

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

October 22, 2024

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 1:34 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Chair
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (Out 4:27 p.m.)
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (In 1:44 p.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (In 1:42 p.m.)

STAFF: Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director, Office of Council Services
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Lori Tengan, Committee Secretary
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

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

ADMIN.: Cody Minatodani, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel (All)
Cory Lynn Vicens, Boards and Commissions Liaison, Office of the Mayor
(GREAT-2(25))
Moana Lutey, County Clerk, Office of the County Clerk (GREAT-23)
Richelle Thomson, Deputy County Clerk, Office of the County Clerk
(GREAT-23)
Josiah Nishita, Managing Director, Department of Management (GREAT-5(4))
Jennifer Maydan, Executive Assistant II, Department of Management
(GREAT-5(4))
Kate Blystone, Planning Director, Department of Planning (GREAT-5(4))

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OTHERS: Sam Small (GREAT-23)
Michael McMenemy (GREAT-2(25))
Joann Joan (GREAT-23)
Peter Hanano (GREAT-23)
Plus (12) other people

PRESS: Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: . . . *(gavel)* . . . You guys heard that? Can everybody hear me? Okay. Will the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting of October 22, 2024 please come to order. It is 1:34 p.m. I’m your Chair, Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins. Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Let’s begin with Committee Vice-Chair Tamara Paltin. Good afternoon.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha ‘auinalā, streaming live and direct from Nāpili. I have two canines with me, one unnamed minor canine and one named adult canine, Kingy Poo Paltin-Vierra. And I have one named adult male downstairs, he just finished his dive so he probably will come up in the middle of the meeting, and his name is George Vierra. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Committee Vice-Chair Member Paltin. I love your family updates, and they include your pets. I didn’t include my cat the last time, and so I got a few text messages that I needed to be like you and include my adult pets.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I posted the lobster on the stove too.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Count that one then. Good afternoon, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good afternoon, Chair.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Good afternoon, Member Johnson.

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

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Councilmember Kama, good afternoon.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Good afternoon, Chair. I’m here in my workspace, and I am alone.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez will be joining us shortly. Councilmember Sinenci, good afternoon.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Good afternoon, Chair, and . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I’m here at my home office, I’m here by myself, and there’s no testifiers in the Hāna District Office, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Sinenci. And Councilmember Sugimura will be joining us shortly. From Corporation Counsel, we have Cody Minatodani, Deputy Corporation Counsel. We also have with us today Cory Vicens, Boards and Commissions Liaison; Moana Lutey, County Clerk; Richelle Thomson, Deputy County Clerk. And on behalf of the recovery...or Office of Recovery, Josiah Nishita, Kate Blystone, and Jennifer Maydan. Our Committee Staff include Pauline Martin, Senior Committee Secretary; Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst; Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst; Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney; Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director of Counsel Services; and Jean Pokipala, Counsel Services Assistant Clerk. Please see the last page of the agenda for information --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hello?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Hello. Oh, sorry, Chair Lee, I missed you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Okay. Chair, I’m home in my workspace alone, and Hatitu. Hatitu.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Hatitu. Sorry, Chair. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That’s okay.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Testimony. Testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up in the lobby, join on the online meeting via the Teams link, or call in to the phone number noted on today’s agenda. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting, as well as the item is called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone; star-5 to raise and lower your hand, star-6 to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order of the testifier...testifier sign-up, or raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hands once you raise your...once your name is added. Staff will then call the name you’re logged in

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under, or the last four digits of your phone number, when it is your time to testify. At the...at that time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item, and if you're still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask for you to complete your testimony. Once you are done testifying, or if you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We will do our best to take up each person in an orderly fashion. And we will now call on testifiers wishing to testify at the beginning of the meeting. So, Staff, if you could please call our first testifier?

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. The first individual signed up to testify is Sam Small.

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aloha, Mr. Small?

MR. SMALL: Unmuting. I think I'm there. Can you hear me?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: We can hear you, we can see you.

MR. SMALL: Great. Before I testify, just a point. Your written agenda does not include the phone instructions, the star-5 and the star-6. It would be very helpful to the community if you added that text to your agenda. Otherwise, you mentioned it, but if they're not listening, they don't get it.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sounds good. Thank you so much.

MR. SMALL: Thank you. Appreciate it. Okay. With regards to the County Clerks, does it bother anybody else that Moana Lutey is at the center of a multi-million-dollar whistleblower lawsuit, along with Michele McLean, for blocking former Mayor Victorino from fulfilling an agreement that he personally signed with Chris Salem? I've now got the emails. All Victorino requested was a recorded inspection and determination from the Planning Director as to whether an SMA permit in Nāpili was properly fulfilled or not. McLean simply refused the Mayor's request, and Moana Lutey lied about the Mayor not having the authority to even make the request. Why do so many bad things to block this one inspection? Because the fraud contained in this one SMA permit will show how Corporation Counsel conspired to combine bogus three-lot-or-less infrastructure deferral agreements with fraudulent SMA permits for 40 years, to intentionally shift tens, maybe hundreds, of millions of dollars in developer responsibilities onto the taxpayers. And it doesn't end there. Lutey is now part of an ethics complaint for influencing

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the County Auditor to suspend the audit on these same deferral agreements, an audit that this Council unanimously approved back in 2018. The Ethics Committee, which needs your financial support to remain independent of Corporation Counsel, has agreed to a hearing to question the Auditor, and probably Moana Lutey too. Meanwhile, this Council is preparing to authorize nearly half a million dollars, with surely more to come, to pay KSG Law Firm to essentially protect Moana Lutey for her role in Chris Salem's wrongful termination case. After years of fighting Chris Salem, and Moana Lutey's lies to this Council about it, Corporation Counsel was forced to step aside because of the conflicts of interest that Lutey created...conflicts that Mayor Bissen likely recognized when he rejected Moana Lutey as her [sic] Corporation Counsel. You know, it says a lot about Council Chair Alice Lee's priorities, that both Michele McLean and Moana Lutey have been rewarded under her leadership. Does it bother anybody that Chair Lee skipped the standard public posting of both Clerk's positions on jobs websites, limiting the pool of candidates? That's a rigged system. So are the intentionally unreadable full Council minutes that Chair Lee posts to the Council website. Now, Maui taxpayers are paying . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Moana Lutey--I got 15 seconds more--Moana Lutey more than the Mayor for a job that does not require a lawyer's salary. Danny Mateo had the job for years, for Christ's sake. Hiring Moana Lutey as County Clerk is an embarrassment and an insult to every honest person on Maui. And I've got 557 signatures to back that up on a petition that I submitted online.

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

MR. SMALL: Thank you for your time.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yep. Members, any clarifying questions? Seeing none. Thank you so much for your testimony. But before I move on to our next testifier, I'd like to welcome Councilmember Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good afternoon, and looking forward to a productive meeting.

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

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

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I believe so.

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

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Clarissa. Okay, let’s move on.

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

**GREAT-2(25) RESOLUTION 24-163, RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT OF
MICHAEL CLAUD McMENEMY TO THE MAUI REDEVELOPMENT
AGENCY**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We have before us Resolution 24-163, entitled “APPOINTMENT OF A MEMBER TO THE MAUI REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR THE COUNTY OF MAUI.” This is the final seat we have to consider for appointing a member to form the 2024 mass nominations. And at this time, I’m going to ask Ms. Vicens to introduce Mr. McMenemy and provide opening comments before I ask Mr. McMenemy to discuss himself. Go ahead.

MS. VICENS: Thank you. Aloha, Chair, aloha, Members, and our Members who are remote. Sorry, you’re behind me, so I’m just going to look forward. We’re here today for our final mass nomination, and we’re happy that Mr. McMenemy has put his name forward to serve on the Maui Redevelopment Agency. Mayor Bissen thanks you for all your hard work this year, and we are hopeful that you will agree that he’s a great candidate for this board...or this agency. Mr. McMenemy has been a resident since 2014, but that was not his first time in Hawai‘i. He spent 1971, ten years on O‘ahu doing projects over there in the construction industry, and was there from 1971 on. He has a background in project management, and has recently dealt with wells and water compliance. Why did he move back to Maui? He was ready to retire. His wife wanted to be back in the island. She is an acupuncturist here, and he serves on the Lapa‘au Community Acupuncture, which happens to be hers. What I learned, and what we learned about Mr. McMenemy, other than his knowledge in this industry, is that he spent time in Santa Cruz redeveloping in the Palo Alto area, as well as with Google redeveloping, and he knows how to get things done. He is very patient and tolerant for the process. He’s excited about what more can happen historically for the Wailuku area. He’s a good listener, not only to what is being said, but to what the other side wants. He’s solution-oriented, and looks for compromise. He enjoys the outdoors. He is on...had been on three different paddling...and involved in that way. When he moved back, he thought he was going to be an...a farmer, purchased a five-acre farm up in Kula growing olives, and then found out he had an allergy. So, farm has gone on to other owners, and they live in Wailuku Heights. And I will let him share the rest about his experience and qualifications that he brings to this board...or agency. Thank you.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: All right. Thank you so much. Mr. McMenemy, if you would like to introduce yourself? *(pause)* He was on earlier, is he still? He is?

MS. MACDONALD: Just checking, Chair. He is online, and he is a presenter on our end, so he’d have to unmute his camera and mic on his end. So, if there is a line on the top right corner for camera and microphone, you’re going to have to click on those icons to unmute yourself.

MR. MCMENEMY: Okay. Got it. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay, we hear you.

MR. MCMENEMY: Oh, gosh. That was...do you wish for me to speak now, Chairman [sic]?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes, please.

MR. MCMENEMY: Okay. I’m not sure what I can say on top of the other details that were shared with you. I’m 73, I’m retired, I do a little consulting for people who have some water problems. I was the president of the association, where...up at Kula, and ended up having quite a bit of involvement with the DOH and our water systems. It’s how I learned so much about private water systems. And so, I’ve helped on the private water system for Hōkūnui. And basically, you know, I just try to help out people and stay busy for five to ten hours a week, and paddle, and just enjoy retirement. My...my last major project was the Microsoft campus in Mountain View, which I was the program manager for Microsoft. So, I’m just enjoying Maui, and I’d like to see what I could do to help with the redevelopment. It looked like a good spot to capture my interest.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MCMENEMY: It’s...you know, my wife is on the board, she’s actually chairman of the Acupuncture License Board at the State level, and she had to round up some volunteers. And volunteers are hard to find, I know, for these positions. And so, that’s why it was actually her idea, and she suggested it. And so, I’m kind of excited about it.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you so much. If you don’t mind sticking around, the Members will have an opportunity to ask you questions after testimony.

MR. MCMENEMY: Sure.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Staff, do we have anybody signed up for testimony?

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

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Please do.

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

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

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-2(25) . . .

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Oh, did I hear Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, yes.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Oh, great. Please introduce her. I can't see her on my camera. Good afternoon, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha 'auinalā kākou, mai Moloka'i Nui a Hina. I'm at the Moloka'i District Office, alone on my side of the office. There are no testifiers for this item, or any of the items. My apologies for my tardiness.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you for being with us. I'm glad you said no objections and I could hear your voice. And now I can see your face because Kasie just changed my camera view. Okay. Members, I will be implementing a three-minute questioning period, with a one-minute follow-up round, if that's okay with you folks. And if you have questions, please raise your hand, and I will call on you. I know we have questions, we always have questions. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair, and aloha, Mr. McNemeny...nee [sic] ...hmm. Sorry.

MR. MCMENEMY: It's a difficult name. No worries.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: McMenemy. Nope, can't do it.

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MR. MCMENEMY: That was it. That was it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, was it? I got it?

MR. MCMENEMY: Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, cool. Mahalo for your willingness to volunteer and contribute your expertise and background on the MRA. I think you kind of covered my attendance question. It sounds like you understand the attendance policy, and you'd likely attend all the meetings. And I think you talked about some of, like how you envision contributing to the MRA, but you're welcome to say more if you'd like. I love that you enjoy the outdoors. I also do, and long walks in the beach, and... . . .*(laughing)*. . . sorry, I couldn't help myself when I heard...when I heard Ms. Vicens saying it. Sorry. And then...so my question is... . . .*(laughing)*. . . is regarding...so, the MRA Wailuku Redevelopment, the area is...the...the law came with the whole like slum, and blight, and racism, and gentrification laws from the Federal Government, down to the State, to the Counties. And my question is about how you envision incorporating indigenous, you know, traditions, you know, if there's some thought, since you did some in California, and there's, you know, like there's indigenous peoples there as well. And so...but in Hawai'i, you know, our Hawaiian culture is very strong. And so, if you have any thoughts about how, you know, traditions may inform some of your decision-making on the board?

MR. MCMENEMY: Well, gosh, that's quite a question you asked, mostly because for me, I don't know that I'm qualified to say that I'm skilled in the Hawaiian traditions. I'm learning about them, and become more and more exposed to them, and I know it's important to honor them, but I barely understand the purpose of the MRA. As I read the Charter, I'm trying to get a handle on how they could be effective, and how they are effective, and what is on the list of things to do today, so to speak. So, I hadn't given your question any thought because I was thinking more about, you know, buildings that look like they're falling down to me. How the down...the original . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . oh, is that the three-minute bell?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Not for you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Not for you. You can continue to answer her question.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Sorry, Chair.

MR. MCMENEMY: So, I was very pleased, and I'm very impressed with the project that I think the MRA had some association which...with, which was the parking structure. And I'm terribly in love with 'Iao Theater, and historical things like

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that. So, historical preservation is one of my hobbies, and I enjoy that kind of work. I've restored some vintage homes and done things like that. But, you know, it's a learning process for...I mean, I didn't grow up with the Hawaiian culture, so I don't fully understand how to utilize it, you know, and protect it, and encourage it. But I'm sure you folks will help teach me, so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that response, Mr. McMenemy.

MR. MCMENEMY: Good job on that one.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good?

MR. MCMENEMY: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I know, his name is difficult, but --

MR. MCMENEMY: It is.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- remember Finding Nemo --

MR. MCMENEMY: Just call me...just call me Michael, works fine.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Michael. Okay, there...there we go. We can pronounce that one. Thank you. Member Paltin. I see you, Member Johnson, thank you. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Nice to meet you, Mr. McMenemy. My recollection of this Committee is that you agreed to carry a bond or something. Is...is...have you been...is that the one, and are you agreeable to that?

MR. MCMENEMY: Sure. That's not a problem.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay, great. And then, I heard you say that you're a consultant sometimes in your spare time. Do you envision the possibility of any conflict of interest? And what would be a conflict of interest that would cause you to recuse yourself from a decision?

MR. MCMENEMY: Well, if you study the parameters of the jurisdiction of the MRA, which I believe is a pretty constrained area, I don't see a --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yes.

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MR. MCMENEMY: -- I don't see a conflict necessarily.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. Like, you just wouldn't take any consulting jobs within that geographic location or something?

MR. MCMENEMY: Well, I mean, I don't look for work, but sometimes people find me. And so, I've been involved with the Hōkūnui project for Karin Frost for about four years now. And for about the last year, it's been dormant, so there's been no activity at all. And so, the potential conflict would be, I was a little bit involved in trying to give away our well to Victorino about four or five years ago. I had helped set up a meeting with Mr. Victorino because of our well. We had this enormously huge well capacity, and we can only use 10 percent of it, so we were trying to find a way to give it back to the County, the excess. But the whole thing was rejected by the Department of Water, I believe, or Public Works, so it all just died. But I mean, those are the kind of things that I try to help with. And I'm really only a facilitator, I'm not a decision-maker. You know, I can coach Karin on things, but I don't know that...I mean, she's very much into the Hawaiian culture. She has donated land to Keali'i Reichel for his hālau for no cost. And so, you know, she's very supportive, so I don't see where a conflict would come. I mean, I think I'm officially still employed as a consultant, but I doubt if I'm even going to have any hours this year. She got, you know, pretty tired of the whole thing, so she's just chilling. But I work closely with Lance Nakamura in the DSA, so I know a little bit about the mechanisms at a very high level. I mean, I haven't drilled down very much. It was during COVID a lot, so we didn't go in and meet with people. We would talk to them on the phone, that kind of thing.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then, for the...like you said, the very specific boundaries, like maybe you wouldn't...just wouldn't take any consultant requests . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . that would...oh. That's it for me. Thank you. I'll come around later maybe.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay, thank you.

MR. MCMENEMY: Happy to answer the question.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Member Sinenci, I know you had your hand up, and then I don't know if it went away, but --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah, Member Johnson had his hand up, but Member Sinenci also had his hand up before. But I can go to Member Johnson, and then, we can go to Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Nice to meet you, Mr. McMenemy...Mike. I was really fascinated with your intro about how you started a farm, and then you changed. But the fact that you have some farmer blood in you, and I’m a farmer myself--I’m the Chair of ADEPT, which is Agriculture and some other topics--but basically, I want to kind of ask you a agriculture question. So, in the MRA, you know, we don’t think of that area or that district as more of...as any kind of farming ability, but you know, there’s a movement in...across the world, really, about urban farming. You know, Detroit being an example of a community that looked at urban blight, and they turned some of their...their urban areas into farmland, small plots. And I’m curious about if you have a stance on urban farming, rooftop farming, right in central Wailuku. Very fascinating topic. I’d like to hear your opinion on it. You know, rooftop gardening with farmer’s markets right there, that really would bring people into the Wailuku MRA area. So, I’d like to hear your opinions on that.

MR. MCMENEMY: Well, to be honest with you, I don’t have an opinion yet because this is a new topic I hadn’t even considered. But I think it’s an important topic. I mean, you know, farm-to-table is a big deal nowadays, and has been for probably 10 or 15 years across the nation. I’ve had a little exposure. State of New York is big on that, and it’s becoming a real thing, and I think it should be developed. Leadership organization is always a challenge with these kind of little movements that can gain momentum. But there’s absolutely no reason not to support anything like that ever because it’s essential to our life. That’s how I would look at it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well said. Well, that was my only question for you, Mike. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Of course. Thank you, Member Johnson. Member Sinenci, did you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. A question for you. Just remind me that the MRA is specific to Wailuku Town?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. And then, Mr. McMenemy, I understand that several buildings in Wailuku is owned by the Center of Performing Arts --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: MAPA.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- so I'm not sure if they've, you know, talked about developing those...several of their buildings to expand the arts. Do you have any experience, or I guess, maybe working with, with these guys?

MR. MCMENEMY: No, I have none in that sense. What I do have about that topic is for about four or five years, my granddaughters participated in the plays that were held at the Īao Theater every summer. And it exposed me to the importance of the arts, especially for kids, to keep them motivated and interested. And our granddaughters, who--you know, they were seven, eight, nine, ten--would come here in the summertime, and stay with us, and do that. And I thought the Īao Theater and the other theater that--I think it's under construction now, it looks like to me--I thought they were wonderful opportunities to develop a cultural presence in Wailuku. And I found that I was pretty excited about that, and this makes total sense. It fits...it's a perfect fit. So...but I haven't met anybody who is the...any leaders in that side of the...of the work of creating these art centers. But I would certainly help and support whatever was necessary.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. And then as the Council, we've been hearing of future housing projects out in the Waiehu side. There's a future project for Coach up in...on the other side of Wailuku. So, I know Wailuku is one of those smaller towns with small roads and sidewalks with telephone poles in them. So, how do you see, as far just general routes --

MR. MCMENEMY: Looking at routes? Yeah..

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- routes for evacuation, those types of things?

MR. MCMENEMY: You know, infrastructure is the essence of civilization growing, and you have to have strong infrastructure. And so...which includes roads, and utilities, and water, and everything else. And Maui has suffered from not having a justification for the investment for the infrastructure that's needed here. And so, there's a lot of things that still need to be done to...and I think developers should be stuck with the cost of any infrastructure improvement for the community. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I mean, that's...that's how it works.

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

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes. Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. McMenemy, for being here. I was really curious. You know, Ms. Vicens mentioned that you were a project manager on the Island of O'ahu for...since...from '71 to '81, and then you moved her in 214 [sic] to actually reside here. So, my question is really one of

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curiosity. What was it...what was it that touched your heart to be able to have you work on O'ahu for ten years, and decide to move to Maui and make Maui your home?

MR. MCMENEMY: Well, it was a little different than that. I was a young man wanting to explore the world, and discovered O'ahu and was totally fascinated and thrilled, and spent ten years there. And at the end of that ten-year period, which I had participated in a lot of projects--I worked for the company who did a couple of...did Hawai'i Loa Ridge, and we built roads and things like that--but around 1980, the economy was suffering quite a bit on O'ahu, and so I had an opportunity to go work on the Budweiser breweries in Van Nuys. They had called me and asked me if I would go there for six months and do that. And so, that just led to other work in the mainland, and I just didn't come back for quite a while. We built a business in Palo Alto, and my wife and I, and...but it was her dream to come back and live here. And so that...you know, we decided to do that. And so, she...she's opened her practice here. It's her third practice, she had two practices in California. She studied in China for nine years, and in the summertime, she would go there and work in the hospitals. And so, she has a very deep passion. We just found out, her grandparents were actually Portuguese, and they were here at the turn of the century on O'ahu doing farm work. So, you know, she feels she has roots here. And so, it's the right place for us to retire, and we believe in giving back to the community what we can. And we're both in our 70's now, and you know, we're pretty stable and, you know, want to stay busy, stay active.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Well, welcome to Maui, Michael. And tell your wife, welcome home. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Kama. Does anybody else have any questions? I have a few, but I'll let you guys go first. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. McMenemy. So, have you had much interaction with the Planning Department or the other departments--Public Works, Water...Department of Water Supply?

MR. MCMENEMY: Limited. My experience with them is based on trying to resolve conditions compliance for Hōkūnui. There were 27 conditions, and so I would end up chasing the details of the conditions to try to get them resolved. And Lance Nakamura is who I was working with originally, and Stacy Otomo was our engineer. And there were...there's still lots of problems that are unresolved. And so, that's why the project is kind of stalled. And so, there's not much for us to do while that's...while she's trying to make her final decisions about what her...what she wants to do. Did I answer your question, or did I not --

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, you answered. It does, because it basically...my...the intent of my question was if you were familiar with dealing with the various departments, and the layers, and --

MR. MCMENEMY: Well, I would say....

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- and the...the complexity of compliance, and --

MR. MCMENEMY: I...I did find it very interesting, how some of the departments to work with are very helpful, and some are not so helpful.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Some are less than helpful?

MR. MCMENEMY: Yes. And...and that's an interesting...I mean, I worked with the DSA mostly, and that was kind of an interesting process. You know, the whole development notion is always a challenge of slowing down development and meeting the needs of the people that live here. And it's not an easy thing to resolve, to find that balance. I'm hoping the MRA doesn't step into that arena too much, but...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Anyway, thank you for answering the question. I think that hopefully you'll be an asset to the MRA and its ability to be effective and uniting. So, that's my questions. Thank you, Chair.

MR. MCMENEMY: I'll do my best.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Cook. Does anybody else have any questions? Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I think it's exciting that you just mentioned Hōkūao [sic] because probably from a very far distance, we have seen the magic that has been extended to, especially Keali'i Reichel, and through that. So, thank you...your family. I wonder if some of that...in terms of understanding how to build communities because I think that's what you're talking about?

MR. MCMENEMY: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: By doing that for Keali'i and, you know, his hālau, and the many, many families. But I wonder if you can say anything that you can contribute towards maybe doing some of that in Wailuku in this Maui Redevelopment District area?

MR. MCMENEMY: Well, let me clarify one point that you said that's a little bit incorrect. So, I work as a consultant for Karin Frost, who was the owner of that property.

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I'm not part of the family. But after four years, you sort of become part of the family, I suppose. But I just know that Karin has always been very interested in the Hawaiian culture. And so, I had intended if...to...if it's not in conflict, to ask her if she has any thoughts or ideas about how to participate. And I think she'll do...she would help wherever we ask her to help, you know. She still has considerable means, and she's, you know, connected to other people. So, I don't know. You know, all things happen through conversation. And so, I don't really know enough to answer the question intelligently yet, but I certainly will learn it.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Exciting. Okay, we'll look forward to...I support you, and welcome. The MRA and this project area is very dear to my heart because this is the town I grew up in, so I've been watching this slowly transform to what it is today. But it's, you know, in government, as you know, we do things very slowly and deliberately, so I look forward to what you can contribute to possibly helping Wailuku Town or this MRA area, the 63 acres. Help it continue to transform to what it looks like to me, which is an art district. And whatever the economic development components could be, I'm excited for that too. So, thank you very much for joining the MRA. Thank you.

MR. MCMENEMY: You're very welcome. And by the way, it's people like you folks that I need to talk to, to understand the history of the town. It's kind of a sleepy little town at some level, but there's a lot to Wailuku. We really like Wailuku a lot. Wouldn't live anywhere else.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Great. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Sugimura. Does anybody else have any questions?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Chair, is it okay if I go after you because I had my first round?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sure. Sure, sure, sure. I do have a few questions, Mr. McMenemy. Are you familiar with some of the historic district zoning requirements in Wailuku?

MR. MCMENEMY: No. Obviously, from my delayed answer, the answer has to be no. I don't know that yet. Are there...are there...I assume that the entire area of downtown would be a historic district, so I don't know how far out --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Now, there's portions of Wailuku that's Historic District 2, and like Lahaina was the only one that had Historic District 1.

MR. MCMENEMY: Oh.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Wailuku is Historic District 2, and the MRA is responsible for ensuring that the vernacular of the town remains consistent.

MR. MCMENEMY: Is it?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: So, you folks are reviewing...yeah. You folks will be reviewing permits when people want to redo some of the buildings in that area. For instance, the Black Box Theater, the MAPA Theater--that’s actually next to my old office--I helped permit. And I had to go in front of the MRA, and we had to justify our reasoning for what the outside of the building looks like, and ensure that everything is in compliance. So, I suggest you maybe talk to Yuki or somebody else with some history of what the buildings look like in Wailuku, and why they look like the way they look like, and then do some research on pre-contact because that’s important, obviously, and always as we discuss what’s there now. And I think, interestingly enough, this building used to...this land that we’re on used to be very fertile back in the day, now it’s a big building. But please make yourself aware of historic district buildings, historic district zoning, and what Wailuku was, and what Wailuku is.

MR. MCMENEMY: Does the County have any websites to describe and map out those hist...

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes.

MR. MCMENEMY: So, I would look up historic districts?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes. There’s...you can look up the community plan for Wailuku, and it’ll show you the boundaries of the historic district area where MRA and the 63 acres that Member Sugimura just mentioned begins and ends.

MR. MCMENEMY: Well, I did study that map, but I didn’t realize that was referring to...that that was a historic district we were essentially looking at.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum. Um-hum.

MR. MCMENEMY: And is it limited to the 63 acres that was mentioned, the historic district for Wailuku?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: In...in Wailuku, anyway, but --

MR. MCMENEMY: Oh, okay. Okay.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: -- we have other historic district areas, like Pā‘ia and Makawao. And each have their own vernacular that they must adhere to the...the new --

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MR. MCMENEMY: Well, my...my little hobby is looking at old photographs, and I was hoping there would be photographs of downtown Wailuku from --

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: There is. There’s little, tiny books that you can find that have all the historic district towns...Pā‘ia, Makawao, Pu‘unēnē.

MR. MCMENEMY: Oh, I have...I have all those.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, great. Yes.

MR. MCMENEMY: But those...those . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . don’t show me what I’m looking for, which is more detail about the individual buildings and their histories. It’ll touch on it in a global, more wide-angle photograph. But I was wondering if there could...I was...I was thinking about going to the museum to see what they have.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Bailey House, yeah.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Bailey House, maybe. Yeah, that might be important.

MR. MCMENEMY: So, yeah. I mean, that’s kind of my personal interest is that direction.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Oh. Well, as long as you understand what you’re going to have to do, and you’re willing to do it, I think that’s wonderful. Thank you.

MR. MCMENEMY: Well, I’m starting to understand. . . *(laughing)* . . . This is all...even the vocabulary is somewhat new to me. So. you know, but I’m sure that everybody will be happy to help teach me.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes. Don’t worry. Every day, we have something new to learn. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. And that’s a perfect lead-in to my question. I was going to a little bit talk about historic districts too, kind of looking for West Maui. You know, Lahaina Historic District 1 and 2 is in Lahaina. I think if you want to look more Maui County Code, Section 19.48 through 19.52 talks about the historic districts. I think there’s some design guidelines and things like that that need to be adhered to, and we’re working our way through that. But there’s...you know, some people think that it’s an added layer to develop, but what I...what I wanted to understand from you is your understanding of iwi kūpuna in the debris removal of Historic District 1 and 2, National Historic Landmark District. A lot of intact pre-contact remains, my understanding, has been coming up. And also,

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in the construction of the parking garage, there was uncovering of remains. And I was wondering as to how you approach...what is your approach and knowledge of iwi kūpuna? It's a fairly big issue that we all struggle with on the correct way to move forward.

MR. MCMENEMY: The only experience I have with that topic is that I worked with SHPD this...at the State level. We had a burial ground at the corner of Hōkūnui, and we had an ancient wall over by where Keali'i's halau is. And those two things, I worked with the folks at the State level to bring that...took us a year, but we brought it into compliance. And there was a bridle trail that went through the property, which we had to preserve. So, other than that, I have no experience with historic districts, but I find it interesting.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Well, it's...I mean, I'm glad that you've at least encountered and dealt with SHPD a little bit, but how is your like Member U'u-Hodgins, our Chair U'u-Hodgins had said, how is your...you seem like you can do research, right?

MR. MCMENEMY: Oh, yeah. Sure.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. So, it's kind of like, I guess we're giving you a big assignment, and I just...there...there's a lot to this in that, you know, we...we...I really...I guess the main thing is, we don't want to see desecration . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and --

MR. MCMENEMY: Oh, of course.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- and we want to see preservation. Thank you.

MR. MCMENEMY: Well, you're...you're...the subject you're raising is how to...how to keep raising awareness of the importance of that. And I don't have the answer to that, but I'm...I mean, you know, if somebody has...what I always have done is find answers for people. And so, if that's part of the assignment, then, yes. Then I'll get the answers and I'll educate myself on that topic.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: And just to let you know, we have some added issues in that I think both of our County archeologists under SHPD have left, so...we used to have two, and their names were Andrew McAllister and 'Iolani Kauhane, and we don't have any right now. So, that just adds to the level...level of difficulty. But I did want to let you know that we do have a resource at the County level. Thanks to Member Sinenci, Dr. Janet Six is a County Archeologist, and feel free to always request her assistance.

MR. MCMENEMY: Even an initial meeting with that individual would be helpful. Okay. That's...I can take care of that.

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Paltin. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, you had questions? Sorry, I know your hand was raised earlier.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It was. Mahalo, Chair, I wasn't sure if you saw my hand earlier. So, my question--oh, okay. Was it--I forgot. It was one of the three, which is have you ever attended the board or commission meeting that you're...you've applied for? So, for this instance, it's the MRA.

MR. MCMENEMY: No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or...okay. Or review the meeting minutes, or familiarize...familiarize yourself with it?

MR. MCMENEMY: Cory...Cory sent me all the previous documentation, which I have read.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great.

MR. MCMENEMY: So, I'm familiar with that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's fine. Okay, awesome. And then, I...as the Committee Chair and previous Councilmember stated before me--oh, why is everyone laughing?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Member Sinenci just did this, but I don't know why he was like --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Sorry.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: That's a weird lag. So easily distracted, sorry, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I wanted to know the joke. And so, I just wanted to...I know, like the historic district, and it was said earlier, but their...their...Wailuku existed before buildings and streets were put there. So, just that reminder, you know, when considering that what it is today, and what it was during the plantation era when the buildings were erected and the streets were laid, you know, and the culture that was there that, you know, there were some attempts at erasure. And while it is an art district, the art should consist of, you know, the indigenous people, so the Native Hawaiian culture. And then, you know, the art also includes the cultures of the people who have made this their home as well. And, you know, that...that is, like, a beautiful symbol of Hawai'i, and how like most of us are a mix of all the cultures of our history. But

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it's just really important that the Hawaiian culture isn't just buried and forgotten about.

MR. MCMENEMY: Is there a...is there a...can I ask if there's a budget for Hawaiian...well, for Public Works? For...for art? Because I feel that there's not enough of that...of what you're describing in Wailuku. It sort of looks like an old, tired town. And I was so happy to see the art that's in the structure because I thought it was extraordinarily nice. I thought it was done well. It's...you know, it's not over the top, but it's perfect. I think it's a really great project that you folks have...everybody's participated in some level.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I believe the budget for the art is under the Department of Management. Ms. Erin Wade was spearheading a lot of that work.

MR. MCMENEMY: You know, when I drive into Wailuku, I look at this vintage town that . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . is so sweet and cute, but then at least 50 percent of the things that catch your eye are old and worn out. And I was so happy to see that they finally painted the bridge, which creates a symbolic entrance into the town. And it seems like there should be an art committee who's working on how to demonstrate the art that you're talking about, and then build a budget for that. That's the kind of thing we could get other developers and people like Karin to participate in.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There...there is. There's a committee on the budget.

MR. MCMENEMY: Oh, there is? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But I support more funding.

MR. MCMENEMY: Well, you know, I apologize for my ignorance. I'm new to this...to this circle of people and interest. So...but I'm usually a quick learner, so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. McEnemy...McMenemy. Chair. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. When it time...when it comes time to increase that budget, I will have to recuse myself because I'm actually on that board. But go ahead, Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, speaking of iwi kūpuna, in the...when you take your tour around town and look at the municipal parking structure, if you look on the first ground...ground floor, there are two kind of like planter-looking and

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there's a sign that says this...this is where the iwi kūpuna are...were placed that were found in Wailuku Town for the--was it 200 acres?...whatever it was for...to build the municipal parking structure. So, that's of interest. And I think the...I was talking to Daryl Fujiwara, who's doing the First Friday celebrations, and he wanted to bring the families back and do something to honor them. So, that might be something of interest. But there is a MRA book that you can look at. The Redevelopment Authority [sic] has a book, and in the very front, it has a history of Wailuku Town, and then it goes into different projects. But that book needs to be updated by the MRA because I think it went through and did all of the checklists in the redevelopment effort.

MR. MCMENEMY: But I did print that and read that, by the way.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah...oh.

MR. MCMENEMY: And...and it does need more. It does need updating.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. It...it completed a lot of the to-do projects...or the wishful projects.

MR. MCMENEMY: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Anyway, thank you. I support you. And maybe...is it time for the vote?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Actually, we will be voting on Friday.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: But yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you for this.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Does anybody else --

MR. MCMENEMY: You mean I have to stay...stay in suspense all this time? No, I'm teasing.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: It is October, and suspense is the theme for Halloween, so...

MR. MCMENEMY: Yep. Okay.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes. Unless anybody has any other questions, our deadline to approve or disapprove the nomination is October 27th, 2024. So, this resolution

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is posted on Friday's Council meeting agenda for the body's consideration. This was just our opportunity to get to know Mr. McMenemy, and clearly mispronounce his name several times, as he is so generous in allowing us to call him Michael. But that said, Members, if we have no objections, I will now defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes, Member --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair? I have a question.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, this is for Mr. McMenemy.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: If we wanted to contact you, how would we do that?

MR. MCMENEMY: Oh, you can just call me on my cell, or send me a text or an email.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. So, we don't have...we don't have either your contact number or...yeah, I didn't see that anywhere.

MR. MCMENEMY: Oh. Well, I'll...I'll --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Cory said she will send it to you, Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Thank you, Cory.

MR. MCMENEMY: Oh, good. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Mr. McMenemy.

MS. VICENS: Thank you...thank you, Members.

MR. MCMENEMY: Call...contact me anytime.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you so much, Mr. McMenemy. It’s nice to meet you.

MS. VICENS: Is there anyone else who wants to be on that email?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: You can send it to the Committee, and then we can send it out.

MS. VICENS: Perfect.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. VICENS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Cory.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Cory. Aloha, Mr. McMenemy. All right, gangy, moving on. Oh, I deferred that item when I got no objections. Then, Member Kama wants to contact him.

**GREAT-23 RESOLUTION 24-58, RELATING TO REAPPOINTING THE COUNTY
CLERK AND DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK**

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. We have before us, if we continue on, Resolution 24-58, entitled “REAPPOINTING THE COUNTY CLERK AND DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK.” Resolution 24-58’s purpose is to reappoint Moana M. Lutey as the County Clerk, and Richelle M. Thomson as the Deputy County Clerk of the County of Maui under Section 5-2 of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui, 1983, as amended. The reappointments would be effective upon adoption of the resolution for a term ending six years thereafter, unless terminated earlier. At this time, I’m going to request opening comments from County Clerk Moana Lutey and Deputy County Clerk Richelle Thomson. Are they on?

MS. LUTEY: Hi, everybody. We’re in the office, and you can see that I’m wearing my election attire.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yay.

MS. LUTEY: And we came up from the voter service center, where it’s been incredibly busy, to make sure that we could attend today’s meeting and talk to you about some of the information that we have for elections. And that’s sort of what we’re really deep into right now.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Please do, unless you want to discuss anything else, I can move on.

MS. LUTEY: I can tell you that we have...right now, we have about 12,000 ballots. And at the service center, we have about 100 people that have already walked in. And in the primary, the entire primary, our total walk-in was 552. So, we’re going to be exceeding all of that. So, we’ve been down there answering phone calls and getting people voted.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, County Clerk. Deputy County Clerk Thomson, is there anything you’d like to add? *(pause)* Oh, your mic. Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Can’t hear you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We still can’t hear you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: That’s what Chair Lee always says.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Shucks. Like, we see that your microphone thing looks like it’s unmuted from our end, and we still can’t hear you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Deputy Clerk, you may need to click on the arrow next to mic, and then select where your microphone input is coming from.

MS. THOMSON: Ah, yeah. I think that did the trick.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Ah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Beautiful, we can hear you now.

MS. THOMSON: Okay. Great. My apologies. And thank you to the Staff that have worked for Kasie too, and know how to...all this operates, and bail us out when we need it. I wanted to, just in addition to...obviously we’re all geared up for the election and helping the voters, you know, do their business either down at the voter service center or processing the ballots. And Moana and I are both extremely hands-on. We really think that that is the way to run this office, is to jump right in and mix it up, you know? One of the things, you know, we wanted to just talk about...obviously with the election, a couple of things that we’re very proud of. We’ve got excellent relationships with all the other County Clerks and the State Office of Elections. That was one of the first things that we did when we took this office more than a year...say, a year and ten months ago is, you know, reach out to our counterparts and really establish, you know, first-name

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basis; cell phone, you know, exchanges, you know, with, with those offices. A couple of things that you all know already though, we reconfigured the Clerk's Office to...in great part, it was to make sure that our staff is secure and safe. And you've been hearing about election security concerns in the news. We wanted to do what we could in advance to make sure that our office staff are safe, and also provide very ready access to the public. So, we have the voter service windows, and then, if we also need to bring anybody, usually for legislative business, into the office, we can buzz them in. We can see who they are on camera and buzz them in. So, we're very proud of those physical changes to the office. I won't go into like all of this other stuff I was...I was going to talk about. A couple of the highlights on the legislative side though. We completed an update--as you know, because it's gone through Committee and is at Council on Friday--an update to the County Charter. So, we...these are an advance sneak peek. We have...my camera is a little bit fuzzy there, but we have the English version and also 'ōlelo Hawai'i ready to go. We are awaiting...the only bit of information that needs to be added is the ordinance number, which we hope to get on Friday. So, look for those. We'll publish them immediately upon approval of...by Council. And then, of course, pending the outcome of the Charter Amendments, the three Charter Amendments that are on the ballot, we will update those both in the English and then translated into 'ōlelo Hawai'i and get that published, both in hard copy and online, as soon as we can. So, let's see. The communications log, I think not...you know, we get asked infrequently, but the communications log was something that we did establish right away, you know, at the request of Council, so that any County Communications or General Communications will go onto the log, and they're accessible both by Councilmembers and their Staff, OCS, as well as the general public. So, those are immediately available upon receipt. That's in addition, of course, to the bills and resolutions and that log...those two logs that are available and searchable on the Council's web page. We've also--and this is near and dear to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez's heart--the electronic records management system. So, we have made progress on that. We are not as far along as we would have hoped. And I think former OCS and now Housing Director Remi Mitchell can speak to some of the complexities of the project. But basically, we're working with a State vendor, and there's a multi-level of approval process, once you get your parameters in place, for what your electronics record management system would look like. So, we are working on that. It's not on the back burner, but it is a slow simmer. But we anticipate it's going to be really terrific once it's done, and so we'll keep you updated on that. If you folks would bear with me for just maybe about three--not even three minutes--just a very quick peek at our brand new...it's mauicountyvotes.gov website. We've had it up for several months, but obviously we've been working on it, and huge shout out to Dell Yoshida and Lauren Saldana for their work on the web page...website. But if I could, I'll just share screen really briefly, and just give you a very quick peek at some of the fun...fun stuff. But I'm hoping that you will all make good use of it, and if any of your constituents have questions on

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voting, there's quite a bit of answers there. So, let me just share...share my screen here. And so, this is the...our home page. It's the Office of the County Clerk and the Office of Elections web page. So, a bunch of tabs here that are fairly self-explanatory. Under the voting tab, we have the ballot packet page. So, you know, tells the voters you can sign up for ballot tracking, which the County of Maui is the only County in Hawai'i that opted in. So, what that means is that every voter with an email address on file, they have...we've opted them in to receive messages from BallotTrax, which means they'll be notified when their ballot was issued and mailed, when it was received back from us, and when it was cleared for processing. They will get an email confirming that their ballot has been processed all the way through, and they'll get a sticker that they can download. So, it'll make them feel happy that they...it's funny how many people ask for the stickers. But we also have information on how to vote, you know, the things to watch out for, all the deadlines, and a ballot replacement request. So, if somebody makes a mistake on their ballot, they can come here. And it's a fillable form that they can submit online to request a replacement ballot. So, kind of scrolling back up, you can go through the candidates and the sample ballot. So, you just put in your address, and it'll pull up your ballot. That's...people have already obviously received their ballots in the mail, so they don't need to use that right now, but it was...it was very handy for people who would call in and just say this a voter guide...we have a statewide digital...digital voter guide, but it's a very large document, so it's hard to kind of weed through the information, so that was helpful for a lot of voters. We also have the proposed Hawai'i Constitutional Amendments and the County Charter Amendments online, including Corp. Counsel's "What does your vote mean?" What does a yes vote mean, what does a no vote mean on the Charter questions. As well as a voter service center and drop box list. So, we have Velma McWayne Santos Community Center in Wailuku opened this morning at 8:00, and so we're happy to be down there. Like Moana said, we've had about 100 people actually walk in, which is excellent. We expect those numbers to probably remain steady and increase over time. So, if you have anybody asking or inquiring about additional help, or they want to go vote in person, tell them to go early, please go early. The voter service center in Lahaina opens...Lahaina, Moloka'i, and Lāna'i all open on October 31st. They're open every day except Sunday from 8:00 to 4:30, and then on Election day, all the voter service centers are going to be open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. And any voter in line at 7 p.m. is allowed to vote. So, we are looking forward to a successful and very busy election. So, that's what I wanted to...I just wanted to highlight our web page because I think it's just so cool. And thank you for your time.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Deputy County Clerk Thomson, that was a very nice website. If you guys are done, then I will move on to testimony. Staff, do we have any testifiers?

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MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair. The first individual signed up to testify is Joann Joan, to be followed by Peter Hanano.

MS. JOAN: Hi, my name is Joann, and I'm a Senior Election Clerk in the Clerk's Office. Been there nine years, this is my fifth election, and Moana is my fourth County Clerk. So, I'm here to ask you to keep Moana and Richelle in the Clerk's Office. Since they've been...they came in less than two years ago, they literally moved our Clerk's Office forward. They made changes for our safety, which I really appreciate. They also made changes regarding the elections. You know, Maui County was never the first county to submit their results...their election results. This past primary, we were the first one in the whole State --

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yay.

MS. JOAN: -- to...to submit our results. And it was because of their leadership and their changes that they made in the Elections Office. They also always have their door open. I can walk...and I've walked in your office, you know, and gave them a problem. They don't just listen to you, they literally take your problem, and they deal with it. And you walk out of there, you don't have that problem. You know, that's the kind of leadership they are. Another thing that they do is they don't just learn the jobs that you do, they literally...like Richelle said, they're hands-on. You go down to the voter service center, you going to see them registering people. They're the ones that learned how to register people just like us. They're right next to us, registering people, they're greeting people. These two are amazing as Clerk and Deputy. If this County wants the Clerk's Office to continue to move forward, you need to keep them two in this office, you know. And that's all I have to say, you know. So, I hope you guys really, really consider what I'm saying because I would never come up and testify for anybody. So, this is really...you know, you've all seen me, you see me every two years, I know all of you, and you all know I never was up here. So, they have to be very special to get me up here. Okay. So, that's all I have to say.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you so much for your testimony. But before you go, Members, any clarifying questions? Seeing none. Thank you so much for being with us today. We appreciate your testimony. Next testifier, please?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Peter Hanano.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aloha.

MR. HANANO: Aloha, and good afternoon, Chair U'u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair Paltin, and fellow Members of the Council. My name is Peter Hanano, and I'm here to provide testimony in support of Resolution 24-58. Some of you may know me in my previous life as an attorney for the County of Maui. In total, I have spent nearly

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27 years working as a Deputy Prosecutor and Deputy Corporation Counsel for the County of Maui. I'm currently working as an election clerk under Moana and Richelle, and have previously worked under them while at the Department of Corporation Counsel. Today I'm here to testify in my own personal capacity in support of both Moana and Richelle. This upcoming election on November 5th is arguably one of the most significant elections in modern-day history. In the recent past, we have witnessed repeated attacks by individuals attempting to undermine the core principles of our democratic process. January 6th will undoubtedly go down as one of the darkest times in our nation's history. The County Clerk is the gatekeeper of our democracy in the County of Maui. The County Clerk is responsible...*(clears throat)*...I'm sorry...is responsible for ensuring that the people not only are able to exercise their right to vote, but also assuring voters that their ballot will be safeguarded and secure. In the past three and a half months that I've been working as an election clerk, I have witnessed Moana and Richelle do exactly that. As you have heard from Ms. Joan, both Moana and Richelle, without hesitation, put themselves on the front lines at the voter service centers. Additionally, with their leadership and direction, the ballots in the primary election were successfully processed efficiently and securely. As Ms. Joan has stated, Maui County was the first in the State to report the results in the primary election. This is a testament to the outstanding leadership of both Moana and Richelle. What we also need in a County Clerk is someone who will respect and uphold both the United States and State of Hawai'i Constitutions. My personal prediction is that we will see an onslaught of legal challenges to the election processes across the nation. What we will need are people who will put democracy first before their own personal interests. People who have the courage to confront attacks on our democracy. People like President Joe Biden, former Vice-President Mike Pence, and Georgia Governor Brian Kemp. Both Moana and Richelle are these people...people who are fierce defenders of the United States . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . and State of Hawai'i Constitutions. As attorneys, we take an oath to protect and defend both constitutions. While the position of the County Clerk does not legally require one to be an attorney, having both a County Clerk and Deputy County Clerk with legal backgrounds will tremendously help the County navigate through the complex legal maze relating to elections and other legal matters. In closing, I would respectfully urge Council to adopt Resolution 24-58 and reappoint Moana Lutey as County Clerk and Richelle Thomson as Deputy County Clerk. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you very much. Members, any clarifying questions? Seeing none. Thank you so much for your testimony.

MR. HANANO: Thank you.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Staff, next testifier, please?

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

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Did you want to testify? Okay, come. Perfect timing.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair. Sorry, I’m a little out of breath, running here. My name is Josiah Nishita, I’m Managing Director with the County of Maui. I’m here today just testifying on my...in my own personal capacity. Just like to express my support for Moana and Richelle. I’ve had the pleasure to work with them for many years. Just as a former County Clerk and Deputy County Clerk, I know a lot of the, you know, things that they have to deal with. I’m always willing to assist them. They’ve called me many times, and it shows part of their leadership to just being willing to, you know, reach out and ask for assistance when needed. I won’t hold it against Joann. She’s always told me I’m her favorite boss. I won’t hold it against her...too much, anyway. But I know that it’s so important, and it’s where I first learned to become a department head as Deputy County Clerk. Feels like many, many years ago. And so, the office itself holds such a special place for myself. And it...everyone there truly feels like family to me, and you know, there’s nothing more important to me than making sure that there’s good leadership in place to take care of the great people who work for that office and to help make, you know, not just our elections, but a lot of other things within the Council and the County run smoothly. And so, I’d just like to express my appreciation. And if they ever need assistance, I’ll be glad to help. Happy to answer any questions, but just wanted to express my appreciation for their service as well. Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Mr. Nishita. Since you’re not here in your official capacity, we get to call you Mr. Nishita. Member Rawlins-Fernandez has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Nishita, for your testimony. For clarification, when you were a clerk did you give us an opportunity to take up a resolution to reappoint you as Clerk?

MR. NISHITA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So...

MR. NISHITA: I did go through...I did go through multiple Deputy County Clerk reappointments, and then as appointment as County Clerk, and then, of course, as Managing Director. But that’s why I won’t hold it against Joann.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That is exactly why I was asking. You didn't give her the opportunity to testify for you.

MR. NISHITA: I know that's what she's thinking as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Nishita. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Of course, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Chair Lee, did you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I changed my mind. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. She changed her mind. Anybody else have any questions before I move on? Seeing none. Thank you so much.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thanks for running by.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: But you're staying though? We have you guys next on the agenda. Okay. Sounds good.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: He'll be in the building.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Next testifier, please?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, I see an individual walking towards the podium.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LAW: Jasee Law. I have no problem with Resolution 24-58, and special thanks to the entire Legislative Staff. They are on the front lines with the war with the United States.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Do we have any other testifiers signed up?

MS. MACDONALD: No, we do not, Chair. Would you like me to do a last call?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Please do.

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

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Members. Seeing there are no individuals wishing to testify, without objection, I will now close oral testimony for this item, GREAT-23.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-23 . . .

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. And as a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. Before we go into our discussion period though, Members, I’d like to point out a memo from Corp. Counsel dated March 2nd, 2023, which is up on Granicus as item number 2, and it describes reappointment procedures with an existing officer. Starting at the bottom of page 1, the Members...the memo states that the County Clerk may be reappointed by the Council for a subsequent six-year term without the involvement of the INB. The memo concludes that the Charter is intended to provide for reappointment without the INB review. We are considering reappointment of the Clerk and Deputy County Clerk with that reso...with this reso rather, and if you have any more questions, I’m happy to further go deep into that item. But for now, we can use our opportunity to talk stories with Clerk and Deputy County Clerk. So, Members, if you have any questions, please raise your hand, and we will get them answered. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Sorry, Chair. This is kind of unrelated, but on the Committee, Granicus, the third item is an email testimony from the Kaua‘i County Clerk, and it’s posted and accepted. And, you know, the agenda says that. So, is that like the procedure? Because I just got a complaint from a constituent that the HLU Committee wouldn’t accept their email testimony.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Kasie?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: So, we do recommend testimony through eComment, but if an individual is having trouble submitting testimony that way, we do accept an email. What they might be referring to is that we have an automatic response. So, if someone sends an email to the Committee, they get an automatic reply asking them to submit their testimony via eComment, but we’ll still process it through email if needed.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for clearing that up. I’ll...I’ll let you guys get back to the subject matter.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: No, thank you for asking. Members, any...oh, Member Johnson, I see your hand. Go ahead.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I...of course, I appreciate the Clerks for coming to us in the middle of the elections, I know you guys are really busy. But that's part of the question I have. You know, this is a six-year tenure, and that means at least three more elections, right? So, is there any plans to change the current location of where you store the ballots? Because we...I would really hope we could get back into the Chambers. We don't...we can't get in the Chambers, it kind of...you know, we're all...we're all over the place. It kind of slows down our process. So, can you guys speak on any future plans on where you would...you know, when we could get our Chambers back in the upcoming elections?

MS. LUTEY: So, thank you, Member Johnson, for the question. I think this is a hot topic. And so, at our last meeting, Pro Tem Kama had brought up whether we would be able to obtain another building in order for us to just have the storage ability, be able to run elections out of it, and so forth. I'm not quite sure on the timing of that with the wildfires, and the recovery, and so forth, but we're certainly open to looking for locations so that we're not inconveniencing the Council. But currently, that's really our only option.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you think it would be better if we, as a Council started, you know, getting in on this? I assume it would be the Clerk's kuleana, but if you need us to work with the Mayor to purchase a place--is that what you suggest, is that we need to purchase a new place?

MS. LUTEY: Thank you for the question. I'm not sure, you know, what the County has in terms of its property and so forth. We can speak to Guy Hironaka, but--after the elections are done--to see if he could recommend an area. But because elections need to be ADA-accessible, we would need to have something that would be ground floor, and that's why...or have an elevator, if it's on a different floor, which...you know, when we've got the volume that we're getting today would be really difficult. But, you know, it's something that we're happy to discuss with the Council. I'm not sure what the best route would be, but my thought is if we started with Guy in figuring out if there's a County property that might work for us, that that would be our best solution for now.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I know we can't answer right now, but I wonder what the Hawai'i Tel building is going on with that. So...okay. Thank you so much for the response. Thank you, Chair. No further questions.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Johnson. Members, does any...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have a question.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. I’m going to go Member Sinenci, then I’ll go to you, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. I just had a question for the Hāna Voting Center. Is that just going to be open on Saturday, October 26th? No other time but that Saturday, yeah?

MS. LUTEY: Yep. Thank you for the question, Member Sinenci. Yes, we’re doing a pop-up only on October 26th from 10:00 in the morning until 3:00 in the afternoon. And I’ll just...I’ll tell you that at the primary, I think we had three or four Hāna voters, so we’re hoping that we’ll have a bigger turnout because, you know, to the extent possible, we want to make sure that we’re in all of our communities to assist voters who need help, or want to register and vote. But, you know, at the moment, it’ll only be on that one day.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

MS. LUTEY: But we also have a drop box out there. So --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: At the fire station?

MS. LUTEY: -- at the Hāna fire station, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

MS. LUTEY: You’re welcome.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. This is for either...I guess for Ms. Lutey. What is...do you know what Kaua‘i or the Big Island does for their elections, how they manage their...the security, storage, access issues that we need to address? I’m just curious, if we have any other examples?

MS. LUTEY: I’m not sure on Kaua‘i specifically. I know on the Big Island that they do have a facility. I, unfortunately, didn’t make it the last time they invited us over. But on O‘ahu, they use Honolulu Hale, so there’s some displacement there, I’m sure, as well. It’s just...the issue, I think, for all of the counties is just making sure that it is ADA-compliant, and has sufficient parking, and so forth. So, that’s sort of what we’ve been grappling with in terms of finding locations to...you know, that might work for us in the future.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Is part of the problem also that it's not...like election time, for a period of like four months, it's very intense. And the rest of the time, the size and the use of the facility wouldn't necessarily be used efficiently?'

MS. LUTEY: Yeah. Thank you for that question, Member Cook. Yes. So, we have a lot that gets stored right now. The State has been gracious enough to allow us to store at one of their facilities near the airport. That won't last forever. Finding storage is difficult, and it's expensive. But as you've mentioned, you know, we have Public Works come out and help us haul all of our equipment to the voter service center. And then, when we're done, we haul it back. So, if we could find a place where we could keep all of these, you know, things that we need in one location, that would be fantastic. But as you've noted, we vote every...you know, every two years, so in the meantime, we're primarily legislative and computer work for our election staff. And, you know, our thought would be that if we had an area...like the voting area, that people could use it as conference rooms because I know the County is very short on finding conference rooms.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Cook. Does anybody else have any questions? Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I think I want to dovetail off of the conversation about the space. I think...I remember the Clerk's Office having a warehouse, and then at some point we were renting that space, and then we lost that space. I remember that being a big deal. I think that was, what?...Maybe three years ago? Sorry, I'll mute that. And then I think part of like us, you know, losing access to the 8th Floor, and it...its...we transitioned to vote by mail, and so it's just a longer period of having all the ballots and all of that. So, before, I think we could schedule around, there was a shorter time of having the ballots in that kind of a secure space. I don't like it either, but I understand, and I hope we can figure something better out before the next election. Okay. So, I'll stop there if you want to make any comments, because I'm going to transition to my other questions. Good? Okay, cool. All right. Zoom. So, we're still using Teams. When are we going to go use Zoom? This is an important question and hinges upon whether...go ahead.

MS. LUTEY: Thank you. You know, I'm...we've heard a lot of discussion. I know that you're very tech-savvy and prefer Zoom. Personally, I'm the opposite. So, you know, my...I don't have a preference really, but I know that for my staff, because they've now become familiar with Teams after BlueJeans, that the preference would be to stay with Teams. But, you know, at the end of the day, I don't think we're the only ones who get to vote on that since our theme is voting.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that. I love that there's a feather flag outside of the Wailuku Community Center. I've been advocating for better signage for years. I am so glad we've arrived at the space that we're at now with signage. So, will that kind of signage be in front of the Mitchell Pauole Center for voting when...on the 31st to the...to the 5th at the Filipino Community Center on Lānaʻi--I think I said that wrong--and then Hāna on October 26th?

MS. LUTEY: Yes. Thank you for the question. So, here's a photo of what the banners look like. They're...oops, yeah. So, we have this now, it's also out in front of Velma McWayne Santos. We have banners for . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . all of our voting areas, and we put them out as we get to it. In other words, for October 31st, I'm not sure if we have anything up yet, but I can check. And that's the game plan, is to have as much signage as possible because, you know, the worst thing that can happen is people just can't find us, so...yeah. And our drop boxes --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. LUTEY: -- will all have the big flags too.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: People are still going to where the precincts are, and when...the first year we went from precincts to voter service centers, I requested signs, and also made signs that were just black and white, no...not nothing...very vanilla, very neutral colors, just to direct people because people were still going to the old locations. So, I think...I don't know if that's still a problem three elections later but, you know, you never know. So, signage?

MS. LUTEY: Thank you. So, one of the issues we've had, I think, with the District precincts is a lot of the regular voters, like the old-school voters, don't realize that we're mail-in only. And part of it is because of the timing, right? It started right around COVID, in 2020. So, we've been going to a number of MEO meetings with the different senior citizen clubs, and also to their Bingo Blast, which is very popular, to try and get that word out. But, you know, the visual's the key. And I know that...like, for Member Sinenci, we asked him where the best spot is. We have a...an employee here who's from Hāna, so she's told us where to put the banners. I know on Molokaʻi, there's some wires that are like live electrical or something that people put that up on?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. In front of --

MS. LUTEY: The question was, who put that up?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Rawlins Gas Station.

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MS. LUTEY: Yes. So, I'm not sure who puts it up, but you know, if we can...we asked --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: HECO.

MS. LUTEY: -- Fire, and --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: HECO puts it up.

MS. LUTEY: Okay. All right. So, we'll reach out to them. We thought it was Fire, and they're like, no, I don't think it's us.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

MS. LUTEY: So, yeah. We'll reach out to them and get one up.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Great. And in front of the Mitchell Pauole Center, too, yeah? There'll be signs?

MS. LUTEY: Yep.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. Sorry, I did hear the timer. Mahalo, Chair, for that leniency.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: No, of course. Thank you. That was a great question. Member Paltin?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I'm office-less, but I'm okay with it. My family may not be okay with me taking over the kitchen table, and...but they'll just have to deal with it. I'll tell them Moana said. I wanted to follow up on the testimony question that was a little off topic, but in terms of consistency. So, what our Staff said, that they...their preference is to take testimony on eComment, but they accept testimony on email if they're having trouble with the eComment. And so, I just was wondering, for consistency like, you know, people don't...I think the general public doesn't understand the difference between Committee and Council. I think the whole first year I was on, I didn't understand the difference between Committee and Council either. And so, like, you know, if we're telling them, oh, just send in your testimony on eComment, and then it happens to be a Council meeting and they're like there's no eComment. And then like...or we say countyclerk@mauicounty.us. And I just was wondering if there is a possibility that Council meetings would also accept testimony on eComment, just because it's like a 15-minute explanation to try and say like oh, well, you know, that's a Council meeting, and for the Committee meeting, and then they're just like, you know. And so, I mean, just...that's my question, I guess.

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MS. THOMSON: So, the...the short answer is, we hope that once we have our electronics records management system, which is basically everything--it's going to be OCS and OCC, it's records, it's Committees, it's Council, it's testimony--it's the whole ball of wax. So, that's the...that is...the goal is unifying our systems. Right now...and you'll probably understand this better than we do because, yeah, you're so much more techy than the rest of us. So, we have Granicus, and then we have CivicPlus. And so, Council, the Leg. branch, we continue to use CivicPlus as our official posting site, and so that...that's behind the reason that we don't use Granicus, and that's a function of...eComment is a Granicus function. And so, we...we don't use that as our official site. And I know the Leg. folks here have some issues with Granicus and its reliability. There have been some posting issues with Granicus that they don't want to repeat, which is why they have stuck with . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . CivicPlus. And honestly, we defer to their expertise because they're the ones that have done the work for all these years. So, we're sorry for the inconvenience, but the reality is, we probably won't switch to eComment until we migrate to the comprehensive overall system that we're looking to do.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Two-second follow-up, Chair?

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

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Is there a timeline for that migration?

MS. THOMSON: We're just having a little bit of sound issues on our side. See if we can get that back up...yeah, there you are.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, the question was the timeline for the migration?

MS. THOMSON: So, that's the million-dollar question, which we hope it's not going to be a million dollar price tag, honestly. Tyler Tech is the...they're the...basically an intermediary company that works with the programmers. And they also kind of carry us through the State approval process that we have to have because they're a Statewide vendor. And it's kind of a...it's...it's more complicated than...but...than that. But at any rate, they have told us that, you know, obviously...the hardest part of the process is getting exactly what you want as nailed down as you possibly can before you start getting programmers in and actually spending money on the design of this new...it's not only just a website, it's like an entire storage thing. It's...it's a massive electronic database, you know, and it involves, you know, where do we store videos and, you know, you name it. It's a lot more complicated than...than we had hoped, honestly. So, that's a...it's a nonanswer. I'm...best guess is that we will go into programing in 2025, so we're hoping to get all these little mini details kind of nailed down, you know, within

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probably six months, and then we're hoping to get to programing the later part of next year.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. So, in other words, we'll be long gone, so don't --

MS. THOMSON: So, I want...just one quick thing too, one quick add. We have worked with OCS and the Staff over there to make sure that we incorporate all of their needs in this programming. And so, OCS and OCC obviously operate a bit differently, so we want to make sure that we have something that works, especially for OCS's process that involves all the committees and, you know...and all of the work that they do behind the scenes for you folks, we need to make sure that the programming on their side is...works for them first.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. It sounds like it's beyond my timeline of being in this chair, so I won't inquire further.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Madam Chair?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Please.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, just a little more background on the Legislative search and recordkeeping software. Similar to Honolulu City and County's Legislative search and software, I...Legislative software, this is something that Ms. Lutey and Thomson inherited. It was...Kathy was the Clerk when we first embarked on this, so about...we've been working on this for about three years, and the end goal, hopefully, is to have everything that we have now electronically filed on there, as well as digitize all of our...all the paper copy stuff that sits in storage that we pay thousands in storage rent for, all like searchable, but also safe in case of, you know, disasters. And then that way, we don't...we...we don't lose all of that history. So, just...yeah. Just a little bit of like background on this initiative now, three years old, moving forward, hopefully we get it soon, and then the end goal of having everything digitized, and searchable, and safe. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you for that explanation. Does anybody else have any other questions? I will remind you folks that my plan for today is to defer because it is on Council's agenda for Friday. So, ask your questions now, and then we can have a quicker meeting on Friday if anybody has any other questions. Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I have a couple more questions about voting. Is the vest...all of election officials have the pink vests?

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Oh, it's like...it's like my...my dream list. You've made it all happen. I love the website. For the Moloka'i ballot box, will it only be taken...will the ballots only be taken on election night, or is...did you folks figure out a plan to take ballots over before election night too?

MS. LUTEY: You mean collecting ballots and then bringing them over? We typically do at least one additional pickup other than the actual election day, just so that we can process and hopefully finish first again.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Amazing. And then, my last question regarding elections with my dream list. One of the things that I, you know, noted down that couldn't be improved was the line. Especially, like the day before and on election day, it can get pretty long. Some, you know, parents are there with their children, you know, there are...a variety of things could come up as they're having to wait in an hour-plus-long line. And so, taking a number, like, some kind of like a system like that, so that folks can go use the bathroom and not lose their spot in line if they're by themselves, you know. So, that kind of a situation.

MS. LUTEY: Yeah, that's...that's something we could definitely look into. We had a line this morning, which was a bit of a great surprise. But based on what we're seeing right now, we're anticipating much larger crowds. We have stanchions up, and our goal is to keep people in the shade to the extent possible. And then we have a large area when you first come into the voter service center with stanchions also, and tables where they can fill out applications and so forth, that's air conditioned, so that they're not roasting out in the sun for as...you know, hopefully we can accommodate as many as possible.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is it possible to get a system where they can take a number and not have to wait in the...in line?

MS. LUTEY: Yeah. I'm not sure how that would work, but it's something I'll discuss with Marielle and Jojo, and see what their thoughts are on that. I just...yeah. I hadn't thought of that, but that's...that's an interesting idea.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. LUTEY: We can look at that. Yeah, and I can --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, looks like Member Paltin is burning with an idea.

MS. LUTEY: Oh. Oh, okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Well, I just wanted to say, if it's okay, Chair?

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Sure. Then Member Johnson does have a question.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Foodland Wailuku, the poke counter, they have the pull number now too, and they have that little thing where it says what number they’re calling. But if you have, like, a Block Rocker or something, you could say, “We’re on number” whatever. I don’t know where Foodland got their number-puller situation, but you know, they don’t always use it. Because the other day I pulled a number, and they weren’t even doing it. So, maybe they’ll let you borrow it for, you know, the election.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or you could get a raffle ticket...a raffle ticket. Because I know those, they sell it at like Office Depot and stuff, and you could just, I mean, say the last couple numbers on a...on that Block...Block Rocker. That’s a great idea, it’s super-low cost. Or...or you just shout.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: You can buy mine.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have more questions, but I’ll yield to Member Johnson.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. We’ll go to Member Johnson. We can come back to you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Member Johnson, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. You know, I always am going to fight for a livable wage in all of our departments whenever we can. I know the Clerk’s Offices has been traditionally a lower-wage department. And I understand there’s unions involved, and all of that negotiations, but there are creative ways to help increase the wages of some of our folks who do the heavy lift, especially during election season. So, can you guys speak on...is that something you would prioritize, is trying to find creative ways to increase wages? Or do you have anything to add to explain to the Council on how do we help our folks who do all that hard work have a decent wage?

MS. THOMSON: We completely agree with you. And we believe that the union wages that are...that the current job descriptions and the classifications probably both need to be adjusted. So, the good thing is we have unions, the bad thing is we have the union classifications. And some of them...you know, some of them haven’t honestly, I think, moved in probably decades. We have been working with Personnel, and we were hoping...again, it’s kind of like the records

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management system. We were hoping that this wouldn't be quite as complicated a process, but I think that what we're looking at right now is redescribing the positions, which, you know, is a...is a whole kind of union process.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. THOMSON: Potentially adding new positions that are better descriptive of the work that they're doing today, which...some of those job descriptions are decades old, and based on the job as it existed then, which has morphed over time into being, you know, much more comprehensive and difficult, I think. You know, our workers are not...they're much bigger than their...than their job descriptions at this point, I would say, across the board. Marielle, we were able...we have a success story in terms of getting Marielle to be our officially...not temporary, but the permanent Election Administrator, and you know, that, I think, position description and job classification is accurate, and is...and her wage is commensurate with her counterparts in the other counties. But I think that that is absolutely a top priority with us, is getting...getting it addressed in a...in a permanent fashion.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. THOMSON: There are other sort of temporary ways that you alluded to with, you know, either bonuses or...or other things. We definitely have a lot of overtime opportunity during election season. But yes, it's something that we're a hundred percent . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . committed to addressing.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Thank you, Ms. Thomson. It...it's important, you know, supplement wages or, like you said, bonuses. The Police Chief Pelletier's found some creative ways. I...you know, I'm always just going to try to fight for the folks who need it the most, and that's the Clerks right now. When we're looking at some of those wages, just...I don't even know how you fill those slots because, you know, they got to have more than one job. And if we espouse, you know, livable wages and affordable housing, wages and housing is totally tied, you know, and we're in a housing emergency. So, that's...I'm just trying to...it sounds like I'm preaching to the choir, Ms. Thomson, because if we can get those folks a better wage, then let's do it. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Johnson. Does anybody have any other questions before I call on Member Rawlins-Fernandez? Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, please continue.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. I'll dovetail off of Member Johnson's question first. Collective bargaining agreements is agreed...is...is negotiated by all the counties in the State for comparable salaries

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across the counties and the State for similar positions. Is there a way to factor in cost of living for the County or for the island? Because while the salary may be comparable to positions in the other counties, the cost of living and housing on Maui far exceeds those in the other counties. And so, this may not be an appropriate question here, but I don't know enough about what goes on behind closed doors with the negotiations with the unions to understand why factoring in cost of living in the collective bargaining agreements may not be included to make it...to make the salaries here more livable wages. Okay. So, if we...if that's not appropriate to talk about in open session, that's okay. I'll...I'll --

MS. THOMSON: No, I think it's incredibly appropriate to talk about. But in terms of our positions as Clerk and Deputy Clerk, we could definitely support that effort, but it's usually led by the Department of Personnel and Corp. Counsel that do the actual negotiations with the unions. The Council itself too, you know, can be supportive in terms of sending the message through DPS and Corp. Counsel that you would support that type of negotiation, an increase in wages for certain classes and things like that, including a cost-of-living adjustment or factor. So, I think that...I don't quite know why for the unions, you know, haven't been more aggressive because I think that the climate, as far as...you know, even in our old positions in Corp. Counsel, Council has been supportive of County workers earning living wages. So, that...I don't know that it lies within our current authority to be able to influence all that very much, except to be supportive where we can.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that response. And then I think this is my last question. Would you please speak to...oh, I don't know if it would be you folks or if it would be Chair Lee, whoever, on why we're taking up the appointment now?

MS. THOMSON: Thanks for the question. So, I think all of you know that in my past life, I was advising the 2022 Charter, 2021-'22 Charter Commission when I was working with...as First Deputy Corp. Counsel. And so, there was a Charter Amendment that was approved by the voters in 2022 that extended the Clerk's term to six years, and that...to match the same term as the Auditor. And that took effect July 1, 2023. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So, it didn't affect our initial appointment as Clerk and Deputy, but it does affect this upcoming one. One of the things that the Charter Commission was very--and I can point you to the cites in their transcripts of their records, if you'd like--but at any rate, one of the things that they were focused on is the independence of the Clerks and the Auditor, of those offices, independence from politics. So, especially with the Auditor's duties of conducting audits potentially of Council activities, or operations, or whatever, and then our duties as elections officials not having those offices either term out, you know, with Council terms to remove them from politics. Quite honestly, we had actually hoped this reso would be heard, you know, months earlier. But,

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you know, the GREAT Committee and the entire Council has been so busy with the priorities of the wildfires that, you know, certainly our reappointments are not a top priority in timing-wise, right. But, you know, just going back to the...the County Auditors, that that office was established in 2012, and just a very brief section from the 2012 Charter Commission's report back to the Council, the quote is...in...in why they should establish this office, and why it should be independent. "The County Auditor should be independent above all else. Moreover, since the Auditor would have the power and duty to audit the Council, the Commission did not want to leave these issues unresolved in any way, to protect the Auditor from politics and possibly retaliation in the event of a negative audit." That's kind of the reason not to...not to term out with Councilmember terms. One of the things though, that I think would probably be a decent Charter Amendment would be to have those terms term out in nonelection years. So, you know, have those be an odd number years versus even number years, you know, especially for anyone new coming into the Clerk and Deputy Clerk's roles, you don't want to start in an election year. The learning curve is just far too steep. So, those would be my recommendations, and we can talk about that later on, but I think that would be a good Charter Amendment, you know, for next go-around.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that very comprehensive response. I have...I do have one more question about signage, but I'll yield to Chair Lee.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Chair Lee, I do also have some timeline of information, but you're welcome to go, and then I can continue to answer Member Rawlins-Fernandez's question.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Since you have the timeline, that's fine. I was just going to add that this is important, in that we will be taking out some of the politics that's involved with this type of appointment. We've had, as you know, problems in the past, and this particular Council is familiar with these two appointees, and probably most capable of deciding on this issue now. And it's very important for, you know, going forward that because they've done such an outstanding job, and are...and have stabilized the office to the point where there's...the morale is up, the production is up, the output is up. Now is the best time to make this appointment, make this decision. And also, it's happening now too, because the fires did take...you know, put everything front and center, and this was...became a backseat issue. But now that we're getting close to the election and the possibility of this Council changing, I think this is a perfect time to make this decision. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. To add, we had this scheduled in the beginning, and then there was some...in my conversation with County Clerk and Deputy

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County Clerk, there was some issues on the State side on whether or not what kind of information should be redacted for their protection. As we had a testifier say, elections have gotten a little funky. So, we got some clarity from the State side, and the Governor did not veto what can be redacted and what can be shown to the public. So, we got some clarification on that end. In the beginning of our discussion, I said how we can do this without involvement from the INB, as Mr. Whitaker states...his opinion states on Granicus item number 2. However, the reason why it's on now is that, as we all know from the mass nominations issue, and how we had to play double Dutch with everyone, I will read you the language that also kind of protects us on the...Mr. Whitaker's opinion, and how things are going to look moving forward. So, "In accordance with Section 5-2 of the Revised Charter of the County of Maui, 1983, as amended, the County Clerk shall be appointed..."--this is new language--"...by the Council from a list of nominees presented to the Council by the INB." As you might not know, the Council has not received a list of nominees for...for County Clerk from the INB. Section 13-2.17 of the Charter says, "A vacancy on the commission, board, or such office requiring nominees to be presented to the appointing authority..."--that's us--"...by the Independent Nomination Board due to the expiration of a member...member's or officer's term should be as follows. Not less than 90 days before a vacancy occurs, the Independent Nomination Board shall submit a list of nominees to the Mayor"--or in this case us, because the Clerks fall under us--"the expiration of the term in this case would be January 2, 2025." So, 90 days prior to January 2 was October 4th, 2025...oh, actually '24. This means that the INB missed their window to submit a list for Council consideration. Additionally, Section 13-2.19 of the Charter states, "If the Independent Nomination Board fails to provide a list of nominees within the prescribed time limits, the appointing authority may make its own appointment within 30 days therefrom, without consulting with the Independent Nomination Board." Therefore, we this body, the Council, has 30 days from October 4th, 2024, to make an appointment, which there...we currently find ourselves right now, on October 22nd. For the nominees...or for the Committee's information, today is October 22nd, and the 30 days from October 4th is November 3rd, 2024. So, we have until then, which is why today we're going to discuss, on Friday, we can vote, and we will make all the deadlines, and we should be like double protected in that firewall.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Crazy.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Really good information. Okay.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. I know it’s slightly confusing, as we know everything has gone new Charter language, old Charter language, and we’re trying to way find, more than just navigate in between the two. So, thank you. I appreciate you asking that because it’s important to understand. Member Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So how does this affect our Auditor?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: The Auditor’s language is different but similar, and his dates are different.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I think he...his term expires June of ’25.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yes. So unlike Clerks, theirs is June of 20...January 2nd, so theirs is sooner. Clerks...Auditor’s in a similar situation, just his timeline is different.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we have to take this up, otherwise we have to take it for independent auditor?

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: No, we can have that discussion later. I’ll tell you. We can talk about that because we had that conversation as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Member Paltin.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Member Paltin, do you have questions?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Sorry, just the disclosure. I was negligent on...behind the curtain, there is my husband’s dive partner, adult male, his name is Savage, no last name.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Savage No-Last-Name. Well, if Savage No-Last-Name and your husband would like to share the lobster, we would all be so appreciative.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Sorry, the lobster’s all gone.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: We saw you enjoying it.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: It was delicious. Eat local.

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Right. Forage local. Does anybody else have any other questions? And then, I know Member Rawlins-Fernandez had another question about signage. Okay, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, please ask your question about signage.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. So, the other thing that I noted down for Wailuku Community Center--and I also want to thank you, I'm sure it's already said, Member Paltin may have said it already--mahalo for having a voter service center also at the Lahaina Civic Center from October 31st to Election Day as well. And I memorized all these dates because I made little posts to let everyone know when the dates are. And that's when I learned that early voting wasn't happening today on Moloka'i. I thought it was happening today. Anyway, Wailuku Community Center, when folks come to drop off their ballots, the ballot drop box was inside where you folks are. Is it still located there?

MS. LUTEY: Thank you for that question. No, we have it out front. So, as soon as you come up the handicap ramp, it's on the left, secured to the first post, so there's lighting above it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is there a sign?

MS. LUTEY: Oh, yeah. We've got a really big purple flag. That's our thing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay, great. And is there a reminder to sign their envelope?

MS. LUTEY: Yes. We've had...actually, this round...well, I should knock on wood. We haven't had as many unsigned ballots so far. And we're at about 12,000 right now.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, wow. Okay. Okay. All right. I think...I think that completes everything. So...okay. Just to confirm because I can't see it in my mind where it is, but if there is a line and not a pull number, will the folks that are coming to drop off their ballots have to walk through a line to get to drop off their...to the drop box?

MS. LUTEY: Oh, thank you for the question. No, they...it's to the left. So, we have the...I'm trying to find a photo. Oh, well, this isn't going to help you, but --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So that they can drive up and then like put it in?

MS. LUTEY: Oh. Well, so, as it gets closer and it gets busier, we now have a mobile drop box that rolls around out with our employees in the parking lot. It was a

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hit at the primary. We do the same in Lahaina, just so that people aren't having to get out and walk because it ties up parking and just adds to the crowd. But for right now, it's stationary, so we'll have two, basically. The stationary one that's bolted to the ground that's right up the handicap ramp on the left near the women's restroom, but well before that door; and then, we'll have a mobile one out there as...as things continue to ramp up. It's already there, but we just haven't rolled it out in the parking lot because it wasn't busy enough today.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Mahalo. I think that completes all my questions about signage, and elections, and everything. Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Of course. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Any other questions before we move on? Thank you, Members, for your discussion. I'm so thankful to our Clerk and our Deputy Clerk. They have been amazing in our Council meetings, and an amazing resource for not just me, but I'm assuming everyone else. So, thank you so much. And we will be voting on Friday, and I'm looking forward to supporting you then.

MS. LUTEY: Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Again, Members, this resolution is posted on Friday's Council meeting agenda for the body's consideration. That said, if there are no objections, I will now defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: No objections, thank you. Heard. Members, if you don't mind, let's take a quick ten-minute break before we move on to our final item. We will be returning at 3-5-0...now that it just turned...so 3:50. See you folks in a few. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

RECESS: 3:40 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:56 p.m.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: . . . *(gavel)* . . . Welcome back. It is 3:56, and will the GREAT Committee please reconvene.

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GREAT-5(4) OFFICE OF RECOVERY UPDATES (RULE 7B)

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: The next item on our agenda is Office of Recovery Updates. Under Rule 7(B) of Rules of the Council, the Committee intends to receive updates on the Office of Recovery, including the County’s long-term recovery plan. At this time, I’m going to ask for opening comments, introduction of resources, and presentations from Managing Director Josiah Nishita, Planning Director Kate Blystone, and Jennifer Maydan, Executive Assistant II. I will remind them that we have about 34 more minutes in this Committee, and I would love for the Members to ask questions. It is freezing in this room, so I can only last until about 4:30. But you are ready to begin, Managing Director Josiah Nishita.

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Chair and Members. For the sake of time, I’ll keep it really brief so that Jen and Kate can go along with the presentation. But we just really appreciate you guys allowing us the time here today to talk about the draft long-term recovery plan, and some of the things that it includes, and then be able to answer some questions. It’s also available on MauiRecovers.org/Lahaina, and you can pull up a lot of information on there in the meantime while we’re discussing. But with that, I’ll turn it over to Jen and Kate for some of the presentation materials. Thanks.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Managing Director. Director Blystone, if you’re available.

MS. BLYSTONE: Aloha, Chair. Actually, Jen Maydan is going to start us off, and I’ll pick up in the middle, and then she’s going to take over after that too.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Sounds great.

MS. BLYSTONE: Thank you.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Aloha, Ms. Maydan.

MS. MAYDAN: Aloha, Chair and Committee Members. I will jump right in and share my screen. We have a presentation, and we will keep it as brief and efficient as possible, so there’s time for questions and we can get you out of the cold room. I feel your pain. My office is freezing.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. MAYDAN: Okay, share. All right. Hopefully, you can see my screen.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Um-hum. We can.

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MS. MAYDAN: Okay, excellent. All right. We are going to share an overview of the draft long-term recovery plan for Lahaina. We will go over...just provide an understanding of what the long-term recovery plan is, what it isn't, its relationship to other plans and other recovery efforts, and how the community can access the plan, and get involved, and provide feedback for the final plan. So, just starting out very briefly, this graphic highlights the overlap between preparedness, response, and recovery that a community faces after a significant disaster. Basically, just acknowledging the interconnectedness between preparedness response, short-term, and long-term recovery. And then grounding us in the seven recovery principles outlined in the County's recovery framework. This...these are the foundations of the recovery work and the long-term recovery planning process. That it's community-led and Government-supported; a focus on individuals and families; leadership and local primacy; engage partnerships and inclusiveness; unity of effort; a focus on safety, resilience, and sustainability; and always keeping in mind psychological and emotional recovery. So, what is the long-term recovery plan? It is a community-driven process, Government-supported, providing a roadmap to recovery via projects and programs covering many issues, and it's lining us up for potential access to funding. The purpose of the long-term recovery plan is to identify priority projects to ensure a coordinated, holistic, and community-informed approach to reaching Lahaina's recovery goals. It really serves as a guide for the community and Government to work towards recovery. And it's important to keep in mind that it is a snapshot in time of recovery needs and priority projects. It is intended to be a living document that will evolve as the recovery of Lahaina progresses. It really is our best information right now, and will evolve. Its scope includes County, State, and community-identified recovery projects and programs that guide the planning, program development, and land-use decisions, potential changes to zoning and development regulations, and funding prioritization for Lahaina's recovery. While understanding what the long-term recovery plan is, it's important to understand where it fits in the full sea of plans, of course, that are out there. The long-term recovery plan, in developing it, we looked towards existing plans specific to West Maui, such as the Western Maui Community Wildfire Protection Plan, the West Maui Community Corridor Framework, and of course, the West Maui Community Plan. And then, there are guiding documents on the County level, Countywide Policy Plan, the Maui Island Plan, the Hazard Mitigation Plan, and as well as at the State level, with the Strategic Plan and the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. And then understanding where the long-term recovery plan fits in with other recovery planning efforts, such as the Community Development Block Grant or CDBG Disaster Recovery Action Plan, that will focus on the anticipated HUD allocation. That has a narrower focus, and will come after the long-term recovery plan. But there is a nexus between these two plans. And then there's also specific recovery projects that might have plans coming out of this long-term recovery plan. So, as the plan is finalized, the Office of Recovery will work with project leads to track implementation of the recovery projects, and

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the Office of Recovery will provide updates on the progress of projects to the public via Maui Recovers and probably other avenues. Maybe we'll do a quarterly newsletter or such, but we definitely want to be transparent as far as the progress and forward momentum of implementing projects in the long-term plan. And updating. Projects will be modified based on recovery needs, changing conditions, available funding, and community feedback. We will do updates to the long-term recovery plan as needed to reflect implementation progress and project modifications.

MS. BLYSTONE: So, our recovery planning process began with a community needs assessment and reviewing existing plans like those ones that Jen just mentioned. Then we began community engagement. With input from the community, the results of the community needs assessment, and our review existing plans, all the teams work together on recovery...that are working together on recovery began creating a list of projects and programs that should be included in the plan. At the same time, the State was crafting their lists of long-term recovery projects and programs. So, let's talk a little bit more about community engagement. Because this is a community-led, government-supported effort, the community's voice is critical to creating a long-term recovery plan. If we did our job right, when the residents look at the long-term recovery plan, they should see their ideas amongst the projects and programs in the plan. So, if the Council is interested in seeing all the details of our community engagement that we conducted from January through July of 2024, you can find that report here at this QR code. It's also available on Ola Lahaina. During community outreach, we engaged 3,833 people across 11 activities. We hosted five neighborhood workshops, which had a total of 900 participants. We also posted three surveys for our friends and family who have left the area so they could participate as well, and those surveys resulted in 2,743 responses. And because sometimes it's easier to talk one-on-one with someone about ideas, we conducted 190 interviews. At the various highest level, here is what we heard. When Lahaina builds back, the residents want a safe place that is protected from climate change with resilient infrastructure. They want fire prevention efforts, clear evacuation routes, and community education about the hazards posed by sea level rise. In the rebuild, we knew...we learned that we needed to honor the history and culture of Lahaina, reflecting the wide variety of cultures that have contributed to Lahaina's story. Housing is a critical need in the rebuild. Accessible and attainable housing for all residents, including assistance with navigating the process of rebuilding, and also limiting nonresidential uses like short-term rental homes. The community clearly said they wish to mālama 'āina and wai in the rebuild, focusing on restoring critical ecosystem services and functions while establishing agriculture...or re-establishing agriculture in the region. And finally, when the rebuild is complete, Lahaina should feel like home, prioritizing residents first, and then welcoming visitors. So, to achieve these outcomes--I'm waiting for the slide, there it is--the team's working on recovery design projects

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and programs for the long-term recovery plan. Each of the teams listed here reviewed the needs assessment, examined existing plans, and listened to the public to craft a list of projects and programs that would enable the rebuild. You are familiar with these as recovery support functions, but we try to call them teams because recovery support function is a little wonky. So, the County also worked closely with our State and Federal partners--Jen, could you change the slide?--and community stakeholders to refine the list of projects and programs in the plan. Ultimately, we ended up with 50 projects across all of the recovery teams from the County and the State. These items were prioritized and identified as...prioritized. So, you see on that...the far-left column there. We worked together to prioritize them, or they worked individually to prioritize them, and then they identify them as short-term, mid-term, and long-term projects. And Jen's going to talk a little bit about more of what those mean in just a second here. The County and State then came together to evaluate each project individually over the course of a four-hour meeting, where we just sat and walked through each one of these projects. We discussed whether a project was required, meaning that it was necessary to restore Lahaina. We also discussed whether it was right because the community or department had identified it as needed. And we discussed whether the project was ready, in that the project is good to go and has all the components it needs, or that it needs to be started now because it will take a while to complete. In the end, we had 30 projects that we decided to feature in the plan, and the remaining projects we retained in the appendix of the plan so no...no work was lost. And to that point too, when you see the numbers on the next slide, you'll see that we don't have exactly 50 projects, but through that four-hour process, we were able to consolidate some things and find connections that we didn't see without everyone in the room. So, ultimately, we have around 40 projects.

MS. MAYDAN: Okay. Now I'm going to run through an overview of the projects that are featured in the plan and are housed in the appendix. There are a variety of projects covering all of the recovery support functions, and there are different responsibilities as far as implementation of the projects and programs. They're...a lot of them are County responsibility, there's also State. There's some that would be very strong, community-led, as well as private. Some projects do have many components and phases, and many of the projects will require in-depth planning, design, and community engagement. The projects, as a whole--the sum of the projects and programs--really provide a holistic, high-level picture of the recovery challenges, needs, and the actions. So, first...so, by time frame, starting with the short-term projects. And when we're talking about time frame, we're talking about the projected need of time for project completion. So, short-term is one to two years for project completion. And I'm just going to run through the projects...not diving in deep to each one, but just to give you a snapshot of the projects that are contained in the plan. So, for the short-term projects, the first one is Rebuild Lahaina Plan. This is a blueprint for rebuild of

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Lahaina Town, focusing on the commercial cores, Front Street, parks, public lands, and mobility and connectivity throughout the...throughout the town. The next is National Historic Landmark District Update. This is in coordination with the National Park Service, looking at the integrity of the District, potential boundary adjustments, as well as including other periods of significance. Affordable Rental Housing Program. This supports the reconstruction of the ten affordable apartment developments that were lost in the fire. Assess...assessment...assess...asset Management, there we go, and acquisition program. This is to manage acquisition of property in the impact zone for various purposes; right-of-way, easements, as well as shoreline parcels that are facing significant development challenges due to sea level rise and shoreline hazards. Healthcare Service Expansion. This includes a gap analysis of health, behavioral health, and social services exacerbated by the fire, and identifying solutions to increasing access. Enhance Emergency Communication Networks. To ensure that communication networks are redundant and reliable during disasters. Energy Resiliency and Redundancy. This includes studies and assessments of energy infrastructure and improvement opportunities for resiliency. This is including power lines and poles, and this will require coordination with HECO. And last on the list of short-term projects is creation of a Lahaina memorial to honor those lost by the fire, and honor the experiences of survivors. Moving on to the mid-term projects that are three to five years for project completion. Starting with the MEMA Advancement Program. This has four components: Emergency services infrastructure, staffing, shelters, and community education and engagement; Lahaina Business Center is a temporary site to support local businesses and jumpstart the economy; Rebuild the West Maui Senior Center, potential relocation, potential expansion, but definitely recognizing the critical services that the senior center provides to the community; Street Connectivity and Extensions, this is for fire evacuation and connectivity, and is informed by the LifeSim analysis that the County, along with USACE did earlier. Pahua Street Extension. A new public collector roadway, including upgraded utilities. Lahaina Water Infrastructure Firefighting Capacity. Addressing deficiencies and low fire flow. Stormwater Resiliency and Flood Risk Management. This includes both the Lahaina Town Drainage Master Plan update and preliminary design for the flood control project mauka of the town. Buy-In Watershed Recovery Planning. This includes developing a Watershed Recovery Working Group. Wildfire Risk Reduction and Mitigation. This is reducing wildfire risk around the town, the wildland urban interface, and implementing actions from the Community Wildfire Protection Plan. Agriculture Planning and Long-Term Food Security, including developing a Lahaina Agriculture Plan and Community Facilities. This is finding locations and rebuilding the library and King Kamehameha III Elementary School, so this is a State project. Moving on to the long-term projects that are six-plus years for project completion. Starting with the Lahaina Bypass. Phase-1C from Keawe Street to Honokōwai. And the West Maui Greenway. Priority...the priority Phase 1 of the Greenway from the Civic Center to

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Launiupoko Beach Park. It's a multi-use path, and it is...also can be used as emergency evacuation and access, fuel break, and utility corridor. Ke Ola Hou is space for health services, education, and human services to support survivors. R-1 recycled water expansion, including planning, design, construction. To improve and expand recycled water distribution and infrastructure. Revegetating and Reforesting Lahaina and Kula, with native canoe and culturally-appropriate plants for resiliency, stormwater infiltration, and other benefits. This also includes a native nursery network and quarantine for biosecurity. Green Workforce Development. Creation of green job opportunities, both for economic diversification and environmental restoration. And creation of a cultural corridor, and the restoration of Malu 'Ulu o Lele, Moku'ula, and Mokuhinia Complex, the greater area. And finally, on the long-term projects is preservation, restoration, and revitalization of historic structures, stories, and cultural spaces, and creation of a historic corridor. This is including a multicultural center and repository for historic and cultural artifacts. So, those are the projects that are featured within the long-term recovery plan, and then these are the projects that are within the appendix. So, less detail contained, but we didn't want to lose any of the hard work that was done by everyone involved. So again, short-, mid-, and long-term. The short-terms are Homeowner Support Programs; West Maui Business Resource Center; infrastructure assessment and improvement studies that really will support the Rebuild Lahaina Plan; Economic Innovation and Development programs; Building Resiliency Initiatives; and continuing the Comprehensive Environmental Monitoring and Sampling that has been going on...and Long-Term Disaster Case Management program. Under the midterm are Lahaina Water Infrastructure Resiliency and Hardening; Harbor Restoration, another State project; and then the other long-term, is the Inter-Island Ferry System, which our County Department of Transportation has been doing studies to investigate the feasibility of; the West Maui Hospital, that is the private project; and Wahikuli Subdivision Gravity Sewer System. So, of the projects that are featured in the plan, we're just going to walk through really quickly how they are shown in the plan. Each featured project has two pages dedicated to it, and some of the information that you gather is the estimated project completion time; the short-, mid-, and long-term. Project complexity; just a real kind of general gauge, is that low-, medium-, high-complexity? The phase that the project is in...is it in planning? Is it in design? Is it on to construction? The cost? Is it low-, medium-, high-cost? And public participation spectrum. This is something that is not finalized in the draft, this is something we are going to work with...with project leads to identify what is the appropriate public participation needed for a project going forward? Is it inform, consult, involve, or collaborate? And each project sheet includes a project description. The purpose. Identifying any interdependencies and roadblocks for the project; identifying its critical next steps. And then, Project Details. Whatever we have right now, if there's a cost estimate; is it...if we know potential funding sources; if there are any existing funding sources; identifying who the project lead is? And then Project Partners.

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Many of the projects have numerous project partners, just really recognizing the collaborative nature and necessary collaboration going forward for many of the projects and programs. And lastly, so the draft long-term recovery plan is currently available on Maui Recovers Ola Lahaina--(*coughs*) excuse me--and we will be hosting two in-person workshops. First one is tomorrow, Wednesday, October 23rd, 4 to 7 p.m., and the second one is Saturday, October 26, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Both of them, we will hold at Lahainaluna High School dining hall. And we also have an online open house mirroring the in-person open houses, and that is available via this QR code and mauirecovers.org/Lahaina. So, folks can come to the open house, view the projects, talk to project leads and subject-matter experts, provide their feedback, or also participate online. And all of the feedback will help inform the final long-term recovery plan, which will be complete by the end of this year. So, that is our overview. Mahalo for your time, and definitely here to answer any questions.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Ms. Maydan and Dr. Blystone. Before we go into any questions, I’m going to take testimony. Would you mind also emailing us that so we can put it up? We do have your website up, but it might be easier if people just had direct access to that. Staff, do we have anyone wishing to testify on this item?

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

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Please.

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

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. Members, seeing there are no individuals wishing to testify, without objection, I will now close oral testimony for this item, GREAT-5(4).

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . END OF PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-5(4) . . .

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. As a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. Members, we only have a few minutes in this Committee, but feel free to ask questions. I’m going to begin with Committee Vice-Chair Paltin.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Chair, and Director, and RSF Maydan. My question is, so you said there's 50 projects, and then we're going to go to these workshops Wednesday night and Saturday night. And thank you for canceling the community meeting. I mistakenly thought they were double-header, and I was all upset. But thank you, that's a good idea. How do we decide which projects ultimately? And then I don't know if the email that Josiah sent us is part of this, but there was something about FEMA-PA. And in talking to our counterparts in other jurisdictions, they're waiting very long time for reimbursement. Like...and so, like how do we decide on, I guess, the big-ticket or high-cost items if we're expecting FEMA reimbursement for public assistance of lost public stuff? I was wondering that. And then the other question I had, on the ten affordable housing projects, they're mostly out of the shoreline area, but I did meet with Kamehameha Schools, and is there any idea of land swap for those that are...like there's a corner in the shoreline area? Because when I had previously talked to Dr. Fletcher, he said if there is a portion of the parcel in the shoreline area, then you should consider the whole parcel.

MR. NISHITA: Thanks, Chair. I'll take a crack at it, and if Kate or Jen want to jump in after, they can. So, specific to, I guess, the process it goes through. So, now, you know, it's kind of again...once again in the community's hands to provide us feedback and say, hey, you heard us, you got this right, or, you know, no, you really missed the mark on this. And so, this is really the time for them to be able to give us feedback and whatnot, and then we'll be able to revise and amend it as needed. Every community that goes through this--and I just have to express sincere appreciation to so many people that helped put this together, but especially Jen and Kate--many communities take a long time to go through this, and aren't able to concurrently do it with a lot of the other activities that we have going, but it's a really important component to the overall recovery effort. The plan will continuously be updated and amended. It's pretty typical for communities to...you know, if you think about the needs of the community back in June, versus back in January, versus back in November, it has morphed and changed over time. And community sentiment may have changed or, determined on what their priority is, may have changed too, as circumstances have changed. So, we do anticipate this being a living document that we'll have to continue working with the community on. There are funding sources that we're seeking for a variety of these projects. You know, some of them, including like PA, and like hazard mitigation grant funds, are all reimbursable, so...which means that the County would have to front the...well, if the County was the project lead in that sense, we would have to front the money, and then seek reimbursement on the back end. It's discussions we're already having with our . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . financial teams about how we're going to be able to accomplish that. And then, when we go through budget, it will be some tough discussions we're going to have to have with Council on...regarding prioritizing where the money goes and how it's allocated. So...and the only other thing I'll mention, just real quick, we did

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apply for funds through the hazard mitigation grant program for a shoreline parcel buyback program. My personal feeling is that it's much more expeditious and better for everyone to do a simple buyout and have options for them to be able to facilitate a purchase on. It's pretty complicated to actually do a physical swap, and a like-for-like. A lot of people are focused on value of their previous parcel. It's a lot more possible to facilitate that whole thing with...where we would, you know, work with the landowner to acquire the property, and then work with Kamehameha Schools or another entity who could have property available to then help facilitate a separate transaction. So, that...that would be my personal viewpoint. But of course, we'll, you know, hear from the community along the way. And apologies for taking up all your time, Councilmember.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: No, that's why I got all my questions in in the front end, so that you guys might...go ahead, Director Blystone, if Chair lets?

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Yes. Please, go ahead.

MS. BLYSTONE: Mahalo. Just a couple things to tack on. For the last thing that Josiah said, first, I agree too. We have been across all the different ways to deal with land swaps or...or buyouts, and really, it does feel like buyout is the most straightforward way to deal with it. So, I just want to put in a plug for that as well. When community...we're asking community to engage on this plan...on the draft plan, one thing I just want to say out loud and reinforce is that we're asking the community to look at the entirety of the plan. Because you imagine, we can't pull one of these projects out by itself and say, "This solves all of our problems." It's all of the things working together. And so, when the community comes to test...you know, to...to make comment on the plan at these open houses, we're asking them two questions, basically...does this plan meet their needs, or...and are we missing anything? And so, that's really where we want people to focus as they look at...across all the plans. Does this plan meet their needs for now based on what we know, and are we missing anything? As for the affordable housing projects and the question you had, there is a Governor's EP...a change to the Governor's EP that allows some of those projects to move a little bit more quickly. So, we're evaluating that in the Department and to see how we can do that more swiftly. But as far as the erosion hazard line and how that interacts with some of the projects, I think...I'm sure you're thinking about Front Street Apartments, for example. If the projects can be arranged to be outside of the erosion hazard line, that's a good thing. So, I just wanted to mention that as well, that that's something we're looking at, and the Department will have more to say about that going forward.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. I do feel that erosion hazard line is a little bit of a conservative blue-sky estimate. Like when Hurricane Milton heads our way, or Helene, then maybe, you know, the storm surge, 10 to 15 feet, whatever, is going

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to be like, oh, why did they make the erosion hazard line 3.2? But I don't want to go into too much more. Just thank you very much. I attended many of the workshops, and I think you captured it pretty accurately as can be, with 4,000-something people. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Of course. Thank you, Member Paltin. Does anybody else have any other questions? Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. How does Front Street fit in all of this? And when we talk...and this is what I mean. When we talk about funding, I think the people on Front Street, we...the people have talked to me. Anyway, they have their own money that they want to rebuild. They have the ability to refinance. They're not going to be looking for government grants, they're not going to be looking for financial assistance necessarily, unless they can't get to use their land for a long period of time. And then in parallel with people building...rebuilding the residential areas and having housing, hopefully being able to have work and...and not just jobs. You're...we're talking about creating community, Lahaina creating the community that it wants as a fun place to live and be part of. I was just curious. Was that part of the 30 projects, and were the Front Street Owners Group interviewed as some of this process? So, I just asked you five questions.

MS. MAYDAN: Mahalo, Councilmember Cook. I'll take...I'll...I'll start out responding to your question. So, yes, absolutely, Front Street is a part of the Rebuild Lahaina Plan. That will be an absolute critical, and kind of foundational beginning of that planning process. And I do know...I have been involved with a few meetings with the business owners, and I believe probably Director Blystone and Josiah have been involved in more. But yes, Front Street is a critical part, and will be part of the Rebuild Lahaina Plan. And I'm sure Kate will have more to say about the opportunities for landowners right now.

MS. BLYSTONE: So, just tacking on to what Jen said, if I may, Chair? The...the...like she said, the Rebuild Lahaina Plan includes Front Street, and you'll see that it's in the short-term, the one to two years. We are already pre-preparing for that. We're writing the RFP now to get it out and get...get going. We may actually use a slightly different process to get that going as quickly as possible. So, that's something to keep in mind. And Front Street is a critical part of that. I would say it's probably the first element of that greater Rebuild Lahaina Plan. The Front Street business owners, we saw them at these workshops, so their voices are included in this Lahaina Recovery document, and we heard them loud and clear. And like Jen said, I've met with them, Josiah has met with them, the Mayor has met with them on multiple occasions. So, I think the other thing to keep in mind as well is that we do want to be planful about this. We do want the community to come together, and we want them to be able to say to these Front Street

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business owners, these are the things that . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . didn't work about Front Street going, you know...and when we rebuild, we want to take care of these things that didn't work about Front Street. And we want the business owners to hear that. But also, we have processes in place. And if people wanted to apply...and we've been telling them from the front...from the front end, that if they want to apply and go through the process, they can do that. We just encourage them to talk with their community, to figure out what wasn't working, so that we can fix that in the rebuild.

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. And Chair, if I may just add real quickly, you know, these are, like, featured projects in the plan. This isn't encapsulating like every effort that's being undertaken. So, I just want to highlight that. I mean, there's...you know, another project in there is like the National Historic Landmark District update, which would impact, you know, some of the rebuilding efforts and whatnot. You know, we are waiting for a response from the Secretary of the Interior right now regarding, you know, a reassessment of the National Historic Landmark District. But there's a multitude of things that are happening day-by-day that is just not rising to the level of like encapsulating in a featured project in the long-term recovery plan. So, I just want to make that caveat that, you know, our teams are working hard in a variety of different areas to come up with options and solutions for a multitude of issues that community members are facing.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you all very much for your efforts.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Member Kama has to leave. Chair Lee has left. I think Member Rawlins-Fernandez is joining us maybe on her phone. I know she had to get her daughter medicine, so we --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: There she is.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: -- might be...okay. Just making sure we have quorum. I can't see --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I am in my vehicle, alone.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you so much. Just making sure we have...you know, we're abiding by all the rules. Does anybody else have any --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We got quorum.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Just one quick question?

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Please, Member Sugimura, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: I see you, Member Johnson, afterwards.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you. I've been to some of these meetings in Lahaina, and congratulations, Kate and Jen, for putting this together. So, this is probably for Managing Director. Is the Economic Recovery Committee projects also included in this? I didn't see the details. Or is --

MR. NISHITA: Yeah, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Yeah, Josiah?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura. Yeah, I'll...I'll throw something out there, and then Kate can jump in if there's anything else to add. But, you know, the ERC, the Economic Recovery Commission, is finalizing, I think, kind of their recommendations and whatnot. The plan is to, you know, work with them on possible incorporation into the final version of the plan and what that would look like. I don't know if Kate has anything else to add.

MS. BLYSTONE: Actually, Jen has something to add. I raised my hand, but she...she's going to...she's going to explain this.

MS. MAYDAN: Yeah. So, we definitely are in communication with the folks with the ERC, and have been aware and tapped into that process as they've been going. So, as far as the long-term recovery plan and the ERC process, they've kind of been parallel processes. But we have been in coordination, and we have a strategy for integrating the plans, as well as respecting the individual work that has gone in...on within both processes. So, there is a mention of the Maui Economic Recovery Commission in this draft long-term recovery plan, and for the final, we will have a more integrated...of the projects. There are some projects out of the ERC that are basically like-for-like for what's in the long-term recovery plan, there's others that have a nexus, and there's others that are unique. And we have a strategy for incorporation appropriately.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Okay, great. So, it'll be included then. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Ms. Maydan, did you have something you'd want to add? I see your hand up.

MS. MAYDAN: . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I'm going to try to respect everyone's time because I know we're getting a little bit late, so I'll just ask three questions. Feel free to answer how you guys like to answer them. First things first is the capacity for departments to write and review RFPs. I know that's really an important thing that you are doing a lot of RFPs because of the capacity of the office. So just managing RFPs, how's that going? Is that...can you handle? The second point I want to mention is, are you considering undergrounding power lines? Have you discussed that? Is there...you know, can you kind of respond to the idea of the public wanting underground power lines? I have a bill that addresses that as well. And the third thing is about restoring active ag in the surrounding land, the WUI...or WUI, right? W...well, Wildland Urban Interface. That's going to take a little bit more than just one department. You know, RPT could go out and try to raise taxes for fallow lands, or...or give tax incentives. The Water Department has to get involved, Department of Ag, so that's going to be a multi-department issue. So, those are my three things, and anybody want to take them on?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. So, I'll address a little bit, and I'm sure they can build on it more. In terms of...like you mentioned about the RFPs and whatnot, I mean, that's one step in the process. For a complete project completion, it's actually a very small piece of it. So, I'm actually not as worried about that as I am about just capacity to complete a project which would include...you know, like a CIP project could include design, and permitting, and actual construction, and project management. So, you know, when we're working with the community in terms of...and the Council in terms of funding, and priorities, and whatnot, we do need to keep in mind like capacity of different organizations and departments and what's realistic. And we may have to update the plan over time to reflect changing circumstances to...such as, you know, vacancies, or maybe, you know, DPS is successful at getting us fully...fully filled. So, you know, changing circumstances will change that, but that is a consideration at play. There is a project in the long-term recovery plan, I think it's titled like, Energy Resiliency and Redundancy, but it does touch upon what you're talking about regarding undergrounding of utilities, and kind of further assessing the electrical infrastructure, and there's also agricultural components as well. And I don't know if Kate or Jen want to add anything to that.

MS. MAYDAN: You got it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay then. All right, then. Well, thank you for your responses. Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Johnson. Members, any other questions? Okay. Oh, okay, I see...go ahead, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, go. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Just...mahalo, Chair. Just a...just a quick one, and mahalo to everyone in the Administration--hi, cows--for working so hard. Is about we have the plans, and then just, you know, is the Office of Recovery seeing through implementation with the timeline? Is...yeah. So, I...I guess, who...who is...is that coordinated, you know, who is going to see through all the plans and the ideas? If it's a point person, so, like with the...with those that are...that end up being in the SLR-XA...in the SMA, and you know, would need to not (*audio interference*) well, not land swap, basically...facilitate some kind of sale, and then another...all those things will have like a point person for people to be able to talk to?

MR. NISHITA: Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, for the question. Each of the projects have a identified project lead who will be, you know, responsible to lead the project. And of course, there will be assistance probably needed from many different departments, and outside agencies, and whatnot to help facilitate and make projects happen. Jen covered earlier in the presentation, you know, the Office of Recovery's assistance in tracking and, you know, assisting in the components to see projects through to the...to the finish line. It will encompass a lot of support from Department of Management and the Administration as a whole in terms of like funding priorities, what we're asking for Council for, and then how we're strategizing and prioritizing the overall operational needs, and capabilities, and CIP projects, and programs, and activities that we're proposing from year to year, in conjunction with ensuring that we can allocate the appropriate resources to help make these things happen.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that response. I hope you all never get burned out and never leave. You're doing a great job. Really great. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. We're going to do one last question with Member Paltin, and then we'll defer this item and move on. Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you. The email that Josiah just meant...sent, that's not confidential, right?

MR. NISHITA: Sorry. Are you talking about the updated Office of Recovery executive summary?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yes.

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MR. NISHITA: I mean, we...it wasn't designed for public dis--I don't know what I'm trying to say, but--dissemination.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay.

MR. NISHITA: But...but...but ultimately, everything that we do is...is public record. So, I mean, I emailed it to you guys, it's a public record. But if there's something specifically that you're looking for that could help tell the appropriate story or provide the best information to the public, I think it would probably be better if we created something specifically for the public based on their needs. But ultimately, it is a public record that I've provided to you folks.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. The question I had was, it says, like, 1,000-something permanent units are under construction. And is that in West Maui, or throughout the County? And --

MR. NISHITA: No.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- what...where would those be?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. That's in relation to permanent housing across the County. The...and they're all in various stages. You know, some are actually, I guess, breaking ground or whatnot, and some are, you know, in different design elements, or...or whatever the case is. So, you know, that's...that's kind of what that's encapsulating. And I can't remember the end of your question, but...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: That was...that was the question. And I guess, you know, to follow up on that one question, that...that number, I feel like it tells me nothing. I mean, I'm sorry, I don't mean to insult anyone, but 1,000-something units of permanent housing, but I don't know where they are. And some are just on the paper stages, which...I mean, Pu'ukoli'i Village Mauka, how long has that been on the paper stages? So, it's like to me, that's not real housing a little bit. And then to put that number of 1,000-something permanent housing, it's...it feels misleading to people who are desperate...desperate for housing, like crying, calling me up about suicide, and all kinds of things. So, I guess just my...my feedback would be like we like to please people, and we like to say that we're offering these programs. And to desperate people with a fire brain that are saying like oh, the ADU program passed, I'm going to put 50 grand into a septic...hey, no, no, no, and they didn't even apply for the money. You know, it's...it's . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I just would like us to be very careful in the information that we put out, that it's realistic, attainable, and...and accompanied by the steps that people need to go through. Because so much people have said, like, you know, the County...none of the things that the County has said has applied to me, that I've been able to actually receive. And...and it's only getting worse. Like people

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who thought they were okay are less, and less, and less okay, mostly financially. And then...and then that leads to everything else not being okay. So, those kind of things, with the 1,000 number of permanent housing, is not real to me, and I think we should not do that anymore.

MR. NISHITA: Thank...thank you, Chair. Yeah. The only thing I'll say is, you know, like you said, that wasn't a report meant to be posted or anything. But we have been trying to work with our team on the actual like housing recovery dashboard to break out kind of some of the things that you're talking about. And unfortunately, it's just not to a point...it's not...it's not helpful to me yet. So, we're...we're still in the development stage to make sure that once it's released, or we're providing that, then it's something that can be utilized by decision makers and whatnot.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. And then Middleton is leaving? Is...is...do we have a economic person to take his place?

MR. NISHITA: Well, I'm not going to talk about an individual's employment situation, but the...he was never...Luana and Layne were the economic recovery support function leads. The State, Feds, and County are in the process of kind of transitioning the recovery support functions, and essentially will take on now implementation of short-, mid-term, and long-term recovery projects. So, kind of the structure in which we're operating will be changing here, and has already begun to change. And so, leads and...and support systems will be in place for different projects.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Thank you all. Okay. Members, this item was posted for no legislative action, so right now, I will defer this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS.

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

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CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Okay. This concludes the GREAT Committee. Thank you very much, Members. It is now 4:49, and this meeting is adjourned. . . . *(gavel)* . . .

ADJOURN: 4:50 p.m.

APPROVED BY:



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

great:min:241022

Transcribed by: Kaliko Reed

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CERTIFICATION

I, Kaliko Reed, hereby certify that pages 1 through 65 of the foregoing represents, to the best of my ability, a true and correct transcript of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not in any way concerned with the cause.

DATED the 3rd day of December 2024, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Kaliko Reed