

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE

Council of the County of Maui

MINUTES

January 27, 2026

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 1:38 p.m.

PRESENT: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember K. Kauanoë Batangan, Chair
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member (In 2:36 p.m.)
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Member (In 1:56 p.m.; Out 2:27 p.m.;
In 2:36 p.m.)

EXCUSED: VOTING MEMBERS:

Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member

STAFF:

Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney
Maria Leon, Committee Secretary
Lei Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Ryan Martins, Council Ambassador

Residency Area Offices

Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office
Chaelin Ryu, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office

ADMIN.:

Thomas Kolbe, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel (All)
Glen R. Pascual, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation
Counsel (GREAT-11(24))
Kristin K. Tarnstrom, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel (GREAT-11(25))
Jordan Molina, Director, Department of Public Works (GREAT-11(24))
Wade Maeda, Deputy Chief of Police, Department of Police (GREAT-11(25))

OTHERS:

Steven K. Idemoto, Deputy Corporation Counsel, County of Hawai‘i Office of the
Corporation Counsel (GREAT-11(25))

(15+) additional attendees

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PRESS: Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.

CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .(gavel). . . Will the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting of January 27, 2026, come to order. It is 1:39 p.m. I am your Chair, Kauanoë Batangan, and this is my first time chairing a County Council Committee meeting. It's an honor to be here. And it being GREAT, I brought with me my own gavel today. This is a piece of the Berlin Wall. So, I was born in 1989, and two geopolitical events of significance happened that year. One was the Berlin Wall coming down. The other was Tiananmen Square. And so, in my lifetime, I've seen the trajectories of two different people go on in two wildly different directions. And that has stuck with me, and the lessons from being in both Germany and China and seeing how free and prosperous they are has stuck with me. So, as I take the helm of this Committee, focusing on government relations, ethics, and transparency, I just wanted to pause and acknowledge where I'm coming from, and my hopes for what we can achieve together in this Committee. With that, Members, in accordance with the Sunshine Law, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workplace with you today. Minors do not need to be identified. Committee Vice-Chair Nohelani U'u-Hodgins.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Aloha, Chair. Thank you so much for sharing that with us. I am very excited to see you up there, although I miss this Committee and this Committee Staff so much. But I'm so happy for you, and I'm happy for us. Real quick, if I could, today is my grandma's 87th birthday. So, happy birthday, Grandma U'u. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good afternoon, Chair. Thank you for sharing that. 1989 was an important time for me. That's when I got my general contractor's license. So, just sharing. I'm really looking forward to the meeting, and...yeah, I'm glad that you're here doing it, and welcome.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Councilmember Gabe Johnson is excused. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, good afternoon, Chair. Looking forward to your meeting. Congratulations.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And let's see, in 1989, I was starting my first year on the Council.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: Wow.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Councilmember Tamara Paltin...excused for now. Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha ‘auinalā kākou, mai Molokai Nui a Hina. I am at my private residence alone, but I will be joined by my two children who are minors, and potentially my husband, who’s not a minor, Makena Fernandez, maybe around like 2:30 is usually when they come home. And there are currently no testifiers at the Molokai District Office, and hau‘oli lā hānau to Nohe’s Tūtū U‘u.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Hey, aloha ‘auinalā, Chair. And congratulations on your first meeting. Here at my home office, I’m here by myself, and hau‘oli lā hānau to Nohe’s tūtū hine. And in 1989, I was four years out of high school.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, I really didn’t mean this...for this to become a --

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

CHAIR BATANGAN: -- where were you in 1989? . . .*(laughing)*. . . Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura is excused.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: I was three, so I was just . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. So, from Corporation Counsel, we have here with us Thomas Kolbe, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Glen Pascual, Deputy Corporation Counsel; and Kristin Tarnstrom, Deputy Corporation Counsel. We also have with us...or will be having with us, Jordan Molina, Director of Public Works, and Deputy Chief Wade Maeda from the Maui Police Department. We also have our Committee Staff...Maria Leon, Committee Secretary; Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst; Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst; Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney; and Lei Dinneen and Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerks. Staff, do we have any testifiers?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there’s currently no one who has signed up to testify.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

MS. MACDONALD: Would you like me to do a last call just to see?

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, please.

MS. MACDONALD: If anybody is in the Chamber and would like to testify, please let Staff know, or on Microsoft Teams, please raise your hand. This is final call for beginning of the meeting testimony...three, two, one. Chair, it appears that nobody wishes to testify.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, without objection, can we close public testimony for the beginning of the meeting?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

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. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY AT BEGINNING OF MEETING . . .

ITEM 11(24): RESOLUTION 25-214, SETTLEMENT AUTHORIZATION: THE ESTATE OF MATTHEW LOUIS PERREIRA, DECEASED, ET AL. VS. PATRICK GEORGE VENTURA; COUNTY OF MAUI; STATE OF HAWAII; ALEXANDER & BALDWIN, LLC; CIVIL 2CCV-22-0000045

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Okay. Members, so we have before us Resolution 25-214, which would approve settlement of *The Estate of Matthew Louis Perreira, Deceased, et al. vs. County of Maui, et al.*; Civil 2CCV-22-0000045, filed on June 13, 2023. The claim alleges wrongful death and damages from a motor vehicle versus motor vehicle collision that occurred at the intersection of Dairy Road and Hukilike Street in Kahului on December 13, 2020. May I have opening comments from Deputy Corporation Counsel Glen Pascual and Director Jordan Molina?

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you. Good afternoon, Chair Batangan, Vice-Chair U'u-Hodgins, and Members of the GREAT Committee. This is a wrongful death case involving a motor vehicle accident between a motorcycle driven by Matthew Louis Perreira, deceased, and another vehicle driven by Defendant Patrick George Ventura. In addition to defendant Ventura, the plaintiffs have asserted claims against the County of Maui, the State of Hawai'i, and Alexander & Baldwin related to the design and construction of Dairy Road at or near Hukilike Street where the subject accident occurred. Just a little bit of background about the accident itself. On December 13, 2020, at approximately 11:48 a.m., Matthew Perreira was riding his 1987 Harley Davidson Heritage soft-tail motorcycle westbound on Dairy Road in Kahului. He was not wearing a helmet. The motorcycle had been customized, was equipped with only a rear brake, and was not equipped with front or rear turn signals. At the same time, Patrick Ventura was proceeding on Hukilike Street in a Chevrolet S-10 pickup truck towards Dairy Road, intending to make a left turn on Dairy Road to go to Maui Marketplace. At the time of the accident, Hukilike Street was owned by the Maui...by the County of Maui. Dairy Road was owned by Alexander & Baldwin, but maintained by the State of Hawai'i as a result of historical contractual arrangements between the State and A&B. The posted speed limits were 30 miles per hour on Dairy Road, and 20 miles per hour on Hukilike Street. As Patrick Ventura approached the stop line on Hukilike Street, he stopped briefly and then proceeded into the intersection, intending to make that left turn. Unfortunately, he made contact with Matthew Perreira's motorcycle, who was traveling on Dairy Road towards Lahaina. As a result of the collision, Mr. Perreira suffered head injuries in the accident, and died at the Maui Memorial Medical Center on December 15th, 2020. Mr. Ventura was questioned by the investigating officer of the Maui Police Department at the accident scene, and he later agreed to a blood draw. The toxicology revealed the presence of methamphetamine, amphetamine and Delta-9-THC-COOH. A search warrant executed on Mr. Ventura's truck produced a clear glass pipe with a bulbous end containing a white crystalline residue, and a small Ziploc-type bag containing crystal residue. Testing of the residue was positive for methamphetamine. Mr. Ventura was charged with negligent homicide. He entered into a plea agreement,

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and was sentenced to one year in jail and five years' probation. He served the jail time, but he may still be on probation, although I believe it's probably ending soon. Mr. Ventura's truck was not insured. Matthew Perreira was 28 years old at the time of his death. He was married to Chloe Perreira, and they had a minor son. Matthew was self-employed in his own body shop. In addition to his wife and son, Matthew was survived by his father and mother, Robert and Renee. They are all plaintiffs in this case. Trial in this matter was set for February 2, 2026, before the Honorable Judge Kristen Hammond. However, on November 7, 2025, the parties participated in mediation with mediator Keith Hunter. As a result of the mediation and subsequent discussions, the parties have tentatively agreed to a settlement, subject to approval from the respective legislative bodies. Because this case involves ongoing litigation and has not yet been resolved, we request the opportunity to convene in executive meeting to discuss questions and issues pertaining to the powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities of the County, as well as settlement-related matters. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Corporation Counsel. Do we have anybody from Public Works wishing to provide opening statements?

MR. MOLINA: Chair, Jordan Molina, Director with Public Works. We have no comments at this time. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Director Molina. Members, before moving into discussion, I'll receive testimony for GREAT-11(24).

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

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, please.

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

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, seeing that there is nobody wishing to testify, without objection, I will now close oral testimony on this item.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-11(24) . . .

CHAIR BATANGAN: As a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. Members, the Chair will be implementing a three-minute questioning period per Member, with a one-minute follow-up round. Are there any Members wishing to ask any questions in open session at this time? Okay. I see two hands. I'll start on the...my left side. Member Sinenci?

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. Could...and sorry, it was kind of soft online, but remind me again why Maui County is named in the litigation?

MR. PASCUAL: Sorry, I'll try to speak louder this time. More directly, I thought I was --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

MR. PASCUAL: -- kind of spitting into the mic. But yes, good question. Thank you for that question, Councilmember Sinenci. The County of Maui was named in the...the lawsuit because they own Hukilike Street, which is the intersection where the accident occurred. The allegations against the County are related to the design and construction of the intersection, which is alleged to have resulted in obstructed sight lines for drivers on Hukilike Street.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Are there...is...are there three parties to this? Is it A&B, the State, and the County?

MR. PASCUAL: Thank you for your question. Technically, there are four. Patrick Ventura, the driver, is technically a party. However, because of his uninsured status...you know, well, actually, I should probably talk about that in...in session, but there are four parties...the driver, County of Maui, State of Hawai'i, and A&B.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And then my second and final question, time-wise, was this before Dairy Road was improved, or is this the old Dairy Road?

MR. PASCUAL: When you say improved, what...what do you mean?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, maybe I'm showing my age. And Director Molina would maybe know that. I'm just saying right now, it's like a major four-lane --

MR. PASCUAL: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- road.

MR. PASCUAL: Okay. I think...I think I can answer your question. The way the roadway exists now is pretty much the way it existed at the time of the accident.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you for answering my question. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Cook. Member Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Hi. Did you say earlier that there was mediation done, and parties came to some kind of agreement?

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MR. PASCUAL: Yes, we had a settlement...not a settlement, we had a mediation in November. Came into...to an agreement in principle, fully aware that our offer would be subject to Council approval, fully aware that any offer by the State would be subject to legislature approval. But there is a trial date of February 2nd, 2026. So...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, if we come to an agreement today...I mean...well, agree to your proposal today, that would avoid having to go to court...to trial?

MR. PASCUAL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Chair Lee. Any other Members have any questions that they want to ask of the Administration in open session? Seeing none. The Chair will entertain a motion to convene in executive meeting in accordance with Section 92-5(a)(4), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to consult with legal counsel on questions and issues pertaining to the powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities of the County, the Council, and the Committee; and Section 92-5(a)(8), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to deliberate or make a decision upon a matter that requires the consideration of information that must be kept confidential pursuant to a State or Federal law, or a court order.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR BATANGAN: So, motion made by Member U'u-Hodgins, and seconded by Chair Lee. I have a motion on the floor to enter into executive session. Any further discussion? Seeing none. Oh. Before we take that vote, I'd like to recognize Member Yuki Lei Sugimura.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair. I made it home to Kula. Ready to vote.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Okay. So, we have a motion on the floor to go into executive session for Resolution 25-214. All in favor of the motion, please say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR BATANGAN: All opposed, "nay."

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

CHAIR BATANGAN: Motion carries.

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VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Batangan, Vice-Chair U‘u-Hodgins, and Councilmembers Cook, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and Sugimura.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXC.: **Councilmembers Johnson and Paltin.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **RECESS open meeting and CONVENE executive meeting.**

CHAIR BATANGAN: For the record, the following personnel will be attending the executive session. Myself, Committee Chair Kauanoë Batangan, Committee Vice-Chair Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Councilmember Tom Cook, Council Chair Alice Lee, Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Councilmember Shane Sinenci, Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura; Office of Council Services Staff Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney, and Maria Leon, Committee Secretary. May I please ask Corporation Counsel to state who from the Department of the Corporation Counsel or Administration will be in the executive session, and your titles, please?

MR. KOLBE: Thank you, Chair. This is Thomas Kolbe. I’m the Staff Attorney for this particular Committee, and so I would request that I be included in the executive session, as well as Glen Pascual and Kristy Tarnstrom, who is also present, and the Litigation Supervisor. Oh, and Jordan Molina for the Department.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Thank you. Staff, is there anybody else that we should be recognizing? Okay. With that, at this time, the Chair would like to call for a ten-minute recess to 2:07 p.m., we will convene in an executive meeting. This meeting of the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee is now in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 1:57 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:33 p.m.

CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .(gavel). . . The Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting will reconvene. It is 2:33 p.m. Members, we have just completed our executive meeting on Resolution 25-214. Peter, can you please provide a summary, in accordance with the Hawai‘i Revised Statutes Section 92-4?

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MR. HANANO: Yes, Chair, thank you. Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee met in executive session on Resolution 25-214 to discuss with its attorneys settlement efforts, the rights and liabilities of the County, strengths and weaknesses of the case, settlement efforts to date, and pros and cons of settlement before going to trial. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Peter. Members, is there any further discussion before the Chair's recommendation? Seeing none. I would like to entertain a motion to recommend adoption of Resolution 25-214, including any nonsubstantive revisions.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Moved by Member Cook, seconded by Chair Lee. Any discussion? Okay. If...seeing no further discussion, all those in favor of the motion, please raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's six "ayes," zero "noes," three excused, we're not seeing Councilmember Sugimura.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Motion carries.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Batangan, Vice-Chair U'u-Hodgins, and Councilmembers Cook, Lee, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXCUSED: Councilmembers Johnson, Paltin, and Sugimura.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: Recommending ADOPTION of Resolution 25-214.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. This item will move on to the full Council for consideration.

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ITEM 11(25): RESOLUTION 25-218, AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL COUNSEL FROM THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I, OFFICE OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL TO REPRESENT THE MAUI POLICE DEPARTMENT IN THE MATTER OF THE ARBITRATION BETWEEN STATE OF HAWAI'I ORGANIZATION OF POLICE OFFICERS AND COUNTY OF MAUI POLICE DEPARTMENT, SHOPO CASE M-2022-021; IA/PSO IA 22-0011

CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, we now have before us Resolution 25-218, which would authorize the designation of the County of Hawai'i Office of the Corporation Counsel as special counsel to represent Maui Police Department *In The Matter of the Arbitration Between State of Hawai'i Organization of Police Officers the and County of Maui Police Department*, SHOPO Case M-2022-021; IA/PSO 22-0011. May I have opening comments from Deputy Corporation Counsel Kristin Tarnstrom and Deputy Chief Maeda?

MS. TARNSTROM: Thank you, Chair. The matter before you is a grievance. Effectively, that means an employee is unhappy with an employment decision, and they go to their union, and the union and the department try to work out any differences on that decision. If they can't, they eventually get to a point where the matter goes to arbitration, and that's...this matter is now been indicated that it is going to go to arbitration. An arbitrator is appointed, and takes evidence, and makes an ultimate decision about the dispute. All personnel decisions and actions must be kept confidential by law and by union agreement, so we can't discuss any specifics of this matter in open session, and...apart from the fact that our office, the Department of Corporation Counsel, is conflicted out of this matter in a way that we cannot shield or wall off any deputy assigned to the case. So, we reached out to the Big Island Corporation Counsel's office, and we received a response that they'd be happy to assist us and act...be designated as the Corporation Counsel assigned to this matter. and that would be without any fees. We would just cover any costs of their travel and items of that nature. And...and that's pretty much all I can state in open session. Steven Idemoto is present, and he is the deputy assigned from the Big Island who's agreed to help us out with this case.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Deputy Chief Maeda?

MR. MAEDA: Good afternoon, Chair. Good afternoon, Councilmembers. The Maui Police Department understands the employee's right to grieve, and we are not opposed to having Corporation Counsel conflict out on this matter. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Deputy Chief Maeda. Before we continue, I'd like to recognize Member Paltin. Good afternoon.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha 'auinalā kākou. Sorry for my lateness.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Okay. Before moving on to discussion, I'll receive testimony for GREAT-11(25).

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

CHAIR BATANGAN: Yes, please.

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

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. Members, without objection, may I close oral testimony on this item?

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY ON GREAT-11(25) . . .

CHAIR BATANGAN: As a reminder, written testimony will continue to be accepted. Members, does anybody have any questions for Corporation Counsel or MPD in open session?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just --

CHAIR BATANGAN: Oh, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- wanted to clarify, when you said that you're totally conflicted out, what that means? Like you can come into executive session with us? Because there's been some emails that muddy the waters there.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Corporation Counsel?

MS. TARNSTROM: Yeah, thank you, Chair. And thank you, Member, for the question. In this instance, all we are aware of is that there's an intent to arbitrate the matter. And...and based on that, our office is conflicted, and we have identified outside counsel. All I can do...I know nothing about the case. I can just explain to you the conflict, if necessary, in executive session. But otherwise, again, I don't know anything about it otherwise. But I don't know if that answers your question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sounded like you are going to be in executive session with us.

MS. TARNSTROM: Yes. Chair, and that's just to explain to you why our office is conflicted. I don't know anything about the actual case.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, then after you explain that, then you leave, or you stay?

MS. TARNSTROM: I don't think there's anything more to do. I can at...let Tom to speak because he's more versed in this. Thank you.

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MR. KOLBE: I think your question...Member Paltin, I think your question addresses the issue about whether or not our office, when they have a conflict case, is allowed or required to be in executive session. The issue is not clear yet. And in this particular case, the staff attorney assigned to this GREAT Committee will certainly be sitting in, and...and from...from the...the Department of Corporation Counsel, as well as OCS. As Ms. Tarnstrom explained, her role in this particular matter is, as the litigating attorney, bringing this matter before you, is she's going to explain the nature of the conflict. And then that would be essentially the end of her role. I don't believe that you're going to be hearing any facts related to the actual substance of this particular matter today. It's really going to be just a consideration in executive session whether or not you're going to approve appointment of special counsel from the Big Island to handle matters moving forward. At...at a later juncture, if it...it...it needed special counsel to appear, and to give you an update or something like that, it's our position that at this point, the attorney from the counseling and drafting side would attend executive sessions to advise the Committee, but that otherwise, no deputies from our office from the litigation side would be in attendance of those meetings.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you for clarifying that for me. I understand better now.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Members, do you have any additional questions or comments for Corporation Counsel in open session before we consider entering into executive session? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. And my children who are minors and husband are home now, for the disclaimer. And then mahalo for...mahalo, Member Paltin, for asking that clarifying question so that we understand the parameters in which we'll be going into executive session. So, I guess my request to you, Chair, is that you...you know, you keep us...run a tight ship, keep us on the rails so that we're not going too deep into the details of the specific case because that's not what we're supposed to be doing. We're just going to be talking about why Deputy...why Corporation Counsel is conflicted out, and then come back into open session and make that decision.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Any further discussion? Seeing none. The Chair will entertain a motion to convene in executive meeting in accordance with Section 92-5(a)(4), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to consult with legal counsel on questions and issues pertaining to the powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and liabilities of the County, the Council, and the Committee; and Section 92-5(a)(8), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, to deliberate or make a decision upon a matter that requires the consideration of information that must be kept confidential pursuant to a State or Federal law, or a court order.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Second.

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CHAIR BATANGAN: Moved by Member Cook, seconded by Member Sugimura. Any discussion on the matter? Seeing none. All in favor of the motion, please raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's eight "ayes," zero "noes," one excused, Member Johnson, motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Johnson.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: RECESS open meeting and CONVENE executive meeting.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. For the record, the following personnel will be attending the executive session. Myself, Committee Chair Kauanoë Batangan, Committee Vice-Chair Nohelani U'u-Hodgins, Councilmember Tom Cook, Council Chair Alice Lee, Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, Councilmember Shane Sinenci, and Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura. From the Office of Council Services Staff, Peter Hanano, Legislative Attorney, and Maria Leon, Committee Secretary. May I please ask Corporation Counsel to state who from the Department of Corporation Counsel or Administration will be in executive session, and your titles, please?

MR. KOLBE: This is Tom Kolbe. I will be attending as the advisor from C&D on this matter. Kristy Tarnstrom will be also in attendance, as well as the Big Island attorney, who we anticipate will handle the litigation, Steven Idemoto; and Deputy Chief Wade Maeda. Thank you.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Staff, is there anybody else that needs to be recognized? Okay. All right. At this time, Chair would like to call for a ten-minute recess to 2:55 p.m. We will convene in an executive meeting. This meeting of the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee is now in recess. . . .(gavel). . .

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 27, 2026

RECESS: 2:45 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:10 p.m.

CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(gavel)*. . . The Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting will reconvene. It is 3:10 p.m. Members, we have just completed our executive meeting on Resolution 25-218. Mr. Hanano, please provide the summary in accordance with Hawai'i Revised Statutes Section 92-4.

MR. HANANO: Thank you, Chair. Your Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee met in executive session on Resolution 25-218 to discuss with its attorneys the County's duties and liabilities, and the necessity of requiring special counsel in this matter. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you, Mr. Hanano. Is there any further discussion before the Chair's recommendation? Seeing none. I would like to entertain a motion to recommend adoption of Resolution 25-218, including any nonsubstantive revisions.

VICE-CHAIR U'U-HODGINS: So moved.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR BATANGAN: Moved by --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So move.

CHAIR BATANGAN: -- Member U'u-Hodgins, and seconded by Member Cook. Any further discussion? Seeing no further discussion, all those in favor of the motion, please raise your hand and say "aye." Those opposed, say "no."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, that's eight...eight "ayes," zero "noes," one excused, Member Johnson, motion carries.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 27, 2026

VOTE: **AYES:** **Chair Batangan, Vice-Chair U‘u-Hodgins, and Councilmembers Cook, Lee, Paltin, Rawlins-Fernandez, Sinenci, and Sugimura.**

NOES: **None.**

ABSTAIN: **None.**

ABSENT: **None.**

EXCUSED: **Councilmember Johnson.**

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: **Recommending ADOPTION of Resolution 25-218.**

CHAIR BATANGAN: Thank you. This item will move on to the full Council for consideration. This concludes the Government Relations, Ethics, and Transparency Committee meeting. Thank you very much, Members. The time is --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Good job, Chair.

CHAIR BATANGAN: -- now 3:12. Thank you, Members. I appreciate it.

VICE-CHAIR U‘U-HODGINS: Good job.

COUNCILMEMBER SUGIMURA: Good job.

CHAIR BATANGAN: . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 3:12 p.m.

great:min:260127min:mll:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, ETHICS, AND TRANSPARENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

January 27, 2026

CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 15 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 19th day of February 2026, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck