

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

MINUTES

April 22, 2024

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:11 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (In 9:15 a.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (In 9:13 a.m.; Out
6:04 p.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member (In 9:20 a.m.)

STAFF: James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst
Jarret Pascual, Legislative Analyst
Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analyst
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney
Yvette Bouthillier, Senior Committee Secretary
Lenora Dinneen, Council Services Assistant Clerk
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Additional Staff

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tom Cook:

Jared Agtunong
Stacy Takahashi

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Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānaʻi Residency Area Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Molokaʻi Residency Area Office
Christian Balagso, Council Aide
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Haʻikū-Pāʻia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Lesley Milner, Acting Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Maria Zielinski, Acting Director of Finance, Department of Finance
Marcy Martin, Real Property Tax Administrator, Department of Finance
Kari Stockwell, Assistant County Real Property Tax Administrator,
Department of Finance
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the
Corporation Counsel

OTHERS: Tom Croly
Lisa Ponichtera, Malama Na Makua A Keiki
Roxanne Feiteira, Malama Family Recovery Center
Autumn Ness, President, Maui Hub

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Jay Penniman
Scott Crawford
Jan Elliott
Tara Apo
Heidi Lea
Robin Knox
Nāpua Hū‘eu
Testifier 1
Others (30)

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

ITEM 1: **PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET FOR THE
COUNTY OF MAUI** (BILL 60 (2024), BILL 61 (2024), BILL 62
(2024), BILL 63 (2024), BILL 64 (2024), BILL 65 (2024), BILL
70 (2024), BILL 73 (2024), BILL 74 (2024), RESOLUTION
24-66, RESOLUTION 24-67, RESOLUTION 24-68, and
RESOLUTION 24-77)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. This is a very exciting week for all of you. It is decisions week. It is now 9:11 a.m., and today is April 20...22nd. We're going to work hard this week, and appreciate all of you for all that you have done. Since we got our budget from March 25th, a lot has happened. So, this meeting is being conducted online in accordance with the Sunshine Law. As a reminder, the Councilmembers, when your name is called, if you're not in the Council Chamber, please identify by name who, if anyone, is in the room, vehicle, or workspace with you. Minors do not need to be identified. First, I'd like to welcome Vice-Chair Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. And good morning to everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Member Paltin, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Good morning, and aloha kakahiaka kākou. Ia orana.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ia orana. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Good morning, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office, and I'm here and ready to work. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. I don't see Member Rawlins-Fernandez online. I will get to her again. Member Cook, good morning.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. And Member U‘u-Hodgins will be here shortly...or in a while. Member Sinenci, good morning. Nice to see you here.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Good morning. Aloha kakahiaka, and ohayo gozaimasu. No testifiers in Hāna.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I hope the Taro Festival was nice this weekend.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It was very nice. Thank you for your support of the Taro Festival.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah, it was fabulous. Chair Lee will be joining us...anybody...she’s online, Kasie or James? Maybe she’s going to be joining us. Not yet. Okay. We haven’t heard from her. Okay. So, from the Office of the Mayor, we’ll have Acting Budget Director Lesley Milner when we take up the departments. This morning, we’re taking up Real Property Tax, and we have Acting Finance Director Maria Zielinski, Marcy Martin, and Department of Corporation Counsel Kristina Toshikiyo is with us online. One moment. Committee Staff, thank you very much. You have worked tirelessly many, many days, and over the weekend. Thank you for meeting to discuss our next steps forward. Yvette Bouthillier, thank you very much...Senior Secretary, thank you. James Krueger and Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analysts, good morning. And Jarret Pascual and Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analysts. Carla Nakata and Megan Moniz, Legislative Attorney. And Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk. Yes?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I don’t see her on my screen. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou, mai Molokai nui a Hina. I’m at the Molokai District Office, alone on my side of the office. I am...there are no testifiers currently in the Molokai District Office. I see on *Akakū* that my screen is black, and you can’t see me. So, I’m going to restart my computer, and I’ll be right back.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, I can’t see you at all, but thank you very much. Thank you, Member Sinenci. No, I did not see her. Now we have Kasie and James, your screens are black. Oh, you’re restarting. Okay. So, please see the last page for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today’s BFED Committee meeting. We have one item on the agenda today, which is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for the County of Maui. Today we’ll

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begin our decisions process on Fiscal Year '25 Budget. Before that, we do have Acting Director Zielinski and Ms. Martin from the Department of Finance here to give a presentation on the Real Property Tax Certification that we received last week Friday. After their presentation, we will take public testimony and proceed with questions and answers about the Real Property Tax Certification. Once the discussion is complete, we'll begin decisions, starting with the Office of County Clerk and using Bill 60. At this time, I'd like to invite...oh, Chair Lee. Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Welcome.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Sorry I'm late.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Ia orana.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ia orana.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The old favorite.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Keeping with your...keeping with your tradition. At this time, I'd like to invite Acting Budget Director...oh, acting...sorry, Finance Director Zielinski and...and Marcy Martin on their presentation of the Real Property Tax Certification. Members of the public, as well as the Members, it is in Granicus 162 for your information. Thank you, Acting Finance Director. Take it away.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Real Property Tax Certification

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair. Good morning. I have today with me Marcy Martin, who's the Administrator for Real Property Tax Division of the Finance Department, and Kari Stockwell, who's the Assistant Administrator. They will be covering the Certified Real Property Tax. And just as an FYI, and you probably saw in our cover letter, that the assessed value of the properties had increased from last year's certified value. So, last year, it was a little...it was over 70 billion. This year, 73,268,638,025. That's a 4.2 percent increase. In addition to that, the certified tax, the real property tax that we're looking at, after all the considerations of circuit break adjustment...Circuit Breaker adjustment, and minimum tax is 587,253,467. And that is an increase of, I believe, 1.2 million over what the proposed budget was that we had submitted, you know, for...back

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in March. And now I will...I'm going to...actually, I'll have Ms. Martin discuss further. Thank you.

MS. MARTIN: Chair? Thank you. Okay. So, the Real Property Tax Certification is available for download on the County of Maui website, which is maucounty.gov under assessed values. So, in the search field, you can type in assessed values. And this presentation will be referring to pages from the 2024 RPA Certification Handout for Council, and the 2024 Selected Statistics for Budget Consideration. So, in front of you now is page 1 from the certification handout. And this shows all of the calculations, the breakdown with the certified values, the tax rates for each class, the total Circuit Breaker minimum tax, for a total certified revenue of \$587,253,467. So, this figure is 1,227,667 more than the projected real property tax revenue in the proposed budget. So, the difference between budgeted real property tax revenue and the certified real property tax revenue is largely due to appeals and corrections made during the real property assessment appeal period, which is from March 15th through April 9th. So, pages 2 through 14 in the handout is the certification summary by land class. This slide 2 is page 17 in the handout, and it shows the total net taxable values for the past ten years. So, these figures do not include adjustments for appeals. These are the figures that the public sees on their assessment notice. So, January 1 values were derived using market data up to June 30th, 2023. And assessed values have been on an increasing trend since 2013, the exception being 2021, which included considerations for COVID. So, in addition to increasing market values, assess...assessments increase due to new construction and subdivisions. So, this year, the total net taxable value increased 4 percent. And this increase considers wildfire losses, which you will see in subsequent slides. This is page 18 from the certification handout. The total certified value is up 4 percent as well. They're up the same amount because we didn't have a large number of appeals. So, these figures account for the 50 percent of value on appeal, and these are the numbers that are used for budget purposes. So, these next slides are from the selected statistics for budget consideration. So, page 3 from this handout is a summary by land class, and this is the worksheet that I regularly refer to because it compares this year's certification to last year's budgeted real property taxes. So, on this page, it should be noted that our parcel count is down by 2,924 parcels, and this is due to parcels impacted by the fire being made nontaxable by Bill 95. In addition, Commercial assessments show a decrease. The Commercial class is a relatively small class with a little over 2,000 parcels. Lahaina Town had a significant portion of our commercial tax base. So, the decrease is related to the wildfire, and then stable Commercial values elsewhere.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, excuse me. Sorry to interrupt. I just had a point of information question. The little asterisk on the side says 3,260 parcels were made nontaxable with Bill 95. Should we change that to 2,924?

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MS. MARTIN: Okay. Thank you for asking. All right. So, if you go to the count change, it's down 2,924 parcels. But yes, 3,260 parcels were made nontaxable. So, we had an increase in parcel counts, and one notable increase was the new subdivision Hāli'imaile, for example. So, we have adds...a few adds, and a subtraction, but the net is a decrease. Yes, thank you for asking that. Okay. So, while Commercial and Industrial values were stable, Residential values increased again year over year, although not as much as they did last year. Hotel values were relatively stable, with consideration given to the impacts from the wildfires. The revenue sources graph, which is page 4 in the handout, shows that despite additions from TAT and GE taxes, real property taxes are still a significant portion of the County's income. That's the portion shown in yellow. The certified revenue graph shows that, like assessed values, certified revenues have been in an upward trend over the past ten years. This chart that's on the screen shows the current minimum tax, which is \$300. The minimum tax is established in the budget. At \$300, almost 9,000 parcels pay the minimum tax. Taxpayers are charged the minimum tax when their taxable assessed value multiplied by the tax rate is less than the minimum tax. Page 21 shows who pays the minimum tax. The bulk of the parcels paying minimum tax are vacant land, such as remnant land or parcels receiving agriculture-use values where 100 percent is farmed. So, page 22 shows taxes under appeal using the proposed tax rate. As I mentioned earlier, the difference between the net taxable value and the certified value is an adjustment for 50 percent of the value under appeal. So, page 25 shows some Circuit Breaker statistics. The number of applicants has decreased over the past few years. The County of Maui is in the process of submitting an ordinance change regarding Circuit Breaker criteria. Because assessments have increased over the past few years, this year, prior to August 2024, it may be a good time to just review the qualifying criteria. So, we do have a few Circuit Breaker pages in the handout. Page 25--28 shows the Owner-Occupied class value bands. The net taxable value is less the 300,000 home exemption. And this chart shows that 84 percent of Owner-Occupied properties are not subject to Tier 2 and 3 tax rates. Page 29 shows tax relief estimates. Again, our home exemption is the most generous tax relief program. This slide is page 31, which gives the long-term rental exemption statistics. The program is growing, as expected. A taxpayer still appeared to need reminders to reapply. So, the division has implemented its online application process. So, this new process will send reminders to taxpayers who are in the program. We've included the wildfire long-term rental exemptions in this chart as well. We still feel we need to grow this program, get the word out, and get people to know they have to reapply every year. Okay. This page in the packet, it's busy, but this just shows the breakdown of the wildfire long-term rental program. So, the program provided tax relief to property owners who rented to the displaced. The program was very well-received. Unfortunately, there were about 50 property owners who missed the March 15th deadline. And because there is still a need for housing, legislation to extend the deadline will be proposed, and I saw it on the...the budget...yeah. So, thank you. So, the total tax relief for this fiscal year,

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using the Mayor's rates, is 13.66 million. The...the one-year lease provided 18 months of tax relief. So, the prior year tax relief, or this fiscal year tax relief, was about 2.8 million. So, total, we've provided, or will be providing, about 16.4 million in tax relief. We had a large turnout for property owners in Lahaina, 63 percent, and a large turnout from the TVR community. And we've done our best to provide estimates of where those rentals fell in, and that's at the very bottom where I have FEMA, Red Cross, et cetera. So, this page is for this current fiscal year, not the one included in the budget, but I thought it was important to just mention where our tax relief...real property tax relief went. So, the 2,164 parcels had about 11.9 million in property taxes waived by emergency proclamation and Bill 95, Ordinance 5585 [sic]. So, the improvements on these properties were totally destroyed. Then there was an additional 100--1,162 parcels that had about 8.1 million in property taxes waived by Bill 95, Ordinance 5582. And these properties were located in the red and yellow zones in the Lahaina reentry map. These are parcels that didn't have access, didn't have utilities, and today, most of them still do not have access. And then as I mentioned on the previous slide, we had 907 parcels that had provided year-long leases to wildfire survivors that received about 2.8 million in property tax relief by Bill 131, Ordinance 5589. So, the total real property tax relief for Fiscal '23-'24 is at the bottom, and it's about \$22.8 million. So, slide 34 shows the value and tax reductions as a result of the wildfire properties being made nontaxable by Bill 95, Ordinance 5582. So, to calculate these numbers, we used the 2023 beginning values, and then the Mayor's '24-'25 tax rates. So, for the properties where the buildings were deemed destroyed by Real Property, it's 12.1 million for 2,099 parcels. The bulk of the parcels were in the Owner-Occupied class, at 931 parcels. The second part is properties that were not deemed destroyed, but they're in that red and yellow reentry zone map, and they don't have access to their property, maybe don't have utilities, and they may be partially damaged. So, this tax relief was about 9 million, and it was over 1,100 parcels. So, the total tax relief is 21.1 million. So, pages 41 through 45 in your handout are breakdowns of assessments by value range, and these charts can be used when you're deliberating on tiers, just to get an idea of where the parcels are and what their value brackets are. So, obviously, I didn't go over all the pages in the handout, but I am available to answer questions, should you have any. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Oh, Member U'u...Nohe Hodgins [sic], I kind of waved to you while you walked in, so sorry about that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No worries, thank you. Aloha, everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. Okay. I think we got everybody accounted for, and...oh, there, we can see Keani now, very good. All right. So, Members, I'm going to open it up for public testimony. I'm sure we have testifiers, right? Okay. Testifiers wanting to provide testimony should sign up at the lobby, join the online meeting via Teams link, or...or call in to the public...to the phone number

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noted on today's agenda. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via eComment via...at maucounty.us/agendas as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda item as it...as it is called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone, star-5 to raise and lower your hand, star-6 is to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier's list in the order testifiers sign up to raise...or raise their hand. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the name you're logged in under the last four digits or your phone number when it is your time to testify. At this time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify Staff. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item, and if you're still testifying beyond that time, you will have 30 seconds to wrap up. Once you're done testifying, and if you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, or Facebook Live, or maucounty.us/agendas. We will do our best to take each member up in an orderly fashion. We'll now call on testifiers wishing to testify. Staff, please call up the first testifier. Is that Megan is calling up? Oh, Clarissa's calling up. Okay. Clarissa, thank you.

MS. MACDONALD: Hi, Chair. The first individual signed up to testify is Tom Croly, to be followed by Lisa Ponichtera.

CHAIR SUGIMURA Good morning, Mr. Croly.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. CROLY: Good morning, Council. Tom Croly, testifying on my own behalf. I want to compliment the Real Property Tax Department for this excellent, excellent report. I spent hours this weekend going over so much of it, and there is so much information in here that Ms. Martin only scratched the very surface of it with her 15-minute presentation. I hope that everyone will take the time to really digest all of the information that's contained in this report, and not just here in the Budget Session, but...but in future decisions that you make down the road. There is so much valuable information in this report about where our tax base comes from, about what tax relief programs are out there, and who gets them, and so forth. In three minutes, I couldn't even begin to scratch the surface of all the...all the information that I got out of this report, but some...a few things, I think, are...are worthy to highlight. First is, of course, that real property tax revenues have increased by 130 percent over the past nine years, compared to inflation during that same period, which has increased 31 percent. So, just recognize just how quickly our real property taxes are going up across the board. I'm not complaining, I'm just making a statement that, wow, Maui's property tax is going up 130 percent over the past nine years versus a 31 percent inflation

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rate over that period is an awful lot. And then, of course, what most people know, but this...this report really hits home with, is that 80 percent--80 percent of Maui's real property taxes come from South Maui and West Maui, with 92-1/2 percent of that...those...those taxes coming from visitor accommodations, short-term rentals, Non-Owner-Occupied second homes, timeshare, and to a much, much lesser extent, hotels. Just note how little hotels pay relative to these other visitor accommodations. That...that's something notable. And that there are 26,911 Owner-Occupied homes that were provided a total of \$174 million in tax relief. That is, their taxes were reduced by \$174 million through the owner...the tax exemption given to...to owners, and also the lower homeowner rate. And again, in my case, I'm one of the 147 who are discriminated against, and not given this tax relief. So, again, I appeal to you to look at the owner-operated residents of Maui who have a bed-and-breakfast permit, and treat us more fairly in...with respect to property taxes. The hotel assessed values, as Ms. Martin pointed out, did not increase much, and that's primarily because there's not . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . hotel sales between...from year to year. So, those remain stable until a hotel sells, and then they go up. So, I think you really need to take a look at that. When all of the other values are going up, and everyone's taxes are going up, and the hotels are remaining stable, you really want to consider a rate adjustment there to kind of keep it in line with everybody else. I did hear the bell, and I won't go on and on. I do think that these charts that they gave you that...that show the different classes of where the...the values are will really be helpful in informing you as to where to put the breakpoints for the different tiers. And just one final thing. I would ask that perhaps the Commercialized Residential class be matched up in a tier rate situation similar to, or identical to, the long-term rental tiers where the lowest tier, \$3 per 1,000, is given for property values under a million; and then \$5 per 1,000, which was the Mayor's proposed rate in the middle tier; and then \$8--or perhaps even more than \$8 per 1,000 for the upper tier. Because you need to have a real discussion about these progressive tax rates, and who are we going to ask to pay that...that...that higher amount. Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to your questions and...and your deliberations, and you will hear more from me this week. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Nice seeing you and thank you for your written testimony that you sent us copies, as well as to the Committee. Anybody have questions for Mr. Croly? Seeing none...I see no hands. Okay. Thank you very much, Mr. Croly. Next testifier.

MR. CROLY: All the best.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Thank you.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Lisa Ponichtera, to be followed by Roxanne Feiteira. Apologies if I mispronounce your last name.

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MS. PONICHTERA: Thank you very much. Honorable Council Chair and Councilmembers, I am here to testify on behalf of Malama Na Makua Keiki, also known as Malama Family Recovery Center. My name is Lisa Ponichtera, and I'm the Chief Clinical Officer for Maui Behavioral Health Resources. I grew up on Molokai, graduated from Molokai High and Intermediate School, and moved to Maui after graduating from University of Hawai'i at Manoa. As a mother, grandmother, wife, daughter, and sister, I am particularly passionate about Malama because it is one of the only programs in Hawai'i that provides housing and treatment for the women and children in our communities working toward recovery from substance misuse. We are grateful to the County of Maui for the many years you have partnered with us to offer this service. Additionally, I have significant lived experiences matching the struggles of the women we work with. This fuels my passion to nurture and continue to develop this very important resource for all who need it. Before being in my current role at the agency, I was the Clinical Director of Malama for over 10 years. This program began over 30 years ago to support pregnant mothers needing recovery. It has grown into a program that offers a full continuum of care from residential to outpatient programs with life skills training, case management, therapy, neurofeedback, and referrals to many community partners so we are not duplicating the other wonderful services that are also often supported by the County of Maui. Research has shown that the longer a woman is in treatment, the greater her chances for success. Many women stay in our care for up to two years. We don't give up, and continue to support them no matter where they are in their recovery. We have worked hard to eliminate barriers to treatment for the population we serve. We offer transportation to and from classes, and we bring in and collaborate with agencies such as Imua Family Services, Maui Family Support Services, Child and Family Services, and many more. We offer the mothers respite and allow them to focus on their classes by providing child watching in our Early Learning Center. Here, the children are given developmental screenings and referrals out as needed. Our staff help the mothers create goals for their children, and monitor and adjust these to help the keiki flourish in our care. They do arts and crafts and are provided with structure and routine that was often missing in their lives as their mothers struggled with the...many of the issues that they were facing before entering Malama. The safety and nurturing of the caring aunties in our center and the healing of their mothers helps to develop their nervous systems and makes lasting positive difference in these keiki's lives. It is the center that I would like to request additional support from the County for, for this year. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for testifying. And the amount that...are you under...it's Aloha House, right, that you're under that umbrella?

MS. PONICHTERA: Maui Behavioral Health Services has Aloha House, Maui Youth and Family Services, and Malama Na Makua Keiki, so Malama...there's three

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501(c)(3)s, so it's...it's often seen as under Aloha House, but it's really its own separate.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And you get separate funding?

MS. PONICHTERA: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Not from Aloha House?

MS. PONICHTERA: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any other questions?

MS. PONICHTERA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Just checking in...thank you for your testimony. How much was the additional amount?

MS. PONICHTERA: The additional amount was provided to Councilmember Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 100,800?

MS. PONICHTERA: Corr...that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Got it.

MS. PONICHTERA: Yes. And that would be specifically for the Early Learning Center staff. Just really briefly, we do go out to many, many sources for funding. We don't just depend on County at all. And the source that we current...were utilizing previously, it changed the way it was doing things, and we didn't expect that. And so, we weren't able to utilize that funding, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, 100,800 is the full amount?

MS. PONICHTERA: Yes, please.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. PONICHTERA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much for being here.

MS. PONICHTERA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Roxanne Feiteira, to be followed by Autumn Ness.

MS. FEITEIRA: Good morning, everyone. I am here to testify on behalf of Malama Family Recovery Center. My name is Roxanne Feiteira. I am 36 years old, and graduated from Malama back in 2012. Malama Family Recovery Center saved my life. I was addicted to meth and prescription pills, and their staff gave me the tools I needed to succeed. Sorry, this is kind of emotional. I didn't think it was going to be. Without the Early Learning Center, I probably wouldn't have completed the program. Knowing that my kids had a safe place to be, that I didn't have to worry about them, I didn't have to stress on if they were being properly cared for, was a tremendous impact on my recovery. I literally could go to class, I could focus on myself, and be okay. Oh, sorry. So, Malama Family Recovery Center is a beacon of hope to the women in our community. This program eliminates many of the barriers that would normally keep women from getting the help they need. The staff work diligently day in and day out to provide a safe, accepting environment for all the women, regardless of where they come from. The leadership works tirelessly to ensure that staff are trained in the newest therapy methods. This I can say as I am a staff member. I started in the Early Learning Center back in 2021. And then I became the TLP Coordinator. And from there, I transitioned to another part of the agency, where I now get to work with our youth. With the continuing support from Maui County, we can continue to provide that loving care to our community. So, we greatly appreciate all the support you guys do give us.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Thank you very much for...hang on, in case anybody has a question for you.

MS. FEITEIRA: Oh. . . *(laughing)* . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, I want to thank you for sharing your life journey and for your commitment. No questions, thank you.

MS. FEITEIRA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Chair Lee has a question for you. Sorry.

MS. FEITEIRA: Hi.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning. Thank you for telling us your story. Are you still located in Kahului, or did you...did you folks move?

MS. FEITEIRA: Yes. Yes, we are in Kahului.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Kahului.

MS. FEITEIRA: Yes. And we also provide transportation to our clients. So, our location...I mean, there is no barrier there for them. They need to get accesses [sic] to our services.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Have you added any more homes? Because there was only one house in Kahului.

MS. FEITEIRA: We actually have three.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Three, all in Kahului?

MS. FEITEIRA: So, we have...yes, all in Kahului, all probably about a block from each other. So, it's all...it's kind of like a tiered program now. When they first come in, they are with us 24/7, surrounded and supported by staff. And then our second home, there's still staff in the building with them, but they begin the process of integrating themselves back into the community. And then the third piece, they still have staff there with them, just not 24/7. And at that point, we're just looking to find them stable housing...long-term housing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, the three homes can accommodate how many people?

MS. FEITEIRA: Yeah, about 50 women and children total.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Wow.

MS. FEITEIRA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Three homes? Wow.

MS. FEITEIRA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...I visited one of the homes, oh, over ten years ago, when you just actually had one. And I'll never forget it because I saw a drug-addicted child, and she must have been, oh, maybe four years old, just staring at the wall. I'll never forget that image. But thank you for your work, and I'm...I'm glad that you're on the road to recovery yourself. Thank you.

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MS. FEITEIRA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for being here, Ms. Feiteira. So, my question to you is, with the moms that are already in those three homes, do you...do you almost get a sense that you might need to expand to maybe another home because maybe the numbers might increase, or do you see those numbers (*audio interference*).

MS. FEITEIRA: Ideally, growing is not a sense of...is...the need is there already, right? Like we can only do so much, but there's still so much more women and children out there that unfortunately do have to wait on waitlists because we aren't big enough. Ideally, we would like to see the...that population decrease, but with the way things are going, it doesn't look like that's going to be happening anytime soon.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, are there plans to maybe expand into another home?

MS. FEITEIRA: I mean, yes, there's always dreams and plans --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. FEITEIRA: -- of expanding, honestly.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I didn't have any questions for Ms. Feiteira, but I did want to mahalo her for her work. And I just wanted...this was...Members, this was one of my amendments to the budget, and I just wanted to thank Ms. Tobey Galambos who came last Thursday to speak in favor of your program. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No be shame.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Autumn Ness, to be followed by Jay Penniman.

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MS. NESS: Aloha, Council. Best of luck on everything this week. Today, I come to you as the President of the Maui Hub. We're not here to ask for funding this year, don't panic, but I wanted to tell you about the impact of previous year funding. This body invested in a startup organization in a time of crisis, and it paid off for our community big time. As you make decisions this week, I hope you get to do so from...not from a place of scarcity, but knowing that our community needs your investment now more than ever. Over three years, Maui Hub, from 2020 to 2022, received three grants, 259,000, 79,000, and 29,000, for a total of 367,000. We leveraged that for some Federal and some foundational funding. As a result, through our operations over the last four years, we've paid \$1.7 million into the pockets of our farmers and ranchers and other local food businesses. We've paid \$470,000 in staff wages that are not reliant on tourism. That's a cash injection of 2 point...almost \$2 million directly into our local economy. No offshore middlemen that take a cut of any of that profits. It goes straight back into our economy. That's not including the funds we've paid to local printers, packing supply companies, mechanics, designers, accountants, all that kind of stuff. We've made a total of almost \$600,000 in EBT SNAP sales. That's food that goes into our low-income families' homes. That's meant that we've been able to pull \$180,000 of State and Federal funds into this County through the DA BUX program that's related to the EBT program. As an example of what a small investment can return, \$29,000 of that County money was a grant to expand delivery routes to Upcountry, Ha'ikū, and Pā'ia. All that money went directly to a delivery driver's salary, and then that made us be able to do \$143,000 of sales of local product on that delivery route. So, it's just like, it expands, you know? I don't even have time to go into what our fire relief program looks like, but I can say that we are here in this crisis because this body invested in us during the COVID crisis. Our community needs us to invest in them. This is a desperate plea from someone who lives in the intersection of fire relief, land protections, and food system reformation. This is such an important time for our community. You guys already know this. This budget cannot be one of us just going about our business. You know, geese do this thing where they fly in V formation. The guy in the front works a lot harder than the rest for a while, and the rest of the flock kind of rides his tailwind, and then they switch. After a while, the front goose goes to the back, and it's his turn to rest, and someone else can pull the pack. West Maui has pulled this County with their tax dollars that they generate for a very, very long time. . . .(timer sounds). . . And now they need to go to the back of the pack to rest and heal, and there are luxury property owners and resorts and short-term rentals that can take their place at the front of the line for a little while. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(inaudible). . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. You mention your funding. How did you generate that funding, and how does the Hub work with that?

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MS. NESS: So, it's basically an online farmer's market. If you haven't used it, please check it out. Some people in this room do use it. I've delivered to your house in my...personally. So, if you've used Amazon, you can use Maui Hub. The farmers and the ranchers and all local businesses put their products up on the website, and then shoppers shop. So, we're just like a platform, and we used grant money to build our operations so that almost all of the dollars people pay for product go to the farmer. I think the national average for a farmer is they get like 10 to 12 cents on every dollar of product that they sell. We give farmers anywhere from 65 to 75 cents per dollar that's spent. So, you go online, you shop. All the farmers deliver their stuff to our warehouse. We pack every grocery bag and put it on a van, and that van goes on a delivery route to everywhere from Hāna to West Maui. We cover the whole island. So...and we even buy stuff from Molokai and Lānaʻi as well. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Exciting. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You buy stuff from Lānaʻi. Do you put it on like Kamaka Air? Do you put it on the ferry?

MS. NESS: You know...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: What's the...what's the better process for that?

MS. NESS: Since the fire, we've had an issue because of the port and the ferry doesn't take cargo anymore. So, we used to do...we used to bring eggs. I'm really bummed that we can't bring eggs from Lānaʻi right now. But...so, Kamaka is like the best choice right now. But as soon as we can figure something else out with the ferry, we can do a lot more business.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, there might be new airlines coming out of Lānaʻi Airport. Maybe there'll be a time where you would have a different airlines to choose from.

MS. NESS: Great.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, just letting you know.

MS. NESS: Great.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

MS. NESS: Great, thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Any other questions?

MS. NESS: Mahalo for your time. Good luck this week, guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Seeing...seeing none. Okay. Thank you. Nice seeing you.

MS. NESS: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Give our best to your daughter.

MS. NESS: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, she is? Hi. She looks like a regular adult now. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Jay Penniman, to be followed by Scott Crawford. Jay, we have enabled your mic and camera. You will have to unmute yourself.

MR. PENNIMAN: Done that.

MS. MACDONALD: Oh, we can hear you now.

MR. PENNIMAN: Ah, very good. Aloha, kakakiaka [*sic*], Chair Sugimura, Chair Lee, Members of the Committee. I am Jay Penniman. I live in Hamakualoa, and I manage the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project. The County of Maui has a long history of actively supporting environmental restoration and protection. This commitment is recognized, and the tools and techniques developed by Maui County environmental organizations are studied and utilized Statewide. Recipients of environmental grants need open communication and support from granting entities. And to return to this, I encourage the Council to move the environmental grants to the Department of Environmental Management, Environmental Protection and Sustainability. I believe that having grants managers with a biological and scientific expertise is essential for maintaining a consistent supportive environment for carrying out the environmental restoration and protection work that the County has identified as critically important in crafting the budget roadmap for each year. Protection of native wildlife, control of invasive species, restoration of native forests, controlling erosion runoff, and protecting our coral reefs are all essential actions we must continue funding uninterrupted if we are to maintain the viability of our islands in the face of rising sea levels, warming temperatures, and increased need for resilient human infrastructure. I believe that moving environmental grants and the Climate Action Plan to the DEM EP&S is essential and timely for the effective carrying out of the County's environmental priorities. Mahalo.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anyone have questions for Mr. Penniman? Seeing none. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Scott Crawford, to be followed by Jan D. Elliott.

MR. CRAWFORD: Aloha, Chair Sugimura and Members of the Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify today, coming to you from my car, but I'm...I wanted to just quickly testify on...in support of three budget items. And first off, express mahalo to Councilmember Sinenci and his Staff for proposing these items in the budget. First, I want to support the continuation of the East Maui Managed Tourism Pilot Project that has been funded through MVCB and HTA. I think the community organizations have done a great job of standing up this effort to manage tourism, and it's had already a real positive impact on visitor behavior, illegal parking, and community attitudes around some of our hotspots of Waioka and Kaihalulu and Wailua. But we need some support to be able to continue that program and continue developing the policies that can come from the information that's coming out of that. And the second item is open space funding for the acquisition of Nānu'alele Point, which is the point just north of Kapueokahi, Hāna Bay, the...the north end of the bay basically. That is a very special area. It has some very fragile anchialine ponds that have an endangered damselflies, pinau, that's only found in that area. And we've been working with Division of Forestry and Wildlife and community members, and we have an opportunity to be able to acquire and protect that property. And so, it's for a relatively modest amount in the Open Space Fund, we can protect a very important parcel. And finally, wanted to express support for also in the Open Space funding (*echoing*) for a small amount...a small grant for Nā Mamo O Mū'olea for \$20,000 for safety and security improvements related to the two Mū'olea parcels that were previously, many years ago, acquired partially through the Open Space Fund that are managed by Nā Mamo O Mū'olea through a lease. Because of the commitment of the community and the families of this area, the...this County property is largely managed through community efforts, and actually saves a lot of...you know, a lot of County funds over the years of...of having this community partnership. But there are some...some safety and security improvements that need to be made on the property regarding trails and roads and pastures, getting rid of some . . . (*timer sounds*) . . . invasive plants and replacing them with some native plants and trees, and also out of...of concern of fires. That's part of the concern there, and...and some other improvements. So, appreciate your support for those items, and happy to answer any questions that Members might have otherwise. Good luck in all of your budget deliberations, and thanks for all your hard work on behalf of the people of Maui County.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Crawford. Anybody have questions for him? Seeing none. Okay. Thank you very much. Next testifier. (*echoing*)

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MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Jan D. Elliott, to be followed by Tara Apo. Jan, we have enabled your mic and camera.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

MS. MACDONALD: You may have to go...oh, I can hear you.

MS. ELLIOTT: Aloha, everyone. My name is Jan Elliott. I'm coming to you from Hāna, Maui, and I'd like to testify on behalf...on...for the same item on Mū'olea Point that Scott Crawford just mentioned. And thank you, Shane Sinenci, for putting this item in the budget. This relates to the Open Space part of the budget. I'm a neighbor of the Mū'olea Point property, and as Scott Crawford just mentioned, this property has been managed mostly by volunteer efforts for many, many years. We have received some County funding in the past. Last year, we didn't get any County funding except for our Limu Festival, but it's been very hard to raise funds to do these improvements on this open space property. So, we need to improve our fencing and our gates to keep out invasive animals. We need to care...clear invasive brush, especially near the neighbors like me, the property lines, that we need to haul that brush away. We need to hire people to do that. We need to mow the invasive grasses. We need to plant more native species, and for that, we need to extend our waterline so that we can plant those trees and shrubs. We need to...we would like to create some new hiking trails and to widen and improve the hiking trails and roads that are there so that we're safer on the trails, and we have better access for emergency vehicles if we need them. So, anyway, I hope you'll consider this small...rather small amount of money for Mū'olea Point. Thank you very much.

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

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Tara Apo, to be followed by Heidi Lea. Tara, you are...your mic and camera have been enabled. Oh, we can see your camera now.

MS. APO: Aloha. I think it's showing a picture of the ceiling, so I'm sorry about that. But I'm going to turn my camera off and say aloha, Chair Sugimura and Chair Lee and Members of the Committee. My name is Tara Apo. I'm here to testify in strong support of fully funding both the new 'Aha Wai O Maui Hikina or East Maui Regional Community Board, as well as the Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. I know there was a bill at the State Leg urging the Council not to take on new operating and personnel costs, but these two departments collectively represent less than 1 percent of the Mayor's \$1.69 billion budget. And the Water Authority stands to significantly increase County revenues over time. More importantly, it is especially in light of the Lahaina tragedy that our County needs to prioritize the stewardship of our limited, and in many cases eroding natural resources, in

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order to ensure we can safely sustain our life on this island. I'm asking that the Council fully fund all budget items requested for the 'Aha Wai O Maui Hikina and Department of 'Ōiwi Resources. Specifically for the East Maui Regional Community Board, it's really important that we include funding for a watershed management plan. This is one of the main and most important kuleana of the board, and is a critical step to take care of our water resources into the future. I also support additional funding for a community liaison so we can ensure the community can truly engage in the way that we've envisioned. For the 'Ōiwi Department, again, I'm asking for funding for all items requested in the budget, and wanted to highlight the importance of including funding for a strategic plan, which is going to be critical for making sure the Department has a strategy and a personnel plan for fulfilling its mission. And just wanted to highlight the importance of this new Department. It's going to help the County fulfill its constitutional obligation to protect all Hawaiian rights customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes, and the management of 'ōiwi resources really requires specialized knowledge and skill sets that we don't have a department in the County currently to accommodate that. And the destruction and neglect of our 'ōiwi resources has gone on for too long and has contributed so heavily to the degradation of critical ecosystems that sustain our ability to live on these islands. And our current management frameworks are not sufficient. We have...we have the cultural knowledge of how to mālama this 'āina for abundance, and so, our decision makers should do everything they can to support integrating this knowledge into our management frameworks. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Anybody have questions? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Apo, for your testimony. I almost said Apo Takayama. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Never mind. I just wanted to clarify what you were asking for and what is printed in our...our books, that you're asking to fund the East Maui Water Authority?

MS. APO: So, I'm not looking at it right now, but I think that there's funding for a director, for a grant writer, for an administrative assistant. And I think there's also been talk about like the need for a watershed management plan, or services for a watershed management plan. And I don't know if you guys are seeing that in your budget.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MS. APO: I think it's an added request.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I seen that, but it's...it's under the East Maui Water Authority is...is what it's under.

MS. APO: Okay. Yes. Yes, testifying in support of both of those new departments--well, Board and Department--and also a community liaison for the East Maui Regional Community Board.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That was Member Sinenci's priority...priority request that you're testifying in support of?

MS. APO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. APO: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Oh. Member Sinenci has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I didn't have any question for Ms. Apo, but I did want to let the Members know that the 'Aha Hui [sic] O Maui Hikina has taken on kind of...it's the same, the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The name.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- Hawaiian 'Ōlelo Hawai'i of the East Maui Water Authority Board. And so, as Ms. Apo said, the watershed planning was something...if...if the Board wants to go after a lot of funding, that a watershed plan would be ideal for...for that purpose. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. All right. Any questions...any further questions? Seeing none. Okay. Thank you very much for your testimony. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier signed up is Heidi Lea, to be followed by Robin Knox.

MS. LEA: Aloha kakahiaka. Mahalo for your good work and moving our Maui County budget into action. No small feat. I'm Heidi Lea, and I live in the Kealaku [sic] area of East Maui. I act as the Executive Director of the Hāna Business Council, which is a new 501(c)(3). We just got the designation last year, but have been in

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existence since the early '90s. I'm also the community liaison for both the Ho'omakaukau Maui Hikina - East Maui Ready Emergency Preparedness affiliate organization, which is a member of Maui COAD. I have been the designated point of contact this last year of the Hāna Chapter of the Hawai'i Farmers Union, working with sponsored...they've sponsored the Hāna Community Kitchen Project. We've completed, with help from \$100,000 from the Maui County Department of Ag, Grant 5737, work with the University of Hawai'i Community Design Center to have a proof of concept developed. Through the course of this work, our community has also now...has now established the East Maui Food Alliance Working Group, which is an affiliation of nonprofits working here in East Maui on building of our East Maui Food Hub and the center. There are ongoing efforts that create a matrix of engagement amongst our community leadership, which will be needed to bring what will be our community kitchen, which also will be our community resilience hub. The Hāna Business Council and East Maui Ready need to be...so these are the points that I just want to be thinking about in your budget. Hāna Business Council and East Maui Ready need to be involved with the ongoing Mālama Maui Hikina Project sponsored by the Maui Visitors and Convention Bureau moving forward to make the connection with our community with communications and with both the community and visitors. The Hāna Business Council sponsors the hanamaui.com website. We also have the *Hāna Community News* email list. The Hāna Business Council manages our community bulletin boards in town which there are two at the post office and Hasegawa's. And we do a lot of social media work with our community as well. The HBC receives \$10,000 through the East Maui funds each year, which does support hanamaui.com. This year, we are also adding an additional 10,000, focusing on our ongoing efforts with correcting Google Maps and working towards building an app for our . . .(timer sounds). . . website. I'll just end with we've advocated for years for sidewalks and offset bike lanes in Hāna. We've now gotten this project off the ground with the Maui MPO designating a planning team coming. And all...and I mention that because all paths will need to lead to our community kitchen and resilience hub. And we're working on a grants-in-aid proposal to be ready by January. So, with resiliency fund...funds that we're putting in through OED and other grants, this is a huge effort and undertaking, and we really appreciate your support for East Maui and having a center like this for our community. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Members, any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much for testifying, Ms. Lea. Next testifier, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next and currently final individual signed up to testify is Robin Knox.

MS. KNOX: Aloha. Good morning, Councilmembers and our Committee Members and Chair. I am testifying on behalf of the Save the Wetlands Hui. We would like to thank the Council for past support, and support the budget for \$800,000 this

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year to go to various Maui County wetland groups. Wetland restoration is a huge factor in climate resilience. This is recognized worldwide, yet wetlands are disappearing faster even than forests. So, our efforts are very important to our future. The FY '24 funds that you gave us in...just in the first quarter of this year, we have done a lot of extremely meaningful work assisting the County's mapping consultant with mapping...creating the wetland overlay maps. We co-hosted a Statewide predator control and wetland workshop that brought 160 wetland scientists and managers to Maui, and really elevated our status within the State. Many of them are watching Maui County to see how our wetland protection ordinance plays out because they're very interested in doing that in other counties. We also gained a lot of valuable information about past tsunamis and major storms at the Lā'ie wetland site, with Scott Fisher doing some paleo environmental work. And we completed a student...I'm sorry, a teacher training workshop, and took more students on tours of the wetlands. So, this work, especially Scott's work with the paleo environmental work, has resulted in the idea of bio shields, which are wetland restoration projects that can plant in a way that protects the land and our assets from tsunamis and large storm events. So, we will want to continue that work in FY '25, as well as our restoration moving into the feasibility stage for actually doing preliminary design of wetland restoration at Lā'ie, and perhaps other sites. I wanted to also support the proviso for Pili Koko. Pili Koko recently received their Native Hawaiian Organization certification. And one of the loud messages that came from the attendees at the wetland conference was that we need more voices elevated from the kānaka maoli knowledge and mana'o, and there are many wetland managers and wetland scientists in the State . . .(timer sounds). . . who can bring that to the table. And we believe Pili Koko, as a Native Hawaiian organization, can help elevate those voices in the wetland restoration world. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Knox. So, I have a question for you, then I'll turn it over to the Members. So, I see in Mayor's Office, Maui County Wetlands has \$800,000 in grants for disbursements for water, environmental resource protection. And the other one that you mentioned for clarification, where was that, Pili Koko, under...was it under this? Oh.

MS. KNOX: It's separate, and it's in the Mayor's Budget. It's a line item proviso. Let's see.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. You know, Member Sinenci just...

MS. KNOX: Yeah, I had a picture of it earlier.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, is one of his priorities, I guess. Is that what you just said, Member Sinenci?

MS. KNOX: Yes.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Thank you very much, Miss...Ms. Knox. Any other questions? If not, all right. So, she's the last testifier, unless if we have any more.

MS. MACDONALD: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, wait, we see somebody.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, yes, we have one testifier on Teams, Nāpua Hū'eu.

MS. HŪ'EU: Aloha, good morning to the County Council. My name is Nāpua Hū'eu, and I'm testifying from East Maui. I haven't done a full overview of the budget line items, but I'm here to testify to express extreme concern with routing any further tourism management monies to Maui Visitors and Convention Bureau. I know that there has been some testimony this morning about the Mālama Maui Hikina project that was executed over this past year. The last time I was here testifying in 2022 about this matter. Maui Visitors Bureau was encouraged to work with Hāna Highway Regulation to provide some support to East Maui. I am exhausted at the processes that we are put through with Maui Visitors Bureau. I would like to advocate that tourism management monies be made available to community organizations directly, and community organizations that have experience with tourism management. Maui Visitors Bureau put us through a tourism advisory committee process that was absolutely unnecessary, and colluded the objective of visitor management tasks at hand. We now have had \$350,000 disbursed amongst four different community organizations in East Maui, none of which have tourism management specific experience. We had one organization take \$140,000, and that organization is an organization that Meagan DeGaia was a board member of previously. And so, I'm very tired at seeing Maui County grant funds be put in the hands of friends and family, and not put in the hands of people who have the experience with the objectives at hand. Hāna Highway Regulation has spent seven years collecting data and doing all of the groundwork, and we were disenfranchised in the process of MVB's tourism advisory committee process. It was a process used to strategically remove our participation, and yet Maui Visitors Bureau continues to utilize our data that was provided willingly for the benefit of our community to draft their objectives, to create their presentations, insinuating as if they have this knowledge or they collected this knowledge themselves. And so, I'm very concerned that these community organizations that have been in receipt of the last pool of funds are using these funds to carry out individual community organization objectives, and not actually address the topics that need attention. We already told you guys it's illegal parking, trespassing on private property, and unlicensed commercial activity, in that order. That's the order of priority of the issues. We have community organizations . . .(timer sounds). . . that are setting

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up visitor information booths and not addressing the illegal parking, which is the primary culprit of stress for our community. So, I appreciate you guys...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that's it? Okay. Any questions for Ms. Hū'eu? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Next testifier.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I had a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, she did. Okay. Member Paltin has a question for you. Ms. Hū'eu, are you still on the phone? She sounded like she cut off. Are you there?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, she is unmuted on our end.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Hū'eu?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I guess if she can't answer, I can't ask.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. You're fine. All right. Next test...oh, Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: My apologies, Chair. The...that was also one of my amendments, and it was going to go through the nonprofits of East Maui, Chair, just for clarification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Only because MCVB [sic] is running out of their funding.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. All right. That answers your question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I can discuss more when we get to discussion--with Members Sinenci or whatever.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there's currently no one else who has signed up to testify. I can do a last call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We have a testifier standing at the podium.

MS. MACDONALD: Oh, I see them now.

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TESTIFIER 1: Aloha kakahiaka, aloha kākou, aloha Akakū. Chair Yuki Lei Kashiwa Sugimura, hope your family's all right. Could you ask...I would like to be put down as anonymous, or I don't want to be retaliated against. Hawaiian word of the day is 'Uhane Hemolele, Holy Spirit. Could you ask Ms. Zielinski, if--when she gets time--if she could find out how much acreage...I know there's no assessment on religious exemption lands, but find out how much acreage is...and how many applicants we have for religious exemptions, 501(c)(3) in the County of Maui. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions for the testifier? Seeing none. Any more testimony or testifiers?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there's currently no one else who's...yeah, there's currently no one else who has signed up to testify. I can do a last call if you'd like.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 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 SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Clarissa. And I'm going to ask for your permission to close public testimony, Members, and receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. I'm going to take a couple of questions, and then we'll break. It's almost 10:30. So, when we do our questions, I'm going to do first round, four minutes; second round, three; and then if we need to, we'll go second...third round.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
Real Property Tax Certification

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, at this time, then, I'd like to start with Chair Lee, questions for Real Property Tax.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, you gave us an estimate, Ms. Martin, on the...on the total amount that was waived-- . . .(feedback). . . okay, what happened?--was

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waived...is this for the coming year? . . .*(feedback)*. . . I don't know why there's an echo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Are we okay?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I muted...I mean, you know, my mic is off.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We should be okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: Okay. Chair? Okay. So, the total for Fiscal '23-'24 is about 22.8 million.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So...

MS. MARTIN: Projected for the next year is also in here as well.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Projected for the next year as well. Even though next year, would...aren't a number of long-term rentals exempt also? So...so, in other words, we still keep adding long-term rentals to the roster, right? Because you mentioned that you're going to extend the deadline and so forth. So, do you have any idea how much we're going to end up with in terms of waived...waived real property income?

MS. MARTIN: Chair? So, yes. So, you'll have to add...for...we have existing for the long-term rental, we've calculated 13.7 million, and these are all with the proposed tax rates. So, if we change tax rates, we'll rerun these numbers.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: But...okay. So, if you open up the long-term rental program again--and like I said, we have...we know of about 50 people who...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, that's all, just 50 more?

MS. MARTIN: Well, if you open it up, more could come forward, but right now it's 50. So, you can see, it's an average tax relief of about \$8,400. So --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: -- you know, if you take, let's just say 60 times 8,400, you're at half a million dollars.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And so, FEMA calls you up every, what, once a week and gives you a report of some kind?

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MS. MARTIN: No, Chair. The owners --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, they called you...

MS. MARTIN: -- have to apply. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: And that's probably why some people have missed the deadline because there's confusion, you know, during the process.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, a lot of people thought the...the waiver was automatic?

MS. MARTIN: I would say yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, I see. Okay. Well, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, Members, with your permission, I'm going to take a break. We're at 10:32, so we'll come back at 10:45. Okay? Thank you. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 10:32 a.m.

RECONVENE: 10:48 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 10:48, and we are in a meeting, continuing on with Finance Real Property Tax. So, we had Chair Lee who took the first question, and next we'll have Member Paltin, next Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook, U'u-Hodgins, Sinenci, and Kama. Four minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Who, me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, I wasn't paying attention. Okay. So, if possible, I would like to formally request, for the Non-Owner-Occupied what the breakdown is for Tier 2, 1 to 3 million, instead of 1 to 4.5, and possibly number...or not number, I guess land class 10, Commercialized Residential, as Mr. Croly indicated, also tiered similarly to the rest of them. And if we can see Hotel as well tiered similar, or I guess it wouldn't be 1 to 3. It would be...if you could take all the valuations and tier it by thirds, if possible, like the whole thing, and then one-third, two-thirds; is that possibility?

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MS. MARTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Oh, yes. It would be good to get that in writing so we provide the correct amount. It should be noted with the hotels that Kea Lani, Andaz, Ritz, Montage, and Hāna are condominiumized. So, if you tier that, they're not going to hit the upper tiers like the hotel next to them.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because each condominium is individually owned?

MS. MARTIN: They're all owned by the same owner, they just are in smaller pieces.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And Staff, do you got that for in-writing question, or...or do I need to do it myself?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we can do it. Can you say what categories you want it again?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure. For Non-Owner-Occupied Tier 2, I'd love to see 1 to 3 and...million, and for Tier 3, 3 million and above. Similar same thing for Commercialized Residential, TVR, STRHs. And for Hotel, regardless of the condominiumization, if we could see which hotels are condominiumized, as well as break the values down into like first third of value, second third of value, and then the whole amount of value. And...and from there, I can...I can play around with the numbers if I have the tiers broken out. The other question I had was on the long-term rental tax break extension, as well as the possibility of a homeowner-occupied extension for the fire survivors who were able to cash in their insurance and possibly buy on another district of the island, or location in the island, but missed their homeowner-occupied exemption file date. If we were to extend that to say June 30th, or something like that of your choice, if we would need to budget a certain amount for that shortfall, if you could let us know your expectation or valuation of . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . what that would be roughly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Chair? Yes. So, for the home exemption extension, the...we are aware of some taxpayers being impacted. It's not a large amount. So, I'm estimating probably less than 100,000 for that. But the long-term rental, I would suggest understanding what the estimate's going to be and put it in the budget. And I...we can look at it to see what we feel is accurate as best as we can calculate number to put in there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Chair, I had a question for you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would you count that as an administrative request or...I mean, we already submitted our priorities.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we have. So, what is happening is now that you know the real property tax, right, so this is brand new information for all. I think your questions are relevant. We, as you know, and I...James reminded me, is that in this segment, we're not going to send letters to the Department because we already did that. But in this case, Ms. Martin, I wonder if we could work with you to get us the information because when we do establish the RPT rates, I think these are relevant questions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, and she said it's going to take her a little while to get that together, not like she can tell me --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do it right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. So...so, Marcy, yeah, we don't expect you to have it all right now, but these are relevant to all of us making a decision at the appropriate time. It is relevant because if you saw our...our posting, we did tier, you know, many of the rates that are not in the...in the book. So, I will talk to you after, and we'll get the...we'll get this answers for the Members. James. So, I'll... I'll talk to you...I'll talk to you about a schedule. Okay. Member...Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, I guess--just to reiterate part of Member Paltin's question--so as we go through this, the RPT and the rates and fees and so forth, we're going to see areas where we should, let's say, provide more relief to our residents, or make changes in terms of either cuts or additions. So, that wouldn't count as our priorities, right? That's a totally separate exercise.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Real property tax decisions. The other thing that the Department mentioned today is that there's two proposed ordinances they're going to be submitting to us. So, that's all going to be relevant to the total picture. So, I'm going to...what I'm going to do is I'll talk to Staff after we're completed with this, and I'll come back lunchtime, after lunch, with some kind of determination of how we're going to handle this. Because it's...it's in motion basically, right? It's not like a normal year for us because of the wildfire impacts. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And I just want to remind the Members, to the extent possible, we do not want to raise the budget. So, that...that...that's why we have to be very careful. If you're going to raise taxes, you're going to raise the budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, you have to cut someplace. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, that's the sensitivity of where we are now because we don't want to impose more upon our...our residents. Miss...Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The...the other thing is, I'm not sure the timing of it, but when the Administration prepared this budget, we only just recently passed the legislation to tier all the categories. So, they might not have...they may not have taken advantage of that to the full extent because it's a kind of new thing. So, it's just one more tool in the tool --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Box.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- box.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was going to say kit, but sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, Member Paltin is done. Next, Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, and then Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. And that's a good segue because my question's in regards to the tiering of the Ag parcel and the rates of the...or I'm sorry, not the rates, but the tiering categories, I guess. So, what values in the tiers for Agriculture would you recommend, is it two...two tiers, three tiers, and do you have a value on those tiers?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Well, for Agriculture, we didn't submit tiers, but you can refer to page...we did include Agriculture on page 45. So, you can take a look at the breakdowns. And then once you've decided on a breakdown, as with the Non-Owner-Occupied, give us those numbers in writing, and then we'll recalculate a certified number for you to use for your calculations.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, at this time, you don't have a recommendation?

MS. MARTIN: No, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I want to pivot to the question about the STRs. There was some excellent data done by Matt Jachowski, and he said that 11 percent of STRs are...have a Hawai'i mailing address, 45 California mailing

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address, 10 percent Washington, 7 percent international, and then 27 percent of other U.S. states. So, I'm curious if...what you...if you looked at the data, and do you...can you...would you concur? Would you...do you...do you have any concerns, questions, about that data, that only 11 percent of short-term rentals have a Hawai'i address? And if that's...if you have an issue with that number, and is it easy for someone just put down...let's say I own two condos, I'll just say one of them is my Hawai'i address, and that would kind of technically put me in that 11 percent category.

MS. MARTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: Yeah. So, mailing addresses can be deceiving. Because if you have a TVR, and it's managed here in Hawai'i, the mail's going to go to Hawai'i, despite wherever you may live. So, it's an indication, but it's not, you know, guaranteed that's where the owner resides.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is there a way to find out these management companies...management property companies, is there a way that they report that the owner of the...is out...out of state, or is there...I think there's some very large property manager companies, and do we ever look at their portfolio, who they manage, and are they in-state or out-of-state...anything of that that could help us in our decision-making?

MS. MARTIN: We don't get into that level of detail as far as, you know, who's behind that mailing address, or where the owner actually is.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Yeah, I'm just...you know, you see...I hope you see where I'm going with this. I want to try to say, if we have actual numbers, are these numbers true, that these folks live here and also own a condo, or also own something that is a short-term rental. I can't seem to find an actual hard data point that is true because there's...like you say, there's ways they get around it, and that I'm just going to hire a management company, and they own...I have 30 properties . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . but the management company is a Lahaina address, for example, right? Do you have a recommendation for that, Ms. Marcy?

MS. MARTIN: We have compiled statistics based upon our mailing addresses many times. So, that is a request, as long as you understand it's just the mailing address.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez, followed by Member Cook, then Member U'u-Hodgins, and Sinenci.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Martin and Acting Director Zielinski, and I can't see who else is there. But anyway, mahalo for the presentation. I..we heard in testimony about the increase in property taxes. And I think sometimes to not differentiate between the different classifications can be misleading to folks that are, for example, Owner-Occupied, about property taxes increasing. Would...is there any information that you can provide the Council...or the Committee regarding the...you know, the testimony about 130 percent property tax increase that will help to clarify the difference between classifications? That Owner-Occupied, for example, may not have experienced as substantial an increase to that classification versus, you know, Short-Term Rentals, for example?

MS. MARTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: So, first of all, the increases in property taxes may not have any correlation to inflation because, as I said, our taxes increase because of new construction, subdivisions. It's also based on need, the amount of tourists that we're servicing, the amount of population that...so our increases should reflect, and they do through your budget process, the needs of the community, and it's not so much inflation-based, I would think. And then, yes, we have certified revenue by class on page...page 6 of the Selected Statistics for Budget.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that additional information for folks that are tracking so that it's understood that there's differences between classifications. I...I don't expect you to have the percentage increase for each classification like prepared now, but the 130 percent increase, is that just property taxes...property tax revenue in general, or do you have information on like the percentage for like the classifications?

MS. MARTIN: Chair? I think that...was that...are you referring to Tom Croly's calculation? Yeah, I don't think that's from our booklet. I think that's a calculation that he made, but it sounds like that's a valuable piece of information for you all in your decision-making. So, we could put a ten-year increase for each classification. Because as you said, for Owner-Occupied, for example, last year, we had the exemption increase from 200,000 . . . (timer sounds). . . to 300,000. So, we have other measures where different classes are increasing taxes at different rates.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Ms. Martin. So, I just...the point that I was trying to make, for those that are watching, that I haven't

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fact-checked the 130 percent increase in the ten years that Mr. Croly spoke to in testimony, but...and I haven't been able to go through each classification. But I know after we got onto the Council in 2019, we did increase rates where it should have been, especially on the tourism industry, who should be paying more in taxes. So, that's the point, and that the tax relief for residents for Owner-Occupied properties likely have not increased by...by that much, but I haven't been able to do the calculations yet. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have Member Cook, Member U'u-Hodgins, and Sinenci, then Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Acting Director Zielinski and Ms. Martin...and I apologize, I didn't catch your name.

MS. MARTIN: Kari Stockwell.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thanks.

MS. MARTIN: Assistant Administrator.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Anyway, thank you for a very thorough presentation, and your work is clear and great. My question is on page 17, net taxable values, and this is sort of a follow-up on the escalation in real property valuations over the last ten years that Mr. Croly was discussing. It looks like from over the last three years after COVID, there's been a real estate boom. And living here, I know that real estate prices really increased substantially. People had the opportunity to work from home, and they weren't...so a lot of demographics and a lot of the economy changed. I've heard you say that the increases...or it's a combination of property values and also new construction. Property values is usually, they'll do a comp, right, like last year's valuation, this year's valuation, and that'll be it. How does new construction impact property valuations as an aggregate?

MS. MARTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. MARTIN: So, anytime we have new construction...and I will use the...you know, right now we've got Maui Coast II under construction, we've got the timeshare.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So...so, you have...you have more things...more things that have value?

MS. MARTIN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. I got it.

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MS. MARTIN: And the Hampton Inn.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: My concern...and I mean, my concern is this. Local people, and we...we have the Owner-Occupied, we have the long-term rental, we have, you know, various things to compensate for the escalation in real estate pricing. But the thing about people being priced out of paradise, priced out of our home because people will come and spend \$2 million for a house next door, and all of a sudden, your house is worth more money, and your valuations go up; is that correct? To some degree?

MS. MARTIN: Yes, it's market-value based.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Right.

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, one of the things that I...that I hear that people are very concerned about is the...that's beyond our control, beyond our government...local government control, is insurance rates. There's going to be potentially a tsunami of insurance increases because some...some companies are leaving the state because of the...the fire, and simply because of probably the opportunity to reevaluate and readjust their...their rate...their risk. So, does that...that doesn't come into play at all with real property, does it? I mean that's...that potential increase in cost of ownership doesn't have anything to do with real property.

MS. MARTIN: Chair? It does make it more expensive for people who are buying. So, it may not impact value, but when you're paying for your property, it's going to make it more expensive. And as Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez mentioned, we've had a shift in our tax burden. We lowered the Apartment rate when we created the new Apartment class to just be apartment buildings. We now have the Long-Term Rental . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . classification, Owner-Occupied. So, that's what's nice about having those classifications is that, you know, you can balance your...your rates based upon those groups.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. So, that is a tool that we have to kind of help by working with those various categories to help soften the financial blow for taxation for our locals.

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have Member U'u-Hodgins, then Sinenci.

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you guys for being with us today. I really don't have any questions for right at this moment, but if I do, I'll reach out personally. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Perfect. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And mahalo for the presentation this morning, Ms. Martins [sic]. Just some clarifying, are condominiums part of the STR bracket?

MS. MARTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: So, yes. A large number of the properties in that TVR/STR class are condominiums that are on land that is entitled to do transient vacation rentals.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. And then I...I did see some of the other Members' amendments, and some of them are...are pretty large asks. If we did have to increase revenue, you know, in small increments, what would...would you recommend any specific areas for small increases?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin?

MS. MARTIN: I would leave that up to you folks.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then you did...you also had...you mentioned that the Hotel stayed stable. Can you speak to that?

MS. MARTIN: Yeah. So, we do, every year, revalue all properties, that includes Hotel. So, even if there aren't any sales, we...we still look at our values. And one project that the division is working on, I will mention that, is we're working on a contract with a private vendor to improve our hotel valuations. I think that's an area where we're always looking to educate ourselves and improve because they are very difficult appraisals, given their size and their...and their value. With that being said though, they do have their own indicators, which...a common one, which you will see in the newspaper, is revenue per available room, RevPAR. And there are trending indicators that year over year, what's the health of those properties in terms of income. And Maui, we always lead the state, but we are down this year. And those are very researchable numbers through Hawai'i Tourism Authority or CBRE, STR, they all calculate it. But the decrease year over year in that industry was...I think it was like 6 to 15 percent, but we also had a sale showing some strong values. So, we stayed the same this year, year over year.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, you know, as I'm looking on page 1 in your book...oh, thank you, the book is very helpful. I like the fact that it's color-coded. It helps me to...to...to be able to peek at the things that are really interesting and that calls out that needs attention. But on page 1, where would VRBOs fall? Is that it?

MS. MARTIN: Yes, that's...the TVR/STRH class is for the ones that are Non-Owner-Occupied. And then Commercial Residential is TVRs where the owner still lives on the property.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: What was that again?

MS. MARTIN: Okay. So, you're on page --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: 1.

MS. MARTIN: -- 1.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. MARTIN: So, under the land class code 10, we have Commercialized Residential.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: So, those have a TVR and an Owner-Occupied dwelling. And then the next line down, 11, is TVR/STRH. Those are the single-family or very small transient lodging operations. But if you go to page...it's kind of the largest section of this book, and it starts on page 48 of the Selected Statistics for Budget. You can go through each of these pictures, and it kind of tells you who's in the...the classes. That's always a good section to review every year so that we know what's in each class.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, starting on 48 and just goes through the whole thing? Okay. I'm going to go read that. Thank you for telling me and showing that to me. And then the other thing was...the other page I was looking at was--oh, shoot, I lost the page now--but it was a page that had minimum tax. And then it said something about \$300 is the minimum tax, but some people only pay \$150 tax. And then you had...and then you had listed the amounts of...oh, here it is. It's on page 21. So, you have listed the different classifications and how many units are in each of them, so that...to the extent that 8,804 parcels pay the minimum tax of \$300; is that right? Is that what I'm reading? Okay. And then underneath,

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it says severely disabled veteran exemptions filed, not all pay \$150 minimum tax. So, what is that? What does that mean?

MS. MARTIN: Thank you for that question. So, property owners who have the severely disabled veteran, their minimum tax is \$150 --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: -- a year.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And then all...all the rest of the...the categories that's listed in...in the blue, that's how many units, right, are in each of those categories that totals that 8,804?

MS. MARTIN: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And we have three historic residences. So, people actually live in these...in these historic residences; is that right?

MS. MARTIN: Owner occupancy is not a requirement for the historic residence.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, I have a question regarding Circuit Breaker, if I could. In years past, we heard from some residents who are asking that we examine the criteria for Circuit Breaker because our assessments have gone up a lot. So, Department, do you have anything to comment on that?

MS. MARTIN: I think that's wise right now to take a look at Circuit Breaker. We have...I'm going to let Maria speak to this real quick.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Thank you, Chair. We actually have...Real Property Tax has an ordinance that will, I believe, be posted this Friday for the Council meeting. But we are looking, and...and Ms. Martin had indicated that, you know, a lot of the people that were getting the Circuit Breaker are actually getting thrown out of the program because the assessed value has increased so much. As a result, we have a--and...and this was as part of Real Property Tax that made this recommendation, and the Administration agreed with it--was to have the credit to...to...to increase to \$8,200 instead of the 6,500. And the household income, which is now \$100,000, would go up to \$126,000 so they could stay in the program. And then the...the actual assessed value, I guess, would be...right now it's at...I guess it's at 750,000. And we've been looking at 1 million, and then it would...up to a 1,000,001, but it would be, you know, kind of in reduced, you know, credits. So, we are looking to try to have more people qualify for that Circuit Breaker. And again, Ms. Martin was...was instrumental in making these

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recommendations to try to have, you know, additional people continue to qualify.
Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you have an ordinance that you are posting?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct. Okay. So, we'll look forward to...oh, yes, Ms. Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Just for your information, this change would be for this August application period. So, you don't have to budget for the change. It will be in the certification for '20...Fiscal Year '25-'26.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. For next year then. Okay. And then the minimum tax or homeowner, because of the same reason, are you also looking at changing that from 300 to...

MS. MARTIN: The minimum tax is in the budget. So, again, if you're going to change it, we can run figures for you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I mean, not this year, right? Because it's too late for this year.

MS. MARTIN: Oh, no recommendation.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you looking at that for a possibility?

MS. MARTIN: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, any more questions? We can do round two. So, Chair Lee first, Member Paltin, Johnson to follow.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I don't have anything. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Ms. Martin. I was wondering if...if you could explain a little bit more. If it's a condominiumized hotel or a condominiumized like short-term rental/TVR, is there a difference? And if it's a condominiumized short-term rental, it would pay the Short-Term Rental rate; is that correct?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Thank you. That's a very good question. So, when we redefined our classifications, I think it was 2019, we set a criteria for Hotel. It's so many

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employees and so many rooms. And then below that, they go to the TVR/STRH. And so, page...we did break down the number of hotels in the different classes. It's...it's in this book. Starting at page 37, there's some breakdowns. But generally, most of the properties in the TVR/STRH are owned by individuals. So, you have a condominium project with 100 units, and they have 100 different owners. In the case of Kea Lani, it's just one owner. It's not a residential condominium, it's a commercial condominium. And same with...Ritz-Carlton's a hybrid. They have some units that are owned by individuals, and those are in TVR/STRH class, and then the hotel portion is in the Hotel class. So, you have one physical location, but they're in two different classes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if a condominiumized hotel is being taxed and we were to tier it, each individual condominiumized hotel unit valuation would be probably in the lowest tier. And then get...if we...if we were to tier it, get that advantage of that low tax classification, whereas if it's a hotel, with the entire assessment of the property, it could possibly be in the highest tier. But it might be the same property if the Ritz is like hybridized, then the people that are using condominiumized hotel rooms would pay less than the entire property, which is a hotel, is what you're saying?

MS. MARTIN: Chair? Yes. So, you could have two hotels right next to each other that would be exactly the same. It'd be Grand Wailea and Kea Lani. So, individually, maybe Kea Lani is broken down into--I'm not sure how many parts . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . but we'll just say 50 maybe--to take that total value, divide it by 50, and then the Grand Wailea would just be the whole value. So, that would create a different effective tax rate for the two properties.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is that part of the reason why you didn't...the Administration didn't tier hotels?

MS. MARTIN: Chair? Yes. I think any classification where your properties aren't at the final density, you...you run that risk of them being subdivided, or condominium into smaller pieces to avoid those higher tax consequences.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have a follow-up, but I...I heard the bell. I don't...unless you want to stay on this subject.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Let's...let's...Member Johnson, then Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook, U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I...I have a question on the page 21, the vacant land, and who's paying the minimum tax. It says including ag use. Can you clarify on that, the 4,916 parcels of land that are paying minimum property...minimum tax, is it...is that like undedicated ag? Can you get into the...the weeds, if you will? . . . *(laughing)*. . .

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

MS. MARTIN: Chair? Okay. So, if you have a parcel of land, and you have applied for an agriculture use, which is a year-to-year agreement with the County, it's for land-zoned Agriculture, and you are farming 100 percent of the parcel, the value is very low, and you probably pay the minimum tax. Also, if your parcel is completely dedicated, which is usually a longer agreement, you would pay the minimum tax, and the dedication is available to parcels that aren't zoned Agriculture that meet certain criteria. If a land was...a vacant land was partially farmed, it probably is not going to be in the minimum tax. But minimum tax would also include, you know, small parcels we have up in the mountains, parcels without good access, remnant parcels. There are many reasons why a vacant land would have a low value to fall into the minimum tax if it wasn't farmed.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: How about a large parcel that's not being farmed? Where would that fall in here? Of ag land, yeah.

MS. MARTIN: A large parcel that's not being farmed would be assessed at market value, and it's been zoned Agriculture and there's no buildings on it, they're in the Agriculture class.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, that term vacant land is what I'm kind of getting into. What...how...how do you...what is a vacant farmland? Or ag land, I should say.

MS. MARTIN: That's a good question. I think we would refer to a parcel that doesn't have a building, even if it was farmed, as vacant.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Say that again? You...they are farming it?

MS. MARTIN: A parcel that's being farmed, but isn't improved with a structure, we would call vacant land.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, Mahi Pono has a few community plots of land. You can't build a house on it, you can't build an ag labor dwelling on it, you're leasing it, just farming 100 percent. Would that qualify?

MS. MARTIN: That would qualify for agriculture use.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. MARTIN: And it's vacant, it would be vacant land.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, those...those parcels get taxed 300 bucks.
. . .(timer sounds). . .

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Interesting. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I don't have any additional questions, but I do see who the other person I didn't see. Hi, Ms. Stockwell, nice to see you. And I...I can give my time to Member Paltin since she had additional questions. I don't. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. My question is, are B&Bs and transient vacation rentals separated, or lumped together?

MS. MARTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: They are separated. The B&Bs are partially Owner-Occupied, and they're in the Commercial Residential class.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, they're not at all in page 45, the TVR/STRH? That's...and you just told me that, so...okay. So, I have a question about CPRing property. If you have Ag-zoned land that is...that they CPR--so, say somebody has four acres, they CPR it, it's still one...I think it's still one TMK, but it's...it has two different owner entities. I'm a little confused on that. How does that work for taxation?

MS. MARTIN: Chair? For condominiums, if it was an Agriculture parcel that was condominiumized into two units, each separate condominium unit is assessed. So, you're right, it's one parcel, condominiumization is basically a change in ownership. And so, we have lots of Agriculture-zoned condominiums. So, if there's a dwelling on the property, it's in Non-Owner-Occupied class. But if it's not improved with a structure, it's in the Agriculture class.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, if there's four acres, condominiumized, one structure on each one, one person lives in it full-time, the other person rents it out full-time, the property and the building is assessed separately for the two different pieces. And then would they also be taxed at a different...would one qualify for

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Owner-Occupied if it's...if it's Ag, and the other one is long-term rental because it was Ag?

MS. MARTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: Yes. So, the Owner-Occupied--we call it a CPR, condominium property regime--the Owner-Occupied CPR would qualify for the home exemption, and they would be Owner-Occupied class. And the other CPR would qualify for the long-term rental exemption, and they would be in the Long-Term Rental class.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: My compliments to you to be able to keep track . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . of all of this and explain it. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member U'u-Hodgins, then Sinenci. None? Okay. No questions. Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. I just wanted to go back to Member Johnson's question. I wasn't clear if I got that right, but when he was talking about vacant ag lands, and what...what is the definition of that again?

MS. MARTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: So, as appraisers, we...we call land vacant if it's not improved with a structure. So, land-zoned Agriculture, if it is farmed, we still would call it vacant...vacant land.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, let me just make sure I get this. So, vacant ag land is there's no building or structure, but does have...might...and may have ag activity ongoing. That's right?

MS. MARTIN: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. MARTIN: So, if I can direct you to page 29. We have 3,328 parcels receiving an agriculture use preferential assessment. And many of those do not have a structure on it. Some of them do. You can have a home and receive an agriculture assessment, but...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I just have a hard time wrapping around my head the fact that if it has no building, it's...but it has ag activity, it's vacant. I mean, they have ag

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activity...I mean, isn't the activity ag, and isn't that what it's supposed to be, and isn't that what it's supposed to be used for? So, how could it be vacant? Just because it doesn't have a structure on it. But I thought ag land was supposed to not have structures, but have ag activity. That's what I'm just thinking in my head. Maybe I'm thinking things wrong.

MS. MARTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: We are primarily appraisers, and we divvy out our values. You know, a portion is land, and a portion is building. So, I understand your interpretation that if it's farmed, it's not empty and not being used.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. MARTIN: But when...when you're reading this --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: -- you see vacant land, understand that it could include land that's being farmed that doesn't have a structure.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you. I get that now. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Chair Lee is gone. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. You know, if we were to say any condominiumized transient use would fall into the TVR/STRH category instead of a Hotel category, regardless of who is the owner or things like that, is that a policy call? Would it take a Code change to do that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Chair. That would be section...Maui County Code 3.48.305 describes the classification. And then our...our Code also calls condominium units parcels. So, I think for the hotel--I don't have the Code in front of me right now--but I think it refers to...it uses the word "property."

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, it's possible?

MS. MARTIN: I would have to look at it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. And then the other question I had, you know how we have to set aside 50 percent of the value if there's an appeal from

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constituents. I know that missing the owner-occupied homeowner exemption deadline is not an appealable thing. What are some things that would allow folks to be successful in their appeal?

MS. MARTIN: Chair? You may appeal missing a deadline.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. MARTIN: That would be a hard appeal to win if you actually did miss the deadline, but it is your due process to appeal. Most of our appeals are classification...I'm a Timeshare, I want to be Hotel.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. MARTIN: I'm Non-Owner-Occupied, I want to be Apartment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm good. I had one more question I wanted to squeeze in.

MS. MARTIN: But we also...they also appeal their value. So, if you can see in the chart, the hotels have appealed their value, and that's...and that was the biggest deduction, was the hotel appeals.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. The one additional...shoot, I forgot it now. The one additional question, I think it was...if...oh, if you've taken into account the contracts hotels or others have received for noncongregate sheltering--because, you know, when FEMA gives us their updates, they say they spent so many billions or millions of dollars on sheltering, and we know that those have gone to like hotels, some Airbnbs or whatever through GEM, and like that. And I just was wondering if that's . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . something that the Administration took into account in their setting of rates that, you know, some hotels, while we were shut down, received this injection of cash.

MS. MARTIN: Chair? So, when we're valuing the TVR condos, we are able to successfully use a sales comparison approach. So, we have sales of units, and that reflects the value. For the hotels, as I said, they have a statistic where they have revenue per available room, and I'm assuming that that's revenue. Revenue for them can be even the bars, things they rent, so they...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I didn't mean the assessment. In...in setting the rates, if that was taken into account, not...not the assessments. Like the whatever, 11 something or 1,250 or whatever, that...that's the part I was asking about, if you took into consideration what some of the transient accommodations were receiving through FEMA or GEM when you set the rates, not the assessment.

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MS. MARTIN: Well, we...we set the rates at...where we think they should be, and I think we try to consider as many factors as we can in setting the rates.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I just was wanting to clarify if the noncongregate sheltering contracts were looked at, at all, in the setting of the rates.

MS. ZIELINSKI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. ZIELINSKI: And Councilmember...yeah. You know, when we were setting...collectively setting the rates, that was honestly not taken into consideration. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And Chair, we did request that as well as the Committee, hopefully, to get the response today, just to have the full picture. You guys were expecting the results today as well?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, it was sent. Did we receive anything? This is a response from FEMA, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think it was HI-EMA that did the contracts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Colonel Barros. That's his name? Yeah. Yes. Okay. We'll check on it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because like how the guy in Kihei said that the Governor told folks stop coming to Maui, and so the B&Bs and some of the STRs lost out on money, but some of them banked with the billions that FEMA went inject into sheltering. And I feel like that's something to take into account when we're setting the rates, right? Oh, I just got a text. We'll have it within an hour or so.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I will, I don't know about you guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Do...you have any, Miss...Member Rawlins-Fernandez gave you her time, so do you have any more questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if we were to try and do a policy change that any condominiumized transient vacation rental were falling into the TVR category, that would be for a future tax year, right? Not...not this year, there's no way to just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- do that.

MS. MARTIN: Yes, it would be for next year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then I guess until the buzzer rings, if you can mention how the RevPAR affects the assessed values for hotels?

MS. MARTIN: It's one of several indicators that we can use to value hotel properties, as all appraisers will...will look at this figure. So, it's your average daily rate and your occupancy.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and so, then that would assess--the...that would affect the assessment if the RevPAR average daily rate and occupancy are down, the assessment would go down, and if they're up, the assessment would go up?

MS. MARTIN: Like I said, it's...it's one factor that we look at. We would look at all...all factors, and that would include sales of hotels and whatnot.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Was the hotels given the same static rate because they helped out with the sheltering, or was there...that wasn't taken into consideration?

MS. MARTIN: For the valuation, you're talking about?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The...the rate, I guess...not the assessed valuation, the rate.

MS. MARTIN: Oh, the rate.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because it's the same, right, as last fiscal year?

MS. MARTIN: Yeah, it's unchanged. And...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, that we're asking our Owners-Occupied [sic], our Non-Owner-Occupied, our TVRs, to share in the burden of Lahaina burning down, but not the hotels. Was there any concrete reason on that? Because I...I did hear some negative feedback that oh, B&Bs, TVRs, Owner-Occupied, Non-Owner-Occupied are sharing the burden for Lahaina burning down and losing out on that revenue, but the hotels are not sharing the same kind of burden. Was there any impetus for that, or any concrete reason?

MS. ZIELINSKI: Chair? Councilmember Paltin, we reviewed all of the different cli...you know, different categories and with the...you know, the Administration, and that was just not something that was considered. We really...we really didn't have

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much of a discussion on that, making those changes. It was really just on the items that we looked at that we had some changes. And so, I can't say that we had a conversation per se, it was just something that was reviewed and...and, you know, changes were made.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Because, I mean, our...our Owner-Occupied are people that live and work here that contribute to like the County functioning, the visitor industry functioning. And when we raise that tax, it's almost like taking food out of people's mouth. Whereas you know, the hotels, as they raise and fluctuate their rates and things like that, it's hardly any of them are locally owned except for, I think, Royal Lahaina. And I mean, kudos to them, they haven't kicked people out or threatened to kick people out unless they're not following the rules. I don't know if we can give owner occupant rate to Royal Lahaina or something, or some kind of a break . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . for those hotels that have 100 percent housed our residents. But you really see the difference between corporate off-island ownership and their heart for the Lahaina residents versus a Hawai'i-owned hotel in that instance, to me personally. So, you know, big thanks to Royal Lahaina.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Member Johnson. Do you have any more questions?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. My questions have been answered. I just want to mention that we didn't mention that today's Earth Day. And when we look at budgets, and we look at the results of the wildfire, we have a monumental task before us. And in honor of Earth Day, I'm looking for this budget to really address some of the folks who've been affected by the wildfire and the long-term solutions to this. So, just wanted to add that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, I think you gave your time to Member Paltin, or are you...okay. You have questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm good. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, that was it. Okay. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question's on the long-term rental exemption. Do you have an idea how many people didn't apply for it who potentially could have qualified for it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Every year, we get a few. Some of those people appeal. But I would say we probably get about ten...ten a year.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, for the most part, the people are familiar with it and are utilizing it?

MS. MARTIN: I would like for more people to be familiar with it and more people to utilize it, definitely. I'm not sure everyone who could be in the program is in the program. You have to have a one-year lease, so that if you have a one-year lease and you're renting long-term, please apply.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, that's good, and that's part of our job to...for...you know, we can educate people. My other brief question was, timeshares and hotels are the largest...the two largest appeal categories. Is that just habitual? Do they just have like their big business and they know how to do it, and so they just push back? Well, I guess, what would you attest to the fact that they are the largest...they appeal the most often?

MS. MARTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MARTIN: The timeshares have the highest rate. So, the appeal fee is \$75. So, for them, sometimes they just do bulk appeals to kind of hold that position to review all their assessments, and they appeal classification. And when we revalued the hotels after COVID, they had appealed at that time. They are now in tax appeal court in prior years. So, they've continued to appeal since we had done a revaluation. If you look on page 47 and 46, you'll see that the hotels and timeshares are our top taxpayers as well, so...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, it kind of seems unfair, all of them against you. . . *(laughing)*. . . It gets pretty tough. We're basically responding to all of those. . . *(timer sounds)*. . . All of my questions have been answered, and I'm very grateful and impressed with your work. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member Cook. Member U'u-Hodgins and Sinenci, you're done, yeah? Okay. So, Member Kama, do you have any more last questions?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Just last one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, you know, for the people who live Upcountry who don't have a water meter, and who would like to be able to farm but they can't, how are they being taxed?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Martin?

MS. MARTIN: Chair? If you don't have a water meter, that significantly impacts your value. So, you are worth less than a parcel that does have a water meter. Again, I advise all property owners to read their assessment every year. And if you think that our assessment is not correct, you...first you call our office. And then if you don't agree with what we talk about, you are able to file an appeal. You can call our office anytime to discuss your value and to give us property characteristics that we can consider in our valuation. And we...we try to recognize those parcels. But yes, if...if they can't farm, either they'll have to figure out something that they can farm without water, or that maybe...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: What could you farm without water?

MS. MARTIN: I'm not sure because I'm not a farmer, but...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Just curious. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. So, just...Members, for your information, based upon what the Department gave to us, the categories that taxes did increase from...from the Mayor was Non-Owner-Occupied, Tier 1, up to \$1 million, \$5.85 this current fiscal year, and proposing \$6. Tier 2, 1,000,001 to 4.5 million, \$8 to \$8.50. Tier 3, more than 4.5 million, 12.50 to \$14. And then the other category is, as we've been hearing, for Short-Term Vacation Rentals. Oh, I think it's...wait, I'm sorry. The other one is Commercial Residential, which you heard from some of the testifiers today, went to *[sic]* 4.40 to \$5. Short-Term Vacation Rentals, there's only one rate, and it went to *[sic]* 11.85 to 12.50. And Owner-Occupied, Tier 1, up to \$1 million, was 1...I'm sorry, 1.90, \$1.90, went to 2. Tier 2 is 1,001 to 3 million, \$2 to 2.50. Tier 3, more than 3 million, 2.75 to 3.25. And those...these changes what...is what the Mayor proposed. So, Members, I'm going to do a lunch break now. Okay. So, you want to come back at 1:15, or what time do you want to...it's 11:50, it's almost 12:00. What do you guys want to come back at, 12:00...1:30? Member...Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I just was wondering if you could give us a breakdown of what to expect upon --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure. Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the return. We're not going to still be doing...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, we're not going to be talking about real property.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And maybe the overview of the whole week would be nice too.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...okay. I'll do that when we come back, then you all can go. What time do you want to come back, 1:30? Okay. See you back at 1:30, this is recess.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And thank you very much, Real --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wait.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Property Tax.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What...what should we expect when we return?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What should we prepare for?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we're going to take up, as we said, on Bill 60...6-0, right? So, get out your bills. And...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Up until...is it only up until DEM, or is it...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, no. Okay. So, I'm going to try to shoot up to Finance for today. I really would...okay. Our goal is, I think, all of you to...decisions ends Friday. But if we need to, I'm willing to work on Saturday because we need to finish it. But I'm sure you don't want to see each other on Saturday. We've been all working nights and days and whatever, and we have other things going on. But that is my goal. So, today, this took a little bit longer than I thought, but we will work through this, and we're going to start with...on Bill 60. So, bring...bring your bills with you, and we're going to start in...it's really in alpha order, so just go by page by page.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I sent in my cuts up to DEM, but I can send in Finance --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Finance. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- as well --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if you like. I only wanted to send up, up until what we were going to schedule to cover.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I'll add Finance.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I'm sorry, but there's a funeral on Fri...on Saturday that maybe many of us will be attending.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, that's...just wanted to let you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I thought it's Saturday. Oh, what did you just say? Oh, okay. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Funeral on Saturday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...I...I'm going to be there too. So, yes, that's very sad. So, Members, more so, we want to finish this, decisions week this week, and...and we will take it department by department, and go through each...each department, what are your adds, what are your cuts, and then do E/Ps. I'm going to start off with E/Ps and tell you the kind of recommendations that I have, and then...and then we'll go through rates and fees. If there's a Revolving Fund, everything that's relevant to that department, and then we'll talk about your conditions, and that's going to help how we'll take the...each department. So, get out your bills. We are going to dig in. Thank you very much. We'll see you at 1:30. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 11:57 a.m.

RECONVENE: 1:51 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Finance, Economic Development Committee, it is now 1:51. Apologize for the delay. We were making copies for you. So, just so you know, the...this week, I'm hoping to finish by Friday. And as the Members reminded me, that Saturday we have a big day for those who want to go to Rayna's funeral, which I think there's a bunch of us that do. So, today we're going to take up...which we already had, certification, and end with Department of Finance. We're in decisions, and asking all the Members to use Bill 60, which is the document we're going to be doing adds and cuts and any changes. And tomorrow, we're going to do Fire to Management in alpha order. And Wednesday is Mayor to Police. Thursday is Prosecuting Attorney to Water. And then Friday is Revolving Funds, Real Property Tax, as well as the bills. So, anybody have any questions? But that was what we're going to be taking up. So, today from...we're

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going to...we are using Bill 60, and we're doing up to Finance. And if...Members, I really don't want to go home late, but I want to stick to the schedule. So, if we need to, I would like to just keep on going until we finish Finance. Tomorrow is Fire to Management. Wednesday, Mayor to Police. Thursday is Prosecuting Attorney to Water. And then Friday we do the bills, as well as set the real property tax rates. Tomorrow night, we're having...oh, repeat that? So, today, we're going up to Finance, okay? Tuesday, Fire to Management. Wednesday, Mayor to Police. Thursday, Prosecuting Attorney to Water. Friday are Real Property Tax and the bills. So, am I missing anything for Friday? We're not taking up the...okay. Countywide. Countywide, okay. Taking up Countywide on Friday, right? Okay. I didn't say that. So, your question about CIP. The departments that have CIP, we'll take up CIP. Departments that have Revolving Funds, we'll take it up. Everything will be done when we take up the department so that we can come to an agreement, pass, and move on. And if we...if we have to revisit, we will, but I really would like us to maybe come to some kind of consensus. For every department, if a Member has a condition or priority, that would be taken up that same...with the same...with that department also. For Members that are in charge...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Huh? I'm sorry, what? Turn on your mic.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Yeah, starting now. So, Members, we're going to be taking up the Legislative Branch, and I look at that as Chair Lee's kuleana. So, you will be kind of the lead in case there's anything that you would like to say. We have all talked to the departments, so we are not having departments here, and you have all of their responses. They've worked really hard to answer our many questions. We still haven't gotten all the responses, Lesley, and do you have a bunch sitting on your desk waiting for distribution?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. No, I have reviewed all that have come to me. I believe at least four were just transmitted in the last few minutes, and we are anticipating some more by tomorrow morning latest.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do we know what departments? Because we're...we're on a roll. We're going to do the departments.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. BD-9 was just submitted. FN-12 was just submitted. EM-5 was just submitted, and WS-4 was just submitted. WS-6 was submitted at 11:08 this morning. I know we're still waiting on a couple from Public Works. We anticipate having those to transmit by tomorrow. So, we're getting...oh, and WS-5 just came through as well.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members, every day we're going to adjourn this meeting and take public testimony the next morning. When we get to corrections, which is next week, Monday and Tuesday, I'm going to recess Friday and then come back to a meeting on Monday, Tuesday, so that we can do corrections. I'm hoping we don't have too many corrections and maybe, you know, we can get done earlier. I hope the departments that have not, they submit their answers to you because we're making decisions based upon the information that we have up to this time. So, did...did you get the department order sheet summary? Did that get distributed? Okay. So, Members, you have received 24...oh, today's date, department order, County Clerk, and it tells you...I'll go through it. In the...in Bill 60, it says what page, which is page 2. CIPs, none. Appendix A, Part I, Grants, N/A, none. Appendix A, Part II, Special Purpose Revenue, none. Appendix B, Rates and Fees, Appendix...oh, Appendix B, there is something on page 3. Members' Priorities, none. So, this is a summary of the departments that's kind of fast. So, when we go to it, you can say, oh, okay, we're going to go to page 2. They have no CIPs, they have no grants, they have no special revenue, and Rates and Fees, go to page 3. So, Members' Priorities, there are none. Okay. So, this is...this is so that you can have a quick look at what our job is to do this. Okay. So, hopefully it'll help us speed things up. When we open up the departments, we'll take any...I have some cuts that I...I'm recommending for E/Ps. So, that has not...oh, that will get to you when we take up, right, the appropriate department. And some of you may also have that. So, at this time then, I...I wanted to summarize this. I wanted you to know then what I'm saying is for every department, if they have any of those categories, we're going to take it up department by department, including your conditions. When you present your conditions for the department, because everybody has had this spreadsheet and has a chance to review, you'll be given one minute to explain what your priority is. And then if Members have questions, that'll be like 30 seconds. But I'm going to...okay. Anything else? Did I miss anything? Okay. So...okay. So, at this time, Members...somebody has their hand up. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Mahalo. When are we taking up...so it has Member Priorities, what about the departmental funding requests?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The Department additional requests, is that what you just said? So, we're not taking up the department additional requests that was given to you last week Friday. And some of you included it in your priorities, but it's not something that we're going to be including it in this discussion. So, that'll be...that...that was already submitted and...and given to you for your consideration. Okay?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, if it didn't...if it didn't make the list of the Councilmembers' Priorities, it's not going to be considered?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't like that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because I...I thought we let the departments know that if they had something left out, that they can request it, and it would be part of their request for our consideration, and not necessarily have to be part of our Councilmember Priority request. Because that wasn't explained well for me. Because if I knew that their requests would not be considered unless it was one of the Councilmembers' requests as well, then I would have included...or at least considered their request as part of my request.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...so, you're saying that everything in that letter that we got last week Friday is up for a second bite of the apple and to be included in the budget, what the departments forgot?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Whatever the departments either forgot, or it didn't make it into the budget, or maybe it was something that they realized after the budget...proposed budget was transmitted to Council. Whatever the situation is, I thought it was something that we were going to address separately, and it was not explained that in order for us to consider it, it would have to be one of the Councilmembers' Priority proposals.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That was presented as an option for all of you to include, and it did get...I noticed from, you know, the department...the Members, Councilmembers' requests, it did make some of it into it. So, that was...that was the intent.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Can we put it up for a vote?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can talk about it in a while. So, let us start with the departments, and I will get to this at the end of today. So, Members, at this time...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But we're going to be taking up departments that may have asked for additional funding. If we're going to...we...we can't start taking up the departments until we understand the process fully. And I have an objection to the process, and I asked if we can take it up as a...as a Committee and vote on it for...for us to all understand this process...because it wasn't explained clearly that for us to consider the departments' requests, we would have to make it a priority proposal.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members? Yes. Ms. Paltin and Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I thought...I didn't know, or else I would have made some of them my...my...because I had leftovers, I didn't know. But I don't mind to just vote on it. Like I'm not for all of their requests, but some of them seem kind of important, and I would be okay with just voting on their requests. Like...I mean, Department of Housing, I think, didn't put an increase in electricity. It was super manini, but there's that. I mean, I guess they could get by without the electricity stuff, and some of it is just moving things around that aren't any change, but some of them seem kind of important.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You know what? I'm going to take a recess. Oh, Chair Lee? Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. The...I...I could be wrong, but many of the Members didn't provide offsets. So, you know, if they...they put maybe \$2 million for "X" project, not everybody that I saw let us know where we're going to get that 2 million from.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So, as we started this process for today, I got rid of the "you add/you cut" thing because I could tell by the Members' discussion that that was not something that the Members wanted to do. So, I took that out of my process. So, basically it's...I agree with you. We don't want to increase this budget, you've been saying that over and over...and that to be fiscally responsible. But we're not requiring now to have if you add, you've got to cut that same amount.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, I'm thinking, as we go through the departments, this is where we would identify, you know, all the offsets. So, that...I was kind of hoping...I'm not sure what Member Rawlins-Fernandez wanted to do, but I was thinking, why don't we start with one or two departments so we can get a feel of what we need to do, you know? And...because we're certainly going to have to identify where we're going to get the money from, yeah, for everybody's projects.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. You know what? I'm going to take a short recess just to make sure in terms of what was said, and where we're going to go with this. So, give me until 2:10. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 2:04 p.m.

RECONVENE: 2:18 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Okay. Thanks for that recess, everybody. So, Staff is now passing out the April 12th letter from Administration to us. I will tell you that we received this before your priorities were due on the 17th, right? So, you've had this to look at. But Staff is sending you copies. So, what we're going to do

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is what I just said. This is basically we'll take up department, go through their...go through Bill 60, the pages that they're on...CIP, grants, special purpose revenue, rates and fees, if they have any. And then we'll look at this Department letter of April the 12th, and then we'll go through your priorities. Any questions? Okay, no questions. Okay.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, let's start off...County Clerk. Bill 60--everybody get out Bill 60--and the first Department there is County Clerk. Chair Lee, this is kind of your kuleana. Do you have any adds, or...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I have no adds. I...I think...I...I recommend leaving things as is in this budget for the County Clerk's Office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You have a second? Oh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh wait, Gabe, you have a discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is that the process we're going to vote? Because I have a...I guess, a proposal, or...but it involves another department. So, this department, should I explain it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah, why don't you explain? You're going to give their money to somebody else?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, if you look at the salaries of the OCS, I support the 4 percent increase, but there was huge pay raises for supervisors, the step-ups, they...they...16,000, 15,000, 25,000, 14,000. That's just a few numbers.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Clerks...in the Office of Council Services, they're getting steps.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, he wanted to explain.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- my point is that the Clerks are civil service workers, you can't give them steps, but we could give them retention bonuses or salary supplements. I spoke with Luana Mahi [sic], and they're very interested in doing that. Some of our Clerks are only getting paid \$30,000 full-time. The Clerks are very underpaid, and it's an election year, and they're going to work super hard this year. And just saying that maybe I could propose--I would just like to hear the body's opinion, and it's...I'm just going to ask--if we decided...of the OCS salaries of the supervisors, take half of those, so one supervisor's getting 16,000, let's give them 8,000, and the rest go for the Clerks, give a pot of money for the Clerks, and those clerks, they...we could give it to...dishing them out is like salary supplements or bonuses. So, that was what I was speaking on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're thinking of adjusting all of the salaries for civil service in Clerk's Office? Is that what you were thinking, Gabe? Oh, sorry, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Beg your pardon, say it again?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You were thinking of adjusting the...the civil service salaries in the Clerk's Office by giving them like a monthly stipend?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Like a retention bonus, or a salary supplement is the term that the...the Clerks mentioned.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: To keep them on, you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I just wanted to ask Member Johnson, I think I got a little bit confused when you mentioned Luana Mahi. So, that's OED.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, did I say Luana?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You meant Moana --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Moana Lutey.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Lutey.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Beg your pardon.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: The Clerks...the Clerks, right?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I just wanted to make sure that I heard right. Okay. That's all.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thanks for clearing that up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Did Councilmember Johnson have like a number to propose?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I would just say 50 percent of the step raises for the...for the supervisors of OCS. And I can go down a list of these numbers. There's one supervisor that got 16,000 increase, 15,000 increase.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I meant for the Clerks.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, for the Clerks. I would...you would pool that money. Let's say, for example--just throwing out numbers--let's say if it's \$1,000--I'm just giving an example--that we cut their...their step increases by 50 percent is 1,000. That pool of money goes to the Clerks to decide...to dish out to the individual Clerks on an evenly-squared basis that they could have a retention bonus or salary.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think you need to...we need to deal with these two offices separately. One is civil service, one is not. And the reason why we try to give the OCS Staff as much as we can, to retain them...you know, that they don't have job security as the County Clerk's Offices. So, if you want to give...put monies aside to give bonuses to the County Clerk Staff, that should come as a separate proposal, and not taking away from somebody else's potential salary or...yeah, salary and increases. You know, our OCS Staff is so highly regarded, and...and so...the...the caliber of our Staff is so high that we have to fight to keep them from going to the 9th Floor. So, you know, you have to keep that in mind. Unfortunately, our Staff who is very highly qualified in the Clerk's Office, is subject to civil service laws. So, that makes it more difficult for us to have flexibility with their pays...their salaries. But if you can find money to give them bonuses of some kind, I'm sure all of us would be supportive of that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Howzit, howzit, howzit.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But I...I...you know...go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Sorry, that was my question, what was the number for your bonuses for...for the Clerks?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You don't have a number yet.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: You don't have a number.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Just 50 percent, I don't have a particular number.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: 50.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I will tell you this, is that all of you were given...I appreciate the discussion, first of all, right, because it kind of...a whole layer of discussion that never came up before. But I believe that all of us had opportunities for...to...to give cuts or, you know, priorities or whatever. So, this one is like new, right? This is brand new. It sounds like a good thought, but it needs to be vetted further. And I believe that it --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- this is not the time to have a full-on discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. I...I...I hear the bodies.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm just putting it out there. And I remember in this Chamber --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKERS: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- the Police Chief mentioned that one way he's keeping people on is retention and salary supplements. So...so, if other departments can do it, I'm just trying...trying to help out the Clerks who are making about 36...some of them are making only 36 grand a year. I made my point. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah. Anybody else want to say anything? Because I'm going to then move on.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. I see none. All right. So, anybody, motion to accept the Clerk's bill? Any...no changes, right? Consensus? Okay. Thanks, Gabe, appreciate it.

OFFICE OF COUNCIL SERVICES

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, we're going to take Council Services. And again, Chair Lee, any changes?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(laughing)*. . . I'm not recommending any changes. I meant...I truly meant what I said. We have an incredible Staff. Here's an example right in front of us, Lesley Milner.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know, we're so lucky to have the people we have.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...yes, Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Sorry to interrupt. I did just want to clarify one thing when it comes to some of the larger-appearing pay increases. The FY '24 Council adopted budget only reflects the numbers that were in the adopted budget last June. After that budget was adopted, the Council did make additional changes to some individual salaries, and so I think that's the reason you're seeing a larger pay increase appearance for some people because they were stepped up in the middle of the year. So, the difference between their FY '24 salary and FY '25 salary appears larger because of that mid-year change. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's from me. Okay. Any other questions for Ms. Milner? Okay. So, that...what you explained is the Administration side, yeah? Because we're looking at the...right now we're looking at County...County Council.

MS. MILNER: Yes, Chair. I was referring to the changes you made to County Council OCS Staff salaries last year after the budget was adopted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, what you just said, that you were speaking of when you were in the Budget Office...is that what you just said?

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. So, what I'm saying...if you look at, for example, page 4-3, you'll see some of the salaries are a little bit higher, and it will say in the right, per Resolution 23-143. That was the mid-year salary change for those employees, but that change is not reflected in the FY '24 salary amounts on the left. All you see on the left is the adopted amount.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're talking about the Water Authority, 4-3?

MS. MILNER: No. Page 4-3 of the Budget Details, County Council.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: In my Details, 4-3 is actually...oh, I'm sorry, I thought that was the Water Authority. You're right, it is. Okay. Members, any questions? Any changes? So, in County Council, what you just received was Priority Equipment for Testing and Evaluating IT. Cost is \$5,500. Budget Details is 4-14, from General Fund. Priority number 8 is Mobile Trailer for Displaced West Maui Residency Area Office, which is Tamara's office. Cost is \$250,000. Budget Details, 4-14, General Fund, and program, Council...Council Services Program, and this is...this is your office. So, the question is, as you will see for all departments--so we're not picking on you, Tamara--but we can leave it there 100 percent, or do you want to make a 5 percent, 10 percent, 15, 20 percent cut? And Members, I'm basing this on our...what we have done in the past with especially E/Ps, but it is something similar that I'm going to be talking about for every department. Tamara?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know, it wouldn't have to be any amount of money if they would let Nāpili Noho build me an office, as they proposed, but Wendy Taomoto and some lawyers said no, and so that's the cost of it, you know? So, if we're going to follow these arbitrary laws or whatever, that All Hands and Hearts, or people can't help us out by giving me a place to work, then we got to pay for it, you know? There's laws --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I guess. I'm not a lawyer, but the Administration said that they cannot build me an office. And so then --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I thought they said they were.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- we have to pay for it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I thought they said they were --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's just the way it is.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- going to build you an office. It's come up. The Mayor mentioned it, Josiah mentioned it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, they were going to build it for me for free, but they said you can't do that. So, then we have to pay for it. I mean it --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- it's not right, I guess, to have volunteers build an office for the County, which I kind of agree with, but if that's the case, then we have to pay for it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if you want to have free labor and nonprofits build it, then we don't even need this, but I mean, it's one or the other.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, that's a discussion on new equipment. Members, I guess we're keeping it 100 percent, right? Okay. And we've documented the story now twice, right? Because that's what she said when Josiah was here. All right, Members, so we'll leave this new equipment in. This Department, Council Services, does not have CIP, does not have grants, special purpose revenues, no rates and fees, and no Members' Priorities. And in...if you look at the April 12th letter, there's nothing to do with Council Services. So, consensus?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Consensus.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we're all good with this? Do we need to vote, or is this okay to say consensus? Okay. Consensus. So, Office of Council Services is good, and it's with Tamara Paltin's equipment.

OFFICE OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next is County Auditor. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I really have no changes to make. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. So, it is page 2 of the Budget Bill. No CIPs, no grants, no special revenue, no rates and fees, nothing in Members' Priorities. Members, consensus? Wait, let me see what's in...oh, Administration didn't have anything regarding...yeah. There's nothing in here regarding Auditor. So, Members, consensus? Are we all okay? Okay. Consensus?

COUNCILMEMBERS: Consensus.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. All right.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now we have Agriculture. So, Department of Agriculture is on fee management and other functions. The first department that we're taking up, Ms. Milner, is Department of Agriculture. And Department of Agriculture is on page 2 and 3, has no CIPs, has no Appendix A grants, has no special purpose revenues. And if you look at Maui County Agriculture Revolving Fund, which is...did you guys pass that out? You did? Okay. So, by reviewing the budget, we noticed that the fees for the Kula Ag Park was not listed in the Appendix A, Part II, Special Revenue Purpose...Purpose Revenues. The County of Maui Agriculture Parks Revolving Fund is not in the bill. So, what Kasie is passing out is what to include. So...support...what you just received is new equipment calculations, and it's Kula Ag Park Field Office, 20-foot shipping container for office, which is 30,000; 20-foot shipping container for storage, 7,500; delivery of containers, 1,500; shade structure, 10,000; off-grid solar kit, 10,000; 250-gallon water storage tank, 2,500; riding mower for Kula Ag Park, two SUVs, and that total is \$241 and...241.5...241.5. Member Paltin, new equipment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I have seven proposed cuts, for a total of 3,106,000. Can I make a motion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Should I do it one at a time, the seven?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, I think...have we seen your...have we seen your cuts? One at a time? Okay. One at a time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I sent them in, and I think the Staff was going to upload it, but...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, is it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, my...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did you all get it, Members? Tamara's cuts...Tamara's proposed cuts.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, apologies.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You can make a motion, we can find it later.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. We're waiting for you to bring it up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. My first cut would be in the Budget Bill, a.(1) in B, Operations and Equipment, Professional Services. I move to decrease Professional Services by 100,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We had the same one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, oh, oh, oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We didn't collaborate, we were just...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Alice's has...Alice has two, huh?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Are we in Ag?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, Ag. Okay. Wait, let's see what else I've been...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It would be on page 1-5 of your Budget Bill...I mean, your Budget Details, subject-object and index code would be 918223B-6132. Professional Services under a.(1)B, reduce it by 100,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I fully support this. I had the exact same thing. I think having the...this is a savings of \$200,000, and I think this is something that the Department of Agriculture can do without. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, mine is 100,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I have reduce 100,000, the savings of 200.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Why would it be a savings of 200?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's the same one you . . . *(inaudible)*. . . talking about, right?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Because the 300,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh...oh, so 200 would be leftover. Yeah, 200 would be left over.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: You submitted this to us in writing so everybody can follow you?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did submit it in writing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just added on Finance --

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- as a separate one. Huh?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. She's...James is emailing it to all of you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, Tamara's. So, we can follow you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do you want me to go over all the cuts before we make a decision on any one cut, or...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, let's...let's get the paper. Let's get the...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: One at a time. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Let's get the email. We can do one at a time, and then we can go to Chair Lee, and then I have some.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, we're going to one at a time, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, Tamara...yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, like Chair Lee said, this will leave them with still 200,000 for Professional Services.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay, Members, did you get Tamara's cuts?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You got it? Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee, because you have the same thing. Okay. Discussion? Gabe Johnson? Member . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I just have a quick question. If...if I'm reading this right, under Professional Services, there is some funding for Coconut Rhino Beetle and other invasive species campaigns that's involved in here. I would hate for that cut to affect that, but I do see some things, like for grant workshops, Federal funding assistance, development of programs that increase ag and marketing...like the marketing, I would...I would agree, but some of this stuff is really important. So, can...can we separate, or how do you...what's the 100K going to affect?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For me...so, sorry, I made a wrong...it's 473,000 will be left under Professional Services. And for me, doing it this way, and it's like that's the intention, but realistically, I'm cutting it from the Budget Bill, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Program, Operations and Equipment. So, my intent is to take it from Professional Services, but realistically, the way the Budget Bill is written, it'll just take 100,000 out, and they can choose anywhere of that 1,249,145 is my understanding that they don't need it. But that would be the intent, for the 100,000 to come from Professional Services; is that correct, Ms. Milner?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, when we do the updated budget, it would reflect the 100,000 cut to Professional Services, but at the end of the day, because of the way the B and C accounts are, if they needed to use money from Travel for Professional Services, that's an allowable use.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because they can move it around in that category themselves. So, that would be my intent. But if they don't like it and they prioritize it, then they could do that. But that's the intent for that cut would be 100,000 from Professional Services, leaving 473,000 behind.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yes, Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair, I'm okay with letting the departments decide where they can cut the 100,000. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other comments? Okay. If not, all in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Keani has her hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Question for our budget...or Acting Budget Director Milner. Is any of this funding for...required for any matching grants? Just wanted to make sure.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Like the CRB.

MS. MILNER: Yeah. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. We don't have any Federal grants, or any grants that require matching under Department of Agriculture right now, so this cut would not impact any matching funds.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Opposed? Nay? Okay. It looks like nine "ayes," right?

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next one would be in the same category, but specifically a decrease of 20,000 under the Advertisement subject-object index code 918223B-6101, which would leave them with 30,000.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Page what?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Huh?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What page?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, page 1-5 under Advertisement.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And If I get a second, I can explain.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, my...my rationale would be decrease 20,000 in Advertisement in favor of word-of-mouth and other free advertising methods available like social media...you know, farmers talk to each other. So, it would leave a balance of 30,000 in that category. And the Fiscal Year '23 actual amounts spent in the Advertising category was 4,135, so even if they were to times that by like seven, 30,000 should cover it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other discussion, Members? Okay. All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine "ayes," no opposition.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Oh, eight “ayes.”

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Motion...so Nohe is online.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, Member U'u-Hodgins is online, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez is online. Hello. Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next motion would be under...in the Budget Bill, it would be under B1A(2)(i), which is Agricultural [*sic*] Operations, Infrastructure, and Education, and in your Budget Details, it would be page 1-8. Proposing a 20 percent decrease to 426,000, and that is subject-object index code 923018B-6317. And if I get a second, I'll...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I...I cut a number of non-specified grants to any entity about 20 percent, and my rationale was that when the Department of Ag came before us, it sounded as though they're so busy and consumed with the work of giving out grants to the farmers that they're not able to bring in Federal or State or outside money. And that was one of the big impetus of creating the Department of Ag. And so, if we need to pull back on giving out County money so that we can bring in . . .(*timer sounds*). . . more Federal money, that was my rationale for cutting about four grants 20 percent.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Chair Lee and Tamara Paltin, you're in sync. So, if no other discussion, all in favor say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No, no. Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Aye.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, we got --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I had a question.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez? She has a question before we vote.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The question is for Member Paltin. What line item? Is that the Agriculture Ops, Infrastructure, is that the top of page 1-8 for 2.13? Is that where you're taking it from?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 2.158.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What? Page 1-8.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're looking at the...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, it's the one that says Agricultural Ops, Infrastructure, Education. 2,130,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And how much are you proposing to reduce it by?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 426...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 426,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: 426.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions regarding that? Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I...I know it's...I...I...I can't...I can't support it because we got to give our farmers grants, and I...if it's our problem we should fix it, and the way we should fix it is not by cutting out less grantees. So, I would hope that the Department gets better as time goes on with working with these grants, and MEO grants, and all that...all of this money. They should all be working together, but I don't...I don't think that's...I just can't support it. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I agree with Member Paltin that more effort should be made to gain funding, you know, get new grants. Because if you primarily focus on giving out grants, that's not sustainable. So, for the overall health of the industry

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and future farmers, we need more funding. So, that's the reason why I think taking this cut would help that...actually help that. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. When we first decided that we needed the Department of Ag, it was because the farmers and the ranchers came and said, hey, we need help applying for grants. Help us to do this. So, the intent was to get a department to help them, and to understand how to write grants if they had to do it themselves, but it was to go look for grants other places so that we don't have to use all of our County dollars. That my understanding of the creation of the Ag. So, I think Member Sinenci can help reiterate that memory.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. He's nodding his head. Okay. Members, you're ready to vote? This is roll call vote. Megan, please.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Sorry.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

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MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, there are six “ayes,” three “noes,” none excused. The motion passes.

VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Kama, and Councilmembers Cook, Lee, Paltin, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: Councilmembers Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, and Sinenci.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next proposal is under the same, but (v), proposing a 20 percent decrease of \$20,000 for Lāna‘i Agriculture.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second. Discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Similar situation where if we’re spending so much time giving out money, we’re not spending that time going after funding to bring into the County.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Chair Lee, you have anything to add?

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Nothing. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other discussion? Seeing...okay, I thought so. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I would be concerned cutting that, but maybe we could look at nonfood...the nonfood ag, and cut that instead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's also on my list.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's the seventh cut.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You're going really fast, Councilmember Paltin. You're cutting a lot. I mean, I'm willing...this is a Department that's new, and we're trying to get it up on its feet. And I just...I mean, I...I represent one of the most underserved communities in...in the distr...in the County, and we're a County that's underserved within the State. I just can't...I can't...I can't see us cutting another...one of the most underserved communities in our County. So, that's my take. And I...I might...I might support another cut in the flower...sort of the nonfood section, but not for Lānaʻi and Molokai. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, any other discussion? Is it roll call vote? It is, yeah. Okay. Go ahead, Megan.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's also a decrease from 3 million to 500,000, a decrease of 2.5 mil. And if that was a second, I can explain.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, that was a second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, kind of like Ms. Ness mentioned, this was a COVID-era program that's been running for the past three years or so. And we've given out plenty of microgrants, so much that we've even duplicated them about maybe 36 times. Some of the folks that we've given the microgrants to, it seems, are no longer in agriculture, and so, I'm just suggesting a pause to, you know, not stop giving money. I'm leaving half a million in there, and it looks like it would be under the Agricultural Department to give out, so that could offset the 426,000 in the microgrant form. But I really think that we need to relook at this program, and make sure that we're giving it to farmers that, you know, are in a hardship position to get these equipment or whatever it is that they're doing the 25 grand with, and that they're going to be farmers in the long-term. If we look at what Maui Hub did, they took the seed money we gave them, and they were able to create a sustainable model. When I see similar applicants coming back for money again, and money again, and I'm not sure, you know, that they're still...that all the folks are still in ag. Like I looked up one of the websites, it looked like a Japan-focused B&B. And I looked up another website, and it looked like now they're not doing agriculture, they're doing childcare. And so, it's just a moment to...you know, I represent one of the districts where 12,000 people went homeless overnight. So, I'm not trying to raise taxes, I'm...I'm just trying to get money for housing, basically. And so, that's...that's my discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And I mean I...and I appreciate Member Paltin's comments, and I would be supportive. And...and I can, in the interim, kind of look up some of those. I kind of would want to see like just how the program has been working, and if we are...if we do see any repeats. We did...and part of me speaking possibly in support is because Senator...our congressional leaders, Mazie Hirono, she had some...she's been promoting a lot of the agriculture. And again, as Member...Pro Tem Kama has said, there's a lot of Federal fundings that she's been working for, for agriculture. So, I can support the Department looking for, you know, a few of these really big agricultural Federal grants to...to really put in the infrastructure for...so that we can truly be sustainable at the Department of Agriculture, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well said. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. First off, young farmers need this. As you all know, our farmers is an aging workforce. This grant was prioritizing women and Hawaiian farmers. And I know, like what Councilmember Paltin said,

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this was a COVID program that was birthed during COVID times, but since COVID, have Hawaiians gotten back on the land? Have Hawaiians...have women got better funding to start their businesses up? I haven't seen it. I think there's still systemic problems, and this is a way we fix the system. We subsidize, we help those folks who need it the most. This is not money going to Bayer or Monsanto or to large...large corporations. This is going to small farmers that...and these grants prioritize Hawaiian and women farmers. I speak of economic diversification all the time. We want to get off the mother's milk known as tourism, and farming is a great way to get you...to start with diversification. And also, it's a very low-barrier grant. I've seen a lot of people take pictures of the new equipment they bought, and they put it up all over social media, and it's...it's not...it's actually working. So, please, Members, this is one that...I'm bothered about it, and I can't abide by it. I really...it really does not...there's other places to cut. That's all I can say. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. So, the condition that I...I put on it when, you know, I worked with Ms. Ness and...and the other farmers in introducing this during the pandemic, I followed up with MEO for the reports that were required at the end of each fiscal year. And Member Paltin isn't wrong. You know, I finally got most of the reports back, and there were a number--I...I think I counted like 26 or so duplicates--and I have been getting complaints of women homesteaders, women-owned businesses, that were not getting the grants on Molokai. And I...I assumed that...you know, that like the condition stated, if there were any applicants that never received funding for one year, that those would be given priority over those that did receive it in previous years, and that...that didn't happen. There...there were a number that did receive in FY '21, and then again in FY '23. And the...the reporting hasn't been that great. But I...I do agree with Member Johnson that for a good number, it really did make a difference because it's a lot more than what the State was offering, which is like \$5,000, which, you know, doesn't really do anything. So, I...I'm willing to compromise to a million instead of 500,000 for this year, and I can...I can support a cut of 2 million. And...and I...I would really like and hope that our Department of Ag would be able to manage this in-house because I understand that some of the management, you know, it doesn't really agree with the condition that we...we supported for this grant, you know, giving, you know, equity to Lānaʻi, Hāna, and Molokai women-owned farms, you know, preference to kānaka-owned farms, and that the report doesn't show that, which is what I asked for. So, yeah, that...that would be my counterproposal, I guess. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, your...if I understand this correctly, your amendment would be that this would not be for a reduction of 2 million, but you want it to be for a million?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. Instead of 2.5, I think she wanted to reduce it to 2 million, to leave 1 million --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 1 million.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- behind, so that her amendment would be to cut 2 million instead of 2.5 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Is there a second? Okay. Motion made by Member Rawlins-Fernandez, seconded by Member Kama. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't have anything more to say.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama, as the seconder.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I think it's a good, happy medium and compromise.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Johnson, you had your hand up, right?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Just for discussion. We might not like it, but our farmers are depending upon our subsidies. Maui Hub is a market, not necessarily a farm. Federally large farmers that export and use toxic chemicals get billions of dollars in subsidy, and our small farmers need these small subsidies to complete...to compete with them, and provide a local healthy...provide food for our local economy.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, the motion on the floor is for this to then be a million-dollar grant instead of the 3 million? Okay. Any other...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We would have to vote on the amendment --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and then the main motion as amended.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, yes. Okay. Members, vote on the amendment, which is to...now it would be a reduction and...of 2 million and 1 million left, not 500. Okay. All in favor, raise your hand...oh, is this a...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Wait. Chair, can I ask a quick question before we vote? Sorry.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure, sure.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Are we also making a motion to remove MEO from the title as well? Was that included in? Okay. I just wanted to be clear.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That was part of the first main motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so we'll take it.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the amendment...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Is it included in the second one? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The amendment didn't change that. It just added back 500,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We got it.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci, you have a comment?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I...I also had a clarification of Member Rawlins-Fernandez when she mentioned that...are we taking off some of the qualifications and letting the Department decide? Was that one of your speaking points?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is your question whether the condition that we had on it previously would continue?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's not in the motion, but I should have added it, and I...I can later.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: A friendly amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But that's not...oh, okay. I'll friendly amend myself...if Member Kama doesn't have any objections to adding the equity

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for Lānaʻi, Molokai, Hāna, and preference to farms that did not receive the grant in a previous year...to women-owned, to kānaka-owned farms, and farms that are less than 12-acre aggregate.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: James, you got that? Go ahead. Okay. Okay. Members, so that's going to be a friendly amendment, I guess, that we're adding on to that, as well as a decrease to 1 million. Okay? Do we need a...oh, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I just had a question for Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Did you check with the Department of Agriculture that they would be willing to take this on?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I did. I believe they're not ready to take this on in-house, but by removing MEO--and I'm grateful to MEO for managing the grant, which is something that's, you know, a little outside of their wheelhouse, but they were willing to do it, and I appreciate them doing it--but by removing MEO, it opens it up to other organizations to...to manage it as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, the Department wouldn't be willing to manage it?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: My understanding is they don't have the capacity just yet, but I don't know if by reducing it to 1 million from 3 million, if that would be more manageable. I...I didn't ask them that specific question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Or maybe OED, I guess, if not other someone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Members, ready for the vote for the amendment? All...let's do a voice vote. Roll call? Roll call. Go ahead, Megan.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Back to the main motion as amended. So, we're looking at a \$2 million grant, and I guess Keani rewrote the...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: A \$1 million grant with a --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- \$2 million cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: \$1 million grant and rewrote the criteria. Do we need to say what it is? Kasie and James, did you get that? You got it? Okay. Okay. Is this...okay, let's...let's do a roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. This is the new proposed grant from the Department. I think from 100,000 to 80,000, I'm willing to see, you know, what...what can happen. I think when we had the Department before us, I did ask some questions about how they envision this funding being used, and I think it's just still new. And as we talked about, we want to dedicate this budget to the recovery of Lahaina, and I'm willing to, you know, put my money where my mouth is. So, I...I support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Okay. Members, any other comments? If not, we'll vote. Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair, real quick.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Sorry, I didn't see you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sorry. For Sunshine purposes, Jade Rojas-Letisi just walked in, as well as three...three minors. So, I don't have any comments to our motion on the floor, but I just wanted to let you know that the situation in my room...my office has now changed. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good. Sounds like your kids are there...unnamed people are there. All right. So, Members, is this a roll call vote, or are we...we'll have to wait for Member Johnson. Roll call? Okay. Megan, roll call vote.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, there are eight “ayes,” one “no,” and zero excused. The motion passes.

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

NOES: Councilmember Johnson.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My last one for this section would be item (xi) in the Budget Bill on page 3, and in the Budget Details, page 1-8, Non-Food Agriculture, decrease of 20,000. That would be subject-object code 923021B-6317. And the reasoning would be the same as the previous cuts.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, I jumped the gun...reasoning, same as the last one.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I would say, I think I'm definitely supportive of agriculture. This is a...we're basically going through the budget. We're not killing anything, we're cutting it back and staying supportive. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I...I...I appreciate the intent, but I can't support this because--I'll just give you a specific example. On Lāna'i, there is no flower farmers, and we have to...we get...we...there's a lot of people who want to practice lei-making, and there's no farmers to do it. So, you see all of those leis that aren't made here being brought here. And I just...I'm...I'm really sorry. I can't support any more cuts to our farmer community. That's all. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other comments? Roll call. I don't see any other hands, so roll call. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: This is for the Non-Food Ag grants?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Non-Food Ag, decrease 20,000.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Did we reduce the livestock grants too?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did not personally.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, just the --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just selected some of them. If...I...I mean, if you want to know why, I can say, but that's not...that's not part of this motion, and it hasn't been done yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for the clarification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. How much was the cut again?
...*(inaudible)*...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 20,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 20,000 out of a total of 100,000.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: ...*(inaudible)*... Okay. All right. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. And no other discussion? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: One more. So, when I asked the Department, like, what they envision non-food agriculture being, they also talked about it being for native nurseries. So, if we're talking about preserving...you know, like maximizing aquifer recharge with 'ōhi'a and koa, you know, helping to reduce some of those invasive grazing grass with, like native shrubs and trees. This is kind of what I imagine they had intended with the native nurseries. So, just throwing that out there for others' consideration, you know, if we're going to be reducing this. I...again, this is a new grant. I could be supportive of reducing it by 20 percent and see what organizations receive the grant in its first year, and then next year, consider increasing it by that 20 percent after seeing, you know, like the...the fruits of this...this grant. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Member...Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Part of my discussion too, is that this year in particular, because of the entirety of the properties in the burn zone, not...even if the houses were still standing, due to the lack of access...you know, if the still-standing houses go back into the RPT count, that's about 10 million plus, you know, and then if people are able to build their houses. So, that's just a discussion of why I went severe this time, in realization that, you know, usually Lahaina is the number one revenue generator, and this year we're number two, and it's a big decrease because we exempted all of the properties that people didn't have access to. So, I'm thinking that as people get access back to their properties, the cuts next year won't need to be so severe as this year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Any other comments? Seeing none. Roll call vote.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm complete with all the cuts that I had on my sheet for Ag. I did...personally be open to taking up the Mayor's increase, but whatever you say...I mean, whenever that time comes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll take up the April 12th letter after. Anybody else have any Ag amendments? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'll move to reduce the 100,000 grant for livestock by 20 percent as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I need a second.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second, Chair Lee.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: Could Staff just get clarification? We do see the line item Molokai Livestock Cooperative, but it's only in the amount of \$20,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The (vi) one.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's the one that says livestock --

MR. KRUEGER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- not Molokai Livestock.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, it's (ix) [sic], I guess, yeah? It's (ix). Okay. All right. So, it's 20,000 from Roman numeral (ix)?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, (vi). (vi).

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it's (vi). So, it's (vi).

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: VI, sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Okay. Okay. Members, it is (vi), Roman numeral (vi), top of page 3. Any discussion? Okay. Is this a roll call vote, or is this a...are we going to vote? Roll call vote, Mister...Member Johnson? It is? Okay. Roll call, please.

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MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, there are eight "ayes," one "no," zero excused. The motion passes.

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

NOES: Councilmember Johnson.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Can I go back to the MEO item number...what is it, (vii)...(ix) [sic]? MEO, did we delete the word MEO from that? As a friendly?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Um-hum.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, friendly amendment, that was done. All right. Anybody else have any other...Chair Lee, are you raising your hand?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No. Nothing for Agriculture.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- anybody? Member Rawlins-Fernandez? Oh, U‘u-Hodgins. Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I think you mean me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Hi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U‘u-Hodgins? Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. I move to reduce motor vehicles by \$50,000, leaving them \$50,000 on page 1-9, Motor Vehicles, 7040.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is there a second? Second, Member Cook. Go ahead. Motion made by Member U'u-Hodgins, second by Member Cook. Discussion. Two SUVs.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Yeah. They want to buy two SUVs, I'm hoping they can buy one SUV this year. And again, we can reprioritize everything, and they can organize their grant visits and their other business-related errands and share one car with their Department for now. And then we can see how we...how they do going forward.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discussion? Seeing none. All in favor...or is this a roll call vote? Is this a roll call vote? Member Johnson? Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm sorry, which...is that on page 1-9, two midsize SUVs?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. 1-9, two midsize SUVs. The total cost that they're asking for is \$100,000 for two vehicles, so just giving them one vehicle for now.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that clarification. I...I know that the Director lives on Molokai. I...I don't know if she has two vehicles, so I...I can be supportive, but I may make a motion later if I find out from the Director that that's part of the rationale behind it. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, no other discussion? All in favor...are we doing roll call vote? No? Okay. All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is this nine "ayes?" Okay. Nine "ayes." Motion...Tamara, are you voting? Yeah? Okay. Nine "ayes," motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...that. So, I...can...can I do some now, with your permission? All right. So, these are on vacancies and expansion positions. So, Agriculture Program vacancies, I would like to recommend that we look at the vacancies, expansion positions, and to set aside 25 percent to Countywide. And last year, what we did was we took a percentage. Do we know what percentage we did last year? It was Nohe, that we were doing percentages. Remember, was your percentage 25 or 50 or...was something.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: We took the tiniest percent. I want to say it was like 3 or something, but...but I understand your point. It was a super tiny amount. Now that I know how to cut that funding--hui, I’m in a meeting, quiet--it might be easier for us to figure out how to move forward. . . .(laughing). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(laughing). . . Okay. So, Members, what I’m recommending is that we look at--did we pass out these sheets to everybody? Yeah, okay. So, we look at either a 10 percent, 25 percent, or 50 percent cut to vacant and expansion...expansion positions. And different from last year, what I’m recommending is that we put 25 percent in Countywide, which means if you’re a department, and if you needed to fill some positions, that we--we’re not taking away the positions, but it...we took away some funding--but if you needed to fill a position, you needed to have some funding, it’s going to be in Countywide. And we’ll take that all up once we figure out where we are. If you like this concept, we’ll take it up on Friday. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to clarify what your proposal is, is...it’s not an actual cut in that case, it’s just moving the money and...

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's cuts. Because it's either going to be a 10 percent cut or 25. I'm just leaving...you know, having that all out there, 25 percent...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I thought you had said you wanted to move it to Countywide.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And...and 25 would go...of that would go to Countywide. So, if we're going to reduce 50 percent of that total, then 25 percent would go to Countywide, so that the Department can go there and have some funding to fill positions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, only if we...only if we cut 50 percent --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- then 25 percent would go to Countywide.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: To Countywide. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But if we cut only 25 percent, it's just a cut?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Got it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, in other words, on the sheet that I gave you, right, the program...if it's 100 percent cut, it's \$120,360, right? And...but if you look one up, for 50 percent, it will be to cut \$60,180, and then we move to Countywide \$30,090, right? You see that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, basically you're giving us the option of which of your proposals to move for?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. So...because you cannot make a motion.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm trying to encourage you, Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: She don't know how.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, just kidding.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, encourage me. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Just kidding.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All right. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...I mean, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you, Chair. You know, at first glance, that sounds good, but what we're trying to do is...although we may cut a Department, wherever we can give them flexibility, we want to give them flexibility. And once you give half of what they were going to get to Countywide, they may never see it again. That's the problem. So, personally, I...I feel if you want to cut them 25 percent or whatever--let's say 25 percent--let's just leave it at that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And then the rest stays with them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: See? Because...yeah, you know, we want to help them as much as possible, and helping them would be giving them flexibility. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Here's a proposal. We could cut them roughly 10 percent, but then give it back to them in the Mayor's proposed increase, and then it'll all work out.

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because the Mayor's proposed increase is about 11,372, and the 10 percent would be about 12,036, and I don't think we're going to do the math on that because it's like less than \$1,000 or so. But I...I do have proposed cuts for departments that have had large differences in their proposed and their actual vacancies or salaries. But to me, Director Arce is one of the most quick-study, or her Department has been the most quick-study of getting positions described and through the process for having just started. Like not trying to throw shade on other departments, but there's certain ones that have been vacant for five years after we gave them the expansion position money. So, I mean, to me, I want to kind of reward that kind of thing. Like if you are getting positions described and hiring them, I'm not going to touch your...your money

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because you've been showing that you can do it, you can fulfill it. Whereas, if year after year after year we're giving you this money, and they're like...even after we do the expansion position and it's not described, and then they come back asking for a full year's salary, and then the next year it's still not described, for me personally, there's going to be a penalty. But if you're...like I...I publicly said, Director Arce has kind of got this thing down. Like I did not expect her to fill the positions, I did not expect her to describe the positions, and she did. So, I don't want to...I'm kind of a performance-based cutter, I guess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, what are you proposing?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I'll second the 10 percent for exchange of the Mayor's expansion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. So, I mean, if we do a 10 percent cut and then take into consideration the Mayor's proposed increase, then it's revenue-neutral.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Was speaking with OCS Staff earlier. The Salary Commission will not be taking up the proposed increases until later in May. So, generally, they reminded me, we did not add those salary increases until first reading last year. We waited until the Salary Commission made a determination. So, I think at this time, no action is needed, and once the Salary Commission has their May meeting, we can work with the actual numbers that they adopt.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I see what you're...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do they have quorum?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

MS. MILNER: I'll check with Cory. I believe they still can maintain quorum. I think they all got their Ethics forms in, but I'll confirm that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Because if they don't have quorum, and they don't have a Board of Ethics to review their Ethics disclosures, then the May thing might not happen, and then boom, boom, boom. Okay. Got it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I see what you're talking about. You're talking about the pay increases for the Director and the Deputy when you talk about the Mayor's proposal. Okay. So, right now, what's on the floor is...okay. Chair Lee?

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, Lesley, what you're saying is that we should wait until you come down with an amendment?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. Either until the Salary Commission has met and made a determination, if that happens before second reading, or we will come down with an amendment. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Words of wisdom is that we're going to take up all the salaries of the directors and deputies that are impacted by the Salary Commission. Because...couple things, right? We don't even know if they have quorum. I mean, people that we appointed were told not to show up for all the commissions, not only the Salary Commission, so there's an issue. So, we're not going to take up any of those until the very end. Very end means when? You mean the end of today or end of first reading?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: For the ones that we're just trying to get clarification on, we can probably discuss on...on Friday. But the ones that we need to wait for the Salary Commission to make a determination on will probably need to wait until potentially first reading.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Department of Ag is...what is it?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: This would be at first reading, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. All right. I think that's fair, right? Because we all know what's happening in the background. So, at this time, right now, what we have on the floor is the 10 percent cutback for expansion positions, or the E/Ps, correct? Okay. Anybody make a motion for 10 percent cut of vacant and expansion positions, which is \$12,036? Did we have a motion? Oh, we did have a motion.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To clarify, my motion was to take up the two together, the Mayor's proposed and the decrease. But if we're not taking that up until first reading, then I...I don't have anything to motion. I mean, I'm not saying anyone else can or cannot, but I don't have any.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. All right. So, Members, you want to take this up at first reading? Kasie and James? Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: So...so, Chair, on our end, we'll...we'll just monitor the Salary Commission. And after we know what they're doing as it relates to these salaries, we can --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. KRUEGER: -- touch base with you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Chair Lee, it's going to be...your meeting, we'll be doing BFED meeting...BFED items. Okay. So, that is on the E/Ps for Ag. And I also had one thing got taken up by Member U'u-Hodgins, which is the two SUVs for equipment, two new equipment conditions. So...huh?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. Oh, we did? Oh, we did. Okay. Sorry. Thank you. Member...Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, I'm assuming we're leaving Agriculture?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Wait...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, can somebody add up everything so that we have a running total --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Wait.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- of how we're doing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Before we...before we leave Agriculture, I think we said we would take up the April 12th letter, which is a letter from the Administration, which has things on Agriculture, and see what you want to do on that, as well as there's some conditions from the Members. So, that would be the next steps, okay? So, you see the April 12th letter? Agriculture...oh, wait, this is Salary Commission, which is the...we're not going to take it up. Yeah, we just had. So, this is Salary Commission. And the other item, the number third *[sic]* item is really a typo, I think. And it is...if you look on page 3...oh, on page 2, and item number 4, it says Hawai'i Farmers United Union. And we all know it should be Hawai'i Farmers Union United, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I move to amend Hawai'i Farmers United Union to be replaced with Hawai'i Farmers Union United.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I need a second.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second. Okay. I think this is all in favor say aye, right? All in favor say "aye."

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COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct the spelling. Member Rawlins-Fernandez? Okay. Member U‘u-Hodgins, you’re fine, yeah?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U‘u-Hodgins? She cannot hear me. Oh, you’re fine.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct the spelling.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: -- for the Members’ information, on those ones that are just like correcting a name, we can do those nonsubstantively --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: -- so you don’t need to make the motions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we're...we're done with Agriculture. We're done with Agriculture. Okay. Now, conditions.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Department of Ag is a small department, and at the rate that we're going, it's not looking too good for us today to get to Finance. I have a flight that was at 6:30 that was just moved to 8:15, so I will need to leave to jump on my flight. But if Members did ask questions about an item that they're proposing to cut, like the vehicle--I went and looked back at the Department's questions, and I...I did find that Member U'u-Hodgins did ask about the purpose of the two vehicles, and it is explained in the letter. If...if Members would be able to reference that in the Departmental Q&A, I think that might be helpful, and then perhaps, you know, we can move a little quicker. Because then I had reluctance in...in reducing the vehicle because I...I didn't know, you know, what it was being used for. I didn't memorize that. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- yeah, that would be helpful.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that means you have to leave this meeting at what time, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Maybe like an hour and a half before.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Good.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But I'm hoping it's not going to take that long to get to Finance.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I hope so. Okay. So, I thought these discussions...okay. Now we have conditions, and conditions from Member Rawlins-Fernandez, which we took care of yours, I think.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I did mine already.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. And then for mine, I am requesting to condition Department of Ag, Grants and Disbursements for Agriculture Promotion, add under (i), Agriculture, Operation, Infrastructure, Education, the following condition, up to 473,000 must be the...for the Maui County Farm Bureau. And the Maui County Farm Bureau, which used to be a line item in the Mayor's Budget and was taken

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off, I don't know, maybe three years ago. But Maui County Farm Bureau basically is asking to put them back in the budget because it expedites them processing their grants, is what they told me. And they...they actually...where is their sheet? Sorry about that. They actually are a umbrella, if I could use that word, for...for other ag organizations, and therefore, help. I'm trying to look for their sheet. Sorry about that. Oh, here it is. So, the Maui County Farm Bureau, they actually were asking for Agriculture in the Classroom; Grown on Maui program; Maui Ag Fest, which is a kind of big one; Maui 4-H Livestock Fair; membership education and professional development; marketing PR coordinator helps them do those program. They do a monthly eNews, website, social media, marketing services, and the total is what I just said. . . .(timer sounds). . . Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I'm not unsupportive. I just had a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Did they not get to the Mayor in a timely manner, or did the...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. From what they said--because I asked them, did you --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I figured you would.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- talk to the Department.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, talk to the Department. And they said that in the past, we took them out of the budget. So, they were kind of following the...what they've experienced over, I think it's like two years ago...yeah. And then we...last year, we put Hawai'i Farmers Union United back in. They still stayed off. But this year, they're asking to be put back in. So, not out of...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They just were going off of the same process in previous...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, the same process that they were used to.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Although we're doing a new process every year, it seems.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, and they actually --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- have had really good experience working with the Department of Ag. So, I was glad to hear that. And they have, you know, their commodities that they work with. And so, I'm...I'm grateful to see this happen.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, it just was a process misunderstanding kind of thing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Got it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: How much...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I guess I can't make the motion, but...yes --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: How much was --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- in that agriculture promotion again?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 473. Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And the total. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Total is...473 is their total ask. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And...and how much in the total...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, Ms. Milner.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. After the earlier cut of 426,000, the remaining balance is 1,704,000.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, I need a motion.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So...so, I move.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Motion made by Member Kama, second by Chair Lee. Any discussion?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, what? Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Question for Ms. Milner. Okay. So, I...I know when we combined all the ag grants together--I don't know, it was like two years ago or something--I...I don't remember how much the Farm Bureau is getting, but with the...the reduction of 426,000 from the 2.13 million, and now leaving 1,704,000, do you...do you know which other organizations were relying on that 2.13 million for funding, aside from the Farm Bureau? Because I'm assuming there's going to be orgs that aren't going to get funding now with the 20 percent reduction, and with the condition...proposed condition of 473,000 for Farm Bureau.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. It's my understanding that this is a new category. Last year, we had the agricultural promotion education line item, and they're trying to make it a little more all-inclusive this year, but I am checking with the Department to see if they might know some of the departments. I'm also going to look, that may have been in one of their response letters. I will confirm.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any more discussion? Seeing none. Is this a voice vote or...yeah? Okay. All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, what answer are you looking for...Member Johnson. Huh? Oh, well, let's see. Are you looking for the response? Sorry about that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If the question was number 12 on, I think, AG-2, please provide a side-by-side comparison of your approved Fiscal Year 2024 grants and

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your proposed Fiscal Year 2025 grants with necessary explanations describing how they relate to each other. For example, FY '24 budgeted funds for Kula Ag Park, Ag Education and Apprenticeship, Agricultural Promotion Technology. The FY '25 Budget does not include these line items, but does include 2.13 mil designated for Ag Operations, Infrastructure, Education, which may be intended to cover all three of the Fiscal Year 2024 grants. This response is similar to our response on March 20, 2024, BFED-79. The 2.13 million is still designated for Agricultural Operations, Infrastructure, Education. Based on our grants team developing competitive funding buckets based on the feedback and requests of previous grantees, producers, farmers, ranchers, and community members, specifically the agricultural operations funding bucket, which also includes funds related to agricultural promotion and agricultural education, covers broad-based agricultural programs that encompass all forms of operational support, promotion of agricultural industry, and education-related projects and proposals, enhancing the growth and future agricultural objectives. So, I guess my interpretation of that is if they were funded last year through that, these would likely be funded again. We're just kind of line-iteming it, would be my interpretation, but...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, and I think that was...oh, if I could, actually, that was what was happening by their practice. Oh, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: On page 16 of that same correspondence, question number 3.a., will the 2.13 million for Agricultural Operations, Infrastructure, Education in FY 2025 assist farmers, rangers, and flower growers for the Maui County Farm Bureau? Yes, the grants are open competitively for anyone to apply. The way that the wri...that question is written, it says for Maui County Farm Bureau. I don't understand what that means. Does that mean the 2.13 million was under the Maui County Farm Bureau?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And it was competitive under their management? I don't understand why the question was written that way then.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Just want to make sure. It...it...it came from me, so just want to make sure that Maui County Farm Bureau, because of their past practices, would be able to apply. As...as they said...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But that's not what it says.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: As it says, as they said, that they have worked with the Maui County Farm Bureau and the Maui Department of...Department of Ag, and has worked out, you know, their grants through the Department, so...

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: How much did they receive last year?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I didn't ask them that question.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The Farm Bureau got 238,000 in 2023, two years ago, and then HFUU gets 375K, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you. That's in program. Okay. Members, any more discussion? Ready to vote?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Did Ms. Milner find additional information that I had asked?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think Member Paltin read it, but you have more information, Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. There were 20 to 30 different applicants for that funding...for the larger funding buckets last year. Some of those were Maui County Farm Bureau. They had money allotted to the Maui Association of Landscape Professionals, Maui Cattlemen's Association, Maui Growers and Floriculture Collective, and Maui Coffee Association. There were other agencies that are related to HFUU, but they can apply. So, if you line-item 473,000 for Maui County Farm Bureau, that does lower the competitive pot, but that is obviously the body's decision, and HFUU will be eligible to apply for the line item or the...or the pot. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yes, Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It looks like on page 115 of the budget proposal, Hawai'i Farmers United Union [sic] has an allocation of 375,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, exactly --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- in this fiscal year. Okay. Okay. Members, any more questions, discussion? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, in response to what Acting Budget Director Milner said, that would leave...so if we subtract...so, from the 2.13 million subtracted by 20 percent, which is for 126,000 equals 1.704 million

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minus the 473,000 that would be conditioned from Maui County Farm Bureau, which would leave 1,231,000 for the competitive pot.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Members, any more discussion? Ready to vote? Okay. Voice vote or roll call? Voice? Okay. All in favor say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Motion passes.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Anybody else have any conditions for Department of Ag? Gabe Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Chair, so I guess I'll...I can just start reading off some of my...my residency area proposal, and then I give you some justifications if you'd like. So, I would move to insert a new line item under Department of Agriculture, Grants and Disbursements for Agricultural Promotion for \$70,000. That's page 2 of the budget ordinance, titled Lānaʻi Grown Food Stimulus Program, with the following condition. Funds must be used for...for a grant to implement a food voucher program for Lānaʻi residents. Vouchers must be issued at the County Lānaʻi farmers market and used on the date that they are issued for the purchase of locally-grown sourced fresh produce and fruit, edible algae, poi, meat, fish, eggs, and honey. Vouchers must be issued with preference given to kūpuna and children, and members of household with kūpuna and children of age zero to five, and adjust the budget's total...totals

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accordingly. That's my motion. If I get a second, I can get into some justifications.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chair. Food security programs like SNAP, WIC, and the DA BUX are all popular and successful in making sure our community has access to food nutrition. Stimulus programs like the Child Tax Credit are also popular, and historic in reducing child poverty, and stimulating the economy. You heard from my community at our residence area meeting just how much we value our children and kūpuna. You also heard that our cost of living is unaffordable for Lānaʻi residents. This proposal, modeled after a similar program at the Hāna Farmers Market, which received rave reviews, will help to subsidize Lānaʻi residents' food costs with preference given to kūpuna, keiki, and families with kūpuna and young children in their household. The proposal addresses the gap in services left by SNAP qualifications guidelines, which is sometimes called the benefits cliff. We often talk about the ALICE, which is Asset Limited, Income Constrained, and Employed. You struggle and pay your bills, yet you still have jobs, and the population in a livable wage, which is the amount required to live and meet basic needs. The April 2023 ALICE in the con--currents...Crosscurrents report found that household survival budget for a single senior in Maui County in 2021 was \$41,064, or 277 percent of the Hawaiʻi poverty guidelines for that year. So, the most recent self-sufficient standard report published by Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism says in 2022, a single adult in Maui County needs to make 278 percent of the Hawaiʻi poverty guidelines, and a single adult with a preschool child need to make 329 percent of the Hawaiʻi poverty guideline. SNAP eligibility is typically limited to those who make 130 percent of the poverty guidelines, so these folks aren't eligible. That leaves a lot of people in need who do not qualify for support. The program will help those people meet those needs with fresh, healthy, locally grown and sourced food. Local farmers will benefit from the businesses and increase their profits. And our County, Lānaʻi, and farmers market as a whole will be stimulated by the increase in activity through its attendant incentives. The...the math is simple, \$50 per person or household for 50 recipients, and two farmers markets a month for 12 months is \$60,000. For vouchers, with a 15 percent admin fee equals \$69,000, with an extra \$1,000 for contingency for a total of \$70,000 cost. Members, I ask for your full support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other discussion? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can you repeat that? Fifty per...dollars per person, per month, it's not like by household?

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's 50 per person or a household, and 50 --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Per person or household?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- recipients, and that's two farmers markets a month for 12 months equals \$60,000 for the vouchers. Now, you add in a little...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- did we...is there an entity that will administer this, that is...is it...because you said 15 percent or something, is it not going to be the Ag Department?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm glad you asked that, Councilmember. I spoke with HFUU President Manna...Negus. He spoke with his State president, or State group of HFUU, and they are totally ready to apply for this and administer it. They also spoke with Mr. Crawford from Hāna on what...he'd give some advice on this, and they were...they are all full bore, they would...they love this idea.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And last question. They don't have the DA BUX program that the Maui Hub is able to use on Lāna'i?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes, we do have the DA BUX program, but remember, that's up to the individual farmers. Of course, if...you could do it through the Maui Food Hub, but again, that...there's a certain amount of percentage of people who can get DA BUX, and there's some that can't, and those folks are really kind of the ALICE folks, right, that just...they work two jobs, but they just make more than they can get...you know, they're ineligible to get the food stamps. So, this would help those folks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member...Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I just have a question. Did you say 60,000 a year?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: 60,000 in vouchers, and then the \$9,000 for admin fee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, \$69,000 a year.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right, with a \$1,000 contingency, so just rounding up to 70,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 70,000. Okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other questions? Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just have a question for Member Johnson. We did meet a couple Lahaina survivors that moved to Lānaʻi. Would this be...would they have some help as residents that now reside on Lānaʻi?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. Yeah, we're trying to aim at the folks who are struggling to make ends meet, right? Now, if they got over, and they're in the ALICE, they would...they would...they would qualify. One way we could...we could do this is maybe in the beginning, the first hour of the...of the...of the farmers market would be dedicated to like, you know, families with children, just like the way Hāna did, where the first hour was kūpuna hour, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Any other questions? If not, let's vote. Oh, Member U'u-Hodgins, and then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Member Johnson, I just wanted to clarify. Does the County of Maui have a farmers' market there, or what farmer's market are you...because it's specific, so I want to make sure it's specifically.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Department of Ag said in their strategy report that their priority for Lānaʻi, in the first quarter of the year, was to create a County farmers market on County park land. The entry park--you know, where the fire station is? That's called the entry park--right there is where they want to do it. I think it's really exciting to have a farmers market in a County-owned park because, hey, you could do that in other County-owned parks, right? Like the Kula farmers market is not County-owned, so this would be a first. That's why I'm really excited, and the Department's on board with it.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. What happens if they don't establish the farmers market? How are they going to access these vouchers, if it's specific to, say, the County of...or County Lānaʻi farmers market? Do you want to keep that in or...and/or something else so that if, in case, it's not established, we can still have access...you guys can still have access to those funds?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, there is a private...a private farmers market on Lānaʻi, as well as other...I...I am pushing for a County-run, County...in a County park. I think that's a really good way. I think it's a model we should look at. By the way, Honolulu has that, right, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. My concern is that if it doesn't happen, then...I mean it's just specific. I like it, don't get me wrong. I want to also just

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make super clear that children or babies under one can't have honey. And so, when we're doing that, you might want to just clarify. Everybody else is good to go, but just babies can't have honey under one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow, I didn't know that. Okay. Thanks for that education.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anything else, Members? Ready to vote on this? Oh, sorry, Member Kama, you did raise your hand.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I just wanted to look at this list. So, this isn't a comprehensive list, is it, Member Johnson? It's just things that might be available and could be. But there's going to be a whole bunch of other stuff, and that they're free to purchase as long as they're within their voucher limit.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. Again, we took it off of what Hāna was doing, and I kind of like that idea because we want to encourage food. You know, some...some farmers markets have earrings and, you know, crafts.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, food.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm focusing more on food. That's really why I...I kind of kept it like that, and plus the way that Hāna did it, and it was a raving success, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Just a clarification, this is your district priority?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Residency area proposal. Yes, Chair --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- or yes, Councilmember.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Question for Member Johnson. So, for Molokai, we also have the DA BUX program with Sust'ainable Molokai's mobile market. DA BUX is amazing because it...its value is doubled. So, when using

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DA BUX, if something...you know, for every dollar, they get, you know, \$2 worth of...of produce. I'm guessing this won't be like that. But since you said that some of those folks, like the intention sounds like for those that don't qualify for DA BUX would qualify for this, is that part of the stipulation, or would they...would...would folks get DA BUX and this?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Okay. So, if...if you were a member of the DA BUX program, and the farmer was doing the DA BUX program as well, you can use your DA BUX for that. But also, you could use your \$50 gift certificate as well. You know, that is...we want to kind of...we want to make it needs-based. I think 20...or 12 percent of our community is in the poverty level. The ALICE level is 30 percent. So, now you . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I don't...sorry. Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I don't want to be here until 8:00. So, I just...sorry. I...I...I just want to know, are folks going to...so on Molokai, it's through mobile market, so it's not per farmer. So, it sounds like you're saying that it's different than the Maui Food Hub and Molokai's mobile market, in that you would...you would pay the farmer directly instead of the organization that is managing a food hub. So, folks that would be purchasing produce from farmers, there would...would...if...if the farmers don't accept DA BUX, then they could have this. So, the...the point would be to have both. So, the answer to my question is, even if they qualify for DA BUX, they can also get these vouchers.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's correct. Thank you. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anything else, Members? Members? Okay. All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that nine ayes? I think so. Member Rawl...okay. Okay. Nine "ayes." The motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez, priority.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, she has another one.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So...I'm sorry?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have another one.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What did you say?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have another --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, the...the proposal is to move 15,000 from the tourism grant under OED to travel for commuting for our Director, who is...who lives on Molokai. They, right now, don't have travel expenses for the Director who lives on Molokai, to travel to Maui for work. And I believe she is the first Department Director that resides not on Maui. And since we're a County of multiple islands, for the sake of parity, if we would like to see directors from Molokai, from Lāna'i, then this kind of policy would be necessary

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in order to empower our residents from all of our islands to serve as...you know, in the leadership roles of our departments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, I'm proposing 15,000 for the cost for airfare for commuting.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And then we'll put them in the budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody...is that a motion? You have a question, Member Cook? Oh, okay. So, motion made by Member Rawlins-Fernandez, second by Member Cook. Discussion? She explained it. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just a question. Does the County make Director Arce pay to come to Maui?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's a...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes. So, she pays out of pocket her airfare and travel...oh, sorry, and lodging. So, I...I was trying to take it one step at a time with airfare first, but she is paying out of pocket. Like no other, you know, department director has to pay for housing on two different islands, or for airfare. So, if the Members want to also cover some of her housing, I think that would, you know, be good...good policy.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That doesn't make sense.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner, any comment on that?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I will look into that and get back to you all ASAP.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Question, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Sinenci, then Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Pro Tem Kama can go ahead.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama?

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I just wanted to ask, how come it wasn't put into the DOA budget? Like most of the departments, they all...they put money for travel if they're going conferences and stuff like that. So, can we get that answer?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member...Ms. Milner?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I...I can speak to that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead, Ms. Rawlins...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Member Kama, for that question. So, there is funding for conference travel, but not for commuter travel, the way that Member Johnson and I commute to, you know, the Council Chambers because we don't live on Maui. Director Arce does not live on Maui. She lives on Molokai.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But all the more reason it could have been put in the budget because it makes sense. What did they expect her to do, not travel to here? So, I think she should have put it in her budget because that's a need that she has. But that's all. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, that was kind of my question. It looks like the Agriculture Promotion is zeroed out, so we would be moving 15,000 from the Tourism Management to Agriculture Promotion?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No. I think a line item for Director commute or something, not throw it into that pot.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, in Account B, sorry --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- under Operations, not...not under Grants.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Paltin, then I have a question. Go ahead.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just checking under Account B, did you want a line item that's specific Director's Travel?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, good question, Member Paltin. Yes, please.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I have a question. People that live, like Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, that do not live in...on Maui, don't you get a stipend when you travel back and forth? Or is it their living allowance or...yeah. I don't know because I'm not in that situation, but don't you? And doesn't she? She should.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I don't know what...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, she doesn't.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: But if Member Johnson wanted to add, we...we get per diem, same like, you know, everyone else that leaves the island.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then...yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then my...our airfare and ferry is...is covered, but not for...you know, I think this is a...you know, the...a first, that we have a director of a...of a department that doesn't live on Maui. So, like Member Kama is saying, it makes sense, it's just...it's a first. So, our County has to develop a policy on what it wants to do when it has a director that lives not on Maui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: You know, the East Maui Water Authority, so the chair of that authority doesn't live on Maui either, but he lives on O'ahu, so the meetings are held here. But if you notice, I noticed in their budget, they did have travel money. Somebody put that money in for him to travel back and forth. So...but...but it's still a commission, right? It's still...yeah. But just the fact that they put in travel for some, but not for their own director.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's...it's kind of the same as like when boards and commissions meet on Maui, and people come from Molokai or Lānaʻi, they...they will get their travel paid. They're volunteer Members of a Maui County board or commission. Same thing, whether it's O'ahu, Lānaʻi, or Molokai, but this is different in the sense that it's the Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But even so, as a Director, that should have been there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. So, what about the...doesn't the...what is her name? Janet Six. Doesn't she live on the Big Island? And doesn't she have some kind of travel, or isn't there something?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I would say the Big Island is not a part of Maui County.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, but she...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And she moved there after she got the job. So, it's...it's not like Maui...Molokai is a part of Maui County --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- so she's living in our County, and she's not being compensated.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Whereas Dr. Six is not living in our County, and we're...we're lucky to have her. But she lived...she was a Maui County resident when she got hired, I believe, and then she moved. So, that's like --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, she doesn't get...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I feel like that's a little bit different.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, she doesn't have any travel, any kind of stipend?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I don't know that answer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anyway, we...it's...shall we...anybody else have any comments regarding this? Shall we take a vote? Oh, Ms. Milner, you have something?

MS. MILNER: Yes, thank you, Chair. I did check, and Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez is correct. She currently pays out-of-pocket for travel

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between Molokai and Maui. But there is Travel in the budget for traveling to conferences and other things, or any interisland travel that's for checking up on ag properties and things like that. But there is not currently any Travel allocated just for coming into the office. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, do we need to get a Corp. Counsel opinion on this? Is Ms. Toshikiyo on the line?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry about that. Hi, Nohe. Go ahead, Nohe.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sorry, thank you. I just want to say that for the Fire Department, for the men and women who live on Maui who also need to work on Molokai and Lāna'i, they get their travel paid for. The County and the Department pays for one flight in and one flight out. They don't cover housing expenses--my husband has to live with his brother--but they do pay for one flight in and one flight out, which is basically every six days. And I calculated it, and so, for \$15,000, let's say...I mean, there's 52 weeks a year. Let's say she traveled 50 times. That's basically like \$300 a week, which is probably almost going to cover majority of it. So, that's a good amount of money, right? But Mokulele is also extremely expensive, and completely unreliable, and they don't really accommodate you if you're going to change your flight. Member Rawlins-Fernandez can talk in-depth about Moku-delay-le, and I had to live with it when my husband had to go back and forth. It's extremely frustrating. So, I'm happy to support this. I don't know if you would need Corp. Counsel to...I mean, you can ask Corp. Counsel if you want, but this is what we do for the Fire Department anyway, and we've been doing this for a long time. If I had to pay for my husband to fly to work, there would be no point of him working on Molokai.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: That's so much of our salary.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- I'm happy to support this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, great. Ms. Toshikiyo?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes, Chair. Did you have a question for me?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: What is the legal opinion about this discussion?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: About the travel expenses being provided to the Director?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Uh-huh.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: It's something that I'm kind of looking at in the background because this is kind of the first time that I've been confronted with a question like this. But I will say that for directors and appointed officials, their compensation is set by the Salary Commission. So, it's something that I have to look into, is whether or not, you know, providing the travel expenses for commuting to the, you know, main place of business would be considered compensation. I don't know the answer to that. It's just like something --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Okay.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: -- and I think Member Rawlins-Fernandez probably has a thought on that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Toshikiyo. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair? I do...I do have a thought on that. Mahalo, Ms. Toshikiyo. I would consider that Operations and not Salaries. I...I...I propose to put it in Account B, not Account A. So, flight...travel is...is operations, travel is not salary. We...we wouldn't be giving her a stipend, so it wouldn't be toward her...we would just be covering the cost of operations so that it's not cutting into her salary, for sure, like Member U'u-Hodgins said.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Okay. Thank you. That...that actually helps. I must have missed that part of the discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Thank you, Ms. Toshikiyo. So, Members, are you ready to vote? Okay. All in favor of this proposal...Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're voting. Okay. Member, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I think there's eight "ayes." One excused.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: If Alice was here, she'd say aye.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, Member...Chair Lee is excused. Okay. The motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Lee.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next. Okay. Now we're on East Maui Water Authority. I'm going to take a little break.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, before you take a break --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I just wanted to, for the record, clarify that it's a line item under B, not --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- how it's written in the thing. It's...it's going to be a line item for Director's Travel.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, what? Oh, we have Corp. Counsel next. Okay. Not from the...no conditions then. Okay. So, next we're going to have Corp. Counsel when we get back. I'm going to take a short break, is that all right? So, be back at maybe five to...five to 5:00 [sic]. So, we got to get...make sure we can do Corp.

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Counsel, and then we have Finance, and then we're done. All right. So, we're going to take a short break.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Oh, so 4:55.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 4:17? Oh, sorry. Okay. We'll go 4:27. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 4:17 p.m.

RECONVENE: 4:35 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . 4:35. Welcome back to BFED. And the departments that we are going to take up is Corp. Counsel, East Maui Water Authority. Number four is Emergency Management Agency, and then Department of Environmental Management, and Finance, is my dream. Okay.

DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, at this time, Corp. Counsel--who is Corp. Counsel? I guess it's Chair Lee again?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nohe. Oh, that's right. GREAT. Sorry. Okay. Nohe, any...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No, that's fine, Chair. But I also don't have any cuts for them right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Members, any...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But I see that Member Paltin does.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have some cuts, but I'll let Member Paltin go first because she's really good at this.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I just have one cut. It's in the Budget Bill as under 2, Department of Corp. Counsel, a.(1) A-Salaries, decrease of 35,000 plus fringe, which I thought might be \$29,134. So, that would be my motion, to decrease it by that much.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second. Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, your...your motion is to decrease Corp. Counsel by 35,000 plus fringe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And for me, that would be, you know, the boards and commissions extra secretary, but if I'm decreasing that a.(1) A, it's up to the Department to do as they see fit, and I'm just giving them 35,000 plus fringe less to do what they want to do. My intent would have been the board and commission secretary, but you know, I'm not going to micromanage in that way.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Did I see a second? Chair Lee, second. Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, I did. But...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, my discussion is I'll go with her cut, and I won't bring up mine.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any further discussion, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was a little hesitant, seeing that they might be defending us from a bunch of lawsuits.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Not anymore.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, ready for the vote, or any other discussion? Okay. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Member Rawlins-Fernandez is still here.

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201, 45 to 15,000, which is a 30,000 decrease. Okay. Any discussion? I think he explained it. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Oh, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I have a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Maybe Ms. Milner can explain what the breakdown of the 45 was for again. I know it's for furniture, but moving is...includes computer tables, chairs, all those kinds of things. Unless you use the furniture from David Raatz's office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: David Raatz's office. Okay. Go ahead.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. They have moved, but they are currently using abandoned furniture, and they would need new cubicles as well. But they've said that they think they can make that work with \$15,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was fast. Okay. Members, sounds like you got your answer. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, who is not here? Okay. This is nine "ayes," right? Yes. Member Sinenci, is it okay? Yeah? Okay. Nine "ayes," motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. So, I had that on my cut...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Before you call for the vote, will you please repeat what the motion is so everyone is on the same page when we're voting?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: *(Gives thumbs up)*

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Anybody else have any recommendations for this Department? Okay. So, I do. Corporation Counsel...so, 100 percent of vacant expansion positions, Legal Services Program, is \$260,492; vacancies, \$223,213; for a total of 483,705. So, in this case, I'm asking, would you like to do a 10 percent cut, 25 percent cut, or a 50 percent cut, with Countywide 25 percent transfer? Do you have my sheet? Yeah? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm...I'm just a little hesitant because of all the lawsuits. I mean, on a normal year, I probably would cut them 50 percent, but I don't want to scrimp in the front end and get hit with the lawsuit on the back end is a little my feeling.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Members, you don't want to do any of these percentage cuts for Corp. Counsel then? Leave it as is.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I would just say that I...I...I did cut over 10 percent with that first 35,000 plus fringe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Okay. So, Members, we're all good, right, with Corp. Counsel? All right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Excuse me. I don't have everything in front of me, but what do they have down for litigation...you know, like for settlements and so forth, what they pay out.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner, do you have that?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I believe what you're looking for is on page 2-8, \$75,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 75?

MS. MILNER: Yes, that's under Claims, Settlements, and Judgments. Although I know we do also make some payments out of Countywide.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Okay. Because they're going to have to pay for our special counsel, so I just want to make sure they have enough. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members, anything else? Okay. So . . .*(inaudible)*. . . have no changes. Okay. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, on 2-8, the 75,000, is that the annual recurring fee for Countywide online compliance training? Is that what you're referring to, Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. No, that's a different line. If you go up...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: It's above?

MS. MILNER: Yeah, I'm looking at...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Claims, Settlement, Judgments.

MS. MILNER: Yes, right there.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay, I see that. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Corporation Counsel, no CIPs, no grants, no special revenue purpose, no rates and fees, and none for Members' priority. So, are you in consensus to accept this with the changes? Consensus? Okay. We're good. Okay. Move on with Corp. Counsel. That was fast, very good.

EAST MAUI WATER AUTHORITY

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, we have East Maui Water Authority. So, look on page 3 of Budget Bill. No CIPs; grants is none; special revenue, none; fee...rates and fees, none; and Members' priorities, there are. So, let me get that out. Page 4 and 5 on...on prio...oh, we got to do also the Mayor's. Where is the Mayor's letter? Oh, here. Does the Mayor have anything for East Maui Water Authority? He does not. There's nothing on the April 12th letter. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now we're into Members' priorities. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. For our district priorities, we had add professional services under...for environmental management consulting services for community watershed planning for \$175,000. And Members, per the Charter, as you know, we've been like on our third or fourth meeting of the East Maui Water Authority, and the Board is just following the direction of the Charter. And so, per the Charter, Section 8-19.3 and 8-19.5, the...the Board is responsible for the development and...and implementation of a watershed management plan for each of the watershed that provides water to the system. The plan to include community demographics, needs and priorities, overview of existing information and programs, gaps in the program, areas of need, the implementation steps, funding needs, and grant funding sources. And this is to be used as a basis for further grant funding, so this is an investment into getting more grant funding for the...for the East Maui Water Authority. . . .(timer sounds). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any second on the motion? Okay. Second by Member Johnson. Any more discussion? Okay. Seeing none. I think you explained it pretty well. All in favor, raise your hand, say "aye." Accepting what Member Sinenci just read off. Okay. All in favor say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The motion carries, nine...nine...okay, 9-0.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay, mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, Member Sinenci again.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. The second request is for salaries, and it's to add a community liaison, a public information officer position, and we just put it in for three months at \$22,000 in funding. And this position is also mandated by the Charter under Section 8-19.1, Organization. And the board expressed a need for information out of the communities, and the three-month salaries is to reflect just a need to create a new classification for this position, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second...motion made by Member Sinenci, second by Member Paltin. And you are actually adding...to add community liaison, is that this one? Public information officer position for three months, \$32,000, that one?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, to get...to get the position started, Chair. Okay. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just wanted to ask if there is such...such a position in existence in the civil service system.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I would make an amendment to the title, to make it be the Information and Education Specialist II, which there is in the civil service.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Friendly amendment?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, open to friendly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Information and Educational Specialist, right...Specialist II. Okay. So, add community...add Information and Education Specialist II position for three months; is that correct, Mister...Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Any other discussion? Seeing none. All in favor of this, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Okay. Nine "ayes." Passes.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. That's good. We did that very quickly. Moving right along here, Emergency Management Agency. Okay. This is for...oh, okay. Okay. *(pause)* Members, so East Maui Water Authority, which we did the bill, we did the priority from Member Sinenci. There's no CIP, there's no grants, special

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revenue, and no rates and fees. And we did the Members' priorities. I did have one, if you would allow me to, and we can talk about it, which was basically to look at new equipment calculations, which I am doing for all the departments. And it was passed out, purchase of three cubicle office equipment for the expansion positions. Cost is 33,000, Budget Details, 5-5 from...from General Fund. And if you wanted to look at it in terms of 5 percent, 10 percent, 15, 20 percent cut instead of the whole 100 percent, which is the 33,000. Any thoughts? Trying to get these people hired before you buy the equipment.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it's for the purchase of three cubicle office equipments for the expansion positions. And the total cost is 33,000. Budget Details, 5 point...5-5, and from General Fund. And if you wanted to look at it on the sheet, either 5 percent cut, 10 percent cut, 15 percent cut, 20 percent cut. Those are the choices. Or leave it at the...the whole 33,000.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're open? Okay. Which...which are you open to, Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was...I had a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Wait, let's...oh, are you done? Okay. Member...Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Previously, we had a minimum of like 10,000. Is...are we not...there's no minimum? Because I got a lot of \$100 cuts . . .*(laughing)*. . . if that's the case.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we shouldn't do the \$100 cuts.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I got...I got some 1,500, and like that. But is there no minimum cuts?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We did not express that. But I know that in previous years, we said we wouldn't do something so small. You know, we kind of look forward, since time is of the essence, but...okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, no minimum? \$1,000 minimum?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You guys want to do \$1,000 minimum for cuts?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or 10...10,000 would be faster, but...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I like the way it was, Chair. We got a billion-dollar budget, and we're worried about 1,600 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- 1,650.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, on this \$33,000 then because...if it has to be \$10,000 minimum. So, you want to look at this for a \$10,000 cut, and this would then be 23,000?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So moved.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Moved by Member Kama, second by Member Cook. Okay. No discussion? All in favor, please raise your hand...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I had a...I had a question. So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- does our East Maui Water Authority have an office?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We do not. Like other new departments, we're...we're at that bare minimum. And I know Member Arakawa was here to kind of promote for more things, but we did receive rent from the Administration.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But you don't have any place to go yet?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No, but I think we're...we're open to, you know, moving if there were any space here in the building.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We're open...we're open to move anywhere.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Same thing Chair Lee wants. . . .(laughing). . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair Lee.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The 7th Floor break room.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I love your sense of humor.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay, Members. All right. So, let's vote. All in favor say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Opposed?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, this will be...let's...let's do a roll call vote then. So, the vote is...the 33,000 is the max...is what is in the budget for purchase of three cubicle office equipment for expansion positions. And so, we said we would do something that would be at a minimum \$10,000. So, this would then go down to \$10,000 [*sic*]. Okay? Oh, down to 23. The cut is...sorry, the cut is 10,000. Okay. Down to 23. Roll call. All right. All in favor...roll call.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair. Yeah, with everyone else, I don't understand why we're pinching pennies on this Department. Like we have new positions that are being proposed, and we're going to reduce--how much did you say, 11...11,000?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Actually, 10...10...10,000. They have no office, we have no...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There...there are bigger departments that I'm sure we'll get a bigger bang for our buck and time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And this Department is trying to launch. Like, I don't want to keep like cutting it at its knees.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I would like it to be successful, as everyone else would like it to be successful. So, I don't...I don't know what all's involved in the 11,000 per unit. Because it's three units, 11,000 cubicle...office equipment for the expansion positions. If that's like electronics, desk, chair...I...I want people to be able to do their work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: There's positions, yeah. So, I'll be voting no.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, let's do roll call vote.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's your motion. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if I get a second, I can explain. Oh, Member Sinenci seconded.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Sorry, I was looking at this. Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member Sinenci. Your...you have the floor.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. So, for my discussion, when Administrator Amos Lonokailua-Hewett came before us, we asked him for his broad vision. He did send an org chart with the 15 positions in the budget this year, and the org chart had seven additional positions, and then two grant-funded positions. So, this would reflect the desire to expand the Department to 22 people with not...without funding the 7 people so that he can try and go in and work with Management and DPS in this year to create his organization, and then be ready in the following year to come for funding or a revised proposal. I'm not...although he hadn't at the time start the work for the expansion positions that he has this year, he has been successful in DM-89, highly qualified people. I know at least him and three others that are actually on DM-89, and I think he may be losing some of the existing Staff, but I know that he's working with Mr. Barros of HI-EMA, and you know, we could cut this, but just looking at the timeline and the Phase I FSRI report, they're in a big, big mess that needs to be straightened out. And I don't want to have money be the obstacle that...that keeps the Emergency Management Agency from being straightened out because when they're crooked, choke folks have died. So, that'll be my only amendment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, it's also Member Rawlins-Fernandez's condition, I think, so...okay. Anybody else want to say anything about this? I think we all heard the need for MEMA to ramp up and...Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I also am very supportive of this Department. I think that we could cut funding for unfunded for...not the positions, but funding, because they don't have the people. But the optics and to be...just reinforce the fact that we're very supportive and encouraging, I'd like to leave them fully funded.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Okay. So, all in favor, then, of these seven E/Ps unfunded, as Member Paltin described...all in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think this is...yeah. Okay. So, this looks like nine...nine “ayes.” Okay. Motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And it’s also Keani’s...her condition. So, we’ll get to that next. So, within this Department...sorry. Emergency Management. So, Budget Bill, we just talked about. Appendix A, Grants, page 37. And we can look at that. And there’s no special revenue, no rates and fees, and Members have priorities. So, Budget Bill, page 37, for Emergency Management. Oops. Okay. So, what...Emergency Management in...on Appendix A, page 37, has \$5 million, Emergency Management Performance Grant; EMPG; FEMA Public Assistance Grant for 96,000 [sic]; State Homeland Security Grant; SHG...SHSG Program for 20 million; State of Hawai‘i-Security Checkpoint, 20 million. Yes, Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Per the correspondence from MEMA today, which was EMA-3, the 20 million for SHSG can be reduced to 1 million for this fiscal year. The...if you look at 1.c. on Appendix A, Part I, the State Homeland Security Grant, that’s listed at 20 million. That has historically been at 1 million. We thought we might get some more this year, but it looks like it will still be at 1 million. So, that can be amended down.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. There’s no hope for us getting...considering everything that’s gone on, huh?

MS. MILNER: Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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MS. MILNER: No, I don't know if that was just wishful thinking when the numbers were entered, but yeah, we can reduce that back down to \$1 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 1 million. And then the other thing is the Hawai'i...State of Hawai'i Security Checkpoint, there's that 20 million again. So, what's the status of that, or what's going on?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, that's part of the request that we made to the State Legislature. So, we're still pending a response from them on what funding they will be granting us for this fiscal year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, is this something that we'll be hearing about? The Conference Committee ends, according to Josiah, on the 26th?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, we should have an update for you on the status of the State funds --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: -- shortly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, thanks for that correction. Members, any comments regarding that? Any...

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, can we get a motion and second on that amendment to Appendix A, Part I, please?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sure. Okay. So, motion, somebody, the million dollars, right? Or are you just saying the whole thing? Ms. Apo Takayama?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, I believe the...what Acting Budget Director said was reduce the 20 million --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: -- down to 1 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 1 million.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: So, it would be a reduction of 19 million.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Move to reduce --

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. The 19 million that we just cut, that was grant funding, so we don't need to make those funds up from anywhere because we didn't have it allocated --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, there's nothing --

MS. MILNER: -- to anything specific in the Department.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- to offset then?

MS. MILNER: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, that was just like air. Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, the other question regarding that, which is d. State of Hawai'i-Security Checkpoint, if you are hoping that the Legislature is going to cover it, is that correct? And we'll hear this Friday?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, that was part of our request to the Legislature.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, if they don't get it or if there's a change, then we'll hear from you again at first reading?

MS. MILNER: Yes, thank you, Chair. We're meeting with Department of Finance and Department of Management to discuss our options if we don't receive our full funding request, and we will transmit that information as soon as possible.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, under...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, what...may I just ask her, what is our...the full funding request total?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. Our full funding request for the State for this fiscal year is \$150,950,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Right, is that the same amount for the next three or four years?

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MS. MILNER: Approximately. It varies year to year. I do have a...I think Department of Management transmitted the breakout that was submitted to the State that covered this year, next fiscal year...I think through FY '27.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So...all right. And so, that's that change. And for the April 12th letter from the Mayor, there is nothing here for Emergency Management. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Sorry, I got left behind. Where is Appendix A at?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Page 37.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 37 of the Budget Bill?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: In the budget book. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then for priorities from the Members, Emergency Management, Tasha Kama has one, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez sounds like she has the same as what you just proposed. But Member Rawlins-Fernandez, would you like to go first?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sure. Okay. So, as Member Paltin stated earlier, we asked Administrator Lonokailua-Hewett what MEMA would look like if fully built out for us to, you know, show that we're trying to do better, that we're...we're working toward making sure that our Emergency Management Agency can do more to protect all of our...our towns. And we received the organizational chart with additional positions. And as we did last year, we added--and years before, I guess--we've added positions without the funding so that the departments would be able to start working with Department of Personnel Services to get the positions described, because we know that it takes, you know, a year, two, more, so that we can, you know, get the ball rolling. And when the position is ready to be funded, whether it's next year or the...or the following year, you know, we'll...we'll be ready, and then we can fund it. So, the positions are Personnel [sic] Assistant II, Community Outreach Specialist . . .(timer sounds). . . Information and Educational Specialist, GIS, EM Technician, Resiliency Branch Chief, and Warehouse Technician.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I'm sorry I didn't submit that in writing. I can.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, you can send us the rest. Yeah, please do. We'll get that, right, from Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Do you have any questions? No. Okay. All right. So, anybody have any comments, questions? If not, let's vote.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Who made the motion?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think that...was that not the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- same as the motion that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was same as yours.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I made? I mean, functionally speaking, she just explained it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And more information. Okay. So, we already voted on it. Maybe we can get your description and add it to what Member Paltin...what we did. Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Member Paltin. Mahalo, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, based upon what you just said, as I've done for every department, I did salary calculations for Emergency Management, and that...because they're brand new, it's expansion positions totaling \$244,684. And again, it's calculation of either doing a 10 percent cut, 25 percent cut, 50 percent cut, with a Countywide transfer. But I'm going to guess that you don't want to do any cuts. Where are we?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just...you know, he...I would just say our Administrator, former battalion chief, got kind of thrown into the situation, and I really feel like he's going to have to re-turn that whole thing around and find all new people pretty much. I mean, not 100 percent, but a...a good deal. And whatever barriers that he has, I don't want to add money to the barriers. He's been successful in DM-89ing--or I guess emergency hire, or whatever you call that--at least three of the positions, and if you include him, that's four positions. I think he's going to have to get together with the...the Managing Director and do a complete re-org. And so, I think...I mean, I'd like to see it this time. If...I don't want to...I don't

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want to take away from Member Kama, but I support her request, and maybe we can add it as a condition to...to one of the expansions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But...yeah, I don't know, adding more E/P with funding, this one is going to help at all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, I won't even do that. Member Kama, your priority.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I want to continue where Member Paltin left on about adding more, I mean, I would be okay with that, to condition it. Because my main concern, when I talked to Mr. Lonokailua-Hewett was, what's the plan for our elders? How do we help them if they're bedridden, if they're in wheelchairs, if they're in walkers? What's the plan, and who's going to be there to help them to exit? And that's when he told us, that that's why he's going to have to revamp everything so that it...there's a flow to it. And that's what I think we're trying to do here. And I think what I want to do is just make sure we're flowing here so that we can make everything in the County flow too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I'm...I'm okay with conditioning it there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're making a motion, according to your priority, is increase E/P by one. You want to do that, right?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. But what Member Paltin was saying is that we can fold this E/P into one of the...these...one of these sevens.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, we don't have to do this?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, that we don't have to increase it, but just condition one of these to be able to include my comments about the elderly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you just want to condition no dollars. You just add it to Member --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Paltin's?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, if I can build off of what she's saying, this is definitely something that the Emergency Management Agency should be working on and

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including into it. So, out of the 22 positions that they would be having, somebody should be responsible for this. Actually, out of the seven or eight positions that they've had over the last year, somebody should have been on this because former Administrator Andaya said that if you're able to, you need to prepare, and that they're supposed to be there for those who cannot. And basically, we weren't there for anyone, you know?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So we'll add that to the previous. Okay. So...

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, I'm sorry, I think we still need a motion so that we can do that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Okay. Add the verbiage.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Member Paltin...I mean, Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, the...okay. So, I move to condition --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The seven E/Ps.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- the seven E/Ps to ensure that the...that one of those positions is dedicated to the attention to our elderly and non-English speaking residents so that during emergencies, their special needs are being addressed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Second by Member Johnson. Motion made by Member Kama, second by Member Johnson. Any discussion? Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I can be very appreciative and supportive of this amendment considering, you know, just what we experienced in August, and then a lot of them, including like some of my classmates' parents. So, mahalo to Pro Tem Kama for...for adding this. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Very good. Okay. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nine aye...yeah, nine "ayes." The motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Now we're going to...oops. Okay. We're going to go to Environmental Management, and Finance is last.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Environmental Management, go to Budget Bill and look at page 4. Wastewater Admin Program is on that page. Wastewater Sewer Fund is on page 4. Solid Waste Administration Program is page 4 and 5. Solid Waste Operations Program, Solid Waste Management Fund is on page 5. And EP&S, or Environmental Protection and Sustainability Program-Environmental Protection and Sustainability Fund is on page 5. This also has CIPs, it also has grants, special revenue, and rates and fees, and then Members' Priorities. So, it's...so DEM is basically Member Cook. Do you have any additions or changes?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Starting with my Member Priority, or...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, we'll do that last.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, if you have any additions or adds or...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I do. One requested change by the Department was--if you look at Budget Details on the Mayor's letter for page 7-78, Environmental Management--changing the verbiage so it says, under Grants, 919734B/6317, change project title from West Maui Green Cycle to West Maui Recycling and

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Green Grants. The Department is requesting this change to allow for a competitive grant process to better serve the community.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, this particular one is changing the verbiage. Do I need to make a motion for that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin has...has...also has a motion.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That was one of my conditions, I think, that I didn't want to take the Administration's --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Verbiage?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- verbiage, and I had a different amendment to it. But I mean, we had a lot of folks testify for West Maui Green Cycle in West Maui. I had some...I had a cut for them that I...I talked through with them of, you know, part of...being a part of the team, but I would not support the Department's verbiage.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: What would you...what do you propose?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure. I propose in 5.B, for EP&S, to move West Maui Green Cycle to its own line item, and also decrease it by 100,000 to make it be a 400,000 line item, or like a condition for West Maui Green Cycle.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, that's one of your...that's your condition, actually, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. So, it would be under, like, I think...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What page is it?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Page 5, letter small f, number 1, and then break it out from the big B and make it its own line item (i) for 400,000, and then decrease...or decrease f.(1)B by 500,000, and make it a 400,000 line item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would be my...my motion, I guess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If...if you wanted me to make a motion or just explain it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, so...are you okay? Your mic.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, the 11 million 411--...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thousand, 157, it's all bunched up in there, but the Budget Details breaks it out as 500,000. So, we go off of the bill. What I would do is pull that 500,000 out of there, decrease it by 100,000, and line-item it to West Maui Green Cycle as a condition.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, okay. I'm in agreement with that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're in...okay. Okay. James and Kasie, are you okay, you got that? Okay. So, you made a motion. You want to second?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'll second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second. So, you guys are in concurrence.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Does anyone need me to repeat that motion? Everyone understand?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think we got it. Okay. So, we got your condition done too. Very good. All right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, we got a vote on it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, all in...we got a vote, yeah. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. The motion carries, nine...9-0.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. All right. Any...anything else for this Department?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have some deducts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The Admin Program, Equipment, page 7-6, delete the...instead of...either delete the vehicle or decrease the amount. I would...I'm proposing, instead of deleting the \$50,000 vehicle, deducting \$20,000 from that line.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just want to let you know, Mr. Cook, I had this on my list too. We did check with the Department. They...they can live without the...the...the SUV for now.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So, the 50?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, 50...cut 50.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, the...you are cutting it from where? Sorry, I'll put it out then.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Admin Program, Premium Pay...no, that's the wrong one. Admin Program, Equipment, page 7-6, 919000C/7040. Delete the vehicle.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Did you get that, Kasie?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: \$50,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Can you...so basically, you're deleting the vehicle, right?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 7-6.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Buy another time?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They can live without it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motor vehicle, new. Purchase of one 4x4 SUV to support management of Department, three divisions. And there's . . .*(inaudible)*. . . What is it? And it is 50,000, right?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's what you're saying delete. Did you get that? You got it? Okay. So, motion made by Member Cook, second by Chair Lee. I think it was explained. So, the motion is to basically delete \$50,000, purchase of one 4x4 SUV for--what is this--Environmental Management Admin Program. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. And the Department said they can live without it. All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is it nine ayes? Yes, nine "ayes." Motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: None.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anything else, Member Cook? Oh. . . .(laughing). . . Okay. Anything else?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair Lee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, then also, I would like to make a motion to eliminate the new Public Information Officer, 47,344. And the reason for this is, I believe that we shouldn't have PIOs scattered all over the County. I mean, we already have like five or six reporting to the Mayor. They should be a coordinated team covering the Mayor's Office and all the major departments, rather than everybody having their own, and then not having a coordinated program. So, that's my reason.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I..I second that, and I have a comment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, motion made by Chair Lee, second by Member Cook. Go ahead. Chair Lee, first, that was your comment.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I explained it already.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then Tom Cook, and then Member Kama after that.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I concur with Chair Lee's assessment. I think that the...the Administration, the way they're doing the PIO in every single department is reinforcing the silo mentality. And I think that the opportunity to have this function is...is something that we need, but it needs to be straddling the various departments, and not just in each one. So, I...I think that eliminating this is a step forward.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I think that's what the Emergency did, made everybody conscious of communication. But any other comments regarding this? So, this is elimination of a PIO in the DEM, Department of Environmental Management. Any comments? If not, we'll vote. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Question for Member Cook. What page is that on? Or...oh, Member...Member Lee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair...Chair...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Is that on page 7-3?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 7-3.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The PIO?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah? Okay. I think...I think I can be supportive of this one, but I know there were multiple departments that were requesting PIOs, and I...I may not subscribe to that same thinking for all departments. I think one of my...you know, one of the biggest criticisms that I heard during...immediately after the fire and, you know, shortly after is it was communications and, you know, getting enough information out to the public, timely and regularly. And...and so, you know, like with...with Water, I know Water proposed a PIO, like that was a big one because if they don't have someone that's assigned...like Police has a PIO. MEMA is proposing to have a PIO, and I'm...I'm...I'm definitely supportive of that for the emergency services during a disaster, that's...it's so important. Communications is so important. So, I think for this one, I can be supportive, but for other departments, I...I may not be supportive. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just had a clarification question on what we're voting on. Sometimes we decrease the A Category--like in this case, we're decreasing it 47,344 plus fringe, 39,409 maybe. Are we specifically calling out the PIO, like do not hire or expand the PIO position, or are we just cutting the salary and the fringe? Just wanted clarification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah. I think I heard...okay, go ahead. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Can I explain? Okay. I believe, as I said earlier, there needs to be a strong coordinated effort with regard to public information and liaison with the community. And if anything, we should add one or two more with the Mayor's Office to coordinate all the entire County. And I have never in my...all this time, all these years I've worked for the County, the Mayor has only had like one or two, not five or six. So, something's wrong if they're not covering all the other departments as well. They have to do that. That's...that's their...their charge.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, then to clarify, you just...you want to cut the PIO specifically, not just decrease the salary, right?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Exactly.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, if you're...if you're eliminating the PIO, the position and...and his salary...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Also their desk.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I was going to ask about the desk and the chair. We're going to keep that in for two grand, or do you want to eliminate that too?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That would go too.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, the entire --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- impact...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Grant...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'd like to comment because I heard Member Rawlins-Fernandez and the group. I completely concur that it's extremely important that we have communication. I think at all times, not only during the emergency, especially during emergencies. And I'm hopeful that the Administration can utilize their resources differently than this. the way that they're proposing it, so that it is really good fluid communication from the Administration to all of the departments, and that the departments have the support that they need to communicate. So, I'm in agreement, I just don't particularly like this one. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, I want to revise the motion to include the elimination of the position, fringe benefits, office equipment, and anything else that goes with that position.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Friendly amendment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Friendly amendment and delete everything.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, any question regarding that? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. It's...questions for Acting Budget Director Milner. So, I...is there...does the Mayor have...do you know if the Mayor has a plan for coordinating the PIOs? Because I think we're making an assumption that they would work in silos, but we already have PIOs like for

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Police, I...I think Fire had one. But...yeah. So, is there a plan for everyone to coordinate --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- all the PIOs?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Sorry, my phone fell down. Yes, I do believe the intent is that the department PIOs would work in coordination with the Comms Office in Office of the Mayor. So, it wouldn't necessarily be a silo situation. They would be interacting with one another, and ensuring that everyone had the information, and was getting it out to source...to the public.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Acting Director Milner. Because I think, you know, when we were taking up the TDS item, I know that I had wished they had a PIO prior to us taking it up. Because if there was more communication given to the public before, you know, a void in communication was created, I...I feel like, you know, that situation could have not been as crazy as it was with Olowalu. So, I think, you know, like, I don't know if this is kind of like in response to that because it really...you know, in the age of social media, whenever there's a gap in...in information--clear, concise, regular information to the public--people will exploit that for clicks and attention, and spread misinformation. And so, I...I know that in order for...for...for, you know, clear, regular communication to go out to the public, you need someone who has that expertise and have that dedicated time to do that. So, you know, I applaud the Administration for making that effort to, you know, fill that void with good communication. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair, one last one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The comment that...my recollection, when we interviewed Fire and Police, that if they have PIOs, they're officers first, and the information part is secondary. That's my recollection is that they were assigned to be information officers, but they're primarily firefighters and police officers. And this is where I believe the Mayor has to tackle this important matter of communication. Because during the time of the fire, if...if the police officers...I mean, the Police Department and the Fire Department had PIOs, actually PIOs, whose...whose only job it was to do was get information to the public, for some reason, it wasn't coordinated. So, that's the reason. You know, if...if everybody has a PIO, that's wonderful. But if they don't talk to us and the public, then that's a problem. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And I think we saw Member Nohe...oh, why don't you...why don't you say something, Member U'u-Hodgins, in your Committee.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair, I appreciate it. I actually had a question for our Acting Budget Director, or Budget Director Milner. So, not dissimilar to how, you know, the different departments communicate with us, where they send you guys a letter, or we send them a letter, then they send us the responses, and then you check it, and Mayor signs off on it, and then it gets back to us. Is that how the PIOs are going to work for all the different departments, where they put out some sort of statement, then it goes to the Mayor's PIOs, and then it gets released to the public, or...for all of them going forward, how is that going to work? Because I don't know how that expedites the system if they cannot control the dissemination of their own information.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember U'u-Hodgins. No, I don't believe the intent is to have every statement put out by the department PIOs to be run through the Mayor's Office. I think they just want to ensure that they're informed when these statements go out so that if they also receive questions, they have the accurate information from the departments as well.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I'm curious how they're all going to work. I mean, in the AG's After-Action Report, we see how PIOs are treated. So, I hope if we're going to start funding them, then we start acting like they have the right to push out that information, I guess I'm trying to say. Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, to Chair Lee's point, when Member U'u-Hodgins in her GREAT Committee had Office of Recovery, and one of the things that they said--I swear, I didn't count, but it looked like there were 15 consultants lined up over here and didn't have enough room, so they were lined up in the back of the speakers--and I just thought, wow, these are a whole bunch of consultants of which they had consultant specialize, Anthology, I think, specializing in communication. So, it's not a subject that is not thought of by Administration, and they do have consultants that are supposed to be helping. So, that leaves me that question, like, what is everybody doing? You know, how do you tie this all together? To your point, Chair Lee, and just wondering, do we need another person? Because it looks like we're...plenty people to do a very important job. Okay. So, the motion is to delete everything that relates to the PIO for this Department--correct, Chair Lee?--as it relates to furniture, the position, the money. That's it. Okay. Go ahead, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to clarify exactly what we're voting on. 47,344 for the position, 39,409 for the fringe --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fringe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- \$2,000 for the equipment; is that correct?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, anytime we start talking about salaries, I think there's an associated fringe, okay, so if you could include that, right. Okay. Okay. Members, any more questions regarding this? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I...I wanted to add that the Police Department does have its own PIO that's not also an officer. I believe that's Alana Pico. And then for Fire Department, they have firefighters that also act as CIP coordinators, PIOs, accountants...and I believe that's one of the challenges Chief Ventura explained that they have. It's just like, first and foremost, they...they are firefighters. They didn't go to...they didn't get degrees or training in the things that they're doing, and they're trying their best, and you know, they're...they're doing a good job, but that's not the position they were hired for. And so, I think, you know, as...as we move forward, we know when there's, you know, like something controversial happening, the media...there's a media frenzy, and they're...they're calling us for...for interviews, for comments, for quotes. And a lot of times, if there is no Comms person in that department to do that work, that is done by the director or the deputy, and so leadership. And so, it's taking away time, which is more per hour than a PIO would make. So, you're having someone that's like a director or deputy director of a department that's taking--or a chief--that's taking up time to handle media inquiries instead of someone that's assigned to do that work. And then that way, the department director would be able to continue to do the work of managing the department instead of handling media inquiries. So, I'll be voting no against this...to this...for...I'll be voting no on this motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anybody else? Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, excused.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, there seven "ayes," one "no," one excused, motion passes.

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VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, and Councilmembers Cook, Johnson, Lee, Paltin, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Vice-Chair Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion passes. So, next on this, which will be the CIPs, and I thought...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, Chair, I have some cuts --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you do have some cuts.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- but I don't know if --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if you want to take dinner so that everyone's in a better mood when I propose my cuts or something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . We can do that, too.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or...or whatever. But...I mean, I can...I can finish it out or --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- up to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Why don't you finish yours, and then we'll do CIPs after.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. My first one, I didn't decide whether it's D or E, the Solid Waste, or the EP&S program, so I'll just split the difference and half and

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half. So, for D and E, I would decrease salaries both by 50...or should I do it one at a time?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: One at a time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Sorry. For D, small d.(1)(A), Salaries, decrease by 50,000 plus fringe.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. D, E [sic], (1)(A), yeah, you said? Salaries decrease 100,000, plus fringe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that what you said?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Which would be --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 83...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- \$41,620. And if I get a second, I'll explain.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second by Chair Lee, motion made by Member Paltin.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No, I'm just cutting off the top 50,000, and I believe d. is the Solid Waste program. They have a number of vacancies, so just cutting it off the top. And I normally wouldn't care. Like for Wastewater, I didn't care about the vacancies, but Solid Waste has a supplemental transfer of the General Fund that they don't give back when they have carryover at the end. It stays in the Solid Waste Fund. Same thing for EP&S. So, that...they have vacancies that they're adopted, and actual overtime reflects that they have that money. I'm just cutting it off the top. If they can hire all the people, congratulations, but in the past, it hasn't happened, that they hire all their people on July 1st to fill all the vacancies. So, that would be...my first motion would be on small d., and my second would be carbon copy on small e., but we'll take them one at a time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, you got that? So, we're going to be decreasing the salaries, the small e.(1)(A) [sic].

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: D...d. first.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: D first.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Member Paltin, with the...with the reduction of 50,000 to Account A, were you also reducing the interfund...or supplemental transfer by 50,000?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'd like to, yes, please.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. Is...was that part of the motion one time or...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Can it be? Can I revise?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait. Okay. Let's...let's revise then.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: We usually assume that you're doing that, so we'll take care of that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. That's...that's what I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- meant because of the interfund transfer. That's why I was decreasing it, and I'm not doing that for Wastewater Operations because they're not borrowing General Fund money...or taking General Fund money.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. I just wanted that to be --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Clarified.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- clear, for the record. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then for my next motion, I'd do the exact same thing for small e., which is the EP&S, decrease of 50,000 salaries and 41,620 fringe out of the interfund transfer portion of that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Do I have a second. Second? Member Sinenci, second. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And same discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Same discussion. Anything else? Anybody else? Okay. All in favor then, raise your hand and say "aye."

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And this is a similar decrease as I did to the West Maui Green Cycle. Just, you know, decrease revenue, focus on Lahaina.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...any...Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Is this the...how much is in that, the total? I believe this is the one that we use some of the East Maui metal collections recycling. Is...is there still the 100,000 from...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think there's still 400,000, but let me get to that page.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: 400 left.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you looking at it from in the bill, or are you looking at it in Details?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I was looking in it...in the answers, but I...I can try to look for it in the...the Budget Details.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mister...Kasie and...do you guys have it? Where she is.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yeah, we got the amendment as reducing the B Account by 100,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Solid Waste.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Sorry, we have this under EP&S. Is that an...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, EP&S? Okay. So, this is in...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Where was 919730B?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: We have Budget Details, page 7-76, 919730B, a County grant subsidy of \$500,000. Is that what Councilmember Paltin is referencing?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. Can be supportive, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Be supportive. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We voting?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You guys ready to vote? Okay. All in...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you have questions? Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sorry, I'm seeing it. So, it seems to me, it's a 500 grand...\$500,000 grant for County recycling grants, Hawaiian Hawksbill Conservation, Reef Friendly Landscaping, Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative for Molokai, Mana'e Mulch, Mālama Hamakua Maui, and then it goes down to...why is West Maui Green Cycle in there as well? Zero Waste Refreshment Program, Teenforce Recycles and . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I just want to say, there's...there still is no recycling on the Island of Lāna'i. Our landfill went from 20 years to 10 years after Hōkūao got built. I appreciate that we do need to really focus on Lahaina, but the problems surrounding us are getting...are...you know, they don't pause. So, that's just a concern I have right now at this point, but that...that...the waste refill is a concern for me about filling up our landfills.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're saying Lāna'i is not mentioned in this, right? 7-76.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: We...right, we don't have a recycle program. They...once in a while, they do the...like what Councilmember Sinenci was mentioning about the white appliances and things, but we still are lacking big time on the Island of Lāna'i for much of the recycle programs that Maui gets.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, we'd be happy to support it when there's a program, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. You're good, right, Member Johnson? You're going to develop that program on Lāna'i. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, the...it says like County Recycling Grants, but it's not just like recycling as we think of, like bottles and cans and stuff. For Ho'āhu Energy Co-op Molokai, the recycling that they do is they take

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PV panels--so photovoltaic panels that reach their, you know, close to their end of life on rooftops--and then they repurpose it for...well, on Molokai, a lot of homesteaders have been receiving these nanogrids. So, they take the place of diesel fuel generators, and become like solar generators for folks on Molokai. So, that's the kind of recycling, and I...I...I wouldn't want to impact that because that's...that's an important program for Molokai. How...how much was the proposal, 100,000?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 100,000 out of 500,000 total, and on DEM-1...or EM-1, page 13...12 and 13, it says what it was used for in this past year, a bunch of things. You want me to read them out?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It has the amounts?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Maui Huliau Foundation, 26,000. Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Molokai, PV Panel Reuse and Storage, 24,000. Ho'āhu Energy Cooperative Molokai, Reuse PV Panel Garden, 12,000. Lokahi Pacific, Teenforce Recyclables [sic], \$67,333. Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, Reef Friendly Landscaping, \$12,664. HAMER, Hawksbill Sea Turtle Conservation in Action, \$21,125. Napoleon Gentry, Mana'e Mulch, 22,000. West Maui Green Cycle, School Reusables Pilot, 45,000. HuiZero, Zero Waste Events, 30,000. HAMER, Maui Marine Debris Cleanups and Analysis, 26,400. Honua Collective, Zero Waste Refill Store, 41,950. Mālama Hamakua Maui, \$15,000. Choice, Maui Zero Waste Program, \$15,000. Kipuka Farms Lāna'i, Wood Chipper, \$65,000. Vincent Mina, Recycled Cardboard Weed Barrier Pilot, to be determined.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, Lāna'i got something and a wood chipper. There you go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, your motion is to decrease it by 100,000. Is that what you said? Okay. All right. Members, any other discussion? All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or is it a roll call? Okay. Roll call.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Roll call.

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MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with the roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Excused.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, there are seven "ayes," one "no," [sic] one excused. The motion passes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Two. Two.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, two excused did you say?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Two "noes."

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that I should talk to Bob about that because Greasezilla is old technology and some other things. So, I did call Mr. King of Pacific Biodiesel to have a conversation, and he said basically this is what they used to do at the landfill before the Anaergia thing, and they were removed from the landfill. And that since then, they've developed a better technology that's in use on both O'ahu and Hawai'i Island, where it yields more product, and it's a cleaner source of biodiesel. Mr. King said that if something like this were going to be done, it should probably go through a procurement process. And he also said of the 500 tons that the Central Maui Landfill processes of grease trap waste, that they account for about 75 percent. Then in the discussion...which is about 350 or so tons a month. And in the discussion of what the rates and fees would be for fats and...fats, oils, and grease per ton, Ms. Powers said they would have to install the Greasezilla and see how it works before they determine what new rates and fees are. And Mr. King said, you know, if the rates increase, they would just take all their fats, oils, and greases to...and ship it to one of their processing plants in either Hawai'i or O'ahu. And then that made me think if our fat, oil, and grease stream decreases by 75 percent a month, our charge in...in the scope of this \$2 million equipment would have to be much higher. Then I tried to research what those other jurisdictions charge for per ton tipping fee on fats, oils, and greases. On Hawai'i Island, it's...it's a lot more. It's like 240 more per ton because it's under special handling, and special handling is double of what their regular, so it's like 120 doubled, so 240. And so, then as another one of my proposed amendments, I proposed that the tipping fee for fats, oils, and greases go up \$25, and that the Department do further investigation and talk with their sources of fats, oils, and greases, and possibly put it out to procurement based on what they find. So, that was my deep dive into Greasezilla. . . .(laughing) . . .

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(laughing) . . . Okay. Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Just wanted to make one quick point about the procurement process, we generally try not to go out to RFP unless funds have been allocated for something. So, if no funds are allocated, there won't be an RFP. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. And...and I was aware of that. I think that before they even do an RFP that they need to check with all the entities on...if there's entities willing to respond to a bid. And based on a change in fats, oils, and greases, if it would be worth it to pursue it, or should we just send it all to O'ahu and Hawai'i Island. I think that discussion needs to be had first before we put money for a procurement, or...or, you know, a budget amendment later on down

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I'm okay to wait until everybody are less hangry, or...I mean, not that you guys are hangry, but Chair Lee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair Lee's hungry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...I know, and plus we got to give--oh, sorry--a break. So, it's now 6:01, you want to come back at what time? Oh, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez, go ahead. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have a flight.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, what time?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, what time are we going to?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I was...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because I...I don't want to miss my...I don't want to miss my opportunity because I have proposals.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I just have one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You want...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Should I just do mine now?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, why don't you...is that all right, Members? Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. My proposal is to move the 2.8 million for Maui Invasive Species Committee from the Office of the Mayor to EP&S. Oh, I move to do that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is there a second? You second? Okay. Member Johnson second. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. OED, so the Office of Innovations under OED is managing these grants, and there's been...there's a lot of grants to be managed under OED. And I asked them, when they came before us, if they would be supportive of moving it to EP&S, and spoke with EP&S and Director Agawa about moving the grant to EP&S, which is Environmental

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Protection and Sustainability, which makes more sense to put under...put it under there. And so, there...there was support all around for moving it from...OED supported it when Director Mahi was on the floor. I asked her that specific question. And Director Agawa, I spoke with...or I texted with, and he was supportive.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other comments? Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I also would support that because it...you know, for all the reasons that she mentioned...Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez mentioned. I also plan...plan to move six other environmental grants, and we'll get to that on my proposal. But this makes sense. The work that they do, we need to be helping them instead of hindering them. And I mean MISC...and it shouldn't be the bureaucracy that is getting in the way of them doing that work that is needed. So, full support. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other comments? Seeing none. Let's vote. All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Eight "ayes," one excused, Member Kama. Motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Vice-Chair Kama.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Members.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's your only one, right? Condition for...yeah. Okay. So, I'm going to...I'm going to break.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How long you want to break?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just wanted to let you know that Member Kama has a 6:00 meeting, 6:00 to 7:00.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And she's going to come back, yeah --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- she said. Okay. So, you want to break until 7:00? It's 6:00. Is that okay? Okay. So, this meeting is in recess until 7:00.

RECESS: 6:04 p.m.

RECONVENE: 7:12 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: ...*(gavel)*... (Audio begins mid-sentence) --Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 7:12 p.m. Thank you, everybody, for the break, and we're now going to dig in and finish off the rest of Environmental Management, and then we'll go to Finance, and we'll be done for the evening. Yay. All right. So, where we are is...Tamara, you're going to continue with your reductions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next reduction proposal is under EP&S, number 4, a 20 percent reduction to Green Grants for \$40,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Is there a second?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Chair...I'm sorry, Member Paltin, and second by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just...you know, I...I seen what the money was spent for in Fiscal Year '24 based on DEM's responses to your first transmittal, and I just figure that this year, with our reduced revenue from West Maui, it...it seems appropriate.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any other discussions? Seeing none. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

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expansions and vacant positions, what was passed out to you is either 25 percent cut...10 percent cut, 25 percent cut, and...or 50 percent cut, with 25 being transferred to Countywide. So, if it's...if we paid 100 percent for these positions, it would be vacancies 83,000, expansions would be 75,000, for a total of 158,368. And the...where are we? What is the...what is the...what do the Members want to do? We have yet to do something bold, like 50 percent. So, do you want to look at 10 percent cuts? Shall we talk about that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For...for me, I already did salaries cuts for Solid Waste Administration, and I think it was Operations. So, from the Solid Waste Program, we decreased it by 100,000 plus fringe already.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, there's that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You...you did the...you did cut, right --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did a cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- not a percentage, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not a percentage.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, do you want to look at percentage, or you...you're fine with those cuts for Solid Waste? Okay.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For Wastewater, they're self-funded, so I'm okay. Because if they don't fill it, it just carries over into their own account --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the following year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right. And...okay, Wastewater. Okay. So, I think we're good then, right? Yes, Member Sinenci? You're okay? Oh, that's a thumbs-up. Okay. For new equipment calculations, so we already deleted the...did we delete the...yeah, the four...four...4x4, four-wheel-drive SUV...SUV to support management. So, that was deleted. And desk and chairs for proposed PIO...okay, that's gone. Forklifts in Central. Maintenance doesn't have a forklift of their own at the Kihei baseyard, and they have to use the old Komatsu forklift borrowed from Kahului

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Wastewater Reclamation Facility. That's \$100,000. Question is, do you want to keep it? It's on 7-39, and...wait. This is...this is Sewer Fund. So, what is...if...if we don't do it then, but they have the funds, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I kind of don't want to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Touch it, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- cut out of Wastewater because they're self-funded. So, I...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay. How about if you look at EP&S? So, computer for proposed Environmental Specialist expansion position, \$3,000, 7...7-79, EP&S. God, it's only...it's only 3,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And when they came before us, they said they were very motivated to get those positions filled. So, this year, I'll take their word for it, but if they're still not filled next year, then...

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, then I'll...I'll...I'll try to remember, you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. And you already took care of the . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Management System. So, I think we're good with...with equipment. Okay. So, that's good. Now...all right. So, do we have anything in the April 12th letter regarding Environmental Management?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Member Cook took that up, and I amended it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yeah, that's the West Maui Green...okay. That's done, and...okay. So, Environmental Management for April 12th is done.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I got two rates and fees, though.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead, rates and fees. I heard you. Oh, and we have CIP too. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, was it Environmental Management that had a CIP change for Spreckelsville, or was that someone else?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I have CIP. Why don't you do your rates and fees first?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. On page 6 of the rates and fees, 3429, Maui County Code 8.04.050, I would put the unit charge to 109.40 per ton for

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municipal solid waste, which is a \$3.40 increase per DEM-2 [sic], page 4 response. And I can explain if I get a second.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if you guys recall, we passed the Ash Debris Transportation Fund without taking it to Committee because it sounded like a great idea, and I was trying to come up with a legislative solution. In the responses from DEM, they do not support that. They don't think that FEMA will pay an additional fee that's only going to catch FEMA, and their alternative proposal was to increase the municipal solid waste \$3.40 per ton. So, since we're going to try...I'm going to try and repeal that fund because they don't support it, then I'm taking their alternative proposal, and that was in EM-2 [sic] response on page 4.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Getting to the page. EM-2 [sic] response, 4...I don't have it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, shoot. Wait, I might have wrote it down wrong. Sorry. Let me try and look for it again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I have the...I have the initial question, I don't have the response in here. You got it, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let's see.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It is...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry, EM-4. My bad.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: EM-4. In response what? Two, Two four [sic]?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: B...5.b. 5.b says the Department is currently vetting with FEMA if these additional costs for operations, monitoring, and management of the permanent disposal site will be FEMA-reimbursable. As the answer to this question is yet unknown, the below rates assume that these costs are not reimbursable and would be borne by the ratepayers. With this understanding, should Council decide to pursue rate and fee increase, the Department would recommend increasing the tip fee by \$3.40 per ton applied to all billable tons received at all County-operated landfills for the next ten years. This would bring an estimated increase in revenue in Fiscal Year '25, based on receiving half of the TDS debris of approximately \$1.38 million. This increase over the ten-year period would cover the cost to design and construct the PDS, including the costs to properly receive and manage the wildfire debris. Department will continue to

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develop real costs associated with permanent disposal site, and continue to clarify and negotiate potential reimbursement opportunities with FEMA PA...public assistance.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, it's not set?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. But in most all the meetings I've went to, FEMA said that the way that they are reimbursing the debris construction disposal site is through tipping fees.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, they wouldn't...I don't...I don't believe that they would reimburse us and pay us a tipping fee personally, but you can always hope.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, are you done?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I did have a communication with--well, text with Director--and they're not pushing this now because I think it's not final. Ms. Milner, is that correct?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yeah. At this time, I think the Department would like to keep the rate where it is so they have a little time to establish what the actual costs are going to be, and come up with a more realistic fee.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I can withdraw it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. And the...the thing that...because it's being discussed and not finalized, the one example that I got that I thought, oh, my God, we really need to communicate this to the community. Because this is not only going to be for the debris removal, you know, tipping fee, but this is everybody. And so, it's like, okay, Pukalani Superette, your tipping fee...yeah, I mean...yeah, your tipping fees are going to go up too, for commercial. And I just thought, okay, wait, we...we need to make sure we talk to all the right people, and the community, and Department has to be fine.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, that's what I tried to do, was make it only FEMA-specific with the Ash Debris Transportation Fund, and they said can't do that. So, I mean, either way, the public is going to be paying for Lahaina burning down --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- in more ways than one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, plus the roads. I mean, there's so many impacts, right? But in this case...and in fact, you know, FEMA was very...you know, Bob Fenton, who came to one of our meetings, and he said we're just only paying the tipping fees, the regular tipping fees. And I just thought, okay, I thought we would be able to charge them more so that we could build a permanent disposal site or something, but it doesn't work like that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did just want to point out, if we want FEMA to pay into it, any bit of it, now is the opportunity. If we wait beyond the debris removal, they won't be paying any part of the...of tipping fees, and it'll be 100 percent --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- all of our residents.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I mean, I wish that they would be prepared now to do it so that we can get some of the money from FEMA or Army Corps, rather than 100 percent from our residents. But I don't know, you know...if the Administration knows what it's doing, they know what they're doing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. So, that was your proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Do have one more rate and fee proposal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This one would be on page 8 of the rates and fees...rates and fees, 3442, Maui County Code 3.55.040. \$75 per ton for grease trap waste contaminated cooking oil. Just upon my research, it seems that we're pretty low. It was \$50, so a \$25 increase.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Ties into your other conversation, yeah. Yes?

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Page 8 of rates and fees.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ramseyer version.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, sorry. Ramseyer version.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're increasing...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think we'll still be lesser than other places, but I didn't want to increase to what they're paying all in one go, you know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, that would be the second item, unit charge would be from 50 to 75. Is that what you're doing?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's the proposal, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, anybody...any second?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: What's the proposed --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it is --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- price?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- page...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 75.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Page 8, under fees, landfill disposal, \$50 unit charge amended to \$75. Do I have a second?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second? Okay. So, motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee. Discussion? I think you did it. Anybody else?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, when they were before us, they said that they haven't really changed it in a long time, and I think that it's...it's kind of a problem if...if we're proposing to pay 2 million or whatever to deal with it, and we're only charging \$50 a ton.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. I checked in with the Department on this one, and they would be supportive of this increase. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. All right. Members, all in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, this is eight “ayes,” and who’s excused is Member Rawlins-Fernandez. One excused.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. And do you have anything else?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I did see that DEM had a Spreckelsville force main replacement that they wanted to, I believe, bond-fund for 2.6 mil.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What is the CBS number?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Replacing a line that’s like --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: CBS --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- from 1983.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- 4588 on the April 12th transmittal. It looks kind of important to Pā‘ia.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, it’s real important. If they don’t replace the line then they could have sewage spills in between the pond and the ocean.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, they...you want that bonded, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That’s...that’s the Mayor’s adjustment. I’d be happy to motion to accept it.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I’ll be happy to second it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Nohe. Hi, Nohe. Yeah, that’s your kuleana. Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Member U‘u-Hodgins. Okay. The motion is to bond that project.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For 2.6 million. The assessment, design, permitting, management, and construction of a 7,557-foot, 12-inch diameter force main located along Laulea Place and Stable Road, to replace an existing line constructed in 1983, and is nearing the end of its useful life.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, the project is there, it’s just going to be bonded, right? Ms. Milner, you have any comments on that? We can just choose projects, or does it have to go through...

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. No, no...no additional comments at this time. You’re correct, it would be bond-funded.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good. All right. All in favor, Members, raise your hand and say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good. So, eight “ayes,” one excused.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Anything else? Ms. Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I'm done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin? Huh? Oh, you said you're done. Oh, okay. Okay. So, Members, in communication dated March 28th from the Department, on page 9, we asked the question, if your Department has proposed CIPs for Fiscal '25, and rank in proposed CIP priority. And I'm recommending on the sheet that you got, under Solid Waste, which is actually in this...in this spreadsheet that you got, the shorter side over here is actually Solid Waste, it's mislabeled. So, if you could just look under where it says Sewer, it actually means Solid Waste. The other side, which is a longer list, is self-funded, so we...we don't want to touch that, but we do want to delete the funding for the prefab building with the last two. Prefab building with solar power at Central Maui Landfill, and it's 1 million. And then the Central Maui Landfill storage facility infrastructure, and that one is...is also to be deleted, recommending to be deleted. Yeah. Okay. Thank you. The last two.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Could you repeat that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, delete 7 and 8 on the spreadsheet. And...prefab...yeah, on that side. So, prefabricated building with solar power at Central Maui Landfill.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, it's just mislabeled. This...this is Solid Waste on...it says...it says Sewer, but it's actually Solid Waste.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the...the Department wanted us to cut this?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They're okay with the last two.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They're okay with it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: How much are they okay cutting?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 1.3. And, you know, Members, one of the things that's going to come up when we have Management before us, Management has...oh, all of you have seen it, right? This is in Management, it's on page 9-10. And in here, all the department--not all--but Public Works, DEM, they all have projects that are in here for the wildfire recovery for West Maui. In here, there's only one for this Department, which is debris removal. It is huge, right? And this is also the 145

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million that the County, we are asking the Legislature for. So, we're going to find out, based upon what Josiah Nishita said, April 26, what the State will fund. And I'm...I'm concerned that there's...there's...they're not going to fund all of the 145 million, or 130 million, that...that we asked them for. So, what is the balance, and what is our responsibility. We got to do it. We got to pay for it. So, I'm watching. I think you all are...you know, are aware of...is it Senate Bill 3068? Yeah, 3068. And if you watch that, today and tomorrow it's being heard in the Conference Committee. So, we're going to be...we're going to hear what the State is going to commit to. So...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, we don't have to come to your meeting?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . No, you got to come to my meeting. So, the important thing that we're going to hear when we hear from Management is, what are they going to say, right. Management's going to come tomorrow, what are they going to say about their negotiations with the State? Because that impacts us. Because there's a...there's bills...or there's items, like in this...in this project sheet, right? How much will the State fund? And if you look at that bill, which first came out of the Senate and is now before House and Senate, it...it details what projects they're going to fund. And what does that mean for the rest? That's my question to Josiah, what are we going to do? That's a big question. But anyway, so --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for this particular one, that's my recommendation for the last two. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What...oh. The...the brown is from the Solid Waste Fund --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, not Sewer.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and the purple is general bond. So, are we cutting the general bond 1 million? And then it says that it's to accommodate Staff needs which have exceeded the capacity of current buildings. Where are we going to put the Staff on...on the CIP bill? It says CBS-8394, Prefabricated Structure and Renewable Energy Systems, to provide green storage building to accommodate Staff needs which have exceeded the capacity of the current buildings. The structure will support renewable solar electric panels on the roof and adjacent areas to help offset utility power requirements. So, it looks like 300,000 is funded by Solid Waste fees, and a million is general obligation bond, or General Fund. And then the second one on the bottom, Central Maui Landfill Storage Facility Infrastructure, is solid waste fees, so...or Solid...Solid Waste Fund. So, if we cut 1.3 in Solid Waste Fund...or are we just cutting the 1 million in general bond?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are cutting the project. So, you're saying that by cutting the project, we are actually...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Decrease the interfund transfer by 1.3 million?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, Chair, just for my...

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

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I'm...I'm done, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Just for my clarity, is this something that the Department said that they don't need, or they're not going to do?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, in terms of priority, they're the last in priority. And so, I'm recommending that we pause on it. I guess they can do it another time with all the Wastewater...I mean, with all the wildfire responsibilities that all the departments have. It is huge, right? And if you look at the CIPs for all the departments, I don't think that they can do all of it because I think our priority is to help West Maui with wildfire. So...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I don't know all about it, but building two buildings isn't something that they would do in-house. And storage of anything is at a premium on the island now because of FEMA, and Army Corps of Engineers, and everybody renting absolutely everything. So, I don't know, I would just...if they're...if they're like, yeah, we don't need that, fine. But I would hesitate to cut it without the Department saying that they actually didn't need it or it wasn't a priority to them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can they do it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Because it's a storage building. So...and they're reasonably easy to put up, and pretty useful.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I'll check again. If you guys can pause on it then. But I really think we have too much CIP. I...I...there's absolutely so much CIP that all the departments are committing to. And if we didn't have West...the wildfire commitments, which is all of this...fine. Just...you know, we can do everything. They don't do everything. So, therefore, I'm just trying to be real.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No, I'm in agreement with you that some projects, they can't do them. So, I just would double-check on those two. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, Members, we'll pause on this. And then we did the Mayor's. And we're done, right? Oh, Members' priorities. So, Member Kama, your priority.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I'm glad I came back. So, Members, I would move to condition the grant funding from MISC with the following requirement. The Department of Environmental Management shall contract for an independent operational audit of the Maui Invasive Species Committee, or MISC, prior to October 1st, 2024, and that the audit results must be reported to the Maui County Council by April 1st, 2025. So, Members, with the recommended relocation of the grant funding for MISC from the Mayor's Office of Economic Development to the Environmental Protection and Sustainable [sic] Program of the Department of Environmental Management, my proposal for this condition that applies to MISC should move also. I'm concerned that MISC has become a bottomless hole in which we are shoveling tax dollars with no hope of filling. Since joining the Council, I've participated in five fiscal year budget processes. This will be my sixth, and it seems to me that every fiscal year, MISC asks for more resources to combat an increasing list of invasive species. I want to examine...I want an examination of whether we can deal with these unwanted species with greater efficacy. I believe that an independent operational audit will give us the answers Council needs to determine if that hole has a bottom. Members, I ask for your support, please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oh, this is then to...in summary, is to audit MISC.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. But to move --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- but to move it from --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But to move it from --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- OED --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- OED to --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- EP&S.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- EP&S.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's going to move.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's where...because you folks did that, right? But my condition has to move too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Because it can't stay in OED because you all took MISC to EP&S.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are you proposing funding to conduct an audit? Because on Lānaʻi, we heard it was like 11 grand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, but that's the preschool audit.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: How much are you asking for?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I didn't put anything in...in terms of dollars and cents.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: They're asking for...oh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No, for the audit.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm sorry.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: For this audit. I don't have anything.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, let's pick a number.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, we could...we could ask our County Auditor to do it --

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- but he's independent. So, he could say no, but I mean, we could always ask.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or maybe you could get a number, a dollar amount, and we can get some realistic dollar amount.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: James or Kasie.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If there's a dollar amount, is it still considered a condition or a priority? I mean, if you have to add money to it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Add. Yes, James and Kasie.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Then it becomes a priority.

MR. KRUEGER: Oh, Chair, just the...the Committee could just consider putting the condition on --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. KRUEGER: -- with the existing 2.8, but you know, that's not to say that the Committee couldn't add on top of that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we can just condition that then.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. If I can, I would recommend not conditioning the 2.8. That is a grant to MISC, so you would be granting funds to MISC for the audit. I would recommend conditioning the EP&S main program with that language rather than the grant funds. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Could we put it like...request our County Auditor to audit the MISC grant?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We don't have final say if he will or will not do it is my understanding, but we could always put it...a condition that we request it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, do we have a motion on the floor, or do we...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I did. I just made that motion in my statement. I moved.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Do you want to reword it according to what Lesley just said?

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, Lesley, you wanted us to condition EP&S, their main program with this?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What...Administration, or what?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes. Environmental Protection and Sustainability Program, Environmental Protection and Sustainability Fund, to add a condition requiring them to either work with the County Auditor or contract for an independent operational audit of MISC prior to October 1st, 2024, and that the audit results must be reported to the Maui County Council by April 1st, 2025.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Very good.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Made by Lesley.

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

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's what we said, yeah.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, but she said or.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: It's or, either/or.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Either/or.

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

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, if we get the Auditor...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry. I think it's...so, I thought if we get clarification from Corp. Counsel, is it something that we can ask our Auditor? Because I believe that he is to remain independent.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, you can always ask. He can say no, willingly, and that's how he stays independent. He can just say no.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We can't force him to do the audit.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But I would say that if he's not going to do the audit, I cut EP&S kind of heavily, and I wouldn't want to give them an unfunded mandate.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ah, so there might not be enough money. Wait, here's James.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: An audit couldn't be that much.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's 11 grand for a preschool.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I got the question. Does our County Auditor...Ms. Toshikiyo, does our County Auditor audit outside entities? He audits us, you know, things that we do. So, this is different. Ms. Toshikiyo?

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Hmm, that's a good question. Thank you, Chair. I actually know...well, sorry. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Let me think about that for a second. Because he does have the authority, I guess, for the way the County distributes the grants and, you know, how we manage the grants. But to actually require that a grantee open up their books to the County Auditor, I think I'll need a second to review that Charter provision again.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You can let us know. So, because it says or, we can ask. I guess, let's vote so we can move forward. And then, Kristina, you can let us know. So, anybody else wants to contribute to this? Seeing none. Okay. All in favor --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wait.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- say "aye." Oh, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...so, we don't know if the County Auditor is going to be able to audit it, and we're putting it on EP&S, but we're not giving them any money to do the audit?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I thought we were going to condition it under one of their pots.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, but I feel like I cut their pots pretty good.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I mean, I think that if we're going to...like, this is an expense that they hadn't budgeted for, and then I cut them a lot, and then we

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did all the things. So, I think if we're going to say that they need to do an audit, that we should give them money to do an audit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And we don't know how much. Yes, Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair, my upcoming proposal is to move over a lot of the grants, just like the MISC, into EP&S, along with two positions, and maybe that will help cover the cost by bringing them over there. And, you know, if you wanted me to, I could even, you know, add some money in my next provision --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For the audit.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- for...for the audit. So, the example we've been discussing, and I should say it out here on the floor, is that when we heard the Keiki O Lāna'i Preschool have to pay \$11,000 for an audit, it's kind of hard to have a nonprofit just whip out 11 grand, and that's just for a preschool. I don't know what it would cost for these guys. So, maybe in my next proposal, I'll add a little more money, and that would make things go. I don't know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: 11,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You look like you want to say something.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Again, this would be for EP&S, not --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, EP&S.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- MISC. Yeah. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For MISC audit.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, for the MISC audit, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Okay. Okay. So, it sounds like we're going to hold that thought, and we'll wait until we get to what...Member Johnson, you guys can merge.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, you have a motion and a second on the floor.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: So, I would recommend either --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Withdraw.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: -- yeah, withdrawing or disposing of this, either by voting or...yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you want to dispose of it?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And then allow Member Johnson when he does his EP&S condition and priority, could add the cost of the audit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I mean, it's cleaner.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members...yeah? All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we're going to audit MISC, who's going to be in EP&S, is where we're getting to. And this...it's going to take us three actions. Okay.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, how many ayes? I think we have, what, eight "ayes" and one excused still, right? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm kind of a no...like, I want to make sure Member Johnson's thing passes with money for it before I vote for an audit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just in terms of process.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Roll call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with roll call vote.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Sinenci?

MS. MONIZ: Council Chair Alice Lee.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait. Member Sinenci has a question.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Well, and then we were going to wait on Ms. Toshikiyo to...or that is a separate issue?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Toshikiyo, are you going to get back to us?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: She went to sleep already.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: There she is.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yeah, sorry, Chair. I actually...I looked at the Charter provision and I know what you're talking about, where it states that it's...well, it's the funds, programs, or activities of any agency or function of the County. So, I'm actually doing a little bit of a deeper dive because...so, for some of our grantees within the general terms and conditions, there are requirements to have financial audits, but I don't know if that applies to MISC grants. I'm going to pull up what their grant agreements look like.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's what the preschool was saying. They had to do an audit every three years, yeah. But we don't know if MISC is under that every three-year audit thing.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yeah. I can't recall off ...*(audio interference)*... my head if there's also like a threshold on the amount of the grant. Because sometimes if it's a smaller grant, then they can do more of an internal, larger grants may be required to do, you know, actually get an auditor to...to go over their books.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The...

MS. TOSHIKIYO: So, that's what I'm looking up right now.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The preschool was only like 80,000 and they were required to do an audit. But if it's a provision where they're supposed to do an audit every three years, then that would take care of itself.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, true.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Which would be . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

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MS. TOSHIKIYO: So, let me...I'm trying to find the grant to...to confirm.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Which probably...right, probably MISC does have to do an audit. They have so much business with us. You would imagine.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair, I would...I --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- would prefer to wait. I'm generally supportive, but I'll wait for Ms. Toshikiyo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Let's...let's just put this on the side then until we can get all the information. But it sounds like we're heading all similarly in the right...in the same direction. Oh, Nohe. Sorry. Go ahead. No. You want to withdraw the motion and then we can take it up? You want to withdraw the motion?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Then take it up all at one time.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Yeah, let's please move on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, let's move on. Okay. Do we have anybody else that has...we're in the conditions for DEM. Environmental Management --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- you have...Alice Lee, your...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I am asking to add \$250,000 to professional services for an RFP to start the process to create a community facilities district to expand R-1 water use in South Maui and Wailea--which is different from Mr. Cook's.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. It would...this is a different proposal than Mr. Cook's. Mine is a funding mechanism, and his is actually planning and design. Because we all know that the development and transmission of R-1 water is necessary, and we need to start as soon as possible.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody...did you get a second? Okay. Second. Motion made by Chair Lee, second by Member Kama. And you made your discussion.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just my recollection of the communities facilities district process was, you'd outline a boundary area, and a certain percentage of that area has to vote in favor of putting that communities facilities district onto themselves to give themselves higher taxes. And while I'm all for taxing folks higher to get R-1 water to where they're at, I'm not super confident that the people that would be taxing their own selves feel similar, especially...take out especially, but for South Maui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, that's the hard part, right? I mean, the process for community facilities district, it was an item in my Committee, and the only...the only group that really wanted it was Kahana Bay...Kahana Bay because of the erosion. And they're the only ones. That's been sitting there for years as a process that any community can use. So, although it's a great idea, Chair Lee, I don't think that it's something that all the people in South Maui or Wailea...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...I think they will. I think they will because it's an expensive undertaking, and I'm pretty sure the County cannot afford it. So, somebody has to pay for it. I think the big hotels want to use R water...R-1 water because it makes sense. It's cheaper. It's cheaper. And so, I think we ought to try because it's just a matter of putting a funding mechanism together. Not to...not to say it's going to cost \$250,000, but we need to have the information.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it's for a study.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Yeah, it's not for...the system itself is going to cost millions and millions of dollars. This is...this is to...to study the funding mechanism part of it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The Maui Meadows Association is discussing something similar to this and approached...has approached the County. It isn't...they wanted to export their water from a mini...mini plant to...which would...which would satisfy...work with this. My conversations with the golf courses and the hotels, they are very supportive of getting the R-1 water there. Whether their...whether this particular funding mechanism would work or not, I think that the fact that it is being proposed while an environmental assessment is being done--and I'll explain the benefits of the County doing the environmental assessment--will just sort of reinforce the fact that it is something that is seriously being considered, and a possibility.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, the community facilities district will allow the people of South Maui and Wailea, the hotels, then to implement this R-1 water system, pay for it, they get taxed higher for it. And the part that I'm not sure, and the reason why Kahana wanted us to do their...to take care of their T-groins in the ocean, is to implement...I mean, put the T-groins in the ocean, number one, which we have to get the State to approve because it's their kuleana in the ocean. But we also own the infrastructure, so that's part of the deal, right? So, whatever you put in, it becomes our infrastructure. So, I'm not sure how...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Which is good. Because then we collect money for...as we use the transmission lines for other people.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Cook, then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And sewage lines, and R-1 lines, and waterlines are the type of infrastructure that's very appropriate for the County to own, maintain, and do the Department of Health and environmental considerations that would be required to oversee R-1 water, and a sewage system would make it really appropriate. So, we would not be responsible for it on their property, we would be responsible for it to their property. So, I think in this instance, you're correct, that other one was a little sticky. But this one, I think, is...would work.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was going to say kind of the similar thing because the County already owns R-1 lines. We don't own anything in the ocean. I mean, technically, we kind of do at Launiupoko, but not like this, or not like the T-groins and stuff where we would maintain them, and own them, and like that. But we own a lot of sewer lines. We own a lot of R-1 lines. So, it...it falls more within...if we didn't do it through a CFD process, we would just do it on our own, and then we'd own it anyway. I just...I mean, I'm a little skeptical that Kihei would vote to tax themselves to put this out there. But if Member Cook polled his people--I don't know if hotels get one vote or how that works--but I mean hey, it's a gamble. We can give it a shot. I mean...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: If I...if I could clarify. So, neighborhoods and residences wouldn't be...not applicable...wouldn't be...this would be for only commercial endeavors, and it would be for like a neighborhood like Maui Meadows, but it would be in the right of ways...and the golf course and the hotels. But you don't put R-1 water normally to a subdivision. The difference in Maui Meadows, they're talking about making their own package wastewater plants and exporting the wat...the wastewater. So, they would be...

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, to clarify --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the CFD wouldn't include other normal residences. It would just include the commercial users and Maui Meadows, but not like Joe Blow on Liloa or something.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Correct. Like my house on Pu'u Ho'olai, I couldn't use it if I wanted to. It wouldn't...because you don't use it...you don't use it on...normally in a residence because you have to have someone managing the R-1 system. So, it's like Maui Meadows would have somebody that is managing it that...for that area.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the CFD would...would not include the residents. It would include Maui Meadows as a subdivision because they want to transmit R-1, as well as other commercial users that would use R-1. So, it would be a pretty small scope CFD?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: No...well, you would also have hotels, virtually all the hotels, golf course. If 670 ever got built, that would be an applicable one. The...the hotels, they're going to pay like a...now it's...I think it's a buck 50, or a buck 75 per 1,000 gallons for R-1 water, and they're paying like 7.50 per 1,000 for potable water. So, even though...they...they're going to have a big financial benefit, plus, of course, we'll feel better...a lot...a lot better about them when they're freeing up a couple million gallons of potable water.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, as far as CFD goes, and we're trying to figure out how to do this, if we approve this, then the Department can figure this all out and explore because there's legal stuff. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. I think, as far as I know, it can go to noncommercial entities. It...it...it follows the path. The...the Department will create the path from, let's say, the current sewer treatment plant all the way down --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: To Mākena...or Wailea.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- Pi'ilani...Pi'ilani Highway, and...which passes, you know, Maui Meadows, and it goes down to the hotels and all of that. So, everybody along the path can hook on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Now, the important thing to remember is, Kihei doesn't have water. We talk fire prevention? This is fire prevention. And we also would not

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have the need to use injection wells because we'll be treating the water. So, it has multiple, multiple benefits. So, what I'm trying to do is, is trying to help the community come up with a funding mechanism so that the project will be done. Otherwise, it's going to sit on the shelf.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson, and then we'll vote.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I totally support this, and I'm glad Councilmember...Chair Lee mentioned the...the importance it is to use our wastewater, and not look at it as wastewater, but look at it as a resource. And South Maui, that highway that we speak of, it's right on the WUI, or the Wildland Urban Interface. That is the exact spot where you want to have a nice green belt to protect your...your town. So, I think it's a great, great use of funds.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Ready to vote? Okay. All in favor for this, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye, aye, aye. Aye? Okay. Eight "ayes," one excused.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good experiment. We love to see this happen. Okay. Next, Tom Cook. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, Members, I propose to add a million dollars in personal [sic] services for the design and an environmental assessment for the expansion of R-1 water to the Wailea and Mākena area. That'll be on page 7-5, and index code 919000B, code 6132. I think it's currently like \$7,500, if I'm not mistaken. We've spoken with the Department about this, and the...in order for it to happen, besides the funding mechanism, one of the other major impediments is to do an environmental assessment. And the County has the ability to do an environmental assessment for the entire area, as opposed to any individual having to do...or individuals having to do multiple environmental assessments. So, this will basically set the stage for a design, an environmental assessment, an environmental impact statement, the pros and cons, and pave the way so that with a funding mechanism, this could be executed in the next few years.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Yes, Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Cook. Just one additional request. Along with design and the EA, could we add a preliminary engineering report to the conditional language?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much. That's very appropriate to add in.

MS. MILNER: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, friendly amendment add-on. Okay. Let's vote on this, I think, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I had a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is this going to be bond-funded or General Fund cash?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner? Can we bond fund it?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. This is for professional services, so --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, cannot.

MS. MILNER: -- I don't believe it would be bond funded at this time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, it's not...it's not --

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: General Fund cash?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- it's not construction.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then they...they are willing to take it on?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. The Department isn't sure how far they would be able to get in this fiscal year, but if funding is included for the preliminary engineering report, they could at least start down that road, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Encumber it?

MS. MILNER: Yes, at least a portion of it, if not all of it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, House Bill 300, which is Legislature, has 1 point, I think it's 25 million, for R-1 water. And Ms. Milner, can you check to see if this is...can qualify for that match? And if not, I think there was...but it's a little bit different because I think last year we put in 1.25 million, but it was for Kūlanihāko'i and mud...mud control or whatever, right? So, can you check on that? Okay. Members, let's vote. Okay. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, since you brought that up, they...remember, we put money in, millions, about five years ago to go the opposite direction, which they did. They did. And we probably need maybe money from the State or whatever, maybe GET, that they want to extend the lines to Monsanto to...so that we can pick up about, oh, 500,000 gallons a day. So, Monsanto would convert to R-1 water instead of the potable water. So, we...we...we did that route. Now, what Tom Cook and I are trying to do is go the other way, yeah? Okay. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, let's vote. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye." Okay. Eight "ayes," one excused. Motion passes.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Who else has? Tamara Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We did mine already.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We did yours, and Keani Rawlins, we did it. Gabe Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. This is my Countywide proposal. Move . . .*(inaudible)*. . . environmental grants to the Department of Environmental Management and EP&S Division. So, we already moved Maui Invasive Species Committee for 2.8, so I'll just go down the other grants that were my proposed move. Environmental Protection for 700,000; Green and Resilient Housing [*sic*], 100,000; Maui County Wetlands, 800,000; Maui Nui Marine Resource Council, 225,000; Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project, \$82,500; Renewable Energy Programs, 100,000 in EP&S. Remove those...so, removing the following items from...or those items from the Office of the Mayor, page 16 to 17 in the budget, and that total would be \$4,870,500. And add back the cuts where we...that were made to FY 2025 environmental grants at an amount of \$463,500, some of which can be...can be put towards equipment for the new E/Ps and an audit of MISC. Add two equivalent personnel, so an increase, A, Salaries, by 125,000. That's two positions for nine months each, plus fringe at 104,000. So, total increase to supplement transfer to the Environmental Protection and Sustainability Fund, that's page 6 in the budget ordinance, is 5.5 million. The total additional to the budget is 692,500, including MISC. So, yeah, I guess I should have that MISC in there, the Maui Invasive Species Council [*sic*], for 2.8 million. I'm just putting it out for the record that that's...that's...that's where the math comes from.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, is it flat, or are you adding expense?

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Pardon me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is it flat, or are you adding expense?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Adding the expenses total additional 692,500.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Second. Does that include the audit?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: He mentioned the words, but I don't know about a number. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: If he added the...the audit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. *(pause)*

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. So, sorry about that. I just wanted to add that the...removing the following items from the Office of Mayor budget is now changed because we did the MISC, and that's 2,007,500. And that's according to what Staff had just told me to give you the updated numbers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, basically what happened was we took all of this away from the Mayor's Office --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and he was putting it in EP&S --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- so there's no actual increase of cost, right, it's flat?

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's correct. The two E/Ps will help with...administer those...those...those...but...help administer those grants. I think the ratio is...is similar, about one person for ten grants is...is what a good ratio is, and that's...it maintains that. I spoke with Shayne Agawa, he...he's...he supports it. So, that's the proposal.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, any questions? Ms. Milner, you have any thoughts on that?

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. I would just reiterate that if the Committee does choose to move these grants to EP&S, that the two additional E/P will be essential to manage these additional funds. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay, Members...oh, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I know that EP&S was motivated to fill their two positions that they had prepared for. In this...like what would be the titles? Are they already described by the DPO and like that? Because we know it takes about five to seven months to go from an idea to a position, and they said that they had already been working on the positions for this upcoming fiscal year that they had planned for that we didn't cut money. So, I'm just concerned that...I mean, I'm okay with moving all the grant money over, but we already have people in OED, the Office of Innovation and Sustainability, or whatever, that are helping OED to disburse this money. And now we're going to take it away from them, and have to hire two more people that we don't know what the titles are, if they're in the organizational structure. And it's...it's not easy to hire new people. So, I...I kind of feel like if we were going to do this, we should have them hire the people first because it's kind of contingent on...like I wouldn't want to hold up these grants depending on how long it takes for them to describe the two positions, and recruit the positions, and then give out the money, you know what I'm saying? If they say that they need two more people to distribute this additional 4.8 million with the MISC money...so, that's my concern. And...and so, I don't think I would be supportive...supportive of this. Because it's just a lot of...if it's going to happen in a timely fashion. it could hold up the disbursement of these grants, which I think is the opposite of what we'd like to do.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Can I speak to that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. And Chair Lee to follow.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, basically, they...they...in total, they would be taking on about 40...37 grants, but if we round up, just go to 40 grants. Could be more...could be more depending on how the division decides to divide up its grant subsidy. So, EP&S grants are currently managed by three Staff; the Environmental Program Specialist, two Recycling Specialists. And these Staff have additional duties besides the grant management, they do...Environmental Protection Specialist also manage the environmental programming for the County, including sunscreen and plastic implementation. Recycling Specialists also manage DOH grants, recycling. So, this is what they're doing now. They also...what...we want to give them the CARP, right, in that division, so they're going to need some help. And I think that's why, when I spoke with the Department, they...that's how they...they...they wanted to proceed. The...the grants that are in OED and...have languished there. Like remember, MISC didn't

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get their money yet, and I..just because they're managing them--I'm...I'm just going to say this--I don't think they're doing a very well job if MISC didn't get its money yet, and it's April. So, that's just an example of one grant. I think moving them over to EP&S, where people are...have...like the Division Chief, she...Michelle, she has a PhD in...in this type of work. So, those folks, they're motivated, they want to...they want to address the environmental concerns. I think that's where it would be a better place for it because they understand the work that these nonprofits are doing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't disagree, I'm just skeptical that they'll be able to hire two additional people on top of the two additional people they're trying to hire in the time --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- in time.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The two positions are funded for nine months, so it's going to give them...we give them some time to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: To ramp up.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- hire up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, but they're starting from scratch, and we've heard it takes five to seven months --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- to get through the process.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, I just have a question for Member Johnson. So, did you say that there are three grants administrators in EPS? Yeah, there are.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, they...and they know...they are aware that you're...you're trying to make this proposal, and they would be able to handle this volume until two more people are hired?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes. That...that is according to...both Michelle and Director Agawa are saying that. They said if no additional E/Ps, Director Agawa can manage this fiscal year with the expansion positions already proposed in the

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Mayor's Budget. Director Agawa requests two additional expansions...E/Ps for the grant and the CARP. So, you know, if we...I don't want to stress them, you know, but if we can get...they said they can do it. That was according to Director Agawa, so I quoted him on that. And...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Says he can.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Otherwise, you talked about grants languishing.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: In the...in the...where it languishes now.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I mean, again, I mentioned...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Graveyard of grants.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The graveyard of grants, I like that. But the...you know, MISC is...I mean, it's April. They need that money, and I know Maui Nui Seabird Recovery, they too have not got their money. That's not how we budgeted that money last year at this time. We gave that money expecting that it would be spent by this time, and it hasn't.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...so, do you want to...you want to vote on this, or you want to put it on the side, and then maybe get some of these questions answered?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is there any more questions?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're ready to vote? Yes, Member Sinenci, go ahead, then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. And it looks...I...I don't know if we could wait for three months before moving the grants over from OED to EP&S until we can get...I...I know that DPS, Department of Personnel, has got a bunch of grant writers in the queue that could easily be, you know, moved to...in these two positions. So, I don't know if --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think that's...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- maybe those two positions. Not grant writers, you didn't want grant writers in these positions? Just to help out with the expansion...or move it, or wait until three months to move over those grants, no? All right. I was just throwing it out there.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're trying to come up with another idea.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's a pretty...so, the people in OED now that take care of this environmental, can they go over to EP&S? I mean, I don't...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. That means...that's what I'm afraid of, right? And I'm sorry if I'm saying that, but the people in EP&S...

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Exactly, the people in EPS are trained in environmental studies. They know the work that these folks are doing in...for these environmental grants. The folks in OED, Office of Economic Development, are working with grant...you know, nonprofits and doing that kind of work. It's...it's a mismatch. And that doesn't say anything about OED and those guys, I know they work hard, but these folks are specialized in working with our environmental nonprofits.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't...I don't think I'll be able to support this proposal unless we start with them hiring the two people first, and then move the grants over. Because I don't have good confidence that within three months, they'll be able to describe, recruit and hire positions. And to put it on the Director when he's like, you know, in the eminent domain, and the ash debris, and all of that, I don't feel like is...is really fair when we're talking about cutting his storage buildings because we're...we're not sure that he's going to have the capacity to do those CIP. And we just added on, you know, R-1 recycled thing, and then there's the force main replacement. So, I just...I think it's too many steps at once for one fiscal year for this Administration. I'm supportive generally if we started with giving them two more positions, having them fill it first, and then move the grant second. But just my experience with the Administration, all of them, all the administrations that I've ever dealt with, I don't have any kind of confidence. And not only the Administration, but there's DPS and Management. I don't have confidence that they would fill it in that amount of time. So, I would be asking for a roll call vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, are you guys ready to vote? You want to put on the side until...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Let's vote.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Roll call.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, proceeding with roll call vote. Council Chair Alice Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Aye, with reservations.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tamara Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Excused. Oh, I'm sorry. Not...I'm sorry, you're not excused. Go ahead.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Gabe Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's excused.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Tom Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yes, with reservations.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No.

MS. MONIZ: Councilmember Shane Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aye.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Vice-Chair Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Committee Chair Yuki Lei Sugimura.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MONIZ: Chair, that is --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Six.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: If you want to revisit it, I think it's fine because it does...it's in there. I think the question was is if the Auditor has the ability to audit.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...oh, Ms. Toshikiyo, there she is.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Hi, Chair. This might actually be moot now that there's enough funding added. Just...but just for some information, in the Maui County Code, Chapter 3.36, there's a requirement of reports by recipients to provide detailed financial records. Audits of financial records shall be performed as required in the rules and regulations adopted by the County, provided, however, that any nonprofit organization with an annual budget of 25,000 or less may have their records audited by the Department of Finance. And within...I kind of pulled up some of UH/MISC grants, and Ms. Milner was helping me because there are a lot, but there are requirements within our general terms and conditions for recordkeeping, as well as, you know, having their documentation, all their financial records available for the County upon request to do this...do an audit. And...oh, gosh, there was one other section. I'm sorry, I'm trying to scroll up. And that the grantee shall supply the County with a copy of its annual financial statements that shall be prepared by a certified public accountant, and we shall also...the County shall also be allowed to audit or inspect the grantee's records, report books, files, et cetera, upon request of the County to determine compliance with the terms of the agreement. So, just giving you some information.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, in summary.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: In plain English.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: In plain English, please.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: So, in plain English...in plain English, in our general terms and conditions, the County does have the ability to audit the...the records, the financial records, to determine compliance with the grant. And by signing off on the grant agreement, the grantees are agreeing to open up their books to us. And that's part of the terms and conditions of the grants. And to the discussion about, you know, certain grantees are smaller, so if they get a grant of less than 25,000, they can opt to have their records audited by the Department of Finance rather than providing us with, like all of these other documents that are required to be

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prepared by a CPA. So, just kind of wanted to add some information to the discussion on the audits, just how we're doing it with the...the grants.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, that's why grants are required to produce audits, right, because we give them more.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Oh, well...yeah, open up their books to the County so the County can audit to determine grant compliance.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, not necessarily the Auditor to do it, but they must do the audit.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: There is actually another section as part of the conditions for grants and loans that the grantee shall agree to comply with a lot. So, under 3.36.050, they would allow the agency--so whatever department, the Mayor, or the Committees of the Council and its Staff, and the independent Auditor of the County full access to records, reports, files, and other related documents. So, that's a requirement within the Maui County Code as it pertains to the grants.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Member Sinenci? Sorry about that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I was just reminded that several years ago, we did have an audit for MISC that we presented in my Environmental Committee. So, my question for Ms. Toshikiyo was, does it have to be a financial audit or a management audit?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Toshikiyo?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Operational?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: It's operational and...

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Yes, that's a good question. Right. Because I think it can be both. The requirement is to open up the financial records, but what they really are looking at is the operations as well because they're looking at what the...you know, if they're fulfilling the purposes of the grant. So, I think it could be both.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. Pro Tem Kama, was...was more towards an operational audit?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Correct. It was...that's what the motion was, to contract for an independent operational audit.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I can be supportive of that, Chair. I think an operational budget [sic] would actually help MISC with their operations.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: I would say though, that as it relates to, you know, how they are handling the...the County's grant funds, you know, and it's all related. So, that's why I think that it would be fine to be included.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Tasha...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I have to make the motion again --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, because you withdrew it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- because we...yeah, I withdrew.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Because you're waiting for Member Johnson to...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I move to...to condition the grant funding for MISC with the following requirement, that the Department of Environmental Management shall contract for an independent operational audit of the Maui Invasive Species Committee prior to October 1st, 2024, and that...that it must relate to grants given to MISC by the County of Maui, and must be reported to Maui County Council by April 1st, 2025.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, can we just clarify that this is under EP&S instead of under the grant? So, EP&S.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, EP&S.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yeah. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner, did you want to say something? You look like.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I had the same comment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What did you say?

MS. MILNER: I had the same comment that it --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. MILNER: -- should be under EP&S rather than under the grant. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And just to add to the language, if Pro Tem Kama would be open, for the audit to make recommendations in their findings.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. Members, any comments on that? Any discussion? If not, let's vote. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's eight "ayes," and one excused, Member --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: What happened?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I think we're at the end, right, of all of that? Now we got to do Environment...now we got to do Finance.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Now, Finance.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Finance. So, we have one last Department, then we can all go home, and see you tomorrow at 9:00. So, Finance is in Budget Bill number 6. No CIPs, Appendix A grants, the Budget Bill on page 37-38. A, special purpose revenue, none. B, Appendix B, rates and fees, pages 11 to 15. So, let's look at...anybody have any amendments for Finance? Tamara?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You do? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Sorry, let me get there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Yeah. Okay. So, I move to decrease on page 6, 6, Department of Finance, small a.(1), big A, Salaries, by 150,000 plus fringe, which is 124,860.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you said on page 6 in Bill 60, right, in the...in the...okay. And then what, A, Administration Program. Delete what?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Delete...or decrease Category A by 150,000, plus fringe, which is \$124,860.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Okay. And is there a second? Did Chair Lee second that?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, I did.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee, and it is for deletion for...decrease for what?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's for the Administration Program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right. For?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For Finance.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For a position, or what is the discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, off the top. It's just off the top based on their vacancies.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: They've got --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- like 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- 6, 7, 8, 9...like 10 vacancies out of a total of 23 positions. Many of them have been vacant for 5 years...like over --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- 20 years.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I agree. My cuts that I was going to do is pretty close, and it's like a 25 percent cut in Admin, \$142,207. Okay. Members, any discussion?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Anything else?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next one would be in small c. of the same --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- in salaries, big A under 1, and I would decrease that. I move to decrease that by 100,000 plus fringe, which would be 83,240.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Got that, James and Kasie? Okay. All right. Any discussion? All right. All in favor?

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Eight "ayes," one excused, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: My next one would be under D, Motor Vehicle Licensing Program. I move to decrease salaries by 250,000 plus fringe of 208,100.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What was the first number again?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 250,000, Motor Vehicle Licensing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Second, somebody?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second Chair Lee. Motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee. And all...and all...discussions? Discussion, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Are these positions that are funded, but not filled?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. It's...it's a decrease in salary based on the historical differences in adopted and actual amounts from Fiscal Year '22 and '23. Continuing trouble in reorganization with Management and DPS to describe positions and get them to the recruitment phase of the process. For DMV in particular, they have like maybe ten-plus positions that they're chronically having a hard time to fill. So, I'm not taking away 100 percent of the salaries, but I'm not anticipating them filling those ten positions in July. The...the other thing is with a budget amendment, if they have excesses in any of these, they can move it around.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that would be my...my preference, is that they come to us to amend it, to move it if they can fill it. But for DMV especially, it seems that we're stealing their workers --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I was just going to say that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and bringing them to OCS.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah, they have a hard time filling the positions. So...okay. Thanks for the explanation. I'm supportive.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I agree with Member Paltin. It's just that it's a little steep. It's 50 percent...50 percent cut. But...but like...but like you said, a lot of them have been vacant for some time, right? Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Continue.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, did we vote on that one?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry, we didn't vote. Okay. All in favor...and this is for DMV, and the amount that you're decreasing it by?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 250,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, that is 50 percent cut with...okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, we keep taking their employees, and then before we started taking their employees, they had a hard time filling those positions to begin with.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But so well-trained, we like them. All right. So, at this time, all in favor say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Then my next one would be under Category F in the same number. For the Treasury Program, I move to decrease salaries by 50,000.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that would be a fringe of \$41,620.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any discussion, Members?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Same discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. All in favor, raise your hand and say “aye.”

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Eight “ayes,” one excused. The motion carries.

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VOTE: AYES: Chair Sugimura, Vice-Chair Kama, and Councilmembers Cook, Lee, Paltin, Sinenci, and U‘u-Hodgins.

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmembers Johnson and Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What are you not...you didn't get Accounts Program. Yes.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Gabe is not here. So, I guess that's seven, and two excused. How long has he been gone?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. He wasn't here for that. Was he...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I didn't hit Accounts because I feel like that they have chance of filling their positions.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: He was here for the audit one.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if...if any of the other programs need money, they can pull it from Accounts --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if Accounts don't fill their position.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I think I didn't pull from Purchasing either. They're doing a good job as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, for new equipment calculations, as far...well, as far as the vacant and expansion positions, it was...Tamara took care of it. That was on my list. I...so for new equipment calculations, for four cubicles for Fiscal Year 2024 expansion positions, 35,000 Finance Admin, Budget Details 8-8, general funded, and also nine cubicles, space furniture given to TAT Office, 99,000 Real Property Tax...program is Real Property Tax, 8-37, General-funded. So, for that, if we want to cut back with the positions we just heard for it being not filled, would you like to entertain a cut of 10 percent for those furniture that I just mentioned?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I wouldn't like to do the Real Property one because, you know, the TAT is so important. If we can hire people, I want them to have desks, and I mean, that's Marcy Martin's division, and you know, they work so hard to get us all that stuff. I don't want to, like, demoralize them. I'm okay with the other one though, because I...I don't believe they're going to fill those positions, but.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Four cubicles for '24 expansion positions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure, I'll make the motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Finance Admin. Okay. So, that's...you want to cut back what, 10 percent?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, I mean, 10 percent wouldn't be 10 grand --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- so I'd cut 20 grand, maybe, or 10 grand.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. 10 grand. Okay. Second, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Second, Chair Lee. All in favor...oh, discussion? All in favor, say "aye."

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. That's going to be from 50 to \$100?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, page 13, under out-of-state vehicle permit, and it was \$50 and increased to 100. Members, any discussion? I think Member Paltin's been saying this the whole time. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess my discussion would be, you know, if you're so proud to stay...stay with your license plates from another state, might as well just go back to that state, or pay \$100.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I don't think you can keep it for very long, right? You got to turn it in. I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know, in West Maui, all day long, I'm seeing out-of-state license plates.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, is that right? Okay. All right. Members, all in favor...oh. Member...motion made by Member Paltin, second by Chair Lee [sic]. Okay. Discussion, we heard...oh.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, it was Member Johnson? Okay. Member Johnson made the second. Any discussion? Seeing none. All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Eight "ayes," one excused...and Chair Lee, you're voting, right? So...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You did? Okay. Eight "ayes," one excused, Keani Rawlins-Fernandez. And motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anymore?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have one more. On page 14, 3248 to 3297, MCC 3.24.030. I move to increase half a cent the per pound of net weight for all other motor vehicles. And from the table that they...we got from Finance, that would make the rate per pound .0591. And it would increase...it would make the revenue be \$6,512,465.40, which, with all the trucking on our roads and stuff, and no Ash Debris Transportation Fund, I think we're going to need that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ready, Members? Do...did you get that? Yeah, and then did you get the motion?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Half a cent increase.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. As to...half a cent. Okay. Okay. Members, all...yes, Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Chair, I would support that. I would even support going higher because when...when people have heavy vehicles, they use it as a tax write [sic]...99 percent of the time they are writing it off for their businesses. You have a big dually truck, you write it on your taxes, you don't have to pay taxes on it. So, the folks who have a big truck just for funsies, they can afford it, but most of us aren't even paying taxes on it because we use it as a write-off.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Just for funsies, I like that. Okay. Okay. So, you're fine? All right, Members. Member Johnson, you have anything else? Okay. So, what, did you...you're fine? Okay. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

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COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That is...passes then. Eight "ayes," one excused, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I was just told I have to go back to DEM Revolving Fund. Oh, okay. We should finish off...

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we can finish Finance first, if you'd like.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we can finish off. Any more changes to Finance? If not, we're done.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I would love to add the Mayor's proposed decrease of \$3,313,254, but is that not Finance? It's more Countywide, and are we saving Countywide for the end because we're not...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We are.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. So, that's not right now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're looking at that overhead reimbursement, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Correct.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Miscalculated. So, we're going to take that up Countywide, Friday.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the Mayor wanted a proposed increase of \$50,000, or is that...that's in Countywide as well?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Rental. That's rental for One Main office for OED.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, would that be in Countywide or under Mayor? Oh, okay. So, we're not doing that, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we're not doing County...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We're going to save Countywide until the end?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. Okay. I'm done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're done. Okay. All right. So, we're done with Finance. All approved, Members, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because we're not going to do like RPT right now or anything?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, we're not doing...we're not doing RPT.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Consensus for Finance?

COUNCILMEMBERS: Consensus.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thanks for working hard on it. So, we got to go back to DEM for what, rates and Revolving Fund? Okay.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Let me go back to their...

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

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MR. KRUEGER: On the proposal matrix, there are two...there are two Revolving Fund proposals. I believe they're both for the Highway Beautification Fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, we missed somebody then. It was somebody's priority? Oh. Oh, it's you and me. Okay. Environmental...wait, Emergency Management.

MR. KRUEGER: So, Chair, Councilmember Sinenci's Revolving Fund proposal is on page 40 of the Member priority matrix, and yours is on page 44.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oh, okay. Sure, sure. So, Members, if you can look on our priority sheet on page 44, and this is...it's Department of Management, General Excise Tax Fund, and...the second one. Oh, okay. Oh, Highway Beautification. Oh, Teens on Call. Okay. Highway Beautification, it is for 30,000 for Teens on Call to maintain the Pā'ia bypass. And I think this, when it came up, he's in there for 25,000, and Cecile was saying that...or in the communication, that it's actually like maybe 30,000. Yeah. Yeah, just 5,000 for the Pā'ia bypass. And he goes...well, from knowing him for all the years that I've known Brian McCafferty, he goes beyond the call, so if they call him for other things, he's there to help. I hope Member U'u-Hodgins is okay with this for...you are? Okay. Very good. Thank you. So, Members, if I can get a motion.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Second.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank...thank you. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What...what page is it, or what letter?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's on page 44.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What letter on the Revolving Fund?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. KRUEGER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. KRUEGER: It's letter E.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's on E, at the very bottom of page 43. Change that 40, 25 to 30.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sorry. Okay. I see it. Thank you.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Thank you. I think it's...now...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we didn't vote yet. Okay. All in favor, say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, that...eight "ayes," one excused, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, motion carries.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. And it's now Member Sinenci. What page was he on? 41.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Page 40.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. This would be for the Highway Beautification and Disposal of Abandoned and Derelict Vehicles Revolving Fund, 200,000 proviso for the continuation of the current...the successful pilot program from HTA to manage the East Maui visitor traffic congestion. And the grant would be split equally between the Ke Ao Hali'i and Holani Hāna, both nonprofit organizations. I think you heard from Ms. Hū'eu today that...the problems that we've been having with receiving the grants from HTA. So, these would go straight to the nonprofits of...of the area. So, in Hāna, they've identified five high-traffic tourism

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stop areas on the Hāna Highway. And so, I don't know if you saw these little tents and...and bathrooms. So, they're hiring people to...to kind of monitor the area. They're surveying the people that stop there. And for us, it's been...there has been a reduction in the emergency situation in each of these spots, as well as traffic backups and...and illegal parking. So, I think we're...we're okay if we're hosting 600 cars a day to East Maui, but I think we need this extra help with...with kind of mitigating the traffic onto private property, those types of things. So, this is what this proviso is, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: For 200,000 between the...the two nonprofits.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Any questions? Member Paltin? Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll second for discussion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Moved by --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: That was my motion.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Sinenci and seconded by Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just wanted to make sure. It seems to me--and I might be wrong--that this would be 114,458 for the two equivalent personnel for EP&S. Is that sufficient, or is that correct math?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait, isn't this his pilot program? Say it again, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, this is --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, but --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- the continuation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- doesn't the Highway Beautification and Disposal of Abandoned or Derelict Vehicles Revolving Fund anticipate 1,977,728 for Fiscal Year '25? And then there's already like five provisos, so just making sure that...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: There's enough money.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: James and Kasie?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It doesn't say.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're over?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, there's not enough money. Yeah. With this, it's over. So, Member Sinenci, you're going to have to --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How much money --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- change your math.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- is available if...before this?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How much is available for Member Sinenci's pilot project?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And this is the...the funds that were collected in the Charter 3.25.030B.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Wait, we're trying to figure out the math. We're good? Okay. We're good...you're good. We figured out the math.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'm ready for the vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ready for the vote then, if we have the money. Okay. All in favor, raise your hand and say "aye."

COUNCILMEMBERS: Aye.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Eight "ayes," one excused, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

NOES: None.

ABSTAIN: None.

ABSENT: None.

EXC.: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez.

MOTION CARRIED.

ACTION: APPROVE

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, Chair Lee?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, everything tonight. We'll provide that to you tomorrow.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're going along the way.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll get it from Kasie and James. All right. Members, are we at the end of Finance? Anything else that we're missing? Ms. Apo Takayama, or Mr. Kruger?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, perhaps if we could just confirm consensus among the Members for the...all the departments discussed today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member...consensus? We...okay. Great. So, County Clerk, Council Services, County Auditor, Agriculture, Corporation Counsel--who am I missing?--Corporation Counsel...oh, here--East Maui Water Authority, Emergency Management, Environmental Management, and Finance, not including Countywide. Okay, Members? So, tomorrow, 9:00, we'll be back, and

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we're going to be taking up Fire all the way through Management. And then Wednesday is Mayor through Police in alpha order by bill. Yes, Member...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair, I have a doctor's appointment in Kihei at 10:00, so I'm going to be calling in from my Kihei office at 9:00. I'll be stepping out --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- across the...just across the street to the eye doctor, and then I'll be returning back to the meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I'll be phoning in remote tomorrow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And then also, in the evening as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. So, you're not going to come here for the...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have a meeting in Kihei at dinnertime --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- with a constituent, so then I'm going to just stay over there, and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- but I...I will be available, but I will be out for about an hour for my doctor...my eye appointment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have a dentist's appointment, but it's at 8:00, and it's just down the road, so I'm hoping to come here by 9:00, but I might be a little bit late.

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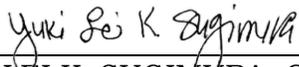
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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. All these...and then Chair Lee, we're just kidding about you cooking. Chair Lee, you probably won't have enough time to cook dinner for tomorrow night. But we are going to be here, hopefully not as long as tonight. But thank you very much, everybody, for working hard. I'm going to adjourn this meeting. So, tomorrow, we may be hearing from some testifiers. And thank you very much, Ms. Milner, and thank you, Yvette, Kasie, and, you know, the Staff, Jarret, and everybody who's working behind the scenes. So, meeting is now adjourned, and it is 8:56. . . .(gavel). . .

ACTION: **DEFER** pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 8:56 p.m.

APPROVED:



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

bfed:min:240422:ds

Transcribed by: Daniel Schoenbeck

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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 230 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 30th day of August 2024, in Wailuku, Hawai'i



Daniel Schoenbeck