

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET COMMITTEE
Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

April 4, 2019

Mayor Hannibal Tavares Community Center Social Hall

CONVENE: 6:04 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair
Councilmember Kelly T. King, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Riki Hokama, Member
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Michael J. Molina, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

STAFF: Traci Fujita, Legislative Attorney
James Krueger, Substitute Legislative Analyst
Clarita Balala, Substitute Committee Secretary
Nicole Siegel, Substitute Committee Secretary

Jennifer Karaca, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Kauanoë Batangan, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura
Miki Yokouchi, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura
Daryl Fujiwara, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura
Kate Griffiths, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Kelly T. King
Gina Flammer, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci
Don Atay, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci
Dianne Shimizu, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Alice Lee
Evan Dust, Executive Assistant to Councilmember Tasha Kama

ADMIN: *Seated in the gallery:*
Michael Du Pont, Deputy Director, Department of Transportation
Gladys Baisa, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor

OTHERS: Kaitlin Kitagawa, King Kekaulike Performing Arts Center
Glen Kitagawa, King Kekaulike Performing Arts Center
Lori Beth Auldridge, Kula Park Playground
Annaliese Auldridge, Kula Park Playground
Katie Acpal, Kula Park Playground
Sheldon Acpal, Kula Park Playground
Cyrus Macanas, Under Age Drinking Prevention

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David Peterson, Kula Park Playground
Rita Silva
Pamela Campbell
Joseph Imhoff, Program Manager, Skyline Conservation
Chantal Ratte, Executive Director, Kalima O Maui
Michelle Feteira, Kalima O Maui
John Keliioomaluu, Kalima O Maui
Lisa Darcy, Mental Health America
Stephen Bennett, Director of Operations, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Keola Olaitiman, Club Director, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Carolyn Caires, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Cassi Yamashita, Director of Community Services, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Naomi Farnsworth, Club Member, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Amanda Caires, Club Member, Boys and Girls Club of Maui
Billy Kekona, BEST Reintegration Program, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Mary Kalama, Head Start, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Jay Penniman, Manager, Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project
Elisa Plauche, Maui Invasive Species Committee
Mona Cherry, Mental Health America
Charles-Yale Tang, Core Four Program, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Jack Lukas
James Escalante, Maui Economic Opportunity, Inc.
Duane Hamamura, Makawao Community Association
Sam Small, Director, Maui Causes
Richard Lucas, Program Manager, Friends of Old Maui High
Lehua Simon
Steve Paselk
John J. Wilson, Board Member, Kula Community Association
Heather Mueller, Kula Community Association
Robert Bence
Donna Clayton, President, Pukalani Community Association
Pamela Tumpap, President, Maui Chamber of Commerce
Gerry Ross, Maui Coffee Association and Hawaii Farmers Union
Shay Chan Hodges, Responsible Markets/Maui United Way
Ian Chan Hodges, Responsible Markets/Maui United Way
Sherman Dudley DePonte
Samantha Maxwell, Pukalani Pensioner Club
Dick Mayer
Louis DeCoite
Christy Vail
Sherman Baisa
Others (43)

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**ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2020 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY
OF MAUI (CC 19-61)**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Aloha mai kakou. Will the Economic Development and Budget Committee please come to order. It is April 4th, 2019, and it is 6:04 p.m. Okay. Mahalo to everyone for coming out this evening. We really look forward to hearing from you. I'm Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. I am the Chair of our Economic Development and Budget Committee, and I'd like to hand the mic over to your District representative for some opening remarks.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. Welcome, everybody, and thank you for being here. It's nice to see so many people, and we were welcomed by the people lining up until we could open our doors at 5:30, so thank you, everybody, for your commitment to our community. I wanted to introduce our fellow Councilmembers to you, and I want to thank everybody for being here. At the far end, our Hana representative is Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Tamara Paltin from our West Side.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Alice Lee, bright and shiny, she's from Wailuku.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Mike Molina, my fellow Upcountry person.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: And Kelly King, our Council Chair.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Riki Hokama from Lanai, and Tasha Kama at the end, our friend from Kahului.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, everybody, for being here. Thank you, Keani.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Okay, so we're going to start with testimony. To testify, please sign up with staff there. Testimony is limited to three minutes, and upon request, up to one minute to conclude. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony. When testifying, please state your name and who you are representing. Please also indicate if you are a paid lobbyist. And we have James helping us with introducing the first testifier. So, James, if you could please introduce our first testifier?

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. KRUEGER: Madame Chair, the first person signed up to testify is Kaitlin Kitagawa, to be followed by Glen Kitagawa. Kaitlin Kitagawa? Oh.

MR. KITAGAWA: There you go.

MISS KITAGAWA: Good evening. My name is Kaitlin Kitagawa, and I'm the band president at Kalama Intermediate School. Thank you. I ask for your support of the King Kekaulike Performing Arts Center. It is a state-of-the-art facility that allows students from across the country to share the various performing art forms that are taught at our many campuses with the members of the community. Thank you for your consideration and time this evening.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Kitagawa. Members, did you have any questions for Ms. Kitagawa? Okay. Seeing none, thank you so much for testifying.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Glen Kitagawa, to be followed by Lori Beth Auldridge.

MR. KITAGAWA: Good evening and thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules this evening, Members. My name is Glen Kitagawa. I have the privilege of serving as the Booster President over at Kalama Intermediate School. I also currently serve on the boards of the Maui Community Band and the King Kekaulike Performing Arts Center Foundation. This evening, I am here to ask for your support of the Center. We are...excuse me, here, sorry. I'm trying to read, here. We are currently pursuing various avenues of funding not only through the County, but through private organizations, researching where we may be able to get start-up funds. The great Center was built for our students, and what we want to do is to perpetuate that and to give our students across the island, especially kids who are in the performing arts across Upcountry, an opportunity to share their passion. In...excuse me, here. In conclusion, I wanted to share a quote of the recently departed Mr. Lance Jo regarding music. He was a great band director down at Baldwin High School. His words were, perhaps music will make us a kinder and gentler people. Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Members, any questions for Mr. Kitagawa? Okay, seeing none, thank you so much for testifying today. Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Lori Beth Auldridge, to be followed by Katie Acpal.

MS. L. AULDRIDGE: Thank you so much. I'm Lori Beth Auldridge. I'm a Kula mom of three. This is two of mine, the other one is screaming outside with dad. And we're here on our wedding anniversary, but we wouldn't be anywhere else except for here with our kids. So, Annaliese is three and a half, and she actually has something she'd like to say. Can you say it?

MISS A. AULDRIDGE: Can I please have a playground?

MS. L. AULDRIDGE: She said, can I please have a playground? So we have, oh my gosh, thank you so much, is what I want to say. Because we have been invited to be part of all the planning meetings. Talking with Mike, the engineer, who was nothing short of incredible, we feel heard, we feel valued Upcountry, when we live in the middle of nowhere in the middle of nowhere, and just the fact that you're considering putting a Kula park playground back in that space is just incredible. Because you know, I went from a full-time job to having a baby, like I said, in the middle of nowhere in the middle of nowhere, and it was so hard for me to get out and meet other moms, because you feel so isolated. And the natural place that you go is to the park. When you can get over all of your post-partum stuff and you realize that you need support, and you get brave, and you pack up your baby and you go someplace, the place that you go is to the public park. And the public park that you go to is not the one that's just a barren field, but the one with the playground in the hopes of meeting other moms. So, as a result of getting brave and going out there and going to Pukalani Park, I was able to start a moms group that has been going strong twice a week for over five years. And I can tell you firsthand that all of these moms are better people, because we have safe spaces to take our kids. And the fact that Keokea Park got barricaded off so they could fix it, you know, now we don't have that. We have four swings in Kula, and that is it. We have been encouraged to go other places, but, you know, we live in Kula. Do you know...you understand how much driving we do. So the fact that we would just have something right there that's beautiful, picturesque, magic, I mean, the jacaranda trees are in bloom right now. There's a white horse in a field next door. There's an ocean view. It is just incredible, and the fact that we would have a playground that's interactive, that's developmentally appropriate, and what exactly we asked for that's kind of like in the landscape, I mean, I am blown away, just so you know. And I just wanted to say thank you from the bottom of my heart, and every other mom that's going to come up in Kula and get brave one day and go out to that amazing park and meet her new best friends. So, thank you so much. And now, Katie Acpal is one of my best mommy friends who meets me at that park too, and she's got some really great follow-up, so thank you so much.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Auldrige, and happy anniversary to you and your husband.

MS. L. AULDRIDGE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, did you have any questions for our testifier? Okay, I'll save my question for the next testifier. Yeah, yeah, no. Thank you for coming out and for bringing all your keiki. Mahalo for testifying. Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next testifier is Katie Acpal, to be followed by Cyrus Macanas.

MS. ACPAL: Hi. My name is Katie Acpal, and this is my son Sheldon, and he wanted to come up and just say one thing very quickly. What do you want to say, sweetheart?

MASTER ACPAL: I want a playground, please.

MS. ACPAL: Please. So, I did provide a sheet of what I'm going to be saying for you. So again, my name is Katie Acpal, and I'm here in support of the Kula Park playground. Undeniably, children need a safe place to move and play for many reasons. Today, I'd like to speak about the importance of this playground as it pertains to development, specifically sensory development and sensory processing disorder. Currently, I'm a stay-at-home mom to two very active little boys, ages five and two, but in my past life, pre-mom, I was a special education teacher. In that role, I worked alongside many occupational therapists, who were wonderful at helping our students with sensory processing issues. I also had personal experiences working with the occupational therapists at Imua for my own son who needed support in this area. So what is sensory processing disorder? Well, we are all familiar with our senses, because we use them every day to understand the world around us. Some of us have exceptionally efficient sensory processing. If you can imagine a ballerina or a professional athlete, and some of us have a poorly integrated sensory system, somebody who may have two left feet who's accident-prone or clumsy. We all experience momentary sensory processing issues. For example, we may trip on the stairs when we improperly gauge the distance we need to step, and some people have regular sensory dysfunction, and they could possibly have sensory processing disorder, which is the inability to use information received through the senses in order to function smoothly in daily life. Please don't touch that. Stand up. Thank you. We have seen a rise in sensory processing disorders, but why? Like with so many things, it is multi-faceted, but it appears to be aggravated by our modern lifestyle, which is increasingly more sedentary and indoors. But children are meant to be active and outdoors in nature and in the elements, which stimulate all of our senses. One sense in particular that affects sensory processing disorder that many people are not familiar with is the vestibular system. The vestibular system is the unifying system and processes all other types of sensation. It is our most primal and powerful sense. It tells us whether we are upright or upside down, whether we are moving or standing still, or whether objects are moving or motionless in relation to our body. Obviously, the vestibular system is vital for our overall well-being, but how can we activate this system and make sure to stimulate it for proper development? The

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vestibular system stems from the inner ear canal. This is how one occupational therapist explained it to me for a visual. The inner ear canal is shaped like a butterfly wing. The fluid in the inner ear needs to move throughout that shape in order to properly stimulate it.

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MS. ACPAL: So think, swinging back and forth, moving side to side, spinning around, moving up and down. That is why I requested certain pieces of equipment for this playground during the planning phase. I requested a teeter-totter and a merry-go-round, for example, because they're excellent for offering our children a safe way to activate this system. I am very appreciative to Mike Silva, the engineer who designed the playground. He took the time to hear our vision and wishes for this play structure. He listened to our requests and implemented them into the design. And I'd also like to thank Yuki Lei, who was the first person to hear our voice and put this dream into action. Thank you for representing us, and for getting us this far in the process. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Acpal. Members, do you have any questions for our testifier? I have one question. The design of the playground, does it include a shade structure, or shade for the equipment?

MS. ACPAL: It does not, because when we worked with the engineer, the idea was that it was going to be near the trees, 'cause they have...I don't know if you're familiar with Kula Park, but we have gorgeous jacaranda trees throughout the property, and so the idea was to please keep the trees and have that be the shade, as opposed to putting funds towards a shade structure.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Wonderful.

MS. ACPAL: So it should be well-shaded.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Thank you.

MS. ACPAL: Okay. Come on, sweetheart.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next...

MASTER ACPAL: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you! Have a good night. Will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Cyrus Macanas, to be followed by David Peterson.

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MASTER MACANAS: Hi. My name's Cyrus Macanas. I'm eighth grade. I go to Kalama Intermediate and I've been in MEO Youth Services for three years. What I love about MEO is it helps me meet new friends, and I get to help the community. And, so basically, we sign wave, and, I think, this past Superbowl, we were sign waving with the police to help tell drivers to, like, not drink and drive. And I'd say MEO is like, one of my favorite stuff [sic] because it helps me do stuff after school, and they help me do stuff, my curricular activities. So they help me with my math, my science, and all that, and I just want to let you guys know. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your bravery for testifying today, Mr. Macanas. Members, do you have any need for questions for our testifier? Thank you so much for testifying tonight.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is David Peterson, to be followed by Rita Silva.

MR. PETERSON: Good evening. I'm here to speak about the Kula playground, like, with the other parents. I have two daughters. One's a kindergartener at Kula Elementary, where we've been playing since Kula...excuse me, since Keokea has been closed down for renovations. I worry about the liability of playing on the school playground, in addition to the please don't play here signs that we walk by all the time. I also have a younger daughter who has been going to Keokea also. We have a weekly Sunday group of other families who meet there, and, like the other parents, I'm also kind of concerned that we don't have an Upcountry playground, really, besides the elementary school. Which again, I'm not sure about the ability of us to just kind of play there, you know. So, I think also, we need one not only for the community, for the kids as a gathering place, Keokea itself is even kind of far out there, really, if you're in Lower Kula. So I'm a strong advocate for that. I think also, sensory integration of, you know...my wife is the Executive Director of Pediatric Therapies Hawaii, so we do all physical, occupational, speech therapy for children also. They need a place, really, to gather. The jacaranda trees are beautiful, I'm sure they'll keep those, hopefully. I follow the building of it a little bit through the Kula PTA. So, yeah. As a parent, as a, you know, like, as a doctor involved with children who need a place to play, I'm a strong advocate. Any questions for me? Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing none, mahalo for your testimony--

MR. PETERSON: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --this evening. Mr. Krueger?

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MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Rita Silva, to be followed by Pamela Campbell.

MS. SILVA: Thank you very much for starting the clean up of Olinda Road. There are dangerous road conditions there, and I'm hoping that you'll follow through and finish with the road conditions on Olinda Road. And...

MS. CAMPBELL: Whatever you want.

MS. SILVA: Oh. I know that the road conditions on Olinda Road are terrible, but the County, or whoever it is, has made a start and I'm very encouraged by this, because that is a very important road, and we are dependent on the County to go ahead and finish the work on the road. And...

MS. CAMPBELL: Just thank them for hearing you.

MS. SILVA: Pardon me?

MS. CAMPBELL: Just say thank you for hearing me.

MS. SILVA: Thank you for hearing me, this testimony, and I wanted to know if our testimony is restricted to affordable housing?

MS. CAMPBELL: No. She wants to know if she can talk about that one?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, yes. You can talk about affordable housing.

MS. CAMPBELL: Go ahead. Tell them what you think.

MS. SILVA: Okay. Olinda Road has property and...it's necessary that the powers that be approving building permits and approving subdivisions is necessary. They took a good look at the Olinda Road section of Makawao, and, of course, most of what we have here in Maui comes from...it comes from outside of Maui. So, perhaps the County can intervene and get the process going that whatever is needed, start taking steps to...start taking steps to make conditions better. I hope, I hope that large landowners like Alexander and Baldwin, that they will make available at affordable prices their property for affordable housing. Thank you very much.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Silva. Members, any need for clarification from our testifier? Seeing none, thank you so much for testifying this evening. Mr. Krueger?

MS. CAMPBELL: I'm Pamela, I'm next. . . .(chuckle) . . .

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MR. KRUEGER: Oh. Okay.

MS. CAMPBELL: I'm Pamela Campbell, and I also live up Olinda, and we've been working for several years with Yuki Lei. We appreciate her input and her help with the road conditions and the trees. So, we're very grateful to see brand new roading put in. We are not so thrilled about the time and the money spent on putting in four speedbumps within a hundred yards of each other in an area that doesn't need it. I never...I'm up and down that road two, three times a day. I never see people, you know, hauling on that road. It's all...people are respectful there. But, the main thing left now is the trees, and that's why I came tonight, and it's why Rita wanted to come too. So I appreciate your patience with that, and she's lived there her whole life. She's 86. And, so I know most of you are, you know, returners, and you're familiar with her, and I wanted to talk about the trees, because she didn't cover that. But, I came from the Big Island originally, but I was on the mainland for a good portion of my life, and my grandmother grew up in Bakersfield, in Southern California. She went to...she had a trailer out on the coast, because in Bakersfield, 110 in the summer, in the shade, you cannot go outside in the daytime, so she would go to the coast. And this town, Atascadero, you can look it up later, it's in the late '90s, was almost demolished because of eucalyptus trees. Eucalyptus trees were planted in small groves in different places, and, you know, for shade, they smell good, they repel insects, they have a lot of benefits. But their problems are, their root systems are very shallow. They primarily have a lateral root system, goes maybe 50 to 100 yards, so they fall over for no reason at all. They also can spontaneously combust. And if you look that up about the Atascadero fires in the '90s, you will see that huge sections of the coastal areas, huge sections of everywhere, went nuts, because eucalyptus trees secrete this oil, and it's very good oil, but not on the trees. Because if a fire comes, or if we have a really hot, dry day, they can just go. They don't need a reason. They just go, and then everything goes. The other problem is they fall down all the time. Since we live way up Olinda, we have, every year, there are trees that fall down and block the road. They take out the power lines. This year, we had four days, no power. You can imagine how hard that was for Ms. Rita. Her caregivers could not get up there, so it was hard on me, because I live there too, and we had no power. We had to cook, you know, on the little gas barbecue I have. We had nothing, no way to...for anybody to get in our out, because both ways, trees were down, and they always go down and take out the power lines. So, I'm just appealing to you to do something about these trees before somebody gets seriously injured. I think the County has been blessed so far that no trees have fallen on a car and injured someone, but it's only a matter of time and how much do you want to gamble for that? The other...

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MS. CAMPBELL: What does that mean? I talk too long?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You have one minute to conclude.

MS. CAMPBELL: Okay. You can check it out. You can call me if you want. In Northern California, what they do is, the fire department sends out notices to all the homeowners

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at the beginning of spring, and they tell them, you have 60 days to get rid of all your fire hazards. That's vehicles, it's high grass, it's trees, it's problems, and if they don't do it in the 60 days, the fire department sends crews out and does it, and gives them the bill. The County doesn't have to pay for this. I don't know who planted those trees. Maybe they can go cut them down. I don't know. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Campbell, for your testimony. Members, do you have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none, thank you very much for your testimony.

MS. CAMPBELL: You're welcome.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Joseph Imhoff, to be followed by Chantal Ratte.

MR. IMHOFF: Aloha. I'm here to support a couple different programs. Number one, the Soil and Water Conservation District, I support that. I work in conservation. I've been working with them for about three years, and they've been able to dramatically allow us to increase our conservation footprint on the land that we do, and it's really beneficial to all farmers to be able to plant native trees. The second thing I support is also the funding of the eucalyptus tree removal in the Olinda district. It's definitely been a problem for quite some time, and the...basically the species of eucalyptus that are being attacked is the eucalyptus globulus. There's two bugs that are attacking the canopies of the tree, and it's completely defoliating it. A lot of money was spent last year. The emergency funds were spent to clear that big section of forest, which was amazing. Thank you for providing those funds for the safety. And, up until now, it seems like it's always emergency funds that have to go into those moments, because when the weather picks up, it's pretty much guaranteed trees are going to fall. And because of the sickness in the trees because of these bugs, the rate of trees falling is increasing. You can probably, you know, look up records from the power department to see how many times, you know, the power gets shut off because of falling trees, or how many times the road gets blocked. Over the last ten years, it's increasing more and more. So I feel like there's an opportunity right now to be proactive and knowing that the eucalyptus globulus trees basically everywhere on Maui are going to die, like within the next five to ten years, it's amazing to be able to put money towards being proactive so that it's not always an emergency, because we know those emergencies are going to happen, basically every time that we have severe weather.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. We have one question. Chair King?

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VICE-CHAIR KING: Aloha, Joseph.

MR. IMHOFF: Hi.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thanks for being here. I just wanted to ask you if you had an estimate of how many in that area, on Olinda Road, how many more trees there are on County property, or acreage of County...yeah.

MR. IMHOFF: Between like, Piiholo Road and Olinda Road, I mean, like that big work section was kind of down at the lower section on Piiholo Road, but up above and beyond that, there's all kinds of gigantic eucalyptus, I'd say, hundreds.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Is it on County road...on County property?

MR. IMHOFF: County property. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Do you have any estimate on how many acres?

MR. IMHOFF: How many total acres? I mean, the County property is the strip from the center line to the, like, 30 feet. I don't know. I don't know exactly how many acres that would be.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. IMHOFF: But, probably, like, I mean, a long skinny acre that goes in a u-shape.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. IMHOFF: I don't know, I can't give you an exact figure.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. But there's significant trees left?

MR. IMHOFF: There's, there's hundreds.

VICE-CHAIR KING: 'Cause I know we took out a bunch last year--

MR. IMHOFF: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --but there's still some left in that area.

MR. IMHOFF: It seems like the sickness of the bugs, like ground zero was basically the bottom, because those trees died completely. You can go and look at the canopy of all the trees and the canopies' been reduced by about 80 percent. So you could probably, you know, kind of take a priority list of which ones are the worst as far as defoliation, but the trees

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are completely gone. They haven't put out any flowers or seeds, like, in the last five years.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. IMHOFF: Basically, the second that the leaves grow, they get eaten by the bugs, so...

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you. I appreciate that.

MR. IMHOFF: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any other questions? Okay. Mahalo, Joseph, for your testimony.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call up our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Chantal Ratte, to be followed by Michelle Feteira.

MS. RATTE: Good evening. I'm Chantal Ratte, and I have the privilege of being the Executive Director for Ka Lima O Maui. I just want to thank you for your continued support for this amazing collaboration that we have between the County of Maui and Ka Lima. You know, we address a need that the County has. We maintain a lot of your parks and a lot of your facilities through landscaping and janitorial, but I think, more importantly, we address a great need in the community, which is employment of persons with disabilities. Through our collaboration, we provide employment for over 65 persons with disabilities, all paid the minimum wage or higher, with full benefits, vacation, holiday, sick pay, and all of that good stuff. So, I thank you for your ongoing support and I look forward to working with all of you. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Ratte. Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony.

MS. FETEIRA: Hi. I'm Michelle Feteira. I work for Ka Lima O Maui. I take care of central park, like Kamalii, KCC Soccer Field, Kokua Pool. Thank you for your guys' support, and have a nice day.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any need for clarification? Mahalo, Ms. Feteira, for your testimony this evening. Mr. Krueger, will you please call up our next testifier?

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MR. KREUGER: The next person signed up to testify is John Keliioomaluu, to be followed by Lisa Darcy.

MR. KELIIHOOMALU: Hi. My name is John. I work for Ka Lima O Maui. I do grounds and weed maintenance...Kihei and the basin, and thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Keliioomaluu. Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you for your testimony.

MS. DARCY: Oh, I hope I always get that poll position every year. Thank you, Ka Lima. I bet none of you can guess what I'm going to testify on tonight. Yeah. That's a good...but, actually, before that, good evening. My name is Lisa Darcy, and I am really happy to be testifying tonight to let you know that I am volunteering on behalf of Mental Health America of Hawaii, and they're known as the Mental Health Association of Maui in the budget. Last year, I was asked by the gentleman who is running the men's group, Ka Ipu Ha'a in the jail, in MCCC, and they asked me to start a women's group, and it is sponsored by Mental Health America, and since we were asked and we did the training, we have had volunteers in Maui County Correctional Center since last June or July. And we haven't missed a week, except when it has been inconvenient for us to be there, but we have been there. That said, the amount of work that we can get done as facilitators with the women in those conditions is phenomenal. It's grace and beauty in an environment that is nothing but chaos and fear, and I just want to say thank you, and I'm encouraging you to support Mental Health America, to support this. It's all...we're all volunteers, but, as you know, it's kind of what I do. It's really profound, and the women who come are extremely grateful to be heard, to be seen, to be witnessed, and they get an opportunity to be a part and to create a beautiful container, if it's only for an hour and a half. So, yeah, I'm happy to be here tonight, and I really encourage you to support Mental Health America. Oh right, yeah. Mental Health Association...Mental Health America of Hawaii. I know they changed their name. I'm not up to it, but thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We have one question. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha. Thank you for coming tonight. I kind of read your little part in the narrative of the budget, and I'm glad for you to give more information. In the budget document, it said that you also focus on substance abuse?

MS. DARCY: So I'm going to set that ques..., Danielle is going to be testifying on behalf of that...I'm simply a volunteer for the Ka Ipu Ha'a. So she will be testifying, I think, next week. So, save your question for her, budget-wise. I'm not familiar with their budget.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, sorry. I thought it was a budget...

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MS. DARCY: Yeah, yeah, no, no, yeah. This is just a piece of Mental Health America that I'm support..., want you to know about and hope that you'll support.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, Lisa, exactly what it is that you provide to the women who are incarcerated at MCCC?

MS. DARCY: We actually have an agenda every single week. We go in and we create a container, and we create the space by starting with a meditation. We also, of course, introductions, if the women don't know each other. There are quite a few rules in the group, and its confidentiality. Once you're in the group, you stay in the group. We go through all of that, and we talk about the importance of that, and to create this within the space that we're in there. We do what's called pies. You check in physically, intellectually, emotionally, and spiritually, and every woman is asked to speak where they are at, at that moment, and it's amazing when you see people walk in the room and then when they drop into this space of actually recognizing their relationship to the room, their relationship to their peers. We then do highs and lows. Has anyone had a high this week? Anyone had a low this week? My God, it's amazing to be able to hold the space with respect and dignity, regardless of what's going on in their lives. We do that. If anyone has anything that's been really deeply affecting them that week, we give them that opportunity, and we say it is our responsibility to help everybody step out of that group stronger than when they came in, and to help them to feel stronger if and when they are up for release, how to manage their family issues, their...just even, just being in, you know, three bunks up, and yeah. It's really, it's beautiful. They don't really have any other opportunities to speak with the...on their, with their own being in that space. Yeah, they have very little recognition of their own self. So, we give them that opportunity. And we also offer supports and let them know what's in the community if and when they are ready for release.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Lisa. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. Members, any other questions? Seeing none, mahalo, Ms. Darcy--

MS. DARCY: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --for your testimony this evening.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call up our next testifier?

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MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Stephen Bennett, to be followed by Keola Olaitiman.

MR. BENNETT: Good evening, everybody. My name is Steve Bennett, and I'm the Operations Director for the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui. So, I'm very proud to be up here, speaking on behalf of all of the staff that works at the Boys and Girls Club. We now operate...we've grown to...now have eight club houses around the island, serving over 2,500 kids from Maui, providing first and foremost a safe and inclusive environment, regardless of a child or a family's socioeconomic background, regardless of their ethnicity or religion, or anything about their background. All kids are welcomed and safe and included at our club houses and given an opportunity to be in a safe place and to receive our services. So, kids that come to the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui get an opportunity to get academic supports, like homework help and tutoring. They also get opportunities to participate in active living and healthy lifestyles, develop a commitment to lifelong fitness, and participates in our sports leagues, from everything from tee ball and baseball and basketball to flag football. And in addition to that, get opportunities to develop their character and leadership through programs like our Youth of the Year, where this year, our Maui Youth of the Year winner went on to compete against Youth of the Year from the Big Island, Oahu, Kauai, and the military bases, and our Maui Youth of the Year won, and will be going onto the regional competition in California to compete against Youth of the Year on the mainland. So we're really proud of what we're doing here within Maui with our keiki. Specifically, I'm really proud here up in Upcountry, at our Makawao clubhouse that serves a large number of middle school kids from Kalama Intermediate. We've started our new Bridge to Math Program, which is focused on helping our middle school kids gain confidence and proficiency in middle school math so that they can have...so they can be successful going into eighth grade and transitioning into high school. We also have our Leaders in Training Program, where we're giving our high school kids opportunities to get paid internships in the community and make sure that our teenagers are graduating high school on time and coming out with an idea of what their interests and passions are, so when they turn 18 and they can't come back to the club house, and they can't go back to school and hang out with their friends, that we don't have a generation of 18 year-olds that are just sitting around with no vision for their future. They have an idea of their passions, their potential, and their earning potential to go onto work or go onto school. So, thank you for your time, and thank you for your continued support of Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui, and all the other great youth-serving organizations in the room.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Bennett, we have one question--

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Mr. Bennett?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --for you. Member Sugimura?

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you for your enthusiasm, and I just wondered, Paukukalo, what is the status of the Paukukalo one-stop-shop philosophy, I guess?

MR. BENNETT: Oh, thank you for asking. So, we've got a couple of different projects going on down in Central. I think you're...first of all, the Paukukalo club house is our largest Native Hawaiian-serving club house. We have an average daily attendance of about 200 kids a day, and they're running out of a community center in the Department of Hawaiian Homelands that's roughly half the size of this room that we're in right now, and they set up and close down that club house every single day. So we're in the process of really...in dire need of raising funds to build them a true-blue club house so that they have a space to serve the really high demand in that area. We run a wait list. We can't serve all the kids and all the families that really want to participate in the program down there in Paukukalo, and the one-stop resource center I think that you're talking about is planned to be located at our central club house on Kanaloa, right across from War Memorial Stadium. So, we have the old youth center building there that is being...we're raising funds to have that be renovated to create a place for a variety of different youth and family-serving organizations to have space to offer families everything from counseling supports, to sign ups for community sports, to a dance studio for halau and other music or dance or arts organizations to use. So that's the one-stop resource center that we're also trying to get built there at the central club house for that purpose. Yeah. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, Mr. Bennett, does Boys and Girls Club have a Hawaiian immersion language component?

MR. BENNETT: Yeah. Absolutely. Thanks for asking. So, again, specifically at Paukukalo club house. It serves our largest percentage of Native Hawaiians, and we have three staff members specifically who speak Hawaiian, and one of the biggest services that the families really appreciate down at Paukukalo is the...our elementary students who participate in Hawaiian immersion, get the support to come and work on their homework, especially when they're going into fourth, fifth grade, and they're transitioning into working with English. By participating in our activities and getting support from our staff, they get a lot of support in that area, and the families really appreciate that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair, follow-up question, if I may?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Absolutely. Go ahead, Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, as you are expanding your Paukukalo site, have you included also the expansion for staffing?

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MR. BENNETT: Again, thank you for asking. So, in my role as Operations Director, I do interviewing and hiring, and, of course, that is one of the most challenging things. So, you know, all of the staff...I couldn't possibly be more proud to work with the people that work at Boys and Girls Club, people who have a heart for the work, and are committed to serving the kids and youth safety and youth development, and it's difficult to recruit people who have that heart and those qualifications. So, staffing continues to be our challenge, and, you know, all the support that we can get from the County to help us have the budget to recruit and retain good quality people to work in our programs, it's always tough. We can only serve the kids that we have the staff to work with and to supervise. So, that's always our challenge, and we appreciate any of the support you can to help with that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Mr. Bennett. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. Mahalo, Mr. Bennett--

MR. BENNETT: Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --for your testimony this evening.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call up our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Keola Olaitiman, to be followed by Carolyn Caires.

MR. OLAITIMAN: Aloha. My name is Keola Olaitiman, and I am the Club Director for the Makawao clubhouse Boys and Girls Club of Maui. And I want to start off by saying mahalo for your time and your support, and it's because of the support from you folks that we have a daily opportunity to change the lives of these kids all across Maui. I also want to say that public speaking is not my forte, so I'm going to apologize right now. I've had the privilege of working with the Boys and Girls Club of Maui for the past seven years now, and worked my way up from Program Director. So, I got to work, you know, front line with the kids, up into the Club Director's position, and in that time, I've met some incredible youth, a few of them, with the luxury of having the club as their second option, and most of them not having an option of safe supervision. Being born and raised on Maui, I have seen many troubled kids with challenges that I can relate to, and some going through situations that I wish, I do not wish upon anyone. At the Boys and Girls Clubs of Maui, we offer programs that teach our Maui youth to overcome and persevere over those obstacles in their lives. 'Til this day, I still have members returning from college on their breaks volunteering, you know, their time to give back to the club. Most of them are those that went through those challenging times in their lives growing up, and just to show their appreciation, they return and, you know, just say hi, check in with us, and volunteer any time that they can on their break. In the Makawao clubhouse, we pride ourselves in being a very ohana-oriented family, where our kids

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know each other and just share love and...for our staff. I, myself, am a Makawao Club alumni, way back when, and I can testify that I did not show up or become a member because of any certain program or the building itself. It was always because of staff members and the relationship that I got to build with them, and having that positive role model in my life that I did not necessarily have at home. Our ultimate priority is to ensure that every student that comes through our doors go to the next grade every year and graduate with their class on time. Again, I would like to mahalo the County Council for your time and support that you have given us thus far, and I would like to request that you please continue to support us, and we'll strive to be your best investment. Mahalo.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause) . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, you did a fantastic job with your public speaking, Mr. Olaitiman.

MR. OLAITIMAN: Thank you. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And sounds like you're an excellent role model to our opio and keiki. Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, mahalo for your testimony.

MR. OLAITIMAN: All right. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Carolyn Caires, to be followed by Cassi Yamashita.

MS. C. CAIRES: Hi. Good evening. My name is Carolyn, and I am the proud parent of the 2017 Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year, Amanda Caires. Let me start by saying, as an extremely overprotective parent, I was worried about sending my then-eight-year-old daughter to this club. I didn't know much about it, who the staff was, or if it would be safe, if she would be safe with them. Fast forward, ten years, Amanda is now 18 years old, and a senior at King K., getting ready to graduate with honors – 3.9 GPA. Amanda started elementary school with a speech impediment. She was teased and bullied by her peers. She attended the A+ Program, but they did nothing to help her. They were just there to watch her until I came and got her. After I enrolled her at the Boys and Girls Club, as time went by, the club helped my daughter overcome the torment she was experiencing in school. The staff would encourage her to stand tall and have a voice. They never dismissed my daughter when she had an issue with something in her life. At times, they just sat and talked with her. They made their club a safe haven for my daughter to be at. That meant the most to me. She has had so much adventures and experiences being part of this club, like Little Chef Big Chef, the DARE program, Torch Club, and much, much more. Thanks to this club, the Boys and Girls Club, my daughter's resume is incredible. She has volunteered for over 300 hours

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of community service by choice. No one has forced her to do this. This club has made volunteering fun and adventurous, while helping my shy daughter break out of her shell. We are at the end of our adventure with Boys and Girls Club, as my daughter has been accepted to the University of San Francisco as an art management major, minoring in Japanese. Because of the club, Amanda stands tall, expresses her feelings, and to this day, still volunteers to help others by choice. I never had this kind of opportunity growing up. There were no clubs to go to. I grew up in a dysfunctional home, and never had the kind of support that my daughter gets from her club. My daughter's college is going to cost roughly \$70,000 per year. If we didn't have the club in our lives, we couldn't afford to send her. My e-mail is currently being flooded by scholarship opportunities sent by Malik here in her club. This is something I consider to be going beyond the call for any staff member at any organization. He didn't have to do it. He did it by choice. One last thing. Most colleges expect to see some form of giving back to your community in your application in order to attend their school. They want to see what kind of a person you really are, not just the good grades. Like I said, my daughter's resume is incredible, and I owe that, and much, much more, to the Boys and Girls Club of Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Congratulations on all your daughter's successes.

MS. C. CAIRES: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, do you have any questions for our testifier? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony this evening.

MS. C. CAIRES: Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Cassi Yamashita, to be followed by Naomi Farnsworth.

MS. YAMASHITA: Hello. MEO is a community action agency, chartered on March 22, 1965, under provisions of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964. In the last fiscal year, MEO served nearly 18,000 individuals and families, touching 54,000 lives. MEO administers more than 40 programs under five departments, which consists of early childhood services, youth services, transportation, business development center, and community services. My name is Cassi Yamashita, and I'm the Director of Community Services at MEO. In our department, we have 13 programs, five of which are County-funded. These programs include the Enlace Hispano Program, which assists the Hispanic and Latino population to achieve self-reliance by providing them with education, outreach, intervention, referrals, and other direct services. In the last reporting year, the program served 2,759 individuals. The Rental Assistance Program, which is part of the Homeless Prevention Initiative, helps residents to get into and sustain permanent housing. Last year, they served 107 families. The BEST Reintegration Program, BEST, Being Empowered and Safe Together, their program goes to provide support by increasing

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opportunities for the successful reintegration, while promoting public safety. The staff go into the prisons and teach pre-employment training, and they help inmates as they reintegrate back into the community. This program last year served 68 individuals. Planning and Coordinating Council, they assist senior clubs with recruitments and membership enrollments, advocacy, education, and social activities and events; 1,659 individuals were directly served through this program. And lastly, our most recent funded program, MILC, or Maui Independent Living Center, this is their first year, so nothing to report number-wise. But, what they do is, they ensure persons with disabilities are full, social, civic, and economic partners, both within their families and in a fully accessible community, creating access and choice. In the second quarter, their program reported 36 participants thus far, and is already 120 percent over their goal. So, I just want to thank you guys all for supporting these programs, and ask for your continued support. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have one question. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Mahalo, Cassi, for being here tonight.

MS. YAMASHITA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Is your center located up here, in Pukalani?

MS. YAMASHITA: No. We service the whole entire community, but we are at the MEO Family Center in Wailuku.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: In Wailuku?

MS. YAMASHITA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And, and your...do you feel that the property, their headquarters, are appropriate for your programs?

MS. YAMASHITA: Well, it's definitely centrally-based. Again, we do service the entire community. Luckily, we have our transportation component to our agency, so we do provide access that way.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

MS. YAMASHITA: You're welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

MS. YAMASHITA: Thank you.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Yamashita.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Naomi Farnsworth, to be followed by Amanda Caires.

MISS FARNSWORTH: When people think of Hawaii, they often think as one beautiful and singular paradise. But you and I know that Hawaii's beauty does not lie in its singularity, but how it is made of many different sprawling islands. Although I was not born in Hawaii, I connect with it. Because like Hawaii, Hawaii consists of many, several, diverse, and ever-changing pieces. Hi. My name is Naomi Farnsworth, and I'm a 16-year-old sophomore at King Kekaulike High School, and I am from the Makawao Boys and Girls Club, and I was born in China during a time where it was illegal to have more than one child, so my birth parents were forced to give me up for adoption. When I was only ten months old, my parents adopted me and brought me to the U.S. I don't blame my biological parents for giving me up, but I've always struggled with the fact that I was adopted, and it made me feel like I didn't fit in with my peers at a young age. For the most part, though, my life in my early years with my new family was great. It was me, my dad, my mom, and a couple years later, we even adopted my little brother, Keahi, from China too. As we moved into Maui and settled down in Kula, we were an average, happy family. Then fourth grade came around. It was the hardest years of my life. My mother, who has battled bipolar for most of our life, made our life very difficult. Eventually, my dad divorced my mother, and the divorce lasted over three years. In that time, I was forced to grow up very quickly. And because of that, I developed anxiety, and questioned and worried about everything, which led to me questioning my body. But I learned through support from my family and the club to love this island of myself for how it works, and not how it looks. It's difficult to learn this lesson in this day of age, and it is my mission to help other teenagers world-wide through this...learn this through support, kindness, and compassion. The Makawao Boys and Girls Club is the final piece of my collection of beautiful islands. It has helped me anchor myself from the struggles of adoption, divorce, anxiety, and self-image by allowing me to build a place and expand my ohana. Also, to find my voice, which I would like to help try and to get all the members to see that in themselves one day. At the club, members are encouraged to become leaders through service projects, the arts, the athletics, and social connections, and for me, this has opened many possibilities for my future, and I'm excited to one day attend college to become a teacher, and I know that I will forever look back at my time at the club as my jumping off point to understanding how I, like Hawaii, are made up of so many beautiful parts. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for having the courage to testify and share with us, Miss Farnsworth. Members, any questions? Thank you. Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Amanda Caires, to be followed by Billy Kekona.

MISS A. CAIRES: Aloha. My name is Amanda Caires, and I've been a member of the Boys and Girls Club for 10 years now. I was a 2016 Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year for Makawao, and I won Maui County in 2017. I also participate in the first year summer internship and Central Boys and Girls Club, and it's amazing to see how many people have been inspired and overall affected by the Boys and Girls Clubs in some way. I just recently went to the 2019 Youth of the Year Competition, and to hear from all the strong, proud candidates, and knowing that the club truly changed their lives, is just amazing to me. I personally have been a member of the Boys and Girls Club for 10 or 11 years now, so that's a long time. I've been a member for so long that while some members have an ID number of 1050, 1257, 1452, my ID number is 510, so you can imagine that's a while. Something I realize now, is that at the age of 8, at the age of 14, and now, as someone who's graduating in a month and a half, you and your parents think you're there to only have fun and to hang out with your friends, and it's a safe haven after school. Little did I know that it'd be such a big part of my life, and shaping me into the person I am today, and it's a big part of my upbringing. You go through your youth challenging yourself, learning about yourself, and to know that you have this whole community of change makers, leaders from the community, providing you with so many opportunities, and staff that provide you with a sense of infinite inspiration and pride, that will last beyond your days behind those blue doors. It's not just me. I'm one of 4 million members nationwide. Along with the many lessons I received through my summer internship, I saw a glimpse – a glimpse, mind you – of the hard work, the dedication, and the contagious pride that these staff have for their club house. It's almost insane how much these staff care. When I was at Central over the summer, I noticed, while we were doing lunch time, that one kid asked if they can take out the peas out of the mixed vegetables, and I was thinking to myself, how ridiculous is that? And while I was thinking that, I witnessed the staff go ahead and start pulling the peas out of their mixed vegetables. And I asked the staff, why did you do that? And she said, why wouldn't I? Anyway, I can go on and on about these incredible staff and admin who make this all happen for these inspiring youth, but I'm here to thank you for your support, and to be part of this cause, and the role models, and the change makers for these inspiring youth for when they refer back to their journey when they're facing their success. Mahalo.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony this evening, Miss Caires. Members, have any...? Good job, thank you so much. Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

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MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Billy Kekona, to be followed by Mary Kalama.

MR. KEKONA: Howzit, aloha. My name is Billy Kekona, and I represent MEO and the BEST Program. So, I'm going to let you guys give...I only get like three minutes, so I wanted to show you guys where I was, and where I stay now. So at 12 years old, I was homeless. My parents died when I was really young. I was homeless, I ended up in prison, in jail, boys' home when I was 13 years old. I did all my teens, my 20's and my 30's in prison. I just got out last year, and every single time that I came out, I never have one place for stay, yeah? And...yeah, you know, everybody make their choices, yeah? And I made mine back then, so that is where I was. Last year, when I came out, MEO helped me get one house, helped me get a place for stay. So the place, Maui Youth Family Services, I was once a resident over there, before they used to call 'em Maunaolu. Today, I'm one counselor over there, and I help people, children like me, yeah, who grew up in addiction, substance abuse, violence in the house, all that kind of stuff. I also went and opened up two businesses, one, I'm one famous – well, not famous, but – I do music, and my music is known throughout the United States, yeah? And, in fact, get one contract coming up, and I had the privilege for opening up this month, yeah? It's called the Bash, the MayJah RayJah, so I'm one of the headliners over there. That is where I stay now. I build canoes, Hokule'a is one lost art, out of newspaper, and I make them look like wood, detailed out. One other stuff is I do sand. Today, I sell sand, yeah? Sands of Aloha, I call them. If you cannot come to Hawaii, let Hawaii come to you, that is my motto, yeah? And also, today, through MEO, I'm starting one non-profit company. It's called, Education is Motivation, and what we do is, we offer substance abuse classes in big companies, like Goodfellows. Well, we trying for get there, yeah? We in the process. Because these companies, they get certain kind safety rules, yeah, like OSHA like that. But no more nothing on substance abuse. So imagine this. Somebody stay high, yeah, and they stay driving heavy equipment, and they hurt the other guy. So it's good for the companies, it's good for the clients, employers, right...and everybody else around them, yeah? And that was my idea, and we just today, we putting the board together. We trying for put something together, positive, yeah? So, I couldn't have done this without MEO BEST Program. Some of us, we make 'em, and you guys know the statistics, right? You guys know, we talk real over here, all right? You guys know that we lucky, all of this, yeah? This much make 'em, right, but the thing is worth it, because wen help me, and today I give back. That's how I give back. I was fortunate enough for pick up one job as a volunteer in Kalama School, so I start next week, Friday, holding substance abuse awareness classes, motivation classes, and that's where I stay now. I thank you. Yeah.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any questions for Mr. Kekona? Seeing none, mahalo for your inspiring testimony. Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier, please?

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MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Mary Kalama, to be followed by Jay Penniman.

MS. KALAMA: Hello. My name is Mary Kalama. Thank you for having me this evening. I am speaking on behalf of my son, Kemani Kalama Kekiwi. He currently attends the MEO Head Start Makawao B. I'm here to share a little bit of our experience to...as how we got Kemani a part of MEO. He was young with repeated ear infections, which eventually led us to getting ear tubes, which took two years. Being a young mom, I felt belittled from a lot of doctors. I was trying to advocate for my six-month-old, and from then on, it took us almost two years just to get ear tubes. We first started with a program through Imua. I got him through there because of his lack of speech and his behavior, but from loss of hearing, he couldn't hear, so he couldn't communicate, and behavior, whatever. Imua gave us the opportunity to be a part of MEO Head Start, so he...this is his first year a part of MEO. This is his teacher, Miss May. That was the first word he could say, Miss May. He was...the age of two, he had only two words, mom and dad. So, he's excelled in a lot of his speech. He can sit and have a conversation with me now, and like I said, this is his favorite, Miss May right here. So, yeah. Before Head Start, it took a little bit of a process just for doctors to understand that I wasn't just saying, you know, my son isn't talking, and they were giving him medicine and telling me that it was going to work. I was telling them that the repeating ear infections, I feel, were leading to something more serious. So we flew to Oahu and we were told from the ENT there that he was going partially deaf in both ears, so... We got there through Imua too. They were helping me speak up toward getting insurance to cover our flights and all of that stuff. So, yeah, I was asked to be here from his teacher just to talk about how MEO has helped him excel in, you know, his upbringing, he's more on a routine, he can have a conversation, his behavior is amazing. And, yeah...I'd like to just have a big appreciation and thank you for your guys' services. Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Kalama. Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony this evening.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

MS. KALAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Jay Penniman, to be followed by Elisa Plauche.

MR. PENNIMAN: Aloha, Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair King, Members of the Committee. I'm Jay Penniman, Manager of Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project. I live in Haiku, and I speak to you this evening representing my project, our staff, and the seabirds we work to provide a voice for. We are a project of the University of Hawaii, and we work closely with the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife. We're entirely grant-funded, and we appreciate the ongoing support we've received from the Council and OED. Seabirds

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were the original ecological engineers. Their transport of marine organic nutrients to the mineral lava soils of our islands is what built the soils in which our unique native flora evolved. When Polynesians arrived to Hawaii, they utilized seabirds in navigation, and by observing feeding flocks of seabirds, were guided to fish to catch. As the Polynesians became the Hawaiians, they adapted areas of the islands to living and food production, reducing the area available for seabirds to nest. European arrival accelerated habitat conversion. At the same time, alien mammals were introduced and the seabirds, who never, in their 70 million years of life on the islands, developed any defenses against predation, declined dramatically. Feral cats, pigs, and mongoose remain serious threats to the survival of our seabirds. There's a growing body of scientific literature documenting the importance of seabird-transported nutrients to both terrestrial ecosystems and near-shore coral reef habitats. We are working to assist our seabirds to rebuild colonies, and to facilitate their contributing to overall health of our island ecosystem. Hawaiians have always maintained a strong connection with all the beings with whom they share aina and kai. We believe that having healthy seabird populations will enhance cultural connection and facilitate the growth of native plants in colony areas that could be used for lei and cultural practice. Some of our nighttime lights distract young seabirds on their first flights from burrow out to sea. When they are drawn to our lights, they lose all sense and fly round and round until they fall, exhausted, to the ground, where they are preyed upon by cats and often hit by cars. Much of our County-funded effort is now directed toward educating the public about the possibility that they may find seabirds on the ground, how they can respond to protect them, and how to connect with us to recover them. We will be asking the Council to reinstate the Outdoor Lighting Standards Committee to update the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance. I have a small staff, and we depend upon interns and volunteers to be effective in our work. We also see it as part of our mission to educate and provide experience for our Maui youth. Each year, we employ a Kupu AmeriCorps intern for 10 months, a Na Hua Ho'ohuli i Ka Pono summer intern--

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MR. PENNIMAN: --and an MEDB Women in Technology STEM Work summer intern. We need to increase our outreach professional from a half-time position to full-time, when the County can provide an additional 25,000. Mahalo for your support, and the opportunity to talk to you about our Na Manu Kai.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Members, any need for clarification? I have one question. So the testimony that you submitted, it has your contact information?

MR. PENNIMAN: Yes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's your phone number and e-mail address? I actually have a group that's working on the outdoor lighting ordinance, and we'd love to enlist your assistance.

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MR. PENNIMAN: Excellent. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Okay. Did you have a question? Okay. Mahalo for your testimony this evening.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. It looks like our next testifier is up.

MS. PLAUCHE: My name is Elise Plauche, and I'm here to testify on behalf of 180 petition signers, and I submitted their signatures on a petition in support of Mayor Victorino's coqui eradication budget. I want to explain why more is needed now, when some of you think that they have been granted their request annually. I'm told by MISC that Maui Invasive Species Committee has never been granted their full funding request on any year. They have only been granted a portion of their annual request. If MISC is not fully funded this year, Maui will reach the point of no return in regards to the coqui frog population spread. This is what MISC tells me. Their population will become uncontrolled and any future hopes of eradicating this frog will be lost as it has been on Big Island. They can't do anything there. Big Islanders, in heavily infested areas, report loss of sleep, inability to have a phone conversation at night, difficulty with conversations with their family at night, or even listening to the tv. This is not just an annoyance or a loss of a way of life, but also a health hazard. One coqui frog chirps at 95 decibels, and hearing damage starts at 85 decibels. That's one frog. Coqui frog density has been documented at up to 36,000 frogs per acre. We do not have the snakes like Puerto Rico does. I live on the edge of Maliko Gulch, where the coqui infestation started, and I believe the ringing in my ears, or what is called tinnitus, is caused by coqui frogs. I hear multiple high-pitch tones in each ear. This affects my hearing. If MISC is not fully funded, what is my problem will become your problem. These frogs hitchhike and will soon end up in your neighborhood. Wherever my neighbors and my housemate works, or where I work, that's where these frogs end up. I've seen them from my house, 14 miles away, pop up on my window as I was driving to Wailuku. My housemate took one from my house 36 miles away to Puamana, and maybe more than one. Because Puamana ended up taking down an entire banana patch because of them. Worse yet is the fact that there is no end to the population density. MISC needs your full eradication support for the next five years, or your children, your grandchildren, and all your descendants will suffer the consequences. And I really mean this. This is the end, and Mayor Victorino knows what is - 'cause he's from Hilo and he's been there - and I know some of you have been to Hilo and some of those areas. Even Rob Parsons reported that he'd been in a hotel room at night in Hilo and they had the air conditioner going with the doors all closed, and it was, he said, deafening. So I don't know if you've been able to personally experience this, but I prefer that you don't, and this is again, the year that we decide whether we want these for our children, for ourselves, for all future Maui people. So, does anybody have any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing none, mahalo for your testimony, Ms. Plauche.

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

MS. PLAUCHE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Mona Cherry, to be followed by Charles-Yale Tang.

MS. CHERRY: Good evening. Can you hear me? Okay. I'm a low talker. My name is Mona Cherry, and I'm here on behalf of Mental Health America, in your budget, formerly known as Mental Health Association of Maui. Eight years ago, my 32-year old son, with bipolar, took his life. My journey through his suicide led me to the Maui County Suicide Prevention Taskforce and Mental Health America. I found that volunteering was a key in my journey. I am a former Co-Chair of the Maui County Suicide Prevention Taskforce. I worked for a year on the Strategic Planning Committee...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Ms. Cherry, will you please speak into the mic as much as possible?

MS. CHERRY: I worked for a year on the Strategic Planning Committee for suicide prevention for the State of Hawaii. During that time, one of the things that we really wanted to get across – oh, thank you – was educating the educators about bullying and suicide, and educating children on bullying and suicide. Through my volunteer work with Mental Health America, we have gone into the schools and have fulfilled the wish of the Planning Committee, by...they have compiled a great program that is culturally sensitive and relatable to the children. We've gone to Molokai, Molokai Middle School. We've gone all over Maui. The end of the month, we are going to Lanai. I always told my son, as long there is breath in me and breath in him, I would not stop fighting, and I have not. And because of the support that you gave mental health last year, I'm hoping for your continued support, because this is a very important issue, and they have come up with something that works. We are making people, children aware, and hopefully creating a better environment for our children in the schools. So once again, I really hope that you can continue funding Mental Health America in your budget, as Mental Health Association of Maui. So, thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Cherry. Members, any need for clarification? Mahalo for your testimony. Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: The next testifier is Charles-Yale Tang, to be followed by Jack Lukas.

MR. TANG: Good morning. My name is...good evening, I guess. I'm a bit nervous. I haven't spoken publicly in front of a group like this. I normally speak to, like, huge crowds. So, it's a bit odd for me. I'm actually here representing the MEO Business Development

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Center. One of my reasons for testifying is to ask for the continued support of MEO's Business Development Center, and I'm a business owner. My company is called Haiku Probiotics. I make probiotic kimchee, and sauerkrauts, and other things like that. Before I went to the four core class, I was pretty nervous about being able to build any kind of business plan. Being somebody who's worked inside of the industries of food and beverage and whatnot, and not even having a fathom of what's going on in the backside of things, going to this class was really refreshing. It allowed for me to not only network with other entrepreneurs who were in that same mindset and encouraging for each other, and lifting each other up through that process, but it also allowed me, being someone who had already started my business, to be able to advocate for some of the things that they're doing, and then be able to build and have a rapport, and also create a network of people that can all lift each other up together. It's an incredible program for the small amount of time that you have to be able to establish how to run a business, and then it's not controlling. You know, I mean most people are really rigid when it comes to new education and whatnot. This is kind of a fun place, where you have a bunch of different minds that are all in the same realm, so it helps. ...I gotta go look at the other stuff that I got to read about. The other thing that I actually really appreciated was the process of understanding profit and loss margins. And it's not one of those things that you're taught in high school, you know what I mean? It's not one of those things you're taught in any school, besides business school. So being somebody who's never been through business school but understands people and networking and all those other things, I just needed the background, and that was a great way for me to have it in like three months. Two months, actually. So, yeah. I don't know what else I'm supposed to say after that, but thank you for all...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Charles [sic]. Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you very much for your testimony.

AUDIENCE: ...*(applause)*...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So we're going to take two more testifiers, and then a ten-minute break. Mr. Kreuger, will you please call up the next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Jack Lukas, to be followed by James Escalante.

MR. LUKAS: Good evening, everyone. Thanks for hearing me tonight. I'm sorry, didn't dress for the occasion, came from work, so, haven't been home yet. Here to address the trees on Olinda and Piiholo. I live on...my address is 1755, so I'm pretty far up, I'd say about three miles up from Makawao. And the last storm, six weeks ago, four big eucs [sic] on my property. One took out my carport, three trashed pretty much everything on my place. Couldn't get out of my driveway. Actually, couldn't get home for 12 ½ hours because the road was closed, Piiholo and Olinda. No power. What do you do? So I sat at the rodeo arena for about six hours, waiting. Went to Kihei, took a shower, slept, came back the next day. Still couldn't get home until around noon, when the roads were finally opened. My wife was there by herself, because I had the great idea to go

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down and buy another chainsaw. Wrong move, I should have stayed home. But anyway, my point is, is that I'm not an arborist. I'm not a tree expert, but I hear so many stories about...everybody knows what's going on with these trees. I can see that they're dying, and I'm just a guy. I don't know anything about them, but I know all the ones that fell up by me – there had to be at least 12 on Olinda Road, if not as many on Piiholo. I don't know, I didn't go that way. My issue is, and what I want you guys maybe to think about, is your budget of how much overtime and how much money it's costing the County to go up there every single time there's a storm, when we could all see what's hanging over these branches, and hanging over these wires, and hanging over these houses. I mean, if I can see a tree root that's totally eroded on the side of the road and it looks like it's gonna fall, someone more important than me should be looking at that. That's not my job. I mean, I had the County Arborist there. And my other issue is, is that we need to have a way to know exactly whose trees are what. That's the issue I have. No one really wants to tell you. No one wants to get incriminated. They don't want to say, this is ours, maybe it's yours. What's the right-of-way? What is it? Is it 30 feet? Is it 15 feet? We don't know. Thee power goes out up there when the wind blows strong. That storm made the hurricanes look like nothing. I lost hardly any power for the hurricane, both of them. This one, three days. You know, it's hard. And I'm thinking that, why you're not working on clearing these roads quicker? I know it's limited. I know it's small, but you can't have a crew that starts on Piiholo, then comes Olinda. Clear one. People have to get home. If someone got hurt or there was a fire up there, nobody can get up there. No fire trucks, no ambulance, nothing. It can't happen for two days. It's just, I mean, we know where we live, but, it just...something's gotta change. Something has to change. 'Cause it's just like the other person spoke. It's a matter of time. The house below me is a workshop, thank goodness. Two gigantic eucs [sic] on it. One this way, one this way. If it was a house, people wouldn't be here.

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MR. LUKAS: Excuse me? Oh, sorry. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Lukas.

MR. LUKAS: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony this evening.

MR. LUKAS: Thank you. Have a good night.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call up our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is James Escalante.

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MR. ESCALANTE: Good evening, y'all. Thank you so much for being here tonight. I appreciate your sacrifice and your time, and all you guys do, you know. It's...I'm representing MEO for helping me get a home. It's very difficult, very expensive being homeless, and getting a place to live, sometimes, is just so, so daunting. But with all that I've heard tonight, you know, just, I hope you guys follow your heart and keep helping out the people, and helping out the kids. Because they're going to be the ones helping out their kids, and, you know, if we keep showing them, you know, ho'oponopono, you know, helping make right more right and doing the next right thing, and that's helping people out, you know. 'Cause it's easy to hurt, but it's harder to hug somebody, you know. Just, thank you so much for your time, and the sacrifices you guys make in your lives. It's altruistic, and it's beautiful, and it's appreciated very much, and I'm sure by all sorts of kids at the Boys club to people that are sleeping under a roof tonight, kids that are under a roof tonight. So, just thanks for all the concerns and all the various energies you guys...all the hats you have to wear. And I hope our Mayor backs you guys as well as the future keiki here. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Escalante. Members, any need to – questions? Okay. Really quick, before we take a 10-minute break, Mr. Krueger, will you let us know how many more testifiers is on the list?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, there are 17 more people signed up to testify.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seventeen? Okay. And the next...the first person up after we return from our break?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Duane Hamamura.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Members, it is 7:31. We'll take a 10-minute recess and return at 7:41. No objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 7:31 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:46 p.m.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Will the Economic Development and Budget Committee please return to order? It is 7:46 on April 4th, 2019, and we will continue taking testimony at this time. Mr. Krueger, will you please call up our first testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the first person signed up to testify is Duane Hamamura, to be followed by Sam Small.

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MR. HAMAMURA: Good evening, everyone. Yeah, my name is Duane Hamamura. I'm with the Makawao Community Association, and I'm here tonight just to talk to you about Makawao's needs. We don't ask for much as a community. We don't really ask for anything, but pedestrian safety is critical for us, and the roads and the sidewalks, and just walking easements, very necessary for the safety of our students. That's an issue that I definitely would like the Council and the County to really look at, as far as Makawao is concerned. Makawao Avenue has so much more traffic, cars go relatively fast, and there's a lot of students walking. So, there is a safety concern. But one of the things that I have actually requested with the Public Works Department, probably a year and a half or more ago, are those flashing crosswalk lights, similar to the ones that are right here by the shopping center. There's also one right by the Makawao Library, and those work really great, and we definitely would love to see more of them, especially along Makawao Avenue. Kalama School students cross it a lot, kids that go to Eddie Tam Park cross it quite a bit, and kids that have to walk up Maha Road definitely crossing it, and it is dangerous. I used to manage at Miyake Concrete, right on the corner of Makawao Avenue and Maha Road, and there were many times when I would stop working with customers, run out to the crosswalk, kind of hold traffic up a little bit, and help the little kids cross the road that come from Makawao School, and only because they were really young. So I really believe these flashing crosswalk lights work really well, and I don't think they cost a whole lot, although I don't know that. But we really would love to see more of them installed along Makawao Avenue, especially. And then real quickly, I'd like to just toss it in there, I know this probably isn't considered in the budget for this year, but there is a parcel on Maha Road, slightly larger than two acres, that touches Eddie Tam Park. For decades, we've wanted to try and create some kind of an easement to walk to the park from Maha Road for the students. Right now, they have to walk up Maha Road, which has no sidewalks for--

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MR. HAMAMURA: --most of the way, and then go around. So, it's really nice for the Makawao School students that go to the youth club - I mean, sorry - the Boys and Girls Club, the Eddie Tam Park facilities, or even Kalama School, if they live in that area. And, of course, vice-versa, if they live beyond Eddie Tam and attend Makawao School and walk, they can potentially use this as a safe shortcut without walking along the road. But that's something that I just wanted to toss out at you for potentially future. But the property owner very willing to potentially work with the County on this. So I look at it as a real opportunity to try and acquire this parcel for the safety of our residents and especially our students. And the other issue, again, involves safety. I would love to see-

MR. KRUEGER: Four minutes.

MR. HAMAMURA. Thank you. Some kind of safe walking pathway from the bypass, Pukalani Bypass Road, along Makawao Avenue. King Kekaulike High School students walk there daily, and half the time, they're walking on Makawao Avenue. So, something that I feel

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is critical, and I thank you very much for just listening to our concerns in Makawao. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Hamamura. We have a question for you. Member Molina?

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Good evening, Duane. Thank you for being here and making us aware of the concerns with regards to the pedestrians. So, this is the...by Mikaye Concrete off Maha Road, Eddie Tam, where there's a bus shelter that enters into Makawao Ranch Acres, and also entrance into Makani Road off Makawao Avenue. And, by the way, that speed hump too, has worn down significantly over the years. And do you believe that also is contributing to people speeding now, a lot more, without the speed hump being worn down?

MR. HAMAMURA: Yeah. I believe that's a potential, too, Mike. Yeah, thanks for bringing that up. That is a concern. We also have concerns about, just, the road striping along Makawao Avenue. If you drive there at night, in certain portions of it, you cannot even see the sideline, the centerlines, it's kind of dangerous, so--

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Okay. Thank--

MR. HAMAMURA: --those are just issues of safety that--

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay.

MR. HAMAMURA: --we're very concerned about.

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Okay. Thank you, Duane.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Molina. Member Lee, and then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you.

MR. HAMAMURA: Oh. I'm sorry. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. You know, years ago, we tried to provide a pathway for the kids coming from school to go to the Boys and Girls Club and to access the Makawao Park area, the fields, but at that time, we had complaints from the property owners close by. So, could you tell me the name of the property owner who is now open to discussing a possible easement with the County?

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MR. HAMAMURA: I'm not sure.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, well, could you...can I take your number and call you?

MR. HAMAMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay?

MR. HAMAMURA: Okay. And I agree with you. Over the years, I have actually approached every property owner along Maha Road to ask them if they can potentially allow an easement, and pretty much everybody didn't want it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. HAMAMURA: And I understand that. This parcel is between two large rental properties.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. HAMAMURA: So, owners don't live there, but it's rented out to a lot of people.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Well I'm glad they've changed their minds. Thank you very much.

MR. HAMAMURA: Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Lee. Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair, but I think Member Alice Lee had already asked the question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Member Kama. Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Hamamura.

MR. HAMAMURA: All right. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I'm sorry. One more question. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm not super familiar with the area, but I was wondering, you know, where you were requesting the flashing crosswalks, do you know the approximate radius of it from the school the kids going to?

MR. HAMAMURA: I'm gonna say, from Makawao School to the Maha Road/Makawao Avenue one, I'm gonna guess half a mile. The one at Eddie Tam Park, from Kalama School is, I'm gonna guess, maybe a little more than a quarter mile. And then the Makani Road/Makawao Avenue is just up from the school, maybe 300 yards, maybe. I don't know.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And all of those don't have the flashing crosswalks right now?

MR. HAMAMURA: No, they don't.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think we get Federal money, yeah? If it's a certain...

MR. HAMAMURA: Yeah. Very highly used crosswalks, especially by students.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, right on. Thank you for bringing it to our attention.

MR. HAMAMURA: Okay. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Members, any other questions?
Okay. Mahalo, Mr. Hamamura.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Sam Small, to be followed by Richard Lucas.

MR. SMALL: Thank you. It's an honor to be participating. This budget includes a CIP for Kahana Nui bridge replacement, which has deferral agreements attached to it. I presented on deferral agreements as an expert witness two years ago to the EIS Committee, including proof that David Goode and Pat Wong obstructed legitimate County process in 2012, claiming that they were working on a collections scheme, but they never provided one. That's why past CIP's, which, by ordinances, are required to trigger collection on outstanding deferrals, didn't. But that was then. Goode and Will Spence are gone, and Wong, though should be gone, is still here, and is likely to try and obstruct this process again and you can't allow that to happen. I do believe the Mayor wants the deferrals collected on. He supported the 2010 ordinance that mandates notice of collection of a deferral as soon as a CIP is proposed, and that's where we are today. But because of the past obstruction, the County has no established process to do it. You have in front of you today...I've delivered a proposal delivered to the Mayor just today from an extremely reputable consulting firm that specializes in assessments and financial recovery for municipalities that west side resident Chris Salem has brought to the County at the request of the Mayor. Chris Salem is a low-income housing developer and infrastructure expert and was the original whistleblower who suffered enormous personal harm when he brought it to everyone's attention that thousands of deferral agreements had been written by Corporation Counsel to private developers since 1974 and never ever were tracked or collected on. In 2010, Deputy Director Milton Arakawa wrongly issued a notice of intent to collect on Chris Salem's property, when the notice should have gone to Milton Arakawa's own private client, who was developing the property next door to Salem. A series of cover-ups that has lasted 18 years now has

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actually destroyed Chris Salem financially, and that harm has been perpetuated by obstruction by Goode, Spence, and Wong. Their shenanigans have allowed countless six to \$14 million ocean-front homes to be built using secret deferral agreements and fraudulent SMA permit applications, none of them installing environmental protections mandated by the Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, and none of them even paying annual park fees. The potential recovery is a massive amount of money. Mayor Victorino has told me personally that he wants to see the harm done to Chris Salem rectified, and that Milton Arakawa should get more than just a slap on the wrist for his crimes. I want to see that extended to Pat Wong too, and ask this Council to launch an investigation into why this budget does not include the amount that current ordinances require be recovered by collecting on the deferral agreements. The proposal in the 2010 ordinance requiring collection speak for themselves--

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MR. SMALL: --both of the – just a minute more – both of the results of the tireless work by Chris Salem, a true community hero. And I also invite you to watch the presentation that I gave. Also, this budget has negatively impacted by the two-lot subdivision exemptions that are being issued island-wide as a result of the bogus 2015 Upcountry water bill. Corporation Counsel has mislead you that the allegations of wrongdoing in the Upcountry water bill were dismissed. The judge addressed the expired sunshine limitation, and neither the Judge nor Corporation Counsel has addressed the actual violations by Corporation Counsel when they added language to Title 18 that was inconsistent with the ordinance this Council passed. Those violations are still alive and doing harm and they will be heard on appeal. Ed Kushi is named in all that, and cannot advise this Council on this matter.

MR. KRUEGER: Four minutes.

MR. SMALL: Piiholo Road, I live there. There's a hundred trees on my property alone that are in the County's right-of-way. The estimate is 1,500 to \$2,000 per tree. Piiholo, Olinda, 2 to \$3 million to address the dead trees on Piiholo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Small. Members, any need for clarification? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Small. I just was wondering, for the two lot or less exemption, are you in favor of making the bill stand what it says, or just undoing it and go back to the original?

MR. SMALL: Well, all of the public testimony around the Upcountry water bill was specific to families on the Upcountry water meter waitlist. Mr. Kushi, himself, said that if the County wants to create an exemption island-wide, they can do so as a policy, but it would have to be done under a different process. But yet the language that Corporation Counsel inserted into Title 18 was not specific to the Upcountry water meter wait list, and it's being used for commercial developers island-wide to exempt them from doing

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roadway improvements, and we end up – the citizens and taxpayers – end up paying for their infrastructure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Got it. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Members, any other questions? One quick question, how much did you say was the removal for each eucalyptus tree?

MR. SMALL: It, you know, depending on--

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Go ahead.

MR. SMALL: --what's underneath the tree, especially if it has to be parted down, a good estimate is between 1,500 to \$2,000 per tree. Especially if, you know, it's over a house and you can't just drop it. If you can drop it, you know, it's less. And half of that money is carting the material away, down to the green waste. So if you can negotiate with the citizens to actually leave the material on the property, you can half that figure, and there's a lot of people...I've got, you know, plenty of road frontage. They want to drop the trees, we'll build a fence out of it, they don't have to cart it away. I've got a hundred trees on my property, and I've had to spend...I've spent \$6,000 of my own money to protect my wife so that...cause there were, you know, trees going over our garden. My neighbor just spent \$16,000 removing trees that were threatening his house, and Public Works brought their trucks up and Public Works came and they hauled the material away for them. That was, you know, a nice thing to do. And there's ways to work it out with the citizens, but it has to be addressed.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Small.

MR. SMALL: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony this evening.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Richard Lucas, to be followed by Lehua Simon.

MR. LUCAS: Council Chair, Committee Chair, and Members of the County Council, aloha. My name's Richard Lucas. I'm the Program Manager for Friends of Old Maui High School, and I'm here tonight on behalf of about 4,500 alumni of the school who weren't able to make it here tonight, plus community supporters and our volunteer force to say thank you to the Mayor, to the County Council, and to the Office of Economic Development for your continued support for the work that we're doing at the old Maui High School campus. Back in 2004, old Maui High School was at a crossroads. After the school

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closed in 1971, most of the buildings were left vacant, left to deteriorate, for approximately three decades. During that time, we also had three arson fires, which cost us our beautiful, art deco-style gymnasium building, and two fires in the Charles Dickey-designed administration building. And at that point in time, the County looked at old Maui High School and said, this could be a public danger, with all of these old buildings here and people coming and doing whatever they were doing up at the school. And they actually discussed a plan to go in and knock down the entire campus, knock all of the buildings down in the interest of public safety. That was an idea that just could not stand...could not stand with the alumni, could not stand with historic preservationists, could not stand with community leaders, because there was too much history, too much connection to the old Maui High School campus. And out of that, the group Friends of Old Maui High School was formed, and we went to the County and said look, if we'll take over responsibility to care for this place, will you allow us to do that and agree not to tear it down? And the County said yes. And in the last 15 years, we have been there, taking care of the place, mowing the lawn, repairing the buildings. We've done a dozen studies. Phase one and phase two environmental study, a full comprehensive master plan. We've done structural analysis on the buildings. We've done soil testing to make sure that there were no toxic residues left over from the time that UH was there doing their . . .*(inaudible)*. . . program. We have done an infrastructure study, determining what infrastructure needs to be improved before the campus can again be used. One of our biggest challenges is the lack of water. Since the well pump went out in 2002 and the replacement of it resulted in collapsing the well, there's been no water there, which means we have no fire protection. We saw the results of that when the gymnasium burned down, and the fire department came up and all they could do was spray water on the administration building to try to keep the fire from spreading. But there was no hope--

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MR. LUCAS: --to save that building. So, we have been the group that's been there taking care of this place, waiting for the day when we will find that magic reuse of old Maui High School. It's a beautiful campus, it's a valuable County property, it's something that's near and dear to the hearts of so many people in this community. And it's because of the assistance of the County that we've been able to accomplish what we've done up to this point, and we really do appreciate your continued support of what we do. Jill Engledow wrote a book called *The Spirit Lives On*. It was about the history of old Maui High School, and we are proud to be the carriers of that spirit on behalf of old Maui High School, keeping it safe, leading to the day when it will be rebuilt, and will be reused for the benefit of the community. So thank you all so much for your support.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Lucas. Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony.

MR. LUCAS: Thank you. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Lehua Simon, to be followed by Steve Paselk.

MS. SIMON: Aloha, County Councilmembers. My name is Lehua Simon, and I've lived in Pukalani for most of my life. Recently, I learned that because I live in Pukalani, approximately 27 percent of my water resources come from East Maui streams through the East Maui Irrigation System. Today I have come to give my testimony...to give my testimony in regards to our water management system, and the funding we need to proactively improve the system to ensure the sustainability of water resources on Maui, and the livelihood of our future generations. As you may know, House Bill 1326 was passing through the State Legislature, but I got news that it may be dead now. Hallelujah. But that Bill was going to allow for 10 consecutive one year holdovers of water permits, extending Act 126 by seven years, from June 30th this year to June 30th of 2026. One of the House Representatives that introduced this Bill is my Upcountry House Representative, Kyle Yamashita. Mr. Yamashita has been quoted in *The Maui News* on March 6, 2019, saying if the County of Maui becomes responsible to run the system, it will cost more than \$2 million to operate EMI. This cost could affect all water user rates on Maui. Additionally, the County will need to go through the permitting and EIS process. It seems from this article that the reason Yamashita has introduced this bill is to prevent the cost involved with the County assuming responsibility for managing East Maui Irrigation. It seems he may be trying to save money for the people that he represents, but I'm not sure that he represents people like me, who live Upcountry, or if he represents a corporation on Maui that will save \$62 million if they had orchestrated, unregulated access to water for the next seven years. So, along with my testimony, I also offer you a handout regarding water grabbing. Water grabbing refers to situations where powerful actors take control of valuable water resources for their own benefit, depriving local communities whose livelihoods often depend on these resources and ecosystems. If HB 1326 was passed, our entire island, including both the communities of East Maui and Upcountry, will be vulnerable to water grabbing for seven more years. On your handout, you can see a synopsis of water grabbing, examples around the world, and the impact it has had on local communities that did not protect themselves properly. If the problem we face Upcountry is that we may become responsible to run our water management system, given the miracle that prevented the passing of HB 1326, my testimony today is that we proactively prepare for the cost to orchestrate our water system in a way that is pono to all parties involved. If you take the cost of operating EMI, according to Yamashita, which is \$2 million, and divide it by 36,000 Upcountry water users, the cost for each of us to contribute to the responsibility is only \$55.55, and I am more than willing to pay that cost in order to be proactive, to be prepared, and to be pono with the people of East Maui who have not known pono for decades. I ask that some kind of provision is made in our budget now to circumvent the damages of what would have been HB 1326, but now we gotta deal with it, whether that be providing

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for the cost of EIS for Upcountry water use, and/or a promotional campaign to encourage voluntary contribution of \$55.55 from Upcountry water users for the proactive solution of our water systems.

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MS. SIMON: That's it.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

MS. SIMON: Sorry. I spoke fast.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You had one more minute if you weren't finished.

MS. SIMON: Oh, we had four minutes? Nah. I'm good. If you have questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I do.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. So, Lehua, did HB 1326 pass? I couldn't understand if it did.

MS. SIMON: Okay. So, I thought it was still in the Hou..., in the...going through the Legislature, but I just heard right now that it was deferred by the WAM Committee--

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: WAM.

MS. SIMON: --so that means it may die.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. SIMON: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Lehua, did you...are you proposing that the County take over...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Sinenci, will you please speak into the mic?

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh. Sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Are you proposing that the County acquire EMI? The East Maui Irrigation System? Is that what you're--

MS. SIMON: I'm not proposing that exactly, but the...when I went to the Water Board Supply meeting, Mr. Pearson said that they had not made any preparations in case HB 1326 didn't pass, and that was a couple weeks ago. So now that it didn't pass, we have to prepare in some way, and since...the only thing I saw in the paper was Mr. Yamashita saying we have to pay \$2 million to function EMI – I don't know if that means to take it – but I know that...I don't know what exactly that means, but I was thinking, you know, Upcountry water users, we can afford \$55.55 if it's \$2 million. Or maybe the County can get the money for the EIS, but I don't know that much about it. I'm just saying these are ideas that I have, and I'm willing to volunteer for more ideas and to help.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you for your volunteering.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci. Members, any additional questions? Seeing none, mahalo for your testimony today, Ms. Simon.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifier?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Steve Paselk, to be followed by John J. Wilson.

MR. PASELK: My name is Steve Paselk, and I'm testifying on behalf of the ocean environment, specifically for upgrades to the Kihei, Lahaina, and Kahului wastewater treatment plants so that we can finally end the injection well nutrient pollution. The Kihei and Lahaina injection wells have added nine times the allowable amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous allowable under the Clean Water Act for up to 40 years. The Kahului treatment plant adds 24 times the allowable nutrient pollution to the ocean. We have run out of time to continue abusing the environment. Our continued practices constitute crimes against nature. It is time to upgrade the sewage treatment plants and provide safe, treated water that could be used for irrigation or to create regional green belts with hiking trails. A first step would be to allocate funds for a task force with consultants to research a plan for the needed upgrades so we would be ready for the next step of seeking proposals for upgrading the treatment systems. It is time to act with vision and courage to address this issue. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Paselk. Members, any questions? Thank you so much for your testimony this evening.

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AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We have our next testifier. Mr. Krueger.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is John J. Wilson, to be followed by Heather Mueller.

MR. WILSON: I wanted to be sure the next testifier knew who it was. I'm John Wilson, a board member and a former officer of the Kula Community Association and I'm speaking on behalf of that association tonight. We have provided our proposed budget requirements to you already, and I just want to – for the audience that's still here – tell them what it is, what they are. Starting out with replacement of the Kula Park playground equipment, then the County's support for agriculture, invasive species control...and I'm glad to hear about the coqui frog issue – I have been in Hilo and understand what she is saying - proper funding for the fire department, it's very important, because we're concerned about barriers to keep a fire coming from the border of Central Maui up into Kula. We had one possible incident already. Then the water supply, and some of this is basically to look at the funding is available for water storage alternatives. Road improvements and maintenance, and Upcountry Greenways Master Plan. The item I would like to speak to directly, though, is the replacement of the Kula Park playground equipment. I have grandsons that were four years old when that playground equipment that was there was vandalized and destroyed. They are now 11, and so it's been at least seven years since there've been a playground equipment at that park for use of the keiki that are growing up in Kula. Now you heard earlier about the concerns that people have to have proper development of their children, but also the concerns about meeting other people there, and when I was helping my grandsons play at that area, what we found was there were other people there who were able to enjoy that environment and be socially acquainted with us. And so it was very pleasant not only for the children, but for the adults. And I understand that since that time that it was vandalized, the need for our older people to be able to get to that place – I forget what the terminology is – but the problem is that's made it more expensive. And I'm just saying that basically, we have been working this association to get that development done for that period of time, and we're now at the cusp of that. And I believe the Parks Department has already put in the budget a requirement to make sure that equipment's there. So we urge you, as Council people, to consider the needs of our children up here in Kula. Thank you. Any questions?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Seeing none thank you so much--

MR. WILSON: You're welcome.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: --for your testimony, Mr. Wilson.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Heather Mueller, to be followed by Robert Bence.

MS. MUELLER: So, welcome, everyone, to beautiful Upcountry, where the jacaranda purple trees are here welcoming you and thanking you for coming tonight. And it is getting kind of late. And basically, John said everything that I wanted to say, but, like you've already heard, my name is Heather Mueller, and I do kind of wear two hats tonight. Number one, for the Kula Community Association, and of course, we want to see this playground come about. And thank you so much for what you have already done, in terms of putting it in the budget. We thank you very, very much for that. It's...like John said, it's on the cusp. I'm also an episcopal priest. So, what I'm thinking as I'm hearing all these presentations is, what a wonderful gift Maui is to so many people. One of the things I used to do when I was preaching on stewardship would be to say, you know, the real tenor of a person, the real value system of a person, can be measured by looking at their checkbook. And I think that this presentation that I've heard tonight is a wonderful testimony to not only the variety of things that you folks are looking at, in terms of budget, but the quality of the things that you are looking at, and so many things having to do with helping people who have struggled or are in need of extra support. So this playground that we're hoping will be built soon, is an opportunity for us to think in terms of health and wholeness before the problems start. It used to be back in the old days that there would be a well in the middle of town, and everybody would gather there. The women and the children would gather at the well and support each other and hear about each other's needs and concerns and joys. I think that that really does look like part of what the playground can be. So I see this as an important part of the culture, in terms of healing and health. I used to do things out at Camp Pecusa as a Camp Director, and I used to say that camp is an opportunity for kids to learn about themselves, about each other, and about the wonder of creation. So, I see that as what our Kula playground can be. And thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Mueller. Members, any need for clarification? Mahalo nui for your testimony tonight. Mr. Krueger, will you please call our next testifiers?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Robert Bence, to be followed by Donna Clayton.

MR. BENCE: Hi. Good evening. Thank you very much for everything you do. I'm just here to show my support for the Maui Soil and Water Conservation Districts, all the great work they do. I've been a farmer in Kula pretty much as long as I can remember. But when I came back from UH Manoa 10 years ago, I started working with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and everything that they do helps the farmers, but helps everyone, 'cause everything we've talked about even tonight, yeah, show the importance

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of soil and water and conserving it. So, I just want to keep it short and simple, but, I'm a big supporter of the Maui Conservation Districts.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

MR. BENICE: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. Benice. Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony.

AUDIENCE: . . . *(applause)* . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Donna Clayton, to be followed by Pamela Tumpap.

MS. CLAYTON: Thank you for being here tonight, and I'll be brief. I did hand in my comments to you, but I wanted to go over a couple of things. First of all, last year, we did the first, what we hope to be annual, Christmas fair and electric golf cart parade in Pukalani. And we didn't really know what we were doing, and we just thought, let's try it. And it...we learned an awful lot, and what we learned is, people really loved it, and it was a lot of fun and we had a very good turnout. So we want to do it again this year. I would love to have some County support in funding for that, because we found out, we really need backup parking at Pukalani school, which they could use as a fundraiser, but that requires a shuttle, and we need more lighting than we thought we did, and we really need to do printing of a program, honestly. We didn't even do that. So, the people know what's going on at the event. So we really had some expenses that we couldn't cover last year, and we'd like to do it this year and just see if we can make this an annual event. I believe this year, it will either grow and be something we do over and over, or people will say, we've done that, and then maybe not. So we have to do it one more time and make sure. And the other thing I wanted to talk about was that Pukalani, like every place, has a lot of potholes and road wishes and desires, and we understand in Pukalani that our roads were built, maybe, shallowly is the word, not being an engineer. But anyway, now to rebuild the roads is like scraping down to the bottom, and it's a very expensive undertaking, and it's hard. So it's expensive, time-consuming, and I'm working with the Maui Metropolitan Planning Organization too, and they're talking with everybody about complete streets and multimodal, and I'm thinking if we're building the streets over in Pukalani, we should really think every time we do a road, about multimodal and getting people off the streets, walking on pathways. And it's more of an expense, and it's a slower process, but the studies show, from all that Maui Metropolitan Planning is doing, that the people really want to be safe and off the roads, because the roads are narrow and not safe. And so we really would like to have the multimodal look at our streets as they're being rebuilt, and also, I'm working on the West Maui greenway, and there's other greenways planned. There's an Upcountry greenway that's been kind of basically talked about years ago, and we have an overview of that, and that's all the

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further that's gotten. But the point is that everybody really wants a greenway, a pathway, separated from the roads, and anything we can do to connect our island with that in mind going forward, will get more people off the roads, and it will be something that we can slow people down. I don't really think we want Maui to be a place of speed. I think if you're coming to Maui, you should think, it's gonna be slow.

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MS. CLAYTON: It's an island. And I think greenways would help. Thank you very much for being here.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Clayton. We have a question for you. Chair King?

MS. CLAYTON: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Just really quick, pursuant to our conversation we had earlier, could you go check with my assistant over there and get the information for the call for presentations so you could follow up on doing a presentation on greenways and multimodal, and maybe you could work with Councilmember Sugimura, who chairs that Committee.

MS. CLAYTON: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you.

MS. CLAYTON: And I want to thank Councilmembers Sugimura and Mike Molina, for helping with the event last year. Mike even helped with parking in the parking lot. So it's December 7th this year, just so you can...

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Donna.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony tonight.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER MOLINA: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Pamela Tumpap, to be followed by Gerry Ross.

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MS. TUMPAP: Aloha, everyone. I'm Pamela Tumpap, President of the Maui Chamber of Commerce. I am the paid President, and that work does include me advocating and doing some lobbying on behalf of the organization. But I want to welcome you all to my...I guess...I live down the hill, so that means you're in my front yard instead of my backyard, but welcome and thank you all for staying here tonight. I'm here to support an event that I think everybody knows and loves. It's going to be the sixth annual Made in Maui County Festival. It's going to be this year on November 1st and 2nd, and we've recently delivered a report to each of you, either in person or to your office, to share some of the amazing statistics. We do have funding through the County Office of Economic Development in the Mayor's proposal of \$100,000 for this Economic Development event. It really features and showcases our local manufacturers. And when we talk about sustainability, many of those manufacturers are taking value added...you know, they're taking agricultural products, making value added ag products, and creating a lot of other amazing niche products that are loved by residents and visitors alike. It supports buy Maui County first, and we have participation by Molokai and Lanai, and it really is an economic engine. While many people know the big festival shopping day, where over 10,000 people come each year, and they buy goods and services and get to meet with the local companies, and hear their stories, and be inspired about their passion and their products, it also has the economic kicker of a wholesale buyer's event and distributors event on the Friday night. Plus an exclusive shopping day if you want to buy tickets to the opening ceremonies and spend a little more money that night, but have less of a crowd. But that night is when these companies, these Maui companies, meet with buyers and distributors from not only the State of Hawaii, but people are coming more and more from the Mainland U.S., and even international. We have Canadian buyers, we have buyers from Japan, and this year, some of you are aware, a number of our companies are going...Hankyu, who is a distributor in Japan, is taking a number of our companies over to Japan, and even paying their way to go for this retail experience. So a lot of other economic activities are now derived from this. In the five years since we started, last year was our fifth year, the investment made has a 498 percent return on investment, with a \$2,490,000 in retail sales that our vendors made. And those are retail sales that they made doing the two-day event. Not additional wholesale accounts after the fact, or additional local sales, where people found them there and continued to buy. So we ask that you further support this event. We also have an additional \$15,000 in the Office of Economic Development budget for the Made in Maui County Marketplace. That goes beyond the event. It's a website with stories and information and product placement so that wholesale buyers, distributors, and local residents can find those companies year-round, so outside of the two-day festival.

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MS. TUMPAP: And we want to support funding for Molokai and Lanai stipends to help them participate, as well as the Molokai intern program. I did want to support the additional funding for affordable housing, the MVB level funding of 4 million, since approximately three-quarters of our population are directly or indirectly employed by the visitor industry, the 4 million proposed for invasive species – we've gotta get a handle on

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invasive species – and I'd like to also see it not only include coqui frogs, but that's a huge problem, little fire ants, coffee borer beetles. With all the importation of plants that we keep seeing, we don't want to be like the Big Island, so we need more help there. I do want to mention MEO Business Development Center, who's doing a bang up job helping small business get their business started to participate in the festival, and then we are looking at the real property tax increase. We just saw the breakdowns by category. We don't understand yet the rationale for the increases in different areas, so I would like to come back and talk to you about that afterwards. And then outside of the Chambers, a Pukalani resident, we'd like to support improvements to our roadways. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Tumpap.

MS. TUMPAP: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony tonight.

MS. TUMPAP: Thank you. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha.

AUDIENCE: . . . *(applause)* . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Gerry Ross, to be followed by Shay Chan Hodges.

MR. ROSS: Aloha, Councilors. Thanks for taking the time to make yourselves available to the community. I certainly appreciate it, and I think a lot of people do. My name is Gerry Ross. I'm a commercial farmer, commercial organic farmer, on 16 acres in Kula, president of the Maui Coffee Association and a member of the ag working group. We hear all the time how important local agriculture is to our community, and we appreciate the funds that the previous administration had made available to us. That included funding for the Maui Coffee Association through the Maui County Farm Bureau, which helped us improve how we grow, process, and roast coffee, and has helped raise the profile of coffees grown here on Maui to gain international attention as top quality specialty coffees. The Made in Maui County Festival provided a great forum for our products, along with our annual Seed to Cup event, which is what we put on each year, which last year was attended by about a thousand people. As an aging farmer, I'm just past the median age of farmers in our State, which is 60 years. It's imperative that we work to grow more farmers. I'm proud to have served as a educator and mentor for the Hawaii Farmers Union Farm Apprentice and Mentoring Program. I think I'm in year four or five of that now. This is an excellent program that really deserves ongoing support. So, speaking of supporting local agriculture, Mayor Arakawa signed onto the

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Aloha Plus Challenge to double local food production by 2030. One way that we can do that is to make compost available to farmers, such as the current cohort of FAM apprentices that are moving through our program. I read in *The Maui News* that the Mayor has plans for landfill expansion and waste management, but I was disappointed that there was no mention of organic waste diversion and compost. Our landfill accepts 27,000 tons of food waste a year. That's 75 tons a day. On our farm, we make compost from 50 tons of food waste that we collect from collaborating restaurants, and we pump out a lot of vegetables using that compost. Reduces fertilizer costs, it improves soil health, et cetera. So rather than accepting organic matter and burying it, and then dealing with the financial and environmental consequences, such as methane production at some time in the future, we should be embracing our ability to turn waste into a resource. The food waste we bury each year could be used to produce enough compost to cover about 3,000 acres a year on Maui, which is more than all the current vegetable production on our island. So, less imports, more fertility. A casual glance through the pages of BioCycle Magazine...gosh, all across the United States, there's amazing technology where people are taking food waste from all different resources--

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MR. ROSS: --and turning it into compost and really helping the environment and farmers. And then I was just reading, I found this...since I have a little bit of time, this is a really relevant quote. Upon this handful of soil, some of which is still in my hands, our survival depends. Husband it, and it will grow our food, our fuel, and our shelter, and surround us with beauty. Abuse it, and the soil will collapse and die, taking humanity with us. This was written in 1500, this is Sanskrit scripture. So, we have an opportunity with compost, for example, to really improve the beauty of our environment and our ability to provide our citizens with food. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Ross. We have a question for you from Chair King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thanks for being here, Gerry, and for your work in agriculture. My question to you is, do you remember what the level of funding was last year, and what the level of funding is being requested this year for the FAM program? Because I noticed in the budget, they folded it into HFUU, and it's hard to see what the intent is for the Farmer Apprentice Mentorship Program.

MR. ROSS: I wish I could provide you some insight into that. You'd have to talk to Phyllis Robinson, for example. They just tell me how many apprentices there are going to be, they say go, I do a 18-hour contact thing--

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay.

MR. ROSS: --we have interns, we do a bunch of on-farm exercises, so, I just see a lot of really enthusiastic and engaged people, and they want to grow food, and they're into it. It's great.

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VICE-CHAIR KING: It's a great program. I just...it was a line item last year, and it's not this year. So I'm a little worried about that. Thank you.

MR. ROSS: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo nui for your testimony, Mr. Ross.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Shay Chan Hodges, to be followed by Ian Chan Hodges.

MS. HODGES: Aloha, Council. My name is Shay Chan Hodges, and I am requesting your support for the Maui ESG Initiative Conference that is in the Mayor's Economic Development Program Budget on Page 407. The goal of the ESG Project is to enhance community understanding of the recent increase in institutional investment in our County and develop a strategy for utilizing ESG standards, environmental care, social responsibility, and good governance, to encourage economic actors to benefit our communities sustainably. The ESG investment project is already working with residents and community leaders to help them understand how much of Maui is owned by institutional investors, how these entities differ from the business owners of the past, and how ESG, also known as Impact Investing, can support accountability from this type of owner. At a governance level, many institutional investors take ESG factors into consideration when they make financial decisions. However, these corporations often don't have the tools to engage with the community beyond superficial marketing and do not ultimately do the right thing locally. Therefore, for approximately six months, the ESG project will host public events, workshops, and discussions to raise awareness around the role of institutional capital in Maui County's economy, including how institutional investors make decisions, how ESG standards can impact those decisions...yeah, sorry, impact those decisions. During this time, the project will also create opportunities for economic actors and impact investing leaders to meet with Maui County stakeholders in person and virtually in order for investors to benefit from local knowledge and gain an authentic understanding of community resources, whether cultural, natural, intellectual, and even social, as a necessary path for earning a reasonable profit. This educational period will be followed by a two-day outcomes-oriented ahupua`a conference where investors, ESG leaders, and residents will focus on outcomes based on the previous six months of highly-engaged discussions. One of the primary outcomes of the ESG project will be to develop a roadmap for identifying equitable and environmentally-sound local investment opportunities in and around climate change, education, affordable housing, sustainable community development, entrepreneurship, renewable energy, water, agriculture, and food security. Most importantly, we aim to create a transparent and clearly articulated enforcement framework for investors and stakeholders that goes beyond a compliance exercise and

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therefore creates the infrastructure necessary to address potential negative impacts to Maui County and potential losses for investors before a project begins. The conference will be hosted by UH Maui College, and we have already begun strategizing on the specifics of overall project design with the UHMC Sustainability Program, since one of the primary objectives of the project will be to develop impact economy education and training programs with a long-term goal of Maui becoming a financial center, an educational leader, and model in ESG investing. As an...and, oh, just wanted to add too, that our fiscal agent is Maui United Way, so when you see budget stuff, it's going to be Maui United Way's budget.

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MS. HODGES: As an engaged Maui resident and the parent of two Maui born and raised college students, who went to King Kekaulike, and who will inherit whatever challenges that we do not address today, thank you so much for your time. And I did want to add one more thing. And I also wanted to ask you to support the 2.25 million from the Open Space Natural Resources, Cultural Resources, and Scenic Views Preservation Fund, as a grant to Ke Ao Hali'i for land acquisition in Hana. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Chan Hodges. Members, any need for clarification? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony tonight.

MS. HODGES: Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the next person signed up to testify is Ian Chan Hodges, to be followed by Sherman Dudley DePonte.

MR. HODGES: Good evening. I'm actually testifying on the...oh, thank you. All right, thanks. I'm testifying, actually, in support of the same two items that my wife, Shay, just testified on. The first one being the line item referred to is the Maui ESG Initiative in the Mayor's Economic Development Budget. The second one also with the 2.25 million for open space for the Ke Ao Hali'i land acquisition in Hana. But as far as the ESG project concerned, my wife mentioned that our two kids went to King Kekaulike High School. And actually, I think, where we are right now is the highest concentration of high schools in the State, 'cause we have King Kekaulike, we have Kamehameha Schools, and we have...what's the other one called? Seabury. And I think in a couple weeks, we're going to have a few hundred graduates, who are graduating seniors, and looking towards the future. And there's a lot of different areas, as Shay touched on, that this project actually touches on, but I want to focus on the educational aspect. And Shay mentioned that we have...we're working with UH Maui College, and I wanted to read a letter of support from Lui Hokoana, just a few paragraphs in here that he talks about this. It says, UH Maui College welcomes the opportunity to host the Maui ESG Investment Project

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Ahupua`a Conference and community workshops, as the project dovetails with the goals of our sustainable science management program, which offers advanced practices, such as systems approaches and applied experience to equip our students with knowledge, skills, and leadership for the future. Furthermore, given the importance of ESG investors, the importance to ESG investors of supporting clean energy and addressing climate change, holding the ahupua`a conference at UH Maui College is particularly timely, because the college is on track to produce, store, and use 100 percent renewable energy on our campus this year, making our campus one of the first to achieve net zero in the nation. Furthermore, I understand that none of our world's top financial centers, such as New York, London, Hong Kong, et cetera, currently have an intentional institutional focus on ESG investing, and while none of the world's top universities currently offer courses in impact investing, what is lacking are comprehensive ESG educational programs which will be necessary for equipping a workforce that is truly capable of successfully allocating the hundreds of billions in ESG investment commitments already made by large institutional investors. Hawaii, and the County of Maui in particular, is therefore well positioned from a geographic, cultural policy perspective, to fill a very significant market gap as a center for making, managing, and measuring ESG investments, while also positioning our islands as a center for learning for those who are pursuing careers in impactful ESG investment. And the other comment I'll actually make is, we actually, in the last year, two institutional investors invested \$1.6 billion in Maui County and became, by doing that, the largest private employer in the island.

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MR. HODGES: And also largest landowner on the island. And so it's important for us to actually figure out what the motivations of these investors are, you know, who makes the decisions, and that's going to be one part of this whole project. Thank you very much.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Chan Hodges. Members, any...? Okay. One question, Chair King.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Thank you, Chair. So, Ian, do you have a website on your ESG Initiative?

MR. HODGES: Not yet.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. If we could get that information that Shay shared earlier on the project, since it's inside the Maui United Way, we may not have broken out descriptions of all those things yet, so--

MR. HODGES: Okay. Yeah, definitely.

VICE-CHAIR KING: --if you could send that, too. Thank you.

MR. HODGES: Absolutely.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, you asked a question of us, so I want to ask a question back of you. The two...you mentioned a large employer investing in Maui, and you've mentioned the largest landowner investing in Maui, and you ask, what is their motivation? So I'm asking you, what do you think their motivation is?

MR. HODGES: Their motiv..., well, their fiduciary motivation is actually PSP, which provided the funding for Mahi Pono to acquire the A&B lands. There, in that asset class, they need to actually return between 10 and 12 percent, so their motivation is to actually get that money back. And I think they're based on Eastern Time Zone, so I'm not sure if they know yet or not, that 1326 actually failed, but the decision-making about what to do next will actually be taking place in Montreal, not in Honolulu or Maui. And the other...you asked about the other group? The other group is Blackstone, which owns the Grand Wailea, and the Ritz Carlton, along with hotels on Oahu, and they are the largest private equity firm in the world. They have about \$563 billion under management, and actually, last week, the United Nations Special Group on Affordable Housing just cited them for being largely responsible for the affordable rental crisis in the United States. Because basically, they go around and find lower income properties and try to upgrade them and sort of. . .*(inaudible)*. . .lower income people out. So they're sort of a good group, maybe, to keep an eye on while they're here in Maui. I mean, our largest employer. Answer your question?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Can you repeat those two names again? Blackstone and who?

MR. HODGES: Blackstone and PSP, which is Pacific...excuse me, Public Service Pension, which is the . . .*(inaudible)*. . .pension fund based in Montreal.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MR. HODGES: Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. Any other questions, Members? Mahalo nui for your testimony tonight.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Sherman Dudley DePonte, to be followed by Samantha Maxwell.

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MR. DePONTE: My name is Sherman Dudley DePonte. I'm a licensed professional landscaper in the State of Hawaii, California, and Arizona, and I live on 17529 Haleakala Highway, which is just about at the top of Crater Road. My first thing is for why I mention lands remotely, is the Makawao problem with the kids crossing through some properties that don't want to let the kids cross. We have a thing called eminent domain, which the government will take the land, and because it's for good use for the public, and we need it for our Upcountry children. It's necessary. One of the things I've learned is basically, do it, do it right, and try to do it safely. And right now, we need it. Upcountry Maui has been neglected. I'm going to say, Upcountry and outcountry people have been neglected over the years. We need the support of the Council and the whole County. The budget, well first off, I better put the plug in for Rawlins. At the service station on Molokai, best spam and egg musubi. Get 'em there if you're ever there. I can't live without it. Anyway, maybe, a little bit too much of it. Any case, the other thing is, the Boys and Girls Club. They're very important. That's our keiki, that's our future. We need to do something. We need more of it, we need support inside of there. Also, mentor program. Not mental, 'cause that's where I come in. But anyway, no. Mentor programs, I think the mentor programs are very efficient and it gives the children something to look up to and look forward to, and that works well. The next thing I want to mention is the budget, okay. We're taking money, we're putting it in different departments of the County. We need to address that. The money's going into the different departments, and it's not going where it's supposed to go. I think an audit should be in order on each Department, for starters. Get it straight, start from ground zero, let's work forward and get it right. We want checks and balances. If we're going to spend our money, you know, I'm talking as one individual tax payer. But as a group, we need more. When I mentioned eminent domain, yes, it's going to cost money, but we did it back in the '70s, in the '90s with the Lingle Administration. We took million-dollar property from people so that, let's see, we could get to the beaches. What was it for? Those things are for tourists, mostly, and you see it all along our beaches down there. And now we're coming to a point where over tourists.

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MR. DePONTE: I want to get this in. I passed out a handout on the CIP that was done in 2017 for on the budget of...it was done in 2017, the budget was for 2018. CIP for Kula, in the area of Haleakala Highway, it was specific CBS, xxxx, Upcountry fire protection improvements. That money disappeared from that Department. It went into another place. It didn't go to this CIP. This CIP had \$350,000 back in 1999, '98, '99. That money disappeared. We need checks and balances. This here was specific. It stated specific for that area to fix it, because we have a two-and-a-half-inch line, it broke three times last month. And we don't have the fire protection that we need.

MR. KRUEGER: Four minutes.

MR. DePONTE: Anyway, thank you so much for listening, and thank you for the people for coming out and actually participating in this process. It's great.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. DePonte. Members, any questions? Seeing none, and mahalo for the musubi plug.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony. Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Samantha Maxwell, to be followed by Dick Mayer.

MS. MAXWELL: Hello. I am Samantha Maxwell, and I don't have any kind of a title. I'm just old. I'd like you to continue to support our senior clubs that meet on a monthly basis. The club that I am with is the Pukalani Pensioners, and they meet here in this very center. We fall under the area of the MEO, and we have an MEO Coordinator that attends our meetings, provides speakers to our club, and that sometimes the speakers are representatives of businesses with...bring new ideas to our club members. We have senior members in our club who are over 80 years old and depend on MEO bus to bring them to our club meetings. We are provided three excursions a year that is provided by MEO and allows our seniors to get to do things and see things that they wouldn't otherwise be able to do. The club provides a gathering place for members to get together just to get out of the house and make a needed human connection. We'd like to ask you to please continue to support our senior population through these individual clubs, and I'd also like to ask you to continue to support the Kaunoa Center, which is a wonderful thing as well. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Maxwell. Members, any questions? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony tonight.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Dick Mayer, to be followed by Louis DeCoite.

MR. MAYER: Thank you very much. Thank you for coming up here and spending the evening with us. I want to talk about something that may help you fund all of these projects people have been asking for. At the end of the evening now, you've been inundated with requests, one thing or another, and I want to talk only about the revenue side of your budget. And I'm glad that yesterday you spent a lot of time talking about it with RPT people and got into it in some depth. I first want to call your attention to a sheet that your Chair, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, passed out yesterday, I believe, which has a list of the assessments, the Mayor's proposed rates, and your rates, and her recommended rates. I want to concentrate first on the assessment side. Usually, the County Council spends a lot of time talking about do we want this rate a little higher, or this rate a little lower, on the assumption that the assessments are accurate and you can't change those.

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That's already been done by RPT. I'm urging you to examine those assessments very, very carefully. And I'm just going to give one item...one comparison on this chart. It shows that in the agricultural category, Maui County has \$4.3 billion in assessments, and the hotel and resorts, 2.6 billion, almost half. Just about half of what the agriculture. Can anybody really believe that our hotels are worth only half of the agricultural lands? Recently, 41,000 acres plus 15,000 acres of East Maui land was purchased by a Canadian pension fund for \$267 million. One hotel, the Grand Wailea last year, was purchased for something like four times that amount, \$1.1 billion. Our hotels are much, much more valuable properties than the agricultural lands, and consequently, I would urge you to examine the assessments, not just to take those for granted. And I would urge you to utilize the concept that they are supposed to be...the most properties on Maui by the property tax view, is supposed to be assessed at 100 percent of value. It used to be 60 percent years ago. Now it's supposed to be...the hotels are nowhere near that. The chart that I gave out in green that you have in front of you is the assessments, which have not gone up considerably for the last decade. I went back to the RPT numbers, as you can see there, various hotels, for example, take a look at near the end there. Kaanapali Beach, 58 million, now it's only \$66 million. These have not been made appropriately large. Last year, another gentleman and myself mentioned the low assessments, and for this year, finally, the RPT people all of a sudden did jump a number of the assessments. So, for example, you can see Grand Wailea, has gone for 339 million to 477. It's a sizeable increase, but it's still...probably should be up more like 800 million, given the fact that they paid 1.1 billion for that facility. That would be able to give you the revenues you need to do all the things that your community's asking you to fund, primarily housing. I noticed that, even on this sheet that you have here, there's a \$67 million increase from the Mayor's thing, in terms of revenues that would be allocated if you use the rates recommended by your Chair.

MR. KRUEGER: Three minutes.

MR. MAYER: My guess, if the assessments were appropriate, you would have a much larger amount than even that amount that you could use for the housing and all the other infrastructure that people are asking for. The rates themselves, I would urge you to think seriously about helping the local residents by changing the homeowner exemption from 200,000 to 300,000. That's a way of helping the average consumer, average resident of Maui, and it's a regressive way. It would not affect mainly the upper-income people, who are way above that, but it would affect a lot of low-income people, and you could use that –the cost of that – by getting the money from the hotel and resorts. I would urge you to raise the hotel rate this year, too, for \$15, that's being recommended by your Chair, and then pass legislation that allows the RPT folks to use the income approach. The Big Island had an audit of their RPT. The audit recommended that the income approach be used, they went ahead and did it, and now they have that on the books on the Big Island.

MR. KRUEGER: Four minutes.

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MR. MAYER: You're allowed to do that. The one other area that I just want to briefly mention, and that is the impact fee study that was done, and the County paid hundreds of thousands of dollars for it. Past Mayor Arakawa sat on that for several years and did not allow that to come forth, really, and it would be the source for two...and it was two studies. One, to get impact fees for highways, and the other, for all the other services, police, fire, general administration, and it can be done in such a way that it does not impact the affordable housing. You could exclude affordable housing from having to pay that if, for example, they dedicate the house for over 25 years, let's say, to affordable housing. There are many mechanisms, and I could talk further if you have any questions.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Mayer. Members? Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hi, Mr. Mayer. Thanks for coming. I was wondering if you had a recommendation, if the homeowner exemption is raised to 300,000, any ideas on how that would affect the minimum tax?

MR. MAYER: Affect the minimum tax? No, I do not know. I don't know the answer to that question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. Okay. All right, thanks.

MR. MAYER: Your staff people could tell you how that would be effective. But I think that by raising that up, we would take relief off of many local residents who have seen tax go up, and what I'm saying, is switch it to the hotel, where I think there's money that the County has been not getting, and I think we could compensate for that there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thanks.

MR. MAYER: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Council Chair King, and then Member Sinenci.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Thanks for being here, Dick. So the two that you mentioned, two impact fee studies, and those are a little bit old, I think. Do you think that they're still relevant, or that we would need to re-do those?

MR. MAYER: They were extremely well-done studies. There was a committee of residents, including developers, as well as environmental groups, who advised the County on how to set that up. The numbers came out, and I think it was in 2012. I would...even though the numbers today would be higher than that, I would say even using that numbers, which are lower than they would be...I think would be putting that on the book and...let me give an example of two buildings that are being proposed right now, being built. Safeway on the Hana Highway. It's going to...they have no impact fee. The Grand Wailea is proposing 200-plus more rooms at the Grand Wailea, no impact fee. And so what I

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would like to see is that you have those impact fees. If there's a fire in one their facilities, they're gonna cost...the police need to come for robbery or something in the parking lot, they will come. They need County services and traffic, in both cases, will be increased considerably. We need the impact fees done on those kind of commercial establishments that are going to be putting impact on all the rest of the community. The impact fee studies were done. They are available. I have copies myself. Michele McLean, Planning Director, has them available. I can get them to you. I have it in digital form. The lady who was in charge for the County of putting that together was the lady who was killed on Lanai, Kathleen Kern, she was in charge when she died. Some of the impetus from the Planning Department behind it was lost, and Mayor Arakawa unfortunately held it in his office there for a long period of time, and didn't...finally, he did transmit it, but it was too late to get it really done. But it is still, I think, relevant.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Okay. Thank you. That would be great if you could transmit that.

MR. MAYER: I will do that.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Those two studies.

MR. MAYER: There were...it's two separate studies, and I would send to you the last...the highway study, I think, was one volume. But the other one had, like, eight volumes, with all the background, how they went ahead and what their process and... but it's the last two volumes of that series that I think are relevant and has the rates, how it's done. The Advisory Committee was asked, and just to give you an idea, a feeling for it, the Advisory Committee should...there'd be one, let's say, impact fee study for the whole island, or should we have it by each Community Plan District, and the Advisory Committee said, there should be one for West Maui, because most of those people drive around there. East Maui, Hana side, there should be one impact, and then Central Maui, that would be South, Makawao, Paia, Haiku, Kula, excuse me, Kahului, and...should be in the other one. So, one large area where the impact fee would be, because those people drive around in each other's area, and West and South...West and East are separate. So it's very well done.

VICE-CHAIR KING: South Maui wasn't mentioned in that?

MR. MAYER: No, South Maui would be part of the Central Maui one.

VICE-CHAIR KING: Oh. As part of Central. Okay. Interesting.

MR. MAYER: Yeah. In the way that numbers were drawn up. Because many of the people who work in South Maui come from Central, and many people in South Maui shop in Central Maui, so there's a lot of traffic, and they figured that the impacts should be, you know, shared by the people in both those areas.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Council Chair King. Member Sinenci?

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Mayer. Member Rawlins-Fernandez also proposed some increases in timeshares and condos, I believe. How do you feel about those?

MR. MAYER: I think that...based on the fact that there's a lawsuit by the timeshare folks against the County that's pending, I think it might be wise for the County to take the...the Council to take the timeshare rate and the hotel resort rate and make it the same from now on, forward. Somebody told me – and you would have to verify this – that the timeshare people would be willing to even drop their lawsuit if they could get comparability with the housing thing. I don't know if that's true, but I was told that they would be willing to drop that, and that would take a lot of pressure off potential liability for the County. But I think that putting it up at around \$15 would allow the County to tell the Assessment office to do it properly, to get the hotel properties up to where they should be.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sinenci, and for the record, my proposal wasn't to increase timeshare rate, it was to keep it as it currently is.

MR. MAYER: Keep it equal?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah. Mahalo. Members, any additional questions? Seeing none, thank you so much for your testimony.

MR. MAYER: Thank you for coming up here and spending time with us.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

AUDIENCE: . . .(applause). . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: The next person signed up to testify is Louis DeCoite, to be followed by Christy Vail.

MR. DeCOITE: Hi. Good evening, staff. My testimony tonight is about what we gonna do about the traffic, the roads on Maui. I mean, we all love Maui, everybody coming here every day by the jet loads, moving here, and nothing is happening with the roads. A few days from now, my dad going pass 13 years, and two years before he got sick, he told me, someday, traffic not gonna move on Maui. He could see the future, and I'm sure all of you guys can see that too. We have to really do something about that, really. It's getting crazy. Traffic up here, I noticed the roads from Makawao coming to Pukalani, that traffic light right before the fire station, there's all that bank property over there. Why don't they cut into the bank, make the lanes more open for traffic and flow going down towards the next street light? Even the next street light I noticed the bank can be cut over there and let flowing traffic continue going. That would eliminate the traffic on Makani Road, Makawao Avenue. Obviously, everybody can see that, and I think what

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we need, Haliimaile intersection, we need one road going down toward Kihei. We really need that. I don't go in town every day, but I went down the...I left my Kula house at 10 to 7:00 this morning, and when I seen the traffic, I tripped out, and I tell myself, what's gonna happen to Maui the next year or two? Traffic ain't gonna move. We gonna be worse than Oahu. Oahu, at least they get the overlanes, they going, you know, people moving. But Maui, we're not doing nothing about the roads, what's gonna happen? We'll get road rage, it's gonna get crazy. We gotta do something about it. I know everybody has a budget, you know, we got a lot of issues on Maui, but the road, I think, is the biggest issue right now on Maui with traffic. Every day, people moving here. You guys all know that. To me, myself, I always tell people, I hate to see Maui in the next year or two. Traffic ain't gonna move, I'm sorry to say it, but traffic ain't gonna move. Just like the Lahaina road. They should have made that highway off the Pali going into Lahaina, instead coming from Lahaina backwards. Because if we ever get one tsunami, what's gonna happen to all that traffic? All the beach access over there, people gonna be climbing on each other. It's gonna be crazy. And the way global warming is today, thank God we don't get slammed this year with one hurricane, but we getting really close because of the climate change. You all can see that. So I don't know what's going to happen. I mean, we all got issues on Maui, but you guys really gotta think about the roads. I'm serious. In the next two years, traffic ain't gonna move. You guys gonna be stuck in traffic. Everybody else gonna be stuck in traffic, and it's gonna be bad. So I just wanted to come out tonight and say my piece about this. Maybe my dad told me, come here tonight. Normally, I don't come to these meetings and say my piece. Mike, you know my dad. He was a good man, you know, and I think he brought me here tonight to tell all you guys this about the roads. But we really gotta do something about the traffic, really. Well, I appreciate you guys coming out tonight and hearing our testimonies, and you guys have a good night.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. DeCoite. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just had one question. I live in West Maui, and I know what you talking about, about the road, and few of us is on the MPO, the road organization, and the estimate for the Lahaina Road, just that one, is like 70 million or 100 millions out, and that's a lot of money, and it's a State road.

MR. DeCOITE: I know. I know that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was wondering, one of the options the State gave to us to raise the revenue was to increase the GET tax half percent. I was wondering if you would be supportive of that or not so much?

MR. DeCOITE: Well, you know, we cannot stop progress, right? We all know that, and we gonna have to do something about that. I know every year the car tax, insurances, everything coming up, you know. People getting hard time, but what can we do? We gonna have to figure out something, you know, to do it. I can understand that gentleman just was up here and talking about the money and everything, you know? But they gotta put money aside for the roads. But it's scary, really, how Maui coming.

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I born and raised here on this island, and I see all the change. I'm sure you guys too, Mike, right? Everybody. It's crazy. Makawao, all over. Any time of the day you go on the road, is traffic.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Mahalo for your testimony, Mr. DeCoite. Mr. Kreuger?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, the last person signed up to testify is Christy Vail.

MS. VAIL: Thank you all for being here tonight, and I am last, and I know that Pukalani Superette has run out of chili chicken by now, so I'm sorry for all of us. I'm here to testify. In February, I paid my property taxes, which are \$1,600. I'm on ag land, although about two acres of my land is old-flow lava and not farmable at all, but that's another story. In February, I paid that \$1,600 in my property tax, and we had the storm, a very big eucalyptus tree went down on my property, blocking access to my property. This tree, part of it's...if the road is here. . .*(inaudible)*. . .was right here, right against the road. I have spent another \$1,600 having that cut up, and I didn't feel that that tree belonged to me, but I had no other choice but to cut it up. So, in my area, about two miles, I think seven trees went down, and all of them had root systems probably as big as a Volkswagen. My garage was spared, it just missed my garage, but this is a bad situation. I know that they've...I talked to a friend of mine who's an entomologist on the Big Island whose worked with the rapid ohia death. I talked to him about a biocontrol. I said, will the State come up with anything? And he said, it's a low priority. I was hoping that they'd find a bug that would eat the bugs, and then we'd later on have to find another bug to eat those bugs, but we could worry about that later. At any rate, I do hope that you will find the money to help us out with these trees. Last year at this time, I had a lump removed from my breast that was cancerous. I was fortunate. I have a good prognosis, but during the time that I had 15 weeks of radiation therapy, I lived in fear that I wouldn't be able to make it down. When the power goes out and the trees are down, you are just stuck where you are. I wouldn't have been able to get any kind of help or get a ride or get to my radiation therapy. And that was a big concern for me. And I think about that all the time. I've had health issues since my husband died, and I think about being trapped up there. I love my home, and I will add, I love my community, and I've so enjoyed this hearing, it makes me love my community even more. We have so many great people, so many good causes. Thank all of you for serving this great community. Welcome back, Alice Lee. Great to see newcomers and old-timers back. Thank you.

AUDIENCE: . . .*(applause)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Ms. Vail. Members, any questions for our testifier? Seeing none, thank you so much for testifying tonight. Okay. Mr. Krueger, that was our last testifier?

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MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. That was...there is no one else signed up to testify.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. So, Members, if there are no other questions or comments, no objections, I will now close public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

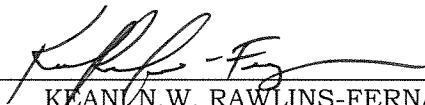
. . .END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. It is 9:12 on April 4th, and our EDB Committee hearing is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 9:12 p.m.

APPROVED:



KEAN N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, Chair
Economic Development and Budget Committee

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Transcribed by: Nicole Siegel