

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

MINUTES

April 2, 2024

Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

CONVENE: 6:00 p.m.

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

STAFF: Samantha Tanck, Legislative Analyst
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
Jennifer Yamashita, Committee Secretary

Additional staff

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tom Cook:
Jared Agtunong

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:
Axel Beers

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez:
Sarah Sexton

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins:
Laura McDowell
Susan Clements

OTHERS: Tiare Lawrence
John Phelps
Rodney Kilborn
Barry Rivers, Director, Maui Film Festival
Sherri Dhyan
Samantha Lyles

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

Dave DeLeon
Kāneali'i Williams
Nicole Hokoana, Chief Executive Officer, Maui Behavioral Health
Resources
Rachel Fabbio
Shane Santos
Bodhi Be, Executive Director, Doorway Into Light
Teya Penniman, Manager, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Luigi Mor-Hamoy
Levi Hunt
Annette Summers
Maile Davis
Koa Fabio
Petar Kovacic
Sandra Antonios
Jodel Edwards
Teri Larronde
Brett Gobar
Rana Boone
Patrick Fukuda, Captain, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Kenyon Smith, Captain, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Gloria Madden
Amagi
Tami Joslin
Lily Lujeske
Lucienne deNaie
Bruce U'u
Charla Konohia
Peter Capriotti
Deborah Rybak
Ian Hodges
Rod Antone
Nara Boone
Clement Wang
Nia Fitzpatrick
Joyclynn Costa
Sarah Jones
Nicole Akiona-Bailey
Nikhilananda
Joe Gardner
Sandra Rodriguez
Mrs. Padgett
Leinā'ala Kuloloio Vedder
Others (16)

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Thank you. Wonderful to see so many of you here tonight. And, as you know, this is our in-person budget meeting. So, we don't have any online testifiers. So, thank you for making the time to be with us. We are the Maui County Council Budget Committee, and we're here to listen to what you have to say about needs that you see in the community that you would like us to learn about. And my name is Yuki Lei Sugimura. I'm the Chair of this Committee. And I'm going to introduce your Councilmember, Nohe U'u-Hodgins, and she'll introduce everybody, and here you go.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I don't . . .*(inaudible)*. . . good evening, everyone. Thank you for coming out. It's so lovely to see everybody's face. So, I will introduce everyone. Starting on this end, by way of Hāna, we have Member Sinenci. Yay. By way of the West Side, we have Member Paltin. By way of Molokai, we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez. By way of Wailuku, we have Chair Lee. Coming all the way down from Kula, we have Yuki Lei Sugimura. We have Auntie Tasha coming here from Kahului. By way of the ferry, we have Member Johnson from Lāna'i Island. And lastly, but not least, we have Member Cook by way of Kihei. Thank you, Member Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much, Members, for being here. And I want to also introduce our Committee Staff, which works so hard just to get all the meetings together and will be putting notes together so we, the Councilmembers, can have a summary of what you talked about tonight. So, from...Pauline Martins, Committee Secretary; as well as Jennifer Yamashita there; and we also have Megan Moniz on that side with Sam Tanck, Legislative Analyst. I think we have Pauline Martins, also, there.

ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI (BILL 60 (2024), BILL 61 (2024), BILL 62
(2024), BILL 63 (2024), BILL 64 (2024), and RESOLUTION 24-66)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, again, we have only one item on our budget agenda, which is our budget bill which is Fiscal Year '25, proposed by Mayor Bissen. And our job in the Council, I think one of our most important jobs that we have, is to look at this budget, and figure out what should be in it and what should be not in it, and take a look of it, and be...pass a responsible financial budget for the County of Maui going forward. And so to hear...hear from you is very important. We are taking testimony, three minutes per person. If you're not completed, we will allow you to finish up in 30 seconds. And the ladies here who has a timer...you want to give them a sample of what it sounds like?

MS. MONIZ: It'll ring.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It'll ring.

MS. MONIZ: But it'll ring in three minutes. . . .*(laughing)*. . . And then 30 seconds --
. . .*(timer sounds)*. . . There we go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And you'll be surprised at how fast the buzzer goes off. When you...when you do come up and testify, please state your name; if you do represent an organization, the organization that you are representing; and any information that you would like us to...we really appreciate written testimony. So, if you have your testimony written, please submit it to any of the...our Staff here and that will be part of our records of this meeting tonight. So, at this time, I'd like to ask for the first testifier. Three minutes, please.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the first person signed up to testify is Tiare Lawrence, followed by John Phelps.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MS. LAWRENCE: Aloha, Councilmembers. Mahalo for letting me testify early. Aunty Mopsy, as many of you know from Protect Pā'ia, she couldn't be here tonight due to a injury but she sends her love to all of you. And so I just wanted to take the opportunity to kind of touch on some of the stuff that was important to her. As you know, for years, Aunty Mopsy has lobbied for better maintenance and care at the park area between Pā'ia Bay and Kapukaulua, also known as Baldwin Beach. And the County has done a good job at starting to mow and maintain that area. However, she feels...and many people in the community would like to see, perhaps, pavilions built where families can come and enjoy the beach; maybe even the opportunity in the future to provide permitted camping for local residents. But it is a beautiful area, and I know for many people in this room who are born and raised here, some of our most cherished memories were camping in these beautiful places that were undeveloped. But it's really hard to enjoy these spaces nowadays, right? So, I'm leaning on the County to kind of think about it; I'm planting the seed. Years ago, many of us advocated for the purchase of Launiupoko and Ukumehame, which is currently owned by the County. And we tried to get funding put in place for a management plan. And I...it did pass Council, at one point, but through the years--I've even reached out to Parks--it just never did happen. But that area has now turned into a toxic dump, a wasteland. There's even a two-story building in the bushes at Cut Mountain. But these are places that we advocated for, for families to enjoy so that we could go camping, so that we could enjoy park, and walking areas, and...and the beach but it's...it's unsafe. And the firemen in this room can tell you that they respond to calls nearly weekly of cars that are being put up in flames in that area. And after what is happening...to Lahaina, we need to take

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

care of these County-owned parcels better; we need to. And, of course, that area is right across 700-year-old kūpuna corals in Olowalu. So, we have a kuleana to mālama these...these beautiful sacred spaces. I'm sure the million-dollar question...well, okay, Tiare, well, tell me where are we going to get the money? Because a lot of the money is being directed towards Lahaina's recovery. But Pā'ia is situated in a very ideal location because there's tons of tourists that come every day to Pā'ia Town. And I know there's PARK MAUI that was proposed and they were focusing on doing Wailuku first. But I think that the County should consider Pā'ia being the pilot project. Every tourist that comes to Pā'ia should pay to come and enjoy Pā'ia Town. Pā'ia is such a special place. And let's face it, we need the extra revenue. There's a upper parking lot in Ho'okipa Beach Park. That place could be generating . . .(timer sounds). . . a lot of revenue and...30 seconds...but, you know, the area of Moku'ula used to generate nearly \$400,000 a year, and it had roughly about little over 40 parking stalls. Now, imagine if...if Pā'ia became a park...you know, a permitted park revenue area, you could be making millions of dollars. And there's no excuse why we can't build a pavilion, or restrooms, or showers at Kapukaulua for local families to enjoy. But I...I want to end by saying, thank you so much for all the hard work you guys are doing for Lahaina. You guys are warriors and mahalo nui. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for Tiare? Okay. She has to go pick up her children. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is John Phelps, to be followed by Samantha Lyles.

MR. PHELPS: Did you get your handouts yet?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. No.

MR. PHELPS: No. You'll need...in case you need to take...comment. My name is John Phelps. I'm known as Mr. Mission Impossible. Oh, ho. Wonderful. Little bit of a...a little humor. On the mainland, I'm known as a physicist, a chemist, a mathematician, a rocket scientist. But now my mission here is to convince you that I know something about biological threats. So, we're going to talk about coqui frogs. Okay. This story started about five years ago, in which we held meetings up on the subdivision, the Ha'ikū Hill subdivision with MISC to discuss what we're going to do about the coqui frogs, and they informed us a lot of things that we were not happy to hear. Number one is that's where the heaviest density of frogs is on the whole island. Second is that MISC didn't have resources, i.e. personnel, that they could come and take care of our properties up there, and there are 37 properties up there, and deal with a higher proper...higher priority threat, which was the frogs that were coming out of the gulches and then going toward Hāna. And there's nothing between here and Hāna except for very fertile

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

areas where the frogs can do their thing. All right. So, what we did was we formed a community support group, of which I became the lead, five years ago, to try to supplement the resources and spray for frogs up on our community area. This turned out to be very successful. And MISC, then, has formed a total of ten community organizations like that to try to supplement their lack of...of the ability to get personnel. MISC will tell you about the difficulties they're having with personnel and the ideas that they had to try to improve that. But once, we sprayed for about three months and MISC was spraying in the Lilikoi Gulch, which is right there up against our properties, we found that MISC had other higher priorities and they could no longer spray in the gulches. And so what we did was we circled all of the 37 properties, that 80 something acres, with a PVC line, and we then provided acid that we could use as a barrier around our properties so that we were...instead of spending 100 hours of my time a month, plus another...hours from the other folks trying to keep the frogs in the gulch, we could do that in about half that time simply using another delivery mechanism to supplement the...the truck-mounted sprayers. Well, this worked out well, and we used funding from the . . .(timer sounds). . . County as well as from the State. Huh, so I got 30 seconds, huh? Wow. Well, we...what's the...the...this five years in...in three minutes; what a mission. Okay. Females, 1,000 eggs a year. An acre can support 40,000 frogs. One frog...think of one frog outside your bedroom window, like being sleeping with a rooster. All right. . . .(timer sounds). . . So, that's the...kind of the problem you got. Funding, we need to continue the funding we've had just to keep the frogs in the gulches as best we can. But additional funding is needed if we're going to reduce the quantity of frogs that are in these gulches. To give you an idea, that's about \$1 million just for the little gulch, Lilikoi Gulch, which is 25 acres or so. Māliko Gulch is five times that size.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh it did go off, I'm sorry.

MR. PHELPS: I'm done?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. PHELPS: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members, any questions? Go ahead, Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Phillips...Phelps, for being here. I understand exactly what you're saying. When I first heard about this, my thought was, why don't we just burn off the gulch?

MR. PHELPS: Right.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That was my thought.

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

**April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall**

MR. PHELPS: That's not a...that's not a bad --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Course, that didn't receive --

MR. PHELPS: -- that's not a bad thought.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, that didn't exactly receive this overwhelming thought.

MR. PHELPS: Right.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But that is still my sense that when you want to get rid of stuff like that, because we've invested millions of dollars in MISC. And every year they would come to us with their report. They would tell us they're doing fine, they were doing well, things under control; apparently that was not the case.

MR. PHELPS: Can I say...can I...can I respond to that?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Sure.

MR. PHELPS: MISC has provided funding and success at containing the frogs so that they stay in the gulch, and they haven't spread as far as they would have. Had we not done that, we'd have lost the battle to the frogs years ago.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, what is your solution today?

MR. PHELPS: The solution was...I didn't get to it, is that in addition to providing the funding that we have been to keep the frogs in the gulches, we have to start killing the frogs that are in the gulches.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. PHELPS: And to do that requires a different approach for eradication than what's been done for containment. There are plans for doing that, but no funding.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, the plan, going forward, is actually eradication and not reduction because prior to it was just reduction.

MR. PHELPS: Well --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Containing.

MR. PHELPS: -- yeah, containment. Yeah . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. So, we don't want to contain them. We want to get rid of them.

MR. PHELPS: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. PHELPS: That's what I want.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. PHELPS: But you have to contain them because if we stop spraying, containing them, for --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. PHELPS: -- one year, we will be as --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: They multiply.

MR. PHELPS: -- bad -- we'll be as bad as the Big Island.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, what's the cost?

MR. PHELPS: It only -- it only takes one year of non-spraying and we become as bad; in fact, some people say worse, than the Big Island because there's nothing between here and Hāna except for fertile places for the frogs to breed where you can't get to them --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. PHELPS: -- you'll never get them out.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have a -- I have a question. I have a quick question. I have a question. You going to recognize me? Okay. Thanks. Mahalo for your testimony. So, when you said the difference between eradication and containment, do you know the difference between the funding for eradication versus containment? Because, I think, I remember it being, like, a difference of, like, \$9 million. Like --

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

MR. PHELPS: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- a million for containment, ten million for eradication.

MR. PHELPS: That's...that's --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, if we wanted eradication, we would need to fund eradication. Is that what --

MR. PHELPS: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you understand? Okay.

MR. PHELPS: But there's something else that I...wasn't stated, is without the eradication, this one million or so every year for containment goes on forever. If you ever stop, we lose the island.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Precisely. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anymore? None. Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Samantha Lyles, to be followed by Koa Fabio.

MS. LYLES: Hello. My name is Samantha Lyles. This is my daughter, Honey. She attends Ha'ikū Head Start with the MEO Program. So, I just, first, want to thank you guys for the funding that you've already provided to the MEO Program and making it possible for her to go to school. And, I guess, I just wanted to give a little bit of testimony about what MEO has done for me so far this year. She sees her teacher. So, yeah -- so, she has all these amazing teachers helping her and all these kids. Is -- I -- it is a Head Start Program. And without it I, personally -- I'm a single mother. I don't have the means to pay for her to go to daycare full-time or anything like that. So, this program makes that possible for me to balance out, you know, my needs and her needs as well. They've gone, in my opinion, above and beyond. They...when I had to take a personal leave in the month of December I had to take Honey out with me for school for a while. And they provided me items, food, and things that I needed at that time. Even when, you know, she wasn't necessarily in the program, they wanted to take care of us as a family and that's very important to me. So, I really do appreciate that. And then they, you know, welcomed her back with open arms and, you know, it was like she never left. And so I just want to say I would greatly appreciate funding this coming year. I want to keep it going. I'm going to school in the fall and

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

without this program that wouldn't be possible for me. So, this has really allowed me a lot more opportunities to do things that, you know, fulfill my life, and make her life better, so thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Congratulations. Great.

MS. LYLES: Thank you.

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

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Koa Fabio, to be followed by Jodel Edwards.

MR. FABIO: Hello. Hello. My name is Koa Fabio. I'm 12 years old. I've been going to the Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center for three years now. At the Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center, I get involved in a lot of different programs that they offer. My favorite program is Project Venture. In Project Venture I learn...wait, sorry. I learn to help out my community and become a better athlete. I also am currently an intern at the Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center, I...sorry...PYCC learning important...no. Also, I am a...currently...currently an --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Take your time.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Take a deep breath.

MR. FABIO: -- current...thank you. I'm currently an intern at the Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center learning important job skills. There are 1,000 kids just like me that...who need...who need the center in their lives. Please continue to fund the Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center. Thank you very much. Have a good day.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions for Koa? Seeing none. Good job. Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Jodel Edwards, to be followed by Lily Lujeske.

MS. EDWARDS: Aloha. I am Jodel Edwards. We are Kū'au residents for ten years, and our neighborhood and community is very concerned of our safety and wildfire risk from the lawless, dangerous, and unsanitary Holomua encampment. Annual budget states to provide vital and reliable service to County residents, and also focuses on recovery and prepare for future disasters; Bill 62, improvement projects; Bill 63, roads, beautification, safety, disability, accessibility and provide funding for a modular community. We propose funding be focused on a...on the

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

quickest and easiest solutions that are already in place. One, continue funding and expand the current County Clean and Safe Pā'ia Program, sorry, to Holomua. Mel Johnson has proved his services on the land before the public parking lot and with his current contract Pā'ia. Fund the program to allow his service to clear out and expand to 16 hours to include Holomua as well as Pā'ia Bay for consistent security and allow him to join County's long-term solutions. Fund the Holomua gravel or paved bypass road to help traffic congestion, provide an evacuation and emergency route, and enforce laws. Three, fund and encourage a 5 p.m. to 8 a.m. monitored gravel camp facility in town for unsheltered residents, for easy resource access. Four, continue funding educational outreach for residents on how to civilly stop the problem. I am aware that the County is currently taking steps to help the situation. However, please consider funding our proposed solutions to help keep our community safe. Mahalo for listening and resolving our safety and wildfire concerns.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Can we have your testimony...your written testimony?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good.

MS. EDWARDS: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Members, anybody have questions?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I'll take a picture of it if you don't mind. And then you can keep it.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. Well, I was just going to put on here two little things. So, I know that I...this is not my expertise, but I have been...brought to my attention about legality issues...and so they pose a big question. So, I am confident with his expertise, Mel Johnson, and the experience that he is aware and has solutions to logistically deal with these legality issues in a civil way. So, you can also reach out to him. He is happy to answer your questions. Also -- yeah, this is just -- so this started voicing my 'ohana's concern, which spread to our neighbor -- or sorry, our street, and then our neighborhood, and our community. And now, we're just super concerned because...you guys have done great with Lahaina, but we just want to prevent history from repeating --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Right.

MS. EDWARDS: -- so thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Oh. There's a question. There's a question for you

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I didn't -- I didn't catch -- I'm not super familiar -- did you say Holomua Road?

MS. EDWARDS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And --

MS. EDWARDS: The encampment back there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. EDWARDS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the other thing I -- are you a member of that Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization?

MS. EDWARDS: I am not a member of anything. I am just a resident that is very concerned on our safety, as well as the wildfire risk. Because I know that there has been...well, this was a couple of weeks ago, document...documented...oh, gosh, I can't remember...25, and then I heard it was 35...I'm not sure. Don't mark my words, but that's been since January. And so, as we know, that is all, you know, upwind of us. And so if...if that gets out of control, we are -- we are toast, as we all know.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . fires on that road.

MS. EDWARDS: So, --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then --

MS. EDWARDS: -- I do want to also thank you. I know all of you have been proactive working on this. I've heard from Naomi. I've heard from multiple people in the community, so I appreciate it. And we're just asking to fund some more, like, with these programs that are already in place.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And have you joined, like, the -- have you started a Firewise group in your neighborhood or --

MS. EDWARDS: No, all I have done is gotten emails together and just tried to get everybody aware of this meeting. Well, I didn't even know this meeting was happening first. So, first it was, like, just putting together emails --

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

**April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall**

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, you didn't get --

MS. EDWARDS: -- just for my street --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- you didn't get a . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

MS. EDWARDS: -- to the County, and then the next thing I know, it was like...it just started spreading. And so I have a community email list and that's all I have. I'm not a member of anything. I am just a resident.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. EDWARDS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So...so that would be my first suggestion, is --

MS. EDWARDS: Oh, gosh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- become a part of the Firewise...start a Firewise community, and then become part of that Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization because it's a State group that directs policy and stuff like that. So, I mean -- and it's made up of citizens that have that same kind of concerns before --

MS. EDWARDS: Is there any way someone can email me the information?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is your email on that --

MS. EDWARDS: Like what is becoming a member entail?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. She'll do it.

MS. EDWARDS: Okay. Thank you. Is that it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. EDWARDS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. No other questions. Okay. Next testifier. Good job.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Lily Lujeske, to be followed by Rodney Kilborn.

MS. LUJESKE: Hi, my name is Lily Lujeske. And I just wanted to say some things on

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

behalf of my grandmother; she couldn't make it today. She just wants to know how can scrap...this is about Holomua Road. This is on behalf of my grandmother and she want...wants to know how can a scrap yard operate legally on the side of a public road? How is this...oh. The road is used for stripping cars. Where is their business license? Where are the environmental reviews? Where is the oil, batteries, battery acid, antifreeze going? How do they dispose of toxic materials? Who is inspecting the area? The County picks up the cars from time to time, but the car parts are left behind...left behind along the road and in the woods. And that's what my grandma had to say. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good granddaughter. Anybody have questions for Lily? Okay. So, maybe you can give us your email address or your contact information.

MS. LUJESKE: Um-hum.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. LUJESKE: And also I wanted to say, I am a youth member at PYCC too. And I think it's a really great place. There's a lot of opportunities and I...it...it's a really great place for...to sculpt a kid's mind to be a great leader or a person in the future. Please keep funding it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Lily. You're a good example. So...all right. No questions? Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Rodney Kilborn, to be followed by Barry Rivers.

MR. KILBORN: Aloha. Aloha mai. Aloha, kākou. Sorry about facing my back, guys. You know how that goes. Can I lift it up?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . one handsome buggah.

MR. KILBORN: Oh. Yeah, I get 'em. Also known as Handsome Bugga Productions. I, personally, like to say mahalo nui. You guys done a terrific job for the time of a bad time, August 8th. And I have family back there. My 'ohana is Saffery, we come back from Lahaina. My tūtū was a school teacher at Kamehameha III back in the 1920s and also a Kamehameha School Kapālama. My tūtū, yeah. But anyway I like to say, you know, I'm here about the coqui frogs. I live in Ha'ikū Hill and John Phelps is my very good neighbor there. And we a very tight neighborhood there, 37 people in...in the neighborhood. Saying about the coqui frog...12, 15 years ago my sister, Barbara Branco, who live in Hilo, Hawai'i...I went there for a wedding and that was the first time I heard a coqui frog. It started at 5:00 sharp, and they get done at 4:30 in the morning. And it was

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

screaming to the ear. So, I went Naniloa Hotel. I figure I can get away, take the highest floor. I think was the 6th floor, I not mistaken. I still hear the dang thing; that's how loud the coqui frog. In Ha'ikū Community Center...I live across of Lilikoi Gulch and also across of Māliko Gulch. I can hear millions of those. I talking millions. Me and this guy, Dave DeLeon, Arturo (*phonetic*), we all live in that neighborhood. I tell you guys this, if we don't stop it and keep it in Lilikoi Gulch or in Māliko if we don't get the fund...this is already hitting Hāna, from what I heard. It's already at Pe'ahi, where these guys doing a great job cleaning the land there. You know what, we going regret if we ain't got the money and we need that 11 million. This is no joke. And mahalo nui to our Senator Lynn DeCoite, who really getting a lot of money put together, funds. And, hopefully, with the County we can get together to get these thing stop, eradicate for good. So, that's all I like to say. Thank...thank you guys over here for you guys coming to the meeting, and stuff like that. That's it. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? No questions. You got to go. Okay. Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Barry Rivers, to be followed by Sherri Dhyan.

MR. RIVERS: Hello. Hello. This is a first. I have no notes and here's why. So, the festival is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, and we're planning on going ahead and doing one. We're going to change the dates a little bit to sort of just shake things up a little bit. I think it needs a little...sort of kick in the ass, to be candid. Just...so what we're going to do is have it end on the...on...on Labor Day and back it up five days from there. So, I'm hoping it'll really get...get people take notice about it and, you know, help support it when it...when it comes around the thing. I just want to make a couple of real quick comments here. I just wanted to say that for...you know, we...the work that I do for me and to me is so much less than some piece of crap movie at the mall that kids are just twisting their heads into waste...wasteful universes, yeah. So, we've been...we've been banging the...banging the...the drum about compassionate vision, life-affirming storytelling, films that matter, changing the world. I mean, that's where we do our work. And we do it in a way that we hope, and...and has proven over time, to have significant numbers of people come and see what we do, and enjoy Maui, and come for several days. And then we have a...I have a laundry list of stuff I can, you know, show you guys. I know a lot of you have been there over the years, you know. So, you know, we just want to keep it going. And it's a really...much more challenging thing than it used to be because these...you know, all these screening services. Frankly, we just got them for the first time in a...in a month. And they were always like the...the...my...the...my...my...my...my enemy, these guys. You know, they took our...our...took our business away, basically. But, you know, yes, they do some great stuff now and again, and it

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

gets a little bit better. But, honestly, there's so much crap out there and we really are working hard to keep stuff worth watching...what people have a chance to look at here on Maui, kids especially. I...that's...my doctorate was in that...that field. And it...it matters a lot to me what kids see, how it impacts them, who they become. I mean, these are all serious things going on. So, anyway...so, I just want to...I want to get that out there. I also want to thank all of you for, like, the last 300 years; I don't know, a long time, that...that have sort of been sitting in these seats over the years and supported this festival so it can do things that a lot of festivals don't have the luxury and the love to continue. And this is a rough ride we're...we're on right now. I'm just stubborn enough to really get out there and bang my head against the wall one more time. But we're really hoping that people will take, seriously, the fact that we're here because people come and this is our year to make that clear to people. We hope that they care. They tell us they care all the time. We've tried like hell to have it work in the way that...that so many people are used to having it work for all those years, you know, 25...well, 20 something years, but it's a...just a different world. So, you know, we're...we're...we're...we're...we're moving things around. We going to do more music. We going to do more stuff I can't even talk about because it's special, and it's magic, and I don't want to really get it out there too far ahead of me. But, you know, we're...we're in it to win it. . . .(timer sounds). . . We love people when they can make it. If they can't, have a friend be interested in trying to make it down there. And, yeah, it's a hell of a good time. And thanks so much for everything you do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Barry. Anybody have questions for Maui Film Festival? Seeing none. Thank you.

MR. RIVERS: Wow. My lucky day.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Sherri Dhyan, to be followed by Dave DeLeon.

MS. DHYAN: Okay. How do I make this lower?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right there.

MS. DHYAN: Or I'll just do that. How's that? That's easier. I come before you today representing Paia Merchants Association with urgency regarding three critical issues: parking, traffic, and security. These issues have been long-standing concerns, but recent events, particularly the devastating Lahaina fires, have inflamed the situation to an alarming degree. Pā'ia, once a charming and welcoming community, is now at risk of becoming the most undesirable town to

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

visit, both tourists and locals, alike. The long line of traffic, coupled with the lack of sufficient parking, creates a barrier to enter the...that deters the potential visitors and the local shoppers. Additionally, the verbal, and physical, and visual misconduct of vagrants and mentally unstable individuals, as well as thieves create a sense of unsafe environment both for the visitors and the locals. Break-ins to cars, stores, homes have all become too common. While we are grateful for the support of our private security company, Agron [sic], not sure how you pronounce it, it is imperative to acknowledge that their funding is set to end in June of this year. The small, locally-owned businesses simply cannot afford to hire a private company to provide necessary security measures for the entire town. In light of this, we implore the Council to allocate specific funds to the Maui Police Department for the purpose of implementing foot patrol in Pā'ia. These patrols are vital to maintaining a visible police presence and deterring criminal activity. By investing in proactive measures, such as a foot patrol, we can ensure the safety and well-being of all. Furthermore, I urge the Council to allocate resources for new parking and traffic survey for Pā'ia. This survey is essential for identifying the areas where...where improvements can be made to allocate...to alleviate congestion, provide more parking areas, enhance the overflow traffic, and additionally, it will provide valuable data to inform the development of more effective bypass that can actually work. The bypass does not work in Pā'ia. People actually take the bypass, turn around and come back down Baldwin Avenue and create more congestion. So, in conclusion, I urge the Council to take swift and decisive action towards Pā'ia. It's up to us, together, as a community to work together to make solutions. The economic stability of our locally-run town is at risk. We will lose our local businesses. We already are. So, please, . . .(timer sounds). . . help us.

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

MS. DHYAN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next. Testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next testifier is Dave DeLeon, to be followed by Kāneali'i Williams.

MR. DELEON: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha, Dave.

MR. DELEON: I'm Dave DeLeon, Ha'ikū resident and former member of the Charter Commission, two times. Thank you for allowing me to address the two...two different topics. And before I do that, I want to really express my...my adoration

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

of your...all hard work you've guys put in the last two years. This has been a real tough saga and you're...you...you really deserve our admiration for that effort. So, thank you very much for your hard work. So, for about...for about a decade my neighborhood in Ha'ikū Hill was being overrun by amazingly noisy, tiny tree frogs. I spent many nights in the rain tracking down and killing coqui. Their presence had a serious impact on my quality of life. Now, thanks to the Maui County's fiscal support of the Maui Invasive Species Committee over the years, that horrible waste of my time, energy, and sleep is behind me and my neighbors. MISC helped us form a community-based response, gave us the resources we needed to push the frogs out of our neighborhood. And instead of becoming the next Hilo, we now have beautiful, quiet Maui nights again, so mahalo. And we...I think we also need to take a moment to celebrate MISC's victory over the fire ants in...in Nāhiku. That...that...that was a real...for me, it was a sigh of relief. I mean, we had...still have a handle on the fire ant situation. If Nāhiku...if we lost Nāhiku it would have been...I don't even want to think about it. So...so I know this is a tough budget year. MISC provides...the services MISC provide are essential to the quality of life for everyone living on the island. Please continue to support them. On the other topic is the Department of Housing. There seems to be some confusion over its purpose. Let me clear that up. It is to develop, by any means possible, housing that our local residents can afford, period. This department was initially created to address our housing crisis. I noticed because I wrote the proposal. That...that crisis has since turned into a disaster. The department was designed to build homes. If you're not sure about that, please read the Charter provision again. The director is meant to be the lead for our community response to this disaster by getting houses built. The advisory committee is meant to...to support the director in that cause. That is the mandate the Charter Commission approved unanimously, and it is the mandate the voters . . .(timer sounds). . . gave to this this...this program by a two-to-one margin. As...as...as for the...the budget issue, I would like to...I believe that the salary attached to the director's position is too low by a factor of two. We wouldn't offer that salary to anyone seeking to become a college basketball coach. We have a massive problem that affects the whole community. We need an Olympic-grade leader to tackle it. The approved salary says we're really . . .(timer sounds). . . not serious.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. We have --

MR. DELEON: Yeah, I have --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have a --

MR. DELEON: I...I...I hope to be able to have more communication with you folks about this --

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. DELEON: -- in the near future.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have questions, so...

MR. DELEON: Yeah, go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. DeLeon, for your testimony. I had two questions. The first one, which advisory board were you referring to?

MR. DELEON: The...the Housing Advisory Board that's in the proposal for the...the...the Housing Department. So, it's a five-member board made up of experts that are not geographically tied to Maui or...or anywhere so the...so that...that we can get the best in the Country to come and help us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the second question is, did you provide testimony to the Salary Commission? Did they take . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

MR. DELEON: I didn't know about their meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MR. DELEON: Yeah, I've had a real...I...I had a real problem finding out what's going on in the Government since *Maui News* quit covering you guys.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And...and you didn't look at the website...the County website, no?

MR. DELEON: I only go there when I have to because it's not friendly to me. I'm 77, you know --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I didn't but --

MR. DELEON: -- challenged.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- thanks for sharing. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. DELEON: Okay.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions for Mr. Deleon?

MR. DELEON: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Kanealii Williams, to be followed by Nicole Hokoana.

MR. WILLIAMS: Aloha. I'm just going to read. I just sent you folks an email...my written testimony just...it's easier just for...send an email, but I'm going to read it to you folks. Aloha. My name is Terrill James Kāneali'i Williams. And I'm one of many lineal descendants of my great, great, great, great, great grandfather Nalopi. Through my genealogical tie to Nalopi, I'm testifying as a lineal descendant of the ahupua'a Pauwela in Ha'ikū, Maui. The following is a quote from the attached letter from the State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Commission on Water Resource Management dated February 29, 2024, in regards to Land Commission Award 3336, Royal Patent 2194 to Nalopi. Quote, historic use, in reviewing the historic use of Land Commission Award 3336 to Nalopi, Commission staff referenced the online Kīpuka Database and Papakilo Database, both maintained by Office of Hawaiian Affairs, and the Māhele Database privately maintained system of Waihona 'Āina Corporation, the Native Register for LCA 3336 translated states, I hereby state a claim for land in Hāmākua, at Kuiaha, Kupouamoa, a paukū of land. Kula land, and Ulupepe, Poholauhala, Kunapopo. A house claim is in Ha'ikū and sweet potato Kula also. At Pauwela is a sweet potato mo'ō. Those are my claims for land, lo'i, and kula. Lauhala and two houses are in Pauwela and in Kuiaha, emphasis added. And so I attached a letter...the letter to that...this testimony. So, it's in the email for you folks so you can refer to it. It's redacted so you can just go straight to certain points that are relevant to what I'm going to talk about. So, due to the County of Maui's past involvement regarding purchasing, selling and trading of the lands without having a clear chain of title in other areas of Maui, as well as current involvement pushing for development projects on behalf of foreign investors despite knowing that clear title has not been established, the County needs to be a lot more proactive in doing quality land title research, in general. And in this case, in Pauwela Ahupua'a regarding Land Commission Awards and Royal Patent lands. This needs to be done to ensure the rights of Kanaka Maoli, especially those, such as myself and my ohana, who are lineal descendants of the ahupua'a so that we are not obstructed in exercising our traditional and customary practices in our native lands. It is too often a tendency that when Hawaiian lands come under the possession of foreign investors, our rights to practice our culture, including our traditional customary practices such as fishing, gathering, accessing traditional easements, trails and roads, and the protection of iwi

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

kūpuna burials becomes infringed upon, sometimes by police, and we are faced with ethnocidal politics. For example, our ability to easy access the shoreline of East Kuiaha, where I currently live, my...and mind you, Kuiaha Ahupua'a is right next...neighboring Pauwela, has already become infringed upon due to the privatization of large land tracts of land, and the privatization of the roadway makai of Hana Highway, and thus has disrupted the traditional mauka-to-makai cultural foundation of our ancestors. I do not want to see the same thing happen in the Ahupua'a Pauwela, nor for our ability to access Puniawa Bay and other culturally significant aspects of the parcels in Pauwela makai of Hāna Highway to be further restricted or desecrated. I'm urging the County to take the appropriate actions that will maintain these lands, remain under traditional stewardship and protection that is led . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . by lineal descendants of Pauwela, and not to be taken over by foreign investors or any other agendas that do not align with the values of the lineal descendants of the ahupua'a. The ahupua'a system was traditionally the economic system of our islands. Protection of the traditional practices of the ahupua'a is the solution to the issues pertinent to economic development today. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much. We did receive your testimony. Thank you. Thank you very much. Oh, you do have a question. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you for emailing that to us.

MR. WILLIAMS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, it seems like, Mr. Williams, you would support a...a land title researcher as a County position?

MR. WILLIAMS: Definitely, because I think that would solve a lot of issues that the County is facing right now. And I...sure you all folks know what I'm referring to, and would prevent like future liabilities on your folks' part...now not...but your personal...well, maybe personal, but the County's part. So, that's one thing. And I don't know...like, creating systems where lineal descendants of the ahupua'as have a larger say in what's happening in their ahupua'a, like a checks and balance, because, you know, as Kanaka Maoli we're constantly being pushed down, pushed aside when we have the traditional knowledge of our places, of our...our iwi kūpuna. And we have rights to these areas.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. WILLIAMS: -- that are, you know, constantly being...as I already said.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. Thank you,

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any other...oh, sorry about that. All right. Thank you.

MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Nicole Hokoana, to be followed by Rachel Fabbio.

MS. HOKOANA: Aloha, County Councilmembers. My name is Nicole Hokoana and I am the CEO...the new CEO for Maui Behavioral Health Resources. Thank you for being present here in Pā'ia to hear our...from our community. I represent a collection of three agencies, better known by their 501(c)(3) names, and these are Aloha House, Malama Family Recovery Center, and Maui Youth and Family Services. Our agencies have provided substance use treatment services since the '80s, but we also provide homeless outreach, counseling, crisis mobile outreach, and case management services for the severely, persistently mentally-ill population. Since the wildfires, we've established outreach teams, including disaster case management, to assist in the recovery and are active participants and collaborators in providing healing resources to the community. I want to express my deep appreciation to the County of Maui for supporting the substance use treatment programs of all three agencies. Aloha House provides the only withdrawal management and residential program for low-income individuals located off Baldwin Avenue, just up the road. We accept all individuals, no matter their ability to pay. We're very thankful to have County support for individuals that aren't covered by insurance. In Kahului, Malama Family Recovery Center provides treatment to women and allows their children to be reunified with them while in program. Malama is one of two programs in the State that provides gender-specific care to women and supports them in parenting. Finally, also located off Baldwin Avenue is our Maui Youth and Family Services offices. Maui Youth is the only adolescent provider of outpatient treatment for kids on island, and the...the County has been a staunch supporter of this program for many years. I don't think we need to look at statistics to know that substance and alcohol usage rates among our youth are the highest in the State, and even higher than some places in the nation. Services and social activities, like PYCC, are desperately needed in our community. County dollars have supported all of the programs I just described, and I'm here today to tell you that treatment does work. Our programs save lives and our less costly alternatives to prison. I have many, many, many amazing employees that have gone through our programs and have dedicated their lives to helping others as a result. Many of you know a person who is succeeding in recovery at this very moment. In closing, our

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

programs represent long-standing existing services that have been needed in community for many years. But since the wildfires, the stressors with housing, cost of living, and lack of resources, we are experiencing an increase in the number of people needing our treatment and mental health services. Not that there's ever a good time to make cuts, but now is definitely not a good time to reduce funding for services. . . .(timer sounds). . . Again, mahalo for allowing me to share this testimony. And I also support coqui frog reduction or eradication and all the...all the wonderful testifiers tonight. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Any questions? Member Johnson and Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, I'm first? I'm sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Good to see you, Ms. Hokoana.

MS. HOKOANA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Can you give the body an update on the 12-bedroom doors...dorm status at the Aloha House?

MS. HOKOANA: Yes. Our...we're in process. Our documents are with Corp. Counsel. And I know everyone is working really hard to...to make it happen, but it is kind of stuck in...stuck in process and everyone is overwhelmed, so...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, we don't have a date on when it be...okay.

MS. HOKOANA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right.

MS. HOKOANA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, when you find out something, please let us know. We really want to make sure that happens. Thank you --

MS. HOKOANA: Thank you. Thank you for your support on that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Chair. And mahalo, Ms. Hokoana. You mentioned that you service uninsured patients. But --

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

MS. HOKOANA: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- you're able...for those patients that are insured, your services...you...you're able to --

MS. HOKOANA: Yes. We're required to insurance first, you know. So, we...we're required to use...utilize insurance as a first payer.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And...and most insurance will cover behavior health and...and...and those types of things or not all?

MS. HOKOANA: I would say most does, but certain insurance companies really limit treatment to 28 days.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Okay.

MS. HOKOANA: Yeah, so pretty inadequate.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Paltin, then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Hokoana, for your testimony. I was wondering...you said now is not the time for a reduction.

MS. HOKOANA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did you...with the --

MS. HOKOANA: Are we hearing about reduction?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well...so, the budget...we got the Mayor's proposed budget. Was it less than what you asked for?

MS. HOKOANA: Not necessarily, but there are...we're just anticipating...the State has made announcements of 10 to 15 percent reduction in State funding. And, you know, with so many resources and the need being so great in Lahaina, we're just...you know, we just kind of anticipating that there will be some reductions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But you got what you asked for from the County?

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

MS. HOKOANA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All...full amount.

MS. HOKOANA: Yeah, I believe so.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. HOKOANA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In the proposal, thank you.

MS. HOKOANA: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry. You're done?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm done. Thank you.

MS. HOKOANA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you...being here, Nicole.

MS. HOKOANA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, how many beds do you now have at your facility?

MS. HOKOANA: So, on Baldwin Avenue, --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. HOKOANA: -- we have a 48-bed Special Treatment Facility; eight beds are for mental health...crisis mental health, six beds are withdrawal management, and so like detox --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

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

**April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall**

MS. HOKOANA: -- and then 34 beds are residential level.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, the 12 new beds that you're expecting --

MS. HOKOANA: Uh-huh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- would bring that up to 60. And where --

MS. HOKOANA: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- would those 12 go?

MS. HOKOANA: On our campus.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No, no, I mean --

MS. HOKOANA: Oh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, but what category would that fall under? --

MS. HOKOANA: Residential, so long-term.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. HOKOANA: Well, long-term...whatever insurance pays for.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MS. HOKOANA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No other questions? Thank you very much.

MS. HOKOANA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Rachel Fabbio, to be followed by Shane Santos.

MS. FABIO: Hi. Hi, I'm Rachel Fabbio. I'm here on behalf of the Paia Merchants Association, Parking Committee. I'm here to advocate for more parking. I also own a small shop in Pā'ia. There are approximately 80 small businesses in Pā'ia. Only a small handful of them have private parking for their employees or their customers. We did a recent survey and found that there are between 225 and

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

275 employees that are going to work every single day in our town, and they all need parking. There are only about 40 parking spaces that allow more than two hours of parking, which is in the public lot next to the Shell station. Street parking only allows one to two hours, and the small lot by Mana Foods is also two-hour parking. So, you can park there, but you risk getting a ticket. Paying for parking by the hour in one of the paid lots is too expensive for workers. I have heard some say that the businesses should supply the parking for employees. But I can tell you, firsthand, we don't own any of the parking and we are unable to do so. I would like to suggest making a dedicated parking lot for employees who are working in Pā'ia. It would free up hundreds of spaces in town so that more people can come to do their grocery shopping, get a haircut, go to the dentist, or out for lunch. Right now, it's faster to drive all the way into town to do your shopping than it is to find a place to park in Pā'ia. Our little town generates so much revenue for the island, and I think it's more important than ever to support the small businesses here and keep our employees at work. Thank you.

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

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Shane Santos, to be followed by Bodhi Be...Reverend Bodhi Be, excuse me.

MR. SANTOS: Aloha. Councilmembers. I wrote a few notes so I don't forget anything important. Okay. My name is Shane Santos. I'm a resident of Pauwela. First of all, I would like to thank...take this opportunity to thank any of you who were instrumental in the purchase of the lots now known as the Hāmākualoa Open Space. When...I live right across the street from there and when they stopped farming pineapple I was afraid that it was going to turn into another subdivision, which I'm happy to say it did not, although, it came pretty close. Secondly, as you may be aware, there are three parcels of land for sale across from Ha'ikū Community Center that total about 133 acres. I would like to ask this Council, that if there is any way possible, you could include \$6.8 million of Open Space funding for the purchase of those lots. The reason that I ask for this is because I already know that there's not enough space...sorry, at our current community center. When...I've live...I lived...I was born and raised on Maui, and I've lived in Pauwela for 43 years. And when my kids were young, I used to take them to...to soccer practice there, and there were so many soccer teams that there wasn't enough room in the park. And we would have to go down onto the...the school playground over there so that they could practice. So...and that was years ago and the population of the surrounding area has and will continue to grow. The purchase of those parcels of land would provide a place to expand the park and possibly the community center in the future. The third, and last reason I'm here tonight, and the most important to me is that, as you also may know, across from

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

the Ha'ikū Community Center is a County-owned road that goes down to the Pauwela Lighthouse and also a trail that branches off of that, that goes down to Puniawa Bay. The...the problem...sorry, the problem is that, that road runs through the bottommost lot that's for sale, almost to the middle, and...and we...we all have seen . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . even though it's County-owned, we...we have seen a lot of times where these private landowners will block off these...these roads and trails, it's happened quite a few times. On top of that, on the east side of Puniawa Bay, Kamehameha Schools has bought that...all that land over there. And if they do what they have done with other parcels that they have bought, they'll fence it off and kick everybody out, basically. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I wonder if you could give us your testimony.

MR. SANTOS: Pardon me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I wonder if you could give us your written testimony.

MR. SANTOS: Yes, I can.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. SANTOS: Just to wrap up, what I'm asking is, please, find a way so that we can guarantee access for future generations to Puniawa Bay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions? Member Sinenci.

MR. SANTOS: And I...I think --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo.

MR. SANTOS: -- I had to...I think I have a good solution for this, by the way. If...and, obviously, I've taken up too much time already and I'd be happy to talk to anybody about it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. My question was, Mr. Santos, have you spoken with either the Hawai'i Legacy Lands Trust or anything...any...or Ala Hele...Nā Ala Hele? Oftentimes, if you're...the County would be willing to provide some funds if there were some matching funds. So, I was just wondering if there's other land trusts out there that could partner with the community. Have you made any contacts with that?

MR. SANTOS: No, I'm not aware of any of these organizations, but I'd be happy to, you know --

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh.

MR. SANTOS: -- get in touch with them, find out.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, we can provide you with some additional information.

MR. SANTOS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Yes --

MR. SANTOS: Which...what would me like to do with that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we would like your testimony.

MR. SANTOS: This way?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. And please have your contact information on it. You must though, right? Next testifier, please.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Reverend Bodhi Be, to be followed by Teya Penniman.

MR. BE: Thank you. When we speak about community planning or about environmental sustainability and the commitment to make Hawai'i green, why do we rarely speak about how we care for the dead? It's likely due to our general aversion, denial, and avoidance of the subject of death, entirely. And yet everyone currently living on Maui will likely be dead in 100 years, and at some point in their lives, will make choices about their final resting place that not only have financial costs, but have serious environmental costs that affect the air we breathe and the earth we live on. Formaldehyde, the main ingredient in embalming fluid, is a known carcinogen. And in Hawai'i cemeteries, it's being put into the ground daily. Rare tropical hardwood and metal caskets, grave liners made from concrete or plastic are all standard practices in cemeteries in Hawai'i. Cremation, on the other hand, using oil or gas to sustain a fire at approximately 1,600 degrees for hours emits toxic gases and heavy metals into the air. We want the best for our departed loved ones, and the best asks us to be informed about the consequences of our choices. I am Reverend Bohdi Be, the Executive Director of Doorway Into Light, a nonprofit organization here on Maui that has been operating Hawai'i's only nonprofit funeral home since 2012. Located here in Ha'ikū, we're a certified green funeral home. What does a green funeral home mean? We offer green burial of bodies that have been refrigerated and not

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

embalmed in simple caskets of pine wood, cardboard, caskets, or cotton shrouds in graves without concrete or plastic liners. We also offer ocean body burial following all State and Federal guidelines. We work with families so that burial isn't a financial hardship from a fund we created through individual donations. We continue to provide funeral and burial services at no cost to Lahaina families who lost someone in the fire. Our larger goal is to have a fund to be able to provide free and low-cost services to the homeless and those in need. Our organization, Doorway Into Light, is looking for County support to create Hawai'i's first natural burial ground here in Upcountry, Maui where trees and gardens can be planted over graves and a place where Hawaiian bones can be reinterred. The current model of cemeteries is land taken out of the public domain forever. For one single use, we would like to create a burial ground that includes a park, a community gathering place, a children's playground, and a pet cemetery; a place where life and death interweave in healthy community life. A multi-use place kept in the public domain forever managed in perpetuity by a nonprofit . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . organization protecting open space and respecting the earth.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anybody have questions for Reverend Bohdi? Seeing none. Thank you.

MR. BE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Teya Penniman, to be followed by Luigi Mor-Hamoy.

MS. PENNIMAN: Aloha, Chair Sugimura, Chair Lee, Councilmembers, especially those who come from off island. Pleasure to be here. Teya Penniman with Maui Invasive Species Committee. I also am a resident of this area; the Ulumalu, Hāna High...Hāna Highway. And it's a pleasure to see so many people here this evening. I have to admit that when waiting for the budget to come out, I was worried because we know about the impact of the fire and...and on potential budget things. So, when...when I saw the budget, I was really pleased that our Mayor and his staff still value the importance of work for...for conservation on...all of the other good work that our nonprofits do. I want to focus on...and...and mahalo to all of you for also seeing that over the years. I want to focus on a couple of things. So, you did hear from a number of folks about coqui frogs, and that is one of the ways that we have shifted, recognizing that we weren't getting to all the places that we need to be doing the coqui work, is to use community organizations, community groups, neighborhood groups to help do that work. And as you've heard, that can be very successful. Another approach that we think could be helpful would be to have a...to develop a volunteer...more robust volunteer program where we provide some short-term housing and some

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

stipends. I know that can work. That was my gateway into conservation, was a short-term job that turned into nine years, that turned into going back to school, and...and eventually doing the work that I do here. And a place where that could work is Old Maui High, and that's the other thing that I want to talk about. You've heard about what's happening there. When I first started at MISC 20 years ago, we were at Old Maui High. And it was...it was a little sketchy at night. You know, sometimes we'd have people break into the vehicles but...and we were also moving out of there at the time. And since we've been back there, the last two and a half years, it has become progressively worse and right now we're at a crisis point. And I say that, not only from what you've heard from the neighbors and the concerns about fire, but from what our staff have personally experienced. Aunty Lori was up...Lori Buchanan was up a few weeks ago or a month ago, she had a woman hanging onto the hood of her car asking for a ride. We've had people...just two weeks ago, one of our staff persons had to swerve off the side of the road because he was almost run into by a car swerving on the road. The...the recent carjacking in Pukalani...the first place that person went to was Holomua Road, because it's a place where people go to leave their vehicles or to do that chop shop action today. And...and this is really hard for me to share with you, but today one of my staff was run into, apparently intentionally, by someone who broke off the mirror on the MISC vehicle, smashed the windows, and I have an image of him covered in blood. So, it is not getting better, it is getting worse. And...and 35 . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . documented fires in the last...since January. That is not where our County Fire Department personnel should be spending their time. Yes, we have to have compassion. There are solutions to this. And I do believe that occupying that space...if MISC was not there, I think it would have...Old Maui High would have been torched already. We have a wonderful relationship with Friends of Old Maui High. It is a place that is special, that has memories for many alumni; it is worth taking care of. I would be pleased to work with our . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . community...continue to work with our community to find solutions that work for everyone. Mahalo for all you do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Before you leave...so, thanks for the work that you do and...and MISC. So, I have a question for you, the testifiers that came up about the community groups that are helping with coqui, so how much funding does MISC give them?

MS. PENNIMAN: We don't provide funding to them. What we do is provide them with resources. So, at Old Maui High, we have sprayers that they can use, that they...can be truck mounted. Well, roll onto the back of a pickup truck. We provide them with all of the citric acid.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, I understand.

MS. PENNIMAN: Yeah.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry. Anybody else have questions? Seeing none. Thank you, Thank you. Oh, you do? Member Sinenci. Sorry about that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Ms. Penniman. The...the budget that was allotted to MISC, is that just for coqui frog?

MS. PENNIMAN: No, that covers all of the work that we do. So, little fire ants, coqui frogs, miconia outreach, also the work on Molokai.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Also . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

MS. PENNIMAN: And we provide fiscal administrative support for the project on Molokai, MoMISC.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you.

MS. PENNIMAN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Penniman, for your testimony. I was wondering...I didn't hear coconut rhinoceros beetle on your list. Is that included in your program as well?

MS. PENNIMAN: We did do...work on coconut rhinoceros beetle when it was first detected. We do have funding from the State that will support that work. It is unclear at this time whether or not the County would like us to continue working on coconut rhinoceros beetle. We...our drone has been used recently to treat those suspect trees at the Kihei Golf Course where the...that first infestation was found.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What is the treatment?

MS. PENNIMAN: It's...it's a pesticide. So, it...that's...the drone is used to get up into the top of the trees to apply that, which is great because you can't always drive a lift truck onto a golf course. They're a little picky about their greens, turns out.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. I...I heard that they're...I mean, I...I did see coconut rhinoceros beetle funding. I don't know if it was in Ag or EP&S. Oh, EP&S.

MS. PENNIMAN: We are part of the working group. Yes.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. PENNIMAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. PENNIMAN: Yeah, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions? Oh, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I had the opportunity to come up to John's house and your presentation at Ha'ikū Hill. And I was...I learned that you are providing all of the citric acid and the...the...the guidance, the knowledge. And the community support was really...it was a great thing to see how the community is working with MISC to leverage out the money that's being used. So, I just encourage you to keep it up and hopefully we can keep supporting.

MS. PENNIMAN: Thank you. It was wonderful to have you there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MS. PENNIMAN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Luigi Mor-Hamoy, to be followed by Levi Hunt.

MR. MOR-HAMOY: Hi. Thank you all for your time tonight. My name is Luigi Moy-Hamoy and we just opened Ignition Coffee down the street in Pā'ia next to Flatbread. And I want us...let you know how helpful MEO has been, and their microloan program, in getting started. Without them, we wouldn't be able to be where we are today. The banking options for funding here were too complicated, and none of them were able to help out a small business that was just getting started. MEO was able to walk us through the entire process, our business plan, fine tuning business projections. And I've recommended them to many friends and hope you continue to support what they're doing, so thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for your success story. Any questions, Members? *(Audio interference)* questions, Members? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Levi Hunt, to be followed by Annette Summers.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

MR. HUNT: Hi, community, I'm Levi and...and I have a little thrift store in Pā'ia. Council, our Government, aloha. Thank you for being here. It's awesome. It's really great, everyone being here. Thank you for all the positive input. So, a lot of what I want to discuss was already discussed, but I did want to address one major...big issue for the development of Pā'ia to be better for all of our community and Maui. Trash...no trash cans in sight. Our community, together as the citizens, are picking up everything. It...why...you know, like...anyways, I know we can find a resolution soon for Pā'ia Town to have regular trash receptacles. Above Old Maui High everyone is just distressed about it. It's a ticking time bomb. We really got to get it out of there before it gets worse. And I feel for all the people who are suffering under the addiction. I really hope that Aloha House can help all of our brothers and sisters still suffering with addictions. I do reach out to homeless. I help them out personally, myself. Word on the street is that's a super dangerous area if you're experiencing homelessness. Like you...like you're set in a certain lifestyle, and that's why you're there, and that's why all the cars get ripped off, and that's why...like, there's not...you know, there's other places where other people experiencing homelessness go and they're peaceful. There's not peaceful, never; it's bad. Anyways, I just want to stress that. Thank you.

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

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Levi Hunt, to be followed by Annette Summers. Oh, excuse me, Annette Summers, to be followed by Maile Davis.

MS. SUMMERS: Aloha, everyone. And it's good to be part of this community...fairly new, Levi and I, and we've been welcomed so wonderfully. I would like to ask a question. Is the Maui Police Department here?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MS. SUMMERS: No. Attempted kidnappings, frightened and assaulted residents and visitors, mentally ill, high people intentionally scaring people in parking lots, and our welcome sign captured by many of our local videos, pictures with no results. Human indecency and defecation in our streets. No public facilities for trash, or sanitation, and public bathrooms. Intentionally set fires in merchants' open doorways at night, in near fields, and in cars. Constant break-ins; hardcore, open-air drug use, dealing in private areas; we all know who they are. Why don't the police? Why don't they do anything about it? Where is prevention? Hit and runs; we experienced that personally, ourself. No arrests for reporting crimes. In fact, victims have fewer rights than career criminals and typically homeless individuals. No police foot patrols or attempts to prevent...or attempts for...for

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

prevention; this is a big one for me. Why don't we try to prevent problems in the first place? Would you want to visit a place like this? This sounds like San Francisco. This sounds like New York, Chicago. Guess where it is? It's at a quaint little village in Maui called Pā'ia. Don't get me started on the encampments up on the road. We've driven through there. We videotaped it. It's on Neighborhood if you want to see it. Our Government officials, please, create laws that have allowed this to happen. Don't do it. Don't do it. Use the laws we have now. Enforce those laws. Get our DA's and our Government people to respect what the people of this island and the State has asked us to do...has...has asked them to do. Now it's the time to clean up this mess. Lahaina, sadly, is gone. We all are gravely distressed by this, economically. Pā'ia, we almost didn't survive. But we have been the stepchild. We have been the stepchild. And we, because of our efforts recently to try and form an association...it's been our fault. We don't...we haven't had an association to stand up and be reached out to. So, please, please accept us as the Merchants Association, I'm representing our Safety group...our committee. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . We...we would love it to have more meetings, one-on-ones, and come to a resolution to solve these problems together. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. SUMMERS: Thank you so much.

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

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Maile Davis, to be followed by Petar Kovacic.

MS. DAVIS: Hello. I wasn't prepared for such a big crowd. I know last year this meeting was done in, like, 30 minutes. But I'm here to speak on behalf of Mālama Hāmākua and then also as myself. Last year, we escaped your funding. We kind of got pushed out of the Council. So, we are in the Mayor's Budget this year for 25,000. I'd like to, hopefully, squeeze in a little bit more, 30,000. But we're that big open space preserve and the nonprofit that's working to clean it up, restore it, and doing a lot of...lot of work. And we would invite you to come up. We also have worked with MISC and one-of-a-kind kind of programs. And not that we're working with the...MISC is working with the residents, but we actually have community members coming out and working since it's on County land. So, we have high school, students, visitors, residents spraying and learning more about the frogs, which is kind of amazing. It was, oddly, the best volunteer thing that I've ever done, and I volunteer a lot. So, I support MISC and thank you. And if it wasn't for us, the County wouldn't even know that the frogs were on your land. So, we support them. But back to Mālama Hāmākua. We...we do workdays.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

We've cleared...out of that 300-plus acres, we've pilot program, and we work with various County offices; Corps. [sic] Counsel, Parks and Rec., Planning Department. And so your funding really does go far. We clear out 40-foot dumpsters of trash and refuge, that's all left, and have fold...pulled out more than 50 cars. So, we all facilitate that, so we appreciate the County funding. And we...we don't only use County funding, as a side note, we get lots of private funding as well, but this helps to enhance it. Sorry. So, we would support your continued support in the Mayor's Budget of what's there, and ask for 5,000 extra for 30,000, if you have wiggle room, we would certainly appreciate it, but we can do with the 25. Also, to that note, as a personal, I think that...I didn't review the budget that much, but we do need to have the dump open longer and consider refuse stations. A lot of that stuff that we're cleaning is stuff from residents. That's just wasting our time on replanting native forest and doing other things because we're just picking up residents' trash. And it's getting a little bit ridiculous to have volunteers come out and spend...we had 12 volunteers spend three hours just picking up trash. We got nothing else that day. No plants, no nothing. So, I would support...I would ask that you look in your next budget for longer dump hours and refuse station in Ha'ikū. I know that the Ha'ikū Community Association has also been asking for that for a while. On a side note, I know a lot of people are here tonight for the purchase of the land across the street from the Community Center. I volunteered at the...at the school for a long time. It needs more space. Ha'ikū needs more space. When we do school events, . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . we have to rent out the Community Center just to have parking. So, if there is a way that we could push money over and move the Community Center right across the street, and let the school expand, and let the community expand, it would be really helpful.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. You said you...the Mayor put in 25k. Did...did you ask for 30 or did you ask for more?

MS. DAVIS: We asked for 50.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You asked for 50 and they gave you 25.

MS. DAVIS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thanks. I just want to clarify that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions?

MS. DAVIS: Or I asked for 50. Yeah.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions, Members? Seeing none.

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

MS. DAVIS: Transfer Center.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So --

MS. DAVIS: Sorry. Transfer Center.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Transfer Center. Okay. So, you know...sorry, Members...public, you know, we normally don't take questions from the audience...from...but from the Members.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But you answered the question.

MS. DAVIS: Oh, sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, that's okay. That's okay. You answered it. It's fine.

MS. DAVIS: Okay. Any other questions? Members? None. Okay. Thanks. Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Petar Kovacic, to be followed by Sandra Antonios.

MR. KOVACIC: Hello. Hey. Hello. My name is Petar Kovacic. Thank you for being here. And thanks for all the work you do, Council. I am a long-time Kekaulike teacher, Upcountry, but I consider myself a resident of this North Shore community...this country community. I'm also the Environmental Club advisor. I'm involved with Surfrider Foundation and other land advocacy groups. And so you could probably get a hint as to what I'm going to talk about. And if I have time, I'd like to invite a friend up as well. But real simply, I'm just asking for the consideration of land acquisition of those acreages that goes makai from Pauwela Lighthouse up to the Community Center in Ha'ikū. I think it's a small ask, and I think that it's an important one. I've...I've worked with young people here for 17 years. Thousands of young people who consider this...those areas there, they have stories and stories. I can't go back the generations that that young man spoke to. I can just talk to two, my students and their parents, who have had profound experiences at those areas we call K Bay, and the lighthouse, and just those...those fields there. So, I think it's an...it's a...I know we don't know exactly how it will be utilized, but I think now is the time. It's an affordable price. It's

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

**April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall**

not that much acreage. And we have a lot of interested community members who can collaborate and dream that into being something that we'd all benefit from.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, sir.

MR. KOVACIC: Yeah. Come on, Joe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. KOVACIC: Please. I got 30 seconds, Joe.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I'm next.

MR. KOVACIC: Well, let's just...real quick.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're taking you first, Petar, --

MR. GARDNER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Joe Gardner . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- ask questions and we don't take other testifiers.

MR. KOVACIC: Can I use my last 30 seconds?

MR. GARDNER: -- I've lived...born and raised in Pā'ia, right here, --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. GARDNER: -- gone to Pā'ia school, Makawao school, my whole life I've --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. GARDNER: -- lived here, I stayed here.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Did you sign up to testify?

MR. GARDNER: No, . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I did not.

MR. KOVACIC: No, but --

MR. GARDNER: But it's --

MR. KOVACIC: -- can I use my 30 seconds to have a . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

MR. GARDNER: -- it's very important that --

MR. KOVACIC: No?

MR. GARDNER: -- that land gets --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's not the process.

MR. KOVACIC: Okay.

MR. GARDNER: -- utilized properly.

MR. KOVACIC: Okay.

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

MR. GARDNER: Kamehameha School has already blocked off the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. GARDNER: -- other side down to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MR. GARDNER: -- that bay. The entire coastline is blocked off . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can sign up to testify, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

MR. GARDNER: I didn't know about this until . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

MS. TANCK: Chair, would you like me to announce the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you..

MS. TANCK: -- next testifier?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MR. KOVACIC: I'm going to say thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Petar. Oh, you have a question?

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who has a question? Member Cook has a question.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I did. I did.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Kama has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: He can sign up.

MR. KOVACIC: Got it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But he has . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No, but we have a question for you. Please, stay.

MR. KOVACIC: Hey. Thank you, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. . . . *(Inaudible)* . . . --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So...so you're asking us to buy a piece of property, but I'm not sure how big it is. I don't know where it's at. I don't even know the TMK. I have no location, so I think I just want to ask you, do you have all of that information? Because if I was going to go, look, I got to know where to go, even if it's the TMK . . . *(inaudible)* . . . --

MR. KOVACIC: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, could you help me with that?

MR. KOVACIC: Yes. So, the Ha'ikū Community Association is the group that kind of put the word out. So, Ha'ikū Community Association, there's also Surfrider Foundation who's getting behind this. But the numbers are...there's three lots, 6.8 million from the Pauwela Lighthouse. Right...right out here people know as K Bay up to the Hāna Highway near Ha'ikū Community Center. It's been on sale just for a few months. It's...it's a number of acres, maybe 133 I heard someone say. And there's...and there's a chance to preserve that as kind of a country, you know, ocean access land.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Petar. Thank you, Member Kama. Any other questions? Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Sandra Antonios, to be followed by Teri Larronde.

MS. ANTONIOS: Hi. I'm...I go by Suki. Thank you so much for holding these meetings for us and being able to hear, you know, us, the community, speak to you. Really, thank you, I don't take it for granted. So, I'm here, also, about the land. I feel like it's...as you know, land prices just keep skyrocketing. And we have this opportunity, right now...at a very decent price, 6.8 million for over 100 acres. And the location is amazing. It has so much history, as you've heard. And we...we...we can...we can change our minds later and make money off of it. I mean, just, to me, you're...it's a no-lose situation, right? Buy it now and decide, you know, in the future if...but if it becomes privatized there's no...there's no going back. So, I...I have...we have ideas for it. I have people who told me, you know, please speak for us about the fishing access. People...there's...there's, like, the Community Center. I'm also a big pickleball...avid pickleballer and we don't have any room to...to have courts for the community. And so that's an easy one. And so, yeah, I...I just please urge you to...to jump on this. Happy to give you the information...the TMKs...the exact numbers, send you that through emails. And I just feel like time is of essence, so thank you so much.

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

MS. ANTONIOS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm going to take two more testifiers. How many more testifiers do we now? Okay, then we'll take a break.

MS. TANCK: The...Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Teri Larronde, to be followed by Brett Gobar.

MS. LARRONDE: Aloha, everybody. My name is Teri. Larronde and I've...I'm a merchant in Pā'ia. I've had my business 37 years, and I just want to talk about the Pā'ia Clean & Safe Program. I know we've had some issues with that program before, but recently it's gone over to OED, and it's been contracted out to the Aegaeon security, and they've been doing a great job. So, it's a team of security people that have been coming into Pā'ia daily, but it's only for, like, eight hours. And the County is funding that, which is great. And they're only going to be funding it through the end of July, I heard. So, we'd like to have that program...it's --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's June.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

MS. LARRONDE: Okay. Well, I talked to Mel today and he said the end of July, so June or July. And he said that he could do 16 hours a day if it was approved by the County. So, I think that would be wonderful because it's really kind of cleaned up the town. Even at my business, I've had people, like, sleeping in my doorway or on the sidewalks, and it's really helped, you know, move people away, and keep the sidewalks clear. But I'd like to change the name to maybe the Pā'ia Safe and Sound Association, or Pā'ia Safe and Sound because there's no clean involved in that. So, if we could get, like, maybe a Pā'ia Clean Program going, that would be great, too, where people could come in maybe once a week and clean the streets or power wash the sidewalks every other month. Trash cans that...I think we have...I think trash cans were bought, like, three or four years ago according to Mike Molina. And...but we don't know where they are or...well, there's none in Pā'ia. So, it'd be great to have trash cans and somebody to be able to dump them every night. And, yeah, that's all I wanted to say.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. LARRONDE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anyone have questions for her, Members?

MS. LARRONDE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier, then we'll go on a break.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Brett Gobar with 20 additional testifiers remaining.

MR. GOBAR: Malama [sic]. Thank you. Does anyone on the panel know what a thalidomide baby is? Raise your hand. My brother Stuart (*phonetic*) is a thalidomide baby. He's severely mentally and physically retarded. He's almost as old as I am. They thought he would die when he was 30. I tell you that because I'm very emotional and compassionate about the people on the streets, but you're doing a horrible job at dealing with them. We have drugs, alcohol, mental, criminal; people that just don't want to conform. They want to collect their County check...their State check, and stay on the streets, and do whatever they want to do. I'm over it. You need to do a really good job and you need to change this immediately, starting with the crazy lady on the corner and the people...I'm not a politically correct person. I'm very empathetic. I'm very sympathetic. Do any of you know if you're handing out drugs to people at Baldwin, Pā'ia Bay, the Maui High, or anywhere nearby? Are you handing out drugs to these addicts? Anyone know? Raise your hand. Yes or no? Don't know. Please don't do that. I'm the oldest and worst-paid volunteer of the Mālama

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

Hāmākua property. I'm glad the County purchased that property by Jaws. I urge you to do what all these people have asked you to do, which is fund the property near K Bay. It's the best thing you could ever do for this island, for the people, for the kānaka. Lahaina is amazing. My Uncle Willie Iaconetti came here in 1955 and started the Maui Medical Group. He's gone. Lahaina is gone. Lahaina is 10 to 20 percent of our population. My heart goes out to them. I appreciate what you're doing for them, but please don't leave the other 80 percent of us behind. It was an amazing catastrophe. The people starting fires up by the high school...we used to walk every day up there. All my neighbors from Pā'ia and Maui walk up there. They bicycle up there. It's an important part of our culture, whether we're born here or not. Okay. You need to get those people out of there. You need to put a parking sign...no parking signs. You need to enforce it. I was naked in my bedroom last year; I had a trespasser. I took his picture, his girlfriend's picture. I took his...the picture of his truck and his license plate. I had filed a police report. They didn't do anything. I called them three times. Your Maui Police Department is absolutely failing.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

MR. GOBAR: Every year...I been here 17 years. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . My cousins came in 1955. I have other friends that have been here that I've known since grade school. Every year I decide whether I want to stay on Maui. This is a third world country. You know, stand up, make it count. Don't look at me as the rich haole. I'm here to help everybody. I give away food every day. There's a bag of food outside that door right now. Stand up, do your job, get busy. We demand it. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. Members, have any questions? Okay. I'm going to...how many more testifiers did you say? Oh, 20. Okay. I'm going to take a ten-minute break, people. Thank you. We'll come back at 7:45. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 7:35 p.m.
RECONVENE: 7:47 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Okay. Next testifier. Thank you, everybody, for the short break.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Rana Boone, to be followed by Captain Fukuda, MFD. Rana Boone; to be followed by Captain Fukuda, MFD.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next testifier.

MS. BOONE: All right. Aloha, Council. Thanks so much for being here tonight. My

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

name is Rana Boone and I am a long-time educator. I currently support students and teachers at Ha'ikū Elementary. And like so many people here, I am here to ask you to set aside \$6.8 million to secure those three parcels at the Pauwela Lighthouse. I grew up in Pauwela, like so many people here, you know, it's a very important place to myself and to the community. At...and I'm sure you're going to hear this from many people, as you've already begun to hear, but Ha'ikū Elementary is over 100 years old. It has...it is bursting at the seams at...as it has been for decades. It has nowhere to go but up, which is not going to happen. Or it can move over onto the Ha'ikū Community Center property, and the Ha'ikū Community Center would have to be moved elsewhere. So, the sale of these parcels seems to make perfect sense. And as previous testifiers have shared, this is a steal, 133 acres for \$6.8 million. So, I'm going to keep it very short. I'm just asking you all to do what you have been doing, for the last several years, which is thinking ahead and thinking about the community. We thank you for working for us. We are sharing with you what the community wants to see. Mahalo for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Okay. Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Captain Fukuda from MFD and Captain Smith...followed by Captain Smith from MFD.

MR. FUKUDA: Good evening. How are you doing? Thank you, guys, for giving us the opportunity to voice some of our concerns about some of the hazards we encounter day-to-day. I must say that our Councilwoman, Nohe U'u-Hodgins, she has made it very clear that she has the best interest of everyone in Pā'ia at heart, and she's willing to do anything. And the reason I think I'm coming up is to...I've had the opportunity to speak to her in various meetings with Department heads, but for all of the rest of the Council to hear that...if you could support her decisions. Thank you, by the way, for not burning the coqui frogs, . . . *(laughing)* . . . appreciate that. That was...oh, no, please don't do that. Please don't do that. But I...I understand that they are very...MISC is also involved in Holomua Road and the issues that come with that. So, you know, it kind of goes without saying. It sounds like everyone has voiced their concerns. They all have their agendas and ours is pretty clear. Our mission statement is to protect life, environment, and the property of everyone here. We're very happy to do so. And everyone has specific roles and responsibilities, including the community and the Council. And a lot of...goes into that, codes; evacuation plans; fuel mitigation, which...which needs a lot of support; outreach and education, so everybody knows what to do when alarms are sounded in conjunction with MEMA, and MPD, and all sorts of private and public organizations. Our...our role is safe and effective response. We can preplan the area. We can do as much as we possibly can whether things change in our favor or not. And so all I'm asking for, and I hope I don't go out of line because I'm just a representative of our Fire Chief, is

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

just to continue to support reducing that risk of fire and catastrophic loss. I...I grew up here, just like...like you. I went to Ha'ikū School; lived in Pā'ia, Makawao, and Ha'ikū; been in the Department for 22 years, almost, and Pā'ia is my home, really. And so anything you guys do in support of that...I know that other districts are competing for precious resources, and that is the riddle that you guys have to face every day. But anything you can allocate to that to prevent something that's catastrophic, that's...I feel like, now, people do realize it can happen. So, we also want to make sure that doesn't go by the wayside or...or that we can use that as leverage to protect the community that we serve. And I know that every...every one of you are...are looking at that in your respective communities too. So, thank you for the time. . . .(timer sounds). . . I appreciate it. And thank you, guys, for all your support and voicing your concerns about that ignition hazard as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions for Captain? No questions.

MR. FUKUDA: No questions. Okay. Thank you.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Captain Smith from the MFD, followed by Marcy Martin.

MR. SMITH: Aloha, Council. So, he covered a lot of it. And Holomua Road, obviously, isn't our...our only concern. We have...we have a lot that we deal with in this district. But just to kind of paint the picture for you guys of what we're dealing with up there. I forgot the paper, but if I remember right, we been on 40 calls on Holomua Road, year to date, 32 of those were fires. That volume is way up from last year. We were getting fewer fires up there. And if it continues into the dry season, it...there's a good chance that we're going to have one that gets away from us. That's not to say we're not going to be able to get helicopters up and stop it, but the...the amount of calls were going on up there has increased a lot. Some of the challenges we face up there; there's no hydrants, no water supply. So, what we show up with on our trucks is what we have. There's, obviously, big fields downwind. When those dry out, fires are going to move faster. We get winds like today; they move real fast. Things that help us are the landowner cutting firebreaks around the...the neighborhoods. My understanding is they've agreed to do that. For people who have homes that border the fields, just being aware of ignition sources around your houses, if there is a fire that pushes up against the neighborhoods, can save your house. One of the other crews from our Department went around and distributed pamphlets to one...to, I...I believe all the neighborhoods bordering the fields, just about fire safety tips. I don't know what the solutions are to the problem, but that's...that's just what we're dealing with. If the fire does get to the neighborhoods, we're dealing with a lot of narrow roads with one way in, one way out. Our operations have the potential to impede evacuations and vice versa; people trying to get out are going to block us from

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

being able to get in and protect houses. So, those are the challenges. We're thinking about it. We're pre-planning. We're doing everything we can to address it. But just so it's...so it's on your guys' radar and you have an idea of what we're dealing with. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Captain Smith. Member Cook has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much for all your work. So, that many fires, is it started from campfires? What...and ballpark, what is there?

MR. SMITH: So, if...again, if I'm remembering my numbers correctly, I'm sorry I wrote them down and then forgot...forgot to bring them with me. We got called for one fire that was an unauthorized burn. So, a...a campfire that...that somebody called it, that was put out. There was a boat that was dumped up there that got set on fire. I believe there were five car fires. And the rest of them were brush fires, likely started by an arsonist. But so far, there's...there's no witnesses. No...we...we have no idea who it is.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, what's the...what's the vibe up there? I mean, people that are living up there and that you encounter, what's the...what's the vibe?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Take a walk.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Scary.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Scary.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, very.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Dark.

MR. SMITH: A lot of the fires that we've gone to, lately, have not been started right at the encampments. So, we're not necessarily dealing with...with the people that are living up there every time we go up. Our interactions with them, more often, are if we going up for medical calls. And, you know, in that case, we're showing up, we're there to help. And, to us, they're usually amicable enough.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So --

MR. SMITH: I don't...I don't...I don't know what the interactions are with police.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- so, I guess, my...my clarifying question is there's a lot of lawlessness, burning...ripping off cars, burning them, and doing that. That's one

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

whole thing happening up there, as well as homeless encampments, and other stuff, but they're not necessarily the same.

MR. SMITH: I mean, I don't know who's starting the fires. So, I...I mean, I can't...I can't speak to that. We...we did have fires, last dry season, that started near the encampments that nearly got away from us. And it was...it was...it was close to...to us not catching 'em on the initial attack and it being...turning into a much longer thing. We also get fires that are away from where...where they are that are being started by somebody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Captain Smith. Thank you. Oh, sorry. Member Paltin has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Captain Smith, for your testimony. I was wondering, the narrow roads that you were saying, like, what are the widths?

MR. SMITH: You know, I haven't gone out and measured, but --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because --

MR. SMITH: -- I...I believe other than Skill Village, if you're looking at all the...the roads coming down Baldwin Avenue and then coming in going mauka off of Hāna Highway, I...I believe every neighborhood is one way in, one way out. So, some of...some of those roads are...are real old and not meant for today's vehicle traffic. Some of the ones that are wider, you get vehicles parked on the side of the road regularly. So, the... it's just...it's...it's not wide-open access for a truck, as big as a fire truck, to easily get in and out, especially if people are...are trying to escape. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the narrow roads don't have on-street parking. When the roads get a little bit wider, then there's on-street parking. So, it's the same access issue regardless.

MR. SMITH: I would say it's a...it's a mix depending on the...the...the road in the neighborhood. And...and probably depending on the time of day, also. You...you get to nighttime, there's more people home. So, where it might be more accessible during daylight hours, everybody's home at night, yeah, so every...every car that belongs there is there and yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Last question.

MR. SMITH: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The...the landowner that you said is cutting firebreaks.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

Who's the landowner?

MR. SMITH: So, it's Kūlōlio Ranch, which is subsidiary of Mahi Pono. They cut breaks last summer, sometime, and then widened them after August 8th. And I haven't talked to them, personally, but my understanding is that they've...they've confirmed that they're going to be recutting those breaks soon. So, we're expecting that to happen, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you done?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. SMITH: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. SMITH: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Paltin. Okay. So, thank you very much for being here. Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Marcy Martin, to be followed by Michelle Addington. Again, that's Marcy Martin, to be followed by Michelle Addington.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Michelle Addington, to be followed by Gloria Madden.

MS. MADDEN: I'm Gloria Madden.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to be...to testify is Gloria Madden, to be followed by Amagi.

MS. MADDEN: Hi, my name is Gloria Madden. You guys might all know me from your secretaries and my calling your office. Thank you for answering the phone. All of you guys have been very assisting throughout this crazy time and the wildfires. I worked in Lahaina during the wildfires. I'm a long-time resident of Ha'ikū. I drive back and forth because it was worth it for me. I, then, started working in

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

Pā'ia. I have never experienced such a high rate of homeless craziness. I mean, the craziness...Lahaina no, that will not happen. When we...when I worked in Lahaina...for the 25 years I worked in Lahaina, it would not happen. There was security and it was public security. Private security has absolutely helped. Thank you very much, sir. I have noticed a huge difference with your presence. But I do believe police presence is very important on our streets, not only of Pā'ia, but of Ha'ikū. We have a homeless person living in our bus stop at Ha'ikū School. Ha'ikū School is so scared of the homeless people that they now built a huge fence. Fencing in our children. I am a cross country coach for many, many years. I believe coaching kids is a great way to support their growth. We are now fencing them in. Ha'ikū School is bursting at the seams. As our 5th Grade teacher, Mrs. Rana Boone, has told, she's teaching my daughter ...now. We also grew up in Pauwela. We grew up at the Lighthouse. We grew up playing, and being free with beautiful open spaces, and I think that's why our parents moved here in the '70s. But also...there is so many things on my list. Buy the community properties there so we can expand on our school. Our school is bursting at the seams. They have 18 minutes to eat. I only get...I get three minutes to talk, so that 18 minutes they better utilize. Okay. So, please continue funding MEO. MEO helped me with my bridge grant. They helped me with...and with my children. They helped my husband with getting citizenship. They are amazing. From birth to death, they will take care of our people on Maui. Please fund MEO. Please fund the Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center. They are amazing. Please get a lifeguard station on Pā'ia Bay beach. We need a lifeguard there. Our kids cannot save another shark bite victim. Our...the...the shark bite victims at Pā'ia Bay...two times now. We need a lifeguard station there. Please pay our lifeguards more. Please pay our lifeguards more. Please pay our firemen more. Please pay our police officers more. I know they're not here, but our police officers work hard for our communities. Even though I might not feel that way at times, they are there when I need them. I just got . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . into a car accident; they were there. Firemen, they were there. Thank you, you guys. But I really, really, really need the homeless problem to stop. I need no fast-food restaurants, no more fast-food restaurants on Maui. Please stop bringing in Sonic, all these fast-food restaurants. How are we supposed to support local if there's so many fast-food restaurants. Why do we have to be the first Chick-fil-A? Come on. No, Maui...please, stop. We need local entrepreneurship. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Also, --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. MADDEN: -- I really appreciate you guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, thank you. Thank you.

MS. MADDEN: Three minutes is too short. I love the Mike White plan...the old Mike

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

White plan. Please, you guys look into the old Mike White plan. That's how we got Maile Davis's wonderful area, the Hāmākua Coast, and that's across from my house. Since she's been cleaning up there...she has been cleaning up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. MADDEN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We...we have a question for you from Member --

MS. MADDEN: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Rawlins-Fernandez.

MS. MADDEN: Yes, please. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hi. Mahalo for your testimony. So, do you think it's the Government that's bringing in the fast-food restaurants? I...I don't understand why...why you're asking us --

MS. MADDEN: I don't know who's allowing the fast-food restaurants to be permitted.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- to stop.

MS. MADDEN: I don't know, I don't know who's bringing in all these fast-food restaurants, but they just pop up.

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

MS. MADDEN: Like, look at the Starbucks at Mā'alaea.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, that's all. That's...that's all. I just was asking --

MS. MADDEN: Okay. I don't know who's doing it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- why you're asking the Government to stop. That's not us. We --

MS. MADDEN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the Government isn't bringing them in.

MS. MADDEN: Or who allows the permit?

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. MADDEN: Okay. Okay. Yes. No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. MADDEN: Thank you. I just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. MADDEN: -- see too much. Thank you. I don't want to be the mainland.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: This is my mainland.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier, please.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Amagi, to be followed by Tami Joslin.

MR. AMAGI: First, I'd like to ask the wonderful Mother Hawai'i to bless this room so that our voices are actually heard and not just written down. Before I start my story, I'd like everyone to...especially you guys, to remember two things. One, there are only three trash receptacles in Pā'ia. One at Mana, it's hidden in the wall; one at Shell, and one at Minit Stop. The other thing, my wife, Kristen (*phonetic*), and I...my name is Amagi...moved here from San Francisco November 28th, 2023, and we know what collapse looks like. Upon moving here, we started a successful landscaping business, and five nights a week she works at Minit Stop, I work at Milagros as the dishwasher. She gets off at 9:30, goes to Milagros to wait for me at 10:00, and we walk home up Baldwin. We live across the street from the Post Office. After many nights, we realized that same sock in the street has not been picked up. So, instead of being emotional, we decided to take action. In order to do that, I needed to talk to one of my tribe members. So, I talked to Big Al Dala (*phonetic*) down at Milagros and he thought it was a great idea. He wants to give us support. He offers us trash bags, gloves, and allows us to throw our trash in the dumpsters for our idea. And what we've done seven weeks in a row, we start every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. at the Post Office, and we wear these Pā'ia shirts so we're recognized. And we walk against traffic down to Shell, back up the highway, across of Charley's, and come back opposite. And each week we have two large garbage bags full of garbage. The biggest problem is cigarettes, beer cans, coffee cup lids, spoons that people step on, and plastic straw wrappers. Last Sunday, Easter, which we did do...we do

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

every...every Sunday. Doesn't matter if it's raining, holiday, doesn't matter, that's our...part of our contribution to where we want to stay and thrive. The tourist ships...dropped off...usually, the tourist in a parking lot in...I don't know the cities around here yet. Yes. Well, there's a problem. So, where do they drop them off? In Pā'ia. Eight different people asked to throw their garbage in our bag, not just this...picture this, a family of four goes to the ice cream shop. They all get ice cream cups. What I saw a lot was kids walking around with crumpled cups, because they don't know where to throw them away. At some point they're going to lose the spoon. Someone steps on the spoon. How do I know? We picked them up. Not only that, we get the parking lots, we get the gutters, we take pictures. Every week we make a post on Nextdoor and show our results to get other people to come out and help. So, here's my idea, we need ten trash receptacles that I will install with no funding. I will service with no funding. I get funded by a universe. You guys can't afford to pay me. What you guys do need to buy are the receptacles. I will find out where to get them and how much they cost; that information, I don't not have. What I have is the willing to do...I have the confidence . . .(*timer sounds*). . . to do it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just donate it . . .(*inaudible*). . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Nohe, donate the . . .(*inaudible*). . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Tami Joslin, to be followed by Lucienne deNaie.

MS. JOSLIN: Hi. Aloha. Thank you everyone for allowing me a minute just to share my thoughts. And, also, I just want to quickly say...I know Lily and Koa aren't here, but I support the Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center. I have two teenage grandchildren and they use it regularly. I do ask that we try to focus on not having all the derelict cars and people around the showers and in the parking lot where our children are supposed to be...I'm supposed to feel safe dropping them off to skateboard, and go surfing, and bodyboarding. So, please, please, please. My name is Tami Joslin. I'm the General Manager at Mama's Fish House. And I know that there's a lot going on island wide. And with everything that's happened in Lahaina, all resources are really, really stressed. So, I know everybody's trying to do the best that they can do. And I'm just here to let you know that what's happening on Holomua Road is something that is affecting us tremendously, to the point where...we're at a point where we are looking at getting a gate to lock

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

up our property at night, which is a sad thing because we...because we have...fishermen have been coming for years and fishing on the shoreline. That's what those parking stalls are there for and we're going to have to lock it up. And it breaks my heart...the founders...the owners to have to do that but that's where we're at. They come on our property. They're violent. Our employees feel at risk. They defecate on our property. Our landscapers have to clean it up daily. And I...I appreciate the Maui Fire Department. I know that they've left but they need to be doing something other than trying to put out fires that are happening on Holomua. That's a historical site. With everything that's been lost in Lahaina it's really sad to see that one of the oldest historical sites on this island is being left unattended. And it's, like, out of sight, out of mind. I think everybody should know what that site is and the importance of preserving it with all of the history that we've lost in Lahaina. What else? There's just...people have touched a lot on...on what I said. The firemen gave the statistics of the fires but case in point, just as an example, on a Father's Day a couple of years ago...well, I guess, it was pre-pandemic, there was a bad fire, and the winds were blowing just right, and Mama's was at risk, and we're just the beginning of it. If...if Mama's is catches on fire with high winds, the entire Kū'au community is going to go, and then everything after that is going to go with it. And we will have another situation like we saw in Lahaina. And it's a historical town of Pā'ia will be gone like that because it is the same type of structures. And, you know, there's not a lot we can do other than do what we can to be proactive to preserve the history that's left on the North Shore in Maui. So, I just plead with all of you to please, you know, try and extend . . .(timer sounds). . . this County...Pā'ia County clean. I...I been out of town for my daughter's wedding and just returned yesterday. So, I'm...I'm trying to do the best I can just to say please extend your efforts beyond Pā'ia and...and also help focus on welcoming people in here safely to this beautiful North Shore at Maui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you so much.

MS. JOSLIN: Thank you.

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

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next testifier is Lucienne deNaie, to be followed by Bruce U'u.

MS. DENAIE: Good evening and mahalo to everyone from coming out and sitting long hours here, and mahalo to our whole community for coming out too. My name is Lucienne deNaie, and I'm testifying on behalf of the Ha'ikū Community Association as the President this evening. And we really appreciate all the diligent work that folks who serve on the Council put into the budget; this is the long haul. We...we will give you our written testimony. But in a nutshell, under

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

infrastructure and public safety measures, we support funding for the next design build phase of the Ha'ikū Fire Station. We support funding for planning studies to support the storage...the new storage reservoir at Kamole...at Kamole Water Treatment plant up Baldwin Avenue. We really need that as part of our water infrastructure. We support funding for the East Maui Community Water Authority staff and operations. We really need that as well to have some options on how we can better manage our East Maui systems as time goes on. Under environmental safety, continued funding for Maui Invasive Species Committee and, hopefully, a way that they can actually get access to the funds more easily. They were kind of on a string, I think, this last year to...to even get the funding that was awarded. Also, funding for the East Maui Watershed Partnership and other watershed partnerships. A line item funding...funding of \$40,000 to continue our Ha'ikū Community Association recreational stream and water quality testing program for a second year. We're really excited about getting information about the health of our streams that can be shared with different agencies, especially as we do more watershed planning. And then for the Open Space Fund the...the \$30,000 for the Mālama Hāmākua Maui to care for the Hāmākualoa Open Space Preserve; we strongly support that. Doing a great job there. And the 6.8 million funding to purchase the 134 acres of the Pauwela lands, and folks may not realize it, but Pauwela used to be, actually, kind of the heart of the community called Ha'ikū. This is back in the...the 1930s. I'm on the Historical Society Board, and there were far more buildings along what is Hāna Highway there. There was a cannery in Kuiaha Gulch, a Japanese cannery, and it was a heart of our community. And it would be very appropriate as we let the school have more room to roam, because where the Community Center is in Ha'ikū was actually, once, part of the Ha'ikū Elementary School. That's where they had their ag program. And they really do need that space. So, if we just started thinking about the future, it's not going to happen the next five or ten years. . . .(timer sounds). . . But that is a great place to see our community expand to its traditional footprint, where it used to be. So, thank you very much for your considerations of our request.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Members, any questions for Lucienne deNaie? Seeing none.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Bruce U'u, to be followed by Charla...Charla Konohia.

MR. U'U: Aloha, everyone. Thank you for coming, by the way, and thank you for working the long hours. I just wanted to recap on probably what was already said, but maybe a few steps in a different direction. As...as you know about the fires in Holomua...Holomua Road, that's...that's huge. But the...the bright side, it is the wet season right now. But we be coming to a drier season, so I think that should take pretty much the priority, if possible, of any way you guys can

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

focus. I really appreciate the landowners doing the fire breaks. I...I've witnessed some of that. And, again, if you can push, you know, to...for greater extent, for a greater cut, that'll be even better for us. I...I think a couple other things I wanted to mention. You know, I grew up in Pā'ia. I'm a lifer, and I hope...hopefully, I die here. That's the goal, right? The...long time from now, but...but the difference of me growing up here and the difference that...that is happening now is not only the homeless situation, which is...which is real bad, it...it is violent. It...it really did change the quality of Pā'ia Town. You know, what's the sense of having a walkable town if you not really able to walk? And...and, you know, I buy the paper every morning for my mom about 5:30...6:00, right. I...I...I could not let my wife do that because there's...there's people there that you wouldn't want them to run into, you know. So...so it kind of changes that...that...that walkable, carefree spirit we had growing up. Some of the other things that I see that has changed over the course of the time, it's...I think there's a disconnect, maybe, between the...the merchants and...and the community. You know, growing up in Pā'ia, when I was at Pā'ia School, there was always a relationship between the...the store owners, whether it be economy, Bersamin Store. Horiuchi. Nagata. The...the stores of the past really had a merging with our community, and...and...and...and it's pretty much not there currently. And I don't know what the reason is. As you can see, it's...it's...it's been...that's a lot of tourists that come in, which is good. But then again, there's not that blend of...of that bridge. And I think if you could bring that bridge back, I think we could kind of self-regulate or self-control some of the issues that we having within our own community. That's two of the reasons and I...I think what a legacy it will be if you guys could control, eradicate the coqui frogs. And...and I support Pā'ia Youth Center [sic]. All my kids went there. I support the drug programs that they had. Sadly, my son went there too, but he's...he's doing great. So, support whatever you can. I know the budget is tight. I know we get plenty of money on budget, but I know kind of...kind of...kind of strapped...you know, kind of...I humbly ask you guys for you guys' support and thank you guys for showing up to our neighborhood. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. U'u. Thank you. Members, any questions?
Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. U'u, for your testimony. I just was asking clarification on increasing the cuts, do you have, like, a footage in mind?

MR. U'U: You know what...and that's why I had the fire guys back there. But I'm...I'm...I'm...you know, safety precaution...you can double the cut. And I know they have a sense of what's needed, but I wouldn't mind taking it the extra mile and, again, deal with the bulk or more than the landowners. Again, it is...we have time to, somewhat, deliberate to a certain extent. But the dry season coming

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

and push going come to shove, and, you know, the proactive part. So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you mean double the existing cuts or --

MR. U'U: I...I...I don't know the formula. I'm...I'm definitely...you know, I heard experts being thrown around here up here today. I am not one of them. But I will take extra precautionary measures. Whatever is needed, whatever --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like double the . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

MR. U'U: -- whatever is affordable. I mean, if they can do it and they have the manpower to do it, I'd support it. And I think...again, you know, that disconnect, that's part of the community part too, with...with...with...whether it be Mahi Pono, whether it be with the business, and...and the residents, I think that's something that we got to kind of build that bridge back.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you...do you know what the existing cuts are?

MR. U'U: You know, visually, they look at least 20 feet, you know. That's...that's one bad-eyeball, good-eyeball carpenter looking at 'em. But --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And --

MR. U'U: -- I think we can add to that because it looks bigger --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: At least double that.

MR. U'U: -- and the Baldwin area side, it looks much bigger than that. So, I would guess it's bigger.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, at least double, like --

MR. U'U: You know what we like 'em, they were called super safe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Super safe.

MR. U'U: We like 'em super safe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. Thank you.

MR. U'U: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

MR. U'U: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One second.

MR. U'U: Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Mr. U'u. Mahalo for your testimony. I love when the community proposes solutions to the...the problems that they see. And you identified the disconnect between merchants and the community as...as a potential problem that can be solved to solve some of systemic problems. So, has the...the relationship ever...is...because, like, we...it sounds like there's, like, a...like a Merchants Association here. Has the community tried to reach out and try to develop some kind of relationship to...to do what you're saying to do?

MR. U'U: To my knowledge, you know, get more people educated in that area than me, but to my knowledge, not enough. So, growing up, they would...they would partner with the school, yeah...Pā'ia School. And then the...the school would come in and...and, you know, whether it be Halloween, Christmas, they would decorate the windows. Or, you know, we would be assigned to two stores to kind of...so, when you get them at the young age and you...you start meeting all the merchants and the store owners, it really changes the vibe, yeah. So, you get that...that hereditary, you know...we used to kalua pig right here for the...the Pā'ia community...the businesses in Pā'ia we get...we would have an annual lū'au...small kine lū'au that would happen. This was, I say, 35 years ago, maybe. But the connect with the school was...was huge, you know. And, again, you could also connect with...with others. But I think the generatio...generational part with the school was key in it. That's definitely missing right now.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for...for that information. And, you know, I'd love to see that happen. But from my experience, that really is more of a community-driven --

MR. U'U: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- kind of a thing. So, --

MR. U'U: Yes, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I'd love to, you know, support that
. . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. U'U: Hence, we here throwing out the ideas.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

MR. CAPRIOTTI: The problem is the campers, it's not the . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry, sir, --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sir.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- it's not your turn.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. CAPRIOTTI: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Thank you very much, Member --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Don't be disrespectful.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. U'U: Thank you. Thank...thank you guys for your time.

MR. U'U: I appreciate you guys --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. U'U: -- all you guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is did we Charla Konohia, to be followed by Peter Capriotti.

MS. KONOHA: Aloha. My name is Charla Konohia. I'm...several things, I want you to support line item for the OED, \$40,000 for Ha'ikū Community Association for the water testing. I also want you to support Mālama Hāmākua Maui by providing us with at least the 25,000 that is in the Mayor's Budget. We could use more, because what we do is just a small portion of all the land that we actually manage for the County. So, anything you can give helps us, lot of us do it for free. We're volunteer-driven, so your support goes a long way. Help us help you. And then please put monies on the side, looks like 6.8 million, for the purchase of TMK (2) 2-7-004:050, TMK (2) 2-7-004:003, and TMK (2) 2-7-004:059, for a total of 133 acres. I'm a lineal descendant of Hāmākualoa. My family is from Hāmākuapoko. You know, I born and raised here. Like they said, you know,

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

back in the day you go in a store, they know your...they know who you are. You cannot do nothing wrong because they going to tell your mother them, you know. So, purchase this land so that we stay small. We know everybody who's in the store, and not all these people who just like, keep us out. That lands that I'm proposing, my dad...I didn't realize, back then, that we was struggling but he would go fishing so that we could eat. So, continue to conserve what's left of Maui. And then another thing is, you know, MEO, they do great things so continue with that. MISC...I volunteered for MISC. We don't need the coqui frog. We don't need all these invasive species. We get nuff. So, again I ask you, just support all of these programs. Mahalo.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good job.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Oh, question from Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair. Could you repeat the TMKs again?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Can I take a picture of it, then I can share it with her?

MS. KONOHA: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. KONOHA: It's my notes, though, so it's . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, no...no worries.

MS. KONOHA: -- written testimony.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have written --

MS. KONOHA: You want me...You want me to submit it? You can . . . *(inaudible)*. . .
No, it's not a written testimony. It's just a notes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: It's just notes.

MS. KONOHA: But I can share it with you after.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. I can take a picture of it later.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah, *(audio interference)* --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Charla-Ann. And...and do you know who the owner is? And if there are willing sellers?

MS. KONOHA: Well, I see the for-sale sign, so I'm sure they're willing. . . .*(laughing)* .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. I mean, they might choose who they want to sell it to.

MS. KONOHA: Right. I'm hoping that you guys can persuade them. You know, you guys tried with Giggle Hill and failed. And I hope you guys are able to, you know, jump on it and...Holomua? Can you hear me? Oh, move forward. Oh, got you, got you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Mahalo.

MS. KONOHA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No other questions? Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Peter Capriotti, to be followed by Deborah Rybar [*sic*].

MR. CAPRIOTTI: Aloha and thank you all for coming out. I know time is precious. Our community is here. We have a strong community. And I know some of you

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

from...a while because I have been here for a while. I'm a sign contractor. I'm...guy who rides the horse around, and I care about my community so much. And this community, from what I heard the testimony, we are on our hands and knees begging, begging, begging to...to...to help us...to help us out. Because over the years, I've watched everything go further, further down. I've traveled all over the world. I've lived in many places; San Francisco, Seattle, and I come back here and I see this turning into a third world country. You know, we lost Giggle Hill, yes. Hey, how long have we been waiting for the...the fire...the fire station...Ha'ikū? Oh, only about 40 years. There's a whole disconnect. Does anyone know...can tell me who the community policeman is here?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hey, Peter, --

MR. CAPRIOTTI: Can anyone tell me that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- speak to us.

MR. CAPRIOTTI: Nobody knows who the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Peter.

MR. CAPRIOTTI: -- community police are.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Peter...Peter, --

MR. CAPRIOTTI: And this is the problem.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- can you speak to us? So, we can --

MR. CAPRIOTTI: This is a problem. We didn't -- to be closer to our community police. We have to have our community, and our police, and all the departments working together. If we don't do that, we're going to lose it all; let me tell you. We've already...you know, the croquis [sic], hey, I talk to him all the time. They're short of funding. They're short...people don't want to go down there; that's the problem. People don't want to work these days. I don't know what it is. I work really hard and I want to keep working. I want to work for our community. But I see us losing Giggle Hill, losing access, seeing our towns overrun by criminals. Folks, we can't allow this. We can't turn into another...and I remember San Francisco in the heyday when it was wonderful, and Seattle too, and I saw it go down. We can't afford that, folks. We have a high quality of life here. People living in \$25 million homes over there, insulated. I think Linda Lingle said, well, you know, they paid for it. Well, I don't see anybody asking Ha'ikū if they wanted to pay for improvements, including security. If we can't have security...I never had a lock on my door, but now I have a camera and locks everything else. And my friend

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

said, oh, somebody stole the car at Home Depot, right there. And they call the police and they didn't do anything about it. I'm going to lock and load. Do we want that mentality, folks? Do we really want that mentality here in our beautiful community? We have to preserve it. We have to work together. We have to see results. If we don't see that; any results and people coming together...you see what's happening, folks, and everybody testified. And God bless you all for coming and testifying because we need that. But we need to work . . .(timer sounds). . . together, folks. Aloha.

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

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person to be...to testify is Deborah Rybar [sic], to be followed by Ian Hodges. And we have . . .(inaudible). . . 11 people...11 remaining testifiers.

MS. RYBAK: Aloha, Councilmembers. I am Deborah Rybak. I'm testifying tonight as a member of the Kū'au community. I wanted to testify on Pā'ia Clean & Safe Program and Holomua Road. My understanding about the Clean & Safe Program, it was based on successful programs in Lahaina and Wailuku, and it got a bit of a rocky start here. But under Melvin Johnson and his crew, it...it...there's a noticeable difference in town. The program was originally funded by the Department of Management for the County, and my understanding it was recently moved to MEO, which forgot to put it in the budget. So, I don't think it's supposed to be canceled. And I don't know how you go and unravel that, but it would be great to get that back where it belongs with the funding, which I think is, like I said, 350,000, and expand it to parking lots that aren't covered in town. I'm not sure the Pā'ia Youth and Cultural Center is covered, and I know that Melvin and his crew have also offered to patrol Holomua Road if it can get cleaned up, and that would just be some astounding work. They...they bring so much aloha, and compassion, and presence in town that it...I...I don't know how you ask, but please get it back in the budget. And Holomua Road, I really can't say much more than the Fire Department did, and they've been doing such a tremendous job. But it...for those of you who haven't been up there, please send your Staff up there. Listen to Councilmember U'u-Hodgins. It...it is *Mad Max*. And on a day like this when the wind is blowing, and all the wind surfers in our neighborhood are usually talking about going out, what we're all talking about is, oh, my god, the fire possibility. And I wanted to remind you that on December 15th, 2019; before COVID, before Holomua Road got so out of control, there was a 600-acre fire that started at Old Maui High School and almost burned Skill Village down. So, when we tell you we're afraid, we're...we're very afraid. Thank you so much for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have a question? One moment. We have a question for you.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And I'll just be quick that's why. Thank you. Thank you so much for your testimony, I appreciate it. I just want to clarify that it's not MEO, but it's OED. So --

MS. RYBAK: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- yeah, --

MS. RYBAK: Thank you. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- just that but it did go from Administration to OED at the beginning of this year. Our office worked hard to get that switched over, so --

MS. RYBAK: Right. Do you think they'll get it back in the budget?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I'm hoping so. And your testimony definitely helps, I appreciate it.

MS. RYBAK: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. RYBAK: Thank you for everything you do. You gave 150 percent before. I don't know how you're doing it . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. RYBAK: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Ian Hodges, to be followed by Nara Boone.

MR. HODGES: Good evening, Councilmembers. Thanks for this opportunity to testify. I wanted to start off by saying...by thanking Chair Sugimura, for yesterday having Bond Counsel and the Bond Advisors testified before the Budget Committee. I think...one of the things I wanted to say is, I think, most of you probably know that we contacted your offices about each Councilmember, I think, only had two minutes to ask questions, which is not a whole lot for Bond Counsel, but they tried their best. But we...there's a...there's a national foundation that's actually sponsoring this thing called The Public Finance Initiative. And, basically,

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

providing expert resources to be able to answer questions about how bond financing works, especially for social equity. So, I wanted to kind of remind you about that. And some of your staff members actually participate in these teachings, so I wanted to let you know about that. And I think one of the things that the Bond Counsel, I think his name was Mike, said is that now...given the wildfires, now is the time to actually look at, maybe, increasing the bond allocations. And that's something to be...to be able to consider. And, again, if you want to actually ask questions about that and don't want to take up more time of your Bond Counsel then there's...there's The Public Finance Initiative that could actually...can help you. And they also have hired PFM, which is...which is your Bond Advisor. And so they...they have groups within PFM that do social equity bonds. So, you can also access them and they're paid for by the Foundation, so you don't have to pay them. So, I'm bringing that up. The other thing I was going to say, all these great needs in the community, they're asking you, you know, for help. I know...today I was just talking to Chair Lee about this, is that the...the Legislature, because of all the things, the fires and the impacts on the budget, is kind of pressuring the Council to actually make cuts to things. And I...and Chair Lee testified before this...the Finance Committee today about that. And I think one thing to look at is to consider...well, a couple things. One is, the State has a \$1.5 billion Rainy Day Fund that the Governor has decided it's not raining yet so he's not going to use it. And one of the reasons he said that was because it's going to reduce sort of the bond rating of the State, which I don't actually think is true. But it's a question you could actually ask these Bond Advisors. But, I think, now it's a good time to actually tap into that fund. So, it might be...you know, might be helpful to actually talk to the governor about that a little more so you don't have to make cuts. And then the other thing I was going to mention is shortly after Chair Lee testified before the Finance Committee, the...there was a...there's bills that deal with Hawaiian Electric that came before the Committee. One of them was Senate Bill 2922. And then when it passed out of the Senate...it's the way the bill was written...and...and actually the Chair of the Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee did a really good job sort of addressing the bill, but missed this part of it. But the way the bill was written was all the costs . . .(timer sounds). . . for the wildfires and the settlements for the lawsuits would go to Maui County ratepayers alone. And now the bill is a little bit different, but it's still going to go to Maui County ratepayers. And that...and the impact of that will be probably on ratepayers. It'll be probably in excess of \$150 million a year. And that's sort of like a tax because you're paying your electric bill and you don't want your lights to go out. So, I think that's another thing for the Council to be aware of, is that that is . . .(timer sounds). . . going to have an impact. Anyway, thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, anybody have any questions for Mr. Hodges? Seeing none. Thank you.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

MR. HODGES: Thank you.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Nara Boone, to be followed by Nia Fitzpatrick.

MS. BOONE: Aloha. Thank you all for being here. Thank you for sitting for so long and listening to all of us. Again, my name is Nara Boone. I grew up in Pauwela. The Lighthouse...Pauwela Lighthouse was my playground. It was where, you know, we snuck, and rode our bikes, and harvested pineapples, harvested and swam in the tide pools. And I have only been able to take my children there once in...my oldest is 19. So, I've taken all of them there once because of what has now become. And I am here to ask for you all to set aside the \$6.8 million to purchase that 133 acres. It's very important to the Ha'ikū community. What we are experiencing, the changes that we have seen are just astronomical. Right now, what we have is a fence going up at Ha'ikū School that is dividing the field, which was already small. Half of the grounds are County and half are State. And we have a field house with a basketball court and one full side and a roof that covers it. We actually have to file for a permit to use that area for P.E. for any kind of May Day or other performances that we have, that kind of thing. And, as Gloria had said earlier, we need to, you know, borrow the Community Center for parking already. It is so bad there that the electric system is not equipped to handle air conditioning. So, the students really suffer in the hotter months of fall as well, so we need a better area. Right now we have West Kuiaha Bay has been closed off to us. We had Pe'ahi Farms, which was used as a park area just past Ulumalu. All of the parcels there have...most of the parcels have sold, so they are no longer allowing the community to walk there, or walk their dogs there, or ride their horses there; we no longer have an area for any of that. And if we had that parcel from Hāna Highway down to Pauwela Lighthouse...if we find out what families were there before pineapple, as well, and give them the say as to how that area is used, we can bioremediate the soil. There's just...the...the possibilities are endless. But the first thing to do is make sure that it doesn't get into the wrong hands and get developed. And so that's why so many of us are pleading with you, please, to put aside that money. Lucienne deNaie, in her written testimony for the Ha'ikū Community Association, has some...some solutions as far as purchasing for you as well. I'm old enough...I hate to say that I'm old enough . . .(timer sounds). . . to remember when there was a campground at Baldwin Beach, when there was a campground at Ho'okipa. Those things are gone now. We can't even get an ocean view driving in Ha'ikū because it's all huge cane grass where this property is. At least we had that where you can...when you could breathe. Now, we have to wait till we get up Māliko Gulch and see the ocean and breathe for a moment. It's the quality of life. And we have speed bumps on every single road now. So, it's like we're being corralled in our community and we need some space . . .(timer sounds). . . to breathe.

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

**April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. BOONE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any questions, Members, for the testifier?
Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Nia Fitzpatrick, to be followed by Joyclynn Costa.

MS. FITZPATRICK: Good evening. Thank you for being here. And thank you to those of you that stuck around. My name is Nia Fitzpatrick. I'm an alumni of Ha'ikū Elementary, Kalama Intermediate, and Kekaulike High School. I'm here to testify as an individual, but I currently work as the lead teacher at Ha'ikū Head Start as an employee of MEO. So, I'd like to say thank you and to implore you to continue to support MEO and, specifically, to fund Ha'ikū Head Start. I've seen...it's just my first year teaching, but I've seen what MEO can do for my families and our children, just firsthand. We have one little keiki that was displaced from Lahaina, and she's part of our community. We've been watching the fences go up. So, I'd also like to bridge to the issue of the Puniawa Bay. And I don't want to repeat too much of what has been said, I trust all of you have been listening. But I will say if...if you have to prioritize, please prioritize the 3.5 million lot that is 82 acres makai and the TMK is (2) 2-7-004:050. If that's all we can do, open space for our keiki, land for the future, and to maintain indigenous rights and access to lifeways. Mahalo.

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

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Joyclynn Costa, to be followed by Sarah Jones.

MS. COSTA: It's too high. Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Joyclynn Costa. I first want to let you know that I live in two systems on this 'āina; the Hawaiian Kingdom and this, quote unquote, State of Hawai'i that is actually illegally occupying our 'āina. You have a budget, and I think you should take care of your citizens because they're dying. What you witness in Maui has been created through legislation, at one point or another, with whatever you support through your budget. I also belong to the 'Aha Moku representing Hāmākualoa and our resources is what we advocate for. Placing houses where they don't belong pollutes our ocean and our waterways, creates more sewage and garbage. This land that they're talking about, I testified...or I...I spoke about at the Ha'ikū Association. And to my surprise these people who have now testified that they've been here 30, 40, 50 years; they've come in the '70s; they've come in the '60s,

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

and they don't want to be blocked off from resources. I needed to remind them that people before them didn't have a choice. They were killed. They were run off their...their 'āina. So, this 'āina we're discussing has families that already belong there. And if you find those families...I heard Member Johnson talk about, should we get somebody to take a look at the title. Absolutely. Because you all have a...an oath of office. And so you swear to a separation of powers. Your powers is not in the judicial system. You cannot make a legal determination whether or not people who come in front of you can build. And you give them entitlement to do so as if they're actually holding a legal document. And when someone tells you they don't have clear title, you ignore them. To me, you're making a legal determination. You have, then, stepped out of your powers within that separation. And these documents that they hold comes from another country. It's the Country of Hawai'i. Now, you've crossed over into the executive power because it's a political matter. But you decide, as legislators, that you can do that. I'd like to know where those powers came from, that you can now make legal determinations, political determinations, and then entitle these people to come and pollute our 'āina. The families are here amongst you. . . .(timer sounds). . . . And when you have questions like what's the condition on Holomua Road; you live on Maui, before you go home tonight, take that drive because this is exactly the time you'll find out what's going on up at that road. And there's a clear shoot; you can go up, and you can go through that bumpy road, and come out Baldwin Avenue, and you can make your way home. But take that drive, be brave like all these other people have to be brave and have to go through all of this. Don't be blind, be brave. But remember, you live in the Hawaiian Kingdom . . .(timer sounds). . . and please do not step over your powers, your legislatures. You're not judicial and...and you're not in the Executive Department. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions, Members? Seeing none. Thank you. Next...next testifier.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Sarah Jones, to be followed by Nicole Akiona-Bailey.

MS. JONES: Aloha. Hi, guys. I'm Sarah Jones. This is my first testimony. And Hāmākua is really important to me. My grandma was the first owner on West Lelehuna right behind Ha'ikū Community Center. So, as a young kid, oh, we would just run around the open space; wild and free; take cardboard, bomb down the hills; swim in the tidepools; surfing too; very special place. Surfed all the way till I was six months hāpai with my boy right there. And it just...it has a very meaningful place to a lot of the community. I think more, nowadays, our kids need that as well. Also my papa fished there. His dad fished there. I caught my first uhu there. And it's scary to think that developers are going to take this opportunity because it's very cheap. Yes, zero Pauwela Lighthouse number 50, \$3,500,000, over 82 acres. It's so scary thinking that someone's going to come,

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

chop up the land, block access, and lose the sense of Hawai'i, Maui where we love. So, mainly I ask for you to consider buying this land for Open Space Fund. Also, again, I do love MEO, Pā'ia Youth Center, anything to do for our keiki, for our community, for our...our elders as well. Also, a note...a side note, a request to open the gate at Ho'okipa earlier so our kids can surf. The community can surf dawn patrol. Right now, the Surfrider Foundation is paying for that to be opened. So, we asked if you could open it earlier, and that's it. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Wait, we have a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, what time would you prefer the gate to be open? I know you said dawn patrol, but like 6:00?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thirty minutes before sunrise.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So...I mean, that varies, right, sunrise varies.

MS. JONES: Yeah, it does vary. It does vary.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, we cannot be like, hey, every day, Parks, if you can look at the sunrise tomorrow and then get there 30 minutes before that. So, if we could just make some sort of policy. Like 6:00? What would you think?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 5:00.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 5:30 . . .*(inaudible)*. . . --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I mean --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(Inaudible)*. . . should be closer to 7:00.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Between 5:00 and 5:30?

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. We can ask. Thank you.

MS. JONES: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody else? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I turned it off.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Nicole Akiona-Bailey, followed by Nikhilananda with five remaining testifiers.

MS. AKIONA-BAILEY: Hi. Thank you for your time. This is my first time attending and sharing a testimony. If I had paid attention a few years ago and knew about this process, I would have requested funding to purchase Fukushima Store because I miss the hot dogs and chow fun. . . .*(laughing)*. . . I know I'm not the only one that does. But I'm born and raised on Maui, moved from Wailuku to Ha'ikū in the 2nd Grade. I grew up in the Pili...Pili'aloa subdivision. I grew up next to Charla-Ann Konohia's 'ohana. Growing up in Ha'ikū was the best. My dad went fishing with her dad. They took us walking or driving down to the Pauwela Lighthouse. I learned how to drive standard in the pineapple fields for the first time. So, you know, good times, good memories; very special, special place as...as you've already heard from a lot of us. After graduating high school, I moved away but I moved back to my parents' house in 1998. Three years later, we bought a house in the same neighborhood. So, you know, my parents live there, I live there, my children live there, grew up there, had the same experiences...wonderful experiences. And now my grandchildren get to grow up there as well. Ha'ikū has changed, like a lot of the island, and sometimes change is good, but sometimes change is bad. So, tonight you've heard about homelessness, you heard about crime. Every...so many...like every other hour, I hear sirens, ambulance, fire trucks, police. Growing up, we never--yeah, Charla-Ann, we never...we never heard police sirens. And if...if we did, it was scary because we were afraid was for us but we wasn't that bad. But that wasn't the...I just joking. We was...me and Charla-Ann was fine. Nara was good too. We all grew up together. But please consider funding or gathering the funds to purchase the property that everyone's been mentioning tonight. It's a steal. You know it...it...it is. It is. I'm surprised...anyway...to purchase for community and public use and not the opposite. Thank you for your time and God bless.

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

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Nikhilananda, to be followed by Joe Gardner.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: I hope you come back, Gabe. Thank you, Councilmembers. My name is Nikhilananda. I'm a long-time resident of Maui. The last 26 years I've been living in Huelo, where I was fortunate to purchase some property. I couldn't afford Ha'ikū and think of, now, what the costs are. The first thing I want to say is thank you to everybody for the testimony because you've heard other people...and I know I usually come here with a long laundry list and I run out of

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

time, but you hear what the community, Pā'ia and Ha'ikū...it's like one person says something, I said, oh, man, I should have thought...oh, yeah, somebody else said something. So, I'm going to mention some things that were mentioned already and some that weren't. But this...the talk about the lands...and, yeah, I really like that someone said, go up Holomua, because when I heard people say, what's the TMK or Holomua and don't know that half the road...you know, the other mile and a half towards the top is not paved and we've come here for years asking to get that paved. But thank you in particular to Gabe. But if you want some more money, expand the property taxes to a tiered system where residents and local people pay less. And the people who have two, three, four homes on Maui pay more. And I don't want to go into it because we only have so much time. The Pā'ia bypass relief road; we were so close, at one time, to getting it, and now it's disappeared. So, please bring that back. More maintenance for the County park restrooms; you've heard people talk about that already. No one's mentioned, so far tonight...and I remember for years I used to testify, we need a bus system and people said, oh no, nobody's ever going to take a bus. And now we had, a couple of years ago, 2 ½ million people rode the bus. Expand the bus routes, especially have a Makawao, Pā'ia, Ha'ikū loop; that would be great. And expand the bus system out to Huelo...to...to Twin Falls. It's not just for me because I live past Twin Falls, but that would be a good place to expand it. More affordable housing. And no more gated communities on Maui, outlaw that. And then we've talked about water and I went to that meeting a week ago. Thank you for having that meeting up in Pukalani about the water, it's going to come before you about building a well. But let's get a couple of other water...water reservoirs in places. People have been talking about, every year, it's a drought, and then next year...and then later on there's a lot of water. So, obviously, there's so much water out where I live. There is so much water. And speaking of water, I used to come here and say to put water back in the streams. And then all of a sudden, a few years ago, the Commission on Water Resource Management ruled they had to put water back into Ho'olawa Stream. And my stream for 19 years was like this...bone dry and now it flows with fish in there and...and other aquatic animals. And it's just incredible. It flows all the time. And now I've made a couple of . . .(timer sounds). . . pools. Okay. Oh, it's incredible, no matter how fast I talk. You know, we talked about Holomua Road. I had a friend that lived there. She had a HUD house. She lost it. She lived in her car there for years. I was in a meeting that you organized here in Pā'ia about the people...the homeless people, which they're not homeless, they're houseless. They're human beings. So, our whole system...as someone already talked about, our system is what allows that to happen, which is...you know, which is absurd. Now, as far as the head not knowing what the butt does, . . .(timer sounds). . . that development next to Ha'ikū School--I'm asking for a couple of more moments, we're at the end of the...the...the session. Ha'ikū School, they put in a development. Well, the County owned that land. The State owned the school. And you could have made a switch, and then the school would have expanded there, and you wouldn't have

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

this housing development next to the school. And you've heard everyone talk about buying the land that's across...when all of a sudden we saw. . . --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please, be respectful.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: What's that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're done.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: Oh, was that...oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: Did I catch everything? Abandoned cars where people take the tires off and then they burn the cars down. Change that, that's the law that allows that. Why do you...why do we have cars break down and then you watch for a couple days...we all know that...how cars eventually going to be burnt down.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: Did I hit everything?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: Has to be the last one because I bring it up every year. Tennis courts at the 4th Marine Park [sic]. And now, of course, pickleball is a big thing. So, put in a pickleball and a tennis court. For 30 years I've asked about that, nothing. I talked when Charmaine Tavares was the head of the...okay. So, anyway thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: You got to shut this off, right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. . . .(laughing). . .

MR. NIKHILANANDA: All right. Thank you guys very, very much for everything you did. Because like a lot of people, I had a friend that was killed in Lahaina. So, I really appreciate everything that you guys have done in supporting...and I've just been blown away what you've done, Tamara. So, thank you very much, Councilmember Paltin --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

MR. NIKHILANANDA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MR. NIKHILANANDA: Thank you for the extra time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Chair, the next testifier signed up is Joe Gardner, to be followed by Sandra Rodriguez --

MR. GARDNER: Hi, everybody. Thank you. Sorry about earlier, I told him not to call me up here, but he did anyway. I just had a huge list of stuff to talk about, and it just somehow disappeared on my phone, and I'm not going to make...make you guys wait while I look for it. But everything that everyone talked about is very real here. I...born and raised here my whole life. I used to camp all along this coastline, on this whole island, and I can barely think of anywhere to go camping now. And I'm not going to say it out in public because I keep them very secret. But ocean access needs to be a thing. The homeless needs to be a thing. I can't tell you how many times I've driven through Pā'ia and I've seen that lady the guy was talking about. I think her name is Peaches or something. I've seen her vagina on the street driving by. I've seen naked men at Pā'ia Bay hanging their...hanging out. These people are flown here by other governors from different states. These people are not people that went homeless on Maui. These are professional homeless people that came here to take our State's welfare. They get off the plane, they get food stamps, they get help immediately. Another big problem, FEMA raising our rents everywhere. There needs to be a public list of landlords that are collecting FEMA rents so people like myself, who just was displaced and had to move, can have a peace of mind, and look and see if my old landlords are actually collecting FEMA money, or if they actually did move their family member into the house that I've lived in for 14 years. So, that really needs to be made public; a list of people who are collecting FEMA money so that you can just...a peace of mind. You're not sitting there at night going, wow, I wonder if...wonder if their family moved in or if they're moving a FEMA family member in. There needs to be somebody that goes and checks these houses, and actually checks the ID on the people living in the houses and see if they've displaced their tenants for family members or not. Ocean access is huge. They need to not charge to throw away vehicles. That's why we have so many burnt vehicles. That's why you drive by these drug addicts' houses and there's 50 cars in their driveway because it costs money to throw away an abandoned vehicle. You used to get paid to throw away your old car. Then it was free. Now, it cost hundreds of dollars to throw away a broken-down vehicle. It's not easy...hundreds of dollars. I...when I throw away a car, I take the tires off, I drain the oil, I drain the differential fluid, I drain the transmission fluid; still cost me \$100, and I have to tow the car down there. It is ridiculous. That's why there's so many broken-down, burnt cars everywhere. Next subject, road to Hāna, tourism, every

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

single waterfall, now, you're not allowed to go swim at because the tourists flock it. They need to block rental cars on the road to Hāna, make tour busses...you get to Hāna, you want to stay there for the weekend, you got to rent a car from a local while you're there. Keep the roads open, right. Speed bumps, ridiculous. What happens if I get a neck injury and the ambulance has to take me to a hospital? My old house...I lived up on Awalau. I had to go over five speed bumps just to get to . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Kaupakalua Road, just Kaupakalua. Also, there's speed bumps on Hāna Highway. The speed limit is 30 miles an hour. There is not allowed to be speed bumps with a 30 mile an hour speed limit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. GARDNER: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you --

MR. GARDNER: I know the beeper beeped already. Anybody else have any questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have...Member, have questions for him?

MR. GARDNER: She does.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

MR. GARDNER: Please. You guys get used to me because you guys...I'm...you guys are going to be the new people that I complain to instead of my wife. . . . *(laughing)*. . . I'll be at every one of these meetings. Also, I was informed that there's supposed to be a letter in the mailbox informing us about these meetings. The only way I found out about this was on Instagram, and I said that ten years ago at a meeting here. And I haven't been to these meetings in years because I've been detached but I'm back. I just moved back to lower Ha'ikū and I'll be at all these meetings. So get used to hearing from me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, just for your information cards were mailed to every household.

MR. GARDNER: That's bullshit. I've lived in Ha'ikū my entire life. I've never gotten an invitation to one of these meetings.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, if you give us your address later.

MR. GARDNER: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'll...I'll...this is --

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

MR. GARDNER: Please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- not public . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

MR. GARDNER: Pretty please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

MR. GARDNER: And you can take the address --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I had a question.

MR. GARDNER: -- Ha'ikū Post Office, because that's where my mailbox was. So, you can put one in every mailbox there because I never got one ever. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Gardner, --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- for your testimony. My question was, have you heard of the County's Tow and Scrap Program, which offers two free vehicles to be towed per year --

MR. GARDNER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: --per resident?

MR. GARDNER: And, unfortunately, that doesn't do anything for a yard that has 30 vehicles in it. I constantly go to people's houses. I drag their broken cars onto my trailer, and I go throw them away for them just as a community service. I've done it plenty of times.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They cannot...they cannot do at least two? They cannot do two for free with the Tow and --

MR. GARDNER: You know, --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Scrap Program?

MR. GARDNER: -- people don't have the means to do that. You got to hire a tow truck. You got to pay...it...it...it...the tow truck is free. Okay. Well, that's up to...that's up to certain people to do, you know what I mean. Like two vehicles is great. Some people in automotive industries, they have to throw away plenty of vehicles

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

a year. That's not the problem. You just go drive around; you'll see the yards with 30 vehicles in them. The reason those aren't thrown away is because it cost money.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are those speed bumps on State highways that you're talking about?

MR. GARDNER: State highways and County roads. If you just drive...Hāna Highway...everywhere...you drive...any...anywhere in Ha'ikū where they don't want...they don't have enough police force to police the areas, they just put up speed bumps and they're dangerous. If you're injured --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I been trying to get speed bumps in Lahaina --

MR. GARDNER: -- and you have to drive to the hospital and go over --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- for five years and they haven't been giving me speed bumps. I mean, I put money...I put money in the budget every --

MR. GARDNER: Ma'am --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- year for speed bumps in Lahaina, and they're not giving me speed bumps.

MR. GARDNER: Well, you guys can have all of our speed bumps in Ha'ikū; every one of them. You can have them all. The suspension in my truck, my wife's truck; all our suspensions are shot from these speed bumps. They're not smooth speed bumps. They're very rough speed bumps. They're tables. Yeah, they're not bumps. They're speed tables.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's 14 of them . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

MR. GARDNER: Yeah, 14 speed bumps on Kokomo Road alone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. GARDNER: Thank you. Have a nice day --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MR. GARDNER: See you guys . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

MS. TANCK: Chair, the next testifier is Sandra Rodriguez.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We'll be at Upcountry tomorrow night. 6:00 p.m.

MS. TANCK: The next testifier is Sandra Rodriguez, to be followed by Mrs. Padgett. If Mrs. Rodriguez is unavailable, I'll go ahead and call the next testifier. Mrs. Padgett, to be followed by our final testifier, Leinā'ala...hold on.

MS. MONIZ: Leinā'ala Kuloloio Vedder.

MS. PADGETT: Hello. My name is Mrs. Padgett. I am a long-time resident of Ha'ikū. I only belong to the Kingdom of God. I all...feel that we are only passing through and none of us really own anything. I also want to comment about the land that is for sale. Two of the titles there are broken. They cannot be subdivided, and that includes the one that is nearest the ocean, that is the 84 acres. I also want to ask anyone; do you realize that the County owns the Old Pauwela Road? So, that has been overgrown and not maintained. You can only get through on a motorcycle. I hiked that area and went down there within the last couple days. There's a homeless guy on the 84 acres, naked...little bit out there. There is fencing around some of it. On the Old Pauwela Lighthouse, the County also owns that which was always accessible to all of us with children growing up. I used to roll my son around there 20 years ago and could make it all the way up to the old Buddhist cemetery. None of this has been maintained and it started not being maintained about 18 years ago. There are trucks that are abandoned, cars along the Pauwela Road. There are certain...very large holes that will take the bottom out of anything that's not lifted. So, in order to...for the County to even think about purchasing it...there is no fences. That is a complete cliff drop off. We've already had deaths down there. We had a rage where a teenage boy was killed. So, how are the police, that can't even take care of a road up here with the homeless, go and take care of the Pauwela Road? Are you going to close that off at night? Are they going to go down and throw all the fishermen...the fishermen can still access down there. They just have to go on motorcycle. I mean, that's the only way to get down there other than walking. So, I'm not against the County purchasing it. I just want you to know, there is also a title restriction on two of those lots where it cannot be subdivided. So, there's more than what you think on those titles, and they need to be looked at if the County wants to purchase with everything that's going on. I don't know anyone that would purchase them with broken titles. So, that's what I have to say. I want to support the...the Pā'ia Youth Center. It is so extremely important. I also feel that all the merchants in Pā'ia need to have the same place card, whether it's from the Maui County or from the Merchants Association, saying please do not give money, . . .(timer sounds). . . or food, or clothes to the...to the street people. I sit there and I watch people feel sorry for them and give them money. All that they're doing and the reason they won't go downtown or where they could get help is because they won't make money. They can't steal and sell for money. And they take that money, and I see her put it in her bra, and it's not a little bit. That's why they're here.

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

And I am sickened to see them defecate on the streets and pee right out in front of public. And I know I said this . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . at the Pā'ia Community Association, but I don't know what Makawao...and I think a redesignation of our County Council should happen, and I think that Makawao should be included in Kula and Pukalani, and that Spreckelsville to Kailua should be the North Shore. What happens on the North Shore? You haven't heard one comment about Makawao or Pukalani. Well, Makawao, because it's our district. And I think you're doing an amazing job. And I didn't even know Mike Molina was gone because I never saw him. So, I'm just saying thank you but I think that there needs to be...because if you're driving through here every day, --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MS. PADGETT: -- you're going to see what we see.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you, appreciate your testimony. Any questions, Members? Seeing none.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, the last person currently signed up to testify is Leinā'ala Kuloloio Vedder.

MS. VEDDER: Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha.

MS. VEDDER: I...I wasn't going to sign up, but there was so many wonderful testimonies tonight. And thank each and every one of you. It just feels so comfortable coming here and testifying. I must say, it's just a different vibe being here in...in Pā'ia. And as...as you heard, many of us have roots here, lineal descendants in this area. Our grandparents was raised here, walked around before there was a Merchant Association, before a lot of the stores that was here; and we walked around freely. And so just like many of people that I've heard tonight, I think one of the main things is population. Because of population growth there comes with different kinds of communities that...that we are facing with. And a community that...that you can control, a community that you feel part of. So, there is different communities within this area in itself, as we've heard tonight and many testifiers have said before. As a teacher...as a kumu at...at Pā'ia, which I have taught Ms. Kama's...one of her children there and her mo'opuna. There is a disconnect with the school and...and with the merchants as well. We used to...I know I used to take my Papa 'Elima haumana...we used to do Christmas caroling. We used to come around. We was adopted by several merchants in the Pā'ia Merchants community and...and we had that real relationship. And so I want to thank Bruce that he had said that there is a disconnect. And if there was a relationship with the merchants, as they would

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

like to feel that the community is whole; our school is right above. There are two schools that are above us, but the ones that is above that's been here for a very long time, there is a disconnect. The population growth has been very unique in that area. A lot of our children are not from this community because it is a Kaiapuni school. There are from central...different areas. And we...I would also like to thank the Head Start Program as well...to please come continue supporting Head Start and also MEO. And the talk tonight is of the Pauwela lands and as you heard, many of us are from there. Back in the 19...late 1970s my family...my father, along with Charles Maxwell and a lot of the community members at that time, of which you don't see the families that are here, but they're in the back in the corner. And...and we were involved with protecting Puniawa Bay. And my son...my oldest son is named Puniawa in order for him to remember that; you know, where he is from. And so I'm very familiar with that...with that area; . . .(timer sounds). . . my house is right above. If there is any way that you are able to purchase it or be in partnership. Kamehameha Schools...as a...as a beneficiary of Kamehameha Schools, I was very happy that they purchased the lands to the east side where I am. If there is any way that you can partnership with them or even OHA. OHA has a fiduciary responsibility to take care of the Pauwela Lighthouse, and it is also under the NOAA's care as well. And so I would just like to...to ask you for that support. . . .(timer sounds). . . And you do have lineal descendants who are still there, and we are in contact with other entities who would like to keep beach access open for us as lineal descendants, so I thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. VEDDER: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama has a question.

MS. VEDDER: Oh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Leinā'ala, for being here. So, my question is, have you spoken to Hulu Lindsey about this issue about the Pauwela Lighthouse?

MS. VEDDER: I haven't spoken to Aunty Hulu recently about the Pauwela Lighthouse, but in 2021 where Nalu Ola was...they came before the Planning Commission--

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Uh-huh.

MS. VEDDER: -- to request an extension for their utilities, at that time, --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

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

**April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall**

MS. VEDDER: -- and several of us had spoken up for that. So, we did call Aunty Hulu, at that time, to say that OHA has kuleana to keep --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Uh-huh.

MS. VEDDER: -- the...the --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Uh-huh.

MS. VEDDER: -- road and access open. We're still waiting for a response.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. So, my second question--Chair, if you don't mind--is do you have a community nonprofit?

MS. VEDDER: I do not belong to a community nonprofit, myself.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. But is there one --

MS. VEDDER: But there is several community nonprofits that are out there. And I'm not sure...so, yeah. Personally, I'm not part of a community nonprofit --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. VEDDER: -- that I can speak of.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. But I like your idea about partnering with the KSBE, the OHA, and any other Kānaka-led nonprofit to be able to lead that.

MS. VEDDER: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Kuloloio Vedder, for your testimony. I was...just was wondering, between now and final reading of the budget, do you think the lineal descendants could get a group together to receive the land?

MS. VEDDER: Eō. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let's go.

MS. VEDDER: And...yeah, you know, if...I mean, if we go back into Kingdom law, and

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

all of that, we have never relinquished our rights to the land. And it's under the William Lee grant over there in which he...when he passed away, he gave it back to his former wife of where you have the Pauwela Hui, where I belong to, under the Kahiapo in Kahiapo Camp, which is a one-way street in and out. And so maybe there is another nonprofit group that, maybe, you may know of that we probably can partnership with them. That...I'm not sure. I don't know. I know that's for the West Side, but maybe that could be something that we could do on the East Side as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We can kūkākūkā.

MS. VEDDER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I think it's like around May is --

MS. VEDDER: The budget.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: When is second...final reading?

MS. VEDDER: For the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It has to be done in June, so...

MS. VEDDER: Pretty soon.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: June.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: June 5th.

MS. VEDDER: And perhaps, like, thinking outside of the box, making it as an agriculture. Because if you do purchase it, I know managing is...is another thing, who is going to manage it. And so maybe that can be somewhere underneath the agricultural, I don't know, department that you have. I'm not too sure. I didn't think too much into it, yeah, of future plans.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. --

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

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

MS. VEDDER: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Kuloloio Vedder.

MS. VEDDER: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, I was just trying to look up who holds the possessory rights --

MS. VEDDER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- of the 'āina, right now. Is...is that Wainaku LLC?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, but they just sold it to . . . *(inaudible)*. . . --

MS. VEDDER: I'm not sure.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . okay, that's the area. Okay. Mahalo.

MS. VEDDER: Yeah, I'm not sure. I'm going to go do my homework better before I come again, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. VEDDER: Mahalo. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, it's illegal anyway.

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

MS. TANCK: Chair, there is no one signed up to testify at this time. We'll go ahead and do a last call; three, two, one.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Thank you very much, everyone, for being here. This now adjourns this meeting and we really appreciate you taking the time. It is now 9:20. Wow. . . *(gavel)*. . .

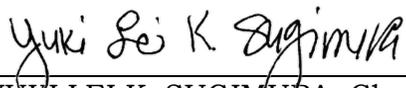
BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

ACTION: **DEFER**, pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 9:20 p.m.

APPROVED:



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

bfed:min:240402_Paia:th

Transcribed by: Tricia Higa

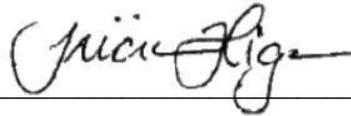
BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 2, 2024
Pā'ia Community Center, Social Hall

CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Higa, hereby certify that pages 1 through 82 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 17th day of April 2024, in Mililani, Hawaii



Tricia Higa