

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

MINUTES

April 12, 2024

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:05 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair (out 3:30 p.m.)
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member

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 Dineen, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Additional staff

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tom Cook:
Jared Agtunong

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:
Kate Griffiths
Axel Beers

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tasha Kama:
Davideane Kama-Sickels
Evan Dust

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Alice L. Lee:
Michele McLean

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Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tamara Paltin:
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Executive Assistants for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:
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Gina Young

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Residency Area Office (RAO):
Mavis Oliveira-Medeiros, Council Aide, East Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lānai Residency Area Office
Zhantell Lindo, Council Aide, Moloka'i Residency Area Office
Christian Balagso, Council Aide, West Maui Residency Area Office
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha'ikū-Pāia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.: Lesley Milner, Acting Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Josiah Nishita, Managing Director, Department of Management
Keanu Lau Hee, Deputy Managing Director, Department of Management
Bradford K. Ventura, Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Jeffrey Giesea, Assistant Fire Chief, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Amos Lonokailua-Hewett, Administrator, Maui County Emergency Management Agency
Victoria Takayesu, Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Mimi DesJardins, First Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Lisa Kahuhu, Administrative Assistant, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Lydia Toda, Risk Management Officer, Department of the Corporation Counsel
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

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OTHERS: Jeremey Irvine, Fire Fighter III, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Kanoa Shannon, Fire Captain, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Jay Fujita, Fire Captain, Department of Fire and Public Safety
Art Vento, President and CEO, Maui Arts and Cultural Center
Zhantell Lindo
Tom Croly
Kahau Siliga, Director, E Mālama I Nā Keiki O Lāna‘i Preschool
Others (25)

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), RESOLUTION
 24-66, RESOLUTION 24-67, and RESOLUTION 24-68)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. It is now 9:05 a.m. And it's so exciting to see so many firefighters here joining us here this morning. And that is why we are taking up the Fire Department because you bring your crew. Thank you very much. So, this meeting is being conducted in accordance with the Sunshine Law. As Members of the Committee, it looks like everybody is here except Shane, but when Shane introduces himself, he can tell us if anybody is with you in your room, and minors do not need to be identified. So, let's start off with what is our greeting, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: A very easy one, it's like aloha in Italian. You can use it for hello and good bye. Ciao.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, ciao. Ciao, Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka and ciao, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ciao. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka and ciao kākou.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Aloha, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lāna‘i District Office, and ciao.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ciao. And Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka kākou. There are currently no testifiers at the Molokaʻi District Office. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Ciao and aloha Friday to all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Uʻu-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Good morning. Ciao.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. And Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Hey, ciao, Chair, and aloha kakahiaka, ma ka hikina, here at the Hāna District Office with Staff members Dawn Lono and Mavis Medeiros, and no testifiers today, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: From the Office of the Mayor, we have Lesley Milner, Acting Budget Director. Thank you for spending your days with us, appreciate you. We have a few more days to go. Department of Management, we may have Josiah Nishita via phone my notes say, but we do have Keanu Lau Hee here with us, Deputy Director. Department of Fire and Public Safety, we have Chief Ventura and he brought his whole force along with...with him, so welcome, everybody. Maui County Emergency Management, we have Amos Hewett, Administrator, I call him Chief also. Department of Corporation Counsel, Victoria Takayesu, Kristina Toshikiyo. Committee Staff, Yvette Bouthillier. Thank you very much, Yvette. And James Krueger, Kasie Apo Takayama, are our Senior Legislative Analysts as well as Jarret Pascual and Clarissa MacDonald, our Legislative Analyst team. Clara Nakata...Carla Nakata and Megan Molina...Moniz, Legislative Attorney. And Jean Pokipala is Council Services Assistant Clerk. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED meeting. But before we start our meeting, I wanted to ask...last night we had the South Maui meeting and I wanted to ask if Member Cook could give us a brief summary.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. It would be my pleasure. And I'd like to first thank the OCS Staff for all their hard work last night and every single one of the events that we've had out in the general...in our districts. They start early, they set up, they get everything organized for us. They not only roll up but when they come back, they have to put everything away. So, I witnessed some very long hours that they work and I want them to all feel very appreciated. Last night's Budget meeting in South Maui went very well. There were about 70 individuals; however, only 27 provided testimony. Testimony included support for MEDB STEMworks Program and Business Program, Maui AIDS Foundation,

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Maui Economic Opportunity Head Start programs, Maui Humane Society, and Habitat for Humanity. Funding was requested for an Arborist position and it was suggested it be in the Planning Department. Kēōkea... Kēōkea Eco Village Kauhale Program requested funding to purchase a parcel of land in Kihei. Several individuals provided testimony related to property taxes, opposing raising property taxes for B&Bs, opposed raising taxes for owner-occupied, recommending implementing a luxury mansion tax. Support for the return of the Kihei Aquatics Deep Water Aerobics Program at Kihei Pool was strongly supported. It was...I'm grateful for the participation of the Council and all of the members of the community that came out, and I'm looking forward to Moloka'i.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Well done. Yeah, it was interesting to see people there with their signs and I think we only had one testifier on that group but that was...that was good. So, Members, we have one item on our agenda, which is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for the County of Maui. And we will continue deliberations on this Budget for...with presentations relating to the Department of Corporation Counsel, Department of Fire and Public Safety, Maui County Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Management. We will then take public testimony and proceed with questions and answers for the departments in this order: Fire and Public Safety, Emergency Management...or Corp. Counsel, Fire and Public Safety, Emergency Management, and...and then Management. I also would like to end this meeting by 5:00, if...if the Committee will. I can always stay longer, but tonight is the service for Gladys Baisa, which starts at 6:00 at Ballard, so just in case Members want to go to that, I think...I did hear some preferences earlier in the week. So, that is our goal for today. So, at this time, I'd like to invite Corporation Counsel Victoria Takayesu to provide a presentation on the...on the Department and introduce any personnel joining her today. I think you're online? I don't see her in the Chambers.

DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

MS. TAKAYESU: Yes, Committee Chair, I am online. We thought we would do the presentation online and then we can come down for questions after public testimony. Thank you for your time. Thank you, Committee Members. I'd like to present the budget of the Department of the Corporation Counsel. I believe our budget manifests our goal in wanting to bring forth the best possible work product from our Staff. They consistently put forth their best efforts in completing the assignments and tasks put before them. As noted in our Department summary, our Department contains three main divisions. The Counseling and Drafting Section, the Litigation Section, and Risk Management, and together we counsel, advise, litigate, and together with Risk Management protect our County's employees and assets. In addition, the Board of Ethics also comes under our Department. On a positive note, we are nearly at capacity for

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our positions. We have two clerical positions remaining and one deputy position that's committed to our intern passing the Bar. We are beginning our summer internship program and we have a great program lined up for them this summer. And as mentioned, we have one full-time intern already placed that will be taking the Bar in July. Looking forward, our proposed budget really can't be discussed without emphasizing the impact on our Department that the fires have had. Obviously, this is no surprise to anybody. We currently have open 302 non-fire-related litigation cases. Those cases are handled by our litigation Staff of eight deputies, one intern, and two paralegals. We are, of course, additionally involved with the wildfire litigation. As of today and there are new lawsuits being filed every day, we have 134 lawsuits filed against the County representing several hundred individuals and entities. We've retained the assistance of Special Counsel to assist us in a very highly specialized area of mass tort, but we continue to be actively involved in every aspect of this litigation. And I believe we've managed our costs wisely. A comparative outline of legal fees paid by another entity in particular have been reported to exceed over \$10 million to date, but this hasn't come without a cost. Our litigators are taxed with the amount of cases we're handling, including cases that I wouldn't consider fire-related but have arisen out of our recovery. With that and with full awareness of these financially precarious times, we are requesting one...one deputy position for our Litigation Section. We're fully staffed so we really have no vacancies to offer qualified applicants. For our Counseling and Drafting Division, we've seen an unsurprising increase in the number of requests for legal services as our County grapples with our recovery. To date in this fiscal year, we've received 4,221 requests for legal services, and this doesn't include the volume of calls, emails, and other queries that we need to address immediately both after the fires and on a daily basis that are tracked through the RFLS system. We've been tasked with advising on the legalities the County faces on rebuilding a town, finding homeless solutions, our economic recovery, interfacing with State and Federal agencies, and so on. The Department of Corporation Counsel touches all of the departments, boards, commissions, and the Council, and we're here to provide advice and assistance. To do that though, we do have some asks that we need to make, again with full awareness that this is a year we had to be very conscious of how we spend our money. Aside from the one deputy position we're asking for, we are asking for a secretary position specifically for the Board of Ethics. We have one Secretary who's juggling this assignment along with her regular clerical duties, which leads to other people having to also jump in to assist. Having a dedicated secretary who can be assigned to the Board of Ethics will ensure that the Board is adequately manned. As you know, handling and covering the Board of Ethics, as with any other Board or Commission, include attending meetings, fielding calls, emails, posting agenda items, handling the minutes from the meetings, addressing the concerns of the Board, among a myriad of other things. If we're awarded a secretary position, that person could be focused on the Board, and if they have excess time, we can use them for other clerical functions in the

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office. In the same vein, we're also asking for an additional investigator. We have one right now, but because of the high demand for personnel investigations and assistance to both the Police Commission, a very active or proactive Board of Ethics who are initiating their own investigations, we are being requested to assist on as well as the investigations needed pursuant to our own litigation and work comp cases. Risk Management is also seeking an expansion position for the rise in anticipated numbers of work comp cases. The anticipated rise in these cases is not only anecdotal but based on the number of records-only documentation that we've been receiving. We are also in the process of moving Risk over to the Trask Building. This is going to save us money on lease; however, the funds we're asking for in that regard include the cost of modular setups, furniture, and other incidentals required for the staff. The other big ask, we're...we're requesting funding for an e-discovery platform. Our Department is way behind the times on this. At this point, we've been ordered by the court in our wildfire cases to implement an e-discovery platform for the mutual exchange of documents and other form of data pursuant to discovery. Fortunately, our Special Counsel had a platform in place and we were able to retain the use of their service, but we pay for that. And while we are paying for the e-discovery platform, with regards to our wildfire litigation, it doesn't help us at all for our remaining non-wildfire cases, again in excess of 300 cases. It's only a matter of time, I believe, before our courts start requiring e-discovery in all of our cases and we are unprepared...excuse me. The \$90,000 estimate that we're asking for is based on what we anticipate the set up and cost involved, inventing the system, setting it up, transferring data, and either the hosting fee or . . . *(inaudible)*. . . costs with that. These are our big asks and we ask the Budget Committee to take them into consideration and hopefully grant our requests. That's all I have. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Director Takayesu. And we're going to now move on to Fire. Do you want to come down here, Chief? So, for your information, Corporation Counsel initial letter response is number 9, Granicus is number 73, and next we have Fire. And I think Chief had passed out some information for us. And for Chief...or for Fire Department is number 16 in Granicus and 93 in...in Granicus also, Department question and responses. So, number 16 and 93 for Fire. Good morning, Chief.

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

MR. VENTURA: Aloha. Good morning. All right. Aloha and good morning, Chair --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. VENTURA: -- Committee Members. Thank you for having us today. We really appreciate this opportunity to present our Fiscal Year '25 Budget to you and

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answer any questions that you have so that you can kind of understand how we're moving forward with our Department and into the future. I really want to mahalo all of you specifically for reaching out to us post-fire. Each and every one of you reached out to me directly to see what our needs were after the fire, and I was able to spend some time with many of you, but that...that's a big thing. As you were very busy in your own communities, you were all concentrating as well as getting Kula and Lāhainā back up to speed, so mahalo for reaching out to us. Little bit of overview of our budget. The Mayor has supported a very progressive, forward-thinking budget for us this year that provides not only additional response capability and prevention capability but also surge capability in our Department, and it's something that we recognized in August that we can almost never have enough of is that surge capability to bring as many people to the incident as possible and take care of whatever the incident is. So, you'll see in our budget this year the request for additional personnel, but not only personnel, for equipment as well. And all of it seems extremely important to all of us and you'll probably hear some testimony today in support of the need. What we want to make sure people understand is that the wildfire problem that we have in the nation also exists here, and that we don't...aren't going to solve this problem by just giving all the fire departments all the money. This is a very kākou, everybody needs to be involved thing, our community members, landowners, as well as the Department. We are the prevention arm. We are also the response arm, but there's a lot of work to be done in between. So, with that being said, we have a short, short, short PowerPoint for you guys this morning. Hopefully, that's appreciated a little bit. The...what you have in front of you, the Fiscal Year '25 proposal, there's some changes that we're making. Initial...and what we're doing is a \$229,000 reduction to our budget and they're marked by pages here. So, page 9-9 that's marked there is a piece of equipment that we intend to be getting this fiscal year, so we'll be able to remove that from Fiscal Year '25. And then a project that we're working on, which is going to take us a few more years than we anticipated, page 9-23, we're going to remove. And then we're going to utilize our revolving fund a little bit which will alleviate about \$200,000 from the General Fund. And we'll utilize our Fire Prevention Revolving Fund to pay for some of that equipment for our Fire Prevention Bureau. And then our last ask is just an upgrade of some of the positions that we asked for in Wailuku to just upgrade three of them. So, net with all of that movement to the budget, we're giving back about \$229,720 to the General Fund through our anticipated work in the next couple of months as well as a shift in some of the projects. Next slide here, just wanted to kind of go over our Department priorities with you. Very important, these are very broad but they are--kind of cast a net over our whole Department and all of our Ocean Safety officers as well as our firefighters. So, I'm going to let Chief Giesea first speak about our wellness initiatives and the work that we're doing to provide, you know, wellness and betterment of all of our employees from top to bottom including our civilians and including some of our retirees. Chief.

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MR. GIESEA: Yes, good morning, everybody. So, as opposed to one line item in the budget where you can see health and safety initiatives, you'll find a wide variety scattered throughout the budget. So, I wanted to just kind of highlight them all at one time this morning. One is we're asking for an additional person within our Health and Safety Bureau. That Bureau hasn't grown in several years. You'll see we're asking for six new firefighter positions, three Fire Fighter Is, three Fire Fighter IIIs for Wailuku Station. That is by far our busiest station. They respond very frequently at all hours of the night to a wide variety of emergencies, so additional personnel there will help share the load. In some cases, not every firefighter at the station needs to respond to every single emergency, so we'll be able to split the crew so not everybody ends up having to be up all night on a regular basis. You can see we have a healthy ask in professional services. That includes a variety of functions, notably in this context the clinical psychologist that we have available to our personnel who specializes in first responder issues. So, in addition to the County's EAP, we also allow our Personnel to work one-on-one with our Psychologist at no cost to themselves. We have a...you know...well, actually over the course of several years but especially in response to recent challenges our Fire Department has faced, we have greatly expanded our efforts for our Resilience And Wellness Team. So, we have a new Program Director in charge of that. He's got 18 leads, 14 personnel, and up to 30...close to 30 personnel providing peer support as well as critical incident stress management through that Program. And that is funded largely through the Premium Pay Budget in the Fire Rescue operations and...and Ocean Safety budgets. Because we utilize our own personnel, so we provide training for them and they built programs. They deliver content to our personnel. They're there for them when they're needed. So, that's scattered throughout the...the Premium Pay Budget because we pay our folks when they work overtime as...as is right. We have initiated this year through some grant funding but we're asking to continue this through normal budget a upgraded Firefighter Medical Exam Program. So, traditionally our medical exams were Department of Transportation exams, basically truck driver physicals that do not meet the national standard for firefighter medical exams. So, we...we're able through the assistance of Firefighters Grant to hire a company that specializes in providing these compliant examinations. We...that program is underway right now. It's complicated but it's going well. That provides a host of additional services from ultrasound cancer detection, extra blood screening for cancer and other...other diseases, cardiovascular stress testing, EKGs, sleep disturbance testing. That's a major threat to...to firefighter health and safety is issues with sleep. It affects everything that we do. So, you'll see additional funding requested to continue that program. We've got a couple of extractors in the budget. The extractors are basically industrial washing machines where we can put our...the gear that we respond to fires in. The sorts of chemicals that come out of a fire are not the sorts of chemicals you want to be putting into your regular washing machine, right. And more and more research has come out over recent years about the

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importance of cleaning our gear immediately after exposure so we're not re-exposing ourselves at future calls and...and just back at that station. We're asking to replace a couple of compressors. The compressors are used to fill the air bottles. The air bottles are used so we can actually breath when we go into fires. So, it's really important. It's not just a matter of pumping air into a bottle. You have to make sure that air is clean, it's certified. There's a lot of maintenance that goes into those. And so we need to make sure that the compressors we're using are reliable and have sufficient capacity for us so we can ensure enough air supply there. We're asking for a motorized narrow aisle truck order picker. If you want to know what that is, so imagine you're at a warehouse and five shelves up there's a 50-pound object that you need to get off the shelf and we're asking you to climb some stairs, grab it, and climb down the stairs. That's not safe. So, this is for our warehouse personnel so that they can, you know, move about the warehouse, and retrieve orders in a way that's...that doesn't put them at risk. Those are...that's just a sample of the health and safety initiatives we have in this budget that you'll find kind of scattered throughout. So, I just wanted to make sure that those were highlighted for your consideration.

MR. VENTURA: Thanks, Chief. Moving forward to our expansion of our fire prevention efforts. Obviously, we've requested additional positions in our Fire Prevention Bureau for public education as well as wildfire mitigation, two things that are front of mind to our community right now, and we've heard it over and over again in the different districts while we travel with you to community meetings. We've additionally applied for multiple prevention grants for the AFG grant for fire prevention as well as CWDG for a several-million-dollar grant to try to boost staffing and capabilities with fire...wildfire mitigation. The approach to our Prevention Bureau for years and years has always been they've been very limitedly staffed and we've been very reactionary and pretty much complaint-driven. We really want to get in front of this and we want to be more proactive and we want to be in front of the problems rather than chasing them. So, the staff that we're requesting for the Fire Prevention Bureau, the four personnel would be...would be a shift in that direction so that we could do that more proactively than reactively. The last bullet point in this page, expansion of service. When we think about that, we...we normally think about more fire stations, more fire trucks, more people, and that is true. So, you'll notice in our budget there is obvious ask for those sorts of things. But services to the community that we're expanding are also the prevention items that I talked about because the community has a demand now for more fire prevention. Additionally, as Chief Giese mentioned, the...Wailuku is our busiest station. We want to create a rapid-response vehicle out of there so that they...basically our goal, it would be great to have two fire trucks in Wailuku, to be honest with you, but we can't fit it. So, this is the best we can do under the current circumstances is to create a second response smaller vehicle out of there and that will help expand the service to Wailuku. A dedicated PIO that...for our Department is not only for

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our Department but this is a public need. The media requests for any government entity are extremely high and people want information now, not later, not tomorrow. So, a dedicated PIO in our Department that's specific and trained in the fire service as well as working with our lifeguards will be able to provide more timely information to the community, especially during incidents. And I don't mean even major disasters but just large incidents that impact them. With road closures, airport closures, or anything that's going to impact them, we want to be able to push out that information out a lot faster. We are competing with some social media folks that basically listen to our radios and put stuff out within a nanosecond, but sometimes that information isn't 100 percent accurate. This is hopefully our way to make sure that the public's receiving good and quality information. As I mentioned, expansion of services isn't only fire trucks but our Prevention Bureau, but we did add some resources. So, a tanker for our Nāpili Station was a request. As we all know with the wildfire issues that we'll be dealing with moving forward, the more that we can deliver water into the field, the better we're going to be. You've seen some of our 4x4 offroad wildland trucks. We've requested additional vehicles for Wailea, Kihei, and Makawao, and those locations were chosen because they do not have those vehicles. So, we rely on our engines which are, you know, million-and-a-quarter dollars to go out into the fields which adds additional wear and tear on those vehicles. So, these additional wildland vehicles we're requesting will not only extend the life of our engines but actually get us into the field where the fires are happening. Our...our big main apparatus replacement request this year was for Kaunakakai. That is one of our oldest engines at this time and it's up for replacement this year. And then as Chief Giese mentioned, on Lāna'i we are requesting a cascade system to work with our firefighters over there. They currently have a dilapidated system that they use through the State and so we really need to make sure they have the tools that they need to refill their bottles when they have incidents or do even training. And then an offroad vehicle, a UTV for Lāna'i so that we can get into the more rural areas that we keeping getting responds...calls to, between you know, mountain rescues, missing hikers, injuries, and small fires and stuff that's off the beaten path. Much of Lāna'i is not paved and so a UTV would allow us access to these people a little quicker. So, that concludes kind of an overview, high level of our Department budget request this year. Again, we always want to mahalo all of you for being true supporters of our Department and, you know, public safety, which we are fortunate to be a part of. Mahalo to the community for supporting our firefighters and our lifeguards because really our...our firefighters and our lifeguards are...are embedded in...really in our community. Whether they live in the same neighborhood as you, they coach your kids, they go to the same church as you, we are 450-ish strong who are just your neighbors and we just want to serve you. I'm grateful what I heard Chair say this morning was our questions did get uploaded to Granicus it sounds like, so you have hopefully some reading to do in between breaks that will help kind of guide our afternoon or our later morning, but that concludes our presentation. Mahalo,

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Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great job. Thank you very much. So, at this time then I'm going to change off and ask Chief Amos. And so Maui County Emergency Management Administrator Amos Lonokailua-Hewett will do his presentation. And his initial letter and responses are number 13, and then the Department question letter is number 85. And I call him Chief because that's what Chief calls him, out of respect. Yes. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair, when I select number 85 or any of the other ones on Granicus I get, this record --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- no longer exists, it might have been deleted.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll check. Yeah. Yeah, we'll check. Thank you. Okay. Are you all able to get in, Members? Yours works? Okay. Okay. Maybe you have to refresh. Okay. Thank you very much, Kasie, for helping. And so now, here we go. Proceed. Is it okay if I call you Chief? That's what Chief calls you, so. Okay. Thank you.

MAUI COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Aloha kakahiaka kākou, Budget Chair and Members. As we all know, the wildfires have, you know, kind of had a major impact on the Agency. We've lost some key senior personnel in the Agency, as well as other challenges with some other staff members also present an additional challenge with staffing. I believe because of the wildfires, the...what became real, what is exposed is the capacity of the Agency to deal with disaster while preparing for incoming threats as well as building a agency that can move functionally and equipped for the future has been a challenge. So, as I think about those kinds of things, I think about capacity. So, regarding my budget request, my budget requests reflect kind of an overall idea and plan to build agency capacity, which is to include how we engage our partners and the community. So, I do have a short presentation that I will go through to hopefully express clearly those ideas. Beginning with the MEMA strategies, you know, there was a question regarding the MEMA strategies and so I'd like to go through that a little bit. So, these four strategies are communicated in the MEMA program and beginning with providing training opportunities. The...regarding or related to capacity, what I'm looking at is building competencies with all of our...of our EOC Staff, all of our County Partners, as well as our CERT members, as well as our community partners. And so providing training opportunities include incident command courses and certifications that are offered to all of our partners. That's you know, reflected in

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the increase in our professional services budget line. We also seek to add or increase training and exercising, which includes tabletops and full-scale exercises as well as the plans that follow those kinds of exercises. Typically full-scale and tabletop exercises require tremendous amounts of resources and effort that typically is done through third-party contracting. Depending on how large we go. And so that professional service increase includes an expected increase in the exercising to build competency for all of our departments and all of our partners. Strengthening the EOC is really a big deal. Our current space does not accommodate the...the amount of work, energy, and does not have the, you know, the technology and/or functionality to organize the partners and coordinate with the partners effectively to manage an emergency. So, an increase in the budget does include building out furnishing and equipping the new EOC at the Telecom Building...I'll speak on...on that a little bit later. Once again, trying to build capacity which is to build incident management...an Incident Management Team to support the EOC when necessary which requires, you know, additional courses not only for current Department personnel but...current County personnel but also other partners outside of the County to support that. And a typical contract for a course, an IMT course, a one-week course is somewhere in the range 35 to \$55,000 a week and we expect to do multiple courses a year moving forward to bring everybody up to speed real quick and be able to support, once again, the capacity for us to collectively manage an emergency. I think that was one of the maybe shortfalls of the Agency and the County to be able to call quickly the resources necessary to manage a bigger incident. And last is promoting community resilience. That comes in many forms, but the strategy is to definitely engage the community and organize the community in preparedness mitigation, response, and recovery. That does include programs like HHARP, which is a HI-EMA program. I've mentioned that before. As well as bolstering the CERT Program. As well as, you know, coordinating with the community resiliency hubs. That community resiliency hub piece is similar to HHARP and there's some parallels and some...some differences, but you know, bringing those two pieces together to build a more resilient community is the goal. As well as establishing and/or bolstering and/or initiating a public messaging campaign. There are some questions about performance measurements and a decrease from 2023 to 2025. I would say that the...the numbers probably don't accurately reflect what I attempt to do or plan to do, but the plan regarding all efforts from the Agency is to improve and increase total activity, effort, progress, and overall performance of the Agency. I just kind of want to explain some of...some of those things. It is related to the MEMA strategies that I initiated...initially communicated on. It is related to overall community development focused on training and exercise. And everything community, community, community. So, the expectation is that we will definitely increase all of those performance measures and probably exceed what is reflected in 2023. There's some question about alerting regarding EOC and how we alert our partners. I'd just like to communicate, there are four levels of EOC activation.

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When we do move to a partial activation, we contact partners as necessary related to the incident need. When we move to a full activation, mass notification goes out to all of our response partners, and those response partners do include Pacific Disaster Center and our Visitor Industry Representatives. We do have a meeting with all of our Human Concerns and Human Services Branch people on May 8th to go over the capabilities and the collaboration and coordination with those agencies in an emergency and/or in an activation. And that meeting includes our...our visitor industry. The EOC at the Telecom Building is expected...I just got notice yesterday that there was another delay. The delay is related to a chiller. And so right now there is some grant monies available to come up with a temporary solution to chill or cool the second and third floor of the Telecom Building. And so I just got the notice of the delay yesterday, and we'll pursue monies...grant monies to try and come up with a cooling solution which allows us to open in January. If I cannot come up with that solution then the expected date to open is somewhere around July 2025. There was a question on the...the use of the second floor. The use of the second floor will go to IT. At this point lots of energy and planning and funding went into IT taking over the second floor. There is some conversations about some other opportunities and those are no longer a part of the plan. So, the IT will be taking over the second floor of the Hawaiian Tel Building. Yes. So, as part of the increase in budget, the \$700,000 for the furniture and video wall as well as the \$500,000 increase for computer equipment and technology, we have been working with a consultant. Obviously, this is long before I was the Administrator. But has identified these costs and we've had conversations about, you know, building out a cost-effective EOC with the appropriate equipment and technology. So, regarding the EOC function, there's some questions about the different...the video wall and computer equipment, so on and so forth. In emergency management or in any emergency, the most critical thing to make effective decisions is related to situational awareness. You have situational awareness; it allows you to decide appropriately and take the right action. The video wall gives us an opportunity to look at all situational awareness in front of us. All partners within the EOC can push information up onto the wall and use that information, be able to see that information in front of them and interact in real-time. So, the video wall does provide a window of opportunity to be efficient and effective in regards to gaining situational awareness and being able to take multiple sets of information available to everyone in the EOC to move further action forward. Regarding computer equipment, we're looking at interoperability, interconnectivity. That just means that we want to be able to share sensitive information with each other. We want to be able to, once again, push information up to the wall and share or improve situational awareness. And then the furniture is related to the functionality of how our partners engage with each other. Regarding staffing, there is an increase...a request for six positions for the FY 2025. The...there was a question on the Public Affairs Officer and versus the...a PIO. I expect to engage the community in a very...I don't know if aggressive is the right word but definitely

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frequent and intimate maybe, close maybe is another word. I expect to be able to answer the questions and...and...and tie up the loose ends and close the loop on every interaction with the community, every request that the community has. I need somebody to do that with me. As I reflect on the...just this community approach, all of the...the way the communities are organized, whether in districts and associations, in nonprofit groups, what have you, the work to connect with all of...all of you is going to take a lot of work. And the Public Affairs Officer is that person for me. That person fulfills a much greater responsibility than producing or providing timely and accurate information. That person will represent me, represent the Agency, represent this County in an...an intimate way and a close and continuous way. So, I hope that you guys will support that, the Public Affairs Officer for me because that's going to be a big role in the Agency. Training Specialist I think goes without being said. The...the importance of a Training Specialist is critical to the Agency. There is just so much to know and so much to do, so much coordination, so much exercises to do regarding Emergency Management and all the threats and hazards that come with Emergency Management. There's not one person in this world that can do it by themselves and we need a Training Specialist to help initiate that...that effort moving forward. That includes just the organization, management, and delivery of the training programs. The expectation is also to build capacity within the Training Division under the Training Specialist which is to also include a CERT Program Leader as well as an IMT Program Leader that's grant funded under and working with the Training Specialist. Moving forward, how we respond collectively as a County and a community is directly related to the competency that we all develop. And without a training plan and a training lead, the...we will not reach those competencies. So, I appreciate your support in the Training Specialist position. There also are...there's also a request for three Staff Specialist IIIs: one for Lānaʻi, one for Hāna, and one for Molokaʻi. At this point, they'll be wearing all hats, including, you know, all efforts related to mitigation, response, recovery, and preparedness. And I...I think it's a no-brainer. Right now there is no connectivity to those communities and those communities experience extreme weather like Maui does, right. Hāna gets hit more than Central Maui does, but there's no connectivity to those communities. There's no preparedness, there's no preventative actions being taken. There's no...no one really looking at hazard mitigation in the way that it should be. And so, you know, beginning the organization in those isolated communities is critical moving forward. And I believe that these positions are very important to those communities and to the County overall. The goal is definitely to hire within the community. Local knowledge is critical to situational awareness which is critical to decision making. I am not going to lie, there is a concern with being able to fill those positions, but I can promise you that I'm going to look there first and hope to utilize persons from that community to help us build a more resilient community and a stronger Agency. The CERT Program is...question about the CERT Program. This is what we currently have. We have 600 on the roster, 30

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to 40 that are active. We have...are organizing a Train the Trainer in July of 2025. What that allows us to do is that allows us to take our members to instructor level and be able to conduct more courses and offer...bolster the CERT Program and the number of members. Currently, we depend on the Fire Department to provide that training for us. We'll continue with that relationship for sure but definitely look to provide more CERT training, offer more CERT training to the community. We're also looking to bolster the CERT Program by offering higher level ICS courses, which is also reflected in the professional services increase. There are questions with some of...there is a...there's a...some question at some of the increase here. The 96 million is an estimated FEMA reimbursement. It comes with various projects to include debris removal and some wastewater repair and roadway damage kinds of repair. The 20 million is with the security checkpoint. As well as we kind of went over some of the Incident Management Team development and the proposed or expected cost, which is in the 300...professional services line of 300,000. Once again, the increase in training opportunities, in training fees, related to mobilizing our EOC Staff and offering them opportunities to train throughout the country and throughout the State. There's an expected increase in those costs, which is reflected in...in the budget as well. That's all I have. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Chief. So, now we're going to switch out to Emergency...or well Management. Good morning, Ms. Lau Hee. Thank you for being with us again. And I guess...is Josiah online later?

DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT

MS. LAU HEE: Good morning. He is. I'm going to try to be very brief so you guys can get to your questions. So, as you know, the Department of Management is comprised of three programs: the Management Program, ITSD, and now the newly formed Office of Recovery. So, the Management Program is showing approximately an 18 percent decrease, and we will be transferring two positions. So, I talked a little bit about this yesterday. The two positions moving out of the Management Program are the Principal Archaeologist moving to the Department of Ōiwi Resources. That position is currently filled. And the second position is the Hawaiian Language Specialist, which is being actively recruited now. And an update from DPS, there are three people...qualified applicants on the list. So, overall I'll just highlight the decreases here so we can...for brevity. We...you'll see an elimination of the Lāhainā Clean and Safe Program for, unfortunately, obvious reasons. The transfer of the Pā'ia Clean and Safe Program to the Office of Economic Development. A decrease in the Countywide Arts Program because they were able to get external funding to support their efforts. And the elimination of Da Bee Shuttle Program because the construction is finished at the Wailuku Parking Garage. You'll also see and Chief Amos spoke about this earlier, a CIP project for 60 South Church Street. Just permitting delays and

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increased construction costs, we're seeking a budget request for that. For ITSD, you'll see an increase for this budget. The creation of a new position and a transfer of one position. So, one position from ITSD will be transferring to MPD to assist with their efforts. And the expansion position is the creation of an Enterprise Architect. The majority of ITSD's requests, increased requests is the...can be attributed to the transition to Microsoft Office 365 and the modernization of the voiceover IP system or the phone system. So, thank you to this body for the creation of the Office of Recovery and the establishment of eight new positions. The Recovery Manager position is currently with DPS and undergoing classification. The three EA II positions we are currently recruiting for two of them and one is filled. The EA I position is also being currently recruited. The PIO position will begin next week Tuesday, April 16th. We filled the Grants Program Manager, and our Secretary for the Office of Recovery will start on May 1st. You'll see here that there is a request, a budget request for County funding for \$21 million to fund housing efforts supporting the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancements Housing programs. And requesting \$500,000 to transfer...this is not in the budget, but to transfer to the Office of the Mayor for a one-year commemoration event. What you see on the right here are the professional services, some of which we've talked about. The development and establishment of the Long-Term Recovery Plan that will be informed by the community and written by the community. Master planning of County facilities damaged by fire. So, analyzing the highest and greatest use of our County parcels that have been damaged. The rental space for a West Maui office location, continuing to support the Recovery Management Services we're...we're receiving from our consultant Tetra Tech. Supporting...continuing the support of the expedited permitting center or Emergency Permitting Center. Updating the Lāhainā Historic District design guidelines, and traditional and cultural properties...identifying traditional and cultural properties both in Lāhainā and in Kula. We've been through the CIP projects once before. Josiah gave a briefing. Generally, there's roadwork that needs to be done, along with...for DPW along with railing repair. Some of our pump stations were damaged, needs to be reconstructed, and CCTV work. Damage assessment reports are pending from the consultant and we'll be able to understand the...the magnitude of repairs that need to occur in the burn area. And the Department of Water Supply has a number of projects to increase resiliency and to restore service laterals. That's it for my presentation. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Thank you very much. Members, so that presentation...do we have that presentation online? Oh, we're uploading it? Okay. So, Management's answers in Granicus are in 18 and 94 as well as 111. So, thank you very much. At this time, Members, we're going to take public testimony when...when we're able. We must have testifiers, there's so many firefighters here. Yeah? Okay. All right. Members, so we will be taking public testimony. And testifiers wanting to provide testimony can sign up in the lobby

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and join online meeting via Teams link or call in to the phone number noted in today's agenda. Testimony on the budget is not limited to the departments...departments scheduled today. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via eComments link at the mauicounty.us/agendas as well. Under the Sunshine Law, I will receive oral testimony for agenda items on anything in the agenda--sorry, anything in budget document 1. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by checking on the raise-your-hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone star-five to raise and lower your hand, star-six to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifiers' list in the order testifiers signed up or raised their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the name you have logged in or under the last four digits of your phone number when it's 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 I'll give you another 30 seconds to complete if you are not done. And once you are done testifying or you do not wish to testify, you can also view the meeting on *Akakū* Channel 53, Facebook Live, or mauicounty.us/agendas. We'll do our best to keep everybody up or take everybody up in an orderly fashion. So, at this time can we have our first testifier? And how many testifiers do we have? Just curious.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, currently we have five testifiers signed up, soon to be six. Our first testifier is Jeremy Irvine, to be followed by Kanoa Shannon.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. IRVINE: Hi. Aloha. Good morning, and...and ciao this morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ciao. Yeah.

MR. IRVINE: My name is Jeremy Irvine. I am here to testify in support of the Fire and Public Safety's proposed budget. I am here representing the Hawai'i Fire Fighters Association, Local 1463. I am also a employee of the Maui Fire Department, and I am also a community member of the Maui County...Maui County community. So, I'm wearing all of those hats this morning. So, it's no secret that Maui has grown exponentially in the last 20 years. We need to look no further than right here around this County Building at the crazy amount of growth right here in Central Maui, but there's communities like Ha'ikū , Kihei, and even our "more remote areas" like Lāna'i that are still...have and continue to experience growth. I don't think it's also not a secret but maybe a harder thing to discuss is that our emergency services and specifically our Fire Department have not grown at that same rate. So, to say it quite frankly is just we don't have enough fire stations, we don't have enough fire trucks, and we don't have enough Fire personnel to

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staff those at this time, and I think that's a bulk ask of the Mayor, a bulk ask of the Chief, and most importantly it's the bulk ask of our communities that we serve and protect. They're the ones that are getting, for lack of a better term, short-changed in that...in...in those responses. So, I think it is a robust ask but it's a good ask and it's a proper ask. So, like I said, we're...first and foremost we are here to support our communities, here to support the Mayor, support the Chiefs, and we're here to support you and encourage you as the Council to deliberate that and make those hard decisions. And we know that it is hard and, you know, fiscal responsibility. But I hope you consider all of those things when...when you're deliberating today and throughout this week. To use a sports analogy, you know, oftentimes, that 100-yard pass or the Hail Mary it's daunting, it's hard to complete, so maybe we...we...we don't run the play because it's so hard. But if...but if we have the opportunity to throw these five-yard passes and move down the field, eventually, we will make it there to that goal line. So, are these asks the cure? No. There will be...I assure you, there will be more asks. But if we can just start to complete these five-yard passes, get these things moving down the field, you have the opportunity this week to do that. So, I encourage you to do that. All of us collectively here, thank you guys for all showing up, guys and girls. I appreciate it. You have that opportunity this week. So, thank you. I yield the rest of my time. Or any questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Members, any questions for the testifier?
Seeing none. Thank you.

MR. IRVINE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Kanoa Shannon, to be followed by Jay Fujita.

MR. SHANNON: Aloha, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aloha.

MR. SHANNON: My name is Kanoa Shannon. I'm here today representing many positions within Maui County. I'm a Captain within our Department, Maui Division Chair for Hawai'i Fire Fighters Association, taxpaying citizen, and a father of a native family, multigenerational, within this County. I'm here today to testify in support of the expansion positions within our organization in Public Safety. In order to provide the proper level of service safely, we need expansion within our org chart to support...for support services that can carry out the behind-the-scenes workload as well as operational positions that will fulfill actual boots-on-the-ground service. Span of control is a term we use which is defined

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as the number of individuals or resources that one supervisor can manage effectively during an incident. So, this growth of proposed positions within can show the importance of this term. It can also be looked at being either proactive or reactive, either catching up with the times or setting up things for success as we expand. These positions provide a creative way to maximize space in facilities and resources that we already have established. Three of these Fire Fighter I positions are to add Staff at Station 12 Pūkoʻo on Molokaʻi. It has always been staffed with two firefighters and now this will make it three per watch. The national standard, NFPA 1710 has a four firefighter minimum per truck. This is not my only concern. As a 22-year firefighter hired and trained for Station 14, Wailea Station has been the last station added to our count of strategically built station for population growth. In the past 20 years, Department-wide call volume and response time averages have increased. 2003 there were 3,722 calls with a response time average of 5 minutes and 56 seconds. In 2023, it's times three, 11,164 calls with a response time of 7 minutes and 3 seconds. The national standard NFPA 1710 suggests a 4-minute response time to save a life. These proposed positions that we're asking for will not help with response times. We need more fire stations strategically positioned to shorten response time, divide the bigger and higher call volume district areas that will help provide the urgent proper level of service safely. Also, sharing the workload as population grows will help with firefighter mental and physical health wellness. Public safety needs to be looked at as a nucleus. It should be part of the infrastructure when the community builds and population grows. I'll leave you today with one question. When your loved one is not breathing ask yourself if response time matters. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. Okay. One second. Anybody have questions? Do you have your testimony that you can submit to us with all your data? Okay.

MR. SHANNON: I think I can.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Thank you. You...you can give it to Yvette here if it's done already. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Jay Fujita, to be followed Art Vento.

MR. FUJITA: Hi, good morning. My name is Jay Fujita. I'm also an employee of the Fire Department and steward for the Union, and I also live in the community. Like my two cohorts said, we are much...these fire stations are much needed. The 29 proposed positions will help lessen the burden but the stations are still needed. Forgive me but I normally don't speak. So...but I just want to...this will be my first time testifying so I wanted to be . . . *(inaudible)*. . . for you. So, I going pretend we're back at 2002, Wailea Fire Station was opened and I'm up here for the next budget and I'll be requesting from you we need more fire stations. Say

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five, six years down the line we possibly get Ha'ikū Station, which was first proposed, I think, it was 15 years ago maybe it was proposed. Before you after the...the Ha'ikū Station opened. Thank you for Ha'ikū Fire Station but we still need more fire stations. Five, six years more down the line, possibly the next proposed fire station may be Olowalu. I come before you after the Olowalu Station, thank you for you Olowalu Fire Station, we still need more fire stations. And like they said before, Central...I work at the Wailuku Fire Station, we're the busiest. We need another fire station in Central. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody have questions for...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Can you describe to me how big the Wailuku area is? I...we hear that it's the biggest coverage, so can you describe from where to where?

MR. FUJITA: We go to the Pali...the tunnel all the way to Kahakuloa.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And one more fire station in Central Maui would be helpful considering --

MR. FUJITA: Definitely.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- we just heard from your Chief that they can't fit another truck in the Wailuku Fire Station?

MR. FUJITA: Definitely.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. I have one question for you. Whenever I drive by the fire station --

MR. FUJITA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- I hear the myna birds. I always wonder if you could hear it in the station?

MR. FUJITA: Oh, yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you can?

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MR. FUJITA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, my God. Okay. Okay. Thank you very much. Next testifier please.

MS. MACDONALD: The next testifier is Art Vento.

MR. VENTO: Mahalo, Budget Chair Sugimura and all Members of the Council. During COVID, we missed seeing people's smiling face. Since August 8th, we miss seeing people have a reason to smile. Our neighbors, our 'ohana, our community. Community is at the core of everything that happens at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center. Not everybody realizes the depth of that commitment at the MACC. For 29 years now, we've had...we've been curators of a very unique program called Artists in the Community. To simply sum it up, if you can't come to the MACC, the MACC will come to you. We bring artists to spend time in kūpuna centers, inspire keiki in schools, and encourage those that are seeking assistance in social service agencies. There is really no words that can describe that smile, that twinkle on the faces of the clients at the Aloha House Drug Treatment Center when the MACC shows up with for instance Jake Shimabukuro to share an hour of joy through the arts. At the lowest point in their lives, here's musical icons brought by the MACC to encourage them to allow music to inspire the possibilities ahead. August 8th, still on the heels of all of the challenging aftermath of COVID, our Maui community has changed forever. The MACC immediately responded with programs designed to provide healing through the arts. Arts programs were delivered into the shelters, into the hotels that were the epicenter of displaced evacuees. These programs have continued through today eight months later and we continue to roll out additional programs. It's our responsibility despite the financial impact. Now, every week the MACC delivers Hawaiian musical icons to hotels like the Royal Lāhainā that are 100 percent residents displaced by the fire. There on any given night the MACC shows up with Henry Kaponu, John Cruz, Makana, Brother Nolan, Kawika Kahiapo, just to name a few. All organized by the MACC, sharing the message you are not forgotten. Just like the MACC has done for 29 years in the previously mentioned Artists in the Community Program, we're going to put the community at the core. And the only difference is that we're focused on healing through the arts on the West Side in the aftermath of August 8th. If you can't come to the MACC, the MACC will come to you. In every single event at the MACC since August 8th has been wildfire or a wildfire relief component. Fundraisers organized by the MACC and the months immediately following the fires have netted over \$550,000 for vetted programs. And every single event since August 8th has had an appeal for every show attendee to bring non-perishable events...items for the Food Bank. To date, over 1,000 pounds have been collected and that commitment still continues and will . . .(timer sounds). . . indefinitely. We cannot forget that we

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move forward together as neighbors, as ‘ohana, as community. I’ll wrap it up, Chair. With your support, we can continue to provide healing through the arts. An investment in the MACC is an investment in the community. At the heart of these community programs is the MACC; however, it is important to remember the heart remains strong in order to enable the hands to make a difference. Mahalo for your continued support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Mr. Vento. Does anybody have any questions? Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Vento, for your testimony and your service. I was wondering, so these musicians that come into Maui, they’re getting paid through the MACC?

MR. VENTO: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Have you brought into these locations any of our displaced Lāhainā musicians?

MR. VENTO: Yes. A lot of times, we’ll...we’ll pair that musician up with a Lāhainā musician as well. And there’s another program we present called Artist to Artist that we produce with Henry Kaponu and we’ve paired Lāhainā artists to be able to be part of that show in addition to up and coming MACC...up and coming Maui performers on that performances.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And they were borrowing instruments or they had replaced their instruments?

MR. VENTO: They had...they’ve already had the replacements.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the Lāhainā musicians are getting paid as well?

MR. VENTO: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MR. VENTO: We’ve...we fundraise elsewhere in order to be able to...to pay those musicians. We...we...we don’t have that money in a budget but we’re fundraising elsewhere. As a matter of fact, every...every dollar that we asked for from the Council we go out and find 12 to \$14 every year somewhere else in order to continue programs.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Was any of the money coming from Hawai'i Community Foundation or donated because of the wildfire?

MR. VENTO: Could you repeat that? I couldn't quite hear.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If any of the fundraising or the additional money came from Hawai'i Community Foundation or donated due to the wildfires?

MR. VENTO: The...the money...the monies come in...the ones that we use for some of this is we've gotten a grant from the Department of Health. The Department of Health has helped support our initiatives from day...day one to go in, but it's not...it's not completely funded. There's...and that's no reason to stop. We have a responsibility to our neighbors to continue and make that happen.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you didn't receive any donations because of the wildfire?

MR. VENTO: Well, the Department of Health grant is inspired by providing services because of the wildfire, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or I mean, any additional to that?

MR. VENTO: That grant is specifically as a result of wildfires.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Did you get any other monies?

MR. VENTO: Any other one? We...we've applied for some from Hawai'i Community Foundation but I don't believe we received any quite yet. It's kind of ironic on the other way, that 550,000 that we fundraise, most of that's been donated to the Lāhainā Strong Foundation fundraising as part of the Hawai'i Community Foundation.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you didn't receive any other donations?

MR. VENTO: Not...not from...not from HCF that...that I'm aware of.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Or any other organization?

MR. VENTO: Not because of the wildfire.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Mr. Vento, we did hear about the MACC going to Royal Lāhainā with the Office of Recovery.

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MR. VENTO: Great.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They were talking about that and how this was part of another program, but other programs for the wildfire victims. So, thank you very much.

MR. VENTO: Great. Great. We're...we're...we're committed and, you know, we're...I'm here as...we're in the Office of Economic Development but...but the reality is the story to be told is...is the...is the community involvement in...of...of the MACC, so.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Mr. Vento.

MR. VENTO: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony this morning. My question is regarding grants.

MR. VENTO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And last Budget Session --

MR. VENTO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- we discussed grants to the MACC. I believe it was for Capital Improvement Projects --

MR. VENTO: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- for the MACC's facilities and they were on the books for over three years.

MR. VENTO: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Have they . . . *(inaudible)* . . . ?

MR. VENTO: 100 percent cleared. We're...we're...so just give you a little background. We'd had some...we had some Capital Improvement for...for...for the MACC appropriated but during COVID it was stay-at-home workorder and throughout that time during COVID there's literally no chance to be able to engage contractors and...and suppliers to...to do the work. So, that got rolled over for several years and accumulated those two to three years. We're out of COVID,

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we've 100 percent spent that money, done our infrastructure improvements, and there's...there's none left on the...on the books.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, those projects have been completed --

MR. VENTO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the construction?

MR. VENTO: They...yeah. It's...for infrastructure related to construction and infrastructure related to the MACC. Those are 100 percent done.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Vento.

MR. VENTO: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Any other testifiers? Seeing none.

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

MS. MACDONALD: Yeah. Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, our next testifier is online, Zhantell Lindo.

MS. LINDO: Aloha and mahalo, Councilmembers. My favorite group of lawmakers over here. Everybody's a chief today so going introduce myself as the Chief, the self-appointed Chief of the Chief. And I think it's...and...and I think it's super awesome and shows the direction of the Fire Department that so many wonderful testimonies and supporters of the Department are here today. So, I want to support the Fire Department's budget for all the reasons that the...the wonderful speakers and testifiers just said. But mostly I up here to support Emergency Management. For a few years now I've been participating in this budget process...oh, and I'm testifying on my own time. So, for a few years I've been part of this budget process and I've watched Emergency Management sit at the same seat as Chief Amos today and I've watched you guys ask them and beg them to add positions, to do all the things that is now written in the budget, and it never happened until now. And I'm so excited because Hawai'i, unlike other places in the United States and around the world, get super specific like problems that are specific to island communities. I don't think anybody who doesn't participate or

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understand Emergency Management understands how critical the mindset and the thinking and how much somebody needs to know the lay of the land and the community with all the other cultural components and environmental things. And I think we get one really good chance at it with Chief Amos. Those positions and expansion positions on Molokaʻi, Lānaʻi, and Hāna are super critical. I've been with Emergency Management on Molokaʻi for over 22 years. When disaster happens, as much as we'd like to think that it's all written in the book and everything is good, we basically left on our own. And thanks to just relationships that we've had with individuals, not so much the Agency, we've been able to navigate and create a really great system here. But the system that needs to take place is exactly what is presented in the Budget now. It's a collaboration. You might think that furniture and office space and all that is not important, but for Emergency Management purposes it absolutely is. Relationships is the key component to establishing a critical management entity that really can be effective, and those spaces, especially when directed in the right way, furnishing modular furniture, TVs, things that are necessary for us to be equipped with what we need is one of the foundational building blocks of creating an effective and efficient Emergency Management Department. And so, I would just like to also stress to the Council that we help Chief Amos administratively. This transition has not been easy for anybody and especially him. He was put in the position and set to go, and I don't know if he has all of the...the support that he needs administratively. We need him to do the job he does best, which is train and implement critical incident strategies. What he needs is support administratively to handle the grant funding, the monies, the budget, and the things that...that he needs support with. And I hope this Council will support him on that. I know that we do here on Molokaʻi . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Our group is 20 strong and...and we just love the direction. So, mahalo for your support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for your testimony. Any questions for Ms. Lindo? Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Ms. Lindo. Mahalo for your testimony this morning. A clarifying question regarding the Staff Specialist position on Molokaʻi. Do you anticipate any problems filling that position?

MS. LINDO: Absolutely not. And I am committed to help him find it in Lānaʻi and Hāna also.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Incredible. Mahalo, Ms. Lindo. Mahalo, Chair.

MS. LINDO: And the Secretary for his Department.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sounds good.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chief Lindo --

MS. LINDO: Hey, Chief.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- Chief?

MS. LINDO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, I was just listening to Member Tasha Kama, she said I think you should apply for that job on...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Stop stealing my . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: She's with my office, my team. Cut it out. . . . *(laughing)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. But you see, you're in demand, yeah, for fixing microphones and, you know, taking care of emergencies. So, thank you for all of your help and volunteerism over the years. Appreciate it. Thank you.

MS. LINDO: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions? Seeing none. Okay. So, I have to make a comment about...I want to thank you for coming to our residency meetings and I was calling you like you're the concierge of the microphone and others were calling you technician or technology specialist. But the reason why is when...when a testifier comes up to testifier [*sic*] like on...in the residency areas, you make them smile, you go oh nice your necklace or you...you...you engage with the testifier so that they feel like they become a part of our community. So...or we become part of their community. So, thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Hey, stop talking about her like that bumbye --

MS. LINDO: Mahalo.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- other people like steal her.

MS. LINDO: I know I have a future in government. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We love your husband too. Well, your husband does a great job. Yeah. Anyway, no questions for you. Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the last individual currently signed up to testify is Tom Croly.

MR. CROLY: Aloha, Councilmembers. Tom Croly. Thank you for your hard work on the Budget, and thank you for coming to Kihei last night. And I was moved to move up my testimony by my neighbors testifying last night at the...at the Kihei Center. But I am anxiously awaiting the real property tax certification because as we all know, there's a lot of changes that are going to be taking place and...and...and it's going to require really some thorough analysis. But prior to that, because I don't know when that's going to happen next week, prior to that I wanted to give...give my thoughts right now. My wife and I as I think you know hold a bed and breakfast permit that allows us to use three rooms in our home to accommodate guests. The result of our permit is that we're stripped of our homeowner exemption and put into a unique tax classification awkwardly named Commercialized Residential. This causes our real property taxes to be much higher than they would be if we didn't hold our permit. The additional property tax in the past has seemed appropriate since we were granted an additional use that would not be allowed without our permit. However, over the past three years, multiple things have occurred that have made this additional property tax an unreasonable increase. And I'm asking for the Council to give some consideration to lowering the 13.6 percent rate increase to \$5 per 1,000 proposed by the Mayor. Specifically, the changes made over the past three years have been, first, that the Council increased the homeowner exemption from 200,000 to \$300,000 a few years ago. That made the hit of losing it just that much worse for...for those of us who...who don't get it. And of course, we do still live full-time in our homes but we don't get the benefit of that exemption. Nor are we eligible for a long-term exemption even if we were renting part of our property long-term. It strips us of all exemptions does the Commercialized Residential rate. Second, in 2021, as you well know, the Council established the three percent TAT that we pay in addition to the taxes that we have been paying to the State all these years. And I would hope that that three percent coming from our business would make up for that additional land use that you're granting us and there would be no need to take us out of the...the Homeowner tax classification. So, I give you that as food for thought that...that we are already being taxed for the use that we're making through that three percent that...that we pay on the TAT. And of course the extra half a percent now in the...in the GET that's been added on. Finally, the...what was the third thing? Oh, that...that...and...and this is not unique to our category but, of course, valuations have been going up dramatically over the

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past three years, and my valuation went up by 32 percent in just this past year. . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I want you to put yourself in my shoes for a second and...and just picture this. My property taxes three years ago were \$4,056. Two years ago were 4,455. Last year was 5,108. But with the Mayor's proposal here, my taxes would go up to 7,671 or an increase of 89 percent in those three years. And again, just to point out that my taxes are three times what my neighbors who don't have a B&B permit are. I heard the bell and recognize that I don't have time for the rest of my testimony, but I will be back with more thoughts about this once we know the full scope of...of...of what we have to do with...with the tax rates and such. Take you for the...for the time, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Croly. I knew I would see you soon. And we are going to hear from the Finance Department, the Real Property Tax presentation on the 15th. So, soon, Monday. Next week Monday. Member...

MR. CROLY: Monday. Okay. Good to know.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, 16th. Sorry. Wrong date.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I thought it was the 22nd?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 22nd. 22nd. Hello.

MR. CROLY: Well, that...that...that's why I was wondering, that's why I jumped in now because I don't know when it's going to happen and I thought I better...I better take the opportunity when...when it's available.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry, sorry. Yeah, right, it is 22nd presentation from Finance and RPT. So, we'll see you then also, I'm sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I thought we're going to have the information digitally on the 19th and then on the 22nd probably hard copy with the presentation. So, if Mr. Croly wanted to look on Granicus over the weekend, he probably could find the information.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What time...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because on the calendar it says we receive it on the 19th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, RPT certification due from Finance. What time were

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they going to submit it to us? Or maybe Ms. Milner would know.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I don't know the exact time it will be transmitted but I do believe they usually try and transmit earlier in the day. I will check with Acting Finance Director and get back to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Yeah.

MR. CROLY: I do see also that there is a placeholder on the RPT website for that information and I've been checking that regularly to see when they...when they put it up there, so.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, good. Good idea.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Yeah. So, 19th --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll do that too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and then the presentation's on the 22nd. Okay. Any other testifiers?

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier signed up via phone with the last four digits 1105.

MS. SILIGA: Aloha. Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we can hear you.

MS. SILIGA: Okay. Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Kahau Siliga. I am the teacher and Director of E Mālama I Nā Keiki O Lāna'i Preschool on the Island of Lāna'i. On Tuesday April 9th, testimony at the Maui County residency meeting informing Councilmembers that we received notice from DHHC that our Program was not selected to receive funding for Fiscal Year '25. I am here today to clarify this misunderstanding. After speaking with DHHC Staff on Thursday, April 11th, it has been clarified to us that E Mālama I Nā Keiki O Lāna'i will have funds available from the County for Fiscal Year '25. We are included in the ECRC and Subsidies Grant that Maui Family Support Services submitted. Some significant changes to our process have been brought to our attention yesterday. Number one, no application for grant funding is or was necessary, and number two, an audit is not required from E Mālama I Nā Keiki O Lāna'i in order for us to receive County funds for families in need of tuition assistance for Fiscal Year '25. As we near the end of another program year, 20 children of E Mālama I Nā Keiki O Lāna'i will have received a combined total of \$86,355 in County subsidies towards tuition. I was able to work with the Maui County Early Childhood

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Resource Center and MFSS to assure that families in our Program who were eligible also qualified for aid from the State Childcare Subsidy Union...Unit, Preschool Open Doors, and Qualified Care for Hawaiian Keiki Program. Our tuition fee is \$850 per month which totals \$9,350 for a program year per child. The average annual out-of-pocket cost for families receiving tuition assistance was \$928 for this program year. I just wanted to say that I'm so grateful to the County of Maui, especially the Staff of the Maui County Early Childhood Resource Center, for being supportive and resourceful with each challenge that have come our way. I also appreciate Lāna'i Councilmember Johnson and his team who are always available to listen to our program's needs or concerns, always willing to help. Thank you again for the County's continued support for our Lāna'i families in need of preschool tuition assistance. Thank you for all you do, Members. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Johnson has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Kahau, for clarifying --

MS. SILIGA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- that up, I really appreciate it. And I just want to thank you so much for our hard work on servicing our...our keiki. Momo, my daughter, was an alumni so I always have a soft spot for you guys, and you really do great work. And thanks for really kind of going...going in there and sorting this out. So, appreciate all your hard work. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions for the testifier?

MS. SILIGA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Seeing none. Yeah, I want to thank you. I think all of us were a little shocked that night of the...and concerned, so I'm glad that Human Concerns --

MS. SILIGA: Yeah, yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- also clarified everything and sorted things out.

MS. SILIGA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. No other testimony...

MS. SILIGA: Made things clear. Thank you so much.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thanks. No other questions. So, let's move to the next testifier if there is.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there's currently no one else who is signed up to testify. I can do a final call. 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 very much. Members, with your permission I'd like to close public testimony and receive written.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. It is now time for a recess. I'm going to take a ten-minute recess.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, got to go into...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Or just leave testimony open.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. Okay. So, what we'll do is we will begin with Corporation Counsel. Are you in the Chamber? Oh, both of you are here. Ms. Takayesu and Mimi DesJardins. So, what we're going to do is open up and ask you a couple of questions and take a ten-minute recess. Thank you very much. Nice seeing you here. Corporation Counsel, we're going to do two rounds, three minutes first round, two...two minutes the second round, and we can always do a third round, if needed. And I'm going to start with Member U'u-Hodgins. Oh, you can introduce who's here with you then. You can introduce who's here with you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Can we ask...

DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

MS. TAKAYESU: Thank you, Chair. Present is myself, Victoria Takayesu, Corporation Counsel, Mimi DesJardins First Deputy, Lisa Kahuhu our Administrative Officer II, and Lydia Toda who is our Risk Management Manager. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair, do you want...do you want me to just ask one question and then we can --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- go on to...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can go three minutes. You can do your first...first --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and then we'll do a recess.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Well, I asked three questions of Corporation Counsel. I don't think they got us their letter back, did they?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. It was transmitted at 9:49 this morning. It may or may not have been uploaded to Granicus but I believe Corporation Counsel brought hardcopies that can be distributed.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. TAKAYESU: We do have hardcopies so we can go ahead and distribute them.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, good.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I know one of my questions which is probably going to be answered on that was what was the total cost for Special Counsel, but I'm wondering if you could provide us a list of all the cases assigned to Special Counsel and the amount we have paid to date.

MS. TAKAYESU: I can...I'm ready to give you the amounts we paid. I don't have the list of cases. I believe there were primarily...well, two, are fire litigation cases. So, those are being billed by McCorrison, a Honolulu firm, and Meyers Nave, our L.A. firm. We also have retained Special Counsel in the Christopher Salem case. I can't think offhand of what other Special Counsel we have off the top of my head, but we can get back to you on that. For the amounts paid to date, \$493,850.42 has been paid. Of that amount, \$434,572.55 was for fire-related Special Counsel. And the \$59,277.87 was for non-fire-related Special Counsel.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. You guys are the only Department that provides us your answer in this format with the lines and everything, so it takes a little while to get used to. For right now, Chair. I will have more questions but I need to...and no offense, probably be less upset before I ask the Department some questions. So, I'm happy to give up the rest of my time and we can go to

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somebody else or we can take recess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We'll do recess. Okay. So, I'm going to take a ten-minute recess and then we'll, you know, continue on with questions or go back to Member U'u-Hodgins. At this time, we'll come back at...so 11...11...I'm sorry, 10:55. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:43 a.m.
RECONVENE: 10:59 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. Members, we're going to start with Fire and Public Safety. Member Paltin will be first for four minutes. And my goal, Members, is to get you out of here because Member Paltin is meeting George for lunch.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Four minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know the disclaimer, right? If I interrupt, I don't mean to be rude. Okay. First...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair? Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, sorry. I just wanted to say, Chair, that we didn't have any questions, budget ones anyway. We just had some general one. So...so I'm happy to donate my six minutes to Members who did submit questions so that they could get more answers to their questions, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very kind of you. Okay. All right. So, next we have...oh, continue.

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Start the clock from zero. Thank you. My first question would be, I heard Captain Kanoa Shannon say about minimum staffing standards. Have we established minimum staffing standards for Ocean Safety?

MR. VENTURA: You know I...I do understand...thanks for the question by the way. We as a Department have identified what we believe is the safe staffing standard for our beaches. The difference between Ocean Safety and Fire is that we have the Staff at the fire station 24 hours a day and if somebody calls in sick and does not come in, they don't get to go home. So, on the beach we attempt to call back

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personnel to meet the standard but we can't force them to come in.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. Thanks. And would you mind saying what your projected or proposed minimum staffing standard is for a beach with a jet ski and whatnot?

MR. GIESEA: Yeah, I can address that question. I...I was the Chief of Ocean Safety. It's been a few years now, but we did establish some guidelines for our call-in personnel, the personnel who take...answer the phone in the morning as you're familiar with. As to at what point do we, you know, try to call back, at what point do we relocate and such, we always want to have at least two personnel at every tower at every time so nobody's ever responding by themselves. And with...at a tower with rescue watercraft, that means we want to have a minimum of three. Because we always send two out on the watercraft, we want to have somebody back at the tower so we're not abandoning the tower. And then of course we have a District Captain who can come in and...and help bolster that...that staffing there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And how many people are needed to perform CPR in your training?

MR. GIESEA: So, ideally, we have at least two. Three is preferable, it makes it a little easier, but you want to have at least two personnel.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I just wanted to point out if one...two people go out on the rescue craft, you have one person at the tower to perform CPR if somebody drops. And we...we have had those types of situations in the past. So, just pointing that out. But next question would be I really like the idea of PIO for road closures. Do you have an idea of how that would work in relation with the Police Department? Like that other Friday we got stuck on this side for a little bit. As we were going through Mā'alaea and they diverted us down Carl's Jr., no one at any point told us the road was closed until we tried to go up around the harbor and then there's a police like what are you doing, and we're like I don't know, is the road closed, you know. And so, like if...when we seen the ambulance come by without lights and sirens, it's kind of obvious that it was a fatality. But at that point like when you know it's a fatality and you're going to close the road for three-four hours, did anyone like think like, oh, do you have a road closure sign or we're going to go tell the radio right now like the road is going to be closed, avoid this area? You know because even though the first responder personnel knows what's going on, the general public doesn't know what's going on and then the traffic starts to back up, and then I get a police officer coming straight at me in the wrong lane of traffic lights and sirens and I'm like, the guy passed away. Like who are you going to kill next, you know? So, I...I was wondering on that like how the PIO would get the information out there faster?

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MR. VENTURA: Thanks for the question. So, the perfect PIO or information center is when all the PIOs are communicating with each other, putting out the identical, same message at the same time. So, it's all going to be about working relationships. When we hire our PIO . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . they'll be working closely with Police as well as the Mayor's Office. I know heading out to Lāhainā, there's that one sign that's up there and something like that could be utilized more readily if we are able to give whomever controls that monitor timely information so that people know that the road's closed and maybe even an estimated amount of time. But nowadays, social media is where we really got to go to get people because when they're in their car, sometimes the radio message doesn't come out clearly or it's a recording on the radio and not a live radio. So, we'll try to hit all areas with the messaging.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. And just to follow up on the social media comment, Monday night after the budget in Lāhainā, we didn't have no Internet or telephone, so it's important to know when that's going on too. So, if you're sending out a evacuation or whatever alert and we don't have telephone or Internet, it's not going to get through. And that's not the first time it happened. It happened August 8th and now...I don't know what was Monday, April 8th, eight months to the day no Internet, no social media, nothing. And so, that's something that definitely needs to be addressed. Thank you, Chair, for the leniency --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that I took.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: As always. No, just kidding. Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook, U'u-Hodgins in that order.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Chiefs. Thank you so much for joining us, I know you're busy. I was looking at the questions that the...the Committee Chair sent to you guys in regards to the overtime and you have a nice list of these stations and the amount of...value of overtime you're...you're spending. The Lāna'i Fire Station is 197,000 in overtime and the Wailuku Fire Station is only 155,000 in overtime, but then when you look at the Kahului Station it's like massive, it's 522. I'm just surprised that Lāna'i is...is high. I don't imagine us getting that many calls...more calls than say Wailuku. Can you kind of explain why our...our overtime is so high for Lāna'i?

MR. VENTURA: Certainly. Thanks for the question. So, that premium pay also includes rank-for-rank recall. A station like Wailuku only has five personnel with two ranked people. On Lāna'i you have six personnel with three ranked people. So,

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those three ranked people, the captain, the driver and the driver are allowed to take voluntary recall to work in their positions or in their counterparts' positions, and of course they're at a higher rate. Also we do have a lot of senior employees in Lānaʻi which is good. So, their salary...base salary is higher which means their premium pay and overtime is higher. And so, it just kind of all adds up to that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is...is there...I'm curious why there is senior positions, senior folks --

MR. VENTURA: Senior people there.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- over there, is it...is it desirable, do they want to go there because...I mean --

MR. VENTURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- it's lower?

MR. VENTURA: Lānaʻi and Hāna provide a very unusual schedule that those that like it enjoy it a lot. They work for three days straight; they have six days off.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh, that is nice.

MR. VENTURA: So, sometimes when you get there and you kind of lock into that schedule and it works for your lifestyle --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. VENTURA: -- there's no reason to leave.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right. Thanks for clarifying that up, Chief. I'm going to move on to another question. So, what proportion of time and labor or dedicated E...E/Ps, if any, by the Fire Prevention Program will proactively address wildfire hazards? For example, monitoring areas that are known to be hazards or harboring tall grasses in the wildland-urban interface and instigating actions to abate brush, remove the hazards or notify property owners. Is this funding sufficient to monitor and address these kinds of hazards especially as droughts and climate change increase their prevalence? If not, what is the Department's goal to meet the need?

MR. VENTURA: Certainly. Thanks for the question. So, do we have enough staffing there now? No. Thus our request for four additional positions. It's hard to calculate the exact percentage. The way our Prevention Bureau is broken up is

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by district, so we have Upcountry personnel, we have town personnel, West Side personnel. And depending on the demand of that district, it gets demanded towards that one person. So, a lot of it is, as I mentioned, complaint-based, but what we want to do is we're working with Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization to identify high-risk wildfire areas around developments so that we can get out in front of it with those inspectors to talk to landowners and create fire...fuel break plans prior to every fire season. And we know our fire season is almost year round but we know once the rain kind of slows down in the spring, that's when we want them getting out there and cutting those fuel breaks.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's a good...I have a follow-up then for...that's...that's a good statement you made. You know it's April, we had a wet winter. You see the grass, it's turning...it's turning brown. Are you ready...you have enough inspectors to write the letters to landowners? Do...are...you know, are we ready for this?

MR. VENTURA: Yeah, so as I kind of mentioned, we...we're...we are outpaced by the demand right now. So, we're doing everything we can. That map that we're building with Hawai'i Wildfire Management Organization is soon to come to us. And so, HW...HWMO is their acronym, and they will be actively notifying landowners . . .(timer sounds). . . who are in and around neighborhoods that...what our...what our basically ask of them is for fuel breaks moving forward.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. My time's up, but I know Public Works also writes letters and tries to get landowners to do their due diligence but they always turn to you guys and say you seem to have more of an oomph. You know landowners listen to the Fire Department a little more, so...so please, you know, get them, you know, to...to cut the grass when need be. I appreciate that. Thank you.

MR. VENTURA: Chair, can I add one more thing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. VENTURA: Just something for everybody's awareness. The landowners here are responsive to our requests so that is a good thing, but I did recently go to a conference up in Reno where I spoke about the wildfire problem that we're having, and some of our local landowners were at the conference.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

MR. VENTURA: So, they're very interested in being partners in keeping our community safer.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Fabulous.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Chief --

MR. VENTURA: Aloha.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and Assistant Chief. Yeah? Okay. Mahalo for being here with us and for your presentation and for your boldness in a budget that will help to address a lot of...you know, some...our community's needs. And I...I'll...I'll see you next week Wednesday at the Ho'olehua Station for the blessing on the new truck named after Captain Lōkahi. Mahalo for doing that. So, I guess my first question, Moloka'i is really excited about finally relocating out of Pūko'o Fire Station after what, over 30 years. I see in the exhibit that was distributed that the...the bid for the construction for the 'Ualapu'e Station will be later this month. Do you have any additional updates for the public?

MR. VENTURA: Yeah. So, as you mentioned, the building that we're in is about 100 years old and it's very overdue for us to be out of. The construction project, which is an improvement to one house that we purchased a year ago is out to bid and should be bid opening April 22nd. We currently have about \$850,000 of funding that we hold for the project. And when the bids come in, we'll see where we go from there. But that project is still moving forward. The environmental assessment is complete, and we responded to community letters.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And the expected completion of the construction?

MR. VENTURA: I think I...I mentioned to you guys maybe a year and a half ago that it would be done already and it's not. So, of course we all know our challenges, but I can tell you this, it's not something that we're just sitting around waiting. All of our projects, Olowalu Fire Station, Ha'ikū, 'Ualapu'e, we're pushing our consultants, we're trying to...we're...we're making them uncomfortable to try to work as hard as they can to get us what we need. So, we'll keep doing that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Very good. My office is always happy to

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help with however we can. Regarding the third position at the Pūkoʻo Fire Station, when do you anticipate filling that?

MR. VENTURA: So, we have created a plan with DPS that has been supported so that we can start a recruit class July 2nd which will include firefighter trainees that will fill the positions that you folks approve. So, we're working with you now to identify what that number is. And because we have 9,000 series positions in our Department, that allows us a little bit of flexibility on new hires, so we'll be able to hire those people immediately if approved. And then that class should graduate before Christmas and we'll have people out there.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. That's exciting. Okay. I...my next set of questions is kind of a set so I think I'll wait for the next round so that I can ask them all together.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Next, we have Member Cook then --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member U'u-Hodgins --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- after.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- I'll have some...try and do some short speed questions real quick. What happens with the retired fire truck?

MR. VENTURA: So, good question. We will run our trucks through phases. So, frontline apparatus need to be reliable and no hiccups, no hesitation, need to go out the door. Then once they're unreliable and replaced we will put them in our training cache, so now they become driving and pumping apparatus. Once that life is gone, then we'll take them down to our Joint Training Center. Maybe we'll use them for whatever they're still safe to be used for, which is like maybe static pumping...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, do they need a garage for every one of those phases? I'm curious.

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MR. VENTURA: No. We...we won't --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. VENTURA: -- garage the trucks when they get --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thanks.

MR. VENTURA: -- older.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, the delays with your consultants, are they due to permitting issues? Are they due to the...the consultants having other people in front of you to design for?

MR. VENTURA: I'll speak to a couple of our projects, then I'll let Chief Giese speak about our lifeguard projects. We...it's...I think it's just they're balancing so many projects, and they do prioritize us when we are able to knock on their door and call them, but we're not the only project they're working on. So, you know, we just try to keep pushing them along.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, are these consultants...do they do work mostly for government work or do they do...I mean, who are the consultants? I'm curious.

MR. VENTURA: They do both, Munekiyo and Hiraga --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. VENTURA: -- Nishikawa Architects, ATL [sic] Architects Hawai'i, Tetra Tech. There are a variety of construction consultants that we use.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thanks.

MR. VENTURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And then does the Department have sufficient authority to mitigate overgrowth on parcels even with out-of-state owners? Page 318 on the Program Budget. And if not, can...should some authority be shifted from Department of Public Works to M...MFD?

MR. VENTURA: We do have the authority to do what we need to whether they're present or absent. So, real quick, the way it works is notice of warning for 30 days, noncompliance, notice of violation for 30 days. At that point, we can take action which is where we have that revolving fund that's in the Finance Department to hire contractors to do the work.

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COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Is that 30-day time period, is that adjustable? Is that something that we could legislate and abbreviate? Because 60 days for violation during summer might be like, okay, now it's going to start raining again and it...anyway.

MR. VENTURA: Yeah. No, that makes sense to me. I think that's a question that's maybe for Corp. Counsel to see if that's something that we could legislate and change and reduce.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. In my district, people have brought to my attention some of the vacant lots. They called the Fire Department, they were very responsive. They came, they spoke, the area was cleaned around the perimeter like 20 or 30 feet but then the materials were piled up onsite and not hauled off. Is that something that's...that the Department should be called back and...and addressed or did they meet that criteria of this has to be clean for this distance and it's sort of like a just we got to do something about it?

MR. VENTURA: So, I would say they met the letter of the law but not the intent of the law. And so, we would...I would choose to send our Prevention Bureau back out there and revisit those properties.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Is there any policy now that when people will clear around the perimeter...a landowner will clear around the perimeter and then neighbors throw all of their stuff over the fence and create this fire hazard and then the other neighbors complain about it but it's not really the landowner's kuleana?

MR. VENTURA: Yeah. At that point, you know, the Police will probably get involved and you need witness statements that somebody's basically littering because that's essentially what you're doing when you're throwing your 'ōpala --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So...

MR. VENTURA: -- on somebody else's property.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, people could take picture, click, click, fix, something? Like them...them address it because they know where it's happening and they report it and...

MR. VENTURA: Yeah. I...I would say if it's a...if it's a fire hazard or brush abatement call, we're just going to come and look at what's there at the time on the property and address the property owner. If it's . . .(timer sounds). . . some illegal dumping activity going on then that would be something that the neighbor needs to engage

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with Police.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah. When the problem is like it's the neighbor. So, anyway, thank...thanks for that.

MR. VENTURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And...

MR. VENTURA: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you for answering our question. So, on Exhibit A, page 1 of 2, we have Pā'ia roofing replacement and funds are in the '25 Budget. You guys have all the permits you need for that? Do you expect construction to happen in the '25 Budget or are you looking for the design and permits required for that?

MR. VENTURA: Thanks for the question. So, as you guys knows, Johnson Controls is a big contract project that's going on here. If we're able to utilize Johnson Controls to replace the roof on that building then they would be the ones seeking all the paperwork and permitting.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. VENTURA: If we had to spend the money out of our FY '25 Budget and procure everything ourselves then that's something that we would have to do which I believe is not done at this time by us.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Yeah, you would need SMA, SHPD, Historic District Building. It's my favorite fire station. It's so beautiful. So, the --

MR. VENTURA: Yeah, we want to keep it the way it is.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- character would need to remain the same. Okay. Thank you. You let us know...well let me know then how you might need help with that and we can figure that out. Okay. Where...we heard from your captains and even in your description of your budget you acknowledge that Maui County is growing faster than you guys can get firemen and firewomen. So, strategically where would be the best place to create a fire station in Central Maui, understanding that these fire stations take years? So, by the time it's built, we're going to see a rapid incline of population.

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MR. VENTURA: Certainly. So, if you can remember back to 1990 when they built Kahului Fire Station...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I cannot because I was like four, but...

MR. VENTURA: Okay. I'll ask your...I'll ask your dad then. Kahului Station was surrounded by cane fields. We need to think that far ahead. Also when that station was built everybody said why so big?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. VENTURA: We need to think that big.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. VENTURA: We're looking at the Waiko-Waikapū-ish area --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. That's . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. VENTURA: -- because as that whole area grows out to Mā'alaea --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. VENTURA: -- it's going to be surrounded by homes eventually.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I don't disagree. We should probably be best prepare now for the future as we've seen. So, the other day we had Police in here and I thanked them for their meeting with me and with us, and I would also like to thank you folks. I really do appreciate everybody's help in best preparing Pā'ia Town for hopefully not the when...or the if but when situation at Holomua Road. I understand at our community meeting we were discussing how there's no water out there for anything, including fire prevention. So, when we had Water in here, I asked if that was possible to build a hydrant out there and apparently there's no waterlines. What can we do to put some temporary water storage out there at least for fire protection?

MR. VENTURA: Good question. So, we...we're...since our meeting which was great because it brought all the players together --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. VENTURA: -- we've been discussing some strategies. One being to potentially ask Maui Invasive Species, that...building an area there if we could set something up. We wouldn't want to put something like we've done at the police station at Kihei

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before. During the dry time of the year, we've set up what we call a pumpkin 3,000-gallon tank and we'd like to do that in that area.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. VENTURA: Now granted that's really close to Ho'okipa so the ocean is always available to us --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. VENTURA: -- but if we're filling fire trucks, you're right, we're bringing the water with us and then we have to go to the nearest hydrant.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Does the Pā'ia Station have the apparatus needed with the amount of water we might need to potentially fight a fire out there?

MR. VENTURA: Depending on the conditions, of course. You know, it's...they've been...as you know, they've had more than 30 fires in the first few months of this year --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Right.

MR. VENTURA: -- and they've been able to contain all of them.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. VENTURA: But we know the condition is getting dryer, the wind's picking up, and it's...the fires are going to get more challenging as we move --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. VENTURA: -- through the summer.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: We're going to have to knock on wood collectively. In that meeting that we had we discussed potential coordinated training between you folks, Police, even MEMA to create, you know, a situation which we can best prepare for. Have you guys done that? Do you guys need the budget to do that? For not just Pā'ia but for everybody as well.

MR. VENTURA: No, I think it's...it's part of what we have the capability to do. It's just a matter of having free time, work time to get our training bureaus together to create that . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . coordinated response to the community's needs during...whether it's...whatever type of evacuation, wildfire, tsunami or...

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COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Of course. Okay. Thank you. Thank you very much, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, next we have...Member Sinenci doesn't have questions or you have a second thought about that? If not, then...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No questions, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Member Kama then Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I was going to ask that question that Member U'u-Hodgins asked about your potential site for your Central Maui fire station and you mentioned the Waikapū area, around there somewhere. And then earlier, somebody mentioned that the...the District of Wailuku is from the...I think from the Pali all the way to Kahakuloa.

MR. VENTURA: Correct.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I just...so in listening to that I was thinking so the...the distance between the Wailuku Station and the maybe potential Waikapū Station is maybe about a mile or so. And I was just thinking would it be easier or better if you could put something more closer to the Hawaiian Homes area out in Paukūkalo-Waiehu Kou area as you go towards...knowing that there's going to be a huge influx of housing development being built up by the mac nut farms as well as on the other side of the road?

MR. VENTURA: Thanks for the question. So, what you're on to is our third fire station. So, you're right. With restraints in place, the Waikapū station...when we look at our call volume and we create what we call a heat map of where all of our calls are, a lot of it is this direction and growing. I mean, the neighborhood, the...the townhomes that were just built next to Foodland, I mean, that's going to draw our firefighters there. There's hundreds of people there now. A possible solution would be to open that Waikapū-Waiko area fire station and then move Wailuku to a bigger, better fire station in that Hawaiian Home Lands area. That's a 1950-some-odd building, and it's just...it's something we could maybe repurpose, but again it's a historical building so we can't add a second story to it. But moving something out towards Hawaiian Homes would be a good, good idea as well.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, when you look at what your timeline would be in terms of your planning, design, construction, all of that, I mean, I know how it's taken to do the Ha'ikū one. So...and we don't want those repeats, right, so best-case scenario when could that actually happen? Are we still going to be alive? Nah.

MR. VENTURA: Yes, you will be.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, I don't think so . . . *(laughing)* . . .

MR. VENTURA: She said she doesn't think so. You're right. If you look at Ha'ikū Fire Station as the model, I don't like it either. It's not our intent to...to let things delay and...and...that long, but a lot of it is community input and feedback. And so, when we come with a project to the community, if it's supported, and there are always going to be some contests to a project, we have to just work through those and do what's best for the overall community.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Absolutely.

MR. VENTURA: So, for us, when we're looking at expansion in property, we're always needing water, power, infrastructure, and there's land all over but it doesn't have all that. So, the Waiko area where it's the industrial areas are being developed and water is being brought out there, Waiale extension, around the Atherton homes and all that, the infrastructure is coming and going to a water treatment plant or...with Director Agawa. So, there's a...there's a lot of hope in that area --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

MR. VENTURA: -- for us to be able to build.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. That sounds really aggressive in terms of that, so I'm hoping that...that aggressiveness will create the least amount of time for the next fire station. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Hi, Chief.

MR. VENTURA: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, is your after-incident report coming up in July or so or when?

MR. VENTURA: Sooner than that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good.

MR. VENTURA: So, we...how do I say this without giving you dates. Stay tuned. It's right around the corner.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Yeah. That...that would have been rather helpful in

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making some of the decisions on this budget, but I do appreciate...I know we've asked you questions and submitted those questions, and thank you for the answers. I...I really appreciate your effort in trying to see what you actually need now and not put a wish list together like some of the other departments. The only concern I have is the fact that so many of you ask for PIOs. I mean, the Mayor has about five or six, you know, and there are only just so many departments that actually need a PIO with regard to responses, you know, prevention and responses, emergencies and so forth. And of course, you're one of them. So, currently do you rely on one of the PIOs on the 9th Floor to take your calls or do you try...or is it assigned to someone in your office?

MR. VENTURA: Thanks for the questions. There's a lot there I want to answer. Let's start from the end and work our way back. So, the PIO we currently utilize is a Fire Prevention Fire Fighter III who is not his primary job. It's his fifth job and we're asking him to do it. You will have the AAR before you have to make decisions this...for this budget, so that I can tell you. So, since you said it would be helpful to have that. Your...I'm...I'm hopeful that we are asking for what we need and not what we want. I also believe that we should only ask for what we can do. I don't want to...I don't want to get all these positions and not be able to fill them. So, if you noticed, all of our positions are firefighters this year. We had 690 applicants. 300 people passed the test is what I was told, so now we just need them to pass the agility and do well in the interview and we'll have more than enough --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. VENTURA: -- Fire personnel.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I really appreciate the way you think because it's important for the departments to come before us and ask us for what they're able to achieve. I mean, you know, we all have great goals, but if you don't have the capacity then please don't ask, yeah. Because we only...we have a finite budget with infinite amounts of requests. So...and we...we'd hate to guess, you know...you know what I mean? I'd hate to make the wrong guess for...on your budget. When you really need something and we...and we cut that to save something you could have, you know, gone without.

MR. VENTURA: Yeah, absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But anyway, thank you very much. Appreciate your time and your service. Thanks.

MR. VENTURA: Mahalo.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, I want to just say that I appreciate in your presentation, you put us all in a good mood, about page 1 was all the things you don't need and why and which...but what I wanted to ask you about because we're going to be taking up revolving funds on the 17th, but you say move page 9-69, 200,000 from 911412C, General Fund, to the revolving fund. So, which revolving fund it is? Because I see a bunch.

MR. VENTURA: So, thanks for the question, Chair. The Fire Prevention Bureau has a revolving fund, index code 101075 and the money that goes into that is from our permitting process, building permits. We are currently sitting right over about \$1.1 million in that revolving fund and we draw salary for two positions and operating expenses. So, our draw this year is a small percentage of that million dollars so we wanted to move the funds from General Fund to the revolving fund for those four vehicles because, you know, they qualify for the revolving fund spending. Because we can't just spend the Fire Prevention Revolving Fund on, you know, equipment for the field, that's not what it's for. So, we have to keep it specific to fire prevention. That's the four vehicles.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good. So, Ms. Milner, the fund that is...if you can look on Special Revenue...Special Purpose Revenue, is it H or is it D? Well, it looks it's probably...that's the one that has Fire on it. Probably H . . .*(inaudible)*. . . right?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, it's H.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We're good. Okay. We'll put a star next to it for Chief. And that's all...oh no, I have one more. The movement of...or...or creating your administration building, the CIP project for \$1 million . . .*(inaudible)*. . . the CIP, CBS-7851...7871. And thank you very much for doing this because I think last year it was...I think it was last year was 4 million. I said wait, let's take it in phases, so this is the phase. And I wonder if...I asked the question to one of your testifiers about the Wailuku Fire Station and all the birds. I was surprised because when I'm driving past it, I can hear birds and when I was growing up, I could hear birds and it's still...but nobody ever complains about it, I've never heard. It must be a...it must be hard to sleep, right?

MR. VENTURA: Yeah. Thanks for the question. So, yeah, the...the tree does create some challenges on our property; however, they're...trees are very protected in our community, as they should be, and that is one of our beautiful Wailuku trees that is beloved by the arborists. So, it's going to stay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I mean I can understand that but I'm...I'm surprised that nobody ever complains or even there's an apartment building next door to it. And with...I don't know how many residents because it's mixed...mixed use, right, so they're not complaining either, but maybe by this discussion we might hear from

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our arborist friends as well as those people that are experiencing that. And that is the only question I had because you answered mine in your responses. So, thank you very much. Do we have a need for round two? Member Paltin? Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. On question 11, page 11 of FS-2, what is the brand of portable radios and can they transmit through the mountain ranges?

MR. GIESEA: Yeah, I can...I can address that. The portable radios that our Fire personnel use are Motorola APX 6000s and we...the...there will be some areas on the island where it could be difficult but we generally don't have a perennial problem with radio communications being unreliable.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you would have the 6000 as a backup to the 800 megahertz?

MR. GIESEA: No, 800 megahertz...the APX 6000 is an 800-megahertz radio.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MR. GIESEA: Yeah. So, integrated within the system, you know...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you're getting just 20 more?

MR. GIESEA: So, the radios that...the 20 radios I believe you're referring to in the budget are APX 900s --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, that's --

MR. GIESEA: -- if I'm remembering correctly.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- what my question was.

MR. GIESEA: So, we...we have a variety of radios that we use Department-wide. You'll notice if you see a firefighter with a radio, it's a little larger, it's usually kind of bright lime green. That's our APX 6000. That has special features that are useful when...for all the things --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I know.

MR. GIESEA: -- that the firefighters have to do. Many of the Ocean Safety officers will have a less expensive model, APX 1000, and that's...that does everything that Ocean Safety needs it to do and it's quite a bit less expensive. And then we're looking to get some additional radios that we can hand out to our various

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partners, private partners, other responders --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. GIESEA: -- other agencies.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The next question I had was I see the mini pumpers for Makawao-Kihei-Wailea but then you're saying that Kaunakakai and Pūko'o doesn't have. Would it make sense to bring one of the South Maui ones to Moloka'i and then backfill one more for Moloka'i, one more for South Maui or what...what's the situation there? Because if Moloka'i catches on fire it's not like we can drive one across the ocean.

MR. VENTURA: Absolutely. Great question. So, we have focused extensively on making sure we have equipment in Hāna, Lāna'i, and Moloka'i. And Moloka'i is one of the places that we have...we have more equipment a lot of times than firefighters just because of CDBG funding or support that we've gotten from the Council. And so, they have multiple tankers, multiple . . .*(inaudible)*. . . trucks. They've also kept all of their older vehicles on that island, we haven't moved them back to Maui, so they're not as small but they have offroad capabilities and they have UTVs with pumps and all sorts of stuff.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then new Firefighter Medical Exam Program, is anyone not into it or is everybody for it?

MR. VENTURA: You're never going to get 100 percent anything and it's changed and there's two things firefighters don't like . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and change. So, we are...we have what we have. Essentially this is very important for our long-term health. That's the bottom line, that's why we're doing it. And there is anxiety I'm positive amongst our members because there's additional tests that might discover additional medical issues, but our goal is to work with them, with their...our unions and our Administration to make them whole and keep them as firefighters. That's the goal.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is it mandatory?

MR. VENTURA: It is. So, on the Fire side, which is different from the Ocean Safety side, the...it is an annual requirement of the firefighter to go through a medical evaluation that's designated by the Fire Chief.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Johnson? Did you have...okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. So, I have always commended your Department on doing wellness and taking care of your...your employees so well.

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And I notice that, you know, the Police are following your lead and that's great. So, I...I...I always want other departments, anybody who deals with high stress situations should look into wellness and taking care of their people. So, in here you mention Waves of Insight, recruit class 39, psychological service, MFD wellness consultation. Waves of Insight, monthly psychological services. That...that price is monthly for both of those; is that correct?

MR. GIESEA: I think I can address that question. So, Waves of Insight is the...the name of the...that our Clinical Psychologist that we use has for her business. MPD also uses her. She's got special training and experience and specialization in first responder issues. So, we utilize her in a variety of ways. One is personnel who want to avail themselves of her services, contact her, schedule their meetings, et cetera. She sends us a bill. It's anonymous, just kind of how many people and...and how much. We also have asked her to come to our recruit classes both Fire and Ocean Safety. One of the things that we are...are emphasizing now is that transition from, okay, I'm learning how to do this, I'm excited, I've got all this new skills to, oh, my God, I'm doing this for real, and...and there are significant issues that go with that both for Ocean Safety as well as for Fire. And Fire you have the additional component of I'm now living with four other people 24 hours or 72 hours at a time and, you know, it...so...so we're...we're making sure that that is part of the recruit training process and follow up as well to help them with that transition and really kick...kick themselves off with good wellness habits throughout their career.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. Well, thank you for doing that. I guess my follow-up is post fire...post Lāhainā fire, has there been an increase in demand of these types of services for your folks?

MR. GIESEA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And you have the budget for that? You're able to afford that?

MR. GIESEA: Yeah, we believe so. So, far we...we haven't run up against any budgetary constraints that have limited what we're able to provide for our personnel and...and what they need.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great. Do you ever get feedback from your...from your firefighters saying, you know, this is really working for me or actually I'm not interested in that. I mean, do you ever ask them how's it working?

MR. GIESEA: Yes. And...and feedback is...it's varied. You know there's really no one...one size fits all, one therapist fits all approach. We know we have quite a few people who are...are regulars and value that particular service. We have

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those who feel like that's not for them and maybe other things are. We still have quite a few people who just think nah, I'm good, right?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. GIESEA: And...and they're not really open yet to --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. GIESEA: -- that sort . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . of help. We're working on that on all fronts.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much for that, I really appreciate it. Thank you.

MR. GIESEA: Thank you.

MR. VENTURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair.

MR. VENTURA: Chair, can I add something?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. VENTURA: Just wanted to share with you that we've also allowed our Department members who are in peer support . . . *(inaudible)*. . . to work with other departments. And maybe that's, you know, just a way to show it's done maybe, because we've learned from somebody else. So, post-fire, we've met with like Public Works' employees. Post other incidents where people were injured, we met with them. We've even met with our contractors like our bulldozer contractors who are like in the thick of it with us, how do they process what they've seen, what they've experienced. So, we've sent our teams out to work with them as well.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you so much for doing that, I really appreciate it. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. My next set of questions is regarding the FEMA reimbursements. And...okay. So, Assistant Chief Giesea even before the fire started working on identifying qualified expenses that we

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could get FEMA reimbursements for, correct?

MR. GIESEA: Yeah. Well, for...we have worked with them on previous incidents and then of course after the fires happened, we...we knew this was going to be the sort of disaster that we seek reimbursement for. Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And then beyond, you know, like the...the 2023 fires, our Department now has the capacity to be able to continue to seek reimbursements for qualified FEMA expenses?

MR. GIESEA: Yeah. So, generally, if we're asking for reimbursement from FEMA, it would be because there's been...it depends on the program but there's been a Presidential disaster declaration like we had on August 8th. So, we're still in the process of working with FEMA, and the County has hired a consultant Tetra Tech who's been very helpful. And so, I...I meet with them regularly. And we're still putting projects together and completing documentation. It's a long process but it is going well. We do have some projects obligated. FEMA has provided...they...they've written checks to HI-EMA already and HI-EMA is close to releasing some funds to the County. So, we're progressing pretty well along those lines. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Did you work with Tetra Tech before August 8th of last year?

MR. GIESEA: In different capacity. So, we...I...different employees from Tetra Tech doing different things. Yeah, they're a...they're not just a local company. They're nationwide, if not worldwide. So, the folks we're working with from Tetra Tech on the FEMA reimbursements have generally all come from the mainland. They also have local offices here in the State and we've employed their services for other things.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. And then I'm not sure if this question would be for your or Budget Director but when we do...when the County does get reimbursed for the qualified expenses, what fund does that go into?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. It depends on where the expense came from. So, if it was Emergency Fund, it would most likely go back to Emergency Fund, things like that. On a related note, we have insurance payments that have been coming in so those go into our Insurance Fund. So, I'd be happy to provide a little more detail if you want to send that in writing.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Yeah, I guess so, Chair, if we can ask Staff. Staff, was that a clear enough question? Okay. Okay. And...okay. And then I think this is for Budget Director again. So...and we'll...we'll get more details in writing now that I made the request. But when the funds are reimbursed and it's...in...in which budget does it get recognized as...yeah, as coming into the County? . . .(timer sounds). . .

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. We do our best to recognize it in the fiscal year that it is received. I know there are some funds...so you'll probably see an increase next year because it usually takes two to three years. We may recognize some this year because as Assistant Chief was saying, some are being processed a little earlier. So, we kind of do our best estimate for what we're requesting. And we can provide a recordkeeping of that as those reimbursements start to come in.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Awesome. Mahalo, Budget Director. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook then Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Chair, my question for the Department is how much...and how much in planning for stations and expansion is the Island Plan and community plans referenced? And part of that is water supply, both source, storage, transmission is a key element to you to be able to perform your function of firefighting. So, is there...how much the Department of Water Supply, Department of Planning, Department of Fire, and Management collaborate?

MR. VENTURA: Thanks for the question. So, I've only worked on some of those plans. There are so many plans in our community. But the two that we have worked in West Maui and in South Maui we have noted that fire stations shall be built in certain areas. So, we've tried to be pretty specific about getting things out of the SLR-XA and moving things to safer areas. In the Ha'ikū Community Plan that was done a long time before I was involved in this, there is a location picked for the fire station, but that community is constantly evolving and part of the process of us building the Ha'ikū Fire Station is to do a community plan amendment to get the fire station location identified as where we own property right now. But to your point of the water, you're right. We...we need...any type of fire station we're going to build needs water and power. So, we need to work with the Water Department. So, like that Waiko area, part of the study will eventually be not just to plan and design the facility that we want to build but then plan and design the infrastructure to get to that site that we own.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And...and to be able to service water for the area that you're going to be protecting.

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MR. VENTURA: Absolutely. So...yeah. So, if we're able to piggyback on neighborhoods and things that are being built privately then it's a win for the County. If we're in front of the neighborhoods which we have been in some cases then it'll be incumbent upon the . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, now that the...we have the 1/2 percent GET for housing for...or to facilitate the funding of infrastructure for our housing, hopefully the Fire Department can weigh in on that insofar as the need for water because it's basically the source, the storage, and the transmission. And we...the challenge, we don't overgrow. We don't want...we don't want to like stimulate growth by having water availability but by the same token we're like can't build for local families and provide fire protection because we don't have water. So, my other question is the Kanahā lifeguard tower rebuild. When I read that it just strikes me as another example of permitting, regulatory...the regulatory stranglehold that we have on our CIP projects. So, do you have a solution to that?

MR. GIESEA: Well, I...I can...I...I don't have a solution that...that's well conceived and airable in a public forum of this nature. I can tell you that that is one project where permitting has been one of the...the key reasons for the...the delay. I mean this has taken much, much, much longer than we anticipated. We hired a firm . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . to help us get that permit early in Fiscal Year '23 and we still don't have it. There's much more to the story. We don't have time in this context. Happy to discuss it later, but that has been one of the...the key stumbling blocks for us there.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Next, Member U'u-Hodgins then Vice-Chair Kama then Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'm wondering if you could provide a reason why the PIO is best as a fire captain and not just a civilian?

MR. VENTURA: Certainly. Thanks for the question. So, when we expect our PIO or a PIO to address the media or provide press releases, if they're going to be speaking on behalf of First Responders, Firefighters, Ocean Safety Officers, they should have experience to answer follow-up questions or to understand what the crews are going through so they can speak to the reality of what's going on. Whether it's a one-day incident or a multiday incident or a disaster like we just went through. So, the experience that comes with the position as a Fire Captain for that PIO will...will speak volumes. Also when they...their other responsibilities like public education and that sort of thing are going to be better with a more

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experienced person, fire background.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Chair, I really don't have any further questions. Thank you very much for being with us today.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Kama then Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I have no question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: She gave hers to me.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: How about Member Kama, you have questions?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I don't have any questions --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, round three.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I just was wondering, you know, sometimes we've seen those like big planes that scoop up a big amount of water. Is that a feasibility for us over here? Because can it fly in the wind or what?

MR. VENTURA: Thanks for the question. So, the...something of that nature would probably need to be a State effort. We also have different challenges like our wave conditions in the water. If we had large lakes, which is more common for them to pick up on, it'd be more feasible. And then if they do load the water at an airport, there...there is quite a bit of science that goes into making the water a heavier viscosity so it's less affected by wind, but again that's a whole program that I think if you're going to buy an aircraft of that nature, it should support the whole State, not just the County.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then about Kupuohi still burning for days after. Was there any opportunity to launch a helicopter to drop buckets?

MR. VENTURA: So, that did not come to our attention during the incident as we were, you know, focused on all the life safety stuff. But the...as far as normal practices or industry best practices for firefighting, the way to fight that high-rise fire

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because it's considered a high-rise fire was to put between 40 and 50 firefighters on that scene with a required amount of water, neither of which we had. So, dropping water from a helicopter may...may have got some of the areas on the outside of the building, maybe the roof out, but what was burning inside would have never seen water.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if it were the only structure to have burned instead of the town, would the sprinklers and the existing Fire Department personnel have been enough? Like, I mean, that one was a living...low-income apartment but we have multiple high-rise hotels and things like that. Are we prepared for those types of incidents as a one-off? . . .(timer sounds). . .

MR. VENTURA: Yeah, good question. The...we are, and because that building was built recently, the fire suppression system within it would have been able to do what it's expected to do. Now, fire protection systems are built to save lives in the building. This building potentially started from the outside in. The sprinklers would have done nothing for it because the sprinklers are inside. The fire suppression systems that we put into these buildings are exactly that, to get enough time for people to get out. Our response packages for high-rises, we do have enough firefighters on the island, but as I had mentioned, it's going to deplete a lot of what we have going on. So, our plan is if we do have a high-rise is to dispatch those resources that we need to that incident and then quickly backfill onto our relief trucks that we have so we have an additional staffing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you. I heard the buzzer. You guys are aware of the height that we're looking at Ka'ahumanu as a mixed use and...and preparing a budget to go along with that, right?

MR. VENTURA: Sorry. Can you just explain that a little bit better?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We're...we're...so Ka'ahumanu is a mall right now and we're looking at it for mixed use, and to make it work, they're going to go tall --

MR. VENTURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- like...what 90?

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MR. VENTURA: Okay. So, I mean, we can talk all day about our goals and for our Department but when we talked about that Waiko fire station area. That's not just one fire truck there. We recognize the need for some sort of ladder device

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which we were going to get a tiller for potentially, and a tiller would allow us to get a large ladder into small areas. So, that station would not just get a fire truck, it'd probably get an engine, a tanker, a tiller, and we'd probably move HAZMAT from Kahului to that location as well. So, there's...there's a lot more in the background happening but that would...that would help with that high-rise.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. And then we...we approved I think Hale Makua also to like B-2 which is 90 feet as well. So, just --

MR. VENTURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- keep an eye on those things.

MR. VENTURA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else have questions? Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. You don't have, Johnson? Okay. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I just have two follow-up questions regarding the reimbursements. Okay. One, when the information is provided to us in writing, Budget Director, I...it would be I think helpful for...for us on the Council and for the public to have an idea of like what percentage of...of funds we get back. In...in past years, some Councilmembers would treat the Fire Department as like a...a money sink, but you know, they're doing work now to get money back into the County for a lot of the important work that they do. Can?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Yeah. I'll do my best. I don't know if we'll know specifically because as you know, FEMA is reviewing everything, and I believe we've been approved anywhere in the range from 25/75, 90/10 to 100 percent, depending on when the expenses were incurred, but I can at least provide that information even if I can't break it down by expense.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And then a follow-up question for the Department, so you know, Assistant Chief Giese was able to build capacity to...to do this work for the Department in working with Tetra Tech. Are there others that are doing this work with you so that there's successorship planning?

MR. VENTURA: I'll...I'll just speak real briefly. I just don't let him go home. So, that's how we --

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, no retiring either.

MR. VENTURA: -- take care of a lot of things. Because we are a lean department when it comes to like our civilian Staff. We're very lean for 400 and, you know, almost 50 employees. We are...we're very operational focused. But he can kind of share a little bit about who he's working with as far as the reimbursement goes because we...we do try to bring in some of our Finance Personnel. So, I'll let him expand on that.

MR. GIESEA: Sure. Yeah. So, it kind of takes a village to make all of this happen, so you know, I'm kind of the person for the Department that's designated as the lead but I'm not the only one doing work. I've had . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . you know, other folks within the Fire Department that have assisted. Tidal Basin, which is the company contracted by the State to help with the FEMA reimbursement, their personnel have actually assisted with a lot of the work, as has Tetra Tech. And we have just other personnel that are...you know, our warehouse personnel, our mechanics personnel that are helping with the documentation pieces. So...so we try to get as many people involved as we can with one person who is at least learning how this all works to help coordinate and help make sure we don't...we don't make any mistakes that end up making more work for us later or...or even worse, have to give money back later. So, yeah, we're...we're trying to grow, we're making it work right now.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Because I mean you're lead so we would need someone, you know, when...you know, if we --

MR. GIESEA: Whenever I retire.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- ever let you go.

MR. GIESEA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You've proven indispensable.

MR. VENTURA: So, to add to that, as we continue to grow our Department, we're moving responsibilities around. So, we have one position, one person in our Department as many of you know who he is and he was a firefighter responsible for CIP, PIO, report writing, maintenance of all of our facilities and lifeguard towers. And so, what we're doing is it's an overwhelming amount of work and so we're creating positions like we got a CIP Coordinator last year. We're going to hire somebody. And fortunately we...we've been talking to some people already in the private sector who are somewhat interested so maybe we don't have to steal from another department, which is always a goal. And then the PIO is another responsibility

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that we would like to make a full-time position out of. Then that person that you're talking about can now become backup to...you know, maybe replace Chief Giese in the future or, you know, look over a bureau as a Chief Officer.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief and Assistant Chief. And I...I just wanted to quickly say because I just learned this this week regarding Member Johnson's questions about wellness. Mahalo for everything that you're doing and all the exercise equipment that we have because I didn't know but muscles secrete antidepressants called myokines. Something like that. So, I'll send it to you. It's M-Y-O-K-I-N-E-S. So, it's like the antidepressant hormone. So, the more that you work out your muscles the more secretes anti...like natural antidepressants.

MR. VENTURA: Excellent. Yes. I agree with that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I have no further questions, Chair. I want to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- thank the Department.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. And I think, Member Kama, you didn't have any more questions, right? And Chair...Chair Lee left. So, we are 12:01 and I wanted to take a recess for lunch. And Members, if you would allow besides thanking the Department, you want to come back at 1:15, 1:00...1:15? Okay. 1:15 and then we'll take up MEMA after and then Corp. Counsel will be last. So, thank you very much all of you for the good work that you do. Thank you.

MR. VENTURA: Absolutely.

MR. GIESEA: Thank you all very much, we appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

MR. VENTURA: Mahalo, everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, when we come back at 12:00, I want...12:00...I'm sorry, 1:15, I wanted to go over and finalize our process that we'll do for Budget. We got the deadlines, dates down, but we just need to conditions and priorities. So, I want to finalize that, that letter --

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then what --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- that was distributed.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- is the first department after that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, so then we're going to take up MEMA.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Take up MEMA and then we're going to take up Corp. Counsel after. Oh...oh, Managing Director is going to be late, yeah? So, what...oh, we'll talk about it after when we get back. Okay. All right. This meeting is now in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 12:03 p.m.

RECONVENE: 1:21 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back, everybody, to the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. It is...it is 1:21 p.m., and we are back from recess. And I just wanted to...well, welcome all of you. Thank you, Fire and Public Safety. And this afternoon we're going to cover Maui Emergency Management. We had Amos Hewett here a second ago, and before we take him up, I wanted to go over the procedures so that we can finalize this so you can focus on all the things that you need to do which are your priorities forward. So...and then I also wanted to let you know that I...we're not going to have Management today because Josiah Nishita is not available. And I know Keanu Lau Hee can answer all of our questions but I wanted to also have Josiah here. So, we're going to then take up...we're going to recess this meeting and then take it up next week Tuesday, right, the 16th? And that will be a 1:00 meeting on Tuesday, and that night is Wailuku-Kahului, your public hearing, your...your district meeting in the Chambers. So, that's going to be 6:00 on Tuesday. But before that we are going to take up Management at that time, and we can ask them all the questions regarding Office of Recovery because I think that's a big discussion. So, we have made that change. So, today, I wanted to go over and finalize the process we're going to do for budget procedures and then take up MEMA and then take up Corp. Counsel, and then I'm going to recess this meeting until Tuesday at 1:00. Okay, Members? Okay. Then...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. At 1:21, I gaveled in.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .I will pay attention. I will pay attention. 100 times.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: 100 times.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 100 times. We still have to do that. Okay. So, Members, we got the calendar established, which will be on the 15th Economic Development and Cultural Programs. At 4:30 is when your conditional language is due and that's the \$140,000 pots that are in OED. That's done. And then for priority amendments, two. No requirement for a corresponding cut. So, just to make it clear, two priority amendments from each Member. You...you may submit them in writing or propose them on the floor. I would like to have them in writing. And also that would be due Wednesday the 17th at 4:30. So, that came because that...that date changed because we wanted to have all of the residency area meetings and we wanted to have all the departments done. So, by that time that will give you enough information.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry, what? Yeah, no...no...you don't have to do cuts. Initially I said for every add you got to cut, right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, this is a change. Based upon all your questions that you've been asking the departments and whatever. I said okay, look, let's...let's focus on that. I not done. And then conditional language proposals, County grants, you can submit two. And then revolving fund is one, right. You can add conditions on that. And that will...that will be due...you want to...you want that deadline April 17th or you want it April 15th?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: 17th? Okay. 17th at 4:30 then. So, that's also going to be due at April 17th at 4:30. Any discussions? Did I see Tamara's hand up? And then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Shucks, I should have wrote down the question. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Then Rawlins-Fernandez then Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I...okay. Let's see. Where do I start? So, I wasn't sitting in the meeting yesterday when you were having the

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discussion. I was flying over and I was monitoring by phone. I agree with what Member Paltin and Chair Lee was saying yesterday about how we would like to do more to support, you know, response to the fire and Lāhainā specifically. I...so, I...I developed this, you know, priority process that didn't exist before I was Chair. And so, the rationale behind having a limitation on priority items was because, out of fairness, for each of the Councilmembers to not go hog wild like a kid in the candy store and get, you know, too many things into the Budget. It sounds like we're all basically on the same page when it comes to trying to support recovery. And so, I think that perhaps the two priority items would be like district-specific and then in moving around funding or, you know, trying to make the budget more of a reflection of, you know, recovering from the...the fires that there...that we all work together and that there not be a limitation on...on how that works. And we would just go through department by department in how...in working on how to...for it to be a budget that, you know, we would...we would be proud to present to, you know, the communities as a result of the fire. So, that...that's my counterproposal for the process. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, can I ask you a question then? So, basically...basically what you're saying then...okay. So, let me just go through what I presented and tell me what you see differently. And it is by the way your process.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It's a good one. You're welcome.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's what we love about you, so humble.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes, please.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah. So, basically priority amendments, two, and you want it from the district? Everybody submit from their district?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, district-specific, and then when it comes to like Countywide processes and, you know, like supporting MEMA for example, like we're...we're all on the same page as...in making sure they're as...as...as...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Strong.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I was going to say beefed up but, yeah, strong as possible to...to do all the things that we've been wanting MEMA to do, you know, since we all got onto the Council really, since the 2018 fire and before.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All the things that we've been asking and...and now we have an Administrator willing and, you know, and ready to...to do all these things. And we want to make sure that we support those efforts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And then so that would be two priority amendments from the district and it'll be due then on Wednesday the 17th, right, at 4:30?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, I can...I can support that. And then no limit on Countywide.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Chair Lee? So, two...two priority amendments. Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: On the 17th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: On the 17th at 4:30.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's all. Not what...not the two conditional ones? And one...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're getting there. We're getting there.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, we didn't get there? Or we didn't...okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, is that --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- time okay with you guys?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wait. Let me...let me ask Staff about the time, 4:30 or noon.

MR. KRUEGER: Apologies, Chair. So, what Staff has noted right now is it would be two district-specific priority...or...or residency area amendments but no limit on Countywide. Is...is it that the Members only need to submit the residency

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area-specific ones in writing or would they submit the Countywide ones in writing as well by that deadline?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think we have to submit because we have to make the matrix, right? You're going to be making a matrix.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, only the district.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Only the district.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, my request was just for the...the two for district specific and then the Countywide would be as we go through each department and work on them together because we're one team.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I love that smile at that end.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And 4:30 you're fine?

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: The way you prevent us from going wild --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- is for all of us to agree to a limit. In...in --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- in other words, I would...I would commit to cutting the budget by at least \$500,000. Okay. That...that's something...that...that way you know we're not going to go over the budget but at least we're shooting for something better than we have now. So --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- so committing to cutting the budget by \$500,000 will keep most of us in line.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no, no, but...but what I'm...I'm just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's just an example.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- saying, you know, you want to make it a million, that's fine, whatever --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- but let's not make it too much. I said by at least but not...you know, that's not a ceiling. It's a floor. So, anyway, and then...and the other part of the commitment by all of us is that we are committed...this budget is dedicated to Lāhainā and...and Upcountry, period. Yeah. So, other things may have to wait. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...I really believe that the reality we're living in...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I believe that's the reality we're living in so I appreciate us realizing we have to be disciplined, right, about this. Gabe Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I don't like to be the whataboutism guy but I'm trying to sort this out because we're changing it a little bit. I have priorities for my district, sure, but I also have Countywide priorities. And maybe a Countywide priority that isn't fire related, what...where would that fall under?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Our vote. Our vote.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, can you speak into your mic? Wait, and can you speak when I call on you then?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Well...

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're up.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You want me to just tell you what I'm thinking about and...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you can tell.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, we know that the immigrant...our immigrant community is being underserved right now, we know that Department of Human Concerns doesn't have the capacity, so we wanted...I wanted to give a budget...some...some of my...one of my priorities would be for the...the lawyers, the immigration lawyers, the...the Roots Reborn guys, you know, that kind of funding. Now how does that tie into...you know, so you...would...would we agree that that's fire related and that wouldn't count for one of my priorities? That's kind --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But that's going to be --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- of where I'm thinking.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- your priority, right? And I see you're tying it to the wildfire.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. So, tying it to the wildfire would be like as long as we keep it...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It doesn't have to be, by the way. Right? It doesn't have to be everything wildfire --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I was...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- but it is going to be our primary focus.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I see some . . .*(inaudible)*. . . out. We'll...I'll save that for discussion week. I don't want to get into the weeds with it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. We're going to have --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- decisions week from...on the 22nd. Was it Tamara next or who was it? Did I miss...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook? Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I...I'd like to...I'd like...I'm planning on prioritizing the West Side and the fire issue but also addressing Countywide issues. So, I'm just rephrasing kind of the...I'm acknowledging the intent but the original phrasing was kind of...it seemed like that was the only thing. Obviously, we have the County to take care of but my...the main focus is the West Side and trying to heal a lot of lives and reconstruct the economy and all of that on the West Side.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, as a comment to you, I've asked Staff because listening to all the questions that you had, especially about the discussion yesterday and about the wildfire and what is this budget doing, I've asked Staff to send to Administration that question. What are...what in the budget is recovery and wildfire related. So, I think we're going to get to that point because that's one of the things that you all said loud and clear yesterday, you know, so we hear you, you know. Were you saying something, Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm agreeing with you. I didn't say that everything is going to be only on Lāhainā and Upcountry --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- I'm saying this...by dedicating this budget to it, it's going to be obvious that this is our priority. That's all. But we have many other expenses to consider too for every...every district in our County.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm going to call for a five-minute recess. 1:40. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 1:35 p.m.
RECONVENE: 1:42 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . All right. Welcome back to the BFED Committee. It is now 1:43. Thanks for my recess. And you all were laughing so much I could hear you in the other room. Would you like to do a recap of what was discussed during recess?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Okay. All right. So, just to let you know, I would like to put a cap on the number of Countywide just so we can control it and then we can manage it, check whatever you submit, and then discuss it on the floor. And I would like to recommend...I think it used to be ten before. I'll recommend

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five.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No. Come on. No. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I beat you, Chair. Okay. So, if the concern is that we're requesting Staff to make a matrix of all of our ideas then I propose that Staff not make a matrix to track all of our ideas. And then we just take them up. We submit it to the Committee as the departments come up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's your proposal.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I want a matrix, but any other discussion? None. Okay. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Another one could be that we accept your suggestion, yeah, of five; however, it's interchangeable. In other words, I can give my five to Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, it's five each?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Five each, right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's a lot.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Five each.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or endless or no, right, no cap is like we can...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. That's why, so we go five each but it...but you can share...share with somebody else, you know. Like I might take three and then I'll give Kama two or something like that. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think that was happening before, so.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, then the other thing is...but if there is something very compelling for us to go over the five to make it like six or whatever, anything over five would require a vote.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Require a vote.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: All five . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Six...six votes. Six votes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, if...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Make it even harder.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Seven...

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

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

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we have...okay. Okay. So, what are you saying, Chair Lee, you want five? Six?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Five each but interchangeable. In other words we...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Transferable.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Transferable.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think you can always share. I've done that in the past where I didn't need it, I would give it to somebody else. So, that's...that's a doable thing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, five --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Now let somebody else say something.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- five and you share-share.

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

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, I was going to let Member Johnson say it but if for some reason we have to go over the five limit that...that we would allow...that we would put it on the floor for a vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, in other words you're saying like you have five and you actually want to do six and none of the other Members wanted to give you their unused Countywide and so you think you're going to have to put it up for a vote?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: If...to get a number six. I mean if...if the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'll give you...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- agreement is five and something comes up where oh my goodness, I wish I had this...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, what we can do is then if you have a Member who's generous and they want to give you their unused five then you can put on a...on the column from Tasha Kama. And we can tally it up and we see oh, Tasha Kama only had four and she gave you one so that made you have six.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, we did the transferable part already. I'm...I'm saying after we transfer everybody's and then we come to what, five times nine. Yeah.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Then the 46th one would have to be subject to a vote.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Chair, if I may just on the concept of sharing?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: We have a little bit of a Sunshine Law concern about --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: -- talking about sharing...you know, giving your five to someone else. So, perhaps to remedy that, if this is something the body wants to consider is to have priorities listed in your priority. So, your top five or your top-five priorities, and if you list extra ones, it can be for someone else to pick up if they don't submit five, but at least that way they're all submitted on the floor for everyone to see in an open meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. So, we're not violating Sunshine. Got it.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm hoping to hearing other suggestions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Kasie. Yes, Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. I love this discussion. I think it's going great, and I also see Member Sinenci and Member Paltin with their hand up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry, I cut in line. Quick one. I...I like what, you know, Ms. Apo Takayama is saying. And I...I think we just...maybe we need to get on the same page before we continue discussion about what a priority is. If a...if an item is just about...so if a...if by priority we're saying increasing the budget then...then that's what we're saying. Because I have like a few things that doesn't...that don't increase the budget and that's what Chair Lee was talking about yesterday. And so, if we have items...proposed amendments that don't increase the...the budget, it's just like moving, you know, the MISC funding to, you know, EP&S for example. That doesn't increase the budget. It just moves existing funds in the budget to a different division...department, right? So, if...if that is like not considered a priority then, you know, perhaps I wouldn't necessarily need five. But just so that we're all on the same page with the terminology.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. And then...and then if there's like amendments as in cuts what that would be. Like so what are all the amendments and the categories and how many of each we would be able to...to do. I guess with cuts that there's...that's unlimited, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, if you want to talk about cuts, when we go through Bill 60 just like you did, alpha order, I'm going to start off with Agriculture, so we'll start off with Gabe. And we'll just go through the Department. Okay. You have anything you want to whatever, cut, you want to add or whatever, and we'll have the matrix so that we can look at it. So, it'll be all of us in terms of discussing those kind of cuts, we'll vote on it. As...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, items that don't change the...the budget amount, should we just call that amendments so that we're all on the same page when we use the terminology?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We use the same terminology.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, priorities is adding money to the budget, amendments is not adding money to the budget, and cuts is reducing the existing budget amount. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Thanks for letting me cut the line.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Shane, sorry about that, I didn't see you, and you even raised your hand.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No worries. Thank you. And thank you for the discussion. Yeah, I, too, after listening to some of the testimonies last night and...and Lāhainā, have a couple that I...I, too, would want to address from the testifiers that came out. I...I think when...when we have the...the departments come back again...you know, we had so much Carryover/Savings because a lot of our priorities from last time wasn't...didn't...wasn't fulfilled. So, I would...my question to the departments with our priorities is how feasible will they be able to implement them and not again we have some more Carryover/Savings from last year? So, those would be...those will be my questions when...when the departments come up again for the second time. If they're agreeable to...to some of our priorities. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I'm not planning on bringing...Member Sinenci, I'm not --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, you're not.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- planning on bringing the...when we sit...remember, when we sat here for decisions week it was --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- primarily only Maria Zielinski. So, I'm not planning on bringing up all the departments to have another debate about will they do it or not.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Right. And some of our...some of our questions was towards, you know, how would they be able to implement some of our priorities.

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Maybe we can meet with them on just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- one on one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can talk to them.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And that's the danger of us --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- adding too much to the budget because they already have, as you saw, a pretty full budget. And as we all have said that if wildfire and Upcountry is the priority then for us to add on, you know, a dog park in Kula, that'll be probably something that I won't do. Right? Because that's not part of the wildfire. But...oh, sorry. Member Kama?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I forget I followed Shane, so. So, I'm okie dokie with the two priority amendments. I'm okie dokie with the five Countywide per person. I'm okay for the discussion on what happens to the 46 Countywide item that might come up. But I also want to have...I mean, earlier floor Lee...Chair Lee talked about a floor amount of 500...I mean floor amount of \$500,000 and I'd like to be able to see if we can come up with a ceiling also of what we don't want to exceed beyond. And then the other thing was so going forward as we talked to MEMA and Management, if we ask them what we think one of our priorities might be in their departments and they're okay with it then we could actually make that part of our priority because we've already checked in with them prior to us putting it on our...our own priorities, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that'll become your priority.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...okay. You cannot have a separate list and say, oh, I talked to the department, I going submit this --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- other ten, right?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, yeah.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Good that you're going to check with them because --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- that's the important part, can they do it, you know. So, thank you. Appreciate that. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. I just wanted to try and clarify. So, the priorities or adds, amendments or minuses, priorities for your district is two, priorities for Countywide is five. Do we need to offset any of the priorities with amendments or we can go wild?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, this is what I think is going to happen. By us...by us going through Bill 60, which is going to be our final document, we're going to end up with cuts. So, I don't really want to say oh, okay, only 500,000 in the whole budget because I think we're going to end up with more, you know, if we just go...by your questions, Members, that you've been asking the departments, you cannot say oh shucks, we missed...we cannot go...have any more cuts because we missed the 500,000 or a million or whatever it is. I don't want to limit you in that way.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I think my question was more like on the five Countywide priorities or the two priorities for our district, do we...you said for the district we don't have to find corresponding cuts. For the Countywide, we don't have to find corresponding cuts either.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm taking that part out of my formula.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I realize that it wasn't so well received.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Nice that you read the room. The next question would be when you say we're going through...I...I didn't...I don't know if we're ready to move on to conditional grant proposals. I didn't understand what two conditional grant proposals are and one revolving fund. I think understand you can condition one revolving fund, but the...I didn't understand the conditional grant proposals. And then when you're talking about going through Bill 60 department by department, we're not going to reference details or anything, we're just going to cut from 60? Don't we need to reference the details or they can just figure it out? Like of what in Bill 60 specifically. Like if I wanted to...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're asking for an appendix on why we cut it and we have to

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add it to the Bill?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I mean, like it's A, B, and C category. If I'm saying, like just as an example, not as a real-life thing, but say I wanted to cut a mini pumper from Kihei and I subtract that amount but then are we saying go ahead and just subtract that amount and do whatever you want? Is that what we're saying?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, that's just going to end up to be.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right? Kasie and James?

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: So, yeah, it's similar to salaries which we discussed last year. We cut like percentages or whole amounts. It's up to this department how they want to spend from their A and B, C accounts. So, you can cut the amount and have the discussion if that's what the intent is, but ultimately, yeah, it's up to the department.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you for clarifying. I did see Ms. Milner have her hand up. I don't know --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if you want to hear from her.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yeah, I think it depends on what the Committee's intent is. If the intent is just to reduce the budget by a certain amount and give the department that flexibility, we're open to that. But if there is a specific thing that you want to cut, you would need to specify that. I did want to follow up on something that Director Molina said the other day about the CIPs. That is not an option for CIPs because we specifically line item every project under CIP so it does have to be cuts to a specific project. So, I just wanted to make sure I said that on the floor. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, we have the option is what she's saying, if it's a specific thing we don't want to see happen then we're saying we want to cut this because not just the money, we don't want to see speed bumps or whatever it is, and it's not about the money. Or we say we just want to reduce it and you make the cut.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's what...

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we have those two options.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's what we did last year, right, when...I think it was...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We did it for salaries, just reduce it by this much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we did it for salaries.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But if we're like cutting some sort of (*audio interference*)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Where is that coming from?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Not me, my volume (*audio interference*)

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Are we good? Okay. We're good, Nohe.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like what we did last year in salaries, we cut just salaries, not specific positions, but if we're going to extrapolate that onto B, Operations or C, Equipment, I don't think we did it that way for B and C categories. But if we do it...for me personally I want to be...be able to have the option of I'm just reducing the budget or I...I want to scalpel this out because I don't think that's appropriate or whatever. Can that...can we do that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I think what we're going to end up doing is...is deleting things that we don't want from the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I don't think we want to limit ourselves if that's what you're asking.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I want to have the option to either reduce the money and let them choose as one option or as another option, not fund this in particular, and I thought I heard that's what Ms. Milner said, as long as we clarify. And I want to have that ability as a Councilmember to have either or option and like call an audible or whatever.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: This is what I'm doing.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, the other thing that I think I mentioned...wait, let's finish this discussion. Then the other thing is...did we solve that? So, we have two residency, five Countywide proposals, and the Economic Development, Environmental and Cultural Program, the 140,000 that's good, right, you got to submit our conditions. The conditional language proposals, County grants, I'm suggesting that each Member may propose up to two, and then Open Space Fund...I'm sorry, that's in revolving fund. So, in revolving fund I'm proposing each Member propose one. There's Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Getting back to the two priority amendments, the very first matter.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I thought we finished that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Let's...let's reach a consensus on that because I...I don't think it's realistic to not indicate cuts against whatever you're adding. I mean if you're trying to add...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. If you folks want to do that. You're...yeah, I'm open. I thought you didn't want to so I took that out.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, because if we...if we're essentially agreeing that we are not going to increase the budget, yeah. If we're not going to increase the budget then we have to find the money from within the budget existing. So, I think that even though it might be a little hard, we can and should find the money for anything that we add to the budget, anything.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I appreciate that, but that's what I was thinking going in, but I could tell from the discussion that wasn't so popular.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's why I ended up...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I think what wasn't really popular is you restricting us to two grants, you know, conditioning --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Let's change that. Let's finish this...

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- one...one revolving fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can...we can change that. Let's finish this discussion, what you just said because that's two...to me two separate things, right? You're talking about for every add you got to do a cut.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And that's what I thought you guys didn't want to do so I thought okay, I will take that out, I hear you. Okay. But what I think is going to happen based upon...I've been saying this, based upon your questions to the departments, we're going to end up with cuts. We're not saying, oh, okay, Mayor's Budget, we love it, you can have whatever you want and we're going to have whatever. I think...I don't think we're saying that, right?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. No. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I think we do. I think we do. And I think we will. So, I mean, Chair Lee, if you want to put that up to a vote, where every cut...that was my thing in the beginning, but...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Let's just go one by one. You know, I propose that we do two priority amendments with...with offsets. I don't know what the proper language is but...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That means cuts.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: For every add you got to . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, two residency priority amendments with...with cuts. Yeah, you have to identify cuts in order to pay for your amendments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I see that proposal and I change it to every...every priority needs to be voted on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, we will.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Instead of, you know...and then...and then...yeah. That...that would be my main thing. Like I...I...I can propose a bunch of cuts and I'm sure you could and other people could to cover other people's priorities, but if I'm going to...if we're going to find cuts to cover priorities, I want us to vote on all the priorities because there's some things maybe that folks have testified about or whatever that I'm not supportive of cutting things to find money for some other things kind of thing. You know what I mean?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Sure thing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: That's fine.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: It's fine with me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we got to vote on it anyway. I mean, if Tamara put in something and all of you didn't want it, you're going to express your...right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think we're going to vote on all the priorities. It's not going to be exclusive ask. So, I agree with you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like do the...the thing like we did before with the consensus. If it's a consensus --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, consensus.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- no need vote. If it's like I don't know about that then we're --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Then we'll --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- going to take it to a vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- set aside, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, that's what we're...we're going to --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- consensus or vote.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that all right?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, that's fine with me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I mean, I think that's the way we've been doing it anyway, but yeah, that's good. Okay. Anything else?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, that takes care of the first item.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: First item. So, it's two, right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Two priority...

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, no, not...not...not the district, not the 160,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Two priority amendments in your residency area. Ms. Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, that's good. I support that. I propose that instead of calling them priorities because it...like a lot of these things that we're doing are priorities like...that's like the umbrella. So...so that it's self-explanatory, how about we call them increases if it adds to the budget total, amendments if there's no change to the budget total, or cuts or reductions if it reduces the budget total.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Okay. All right. All right. I like that consistency. Increases, decreases, and amendments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, you're saying amendments make no changes is going to mean

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what you...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It doesn't change the budget title...total.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. So, two increases that are district specific.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Making progress. Good job, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hey, good job. Okay. That's due April 17th at 4:30. Then...then we have conditional language for County grants. So, each Member may propose up to two. That means you're going to say there is the...oh, my favorite, feral animal, right. The feral animal for...for Maui, right, and it would be...the condition would be that that money has to go to Maui County Farm Bureau to add, you know, fencing to whatever, that.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. To add it. So, it doesn't change the budget but if you can do that. So, two of them for each of you. Okay? Okay. And revolving fund, now this is discussion. So, revolving fund we're going to hear about them on the 17th and that afternoon it's going to be due, but I'm...I'm almost sure you guys all know what you want to do.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Why only one for revolving fund?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, revolving fund I...I'm proposing one.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Just so we don't jump too far. You know we're using the words increases, decreases, and amendments.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, the...when we condition a grant, that is an amendment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. It's going to be...the new word --

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- is amendment.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: All right. Thank you. Now we can go to revolving fund.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And one amendment . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I had...Member Johnson had his hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Where does the changes in rates and fees in...are involved in this? I..

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's not going to be part of this.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're not going to say oh, you cannot make a change in the rate and fees because that's...that's like a whole separate thing.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Unlimited.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And then...okay, what about revolving fund?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, I would like more than one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, I would like more than one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Would you like two? Consensus? Two? I see a lot of twos.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Provided we can share for all of these.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: If...if Tamara doesn't...has only one and...and I ask her, can I have your other one and she says yes, okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Sunshine Law, Kasie? I don't know if you heard because you were typing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: We can do this on the record.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Sorry, can you repeat the question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, they want to share their --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, it's like sharing --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- revolving fund.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- time. You know if I'm only going to talk for one minute and I give my two minutes to Tamara to finish. Is...

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: I think if you make that agreement on the floor right now or, you know, on the floor before it happens then that's okay but --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: -- otherwise I would...I think that you can just submit six, and then if others don't have five, you know, they can give you their fifth or whatever.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. So, we increased it to two --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, are you guys okay...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- for the revolving fund?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do I have consensus revolving fund?

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

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thumbs-up.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Two...two...two amendments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Two for revolving fund --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- County grants amendment two, and...okay. I think we're done.
Are we done?

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

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Are we all happy?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. Let me recap. Oh, I see hands up. Yes?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I guess it's increase amendments is the word we got to use.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or we just call it increase. Two, right, for...for your residency area, and that's due on the 17th at 4:30. We don't have to talk about the 140,000, I think we're all in consensus with that, and that is now called amendment, right? Yeah. Because it was...that 140 is flat. Okay. And then conditional language proposals, County grants, amendments are two. Right? And then revolving fund is now two. And those are all amendments. Correct?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And then what happened to Countywide?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And...okay. Countywide, we said five.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Five.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Max.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Five.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And you got the deadlines, right? The significant deadline is April 17th at 4:30 and then the Economic Development, the 140,000 is due Monday at 4:30. Member Paltin?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't want to do the 140 District Funds; I want them to decide amongst --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You can.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the community.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you can. You can do that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And OED I guess because they --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- make the final call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, that's your...that's your choice. You can write it in there so we understand what you're trying to do. The other thing that...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Wait, wait, wait. But what does that mean?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, she just leave it open.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, you're just giving it to OED then?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To administer.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And the other thing, Members, that I used to see for some is that if you have a...for your...for your residency area and if you didn't use up all the 140,000 and you want OED to contact you before they put it out to mass bid then we have language that we can put in that I have done in the past. And one of the reasons why I...I...I'm...I didn't necessarily do that in the past but I'm going to do it because you remember we got an email about okay, we're going to put out this blast email, all the leftover residency money we're going to put it out to the community, and I had already committed, you know, parts of it from my residency area and it got very confusing. So, I just want to make sure that before OED does that or, you know, the Department does that, that they check back with you so you don't end up with the same chaos...oh, it wasn't really chaos but

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just so that it's clear. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, for my 4/15 deadline being that I don't want to condition any of the district funds, would it be appropriate then to say like, you know, give me periodic updates or something --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can do whatever you want.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- like second quarter at the end of the year if it's not moving out, I can help them like spread the word and stuff. But every time I condition it...and of course this last year was --

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- I'm not blaming anyone or anything, but it ends up being so much more work to try and track down the people and say hey, you didn't apply for that money that you asked me to condition for you and then like we're scrambling between OED and the person that wanted the money and all that. So, I'd rather just like, you know, kind of first come, first serve at the discretion of OED but maybe second, third quarter I'd like an update. So, would I write that down on the 4/15? Like I'm not going to condition this money but if you can keep me updated at the second and third quarter point how it's going and I'm more than willing to find people if you need people, but I'm also more than willing to step back.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Just to add a little bit to the discussion about conditions on the residency area funds, I had a conversation with Director Mahi the other day. If you just want to condition it for a specific organization for a general purpose, that's fine, but if you have a specific project in mind that that group is doing, please include that in the condition because I think there was a little confusion over the last fiscal year. So, just wanted to pass that along. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, what is the example? What was the...

MS. MILNER: I don't remember the specific organization but I know there were instances where...I don't mean to pick on you, Councilmember Johnson, you were...you just came to my mind first. Lāna'i Academy for Performing Arts, it just said LAPA, and if it had been intended for a specific purpose like LAPA for travel to the mainland to participate in a Maui County arts festival, that would have just been good information to have as part of that condition.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. MILNER: And so it happens when I'm looking. I apologize.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I hear a voice. Oh, Member Sinenci. Okay. Member Sinenci?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, we've already provided all of our district and a majority of them are for the festivals, Taro Festival, Limu Festival, Aloha Festivals. So, for us it just kind of goes to all the annual festivals that are happening. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. Keep your community happy. That's what we heard. Anybody else? Okay. Done. Yay. Now, we can move on.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think I said five.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Five. Countywide April 17th.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And she said amendments though, that five amendments.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Countywide...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Not increases or...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, because...because I was calling it amendments. So, they are considered what?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Increases.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Increases. Okay. Increases.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: By April 17th.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: April 17th. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You must have been a good student.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I was the favorite.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What did she say? She was what?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, the favorite.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I sat next to the teacher all the time. They loved me. It wasn't because I talked all the time in class. Okay. Okay. To be on the matrix, I have two...I'm going to...sorry, I'm going to recap what I have in my notes so that we same-same. Two increases district specific, two amendments to conditional grants or to condition on grants, two amendments to revolving funds, five increases Countywide. What won't be on the matrix will be unlimited amendments, unlimited decreases, and then we'll...we'll also have to consider and I'm guessing Staff may help us in putting this together, the departments' requests for increases, amendments, or reductions. The OED district 140,000. That...yeah, that's what I got.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, what is the first two that you mentioned?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Two increases that are district specific.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Correct. Very good. Are we good?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Staff?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Chair...Chair...

MS. APO TAKAYAMA: Yes. And on that last point, Acting Budget Director will be providing the departments' requests.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Acting Budget Director. Okay. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We're all good?

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In the matrix format from the departments and they're not required to make any decreases? Is...I'm just asking.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We don't have to put it in.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, oh, it's a request.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right? That's...it's a request.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I see. I see.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It doesn't have...it's not anything that we're required to do so it's something that we can, you know, decide or not. Right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well --

MS. MILNER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- what if they didn't know --

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- there were sewer increases and water increases and electric? I mean...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That would be major and that would be --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Flush the toilet less.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- that would be up to us. Okay. So, we're good, right? Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I just wanted to...let's say I have a general understanding, consensus that we are agreeing to lower the overall budget by at least half a million, at least.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think that's going to be no problem.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I know everybody says no problem but I will remind you on that day.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I'm not part of everybody.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You mean we're getting the departments' matrix on the 17th as well?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I think this Friday. Oh, today . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, this Friday.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, I'm trying to complete by Friday but just to be on the safe side I'll say by Monday.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Monday. The --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's next week Monday.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- 16th...15th.

MS. MILNER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. MILNER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like by --

MS. MILNER: But preferably --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- email or --

MS. MILNER: -- before that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Granicus.

MS. MILNER: It'll be in Granicus, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Cool.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, how many --

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Councilmember.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- more department questions are you still hanging onto?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. I have just finished reviewing the AG-3 response. I'm currently reviewing the Management-2 response. Planning-2 should be coming shortly. Those are the three at the top of mind at the moment.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. All right. So, all right, we can proceed with the meeting. And we have Chief Hewett sitting out...outside in the lobby waiting for us. Shouldn't be...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That was fun.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That was fun. Okay. So, Members, you know we're not taking up Management today because we don't have Josiah Nishita for the whole time. And...and we are...next week, Tuesday, we're going to continue this meeting. So, I'm going to recess this meeting until week at 1:00 unless if you want come earlier. Yes, Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Requesting to be excused from the Tuesday public hearing. We got homeowners in Lāhainā that evening --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Tuesday.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I would love to go to that. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll have my Staff monitor or...or Staff will be monitoring and I'll read their synopsis.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Okay. Chief, thank you very much for waiting for us. I know you were working in the lobby. So, now we're going to be able to do deliberations with MEMA. And its number 13 and 85 in Granicus, Members. So, at this time, Member Paltin, for MEMA.

MAUI COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chief Lonokailua-Hewett.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Four minutes. Sorry. Four minutes.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. I know...I know we talk often. I just wanted to clarify, you know, I stated last Monday after the...this past Monday after the Lāhainā Budget Hearing, when I get...got home, the upper West Side didn't have telephone or Internet and they did not contact you to make you aware of it. Is there...has there been any changes since I...me and Aunty Makalapua made you aware that they will be making MEMA and the agencies aware of geographic communication outages?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you for the question. I did not yet reach out to those people. I was following up with past practice for our Agency and that has not been something that has been done in the past. So, we'll look to have a conversation with MEMA on what the procedures should be. Yeah. So, I need to follow up on...on how those communications come forward and how we would public message that out. I need to look into that more.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's just the concern especially that they contact you so you don't text us to evacuate and we don't get the text. That's part of the concern. The other question I had, I noticed your...I think it was your public affairs was for 12 months. Have you already gone over the reorg and got the recruitment and everything with Personnel? Because you know, Director Arce in my experience has been one of the fastest persons to get these things through and in her response in AG-1 I think she said it takes like five to seven months to get like, you know, the position description, the reorg through Management to...to the point where you can even get to the recruitment where you can hire people. And I mean, I'm...I'm totally wanting to give you all the people you need but I mean, what kind of assurances do we have that these expansion positions will be able to be put out for recruitment? Have you gone through that process before?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you for the question. That's a good question. I have not engaged with DPS yet in...in that regard. I will follow up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Make...make good friends with Director Arce because she's the best I seen so far.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Let's see what else. And then we recently talked that you do have funding for Starlinks. What is the plan for that? You're just going to purchase it, activate the...activate the subscription and then put them on hold until we need it?

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you for the question. Yeah, the conversations has been around, you know, the HR [sic] Program, has been around community resiliency hub, any kind of effort to strengthen the community. At this point, the conversation is just spending the money to get those Starlinks. How we organize it out amongst the community is...is the...is another step. I do have a meeting planned with the Office of Economic Development who, you know, is working on the community resiliency hubs. We have talked about initial efforts. Based on that conversation, I definitely think that we have to coordinate and...and look at the strategy Countywide. I am not exactly sure about what that plan looks like, which is why we need to, you know, have a conversation about that. As I think about that, you know . . .(timer sounds). . . oh, as I think about the...that, you know, it is one of the kind of reactions that I think take...takes place, hey, let's start building facilities and let's start building capacity, storage, so on and so forth. I'm not exactly sure if that's the right way to do it. And so having...kind of looking at all the pieces a little bit better, locations of these pods, HHARPs, community resiliency hubs I think needs to be investigated a little bit more and start to have, you know, discussions on how real-time deployment will take place. I'm not sure if, you know, just putting storage containers and storing with...with...with...store food and...and Starlinks is the exact answer simply because of how quickly the community does organize. And of course, it's the maintenance of those facilities, security of those facilities, you know, all of that. We have storage containers at MEMA that, you know, require inventory and...and just the maintenance of it all. So, I...I think that there are further conversations to have looking at the community resiliency hub, and storage and Starlinks need to have more conversations to have a...maybe a more strategic plan on how we do that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Now, I'm going to go to Chair Lee. Oh, is Member Kama here?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chief.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sorry. Member Kama? I'll go this way. Member Kama?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Kama first.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . going to go that...

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know I don't really care. Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you. Thank you for being here, Mr. Lonokailua-Hewett. I had to practice that in my head a couple of times. So, I wanted to talk about the...the elderly and our disabled in our community who are maybe incapacitated and...and in an emergency situation how do they get assisted or how do they get help and how is that integrated into your MEMA?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah, I think...I think a lot of these questions and plans will...at least I expect those plans to...to come forward when...when we engage in the community. I mean I think there was a lot that was revealed regarding the kūpuna and the elderly. We did lose a family member in the...off Lāhaināluna Road. So, I mean I...I guess my...my plan or my direction would be to, you know, obviously engage the...the elderly community in some way, shape or form. Is that done through our community outreach or is that done through any other means. I...I...I don't really have a specific plan or answer to that question, but I do...I am protective of the elderly population, and you know, will seek to do whatever I can to help them. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I ask that because, you know, we have an Office on Aging and they do what they call Meals on Wheels delivery, but part of the...the role of those who actually deliver meals is to really check in on the kūpuna because they do it every day, sometimes a twice a day depending if they're delivering just a lunch meal or a lunch and a dinner meal. And they...and it's...and this is done, I think, six days a week and then if...and then they bring food on...whether it's a holiday, they bring frozen foods so that they can microwave it in case there's a holiday that they don't work. But is that something that maybe in part of your planning that maybe you could have a Staff member dedicated to that and who would be maybe work with the Office on Aging to be able to figure out how do you collectively, you know, as inter-agencies help each other to do the work that one is already actually doing and that one just needs to ensure that in an emergency situation that something is going to be in place to notify or maybe help them to move out or...because if they're incapacitated and not just the elderly but those who are disabled who are not even able to mentally or physically figure out what does that sound mean if you do a particular sound. What does it tell me, I don't know what it's telling me, but it would tell us we have to evacuate, right. But how does...is that potentially able to get done like that?

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MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I will reach out to Office of Aging in trying to...I'll look into that for sure.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So...but it seems reasonable to assign a particular person to ensure that so that when you think about the entire County and how you work with the Office on Aging and who that individual might be or persons might be to figure out an emergency how would that look like. . . .(timer sounds). . . Oh, thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Done?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. I'm done.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. Okay. Chief, I have questions on the budget itself. And on the Program Budget you have listed here under summary \$141,843,426. Okay. And it says...well that's the operations total, I'm sorry. But the special projects is really what I'm focused on, 141 million, and I tried to find a breakdown for that. What is the breakdown for the special projects? Just give some examples.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: If we're looking at the page 187, I believe, is that the page you're looking at?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, I'm looking at 178. I mean, you know, a couple years ago the budget for that was zero and then...then last...this year it's 6 million. I'm sure we added that. And then for this upcoming year 141 million.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: You know honestly, I'm guessing. I reached out about all of those numbers. To my knowledge, that includes FEMA reimbursement money, to my knowledge. Those FEMA reimbursement monies cover...you know, it's an estimate of multiple projects that are going on.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, Chief, reimbursement, you mean we spent a portion of this already and they are reimburse...you expect to receive reimbursement? Or you're going...I mean where else would you get the \$141 million?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's on...okay. So, Details 6-15. Go ahead.

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. Yeah, the majority of those special project funds are the anticipated grant funds. We've just put in an estimate for Fiscal Year '25 based on what we might expect from what was expended previously. It's not a hard-and-fast number at the moment because it's grant funding and FEMA's still reviewing the requests, so that's an estimate at this point and it is all grant funding.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, more than likely these are projects that have not been implemented because you don't know if you're going to get 141 million.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair Lee. Yes, for the most part it is not what has...sorry, the projects have not been implemented yet. Some of that will be reimbursed for costs that have been outlaid already, but the majority I believe will be for new initiatives.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is there any reason why you're not more specific on the projects you plan to...to implement with this money?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Oh, I believe that the...it's a combination of projects from other departments. That number is not reflective of what's...what MEMA is managing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I see. Confusing, yeah?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Oh, brah. Been chasing that for days.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. I...I feel for you. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you done? Okay. So, next we'll go to Member Sinenci then Member U'u-Hodgins then Cook and...and Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Chief Lonokailua. I just had a couple questions on the Budget Details page 6-3. Will the Training Officer be available to conduct trainings with the various communities in Maui County?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Sinenci. Yes, absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. And then I...I did hear that your...your preferences for the...the communities, the rural communities, the three

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expansion positions for Molokaʻi, Hāna, and Lānaʻi should be hired from the rural communities. Are you looking at other qualifications as well, you know, whether they've had some emergency experience, they're maybe partially retired from any of the agencies, Fire or Police, those types of qualifications?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I...I am. At this point --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- just recruiting for...positions for...for Wailuku or to help MEMA right now, it's been a challenge. So, any kind of...any kind of employee or any kind of person that...that can...can...I mean it's not like I'm...I'm lessening the qualifications but we're open to all means of hiring qualified personnel to include retirees. I think...I just...I guess I feel like I want to say this. I mean the...the challenge is...is something that I need to resolve with DPS too is what...what is qualifications. I...I don't think...I'm being careful as I talk. I...yeah, I mean, I guess the...the answer is that I'm looking...I exploring every possible means of getting qualified personnel. I hope that I have the flexibility to work with DPS to, you know, determine the qualifications for our Agency that is not tied to a degree specifically, that utilize other experiences, life experiences that we all know have great value. And so exploring that opportunity is what I look to...to hopefully fill those positions in those isolated communities. But the...the goal is first to start from within that community, absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Yeah. It sounds like you're looking for somebody with more generational knowledge, maybe place-based, you know, so they're...they kind of know the run of the land also. So, we're...we're open to helping you find those candidates, as well as Ms. Lindo. Thank you, Chief.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Now she's going to set Keani off.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you done? Okay. You're done. Okay. So, Member U'u-Hodgins then Cook then Rawlins-Fernandez and Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'm going to follow up on first Chair Lee's question to you, Ms. Acting Director Milner. So, on page 178 it has that 400 or 141 million but then on 181 it has 100 million and that's the grant. So, can you explain the \$40 million delta? Do we just --

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- assume those are going to be other grants to come that are not included in this goal 5?

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MS. MILNER: So, I believe the number...as I said, with the grants a lot of it's estimates so I think they're both estimating different numbers because we don't know how much we're going to get. So --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. MILNER: -- unfortunately that...that's the answer I can give you right now.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. We're not going to estimate about the same amount in two different areas?

MS. MILNER: I will have to check with the person who filled it out.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. Okay. Thank you, Chief, for being with us today. For your Training Officer you have a proposed funding for 12 months whereas the other expansion positions there's 2 at 8 months and 3 at 6 months. Do you have somebody lined up to go right now for the Training Officer? Are you going to need those 12 months of funding?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilman [sic] U'u-Hodgins. I...I do not have...have anybody lined up. I've been working hard all of those persons that had expressed extreme interest and are qualified to help the Agency stand up, are coming from off-island and I hope to find somebody by July, that's for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: But I have not found --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- a person.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: You guys have to go through DPS or you guys can do that yourself? How long do you think it's going to take to hire somebody to be your Training Officer? I mean I hope it's sooner than later but like your best guess estimate.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Working with DPS.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Do you have to? Do you have to work DPS too?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: There...there are other means to finding...filling the position. I would have to figure out the DPS process first I would --

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- I would imagine.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: If that makes sense.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah. Sure. No, I’m only asking because as we understand, it’s going to take a little while if the project or that position is not already described, so I’m just trying to figure out if the 12 months of funding is going to be accurate. But thank you, I appreciate...I appreciate you. I also want to thank you too for coming out to the meetings that we had regarding Holomua Road, I really appreciate it. It was a productive meeting. And I wanted to follow up on your GIS, are they...is that person in your budget as well?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you, Chair. That person is not in my budget.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I...I would love that person to be in my budget.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I was...we’re...we’re exploring maybe a contract --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- for the GIS project. We’re in communications with some GIS people on how we kind of navigate through that piece. Your reminder is on my mind. I know that you asked me to come up with an evacuation plan for that area for sure --

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- before the end of the year. That is...

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I actually asked for two months and you said at the end of the year, but yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah, we’re...we’re definitely working hard regarding the...the evacuation planning piece. I do present to the community real soon on that. There is progress related to that. We are working

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with USACE like I shared with you --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- at the meeting using their LifeSim modeling. We are looking at the infrastructure and any additions to Lāhainā right now because of, you know, obviously the Lāhainā situation.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Of course.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, the second community is yours. We've already requested to do the modeling . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . for your community next. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I appreciate that. Thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, next we have Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. So, my question, Chair, is for Acting Director Milner. A clarification, a \$100 million grant, a \$100 million reimbursement? \$100 million grant, new money coming from...to the County of Maui from the Federal Government or somebody?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Cook. We're looking at about \$96 million estimate for the reimbursement and the remainder would be grant funds.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, it would be a reimbursement for...

MS. MILNER: I believe the 96 would be the reimbursement.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That...and that'll be for...for money expended that we're expecting to be reimbursed? Okay.

MS. MILNER: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you.

MS. MILNER: And I'll provide more information in response to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez's earlier question.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. And then question, Chair, my question for Chief regarding the...I'm still going to refer to it the Hawaiian Tel Building. Is that in your budget or is that Public Works? The...the renovation of the structure, the work in progress, the chiller and et cetera, is that your Budget or is that another

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department's Budget?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: To my knowledge it's Department of Management, I think. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thanks. So, you would...from what I heard, you were planning on using the second floor for IT. And you were planning to use the second floor and IT is using...where are you going to be?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, we're on the third floor --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Oh, okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- there was just conversations prior to me being the Administrator of the second floor maybe being available.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Oh, okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And that option is no longer. So, we'll be on the third floor and IT will be on the second.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So, you were going to be on the third floor and have the potential to have access to the second floor and that's...IT is going to have that now?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah, we were having conversations with Police and Fire to share the second floor.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Oh, okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: But that's no longer an option.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. I just wanted to...as far as the chiller and the availability for the air conditioning, go by Longs, I was really impressed. I looked at Longs, they're renovating it. They have an exterior portable unit and they have like 12-inch ducts that's going like 60 feet all the way across the store, and it's amazing, it's working. So, I'm just trying to get you in there so you're not waiting, waiting, because we really need your Department up and running. I feel that we need to support you and everything that we're expecting your Department to...to do, and putting it on delays like that doesn't seem to be very functional. And we...we spoke briefly in the lobby about...and I...about the fact that your Department's being formed, it's not necessarily fully staffed yet, and the communication and the overlap with Maui Fire Department, Maui Police Department, Parks Department. So, I'm expressing a lot of enthusiasm and

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support for you, and you've got a tough job in front of you, so let us know how we can support you.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you. Will do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. All right. Member Rawlins-Fernandez?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I told Member Cook that was a perfect segue into my first question. So, aloha, Chief Amos. All right. Okay. So, after the 2018 Kaua'ula fire, the newly-seated Councilmembers consistently asked the Administrator to build capacity to do all the things that the community was asking MEMA to do. I appreciate your proactive covering of our questions in your initial presentation, and if that proactive approach is an indication of your MO, then I feel like we're in good hands. Mahalo for recognizing that our rural districts are part of the County as well. Ms. Lindo and I are excited to help with getting those positions filled, but not by her. Mahalo... *(laughing)*... And for the Public Affairs Officer, the immediate person that comes to mind when you describe what this super hero will do is Jen Mather. So, my first question is how much would you estimate the GIS contract would be? And what else is not in the budget currently that would really help you to do all the things that the community needs MEMA to do?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins. So, I'm sorry, the first question was about the...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: GIS contract.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Oh, yeah, the GIS contract. Well, we've been talking with...I reached out to some of the emergency management administrators of...in Northern California and just kind of discussing, you know, their progress and some of the steps that they've taken to improve evacuation, so on and so forth. They speak of various technologies including I believe it's called Zonehaven is...is one of the companies that does evacuation planning. And you know, based on those conversations, based on the numbers that were kind of expressed, I haven't done more research and looked into those kind of contracts, but I would guess that something like that would be a few hundred thousand dollars. I did talk to our GIS person in the County and we kind of discussed, you know, the work that we're looking at, and his particular recommendation is that you need a full-time GIS, not...not...not a contract per se. I wasn't trying to be greedy and just asked for the world, so I...I...but so looking at the contract, I'm...I'm guessing that it's a few hundred thousand dollars to do what we want to do, which is kind of a phased, public-facing, zoning evacuation plan that can utilize community

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modeling, LifeSim modeling that the public can easily access. Those California agencies do not have the...the use of the LifeSim modeling, they do zone out their...their communities and they do have a robust notification system that works well with their...their zone and phased evacuation plan. So, I'm just kind of estimating what I think that number would be. Based on those conversations the numbers were shared through that. I missed your second question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: What else do you think is not in the budget that would help you to do all the things that the community needs MEMA to do?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I...I think the . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I think...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead, go ahead.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I think one of the...the conversations that we have been having is a logistic center which would support the hubs, which would support the distribution chain, which would, you know, maybe minimize storage out...storage areas out in, you know, multiple geographic locations. If that's the case, I agree with...or I believe that that's a really...something we should be looking into. That would require multiple employees, you know, a big storage area and all the equipment that comes to manage a logistic center. And then the question would be what...what would we do on the other islands, how would we manage all of those things. I think...so I think in addition to the expansion positions, a logistic center would probably be...be something that...something else that we'd be looking ahead to do positions-wise. Like I said, a GIS person would be critical. I think I only have one operations person in my organizational chart now. I...I believe I need at least two. So, there's some other positions that I'm...I'm thinking about and considering that will probably come in next year's budget, but I haven't done that yet. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that very thorough response. And I know you commented that you didn't want to be greedy, but I think as all the Councilmembers discussed on the floor that we want to dedicate this budget to Lāhainā. And you know, to show our County that we have learned from...from the tragedy of last year. And...and so one of the ways to show that we've...demonstrate that we've learned is by ensuring that our MEMA is...is...you know, has full capacity to do everything that we need it to do. So, mahalo for that. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. Member Johnson?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Mr. Lonokailua-Hewett Thank you for joining us. Appreciate your...your time with us today. I know you're busy. I'm just going to jump right into my questions

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and of course I'm going to ask about the Lānaʻi position. I'm very happy that the position...because we've always, you know, feel like we're left out. The pay though is a bit of a concern for me. 29,000 for part-time, 58 for the...for the full year. Other departments have considered sign-on bonuses. Is that something you would consider or could you speak on the pay? Because I know we are limited to what Personnel Services tell us.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. Definitely trying to look at any way to...to recruit people and increase pay. I just have to look into that more. But that is...is going to be a challenge for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know you...you mentioned that one of the things that you're...you want to hire is that someone who has that knowledge of...of that area. Usually folks like that already have a home so you don't have to worry about the housing crisis, you know, because they're residents they've been there years, you know, but it still doesn't change the fact that the cost of living is so high. So, I'm...I'm all for some...some creative ways like signing-on bonus, retention bonuses, things like that. So, I'm glad you're looking into it. So, my next question is in regards to the...the small fund you have in here for Civil Air Patrol Kahului Squadron. Funds to aid during disasters. Their services include aerial renaissance, damage assessment, alerts, notifications, and other related tasks that aid in disaster response and management. It's...it's only \$10,000 in that pot. But basically when I think of like when that's...for Lānaʻi when would that be a really important service, and a tsunami would be. We have two harbors, we have our deepwater harbor Kaumālapaʻu where our...our food comes in through Young Brothers, and our small boat harbor that brings in, you know, professionals and takes us to the...you know, to Maui. If a tsunami came, those harbors are gone. Would this...this pot of money, could that help with flying over supplies and, you know, medical supplies and whatever in that crisis time? And that \$10,000 to me sounds like, oh, that...that wouldn't cut it. Because you know, if a tsunami hit Lānaʻi, it's going to hit all of the County. So, is that something that you would...you would take a look at, at having a larger pot of money in there or is that...are you confident that \$10,000 could cover? Because it just doesn't say...it doesn't include what I'm proposing, it just includes surveillance and damage assessment, that kind of thing. I mean couldn't we do more with that?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you, Chair. And thank you, Councilman Johnson. Yeah, I think the...so the capacity or capability of the Civil Air Patrol to my knowledge is related to...or that \$10,000 is related to damage assessments, communications, and to isolated communities, so on and so forth. I think what you're talking about is, you know, some kind of transportation plan, some kind of plan to isolated communities and establishing some kind of distribution chain to those communities. I agree, I'm not sure if it comes through the Civil Air Patrol,

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that \$10,000 kind of means, but looking into how we get food and supplies to Lānaʻi is...is critical for sure and I'll be looking into that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for that. My other question is this big pot of money that's new it looks like and the way I'm reading the budget it...it seems new. The State Homeland Security Grant Program, HSGP, it's going...you know, 1 million in Fiscal Year 2022 adopted, 1 million, 1 million, and then it goes up to this year 20 million proposed. That's a big jump and I'm curious how...you know, can you talk about that Program?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So, my grants person is...is on leave and has been on leave for weeks and so I haven't been able to engage with her regarding a lot of these grant numbers. I did call...talk to my State contact regarding that number. That number might be a typo.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: So, I...I'm not sure, I need to go investigate that particular number, where we got that number from.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right. I mean I'm all for bigger grants, especially if it's Federal grants. I just...all right, well let us know later. Maybe the...the Committee can send you a letter to see if you can clarify that. Page 187 in the Program Budget it goes from 1 million to 20, that's my curiosity. So, those are my questions. I really appreciate all your hard work and thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. You got that? Got that. Okay. So, I want to know if you want a round two. Anybody have questions? You do? Okay. Two people have questions. Okay. Member Paltin? Three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. It wasn't clear if your expansion positions were civil service or not civil service. I know you say there's ways around it but is the intention for it to be civil service?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. Thank you, Chair. Yes, it is. The intention is to be civil...is to fill it --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- with --

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- civil service.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then do you know how many preposition contracts you have right now?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I'm so sorry, could you...preposition contracts --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- regarding?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, like after 2018's fire in West Maui we had really hard time getting portable toilets and dumpsters but then it seemed like after this fire it wasn't such a big deal. And I had talked to former Administrator Andaya that other jurisdictions have preposition contracts in case of disasters. You know in case the private sector or other people need dumpsters and port-a-potties, that we wouldn't be left out in the cold. And so I was wondering like if the preposition contracts help to get the portable toilets and the dumpsters faster after this disaster and if there's other preposition contracts. If...if you did in fact have preposition contracts for port-a-potties and dumpsters and there's other things that you have preposition contracts for.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Tamara. Excuse me. Councilman [sic] --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No problem.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- Paltin. Sorry. Yeah, so you know, so my experience after the 2023 fire and...and related to the distribution change that...chain that I was kind of responsible for, I...what I want to say is that the...I can tell you that the logistic...the Logistics Section Chief, the logistics piece of the Agency needs to be improved. And so, if there's preposition contracts, I don't know about them yet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: And so, I will --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That's good.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- go look into that for sure. That is something that we definitely need to expedite, and I'm speaking from experience. So, improving

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those processes and finding...and making sure those contracts are in place is...is a priority.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Also Administrator Andaya over the course of the...his tenure was saying that all the plans were good, that in Fiscal Year '24 there was a contract with HDR Engineering for the development of a debris management plan and a contract with Constant and Associates for the development of a recovery plan. Were those contracts completed and are those plans publicly available? Last time I had asked . . .(timer sounds). . . Administrator Andaya for plans that he said were all completed. He said that some of them were confidential, and then I asked for the ones that weren't confidential and never got them. So, I just was wondering the status on those types of plan.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you, Chair. So, the recovery plan is completed. It was completed in I believe January of 2023. It is not currently available but I definitely will look into making it available after consultation with Corp. Counsel. The debris management plan was put on hold because of the fire. I have been in contact with Solid Waste Division regarding the completion of the plan. To my knowledge it is in draft mode. They required some more funds to complete the plan. And so, we have a meeting next week to discuss finishing the plan.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just a quick follow-up on the funds. Are you anticipating to take it out of your Fiscal Year '24 Budget or is it reflected in your Fiscal Year '25 Budget where the money would come from?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I guess I would...it would be reflected in the 2025.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you...you have money allotted in here or you need additional?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, I may need additional.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Well, I...I think...well I would have to explore how to get that money. I'm not sure if there are means through grants to help with that money. I'm not sure how much is needed to finish the plan. So, I have that meeting with them next week and to see what that all means and then, you know, explore what avenues I have to help fund it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'll wait until my next round. I had one additional question.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: This is...this sounds like this is going to be the last round --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- because only you and Keani raised your hand that you have questions. Yeah. So, can she ask her last question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, we've heard from the Office of the Mayor and the...about these resiliency hub network under I think the Office of Innovation and Sustainability. And wondering as to the extent of their coordination with MEMA.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: I'm sorry, this is regarding the community resiliency hubs, yeah? Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Resiliency hub network.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah. So, I did reach out to like I said the Office of Economic Development and I think my conversation begins there and will branch out to whatever other efforts exists or whether...whatever other partners exist. Once again, the HHARP Program kind of parallels the community resiliency hub concept and so I appreciate you reaching out and having a conversation with me. I...I definitely will coordinate with...with County to look at that plan closer.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Just because they already said that they're funding West Maui's community resiliency hub in this fiscal year and the other eight districts in next fiscal year. So, just wanted to get that on everyone's radar. Thank you. Thank you, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I feel like we're super like vibing today because that was going to be my question too. Okay. So, I think with the resiliency hubs, if I remember correctly there was funding under like under EP&S, under Parks, under OED/IOS [sic], and so it's like all in...in separate areas. And I...and to a certain extent I understand why. And I think they're all General Fund and Acting Budget Director can correct me if that's not correct. And so I think it's critical that MEMA is, you know, coordinating with all of that. And so, you know, the thought was maybe two things, one, put a condition under the funding to coordinate with MEMA. Or two, put the funding under MEMA. Thoughts? Yes, that was a question. What are your thoughts on that?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you, Chair. That makes sense to me. I...I...let me

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engage soon with Luana and...and strategize on all of that for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. And then my last...I have other questions but looking at the clock, I'll just make this my last question. Other departments have deputies and it's kind of crazy that there isn't like quite a second-in-command for this important Agency. I...is...is there a need, I mean I think there would be a need, for a deputy?

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you, Chair. Yeah, that's a great question and absolutely, absolutely, absolutely. I've been looking at a deputy or XO, trying to find one. I mean the challenge there is...is how do you find one of those, you know, those second-in-commands that believe, live, breathe like you do, that have the, you know, qualifications and background and the desire to serve. That's a...that's a difficult thing to...to...to find. But do I need somebody to be second in command? Absolutely. Once again, I did have people that have expressed interest that would have come in qualified, trained with tremendous careers, retired from the Federal Government. I lost three of them --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: -- to housing situations. So...yeah. Is it important? Absolutely super, super important for me. I've definitely been struggling without one. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. Sorry, just to clarify. Is that one of the six positions that you proposed in the budget or is that one of the existing positions? Sorry.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Yeah, I believe it's...it's one of the positions that I have in place now that I would want to upgrade to the XO position.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it. Mahalo for that clarification. Support. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair? Sorry, I got...I got one more that just came up. You know when before...the before time when you was talking to Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez about the more positions in the next year, I don't know if you've done this kind of budget thing before but I would be open to proposing as one of my amendments all the positions that you think you need over all the entirety of your career and not fund them, and then you can work on the DPS and the organizational structure and whatnot. Because as we've heard it can take five to seven months just to describe and get through the reorg. And so, if

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you're going to be adding on four positions this year and then like six position the next year or whatever it is, then you have to go through that reorg every time which adds on time. If you have a vision of what the ultimate buildout of MEMA should look like, I would propose putting it all out there this year and getting it through the reorg process position description minimum qualifications and all of that so that DPS can recruit it as we fund it, you know what I'm saying? Because if every time you add positions it has to go through a reorg with Management, to do it piecemeal is...is so much work and then it's like do we fund 12 months, do we fund 8 months, do we fund 6 months. My proposal is to have your complete vision of what you want your Department to look like and just work on that and then fund it later because it...what we've heard is it takes five to seven months just to get the reorg through Management and DPS. So, I'm open, you have my number, and unlimited amendments. That's what she just said, right?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's one.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Go ahead. Oh.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: I just...I just wanted to include what...in terms of what Member Tamara Paltin said is that I think, you know, DPS will always ask for minimal quals, right, but you're looking at desired qualifications more than you are minimal. So, if you could include that when you...in...in your...in the flowchart so that when Member Rawlins-Fernandez talks to DPS, she'll make sure that that's there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And I...I know you were sitting in the lobby, so they said our deadline for it...these things are April 17th. So, just saying. You have my number and my deadline is April 17th in a matrix format or --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- in a written format. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Members, any other...any other questions for the Department? All right. Thank you. Thank you, Chief.

MR. LONOKAILUA-HEWETT: Thank you, everybody.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Appreciate you hanging out with us today. Okay. So, next department that we're going to have is Corp. Counsel. We're not having Management because we don't...I told you already, we don't have Josiah, so. Oh, you want a break? Okay. Ten minutes. So, 3:21. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 3:11 p.m.
RECONVENE: 3:26 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. And it is now 3:26. We are taking up the last department for today which is Corporation Counsel. We have moved Management to next week Tuesday so I'm going to recess this meeting after we're done with this Department. So, I...would you like to start with questions for Corporation Counsel? And...and I will start with Member Sinenci. Is he here? Yeah. Member Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook.

DEPARTMENT OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And mahalo, Ms. Takayesu. I know you mentioned in your opening comments of over 300 litigations. Can you speak to the...I guess the...the Self Insurance Fund? Does that cover a lot of those litigations?

MS. TAKAYESU: The Self Insurance Fund would cover up to a certain amount of liability. I believe that with the non-fire cases and the fire cases combined it will probably exceed our Self Insurance Fund, but we haven't crossed that bridge yet. We also have the matter of the 'Ohana Fund as well which also has to be funded and which has yet to come up before Council. So, the answer is yes at the moment it will cover it but it's hard to speculate as to how things will transpire in the future.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Has the...thank you for that. Has the State mentioned their participation with the 'Ohana Fund?

MS. TAKAYESU: Yes. The Legislature has committed their contribution, now whether or not they've cut the check to the...to the hui, to the fund yet, I'm not sure, but the Legislature they weren't thrilled about it if I recall but they did commit to contributing to it, but I can't recall off the top of my head how much they were contributing to.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. And then the Administration has also allotted...allocated money into the Emergency Fund. Are...are those funds also used for...for some of these litigation should our Self Insurance run out?

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MS. TAKAYESU: No, we're not using any funds from --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh.

MS. TAKAYESU: -- the Emergency Fund. We might need to pull money from our Carryover/Savings but that's yet to be decided.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for those updates. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, next we'll go to Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Four minutes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. I'm only going to do one question now because I have one minute before I got to leave. So, in the explanation for the budget expansions proposed the Department is requesting for an additional Deputy Corp. Counsel on an eight-month basis. How confident is the Department in being able to hire that person by November 2024?

MS. TAKAYESU: 100 percent. We already have applicants who have come to us. We've spoken to them; we've let them know that we are putting in for an expansion position and they're very interested. I told them that if it was approved that we could go ahead and do formal interviews as of July 1st. But we have an extremely qualified applicant who has a lot of experience with Federal agencies and Federal courts which we would love to have.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You were serious then. All right. Chair Lee then Member Paltin after.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. So, Ms. Takayesu, you want a Secretary to be...to staff the Board of Ethics, is that correct? Would that person have additional duties besides that one committee?

MS. TAKAYESU: Yes. So, what we're anticipating right now and the reason we didn't ask for a Board And Commission secretary position but rather a lower SR secretary position is because we anticipate that secretary position handling Board of Ethics but also in addition to that being able to assign that individual other clerical duties that are needed in the office. Also having it as a lower SR secretary as opposed to a boards and commissions secretary, it'll be easier to recruit someone because the minimum qualifications wouldn't be as high.

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Couple more things. On the lawsuits that we have received regarding the wildfire...fires, did you say we have about 126 lawsuits?

MS. TAKAYESU: I believe as of today we have 135 where the County is involved and there's 167 overall. That 135, that includes 3 just filed by Donald Guzman represent over 600, closer to 700 individual plaintiffs and business entities.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Donald Guzman is representing over 600...

MS. TAKAYESU: No, he's representing...he just filed three lawsuits.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, three individuals?

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What...what did you say about 600?

MS. TAKAYESU: The total 135 cases filed against the County include close to 700 individual plaintiffs and business entities.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, how long do you think these cases will take?

MS. TAKAYESU: Well, in State Court Judge Cahill has set trials for the Upcountry fires in September with the...I can only speculate but I imagine that he's setting them so quickly because he wants to force the settlement.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, then because my...my point is if these are...these cases are settled within a reasonable amount of time, would you still need the additional deputies?

MS. TAKAYESU: I believe so. We're only looking for one, and that's just the Upcountry fires. The Lāhainā fires are anticipated to go to trial perhaps in 2025, 2026. There are additional complications because we might be looking at some of the entities filing for bankruptcy in which case we would also have to be involved with that litigation. And even after all the litigation is over there's still an increased demand because we might be looking at eminent domain actions and the lawsuits that are involved with...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And where is all this money going to come from if we have to...if we lose these or have to settle?

MS. TAKAYESU: Well, that's a good point and that's why we tried to narrow our budget; however, we do have our litigation where we are proceeding against HECO as

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plaintiff and we are hoping to recover a substantial amount of recovery in that lawsuit. But that is in the future and it's speculative but I believe we're in a very good position.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, if you were to estimate how much these 600 lawsuits could probably cost the County, let's say we lost, how much...what's the neighborhood...what's the neighborhood number?

MS. TAKAYESU: Oh, I...I...that would be so hard for me to speculate because those 600 plaintiffs have a range of claims from wrongful death to property to psychological harm.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. But aren't the wrongful deaths being handled by the 'Ohana Fund, the Angel Fund?

MS. TAKAYESU: Only on a voluntary basis. So, if individuals or relatives of people who were found deceased want to participate in the fund, they can, but it's not mandatory. They might feel that the 1.5 million which I believe is what the average recovery will be for a wrongful death is not sufficient and...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And how many people have applied for that fund so far? Out of the 101 people, right?

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah. Well, out of the 101 deaths plus this fund also covers serious personal injury and we don't really have records of how many people suffered serious personal injury. But to date I believe we have perhaps 15 . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . to 20 individuals who have filed claims, but they still have to go...they still have to go through the process of probate and approving.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I see.

MS. TAKAYESU: See whether or not they're actually authorized representatives and so on.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. If I get my answer, I'm going to cut you off. On the UIPAs, would it be a correct procedure for a PIO to respond to a UIPA or would it need to be a lawyer?

MS. TAKAYESU: You want to handle the UIPA? I'll turn it over to the UIPA master.

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MS. DESJARDINS: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. DESJARDINS: Thank you for the question. For...so for UIPA requests, departments are...they handle a lot of those on their own. They only get Corp. Counsel involved if we ask. If it's something serious for example with wildfire litigation, we ask to be informed on all UIPAs because we wanted to make sure things are being disclosed in a controlled manner. But we normally get involved if we feel like there may be legal issues or redactions that the department wants us to look at. So, it's not just the...the lawyers don't exclusively do all UIPA requests for the County, there's plenty...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is that something that a PIO could do as well?

MS. DESJARDINS: Well, we encourage every department to have sort of a UIPA lead, somebody who really knows how to handle UIPA and then they can interface with us if they have questions. But a PIO I suppose could...anybody could do it, just whether they need a lawyer, you know, to help out.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like kind of get training to be the lead . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

MS. DESJARDINS: Yeah, we totally train them and then if they have legal questions, we...we get involved. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then on number 4, page 3 of today's answer it says 59,277.87 for non-fire related Special Counsel. How many cases did that cover? Was it just one case?

MS. KAHUHU: Thank you, Member Paltin. It was two cases.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Two.

MS. KAHUHU: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And was it split roughly evenly between the two?

MS. KAHUHU: I have the printout here. One was a payment of 40,000 and the other one was 3 payments, 2 of 7,000...7,500 and 1 of approximately 4,000.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then my other question is regarding the e-discovery platform. That's just a broad term, have you specified down into specific software?

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MS. TAKAYESU: We've been in talks with IT and we have set up...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: YT?

MS. TAKAYESU: IT.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, IT.

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah. So, they've agreed to, you know, devote some of their resources to us to help us. We've been looking at setting up demos for several vendors because there are quite a number. But we want to make sure...we want to have the luxury of time. We were fortunate when the court ordered us e-discovery in the fire cases to have Special Counsel already had a platform up and running or we would have had to just take whatever was available quick and cheap. So, this will give us the opportunity to do a deep dive so we can actually look at an appropriate platform for clerical, for attorneys, that ten years down the line we're not looking back and going, you know, we need to update this or this is outdated.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, what is the \$90,000 estimate based on if you have a wide range of software that you can choose from?

MS. TAKAYESU: Well, we need to decide whether or not we're going to do an on-premises solution or a hosted solution. So, just for comparison, we are paying our Special Counsel \$5,000 a month for the use of their platform and that is just for the wildfires. So, if we just went with that 5,000, that's 60,000 a year, but we anticipate we're going to need more data because we have these other 300 litigation cases. And we run about 300 open litigation cases a year. So, we anticipate paying more than 5,000 probably to handle all of our cases. So, that's kind of an estimate where we are right now. It's not really a competitive market. They're kind of priced very similarly but it is just a matter of are we going to do hosted in which case we're going to pay monthly or we're doing the on-premises where we actually have to buy a server and we have to have a devoted individual, a position to...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Looking at the vacancies in IT, I would suggest hosted, but that's just me. On the other hand . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . I'll come around to see you next time.

MS. TAKAYESU: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Member Johnson then Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Cook, and then U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. So, when we went to the Mayor's

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State of the County speech, he said he was working on legislation that would stabilize our rents. What's the status on that legislation?

MS. DESJARDINS: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. DESJARDINS: Thank you for the question. So, we are in the process of researching extensively rent stabilization legislation from all over the United States. Our role in this process is to provide to the Administration what the...what the...sort of the legal landscape looks like, what programs have been successful, which ones have been challenged. Give them sort of the lay of the land on the legality. But then of course it's up to the Administration to set the policy of what would they like to do. We don't do that. So, we're in the process of working with them to come up with what they would...what they see as their vision of what rent stabilization looks like. But I can tell you that in looking at the research, there are many different types. There are caps of a percentage of rent that you cannot go over except for certain special circumstances. There are tax incentives for people if they enter into long-term leases. And so those are sort of the things that we're trying to put together. And then from there, once they choose the policy that they would like to follow then we would make sure that their draft legislation passed legal muster and then it would be presented to you folks.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you...

MS. TAKAYESU: But we are fast tracking that because obviously everybody is very concerned about getting that going. Our aim is to have something to you folks after your Budget Session.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thanks.

MS. TAKAYESU: Along with our discussions about...legislation about the Minatoya list and short-term rentals and those things as well.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, after the budget...

MS. TAKAYESU: Yes, you should be seeing something from the --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great.

MS. TAKAYESU: -- Administration.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: As well as the Minatoya list?

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MS. TAKAYESU: Yes. That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Great. So, I'm going to ask another question about legislation. Maui County filed climate change suit against fossil fuel companies on October 12, 2021. The County of Maui filed a lawsuit in Hawai'i Circuit Court against fossil fuel companies seeking to hold them liable for climate change impacts. What's the status on that?

MS. TAKAYESU: I believe right now there were some procedural challenges as to where the litigation was going to take place. The...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You mean as in like State or Fed, Federal court?

MS. TAKAYESU: Well, this one was more...yes, there was the State and Fed question and then they wanted to have it in the First Circuit as opposed to the Second Circuit, which we did not stipulate to. So, we're trying to keep it in the Second Circuit. So, nothing substantive has happened yet. We did...so the defendants appeal to the Supreme Court because they were not happy with the State court ruling on it, but the Supreme Court said the jurisdiction was appropriate in the State, and that's kind of where we are now. We are in State court but we're still kind of plodding along.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You...you mentioned some new information to me about how Don Guzman's suing the County. How about Gil Keith-Agaran? He was in the paper saying he was stepping down so he would sue the County.

MS. TAKAYESU: Yes. We have some litigation.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: How many do we have?

MS. TAKAYESU: I do not know offhand. I can get that information to you.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. James, did you get the question? Maybe we can ask and you can send it back to us.

MS. TAKAYESU: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Those are my questions. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. Next, we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez and then Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Corporation Counsel. A lot of the questions that I had have been asked. One follow-up

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question is on the e-discovery platform. Does the Prosecutor's Office have software like that?

MS. TAKAYESU: They do. I actually spoke with Andy Martin about that because I wanted to know what he was using, how much it costs, how he paid for it and everything. But they...after talking to him, they have a very different system called...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: eProsecutor, I think.

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MS. TAKAYESU: And it specifically deals with evidence. He was able to get a grant for it specifically because of his prosecutors. So, we weren't really able to translate any of that to us just because it was specific to criminal prosecution and because they were able to procure a grant for it because it was for criminal prosecution.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay. So, because I wasn't sure if the eProsecutor software did like e-discovery...

MS. TAKAYESU: Very similar.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah. But there are some differences with it because they have...I forgot what's it called. They have eProsecutor but they also have an additional platform. I don't want to say eEvidence but I'm not sure what it's called. But I...I have had talks with him. He's so helpful with all of his information. But we weren't able to translate it to our Department.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah, that...that was the purpose for the question to see if like we could have like two licenses --

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- under the County and get a deal, but okay. Sounds like that's a no.

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, thank you. Mahalo.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's it? Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. I kind of wanted to review for the Department like the Department totals for 2025, 5,445,568, an increase of \$622,264, 12 and...12.9 percent increase. It look...appears to be part wages and part equipment. What was the machinery?

MS. TAKAYESU: The...the equipment you mean?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Uh-huh.

MS. TAKAYESU: I believe that's the move we have for the Trask, but you want to take that? Yeah.

MS. KAHUHU: Thank you, Member Cook. Yes, we put in for...we recently moved our Risk Division over to the Trask Building and it...so that I believe was 45,000 we were asking for. And then we did procure a new Xerox machine. So, it's just...that's usually what we only have under equipment is our Xerox lease.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And then the increase and the change amount for the wages and salaries, was that the increase?

MS. KAHUHU: That's the four --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The four positions.

MS. KAHUHU: -- expansion positions as well bargaining unit type increases and also the...the deputies who will get by ordinance an increase on July 1st, 2024.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So, I just wanted to kind of review like the Department summary, the mission. The Department of the Corporation Counsel supporting County government as the Chief Legal Advisor, legal representation for the County of Maui, for the Mayor, the Council, all departments, boards, commissions, officers, employees in matters relating to their official duties. And ensure that the laws, policies, and regulations are internally consistent and effective with the intent of the Charter. Implementing ordinances and other legal requirements. Provide efficient and effective, responsive legal services. So, we obviously rely on you a great deal for advice and is there...what happens when there's a conflict?

MS. TAKAYESU: A conflict between...can you be a little more specific?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I guess just if you give us advice and it...there's a difference of opinion.

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MS. DESJARDINS: Thank you for the question. So, I can think of a number of scenarios, for example being in a meeting and somebody says, Corporation Counsel, what do you think, and then we give advice. And then that same individual or another Member might say well, OCS, what do you think, and so then OCS gives a different opinion. My response in those circumstances, I'm not here to tell you...cram anything down your throat. You have your legal advice, you...you can ask questions to get more well informed about which advice you feel like you want to take. But your...as the clients and I say that loosely, the County of Maui is our client, but as the folks who are in the process of making decisions, you'd need to determine which advice you're going to follow if there's a conflict like that. Some other conflicts are more complicated and...and have to be more well thought out. But in terms of just giving advice like in a...in a meeting or something, that's...it doesn't happen often, and honestly, I'll call David Raatz or I'll talk to OCS and we try to iron out things in the beginning when we can. But obviously some things are more complicated and more challenging to us, all of us, and so it's a little bit more difficult to...to work through them. But the most of the time we try our best to land on the same page and to make sure that when . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . we're consistent as much as we can be. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, guys, for being with us today. I kind of...Mimi, want to ask you to define when you say you loosely say that the Council is your client.

MS. DESJARDINS: So, we represent the County of Maui and in the process of representing the County, there are all kinds of folks who are doing things to make the work of the County happen. The County of Maui itself is a...is a...is a thing.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. DESJARDINS: So, when I say loosely, I guess what I mean is for example I might help the Parks Department. They also are in the process of working for the County of Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

MS. DESJARDINS: You folks as well work for the County of Maui in looking out for the County's best interest.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

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MS. DESJARDINS: We don't look at you folks as I individually represent you --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Right.

MS. DESJARDINS: -- or any of you, so that's what --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I just...yeah.

MS. DESJARDINS: -- by that term.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I just wanted to understand what you meant by that because, you know, things been getting kind of crazy lately, so I wanted some clarity on what loosely means. Based on your budget and your experience with hiring Special Counsel, if in case the Council does need to hire our own Special Counsel, how much would you assume we would need a budget for? I'm not saying it will or won't happen, I'm just saying hypothetically you have better experience at this than we do.

MS. TAKAYESU: Hypothetically if the issues were limited and it could be something that can be resolved in front of a judge instead of a full-blown jury trial because those are also facts to take into account. If it can be done here in Second Court as opposed to having a trial in Federal Court and it could be handled in a somewhat expedited or timely manner, I would say 75,000 would probably be a good starting point depending on the experience of the attorneys you hire. Some attorneys charge upward of \$675 an hour.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And then typically how do we fund Special Counsel as a...a County? Self Insurance Fund?

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. That's how we fund it. Okay.

MS. TAKAYESU: The Self Insurance Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. Okay. I think that's all the questions I have --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- for right now, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. I guess the most concerning, right, is how we're going to make it through all this wildfire litigation. The One 'Ohana Fund,

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the County portion of it, the State has to pass their portion which then tells me it's going to be July 1 when it's going to be available. And so, I purposely didn't hear it in my Committee because it's going to be July 1 when a majority of it is going to be needed or after Budget. So, just kind of FYI for you. As we were trying to crunch through...you know, just doing a lot of things.

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah. We...we didn't fast track it because our agreement is that we would have the money by September. So, we...we'll be okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And I guess I'm hearing the concern from the Members and...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If you could bring the mic closer to your mouth.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. I'm trying to talk to them, sorry. I'm trying to...I can hear the concern from the Members that we do have enough money to pay for all of these lawsuits, you know, that we're up against and it's really unprecedented. I'm concerned about that. And if you want, could you make a general statement? I don't want to take us into executive session or anything, I just wonder.

MS. TAKAYESU: Well, so I was just in court and there were probably 30 very high-priced attorneys in that courtroom and there were probably another 20 on Zoom. So, everyone pretty much has an interest in settling the case or getting money from the case or even those who are not going to be representing plaintiffs. Like for example counsel for one entity, their legal fees have already exceeded 10 million. So, there is a lot of money at stake. We in our action against HECO, we...our plaintiff's attorney John Fiske from Baron and Budd hired an economics expert, a commercial economics expert and right now for the County's loss it's I believe about 800 million. So, in terms of what our additional liability will be for covering these lawsuits, it's so hard to say because even if we went with...I don't know, say we...so if we kept the pool of plaintiffs at 600 or 700 which it is about now and if you think maybe each of them get an average of a million, that's 700 million. So, that is the collective amount, that doesn't mean that the County would pay it because it just depends what the jury or the Judge decides our percentage if any liability is and where it is placed. So, I think that's as much as I can give you because everything right now is so up in the air --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. TAKAYESU: -- in terms of what we're talking about.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much on that. Round two. Member Sinenci?

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Chair. Just following up on the line of questioning. Is the 'Ohana Fund reflected in this budget?

MS. TAKAYESU: It is not, no. I believe we would be...we haven't funded it yet. We're anticipating taking it from as I said I think the Carryover but it's not part of our Department budget.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, it's not part of...oh, go ahead.

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah, it's not part of our Corporation Counsel budget but I believe it's earmarked in the Self Insurance Fund to be passed but...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, like...

MS. TAKAYESU: Maybe the Budget Director can...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah...

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. That is not included in the FY '25 Budget, we included it as an amendment to the FY '24 Budget. If it is the intent of the Chair not to consider it as part of the FY '24 Budget, would you like me to include it as a departmental request for FY '25?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

MS. MILNER: No need? Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh...

MS. MILNER: Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Director. And then just another question, has the State AG's investigation concluded?

MS. TAKAYESU: No. Their report is...their initial report...so my understanding is they're phasing their disclosure of reports. The initial report was supposed to be a timeline and that was supposed to be in December. And then this is supposed to be the second phase. I'm assuming it's going to be more than the timeline but I don't know what it's going to include. And I don't have any further information as to how complete it will be, but I don't think just based on my understanding of the stages that it's going to be a complete report. I know that our Fire Prevention Bureau is working with ATF, so they're still working on getting that

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report done, and that's not anticipated to be done for at least several more months. I believe we talked to ATF in August and it was going to be another year.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Ms. Takayesu. I appreciate your keeping us posted. Mahalo.

MS. TAKAYESU: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. I get...got a request from Chair Lee, she wants to cut in line. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, I thought I was in line.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You are.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, I'm just wondering you're going to court already over these cases but we...you don't have all the information yet, right? You don't have the results of all these investigations . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

MS. TAKAYESU: Yes. Well, yes, exactly. That's one of the issues we've been facing. Our State court is very...what's the word, they are...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Asinine.

MS. TAKAYESU: I didn't say it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Don't say that. Okay.

MS. TAKAYESU: We're not allowed to say that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MS. TAKAYESU: But they are...they are rushing to this...to get these out because they want us to settle, and there is no source and origin definitively by a neutral party yet because that would be the Fire Prevention Bureau . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Now, having said that, every plaintiff and every defendant has their expert source and origin. And I've heard a rumor that FSRI's report will include source and origin but it's just a rumor and I don't know if that's true.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Source and origin of the fire?

MS. TAKAYESU: Yes. So, it's really hard to prove liability without having some

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independent basis of the source and the origin of the fire. Now, we have our own experts as part of our plaintiff case that tell us what the source and origin were and how it spread, but you know, every party that has a suit has an interest. So, it would be nice to have an actual ATF making that...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, when will you...when we will go into executive session, at...at what point to discuss, you know, your strategy and what we're up against and what are the results of some of these investigations? When do you think that'll happen?

MS. TAKAYESU: We can...I can send a resolution to the GREAT Committee to...to give you an update.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No, but you don't have the...the results of the --

MS. TAKAYESU: No, we don't.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- studies...I mean --

MS. TAKAYESU: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- the investigations yet. Right.

MS. TAKAYESU: Right. But we're looking at a trial date in September. So, we have more than enough information to kind of at least give you guys an update on the motions that we plan on filing, where we are, what's going on, and what our trial strategy is. But really that is a huge key component of all of the cases it seems to be.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. But you're not representing us, it's...it's the folks that we're paying \$800,000 to, right?

MS. TAKAYESU: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What...what firm...

MS. TAKAYESU: We're liaisoning with them. So, we appear, we also cover depositions. To keep our costs down we've been very actively involved with the case, but they will be the ones doing the trial, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And the name of the firm again?

MS. TAKAYESU: So, the firm...we have two firms defending us. We have the McCorrison firm out of Honolulu and we have Meyers Nave from Los Angeles. . .

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(timer sounds). . . And Meyers Nave has experience with the wildfires.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MS. TAKAYESU: And then on our plaintiff's case we have John Fiske from Baron and Budd and they are also situated in Los Angeles.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Paltin then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you know, we almost burned down in 2018 and...and that should have been the warning, and it's been a very rainy winter and, you know, as you're defending us from this, was...do you look at the entire County Budget or just your budget in terms of like, you know, Skill Village, Maui Meadows, if they were to burn down next and then they're going to say, oh Lāhainā burned down, what did you do for...to stop it from happening at Skill Village or Maui Meadows? Like I mean I get those emails all the time, like what are we doing. Like is part of your job prevention and how is that reflected in either your budget or the County's Budget as a whole that no other towns in Maui County burn down as well?

MS. TAKAYESU: We do not have it as part of our budget but we do advise Fire, we advise MEMA when they or if they have questions about how best to address it. But they're really the experts in how to do that. We don't have the expertise in that area. All we can do is help them and advise them. But they're pretty capable of doing it themselves. So, in terms of being proactively taking any action on behalf of Fire or MEMA or Police for that fact, no, we're not doing. I can't think of anything that we're doing other than counseling. Oh, we have Risk Management you . . . *(inaudible)*. . . You know since she moved to Trask Building, I keep forgetting about...so we have Lydia from Risk Management. Maybe you can speak to...oh, no.

MS. TODA: I don't have any comment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I mean like even in terms of say what if something happened to any of our towns this upcoming summer or sooner or later and then we have more litigation. It seems as though it would be compounded being that we came so close to burning down in 2018, a town actually burnt down in 2023 --

MS. TAKAYESU: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and then it's like what...what...what are you guys doing? All these towns are burning down in Maui or something like that.

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MS. TAKAYESU: I think...I think I can answer that better. So, we would...I don't know if it's proactive but right now we've had a hard time finding insurance coverage for instance. We had a hard time getting...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because it's based on risk.

MS. TAKAYESU: Yes. And we really had a hard time getting insurance coverage for this year. It will continue to be a struggle, and Lydia can discuss like, you know, our premiums increased and our coverage went down. So, that's an ongoing challenge for us. And I think that that's where our Department would focus on trying to mitigate liability on behalf of the County by trying to find better insurance. We're also looking at, what do you call them, claim adjusters . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . so we have a better response time in terms of addressing claims that people make and perhaps made a little more...given a little more scrutiny to help, you know, save some money here and there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But I mean, just to follow up, I went to an insurance workshop in DC and they said that the way to make your insurance stay and for it not to be as expensive is to lessen the risk.

MS. TAKAYESU: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...

MS. TAKAYESU: I will say that what we did even proactively before the fires is we had commissioned an audit of all of our buildings. Apparently, there hadn't been one done in...when was the last done?

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

MS. TAKAYESU: 2012. So, we did commission that. So, actually that was a good thing that helped our insurance coverage because we were able to have a more complete picture of County properties and the values of them. So, and then because we had done that, we were also able to lower some of our premiums in that respect. That was before this all happened. So, I guess that was good, but we do have...yeah, we do have an ongoing, I guess, effort to try to mitigate as much as possible, you know, whether it's by doing audits or shopping around for insurance, but it's been a challenge. I think every entity nationwide is having a problem trying to find insurance coverage.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I have a disclaimer. If I get into anything

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that's...shouldn't be said in public, just cut me...you get to cut me off this time. So, I'm...I want to ask questions about the eminent domain and Komar, you know, that...that parcel. It got appraised for \$830,000. I don't...can you kind of explain how in open session the status of that? Is...is...do...you know, and how does eminent domain work in...I'll just leave it at that right there.

MS. TAKAYESU: In general we would get...well, you want to talk about the...yeah.

MS. DESJARDINS: I'll give you the public --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you.

MS. DESJARDINS: -- the public version real quick. We are prepared to file the complaint for eminent domain as well as the ex parte motion to try to get immediate access to it and that involves us giving them a check for what we have as the appraised value. But in the process of getting ready for this case we have looked at some of the more...the larger eminent domain cases on O'ahu and there's some big ones. So, the areas that we will be focusing on in terms of we believe, you know, in court will be things like the real appraised value. What's the real value of a property. That...that is something that can get hung up in court for a while. So, what we're trying to do in anticipation of the next step is to identify by looking at other cases what are the hot topics in eminent domain, get ahead of them, make sure we're equipped and able to handle those. And if not, possibly reach out for additional help or support. But that seems to be the...the gist of it is really the valuing. So, yeah, there's an appraisal but that doesn't mean much in the realm of things when you're talking about the owner of the property who might say well --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. DESJARDINS: -- you know, lots of value is included and all that. So, we anticipate that coming up, and that's...that...that's okay. But our sincere hope is that it doesn't become that big of a fight and that also we are able to get possession as soon as possible to start our work which is so important.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Can you say here, 830,000 appraisal, is that close to the mark?

MS. DESJARDINS: I can say that that is what we have on the record as the --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. DESJARDINS: -- appraised value.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. DESJARDINS: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. That's my questions. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have no additional questions. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I don't have any questions I just don't feel all warm and fuzzy all over from all this pending litigation that could be hundreds of millions of dollars and we're here doing a budget and trying to rebuild and trying to satisfy the desperately needed social problems in the island. I wish you could throw us a bone.

MS. TAKAYESU: You know attorneys are not warm and fuzzy. Oh, present company excluded.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that it? Okay. Member U'u-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I have no further questions right now, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Anybody want round three? Yeah?

MS. DESJARDINS: Chair, can I just make one final comment?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure. Sure.

MS. DESJARDINS: I...I just want to say we appreciate so much all of your support. We have a difficult job; you have a difficult job. I always encourage all of you on the side, any of you to pick up the phone and call us if you have questions about anything we're doing. You absolutely have our ear, so please take advantage of that. Some of you are really good at it and I appreciate that and some of you could do a better job at reaching out to us. We really want you to do that. So, thank you.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Who?

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MS. TAKAYESU: Yeah, I echo that. That's exactly. I really enjoy each and every one of you and I like talking with you. Please always we're open and ready to discuss anything you got on your mind. I hope that was warm and fuzzy, but...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Member Paltin?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I thought you said they're going last because we had to go into executive session?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, oh no. No, no, no.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, they went into executive session --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no, no.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- with someone?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I was hearing things.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, you weren't hearing things.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's...that's what I said but I changed my mind. I changed my...I changed my discussion. We're not going into executive session.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh. All right. I had one last question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I'm not surprised.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, if...if we're getting sued and Corp. Counsel doesn't represent us, does that mean we forfeit?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Corp. Counsel?

MS. TAKAYESU: You mean like default? You mean...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I don't know. I mean, like if we don't...if we don't hire Special Counsel and Corp. Counsel doesn't want to represent us, then what happens in court? Like would Member Rawlins-Fernandez step up to the mic?

MS. TAKAYESU: I'm pretty sure we'd be able to find a solution that's workable. Because

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I mean, you are still our clients and we don't ever anticipate on leaving anyone out. So, we'd figure out something collectively.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm no lawyer but I can make some arguments.

MS. TAKAYESU: I know you can.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But it'll cost you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody else want to make any kind of speeches? Seeing none. Okay. So, thank you very much, Corp. Counsel, for being here. Nice seeing you all here. And everybody has such a difficult job as we stand here together trying to make things happen. So, thanks again. Members, it is before 5:00, so we're ending early. I just want to thank you all for the meetings today. We...again, we're not going to meet with Management until next week Tuesday, so this meeting is going to recess, we're not going to adjourn, and we're going to continue on at 1:00 with Department of Management. And...and especially Josiah is, you know, who we...and...and Keanu can come too but we were...we were hoping to have Josiah here. And then at 6:00 that night is the Budget Public Hearing for Wailuku-Kahului. And Monday, everybody is going to...be traveling to Moloka'i. So, we'll see you. And I think Keani is going to ask us to bring our own water, our water container. I remember that last year, everybody bring your own water container. Is that right?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Bring your own water too. Okay. So, hopefully we'll have access . . .*(inaudible)*. . . something. So, 6:00 is the residency meeting at Mitchell Pau'ole Community Center, and then don't forget to set...submit by 4:30 the Economic Development, Environmental and Cultural Program your conditions that night by 4:30. Or you can send it earlier to staff.bfed@mauicounty.us. Right? Okay. Earlier the better so Staff can put everything together. And I have a thought for all of you. We have scheduled on the 17th, which is Wednesday, the Legislative Branch which includes Auditor and Corp. Counsel [*sic*], Council Services, County Clerk. And I was thinking of not hearing from them because we all met...I...I met with all of them. And...but if you haven't, I will definitely bring them back as scheduled on the calendar at 9:00. Yes?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It sounded like you were posing a question for thoughts and feedback.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...I'm . . .*(inaudible)*. . . posing a question.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I would be supportive of...of like not going round and round with questions, but I think, you know, in addition to us getting our...our questions answered, this...this...Member Cook is so quiet next to me right now.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . . *(laughing)* . . He's like a ninja, so stealth. Okay. I lost my train of thought. The...the...one of the purposes is for the public to hear directly from the department, their presentation, their proposal for the...the upcoming budget if there's any expansion. So, I...I...I think it would be good to just at least have like the presentations and then if there's any burning questions, we can have it. But I...I don't have any additional questions for any of the departments --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- so I could be supportive and that perhaps could be like a compromise just so that the public has an opportunity to hear from all the departments and offices.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You guys good then? Okay. 9:00, that's Wednesday, 9:00 we'll meet, and we'll hear from all the departments. Auditor, Corporation...oh, not Corporation Counsel, Council Services, County Clerk --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Clerks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and then we'll take up any kind of general budget provisions and the revolving fund. So, to me the important thing is to have a discussion on revolving funds. I guess that's you, Ms. Milner, that you'll have information for us on that. And...yes?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: On...on the 7...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's the 17th.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, sorry. On the 17th --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You have your hand up.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the Fire Department is having a blessing at 10:00 at the Ho'olehua Fire Station so I had planned to attend that at 10:00 on that day, but I'll be monitoring online as well on my phone.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Well, too bad you couldn't do it when we're there with...with you on Monday.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah, that would have been --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But anyway.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- nice. I mean, we would have had...had to post for it, so that, you know, Sunshine Law, but yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's true.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That will make it complicated. Did you have a question Member Johnson? Oh, Member Sinenci. I'm sorry. Oh, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, yeah...no. That is...that's for Wednesday. I...I thought it was at 1:00 but that's Tuesday, our reconvene 1:00...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, this meeting I'm going to recess and then reconvene...go ahead, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I do have a question about everyone's flights on Tuesday, you know, Moku-delay-lay. What time is your flights if you want to ensure that you're here to start on time at 1:00?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, my God.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And...and then, you know, pray to the, you know, airline gods that they don't change it from 9:00 to, you know, like 3:00 p.m. because that happens.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That happens.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: There's four people leaving at 7:00.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Four people...

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The return.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. And then --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and then everyone's flights on...on Monday to Moloka'i. Yeah, just like monitor that because sometimes they text you like just like an hour or, you know, two before your flight to say like, oh, surprise, your flight's leaving an hour earlier. That happens too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, either way it goes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, anyway, I have...I think all of you got what all the flights are to go and return. You're making me think I should change my flight to go because I'm...

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

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Okay. We're all good, right? Anybody has questions? Bring your water bottles when you go to Moloka'i with water.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, I had a question.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's going to be healthy.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I had a question.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You know the...the things that you want --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: On Monday.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- on the 17th...holy cow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is everything else.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is there going to be a template format that you need it in or just whatever we decide will be fine?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you know what, maybe Staff wants it a certain way. That's a good point. So...so that it can be consistent. Do you want them to submit their--

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I have the answer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- conditions in...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Here, call on me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I know the answer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: The student.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I can come sit next to you too. So, the...the format is in the...the Budget Ordinance, so the department and then the division and then what the increase or amendment will be. That's the answer. You're welcome. You missed the answer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I didn't hear what you said, sorry. I was getting important advice from James.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The format that Staff would like it in is the Budget Bill, so the...the Ordinance. So, the...the Department, the Division, and then the...the Program, and then the conditional language --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is that you want? Oh, there.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- with the increase.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, they'll resend it. Okay. OCS will...

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, they'll send it. Okay. So, this meeting is going to be in recess and we will reconvene on Tuesday at 1:00, same Teams link and it'll be also be in-person and online. Anything else I need to say?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, in...oh, same in-person location here as well as all your offices. All right. So, this meeting is now adjourned at 4:20 and...

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No, recess.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I'm sorry, recess. This meeting is...is in recess and it is 4:20, we're early, and we'll see you at maybe the funeral. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 4:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

Yuki Lei Sugimura
YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

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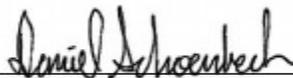
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CERTIFICATION

I, Daniel Schoenbeck, hereby certify that pages 1 through 140 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 21st day of April 2024, in Pahrump, Nevada



Daniel Schoenbeck