

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

MINUTES

April 3, 2025

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 10:05 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Member (In 10:17 a.m.)

STAFF: Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst
Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary
James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney
Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokaʻi Residency Area Office
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Kristie Wrigglesworth, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Patrick McCall, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Shane Dudoit, Deputy Director, Department of Parks and Recreation
Mary Kielty, Chief of Recreation, Department of Parks and Recreation
Christian Kinzle, General Construction and Maintenance Supervisor II, Department of Parks and Recreation
Samual Marvel, Chief of Planning and Development, Department of Parks and Recreation

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

April 3, 2025

Lisa Almeida, Park Permits Officer, Department of Parks and Recreation
John Stufflebean, Director, Department of Water Supply
James Kimo Landgraf, Deputy Director, Department of Water Supply
Thomas Ochwat, Civil Engineer VI, Department of Water Supply
Lesley Milner, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Marcy Martin, Director, Department of Finance

OTHERS: Steve Scraggs, Maui Family YMCA
Meleana Kurokawa
JD Wyatt, Executive Director, Kalima O Maui
Junya Nakoa
Jasee Law
Justin
Misty Amorin
Others (19)

PRESS: *Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.*
Gary Kubota, Maui Now

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(*gavel*). . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Boy, it's been quite a week, so I appreciate all of your hard work. It is now 10:05 a.m., and we are beginning our third day of delibera...fourth day of deliberations. At this time, we have...I just want to announce that we're...this...this meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law, and if you're not in the Chambers, please recognize who is with you, and minors do not need to be recognized. So, first of all, good morning, Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. And I think the morning greeting is pryvit. Yeah. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Pryvit. Council Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning. Aloha mai kākou. And the reason why I picked pryvit is because I feel so sorry for the people of Ukraine being charged a tariff in the middle of a war. So, it's inconceivable. But good morning, everybody. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The United States is doing some very unusual things. So, Member Paltin, you can introduce your minor with you, as well as good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Pryvit, and aloha kakahiaka kākou. I have one unnamed minor with me today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: In the Chambers, getting a massage by Chair Lee. Next, we have Member Johnson, you're online.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. Good morning, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. Pryvit to everyone. I'm alone in my workspace, and there's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Pryvit to you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka. There are currently no testifiers at the Molokaʻi District Office, and pryvit. And Koa is going to be so jealous, Chair Lee. Mahalo to Hāna last night for hosting us, it was a fabulous spread, and always wonderful people who come out and testify. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Agree, so agree. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha and good morning. There's no testifiers in the Kihei District Office, but Bill's on standby, and I'm looking forward to the meeting. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Pryvit to you, Member Cook. Member U'u-Hodgins is going to be a little bit late, but she'll be joining us. Member Sinenci, thank you very much last night.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. And pryvit, everyone. And glad to hear that everyone got home safely. Here at the Hāna District Office with District Staff Dawn Lono. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good job last night at the residency area meeting. And before we move on, I'm going to ask you to do some opening comments about that after I do all my introductions, but I want you to talk about your gift that you gave to Chair Lee in your...in your comments. That was so sweet. From the Office of the Mayor, we have Lesley Milner, Budget Director; Department of Parks and Recreation, Director McCall, Patrick McCall. Shane Dudoit--I didn't see Shane, is he here? Oh, hi, Shane. You want to come down here? You can. Later? Okay. Samuel Marvel, I love his name, Chief of Planning and Development; Mary Kielty, Chief of Recreation; Chris...Chris [sic] Kinzle, Acting Maintenance Superintendent; Roxanne Pasalo, Administrative Officer; Lisa Almeida, Permits Officer. Oh, you have your team here, huh? Yeah. Department of Water Supply, John Stufflebean and James Kimo Landgraf, I think I saw him here. Department of Corporation Counsel, Kristina Toshikiyo, Department...for...and Kristie Wrigglesworth from Department of Corporation Counsel. Thank you very much, Staff. I always say without you, we would not be sitting here. Pauline Martins, Senior Committee Secretary, thank you very much; as well as Yvette Bouthillier, I've been getting a lot of emails from her too; Kristine [sic] Szabo, Legislative Analyst; and James Kruger, Senior Legislative Analyst. Thank you. I think...I think, Kirsten, you left at 10:30 last night, or so.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .(inaudible). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Everybody left at 10:30. Jarret Pascual, as...and Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst; Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney; Richelle Kawasaki, Deputy Director of Corporation Counsel [sic]; and Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk.

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

April 3, 2025

Thank you, everybody. And I think during the budget, what really happens is everybody focuses on the budget, so everybody that I didn't name that is...is plowing away in hours, I really appreciate you. Look at the last page of this agenda for information on meeting connectivity.

**ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY
 OF MAUI**

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And we only have one item on the agenda today, which is Proposed Fiscal Year '26 Budget for the County of Maui. And Members, I will be taking testimony after the opening comments today. So, today is...we're...oh, last night, we held our second residency area meeting with Member Sinenci, and I want to really thank Member Sinenci. You do quite a production to greet us and to feed us when we get to Hāna, and your team is awesome. Dawn Lono sat the whole time taking notes for you, so I'm sure, you know, you're going to follow up on many of the...the requests that your...your community had. And so, you can talk about your gift to Member...to Chair Lee, and please give us a summary of last night.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. If we've learned anything from Lāhainā, is that we stick together and we help out one another. This was no different from what we heard at the Hāna District budget meeting last night. But we are a close-knit community with shared values, so when local government can jump in and support these shared values, then a community can heal and thrive. We heard how MEO is a vital part of the community when helping parents and caregivers transport our keiki and our kūpuna, and also the need for more student travel funding. We heard how school partnerships with nonprofits like Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike and Hāna Arts can supplement and provide real-life and culturally-based curriculum for our keiki. As a rural community, we don't often get the benefits afforded to the larger populated areas, so resiliency and sustainability is important to us. Support for a food aggregation center will help our farmers process their ag products for export, and the continued work by MISC will help to protect these investments for food sovereignty. Chair, hopefully our locally-sourced meal provided an insight into our personal communion and love for the 'āina, and the need to protect our gathering practices. Mahalo to Councilmembers and Staff who drove the Hāna Highway last night, something that the community was also very passionate about, particularly the continuance of paving out toward Kīpahulu and Kaupō, including traffic safety measures, as Sarah and Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez witnessed last night, and of course, regular water pipeline maintenance. Members, it was nice to see our young adults show up last night, including Akaneki, who is returning home from the mainland, Keaka, Meleana, and Keahi. They presented their petitions to the Council for better park and playground equipment, and for more investments into recreation, athletics, rural health, and overall wellness. Finally, Chair, I wanted to thank Kate and Member Johnson for coming out early to meet with East Maui constituents on the food truck bill. Oftentimes, the Planning Commission timelines don't allow important legislation to be referred to the Hāna Advisory Committee for our input, so mahalo nui for that. And that concludes my report, Chair. Thank you.

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, I'm going to say what you didn't say. It...all that wonderful food, and it was quite a spread. I think Uncle Don remembered that Chair Lee had mentioned that she likes 'opihi and 'a'ama crab, and so they sent out your...your volunteers to go and harvest and hunt to satisfy her need, right? So, here we show up...we show up last night, and Don tells me that, I go, oh, my God, Chair Lee's not here. She...she has company or something, so she's not able--I don't know what the reason was, but she's not able to be with us--and he says this. Listen to this. So, Chair Lee, Uncle Don says, well, you know, when the kūpuna ask, you got to do because they did for us before. And I thought, how beautiful.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Especially when he's kūpuna as well. This was my first Hāna meeting that I've missed in 17 years. That's how much love I have for that community.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And usually, Chair Lee and I ride out together, you know, and her...our big thing is, did we see the cows? But last night, I didn't see any cows. You saw. You saw what?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . silver one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Silver cow. Oh, that sounds like it's blessed.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know why, yeah? You almost hit them the last time. So, they...they see you coming, they take off.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anyway, we had fun. Thank you very much, Member Sinenci, and thank you for the gifts that you really did send to Chair Lee. I...I brought it to my office last night because I thought, I do not want to forget this, and if I leave it at home, I'm going to eat it. So, thank you very much for being very thoughtful. And...all right. So, thank you, Member Sinenci. So, at this time, I would like...did Staff upload...upload...wait. Oh, we have a new calendar, and the only difference in the calendar is that we took off the East Maui Water Authority not being...doing a presentation today, but all the rest remains the same. I want to let you know that the Water Department did respond to your questions, as well as the initial questions that were sent out, so they're done. Parks Department, the reason why that I was talking to Director is that they transmitted their responses to you, but it was sent to an unusual folder, so it never really made it to Lesley Milner's desk, I guess. But it is done, so you will have the Parks' responses. Very good. And so, if it...if that didn't happen, maybe, Director McCall, you...maybe you would have not had to come to see us today. Just kidding. So, anyway, that's the change on the calendar, and we're going to be continuing on with deliberations for Fiscal Year '26 Budget, and I'm going to get opening comments from the Parks Department, Water Supply, and then we're going to be followed by public testimony. And as you know, what we need to finish this morning, before we go into your questions to the

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

April 3, 2025

departments, we need to finish off our range of rates for Real Property Tax because filing with clerk's office is due at noon today. And it still has to be perfectly typed, and everything you want has to be perfect with that reso. So, with...in consideration for the OCS Staff, we need to be done with that. So, directors, I hope you don't mind, but we're going to do that, and then go into the questions to you. So, at this time, I'd like to invite the Director of Parks and Recreations, Pat McCall, to provide opening comments from your Department. And Members, the initial letter is on Granicus 24, labeled...labeled PR-1, and Department questions letter is...oh, wait, is this Water or Parks? I thought we don't have Parks. We don't have Parks yet.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, two. So...Okay. We have 24 and 65, and then...oh, that's with Water. Sorry, that's Water. All right. So, at this time, then, Director McCall, would you like to provide your opening comments?

MR. MCCALL: Good morning. And thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair? Chair? I beg your pardon. I'm sorry to jump in here real quick, but I just want to inform the Committee that I have to leave at 10:30 to catch a ride. Just letting you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. 10:30. Thank you for letting us know.

MR. MCCALL: All right. Good morning, Councilmembers. As requested, my opening comments will be brief. The Department of Parks and Recreation FY '26 Budget remains flat while we continue to work to maintain our facilities, implement preventative maintenance, issue permits, and promote safety within our parks, and plan future development, and build new facilities. Our...our budget this year is approximately 42.3 million, with a CIP budget in addition, 23.4. The major changes in our FY '26 Budget, administratively, we're asking for \$250,000 to fund a cost study analysis to evaluate our rates and fees program. I'd like to develop a systematic approach for determining these rates and fees with a built-in system to look at it on an annual basis, and make adjustments as necessary as we go forward into the future. Our...we do have four expansion positions that we are asking for. These are four Park Caretaker Is, and this is to accommodate an anticipated need to decrease, or maintain at the current level, our services that are currently provided by qualified rehab programs. We are also putting in a budget line for court resurfacing, as we want to make this an annual part of our preventative maintenance program, and this will just be an ongoing thing, rotational over the years, to maintain our courts. And finally, we have several new CIP projects that we would...or CIP that we would like to begin funding in the early phases. First is a new community center for Lāhainā. Second would be a field house--in other words, a covered outdoor court for Lāhainā--in Lāhainā; an emergency generator at South Maui Gymnasium; a Kalama Park light replacement project; Sakamoto Pool repairs project; Kahului Community Center, the roof replacement that exists in Kahului Community Center; Lāhainā Aquatic Center rehab project; and the Kula Gym Project, looking at a new facility in Kula. That's the quick and dirty summary of our budget changes this

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

April 3, 2025

year. My team will be here, as Budget Chair mentioned, for...and available for questions later. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good, Director. Next, we have Director Stufflebean. Welcome.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Good morning. Good morning, Chair. Good morning, everyone. Yeah, so the Department of Water Supply, as you know, is somewhat different than other departments in that we are an enterprise fund. And so, all of our revenue comes from the water fees that people pay. Our Water Fund is healthy. Our mission is to find more water for affordable housing, that's kind of at the top of our list. In terms of operations, our budget, it's a continuation budget, essentially, although it does increase from 83.2 million to 91.5 million. The biggest increase is in additional personnel costs. And the second issue is equipment replacement that has been kind of delayed for many years, and we're trying to get caught up and get our equipment replaced. And then we have professional services as well. Professional services is, I think, the most important thing that we have in our budget, really, in a lot of ways. It's helped us with source development. There's elements in there for being smarter and more efficient in terms of a strategic master plan and efficiency efforts. It also includes efforts to comply with EPA lead...lead and copper rules, which we have to do. And then there's several in there about additional financing issues, helping us with billing support. We've been having some problems with that. We're trying to get some help with that. And then our...to look at our water system development fee to make sure it's accurate. It also focuses on water conservation, addition...even more than in the past. And it includes two positions that are for enforcement that we need...we feel we do need to start doing more enforcement on our water conservation and some of our meter issues. And we don't really have any current positions that are...that are really enforcement-related, so we're adding some positions on enforcement, as well as four additional operating positions. The CIP includes over 40 projects. The budget increases from 23.8 million to 45.1 million. The CIP is funded from the rate increase, if approved, from the Water Development Fund, from Carryover/Savings, from the GET, the first time we're getting money from outside the Department, which is exciting for us, and then, of course, State and Federal funding. The...the CIP is very focused on water source development. And at the top of the list is...is wells. Talking to my counterpart over in Honolulu, he now says it takes ten years to get a new well in Hawai'i. So, it's...that's a long process, but we're working on it. We also have some issues relating to our water treatment plants. They're all filtration plants, so it's issues to...so it's projects to include...improve the filtration capacity of the plants, and to deal with the fact that when the water's really turbid, we can't treat it. So, we can...there's some additional treatment we can do to help us treat it, to deal with the turbidity and treat the water during...even during high flows. We also have a major storage project in Kamole. And then we have, of course, the usual tanks and transmission lines that need to be renovated. We have issues in there for dam safety. And for the first time ever, we are coordinating with Department of Environmental Management on recycled water funding as well. In terms of grants, we award grants for watershed protection, as we always have. It's approximately 4 percent of our budget. Again, really important thing that we're doing long-term. And we received grants. We think...you know, it's all...as you know, it's being...it's very fluid right now in terms of that. But we...we will, we expect to get money from...grants from

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

April 3, 2025

FEMA, especially for generators, many new generators, a lot of new generators. We think...we think we have a good chance of that. And then EPA funding as well, as well as USDA funding, the Department of Agriculture funding for a project over in Moloka'i, which qualifies for the funding. And finally, rates and fees, we're proposing essentially a 10 percent increase overall in terms of revenue generated. However, it's...it's...it's strategically designed to...to allow those who are more...who need water to get it for the low price. The residential, for the four tiers, the first tier, which is the first amount of water that you would use, a resident would use, is no increase at all. Second tier, 7.5 percent. Third tier, 15 percent. Fourth tier, 25 percent. So, we're saying, you know, if you use excess water, you're going to pay more for it. And this...even with these increases, it's still...we're still less than Honolulu and less than Kaua'i, what their proposed are. And then finally, we're proposing an increase in Ag rate of 5 percent and an increase in the Hotel rate of 25 percent. So, that's a...that's a summary of our budget. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Concise, that's very appreciated. So, at this time, opening for public testimony, do we have anybody? We do? Okay. So, at this time, opening testimony, we welcome...we welcome people or the public to testify. And we are testifying on the budget, so you'll be limited to three minutes for any item on the budget. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items at the beginning of the meeting and as the item is called up. For individuals wishing to testify via jeans...Teams, raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. Or if you're calling in, please follow the prompts via the phone; star-5 to raise and lower your hand, and star-6 to mute and unmute. Staff will add...Staff will add names to the testifier's list in the order testifiers sign up to raise their hands. For those in Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the name you logged in, and under the last four...or the last four digits of your phone number, if that's what you have testified...signed up with. At this time, Staff will enable your microphone and video. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify us. 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, I'll give you another 30 seconds. Once you're done testifying, or if you do wish to...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 each person up in an orderly fashion.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Testifiers, please.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Maybe I missed it, but did you acknowledge Member U'u-Hodgins? I know you were waiting for her to set up.

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I didn't know she came in.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry. Member U'u-Hodgins, welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So stealthy. Thank you so much. Good morning, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Good morning. All right. Testifiers?

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The first testifier signed up is Steve Scraggs in the Chamber, to be followed by Meleana Kurokawa on Teams.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 1 . . .

MR. SCRAGGS: Aloha, Committee Chair Sugimura and Committee Members. My name is Steve Scraggs, I'm the CEO of Maui Family YMCA. With me is our Chief Operations Officer, Misty Amorin. I'm submitting testimony today in favor of the \$250,000 proposed funding to Maui Family YMCA. The Y is grateful to be included in the County Budget. The funding will allow the Y to provide scholarships to Maui County families for childcare, water safety programs, chronic disease prevention and support, membership programs, and health and wellness programs. In the Budget Year 2025, Maui Family YMCA gave over \$500,000 in financial scholarship across Maui County. This included over \$200,000 to provide 100 percent free childcare for fire victims in Lāhainā. At our Kahului branch, we provided over 450 Maui County residents financial assistance for Y programming. This helped families pay for childcare, swimming programs, music, theater enrichment programs, Parkinson's fitness and support, and much, much more. The Maui Family YMCA is an integral part of the Maui community in the services we provide, and the sense of belonging and 'ohana that is part of the Y experience. We truly see YMCA offerings as workforce development. Our childcare programs make it possible for parents to return to work, and our wellness and membership programs help create a life balance that keeps employees happier and healthier. In a matter of weeks, we will be opening our West Maui YMCA Community Resource Center in Lāhainā. The Resource Center will house over a dozen partner organizations and provide programs for mental health, cultural awareness, childcare, workforce development, fine art, fitness, therapy, and many other services. We are proud that our primary resident will be Kaunoa Service...Senior Center...Senior Services, which will have offices and programming space for kūpuna puna programs at the new resource center. Maui Family YMCA, through funds raised both privately and publicly, is able to operate the programs at West Maui YMCA Resource Center at no cost to partner organizations or Maui County residents. We believe our Y is a great investment for the County. Funds provided to the Y will ensure residents continue to have access to quality programs that couldn't...they could not otherwise afford. This is truly a frontline program where residents can see and feel their tax funds benefiting the community in a very tangible

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

April 3, 2025

way. We thank you for your continued support of the Y and the commitment these funds make to health and well-being of our most vulnerable populations. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for coming to testify. And for me, I'm glad to meet you because we --

MR. SCRAGGS: Good to meet you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- did hear from Mike Morris, who...you took his place.

MR. SCRAGGS: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good job.

MR. SCRAGGS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anyway, Members, they did submit written testimony. All of you had received a copy of it this morning. Questions from Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Scraggs, for your testimony. I just was...wanted to inquire, in light of you soon to open in the West Maui area, did you participate in the action plan survey for the DR funds?

MR. SCRAGGS: Yes. Yes, we did.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. SCRAGGS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, and that's --

MR. SCRAGGS: Thank you, Councilmember.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I just want to add that for West Maui, it's good that you have Kaunoa because, you know, as you know, our center burned also. All right. Anybody else have any questions? Oh, Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for coming here and sharing your testimony in front of us. So, my question is, the 250,000 is for both sites that you want to try to spread this through, or is it just for one site?

MR. SCRAGGS: It'll...it'll be for...first of all, thank you for your question, Councilmember. It'll be for both locations. We...we'll...we will take the \$250,000, and it'll go into a scholarship pool. And in that scholarship pool, it'll be used for...we predominantly see a lot of childcare scholarship applications. And we have...we've been fortunate through

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

April 3, 2025

our other types of fundraising, we've been able to raise funds to provide free childcare in Lāhainā. And we're committed to free childcare in Lāhainā through the fundraising that...that we're utilizing. But there is a possibility that...that some of this 250,000 can be used for programs and services on that side.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. SCRAGGS: It'll be used across all of our programs.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I think that's really great, but I don't know if that's enough. But that's just my thoughts. Thank you, Chair.

MR. SCRAGGS: I...I would love more money.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions for the...for Mister...is it...

MR. SCRAGGS: Scraggs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Scraggs. So, I remember in the past that...when visiting the Y for meetings, that there would be some people outside on your patio charging their phones, and they were homeless. So, are they...are you still helping them? And is that still available?

MR. SCRAGGS: Yeah, absolutely. And as a matter of fact, would it be okay if I allowed Misty to come up?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, is she testifying? She can testify also. Is she signed up to testify?

MR. SCRAGGS: No, no.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Maybe she can sign up to testify and then she can...

MR. SCRAGGS: Yeah. Well...so, we...there's actually several...several homeless persons who...who have...who have used those services, who now are actually working for us in different capacities. And so...and...and this year, of course, our COO, she really initiates a lot of that work. But creating opportunities so that, you know, people can get some...some...not only the use of our facility, but some money in their pocket and help maybe facilitate their situation to be better. But yes, absolutely.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's beautiful. Okay. Thank you very much. So, is she the next testifier signed up? You have another person? Yeah? Okay. We're going to call whoever. And then--can you register up front in the lobby? And we can get you on to testify. Thank you very much.

MR. SCRAGGS: Thank you.

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think there's no other questions. Next testifier, please.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Meleana Kurokawa, to be followed by JD Wyatt on Teams.

MS. KUROKAWA: Aloha. My name is Meleana Kurokawa. Can you guys hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. KUROKAWA: Okay. I am here today as a concerned high school student and resident of Hāna, Maui, in regards to the urgent need of a playground for our community. Hāna, Kīpahulu, and Ke'ānae all currently lack a public playground for keiki who are not old enough to attend school. Additionally, the only playgrounds in East Maui that are provided on campus are outdated, and pose numerous safety risks. Playgrounds are essential for the well-being and development of children. They provide a safe environment for physical activity, which is crucial for combating childhood obesity, and developing skills such as coordination, balance, muscle strengthening, and hand-eye skills. Studies show that children living near parks with playgrounds have better mental health than children living near parks without playgrounds. Furthermore, playgrounds help children develop social skills, build friendships, and learn to share with others. There are also cognitive benefits of play that teach keiki problem-solving skills, thinking critically, and even help with exploring cause and effect. A new playground would also serve as a place for 'ōhanas to come together, while bringing a sense of community pride. It would provide a safe and enjoyable place for children to play and offer parents a space to socialize. Gathering parents, caregivers, allows them the opportunity to support each other. This sense of community is particularly important in small towns like Hāna, where social connection greatly enhances our quality of life and allows us to thrive together. If the Department of Parks and Recreation were able to develop Pā'ani Mai Park, Kīpahulu Point Park, and Ke'ānae Park, it would greatly enhance the well-being and healthy development for the children of our community. Not only our children, but the community as a whole would benefit from a place to gather outdoors together. A playground falls clearly under your mission statement to provide safe, satisfying, and cost-effective recreational opportunities for the residents of and visitors to Maui County. I'm confident that with support, we can create a space that will benefit current and future generations to come. Mahalo for your attention to this important matter. I'm looking forward to your response and sharing blueprint or ideas for the possible facilities. In the meantime, to take action, I started a petition for community support. In a few weeks, I managed to receive 410 signatures. This shows me that our community thinks we need this playground as much as I do. I also sent letters to some of our community leaders and got a response from Shane Dudoit, Dawn Lono, and also Uncle Shane. These responses helped me realize some minor obstacles. I understand the process is lengthy and has to be done through CIP Division with regards to special management rules. . . .(timer sounds). . . Almost there. Thank you. I implore the people and leaders here today to hear the need of our community and begin the planning, budgeting, and permitting to move forward with making a playground that our community can be proud of. Mahalo nui loa.

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, last night, she testified, and we told her about this meeting, and here she is. So, very well done. Members, do you have any questions for her? Seeing none. Thank you. Okay. Next testifier.

MS. KUROKAWA: Thank you.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. The next testifier is JD Wyatt on Teams, to be followed by Justin. I apologize, JD, your mic is unmuted. *(pause)*

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, Mr. Wyatt's unmuted on our end. He'll have to unmute on his end to begin his testimony.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Wyatt, can you unmute on your side? We can't hear you.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, perhaps we could...

MR. PASCUAL: JD, if you're able...oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, perhaps we could provide Mr. Wyatt the call-in information and...oh, it appears he's unmuted.

MR. WYATT: I'm very sorry, everyone. I was having trouble with this. And I remarked at the start, what a tough act to follow. She was fantastic. If...if that's indicative of the students in our high schools here, we're...we're very fortunate in the future. But thank you very much, Chair and Councilmembers. My name is JD Wyatt, I'm the Executive Director of Ka Lima O Maui, and I'm here today to...to testify on...on behalf of our contracts with Parks and Recreation. Director McCall and his Staff are fantastic to work with, and I think we, as anyone know, just how challenging some of the work can be out there, you know, maintaining the parks. So, really appreciate the opportunity and your time to listen to my testimony. Ka Lima O Maui has been providing grounds and custodial services to Maui County for roughly 47 years now. We provide a vital community service in that we maintain some of the more popular parks used by the community and by the visitor...the visitors on island. And our work ensures that these properties are safe, sanitary, and welcoming. We have over 12 ground crews and custodial crews every day out working in the parks. Typically, our crews have four staff members with them, one supervisor, and three adults with disabilities. So, we run about a 75 percent ratio. We're currently employing almost 50 adults with disabilities for County parks and grounds work. And I can tell you that, you know, not only is the...the...the jobs for...for those that we employ meaningful to themselves and their...and their sense of self-worth and...and self-esteem, but they're also integral to...to their families, and to the family budgets, and the...the economics of the families and the households they live in. And so, it...yeah, we've had some challenges in...in recent years with...with...with, you know, cost increases and service increases which have elevated our contracts with the County, but really, we have been doing the same kind of work

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

April 3, 2025

and...and the same...essentially the same sites for the past three decades. So, the only thing that's...that's changed is, we've gotten a lot better through the years because over 50 percent of the adults that we employ have over 15 years' experience with Ka Lima O Maui. So, imagine that's what we're bringing to the table in the sites that...that we do...that we do the work on. So, you know, I just want to advocate for...for our staff first and foremost, share my appreciation for what you do, and what Parks and Recreations does for the community. And, you know, our mission of enhancing lives through self-reliance is not something here that we just say and put on a business card and on our letterhead, it's the...the focus of my staff, every, you know, individual of my staff every day for those that we serve. And I just really appreciate, you know, the...the opportunity to give these opportunities to...to those that we serve, and appreciate all that you do. So, thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Wyatt. And any questions from the Members? Member Paltin? And...okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Wyatt. I really appreciate the work that they do, especially in the parks bathrooms. I wanted to clarify, was...was there a specific amount we could help you with?

MR. WYATT: Well, we have...we've actually been...you know, I think, you know, most of you are aware of some of the challenges that we're...we're having with running into caps with our programs. And we've actually...this year's contract proposal that we submitted for Fiscal Year '26 is...is less than last year's by about \$58,000. And, you know, we...we do pay minimum wage. There used to be the 14(c) certificates that would allow some minimum. We never use them. We'd really like to be able to pay our staff, you know, a little better than that because we feel they deserve it. But I understand how...how challenging this...this budget year, in particular, is going to be. So, we're just...what we'd really like is just support for, you know, the...the ability to provide, you know, contracts that...that have small increases each year to accommodate, you know, rising costs and cost of living and inflationary issues, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and the caps that you spoke of, if it's 58,000 less than last year, if that were restored, it wouldn't go above the cap that you spoke of?

MR. WYATT: Well, we...in the...in the Kihei District in particular, I ran into a situation where I hit...hit the cap that...that's...that's on record right now for 850,000. And my bid actually would have been about 30,000 more than that, at about 800 and...or...or 880,000. But making sure that I, you know, didn't violate that issue that's...that's being litigated now, I had to hold back that bid. So, that...what that means to us is we're...we're providing less services, right, and less hours for those that we employ. So, that's...that's kind of where I'm out of balance in particular this year. And I appreciate that...that question because that's...that, you know, we're...in the other districts, in Central and Wailuku, we're...we're well below the cap. And you know, Kihei, we...we do almost the entire, you know, from...from Kam I, Kam II, and Kam III, all the way down the strip there, we're handling all those facilities, and Kalama's a huge park as well, so...

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. So, we just kind of got to let the litigation play out before we can move forward with that.

MR. WYATT: Yeah, I think that...yeah, I think that, you know, that's...we've been concerned because I knew I was getting close to this cap, particularly in that district. And...and I think that that's the...you know, the right decision for us to make, and the responsible thing as...as, you know, a partner with Maui County to...to do. So, you know, I told my board, I'll just find a way to...I'm going to go fundraise another \$30,000 somewhere else in a fundraiser or do something else, and that's how I'll kind of cover that puka in the budget for us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is there not the ability to shift that workforce to the other districts with a smaller cap--I mean, the...that are below the caps?

MR. WYATT: You know, I suppose theoretically, you know, I could...I could kind of move that around. But...but, you know, we've been...in the last couple of years, in particular, I've been really trying to build up our private contracts with the...with the private sector. And I think to...to help Ka Lima in the future and for our growth, it's wise for us to diversify, you know, a little bit on...on that respect. So...so, I think that's where my focus is going to be. I don't think it would be fair to try and, you know, gain that...that lost income in other districts if we're not specifically doing the work in those districts.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Wyatt, for your testimony and...and your work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MR. WYATT: Thank you, Councilmember. Appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama has a question for you, Mr. Wyatt.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Wyatt. Are you in the Wailuku District or Kahului District?

MR. WYATT: We...we're in both. We're...so...so, we have a Wailuku. We call...Kahului is called Central, so that's the Central contract. And then we have a Wailuku contract, and we have a Kihei contract.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Do you have a contact number?

MR. WYATT: Yes. (808) 244-5502, extension 202.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. WYATT: Thank you, Councilmember. Thank you.

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for being so transparent. Now we all have your contact information. So, Mr. Wyatt --

MR. WYATT: Of course.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- how about the Police Department? Are you still cleaning the Police Department? I think that came up.

MR. WYATT: Yeah. So, we do...thank you for the question, Chair. We do both grounds and custodial at the Police Department here. And as you know, that's where our facility is. And...and if anyone drives into the Cameron Center and you see immediately the...the grounds work, you know how...how good our staff is. And I'm so proud of that because I drive in every day and drive out. But yeah, we...we also hold a contract with the Police Department that's roughly around \$230,000 currently.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions? Seeing none. All right. Next testifier. Thank you very much. Keep up your good work.

MR. WYATT: Mahalo. Appreciate it.

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, the next testifier is Junya Nakoa.

MR. NAKOA: Oh, sorry, sorry. I got to turn off my TV. Okay. You guys ready?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ready.

MR. NAKOA: Yessah. Okay. I get like four things that I like talk about. Of course, I going talk about Parks and Recreation, especially here in Lāhainā. Been saying this for how many years? Okay. Our park sucks. Our parks need help. Yeah, Nāpili Park. The batting cage was on the budget for like three, four years, I think. And finally, the buggah just got done. When the thing was being built, I was still living on the beach. And the buggah just went pau. You guys saying all these kind of projects yeah, brah. But when the thing was being built, I was telling the Deputy Director, let us do 'em. We're going to do 'em more fast and more better. But that batting cage still needs plenty help. The thing is just...again, I coach over there every year for the last how many years. These kids is deprived of the benefit to have these kine facilities in Nāpili. My...my brother's program, my program, we've been in the All-Stars for the past six years, representing Maui. And we practice at Nāpili Park every time. And we gotta deal...we gotta deal with this kine, I'm going to say, shitty kine stuff over there in Nāpili. We gotta suffer. I keep saying this. Our old Filipino man over there, he badass. He...he make that park as much as he can as nice as possible, yeah. But I hear that da kine...I hear that you're going to do one community center in Lāhainā. Oh, yeah. How long that going to take if the batting cage went take three-plus years for be built? Community center needs to be done yesterday. 'Cause every time here, we like have baby showers, graduation parties, all that kine stuff. We...we cannot do 'em during the time get the basketball tournament that come over here, you guys shut us down. We no more no place for go. Okay. So, this buggah is way late. How long would it take? I hope you guys, Council

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

April 3, 2025

people, is ready for ask this guy that question. But don't get me wrong, I call these buggahs every damn time. Okay. The Lāhainā Park, the one that just went open. One of the main things yeah, not only the baseball parks like that, but the beach parks--Canoe Beach, Wahikuli, D.T. ...D.T. Flemings--the places, oh, S-Turns just, you know, just got cleared up. Us locals, we go . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . to the beaches to clear our mind--I going finish up, I--to clear our minds and all the good stuff. So, we get three, four, five local families at these beaches, and then we only get one rubbish can. Every day, we go...we get nighttime...we get nighttime games at the Lāhainā Park now, the Little League. Good job, the President of Little League. We get nighttime games. We...we played Upcountry. Some shame, we get only one rubbish can. We went host them, we feed the Upcountry guys when they came over here. All the place, all over the place. Rubbish all over the place. Make us look stupid. But lucky, we know that...we know the guy that's taking care of the park. So, we ask hey, brah, can have a couple more . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . rubbish bags? Get a couple more rubbish bags so we can put the rubbish inside, and we'll clean 'em up? So, that's the kine work that we, the taxpayers, got to do. We volunteers for...30 years I volunteer for this thing. So, Parks, get off your guys' okole and do something for us West Maui people. And you guys going...yeah, so...okay. That is...that is just for the Parks. Now the next item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...not Member --

MR. NAKOA: Water. Water.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Nakoa, we have only one item on the agenda. So, you have three minutes to talk about everything. Does he have more time?

MR. NAKOA: What the . . . *(expletive)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, the buzzer went...the bell went off.

MR. NAKOA: Well, I like talk about the...get...get...you get...you get two...you get two departments over there --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, but it's...

MR. NAKOA: -- that you guys going question. Right now, you have Water and Parks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. NAKOA: And then now --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And as I said...

MR. NAKOA: -- you...and...and yesterday, you had...you had Police and you had the...you had the Police, you had Corp. Counsel. How do you expect us for talk three minutes for all these different kine...different people that's here?

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we announced at the beginning.

MR. NAKOA: You guys taking away our voice.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We announced at the beginning, and we are going to be consistent with all the testifier [sic] that you have three minutes to talk about anything on the agenda. And you have reached your three minutes.

MR. NAKOA: Yeah, yeah. The agenda is all of this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: If you want 30 seconds to talk about Water --

MR. NAKOA: All...all these things --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we'll give you 30 seconds.

MR. NAKOA: -- all these --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NAKOA: -- all these things is on the agenda. All the topics I'm talking about. All these guys asking for money is on the agenda. All these departments asking for money is on the agenda.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's the budget.

MR. NAKOA: Come on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Mr. Nakoa, would you like just 30 seconds to finish up, or are you done?

MR. NAKOA: Well...okay. Water. Water, water, water. Make sure the thing is only going to go to the affordable, no luxury homes, zero luxury home. All for the work...for the workforce housing because again, you guys know Lāhainā, we no more people...we no more housing for the people of Lāhainā. We're getting screwed by the State, so County, do your job because I...I am going to be fully active on fighting for housing for locals. And yeah. 'Cause...and no forget our parks, brah. I'm going to tell you, Parks, I going to be making choke noise, choke noise. Oh, my God. I guess I coming on every freaking day then.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Nakoa, you're welcome to --

MR. NAKOA: . . .(inaudible). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- come every day that we have budget. And you'll have three minutes to talk about anything in the budget. Okay. Thank you very much. Anybody have questions --

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

April 3, 2025

MR. NAKOA: Oh, this . . .*(expletive)*. . . suck.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for Mr. Nakoa?

MR. NAKOA: This . . .*(expletive)*. . . sucks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Don't swear, or we're going to take you out of the meeting. Don't swear. We do not use that kind of language here. Okay. No questions. Next testifier.

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you, Chair. That's currently all the individuals signed up to testify. If anyone in the audience or on Teams would like to testify, please come up to the mic and begin your testimony or use the raise-your-hand function on Teams and Staff will unmute you. Here's a countdown...oh, I do see someone at the podium.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Chair?

MR. LAW: Aloha kakahiaka. Aloha kākou...kākou. Aloha, *Akakū*. And aloha Pō'akahi, ka 'Aha o ke Kalana O Maui. Mahalo, luna Ho'omalua Kashiwa Sugimura. And for the previous testifier, as he'd done enough grumbling, and I...I going to try to talk positively, huh? Jasee Law from Kula Uka, Waiakoa Ahupua'a. And aloha, ke Ke'ena Pāka a Hana Ho'onanea McCall. At the Tavares...Hannibal Tavares Community Center the other night--thank you all, Councilmembers, for coming up there--in the dumpster...they don't have a cardboard dumpster over there. So, I've got some cardboard boxes out of there. And I'm just using these for my example. So, at the...I don't go down to the...Pukalani very much, but I...I stay around the Kula Community Center. And they had one huge luau the other night, last weekend. It was the biggest one I ever seen. There must have been a thousand people there. And I tried to divert some of the cardboard from the dumpster, but the trashman came early in the morning, Monday morning, and that was it. So, to give you guys a picture of what's going on here, if I took all the cardboard out of the dumpster from the Kula Community Center for one year, I would probably be able to fill four tennis courts ten feet high. So, I'm sure Mister...Mr. Agawa would appreciate if we could get a cardboard dumpster up there. Thank you.

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

MR. PASCUAL: Chair, no further individuals have signed up to testify. If anyone would like to testify, please come up to the podium and raise your hand on Teams. The countdown is three...two...one. Seeing none, Chair. No one has indicated that they wish to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, at this time, with your permission, Members, I'm going to close public testimony for this portion of our meeting and receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ITEM 1 . . .

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. As I mentioned...so departments, if you would like, you can sit here as we talk about real property tax, or you can go back in the...and be with everybody else in the gallery. But...so, at this time, I would like to ask Staff to distribute, which you got, I think, the real property tax rates and tiers, which we discussed yesterday. And this was passed out, right? Okay. As a reminder, this resolution...resolution is due to the County Clerk's Office by noon today. To allow Staff sufficient time to finalize a process for documents, we need to conclude our discussion by 11:30 today on this matter. So, as we concluded yesterday's meeting, there appeared to be consensus on the proposed real property tax rates and tiers, except for TVR and Hotel classifications. I've invited Director Martin to join us today to assist us with any questions that may arise. With that, are there any questions from the Members? Seeing none. Okay. Ms. Martin, are you on already? Is she here?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin...oh, there you are. Okay.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Ms. Martin, yesterday, you probably...you were there for this discussion, and we passed out...did...did we send to her a copy of...we're going to send to you a copy of what the Members now have before them. But it basically is a summary, or what we discussed yesterday. And the only two that I thought we would bring up, Hotel and Resort, as well as the TVR, and just to get your input on it. So, it looked like, Members, that we did have some consensus or discussions regarding Owner-Occupied, Nonowner-Occupied, Apartment--which was not touched--Timeshare, Long-Term Rental, Agriculture, Conservation, Commercial, Industrial, and Commercialized Residential. And so, I wanted...any questions for Ms. Martin regarding that? Do I see...did you have your hand up, Ms. Paltin? Okay. Ms. Paltin, then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just any feedback you had about tiering the Hotel rate at 800 million?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Thank you, Chair. So, the Hotel class has a wide variety of properties, and you can look at last years' certification book on page --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 65.

MS. MARTIN: -- 65 to get an idea. It go...last year, it was 13.6 million to 755 million. But within those properties, many of those are subdivided into multiple units. And so, that would be...for example, the Ritz-Carlton is 90 units, and Kealani is 44 units. So, right now, the way that the Code reads, if you did tier the Hotel class, those properties that

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

April 3, 2025

are condominiumized would be treated like a lower-value property. So, you could have two properties next to each other paying different tax rates. So, that's a concern.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So...so, maybe don't tier it at all, is what you're saying? To promote equity amongst?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin.

MS. MARTIN: Thank you. Well, I think it just needs to be looked at to make sure it's reflecting the policy that you want. One way you could do that was to just put extremely large tier ranges in your posting so that it could be discussed after certification. We don't really know what values we're at until we get past the April 17th deadline. But at...at this time, like I said, I think tiering that Hotel class is...is...could create some inequity to adjacence...adjacent properties.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then I guess the other question is, for our Legislative Attorneys, if we put in a tier, do we have to use it since it's the range of rates? Could we put it in and not use it at all --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Hanano?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- for the flexibility at a later time?

MR. HANANO: Yes. That's correct, Councilmember Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I...I guess I would recommend 800 million or nothing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, just have one...one tier, is that what you're saying? Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. So, it would...it would be two. It would be everything less than 800 million, and then everything more than 800 million for both...for Hotel and Timeshare.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is that what you're recommending, Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, that...that's how I wrote it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. If...if we tier it at 800 million, it would be two tiers. If we do nothing, it'll be one tier.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One tier. Oh, nothing. Yeah. Okay. Any other have any comments? Did you get that? Yeah. I'm sorry. Oh, Director Martin, you have your hand up.

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

April 3, 2025

MS. MARTIN: You may want to check. So, if you wanted to create two tiers, could you put the range for each tier --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Different.

MS. MARTIN: -- zero to 800 million? And that way, you have flexibility. I think it's okay if they overlap because you're just creating ranges for each tier. So...so, it would be Tier I and then Tier II.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Member Paltin, are you in consensus?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You are? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For Timeshare as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And then for Timeshare, Miss...Ms. Martin, do you want to say...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, same...same.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Same thing?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: As Hotel Resort.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, 800 million for both?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And the zero.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members...oh, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: For Ms. Martin. Would we have to put anything here, or would...would the...the rate schedule now allow for any kind of credits?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin, did you hear the question?

MS. MARTIN: No. Can you repeat that?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The rate schedule that we have in front of us, could this allow for any credits because of the big ranges and so forth?

MS. MARTIN: A credit would probably have to be an ordinance amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, Chair, would...this has a time-sensitive deadline --

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Today.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- of today at 12:00. So, if we wanted to propose some kind of credit, would that have to be posted as well today, or that could be a separate ordinance?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I say separate. So --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Corp. Counsel?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Mister --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I mean --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Hanano or Deputy Director?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- our Attorneys, can you answer that question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We won't have it ready today.

MR. HANANO: If you could give us a moment, we can confer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You need a recess? Okay. Let's take a two-minute recess? Are you...is that okay?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think more.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want to take a recess? 11:00...11:15?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, 11:15. We'll come back at 11:15. ...*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 11:08 a.m.

RECONVENE: 11:21 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: ...*(gavel)*. . . Okay. It's 11:21. Thank you very much for letting us take that break just so we can get everything a little bit in sync. Regarding the discussion for Hotel and Short-Term Vacation Rental, I...I want to say that because this discussion is going on a little bit longer, we have asked the departments...we're going to call them to come back after lunch, either 1:00 or 1:30, depending on what you all want to do. And we had a question, which was...which caused the recess, and the question came from Chair Lee that she wants to know how we can give a...did you use the word rebate?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Credit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Credit. Credit. So...

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But we found the answer. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, but we --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, you want to hear from them? Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- got to announce to the public just because you asked that question. Go ahead.

MR. HANANO: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee, for the question. So, the reason why we're creating this resolution or, you know, attempting to do a draft is, under Maui County Code 3.48.565, it requires the Council to publish a range of rates for the real property taxes for this Fiscal...FY '26 Budget. Nowhere in the Code allows for a credit at this point. And so, the purpose of this resolution is not...is basically, like I said, to publish the range of rates and the tiers for the real property taxes. It does not require a notification or publication of a credit. And...and just for, you know, the court's...the Council's information, Committee's information, there is no current ordinance which allows for a credit. So, the Council would have to enact that type of legislation to...to allow that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. And just for your information, we are planning to initiate an ordinance having to do with...not necessarily a rebate. We're not sure what we're going to call it, whether it's a credit, whether it's a refund, whatever it's called. But we now realize it's a separate issue, and it's not subject to the 12:00 noon deadline because it can happen at any time. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Hanano, you want to answer?

MR. HANANO: No, that's correct. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, creating a new ordinance then would be effective for the next year. So, we have some time to work on that, so we don't have to power out to get it in, or we can't get it into this resolution. So, that's pretty clear.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What we're thinking of right now is not something that would be considered some sort of exemption, or having to do with real property constraints.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We might tie it to Carryover/Savings. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Interesting.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Which could have a sooner result. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That means we need to budget leaner and meaner. That's what it means. Before we continue, I want to welcome Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. I...I...no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office. And thank you for having me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, good at this time. We're still laughing and enjoying ourselves. So, thank you. Welcome. So, I'd like to ask Member Rawlins-Fernandez if you can clarify the...the tiers for Hotel and TVR. Is it for TVR too?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Timeshare. So, for Hotel and Resort and Timeshare, it would be zero to 800 million for Tier I, and then 100 to 800 million for Tier II or above...or more than. I don't know. The way it's written, I agree with our Legislative Attorneys. It needs to be kind of fixed up a little bit. But basically, it can't be below 100 million, but it can go above 800 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, are you saying for both of them the same, similar Hotel and TVR [sic]?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For...for --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, Timeshare.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- for how this would be written, it would be zero to 800 and then 100 to 800.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But isn't the 100 in the 800? I mean, zero...because zero to 800. Chair?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .(inaudible). . .

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you going choose one or the other. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, it's just the range, yeah. So, we would choose something within that range. So, it would end up being what we discussed before the recess, which is less than 800 million and more than 800 million. But because this is a range, it has to be posted on this reso, that's why it's being written in a somewhat not very clear and confusing way.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Get rid of one.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, no, they would both be there.

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, no, I know.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Krueger?

MR. KRUEGER: So, Chair, to...to effectuate the...that intent, I think the way the Staff would probably write it would be up to 100 million to more than 800 million for both tiers. And then that way, the Council would be able to set some sort of tiers relating to, you know, up to 100 million or more than 100 million, something like that. But that way, that should capture the...the...what's being discussed right now, is that language.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, Member...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't think so. I think 800...zero to 800 million, and then 100 million to 800 million.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: To give us the flexibility for Tier II when we get to the discussion as Chair intended.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, that's what you meant. Oh, sorry.

MR. KRUEGER: Right. So...so, when...when we word it to up to 100 million to more than 800 million, what we interpret that to mean is that the Council could set something as low as zero to 100 million, or to as high as zero to 800 million. And then for the high end, they would be able to set something --

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

MR. KRUEGER: -- yeah, 800 million-plus. Or some other tier to fit with what we set for the first tier.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Well, to put 100 to give us that flexibility to go as low as 100 for Tier II. That's not the intention, but just for that flexibility to have that. Okay. Great. We're saying the same thing? Yeah? Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Krueger, is that fine? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, we got three minutes. Two minutes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you fine? Okay. Does somebody have a...oh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I have a...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama?

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

April 3, 2025

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I have a question. So...so, 100 million, is it...are we saying up to, or we're just starting with 100 million? Like we're just starting with it?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Correct. So, it wouldn't be --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- lower than 100 million.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: It would be lower?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, it would not.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, that's...that's the beginning.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, Tier...Tier II could not start low...could not be --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Lower than.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- set lower than 100 million.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: 100 million. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Correct. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's...that's what I understood.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, and that's correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Is Director Martin still on?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Director Martin, I think that's your initials. Oh, there she is.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Go ahead, she's on.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Oh, okay. My question is, by making tiers in this, is there any potential conseq...negative consequences that you see?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Only to the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Oops.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin? That sounds like an attorney question, but...

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

April 3, 2025

MS. MARTIN: Well, I think that the way your ranges should look is that you have a menu option. You can choose no tier, or you can choose tiers by making it very broad. And then once you get the certification and all the data, then you can --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . in there.

MS. MARTIN: -- make the decision. Right now, it's just a posting decision. So, I think a broader...more options is better than the option to have no tiers. So, I guess you would just set the rate the same in every tier.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You're fine? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And...and to reiterate what Director Martin stated yesterday is, we could also choose not to have a tier for...for both Hotel/Resort and Timeshare.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...but by putting it on the resolution today --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Gives us options.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- it gives us that option later. And if we don't put it on the reso today, then we don't have that option later. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct? All right. You're fine, Member Cook? Okay. Everybody's fine. So, are we fine with this? Can...can Mr. Krueger please repeat what was decided?

MR. KRUEGER: Yes, Chair. So...so, Staff's understanding is we're going to change the...as it relates to Hotel and Resort and Timeshare classifications, so we're going to change that Tier I and Tier II. Right now, it says up to 600,000 to more than 100 million. We're going to change that to say up to 100 million to more than 800 million. And then that way, if the Council afterwards, when it later deliberates on what tiers it wants to set, it could set a tier that's something like zero to 800 million and then the second tier, more than 800 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Why are we choosing not to just make it zero? Zero --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You...you want to use...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- to 800 million.

MR. KRUEGER: So, we could do something like zero to more than 800 million for both, if that's what the body wants.

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Get rid of the 100. Okay. We have the nods. Okay. Zero to 800 million.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: For Tier I. And then Tier II would be the 100 to 800.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, what is Tier II? I hear...I hear everybody talking to each other.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. I will support what Staff...what makes sense to Staff.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Mr. Krueger, what is...what is...what are you recommending for Tier II?

MR. KRUEGER: So, Chair, the reason that on the resolution right now we've put both tiers to have the same language is to make it clear that if the Council decides to make them the same, basically, they can have the option to do so. So, I suppose there's a question as to whether...if we start making them different, whether or not we're perhaps restricting the Council from doing away with the same tiers. So, I think I'd like to kind of ask our...our Committee Attorneys to weigh in at this point.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Mr. Hanano, Deputy Director, any comments?

MR. HANANO: Thank you, Chair. No...no comment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you agree? You agree? Is that what that means? Okay.

MR. HANANO: Yes, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's good. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's good? All right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Krueger.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Members, this is a miracle. We finished this part. Got kind of involved. Yay. So, we are set, right? All of you are fine with the resolution as proposed, as discussed yesterday...or actually, the last couple of days? Okay. All right. So, at this time then, with the changes that we just heard, I need a motion to accept this resolution so we can send it to Clerks.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So move.

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

April 3, 2025

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, Chair Lee, and seconded by Member Kama. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Now, for all of us and the general public--because we already are getting text messages for clarification that April 17th, we get the certification from Real Property Tax--and that's going to be the guiding document because it'll be the facts as it relates to all the assessments, all the emails we've been getting, right? It'll be the facts as to what we are in terms...or what is certified for Real Property Tax for all these categories, not only the two categories that we're talking today. All right. So, we can put this aside. It is now 11:33. Would you like to take a lunch break now and then...I've already released the departments, thinking that this discussion might go a little longer, and come back at 1:00; is that all right?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You cannot come back until 1:30?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Same with me, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Same with you. Can we make it 1:30? Okay. All right. So, this meeting is now adjourned at 1:30. Oh, I'm sorry, wrong word. Wrong word, wrong word.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I wish, though.

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I know, we've been doing so good by having early days, yeah? Okay. So, we're going to...we're going to call a recess until 1:30, and then you're going to call the departments to come back, right? So, we'll have Parks first, and then we'll have Water. Apologies to them because I know they blocked off time for us. And so, at this time then, this meeting is now in recess until 1:30. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 11:34 a.m.

RECONVENE: 1:33 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 1:33 p.m. Thank you, Members, for the...for coming back so quickly. And we're going to take up the two departments that we had planned to take up this morning. I want to thank the Department for allowing us to adjust...kind of major adjustment on the schedule, and then Water will be after Parks. So, at this time, Members, you heard the presentation from the Parks Director, and I just want to remind us to please...I know it's...I know it's hard not to talk about operations, but I want us to focus on the money part of this discussion so we can keep to the...to our agenda. I'm going to start off with Sinenci, and he's not here. Then I will go next to Member Kama. So, it'll be three minutes per round, and the reason why I'm starting with Mr. Sinenci is this is his...part of his kuleana, right?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. And so, I'm going to try to do that. So, knowing that you are the expert on the different department based upon your committee assignments. So, I'm going to --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- start with Sinenci, go to Vice-Chair Kama, Lee, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook, U'u-Hodgins, and then I hope...hopefully, Member Sinenci will join us.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here, our Parks and Rec team. So, question one, how many vacancies do you have in your Department?

MR. MCCALL: What was it? I think there's...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 7-0.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah, currently, it's approximately 7-0.

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

April 3, 2025

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. How many...if your Department was made whole, how many bodies would be there?

MR. MCCALL: I believe it's just about 430.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. That's not bad.

MR. MCCALL: And not...and that doesn't include the PALS, the...the temporary --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. Right.

MR. MCCALL: -- assignment.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. Okay. So, if the Council were to adjust the budget amount for the expansion E/Ps to only four months of forecast expenditures rather than the traditional eight months, would that have a large impact on your Department's ability to recruit? And bearing in mind that any expansion to the Category A of your budget is not tied to any specific positions. So, that's one. You can answer it, think about it, or send it to me in writing because I know we don't have the time that I thought we were going to have today to go through all of our departments, but...so, up to you, you want to answer now or later?

MR. MCCALL: We...we...we can go ahead and give you --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: -- an explicit answer in writing.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: I think would be --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: -- it will give you more exact numbers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You got that?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, second question. There was substantial Carryover/Savings recognized from the Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. This carryover represents capital improvement projects that were never started, vacancies that weren't filled, and equipment that was not purchased. So, what from 2024 is being proposed again in this budget?

MR. MCCALL: From...I'm sorry, I'm...kind of --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

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

April 3, 2025

MR. MCCALL: -- lost me on that question. Could you repeat that, please, Councilmember? I apologize.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: The Carryover/Savings from '24 were due to capital improvement projects that were not started, vacancies that weren't filled, and equipment that wasn't purchased. So, what from FY '24 is being proposed again in this budget?

MR. MCCALL: Oh, okay.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: '24 or '25?

MR. MCCALL: '24, because that carryover comes from '24. I will let Mr. Marvel address the capital improvement ones, and then I'll talk to you about the positions.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. MARVEL: So, that's a great question. I'll have to get back to you . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we need a mic. One second. Mr. Marvel, you need a...yeah.

MR. MARVEL: Thanks for that question. Can you all hear me? Great. We'll have to get back to you on the specifics. I know there were a few projects that we did carryover, but we'll get back to you in writing on that after this.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, that should include, Mr. Marvel, whatever services and activities that you weren't able to...to deliver, right? And will be included the answer?

MR. MARVEL: Correct. . . . *(timer sounds)* . . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Was that three minutes gone? Was it, Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Really?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: They took a while . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Had to do the adjustment.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Last question for this round. How confident are you in your Department's ability to deliver on the services and project proposed in this budget?

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

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

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

April 3, 2025

MR. MARVEL: All right. How's that?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Good.

MR. MARVEL: We are absolutely confident. We...we put together the projects we thought we could deliver, and we'll deliver them. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you for that. Okay. Chair, I'm good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, real quick.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Oh. So, we can hear you in Chamber without the mic, but the purpose of the mic is so that everyone online can hear you too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think we got you, yeah? You got the mic now, Mr. Marvel, on this side? You do? Okay. Thank you. Next, we have Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'd like to give my time to Member Kama, because I...I would have asked the same questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you have more questions, Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No, I don't have any more questions yet. Yet.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. No, because Mister...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Marvel.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, Pat didn't answer his side.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: He was supposed to answer the CIP, he was supposed to talk about the vacancies. Could you do that?

MR. MCCALL: The...thank you for the question, Chair Lee. The vacancies in several of our divisions remain difficult, mostly in the recreation section and in the enforcement and permit section. We...we'll continue to recruit. We're trying to do a few other things, including a one-day...a one-day recruitment, which has been very successful in filling our pool positions. That area does remain short, but it's only because they come in and they...they move on. We...currently, we consider ourselves kind of a stopping point for

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

April 3, 2025

many people to move on into other positions within the County. Unfortunately, it's great for them financially, but we continue to have that revolving door in those positions.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Maybe you have to pay more.

MR. MCCALL: We'd love to, yes. And...but...and then that's the collective bargaining agreement, of course, that...and most of those positions are covered by, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Maybe you have to redescribe.

MR. MCCALL: We...we are --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: -- we are doing...we're working --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Very good.

MR. MCCALL: -- on that as well.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: As long as you don't give up. Thank you.

MR. MCCALL: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you done? Oh, okay. Member Paltin, then followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Would the carryover from Fiscal Year '24 be close to \$6,636,725?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. The amount I'm showing in the ACFR for Parks and Recreation is 1.3 million. I will say--and we discussed this briefly the other day--but the amounts included in the Budget Details are more recent than the numbers included in the ACFR, so they may include actual expenses that weren't captured in the ACFR. But the ACFR is our audited totals, so that's what we like to refer to when we're talking numbers.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like budget amendments that we used already?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, any budget amendments are also included in the ACFR for expended/unexpended.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Because for Recreation Support Services in Fiscal Year '24, the salaries and wages were about 17 million, but the actual for Recreation Support Services were like about 13.6, a difference of like close to 3.5 million, and I don't think

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

April 3, 2025

we got any budget amendments to move from category A to B or C. So, then we budgeted over 3 million in salaries for Recreation Support Services that never got used, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I would need to look at how much was also expended on overtime due to the vacancies to take that into account as well. So, if you want to send that in writing, I'd be happy to provide a breakdown.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Perfect. And what kind of sports can be played in a field house? The Lāhainā one.

MR. MCCALL: Well, because that is a brand-new project, it'll be in design. But what we foresee in that would be obviously basketball, some...also some paddle sports potentially, and volley...volley...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What about that sport with the...the...that they were playing on the tennis courts that the guy played that called the police on them? What is that called, foosball or something?

MR. MCCALL: Oh, the...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Pickleball.

MR. MCCALL: No, the soccer...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Futsal.

MR. MCCALL: Futsal.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Futsal.

MR. MCCALL: Futsal.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can that --

MR. MCCALL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- be played in a field house?

MR. MCCALL: Yes, it could be because it currently is played on outdoor basketball courts as well. So, indoor courts would...could accompany that. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the field house that you guys are designing for Lāhainā, could it be multi-use for all of those things...pickleball, futsal, and all those...

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

April 3, 2025

MR. MCCALL: That would be definitely part of the community outreach, and that's what we...that's what we are envisioning.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, when do we anticipate the playground at Lāhainā Rec Center to start and finish?

MR. MARVEL: Thanks. Our goal is to start in...to put it out to bid in July, and probably start at the end of the year, and open . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . sometime next year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I have more questions, but I heard the bell. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much, another round. Member Johnson, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Before I get into my one question for Parks, I just want to thank you guys for the Lānaʻi Skate Park, and all the...the work you guys did. The community came out, and we're...we're riding high, as they say, right? Jacob Janikowski probably will stop emailing you for about a week. Red tank guys, thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah, the email demon. Tasha Inaba was...was so happy. We're all...Lānaʻi folks are really happy on that. So, I just wanted to thank you for that. Okay. So, my question is in regards to PALS, of course. So, I know that...I'll just read my question, but I also want...I would be remiss to say, thank you once again for the dog park and the farmer's market. There's so much going on, on Lānaʻi, so thank you, Parks. How many PALS sites were operating for summer 2024 and winter 2024? How many are expected to operate in summer 2025? For each site, please indicate the staff which would make it fully staffed, and the amount that are actually staffed in that location. What are the wages offered for each session, for each PALS position? And how many families have been waitlisted for summer 2024...winter '24, and summer 2025 PALS? What percentage of PALS participants were children of County workers? Does this Department have any data about the number of free or reduced lunch participants in that waitlist? Now, I said that was one question, but there was a lot in there, and I'll leave it to you to respond.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can I ask you a question? Sorry.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director, can I ask a question? Was that one of your questions you sent to the...it sounds very familiar.

MR. MCCALL: Yes. So, I believe those questions were sent...they're due to Council tomorrow, and --

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. MCCALL: -- and...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I would appreciate them in writing, if you guys...because it is a big --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- paragraph question, so...

MR. MCCALL: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And you're going to get it in writing.

MR. MCCALL: And...and right now, Ms. Kielty can give you....Mary, if...

MS. KIELTY: I'll give you . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. MCCALL: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Anything would do great. Thank you.

MS. KIELTY: Hello. Hello. Can you repeat the first bit of that one question --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MS. KIELTY: -- please?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, how many PALS sites were operating for summer '24...'24 and winter 2024?

MS. KIELTY: Summer 2024, we had 13 sites. Winter, we had also 13 sites.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And then what's the expectations of summer 2025?

MS. KIELTY: Our projection is 16 sites for summer 2025, and 16 sites for winter 2025.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, it'd be an increase then. That's great.

MS. KIELTY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: What are the wages offered for each session for PALS positions?

MS. KIELTY: The wage...you meaning the rate of pay for the --

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The workers.

MS. KIELTY: -- workers? So, it's actually very good, thanks to you. Yeah, I believe you're the one that asked for the increase, and it worked.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great.

MS. KIELTY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's the goal.

MS. KIELTY: So, we have site coordinators coming in at \$31.63 an hour. Directors, \$27.91 an hour. Specialists, \$26.04 an hour. Leaders, \$22.32 an hour. And aides coming in at \$20 an hour. So, it's --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's great.

MS. KIELTY: -- it's fairly remarkable because we've had quite a bit of workers applying because of the raise in the --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's wonderful.

MS. KIELTY: -- in the monies. But I...I must point out, as Alice Lee had pointed out, about raising the . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . the salaries for our employees. Our recreation staff right now make less than what PALS seasonal employees are making. So, it's...it's fairly challenging. The supervisor in the office is making less than the site coordinator right now. That is very challenging for the workers in the offices. So, yes, something does need to be done for the recreation staff. So, if there's anything you folks can help us with that, we would very much appreciate it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you for that response. You know, and my time's up, so I'm going to pass the mic.

MS. KIELTY: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But, you know, we raised those wages because they didn't have unions...you know --

MS. KIELTY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- the unions is what we're pushing on. So, I would love for all us to get together and speak to the union and say, hey, look, just what you mentioned, how it becomes...that becomes a challenge.

MS. KIELTY: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Ironically, the unions are the ones that are...

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

April 3, 2025

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: the...I...

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. I...I never had that experience before where a union would not support that. But a rising tide lifts all boats, and that's my time. Thank you so much.

MS. KIELTY: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Member Cook, then Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Director, Deputy Director, and for bringing the team. Aloha, everyone. Okay. I wanted to dovetail off of the question from Member Johnson. What bargaining unit is the staff that you just named, the supervisor in Parks? Is it HGEA? Bargaining Unit 3?

MS. KIELTY: Yeah, sorry. It's HGEA, Bargaining Units 3 and 13.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 3 and 13.

MS. KIELTY: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, we always have problems with the union fighting for those two bargaining units. It's really frustrating. Okay. Okay. So, I have a question on the rates and fee study analysis. Okay. And that's for the public following along, page 597 in the Program Budget. Okay. So, Department of Water Supply does a rate fee study every three years because they're self-funded, so they have to ensure that the rates keep up to generate the revenue necessary to keep the...the Department operating and expanding its infrastructure. Planning did a rate...well, it was more like a cost recovery study for rates back in 2020 or 2021, and it focused on cost recovery. Do you envision the rates and fees to be more focused on cost recovery the way that like Water and Planning kind of has theirs setup? Has there ever been a rate study done in the past? I did do a quick search, and I found a needs and preference study back...done back in 2016, or at least published in...

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, it's really interesting. I never knew that, so I was checking it out during the recess. And then I will repeat the first question because I'm sure that would help. So, do you envision the rates and...the Parks rates and fees study to be focused more on cost recovery? Has there been a study done

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

April 3, 2025

before? And if not cost recovery, what do you envision the rates and fees study achieving?

MR. MCCALL: Apparently, there was a study done several years before this current Administration started. It wasn't...to my knowledge, the focus was a little different. We don't foresee this as a complete cost recovery. I don't believe that that's the Parks mission to the community, but we do need to, I believe, have a more formal progression instead of just saying, well, this is the current rate, why don't we raise it by this much? Because as the . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . facilities change--for instance, Velma going...Velma McWayne Santos Community Center going to a fully air-conditioned facility, the power bill completely changes on that for us--in other areas where we might not have the same issue because of PV, you know, availability, et cetera. So, we'd like to have it based on a standard that when we come to Council and ask for rate changes, we can exactly state why, and it's not just --

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

MR. MCCALL: -- yeah, an arbitrary we need more money kind of comment.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. So, you're done?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I...I think the timer went.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I didn't hear the timer. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I mean, if it didn't, I have more questions. I was just trying to respect the process.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The timer went off a long time ago. Just kidding. Member Cook. Member Cook then Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Member Sinenci, I'm...I'm going to come to you last. Sorry, I didn't see you pop up.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question is both for...and it's...how it affects personnel and how it affects CIP. And basically, the impact on building permits for CIP projects not started or finished on the original construction schedule, impact on personnel's scheduled use, planned implementation of personnel, and how does this impact on the Carryover/Savings? The challenge that the...your Department faces with getting building permits on time and being able to schedule and execute your work as planned.

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

April 3, 2025

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for the question, Councilmember Cook. I'll address the personnel issue. We...because of the length of time involved in the development of a...of a new facility, we...we do have a little leeway when we project new staffing, et cetera, and we can create those positions, and we accommodate for that. The process of permits, on the other hand, now, that is a very difficult aspect of our development. As...as the community has stated, you know, we often have a project that will be entered, let's say, in this year's budget. And next year, people will say, why isn't the building up yet, you know, it was budgeted for last year? Well, that's not the process. The process is very long. And I will let Mr. Marvel address the kind of issues that the permitting does to both our construction costs and...and our personnel who are involved in those projects at that time.

MR. MARVEL: Yeah, thanks. That's a great question. That's probably one of the biggest issues we have for delivering projects on time. It's a minimum of a year to get a building permit from the application time, where some projects are at 18 months. So, I mean, just everything gets more expensive the more time goes on, right? I mean, with the uncertainty in the markets right now, we're seeing 15 to 20 percent possible, you know, construction cost increases every year. So, it ends up costing the County quite a bit of money to have those projects delayed. It's also hard to predict when they'll be ready. So, we'll have a fully designed project that's shovel-ready, we're just waiting on that permit. So, it can be challenging too, for contractors that maybe bid and...and have their bond held up, waiting for that project to start, and they can't go out and bid more work. So, it's...it's frustrating for the contractors too. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I didn't hear the bell yet, so I got a follow-up question. From your experience, do you think that the...the bids that the Parks . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . get for projects is higher because of the challenges that contractors have executing your projects due to permit delays and stuff?

MR. MARVEL: Oh, absolutely. Yeah, we know it is from their feedback.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you very much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I'm going to follow up on what Member Cook just said. Thank you guys for being here. Last night, we were in Hāna, and we heard about the Pā'ani Mai Park. Do you guys have a status on that? A few years ago, I put \$100,000 in for design, permitting, conceptual, whatever, whatever. How's that looking, and when can we allocate some money for construction?

MR. MARVEL: Thanks, that's a great question. We actually have good news on that one.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, yay.

MR. MARVEL: We...we do have money in our current budget for construction, so we are working on getting a playground --

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MARVEL: -- put in at Pā'ani Mai.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Awesome. Thank you. When...when do you think that's going to begin?

MR. MARVEL: I don't have a firm timeline on that, but within the year...within a year --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MARVEL: -- it'll be done.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Cool. Thank you. Do you guys receive any Federal funding for maybe like PALS or anything? And if so, what can we do to help alleviate some of the costs that may come with potentially losing some of that funding?

MR. MCCALL: We currently get a reimbursement for meals, and it's...it's currently, we have it in our budget, and it's basically a pass-through. We put it up, and we're reimbursed by Federal Government. At this point, we have not heard anything whether or not.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: What is...how much do we get reimbursed?

MR. MCCALL: I believe it's...last year was...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 200,000.

MR. MCCALL: It's at \$200,000 this year.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Will you guys let us know if there's anything that threatens that funding?

MR. MCCALL: Definitely.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. And then what is the status for the Baldwin to Baby Beach Park, that Pā'ia Master Plan, and when can we hopefully see that come to fruition as well? I would love to be like Member Johnson, we're like, yay, we got all the things, but we're not there yet. But we're working on it, but we're not there yet.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I know. Oh, we're...we're about that close...nah.

MR. MARVEL: Thanks. There's a lot going on --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

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

April 3, 2025

MR. MARVEL: -- out there with the acquisition. I know there's...there's, you know, dune restoration studies going on. There's sea level rise studies that we're trying to finish up, and all that's going to get incorporated into the master plan. We're hoping to get that resumed and going again.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MARVEL: I'd say in the next year or two, we should be able to finish that, and get some momentum around that project again.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Cool. Thank you. Looking forward to that. That's all the questions I have for right now, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Thank you guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Speaking of last night, here's Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Director McCall, Deputy, and Staff. And yeah, great news for Pā'ani Mai Park. Meleana will be very happy. I didn't want it to be her life's work. She's still a student, so thanks for that. But my first question was, we...we know that a couple people in...at the Hāna parks retired, and so have those positions been filled, or do we still have vacancies at the Hāna parks?

MS. KIELTY: Mahalo for the question. We still have vacancies. We're actively looking for people to fill those positions. So, if...if you have anyone in mind, please send them to DPS to apply. We...we need people, good...good people, that'd be great. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, thank you for that. And for...you said to send it to DPS. Will DPS be doing the screenings for you, or will you...will the Department receive those applicant...applications?

MS. KIELTY: I believe the applications go through DPS, and they screen them, and then we get a list. Once we get a list of names, we'll then conduct interviews.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. So, you don't see the entire list of applicants that...that DPS receives?

MS. KIELTY: We see the list that they give us. So, they give us the list of the people that are...met all the qualifications.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Got it. Got it. Okay. And then I know Mr. Marvel said that we will be beginning construction on the civic center sometime in May or June...this summer. But until...so to Member Johnson's point for Summer PALS, will the Hāna

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

April 3, 2025

community still have offerings of Summer PALS programs during the construction of the...the civic center?

MS. KIELTY: Yes, we'll be operating the Hāna PALS. Hopefully, we get quite a few kids to join us.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And then you'll probably have it at the hall where we had the meeting last night, the Helene Hall?

MS. KIELTY: Yes, exactly. We'll have it there, and out on the pavilion, and in the beach park. It's a beautiful area, you know that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We were...we were there last night.

MS. KIELTY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And then we also received--I guess, some of the community members--I know the...the statue is...has been a great addition. However, being right next to the ocean, it's...it's already starting to see some wear and tear. Who should I contact to try and maybe re-patina the statue?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . the question, Councilmember. We will continue to monitor the statue, but I...I do need to state that the statue is made of bronze, and it is supposed to form a patina, which will eventually be relatively blackish, dark brown, and some green, especially there along the ocean. And that is the actual design of the statue.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Director. I will share that sentiments with the community. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. So, for...for my turn, I just want to go back to Hāna. And Director, I thought...this is not a question for you, but I thought it was very interesting. We are in the most beautiful place, right, Hāna? And the first testifier last night wanted a pool in Hāna. And I shared that with my husband this morning, and he said, oh, Hāna, you have all this beautiful ocean. Why would anybody want a pool? But that was my reaction. And I just thought, so interesting, people. Because we all would want to live where they're living. So, that's my comment about that. I thought it was kind of interesting. Of course, I have to talk about two things, which is the Kula Gym, and that impacts Waiakoa Gym. I know you...I know you have half-a-million dollars in this budget for the Kula Gym. So, that's a question for you. I guess it's...and...and...and the total project going forward is, construction is 10 million. But that--thank you--how does it affect Waiakoa Gym, the current old, poor thing gym?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for the question. The...the issue with the current Waiakoa Gym is...is --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's old.

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

April 3, 2025

MR. MCCALL: -- yes, it's a historical building, but it doesn't serve the purpose that a gym in today's community would. And the...financially, to bring that gym and the surrounding area up to today's standards would be less cost-effective than building a new gym. And so, I've asked Mr. Marvel for...and our Maintenance...our Construction Maintenance Division that we maintain the gym, and look to plan and build a new gym in the area to make sense. That particular area does not allow for any parking. All gym parking right now is done on a two-lane street--as you know, you live right down the street, Chair. Also, the ADA access is nowhere near Code. And...and bringing it to Code would be, again, just seriously cost-prohibitive. And so, a new gym would better serve the community. And I think we need to kind of start taking that mentality as we go forward in...in all of our park facilities. And...and instead of trying to rebuild everything, I think we need to build better buildings in different spots when possible.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, if in the future you need assistance with Waiakoa--because I know it was in last year's budget--but if you need help going forward, please let me know. Because that is, of course, one of the things that I hear about at the Upcountry Farmers' Market, right? People go and do exercise, the roof is leaking, whatever it is. So --

MR. MCCALL: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- appreciate that a lot. I notice that in the CIP budget, there's...I remember once I saw you, and you told me exactly how many projects you had in CIP, and you're maximizing. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . But my quick question, if Members would allow me to, is that everything...all of your projects are in General Fund--maybe this is also for Ms. Milner--could you please look at that? And you can send it to us in writing, how many of that you can...you can bond? Because everything is cash right now, and I'm just concerned that...what is the plan?

MR. MCCALL: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did you get that question? Yeah. Okay. All right. So, this is second round. Member Sinenci, you want to do the second round first? You just joined us.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo...mahalo, Chair. And yeah, just a follow-up. Well, I sent in this question, and we did have a prior discussion with Mr. Marvel, who's taking the lead on some of the Hāna projects. But in your CIP...Capital Improvement Programs, CBS-4581 under Countywide Parks Facilities, you've allocated \$2 million to respond to the needs of a community by acquiring, developing, and maintaining safe, quality recreational facilities. And I know some of the issues has been either we have to go through a...get an SMA permit to put in some of these playground structures. So,

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

April 3, 2025

is there funding in the...the CIP budget to put in maybe smaller or whatever, that we can kind of streamline for some of the small rural parks?

MR. MARVEL: Yeah, thanks for that question. Yeah, we typically like to identify, you know, specific projects, and then put those into the budget. We...we normally put those in the CBS-3232, which is the Countywide Park Playground Improvements and try to capture the cost there. 4581 is more of a contingency fund for, you know, unexpected-type things. So, if we did run into an unexpected permit or something like that, we could...we could use those funds to...to take care of that. But if we wanted to do a specific project, we either put it in the Countywide Park Playground Improvements, or just make a line item for it. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And so, Mr. Marvel, you have...you have that flexibility, and it looks like you've also...2.6 million in CBS-3232.

MR. MARVEL: Yeah, correct. And that's for...those are allocated to, I believe, three playground projects that we...that we are in design with right now.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Yeah. And Ms. Kurokawa, who testified this...she spoke on just a couple of smaller parks in the Kipahulu, as well as...and they're tiny...tiny parks, you know, kind of fit between properties, as well as the Ke'anae Park. So, if we could include those, that'd be really appreciative [sic], and it wouldn't make it her life's work. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member Sinenci. Member Kama, Chair Lee, Member Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook, U'u-Hodgins. Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I thought at one point in time that the Kahului Community Center was going to be torn down and look...another site was going to be looked for to put up a new community center. Is that plan still ongoing, or are we not doing it?

MR. MCCALL: That plan is...was shelved for a while. I have asked Mr. Marvel, and they are...we will...as you saw in our capital improvement budget, we will reroof the current facility because it's in use, et cetera, and we are looking to develop a site...identify a site. A previous site that was identified in initial planning phases has turned out to be inaccessible.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MCCALL: And so, we're looking to identify another site in which we can build a new facility. As you know, there's some plans for transition of that entire area --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MCCALL: -- on that part. Yeah.

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

April 3, 2025

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So...so, my next question is, what is your minimum qualifications? When someone first has to put in an application, what is the minimum qual?

MR. MCCALL: That would be position-dependent. So, which position would you want to...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Let's start from the lowest position you have to offer right now?

MR. MCCALL: I don't know if I like that...that...that phrasing, I'm sorry, but we...we have...depending by division --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: -- for instance, in...in our Recreation Division, we have, on the maintenance side, the Park Caretaker I position. And then in Recreation, I believe the entry-level position there is the Rec Tech --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Rec Aide.

MR. MCCALL: -- Rec Aide, I'm sorry. Yeah. Yeah. And that one is a high school graduation [sic] with some...with some athletic experiences, et cetera. And...yeah, and a driver's license, some of those minimum things.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I'm going to get back to the...the discussion that you had with Mr. Sinenci about not seeing, you know, the entire list that you...that what...what Personnel does is that they screen them out, and they say, okay, these are the guys that are qualified. But sometimes, even if you don't have the minimal qualifications, your core competency sometimes outranks your minimum quals. So, my thought is, maybe you should get rid of minimum quals. You get rid of them, you get to see the entire list, and you can probably see what their strengths are in all of these people, and where they can fit in whatever it is you may be looking for. Have you ever considered that?

MR. MCCALL: Thank you for the question, Councilmember. And yes, we...in fact, the entire leadership team met with DPS and their...their Director, and also their specialist who service our...our Department. And we are working...and have made some progress in that area, and we're working to where we see it...especially in some of the positions where we feel that might be more prevalent, for instance, in the planning...the planning...the planners positions, et cetera, and some others...some of the rec positions as well. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: How far have you gotten? Are you at the point where you're talking about maybe getting rid of the minimum quals, or you're talking about, well, maybe you can massage them so that it looks like this?

MR. MCCALL: More the second...more the latter, more of a little bit massage and giving a little bit more leeway to us so that we can see the...those that were considered close, but not.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

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

April 3, 2025

MR. MCCALL: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. So, the disadvantage is, you don't get to see the whole list. And you get a screened list by DPS . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . who's probably doing the same thing for everybody in the County, right? And then you don't get time. Anyway, I heard the bell.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next, we have...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No questions. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee, no questions.

MR. DUDOIT: I can chime in real quick?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. DUDOIT: Councilmember Kama, our...the PS1 positions...not PS1, PC1 positions are very easy to fill. They're very well-paid. The one that we have a hard time are the lower-paying one, just the rec aides, rec techs, and --

MS. KIELTY: Pool guards.

MR. DUDOIT: -- pool guards, and our PSOs. So, those are on our PC1, you know, the graduation from high school. We don't really have a hard time filling those positions. They're well-paid. Yeah. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you for that. Appreciate it. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for that additional response. Chair Lee, you're fine, and Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: She wanted to give me her time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It doesn't work like that. Then --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Go ahead, go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -we have Member Johnson after that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, those positions that you said were hard to fill, when was the position description last updated?

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

April 3, 2025

MR. DUDOIT: It just depends on the specific position. We'd have to go look at --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, if you --

MR. DUDOIT: -- the job descriptions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- can get me that in writing? You know, if you reorganize and describe it in such a way that they can pay more, there is that other agency, WBCP, that can redo position descriptions and focus on the core competencies rather than the minimum qualifications. How many of the CIP on the list are shovel-ready right now? And if you don't know, if you can get me that in writing. The other question I had is --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- in the Countywide parks...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who's going to answer? Who's going to answer you? Mr. Marvel?

MR. MARVEL: Yeah, I'll get that to you in writing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: On the Countywide Parks Facilities CIP, like would that cover things...I just went to Sakamoto and their pace clock is broken. Could...could that be replaced with the Countywide Parks Facilities? And I know there's a pace clock at Lāhainā Aquatic Center, but they don't put it out for the public. So, I don't know if that belongs to the swim teams, but are those the types of things that could be covered in Countywide Parks Facilities CIP?

MR. MARVEL: No. Typically, it's for existing CIP projects only. Something like that might be a maintenance...you know, something that could be handled by maintenance. It could be done quicker too.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. MARVEL: A CIP item will take...usually takes longer.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then you might need to get me this in writing, but I...I would like to know, when was the last toilet paper order for Lāhainā Civic? What was the quantity and cost? And how much would it cost to make roll toilet paper a thing at Lāhainā Civic Center?

MR. MCCALL: Yeah. Thank you for the question, Councilmember. And because of previous conversations, I actually did some...look into it.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The other...the other thing I wanted to mention is like ADA, I thought it was to make everything equitable. But the ADA bathrooms have roll toilet paper.

MR. MCCALL: Correct. Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the regular bathrooms have metal boxes with square toilet paper, which when they get jammed, you can't stick your finger in there and get any toilet paper. So, it's a problem. You know, one-year birthday parties, baby luaus, all of those things go off in Lāhainā. So, we have half the amount of bathrooms at Upcountry, Tavares, half the amount of sinks. They got roll toilet paper. Just saying.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: She was just there.

MR. MCCALL: I...I checked because of your phone call. And we currently have...three of the five stalls up in the gym area have rolls. Two of the four stalls in the social hall have rolls. And we have approximately about \$1,000 left in stock of the square toilet paper, possibly a little bit over that. When we . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . use that up, we're going to go ahead and convert over to the rolls.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is it possible to use that \$1,000 in stock at like the beach parks or someplace else than the Civic? Because...

MR. MCCALL: I will check on that. I don't have that right away. But I...I can check on that and...and go forward with that. But we will, to accommodate that, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That'd be awesome. Because we...we spent so much time at the Civic since August 8th, and every day with the squares is not...not kind of cutting it.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah. The...the...I looked at it, it's the...when the last remodel for those restrooms was done about seven years ago. And that --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The Arakawa, Buenconsejo regime.

MR. MCCALL: -- that was the...that was the upgrade was putting in those. So, I will...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That makes sense. Thank you.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, impressed you did all that research.

MR. MCCALL: You know, some things by...via phone calls.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, all right. Member Johnson, then followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. This is just a follow-up in regards to the challenges you guys are having for raising wages. Has the Department considered any stipends or retention pay? I know some departments have, and it's helped them with recruitment.

MR. MCCALL: We have broached the subject. We have not put in anything concrete. We do know with the Department, our size, you're talking about a much larger number than a department of 15 or 20 people.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MR. MCCALL: You know, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: When you consider the...the over...the premium pay, the overtime, and the fact that some of the...because there's no one there, the job doesn't get done, is that considered a part of your decision-making?

MR. MCCALL: Yeah. That's...that's part why we're looking at all of this. Yes, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Those are my questions. I appreciate all you guys. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. I wanted to finish talking about the study, and it kind of dovetails a little. I wanted to share, like, some of what I read in the 2016 needs and preference study that I...I never saw before until today, which is great. So, mahalo. As Member Paltin was talking about, the highest needs preference for Parks is community events. Sixty percent of those surveyed said that that's what they need, prefer, and enjoy about our County Parks. And second is farmers' market, then cultural events, recreation programs, afterschool programs, and citizen...senior citizen programs. I know that...I think Lānaʻi is the first farmers' market that you folks are doing.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, that's Ag. It's on Parks.

MR. MCCALL: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: In conjunction with Ag.

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

April 3, 2025

MR. MCCALL: Yes. The Ag Department, through community requests, looking for a site for...the Ag Department approached us. There's very little County or commercial land available on Lānaʻi. And I...I'm going to go out on a limb here, and I'm going to state that, you know, Lānaʻi is kind of...it's a different spot compared to, you know, other...other communities on our...on our...in our...on our...in our County here. We do have quite a few farmers' markets, et cetera, available here centrally, Upcountry, and whatnot that aren't on Parks' properties, but are very accessible to the community. Lānaʻi had a little bit...a different situation there.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, we know the challenges.

MR. MCCALL: So, they're...they...the Ag Department worked with us to...they're getting...getting close to home here with the pilot program for a market there. They do have on...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm going to run out of time.

MR. MCCALL: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I just think the parking lot and the area, you know, home run. Good job, everyone. It looks great. I want to talk about Molokaʻi One Aliʻi shade, \$1 million. So, when my babies were playing in that playground, I was one of the very vocal advocates for a shade. And then I found out how much it was going to cost, like half a million dollars at the time. And it was going to be made of like some kind of metal that was only going to have a shelf life of 12 years. I went to the...I can't remember what it was, like community outreach, and the consultants put up like three different shade structure designs that were like bright pink metal. And, you know, for those that don't know where One Aliʻi playground is, it's like right next to the ocean. So, all that seawater would immediately rust all of that. And I doubt it would even last for 12 years, or at least look good after 10. And so, now I see it's a million dollars. Oh, and then in that community outreach, there was no price tags. I think if...I tried...when I was there, I tried to explain to folks how much each was. One was like...like shaped like a daisy, and it was like 300,000. And then there was like another one that was like 400 something. And then there was like another one that was like 500. And I...I think if the community understood just how much all those were, that...you know, because like I thought it would cost like 100,000. Yeah, I know, I know. Yeah, but...but...but, you know, like before I knew, and I...and I think that's what the general public thinks, that a playground's like 100,000 like, you know, shade structures, you know, less than 100,000. And so, after learning about how much it costs and...and how short the shelf life would be, I asked for trees because I think it would serve the same purpose and more, and it would have a longer life. One of the challenges with One Aliʻi is irrigation. And if . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . we're going to be spending a million dollars on...on a shade structure that may not have that long of a shelf life, I would rather spend a million dollars on trees and irrigation.

MR. MCCALL: Okay. Thank you for that. I'm not sure there's a question in there, but if there is...

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Do you agree with me?

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

MR. MCCALL: Yeah.

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

MR. MCCALL: We...and we...and we feel your pain regarding the...the cost of the facilities. But I...I know Mr. Marvel is very familiar with the history of that project. He may bring you up to date, I think, where we're at.

MR. MARVEL: Yeah, thanks...thanks for that feedback. It's...yeah, we feel the pain on the cost of...of those shade structures. I think the...the idea currently would be to do something similar to what Kalama Park playground has, but it's not set in stone. We still have time to do another community meeting. The design is not 100 percent. So, if we went...you know, we're...we're willing to go in whatever direction we need to go with it. So, we're...we're open. And we'll have another community meeting on this to...to finalize that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Marvel. So, are you saying no trees?

MR. MARVEL: I'm not saying that, but we're...we're open to...to listening and coming up with a solution there.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. We can talk story more later.

MR. MARVEL: Okay. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Member Cook, Member U'u-Hodgins next.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. So, my question, I'll give it to you verbally. I don't expect an answer right now because it's a...because you guys do homework. We'll send it to you in writing. But my question is, the CI...number of CIP projects approved and budgeted in...in Fiscal Year '22, '23, '24, but not permitted, so they missed the fiscal year cycle. And how much was the gross value of those projects, like the permitted value? And then what would be the accumulated value over a three-year period? And if the permit delays were SHPD, SMA, or County? It doesn't...and not going to be audited. What I'm striving to do, and you'll see, it's a continued theme in my conversations, is to try and quantify and clarify the costs of permitting delays to the various departments. I've asked Water and other people. And so, when a project...it's because...you'll...you'll hear our frustration. We'll put in money, half a million dollars, or a million dollars, or \$5 million for a project. And the next year you come, and it's like, well, you didn't start, where's the money? And you're going like, well, we'd like to

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

April 3, 2025

start. I just...the reason I'm saying SHPD and SMA, those are basically two State laws. Even though SMA is monitored and implemented by the County of Maui, it's still a State law that they must comply with. And I'm not opposed to these laws. I mean, I understand the...the validity and the necessity for them. But...and then County permits. And then if you could kind of multiply out the gross by 10 percent, and then we'd get kind of a clue of how much money we could potentially save if we could either invest in the permitting review and approval process, either through outsourcing or whatever, or if we can clarify to the people that are doing the design for us what they need to do better to enable the departments to review and approve them quicker. So, we'll send it to you in writing. But that's something that I feel strongly about will help, the Council in the future won't be as frustrated. Like how come you didn't spend the money, and you go like well, you wouldn't let us?

MR. MARVEL: Thanks. That's a great question. We'll get back to you on that.

MR. MCCALL: And thank...thank you for the question. And...and I can give a general answer, and the amount is plenty, okay. Quite a bit. And...and I do also think we need to understand that we have some obligations to the environment because of those things, and also cultural impact, which is a huge thing in some of the properties. One of the breakdowns that...you know, we don't have an accounting division, so...that is going to handle all of that that you just asked Mr. Marvel for. But one of the things that needs to be taken into account in all of this is, there's a very big difference between building a skate park up in Lānaʻi City and one down on the coast, okay. Pāʻia Skate Park would never be built today. Just...so, people need to understand that the difference in...in what has happened over the last 20 years or so as far as those aspects in the building codes, or understanding of sea level rise, or understanding of cultural impact, et cetera.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I think...and the...educating the public so that they understand and...and...and respect . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . the reason why...because there are good reasons why. Thank you.

MR. MCCALL: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Uʻu-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Thank you. I guess the Pāʻia Skate Park could have been built by the gym, and then we could have alleviated some of the coastal and SMA issues. But you would lose that essence of Pāʻia skating next to the ocean, which is what makes it awesome. But I guess I kind of do have a question. I will try to equate it to budget because that's what we're supposed to be doing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: You're welcome. So, when I grew up, I had a park next to my house, or a playground and a park next to my house, which I spent probably majority of my time in. And we had this old metal slide, and we didn't have a shade. Obviously, I lived in Pāʻia, and it would literally burn you going down. But it was like the fun of it.

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

April 3, 2025

And we had a swing set that we would wrap around the top bar, so you would make it higher, and you would obviously have more fun swinging. And we had monkey bars that had old school rock concrete at the bottom, so when you fell, you felt it. But all of that made it a really, really fun park. We only had three things with some land. My kids' version of the park is a very...I think it's like recycled tires on the bottom. It's very soft, and not as fun. And they have things that make them go dizzy, which I guess they like for a little bit. But my question is, is there like a playground structure that you could maybe make for older kids? Is it more expensive? I...I understand that, you know, we have small kids, and they require a certain play structure that's soft. But I want my older kids to get out of my house sometimes, or get out of my parents' house sometimes, put down the iPad and go outside. But they don't have anything to do because the park is not really made for their age group. So, could we have those other options for older kid playgrounds? Would they...how much would they cost? Do they...is there a catalog we can look at, and we can like pick and choose things? How does this work? And is it a possibility?

MR. MCCALL: I will...I will address a part of that, and --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. MCCALL: -- let Mr. Marvel finish it. The...at an Upcountry meeting, I was stopped by an older farmer who said, we used to choose playground locations by areas that could not be farmed.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, like Pā'ia.

MR. MCCALL: So, we look for blue rock. And we put the jungle gyms over those, et cetera.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Right, right.

MR. MCCALL: And obviously, if you remember...well, no, you wouldn't remember, but Councilmember Cook and others might remember, you know, the first playgrounds I saw with what we now refer to as fall surfaces was the indoor McDonald's playgrounds --

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

MR. MCCALL: -- that had everything padded.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. MCCALL: And that has become...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: The one in Kahului, and Burger King.

MR. MCCALL: Yes. That has become the norm across the country due to liability issues.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure, sure.

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

April 3, 2025

MR. MCCALL: It's expected. Mr. Marvel can...can tell you that our...the playgrounds are designed with an age range.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. MCCALL: This is toddler appropriate, this is...and whatnot. So, yes, they...they do exist.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. MCCALL: And we have a variety --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Excuse me, Member.

MR. MCCALL: -- of those across the County.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director, one moment. *Akakū's* having difficulty. Ten-minute recess.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sounds good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, come back at 2:45. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 2:36 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:48 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . 2:48, welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. Thank you for the break. We were having some *Akakū* humbug, and we're back. Members, as you know, we have kind of adjusted our calendar so that we could do the RPT, Real Property Tax, in the morning. And we have Parks here. I went down and checked whoever, and to ask if you have any more questions because I want to finish off Parks. Remember to keep to the subject, which is budget. We don't need to hear about any objections to Parks or the operations. You can pick up the phone and call our Director, whose name is Director Marvelous, who works with Mr. Marvel. They could probably help us, you know, answer a lot of questions outside of that, if it's not budget-related. So, I went down the line, and I heard that Tamara Paltin has two questions, and Member U'u-Hodgins has one. And everybody's going like this, which means no more. And Chair Lee reminded me that I always, you know, pass on questions. So, here we go. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was wondering, for the field house in the Lāhainā Community Center, is there any possibility that any of the public service or DR funds could be utilized?

MR. MCCALL: I...I do not have an answer for that at this time. Thank you for the question. But we...that's something we can look into as we...as we go forward. Yes.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the second question. You know, when you put up temporary fencing around, like, construction of parks or like that, does it cost more to check that fencing daily that it's secure?

MR. MCCALL: Excuse me, I'm sorry, I didn't hear. Does it cost more...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To check that fencing daily. Like, you know, if kids just climb over that orange plastic fence?

MR. MCCALL: Does it cost more than putting in a permanent fence, you mean?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Does it cost our Staff more to make sure it's secured daily? Because if it's there for a reason, and it's not serving the purpose, then why bother?

MR. MCCALL: Yeah. You mean in the...well, it becomes an issue of an attempt to alert public of the potential dangers and shut things off. Is it cheaper than putting in permanent fencing? Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or that metal ones?

MR. MCCALL: Oh, you mean...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The metal temp, like...

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. They have those --

MR. MCCALL: Oh, you mean barriers?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- roadway solution ones.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Because I mean, it's...it's there. I don't know if it's trying to prevent us from liability lawsuit, but if it's...I drive by every day, and it's down on the ground, I don't know how much liability protection that's providing. And if they go empty the rubbish cans, or whatever, every day, is it cost anything to fix the fence with some zip ties?

MR. MCCALL: No, it shouldn't be. They should be repairing...they should be, you know, making sure the fence is secure daily.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Lāhainā Rec Center, I don't know when was the last time it was in good shape.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 3, 2025

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The playground.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Thank you. Then we have one more question from Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Over the break, I got my answer about age ranges for playgrounds, and there is an age range for a playground for 13 and over, but we don't have any. So, hopefully, one day we do. But my last question is about vandalism and damaged equipment. How much money do we spend on repairing what is damaged, what is vandalized, and where can we find it in your budget? Where is it reflected?

MR. DUDOIT: I'm not sure where it's reflected, but I just had her run a report maybe a month ago. Just in vehicle accidents from our employees, \$20,614 in damages, and that...this was from January to...what it was?...to March, I think. So, we spend a lot of money. And as far as...Mary, you want to discuss all the vandalism of the porta-potties, and bathrooms, and...go ahead.

MS. KIELTY: Thank you. Yeah, we have...we have vandalism on a regular basis throughout our parks. So, for a time there, we had ten portable toilets burned at Kanaha Beach Park --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. KIELTY: -- within about an eight-month period, I believe. It's just ridiculous. We have sinks ripped off the walls. We have toilets smashed. We've got fences torn down. We got baseyards broken into. We could go on and on. The amount of monies, we do include that on our incident reports that are submitted, and that goes up to our directors, and then upstairs. So, perhaps they might be able to fall back and find the actual numbers.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. KIELTY: But it's...it's extreme.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: It's significant. And so, can I ask, when you have to replace, let's say, a toilet or a sink, and let's say it's in Kanaha, which is in an SMA, and you're dealing with a water issue, do you have to get a permit? How does that work when you have to repair a bathroom? How long does it take to repair?

MS. KIELTY: Not with the...not with the bathrooms. We...we just go in and we make our repairs.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

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

April 3, 2025

MS. KIELTY: Well, you know, that one restroom was completely burned down, so that's a whole 'nother story. That, we're waiting on permitting as well. But the portable toilets, no, no...no need any type permits.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Yeah.

MS. KIELTY: As a matter of fact, we...the company was over it, so we didn't replace as many as we could because somebody's just going to come in and vandalize again.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, with ten burned porta-potties over an eight-month period, how many...how many vendors do we have for porta-potty toilets? You just said that one was over it, so we were able to find somebody else who is...

MS. KIELTY: Yeah. No, nobody wanted to put anything down there. It was at a time where the fires at Kanaha was ridiculous.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. KIELTY: You would think people would learn from what happened in Pukalani and...or Kula . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and Lāhainā, but no.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Was this recently then?

MS. KIELTY: The...well, actually, just this past Friday night, we had two portable toilets down at the third entrance of Kanaha, which is the very east end --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yep.

MS. KIELTY: -- and some illegal campers just outside our gates drug that toilet all the way down to the Amala Gate, which is pretty far.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. KIELTY: So...and it's pretty ridiculous, but --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Wow.

MS. KIELTY: -- yeah. It's very unfortunate what they're doing...what people are doing nowadays.

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

MS. KIELTY: Yeah.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair, can I please have that answer in writing? What is the total cost of damaged and vandalized equipment, and the cost to replace all those damaged and vandalized equipment?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We got that?

MR. DUDOIT: And we also...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. DUDOIT: Sorry, Chair. We also had some writing on the walls in feces as well. So, we want you guys to understand, it's...it's crazy. It is crazy. And I don't know whose fault, I don't want to blame anybody, but it's tough to stay ahead of the game.

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

MR. MCCALL: And...and if I may, I'd like to add to that. It...it's pretty much a daily issue. The incident reports come in pretty much daily. We...we have a...whether it's a break-in to our baseyards, to our facilities to damage our vehicles, steal...steal, you know, equipment. Currently, all those things are covered within our budget, just our operational budget-type situation, our construction maintenance budget as well, replacing all those things. We don't have it as a separate line item. And it...it's extremely sad. I believe Councilmember Johnson heard me address the crowd at our new facility this weekend, where I...I asked the children to take care of it and...and not destroy it. These parks are for the...for the community. But some of the vandalism is obviously caused by those who may be having other problems as well. He...Deputy mentioned, you know, the recent artwork. Unfortunately, that...that is actually a regular occurrence. So, it is difficult, and it's...it's something we...we deal with.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: How do you sanitize for that? So, the next time I go into the bathroom with my child, who likes to do this when he walks in the wall with his regular hands, how do you make sure he's not getting some sort of E. Coli poisoning?

MS. KIELTY: Yeah, we...we generally pressure wash, and we use Neutra-Fect.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. KIELTY: So, Neutra-Fect is the main product that we use because that...that actually is one of the only products that kills the COVID virus.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

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

April 3, 2025

MS. KIELTY: And that is what we found out during our COVID years. Not that we're out of it, but --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

MS. KIELTY: -- so we continue to use that because it's very, very good.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. KIELTY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. That's --

MS. KIELTY: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- all of that question, I just need to make sure we're...thank you. Thank you for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. All right. Members, I'm going to close out Parks. Yeah? Okay. Great appreciation. Thank you very much, everybody. Thanks for spending almost all day with us. Unplanned. Thank you. Okay. So, you'll be receiving questions from us for those that was expressed.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Don't feel the need.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Don't feel the need. Director Marvelous, I like that. With CIP, Mr. Marvel.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Okay. I'm going to take a...we'll come back at 3:01. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 2:59 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:01 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. We are now reviewing the Department of Water Supply, and we have Director Stufflebean, Deputy Director Landgraf, and we still have Ms. Milner. Thank you very much for being here. So, we are going to do a round of questions for three minutes. And if we need to, the second round, do you think we can do it for two minutes?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll see. Okay. So, we're going to try this. First round, we'll do...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, can I do a point of information for you?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know, every year, I ask for like minimum 12-point font legible.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We didn't get it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We didn't get it. Okay. So, we have things that came from what department?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The vacancy report for Water Department was --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- like 8-point blurry in what I...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: 8-point blurry, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I mean, it's like...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. LANDGRAF: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh wait, can you...

MR. LANDGRAF: -- so I'm not sure how. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We need a mic.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can't...we can't hear what you're saying.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If...if maybe we could go 11 by 14 sideways, or...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We can't...we can hear you in the Chamber, but Member Sinenci cannot hear you online.

MR. LANDGRAF: Okay. So, they were trying to put it on, but there was so much that they couldn't get it on just a few pages. We can make it bigger, but there'll be more pages.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We're...we're totally fine with more pages, other...other departments do it. But if...if we can't read it, it's like we didn't get it. Just like...

MR. LANDGRAF: Okay. We can change it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We did make that request, by the way. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Every year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Can we just get it now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, I'm going to start with Member Cook. This is your Department for Water questions, and we'll go three minutes. Second round will be two. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Welcome, both of you, for coming this afternoon and for all your service. So, my question, it's on the Capital Improvement Program, CBS-6649, Central Maui Reliable Capacity. South Maui Desalinization Water Treatment Plant is being proposed. Is that for saltwater or brackish water, or...

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes, thank you for the question. I would also mention that...that we have some other members of the Department online for other questions, but I can take this one. So...so, we are...we just completed a kind of technical evaluation of the desalination possibilities for Maui. If you were to do it, where would you do it, and how would you do it? So, that technical information is ready. We're ready to go out to the public for...to get feedback on that. And one of the sites that came out as high potential is South Maui for...it'll be for brackish water in South Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, we don't know how much...is there...how much funding is being requested for each phase of this project, or is that premature to ask?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I think we put...we put some numbers in there, but it's just...the first phase would simply be get public outreach, then we'd get into preliminary design, final design, construction, and so on. It's a many-year project.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, just like it says right here.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. My next question is the GET funds, the \$10 million appropriation for acquisition of private water systems in FY '25, what's the status of that?

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

April 3, 2025

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, we are currently looking at the system in Hāna, the north ranch system, as kind of the first one we'll be looking at. We're also looking at others on...in...on the West Side, and we're in discussions, and I think there's some other issues going on in some of those systems beyond just the water supply...the water system, but we're definitely interested in...in pursuing that on the West Side.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And is the Department supportive of appropriating the same amount of funding in FY '26?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Great. That's it, my questions right now, Chair. Thank you. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. Next, we have a Member U'u-Hodgins, followed by Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. And thank you guys for being with us today. I'm trying to look for the Upcountry...there it is. We have a revolving fund on page 55, P, for the Upcountry Water System Expansion Capital Improvement Reserve Fund. It's at \$11 million.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I would love to see that being spent someday soon. Do we have any plans for that?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes, we were holding that for when we actually had a...a well that we were ready to move forward on. At this point, we have six...about six, I think, sites that we're looking at as far as either acquiring a private well or --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- or building our own County well. And we're doing the evaluation of which of the sites is the best one to go after first. And so, once we decide which one or maybe two of them we'll go after, then we'll...then we'll get into that money for that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Good. Is that 11 going to be enough?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: It may or may not. We may have to supplement it with some other funds, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. That's really all I have for right now, which is Upcountry getting some water. Just a little bit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Just a little bit. Same-same story. Okay. Next, Member Sinenci...oh, there you are. Okay. Followed by Member Kama, then Lee.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. My first question was just, is there an update for the Nahiku Well project? I know we've been working on it to get pressure down to the...the residents down below, as well as covering the tank. Is it online yet?

MR. LANDGRAF: Okay. So, the tank is not online yet. We're working on that. In fact, they're out there today working on it. So, hopefully in the next two months.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, two months now.

MR. LANDGRAF: Well, I...maybe it's quicker --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And...

MR. LANDGRAF: -- but I just...two months, yeah. There's some stuff that we've got to work through, so we're trying to get it ironed out right now.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that update. And then I...I know that we do have some CDBG...if you could briefly speak to the CDBG funds from...the...the County has been allocated, and some of the projects that you would like to use some of that funds for?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Sure. Do you...or you want to get Tom on here? Yes.

MR. LANDGRAF: So, you're talking about CDBG, the DR funds?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. LANDGRAF: Okay. So, if there's any...so, the majority of funds is for Lāhainā, but if there is some funds that it will probably be for well development. There's nothing that we have specific yet, because they're still working out how the...the allocation to different agencies on that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. So, you guys pretty much...but you're still working on the allocations of that fund?

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah. So, that would be through the Office of Recovery, but we're working with them to see, you know, what's going to be made available for the Water Department.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Deputy Landgraf. And are there any other East Maui issues that we should be aware of, or that you could share with us?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Well, with regard to...that's a big question. So, I guess...I guess in terms of East Maui, certainly our focus is to work closely with East Maui Water Authority and

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

April 3, 2025

assist them in their...with their mission. That's...that's kind of our top priority in East Maui. Yeah. So, that's...that's what we're focusing on at this point.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Member Kama, then Lee.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, how many vacancies do you have in your Department?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Thirty-one.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And if your Department was fully, totally whole, how many employees would that be?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: It's 120...I mean 220. I don't know the exact number.

MR. LANDGRAF: 230, 240.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: 230, 240. Okay. So, if Council were to adjust the budgeted amount for expansion E/Ps to only four months of forecast expenditures rather than the traditional eight months, would that have a large impact on your Department's ability to recruit, bearing in mind that any expansion to the A category of your budget isn't tied to any specific positions?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, the number is 236. Thank you, Lesley.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, I think we would prefer to not change the policy in terms of how much is funded. You know, in some...in terms of our vacancies, some of them are because people come and go, right? People retire, people resign in those positions, and it takes a while to fill them, so the position is vacant for a while. That's like typically the case in most of our operational positions. We have a couple of areas where we have kind of chronic vacancies, which is that...you've all heard about it...engineering, planning, and our laboratory. But we're doing better. Like engineering, we have twice as many engineers as we did two years ago. So, we're making some progress there. So, we would prefer to leave those as they are as we go through the recruiting process.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Makes sense to me. So, in your CIP, Water Source Development, CBS-6649, which is the Central Maui Reliable Capacity, will you be able to develop that new source for this new Maui's central water system, including the design of the desalinization water treatment plants in South Maui?

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

April 3, 2025

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, that's...that's a multi-year project. And so, the first step is to go out to the public, get information from the public, and then, you know, talk about...understand the...the big issues are, it's going to be costly. And there's the issue with what to do with the residual that's generated. And so, we have...we have some ideas on that. We're going to propose those and go out to the public. So, the next step would then be to get into a more detailed site location and design. So, it's...but it's years away before we would actually have a plant that would generate water from that...from a desalination facility.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Do you have an idea as to like how many years?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Seven or eight.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay. That's not bad.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I was thinking about maybe 30 or 40.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I might be optimistic. Nine or ten.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. You're...you're...you're doing good, whatever they tell you. Okay. So, how confident are you in your Department's ability to deliver on the services and project proposed in your budget?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Very. Yeah, we...we are...currently, our CIP Staff is...we're still fully staffed on our CIP engineers. And . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . we also have a consultant that is helping us with project delivery. We do think that this...the CIP project that will...you know, we have an 18-month CIP schedule. So, the projects that were approved last July, we have to get those done by this December. And we're quite confident we can get them all done.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Chair Lee, then followed by Member Paltin, then Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Director, not long ago, we approved an amendment to transfer general funds to your enterprise...well, you are an enterprise fund, but to your Department. So, that's, I think, a little unusual. So, can...can you explain what that was for, and why you have a fairly sizable Carryover/Savings?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Sure. So, I'm assuming you're talking about the GET funds that were transferred over. I think it was the first time that money has come from the General Fund into our fund. The reason was simply to give us additional funds for our capital program that we...you know, we...we're limited by...you know, we first have to deal with our operations.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Right.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: And then...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But you also raise rates.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, we do. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Even though you got...you know, that's a sizable chunk of money.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. So, in addition to the GET funds, there are...any kind of a rate increase...basically, all the money that we would get from a rate increase will also go towards the capital program. The needs in the capital program, it's almost...it's a bottomless well. There's just a huge amount of projects that we need to do. The more money we get, the quicker we can get them done. So...so, both the GET funds and a rate increase is basically to give us more money for the capital program, as well as any money that is carried...that is carried forward.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So...

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Now, we think that...I'm sorry --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Go ahead.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- I didn't want to interrupt you, but you go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Finish, you can finish.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Oh, yes, thank you. So, the carryover is...is a one-time, not reliable over the long-term, type of funding. Although we tend to always get it, but it isn't something that we can totally count on. The advantage of a rate increase is, that's \$10.4 million if we get the rate increase that we're requesting, but that's going to be there every year. So, you can really rely on that money as being there every year going forward.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Right.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: But it's really all towards the CIP.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Right. But the Carryover/Savings...the question that was asked to you before I asked you questions was if you could do all your projects, and you said all...all your projects. Normally, a department will have Carryover/Savings when they are not able to complete projects, or hire people, or things like that. So, what makes you think it's going to be different this time?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Because...oh, yeah.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because of the Carryover/Savings, you weren't able to finish things in this fiscal year? . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. So, we...we know how much carryover we're getting this year, because --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- that's been determined. How much...how many...how much funds we'll get in carryover in future years, we don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. But what I'm saying is that you committed to finishing all your projects in this coming year, but you weren't able to finish your projects in this current year.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: In the previous year.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes. Because that's where the Carryover/Savings came from.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Right? So, what makes you think you can finish all your projects?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Because we got better.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You got better.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I think so. I mean, for one thing, you know, we're...we're fully staffed on the capital engineering side, and we have...and a totally new thing we did --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- was to get consultants to help us.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Did you also get better with permits? I mean, water permits in West Maui, you know, for...for permanent housing? Were you able to work with the State on that?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, that...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Go ahead.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, I'm sorry. Yeah, so that's . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . ongoing. We are meeting with the state on a regular basis, with CWRM, and to help push forward as quickly as we can the permitting process for new wells in...in West Maui. We're working with them right now on the well that we're...that's just under construction so we can get that into service as quickly as possible. We have four other wells locations over there

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

April 3, 2025

that we...that we're working with them on. They're...it's taking them a certain...a period of time to get...to get there because they have other work they need to do first. But we're absolutely working, and our top priority is to get additional wells, and especially on the West Side.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: When?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Well, if CWRM...well, as I mentioned earlier, it takes ten years to get a well in Hawai'i. We're hoping we can do it quicker than that. That's what basically Honolulu says. It says it takes them now ten years to get a new well.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I know, but --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. So, we want to go faster.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- a town didn't fall...you know, wasn't destroyed in Honolulu. We're talking about an emergency situation on the West Side. So, I would think that you would have been able to convince the State to pick it up.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We're trying our best.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But now I'm intruding on her time...Councilmember Paltin's time.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We're doing our best.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, no, I get my full three minutes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee, you're done?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm done. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, yours is a segue into exactly what Member Paltin probably wants to ask, but Member Paltin, three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For my first question, if we can get an answer in writing, we'll provide it to you in writing. I was wondering if you can provide the percentage increase in rates in the form of dollars per 1,000 gallons. I know you said like, you know, 10 percent, 25 percent for all the different categories, and then you said, as noted, a 5 percent nonpotable is this many dollars. Can you do that for all the percentage increase in rates, what it relates to in dollars per 1,000 gallons in writing?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Next. How do heli ops support restoration and mitigation of fire impact areas, and can this be done by drone? And then I have another one is opportunities for employees to get...are there opportunities for our existing employees to get training to be able to fill those hard-to-fill technical positions? How is a generator

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

April 3, 2025

rental versus a purchase? Do we have pre-positioned rental contracts for generators in case we need them like during an emergency?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, I'll start with the last one because that's the easiest one. So, yeah, we...we are renting generators right now, and we are renting them because it takes a while to get new ones. These are not off-the-shelf, these are things that take a year, year and a half to be built and delivered. So, meanwhile, you know, we're...we're hoping to get 32 generators with the Federal funding that we're...that we're...we think that's probably the highest...the most likely Federal funding will be for the generators. Meanwhile, we're renting them, as many as we can, to deal with...with the most critical facilities. And so, that's...that's what we're doing. As far as our staff, you know, we actively try to bring in people and then get them promotions, get them trained so they can work up...work their way up in pretty much all of our job classifications so that they can move from a I to a II to a III, and so on.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you assist them with any schooling needs?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Oh yes, we do. Of course.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: And I didn't understand the first question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: One of the things that I read, it might've been in the response, it said what we're doing for helicopter operations. One of the things were, support restoration and mitigation of fire-impacted areas. What kind of support are we giving, and can this support and mitigation, restoration be done by drone instead of like paying a helicopter contract to go up?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. So...so, that is what we're paying our nonprofits that do that watershed restoration. They're the ones that are using the helicopters.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, yeah.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I think they have to physically get there to do the work.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, yeah.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Which is why they need the helicopter.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I saw part of it was for targeted pesticide or herbicide stuff, but then it also said, support restoration and mitigation of fire-impacted areas. I didn't understand that part, how...what was being done from the helicopter to support restoration and mitigation of fire-impacted areas from a helicopter?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. I think it's just getting people and equipment up to the location that they need to get to. But is it more than that, Kimo? Yeah, I think that's what it is.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the mitigation.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: But we'll...we'll get back to you to verify that, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I'll wait for my next round.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Perfect timing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, we have Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. To follow-up on what Councilmember Paltin was saying, but what type of herbicides are being used for the HBT program? That's on page 802 of the Program Budget.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, we answered that in --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Questions.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- the questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we'll get it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Why did you not increase funding for the Miconia containment and removal grant?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, that's also in our written response, but the answer is, we gave them what they asked for.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, I was just talking to the previous department about retention pay. How...you guys are doing it, and how's that working out?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I think it's helping.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is it?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: In certain key positions, I think it's helping significantly, yes.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, of all the CIP programs...because you guys have a lot, and this isn't a loaded question, but what's the lowest priority CIP program?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Oh, that's a loaded question. No, there...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They have too much, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Hey, hey, hey. Let me do the questioning.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So...okay. So, since we...we have no operations on...on Lānaʻi, it's great.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Come on. Well, basically, is there anything that can wait another year?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Everything can always wait a year, you know, in a CIP, and then you end up in a situation where things get deferred and deferred and deferred. So, we put in what we think are the highest priorities. We think all these things need to be done now. They could have...a lot of them should have been done already. So, there's nothing in the CIP that I would want to defer. I would prefer to...to move ahead with what we proposed.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you find a lot of your CIP projects are like playing catch-up?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Oh, yeah, for sure. Yeah, for both water source and infrastructure, on both of those areas, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Director and Deputy Director. Mahalo for being with us today. Okay. Let's pull my questions up. All right. Okay. Mahalo for not increasing the rate on the first 5,000 for General Water Service, which is most of our residents. I...I wanted to...okay. How's the...the new Hotel/Resort category generating revenue? How does...and how is that working? Have you gotten any complaints or anything?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We haven't got any complaints --

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's wonderful.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- which totally shocks me.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I didn't expect any.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, that's...so that's why we proposed a 25 percent increase again this year. But I mean, I think it's...I think it's the right thing to do. But...so, we...you know, we're generating...generating additional revenue. We're seeing some reduction in water use. But we think that there's still some elasticity in that demand that we can have some more...you know, increase the rates even more. And we think it's, again, the right thing to do. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's great. Like...like pretty significant water conservation in that?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Not that significant.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Not significant.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, we still got a ways...I think we need . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And I support it. We'll continue on for more water conservation. If I were to request some of the...like I know it's not called tiers, but, you know, they're levels--the zero to 5,000, 5,000 to 15, 15 to 35, and then 35 in the general water consumers. Do you have like the projected revenue for each of these?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes, we do. In fact, that was...I think that was in our first --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One of the questions?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- response.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: But I can get that to you. I also want to...just want to mention on the hotels, we're also starting an initiative right now to work with hotels and resorts to help them figure out how to conserve more...and working with a private water company in West Maui to...to nudge them to get them to also work on that. But, yeah. So, the tier number should be in, I think, the answer to the first...the WS-01 is in there.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Great.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: There's a graph of it as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Cool. Yeah. So, I don't know where, you know, they're...you know, the big water users, I don't know if it's landscaping, and if they move toward reuse or gray water, or...I don't know if that would help to conserve some of that water. Okay. Let's see. Oh, okay. So, the last water rate study was published in 2021. Are you folks...and I know they're done every three or so years, is...is there an update coming?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, we may do it this year. What we really want to focus on this year, though, is the Water Development Fund, that we think that's...that hasn't been done for much longer, and we think that really needs to be updated to make it more cost recovery. And so, our focus this year is going to be working on the Water Development Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I see that on page 801. So, the Consultant Services for Water System Master Planning and Development Fee Study. And there was a development fee...like an older one, you're saying?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I haven't seen an older one. Have you?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, there...there was never one.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Not that I...well, there may have been, but not that I've seen.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. What...what would that look like, the Development Fee Study or the Planning and Development Fee Study?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, we would hire a consultant, and they would look at our...the actual costs and try to make sure that they...what we're charging reflects the actual cost of...of what they're requesting. So, yeah, that would...that would be a consultant study to do that. I mean, I would mention that...that the...in terms of the tiers and that sort of thing, we are still utilizing the 2022...2021 or '22 study. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Not much has changed since then, so I'm not sure that we really need to do an update very soon.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: This other one is more important. Yeah, the development fee is just to make...make sure that our costs are reflecting. We're...we're quite...just in a quick calculation, we're quite sure that it's quite low as far as really recovering the cost that we should be. So, it's time to look at that one.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, yeah. No, I...I support that. And the last rate study that was done was before we added the Hotel/Resort --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's true.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- class too.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Okay. Mahalo, Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, now we go to...it would actually start all over again. Okay. Go ahead. You have something else to add?

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah. Chair, can I clarify Sinenci's question about Nahiku tank?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. LANDGRAF: Okay. So, Councilmember --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sinenci.

MR. LANDGRAF: -- Sinenci, the thing will be done in three weeks. It'll be online in three weeks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, now it's my turn. The Upcountry water list...water meter list. So, this year, we did...from last year to this year, we purchased the Von Tempsky property. And I want you to be able to talk about this as it relates to we spent 14 million to buy the property. And as all the Members know, but the public, I don't think knows, that we found iwi on the property. And my question to you, as it's a budget question, my community thought that once we purchased the land, we would start drilling for water soon thereafter. But I think because of the cultural aspect of what we found on the property...the County found on the property...that that wouldn't...we wouldn't quite just go ahead and drill. But I want to know if you could share with maybe the Members, but more so the public, what our plans are for the Von Tempsky, 274 acres, what happens now since we found iwi? And I will tell you that at the Upcountry residency area meeting that happened on Monday, I was talking to some of the old timers, and they said, oh, yeah, we know have plenty iwi on that property. And, you know, I live right next to it. So, I'm like, oh, what about my house? But that was a kind of interesting comment that I got from an old timer. And...but I...I would like to hear from the Department as to if you know now, maybe it's a little bit early, what the plans are? Because I think our community was excited to purchase the land because we're looking for water for the Upcountry water meter list. So, that's --

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is that a budget question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the budget question. Well, it is connected.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, the connection to the budget is that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: See.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- we are --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: See, see.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- one of the things that we're doing in our budget is to look at the potential sites for wells Upcountry. As I mentioned, we have three or four that are private wells where they've basically offered them to us at a price. And then a couple of others are locations where we would drill our own County well. And so, we are now in the...Carollo Engineering, who's our miscellaneous engineering consultant, is helping us to...to look at all the different sites, including the Von Tempsky site, as to which one has the best potential as a water source for Upcountry. And we're looking at things like, what's the expected yield from wells in that area? What would it take to connect that...that particular well to the County system? What would be the impact on the County system of connecting that well, which also relates to the meter list and how much would that affect potentially starting to work through the meter list? And what's the power available at the...at the location, both in terms of potential for HECO service, and also solar power at the site, and both. So, that's about done. And once that analysis is complete, then we will...then we will come with a recommendation as to which well or wells we should pursue first. And it may or may not be Von Tempsky. It may be other...you know, it depends on which one's come out of the top of the list. And the iwi now adds in a level of complexity for the Von Tempsky, obviously. That site also has the potential for potential storage of water, and connecting upper and lower Kula. So, there's other advantages to that beyond the well as well. All those do that. Now, it's a different...you know, a different situation now that there's the iwi information out there. But yeah, we're...that...we're folding that into the bigger picture about what's the best thing to do Upcountry for a new water source.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for tying it to budget. But, you know, I really wanted the community to . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . know this. So, thank you very much. I'm going to send a question just so that we have it in writing. Director, it is...it is budget Water-related. And...thank you. All right. So, now we're going to go into round two. And if we could, two minutes per person. I think I saw a thumbs up when I did talk about it. And it's our Chair, Member Cook for his water committee.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. What's the status of the Kamole Reservoir and filter upgrades?

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

April 3, 2025

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, the filter upgrades are...are in progress. The...the filters are actually being manufactured right now. And when...and when...so when they're completed manufacturing, they'll be installed. And there's some other work that has to be done in relation to that. So, that will happen this calendar year, for sure, in a few months, probably. And so, that's underway. And that's going to have a big impact on our ability to treat more water. Then, of course, we need to work with the State and EMI to get more water...rights to more water coming down the ditch. So, those are...but basically, it's...CWRM has an understanding, and both...both CWRM and EMI understand that when we get this filter upgrade, we'll be able to take more water. We want more water. And we're going to try to revise our...our rights to that water. The...the reservoir is in the budget as a design. And so, that's...we were hoping to get Federal funding for that. Maybe not, because things change. But what's in...what will still be in our budget is the design of...of the reservoirs for Kamole.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: What's the estimated cost of the reservoir? Or will we not know that until it's designed?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: It's too early, but I think it's something on the order of 25 million. But, you know, that's a really early, very early estimate. So, don't...remember I said that --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Money well spent.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- things can change, yeah. We...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I mean, it's our top priority for storage. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That's all, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, we have Member U'u-Hodgins, followed by Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'll make mine really quick. And I'm just going to email James so I can follow-up on email and a question because it's not necessarily specifically budget-related. But thank you so much for being with us today. I appreciate your guys' time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How nice. Member Sinenci, followed by Member Kama, then Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just had one more follow-up question. It looks like you have an excess of 18 million in Federal subsidies. Are...are you okay with those, you know, in light of just the current environment at the Federal level? Are those subsidies protected, or you guys are checking in on them?

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

April 3, 2025

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Oh, so we are tracking them very closely, both ourselves and our consultant, Stantec, who has...who has very...has had a lot of expertise in this area, as well as the Office of Recovery from the County. And yeah, some of it is definitely at risk, for sure. But we want to be prepared to take it if it becomes available. And also, if it isn't, then be ready for whenever it does become available. So, we're...we're continuing to...to look for that. But again, obviously, things are changing, and as you know, it's very fluid.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right. Sounds like you're...you're on it, Director. Thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Kama, followed by Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Are you aware of the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands drilling up in the Upcountry Waiohuli area, too, to bring the water from there to South Maui, and then bring it back to Wailuku?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes. I'm somewhat aware of that, yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, are you working with them on that? Or...and what is the...what are the budget restraints or constraints to doing that?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, it's their project, we're...we're kind of involved in terms of understanding what's going on. That's really our involvement at this point, is just kind of understanding what they're doing, and...and that's...Kimo, is there more you want to add to that?

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah. So, we're working directly with them and figuring out how that's going to work, but it's really going to be on their budget, and they're going to do it, and when they're done, it gets turned over to the Water Department.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Okay.

MR. LANDGRAF: But we're working, like, you know, like --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LANDGRAF: -- together to make sure that it gets taken care of.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. As long as you get water, right?

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee?

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just a quick question on the West Side again. We've funded, and the Department...the Public Works Department has...I mean, DEM Department has worked on R-1 projects, R-1 water projects. So, by now, hasn't that freed up a lot of potable water for the West Side?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. So, to date, when the R-1 projects were...the water was provided to a private water company, and there was no deal in place to allow potable water to be freed up from the past arrangements. We've changed that, and so with a new administration over in Wastewater and Environmental Services, we're working with them so that any water that now...any R-1 water that now is used, the focus is to make sure that that water then, as much as possible, frees up potable water for affordable housing. That's our objective. That...that is a new policy. The previous policy from Environmental Services--and they can speak to this--was to get rid of the water because they were trying to get out of the injection well service, the injection wells. But now they're saying, I think rightfully so, and I'm really glad, that it's also potentially a resource for...for potable . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . water. And as I noted, we are contributing \$3 million in our budget to...on...on recycled water this year for the first time.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin, followed by Member Johnson when he gets back, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I know that you know that Aloha Pu'u Kukui has changed its paperwork from Living Pono Project to being its own entity. They said as of 2:00 today, they will have all their documents in order. And with this being a very dry year in the watershed above West Maui, would you be supportive of granting them \$500,000? They don't have otherwise money to pay the same staff that has been doing the work since they were under Maui Land & Pineapple.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We're open to talking about that, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. That's great. Are you going to be at the CWRM meeting on Monday night?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Oh, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the desalinization mentioned in your budget, does that need to have to do anything with CWRM, or it's not at all?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, no.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or would it be DLNR because of the ocean?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, it...it's...you have to get approval for the treatment plan and approval for disposal of the residual. So, and it's not...it's not...it's not taking source of

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

April 3, 2025

water, except that if it's brackish water, that still would probably be subtracted from sustainable yield. If it gets down to seawater, then it wouldn't be.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the permits that you're talking about would be like DOH, DLNR?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: DOH, right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Okay. And then, I mean, I don't know that we needed a study to figure out that electricity expenses and the brine is going to be the most hardest part to deal with. Isn't that commonly known?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Oh, for sure. But we did the study for a couple of reasons. One is to see if there had been any change in that. And so, they did a thorough look at what's happened, what...you know, technology has marched on. It still looks like, unfortunately --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, it's still the same. Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- it's the same. And then they looked at whether there was a better disposal method. So...so, we basically can now say, this is what we want, and if...and here's what's second, and here's what's third. So, we know what...what other possibilities.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: And they did also mention...I'm sorry...that there are things that are coming along. So, we want to keep our eye on it because there are --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- potential new technologies by the time we build this, that could be in place.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I know we've had a discussion in the past about Napilihau and how their water goes. Are they under the multifamily?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, then they're going to get a 10 percent increase?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes. That's our proposal, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and you're . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . going to provide what that is in dollars per gallon, thousand gallons?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. My questions have been answered.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. So, I don't really have another question for the floor, but I...the Water Department is one of the departments where the boards or commissions review their budget and approves it. And so, I was looking at their agenda to the Board of Water Supply to see what their feedback was. And I...since it's not something that's put into our record, I just wanted to kind of read what they stated in their letter. They were supportive of the budget. For rates, it said, we recognize the need for additional revenue for the Water Fund, and support the continued strategy of maintaining a lifeline residential rate while increasing the rates, especially for high water users and the hotel water...hotel/resort sector. For operating budget, funding is needed for increased personnel costs, long-delayed equipment replacements, new staffing for Water Code enforcement, and essential professional services. And for CIP, the needs far exceed the monies available, and we want support...and we support the Department's approach of prioritizing projects for new water source development and essential infrastructure improvements, and for seeking outside funding. So, I just wanted to add that. Oh, and then I did find the revenues on page 5 of...on Granicus in the first...it's Granicus item 31, WS-1. It's the first correspondence that we...that the Committee sent to the Department, and that they responded to. And so, the...the projection, it has FY '25 versus FY '26, and FY '25 for the Residential class was a total of 30 million, and then a projection of 34.6 million for FY '26 with the increase on Tier II, III, and IV. And that's just for the residential or general users. And I was hoping to get a little more . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . information on like past years to see how it compared, but later on, after budget session week, I just would like to see that information. Mahalo, Director. Mahalo, Deputy Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, for myself, I just want to bring up something that I know your office is well aware of, is that we have residents contacting us because their water bills, their water meter bill...I mean, not their water meter, but their water bills are like delayed, or something's going on with that. And I...I...you don't have to...if it's more involved, I think I heard something to do with smart meters, and then I heard with those that have direct payments, and they're not able to get a refund because there...there's all kind of complications. But do you have a group working on the solution for it?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes, we do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you have a solution?

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

April 3, 2025

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes, we do. And...and the core problem is that the meters weren't installed correctly years ago, and so we're having to replace a lot of them. And so, the main thing we've done is to divert some of the work of our field crews to get back in there on...a lot of it on weekends and overtime, to replace the meters so we can get caught up. Because when you can't read a meter, they get...they get...you know, they get billed, but it's not actually accurate. And then once the meter's read, sometimes it's more than they expected. That's been part of the problem. So, yes, we are addressing it, both that way and also in terms of making sure that there's a better understanding of what's going on in the public.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, people that call our office when they have problems, we've been like sending them to you, but what do you want us to do, or what is the solution from what you just said? What should they do? The person who paid a bill, they get a \$700 bill, and are surprised?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. They start with our Fiscal Division, and talk to our Fiscal Division, and they'll try to resolve it. And they...we have a number of ways to resolve it. For example, we can give them a time to pay off if it's...if it was a big bill. And we also make sure that if somehow it threw them out of the tier because it looked like they used a lot more water, we can adjust it so that the tiers are reflected back into the previous months. So, we're...we're trying to take care of that as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Do you have a number they should call or do we...what...what...

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I don't know it off the top of my head.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I mean...oh, just the Water Department?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: The fiscal section, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Do you know the number? Oh, he knows the number.

MR. LANDGRAF: (808) 270-7730.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. And I'm just going to say one word, Hāpapa Gulch. Thank you very much. Please resolve that. My community gets activated fast, and thanks for giving us the water buffalos and everything. So, real fast--because it's part of this Committee--is the water rate fee increases that are in our...in our budget bill. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . And it's from page 54. I don't know how you're going to talk about it because there's a lot--54, 55, 56, and 58. How would you like to talk about that? Because I think we...we need to review this, and this might be the appropriate

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

April 3, 2025

time, but it's a lot that you are doing. Before we never had that...this many, but we...we have a lot more action going on.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Well, a lot of this simply deals with how we get reimbursed for work that we do. So, the critical ones are the ones that we have tried to hit in the WS-01, which is the Residential rate increases, the general increases, the multifamily increases, the Hotel increases. So, those are the key ones. And then there's also --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- similar increases when we get into a shortage--because we have shortage rates for when they have shortages. So, it's really the first couple of pages that I think are the most important. And...yeah, so the...you know, again, the increases was overall, when you put it all together, comes out to 10 percent more revenue, but it's focused on the high water users. That's the main method.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members, I guess if...because we have to approve this and rates and fees, and we need to understand it. So, how would you like us to approach this? Because there's quite a lot, and important. Yes, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I reviewed them all in the Ramseyer section.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think it's great. I think...I'm...I'm...I'm happy that the zero to 5,000 gallons wasn't touched --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Residential.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and that's like most, you know, residents. And if you look at the Granicus item--I think I said it's 21--you know, it shows the...the projected revenue, and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- yeah, it has the chart, you know. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- I...I reviewed it. I don't have any other questions. I did ask my questions already. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: At the community webinar, Ms. Blumenstein--I don't know if all the rest of my colleagues know, and I'll get to how it's budget-related--that if CWRM

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

April 3, 2025

doesn't grant the declaratory ruling for the Kahana wells, my question was, how would that affect us? And she said there would be more...potentially be more stage two and stage three shortage notices for West Maui because of lack of rainfall, which relates to lack of, you know, recharge stream flow and all of that. So, then with the increase in shortage rates without the declaratory ruling, West Maui residents are going to be paying more.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, the...the decision to implement shortage rates is a different decision than this...than going to --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Stage two, stage three.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- stage two. You don't...just because you go to a stage doesn't mean you automatically implement the shortage rates. We have never...I don't believe we've ever implemented the shortage rates, right? So, that's not necessarily...that would be the...you know, if it really gets bad, then you have that other tool. But at this point, the first thing we would do is simply go to stage two or stage three, and work to get voluntary compliance with the...with the shortage requirements.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then are you aware of what the time frame could be to get an answer on the declaratory ruling?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, we're...we're going to the CWRM board April 25th...try to find...April 28th, sorry. Thanks. April 28th. He's better with numbers than me . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that's in Lāhainā?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: The meeting's in Lāhainā, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So...so, if you don't get voluntary compliance with stage two/stage three shortage notices, the next step is shortage rates with an increased rate?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That would be a tool that we would have available. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I'm only somewhat paying attention to what's going on because I have a million somewhat things going on. But is this not something that we should be educating the community about, especially...I think the 28th meeting is in West Maui for CWRM, like what the pros and cons, the potential consequences of no rainfall, no Kahana well coming online? Do you have an education and outreach plan, and does it need to be budgeted for? I mean, I guess it would be in this fiscal year and not next fiscal year, but how...do...do you plan to get the word out to folks about, you know, in worst-case scenario, potential water costing more this summer?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. So...so, we did make a presentation at the last community meeting.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The webinar.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. On...yeah, on the webinar. And so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The last community meeting was last night.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Okay. The one before that. Yeah, I'm sorry. And . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . so, if we...and of course, the CWRM meeting is also being publicized as a public meeting. If we do get to the point where we have to take more serious measures, then we start ramping up the public educator...our public outreach on that. We tend to get quick response from the local media on getting the word out about that, which is what we do. And we could have additional public meetings if necessary as well.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And many of the...everybody that builds their home, getting water to their house is not a problem. But --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the...the...the majority of homes are not rebuilt. I think like 305 is under construction. Only eight has been completed. And so, is there not enough water because of the temporary projects that we would need to go to stage two, stage three this summer anticipated?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, part of the issue is that the temporary projects are using water. The bigger issue is that...is that where there are...the homes that aren't using the water anymore is in Lāhainā, but where the water shortage is, is in Nāpili.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, and it doesn't --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: And the system...huh?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- go north? The water can't go north?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. It can go south, but it can't go north. We are trying to fix that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So...and I would mention that we were at a CWRM meeting last week, and they did verify that the flow in the Honokōhau Stream, which is the source of the ditch, is the lowest it's ever been in 100 years.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, this is not...this is real. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I did see --

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that lowest it's ever been. And...and that's what we're...we're concerned about with the ground and surface water, a Special Management Area designation is the preparation for that with all the existing entitlements. But it's just unfortunate it took them that long to appoint a loa in the proper protocol, and for them to start to go through the WUPA over a year after the fire. I mean, if they could drag their feet any more, I don't know how. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have questions for Water? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Just a quick one for CIPs, Reliable Source for Moloka'i. I think 7 million, I don't have it, I...I put it down. 7.2 million. What are some of the projects? I was trying to...I know one of them is a new well in Kala'e, potentially, looking for backup wells for the existing County wells that we have. What...what else would fall under the...the 7 million?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Those are the projects.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's going to be 7 million for all those? To...

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Well, that's...that's the...yeah, that's the estimate at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh. So, you...

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: For next year's budget. For next year's budget, right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You...you have...you've located areas where you're going to dig new wells to backup the three existing wells?

MR. LANDGRAF: It's still in the initial stages, right. So, they're still making sure that whatever area we decide, if that's the correct place. So, that's kind of what it's about.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. But...but the intention is, one of the wells needs to be replaced, and another one, we're adding a new well. And so...you know, so, we're at the initial stages of that, of both of those projects.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Which well needs to be replaced? There's Kualapu'u, 'Ualapu'e, Kawela, and then a new groundwater source, Kala'e Well.

MR. LANDGRAF: So, we need to have another well in Kualapu'u. Yeah. So, we need another well in Kualapu'u. We need another well in Kualapu'u. We're looking at 'Ualapu'e because we need to eventually put a new well there. And for the Kawela, we will need to move the location of the existing Kawela Well, so we're looking at one in that area too.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, Kawela is the replacement?

MR. LANDGRAF: Kualapu'u.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Kualapu'u?

MR. LANDGRAF: Well, I guess you could say Kawela, too, but we're looking at both because we need another well in Kualapu'u, just for the backup.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Okay. I'm just concerned because it's a five MGD sustainable yield. Mr. Oshwat [*sic*]?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ochwat?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, Ochwat. Yeah.

MR. OCHWAT: Yeah, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: He raised his hand.

MR. OCHWAT: I...I can...

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, Tom...yeah, Tom can answer that.

MR. OCHWAT: I can...yes. To answer your question, Councilmember Rawlins, three wells . . . (*timer sounds*) . . . are going to be backup wells to the existing wells, so we're...we have a reliable capacity to...Kualapu'u Well serves the majority of Kaunakakai, so we need a backup well, and that backup well will most likely be on the same site as the existing well. That way, all of our infrastructure's right there. The Kawela Well is a backup well to the existing well, but it will be located probably above the Kawela Plantation subdivision. The 'Ualapu'e Well is also going to be a backup well. That one has gone out...gone down, and, you know, that serves all of that East Moloka'i. The one new source well is the Kala'e Well, and that one will more or less serve the Kala'e neighborhoods up in that area. And that was the one where the majority of the allocation is to Hawaiian Homes, but fortunately, Kala'e is not a big community, but we need to...right now, we are currently purchasing water from Hawaiian Home Lands to serve that neighborhood, and that's why we...we're developing that as a new source on Moloka'i.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Yeah, the Kualapu'u Aquifer, hopefully all the...you know, DHHL, Moloka'i Ranch, County, with the four wells in the same location within 100 yards are timing when they are pumping so that it's not creating the up-coning because...yeah, same, you know, with --

MR. OCHWAT: Yes.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the East Maui, West Maui, you know, it's been dry, and so we're concerned about our aquifer, and the nearshore discharge for cultural purposes. Because limu is like so hard to find now.

MR. OCHWAT: Oh, yeah.

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

MR. OCHWAT: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson, two minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chair. This shouldn't take longer. You know, I noticed the 5 percent Ag water rate increase.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I thought you might catch that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I know. And you know how I felt last year, and it's similar. The thing is, their...the farmers' expenses has not flat...stayed flat. They've only gone up. So, this might seem like only a \$71,000, or \$70,000 increases overall, but at the end of the day, seed, fertilizer, your ag land assessment...everything's going up. So, I kind of feel like I really appreciate your...your point in making, like, hey, the large water users should pay a little bit more. I think...can we absorb that in the larger, you know, other users? That's kind of where I'd go for, but what do you say?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I understand your position.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I like that. Okay. I understand your position, but I don't agree with your position.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, I do. And it's up to you guys to decide, of course, but --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- but it did seem that...I mean, our Ag rate is so low compared to other rates that it seemed like 5 percent was reasonable. That's our position.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I...I get where you're going with the idea of fairness, and I always say on fairness, it's not that everybody's treated equal, it's that everybody's needs are being met. And right now, I feel that the farmers' needs are not being met. So, I only...only have a minute or two to discuss this, and then I appreciate your...your point. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. So, anybody else have any questions for Water? Seeing none. Okay. So, again, I did bring up the water rate, and thank you for having a discussion on it, because we will vote on it as we go along with decisions. So, please get familiar with it, Members. I see Member Rawlins-Fernandez has agreed with it, but

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

April 3, 2025

just in case you want to look at it, it is Appendix B, page 54 to 65, and there's a scattering of water rates changes in there. And...all right. So, thank you very much, Water Department. Really appreciate you. You want to say anything to us before you depart?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: No, we're good. Thank you for the...thank you. Appreciate the . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, thank you. So, I really appreciate your enthusiasm for your job and what your Department is doing, and thank you for answering my text messages over the weekends. And that I will tell you--I think I've probably said this to you before--but the Water Department, brand new, right, this Administration, when you have come before the community and have said, we're going to raise your water rates. And nobody ever said anything in Kula, which I was surprised, and you were honest from the very beginning, and here we are. This is going to be the third round of rate increases for not only Kula, but for many, many of us, or many businesses, so thank you very much. You want to say anything? No? Okay. So, appreciate it. So, Water Department, thank you very much. And I'm going to close out the meeting. So, you may leave. Thanks for spending your day with us and adjusting to our...doing our RPT, real property tax in the morning. And so, before I defer today, I wanted to know if...if the --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- if the Members had any questions, additional questions, please do not forget to send it to staff.bfed@mauicounty.us by 9:00 tomorrow morning. And as you know, today there was no East Maui Water Authority, and I wonder if the...if Kirsten, you have any changes to...or anything you want to announce? Let's put it that way.

MS. SZABO: Hi, Members. We posted a new calendar for the...and distributed it...distributed it. We will be making a couple other modifications due to availability of departments. And then a last reminder is just on your Economic Development, Environmental, and Cultural Programs, those conditions are due on Monday, April 14th at 4:30, and your priorities are due Thursday, April 17th by 9:00 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, coming up. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I just was checking, you know, the questions that we asked the various departments--or I guess only Parks and Water--if we could have that answer in writing. Did you guys take those down, or should we send them to you?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think you took it down.

MS. SZABO: There...the questions have been taken down by the team in...in OCS, and if we have any questions, we'll reach out to you.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Great, great. And then, do you have like a list of what answers we've received? Like, because I thought we were going to get Police last night, and then it wasn't there this morning. Oh, that's --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, maybe we can ask Ms. Milner.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, I have the PD-2 letter. Their list of changes did not match my list of changes, so I want to make sure we're on the same page before that's transmitted. I'm just waiting to hear from them. They're doing final review, so I'm going to get it over to you ASAP.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then...so, then for Monday, we already got MEMA and Agriculture. It's helpful if we get some of their answers before we see them, because then it's easier.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we don't repeat.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you think that we would get some for Fire and Planning?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I was actually just speaking to Chief Ventura a little earlier this afternoon, and they are working on their responses, and the intent is to have them to me tomorrow so that we can have them to Granicus before Monday morning for your review.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Awesome. And I think this one is for you, Chair. I have one additional question for Prosecuting Attorney. Should I save that until the 8th, or should I send it in, or how should we run that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Let's talk about this. Because in our first go-around on what departments we did not think we needed to meet with, and we said --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean I don't...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- but based on their quest...or their answers to our...I mean, responses to our questions, right? So, we were going to take off Prosecuting Attorney from the list because I think they...I don't have the accurate list of who has submitted questions, but Prosecuting Attorney Martin said, I'll get it to you as soon as I can. So, I don't know...you know, there's a process that things go through, so I don't know if it's in the Budget Director's Office. Maybe, Budget Director, you can tell us what letters you are...or you sent, and what letters you're reviewing.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. The letters currently pending with me are Housing-1, Office of the Mayor-3, PD-2. I have two BD letters to get to you, and those are the ones that I have right...oh, and DEM-1. I'm waiting to get some of the others, but I know they're working on them because they've been calling our office.

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

April 3, 2025

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, Members, for Monday, right? We are done with deliberations for today. Tomorrow's Council meeting, and Fire and Public Safety for Monday, MEMA for Monday, and Planning...we moved Planning and Agriculture. Did we move any of them, based upon the responses?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, there's some schedule conflicts. Okay. But for sure, it's Fire and MEMA on Monday, right? Okay.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, what? Lesley is saying no?

MS. MILNER: Sorry, Chair, I don't mean to jump in. I've just been communicating with BFED Staff because I've been the go-between. Planning has Planning Commission on Tuesday, so they were unable to move. So, Planning will be on Monday, and MEMA will be on Tuesday. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, MEMA.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. MEMA on Tuesday, Planning is going to stay on Monday...right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Fire and Planning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fire and Planning. What about Agriculture? Where...what happened to...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. We might...okay. We might move Ag further down. Anything else you want to share with us, Ms. Milner?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did you say Ag on Monday?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. If it would be appropriate, could I just make a brief comment on the Residency Area Funds?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MILNER: Okay. Thank you. Since you're all working on your priorities, I just wanted to let you know, I've been having conversations with Chief of Staff Lallo. The intention for this coming fiscal year, anything you don't line-item under the Residency Area Funds, we really want to treat as a competitive pot. We want to put it out for bid, solicitations. You will be involved in the review process to ensure you're on board. If you don't receive

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

April 3, 2025

applications you like, we can put it out for bid again. If you get a call, and you want to line-item some more, and you haven't allocated it, you can do that. But that's our intention for the coming year, so we just wanted to be really transparent about that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I have a comment about that. Chair Lee can go first.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just wondering if I heard you right. If we have someone, an agency that we would allocate it specifically to, there's no need for a bid process, only if you don't have someone specific? Okay. Just wanted to double-check that.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. Yes, that's correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. On the topic of district funds, I know we run out of them quite often. Is the body...how's the body feel about raising it? Maybe 500,000, or I'd like to hear what you guys think.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: What do you guys think? What's the body think about raising district funds? I know my district is...really --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I support it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- can use it and...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I support it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I support it.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Are we going to --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Consensus.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- are we going to cut something to raise it, or are we just raising it? Because I'm...I'm uncomfortable doing that when we have 1 point...when we have \$122 million in Carryover/Savings. Are we going to cut the budget someplace else to give us more?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I would, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Because then I could support it. But if we have to raise property tax or something, I’m not going to do that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No, we’re not going to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no, no. No, I don’t think that was the plan.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Well, we...we’re discussing the plan now. That’s my point, is I’m not comfortable raising it when we have so much Carryover/Savings. So, if we can cut someplace, then I’m happy to support it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Definitely.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And that’s where we would look first, the massive Carryover/Savings that we deal with every time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, it sounds like we’re probably not going to make a decision right now. It sounds like we’re going to talk about this further because I think we need to...or we can stay later, your call, Members.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: We had consensus on everything, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, no, this is something bigger. So, I want --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: We don’t?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- to take this up next week sometime, we can talk about it, for an increase in...in that...because I wasn’t really talking about that. We’re just talking about the Fund, and I wanted to let Ms. Milner know that in the past, this is what I would do with the Residency Area Funds. I said that any changes in the Residency Area Funds, the department would have to get back to my office, just to check on it, and I think a lot of you put that same verbiage in it. At one point, the Office of Economic Development did exactly what Ms. Milner said--took all the available funds and put it out to bid, and we’re like, whoa, where did that...how did that happen? Because it was against what was in the bill. As you know, words matter. So, I...I would like to have a deeper discussion, maybe you all don’t care about that, or maybe you do, that was my big thing. I hear what Member U‘u-Hodgins is saying, yeah, let’s raise it, many of you want to raise it, let’s have a discussion of it. We can talk about it next week. Okay. Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just wanted to say that we only brought it up because the Budget Director brought it up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I know.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I know. It wasn’t meant to be discussed, right?

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But she's...you know, basically, what Budget Director just said is that once we close this budget, every single cent in your district funds that is not accounted for, they're taking it. That's what...that's what that happens, and then they put it out to bid.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, they put it out to bid for our district, which...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. I'm...I'm...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But I'm saying...I'm saying that in the past, what my office would do, every single budget, I mean, I can go look through all the --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I know, I was there --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- this will be the ninth.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and I didn't really have a problem with it because they did communicate with me because I would communicate with them. I would track them down, everyone in the OED budget, and I would make sure that all the district funds for Moloka'i was accounted for. And if the applicants, whom...which got a line item grant did not apply for it, I was the one, my office, reached out to those line item grantees to find out if they were going to...because then they should release the funds, and so I can reallocate it to another deserving organization on Moloka'i. So, my office is very active in tracking all of our district funds. So, I...I don't have an issue with, you know, proceeding in that way with 500,000. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, we're going to have a deeper discussion on this so we understand. So, Ms. Milner, what she just expressed is what I just described. I think it sounds like once we pass this budget, they're taking every...every available fund, not the A, but we're all the same, right, just legislative and administrative, but the two bodies then. Once we pass, then this would then go over to the...the Administration side, and they would put it out to bid. And that attempt, they tried to do it last...or this year, or beginning of this year, and I went, oh, wait, wait a minute, they were supposed to ask us. And I think...I don't know how they retracted it, but it was already advertised, and that's how I found out. But it makes me a little bit skeptical, so that's why I want to have a deeper discussion. You know, even the increase or whatever that is going to mean. Thank you. So, I...I will have a deeper discussion on it because it's important. All right. Anything else that we need to talk about? No? Okay. So, at this time, I'm going to defer this item.

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

April 3, 2025

COUNCILMEMBERS VOICED NO OBJECTIONS

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, everybody, for attending. Today's meeting was a little bit longer than you probably wanted. We're at...past 4:00, 4:12. On...again, no morning...no...no meeting tomorrow, right? We have Council, but be ready on Monday to, you know, take up the departments, and we continue again. We should let the Members know what questions we get back in because it's coming in kind of scattered, right? Okay. All right. This meeting is now adjourned. It's 4:13. . . .(*gavel*). . .

ADJOURN: 4:13 p.m.

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Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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

April 3, 2025

CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 97 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 1st day of May 2025, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck