

EFFICIENCY SOLUTIONS AND CIRCULAR SYSTEMS COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

December 4, 2024

Online Only via Zoom

CONVENE: 9:03 a.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Chair
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member (In 9:28 a.m.)
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (Out 10:26 a.m.)
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member

STAFF: Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst
Kirsten Szabo, Legislative Analyst
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Jennifer Yamashita, Committee Secretary
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office
Mavis Oliveira, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office

OTHERS: Andrew Nelson, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel
Josiah Nishita, Managing Director, Department of Management
(ESCS-2, and ESCS-7)
Kaponoʻai Molitau, Director, Department of ʻŌiwi Resources
(ESCS-2, and ESCS-7)
Kekai Robinson, Deputy Director, Department of ʻŌiwi Resources
(ESCS-2, and ESCS-7)

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Testifiers:

James Langford (Item ESCS-7)
Jasee Law (ESCS-7, and ESCS-2)
Nalei Pokipala (Item ESCS-2)
Johann Lall (Item ESCS-2)
Others (43)

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

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(*gavel*). . . Aloha kakahiaka kākou. ‘Ekolu minuke i ka hala o ka hola ‘eiwa, ma ‘ehā o Kēkēmapa, i ka makahiki ‘elua kaukani ‘iwakāluakūmāhā. E ‘olu‘olu mai, e ho‘omalū ke kōmike ‘Imi Hā‘ina a me Nā ‘Onaehana Poepoe. ‘O wau ‘o Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, ka luna ho‘omalū o kēia kōmike. Aia au ma ‘ane‘i i ke ka‘a ma ka hale mokulele. Ke noho ho‘okahi nei. Oh, I can hear somebody. It’s not...oh it was 9:03, 4th of December 2024. Please, will the Efficiency Solutions and Economic...no...Efficiency Solutions and Circular Systems Committee please come to order. I’ll stick to my script. I’m your Chair, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. I’m currently in my vehicle at the airport. There are no testifiers at the Molokai District Office. Let’s see...and then i kēia lā, me ko kākou, eia luna ho‘omalū Committee...Committee Vice-Chair Tamara Paltin. Aloha.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka. I’m having some technical difficulties with my camera and microphone on...or just the camera on the meeting so I’m leaving and rejoining at this moment.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Aloha. I see the Office of Councilmember Thomas Cook on with the video but I’m not sure if...I don’t see him, so we will --

MS. MCKINLEY: He’ll be joining late, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. MCKINLEY: Around 10:30.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We’ll say he...

MS. MCKINLEY: Oh, no, sorry. About half an hour late, sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. All right. He’s excused for now. We have with us in the Chamber Committee Member Tasha Kama. Aloha. Oh, I see you.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. (*echoing*)

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, you got to turn off your computer mic.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Got it. Thank you. Good morning, Chair, and aloha kakahiaka to everyone out there. And thank you for the switching of the days so that I could take your spot on Monday. I appreciated that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Member Kama. And then we have Council Chair Alice Lee. Aloha. Oh, you're muted.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aloha kākou, Chair. I'm home alone in my workspace with my trusty dog, Koa Lei Lee outside. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And then I believe Member...Committee Member Shane Sinenci is excused. And then I see in the Chamber Committee Member Yuki Lei Sugimura. Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Aloha. . . *(laughing)*. . . Good morning, everybody. I am in the Chambers and I have a visitor. Tamara?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: What's his name?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: What is your visitor's name? . . . *(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Ipo.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Ipo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: She's a minor and does not need to be named.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh...oh, not supposed to --

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So cute.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is she a minor?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, if I'm not paying attention to your meeting, we are heavily distracted here. Good morning.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Maha--...oh my goodness, so cute. Mahalo, Members. It was a very late-night last night in our meeting, and we went very long so I appreciate you just being here. Even if we're not all firing on all cylinders, mahalo for being here.

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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We have our two Non-Voting Committee Members, Councilmember Gabe Johnson and Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, who are welcome to join us but are not required to. And then from the Administration, we have from the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, Director Kaponō'ai Molitau. Aloha.

MR. MOLITAU: 'Ae, welina mai ke aloha iā 'oukou a pau. Aloha kakahiaka.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. Deputy Director Kekai Robinson. Aloha.

MS. ROBINSON: Aloha. Aloha kakahiaka.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: From the Department of Management, Director Josiah Nishita. Aloha.

MR. NISHITA: Aloha, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then online joining us from Corporation Counsel, Deputy Corp. Counsel Andrew Nelson. Aloha.

MR. NELSON: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then we have our Committee Staff, Legislative Analyst Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst Kirsten Szabo. Mahalo for joining us. I believe this is...this will be your first meeting with us, with the ESCS Committee. Committee Secretary Jennifer Yamashita, Legislative Attorney Megan Moniz, and Assistant Clerk...Clerk Jean Pokipala. We have three items scheduled for today's meeting: ESCS-7, Bill 127 (2024), Relating to the Implementing Charter Section 13-17, Requiring the County to Operate as a Bilingual Government and to Publish Official Meeting Agendas in English and in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i; ESCS-2, Bill 117 (2022), Relating to Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the University of Hawai'i for the Provision of Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian Studies Workshops for County Employees; and Bills and Resolutions for Referral to the Council Chair for the 2025-2027 Council Term. We will be taking testimony...we...we will not be taking testimony at the beginning of the meeting; we will take testimony after each...after the presentation...when each item comes up. We will receive presentations on the first two agenda items, and then you know the routine on the last agenda item. My apologies for not being in person in the Chambers this morning as I had planned to. The Molokai Airport...the control tower, I guess something's wrong with the weather instruments, and flights were cancelled last night and are cancelled tonight, and 10:30 this morning is the only flight that I would be able to get home, and so that's why I'm chairing the meeting from my car at the airport.

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So, mahalo, everyone, for your patience and flexibility. That's how we roll on Molokai. We just got to roll with the punches. Okay. So, we will...I will invite...let's see here...my notes is a little bit out of order, so I can...mahalo for your patience.

ITEM ESCS-7: BILL 127 (2024), A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT CHARTER SECTION 13-17 REQUIRING THE COUNTY TO OPERATE AS A BILINGUAL GOVERNMENT AND TO PUBLISH OFFICIAL MEETING AGENDAS IN 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. ESCS-7, BILL 127, IMPLEMENTING CHARTER SECTION 13-17, REQUIRING THE COUNTY TO OPERATE AS A BILINGUAL GOVERNMENT AND TO PUBLISH OFFICIAL MEETING AGENDAS IN ENGLISH AND IN 'ŌLELO HAWAI'I. Okay. Bill 127 is designed to implement the Charter Amendment design...designated as Charter Commission Proposal 2, approved by the electorate at the 2022 General Election to affirm that the County will operate as a bilingual government. The Charter provides in Section 13-17 that official writings of the County shall be prepared and made available in both official State languages, English and Hawaiian, as determined by ordinance. This Committee has been publishing its agendas in English and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i as a pilot project since July of this year. Mahalo Nālani. Now that the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources is up and running, this bill is a step toward furthering...further implementation of this Charter's mandate. And your Chair and the Department Director and Deputy Director have been meeting to figure out how to roll this out in a way that makes the most sense. And these two bills on the agenda are not a rush and so if the Committee feels like we need more time, we can always, you know, roll it to the next term, but I...I figured I'd give us an opportunity to pass it if everyone's ready to pass it today. And I've invited Director Molitau to provide a presentation. And if for whatever reason I lose service, Committee Vice-Chair Paltin will take over so that we can complete the presentations, testimony, and then, you know, proceed that way. So, Director Molitau, if you are ready, I'll invite you to now commence your presentation.

MR. MOLITAU: 'Ae, hiki nō. Mahalo. 'Ae, welina ke aloha iā 'oukou a pau a i ko kākou Kalana o Maui. Eia nō na'e, iā māua nei, ma Ke Ke'ena Kumuwaiwai 'Ōiwi. I hō'ea i 'ane'i i hāpai kēia mana'o, pai ka leo, he aupuni kalana 'ōlelo pālua nō ho'i. Good morning, everyone, and thank you for the opportunity for the Department of 'Ōiwi to present on behalf of these two bills, first off being the uplifting or supporting the...the bilingual government bill. Next slide, please. So, what you will see in this particular slide is...thank you to Kekai--is allowing for the bill in 'Ōlelo haole to be also seen in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i because that's kind of the...the course of action that we'll be taking. And so, Bill 127 says, "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE TO IMPLEMENT CHARTER SECTION 13.17 REQUIRING THE

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COUNTY TO OPERATE AS A BILINGUAL GOVERNMENT AND TO PUBLISH OFFICIAL MEETING AGENDAS IN ENGLISH AND ‘ŌLELO HAWAI‘I.” And so, thank you very much, Chair, for allowing us to...to be able to continue to support and hāpai this mana‘o. And so, what we...what we brought to you folks today is just a series of slides to be able to continue to remind us why ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is such an important piece in our government, and also give you context in which that is...been seen in the past. So, next slide, please. ‘O Kahi Waiho Ai O Ka Hua ‘Ōlelo. This is a very profound statement that is found in seasonal chants. It is found in...in the stories of our kūpuna, and we are in part of a season known today as Makahiki season. And so, it’s a season of great sustenance. So, the Season of Makahiki, when the Makali‘i rises in the east at the setting of the sun in the west, heralding the change of season and marking the start of a new year cycle. So Lono, the messenger of the many cloud-form bodies, arrived first in Maui, a heavenly voice from over the waters and a patron of fertility of the lands. ‘O ka ‘ōlelo, he mea e pili pū ai me ka ‘āina...‘o ka ‘ōlelo ka maui o ia ‘āina, ‘o ia ka ‘ōlelo i kohu pono i ia wahi ma mua a‘e o nā ‘ōlelo i lawe ‘ia mai no waho mai. So, these are...are some of the thoughts. If we look at this particular image, this is the actual image of what we call the rising of the Makali‘i. It is also known as Kuapola, it is also the known as the start of the Makahiki season. Next slide, please. And so, here’s some historical context on ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i being utilized in...in our government. Ke Kumu Kānāwai 1840. Only five sovereign nations’ constitutions pre-date Hawai‘i: the Iroquois, US, Norway, Netherlands, and Belgium. And so, when we look at this Kumu Kānāwai, this is the first constitution dated in 1840, all in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. And back in the day, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i was the main way of communicating in our government. Next slide, please. And so here is a ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i timeline. And I’m going to go ahead and...and say this with as much aloha because I think it’s really important that we see some of the adverse effects of...of what we as Kānaka or we as people can do to an entire...entire nation. So, in 1840, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is a primary language of public education systems established by Kamehameha Ekolu. In 1896, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is banned, government withdraws funding as a medium of public instruction. 120-plus Hawaiian medium schools dropped to 0 by 1912. So, if we think about that particular context in...and we see that the way to get rid of an entire nation is you take away their language. So, in 1978, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i is reinstated as an official State language, however, ban or funding ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in public schools is not lifted until 1986. In 1983, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i on the worldwide endangered language list. Mānaleo ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, native speakers,, estimated count, 2,000, with only 50 speakers under the age of 18. 1980s and 1990s, ‘Aha Pūnana Leo preschools and Kula Kaiāpuni/Kaiā‘ōlelo education revitalizes ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, and in the year 2016, the State of Hawai‘i reports that over 18,000 people speak ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i in their home. So, it’s really interesting to see the...the rise in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i speakers, or native speakers, here on not only in Maui, but throughout all of Hawai‘i. So, this is really a very shortened timeline of...of how we as...as...as a people can help uplift or we can actually be the detriment to...to our language, our mother tongue of this land. Hawai‘i State Constitution. Next

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slide, please. The Hawai'i State Constitution of 1978, Article XV, State Boundaries; Capital; Flag; Languages; and Motto. The official language, Section 4 of that, reads English and Hawaiian shall be the official languages of Hawai'i, except that Hawaiian shall be required for public acts/transactions only as provided by law. In the motto, in Section 5, the motto of the State shall be, "Ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono." That particular motto continues today, and it should read, "e mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono," yeah? The life of the land is always perpetuated in righteousness. Our next slide, please. In our Charter, County of Maui, in January of 2023, the Appendix number III, the preamble; we, the people of the County of Maui, mindful of our Hawaiian history, heritage, and culture, and our uniqueness as a four-island County dedicate our efforts to fulfill this Hawai'i State Motto, ua mau ke ea o ka 'āina i ka pono, the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. In order to secure the benefits of the best possible form of County Government and to exercise the powers and assume the responsibilities of a County Government to the fullest extent possible, we do hereby adopt the Charter of the County of Maui, State of Hawai'i, amended in July 1, 2024. Our next slide, please. In the Charter, County of Maui, January 2023, the Appendix III, Chapter 21, Section 8-21.3, the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. Powers, Duties, and Functions. Really want to highlight number 4 in both. And it says, guide the County in the correct usage of the Hawaiian language, including place names and the integration of Hawaiian language within the County functions. So, it's part of the kuleana of the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. Our next slide, please. In the Charter, the County of Maui, in January 2023, the Appendix III, Section 13-17, Bilingual Government. It was amended in July 1, 2024. The County shall operate as a bilingual government and shall implement opportunities to promote inclusion of the Hawaiian language. The official writings of the County shall be prepared and made available in both official State languages, English and Hawaiian, as determined by the ordinance. The County shall provide appropriate oral language services to any resident who orally communicates with its officers or employees in the Hawaiian language. And our next slide. Oh wow, that one looks a little bit different than 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, but it should read, "Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka 'Āina I Ka Pono," and it should read, "E Holomua Kākou, Our Way Forward." And I'm not sure exactly what diacritical markers those are, but anyway...we support for the Bill 127, Bilingual Government, and Bill 117, Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian Studies Workshops for County Employees. Under the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, we create 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Division and provide support staff. These are the requests of this particular Division to grow the Division Chief and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Specialists, Secretary/Analyst, Research Specialists, and Budget. Bilingual official writings, including agendas for all council committees, boards and commissions, proclamations or commemorative messages, Charter of Maui County and related appendices to...to commence July 1, 2025. And then lastly, grow opportunities for our community and County to engage together in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i by expanding available resources to them. So, this is our little, short five, ten-minute presentation on why we support this particular bill. Mahalo nui.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo nui, Director. Short but powerful. Mahalo nui for that.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY ESCS-7. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, we will now open public testimony. Okay. Let me get to my notes...testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up in the Chamber lobby, join the online meeting via the TinyURL link to connect to the Zoom meeting today, or call in the phone number and enter the meeting code noted on today's agenda. Written testimony can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas. For individuals wishing to testify via Zoom, please use the raise-hand function by clicking on the raise-your-hand button at the bottom of the bar. Staff will add your name to the testifier list and enable your microphone and video. Please keep your microphone and video muted until it's your turn to testify. You will need to unmute yourself before you are called upon by clicking on the microphone and camera buttons in the lower left portion of your screen. For those calling in, please follow the prompts via phone; press star-9 to raise your hand, and when it's your turn to testify, press star-6 to unmute. Staff will add the names to the testifiers' list in the order the testifier sign up to...sign up or raise their hands. For those on Zoom, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the name you're logged in under or the last four digits of your phone number. When it's your turn to testify, please state your...which item you are testifying on at the beginning of the testimony. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of the...of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes. I will now call the first testifier, James Langford. You may proceed with your testimony.

MR. LANGFORD: Aloha kakahiaka. Is everyone there?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha. We can hear you loud and clear.

MR. LANGFORD: Lovely. I'm testifying on keep...keep...on Bill 127, yeah? The importance of acknowledging and recognizing 'Ōlelo Hawai'i in this way is almost counterintuitive, but it's so healthy to have it written down. I'm in full support of this bill. The...and backstory on how language works and a little backstory on me so we can put it in context; I wrote the timeshare tracking software that all of Hawai'i and all of the world use to build the wealth in Lahaina, for example, and places like that so I'm uniquely familiar with how every cent of that money flows. When we reintroduce 'Ōlelo Hawai'i and the 'Ōiwi Resources into consideration of how our language flows through, the common understanding of what we're experiencing here, which is English language, which is a pidgin of the German language based on maritime law, so very similar to our pidgin in...from 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. So, unifying the common language thread that is the longest spoken on

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Earth, represented by ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i and documented in the Kumulipo, allows us to have a common ground of language that we can communicate truth with each other and perpetuate our financial abundance and imua going forward. So, I want to thank you and give you my love always, bula to Mau--...to Molokai from my family, and I love you all so much. Sorry for all the pressure, but it’s what I do. So, I love you, and all of my aloha to this, and let’s go. Thank you, my beautiful friends and ‘ohana. And where’s my Hawaiian out in Hāna? I...I need for see him soon, eh?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Langford. Yeah, e...e holomua kākou.

MR. LANGFORD: Thanks, yeah? I...I ‘Ae...yeah ka pono yeah. I...I need permission to think in ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i again, so when you guys start out my way, I’d be grateful. . . .(laughing). . . . Ciao.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Before I call on the...well, there aren’t any testifiers on the list, but before I call...do the last call, I’m going to recognize Committee Member Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good mor....

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha and good morning, Chair. Sorry for my tardiness, and I’m looking forward to participating. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for joining us. Okay. And then I saw Member Kama with her hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Are you going to allow us to ask the testifiers questions, or later?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You have a question for Mr. Langford?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I...I do, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mr. Langford, are you still on? Oh, there he is. Go ahead, Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you for your testimony this morning.

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MR. LANGFORD: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: I surely did feel your heart, and I surely do appreciate the love that you share and your understanding. But I just wanted to ask you, from what island do you hail from?

MR. LANGFORD: My family, Langford, Nā--...is Nānākuli.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Oh, okay.

MR. LANGFORD: And then we also hana through kapu names where folks were testifying, and they're like, I--it's kapu, I can't say my name. And yeah, stuff like that. So, long time.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MR. LANGFORD: Ku'ulei Galago (*phonetic*) Hainapule, 'o Hainakualoa, 'o Hāna, Maui is where I vibrate with, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: . . .(*laughing*). . .

MR. LANGFORD: . . .(*laughing*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MR. LANGFORD: Yes, ma'am. Aloha no.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Kama. Any other questions, Members? Okay. Well...well, mahalo, Mr. Langford, again. Okay. I'll do a last call for testimony on Bill 127. If anyone wish...wishes to testify, please raise your hand or unmute yourself, and you may proceed with your testimony. Okay. Hearing no one speaking up. Are there any...oh...oh, someone's approaching...okay. I'm sorry, I can't see. Please proceed with your testimony.

MR. LAW: Aloha Pō'akolu, Luna Ho'omolu [*sic*] Rawlins-Fernandez, and ka 'Aha o Ke Kalana o Maui and nā limahana kōmike. 'O wau Jacee Law, Kula uka, Waiakoa ahupua'a. E hō mai ka 'ike mai luna mai ē. Thank you for doing this. Mahalo. I want you to imagine if you were in a desert and found out your water jug had a hole in it, and all the wai leaked out except a little bit in the bottom. This is what happened to 'Ōlelo Hawaiian, and you all have to plug the leak and save the last drops.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Law. Anyone have questions for our

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testifier? Seeing none. Okay. And mahalo, Staff, I can now see the testifier podium. Okay. If there are no objections, we will close oral testimony and continue to accept written testimony into the record. Are there any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ESCS-7 . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members. Okay. I'll now open...oh, I'm sorry. I should have asked for remarks before testimony. Managing Director Nishita, do you have opening...any opening remarks on Bill 127?

MR. NISHITA: Alo--...aloha, Chair. Aloha, Members. Thank you for allowing us to be here today. I...I think the...the only things, you know, I want to highlight; one, I just really appreciate the Council walking the talk before even asking us to do this. So, appreciate that, and I'm sure you folks have...have learned things along the way that can be shared as well. And I...I think ultimately, you know, we are in support of the bill. We're excited about the new Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. In fact, they've...as part of our Directors' meetings now, they've been providing some...a little bit of training and...and education and whatnot to our...our Departments because that's...that's so critically important. We really appreciate the delayed effectiveness...effective date of the bill to allow some time to kind of prepare and...and get staffed up. And in that vein, I guess all I would ask on the operational side is, you...you know, depending on its...it's obviously a very tough employment market right now, and so I just want to make sure from the Department of Management side that our...our Departments have the adequate resources to, you know, implement the measure. But, you know, other than that, we're really excited for this endeavor. We really appreciate that, Chair, you...you folks didn't kind of do everything at once. This is kind of like a first step in the process, so that, you know, we're able to kind of learn along the way and...and find what kind of resources might be needed to continue this effort. So...so, really appreciate it. And on a side note, in the FY '26 budget, I hope you guys put in for a new camera for your resources because I'm...I'm only half Caucasian, but it looks like I'm 100% Caucasian on this camera. . . .*(laughing)*. . . But yeah, I want Tom...Councilmember Tom Cook's camera because he has a nice little tan there on screen. But appreciate you allowing us to be here today and...and happy to participate. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I've got your request noted. . . .*(laughing)*. . . It'll be one of my budget priorities. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Mahalo, Managing Director. Okay. So, Members, if you all have the Bill 127 pulled up, there's two sections: 2.02.010, Official Writings, and this is basically what I read in the opening remarks; and then the second part is 2.02.020, Public Meeting Agendas. All official public meeting agendas required under Part 1, Chapter 92, Hawai'i Revised Statutes

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must be published in English and ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i. And then Section 3 of the bill is what Managing Director referred to as this ordinance takes effect on July 1st, 2025. And so, a couple of the things that we discussed...myself, Director, and Deputy Director...in trying to figure out what...what would be...be the best format, like how...how it would...how we can make this happen, right? As Managing Director explained, it’s...and as we’re experiencing ourselves, it...it’s...it’s not easy finding folks to do the translation, especially at the...the pay that has been set for civil service. And I think we all understand how tricky it’s been to get comparable pay for that work. And so, we...we discussed a couple of models, and I...I don’t know if, Director, you’d want to share some of the models that perhaps would make sense for the Administration, whether it would be centralized in the Department of ‘Ōiwi Resources, doing all the translation work for the board...I mean the County boards and commissions, the agendas, and all of that work, and then, you know, as we roll out to a full bilingual County, if each Department would also have, you know, ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i specialists and how that would...how that could look as we, like, think through rubber meeting the road, right? And then the other thing that we...we discussed was whether July 1st, 2025 was a reasonable date, or if perhaps we push it back a little more. It can always be done sooner, of course, but I think...I think after, you know, starting Departments on July 1st, which is the beginning of the fiscal year, we’ve seen it’s kind of tricky because the...the...the funding kind of doesn’t start to kick in until...or...or even hiring, it takes a couple months at least. And so, you know, perhaps, you know, maybe October 1st, 2025, to just give it a couple months after the fiscal year starts or something. Anyway, so those are some of the...the...the things that we discussed, and I’ll call on Director to provide any additional remarks to those discussions that we had to provide the Committee a little more guidance so that we can, as a Council, be as supportive as we can. Mahalo.

MR. MOLITAU: ‘Ae. Mahalo nui. Yes, the discussion or brainstorming about what...what are the possibilities, me and my...me and my eyes get really big because ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i has been...has been the mainstay of my particular education for the...however long I’ve been on this Earth, and I think when we...we think about the possibilities of having a Hawaiian language specialist in every Department and having the Department of ‘Ōiwi have a po‘o ‘ōlelo Hawai‘i, or Hawaiian Language Chief, that...that can work with every single Department and their...their particular resources of Hawaiian language, then you can see really the goal of...of why this bill is so important of uplifting Hawaiian language in...in every single Department, as working with not only the Departments, but also with the County Council. And so, that was, I think, the biggest picture of seeing what that would look like, and then basically working...working our way to get to that point. What would it look like? Yes, and you are correct. Hiring has been pretty tricky. You know, getting somebody on board, you know, it takes a little bit more than a couple of months that we’re finding. And so, getting the right fit, making sure that the comparable resources are...are there for those that are

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working in this particular position is...is the challenge. And so, there are many, many different opportunities I think that we can look at, and I think one of them was that biggest one, is having the 'Ōlelo Hawai'i Chief, and then having the actual Department. It would be one of the...one of our pillars within our Department or one of our Divisions of uplifting this particular being, what we call pai ka leo, and making sure that we could help support not only the Departments currently, but making it build out for their own Department later. Anything, Kekai, you'd like to add?

MS. ROBINSON: 'Ae, mahalo. He lā kupanaha kēia. He 'oia'i'o nō. We know that this is a momentous movement. I would drive home what Kumu shared earlier in our presentation, that when Government supports this culture, this language, it is incredibly impactful on the community and our society, and the way that we...our...our outlook is, yeah, together as a collective. I want to say that if you look at the directive from the Administration approved by the Council for what is the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, a lot of our task center as well around preservation of natural cultural resources, 'Ōiwi resources, and so that's what makes Maui...and I know that I'm looking at the faces of the folks that know this in their na'au and in your very hearts and your souls, that that's what makes us Maui people all together uniquely Maui. And so, what I would add in support of this is yes, there will be...I appreciate what Managing Director has said about having the time to see how we can unfold and support our 'Ōlelo Hawai'i community. In the timeline, you saw the growth, yeah? You saw that the diminishing of 'Ōlelo Hawai'i when government funding and support was pulled from the community. But you also saw how that can be revitalized with government support, with community support, and our language has grown and is continuing to grow. He...he 'oia'i'o nō. 'Oia ke...'oia ka 'ōlelo o kēia kumu ma neinei. E mau ke ea o ka 'āina. E mau ke ea o kēia 'āina nei. So, you know, we...we thriving, and Kānaka will be able to fill these spaces. It is a uniquely and specific...it's a unique and specific skill, 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, but it is growing, and the community behind that is growing. And lastly, I would just add...not to get ahead, but the next bill as well supports that in our...our County employees, and then we hope to extend into the community. So...so, mahalo, Chair Rawlins, because I think this will unfold beautifully. We will take it a step at a time, and we will, you know, take a look at what is manageable and start to unfold it where folks are comfortable. So, I hope that helps to clarify how we...you know, the model, we...we don't quite have a handle on it, but we are quick learners and adapters, and we will be sure to support the language in our County Government because we know it is effective for our community at large. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo a nui no kou mana'o, mana'o nui. Oh, man, I...e mau ke ea. . . .(laughing). . . I...I wanted to quickly just share some mana'o, and then I'll open it up to the Committee Members for questions on this bill. About two weeks ago, I asked my son...you know, my keiki and Member Paltin's keiki were in Pūnana Leo, and then Kaiapuni, the Hawaiian immersion schools,

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and when...when both my keiki were going to middle school, they asked to go to the English side. And you know, I...I wanted to give them that option, that autonomy to make decisions for themselves, so they went. My son just started ninth grade, so he's at high school and I asked if he would be returning to 'Ōlelo Hawai'i...Papa 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, however...and he said no. And I asked him why, and he said because there aren't any jobs. And that just broke my heart. So, I told him...you know, I was like, how could you not know that I'm creating jobs . . . *(laughing)*. . . for...for this opportunity for 'Ōlelo Hawai'i? So, don't assume . . . *(laughing)*. . . as I learned, and...and so I shared that with...with both my children after, and...and that's one of the things that I'm going to be working on this year, to let all our keiki know that, you know, to not be discouraged by, you know, the fact that there...there may not be economic opportunities to learn 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, that there's so much more value in just the job aspect of it. Sorry, I didn't know I was going to get emotional, but yeah...so, it's...what we're doing is really important, so mahalo. I'll open the floor to questions. No time...no time limit. Hope Luna Ho'omalua Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Mahalo. I...I just wanted to share that Member Kama's grandson also is a Kaiapuni graduate, and when we were doing the...giving away candy for trick or treat, my kids were there the whole night, and at the end of the night, they wanted to ask her grandson something but they were shame between the two of them. So, they were 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, and then her grandson was all like, you guys' 'Ōlelo Hawai'i? . . . *(laughing)*. . . You should have told me, we could have been talking the whole night. . . . *(laughing)*. . . But they were just saying, you ask him, no, you ask him . . . *(laughing)*. . . in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. And then they didn't realize that he understood. So, I just wanted to share Member Kama's grandson is also a graduate, and sometimes, you're...we...we're walking amongst people and you don't know because we're 'Ōlelo haole. And so, just encouragement. I...I am poor at 'Ōlelo Hawai'i because as soon as I took this job, I stopped going to the classes because there's all this other responsibilities. But I guess I kind of agree. If we were to fund it for our fiscal year July 1st, we've been around long enough to know that people aren't going to be hired to do the work July 1st majority of the time. So, I would be okay with pushing it back. So, this, on the Administration side, would be for the 37 boards and commissions' agendas. If we can, maybe, combine or eliminate some of the boards and commissions that aren't really necessary because...or obsolete, whatever, that might be helpful. But it's just to build the capacity to take the next steps, correct?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Managing Director?

MR. NISHITA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I...I believe that's correct. And I...I think the thing I would add too, in the absence of, you know, consolidation of boards and commissions and whatnot, is it might be a good opportunity, too, to get a

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little bit more standardized in terms of how the boards and commissions' agendize, because then, you know, we're...we're going to help facilitate the translation of it and limit the amount of, you know, time and whatnot. Instead of 37 unique agendas that can constantly change, maybe get them a little bit more templated. Yeah, thanks.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I also...you know, in general, I don't know that they call it social studies in school anymore or whatever, but it seems as though there's unlimited English content, and 'Ōlelo Hawai'i content is steadily increasing, but I think if we include the haumāna more into what is going on in local community government, that is how we can help to...even if they may not want to be leaders, they may not want to be in front of the camera...I don't want to be in front of the camera . . .*(laughing)*. . . but just to be aware of what's going on. And it could provide additional content for kumu in...in the...either history or social-studies field, that, you know, they scrutinize our agendas in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, and therefore know what kinds of things are going on. I...I don't mind if English side does that too, because, ultimately, the things that what we're doing over here is only for them, and so hopefully, they're aware of our efforts. But I...I would love to see...you know, they have panina makahiki, wehena makahiki, and have us more involved in the things that is going on with them, and them also more involved in the things that are going on over here, and let all of our kumu throughout Maui County at least know these efforts are underway. And we invite them and their haumāna to be a part of all of these efforts, and then in that way too, they may realize of the opportunities.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Hope Luna Ho'omalua Paltin. Were you...were you suggesting Department of 'Ōiwi Resources start a County Makahiki games?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Or at least we could have the permits for wehena and panina makahiki be that status that Member Sinenci did, because every year, I get called up, like, for the permits. They wanted Lahaina --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: -- Rec Center this year. Some years, there was...we...the wonderful thing is we've outgrown the Old Lahaina Lū'au grounds, but that was the host for many years. But whether it's separate or interwoven with all the schools, and a standing permit . . .*(laughing)*. . . would be great.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I think...I think our Council would make a great hukihuki team. I can't wait to compete against the Administration. . . .*(laughing)*. . . I'm just...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Add that to the canoe race, and maybe some 'ulu maika, haka moe [sic].

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Haka moa.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Hope Luna Ho'omalua Paltin. Okay. Any...any other Councilmembers with questions? Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Chair. And again, thank you for being here, Director and Deputy Director. So, my question is in your presentation, you talked about the staffing that you would like to be able to start gearing up to, and I heard you say po'o. So...so, you...are you looking for someone in that...of that caliber to lead your Division of...

MR. MOLITAU: 'Ae. When we look at the Division of Pai Ka Leo (*phonetic*), or the Hawaiian Language Division --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MOLITAU: -- we see the caliber of...of folk that are out there that could lead an entire...entire language speaker as a professional. So, we would like to see that level of excellence. And they would basically be the po'o for that particular awe or Division that helps to oversee a lot of the...a lot of the responsibilities that are being requested when we thought about the boards and commissions --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MOLITAU: -- we thought about --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Were --

MR. MOLITAU: -- okay, what is this actually --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MOLITAU: -- going to look like?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MOLITAU: The...the capacity, we don't exactly have right now, and so to build that out is...is exciting.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: It is.

MR. MOLITAU: Having Hawaiian language specialists that would work --

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MR. MOLITAU: -- under or work with the actual po'ō is also exciting, but it also creates that particular discussion that Po'ō Keani Rawlins had in regards to her keiki having that question or response, because there is no jobs.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes.

MR. MOLITAU: And...and it's...it's something that...that we are excited about --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MOLITAU: -- to know that our community can...can level up to that.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So...so, your priorities are what in terms of...because you still have to gear up your office staff too, right?

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, who else is in the office besides the two of you?

MR. MOLITAU: So, currently, we have Dee, our secretary.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Good.

MR. MOLITAU: And then we also have...our archaeologist, County Archaeologist.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. Good.

MR. MOLITAU: We are finalizing our grant coordinator, we are also finalizing our GIS, and then currently, we're still interviewing for our Hawaiian language person.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So, this is just your staff to operate just...to just function --

MR. MOLITAU: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- within their other functions as written in this bill --

MR. MOLITAU: Right.

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COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- that says that you got to have all these other people there. So, have you...or are you aware of how many 'Ōlelo Hawai'i graduates have graduated in the past maybe five or ten years --

MR. MOLITAU: Oh, gosh.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- with a degree in public education or along those lines? Hawaiian --

MR. MOLITAU: That's a great question. I don't have that particular --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MR. MOLITAU: -- stat number.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MR. MOLITAU: However, I do know that a lot of the Hawaiian language graduates, their vein of study is usually their...their employment area.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yes. Yeah.

MR. MOLITAU: Right? Is education, or research, et cetera.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MOLITAU: But if this is an area or an opportunity that they can work into...into Government, I think this is a great opportunity.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: And so, one more thing, Chair, and then I'll stop and let other people ask. But you know the...the...the thought about compensation, right? So, we have this discussion all the time, that even...even Maui County employees are not compensated what we think should be fair. And so, when I look at...when I look at the mānaleo, right, or 'Ōlelo Hawai'i speakers, I look at them as being the pedigrees, right? So, you know in...you know in...in the whole dog world, right, you have the pedigrees, and they're like the highest of the highest of the highest. Therefore, they should probably get paid the mostest [sic]. That's just my opinion. Don't go running away with this, Chair. But you have to be able to get good people, but you're not going to get them unless they get compensated for those things. So, do you folks think about that as you're looking at how you're hiring, who you're hiring, and what that compensation might be?

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MR. MOLITAU: As a...as a small, little Department, we have that particular conversation daily, and it is a challenge because we...we see the immense opportunity, and for folks that are applying, that is some of their...their hurdles that they actually have to debate with. And so, when we think about mānaleo, we also have to think about our current mānaleo.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

MR. MOLITAU: Right? Pre-K through...through high school. That's all they speak. And so, when they're coming out of a work...or out of that particular high school level and their language...first language is Hawaiian, that skill set, you can't find in a university system. Yeah. That's over 18 years of experience, right, versus a Hawaiian language degree in four years. They don't equate. And so, when we think about mānaleo currently and we think about Pre-K all the way to high school, 12th grade, that amount...amount of work that they've mastered is quite amazing. And so, for them to go on to post high school to be able to continue what they love...love, there's opportunity there.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay. So, I'll stop for the next round so others can ask questions. Thank you, Chair.

MR. MOLITAU: 'Ae.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Thank you, Director and Deputy.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, in my family, you know, we're Japanese, we're not Hawaiian. I have a nephew that graduated from UH, and the only way he could get his education degree was taking it through the Native Hawaiian school. And so, we went to his graduation, and I was just like, wow. And he has taken an interest in the...in language and culture. He's a...he's a great fisherman. Ocean is his love, and...but anyway, so that's a...you know, that's there in family, as well as my sisters, Kupau...Trisha and...and Vernon, and their family, right? They're Hawaiian/Japanese and they're very interested. So, it's around. And I see what . . . *(laughing)* . . . I see what my...her eldest grandson has done in just trying to bring in culture...the culture, his...and what he's learned at Kamehameha Schools into now he's going to be graduating from UH, and bringing...using media. You know, so there's lots of opportunities if you

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can creatively put, you know, your passions together. I mean, that's life in general. But I don't know what kind of path there is. He's created a path for himself, and so I look forward to see what he's going to do, you know? And it's exciting to hear, you know, what you all are thinking and to hear what the Managing Director is saying because it'll be hard. It's almost like...it's almost like Hezekiah trying to find his path in the world because in Government, it's not really, you know, spelled out, but these are the beginnings. So, I...the steps that you'll take is huge because Government is huge and there's so much that needs to get done, right? So, the Hawaiians, as well as the Japanese in my culture, same experience where my...my parents were not allowed to speak Japanese. It was...it was the language of our...my...their home, both sides, and so we see it in different ways. You know, it's not...we're not...we're not in Japan, so we don't have quite the same impacts that, you know, you're talking about in your historical presentation, but it's felt. But it's always what are you going to do about it, right? And so, that's why I'm kind of excited just to see what we can do about it. I...very, very carefully. We need to take these steps very carefully just because I see what my family has done. So, I look forward to hear what the Managing Director, you know, is...is going to guide us through in Budget because it's going to cost us a financial commitment to take us down this path. And I look forward to hearing what you're planning on doing with UH Maui College because there's a lot of...a lot of...lots of opportunity in that. When you came before confirmation and we were talking, I said one of the things that's in my commu--...in...in Kula is Haleakalā, right? And I look forward to learning from you, you know, how to take that path forward because not only is the culture and the spirit, all of that important, but science and technology, and to move forward in exactly what you're talking about, jobs, right? So, we cannot have one to get rid of the other, right? And...and really, that's what Haleakalā is in terms of jobs and opportunities as we fund the robotics and all the different programs that take us down the science path. Air Force, right, they have their contributions...or the Space Force they're called now, but that runs that path and very carefully. I think they're trying to be sensitive to be able to walk, you know, carefully. So, anyway, I look...I...I know that's something that we mentioned, but I...I look forward to, you know, some kind of future meeting. I know you're super busy. We all are, but there might be, you know, something that we can learn from each other. Thank you.

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo nui.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugi--...oh.

MR. MOLITAU: Kala mai.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Director?

MR. MOLITAU: I just wanted to say thank you very much for that comment. I...you

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know, Hezekiah is an amazing --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh, you know him?

MR. MOLITAU: -- amazing lead in...in his particular industry in his field, and to come with a certain kind of cultural lens, and I think that is from his upbringing and his...his background, is...is really what we are striving for as...as a community, right? We look for the excellence of our people, sim--...similar to language. We are only looking for the excellence of that and to make sure that we uplift that and not necessarily...it's non-negotiable. Right? The excellence of that is nonnegotiable. So, Hezekiah is a prime example of that...that, you know, so please give him our aloha when --

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. MOLITAU: -- when you see him. He's amazing.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I didn't realize you knew him, but...

MR. MOLITAU: I think the...the opportunities that are out there for...for our community...and I'll just share this really quickly. For my son, he's a senior at the Stanford University, and he hasn't...he hasn't taken 'Ōlelo Hawai'i even though I was a Hawaiian language teacher at his school, and he would not want to take Hawaiian language because Dad was a teacher, blah, blah, blah, blah. Fast forward, he's at the University of Stanford and what is...what is the language that he chooses?

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Hawaiian.

MR. MOLITAU: Hawaiian.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Really?

MR. MOLITAU: And so, he starts to call me up and he speaks Hawaiian. Wait a minute, what...how is this all happening? You're at the university system and you are now learning Hawaiian language. And then he tells me, yes, Kumu, and...and she...he goes, oh, my Kumu knows you. I said yes, because I was her teacher.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. MOLITAU: And so, fast forward. Here we are now where...where he is studying a world that is amazing, but he's seeing it from another lens. And...and maybe it wasn't necessarily me that had to be the teacher, but it was...it was someone that...that allowed for...for him to see the world in a different perspective. So, thank you for that. Thank you for that mana'o.

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COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: So, you know, I'm glad you know my...my nephew...well, grandnephew, I guess. But, he came and testified when the Space Force was before us. The day before, I had lunch with him, and I said, Hezekiah...sorry, I'm going say this like this...but I said, I'm running for office, can you help me with my...my campaign and put in, you know, video and you know his talent. He says, Aunt, I'm too busy. I said okay. Next day, he's over here testifying. I could have killed him, right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: I'm too busy for you, but I'm too busy and I could come. And I was like, wow, what does that say about my relationship with him, you know? So, I thought that was kind of interesting in terms of values. But anyway, I look forward to seeing you progress. I mean, you...you've progressed, you know, really far in terms of your Department and...and bringing it to life. And of course, I have years of experience with you in Wailuku, you know, with you doing Wailuku First Friday and your native...your store and everything that you...I mean, every month, you are doing something, you know? And I've seen that also. So, beautiful. I hope you sell leis for January 2nd.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . I heard you're not going to, so... . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: We called.

MR. MOLITAU: That would be a Jennifer Molitau question.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: It's a Jennifer question?

MR. MOLITAU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Too busy? Or maybe it's a...maybe you folks are closed that day, I'm not sure. Anyway, beautiful, beautiful leis also. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Sugimura. And I'll second or echo what Director was saying, love your nephew. Heze is so awesome. Always makes me happy when I see him around. And I...I wanted to also just, you know, reiterate, as they say, you show me your budget and you show me your values,

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and our electorate overwhelmingly said that this is our value, to hāpai ‘Ōlelo Hawai‘i, so that’s what we’re doing. Any other Members with questions? No questions? Okay. And for disclosure, I am now at the airport, checking in real fast. Member...Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I don’t have so much of a question. I just wanted to...I really appreciated, Director, when we met in the office, and I wanted to...I find this exciting, intimidating. And I’m just like, you know, talking from the heart like I always do. I think that what this path that we are embarking on has the potential to really heal and revitalize our community. Hopefully, we’ll give our youth, all of our youth, a sense of bonding, like of the North Star, no matter what nationality they are, but recognizing that we are...you know, this is our...Hawai‘i is our home, and this is the culture, for the culture to be respected and acknowledged in a different way and a more meaningful way that I think it can actually...the visitor industry can benefit, the local community can benefit by it being more substantive and more valid. My intimidation is I have a hard time speaking English. I’m getting continually corrected. It’s not...it’s fiscal, not physical. It’s potable, not pawtable (*phonetic*). I just want to share that my wife is Korean. My children are Korean. They moved here in middle school. They speak Korean at home. I’m...I know a handful of Korean words, and my wife gives me her phone, and I can’t read it because it’s in Korean. But I’m just...and I’m...and I work for a Spanish company and there’s probably 75 percent of them, and I was supposed to learn Spanish and I haven’t. I’m going to be 70 in December. I’m a junior...senior...junior kūpuna, so I’m going to use that as an excuse that, like --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: . . .(*laughing*). . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That’s just the brakes. I’m sharing that with you because my son taught me...my son...my youngest son, Howon said something very meaningful that I think is...will resonate with the community in a lot of different ways in this process, and that is I got a little habut because it was like you all know how to speak English and I’m sitting there at the table and we’re not speaking English. And so, they would...they would be polite, but they would be quiet. . . .(*laughing*). . . It would be crickets. And then two things happened. A friend of mine who’s Japanese/Korean and has lived with his mother, and he told me, Tom, speaking to my parent in any other language than Japanese is just odd. It’s just odd. And then with my boy, Howon, I told him...one time I was saying, like, you know, you guys could speak in English, and he...very polite. He’s the most polite boy. He’s never been disrespectful. I mean, it’s like, I got five kids. And he just...he looks at me and goes, Dad, you could learn Korean. . . .(*laughing*). . . And I’m just sharing that with you because this is an opportunity and I see it as a challenge for our community, and I just want to express my support. And also want to express, like, literally being vulnerable, like how it is intimidating and how it is...and you’ve been...I think you are a great

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Director, and Ms. Kekai, you also have been very kind and loving, and like, your...I don't know, it's your mana'o, your...your vibe is appropriate for the task. So, I'm just asking for everybody...for...this process will be uncomfortable for a lot of people. This process will be intimidating and...and scary to some extent, and I think that if we practice aloha...and I'm not Hawaiian, but I'm local and I get it...that we can make this happen and our entire community will become enriched. And there again, just that word, the Western versus Hawaiian. What does that...what does that word mean? And I think that the blending of the two and the collaboration and the understanding, that it...it isn't necessarily in conflict if we are sharing the same heart. So, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Beautiful.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Cook. I...I...Director, are you reaching for the mic to provide mana'o?

MR. MOLITAU: Just another quick mahalo. Just real quick. Mahalo, Mister...Mr. Cook. Thank you very much. You know, I...I was told once at the University of Hawai'i that I'm a mānalo of English, like my first language is English and...that my...my second language is the mother tongue of this land. So, like you, I...I learned English, and I'm junk at it. I don't know all of the different formats of it. My wife has to correct me all the time. However, I was also told that...that if you live in Maui or if you live in Hawai'i, you have a responsibility. You have a responsibility to learn the...the nuances, the cultural aspects, the language, eating poi, you know, the foods, the local culture. That's a responsibility of us all collectively. And I think if we do that with humble hearts like you say, but also be very unapologetic of the way that we go about making sure that we uplift our language of this land, uplift the...the...what we...what we call the lawena, the decorum of our people. And you see that in...in our communities out there already, that there is a certain way of decorum from our keiki that are very respectful. Sometimes you got to pull their ear, but I think overall, our community around Maui Nui is...is very supportive and uplifting to this particular thought. So, thank you very much for that. Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director.

MR. MOLITAU: 'Ae.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I saw Chair Lee with her hand up, and I saw Member Paltin walking somewhere. I need to go park the car so that I can go and catch my flight at 10:30. But before I call on Chair Lee, and I...and I understand that Staff has requested that Vice Chair set up at the Chair's podium, but there's multiple things that are happening all at the same time, so I'm going to say that it's not necessary. You can Chair from where you are, and I don't think anyone has any objections about doing...doing that. Otherwise, we'd have to call a recess

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so that Member Paltin can get set up at the Chair's podium. Managing Director Nishita needs to leave because it's 10:15, and I would like to invite him to provide any remarks on Bill 117, which is very closely tied, and I can make an argument that it's together. So, I would like to invite Managing Director to provide his opening remarks so he can leave on time, and then I'll...I'm going to...Committee Vice-Chair Paltin, I'm going to turn off my camera. I'm still going to be here, but I...I see you moving. Okay. So, Managing Director --

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Sorry. Someone had to take a little bathroom break.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, I see. . . .*(laughing)*. . . All the things. All the things all at the same time. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Managing Director Nishita, if you will please...I'll invite you to share your opening remarks. And then you can be excused.

MR. NISHITA: Aloha, Chair. Yeah, no, thank...thank you very much and appreciate...I don't know how you juggle everything at once. That...that's pretty, pretty impressive. Just regarding Bill 117, just a little bit of background for the Members. Back in 2020, so when COVID hit, you...you know, as a part of kind of revitalization efforts and whatnot, we did form a committee, for lack of a better term, like an economic recovery committee to help us direct the use of CARES Act and ARPA funds and whatnot. So, we...we did establish a committee and...and had a variety of different individuals participate and...and help us form kind of thoughts and plans and whatnot around that. And one of those groups involved Pueo Pata and Auntie Hoku, as...as well as a variety of others. And you know, I...I think I...I learned the most from that group than any other group I think I've ever participated with. And I was actually really sad when we kind of disbanded because the...you know, the plans have been set and whatnot. But as a part of that, some additional discussions had come out, and...and I think, you...you know, back then, there wasn't, of course, plans for the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. You know, there was a lot of discussions about how we can be better stewards and...and caretakers of this place and whatnot. And one of the things that I...I think I learned really quickly was how much understanding where you come from and...and the place that we're in really impacts kind of the decisions that we make and even just how we look at projects and how we communicate and...and work with people, and...and a big piece of that was just kind of understanding the...the basic aspects of our community. And I...I think, you know, when we were talking with staff, there...there seemed to be a desire for that kind of educational component. And when we kind of endeavored on it, we...we weren't quite sure where it would go or...or what that would look like, but we had some great partners that were willing to step up and help us. And in the absence of a Department of 'Ōiwi Resources or whatnot created, we worked out a program with University of Hawai'i Maui College with Kahele Dukelow and...and some others. Lui Hokoana actually signed the MOU back then, back in 2021, and we transmitted to Council. In the meantime, they did offer us to

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run some pilot programs kind of free of charge, and so we...we did do that and there was an overwhelming amount of individuals wanting to participate in our very limited pilot programs related to that, and the feedback we got was pretty tremendous about what they learned, what they didn't even realize previously, and how they could take that into other aspects of the jobs that we do. And so, you...you know, part of the foundational piece, I think, during that timeframe too had...you know, I attended the Native Hawaiian law training class and...and some other things and it just really helps us keep us rooted in...in understanding, you know, how the decisions we make really impact those around us, as well as the...the land and ecosystem around us. So, that was kind of the...the genesis of it back in 2021. You know, we...we weren't able to get Council approval at that time. And then carry over to this...this point, I think there...there was some revisions to the bill. We're still in full support of it. Obviously, now that we have leaders in place, you know, we defer to their judgment and whatnot, but that...just to give some background, that was kind of the initial genesis of...of the discussion at large. And so, with that, Chair, I...I think...unless there's any questions for me, I think that that would kind of be the...the summary of my comments. And appreciate you scheduling this to take it up and have the discussion. Thanks.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, again, Managing Director Nishita, for being with us and for those opening remarks on the next agenda item. We'll see you...we'll see you later. Okay. And then, Chair Lee, you had comments or questions for the first agenda item?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I just...I have to leave, so I just wanted to say thank you to the Director and Deputy for their presentation, and I look forward to seeing your...your plans for the future and I, of course, will support...support you all the way. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What time do you have to leave, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: In five minutes.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. How about we just entertain a motion for passage on first reading?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Let's do it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Second.

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CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Moved by Chair Lee, seconded by Member Kama, I think I saw. Okay. And let's see...that is recommending passage on first reading of Bill 127. And then I...I believe we wanted to amend Section 3 of the bill to take effect a little later than July. Does anyone have a preference? Director, do you have a preference on the month instead of July, like October, November, December?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Can we ask that of the Director?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Can we ask that of the --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: -- Director since he's going to have to be the one that has to follow?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, yeah. That...that's who I asked, Director.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. MOLITAU: Mahalo. I think if we can shoot for September, I think would be a good month. Yeah. It will give us a good couple of months to...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The Chair will entertain a motion to amend Bill 127 by striking July and replacing that with September. Is there a motion?

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So moved.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Moved by Member Kama, seconded by Member Paltin. Any discussion?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just wanted to clarify with the Director and Deputy. So, we're...we're anticipating the Fiscal Year '25 Budget allocating resources to hire translation interpreters, and so the money will be available July 1st, and you will...do you have a position description, have you worked with Personnel

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Services? Because that's a big complaint amongst folks. Like if the position description is created, like, ready to go July 1st, and then the amount of time it takes them to hold the application period open, the amount of time it takes them to vet the people if you have minimum qualifications, and then the actual, like, hiring. Former Deputy Managing Director Keanu Lau Hee said when she first tried to apply for the County, it took her eight months to get hired. So, just wanted to clarify that you're...you have a position description ready, you have minimum qualifications, or you will prior to July 1st, and then the money is released and we can let it loose.

MS. ROBINSON: Mahalo.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin, for the question. I...I was trying to give Chair Lee the opportunity to...to vote on this for passage on first reading. We can take it up again for those questions, or we can continue discussion, and I'll have to jump on a plane and Chair Lee will...will leave the meeting. So, up to you guys.

MS. ROBINSON: I can answer very quickly.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. ROBINSON: Yes, we are working on that position description, and yes, if we have the budget to support it, we have incredibly qualified candidates who could help us to lead the division. As it --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry.

MS. ROBINSON: Yeah. Mahalo. And...and then --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And we're boarding. So, Member Paltin, . . . *(laughing)*. . . I'll call for the question. All those in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right.

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VOTE: AYES: Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair Paltin, and Councilmembers Cook, Kama, Lee, and Sugimura.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Sinenci.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE amendment.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Motion as amended. Any more discussion? If there's no more discussion, I'll call for the question.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Call for the question.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then we can take a recess. Okay?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All those in favor of the motion...main motion as amended, raise your hand and say, "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All "ayes," Member Sinenci, excused. I...I don't know if anyone else is excused.

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VOTE: AYES: Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair Paltin, and Councilmembers Cook, Kama, Lee, and Sugimura.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Sinenci.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending FIRST READING of Bill 127, CD1 (2024), by C.R.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But Staff, you got that?

MS. MCKINLEY: Yes, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. It's 10:25, and the ESCS Committee is now in recess. You want to recess until I get to Molokai, or you want to...you want Member Paltin to take over?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Member Paltin can take over.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, I coming. Okay. How about we do 10...10:40. 10:40? Okay. The ESCS Committee meeting is now in recess until 10:40. Okay . . .(gavel) . . .

RECESS: 10:26 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:48 a.m.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: . . .(gavel) . . . Will the ESCS Committee return to order. The time is now 10:48. Thank you for your patience as we gathered our quorum up.

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ITEM ESCS-2: BILL 117 (2022), RELATING TO AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FOR THE PROVISION OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND HAWAIIAN STUDIES WORKSHOPS FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: We have already gotten the opening remarks on Bill 117 (2022), Relating to Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Intergovernmental Agreement with the University of Hawai'i for the Provision of Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian Studies Workshops for County Employees. If our Director or Deputy Director of 'Ōiwi Resources had any opening remarks or presentation before we open up for public testimony, we would love to hear it. And I do have an explanation from the Chair as to why she scheduled this Committee meeting and agenda item. So, as Managing Director Nishita explained, Bill 117 (2022), would allow the Mayor to enter into an intergovernmental agreement with UHMC to provide Hawaiian studies and Hawaiian language workshops to County employees. This bill also furthers implementation of the same Charter amendment, Charter Commission Proposal 2, approved by the electorate at the 2022 General Election. It will...it could help to advance the County's goals to operate as a bilingual Government by providing more opportunities for County employees to learn 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. Section 13-17 of the Charter also provides that the County shall operate as a bilingual Government and shall implement opportunities to promote inclusion of the Hawaiian language. The County's partnership with UHMC to provide these workshops will promote understanding and respect for Hawai'i's unique culture among the County's workforce, and this bill is another step towards fulfilling the Charter's mandate. So, the resources for this item: we have already heard from Director Nishita...and sorry, I don't think we'll be able to ask him questions unless they're written transmitted...and Director Molitau and Deputy Director Robinson. So, Director Molitau, if you would like to proceed with your presentation or any opening remarks. Members, please save your questions until after public testimony is completed.

MR. MOLITAU: 'Ae. Welina mai ke aloha iā 'oukou a pau. 'O ka mua, mahalo a nui no kēia hui 'ana, no kēia hālāwai nei e pili ana i kēia mau pila nei ma mua o kākou nei. I ku'u mana'o i kēia manawa, a makemake e hāpai a'e i kēia mau mana'o no ko kākou Kalana o Maui. Thank you very much, everyone, for joining us and letting us be a part of today's hālāwai, today's meeting in regards to these bills. First off, I wanted to make sure that we, the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources, are...do acknowledge and support and uplift the...the particular bills in front of you. I'm going to go ahead and hand it over to Deputy Director Robinson for this presentation.

MS. ROBINSON: 'Ae, aloha kakahiaka, welina me ke aloha pau'ole. Mahalo for this

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opportunity. Deputy Director Kekai Robinson. What you see here before you is the framework of a hale that we have built in Waihe'e, at Kealaka'ihonua Heiau in an...in an 'ili called Kapōkea (*phonetic*). I want to acknowledge that this bill is about building the framework so that we can do the work, and acknowledge that Director...Director...Managing Director Nishita also referred to that, about, you know, having a strong foundation, having a strong framework by which we do our jobs at the County of Maui. And so, this is one step towards that, and it comes in tandem with the bilingual Government. Hawaiian Language/Hawaiian Studies Workshops, background was given by Managing Director. And I also want to mahalo and acknowledge the University of Hawai'i Chancellor Hokoana and Assistant Vice-Chancellor of Academics Kahele Dukelow, who has been graciously providing us with some support and some information as far as the continued...you know, continue partnership and looking for the future and how University of Hawai'i can help us to create some resources that will be so impactful and so important for us to do our jobs in building a strong foundation that is Maui Strong Foundation. You can go ahead and go to the next slide. So, in Director's confirmation, yeah, "O ke kahua ma mua, ma hope ke kūkulu," yeah? The foundation has to be there so we can build something that is very strong. And so, the workshops that were initially outlined were in these subjects: basic Hawaiian language, traditional place names, land divisions. You can see here, even history of Pacific migrations and our relationship with all of Pacifica. You see here Maui-specific information: geology, history, the development of our Government, the history of our Government. And we've added just a couple more on top of that. It's cultural traditions, sensitivity, perspectives, information on Iwi Kūpuna for our County workers as they go about their jobs. It has been very important to have a sensitivity, a respect that creates dignity for our...our burial places and our Iwi, as well as song and chant and how it informs our perspective. These classes...you can go ahead and...and forward...these workshops would be provided for in...in Bill 117. It would allow us to get into an agreement with the University of Hawai'i, and the specific details would then be worked out. The cost, it's...it's pretty cost effective. When we spoke with University of Hawai'i, they were just willing to be able to support the County in...in this forward progress, and so you can see here that...I think when we spoke with Managing Director, he thought that it wouldn't cost more than...I believe initially, when they set out, not more than \$10,000. And so, we hope to, you know, be able to maximize that by offering workshops in person. He shared that in the past, when they opened up workshops with these types of, you know, focuses, that the County employees were really excited to participate and signed up in...in numbers that were huge, more than the capacity they could handle in the classroom. And so, what we propose is that we make the classes, the workshops available in person on a space available, you know, space will be limited, but the college will allow us to record these and post them on the County employee, I guess, website where employees can access. It's called Workday. There are some orientation videos from other Departments, and also a learning tab on that online resource that County employees can tap into, and they could participate in these

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workshops voluntarily, and it would be made available online as well. When we spoke with the folks that take care of Workday for the County, they said there is no cost and that the maximum amount of time will be about six hours. So, I don't believe any of the workshops will run six hours, but I believe they probably will be between half an hour and an hour and a half. And you would be able to access that learning online. This is meant to be pretty straightforward and a means to support...you know, truly support bilingual Government and provide the tools that the County will need as we move forward that way. So, thank you.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Deputy Robinson.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY ESCS-2 . . .

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Before we go into discussion, we'll take testimony on ESCS-2. If anyone would like to testify on this item, please raise your hand on Zoom, click on the hand button. Callers can press star-nine on the phone to raise their hand, and star-six to unmute, or approach the podium in the Chamber now. Staff, do we have anybody signed up to testify at this time?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair...excuse me. Chair, we do have two testifiers.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, okay. Would you call the first testifier?

MS. MCKINLEY: The first testifier is Nalei, to be followed by Johann Lall.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Nalei, we're ready for your testimony. Did you need the instructions? It's a three-minute testimony.

MS. POKIPALA: I'm trying to just figure out how to get this camera to work. Can you guys hear me though?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: We can hear you, yes.

MS. POKIPALA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: We don't see you, but that's fine. Oh, now we see you.

MS. POKIPALA: Okay. Right there. Now I can see you. Aloha mai kākou. I just wanted to come on here, and I...my name is Nalei Pokipala for the record, and I do support Bill number 127 [sic]. I believe that UHMC has the capacity to help support the County, and I appreciate that the Mayor has reached out to do a collaboration with them to support our County workers to operate a bilingual Government. I can't assume that this would be an easy thing to transition, but I just wanted to express my excitement to be able to see this happening. My

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grandmother wasn't allowed to speak 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. So she didn't raise her...my parents and their generation and my aunties and uncles with 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. I...my generation, we're learning, and then I do have a nephew that did graduate from Kula Kaiapuni. And what I appreciate seeing this, and even it being implemented on a County level, is so that our keiki can see that their language is important. Now, I do understand that there is different other ethnicities. I am not only Kānaka, but I'm also Hawaiian, Japanese, French, you...English, and Scottish. But what I appreciate about having 'Ōlelo Hawai'i, and if you see it in the community, it provides confidence to the haumāna and the keiki. They get to participate in things that are in 'Ōlelo Hawai'i. There's not just a language component that goes with it, it's also how you conduct yourself, the kuleana that Director Molitau has expressed, as well as Deputy Director Robinson. So, I appreciate this. I appreciate the...the...not only to implement this, that there is...kala mai. That there is this collaboration that's going to happen with UH so to make sure that our County workers are also taken care of to help support these bills. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Ms. Pokipala. Just clarifying for the record, correct testimony, just the number is 117. Bill 117.

MS. POKIPALA: Oh, 117?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Yeah.

MS. POKIPALA: Okay. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Did the Members have any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. And next up, I believe they said we have Mr. Johann Lall. We're ready for your opportunity. Three minutes.

MR. LALL: Aloha. Johann Lall. So, I support Bill 117. As a former County employee, I think it's important to have this kind of basic Hawaiian language training along with all of the cultural things, the history and the geology and all of that. Super important. When I worked at the Planning Department, we were encouraged to do a wahi pana training that was I think done by, like, the Hawai'i Tourism Authority or some kind of tourism organization, but it was geared for that industry, but it was still very informative. And we heard from people like Kainoa Horcajo and Kumu Joe Recca and some other folks, and I learned a huge amount, even in just a few hours of those trainings. Another one that we were encouraged to do was the Native Hawaiian Law Training. And so, this is kind of along those same lines where I think a few...a few hours with...with knowledgeable people in these kind of workshops can have a great benefit, and especially because a lot of County employees are transplants like me, and so when you first get here, you know absolutely nothing about Hawaiian culture and history and the language besides probably what you saw in like Lilo and Stitch or like Magnum P.I. And

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so, you know, this is...this is a huge thing, I support it 100 percent, and it's a way to learn a lot beyond only language and to make connections with people, and I...I think UH is a great resource for this. So, I'm in full support. Mahalo.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Thank you, Mr. Lall. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. Is there anyone else signed up to testify?

MS. MCKINLEY: No one else has time...signed up at this time. Would you like us to do a last call?

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I'd love you to do a last call.

MS. MCKINLEY: If anyone would like to testify on this item, please raise your hand on the Zoom or...oh, we have a testifier approaching the podium.

MR. LAW: Thank you, Ellen.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha, testifier.

MR. LAW: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Would you like to state your name or would you like to remain anonymous?

MR. LAW: My...ko'u inoa Jasee Law again. Aloha kakahiaka, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalu Tamara Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Aloha.

MR. LAW: And mahalo, everybody. Mahalo kākou. This is for...on the second one for the record, Bill 1...I got to use the other half of my brain. 117, I guess. Yeah. For the...Chair Rawlins-Fernandez' pilikia with Molukeya...Mokulele makes me think about how maybe the old ways were mo' better because if canoes were still the main method of transportation, we might get around faster, if not faster, then at least with less traffic. Additionally, with a sign of the times and introduction of COVID, I was skeptical of Zoom and the computer technology, but watching Keani commute, I have a greater...greater appreciation for the auto...audio-video communication. I've lived Hawai'i for almost 15 years, almost kama'āina, and when I came back to Maui, my bucket list included learning 'Ōlelo Hawaiian. So, it makes me feel good that I'm in Hawaiian kindergarten. I think I speak for 99 percent of the limahana of the County because I think this would improve the morale of the employees. And another thing that would improve morale is chant or a mele before the Committee meetings.

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Mahalo, Mr. Law. Members, any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Thank you for your testimony. And I see our regularly scheduled Chair is probably on Molokai. Do you want to resume the reigns?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. I arrived on Molokai safely. I am at a public place at the Molokai Airport. I can.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Up to you.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: If you'd like.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Up to you. It doesn't matter.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. All right. Do you...okay. So, last call for public testimony? If there's anyone else wishing to testify, you...you may proceed by unmuting yourself or raising your hand. Hearing no one, so I'm going to close testimony, we will...are there any objections to closing public testimony and accepting written testimony into the record?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ESCS-2 . . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members. Okay. So, we'll open the floor for questions on Bill 117. And I believe that Staff should have distributed an ASF. It's the updated intergovernmental agreement. So, everyone got that. Okay. Any questions for Director or Deputy Director? No questions? Okay. Very good. And as you heard earlier from Managing Director --

MS. MCKINLEY: Member Paltin had a question. Excuse me. Sorry.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, oh, I'm sorry. The...the camera is not on Member Paltin. Member Paltin, please proceed with your question. Kala mai.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I just was wondering if the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources would be assisting in the course selection or course preparations or guiding how it would go?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MS. ROBINSON: 'Ae. Mahalo. Deputy Director Robinson. If you take a look at the newly provided bill and...and handout, I think it's on the last page, Exhibit A, there is a list of workshop titles and topics. So, to specifically answer your question, yes, the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources would love to be involved in

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coordinating and facilitating this work alongside Council and Administration, and hopefully the support is there for us to go ahead and do that. But with specific reference to what we've determined, we looked at what was introduced in the past, and those include the Hawaiian language workshops, the Hawaiian history workshops. And we added...oh, and also, one of the older ones was the...the mapping or the survey of...not necessarily survey, but the types of land divisions, the traditional land divisions, from cultural sensitivity, mauiola, mele and oli Hawai'i, iwi kūpuna, and nā wahi pana o Maui Nei...o Maui Nui...Maui Nui, all of our four islands. Those were ones that we thought were important to add. I believe that the initial workshops came from that discussion that Managing Director mentioned with the...really the unoffic--...unofficial original Department of 'Ōiwi Resources.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

MS. ROBINSON: Members Aunty Hōkū and Pueo Pata mā, like those folks, the...the original Department, unofficial. And so, we fully support those and have added just a few more. And I also want to acknowledge that the County does encourage employees to take the Native Hawaiian Law Training, and it has been extremely valuable, a two-day training. And that language of encourage is different than mandatory, and so I just wanted to make a quick mention that it is...these are not meant to be mandatory for County employees, that they are optional, and that we continue to remain also resources in the future as folks start to take these workshops and maybe have additional questions, but that might be a conversation for a later time as far as what is mandatory and optional.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: I...I did have a couple follow-up questions. One, all of us and our Staff are included in the definition of County employee, correct? Our...our Legislative Attorney is saying yes. Second follow up question, the reason the Native Hawaiian Law Training is not on the Exhibit A is because Ka Huli Ao is the entity putting it on and not UH? Yes? Okay. Pau questions. Next. . . *(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. And just to clarify, Ka Huli Ao is a program at the Richardson Law School, which is part of UH Mānoa.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Oh, it could...could be added to this Exhibit A, then?

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't know if it would be necessary, but does...do any of our resource personnel have an opinion on...

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: They're conferring.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Deputy Director?

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VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: They're --

MR. MOLITAU: Kala mai. Director Kaponou'ai Molitau. We don't necessarily have an opinion. I think it is...it is an opportunity for the School of Richardson Law to be able to be incorporated in this as well. But I think this particular one is through UH Maui, and so I think that would just be the...the language to be that just have that conversation with them.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, correct. Yeah. The intergovernmental agreement is with UH...it says University of Hawai'i, but it's Maui for these purposes. Ka Huli Ao is, yeah, Mānoa. Mahalo. Any other questions, Members? Okay. Seeing no hands. The Chair will now entertain a motion to recommend passage on first reading of Bill 117, "A BILL FOR AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII FOR THE PROVISION OF HAWAIIAN LANGUAGE AND HAWAIIAN STUDIES WORKSHOPS FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES."

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So moved.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Moved by Member Kama, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. Members, Staff has distributed the ASF --

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- to...to Bill 117 with the proposed CD1 version. The proposed CD1 version makes amendments to incorporate nonsubstantive revisions for clarity, consistency, and style, and provides an update and...and...and unexecuted memorandum of agreement. The Chair will now entertain a motion to substitute Bill 117 with the proposed CD1 attached to the ASF.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So moved.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Moved by Member Kama, seconded by Member Paltin. Discussion. Any discussion? Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: The only discussion I have is let's get it done.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: E holomua kākou. . . .*(laughing)*. . . The theme of our...of our Committee meeting today. And just to reiterate, as Managing

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VOTE: AYES: Chair Rawlins-Fernandez, Vice-Chair Paltin, and Councilmembers Cook, Kama, and Sugimura.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Lee, and Sinenci.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending FIRST READING of Bill 117, CD1 (2022), by C.R.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: E kala mai. . . .(laughing). . . Okay.

**BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS FOR REFERRAL TO THE COUNCIL CHAIR
FOR THE 2025 – 2027 COUNCIL TERM**

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: We're now on the last and...agenda item for the day, Bills and Resolutions for Referral to the Council Chair for the 2025 and 2027 Council Term.

. . . OPEN PUBLIC TESTIMONY ESCS-2024. . .

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Staff, do we have any individuals signed up to testify?

MS. MCKINLEY: No one is currently signed up, Chair.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Staff. Are there any objections to closing testi--...oral testimony and receiving any written testimony on this item?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Did you want to do a last call? I'm not sure if someone --

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure. Okay. We'll...we'll...we'll rescind that.

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...*(laughing)*... Are there anyone wishing to testify on the last item? Okay. Hearing no one speaking up. And is anyone walking to the podium? Because I...I can kind of see, but not really. Okay. No more? Okay.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: No more.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: ‘A‘ohe. ...*(audio interference)*... Kala mai. Okay. We’ll close...we’ll close public testimony. Any objections?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

...CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ESCS-2024 ...

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Before I holomua, I will mahalo Director Molitau and Deputy Director Robinson for...for being with us today and for being our po‘o in guiding us to becoming a bilingual Government. I...I don’t think there’s any items under this agenda that we would need you two as resource folks. So, we will mahalo you and then excuse you so you can go on about your day. And if you have any closing remarks that you would like to provide before you ha‘alele.

MR. MOLITAU: ‘Ae, he wahi mahalo kēia. Mahalo nui. ‘Oia wale, mahalo nui. Aloha.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. So, Members, posted are a number of bills pending before the Committee for your consideration to refer to the Council Chair for the beginning ...*(audio interference)*... for the term beginning January 2nd, 2025, in accordance with Rule 22 of the Rules of the Council. I will now entertain a motion to...no, that is not the right...no. Okay. These items are currently listed on the Committees master agenda, which if not referred, will be deemed filed at the end of the term. As a reminder, requests can be made to remove items from the discretionary referral list, but at this point, no items can be added. Okay. Any discussion on these referral items, or are you...is everything good with the items that we have to refer to next term? I see thumbs up. I don’t see any raised hands. Okay. Thumbs up, thumbs up. Okay. So, the Chair will now entertain a motion to recommend the bills noted under this item to be referred to the Council Chair for the term beginning January 2nd, 2025, in accordance with Rule 22 of the Rules of the Council.

COUNCILMEMBER KAMA: So moved.

VICE-CHAIR PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Moved by Member Kama, second by Committee Vice-Chair Paltin. Any discussion?

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ADJOURN: 11:20 a.m.

APPROVED:



KEANI N.W. RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ, Chair
Efficiency Solutions and Circular Systems
Committee

escs:min: 241204

Transcribed by: Logan Tsuji

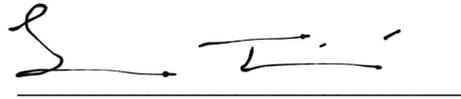
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CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 43 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 14th day of December 2024, in Wailuku, Hawaii



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Logan Tsuji", is written above a horizontal line.

Logan Tsuji