

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

March 10, 2026

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 1:31 p.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

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

STAFF: Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney
Maria Leon, Committee Secretary
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Offices

Keomailani Hirata, Council Aide, Molokai Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office
Chaelin Ryu, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor (All)
Josiah Nishita, Managing Director, Department of Management (All)
Caleb P. Rowe, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel (All)

OTHERS: Jacalyn M.C. Takakura (GREAT-1(1))
Margaret Y. Willis (GREAT-1(2))

Testifiers

Sam Small (GREAT-1(1))
Chris Salem (GREAT-1(1))
Jasee Law (GREAT-1(1) and -1(2))
Nicole Huguenin (GREAT-1(2))
Lisa Darcy (GREAT-1(2))
Richard Bloom (GREAT-1(2))
Leepi Shimkhada (GREAT-1(2))

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Mo'i Kawaakoa (GREAT-1(2))
Julie DeRose (GREAT-1(2))
Zhantell Lindo (GREAT-1(2))
Testifier 1 – The Royal House of Hawai'i (GREAT-1(2))

(40+) additional attendees

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

CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting of March 10, 2026, come to order. It is 1:31 p.m. I am your Chair, Kauanoë Batangan. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Committee Vice-Chair Nohelani U'u-Hodgins.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Good morning...good afternoon, Chair. Good afternoon, everyone.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lāna'i District Office, and I'm here and ready to work. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good afternoon, Chair. Shalom. I'm here in my workspace alone. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha 'auinalā kākou. Streaming live and direct from the Council Chambers, and I'll turn on my camera once it gets enabled.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez is excused. Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I just see her popping on, Chair, but aloha 'auinalā.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Councilmember. And Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good afternoon. And looking forward to a productive meeting. Thank you.

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CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, thank you. I guess we'll circle back to Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha 'auinalā, Chair. Aloha 'auinalā kākou, mai Molokai Nui a Hina. I'm at my private residence here with my daughter. There are currently no testifiers at the Molokai District Office. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. From the corporate...from Corporation Counsel, we have with us Caleb Rowe.

MR. ROWE: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. We also have with us the Mayor, Managing Director, and the Mayor's appointees for Planning Director and Director of Human Concerns, as well as our GREAT Committee Staff. Good afternoon, everyone. Everybody, please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity.

ITEM 1(1): RESOLUTION 26-38, APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JACALYN M.C. TAKAKURA AS DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, we have before us Resolution 26-38, entitled "APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF JACALYN M.C. TAKAKURA AS DIRECTOR OF PLANNING." Resolution 26-38's purpose is to approve the appointment of Jacalyn M.C. Takakura as Director of Planning, effective February 1st, 2026, in accordance with Section 8-8.2 of the revised Charter of the County of Maui, 1983, as amended. May I please have opening remarks from the Mayor or Managing Director?

MR. BISSEN: Aloha, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee. Mahalo for the opportunity to appear before you today to present my nomination of Jacky Takakura to serve as the Director of the County of Maui Department of Planning. Jacky has dedicated more than two decades of service to Maui County government, beginning her career with the County in 1998. Over the years, she has served in both the Department of Water Supply and the Department of Planning, gaining a deep understanding of how our land use decisions intersect with infrastructure, environmental stewardship, and community development. Within the Planning Department, Jacky has worked in the Zoning and Enforcement Division, served as Deputy Planning Director, and most recently, as the Long-Range Division Planning Program Administrator. Through these roles, she's demonstrated strong leadership, sound judgment, and the ability to navigate complex issues while keeping the needs of our community at the forefront. One of Jacky's greatest strengths is her ability to see the big picture while remaining focused on the steps needed to move important work forward. She approaches the complex challenges methodically, continually refining and improving processes to better serve both the department and the public. She brings a steady, thoughtful, and well-respected leadership style that is calm, attentive to the needs of Staff and the community, and grounded in a strong commitment to customer

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service and timely responsiveness. At this moment in our County's history, the Planning Department plays a critical role in helping us move these priorities forward. We must expand housing opportunities for local families, ensure critical public safety infrastructure can proceed in a timely manner, and support recovery efforts, particularly the rebuilding of Lahaina's commercial core. Jacky came into this work with specific priorities for her first 90 days aimed at strengthening permitting processes, supporting housing supply, advancing recovery efforts, and improving the Department's responsiveness and transparency. Although she is only 38 days into the role, Jacky has already begun making progress on several priorities focused on permitting capacity, housing supply, and recovery. Expedited permitting capacity has been increased through the contractor, 4LEAF, to assist with special management area applications outside of Lahaina, while Staff continue processing permits for key infrastructure projects, such as Pi'ilani Highway improvements, the North-South Collector Road in Kihei, and historic bridge repairs in Hāna. Housing-related reforms are also moving forward, including proposals to allow two accessory dwelling units in residential and rural districts, and the continued review of Hotel districts H-3 and H-4 through the planning commissions. The Department is also advancing land use entitlements for the Ha'ikū and Olowalu fire stations, and updated Lahaina National Historic Landmark District guidelines to support the rebuilding of Front Street Apartments. In addition, a bill updating Chapter 2.80B passed first reading on March 6, 2026. The South Maui Community Plan is expected to be transmitted to the Council within the next three months, and the County will soon appear before the Land Use Commission regarding Hawaiian Cement to help ensure continued local concrete supply for Maui's construction economy. Just as important, Jacky brings a strong connection to our community. She grew up in Kahului, is a graduate of Baldwin High School, and today resides in Waikapū. She understands the importance of thoughtful planning and protecting the character of our communities while ensuring we meet the needs of future generations. I'm confident in Jackie's Jacky's ability to lead the Department of Planning during this important time, and I respectfully ask for the Committee's favorable recommendation and the Council's confirmation of her appointment. Mahalo for your consideration. My team and I are happy to answer any questions. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mayor. Managing Director, do you have opening remarks as well?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I just was going to provide some comments as...as it relates to Jacky meeting the qualifications as set forth, and if that's appropriate now, I'd be happy to. If not, I'll wait until the appropriate time. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Managing Director. We'll take those now.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I think many of you have already worked with Jacky and have known Jacky for some time now. We're very pleased and honored that she has joined our team and is willing to serve our community in this role at such an important time in our community. I...I think many of you are already aware of her extensive amount of years of experience working with the Planning Department, also serving as the Deputy Director. She served in a division head role as well for a few years and has

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been involved with the budget process for the Department of Planning since 2014. Chair, I think for the...any areas that the Members have questions on, I'd be happy to address that when deliberations occur, but I think, in essence, that covers the essence of the qualification provisions. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Managing Director. Jacky, would you like to provide opening remarks?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you, Chair Batangan. Aloha, Committee Chair Batangan, Council Chair Lee, and Councilmembers. As you know, my name is Jacky Takakura, and since February 1st, I've been serving as the Acting Planning Director. I'd like to take this opportunity to share a little bit about my background and why I would appreciate your support for this confirmation. So, first off about me. I was born and raised in Central Maui and currently live in Waikapū Ahupua'a, Wailuku moku. I attended Christ the King School, Lihikai School, and Baldwin High School. My mother's second generation, or Nisei, from Kahului Camp. My father was in the Army during World War II, missing and presumed dead in the Philippines. He survived, and when the war ended, he returned and eventually attended UH Mānoa on the GI Bill where he met my mom. They were both schoolteachers here in the DOE system. My father was one of the founders of Valley Isle Roadrunners and the Run to the Sun. My mother volunteered at the hospital auxiliary after she retired. And I mention them because they provided good guidance and a strong work ethic, which I think is why I'm here today. After high school, I attended University of Washington in Seattle for five years, and I earned two Bachelors of Arts, one in Business Administration and one in Japanese Language and Literature. And then I returned to Maui in 1996 and began my career with the County in 1998 as an Administrative Assistant to the Director of Water Supply. I moved up to Departmental Information Specialist and then Administrative Officer, and I held that position at Water Supply and at Planning. In 2019, I joined the Zoning Administration and Enforcement Division as Administrative Planning Officer. And then, as the Mayor mentioned, and Josiah mentioned, I...for six months in 2022, I was a Deputy Director of Planning. Since 2023, I've been the Planning Program Administrator for the Long-Range Division. So, through all those different positions, I've managed different groups, like the plans reviewer team, when I did temporary assignment for the Zoning Administrator, managing the entire Zoning Division, and then six months as the Deputy Director, assisting the Director with managing the entire Department, and then for Long-Range Division, managing that team. And then in...throughout the various positions, I've also worked on the budget every year in different capacities, including on the personnel and the positions, and then funding the various operations, and then the A, B, and C accounts, and even doing budget amendments for Planning Department. So, I'm very familiar with the budget process, I mean, provided it hasn't changed too much, so... Anyways, while working as ZAED Administrative Planning Officer, I also attended the University of Hawai'i Department of Urban and Regional Planning, and earned my professional certificate in December 2021. So, why am I willing to take on the huge responsibility of the Director position? So, as you may know, the Department is responsible for zoning, zoning enforcement, building permit review, discretionary permits, such as changes of zoning, community plan amendments, and short-term rental permits. And we manage the SMA and the

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shoreline area, we re...review subdivisions, we manage the General Plan updates, we track implementation, we update legislation, and we're responsible for seven boards and commissions. We implement Maui County Code Titles 2.80B, 19, and 16.13. We have the Cultural Resources Program, and we do variances and appeals. And for me, with my experience, I'm familiar with all these terms. I'm not a subject-matter expert in all of them by any means, but I do know the people who are. And this brings me to why I'm willing to do the job. It's for the people who are doing this work. These are my coworkers, who I go to for help, and who ask me for assistance. We have a huge responsibility, and if I can help them to do their job, I'm willing to sit in the Director's chair. And likewise, I will be relying on them to help me do my job. I want to acknowledge the previous directors, most recently Aoki and Blystone, who have laid the foundation for a good place to work, and for me to be able to take this on. Also, Deputy Director Lillis. Thanks to their efforts, this difficult job is a little bit less difficult. The Planning Director has a lot going on within the Department, but also with the other departments. We work closely with Public Works, Office of Recovery, 'O'iwi Resources, Corporation Counsel, Water Supply, and other departments, so that we can all get our work done, and I hope to continue that. I'm honored and humbled to be considered for this important job. I'm here to help others, and with the Department having so much to do, if I can keep things moving, then I'll have done my job. Chair Batangan, I can talk about goals and projects if you want, or if you've had enough of me, that's fine. It's up to you. Thanks. But thank you very much for your consideration.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Ms. Takakura. Okay. Members, before moving on to discussion, I'll receive testimony for GREAT-1(1). So, for Members of the public, that is only the resolution for the Planning Director, Ms. Takakura. Staff, can...do we have anybody to...

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, we do, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Before we start calling the names, I will read the...the policies and procedures for testimony. Testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up in the lobby, join the online meeting via the Teams link, or call in to 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. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting, and...sorry, no, just as the items are being called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hands by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone, star-5 to raise and lower your hand, and star-6 to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers sign up or raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the name you're logged in under or the last four digits of your phone number when it is your time to testify. At that time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. Please ensure your name appears in Microsoft Teams as the name you prefer to be referred to or as anonymous if you wish to testify anonymously. If you're in person, please notify Staff that you would like to testify anonymously. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you're still testifying beyond that

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time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. Once you're done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We will do our...we will do our best to take each person up in an orderly fashion. We'll now call on testifiers wishing to testify on GREAT-1(1). Staff, please call the first testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the first individual signed up to testify is Nicole Huguenin, to be followed by Sam Small.

MS. HUGUENIN: Aloha. I'm actually calling to testify for a 26-39.

MS. MACDONALD: No problem, we'll add your name for that item.

MS. HUGUENIN: Mahalo.

MS. MACDONALD: Then Chair, the next individual signed up to testify is Sam Small. *(pause)* Sorry, we're just promoting you right now.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-1(1) . . .

MR. SMALL: Open microphone, and camera can't be...that's all right. You don't...no available camera found. My apologies, don't know why. Can you hear me, though?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes. You may proceed with your testimony.

MR. SMALL: Okay. Look, as always, it's an honor to participate in the democratic process. The appointment of a new planning director would normally be routine, except that the Planning Department is currently responsible for one of the most controversial permitting failures in Maui County history...Greg Brown's 45-foot structure in Nāpili, which was permitted as an eight-bedroom single-family home. Today, we know several things. The County tax department lists it as 12 bedrooms. Real estate brokers marketing the property list it as 12 bedrooms. And anybody looking at the building plans can see that it was really designed as two six-bedroom homes side-by-side, complete with two kitchens, two entrances, two electrical systems, and even originally two pools and hot tubs. So, how did a 12-bedroom duplex get an SMA permit exemption as an 8-bedroom single-family home? Mr. Brown's lawyer, Jeff Ueoka, spent 12 years as Deputy Corporation Counsel. Do I believe that got Brown preferential treatment? Yes, I do. Mr. Ueoka testified that Brown followed the rules and got everything permitted. But after the Palama Drive debacle, the Council passed legislation to make it very clear that receiving a permit does not make an illegal structure legal if that permit was obtained using false information. There were very real benefits to Brown misrepresenting this structure as an eight-bedroom single-family home. He avoided higher sewer capacity and connection fees, additional parking infrastructure requirements, greater zoning scrutiny over 45-foot-tall hotel...hotel-scale height standards, and its conflicting residential use, larger utility infrastructure requirements, the risk of a Multifamily classification, which would disqualify the SMA exemption, and

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the need to secure an actual certificate of occupancy, which is revocable. There were also unresolved issues around parking. Brown dedicated four parking spaces to the County along Hui Road, which the County does not control. That road falls under the jurisdiction of the Second Circuit Court. So, what happens when the community goes to the court, and...because we have standing, that...that it asks the court to examine the legality of the permits that produced those dedications. The evidence of false information is now overwhelming. The tax department confirms 12 bedrooms. The real estate brokers selling the property confirm . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . 12 bedrooms. And the building plans show that it was...that it's really a duplex. Had an official investigation into this --

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mr. Small.

MR. SMALL: -- that the Council --

CHAIR BATANGAN: Can you please conclude?

MR. SMALL: -- . . .*(inaudible)*. . . nine to zero not been canceled, these misdealings would have been exposed long ago, and the County would not be paying millions of dollars to an outside law firm, KSG, to defend at all costs the suit brought by Chris Salem because he was wrongfully terminated when he blew the whistle on Brown.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Mr. Small, you have 30 seconds to conclude.

MR. SMALL: Thank you very much.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

MR. SMALL: Planning Director Michelle McLean failed to issue an official notice of violations after inspectors issued a stop-work order. Brown...instead, she sent Brown a private letter and negotiated compliance behind closed doors. The nominee before you served as Deputy Planning Director during that period, so the public deserves a direct answer to a simple question. If confirmed, will the new Planning Director enforce the law publicly and transparently, or will we continue to see violations quietly negotiated . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . with developers behind closed doors?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mr. Small. Members, any clarifying questions for the testifier?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: No.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Seeing none. Staff, can you please call the next testifier?

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. The next individual signed up to testify is Christopher Salem. *(pause)* Mr. Salem, you have been promoted. You may just need to unmute your camera and mic on your end. If you see a line across the camera and mic icon in the top right-hand corner, you'll have to click there to remove the line and unmute yourself.

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MR. SALEM: Okay. I think I managed to outwit it, as they say.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, we can hear you. Please begin.

MR. SALEM: Thank you so much. Many of the areas that I was going to cover are...were covered by Mr. Small's testimony. It's interesting, which is shifting, my written testimony already covers a lot of that as well. I think the Council needs to know that during this process in the last week or so of talking to the Real Property Tax individuals--and by the way, I want to make a comment about Planning Department and all departments. The County is filled with wonderful County employees in all those departments, and true to form as in the Real Property Tax, these are mothers, fathers, you know, soccer coaches, et cetera. I'm not sure I can say the same all the time for our political individuals or appointees. We have the Mayor in attendance today, who's a former judge. He's well aware of what Mr. Small just said. Hui Roads are under the jurisdiction of the Second Circuit Court. You cannot vest parking in an SMA permit along a Hui Road. And I would hope the Mayor would step forward with his knowledge of the fact that those Hui Roads are actually on his desk to be transferred, like Hui Road F, from the State of Hawai'i. And so, staying on point to the Planning...the newly appointed Planning Director. It's disturbing to find out that she entered the office of the Planning Department in 2019, which is the same time that I entered the Mayor's Office as a Legislative Liaison. During my appointment, along with Councilmember Shane Sinenci, we adopted a Committee item called SMA Enforcement. During my appointment, I was responsible for the efforts to repeal the Upcount...Upcountry Water Bill that was being abused by A&B, by a former Parks Director in I'ao Valley, et cetera. I also provided redlines of the SMA permit that...the proposed changes. I also provided redlines to the proposed changes and the audit of Title 19. Unfortunately, right after the SMA enforcement committee items came into play, up...out of my town, my community, probably ten houses from me, comes Greg Brown. I'm getting bombarded by citizens at Nāpili Market, at schools, at everybody. What in the world is going on with that project? I'm personally responsible for the stop work orders, along with a couple of fellow, like Junya Nakoia, Kanamu Balinbin. Ultimately, as Mr. Small stated, which is a complete violation, the Director, through a letter, instead of notice, which would have sent this to the Planning Commission and we could have shown all of this, citizens were once again denied of our rights to public hearings. So, wrapping . . .(timer sounds). . . this up on the Brown situation. The newly-discovered evidence proves those applications showing eight bedrooms were falsified. There's no discretionary authority for this new Director to not make a determination as to whether that's grounds for revocation. It's not my concern whether she comes up with some convoluted way of why that 45-foot hotel structure --

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mr. Salem.

MR. SALEM: -- is legal.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Can you please conclude?

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MR. SALEM: I will. The point is, you will be receiving, as soon as you're appointed, a letter demanding a determination that we're allowed to appeal to the Planning Commission, and then ultimately, the Second Circuit Court. This matter's not going away, and my family has suffered immense consequences. My last point. In the review with the tax office, I discovered Mr. Brown didn't pay his full valuations in 2024. The County of Maui, as a result of my efforts, once again, will receive \$169,000. I hope you can use that to pay the attorneys to slaughter my family.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mr. Salem. Members, any clarifying questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff, can you please call the next testifier?

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. There's actually currently no one who is left signed up to testify, though I do see somebody in the Chamber approaching the podium.

MR. LAW: Aloha awakea. The first time I get to say Luna Ho'omalua Batangan. Jasee Law from Kula Uka. And...oh, first of all, I'd just like to pule kākou for the...when I first got here, the...the plane crashed on Lāna'i and we lost a couple of our employees in the Planning Department. So, you guys remember them, please. The word...I looked up the word planner in the Pukui-Elbert Dictionary. It says mea ho'olālā. And so, that's my word of Hawaiian for today. And I had some other stuff I wanted to say, but yeah, I'm here. And...oh, hi, Mr. Governor over there, Mr. Governor Bissen and Chief Nishita. I...I saw her in action at one of the Planning meetings and I thought she did a pretty good job...the...the one that's being nominated for, Jacalyn Taka...Takakura.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any clarifying questions for the testifier? Okay. Staff?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there's currently no one else who has signed up to testify. Would you like me to do a last call?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, please.

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

CHAIR BATANGAN: Members...Members, seeing there are no more individuals wishing to testify, without objection, I will now close oral testimony for this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-1(1) . . .

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. As a reminder to the public, written testimony will continue to be accepted. Members, Chair will be implementing a three-minute questioning period per Member with a three-minute follow-up round. If there's need to go into executive

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session, we can do so after the first round of questions. I'll start with this side and work my way down the row. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo to Ms. Takakura for your willingness to...to step up to the directorship. I am supportive. I did want to pose a question for you. In...in a couple instances, the Director has the ability to approve some projects on her own in certain cases. So, how...how do you...how would you balance, you know, that...that ability with bringing it to the community for...for input?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you for the question. Chair Batangan, if it's okay?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, Ms. Takakura.

MS. TAKAKURA: So, regarding approving projects or permits that the Director has the ability to approve, of course, I'm going to first look at what the Staff have researched and put together for...for me to...to review because they're the subject-matter experts. And then also, looking at similar projects and how they've been approved. And always the consequences or like, what are the impacts are going...are...are there going to be from this project? And are there going to be any unintended consequences? And I guess this makes me sound kind of old, but actual...having worked at the County for 27 years, I'm like one of the ones who can say, well, I remember back in whatever year we did this, and we had to do that. And so...and there's a few of us old timers that, you know, we...we kind of talk about how we've done things in the past and what were the consequences. And if something is going have...be impactful, then we...we can...we have...usually have that discretion to bump it up. And I might be checking with, you know, the Mayor's Office or a Corporation Counsel for guidance too. So, kind of a group decision, but making sure I have all the bases covered.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then as...as far as community input, are there...would you look at other venues for...for the community to...to possibly respond?

MS. TAKAKURA: So, regard...regarding community input, of course we have to follow the rules. Like if...if a per...public hearing is required, then we're going to do that. If it's going to be something that we think could be more contentious, we might, you know, work with the applicant to do more outreach. I do want to add like for Hāna Advisory Committee, they're super helpful in getting feedback from the Hāna community just because they're there and they know. So, that's been always helpful for projects out in...in your district, Councilmember.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I know sometimes the time doesn't allow for...for the Hāna Advisory Board [*sic*] to...to opine on some of these projects. So, would you support sending projects to...to the Hāna Advisory Committee?

MS. TAKAKURA: Yes. Yes. They've been super helpful in the...in the times that we have sent projects to them, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for your responses. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member U'u-Hodgins?

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Interim Director Takakura. I'm so happy you're in front of us today and take...willing to take on that role. I have two questions here, and one of them you were ready to answer in your opening statement. So, if you could please continue on on your thoughts for the goals for your Department.

MS. TAKAKURA: Okay. Chair, if...if...

CHAIR BATANGAN: Ms. Takakura.

MS. TAKAKURA: Okay. So, some of these things we've been working on and some of them are...are coming up. As a lot of you know, from the commercial workshop we had March 18th, expediting Lahaina permitting for commercial, and then residential, which we've already been doing and getting those through the process real...much more quickly. With housing, accessory dwelling units, and that's twofold. One is allowing ADUs in more areas, and then more of them, and then also a little bit bigger so that, you know, they're not so tiny, especially if it's like a family in there.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. TAKAKURA: Allowing housing in commercial areas, but always advocating for good planning, and that would include things like infrastructure, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit, and then keeping them affordable. Regarding the general plans, you folks were very helpful last Friday in approving at first reading the fixes to 2.80B so we can, you know, have electronic and digital maps, and use news media instead of newspapers, and things like that. We do want to finish the South Maui Community Plan review with...with the Council, and then, you know, we are working with the Central Maui Community Plan. I've seen some of you at our workshops. We ho...plan to have the draft ready before the end of this calendar year, and then starting on Upcountry Community Plan. Also working on the land use inventory update, which hasn't been done since 2014, and then socioeconomic forecast update. And then things, as has already been mentioned, for infrastructure, you know, the permitting for Olowalu and the Ha'ikū Fire Station, the Hāna historic bridges, the North-South Collector Road and Pi'ilani Highway. And then also working on procedures and public engagement for the vacation rental transitions, that's the H-3 and H-4, and then the Title 19 Update. We plan to present a general overview to the HLU in the summer, and then start on Article I, which will be the general provisions and processing in the fall. But we'll talk to you more about that when the time comes, when we have more plans. We've been kind of --

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

MS. TAKAKURA: -- making the calendar with the consultant in bite-sized pieces that are manageable.

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VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, lest we choke.

MS. TAKAKURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: You mentioned a couple other departments, and, you know, when we talk about housing, we...every department can only move so far without getting tripped over another department, whether it's water or wastewater or infrastructure. Do you foresee you folks having interdepartmental meetings to kind of discuss how we can all collectively move . . .(timer sounds). . . forward as it relates to affordable housing? But I did hear my bell, if you want to answer that on the next round...or up to Chair, but whatever works for you folks.

CHAIR BATANGAN: We'll hold it for the next round, to be fair to all the Members. Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, I also am happy with this. You have a lot of experience. I've worked with you in the past on different boards, and the institutional knowledge, especially in the Planning Department, I think is very important. If confirmed, how would you measure success for the Department?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Ms. Takakura?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you, Councilmember Cook. In terms of measuring success...well, to me, it's...it's just getting these projects done. It could be the resolutions, taking them to commissions, and then preparing the transmittal back to the County Council, and then the County Council approving updates to...or...you know, Title 19 or wherever it is in the Code. And, you know, I update the adopted legislation page. I'm like, yay, it's finally done, I can put it on done, you know. Other things like the South Maui Community Plan, we've had these milestones where we finished the Advisory Committee, we finished the Planning Commission, and now working on taking...bringing it back to you folks once we get 2.80B totally fixed. So, that...you know, just these accomplishments that we can kind of get them out of the way and then get onto the next thing. And like with the community plans, if we can be methodical, like...you know, as soon as we're done with South, we got to get going on Upcountry so that we always have two going on at a time. And, you know, it's...that's kind of like painting the Golden Gate Bridge, but, you know, we just got to keep moving. And it's a lot of different things. Other permits too, permit approvals, or, you know, with conditions and the engagement, and just finishing up just the millions of things we have going on.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. What I hear you saying is you'd like to have closure on each item that you're working on and get it done.

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MS. TAKAKURA: Absolutely. Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Great answer. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Mahalo, Mayor. Mahalo, Managing Director and Acting Director Takakura. Mahalo, Acting Director Takakura, for your willingness to take on this position in the last year of the term. Okay. So, let's see, I have a few questions. First, huge cause for celebration at the State of the County. Mayor announced the Office of Recovery has gotten permit review down to 44 days. I think you spoke a little bit to that in Member U'u-Hodgins' question, if you'd like to add anything more to overall permit review time?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Ms. Takakura?

MS. TAKAKURA: Okay. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. For the permit reviews, specifically for Lahaina, one of the things that has been super helpful with Office of Recovery is RCD number 6, and that is the administrative review of the Historic District permits. And so, that Historic District permits typically would have gone before the Cultural Resources Commission, but now they're going to be approved administratively by Staff to make sure that they still meet the Code and that they are still within the framework of the Historic District, so it's not a free-for-all. Things that are out of the realm of what they had before will...will definitely go back to the CRC, but at least the simple stuff, the rebuilds, can be done administratively. That's a big one for Historic District. The other thing is with the Special Management Area and having the exemption process, that's been super helpful, to...especially for rebuilds when they're...they're build...they're putting back what they had before. The other thing about the Special Management Area is 4LEAF is helping with the...the simpler ones, and that's not just for Lahaina, but that's for the larger area. But we are kind of watching them, you know, shadowing them as they figure it out to make sure that they're doing it the way we would do it. And I got to mention the last thing that is, if...nobody notices, but our Plans Review Team, we have such a fantastic team, and all cubicles in that area are filled. And so, they have been just phenomenal in cranking out the building permit reviews and responding to people. You know, the more complex one do...ones do take more time, but with having the Staff there, it just makes a big difference in getting the permits in and out. So, that...I think those are the big things with...with getting the permits done more quickly. Hope that answers your question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. Mahalo. It did. And then for working with the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, how do you plan to ensure like compliance with the Charter? You know, I know that they're still a new department, but ensuring that their consultation and involvement is included in the planning commissions and, you know, other land use-related legislation?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you . . .(timer sounds). . . for the question. So, with 'Ōiwi Resources, it's been lots and lots of meetings from when they were first staffed with Director Molitau

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and Deputy Director Robinson. So, we've been meeting with them since with the South Maui Community Plan, and we've...now going over chapter by chapter with them for that. And then we've also met with them for the capital improvement budget preparation, so I think you'll see that also. As they get more Staff, they're going to be dedicating, I believe, somebody to...to kind of more the planning side, and so that'll be super helpful, but they just have so much on their plate that I think it's going to be kind of incremental as they take on more. But we will continue to meet with them and work with them to make sure that, you know, their voice is heard in a lot of these things, and like I said, lots and lots of meetings. But it's been very good so far, yeah. A great group over there.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. So, they're included in Planning Commission...like they're notified when the meetings are going to be, and...

MS. TAKAKURA: Yes.

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

MS. TAKAKURA: They actually have a...sorry to interrupt. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

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

MS. TAKAKURA: They have a heads up because they have to translate the...the agenda, so they know what's on there before, you know, it goes out, so... But they're ex-officio, I believe, so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And they have time...and they have time to meet with the Planning Department before the Planning Commission meets, so that...you too?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, quickly.

MS. TAKAKURA: Okay. Regarding commission, it depends on the item if they are going to talk about...some things are more...we need their input more than others, so it really depends. But yeah, we would reach out to them if there...there's something that's sensitive coming up, for sure. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. And then --

CHAIR BATANGAN: Sorry. Member Rawlins-Fernandez --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then for either Mayor or...

CHAIR BATANGAN: -- I have to cut you off --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry?

CHAIR BATANGAN: -- because the timer went off. I have to be fair to the other Members.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't hear the timer.

CHAIR BATANGAN: I...yeah, I figured that out when you kept going, but I didn't know how to interject --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR BATANGAN: -- subtly.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR BATANGAN: So, can I ask that --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR BATANGAN: -- you save that for the next round, please?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, the Administration, for bringing a great candidate such as Jacky, Acting Director Takakura. I mean, we all know her from many times you've been in this body, and I will say this right off the bat. I can see your passion for your Staff, for your family, for your community. It shows, and I...and I appreciate that. You know, this is a tough job, like you say. I'm hearing...I'm...you said it first, and I agree with you. But I'll...I...besides the fact that I love your passion and everything, I...I'm really curious about the policies, right? Like what do you plan going forward? And the big thing for me, you know, as Chair of ADEPT and as a farmer, and all of the issues that we're dealing with, there's so much to talk about, but specifically the Food Security and Nutrition Plan that we worked on. I really would support moving that into the Countywide Policy Plan. And of course, we had a discussion about this, Acting Director Takakura, and I would like to first, you know, hear your opinion on it right now so the...you can share it with the Members, and we'll start with that.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Ms. Takakura?

MS. TAKAKURA: Okay. So, regarding the food security, adding that to the Countywide Policy Plan, when we receive the resolution, we would take it through the process and do agency comment and so forth. I did take a look at the Countywide Policy Plan because I'm like, well, where does that belong? Because actually, you know, we kind of just refer to Section 4, but there's this big document that actually comprises the Countywide Policy Plan. And it does provide broad goals, objectives, policies, and implementing actions that portray the desired direction of the County's future. And so, if that's something that the Administration and the legislative body wants, and it's consistent

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with the community plans, it may end up being an addition to the Countywide Policy Plan. It was just a couple years ago that we added climate change, working towards climate change --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MS. TAKAKURA: -- and resiliency, so this could be another part. It may mean that Department of Ag becomes another reviewing agency to the permit process, just like, you know, MDOT and DPW and so forth. But in terms of how it's implemented, I...I think we can cross that bridge when we get to it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Well, it's...I'm very happy to hear that open-mindedness, you know, and it's right here on my desk, too. It's a resolution to send to the planning commissions. But again, I always want to hear from the Department before...when we talk about policies. I don't want to implement policies that we're going to be...that's unadministrable. So, that brings me to my follow-up question is, if this goes forward, do you think you're going to need like a planner that specializes in agriculture? Or do you think your...your team...I understand you're saying that maybe the Department of Ag could jump in on the reviewing. I know when we wrote that...well, either way, how about staffing? Do you think you would need more for staffing if that were to happen?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you, Chair. I think we always need more staffing.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. TAKAKURA: So, regardless of what comes our way, we do need more staffing. So, I don't know if that answers your question, but yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Are you struggling to fill those positions?

MS. TAKAKURA: Knock on wood, we've been doing better. Like I mentioned, all our plans reviewer positions are filled . . .(timer sounds). . . and in Long-Range Division, I only have one vacancy. But in Current Division, which handles the...the discretionary permits, the big stuff, there's vacancies, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, that was my time, and thank you for your responses. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair, for my opportunity. Thank you, Ms. Takakura, for your willingness to serve. My first question will be around Recovery Coordination Directive number 6. I see that it was dated February 11th. Do you mind sharing with us when you informed the Cultural Resources Commission about this directive?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Ms. Takakura?

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MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you. So, regarding the RCD number 6, which is the one that provides the administrative review instead of Cultural Resources commi...review of historic district permits, it was on the agenda for the March 4th meeting...or I think it was March 4th, the first Thursday.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: March 5th.

MS. TAKAKURA: March 5th. But they did not meet due to quorum issues.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you didn't inform them of this directive yet, like not through a --

MS. TAKAKURA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- polling email or anything like that?

MS. TAKAKURA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Can you elaborate on what a simple commercial review looks like? I know the CRC had been agonizing over some of the plans and the lack of complete applications that are meant to protect the cultural resources in the National Historic Landmark District and Historic Districts in Lahaina, the two of them.

MS. TAKAKURA: So, Councilmember Paltin, you want an example of a simple commercial review?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Because I mean, if it were simple, then why is the CRC agonizing over them and...and the lack of complete appli...applications? Like...

CHAIR BATANGAN: Ms. Takakura?

MS. TAKAKURA: Oh, okay.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Or Mister...or Man...MD?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I just wanted to note for the Committee that that Recovery Coordination Directive 6 came out of the Office of Recovery. And so, although they do consult with the different agencies, such as Planning and whatnot, that might be a separate discussion we should have as it isn't like directly under the purview of the Planning Director.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is she not going to be the one to do the review?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Managing Director?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Since it's been taken away from the CRC?

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MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. I'd be happy to get the specifics to the Committee as to the process that will be followed if I could follow up in writing. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Staff, did we get that? Okay. Thank you. Member Paltin, did you have any other questions for the Administration?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, yeah. I mean, I have the RCD 6 over here right now. And so, who is it that's going to be doing the Historic District 1 and 2 and National Historic Landmark District simple reviews?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Administration?

MS. TAKAKURA: Okay. Thank you, Chair Batangan. So, the...for the historic districts, it's going to be reviewed by Staff to make sure that the permit application meets the requirements of 19.52 of the Code.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And it says the Director shall interpret like-for-like. So, that's the question I'm asking you as the --

MS. TAKAKURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- going to be the Director.

MS. TAKAKURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What is your interpretation of like-for-like? Because my understanding is the CRC has been kind of struggling with approving permits and meeting quorum, which is another issue. Like you know, if one of your boards continues to struggle with quorum, what...what is your recourse as the Director of...of the Department that oversees that board? . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

MS. TAKAKURA: So, Chair --

CHAIR BATANGAN: Ms. Takakura?

MS. TAKAKURA: -- can I answer the first question?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, please.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mr. Nishita took some of my time, so...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR BATANGAN: That guy.

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MS. TAKAKURA: Okay. So, regarding...well, a simple commercial would...review would be some...say a commercial property that's not on the shoreline is rebuilding what they had previously or very, very similar, and does their homework with getting the SHPD review completed. And...yeah, they might be able to qualify for some exemptions like from the Special Management Area and if they're not on the shoreline. If they already had infrastructure, I think they should be able to get their infrastructure back, but those are other departments, so I shouldn't speak for them. But a lot of the rebuilds are going to be pretty simple. In response to your other question about what like-for-like means, we look at the use. We look at if it's been changed...say within 10 percent is probably okay. Also, it might have to be changed for the flood development permit requirements, and that would be all right too. So, those are generally going to be the kind of things that we look at to...to determine is it going to be a like-for-like.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if it's not complete application, then you just send it back until they complete it?

MS. TAKAKURA: So, regarding if the application is complete, you're correct, we can't begin processing if it...we don't have all the information. And so, we would ask the applicant to fill in the...you know, whatever's missing, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I think my time was up, even with what Mr. Nishita took from my seconds.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. I have to say that I also am very pleased to see you, Jacky Takakura, applying for this. I know you come from a very good family, first of all, all those things matter. And I love that you graduated from Baldwin High School also, I have to say that. But if you remember last year when we were going through budget, you were the only one that came through testifying and spoke about the fairness of the raises that we were trying to give ourselves in comparison to the rest of the employees. And I will say that that was huge courage. And I think to me, that exemplifies how I feel and think about you when I heard your name was coming up to be in this position. I'm pleased, totally pleased with your work. But in...in general, I love your...I appreciate your courage. I appreciate your standing up for what you think is right. And even when I heard...I had a brief meeting with you, I guess, in passing, and I said, I don't think I need to meet with you and Josiah, but I just wanted to know why you're taking this position. I think you exemplified that today when you said you want to do the right thing for the employees, and I really believe that. As you stood there when we were having a Wailuku-Kahului budget meeting, and you spoke up for the 2,900 employees that we have in the County of Maui, or maybe some of those are retirees, but that's you, and that's how I strongly feel about you. So, thank you very much, Mayor, and thank you very much, Managing Director, for selecting her, and for your years that you've been living here on Maui, and loving our island, and appreciating your employees, and doing good work for Maui County. So, thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sugimura.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, does she want to say anything? I said all the...I spoke only.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Ms. Takakura, would you like to respond?

MS. TAKAKURA: Oh, I'm going to cry. . . .*(laughing)*. . . No, but thank you very much. I really appreciate that, really.

CHAIR BATANGAN: The rest of us will try not to hold your alma mater against you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR BATANGAN: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I was just about to say the...those exact words.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . St. Anthony, you mean?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We won't...at least those of us who went to St. Anthony won't hold it against you for graduating from Baldwin, but I, too, will support your nomination. I have a high regard for your ability to be fair and reasonable. I know we have disagreed on some items in the past, but in general, I think, you have...you've done a great job. And I respect the way you handle yourself in a professional manner, and I wish you all the success in the world. Good luck.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Okay. Ms. Takakura, my turn. Can you please describe a past planning project you led that demonstrates your ability to manage complex multi-stakeholder processes?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you, Chair, for that challenging question. Like, where do I begin with complex projects? We could start with some of the past ordinances that we did for trying to close the loophole with the Apartment District projects. We could do the many short-term rental home ordinances, some right after the other before others were even completed. Those were both very contentious subjects that really needed a lot of looking at a lot of different angles, and then also when we did have changes, you know, educating the Staff on how those are going to work. It could be other things from my past, like when working at Water Department, redoing the...the standby process for the...for the Field Operations Division and having to work with the unions and the Staff, and making sure we have coverage, you know, on holidays and nights and weekends in a way that the Staff want to do standby. That was very complicated. So, I mean, there's just been a myriad of projects. And then, of course, with Lahaina, after the...the wildfire, having those neighborhood workshops and listening to the people and what they...what they went through, and what they envisioned for their community, and then just continuing with the different meetings and the processes and hearing the frustrations when, you know, they want to apply for something and their...their insurance money is...is running out, but we have to think about all these other things. It's been very,

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very complicated. And, you know, we're learning, too, as we figure things out, and I feel like we've got like...say, the residential process, we've got that pretty well down, and we're figuring out the commercial process, and I think we've got a good grip on that. Of course, there's going to be anomalies. There's always some unusual thing that we couldn't anticipate, but, you know, I...I think we've got this great team that we kind of figure things out together. So, there's just been a lot of different past projects that have been very complex for me. Thanks. And I'm still here.

CHAIR BATANGAN: And we're very grateful for that. What changes, if any, would you make to improve internal operations, permitting processes, or customer service with your Department?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. So, in terms of changes, one thing for me is...is pulling the different divisions together. For example, recently, we've been having meetings with, you know, applicants, or would-be applicants, and I'm...I'm including the Zoning Staff, and the Current Division Staff, and...and myself, and Long-Range Division Staff, and so that we're all providing information to these applicants from the different angles so that they can submit something that is hopefully, you know, as close to being right the first time around instead of just submitting something, oh, but the zoning has to, you know, doesn't match up, or...or we have to look at, oh, but what about the Special Management Area? So, it's a lot of communications . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . that...so that we're all hearing the same message, and sharing that information with the applicants. I think that kind of makes...will...will make things go faster. And I also think I'm going to be reaching out to you folks more when we have resolutions, and just to get a better understanding of what your goals are so that we can...we can achieve those goals to...you know, be...before we do the research and take them to the commissions so that we're all on the same page. If...if my boss here lets me, I can do that. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Ms. Takakura. Okay. Members, so that's the end of the first round of questions. I did say earlier that if we needed to go into executive session, we would do so at this point. Does anybody have any desire to go into executive session?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't think my second round is executive session material.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. All right. That being the case, we'll start the second round of questions. Again, three minutes each. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair, and just continuing on your line of questions. Ms. Takakura, you mentioned your experience in the Water Department. How do you see yourself as the Director working with some of the other departments using your experience, past experience, wi...working in other departments, whether it be with Public Works and...and permitting...those types of things?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you, Chair. So, regarding working with the other departments, we do that already. We have regular meetings with Corporation Counsel, Public Works, with Water Supply. I know a lot of the people who are there, and they've been rebuilding the

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Staff, and like their engineering team is great. I went to their water conservation open house the other...a couple weeks ago. So, a lot of that's already in the works. And, you know, one nice thing was, in...last summer, we had an open house for Central Maui Community Plan at UHMC, and I think some of you came, but it just really made my heart grow. When...you know, I looked at...there was MEMA Staff, and us, and MDOT Staff, and Public Works Engineering, and Police, and Fire, and they all came out, and I think it's because we have good relations with them and, you know, we try not to burden them, and I think that's going to continue. And, you know...I know, you know, like there's some of us Water alumni, like Jordan Molina worked for Water, and I worked for Water, and I know there's one more person that worked for Water, and...you know, Kali Arce's husband worked for Water. So, we kind of have this foundation that, you know, we came from that place, so...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, great. Thank you for that. And then my last question is, both Kaaui counties and Hawaii counties have really addressed their homeless issue by creating these mini plantation villages for their homeless. Would you be supportive of...if...any zoning that would increase density for maybe possibly County properties or private properties to address some of these housing for...for our homeless population?

MS. TAKAKURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

MS. TAKAKURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, great.

MS. TAKAKURA: Provided the infrastructure's there. So, you know, got to make sure everything else works, but...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: As long as it's near infrastructure?

MS. TAKAKURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Got it.

MS. TAKAKURA: That will be on my boss here, so...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

MS. TAKAKURA: But for sure, I could work with you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member U'u-Hodgins.

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VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Member Sinenci kind of stole my question that I had asked in the first round, so no, I'm glad, because then I have more questions I can ask her, too. So, considering you guys are meeting, which I'm so happy to hear about, you know, for all the departments that have a hand in creating affordable housing and affordable housing policy, what kind of changes or thoughts do you have about how we can implement policy changes so that we can better create affordable housing from your meetings?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you for the question. I have to think about this one a little bit. A lot of this is going to be the foundational things, like getting the infrastructure going in terms of water and streets and wastewater, and then updating the zoning so that it...it's, you know, you don't have to get a...a discretionary permit. You can just get the building permit, and it be outright allowed.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Be ministerial?

MS. TAKAKURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Like, I'm so happy that we're going to allow further density in our residential areas. And if you take Kahului, for example, if we allow more density for the ADUs, super supportive. However, we don't have the infrastructure to support for wastewater. We have a shortage of water, so, you know, in theory, it's nice, but in application, I'm not too sure where it's going to go. And then we have Upcountry that has a shortage of water for, you know, nearly my entire life. And so, that would be great for Upcountry, too, except we can't really build because we don't have water. Lahaina is going through similar things. And so, it's like we can make one small change here, but then it's two steps back in another place. And I do appreciate...and this is, of course, not your issue to solve alone, so I do appreciate your folks' meeting so that we can tackle all of the issues at once. If you have anything to say to that, I'd appreciate it, but other than that, that's all the questions I have, and I'm happy to support you. Thank you.

MS. TAKAKURA: So, Chair. I can just add that we've been working with Department of Environmental Management on their permitting and the changes they need to do for the Waikapū Wastewater Treatment Plant, so that's going to be a big one coming along. So, we've been helping them with that. And then a little bit out of my swim lane, but Water does have plans for a source in Upcountry, but I think you can ask them about that when the budget meetings come along. But, you know, even within...like say, you're...you know, depending on what size meter you have, you might be able to add some fixtures, so it really is going to depend on the situation for each property owner, so...

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: For sure.

MS. TAKAKURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: For sure. So, there's a little bit of give, and --

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MS. TAKAKURA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- there's a little bit of take in certain areas, and I'm excited for all the changes that we have made for Upcountry. I know the filters were a huge change, so I'm looking forward to seeing that. I think the wastewater thing, we did have a presentation yesterday. We're looking at them coming online in the next few years. So, I definitely know changes are coming, but for right now, it feels like we're in this weird, round robin of, you know, got to hold hands so we can walk collectively. But thank you so much. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Deputy Director, future Director. You've commented about how big the Department is. Could you tell me like how many divisions and how many employees there currently are?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you, Chair. So, regarding the Planning Department, we have five divisions--Administration, Plan Implementation Division, Zoning Administration and Enforcement, Long-Range Division, and Current Division. We have about 80 or 87 positions, and I think we have about 60 vacancies. I don't know exactly, may...it might be a little less now because we have been hiring. We have 87 positions that I know of, and maybe 70...I'm sorry, 70 of them are probably filled. Sorry, I had that mixed up. I...I...the number is either 6 or 11 vacant planner positions, I don't remember which, but...and then some clerical vacancies.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Not to interrupt you, but to get my three maximum...at least my three minutes. I'm not...okay. I'm going to ask this question, and I'm not advocating to make more departments. Do you think that there's a way that the depart...Planning Department could be restructured so that it could run more efficiently? It strikes me as extremely...it's grown. It's a really big department with a lot of various moving parts. It's also one of the most fundamental departments to actually move projects forward, whether it's a sidewalk in an SMA area that the County's doing, whether it's wastewater. You know, public, private, everybody, the Planning...Planning Department touches the permit on it to some degree. So, I'm not asking for a detailed...I guess I'm putting that out there for just whether you feel that there's room to rearrange the Department for more efficiency.

MS. TAKAKURA: Okay. Thank you, Councilmember Cook, for that challenging question. So, in terms of more efficiency, there...there...I'm sure there could be. One thing that has actually helped is the new MAPPS permitting process. Although I know a lot of people complain about it, but MAPPS routes the permit reviews to the different departments and divisions and so forth. So, they're all reviewing permits at the same time, so that makes things a lot quicker. You know, one of our fundamental challenges, because we deal with such big subject-matter issues, is that public input is vital, and therefore, things do take time, and we can't...we can't process, you know, a lot of our things without that community input.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. That's...I'll just touch upon that briefly. I think one of...when I look at permitting and planning, one of the differences between Public Works and the Planning Department is Public Works is very prescriptive. Look up the Code, this is what it says, might have a minor interpretation...whereas Planning is cross-referencing Island Plan, community plans, historic . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . districts, SMA, and everything, and getting public employee...getting public input. I think the public input is very important, and also, I think we're getting, in our...my own personal opinion, we're getting in our own way of actually being able to install infrastructure and create the communities that we need and desire because getting everybody to agree sometimes just takes leadership to do it. So, thank you, Chair, for my extra 30 seconds.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair, for my second round. I will be supporting your nomination. My last question is, why was this appointee chosen over long-term departmental employees or appointees who may have applied for this position? And this is a question that I had asked privately, and so I feel it's my kuleana to ask this question publicly as well.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Mayor, MD?

MR. NISHITA: Thank...thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, for the question. You know, obviously, can't argue with the depth and breadth of experience that Jacky brings to the position. We're obviously so blessed to have departmental leadership with our division heads, as well as Ana, who's just been absolutely incredible in there, and for all of her hard work and support as well. When we're looking to fill these positions, we are looking for complementary skillsets and expertise that really, together, gives us the most well-rounded team and then the most impact to our residents, especially considering what our community is facing at this time. So, appreciate that question, and I hope that answers it. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It does. Mahalo, Managing Director. And then, just the last statement. To correct the...the record for the public, we don't have control over our own salaries to give ourselves raises, like was stated earlier. That's the authority of the Salary Commission. And personally, I support paying all employees competitive wages to retain and value them, unlike the austerity wages Member Sugimura champions. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Member Johnson? You'd like us to circle back?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, I'm ready.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I'm going to quote a...a little plan that we had, the Affordable Housing Plan that was created by the Maui...the...by the Council years...a

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few years ago. And in it they had tiers of actions that we should do to really open up the door for more affordable housing. And one of them was really important in your Department, and that was basically the idea of having by right, right? So, that's the topic of the...of the conversation here. So, in one of the actions, it says, County-initiated State land use boundary changes and County zoning changes for all County and State-owned property and community plan areas deemed suitable for resident development, and then update the County Zoning Code to lower housing costs and promote affordability by design. You know, all of this, in my mind, goes to the idea of, you know, having by right, building residential homes on your parcel. What...what...what's your opinion on that, Acting Director Takakura?

MS. TAKAKURA: In terms of by right, to us, that would mean that it's outright permitted in the zoning district.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MS. TAKAKURA: So, say for residential, depending on the size of your lot, you can have one main dwelling, or maybe some of the bigger ones can have two or three, and then also allowing for accessory dwelling units. You know, one of the proposals we had, but I don't think it's out of Council yet, is allowing duplexes, and then some multifamily in the larger residential parcels. So, that would be something that's by right, and I do think that that would help. One thing I've learned is that...you know, a couple years ago, some of you were with me when we updated the Residential zoning district and we added duplexes, but they were a special use. No one has applied for that, so that's telling me that hey, let's...let's get away...get away from hav...requiring that special use permit...so, you know, make it by right, and let's see if we can get some duplexes. Because there are larger lots that --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. TAKAKURA: -- could have two homes, and so that would be something we'd definitely advocate for. You know, we did that with the kitchenettes to have a little bit more in there, and then, you know, allowing the nonconformities to be...come back too, that...that allows it if they were legally allowed before.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I love to hear that it sounds like you're supportive of it.

MS. TAKAKURA: Um-hum. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, you said that you could get it with a special use permit. Do you know the cost of that special use permit to the resident?

MS. TAKAKURA: So, the cost is...I don't know how much that is.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

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MS. TAKAKURA: It's a public hearing. I suppose an applicant could do the work themselves, you know, put a little notice in the paper and send out letters, but I'm not sure.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sometimes...well, I...I don't know either, that's why I'm asking.

MS. TAKAKURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But sometimes these...these are...costs are very high for...for...buy (*phonetic*)...special use permit. Okay. I'm on limited time. So, post-fire, I think the wetlands are very important. I'm...I've been advocating for a wetlands overlay map. I know we...this has been an ongoing discussion, and I'd like to hear your opinion on it...on a wetland overlay map.

MS. TAKAKURA: So, regarding the wetlands, we do have the informational map posted online. We can talk with the Managing Director and Staff if we want to change 19.47. I'm not sure what...you know, we can figure out what...what it is that you want and see how --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. TAKAKURA: -- that can work.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, again, I...I like partnerships--and I didn't hear the time, so I'm going to keep going--but I like partnerships, and when I look at a landowner who has a potential wetland, their land's flooding, things like that, the County could come in and help them with a wetland plan or helping with fencing or helping with any type of thing that we're...that we're good at . . .(*timer sounds*). . . so that way they can protect their land. I...I think that it got kind of a bad rap. It looked more like a stick instead of a carrot, and I think if we frame it correctly, it...it would really help some of these landowners. My time's up, so...

CHAIR BATANGAN: Ms. Takakura, would you like to quickly respond?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

MS. TAKAKURA: I think we should probably sit down with the Managing Director and Staff and see where we can go from here to... It's a lot of different things we can do with that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Fair enough. More discussion.

MS. TAKAKURA: Yeah. Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Picking up where I left off, if the original structure was noncompliant in the Historic Districts or the National Historic Landmark District, is it still eligible for the like-for-like CRC pass?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Ms. Takakura?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you, Chair. It depends on what you mean by noncompliant. If it was allowed by zoning at the time it was built and is still there, then it would be okay to be nonconforming. But if it was illegal, like it never got a permit or it was never legally allowed, then that would be a problem, and I'm not sure if they would have to do some sort of after-the-fact or maybe reconfigure to...to be...to come into compliance. So, legally, noncon...well, if...to be nonconforming, you have to have been legally allowed at the time it was built. So, I guess that's going to be the question, if it...was it nonconforming or not.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if the rebuild is...if it wasn't during the National Historic Landmark District or if it was...if it didn't fit the comm...the design guidelines of the Historic District 1 and 2, or...but it was legally built, it's going to be allowed like-for-like?

MS. TAKAKURA: Chair? I...I think so. It's going to depend...you know, there are structures that were like before even statehood, so if there was no code back then, then, you know, we're going to have to assume that they're allowed. But they should call our...our Long Range Division and...and just talk to the...the...our...our cultural resources team. And we've been having meetings with people about, you know, what they can do, so they should...yeah, they should reach out to us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then...so for a while, the Cultural Resources Commission was having a hard time meeting quorum because we didn't have it filled, and then we did hear that we filled it, and then now it's still not meeting...not meeting March 5th, not meeting April 2nd. So, as the Director of the Department that oversees, what...what is your next steps here? Because even with RCD 6, it's critical to the rebuild of Lahaina, and if they're not meeting, then those items are not being addressed. And so, what is your recourse?

MS. TAKAKURA: Chair? So, regarding staffing or getting members on the CRC, we will work with the Mayor's Office to recruit new members. We've been trying to find members also, our Staff who know, because CRC is unique and...well, I think a lot of them have requirements, but they have to have some certain kind of background, and so finding people who are eligible to be on that is...is sometimes a challenge.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My understanding was it was fully staffed, but they're not...still not meeting.

MS. TAKAKURA: So...Chair? So, another wrench that arose was the financial disclosure . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . statements. That deadline came around, and some of them didn't

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meet the deadline, and so that...that's why this last one was...we couldn't hold the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And so, after that, you expect them to be meeting?

MS. TAKAKURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. TAKAKURA: We have a meeting scheduled for August...I mean April...a special meeting, I believe, in April, so we'll see if we can get at least five members for that one. Not...not the first Thursday, but a special meeting. I think we were looking at maybe April 16th, so we're trying to do that. If not, then it would be in May.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And you're familiar with our attendance policy and what to do?

MS. TAKAKURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. TAKAKURA: Yes. So, these we do track, and a lot of them are excused, and so we don't count those. You know, it's only the unexcused absences that get counted towards that...that attendance policy.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I guess in my final comments, if the Chair would allow, is just that, you know, if the ar...architectural style or the design guidelines predated what the Historic District was, I...I'd ask that you ask the landowner to consind...consider conforming to the Historic District, as, you know, we've lost nearly all the structures in...in our historic districts. Our National Historic Landmark District is a little bit in jeopardy, and that is, you know, something that the community does take pride in. So, if there's any way that people rebuilding could adhere to the architectural style and design guidelines, that would be wonderful. Thank you.

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you. Yes, I agree.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Member Paltin, if you still have questions, I can cede my time to you when it comes to me. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, I just have a...this...I don't know if this is Finance, but BVAs, the fine that you need to pay in order to have the services is \$4,000 and some change. Other counties, it's like 300 or 400. And is that something that you have any input for control, or is that Finance? I know a study needs to get done. I don't know if it originates from you, Planning.

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura. Do you mean the application fee to file --

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, application.

MS. TAKAKURA: -- a variance for an application?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, correct.

MS. TAKAKURA: So, those fees, just like the other permit fees, were based on a study that a consultant did a couple years ago, and that's looking at the...all the time it takes for the employees and the public hearing and all of those other requirements that go into processing that fee. And so, that would be based...it's simply based on the amount of time and the volume of work for those permit fees. And so, I do have in the proposed FY '27 Budget to do that study again. Because it was a five-year study, this year is the last year. So, we're proposing just a little bit of an increase to tide us over until we can get a new study done to look at the actual cost of these different permit applications. So, I'm not sure. It's going to be up to the Administration and the legislative body what the fees are going to be, but we'll propose it based on this study that's going to look at the actual cost of performing these projects. And, you know, we do have that...I think it's Chapter 3.01 that says we're supposed to not be so reliant on the General Fund. So, I guess that's going to be a policy decision for...for you folks.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, are you saying that you need a little more money? What does that phrase mean? You need a little bit more...money to tide you over to...

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you. So, Council...the study that we were foll...have been following up until this year looked at the percentage of the actual cost, and it was a gradual increase by year. So, I...we started with...I think, like 30 percent, and then worked our way up to 70 percent, which is what we're at this year. So, we're just asking for 80 percent. So, it's just a very small increase, not as big as some of the other ones, just to tide us over. So, going to 80 percent of the actual cost. But keep in mind, this is based on like 2017 numbers, so it's still not even actual cost because it was so long ago that we did the study. But...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, you're actually asking for an increase of the...

MS. TAKAKURA: For our rates, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: For rates.

MS. TAKAKURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, I've been receiving, I don't know if the other Members have, but conc...concerns that the amount is so high that farmers were not able to file a BVA complaint. I...I don't know...oh, I guess we need to read and figure out why it's so high in comparison to other counties that have like \$300 versus...so whatever the justification is, we'll look further into it. I'll wait for budget.

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MS. TAKAKURA: So, with...with...with Board of Variances and Appeals . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . those are high because of the Staff time and Corporation Counsel time. And there's...it's a multi-step process in terms of scheduling, and then having the hearing, and then writing the decision and order, and sometimes it gets appealed. So, I...I believe the study took all of that into account, and that's the...it's based on the actual cost. So, likely those other departments that are charging in the hun...smaller amounts are probably not recognizing the actual cost of the...the appeal or the variance.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair, I'm ready to vote. I have no questions. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Member Paltin, did you have any additional questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just one, also in my district. Do you consider the Greg Brown House issue finished? I mean, that didn't occur during your tenure. I didn't issue the permits. Is...is the issue finished as far as you're concerned?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you for the question --

CHAIR BATANGAN: Member Takakura [*sic*]?

MS. TAKAKURA: -- regarding this house.

CHAIR BATANGAN: I mean...

MS. TAKAKURA: So, if there is a complaint of parking issues or a second kitchen, I would recommend the person who made that observation to file with the COM Connect, SeeClickFix, so it can be researched. As far as we know, because I did check this recently, I don't...we don't have any open violations or anything reported to us for us to investigate. So, I'm not really sure. We...we need to have something to act upon, you know, a complaint or...or something that needs to be investigated. But at...at this time, just based on what we could see in the permitting system, I...I didn't have anything. But if something is filed, of course we'll follow up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. I have a question. So, how do you view the role of planning policy in addressing our housing affordability? And are there any recommendations that you have for how the Department can improve its role in reducing our...our lack of housing on the island?

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you, Chair, for again asking a very difficult question. In terms of adding more housing, it's going to be just so many different things, and that's why I have a hard time answering because we are one of...of many agencies. You know, freeing

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up the different zoning districts to allow housing, say, in Rural and Residential, even in...in some of the more commercial areas that...that don't currently allow it, expediting permits for, you know, the infrastructure that supports housing. It's just a lot of different things. Even within...you know, we have the Maui Island Plan boundaries, and within...looking within the urban growth boundaries, where can we, you know, develop housing where there's infrastructure? And then supporting Department of Hawaiian Home Lands also. Those are kind of the big things. We've been talking to Hawaiian Home Lands about the Central Maui Community Plan, and letting that...you know, so that they can move forward and have consistency in zoning...I mean, in the community plan designations. But that's a big one. We are one of many departments that are involved in...in providing housing. So, I don't know if...yeah, but we're...we're one of many.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Ms. Takakura.

MS. TAKAKURA: I don't know if that's a good answer, but there's a lot of us involved in that.

CHAIR BATANGAN: That's all I have. Okay. So, Members, at this time, that concludes our two rounds of questions for the...for the nominee. Can I ask Staff to give an overview of the process for which we have to take action?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yes, Chair. So, if you would like to recommend approval of the...the appointee, you would recommend adoption of Resolution 26-38. If you would like to recommend disapproval, you would recommend adoption of the resolution and then amend the resolution by striking the word "approving," and "approves" throughout the resolution, and replace it with "disapproves."

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Staff. Just so Members are clear and the public is clear, this is slightly different from our process for approving or disapproving nominees for boards and commissions. In either case, to approve or disapprove the nominee, we have to recommend adoption of the resolution, and then if we want to disapprove it, then we have to amend it further, okay? Okay. So, that being the case, I would like to entertain a motion to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-38, including any nonsubstantive revisions.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So, I'll...moved by Vice-Chair U'u-Hodgins, and second by Member Cook. Any discussion? Member U'u-Hodgins?

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'm just really happy she's here. She has so much experience that we get to benefit from. I'm glad you keep asking her tough questions because one of the tough questions allowed her to highlight her work experience and why she's probably overqualified for this job. But I do appreciate her

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and all of your Staff's continued hard work in the betterment of this County. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I'm very happy to support her, and I encourage the Administration to give her a tremendous amount of support. It's probably the most challenging department at this time for a variety of reasons. She has the ability, the personality, and the skills to do it. She's going to need a lot of help, and I hope we can all support in that endeavor. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Any further discussion? Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. I, too, will support her, and as I said in my first round, that I...I do respect her courage and her ability to stand up for what she believes because I think that...that speaks volumes for the job that she's taking over and doing, and will then work really hard for the community. So, thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Any further discussion? Seeing none. I would also just like to state that I will be supporting the motion as well. Ms. Takakura was very helpful to me as I began my planning journey with the County. She was on the Technical Advisory Committee for the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization when I stepped into the ED role there, and was very helpful in helping me to understand the role that her Department played in our County processes and how I could navigate working with all of the other departments that the MPO had to partner with. So, I've always been very grateful for her guidance and for the insights that she shared as I was stepping onto my own as well. So, I will be supporting the motion and wish you the best. Seeing no further discussion, I will call for the question. All those in favor of the motion, please rise...raise your hand and say "aye." Those opposed...

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's nine "ayes," zero "noes," motion carries.

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

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXCUSED: **None.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Recommending ADOPTION of Resolution 26-38.**

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. And congratulations, Ms. Takakura. This item will move forward to the full Council for consideration.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: *(Applause)*

MS. TAKAKURA: Thank you very much. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, before we move on to the next resolution, I’d like to ask for a ten-minute break. Does that work for you guys? Okay. So, the time is 2:59. We shall reconvene at 3:10. This meeting is in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 2:59 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:14 p.m.

CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(gavel)*. . . All right. Members, we’d like to reconvene today’s meeting.

ITEM 1(2): RESOLUTION 26-39, APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF MARGARET T. WILLIS AS DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CONCERNS

CHAIR BATANGAN: We now have before us Resolution 26-39, “APPROVING THE APPOINTMENT OF MARGARET T. WILLIS AS DIRECTOR OF HUMAN CONCERNS.” Resolution 26-39’s purpose is to approve the appointment of Margaret T. Willis as Director of Human Concerns effective March 1st, 2026, in accordance with Section 8-10.2 of the revised Charter of the County of Maui, 1983, as amended. May I please have opening remarks from the Mayor?

MR. BISSEN: Thank you. Aloha, Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee. Mahalo for the opportunity to appear again before you today in support of my appointment of

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Margaret “Maggie” Willis as Director of the Department of Human Concerns. I want to begin by addressing a concern I know some of you may have. Maggie is not from here. My responsibility as Mayor is to ensure the person leading this Department is the individual best equipped to meet the needs of our community, both now in this moment and into the future. Homelessness is one of the most pressing challenges facing our community, and one that falls directly within the work of the Department of Human Concerns. Meeting this challenge requires leadership with specialized knowledge and expertise to support our hardworking team and strengthen the systems that serve our most vulnerable residents. It would be easy for this conversation to focus on whether someone is from here or not, but my approach to helping our community stay and thrive here has never been about simply filling one position with one local person. It is about selecting the leader best equipped to guide this work and help the many local families who rely on these services. Someone with the expertise, the collaborative mindset, and most importantly, the proven track record to do the job well, while ensuring the dignity of our most vulnerable residents remains paramount. After conducting a thorough search, Maggie stands out because she brings a rare combination of broad expertise across many areas served by the Department of Human Concerns, along with deep specialization in addressing homelessness, one of our community’s most urgent needs. She also brings the capability, collaboration, and the compassion needed to help guide this work forward. Quite frankly, we were fortunate to find someone with her background, and turning away that level of expertise simply because she is not from here would, in my view, be a tremendous loss for our community. Before speaking more about Maggie, I want to acknowledge the important work already happening within the Department of Human Concerns. The Staff, under the steady leadership of Acting Director Crouse, continues to provide critical services every day through senior and homeless services, early childhood and immigration assistance, and grant programs that support many of our nonprofit partners and help to keep the fabric of our community strong. Their dedication and care for our residents are something I deeply respect, and that work will remain the foundation of this Department. At the same time, our community is facing challenges that are growing at an unprecedented pace. Homelessness has increased in recent years, particularly following the pandemic and wildfires, and the scale and complexity of the issue continues to grow. The reality is that the County systems we have in place today were not designed for the scope of the challenge we are now facing. This is not a reflection on the dedication of the people doing this work. Rather, it is my responsibility as Mayor to ensure that our departments have the leadership, the support, and the capacity needed to meet the moment. As the challenge evolves, our approach and our resources must evolve as well. My goal is to make sure Acting Director Crouse and her team have the resources and support needed to strengthen our response and better serve our vulnerable population. The report, Recommendations to Address Homelessness in Maui County, commissioned at the recommendation of this body in 2022, helped bring greater clarity to the scope of the challenge. Through engagement with people with lived experience, service providers, and organizations across Maui, Lāna‘i, and Molokai, the report identified gaps in coordination, siloed systems, and the need for stronger collaboration across agencies and partners. The report makes it clear that addressing homelessness requires stronger coordination, increased capacity, and leadership that can bring partners together and strengthen the system cohesively. Mayors across the

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country consistently identify homelessness as one of the most pressing challenges facing their communities in the top five, if not the top three of their concerns. Maui is no different, and we owe it to our houseless residents and to the broader community to confront this issue with the seriousness it deserves. This is what I believe Maggie brings. She has more than two decades of experience designing and implementing homelessness and housing stabilization programs, coordinating across agencies, and helping communities strengthen the systems that serve vulnerable populations. What stood out most during the selection process...process was not only Maggie's background, it was her temperament. Maggie brings a calm, thoughtful leadership style and a deep respect for the dignity of the people we serve. She understands that this work requires listening, collaboration, and trust. She respects the strong foundation already built within the Department of Human Concerns. Her goal is not to replace that work, but to support our team and build on that success as the Department evolves to meet the growing needs of our community. Taking care of our most vulnerable residents is one of the most important responsibilities we have as a community. Addressing homelessness requires compassion, coordination, and a willingness to strengthen the systems meant to serve our people. I believe Maggie brings the experience, perspective, and heart that is needed to lead this work while also supporting the many other services provided by the Department of Human Concerns. At the end of the day, our kuleana is to care for those who need us most and to ensure the systems meant to serve them are strong, effective, and grounded in collaboration. Mahalo for your time, your consideration, and I respectfully ask for your support in confirming Maggie Willis as Director of the Department of Human Concerns. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mayor. Managing Director, did you have opening comments?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair, Members of the Committee. Thank you for being here. First off, just like to thank our previous director, Lori Tshuhako, for all of her hard work and dedication to this community and her years of service, for laying a lot of the groundwork that is before us here today. Also to Acting Director Crouse and all of the teams, the division heads, all of the Staff there, for all the tremendous amount of work that they do to help serve our community. I was privileged to help lead the search committee for a new director of Human Concerns, and we did go through a public recruitment process that was available to everybody. And, you know, we had a unanimous recommendation from our selection committee to recommend to Mayor the appointment of Maggie, who's here before us today. The selection committee also recommended to Mayor to, I guess, comply with the provisions of 78-1 in relation to, as Mayor being the appointing authority, to waive the requirement based on our recruitment and selection process. We are very honored and privileged to have an individual with Maggie's caliber here to help serve our community, and...and demonstrating a willingness to do so. We're excited about that. In regards to the HRS 76...I'm sorry, 78-1 provision, I believe that there's also some additional pieces that if the Committee should so choose, that Corporation Counsel can address in executive session. And then finally, I would just identify that we haven't started Maggie officially yet. We wanted to get the recommendation from the Committee, and thus, you know, we have not officially started her yet and haven't given her access to privileged information within the Department until the...the recommendation of the Committee is received. And so, I'll be happy to

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answer any questions when the time comes, if needed, but we thank you very much for your consideration of the selection of Maggie for this important role and for, of course, all your guys' support for our Department of Human Concerns. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Managing Director. Ms. Willis, would you like to offer opening comments?

MS. WILLIS: Thank you, Mayor Bissen and Managing Director Nishita. I'm honored and grateful for this opportunity. Thank you, Chair Batangan and Councilmembers, for your careful consideration of my qualifications. The Department of Human Concerns plays a vital role in supporting the wellness and resilience of Maui County residents. It is a department founded in a commitment to support the County's most vulnerable neighbors with the strength of collective impact. It is this commitment to serve that makes this such an interesting opportunity for me. It's what draws me here. And it...what...it's a value that continues to guide me after over 20 years in service...in public service. Every conversation that I've had so far with community members, with Staff, with providers, with advocates has really reinforced this incredibly embedded value of caring for people that this County holds, and this community holds. That is a unique thing. In the...in the places that I've done this work, that's not always the case. A lot of times, even places that have invested heavily in human services and...and social services do so because they are dealing with a problem. And they focus on the problem and not the people. And I feel like, again, all the conversations I've had here, this community honestly cares about the people and the...and the impacts of these issues on...on their community. And so, doing this work that I love in this community would just be the greatest honor. If I'm confirmed as Director of Human Concerns, I will approach my duties with humility and respect for the incredible Staff and the partners and the communities that have been doing this work for many, many years. I acknowledge that my appointment comes with an expectation for change. And I will strive to ensure that that change benefits the Staff of the Department, the organization here, and the...and the community partners that I'll be working with. We all agree that addressing homelessness is a priority, but we diverge when we talk about how to do that. And I think that is where I will bring forward really a depth of collaboration and a willingness to hear from...from a variety of opinions and voices, and really work to codesign solutions that create diversity within the service system because we know one size does not fit all. So, we need to widen the way that we approach this issue and really listen to what people need, especially the people that are not service-connected, the people that are not accessing the services we have. So, the way that I approach this work is really that we don't have to agree 100 percent on everything, right? It's like when you open a puzzle box of 10,000 pieces, you go for the corners, right? You go through and you look for those corner pit...bits to anchor your work. You build out the framework because then you kind of know where you're headed and you know where...where some of the pieces might lie. That's all we need to do. We need to find those, the little 10 percents of agreements, the little places, those corner bits, the frame, right? And then we can work together on...on some of the key pieces within that puzzle. We...we can build out, you know, maybe there's a tree in that image. We'll...we'll find all the tree pieces and we put that together. And then we find, right? It helps us find the gaps. It helps us identify what the shape of that problem that we can't see yet is.

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And it...then when those pieces come together, we can, you know, share in that joy together of having completed this incredible vision through these tiny individual steps. So, I look forward to adding my really broad expertise in grants management, accountability and compliance in the use of public funds, program design and implementation, and community collaboration to the powerful work that is already being done here in Maui County. I look forward to strengthening collaboration with existing and emerging new partners. I look forward to working with this community to bring forward a strategic plan for addressing houselessness that can be the North Star, that can remain flexible to the changing needs of the community. Over the past 20 years, I've successfully created and implemented innovative programs from the ground up, including things like diversion programs that connect people to services instead of jail. I've designed and operated housing programs and permanent housing facilities, including multiuse projects where we've put services, healthcare, and interim housing and permanent housing together in one building. I've worked with a variety of partners to co-create community grants programs that align public funds towards a shared vision, create unified outcomes to increase accountability, and to help make sure that public funds are being used in the most effective way possible. And...and I've partnered with first responders to identify high users of police, fire, and emergency room services, and really work to direct intensive services to those individuals with the highest needs. As the director, addressing homelessness will be a high priority, but that is not to ignore the rest of the work of the Human Concerns Department. Preventing people from ever becoming homeless is a key piece of this work. And so, the support services that the Department offers is what keeps our youth thriving into adulthood. It's what keeps our families healthy. It's what keeps our seniors from losing their homes. And so, the volunteer component builds capacity for our really overstretched service providers, and it builds connectivity and value to the community. It helps them feel like they own this work too. And so, all of these different divisions within Human Concerns supporting immigrant families, all of these things contribute to addressing and preventing homelessness. So, my experience includes working with older adults, working with programs like Meals on Wheels, working with senior centers, and making sure that anytime there's a senior or a person with disability in crisis or about to lose their home, we can move in quickly, identify those folks, and quickly provide crisis intervention. My most recent role with L.A. County has included working with people 65-plus and people with disabilities to get them on their Federal SSI, SSDI benefits and provide them with in-home caregiving so that they can age in place, they can live in the community and avoid institutionalization. So, I will approach this work by seeking input from lots of folks in the community because as...as the Mayor noted, I am not from here. I will rely on all of you. I will rely on the community to provide me guidance and insight to tell me when I'm, you know, working outside of...of values that this community holds dear. And...and I will seek that kind of input. I had the...I had the benefit of meeting with 'Ōiwi Resources team, and...and I will lean heavily on them for learning, not just cultural values, not just language, but really about how to approach this work in a way that is respectful and...and aligned with and founded in Hawaiian cultural values. As someone who has worked on both the program side of the house, implementing programs, and on the policy side of the house, working for government, I understand the importance of how policy needs to be shaped by practice because good policy has to be implemented well on the ground. So, I have this unique ability to sort of connect those dots. So, I

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look forward to working with all of you around policy work and how we can make sure that that policy helps our service providers do more and do better, rather than hindering the work that we're all trying to do. No one person can end the tragedy of homelessness. My commitment is to bring the community together to co-design solutions in service of a shared vision with the goal of reducing the number of people experiencing homelessness, preventing Maui County residents from experiencing homelessness, from losing their homes, and ensuring that if they do, we have a system in place that will quickly support them, and that there are options to help them return to housing stability. So, I thank you, Chair Batangan and Councilmembers. I hope you will grant me the great privilege of working alongside the amazing Staff of Human Concerns in service to Maui County. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Ms. Willis. Okay. Members, before moving into discussion, I'll receive testimony for a GREAT-1(2).

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, if...if I may interject.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I thought Deputy Director might have had one more...I'm sorry, Managing Director Nishita.

CHAIR BATANGAN: I apologize, I didn't see that.

MR. NISHITA: No, no, no problem. Chair, if...if I may, I forgot to note earlier. I did note to the Committee Staff earlier, but I apologize. When I sent down the resolution, I had a typographical error. It's Margaret Y. Willis, not Margaret T. Willis. So, you know, depending on the action of the Committee today, if you guys wouldn't mind doing nonsubstantive revisions on that. So, I apologize for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, MD. Okay. Staff, are there any people signed up to testify?

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. The first individual signed up to testify is Nicole Huguenin, to be followed by Lisa Darcy.

CHAIR BATANGAN: All right. Ms. Huguenin, you have three minutes.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-1(2) . . .

MS. HUGUENIN: Aloha mai kākou. Nicole Huguenin ko'ū inoa. I am the Executive Director of Maui Rapid Response, part of Maui Grassroots Collective, and I have been on the streets of Maui since 2017, working alongside our unhoused. Auntie Jolene (*phonetic*) tends to a garden at the encampment at Kapū'ali. She taught me something simple and true. What we give our attention to grows. She even grew strawberries in Lahaina, as a side note. This County has spent millions on contracts with clear conflicts of interest and problematic processes, commission reports that sit on shelves, and swept

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communities with nowhere to go. The system we have built around poverty does not move people towards housing. It kills people. And more often than not, it kills Hawaiians. And when it does not kill them, it criminalizes them. We saw that at Ukumehame, where five of us were arrested, despite all attempts at working together. We can manage arrests. The people we serve cannot. A traffic stop with no insurance becomes a bench warrant. A bench warrant becomes jail. Jail becomes the end of whatever fragile stability they had built. That is what the system does to people every single day, and that is what happens when we tend to the wrong things. But that is not why I'm here. I'm here because I have seen the alternative. Just last week, I watched a Kanaka wahine in her 50s, who has been homeless since she was 16, asked specifically for what she needed to find steady work. Not because the system required it of her, but because we showed up long enough and consistently enough through multiple organizations that trust became possible. In the past two years, I've watched entire communities and encampments organi...organize around their own needs and fight for their own dignity. That is what healing looks like when people are finally given the conditions and time for it. Based off of what's been working, we have built a ten-point housing justice plan rooted in pu'uhonua, in ahupua'a, and in collective kuleana. It is not theoretical. It is already planted and already growing, and we are ready to share it with anyone in this room who wants to know what it actually looks like on the ground. We see that vision in Maggie, and we are prepared to support her. But I want to be very honest, and I want this on record. My concern is with everyone in power in this room...with this Council, with the Mayor and his leadership team. My concern is that when the hard decisions come, when the establishment pushes back, when contracts get questioned, when untrained Staff revert to harmful ways, that everyone retreats to our old status quo ways. Everyone has said they want change. Today is the day to mean it because what we give our attention to grows. We are not here to fight, which some of us have been labeled as. We are here to invite you into what is already working, into the already gar...garden already growing at Kapū'ali and . . .(timer sounds). . . across this island. The only question left is whether this Council and the Mayor's team are ready to stop investing in a system that harms, and start investing in one that heals. If you are ready, confirm Maggie, and then roll up your sleeves, because there is 'āina that needs tending. Mahalo.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Ms. Huguenin. Members, any clarifying questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you. Staff, can you call the next testifier, please?

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Lisa Darcy, to be followed by Kahala Johnson.

MS. DARCY: Thank you. Good afternoon, Chair. I get to say officially aloha to you. It's the first time I'm seeing you in that Chair. So, my name is Lisa Darcy. I am the founder of Share Your Mana, and I come here today to testify on Resolution 26-39. This is all new to me. I'm literally just getting information today when it sounds like this is kind of a done deal. So, I apologize if some of my testimony is out of turn because I...I really could find nothing in Google, and...I didn't...I just got a resume. So, I'm really behind on this, and it sounds like there's been a lot of discussion around it. So, the...the points that have come...kind of come across the work that I do, I founded Share Your Mana, and

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I've been in this field for 40 years, four decades, the last 20 years on Maui. If you've been in this room, you've...you've heard a lot of information. I hope you've learned quite a bit. I've always been side-by-side with individuals and...in policymaking. So, the first kind of ideas that came to me--and you'll know I don't use AI--so everything that you will hear that comes from me is from our advisory committee and our...our...our actual learned experience. So, I'm never going to regurgitate a whole bunch of stuff to you that you can get off...just off of the web. It's...it's actual living, breathing work. So, one in...is that Nominee, you are in for a ride. Whoo-ee. Human Concerns is, I think, the most important department in this County, and it often gets relegated, I'm from the mainland, to the basement, but here, I guess it would be like the trunk. And it's not just about people living unhoused, it's about everybody's quality of life. So, it's a really huge task. It does make a difference that you're not from here. And I'm...I'm sorry, but I was recruited as an expert 20 years ago, and it didn't end well, okay? You need those relationships. And why I...while I can sit here and I can value the amount of work that you've done somewhere else, it's not the same here on Maui. And I've worked many different places, in very large...you know, in New York City and internationally, and then I've worked in...in rural places. Maui is...it's built on relationships. There's no way around that. So, while I respect the work you bring, just buckle up, girl. You're going to have to buckle up. That's all I can tell you, because it's going to be rough. And you know, if you can get past the first year and a half without just like losing all of your hair, good luck, because I have no peers. Everybody that I know is gone. Like...so, anyway, that said, I also want to acknowledge that I...I guess there's some procedural issue about you not living here and moving here. So, that's for the County to sort out. I actually can't endorse you, again, because I...I couldn't find much on you. And I...like I said, I didn't get this. And...and I think the work that Share Your Mana brings is very tactile. You get to know everybody I talk about. You get to know every circumstance that's around them. And I...it looks like you have a lot of policy experience, which I think is wonderful. . . .(timer sounds). . . You're going to have to definitely forge a path with the relationships, because that...that could be a...a big hurdle. The last thing I want to say is that Share Has Mana has worked tirelessly to be in partnership with everyone. And as the previous testifier acknowledged, the County has violated people's civil rights and their constitutional rights. There has not been any change in that direction. And I just want you to know that as a human being, the amount of harm that it has done is actually, at this point, irreparable. So, your...your job is going to have to be digging out of that that's still happening and the hurt that is still very much alive. I take it very seriously. It's never the position I want to be in to ever get into a place where you actually have to go to court with someone. But it's very serious.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Ms. Darcy. Can you please conclude?

MS. DARCY: So, I'd really like to know how you're going to address being in a County position and still being in a position where the County is literally constitutionally harming people. So, thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Ms. Darcy. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none.

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MS. DARCY: Mahalo.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Staff, can you please call up the next...next testifier?

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Kahala Johnson, to be followed by Richard Bloom.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Ms. Johnson? Staff, can you please call the next testifier? We can circle back to Ms. Johnson.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes. The next testifier is Richard Bloom, to be followed by--and I do apologize if I mispronounce your name--Leepi Shimkhada. *(pause)*

CHAIR BATANGAN: Mr. Bloom, this is your opportunity to provide testimony. Are you there?

MS. MACDONALD: We're just promoting Mr. Bloom, and he has been promoted, so he should be able to unmute his camera and microphone now.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Staff.

MS. MACDONALD: Mr. Bloom, you have been promoted, so you just may have to go on the top...oh, I see you there.

MR. BLOOM: I got it.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mr. Bloom. You have three minutes.

MR. BLOOM: Thank you. You would think I'd know how to do this. As a 25-year public servant, as a former mayor, thank you. Thank you. I'm the former mayor of the City of Santa Monica, a former California State legislator, and a former California...or Los Angeles County Superior Court judge. I've known Maggie Willis for over 15 years, and I can tell you that everything you heard in the very well-reasoned and thought-out Staff report, and from Maggie herself, is true, based on my own experience. Maggie has the ability to bring people together. She will work with the members of your community, both the residential community, the business community, everyone collectively. She'll work with Staff, with yourselves as elected officials, and of course, with residents of the . . . *(inaudible)*. . . community. How do I know this? I've seen her do it over and over and over again in the City of Santa Monica, at PATH, where I first met her, People Assisting The Homeless, a homeless nonprofit in Los Angeles County...a very well-regarded homeless nonprofit, I...I should add. We worked there together, and . . . *(inaudible)*. . . able to work collaboratively and accomplish things. She knows how to get things done. She has successfully implemented and supervised many programs, and one of her strengths is as a strategist...she's eager to adopt innovative ideas and emerging best practices. She doesn't stand on her laurels in what has been, she looks to the future and what can be. I wholeheartedly recommend Maggie Willis too without reservation. Thank you very much. Mahalo. Aloha.

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CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff, can you please call up the next testifier?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, the next testifier is Leepi Shimkhada, to be followed by Mo'i Kawaakoa.

MS. SHIMKHADA: Good afternoon, respected Councilmembers. My name is Leepi Shimkhada. I'm currently the Chief Program Officer at the Los Angeles County Department of Homeless Services and Housing. I'm honored to offer my strong support for the confirmation of Maggie Willis as Director of Human Concerns for Maui County. I have known Maggie for nearly two decades, and I've had the privilege of working with Maggie during her time at the L.A. County Department of Health Services, and as we transitioned into the Department of Homeless Services and Housing. Maggie came to work with me at the County of Los Angeles at a moment when strong leadership, clarity, and compassion were so urgently needed. Maggie brought exactly that to serve people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness as the Director of our Countywide Benefits Advocacy Program within the Division of Housing for Health. She has the experience in L.A. County working on housing solutions and supportive services to create dignified and trauma-informed solutions for people experiencing homelessness. As you know, in L.A., we have our own challenges in addressing and ending homelessness, and I've seen Maggie create and run programs at scale that have positively impacted thousands of people, and also be in community with people to learn how to do better. Her emotional intelligence, her organizational skills, and steady leadership helped guide teams through complex challenges while always centering the needs of communities we serve and also having her staff's back. Maggie has a rare ability to connect people and systems and ideas in a way that moves important work forward. She combines strategic thinking with genuine empathy, creating environments for...where staff feels supported and community feels heard. Her leadership is thoughtful, it's collaborative and grounded in deep commitment to public service. And what really makes Maggie especially effective is the breadth and depth of her experience. She understands work from multiple perspectives after having served across nonprofit organizations, city government, and county systems. That depth of experience allows her to navigate public systems while keeping in focus real outcomes and people who rely on those services. Maggie is truly an asset to any organization fortunate enough to have her. In fact, her departure from L.A. County is already felt deeply by me, her colleagues, and her staff who valued her leadership, her friendship, and her partnership. We would gladly welcome back Maggie anytime. Maui County would be gaining a leader of integrity, vision, and compassion. I strongly encourage the Committee to confirm Maggie Willis as the Director of Department of Human Concerns. Mahalo, and thank you for your time and consideration.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff, can you please call up the next testifier?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Mo'i Kawaakoa, to be followed by Julie DeRose.

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MS. KAWAAKOA: Aloha. Mahalo for having me here today. E kala mai. Chair, is it okay if I do testimony on two of the resolutions today?

CHAIR BATANGAN: No, we are only accepting testimony on the second item at the moment. And can I ask that --

MS. KAWAAKOA: Okay.

CHAIR BATANGAN: -- as you provide your testimony, you speak a little bit louder, or more directly into the microphone?

MS. KAWAAKOA: Sure, sure.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

MS. KAWAAKOA: Let me just do this. All right. Can everybody hear me?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes. Thank you.

MS. KAWAAKOA: All right. Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, and community. ‘O wau Mo‘i Kawaakoa. I come here as a lineal descendant and the po‘o of Holomua Outreach, which is, I believe, the only dedicated houseless outreach grassroots organization here on Maui. I have stepped foot in most of the houseless communities here and built pilina with them. Through our work, I spend a lot of time in our community and people are experiencing homelessness. I see firsthand the challenges they face every day. These are not just statistics. These are our neighbors, families, and community members trying to navigate difficult circumstances. Through outreach, we have worked to break through some of the barriers people face by meeting them where they are and building trust within communities that often feel disconnected from existing systems. Our programs are having a positive impact on the people who are living through this, and it has shown me that change is possible when we approach this work with compassion and collaboration. Because of these experiences, I believe we do need change in how we address homelessness on Maui. Stronger coordination between government, service providers, and grassroots organiz...organizations is essential if we want to truly support our most vulnerable and chronically houseless community members. For that reason, I want to express my support for the nomination of Maggie Willis as Director of Human Concerns, and my hope that her leadership will help move us toward a more collaborative approach. I want to share that we are open to working with government...my question is whether the government is willing to work with community organizations like ours in the same spirit. When we work together, we can break through barriers and create solutions that truly care for our entire community. Mahalo for the upwards...opportunity to share my mana‘o.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Mahalo, Ms. Kawaakoa. Members, do you have any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff, can I ask that you call up the next testifier?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Julie DeRose, to be followed by Zhan.

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MS. DEROSE: Good evening. Thank you for the opportunity to be able to talk to you about Maggie Willis. My name is Julie DeRose, and I am the Chief Programs Officer at a nonprofit in L.A. County. I have worked with Maggie for over 10, 15 years. I was a nonprofit provider, and she was our homeless services funder and grant manager from the City of Santa Monica. Maggie, from the very beginning, came to us to help integrate the services that we were going to be providing in the city, and she was a person with excellent interpersonal and communication skills. She was so kind and thoughtful...thoughtful to staff, and very collaborative in her approach, and she is a great relationship builder, hands down. She is viewed as a catalyst by other service providers and a leader or expert in this work. She is innovative and a real systems implementer. She has helped us problem-solve difficult issues with the community, with homeless individuals living on the streets, and within the system itself. Maggie is effective and efficient, and will find ways to...to...to be creative within the grants management system and fund work that moves the system forward. She...excuse me...she is well-connected in this work and understands what is going on in HUD and how to...how to create integrated models that are innovative and steeped in evidence-based practices. She would be a wonderful asset, and once you have her, you will wonder how you ever did this work without her. I hope you will fi...you will move forward with Maggie. I could not support a better person to do this work alongside. Thank you for this time.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mr. DeRose. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff, can I ask that you call up the next testifier?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yes, Chair. The next testifier is Zhan, to be followed by The Royal House of Hawai'i.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Aloha, Zhan. You're muted.

MS. LINDO: Aloha, Councilmembers --

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

MS. LINDO: -- and Council Chair. I...I...I miss you all. I'm...I'm so grateful for all the hard work you guys continue to do. I...I wanted to jump on and just stand in full support of Maggie's nomination and confirmation to this position. I don't know her very well. I had the privilege of having some time with she and Josiah yesterday, and what I can tell you is that she has a desire to be collaborative. I...like I said, I don't know Maggie very well, but I do know the Department of Human Concerns very well, and working with the Homeless Solution and houselessness, homelessness in our community and on other projects, I do know that there is a need for fresh new perspective. There is a need for innovative new ideas. I think coming from a place like California and being able to see different dynamics, ethnic and cultural diversity is important to have. And although I too are in strong support of always looking local and giving our local people and...good opportunities to have these kinds of positions, I think at this time, seeing none arise to the top, Maggie is our choice and is my choice, and I hope that she will be confirmed today. I look forward to her holding fast to her...her integrity and her experience in what

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she's already done, but also her willingness to learn our cultural values and our systems here in Maui Nui. So, I look forward to working with Maggie. She has voiced that she wants to work with all of us in our respective districts, and I think that's a great start. So, thank you for this opportunity, and thank you, Councilmembers. I miss you guys. Hi, Chair Lee.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you for that testimony. Members, any clarifying questions for the testifier? Okay. Seeing none. Staff, can you call up the next testifier, please?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yes, Chair. The next person and currently the last signed up to testify is The Royal House of Hawai'i.

TESTIFIER 1: Aloha. This is The Royal House of Hawai'i, an allodial land resident, descendant of the royal patents from the Mahele. And I just wanted to say, I hope that you will be...or you would try to help fix the...probably the greatest human concern, which is about the...everywhere of Hawai'i and the people of Hawai'i, the Kānaka people that are the lowest population of Hawai'i, and the highest population to be vulnerable to all these...all the problems that are happening. And because why...like, I hope there will be...hope...hope you'll be helping fix our hous...the housing crisis bec...because we get enough houses, it's the land...like it's all allodial-titled, royal-patented, and that's a great big concern because why are so many...why are so many of our people still going through these problems when they are the owners of all these lands? The Kānaka people are the owners, the true owners, the royal-patented, allodial-titled owners, descendants, and they're still being like treated differently, and are like...yeah. And the genocide of our people and our lands and everything around, like the...like literally. And it's because it's all royal-patented, allodial-titled, and the Kānaka people are descendants of those original title holders, so they own the 'āina, so please give it back. And...yeah. Yeah, and that's the...probably the greatest human concern, which, yeah, please return the lan...help return the lands to the people that are going through all the different problems and return it to the correct community because they would know how to restore that community because there are specific people and specific lands to specific 'ohanas. Yeah. And, yeah, return the royal-patented lands, allodial-titled lands. And recognizing the TMKs . . . *(inaudible)* . . . still don't have the lands, so return the lands. Mahalo.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, Staff saw an individual approaching the podium.

MR. LAW: Aloha ka aha ke Kalana o Maui. Aloha, *Akakū*. Jasee Law, again, Kula Uka. I know...it's...I see the time, and I...I know you guys got a lot of questions about this. See, you guys, this is...this is an example of what I'm trying to say is...I can't even say the word that I want to say without saying it because you guys keep on using it. And I want to use a different word that relates to the people in America used for a black man, and it's like a really derogatory, but it's not the same because it's...it's rac...racist, but probably haole would be kind...haole. That's like the same, what I'm trying...it's hard to say...say the word without saying it again, but I can spell it, I guess, H-O-M-E-L-E-S-S. I looked that up in the dictionary, and it re...and refers to the

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Hawaiian word kuewa, K-U-E-W-A...vagabond, exile, wanderer, wandering, friendless, homeless, unstable. Those are all derogatory words. So, I'd like the government of Maui--I think got them all here now--to try to use a different word. I would suggest hale 'ole that's kind of a little bit easier, which means houseless, or domicile-less. How about that one? That one's kind of fancy, ain't it? So, that's...I...I didn't want to...I know you got other things to...the...the Director of Human Services works on a lot of other different stuff other than the people who don't even pay any taxes, but the people that do pay taxes probably complain about the people who don't pay taxes a lot. So, I'll have a letter for you already about an experience I had today with Kaunoa Senior Services. I'm going to be turning 60 pretty soon, and my problem is if...if I got to wait until I'm 60 to apply, then how long is it going to take for me to get in? So, they're saying you have to be 60 before you apply, and so they're already taking away days from my time of being a...in the program, and that was the main thing I wanted to talk with you about. Aloha. I save the rest of my time for the people of Hawai'i who don't have a house.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Staff, can you circle back to Mr. Johnson?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yes, Chair. Kahala Johnson? I believe they were in the Chamber earlier.

CHAIR BATANGAN: All right. I don't see anybody approaching the podium. Staff, is there anybody else wishing to testify on this item?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Staff has not received any further request for testimony. Would you like us to do a last call?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, please.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: If anyone would like to testify, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button online or pressing star-5 via phone. Last call for testimony...three, two, one. Chair, seeing no individuals wishing to testify at this time.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, seeing that there are no more individuals wishing to testify, without objection, I will now close oral testimony for this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-1(2) . . .

CHAIR BATANGAN: As a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. Okay. Members, so I didn't want to limit too much discussion on the first item given the historic importance that's normally placed on the Director of Planning, but this has been a good learning lesson for me in time management, and so I want to note that it is now 4:03. So, I will be implementing a three-minute questioning period, after which we can consider going into executive session if we have questions for Corporation Counsel or OCS lawyers on HRS 78-1. We'll see where we're at at that time, and then we'll come

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up with a game plan for either a second round of question or action, or we'll...we'll just see where we're at after the first round of questions, and, you know, however long it takes us to confer with the lawyers. All right. So, last time I started to my left, so this time I'll start to my right. Chair Lee, do you have any questions for the nominee or the Administration?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...I don't have any questions, but I will say that I'm sure you've looked around and tried your best to find a replacement for Lori. And I'm willing to give anybody a first chance. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much for being here. So, I have a couple questions, and I did speak with Mayor, and I did speak with Managing Director after I spoke to you. But I...I'm just curious, Managing Director or the Mayor, how many applicants did you have for this position?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. We had 21 applicants for the position.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And how many were from Maui, and how many were human...employees of the County? Maybe that's better.

MR. NISHITA: I'm sorry, how many were from...

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: From Hawai'i or from Maui. And how many people were from the Department of Human Concerns?

MR. NISHITA: Okay. Chair, I'll...I'll answer in this way, is that as part of the screening process, we required each applicant to submit a written response to a set of questions. Anybody that did not respond to the...the posting requirements, as well as the minimum qualifications of the position, or responded to the request for written responses to a set of questions were essentially disqualified from con...further consideration. So, I'll give some rough numbers in terms of about half, only about...roughly about half of people responded, or met those...I'm sorry, just responded to the...the requirements. Of the half, about...almost about half of those were from the mainland, and about half of those roughly were from Hawai'i. And then about half of all those who responded were selected. We...we did go through each application, a resume, selected the top seven individuals to invite for interview based on the resumes that were received. Right from the beginning, from the priority that we put on the number one issue facing the community right now, under the jurisdiction and purview of the Department of Human Concerns, being...assisting and providing help to our unsheltered communities, Maggie already, from the start, rose to the top. And if...if we need to get into any specific...I mean, I feel like we might need to maybe get opinion from the attorneys about going into specific...about who applied and whatnot, and whether that's germane to the Sunshine Law, given that Maggie's the one on the...under consideration. But to give further details about applicants, you know, and without getting their, I guess, consent or approval to...to talk about that on the floor, I'd hate to, you know, jeopardize any

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consideration of them for their current employment or . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . or other considerations that maybe they didn't want to make public. So...and I'm sorry for using most of your time there, but I'll...I'll be available for further questions on that. Thanks, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'll wait. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, MD. All right. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I'll try to make this snappy, because I got a son waiting in the burn zone for me to pick him up. What specific mechanism will you use to verify that outreach contractors are physically present with the population they are paid to serve by the County?

MS. WILLIS: Thank you for that question, Councilmember. I will need to dig into the contracts to understand what the requirements currently are. I'll want to talk to people in the community, I'll want to talk to the providers that have those contracts to see what their experiences are. But for me, accountability for what you do is...is about the outcome, right? It's not are you in the field with a person, that's not sufficient for a service. It's really what change are you making with that individual? And so, for me, it's very people-based. It's I'll want to look at who are you serving, what...what is their plan, what are the barriers, what are you doing to overcome those barriers with that person, helping them to advance in their own goals? And so, it's not just about are you...are you in the field, because anybody could be in the field.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. WILLIS: It's about progress.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Next question, will you commit to independent verification rather than self-reported numbers for these contracted...contracts and grants?

MS. WILLIS: Again, I'll need to dig into what system exists for...for tracking and accountability. I'll need to dig into the Homeless Management Information System to see are outreach contacts being tracked, and how does that report out? And if that's not being used, what other tools are being used to track encounters and interactions and services? So, I'll have to dig in more to really understand that in terms of accountability and how we can help better track progress.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How important to you is getting the Safe Places to Park program up and running?

MS. WILLIS: So, I know that's a priority for this community. So, if confirmed, it will be my priority. And...but, you know, it's...I'm interested in looking at all the options. Because what I'm hearing in the community is that there needs to be more diversity in housing options for people. The one-size-fits-all is not...is not a good way to go. A healthy system --

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. WILLIS: -- needs diversity.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I appreciate your quickness in answering the questions. Usually I can't get three questions in with anyone else, and since my boy's waiting, I won't hold us up any longer.

MS. WILLIS: Thank you, Councilmember.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Willis, for joining us today. And thank you for be...for doing all the work that you do. I saw your passion in your opening remarks, and I had a meeting with you, and I could see your passion. I could see your intelligence on the floor, and I see your emotional intelligence as well. It's very impressive. My passion in this topic, in this subject topic matter, it comes from me living in Section 8...Section 8 housing...not before when I was a little kid, but before I took this job, I be...I was living in Section 8 housing. I was one car accident away from being unsheltered. I was one operation or surgical thing that I couldn't afford, and next thing you know, you're...you're unsheltered. That's the...my passion. So, hopefully, all the passions aside, the policies start to align, right? And hope...that's the gasoline in my engine, that's the gumption in my belly, is trying to help those kind of folks. I have here Bill 111. I showed it to you, we talked about it, and I'd like to hear that our policies align, and hear your opinion on Bill 111.

MS. WILLIS: Thank you for that question, Councilmember. You know, I did have the opportunity to review the bill, and again, you know, I applaud the great deal of work and thought that...that you've put into that legislation.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: A lot of years.

MS. WILLIS: I think for...for my perspective, legislation is...is a very rigid tool, right, for addressing a complex social problem, a human-based problem. The needs of people change very quickly over time. The way the courts interpret existing legislation change, right? We've seen that happen a lot in the last ten years, especially when it comes to...to homelessness and the way we address homelessness. And so, legislation can be a little bit of a...a rock around our ankles. It may address the need right now, but it may constrain us in the future. And I think it can be a...a barrier to innovation in the pivoting that needs to happen in a healthy homeless service system, but I think there are ways to work --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. WILLIS: -- through those together. I think I would love to spend time, if confirmed, with you in your office to really dig into some of the intent.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you think this is a...a stone around our ankle?

MS. WILLIS: I think that there is a great deal of detail in...in that legislation, and the...the specificity of those things could potentially create barriers in the future.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Then let's boil it down to, do you think we need to find shelter for folks before we move them?

MS. WILLIS: I think there is intent there, that is --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. WILLIS: -- good intent.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. WILLIS: And I think there's...may...maybe we should look at other ways to reach that goal that's not necessarily legislation.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: What do you...what do you think about the Housing First model?

MS. WILLIS: So, I am a . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . am I...I am advocate for Housing First, but it is not the only way to approach and address the housing needs of people, right?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Fair enough.

MS. WILLIS: It works for a very narrow population --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right.

MS. WILLIS: -- so...so there should be options.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Ms. Willis. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Willis. Mahalo for considering leaving L.A., where they sound like they would love to have you stay there. What...what was it that made you motivated to want to move here for this position?

MS. WILLIS: Thank you for that question. It...and it's come up a lot in...in the conversations that I've had...why Maui, why this opportunity? And I have to say, it's...it's a combination of things. It is the natural progression of my career, this next step to be a department head. So, in that respect, it's very attractive. It's also just important for me to do this work in a community that actually cares about people. As I mentioned in my

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opening remarks, I've...I've been in communities where the focus is really just on the problem. They just want the problem to go away, but they...they don't honestly care about the people. They don't care about how you do the work. And the fact that we're sitting here together and having these questions, that's what draws me here, is...is that alignment with my values and my heart of caring for people. So, it would be a great honor to do this work here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that response. So, in the opening remarks, I just want to correct the record that Council didn't commission a report. We appropriated funding to establish a plan to address houselessness. However, we ended up with a report from ECONorthwest. That report recommended indigenous-led approaches as a framework that Maui County needs. How would that translate into actual practice under your leadership?

MS. WILLIS: You know, I had the great pleasure of meeting with 'Ōiwi Resources, and I think they're really going to lead the way on this. And I'm going to lean hard into their guidance. I think there's wonderful opportunities for us to look at things. I know one of their priorities is...is even just the...the prevalence of the Hawaiian language and making services accessible to people in the Hawaiian language, and...and so that's a place we can start. How do we build capacity within the service community to...to meet that need? There are...when we talk about housing solutions, that is where we should be talking about land use, and we should be talking about traditions in ways that we can create programs that are...are founded in cultural values. And I think that might help bring people into the service system who have currently been sort of marginalized.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that response. And then what specific mechanism would the Department use to verify the outreach contractors are . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . physically present with the population they are paid to serve by the County?

MS. WILLIS: Thank you for that. As we...as I was speaking with Councilmember Paltin about, there's...there's a difference between presence and actually doing and serving, right? So, my focus will be on looking at the outcomes of those contacts. How are we moving people forward? It's not just about, are you there? Because anybody could be there, and it doesn't...it doesn't mean they're doing...you know, it doesn't mean the work is happening.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I heard the timer. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Well, you almost got me to sign up and volunteer for the Department when you're the director. I've --

MS. WILLIS: I'm gonna get you.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- I've just...one of my four priorities for my district in South Maui when I spoke with the Mayor and the Administration was a homele...a full serm...full-service homeless service center in South Maui, where there's...it just makes sense in that community to be able to service and accommodate the people in that community. Recently, we've been supportive of security in the...one of the large parks, we have a beautiful Kalama Park, and my time over there where it was just sort of like working with the security guards, and it's like, well, what do you do? And they say, well, you can't be here. You can't be here. Well, where do they go? Maybe they go across the street. So, that just really resonated with me that that is not a solution, and we need to genuinely provide, and then we can maybe take care of sorting out mental health, substance abuse, families, all of the whatnot. So, anyway, I'm hoping that collectively we can twist the arm for the Managing Director and the Mayor to purchase property in South Maui and help. I think...I think we can get money from the philanthropic community to pro...to do this so it's not all County freight...but anyway, I guess you guessed I'm supportive.

MS. WILLIS: Thank you. And...and Councilmember, I look forward to more discussions about that. I am a big fan of integrated services. I...I love integrated services and street-based models where you don't have walls and people don't have to come. You go to them with integrated services. And I love models where you create a welcoming place with no wrong door where people can come in and get the services they need. I think there's a lot of synergy around the desire to address behavioral health issues in a different way. And I know that we don't manage that, that's not a County service. So, I'll be having to make conversations with...and friends with the State. But it is...I think there are great opportunities for that kind of integrated care.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for that. And hopefully...hopefully temporary and permanent shelter is one of the parts of that equation. So, anyway, thank you very much. And thank you, Chair, for this extra little 30 seconds.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Member U'u-Hodgins.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being with us today. I appreciate your willingness to serve. Hardly ever do I agree with Lisa Darcy, but she said a couple things up there that I'm like, she's absolutely correct. This job is definitely hard. And so, you're going to need the passion to get yourself through. So, I appreciate that you definitely have it. We can...we can see it, it's pretty palpitating. The other week I went to O'ahu with my Staff and Naomi up there. And we toured a couple places on O'ahu that I hope maybe we can do something similar here. So, we went to Aunty Blanche's out in Waimānalo and we saw how she has her community out there. I don't know if we can replicate Aunty Blanche. So, I'm not too sure if we can do that here. I will say she is the...she is definitely that corner piece, and sometimes she probably all four corner pieces. But I think the couple things we could do is like maybe a rest stop. I think maybe that's what Member Cook was talking about. There's a rest stop in town that allows people to come and sign up for showers, and wash their clothes, and use the bathroom, and provide basic hygiene that brings back their dignity and

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allows everybody to feel clean. You know, that's a...a must. And then across the street, there was a facility that allowed people with severe mental health disorders to be housed permanently, whereas they don't really belong in jail and they don't...we don't really have the hospitals to deal with them. And when they have to self-medicate is when they...they overdo it. So, with all of that said, what is your thoughts about what we can do better here on Maui, and what experience can you bring specifically from L.A. and all of your dealings elsewhere? Because we discussed it. What...what do you think we could do here better?

MS. WILLIS: Thank you for that insight. I can't wait to get to O'ahu and check out some of those programs.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: It was interesting.

MS. WILLIS: But in my experience, I've operated multi-service centers. I've designed and run campuses with shelter, interim housing, term...permanent housing, healthcare, food services, showers, lockers, laundries, even property storage --

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. WILLIS: -- pet care.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, good.

MS. WILLIS: You know, so all of those things, I'm a big fan.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yay.

MS. WILLIS: And so, I look forward to digging through the...the budget and...and looking at the resources and speaking with the Mayor and...and Managing Director about where we can pool resources. My goal is to really understand the landscape of what exists now, and then make plans, right, short-term plans and long-term plans. Setting up new facilities are...are long-term plans. So, crisis response is one of the concerns in the report from ECO...ECONorthwest. And so, crisis stabilization requires a great deal of system coordination. I'm going to need to work with the community to build the collaborative infrastructure that they mentioned is...is sort of not as strong right now. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . That will be my first priority. And then we'll get to facilities.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: All the long-term things. Thank you, Chair. Thank you for your answer.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member U'u-Hodgins. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Ms. Willis, for being here today to answer our questions. Should you be confirmed today, have you found a house?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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MS. WILLIS: I have a place to stay while I look.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Like many of us, we all stay in the same house.

MS. WILLIS: . . .*(laughing)*. . . I know, I know. And so, yes, I will be...I will be looking.
. . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, you're going to find out...

MS. WILLIS: My car is already on its way, though, so I hope this goes well.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You'll find out real quick. Yeah. You know, we...we attended a conference with Prosecuting Attorney Andy, and...and we learned that both Miami-Dade counties are shifting away from incarceration and...and prisons. They've actually closed two prisons in...in Miami-Dade, and they're moving towards more mental health institutions and those types of things. So, what is your take on, you know, working with our police force, whether it be harm reduction training, specifically working with the...the houseless communities?

MS. WILLIS: Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. I...I have a great appreciation for first responders. One of the comments you'll see on the public comments posted is from the current Chief of Police in Santa Monica, who I worked really closely with over the years during my tenure there. I met with Mr. Martin yesterday, and I'm excited to hear about the work that he's done so far, and I'm looking forward to...to inserting myself in those conversations and...and starting to be a part, see how human service...how Human Concerns can be a partner in that work. And I think working with law enforcement is really key. Diversion programs, alternative sentencing programs, homeless community courts, alternate ways of helping people who are getting caught up in the system to...to get them connected. It can be a tool, right, to help move people through a treatment program and...and get them connected to housing, but avoiding sort of the trauma and...and...that comes with...with jail time for folks who are...are unhoused. So, I look forward to doing the work, and I look forward to looking for ways that we could do that together.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: What was L.A. County's approach to...to...I mean to incarceration or...or shying away from incarceration?

MS. WILLIS: Yeah, it's really complicated. Because in L.A. County, the jail system is operated by the sheriff's department, and it's so overwhelmed that literally, we've had people who punched a police officer and they were sentenced to, you know, 180 days, which really meant five minutes booked and released because there is no capacity in the county jail. So, diversion is...is paramount. If we want to really make meaningful change, it is not . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . through incarceration.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Ms. Willis, so unfortunately, both Maui County and L.A. have experienced natural disaster in the past few years. So, both communities have experienced trauma. And given that, can you please describe how you have operationalized trauma-informed and culturally grounded care in your previous roles, and what lessons would you bring to Maui County?

MS. WILLIS: Thank you, Chair. You know, the...the idea of trauma-informed is really not just about cultural issues, it's about social issues. There's a lot of economic and social trauma, issues like domestic violence, issues around youth and families who have justice-involved parents who lose their parents and are forced into foster care. All of those things can create systems of trauma, and I think it's...it's disproportionately people who are poor are impacted by those systems, and people who are poor are disproportionately people of color. And so, we...we know that the work we do in this arena has to be informed by understanding people's background, and you can only do that if you talk to people, and you talk to the people that you're trying to help, and you understand their histories. Because one-size-fits-all doesn't work in...in this arena, and...and it has to be client-centered, and...and really understanding behaviors through a lens of trauma, understanding how to approach clients based on their histories, and being able to pivot and change your approach based on that information is key. And for me, that means helping service providers, helping us evaluate our systems so that process doesn't take precedent over people, right? That our rules don't define who we serve. And I think that is really the key to being trauma-informed and client-centered.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. What strategies would you use to reach individuals who may not actively seek help? Would you do any follow-up with individuals who initially reject help?

MS. WILLIS: Yes. And thank you for raising that question because this is something that's really near and dear to me. I was raised through social services in the last 20 years with a deep, whatever-it-takes-for-however-long-it-takes approach. I do not give up on people. People can tell me no, people can, you know, call me names, people can say that our system is terrible, but we don't stop, we don't give up, we try something else, we pivot, we ask more questions, we seek out what they need, we...we try to understand how we get to yes together. And so, no, I don't believe in limits, I don't believe in saying if you've tried three times, you're allowed to walk away from a client. And if that is the...the practice . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I will absolutely have to pivot on that.

MS. WILLIS: Thank you. Okay. Members, so that is the end of our first round, and I do want to note that it is 4:30, so some of you may have to leave shortly. Is there any desire to go into executive session to discuss 78-1?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm ready to call for the question, but if we're going to take much longer, we traded, I'm going to pick up the girl down the street, and I can come back. But if we're going to vote, then I'll stay and make her wait at the dentist.

CHAIR BATANGAN: I guess I'll look to the body. Is there any desire for...the question with Corporation Counsel? I see Member U'u-Hodgins.

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VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Can I just ask a question? I don't know if this will require executive session or not.

CHAIR BATANGAN: I think given time, yeah, and then if --

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

CHAIR BATANGAN: -- Corporation Counsel can't answer it on the...in open, they'll let us know.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Rowe. So, one of my questions regarding Section 78-1 was, how do you waive the requirement? And I understand that the Mayor's Administration will waive it, he's the appointing authority, and then we basically confirm this waiver. And this is just through resolution, and as it's printed here on this resolution is sufficient. I know I see your signature, but I just need to hear the answer out loud.

MR. ROWE: Yes. That's --

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Or I see Mimi's signature.

MR. ROWE: -- that's...that's how it's...it's generally done when that waiver is exercised.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And we've done...we're super confident in this?

MR. ROWE: I feel confident that 78 point...or sorry, that 78-1 is being complied with by this nomination.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. That was it for me, Chair. Thanks.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair. Yes, Member Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, real fast, because Josiah Nishita took up my time, my first question...just kidding.

CHAIR BATANGAN: That guy, again.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I just want to...I just want to know, what are your plans for the first 100 days? Big...I mean, big job, you know, because you're walking into a brand-new department, brand-new people. I'm not too sure how many people you met besides Andrew Martin that you mentioned today. Just curious.

MS. WILLIS: So, yes. The first 100 days is going to be a race. I'm going to be meeting with all...as many service providers as I...as I can coordinate with. I want to spend time actually at their programs. I want to under...talk to their staff. I'll need to spend time

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with the Department Staff. It's 125 Staff people. I'll...I'll want to start with working with Jessica, working with the division heads, but then also getting to know the Staff and hearing from them about what they need, what they would want to see, the changes. I'm sure a lot of them have changes in...and ideas in their head that they just maybe haven't brought forward, and I would want to hear those things. And so, really, the first 100 days is listening. It's dialogue, it's...it's trying to understand so that I can move forward with starting to make...make some decisions or...or making some recommendations.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And will you be participating in budget?

MS. WILLIS: I will defer to Managing Director Nishita on that.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura, for the question. If the Committee does move forward the recommendation today, our anticipation is that we will officially start Maggie on or around April 1st. The budget had to be prepared, you know, without her confirmation in place. So, we...when...when the budget does come up, we will have Acting Director Crouse. Maggie will be present as well, but we'll rely on the division heads and Acting Director Crouse to present the budget, as well as we can talk about some additional items in there that can support some of the ongoing work and effort that Maggie will do in her...in her first, you know, time period in office. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Okay. So, if I'm reading the room correctly, you guys are ready to take the vote. I do have questions for Corporation Counsel. I'd like to pose those too...if he's able to answer it, great. If not, that's okay, too, and then we can be respectful of everybody's time. Okay. So, Deputy Corporation Counsel. So, Section 78-1 is able to be waived if, "the position's required to have highly specialized or scientific knowledge and training and a qualified applicant who is a resident for at least one year is not available to fill the position." So, my questions are...well, there's two. First is, if the Charter, the Code, and the job description themselves do not require highly specialized or scientific knowledge and training, how do you justify use of this exemption? And two, given that a person has to be qualified to serve in the role of director, to be acting director, how can the Administration say that an applicant for the position who lives in the state is not available?

MR. ROWE: Thank you for the...the question, Chair. Regarding your first question, the requirement that they have highly specialized or scientific knowledge, neither the term highly specialized or scientof...or scientific knowledge is defined anywhere in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes. If you look to the Charter 8-10.3, powers, duties, and functions, it does spell out the...the powers, duties, and functions for the position that we're looking to fill here, and it does say things. Specifically in this case, I think, is relevant is implement programs and services for senior citizens, youth, economically challenged, and homeless. So, under the way that 78-1 is written, if the Mayor makes

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the finding that there is a specialized requirement and that it's filled, that the applicant fills it, and that other people who applied for it did not fill it, then...then he...he can make that finding. Again, he...he considers the implementation of programs related to homeless to be a specialized field, and for this candidate to have filled it, and that the other applicants that were reviewed did not have the same kind of specialized knowledge. Regarding the second question...could you repeat it again, sorry?
...*(laughing)*...

CHAIR BATANGAN: Since a person has to be qualified to serve in the position of director, to serve as acting director, how can we, on one hand, say that we have a candidate in the State of Hawai'i eligible to serve in this position, and then at the same time, say that there is nobody in the State of Hawai'i who qualifies for this position?

MR. ROWE: So, again, I'd...I'd look to the...the issue of specialized knowledge that is contained in 78.1 [*sic*], and that specifically goes to the...the requirement to have specialized knowledge and into the...what's in the Charter for this position. The current Acting Director does meet the minimum qualifications for the job under the Maui County Code. However, the Administration has made the determination that on a full-time capacity, looking into the implementation of the...of...of homeless practices would be...it...they're...they're not currently in a position to fill that requirement.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Corporation Counsel. Okay. So, I guess that concludes my questions for Corporation Counsel. Members, would anybody like to make a motion? Or I guess, Member Johnson, is this for discussion, or are you...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, for discussion on the --

CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- motion, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So, Staff, can you remind the body of the steps that we have to take to act on this?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yes, Chair. So, if you would like to approve the appointment, you would recommend adoption of Resolution 26-39, including the nonsubstantive revisions mentioned earlier. And if you would like to disapprove, you would recommend adoption, and then make another subsequent motion to amend by striking the words "approving" and replacing with "disapproving" throughout the resolution.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So moved.

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CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So, I heard Chair Lee first, so I'll recognize that one, and then I heard Member Cook's second. So, I guess we have a motion on the floor to recommend adoption of Resolution 26-9 [sic], including any nonsubstantive revisions. Discussions. I will take Chair as the maker of the motion first, and then I'll recognize Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. I...and I am in support of this nominee because she seems to be highly qualified. Unfortunately, she doesn't have the relationships that she'll need, but she can acquire them over time. So, I am going to support her. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair Lee. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I firmly believe we need to fix the system. I decriminalized sleeping in parks. I made buses free for low-income and unsheltered, initiated fundings for substance abuse outreach in the Aloha House 12-bedroom dorm in my first year. I initiated funding for transitional house, immigration services, unsheltered workforce development, increased Human Concerns funding by 1.25 million after the fires. I voted twice no for the...I voted no twice for the last Human Concerns Director because our vision on how we treat our unsheltered did not align. I come from the approach of compassion and conscious methodology, Bill 111 was my litmus plate...paper. And I...I wasn't sure if I could support you if you didn't agree with what the bill requires the Administration to do before it sweeps them. I don't think it's a shackle, I think it's parameters on how we treat our most vulnerable. You know, but if we look at the context of now, you really only have ten months, so I feel like maybe I'll...with reservations, I'll...I'll support you, and let's see what you can do in ten months. Thank you, Chair. That's it.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Johnson. Any further discussion? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I just...you know, when I first...I wasn't supportive at first, I spoke with you on the phone, and I was impressed. You are charismatic, you're compassionate, you're communicative, and I think you'll fit in really well in the community because it seems like you...well, one, you have compassion and...and enthusiasm. So, I just...I just want to say that my first reaction, nah, they're not from the mainland, and...I mean, they aren't...they aren't local. So...and...and the Mayor said something that I'll need to repeat to clarify this, like a lot of good people coming from the mainland. So, anyway, I'm supportive. Thank you for the opportunity, Chair, just to reinforce the why.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, I...I too had great reservations because you're not from here. And the people that you're going to be working with are passionate, you know, whatever, and I...I wonder, you know, how that will be. I will tell you that, to your benefit, I'm married to somebody that is from Santa Monica. He was born...he was

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born there. Good...good katonk. Do you know that phrase? That's my husband. And so, initially, I thought, no, you know, for those reasons, not the Santa Mon...Monica thing. I didn't realize that until today, but it's going to be a hard job. I'm looking at Pūlehu Road, which is in my community, and the homeless are piling up. I keep on calling. It's not helping. And I really wonder if, you know, there is...is an effort to help that community. If you want, I will meet you there. I always take pictures on SeeClickFix every time I get a complaint. And I'm not too sure how you diffuse that, or, you know, what's going to happen there, but I have great concerns about my community and the accumulation of the homeless. And I get...you know, anyway, you get the picture. I...so, I'm voting yes with reservations, and I look forward to meeting you at Pūlehu Road, or something, you know, just to help with...with the accumulation, and my community then can be calmer, I guess, about seeing something actually happening. So, thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Ms. Willis, I heard your response to the Housing First model, and so I'm...I'm hopeful, because I think the previous...the Department always used that model, and...and oftentimes it was a barrier to...to getting outreach. I don't think the Department had the capacity to do the outreach into the community. And so, because they followed that model, they...they...oftentimes, that was a barrier with working with some of the grants that went out, because you...you needed to follow that model. And also, you know, the advocates, the outreach, some of which you've heard this afternoon speak, they've been, you know, wanting to have more support financially. And so, I'm hoping...I'll...I'll vote in support with the hopes that you can work with some of our outreach providers. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I move to amend the motion to include any nonsubstantive changes and revisions, because her middle name starts with a Y.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR BATANGAN: That was already part of the motion --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR BATANGAN: -- that was made initially.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I withdraw that, and I will not call you a katonk because I'm not going to push you over and see if you fall.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I will be supporting the motion on the floor to approve Ms. Willis. I agree with Mayor's opening remarks. While I...you know, like my colleagues, I'd love for all our department directors to be homegrown. It's a higher priority that leadership meets the needs of the moment. I agree that addressing the issue of folks not having housing is an issue that has not been met the way that our community is asking us to meet it. Sometimes existing relationships can be double-edged. There's...there's benefit to having a clean slate to develop new relationships. And I think it's impressive to see community advocates already coming out to testify in support of Ms. Willis in the short time that she has met with them. You know, do...doing the same thing may not yield the results that our community is hoping for. So, you know, in this short time that Ms. Willis has to...to prove herself, I'm hoping that some of the things that has been done differently will benefit our community. As the former Santa Monica mayor testified to, I...I appreciate the can-do attitude. You're being thrown into the deep end starting during budget session, but it's a good time to actually hear directly from the community. And, you know, you said you like to be in community. And so, I think this is also a good time to try to figure out how to make the Commission on Healing Solutions for Homelessness actually work the way that it was intended to. And in hearing, you know, from our Molokai community advocate, Ms. Lindo, you know, that you're going to be listening and taking...you know, letting the community on Molokai lead, because as you stated, it's not a one-size-fit-all. And so, I...I look forward to the co-design. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. For me, I never had concerns about your passion, your knowledge. I found you to very...very thoughtful and collaborative. So, it was never a question on your qualifications. For me, the question always had to do with your eligibility. And I still am not convinced that the conditions necessary to waive HRS 78-1 have been met. So, for me, it's not a question of whether or not you're from here. It's a question of whether or not you're legally eligible to serve. And I am not comfortable with that determination. So, if you're putting it on us to confirm a...a nominee that I don't think is eligible for the position, it...not how qualified or not qualified are you. And I want just to be on record that it's not a slight against you, Ms. Willis. But I...I will be voting no on the resolution for that reason. So, it sounds like --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Roll call.

CHAIR BATANGAN: -- yeah, it sounds like we're going to need a roll call because of me. And so...

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That guy.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yeah. Oh, I guess before we do, I see Member Rawlins-Fernandez's hand raised.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just for...because I didn't include it in my remarks is, I...I believe that the requirement under statute has been satisfied, which is why I'm supporting Ms. Willis. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez. Ms. Sugimura?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. I also...well, I...I want to just also thank Jessica Crouse for stepping in and keeping the Department going on the interim. And we cannot forget, you know, the people and everybody else, you know, that are superstars in...in the Department, and I want to thank them. I look...I look forward to everybody kind of pulling together, working together, and we'll just see how this goes.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, any further discussion? That being the case, roll call, please.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Proceeding with roll call. Councilmember Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aye with reservations.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Council Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Councilmember Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Aye with reservations.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Committee Vice-Chair U'u-Hodgins.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Committee Chair Batangan.

CHAIR BATANGAN: No.

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MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's eight "ayes," one "no." Motion carries.

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

NOES: Chair Batangan.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXCUSED: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending ADOPTION of Resolution 26-39.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Congratulations, Ms. Willis.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: *(Applause)*

CHAIR BATANGAN: This item will be moved on to full Council. All right. Members, this concludes the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting. Thank you very much. The time is now 4:51 p.m. This GREAT Committee meeting is adjourned. . . .*(gavel)* . . .

ADJOURN: 4:51 p.m.

great:min:260310min:mll:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 65 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 8th day of April 2026, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck