting of January 5 2026. Please come to order. It's 905, and I just realized it's My brother's birthday Good morning. Council members, staff and members of the public. Special aloha to our new Luis member Carnoy But Tonga sworn in this morning. The special council meeting of January 5 will come to order and make clerk. Please proceed with roll call. Thank you, Chair. Proceeding with roll call. If there are any members that are participating online, please let us know who, if anyone except minors are present with you Councilmember Cohen, I be Tonga here Vice Chair you please to Kimura here Council Member Tomorrow paulton Excuse councilmember Gabe Johnson Aloha Chair.

Council members. Committee members. There's no testifiers at the Ninth District office. Now. I'm here and ready to work. Mahalo. Council member County Rollins Fernandez our law clerk. Clerk. Yaka chair. Aloha Yuka call Lono incoming Keiki There are currently no testifiers at the Molokai District office. Mahalo. Thank you. Council member Tom Cook happily here and there are no testifiers in Kihei, but we have staff on standby Thank you, Councilman No. Hey, Lani Hudgins Good morning, everyone. Happy New Year Councilmember Shane Nancy Aloha. Cook. I echo happy birthday and Welcome aboard. Thank you. You. And Council Chair Alice Lee good morning.

I'm here to you. We have eight members present. One excuse you have a quorum to conduct the business of the council for the record, I am the county clerk. One Ludie and seated next to me is the deputy clerk, Rochelle Thompson also from the office of the county Clerk or Legislative Division staff. Joyce moore, as she Dale Yoshida and Arthur C Yama assisting the council with maintaining order and decorum is council Ambassador Ryan Martins joining the meeting from the office of Council Services is Director david Roberts and Legislative Attorney Megan Moniz and from the Department of the Corporation Council is corporation council Victoria Tucker USA and First Deputy Mimi Jordan So do we have any testifiers here?

We have one Testifier currently signed up. And that is Andrew Amaral Cross His cross is coming down. I just wanted to let you know member call me, but the ongoing. We have a tradition here. So being the newest member, you have to buy us lunch That's where Chairwoman those that include the audience as well Yeah, why not now anyway Aloha. Aloha Aloha Good morning, my friend I'm Xandra. I'm Raul Cross testifying on your agenda. I don't, Madam. And I believe that to 96 One I'd like to take the opportunity to welcome the new member of your body who will be representing the citizens of Maui Noy and Tasha karmas, please.

I'm sure he'll do a great job all of as all of you as the new year came There is one thing that well, I'd like to First of all say the past three years have been very trying for all of you and the administration and our mayor and his staff And I'd like to say, as a citizen, thank you very much for the job you've done and continue to do And offer. Know that I've been very difficult, especially for the citizens of Lahaina and other areas But I am really I was looking over the suggested communities and I was very happy with what I saw I know that with the new council member, there were Three very good candidates and I'd like to tell the sitting council that I know it was very very difficult for all of you and making a selection and thank You all, and thank you for those that stepped up in the coming year.

I think that collaboration and between yourselves One thing I'd like to eliminate or see eliminated because I cannot eliminate that. I don't I don't said, what you said is the mentality of us against you. The Four five mentality might i do council members remember if you're thinking that you're one of the five, are you One of the four? You are putting that energy out to your fellow council members, which means if you're thinking it, you're owning it and you're projecting it not only to yourselves but to the community as well as we tell our children, as we think as we what's in our heart is what we do get rid of that mentality because all of you are far far above all of that.

I thank all of you. Look forward to you working very harmoniously And I know you won't agree on everything but that's okay. Just know that it's not four against five. It is nine for the county of Boeing. The citizens of Boeing knowing my law and thank you for spending all Christmas all Xandra hello happy new year. Thank you. Same to you. Any questions, members If not, thank you. And we have the next Testifier Sure, the next Testifier is Daniel Ornelas Good morning. Council members My name is Daniel. Unless I'm the district land agent for the state department of Land and Natural Resources But I'm here under my personal capacity just to welcome Call annoyed button gone to the team.

And I met this young man, as we all know, is very skilled and talented and I look forward to a prosperous 2026 with all other members I met him through the First Nations program. With the coming of our schools. It was a program where they tried to gather mid profession goals to create networks and organizations and relationships. So that we can move our people forward in a more productive and worthwhile way. Because Hawaii, we have so much assets as you guys all know, and deal with on a daily basis. So do I. So anything I can bring to the table to better coordinate and help in that whole vision and dream, I'm here.

And again, call Illinois. Congratulations. Welcome to the team. And good luck council members in this new year. Thank you. Thank you. You, Daddy. Any questions if not. Happy New Year to you, too. Turn. There's currently no one else signed up to testify, is there? If there is anyone in chambers who would like to please make your way to the podium. Otherwise, you can raise your hand in teams. This is last call and the countdown is 3, 2, 1. Chair there's no one indicating a desire to testify. Members, are there any objections to closing public testimony and accepting written testimony?

OK. So ordered Miss Clark Turbeville for year's Resolution 26 one amending Resolution 25 551 on the council's standing committees Voting members vice chair suki Morrow. I will sit down I move to adopt resolution number 20 6-1 amending Resolution 20 5-5 51 on the Council standing committees voting members moves by Vice Chair Sycamore seconded by Member Hodgins to adopt a Resolution 20 6-1 amending Resolution 20 5-5 51 Discussion Vice Chair Sycamore Yes. Thank you. I'd like to welcome our new member, Carnoy, but tonkin. And as you can see by the resolution, he's pretty much has adopted the positions that were once occupied or done by our late member, Tasha comma.

So I support what you have proposed here. Any more discussion No discussion Member Rollins Fernandez followed her I, I support the motion on the floor. That's what I expected that we were going to do it. Appreciate it. Does all of that, but it just changes our member Hodgins, from the great committee chair to the vice chair and has member with someone as the chair there. And then member Hodgins as the chair of each other. You and member. But hang on as the vice chair. So it does change out. Like where late member comma was positioned. That's the only change for the public information and what am I to remember?

But hang on maybe just remember, if you high your last name missing incorrectly or how do you because I heard a couple of ways I'm glad you asked that question. I think. Wait a minute. I get sorry. I thought I knew both teams. And this Mike thank you, Chair. And thank you member Rollins Fernandez for the question It's annoying, but I'm going Good OK Mahalo. Yeah And so I support this monitor. Thank you Member Johnson thank you, Chair. I'll just add one more change in the roster of my committee. The debt committee where the new council member, Barton Gunn, will be joining the TCP/IP Committee and council member yuki sugiyama will be leaving my committee.

So with his experience in public transportation it's one of the topics matters of my committee I welcome with open arms and extend a laurel and Hardy handshake to you. And welcome aboard. Thank you, Chair. Thank you. Any more discussion Mr.. So, Nancy, you feel left out because we we do we mispronounce your and we always butcher my name. Oh, sorry Each insulting pair. May we ask a member to please pronounce it for us so that we can be and that's. And then she. There's an H in there. No Oh, thank you, Chair. I, too, wanted to welcome a board member, but tongue into the gun a tongue and gun, not give Yeah, but tongue gun to the of what subcommittee and we have a lot of discussions about mental health then and the houseless community.

A lot of which is in the central district. So so I'm glad you're on board. And you can offer a lot of recommendations in the subcommittee. So supportive Chair. Thank you All right. Any more discussion if not all those in favor of the motion, please raise your hands. I absolutely. I see Eight eyes on excuse motion carries Right, members. That brings us to the end of the calendar for this item. However, we have a more exciting exciting meeting at 1:30 this afternoon. I look forward to see you all again this and this meeting is adjourned