

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

MINUTES

April 4, 2024

Online Only via Teams

CONVENE: 9:07 a.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member (Out 4:36 p.m.)
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
Jennifer Yamashita, Committee Secretary

Additional staff

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tom Cook:
Jared Agtunong

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:
Kate Griffiths
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Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tasha Kama:
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Executive Assistant for Councilmember Tamara Paltin:
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BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 4, 2024

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez:

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Executive Assistants for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:

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Executive Assistants for Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura:

Michele Yoshimura
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Executive Assistants for Councilmember Nohelani U'u-Hodgins:

Laura McDowell
Susan Clements

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office
Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office

- ADMIN.:** Lesley Milner, Acting Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Cynthia Lallo, Executive Assistant, Office of the Mayor
Cory-Lynn Vicens, Administrative Assistant, Office of the Mayor
John Pelletier, Chief, Department of Police
Wade Maeda, Deputy Chief, Department of Police
Joy Medeiros, Captain, Department of Police
Jeremy Pallone De La Torre, Acting Captain, Department of Police
Jennifer Almeida, Administrative Assistant, Department of Police
Cheyenne “Blaze” Jarnesky, Account Clerk, Department of Police
Cynthia Razo-Porter, Director, Department of Personnel Services
John Stufflebean, Director, Department of Water Supply
James “Kimo” Landgraf, Deputy Director, Department of Water Supply
Eva Blumenstein, Planning Program Manager, Department of Water Supply
Ortaine Acidera, Waterworks Fiscal Officer, Department of Water Supply
Thomas Ochwat, Civil Engineer, Department of Water Supply
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel
- OTHERS:** Tom Fischer, Ikaika ‘Ohana
Douglas Bigley, Ikaika ‘Ohana
Junya Nakoa
Others (12)

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

April 4, 2024

Resource Personnel

Dr. Jonathan Scheuer, Chair, East Maui Regional Community Board
Kyle Nakanelua, Vice-Chair, East Maui Regional Community Board
Alan Arakawa, Member, East Maui Regional Community Board

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), and RESOLUTION 24-66))

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Good morning, everybody. Welcome back to Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 9:07 a.m., April 4th, and we are on our fourth day of budget deliberations. Nice to see all of you here in the Chambers. Wow, full force. And my name is Yuki Lei Sugimura; I'm the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Chair for this Committee. And we're conducting this meeting in accordance with the Sunshine Law. And you're all here, so you don't have to say if there's a minor in your room, if you're doing this meeting online. So, at this time, I'd like to first do roll call. And Chair Lee, what is our message for today, or greeting for today?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Testing. The greeting for today is qué bola.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Qué bola.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Qué bola. And that comes from the island of Cuba. You see, they have a committee similar to Mr. Sinenci, and qué bola means, what's up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay, let's...let's say qué ola [*sic*] to Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Qué bola, Chair. Aloha kakahiaka.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Qué ola [*sic*]. Vice-Chair of the Committee, Tasha Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair. And qué bola to everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Qué ola [*sic*] to you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Qué bola.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good morning, and Ebola [sic].

(Laughing)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ebola?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I...I...didn't...I didn't catch it, so I'm just, like, throwing it out there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Good to laugh. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Qué bola, Chair, Councilmembers, community members. There's no testifiers at the Lānaʻi District Office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Alrighty.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka kākou and e ola mau.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka. There's currently no testifiers at the Molokaʻi District Office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Member Uʻu-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Qué bola, everyone.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Qué bola. Office of the Mayor, I'd like to welcome Acting Budget Director, Lesley Milner...you're...you're spending a lot of time with us here; Department of Police, Chief John Pelletier; Wade Maeda, Deputy Chief of Police; Joy Medeiros, Captain Joy Medeiros; Acting Captain Jeremy Pallone De La Torre. Did I get that right?

MR. DE LA TORRE: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Almeida; Account Clerk, Cheyenne "Blaze" Jarnesky. And Department of Water Supply, I see John Stufflebean in the Chambers, as well as Kimo Landgraf, also Deputy Director; East Maui Water Authority...East Maui Water Authority Committee Board, Dr. Jonathan Scheuer, Chair of the Regional Community Board and from the Office of the Mayor, Cynthia Lallo, Executive Assistant; Cory-Lynn Vicens,

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

April 4, 2024

Administrative Assistant; from the Department of Personnel Services, Cynthia Porter, the Director; Department of Corporation Counsel, Kristina Toshikiyo and our wonderful Committee Staff, Yvette Bouthillier--thank you very much for working tirelessly to help us--James Kruger, Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analysts; Committee Analyst and Jarret Pascual and Clarissa MacDonald--thank you very much for your hard work--Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney, as well as Meghan Moniz, Legislative Attorney and Jennifer Yamashita, Council Services Assistant Clerk. Please see the last page of the agenda for information on meeting connectivity. So, Members, before I go into the meeting today, I just want to summarize last night. Thank you everybody for being there. And in general, the meeting was Upcountry. It was for 6:00; we ended about 7:30. There were about 32 testifiers. It was pretty mellow and...not that I'm comparing it to other meetings, but it was pretty mellow. And as you heard, and it was...because it was filmed on *Akakū*, I went home and my husband watched the whole thing. So, thank you very much Chivo and *Akakū*...*Akakū* for making that possible. We heard a lot of requests for pickleball. I was maybe not pleasantly surprised because that was something that we have heard in the past. And they even named courts, Parks Department, which can be converted to pickleball, Makawao, Kula, Hāli'imaile, Pukalani, and that sounds like all the courts Upcountry, but I...we heard from many...it looks like it was a team. We also heard from Maui Youth Services, and it was...it was done in Hawaiian and English. I was...I really was impressed with the testifier. Also, MEO Head Start Program was also discussed with mom and a child in hand. On the...and the interesting thing, we had a testifier who suggested we do zero-based budgeting and has a...gave a short talk on it, Kevin Spellman, who is going to be a new member of one of our boards, but he gave that presentation. We heard from Hui No'eau...for support for Hui No'eau, their two programs. And then of course, MISC...fire ants, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and coqui frogs were discussed. Maui Nui Seabirds...and I think that's the basic...oh, and we met Laks Abraham's brother, who came to testify about Pukalani Elementary and Kalama Intermediate. Very impressive young man. And Mālama Kula, which is...his message, Kyle Ellison, was be proactive, as he has been after the wildfire...he was a victim and he has been helping actually weekly, daily, trying to make sure we get cleaned up in Kula. As I say, that's the second part of the story, right? One was the homes which were...debris removal was done and they moved off completely to Lāhainā, Army Corps of Engineers and the group. But Kyle...what Kyle Ellison has been doing is, he's been cleaning up, you know, the green waste and organizing groups to come up and do planting. He's been pretty enthusiastic about that. And there was a testifier about card...cardboard dumpsters to be Upcountry also. And I think that's it. Thank you very much everybody for being there at the meeting. We had a nice dinner from chicken hekka and some sweetbread that was given to all the Members that attended. So, appreciate you. Now, let's get into the meeting. So, we have one item on our agenda, which is BFED-1, Proposed Fiscal Year '25 Budget for the County of Maui. And please note that because we have one item, anybody who testifies can talk about

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

April 4, 2024

anything that's in the budget for three minutes. So, we're continuing our deliberation today. And as you can see, we have Police here in full force. Always impressive when they're in uniforms. And then, after that, we'll hear from Department of Personnel Services, and then Water Supply, then the East Maui Water Authority. And that will be the order for the presentations and the deliberations. I...so at this time, I'd like to do the presentations from the Department and introduce Chief Police...Chief of Police John Pelletier. And you can introduce your members that are here in force and do your presentation for the Committee. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

MR. PELLETIER: Aloha, Chair, Council. It's a...it's an honor to be here today. When we talk about public safety and what we've been tasked with and what we're responsible for, it...it...it's very clear that you, the Council, are the guardians of the public and the public dollars. And I know that there's members of the public here, and the question is, how are we spending these monies, not just with the Police Department but the entire County. And we've got the largest budget that the County's ever proposed and these different things and, you know, that's not lost on...on us. And we're looking at an \$83 million budget this year, which is a six percent increase over last year. I'd like to just point out that we saw the contracts for those that we are fortunate enough to employ. Those...some of those contracts have increased five percent. And just looking at that math alone, you're really looking at a very, very minimum increase of an operation budget over last year because we're cognizant of what has transpired over the last eight months. We...we understand that, you know, every dollar counts. And so, when you really look at it that way, we're not asking for much. We have three capital improvement projects. Two of them are at the forensic facility, to make sure that those we lost are dignified. And then, we're looking at one other project, which is for a generator for headquarters for Wailuku, which is where dispatch is, to make sure that we have redundancy that, if something happens, we don't lose 9-1-1. That's all we're asking for. And so, in addition to those projects and some of the other things, everything we're asking for is to make sure that this community is the safest possible. If we're looking for technology and equipment, it's because we need that technology and that equipment. If we're looking for education and different things like that, or training, it's because we need to have that. We're not coming for...we're not coming before this Council with this, you know, gift list of saying hey, you know, it...it's, you know, rainbows and unicorns; we're in great economic times. No. We're coming because we understand the situation. We understand what we need. But we have an obligation to make sure that Maui County is the safest community it can be, that our citizens, that our visitors, that they come here, that they feel safe to be here. And so, we're excited to talk about the different particulars that are here. We know that there's Q and A. We...we're...we apologize that we got the answers to you at the deadline at 9:00 this morning, but I know that everybody's been so busy trying to do those

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

April 4, 2024

things. And so, most of...well, all...all of those questions are answered so, as we do the Q and A round, I just would encourage you, if...if it was something that you were thinking about, you know, prior, you may already have the answer. So, if you want to talk about something else, certainly happy to do that. Chair, I...I know you were making a couple allusions, one of them being to...one of the Councilmembers talked...talked story a few days ago, and there's already a robust plan that we've taken, you know, action on. We continue to do that. So, if that was a question, I have no problem talking about what we've been doing, but I...I already have a detailed relationship with that Councilmember and...and she's well aware of what we're doing. So, I would...I would encourage that. If that was a question. Great, we can talk about that. But we all know that I'm verbose and long-winded and, you know, depending on what you want to talk about. So, looking...looking forward to that, and mahalo for the opportunity to do this.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, you weren't talking about Holomua were you? . . .*(laughing)*. . . We heard that loud and clear. All right. So, at this time then, I'm going to switch out to...oh, do you have a clarifying question for this because I'm going to take them up? Okay. So, we're going to do all the presentations for the departments based on Sunshine. So, next we're going to have Personnel. Thank you, Chief. Cynthia Razo-Porter. Thank you for joining us. And after this is Water Director. So, our next presentation is Director of Personnel Services, Cynthia Razo-Porter, to provide your presentation and introduction of your Department. Members, initial letter and responses are in Granicus 21 and Department questions and answers are in number 45 in Granicus, so 21 and 45. Good morning.

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Good morning, Chair. Good morning, Committee Members. Excuse me. Thank you for having us this morning. And I just prepared a few comments, based on some of the information that you've already requested. But just kind of as an introduction to...Personnel Services is the central personnel agency for the County of Maui. We support all departments in the County with recruiting, with classification, with examination procedures, training and employee development, labor relations, including grievance handling. We do collective bargaining negotiations with the other jurisdictions, and we also provide departments with human resource strategic support. When I talk about position classification and administration, this is the method of taking each position description and classifying it to a class of work against our compensation plan and looking outward at the State and the other jurisdictions. We also assign the appropriate pay assigned to that position. In FY 2023, we completed 463 classification audits; 121 were initial classifications, so that was brand new positions that were approved in the budget. And 342 of those positions were reallocation requests that we received from the Department. Recruitment and

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

April 4, 2024

examination, that's been a hot topic for us for, you know, countywide. And the number of recruitments conducted in FY 2022 was 225, in FY'23, it was 264. To date, so this is as of March 31st, we have 251 recruitments that we've conducted; 130 were closed, meaning we were able to fill those vacancies, and 121 are currently posted. So, we have been, you know, doing the best that we can to recruit and fill these positions. And they just, you know, people leave; people come; people transfer. So, you know, it's kind of a moving target, I would say. So far submitted, application-wise this fiscal year, is 6,354. Last year's closing numbers were 8...nearly 8,000, so it was like 7,900 applications. We did, in 2021, as most of you are aware, move to an online assessment. So, instead of coming into the office to take a written exam, it's available online. If candidates prefer, they can still come into our office and we have, you know, laptops and computers that they can access to use it. So, I think that's going well. We continue to kind of work with departments to find, you know, better ways and best ways to administer these assessments. As of March 31st, 2024, we have 2,661 active employees. So that's the number of people on the payroll. Currently, don't fall out of your seat, but we have 1,100 vacancies. However, 400 plus are PALS, so they're like seasonal employees, and so that number is kind of in the 700 neighborhood. I know that was one of the questions, so we'll get you that list when we do our responses, so...employee training and development, just this year, or this fiscal year, I guess, in the last nine months, we've had 735 employees attend internal training offerings that our department has done and nearly 3,000 employees have...well, 3,000 trainings have been viewed on LinkedIn Learning. So, that's the learning library that is available to all County employees. And they have probably 14,000...I mean the number keeps changing, but it's, you know, in the thousands of offerings available. So, these are either short, you know, little half an hour training sessions, or it can go, you know, longer, into like an hour or two. Our team also provides and coordinates DPO and supervisor training, and that's ongoing. Let's see, and trainings are held throughout the year. As Chief mentioned earlier, we are looking at five percent across-the-board increases for all of our employees in the next fiscal year, so starting July 1st, 2024. We are also in the process of discussions, or working with the other jurisdictions, to come up with the employer proposals that will be floated to the Union come June. The contract that we're in expires June 30th, 2025. So, that's...we'll be in active negotiations next fiscal year. In FY 2023, we processed 118,000 personnel transactions, from name changes to promotions, across-the-board increases. It's a very granular count, but this is as many times employees or managers or supervisors went in to, you know, make changes to an employee's personnel record. And work daily with departments to assist with their personnel needs, you know, if they have questions. The easy stuff is answered at the department level. It's when the one-offs and the questions that come that are like, let's call HR. So, you know, we're often busy with, you know, questions, concerns, just issues that come up on a day-to-day basis. Recently, just this past weekend, we worked with Police at Kihei. They did a one-stop recruitment for emergency services dispatchers. We're always, you know, trying to partner with departments

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

April 4, 2024

to find out, you know, what their needs are and how we can, you know, kind of be creative in addressing some of those areas that, you know, we all need help with. Our FY 2025 budget represents a 16 percent increase over 2024. Essentially, raises, you know, and across-the-board increases for five percent. And we were grateful to this Committee last year for authorizing three unfunded positions, which we have, with budget savings, been able to onboard two people yesterday, and we're still working to fill the third vacancy. We've...look forward to onboarding and bringing those people up to help, you know, further the mission of the County and our...our Department. We're also asking for \$150,000 to again, you know, continue to look at the recruitment and retention campaign. And we are not requesting any additional expansion positions. And, you know, just making priority our training and upscaling of our current staff. On one closing note, I'd like to thank this Committee and this Council. We renovated our workplace. We got our new cubicles. Everyone has a uniform workspace that is, you know, equal in...in size, and it just elevated the entire workplace. So, I just, you know, want to invite you to come take a look at our new space. We painted. We cleaned up. I mean, it's...we're very proud of our new digs. And, you know, it's the same floor plan; it's just, you know, we were able to kind of create some uniform workspaces for office. And thank you for your time. Aloha.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Director. Okay. Excuse me. So, at this time, we have Water next. Thank you, Director Stufflebean. So, Director's presentation for Water is number 83 in Granicus.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Okay. Am I controlling it, or are you?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Initial responses are number 27 in Granicus and Department question letter is 53 and...I'm sorry, that's Police. For Water...

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Good morning, John --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- Stufflebean, Director of Water Supply. Thanks for this opportunity to present our budget. So, this is just a quick presentation. So, I guess I wanted to start by saying, like, kind of the new major features, kind of new things in our budget are we are requesting four new positions, and they're for...for what would be...what I consider gaps in our expertise in the Department. One is a PIO. As we've learned in the fire, our information was...our

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

April 4, 2024

communication person is also our personnel person. That's too much for one person, so we added a request for a PIO. The second one is for compliance, someone to help us make sure that we're in compliance with all the regulations. This is something that is very common in utilities, and we really don't have anybody that can focus on that. The third is an energy manager, and that's because energy is a huge part of our budget. And the fourth is a GIS person, who will really help everybody else do their work better by organizing our information. So, I'll go through the presentation, starting with our revenue increase. As I mentioned last year, we think we need...we, you know, we got a...essentially a 10 percent increase in total revenue last year, and we need another 10 percent increase. And probably we'll be asking for one next year and the following year or two. Sorry. We're...we were way behind. So, this year shows in general the total revenue increase comes out to about 9.9 percent. And I'll kind of go through how that happens. It's not across the board; it's...it's different depending on what category... kind of water user you are. Or, I knew you said there was a bit of a lag. There we go. Okay. And starting with the residential increase, and as we've discussed before, we have four tiers. And so, the first tier is the first amount of water that you use, and it's inexpensive. And the second tier is the next block of water that any individual house would use, and then the third and the fourth. And as you can see here, we did not change the tiers for...we did not change the rate for Tier 1. So, the basic water that you would need for a typical house, just you know, indoor use, no change in your water bill. Tier 2 we increase by 10 percent, Tier 3 by 20 percent and Tier 4 by 30 percent. So...and the more water you use, the more you have to pay. This is a...this, you know, encourages water conservation. We also decreased the amount that we expect people to use in Tier 3 and Tier 4 because we think that this economic incentive will...will encourage conservation. So, when we did our projections for revenue, we assumed it would be a little bit less...five percent less use in Tiers 3 and Tier 4. So, that's the total residential water use. And here it comes. There we go. And then, how do we compare with other...the other islands, the other counties? Sorry, the...for some reason, the bottom didn't come out on this, but this is...this shows if you went to the right, is the amount of water you use, and then you go up and across and your billable is. And so, the...the message here is that Maui in 2023 is the blue line. Then last year, we went up to the orange line, and then when it angles up a little bit, that's when the next tier kicks in, right? And then the gray is what we're proposing. And again, the higher the line, the more you pay. And then, the yellow is Honolulu, so we're still quite a bit below Honolulu. And the blue is Kaua'i. We're still quite a bit below Kaua'i. We are above Hawai'i, and they're also quite underfunded, frankly. And then the black line is Hawai'i Water Services, which again you can see is a straight line because they don't have tiers. So, at the low end, people pay more. At the high end, people pay less. So, we...you know, we...we like the idea of having tiers because it encourages conservation. But the main message here is, even with our increase, we're still kind of significantly below Honolulu and Kauai. Our rates are kind of low, actually. Okay. And then, this just shows the bigger picture in terms of the...the

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

April 4, 2024

total revenue that we get from our rates and fees. In the residential, that's at 28 million. That's adding up all the four tiers. Then, we did separate last year...all the...the multi-family and general customers were all in the same class. And so, what we heard from Council and the community was we should give multi-family a break. And so, we are proposing a different rate for multi-family basically equal to the Tier 2 rate of residential. Tiers don't work for more than...once you have more than one house on the same meter. But Tier 2 seemed to be a reasonable way to get a rate for multi-family. So, you can see what happens is that the amount of money...the revenue collected from multi-family goes down, of course, because we're...instead of them paying the general rate, which is seven-something, that you down to the...to the Tier 2 rate. So, we're actually losing revenue on multi-family, but we feel that's appropriate because we want to give them a bit of a break. And then, the general use customers, that's everybody else in the general use category, of course, that...that would increase, based on the recommendation. And then, the hotels and resorts increases a lot, partly because now we're doing it for the whole year. You know, this year we just started in January, and that's at that rate...we are increasing the rate plus, it's for the whole year. And then the rest of them are the general Ag and other non-potable. So, in terms of comparing this year's budget to last year's budget. And it's coming. There it is. Okay. So, you can see operations pretty much stayed the same, just a bit of an increase for...for inflation and the new positions, but we adjusted for other ways to accommodate that. Really the major increase is additional...additional funding for the CIP. And so, it goes from about 10 million this year to 30...our proposal would be 33 million next year. About a third of that is grant money that would come from outside. So, that's...so, obviously, we don't know for sure we're going to get that, but we have to put it in the budget in case we do and then...and some of it's also carried forward. But still, we have quite a bit carry forward. And then, this is my favorite graph. I don't know how many of you liked it, but I liked it. It's...it's...it's a tree diagram of how we spend our money in our operations budget. And so, you can see that personnel cost is still the highest percentage of our budget. Supplies and services is next, and then we break out electricity and fuel because again, it is 17 million of our budget is just electricity and fuel. A lot of that's pumping. A lot of that's pumping Upcountry. So, then we have, you know, the debt service, which of course you have to pay; watershed grants, three million, we'll go through that in a minute; the smart meter project, which is converting our meters to smart meters, which has a huge. We'll be coming forward with our water conservation ordinance request changes, and what our consultant determined was the smart meters are probably the...the most important thing we can do to increase water conservation because people then can see how much water they're using. Really it is beneficial. So, I want to continue that project, although we're bringing it in-house because we think we can do it better than the contractors. We know we can. Then we have some money for water purchase and equipment purchase. So that, you know, to me that kind of summarizes. And again, not much of this changed. Professional services, I think, is the most important element of our budget. That's

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

April 4, 2024

where we're really doing the planning and the thinking and making things better in our system. And that also includes money for the second big priority, which is to start getting better in permit processing. Does anybody care about that? . . . *(laughing)*. . . So...so we're looking at...obviously we...we're trying really hard to fill our engineering positions, but beyond that we're going to get additional...and we have some consultants. I think Carollo is providing us two people right now to help us process permits. They're kind of alternating days. It's difficult because, right now, we're so paper-focused they have to actually be in our office most of the time. And so, we're trying to get it so that they can do more processing off-island, which is easier for people because if they don't live here, we still want...you know, we potentially have them work for us...do this work for us. So, working on that, what we have learned in this, kind of almost like a pilot program was, it takes a while for someone to really understand how to process our permits. It's pretty complicated and all sorts of different scenarios come up. So, the people we have from Carollo were...are doing well. You know, it takes a while to train them, but they're now...now being able to be productive. And so, we're looking to expand this significantly next year and really try to get through our...our permits and get caught up. Okay. Now, the CIP, this is...again, last year was ten million. We did get some Federal grants. We got 1.5 million for the tank...Haiku tank replacement and money for the lead and copper rule revisions, which is the mandate that's come down from EPA that we have to check for lead and copper and...and deal with any timely finding of lead and copper in...in our line, or in those laterals. And then, the total...the total funding this year, we're proposing 33 million; again, 9.35 is...would be from Federal grants. And here's just another...a little more detail on that. Just . . . *(inaudible)*. . . okay. So, we did submit five projects for Congressionally Directed Spending...Spending last year. Again, we were successful for the Haiku tank replacement. We submitted four others. Oh, no. We also got...I'm sorry. We also got the Kanahā Well. That was a big one that we got in 2023. And then, we had the...we didn't get a couple of them, but we're reapplying for the Upper Kula Transmission Improvements and the Mahinahina Well. And then Olinda, we're in construction, so we're just moving on, on that one. And then, we also got this, again, the lead and copper; that's the 1.502402...that's...that was the lead and copper that we got a...and SRF loan from the State and EPA. It's a loan, but the good part is, over half of it is principal forgiveness, so that's just essentially a grant. So, we were really pleased to get that. That's a really important program for EPA. And then, here's the summary for all of our proposed budget for 2025 capital improvements. And as you can see, a lot of it is reliable capacity. That's additional wells, additional water supplies for West Maui, Upcountry, Molokaʻi and Central Maui. And then my top project is the Kamole water reservoirs to provide additional storage Upcountry. Then we have a well replacement. It's that Central area well replacement. The existing well got too salty, so we had to replace it. Then, we had the Upper Kula Transmission Improvements, which was caused by the storm years ago, and then we had just the general countywide improvements for upgrades, replacements, and modifications. So, the total

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

April 4, 2024

comes out to 33 million. And just a little more detail on some of these. Okay, so the next series of graphs, and this is the last part of my presentation, kind of shows each particular project, the budget request, and then where we're looking for Federal assistance. And we're looking for Federal assistance on almost everything, right? So, this...this page just shows all the ones that are FEMA-related. So, we have Launiupoko Well #2, you know, the development that's on the West Side of course, Honolua Aquifer on West Side, the Kamole Reservoir we talked about, and then these Upcountry, the Makawao Aquifer Well Source Development. So again, we're looking to develop wells Upcountry also. And so, this is our...the next phase of doing that, developing a well Upcountry, is looking at this...this, you know, potential well locations and then analyzing that for Upcountry. And then...then the last one is a new transmission waterline from H-Poko to Sprecklesville. This is the line that would connect the Central system to the Upcountry system. And...and we think this is really important. And I know there's some concerns about pumping...going from Upcountry to Central. This...the purpose of this really is to go from Central to Upcountry because Central is in better condition. So, this would be to help, you know, when we need Upcountry storage, at least you would have the option of bringing water in from the central system. And you can see, we're looking for FEMA hazardous mitigation funding for all of these and also EPA funding and USACE funding. So, we're...I think we mentioned that we have contracted with Stantec, a consultant that I've worked with a lot to help us formulate all the possible ways we can get money from the Federal government, because they have a lot of money . . . *(inaudible)*. . . money. And so, this is like the 2026 picture of what they...they came up with a long-term ten-year plan. This is kind of a 2025 picture of what that looks like. And this is other...our other projects with other funding sources other than FEMA. And so, we have the...the Direct Bury Line in Honokōhau, which is where we have 22 customers I think, right? But, it's kind of a funky system, so we're looking at trying to fix that. Then we have the backup well...and the next three are all in Molokaʻi. You're welcome. So, these are Molokaʻi needs that we have, in terms of backup wells and basically making it a more reliable source in Molokaʻi, which we need to do. And then the last one is the Nāpili and...and the wells on...oh this is the...so, the wells in...some of the wells on the West Side, because of the plantation era contamination we had to treat with GAC, which is granulated activated carbon. And, this is kind of consolidating that treatment and...and making it more efficient for operators to operate it by fixing it up by these two wells that needs the treatment. And...okay...and then, this is...these are actually...now those were designs. This is...now we're going to go into construction projects. These are projects where we've gone through the design, now we're actually in construction. These are a couple of motor control centers for some of our wells, which is what makes the wells work, and then we have the Upper Kula Transmission we talked about, and control tank replacement. So, these are...you know, these are now...and again, for each one of these we have a potential grant program to help us fund them that we'll be going after. And we'll be successful on some if not on others, but, you know, you

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

April 4, 2024

have to try as many as you can, right? And...and then the last part...oh, there's one more part of the presentation because...this is our Watershed Grants Program, which I know is important to everybody. This is a long-term benefit program. This is something that doesn't help us next year, but maybe the most important thing we're doing because restoring the watersheds is really critical. So, we have about...we've supposed to fund up to about four percent of our budget with these watershed grants, which is, by the way, more than any of the other counties do in Hawaii. So, what we do is undulate control, weed control, resource monitoring, educational hikes, outreach, volunteer trips, fire risk mitigation...so, these are all the things that...that these mostly non-profit agencies do for us. It's really difficult work. It's hard to find people that do this, and we really appreciate the non-profits coming forward and...and offering this service because it's really valuable. And it would be hard for us to do it ourselves. So...and then...let's see. And then this is the...the actual grants awarded. Moving through this, so you have it. This is a...the grants awarded for the watershed. There's ten of them that we awarded this year. And almost...we awarded almost all of them. I...I would say that the...our people that manage these are very good at making sure that they're performing. So, . . .*(inaudible)*. . . with that. And that's the end of my presentation. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Director. Thank you. Okay. So, next we have after this the East Maui Water. Thank you. Dr. Scheuer, I see Cynthia Lallo. Oh. Do you have a presentation?

EAST MAUI WATER AUTHORITY

MR. SCHEUER: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You got it?

MS. VICENS: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hi Cory. Nice to see you. So, as they're setting up then, we have Dr. Jonathan Scheuer of the East Maui Regional Community Board, and from the Office of the Mayor, Cynthia Lallo as well as Cory-Lynn Vicens. And we don't have the presentation on Granicus yet, right? Okay. Okay.

MS. VICENS: Good morning, Chair –

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MS. VICENS: -- Sugimura and Members. We're here today...I'm Cory Vicens, Office of the Mayor, Boards and Commissions Liaison, joined by Senior EA Cynthia Lallo and our East Maui Water Regional Community Board Chair, Jonathan Scheuer. We also have in the gallery today, our Vice-Chair, Nakanelua, as well as Member Arakawa in attendance for today's presentation. We're just going to...because

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

April 4, 2024

this is a new department, we just wanted to give you a little bit of a background and then later on you can query this board along with our Budget Director...Acting Budget Director. So again, mahalo for the opportunity to present. This is for the Department of the East Maui Water Authority. The purpose of a water authority as a whole is really to provide the community oversight and input and to harness the local knowledge, the generational knowledge that has come from individuals who are residents of those areas. Water authorities also provide more water for residents and famers. They manage the systems, the watersheds equitability [sic], responsibility [sic], and sustainably. Their job is also to acquire East Maui leases and to have the ability to acquire additional systems, leases, in the same region.

MS. LALLO: Thanks Cory. And then, just to take a quick note, the purpose of the 11-member 'Aha Wai O Maui Hikina board is to, of course, hire the Water Authority Director with the Council approval, to provide an avenue for the community's voice to be heard, oversight of the watershed management plan and watershed priorities and the related programs associated with that, to approve an annual budget recommended by the Mayor, and then they're required to hold two regional community meetings for community feedback and sharing their mana'o, and conduct an annual administrator performance review.

MS. VICENS: So, the responsibilities of the Water Director were established as part of the Charter. This is just a few to highlight here their role in acquiring State leases and purchasing other systems with County funding approved by this body, the Council, to provide water to the Department of Water Supply with rates recommended by the Authority, as well as set by the Council, to implement watershed plan and programs as set by the board in acquiring grant and other funding to do so, prepare an annual operating and capital budget for the board to approve, and then for them to submit an annual report.

MS. LALLO: In addition to that, the Director, as well as the staff members will oversee acquisitions and leases in managed systems, negotiate, sign lease and legal agreements and initiate condemnation proceedings, submit the annual operating and capital budgets, and develop long-term capital improvement projects with budgetary appropriations approved by the Council, recommend rate setting and allocation amounts to Mayor for Council approval in the annual budgets, develop and implement the watershed management plan and seek public non-profit and other funding and finance. This will be key to...to this team...and provide support for the board.

MS. VICENS: So, it is important that the Board and the Water Authority work together. They'll publish an annual water authority report providing information to the Mayor, the Council, as well as the public. What you can expect in that report is a general assessment of the water systems, the operating maintenance and CIP plans, overview of the State, Federal, or other funding that have become available

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

April 4, 2024

to them, an overview of State license status, business model, including power generation options, each system public trust and non-public trust water usage amounts, including required uses based on State regulations, and judicial requirements. It'll help to understand State regulations for CWRM and court-mandate use of water, as well as the community testimonies received.

MS. LALLO: The watershed work will include obtaining funding for the long-term watershed plan, assess watershed areas and determine areas to focus on, learn State process and avenues for input, work with the Authority Director on obtaining grant funding, identifying watershed programs and policies, and again, conducting those two regional meetings we talked about.

MS. VICENS: Without the Director in place yet, the Board itself has been really hard at work. And they have had three meetings. But the timeline thus far, it was in November of 2022, the Charter amendment became effective immediately after election certification. In February 2024, the Board empaneled...were empaneled and the Fiscal Year 2024 budget was reviewed at that time, as well as the election of Chair, Vice-Chair, and establishment of the Board. On March 14, the Director position job description was reviewed and approved. A lot of hard work was...and discussion occurred during this meeting on that. The Director position on March 20th was posted with the assistance of Director Razo-Porter and on the County website, and then picked up on various national organizations as well. It was posted. A press release was published and recruitment closes on April 9th. Following on its heels, on March 28th, the board reviewed and approved unanimously a Fiscal Year 2025 budget. Coming up next week, the review of the Director applications, after the close on April 9th, will occur and the Board will start to do their selections. April 25th is the next scheduled meeting. Candidates will be interviewed by the Board. So, you can see the timing is really...the Board is working really hard. For Council approval, that date will be determined based on schedule. And also, post-Council approval of the Director who will hire their staff will be determined on the final meeting.

MS. LALLO: And then just the last slide we have here is taking a look at the dollars and cents, which you have in front of you already. We know that the...the total personnel for this department is 3.0 FTE. The wages and salaries are at \$295,160. Operations is included at 75,000. Machinery...excuse the typo...and equipment is 33,000 and with the department total of just around 400...403,160. And that concludes our presentation. We look forward to your questions. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Does Dr. Scheuer want to say anything?

MR. SCHEUER: I'll be available for questions. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. All right. Very good. Do we have any testifiers? We do. Okay. All right, Members. So, opening public testimony...testifiers

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

April 4, 2024

wanting to provide testimony should sign up in the lobby, join the online meeting via Teams link, or call in on the phone number listed on today's agenda. Testimony on the...on the budget is not limited to the departments scheduled for today. As you know, we have one budget item, one item on our agenda which is the budget. Written testimony is encouraged and can be submitted via the eComment link at mauicounty.us/agendas, as well. Under the Sunshine Law, the Chair will receive oral testimony for agenda items as it is called up. For individuals wishing to testify via Teams, please raise your hand by clicking on the raise your hand button. If calling in, please follow the prompts via phone star five to raise and star six to lower your hand...oh, sorry...star five to raise and lower your hand and star six to mute and unmute. Staff will add names to the testifier list in the order testifiers sign up to raise their hands. For those on Teams, Staff will lower your hand once your name is added. Staff will then call the name you're logged in on or the last four digits of your phone number. At that...at this time, Staff will also enable your microphone and video. If you wish to testify anonymously, please notify also. Otherwise, please state your name for the record at the beginning of your testimony. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes per item. If you are still testifying beyond that time, I will kindly ask you to complete your testimony and you'll be giving...you'll be given 30 seconds to complete. Once you are done testifying, if 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 a best...we'll do our best to take members up in an orderly fashion. So, we can now call up the first testifier. Is it Jarret?

MS. MACDONALD: Yes. Yes, Chair. The first individual signed up to testify is Tom Fischer to be followed by Douglas Bigley.

. . .BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

MR. FISCHER: Aloha, Chair and Committee Members. Can you hear me okay?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. FISCHER: All right. Thank you. I would like to take this opportunity to discuss three points with the Committee regarding our affordable apartment community, Kaiaulu o Kupuohi, that was lost in the Maui wildfire on August the 8th of 2023. I am Tom Fischer with Ikaika 'Ohana, and we're the general partner of that...that property. I will not be able to cover all three topics in my allotted time today. I will plan to return to future Committee Meetings to cover the remaining points. First, I would like to start with the...what I would call the property insurance myth. For everyone's benefit, our property was fully insured and covered with a casualty insurance policy based on industry standards and best practices, and it also included a replacement value provision. Our financial partners, Bank of Hawai'i, Hunt Capital, and Hawai'i Housing Finance Development Corporation, all reviewed and approved our project insurance coverage prior to our financial

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

April 4, 2024

closing. There has been comments circulated that we've become aware by HHFDC that the owner should have insured the buildings for a higher amount. This really isn't possible based on the insurance industry and its practices. A property's insured value is based on cost and time of placement. By way of example, if an owner developed and constructed a building for \$40 million, there's no way to insure that building for, say, \$50 million. So, our insurance was, again, in place and consistent with the insurance available at the time. And our policy did include an annual factor that addresses replacement values as costs go up. Unfortunately, our project suffered a total loss approximately nine months after it was placed into service. We've had further discussions with HHFDC, and it's been confirmed that our project insurance coverage is consistent with other multi-family properties in their portfolio. So, this situation is not unique to our project, and other properties would be in the same position we are if they incurred a total loss. Again, if there was a better insurance policy on the market, we would have obtained it. I think it's important to point out that the construction of our project started in November of 2020. At that time, we were under a construction agreement with a general contractor that had a guaranteed maximum price as part of its terms and conditions. With the rebuild that we're now looking at, which is targeted to start in April of 2024, this reflects approximately a 40-month period . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . between the construction starts of these two properties. The longer we wait, the longer it's going to...or the more it's going to cost. Again, I think that's probably about my allotted amount of time. I'll plan to revisit with the Committee in the next couple of days. Mahalo for your time and appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Fischer, can you submit that in writing...your testimony in writing?

MR. FISCHER: Yes, will do.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And the buzzer went off when you said you were planning on rebuilding April 2024 and then the buzzer went off. What was the ending of your sentence?

MR. FISCHER: Oh. Let's see. We...we were planning to start construction April of 2024. The buzzer went off. Let me look real quick. I just...I was simply making a point that we haven't...we were approximately 40 months between the two construction starts. During that time, we've obviously seen pretty significant cost escalations in the double digits in Hawai'i and on Maui. And my last point was that the longer we wait, the more it's going to cost to...to rebuild.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Members --

MR. FISCHER: Okay. Thank you.

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

April 4, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- do you have any other...Member Paltin has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Fischer for your testimony. I just was wondering; so, you had...you said you had \$40 million insurance but the rebuild you're saying is likely to be \$76 million? Is that what it is, that you have \$40 million to rebuild from your insurance, but the cost is that much more?

MR. FISCHER: Yes. I used 40 million as an example, but I think it's really closer to 42 million in insurance proceeds that we have on hand. We...we...well...we're see...we have started and we completed the remediation of the site. Like, our site, we...we've removed all the fire...wildfire debris. We tested, of course, beforehand to make sure it was environmentally able to be transported to the landfill. But yes, the...the gap we're looking at right now is 36 million.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and you're not starting construction because of that gap?

MR. FISCHER: Correct. We...we've gone as far as we can. Our investors agreed to allow us to clean the site. But, as it stands today, we'll be done with our cleanup work probably in the next week to ten days. We could, in fact, go vertical in April, which was our plan. But without funding, we...you know, we can't really start because we don't have enough funds to finish. So, we're kind of at a standstill.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And value of the property right now, is there any infrastructure value still in the property?

MR. FISCHER: Yes, we actually were able to save the...all of the subsurface infrastructure. We saved most of the retaining walls. We really got, I think, very lucky. The fire did not affect the podium columns and footers. So, we've been able to demo the podium deck, save the footers, and save the columns. And that's why we could actually bring all 89 units back to occupancy June of 2025 because that...there's about 8...I'd say around \$8 million of value that we're able to salvage. And it...more importantly, it allows us to complete the rebuild much faster.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, I saw some photos on August 9th where a lot of the building was still standing. If we were able to drop a couple buckets of helicopter water on top, would the rebuild price be...have been less?

MR. FISCHER: Yes, I saw some of those pictures as well. It was pretty disheartening. We're...we're as much a victim here as anyone else. It was a terrible tragedy in Lāhainā. I'm certain it was quite chaotic in the scene on the...on the 8th when the fire was raging. But to your point, and I think the 9th, 10th, and 11th we just sort of observed really no activity to try to...to try to put the fire out, and the

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

April 4, 2024

building literally sort of just disintegrated over a three-day period. Had we been able to get some...you know, we've seen this. I have a place in Montana and I've...I've seen the helicopters and the water you're talking about. We've seen the big airplanes. And had we been able to do some of that here, I think if we could have saved, you know, a third, half of the building, it's a completely different, you know, rebuild request that we would have because we would have been underneath the pac...cap of the insurance. So, that would have certainly made a big difference.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It would...we wouldn't have the \$36 million gap is what you're saying?

MR. FISCHER: Yes. It would not be a \$36 million gap, and we could have saved that...we could have saved, again, part of the building. But literally, walking that site for the first time in October that we were allowed, you know, access, it...it's...it's unlike anything I've ever seen. We were extremely lucky. We had 86 families, about 300 people living there at the time of the fire, and they all were able to make it out. That literally, it's just...it was just demolished to dust, you know, twisted steel of course, some steel melted, but a lot of dust and debris.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Chair Lee, did you put your hand up?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes, I did. Thank you. I have a question for Mr. Fischer. Mr. Fischer, what did you say was the initial cost of construction for the 89 units?

MR. FISCHER: I don't have that right here with me now. I think it was probably in the \$40 million range. I have...I'd have to verify that, but that's...again, it was built from 2020 to 2022.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, the other question I have is, did a portion of your \$42 million in insurance money, was that used for debris removal? Or --

MR. FISCHER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Or do you have the...the \$42 million?

MR. FISCHER: You know, I'd have to check, and Doug may know. He's going to testify here in a minute. He may have a closer handle on that. But I know that we are spending about five and a half to \$5.8 million of cleanup. And we made a conscious decision to do that because we're under...because of the...the low-income housing tax credits that are part of our capital stack, we are required to rebuild and complete the rebuild of this building by September 30th of 2025. So, we committed very early on to rebuilding it. And we knew that if...nothing at

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

April 4, 2024

all here about the work that Army Corps is doing, but we couldn't wait and then still feel like we could make that...that timing.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, Mr. Fischer.

MR. FISCHER: Mm-hm?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, now you're saying your estimated cost to rebuild the 89 units is \$70 million plus?

MR. FISCHER: Yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

MR. FISCHER: Um-hum.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Anybody else have any questions for Mr. Fischer. Seeing none. Yeah. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Douglas Bigley to be followed by Alan Arakawa. Douglas, we have enabled your microphone and camera. You'll have to unmute yourself on your end. I don't see him anymore, Chair. Perhaps we can circle back to him and go to Alan Arakawa next.

MR. ARAKAWA: Good morning, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning.

MR. ARAKAWA: Good morning, Councilmembers. I'd hoped not to ever have to come over here and do a testimony again, but it is what it is. And I'm speaking this morning as a member of the East Maui Water Authority, not for the East Maui Water Authority, but as a member. I have some grave concerns in the way we're rushing everything through and trying to be able to get everything done very, very quickly without proper analysis. In my experience as an administrator, the devil is always in the details. And the ability to plan properly is a requirement. If you rush things through, you don't get things analyzed appropriately. We have not done any intense studies to be able to determine what we're trying to accomplish. For instance, if we buy the EMI system, what's it going to cost? How much is it going to cost? Who are the owners, property owners? There are a lot of details that go into it. How much is it going to cost to repair, maintain? Who's going to be able to maintain it? When we started looking at the County budget that was presented, I sent all of you a letter. We did not review that budget in committee until just this last meeting. It was already sent to you. Okay? There are a lot of details that should be there. For instance, do we need vehicles? If we need vehicles, the vehicles are probably going to cost 30 to \$40,000. In this budget,

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

April 4, 2024

we've probably eliminated all of the mechanic to that part of the budget in just one vehicle. What about office space? Where are we going to get office space? How much is it going to cost to maintain that office space, if we're paying lease, rent? How much equipment do we need? In essence, all I'm trying to say is, we need to be able to slow down this process and actually get a handle on what we're trying to accomplish instead of rushing through it. Now, I will state for the record, that I have always been in favor of trying to acquire all of the water systems on Maui under the County auspices and to keep it under the County auspices because then the public has control of it. But I also know that when we went to try and get Wailuku Water Company, that's been delayed for, what, close to a decade now? And that's probably one of the most historic, valuable places for culture and it's also one of the major sources of water for Central Maui. But we need to be able to take time and look at it. The Council has taken the time and rejected the offer and rejected that proposal for almost a decade now. Yet, we're rushing into something that is arguably 20-30 times bigger without doing any kind of an analysis. We wanted to know from Wailuku Water Company . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . the details. And I'll conclude. Because that wasn't presented; it kept getting delayed. We have no details on what we're trying to accomplish with this acquisition and how we're going to manage. So, with that I'll conclude and say, take your time. Let's get it done right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Chair Lee, then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Good morning, Mayor.

MR. ARAKAWA: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, when you talk about the comparison of Wailuku Water Company and the East Maui Authority, are you saying that we should wait for the results of the feasibility study, which we wanted last time, last year, last fiscal year?

MR. ARAKAWA: Well, the Council in its wisdom, I wanted to acquire the Wailuku Water Company. Don't have any question about that and I thought we should have done it a long time ago. But the Council in its wisdom has decided it needs to know the details of all the contracts for the individuals, what...what we're going to do with the water, and what are all the specific things we need to do, like, what's it going to cost for EMI to be able to maintain it? Are we going to get EMI to maintain it? Things like that. We need to do the same thing for the acquisition of the entire EMI system and to be able to understand, what is it that we're really dealing with. Now, we're dealing with something that's been put in the historic register. The EMI system is one of the treasures of Maui and it's been noted and listed as one of the treasures worldwide. What are we going to be able to actually

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

April 4, 2024

do with that system? How are we going to be able to address it? What kind of restrictions are going to be because of the international recognition? I think all of those kind of things need to be taken into consideration. Because, 50 years old, we have to do all kinds of studies to be able to take down a building.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

MR. ARAKAWA: Over a hundred years old...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Mr. Mayor. How good to see you.

MR. ARAKAWA: Good morning.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Do you believe water is a public trust?

MR. ARAKAWA: I believe water is a public trust, and all the water systems within Maui County needs to come under the County auspices.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Arakawa for coming, and thank you for serving on the Board. And so, my clarifying question is what's...what do you think that the Council should be doing with this budget? We are trying to fund to get it established and have some roots. What is your feedback on this 2025 budget request?

MR. ARAKAWA: I think you should be doing something very similar to what you did with the Wailuku Water Company. You should fund studies that are necessary to get the information you need to make the acquisition of it feasible. Again, the devil's in the detail. So, if you don't have details, you can run into all kinds of traps and all kinds of problems. You need to know what the details are. And this Council needs to fund these studies that are appropriate to be able to get those details to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: From your experience, who does these studies?

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

April 4, 2024

MR. ARAKAWA: Well, I think you're going to have to contract it out, advertise for it, then to be able to actually get some studies done, and to be able to get people that are really involved in this to give you the historic presentations, to be able to get, for instance, people from EMI to explain what kind of things need to be done. I mean, there's...there's a lot of practical things that need to go into this. Part of it is dirt. Part of it is...how do...how do you...what would it cost to actually encompass this in, let's say, concrete ditches instead of letting water leach through? What are the impacts if you take out and you do put in concrete ditches, what are the impacts to flow downstream? I mean, there's so many studies that need to be done. This is why this particular topic has taken decades and decades and been discussed for that long.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, sir.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any other questions for Mayor Arakawa? None. Oh, Mayor...sorry. Keani Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Councilmember. Thanks. Mahalo, chair. Aloha, Mayor Arakawa. Mahalo for your testimony. So, as you stated in your response to Member Cook's questions, the folks who would know what it costs to maintain and repair the system are the people who currently have possession of the system. And that information, some of that information is...is on the website already. Is...is that something that you understand?

MR. ARAKAWA: Well, again, the devil's in the details.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mm-hm.

MR. ARAKAWA: You know, if you get partial information, you don't have a complete picture, you can run into all kinds of problems. So, we have to get the most accurate that you possibly can. And at this point, I don't think we know exactly who would be able to provide all of that information. That's part of what you would be commissioning someone to actually get the proper people to give the proper answers, so that you know what's going on.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I...I...sorry. So, I mean, I guess, you know, like, in your testimony, you know, to clarify, you're saying that we need to...to take our time and...and...and stall more. And that's what's been happening for decades, just stalling. And like justice delayed is justice denied. And so, if we continue just waiting, and waiting, and waiting, not knowing who's going to do the work...oftentimes, like, because I'm from Molokai, no one's coming to save us ever. It's us that saves ourselves. And so, I love that the community in East Maui rose up to do the work and, like, get their hands dirty and figure it out, so...and that's what I was hoping the board was going to do and it sounds like that's what the board is doing?

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

April 4, 2024

MR. ARAKAWA: Well, again, I think the board has taken some very good steps, you know? We've actually wrote a letter to the Commission to say that we want to acquire this. We also have gone through and tried to put together somebody to do the...to be the Director. But there's a whole lot of other stuff that needs to be done. And it can't...and it shouldn't be rushed. Now, the Commission is going to have to be able to evaluate a lot of things, but we don't have the details that we need. And you can't do it in one meeting and say, well, these are all the things that we need to be able to finance. And in our last meeting we agreed that we would go over some of the details in the next meeting. It's...there...there's too many details that need to be done...not to delay it to the point where we don't do anything, but to be able to advance it at the fastest rate possible with the best information, so you don't mess up. Now --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mayor.

MR. ARAKAWA: -- you understand, if you --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. ARAKAWA: -- if you don't get right information, you're going to mess it up.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Totally. I...I...I agree. And it sounds like this generous board of volunteers need highly qualified staff. So, I'm so supportive of your budget. Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, we have Member Sinenci. Did you want to...again? Okay. After Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair and mahalo, Mr. Arakawa for your testimony. So, and...and I hear you. And so, moving forward we have three positions on this for this year's budget. So, in order for us to fulfill those objectives for the Board, we're going to need these three positions to...to continue this work, correct?

MR. ARAKAWA: In order to be able to start --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes.

MR. ARAKAWA: We need these positions to start.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. ARAKAWA: However --

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. ARAKAWA: -- as we discussed in the meeting, I actually think that this is going to be very, very underbudgeted --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, more.

MR. ARAKAWA: -- to be able to provide the adequate research and studies that we need and the equipment that we need --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So, more --

MR. ARAKAWA: -- with the budget that we have.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So, more to the budget. Okay.

MR. ARAKAWA: Absolutely. And...and again, if you're going to hire expertise, you got to pay them.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. Got it.

MR. ARAKAWA: It's not in the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Right. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. That's...that's my...my clarifying question is that, from your...what is...what do you think an adequate budget for a study would be and do...am I hearing that you feel the requested budget is too low currently?

MR. ARAKAWA: I believe the budget is too low. If you put the process out to bid and you get people to give you an idea of what they're willing to expect as payment, then you'll get a good idea as to what you need to budget for that kind of a thing. But I do know that there are companies that will do the research. There...there are needs for us to do the research. And I...I am as sure as I'm standing here that the budget we have right now is going to be woefully inadequate to do what we need to do. Now, because we have to run a balanced budget in this County, you need to take into consideration what you can actually spare out of your budget to be able to accelerate the process. If not, it's going to take a little bit more time because you don't have the proper information. So, it's all about money. The more you put in, the faster you can go.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you; that's it.

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

April 4, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, I wonder if you would be...oh. Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't see you. Vice-Chair...Vice-Chair Kama. Sorry. Go ahead.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah. I was going to ask him the same question. So, would you be available to be a resource when we take up Water?

MR. ARAKAWA: I can...I can wait.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: East Maui Water.

MR. ARAKAWA: I can wait around, as long as you're not going to take the whole day.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. ARAKAWA: I've been here for 12 hours plus many times.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we're probably going to do --

MR. ARAKAWA: In that seat.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Mayor Arakawa--

MR. ARAKAWA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we're going to do...we're going to do Police then Personnel. I think we'll break for lunch and then take up water after lunch is what I'm guessing. But it depends on how long discussion goes.

MR. ARAKAWA: It's going to be after lunch?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Probably after lunch.

MR. ARAKAWA: Okay. Well, I...I'm helping a friend cut some koa logs right now, which is why I've got a lot of blisters on my hands. So, I'm going to run home and I'll start doing that, and then I'll come back after...about what time are you going to come back from lunch?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, depends on the Members, but I'm...I'm guessing 1:30.

MR. ARAKAWA: 1:30?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. ARAKAWA: 1:30.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah.

MR. ARAKAWA: Okay, I'll plan to be here by 1:30.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And we'll call you.

MR. ARAKAWA: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Somebody will call you. Thank you. Okay. Any more testifiers?
Thank you, Mayor.

MS. MACDONALD: Yes, Chair, if we can return to Douglas Bigley.

MR. BIGLEY: Did that work? Hello?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We can hear you.

MR. BIGLEY: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I can't see you.

MR. BIGLEY: My name is...can you hear me now? Right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes. We can hear you.

MR. BIGLEY: My name is Douglas Bigley from Ikaika 'Ohana, and I'm actually just battling a little clean up here for Tom. I just wanted to make sure he got all of the facts in there. A couple of quick things I wanted to say is the actual original cost of the project was 64 million, and the new cost is 80. So, that's the difference. It's about 25 percent. The...you know, and the cost is somewhat driven...the new cost is somewhat driven by the fact that we did a...we didn't use a FEMA cleanup. We had to do our...we had to do a proprietary cleanup and get it in the private sector. And, also because of the shortage of resources out there, we actually had to do things that we normally don't do. Like, we...we managed both sides of the landfill. So, not only did we bring our...we had to train our people to actually take the bundles off the trucks, as well as delivering the bundles to the landfill. So, we did a lot of other things, plus we're kind of expediting the...the process. Tom was right. A few, you know, a few days after the fires, we decided immediately that we would rebuild. And one of the things that we understand...we have fires here periodically in California, and we understand that the displacement cost is enormous. And so, our thinking was that we wanted to get ahead of the curve. That means we didn't want to be building at the same time everyone else is building. So, while people were kind of looking at

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

April 4, 2024

things, we were moving to build. We currently stand to...with basically...we have a construction contract. We have, like Tom mentioned, columns in the air, we've got our building permits and we're literally sitting now. It's almost like we outran our supply chain because we did move so fast through the process. So, you guys are probably familiar with the enormous costs to just even house displaced people. So, just ignoring for a minute the social aspects of getting people back home, which was the...kind of the initial driver, that there isn't going to be housing in Lāhainā other than what we're doing for a long, long time. And so, if...I'm going to leave kind of the rest of my time for questions, but I did want to bring one other issue that's slightly off topic, is we have another 200 units we're building down there. And I just wanted to let everybody know that we plan to release units, the...the goal is to release units before Christmas. So, we would be able to bring new affordable housing to Lāhainā before Christmas. We'd like to deliver housing the first quarter of next year and...you know, God willing we get this thing funded the second quarter of next year for a total of 200 essentially brand-new units in Hawai'i. I wanted to just thank this group here that supported us when we did Kukui because at the time, we didn't know what was going on. We're going to have about 600 temporary housing units around us. . . .(timer sounds). . . And I...I'll leave it there for now because...I'm open if you do have any questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Bigley. And I'm so sorry with all that you are experiencing and questions. I think I saw Member Johnson, then Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good morning, Mr. Bigley, good to see you. Or good evening; I don't know where you are in the world. So --

MR. BIGLEY: Good to see you, too.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thirty-six million is the gap? Is that correct? You need 36 million to --

MR. BIGLEY: That is --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- get this going?

MR. BIGLEY: -- correct...to finish it, right. And what I'm telling, just...just a side note; I'm telling the agency like if I came to you with a piece of land and I said it's ready to go and I have 44 million to fund the first portion, I think that this decision would be fairly easy. If I don't use the --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. BIGLEY: -- if I don't use the money here, it goes back to investors, and it's a re-do, so.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, the 36 million, can...did you speak to HHFDC? Are they willing to kick in? Are...have you spoken with --

MR. BIGLEY: Every . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- the Maui...the Mayor. Has the Mayor spoke...did they say anything about using affordable housing funds? How about CDBG-DR funds? Anything like that?

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah. Well, we...we initially spoke to the Mayor and...and...and at the time we spoke to him, it's kind of like we were evidently in the crease because of the time we spoke to them. They said they have no money at the time. And at the time we spoke to HHFDC...and they were on some of our calls...they have money. Then what happened was...is...and we made a request back in December, right? And then what's happened since there...and then, it's just there's been a lot of chaos about what their priorities are, who's going to have funding because they're talking about departments getting cut and all these other things. And we're out there...like you're asking us, right...out now asking everybody because the issue for us is a timing one. Like everybody is saying, well, we'll get to you but it'll be several months down the road or...and the problem is we kind of have to get it done now. We have to get it done as soon as possible. And like...and because we're sitting there, every time that clock ticks off, it's putting us behind schedule. So, that's why we're here today.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I think, according to the budget *(audio interference)*. Sorry. According to the budget, they have 30 million in carryover savings.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Your echo. Your echo.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. I don't think --

MR. BIGLEY: They know we're here and knocking on their door.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I don't think we should look at this from the idea of scarcity. I think there is funds for it. But thank you, Mr. Bigley. There's other questions for you.

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah, sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. The first thing I wanted to ask about, did you have in your insurance policy debris removal funds specified...like, in your insurance policy is there a breakout line item for debris removal?

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

April 4, 2024

MR. BIGLEY: Well, not...not per se. There's an environmental policy as part of our total insurance package. So, we have...we have...we had some resources specifically for debris removal, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you're not really losing anything by paying for debris removal yourself because, if the Army Corps would have done the debris removal, they would have come after you for that money anyway. So, it's not like you wasted money that would have otherwise gone towards the building. Because what we're hearing for folks that have money for insurance for debris removal, the County will be collecting that money. It's not something that homeowners or developers get to keep towards their rebuild is...is the point I'm getting at. You removing your own debris removal didn't cause you to be short on the rebuild. Is that...is that correct?

MR. BIGLEY: That is correct. We would have lost the money. But like with...the only caveat there is that that some of it is limited, meaning that the things like are unusual for like an insurance provider would be like when we have a labor shortage or we're expediting the process and we're doing all those unique things. Those don't fall under the...necessarily under the coverage. So, they do drive our costs up. But they don't get covered by insurance. You know, insurance people come in and they're...they're very specific about what they're willing to do. But you're right about the first part. There's some of it that would be...just...we'd have to write it to FEMA. That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, you said that your deadline to move people in is September 2025.

MR. BIGLEY: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is there costs that you need specifically within the...the Fiscal Year '25 budget and costs within the Fiscal Year '26 budget? Because you're saying you need 36 million...that's the gap. Is some of that --

MR. BIGLEY: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- millions going to be needed from July 1st to September? Or is the entirety of the 36 million going to be needed and expended within Fiscal Year '25?

MR. BIGLEY: It will...because we're...we'd like to conclude the development by June 30th of 2025 ideally. But I suspect, if there was a kind of a forward commitment, we could probably work that out. Does that make sense? So, if there was a forward commitment for that, we could probably work with that.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And Mr. Fischer said that you guys would be coming back and testifying in addition to today. Would you be able to provide us with what you absolutely need within Fiscal Year '25?

MR. BIGLEY: I...I can...what I can do is...and what I can do is send, you know, I'll have a presentation for you that I'll send out that'll have more details in it and timelines and things like that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, I know that HHFDC cannot provide the 36 million. Is there any portion that they can commit to providing?

MR. BIGLEY: You know, Tamara, I don't...I can't really speak for HHFDC because they're in...they're a little bit right now in kind of disarray, to be candid with you. I mean, I suppose depending on where their budget ends up in theory, they could provide a...a substantial chunk of it. We're trying to figure that out right now. But they're just --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Um-hum.

MR. BIGLEY: They're just...it's hard right now to give us clarity.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Initially when they said that they did have money for the rebuild, did they specify any kind of paper application process to receive that money or was all just words?

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah. Well, we went through a process with them and I...I...they asked me to make a request. I made the request in December. Then they asked for an application, but we couldn't do the application because it doesn't fit the...it doesn't fit what we're asking for. The application just isn't meant for, I don't know, a wildfire. It just isn't. It doesn't fit. It's doesn't fit within their --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Member Paltin...

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Fischer and Mr. Bigley is going to come back. And we're not talking about Housing today. We are talking about it on the 11th, according to the calendar. I wonder if we could get --okay

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, but you said we could discuss any item on the budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. No, we can. But I'm just...other people have questions. So, I wonder if Mr. Bigley and Mr. Fischer...you could...he can continue talking. I just want it to be in writing for the Members, so that we can actually look at what

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

April 4, 2024

you're proposing, what you want and, you know, so that we can have Member Kama, you know, ask your questions --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and we can be ready for the next time that you appear.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm just saying that there has been \$24 million allocated for affordable housing since the fire. None of it has been for West Maui. 1.5 million isn't going to rebuild a town. That's all I'm saying. \$24 million --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- has already been allocated for affordable housing since the fire --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you talking about the projects that were proposed --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and none of it has been for West Maui.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...I...we understand.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the greatest need is not being taken into consideration by the Department of Housing and Human Concerns.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, I'm not arguing with you. I'm just saying that I would like them to come back --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm not arguing with you; I'm just saying it's facts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I would like them to come back. And when you come back, can you just have this information in writing, so that all the Members can have it because this is so important, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then we can check with HHFDC also to verify what you're saying and have that also, you know, in place when you come back. I'm going to...I'm going to guess that you probably will come...you can come back every single day if you want, but the day that we're taking up Housing is --

MR. BIGLEY: Oh, that's...I understand what you're saying, too. So, we're going to get something out --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. BIGLEY: -- that's a very reasonable ask and we'll...we have some get to you for sure --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, we --

MR. BIGLEY: -- because we've been at this for a while now.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much for what you've been doing and what you have given us.

MR. BIGLEY: I...I understand . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm just saying zero money for projects have been allocated for West Maui. It's been eight months. Zero money.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I...I hear you. Member...okay. Do you have any more questions for them?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Mr. Bigley, hi. Good morning.

MR. BIGLEY: Hi.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, my question is, do you have...did you have anyone in...in the housing that had burned that...and did you...or do you know if they were on the DHHL waitlist?

MR. BIGLEY: One...one more time? One...I'm sorry.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Do you know if any of your tenants that were living in...in the units, the 89 units that had burned, if they were on the DHHL waitlist?

MR. BIGLEY: I...I...I don't know if they were on the waitlist. I, you know --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: -- if that's what you're asking. I know, again, I think that one of the things we've talked about...this is separate...is there's a DHHS group. You know the DHHS they're housing right now; they're housing them in I believe they told me \$1,000 a day they're burning through per...per family.

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

April 4, 2024

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. BIGLEY: \$30,000 a month, and that's for one family at DHHS.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. BIGLEY: Yeah, so that's one of the groups we're trying to work with to say, can we take that burden...if we can build the 89 units --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. BIGLEY: -- we could take that burden off you because that's I think 2.7, no it's almost the entire...it's 2.7 a month for 89 units, to house 89 people.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. BIGLEY: At DHHS--

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. BIGLEY: -- it's 2...yeah, it's 2.7 million a month.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MR. BIGLEY: So, getting permanent housing...we went...I'll just say one last thing. We went to the Ways and Means Committee Hearing, and they said the number one thing is permanent housing. And here we sit.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more questions for Mr. Bigley? Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Mr. Bigley for your testimony and for being with us and for, you know, all the work that you're doing to help our community. I know that it was just stated, you know, to...to maybe perhaps return on April 11th. But what I just heard was, in your discussion, is that in a week to ten days, that area's going to be clear and it'll be like ready to...to build and move forward. The budget that we're working on is FY '25, which wouldn't start until July 1st. But the sooner the better. So, if a budget amendment was...was sent down from the...the Mayor's office as soon as possible that we could start building this month...next month, instead of waiting until the end of this year. Is...is that understanding correct?

MR. BIGLEY: It is correct. We can start building as soon as we...the minute we secure

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

April 4, 2024

funds, we can start building. And in fact, I'll...I'll add to that one thing is that, if I can give...if I had a line item that I could point to it or something that I could point to for the investors, I think I could get them to release the insurance proceeds even while we papered the deal. In other words, they're...want some certitude that the money is behind it. I'll be...I'll be even more specific. Bank of Hawai'i is a...both a lender and investor. They want to move on this as soon as possible because of the fact that they're also in Hawai'i. I mean, they're...for even the social aspect, if they want to get everybody back and say we were part of the getting back process. But they can't move until somebody says, I've got that...they've got the 44 that they control. They've already given us 6 and now, they're just waiting for somebody to say, I've got 36. And they'll...I think they'll start letting the money go. So, I think they're ready to...because, you know, last thing. They...we have the money in the bank. We have the insurance proceeds. Like, normally it takes you forever to collect the insurance proceeds. We've collected all of our insurance proceeds. They are sitting they're waiting, just waiting --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, I'm --

MR. BIGLEY: -- to be used. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The Mayor's office --

MR. BIGLEY: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- and the Housing Department has this information? Have they given any reason why we're not moving?

MR. BIGLEY: No. You know, I...I sent out information. I had just one discussion with them. So, they're meeting on their task force and they've...they said they'd get back to us. But I haven't heard anybody say go yet. And we're like milk. We expire. It's not like we...we have a shelf life, you know, because this thing, we'll lose the opportunity if we don't start moving on it.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Well, we have representatives from the Mayor's Office, the Budget Office, and other departments that I know are listening in. So, I hope they got the message. Mahalo, Chair.

MR. BIGLEY: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. And I do hope that we can help you, you know. You get all this information to us and I think we'll hear back from you. The date of the 11th is when the Department is coming to us for the Fiscal Year '25 budget. But, if there's a need, you know, and if the Mayor's office is...has the funding. Of course, that's a big thing for this fiscal

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

April 4, 2024

year, then you know please, please move forward or talk to them about moving forward. So, anybody else have any questions?

MR. BIGLEY: Great. And I'll...I'll --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you. Anybody have any questions for Mr. Bigley? Seeing none. Okay. Hope to hear from you soon.

MR. BIGLEY: Thank you, all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MR. BIGLEY: I really appreciate it. All right, then. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, the next testifier is Junya Nakoa.

MR. NAKOA: Oh, do you guys hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. NAKOA: Hello. Yeah.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. NAKOA: Yessah. Okay. Yeah. You know, like my Councilwoman went say, you guys going to approve some money for some projects on the other side of the island, yeah? When this money, like, I even testified, when I did testify, I said should be here for help out the Lāhainā projects, yeah? Get one down - right up the road where they just put one Kam. III school, you know. And now you got dis one over here ready to rock and roll. You guys talk about shovel-ready. . . *(laughing)*. . . You buggahs went far beyond on what any other developer doing. So, try help these guys out, brah. Figure em out. Stop pointing fingers at everybody. You know, that's what's been happening lately. State point finger at the County. County point finger at the State. Federal don't know where the hell they pointing their finger. Kay, then you get this developer going out of its way to help us in Lāhainā, okay? So, I...I think I say this a couple thousand times. You guys smart buggahs inside that room. Smart. Okay. Go take some action. Do em. Do em. Kay? Uncle Earl last night just went say at the Civic Center, how we tired of you guys saying you guys going to reach into Lāhainā. Lāhainā's going to do um the Lāhainā way, but you guys not doing um. Frustration is boiling, okay? So, yeah, I guess, I guess, I calling to what the Chairperson, Chairwoman said. I can come every day. Guess what? I going take the time to be here every day, okay? The system is screwing us up. The system

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

April 4, 2024

pointing fingers all over the place. Yeah? This is frustrating to us guys who's doing everything in our power to help out. And, eh, I wanna. . .*(inaudible)*. . .this Ikaika 'Ohana, whatever, but this haole buggahs. They...they...they...they working hard for us. They come over here have meetings with the tenants that going lose everything. They watch the 'ohanas cry. They watch the 'ohanas trying to fight to get back into one housing. One temp...one full time; not one temporary. Permanent. This is one permanent project. This is not one of the kind put one box on top of Hawaiian Homelands. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . You know? Yeah, I know I pau already but no scold me. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . just like the Mayor with the, the Mayor would say, yeah? But, yeah. You know the kine. Try...try help these guys out. You know, the...the...the...what? The HHFDC guys, or whatever letter you guys like use, they're going to use the land up here that's supposed to be for DHHL, and then FEMA said they going to do em and then the D...ah, so much letters. They say they going to build, like 600 homes. Duh. That's all temporary. This project that they going...that they doing is freaking permanent. Permanent, okay? Mahalo. I pau. I know I is going to get scoldings. Yessah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Mr. Nakoa. Member Paltin has a question for you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you --

MR. NAKOA: Oh, that's cool.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Mr. Nakoa for your testimony. I just was wondering...making sure you're aware that Monday night we'll be at the Civic to hear from the Lāhainā community.

MR. NAKOA: Ha, ha, ha. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 6:00 p.m.

MR. NAKOA: Ah, yeah, yeah, yeah. I'm going to be there. I'm going to try get...I'm going to try to mobilize, organize choke people. So, you guys might...who you guys like dinner from? We'll bring dinner.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: George going to make dinner for the...for the . . .
(inaudible). . .

MR. NAKOA: Oh, okay. Yes, so I help brother George. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MR. NAKOA: Yessah. I going help him.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You can...you can bring dessert, if you like.

MR. NAKOA: Okay. Got it, I...even beverages. I get beverages.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. We...we NA (*phonetic*) before the meeting.

MR. NAKOA: Yessah. Let's go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions for Mr. Nakoa? Seeing none. Next testifier.

MS. MACDONALD: Chair, there's currently --

MR. NAKOA: Yessah, have a good day.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, please.

MS. MACDONALD: Okay. 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: Okay. Members, with no objections, we're going to close public
testimony for this section. And then we'll take written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, Members, I will send the question to the...for
tomorrow...to find out...or what is happening on that, you know, the project that
we just heard about. And that, if the, if the project did apply for HH...Department
of Housing and Human Concerns, because that would be important. Okay.
Department of Police. Please come down. So, now we'll entertain comments and
questions from the Members. So, if you would come and sit up. You guys want
to take, like a ten-minute recess?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're going to start. Okay. Come on down. You guys need a
recess? Oh. Okay.

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

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

April 4, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, so we're going to take questions from the Members for Police. So, at this time, Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. My first question would be, how did the...were you able to navigate with the \$400,000 cut to uniform patrol services where...where...how did that affect the Department?

MR. PELLETIER: So --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Four minutes. Four minutes.

MR. PELLETIER: -- yes, we were able to navigate. We're not fully done with the...with the fiscal year that we're currently in. We've been navigating with that cut, as well as the \$150,000 cut, so at...at the end, we'll...we'll be there. I would only mention that we have the staffing. We use the overtime to go to special assignments, such as...whether it's Pā'ia, Holomua, could be up by the blowhole where we know that there's stolen vehicles. And so, when we...we do cut that eventually the ability to do those things does run out. So, we know we want to increase our staffing and then some of those special assignments will be occurring during that staffing, but yes. We've been able to navigate.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, it's my understanding, as well, that money was borrowed from your department for the light systems around the burn zone. Is that money to be replaced to your Department within this fiscal year?

MR. PELLETIER: I understand that we had allowed monies to be borrowed to help with the staffing on the security component. And that was a...a last minute...I was also told that, that was going to be replaced. So, that I'm aware of.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Was it, it was going to be replaced and available to you within this fiscal year?

MR. PELLETIER: That was my understanding.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then, I guess the next question is, what...what is being done to follow up on those officers who were working on August 8th, for their resiliency in their heads?

MR. PELLETIER: Yes. So, if...if I can...because there's so much...and I would...I would say this, that...you've heard me say that PTSD usually has the onset at five years, but it doesn't mean it takes five years. It could take five seconds after a critical event. And so, if we could just go to page seven, you could see in detail all the things we did prior, all the things during. They didn't get it yet. Sorry. Oh. I'm sorry. We sent it to the Mayor. He's off-island. So, you guys haven't got it. I'm certainly happy to...I don't know if it has to go through...okay, I guess it has to

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

April 4, 2024

go through. Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It has to go through the Mayor.

MR. PELLETIER: Sorry. I did get this sent to me on Easter Sunday, so it's not, you know, not my fault. Sorry. I'm referring to something which is...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We haven't seen yet.

MS. MILNER: Chair.

MR. PELLETIER: And...and...and that explains --

MS. MILNER: Chair. Sorry. If I could just interrupt. As Chief said, Mayor is off-island today, but will be back tomorrow, so please expect an influx of transmittals tomorrow morning. Apologies for the delay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is the Managing Director not able to sign in his absence?

MS. MILNER: The Mayor is not out of state, so Corporation Counsel has advised us that because Josiah is not officially Acting Mayor, he cannot sign off on the transmittals.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And you guys don't do Adobe pdf signs?

MS. MILNER: Not at the moment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you. Sorry. Sorry, Chief, to interrupt.

MR. PELLETIER: No. We...we answered all of your questions, so...but I have no problem reading some of that, but the wellness that we had prior to the fire was peer support, the Chaplain program, the County Employee Assistance Program, CORDICO. You know what? I'm not going to read this because it's just, it's demeaning. We have...there's a very robust system. It's also in our After Action Report. I encourage you to just take a look at that. Joy, Captain Medeiros, she's been in charge of our Wellness Task Force, known also as WTF. And so, the reason, little pun...little...little bit of humor...and so, very robust program; we are at the forefront making sure our people are taken care of. If we identify anything, we...we go above and beyond to continue to do that. We've partnered with the Department of Justice and their Valor Initiative. We're waiting for an assessment from them. We...we know we'll be eminent, which will be totally grant-funded and build it even more in-depth wellness program than we currently have to make sure that our...our employees, which are the most important resource we have are taken care of.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How many lost their homes?

MR. PELLETIER: Total, I want to say 22...I mean, all said and done, between rentals and houses and things like that. It's not just the houses they bought, but...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How is the County supporting them to...because it's not just what they went through, but what they're continuing . . .(timer sounds). . . to go through with no home?

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah, correct. So, there's things that I'm happy to show you or take you at another point, but what...I'll talk about what we've done. But we...we've made it a point that our people that were in need, they got supplies. We had a...a whole thing that we don't advertise, but we've created a store in...in...in our station. And we...we have folks that come weekly and we've been making sure that they...they haven't gone without. And then we made it a point that if we knew somebody didn't have a house early on, you know, we found them, through different benefactors and different things like that, housing. You know, we were...we were absolutely making sure our people were taken care of early on and we continue to do so. And we continue to check in on them, you know, daily, weekly. There's...there's a maintenance program that's going on. And we're also being aware of potential PTSD moments, different things like that. And so, we have folks that are experts in the field on this.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay, Members. So, it is now almost 11:00. Chief, I hope you don't mind. I'm going to take like a brief break and then continue on. So, at this time then, I'm going to ask the Members to come back at 11:10. Is that all right? Okay. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 10:59 a.m.
RECONVENE: 11:16 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Okay. Welcome back. It's 11:16. I guess since we...do we have to see if we have any testifiers, since we doing the meeting this way? No, okay. So, we're fine. Next, we have Member Kama? No, I'm sorry, Member Johnson. Oh, he's not back yet. Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez, Member Cook, U'u-Hodgins, Sinenci, Kama, Lee, in that order. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Thank you, Chief. Thank you, Department,

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

April 4, 2024

for joining us. I know you're super busy and I just want to appreciate your time spending with us. The question I ask is basically in regards to any type of electrification of your vehicle fleet. Is there any plans to buy electric vehicles, or hybrid vehicles, or anything on that?

MR. PELLETIER: I really do appreciate the question. I know that there is a national movement and, at some point, that's something that we have to go to. As...as of right now, the answer is no. I'm not going to sit here and shine you on and...and try to tell you what you want to hear. I'm just going to tell you the facts that I know them. We just don't have the infrastructure at this time to do it. It would cost a substantial amount of money. And pursuit...pursuit-rated police vehicles, there's only two manufacturers, so we almost kind of pigeonholed as...as to exactly which ones we buy. And I don't know if right now is the time. I'd like to see this maybe evolve a little bit more.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: But it would be something we...we will have to look at in probably the next half decade or so.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. We got to practice what we preach. So, in regards to the page 688, the MPD strategic planning. You have \$100,000 budgeted for services for MPD strategic planning. Why is this not done in-house, and how often does the Department require a strategic planning service?

MR. PELLETIER: So, there was no strategic plan when I inherited this job. None.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: And I could come in here and I could say, here's the goals, mission, vision, values of the Department, but then that's just me dictating it. And we wanted to make sure that we had a professional service. Professional services that do strategic plans, this is not uncommon with companies, the colleges, the different things like that. And so, we wanted to make sure that the Police Department operated at a high level and that we were trying to do as much of a business model in our leadership and our development as possible. And we also wanted to make sure it wasn't a plan that wasn't just being left alone, that we had some metrics and some different things. And so, we feel it's fairly common. Well, there's...there's...it's a five-year plan. And we...we do have quarterly meetings. And we are trying to make sure that we...we're evolving and we're progressing and we're never in that position again.

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

MR. PELLETIER: Um-hum.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Thanks for that. So, why is the State and Federal assets forfeiture program grant revenue devoted completely to travel? And that's \$100,000 on page 688 of the Program Budget. And please justify the cost for travel for FY 2025, which is \$921,550. That's page 682 of the Program Budget.

MR. PELLETIER: I really do appreciate that question. And so, to that end...this was...this was more of a pre-COVID announcement, if you will, of how they...they budget it, which...where they took the seizures and the forfeitures, and they said it was for travel. It was before we were in the...in the positions that we're in. That being said, we use the seizure funds for things we can't normally purchase through coming in front of you guys. And so, we've used it for the forensic facility, some of those monies. We want the ability to use the seized money from narco traffickers to go and fight against narco traffickers. That's what we want to use that. One of the pillars of 21st century policing is training and education. The Maui Police Department should be second to none. And we should never be...we should never be where we're in a situation that we didn't provide adequate training to save the lives of the community members, the lives of the Department, and the public that we serve. And training has gone up, costs of things have gone up. But we're also now on the forefront in the national stage and I do believe it's appropriate to send our employees and our personnel . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . to certain things like IPOF, International Association...I'm sorry, International Association of Chief of Police, Police Executive Research Forum, the FBI National Academy, those type of things. We shouldn't be limited on that and so that's why we've seen an increase in...in the monies.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you, Chief. My time's up. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member Johnson. Next Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Aloha Chief, Deputy Chief. Mahalo for your opening remarks earlier. Okay, let's see. In your correspondence back to the Committee, it lists the vacant positions and then the filled unfunded positions on...on several of the pages. Oh, I guess that...no, just the one page. Okay. And that's on page 17, the pdf file. But it's an attachment to the correspondence, so it says, sworn position vacancies, 113 vacant positions, 13 filled unfunded positions. So, it's a...would you please expound on the 13 filled unfunded positions and, as Member Paltin was saying, if there was any challenge with that.

MR. PELLETIER: No, and I...I am anxious for you to get the document at some point, but I...I do know that there was a clerical error that we only noticed when we

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

April 4, 2024

actually printed out the budget report, and there are 13 unfunded police officer positions that should have been funded in the budget. It's a mistake. We would ask humbly that that be restored back into the budget. There were ten detective positions; there was a core position. There was...there was these positions that, when we were asked to cut the budget by five percent over the summer as a result of the fire by the Administration, we had identified those because 70-something percent of our budget is salary and benefits. So, I...I'm very limited when I start cutting, and it either means that I cut essential equipment that my folks need to do their job or I cut some positions. And so, we knew we wouldn't fill those this year, but we also know that we would lose that money. But then, that was rescinded and pulled back. And then, that didn't happen, but those...those positions erroneously were entered, and so we would, you know, say that there was a clerical mistake. We apologize, but if we could please get those back. And I know that there's a...a dollar amount that comes to those, but we should have those funded.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. And I...I believe our Committee Staff is tracking some of the things that the departments are...are requesting to be...either be restored, or if there are any errors, and then that we...we can --

MR. PELLETIER: Correct. And we work with...we work with Budget. And we had a very...a very good conversation. They're...they're well-aware of it. You know, I'm going to say that it's my opinion that the...the Acting Budget Director's blue in her hair is her support of law enforcement and so, you know, it's not lost on me that she's representing.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Mahalo, Chief. And mahalo for your support, Budget --

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- Acting Budget Director.

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Next questions are regarding on page 20-41, 20-41 and so on, and it's regarding overtime. So, in...I think the pattern that I've been seeing with the other departments is that the proposed amount would kind of match the actual amount from the two fiscal years prior, right? So, the actual amount is from FY '22 and, for example, for...for Moloka'i it's 401,000 total for premium pay. And then, the FY '23 is 421 actual. And then the...the FY '24 proposed is 187,000. And then, for FY '25, the proposed matches the current fiscal year's adopted amount of 187,000. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . The question is, is that going to be sufficient to cover the premium pay if, in the FY '22

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

April 4, 2024

and FY '23, those amounts far exceed the proposed amount for FY '25?

MR. PELLETIER: I really...that question is actually something that we...we've discussed. And what we've been doing to operate effectively is, if you go back in time, and if I could give you the department number versus just the breakdown on D5. With the Department number historically, we were looking at premium pay of about \$11 million that was funded and then it was cut over the last two fiscals...fiscal years and it was reduced by about \$7 million. But we've offset that cost by paying with the salaries of the funded positions to...to get us to this magic number, right? And so, you've got this historic way that it was done and then we've got this other way that it's really been done. And so, I know that the Administration said, and they're not wrong and I...I do appreciate that they're trying to be fiscal stewards, too, right? And so...and I don't...and I don't separate us from...from the Administration, like, to do that but I realize I...the Police Commission is the one that I have to work on my budget. And I meet with them and I present it to them. And so, I can get called on shenanigans of not being accurate because it's all out there for the whole public. And so, that shortfall is why we have to have those funded positions. Because if we take those funded positions away, I...we can't do some of the things that we need to do and some of the things that the public expects. So, if we un-fund certain positions and then continue to cut, we'll eventually be in a position where we can't help you. And so, we're robbing Peter to pay Paul. And so, we're making it work with the way that it is. If I ever felt that it became to where it wasn't, I would come in for a budget amendment or we would have a different conversation. And I do see what you're...I...I understand exactly what you're asking me, but I think with the way we're managing fiscally, I...I believe we're...we're good for now and I would adjust if needed.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chief. So, I'm just going to repeat what I heard really quick. So, yes, it's okay at the level it's at so long as we don't reduce salary account A salaries too much because that's where the...it's off-set from.

MR. PELLETIER: Correct. And this is why the 150,000 that you had removed last year and the 400,000 there was an...there was a thought of...right because I...we're coming in front of the nine of you asking for these monies and you're trying to save some monies. And so, the thought was, if we restored that back, it helps off-set the \$7 million that we reduced.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And if we fill the positions, then we won't need so much overtime pay.

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it. Mahalo, Chief. Mahalo.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. PELLETIER: Mahalo. Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. All right, member Cook, then Member U'u-Hodgins then Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question is for the Chief relating to recruitment because that's a big issue in my District...several meetings recently. And I think that the Department's doing a great job. It's really apparent that they're understaffed because of the inability to meet all of the needs. So, the Honolulu Police Department recently announced that they will be giving \$25,000 signing bonuses to new recruits. You've...we've discussed that some in the past. Could you update us on your intention and the status of being able to do that?

MR. PELLETIER: That question is so spot-on. Because this \$25,000 that HPD did; it just came out of nowhere, right? And we were all in the budget cycle and we didn't...we didn't plan for that. The beauty is, is because we're in the budget cycle, we have an option right now to fix that. And so, the Chair of the DRIP Committee, when she was sitting in the Chair seat, you know, Maui nō ka 'oi, and she...right? She...she threw out a number of 30, which got us thinking, you know what? We should be second to none and we are having to compete. And so, we've got an option and we've got the ability to do that. And so, for 300,000 for this fiscal, we...we could break this up because we're looking at a five-year recruitment retention opportunity. So, what we would do is, we would like to get 30 additional officers which...in this fiscal. And what we would do is we would pay it down. And so, once we hired them, we'd give them five. Upon graduation, we'd give them five. FTO completion, so about a year and a half after that, you'd give them five. Past probation, five and at three years, ten. And if you leave before five, you owe it all back. Yeah, so we start with 300,000 and then each year we...we put the numbers in, and the 300,000 gives us the 30 officers at that initial ten and it makes it better. And what we're going to not do is make it just for laterals; we'll make it for all hires. You know? And so, I think we've got an opportunity here to really get creative and start filling the numbers, and then we can come back and visit it once we're...we're more adequately staffed, right? This wouldn't be a forever thing, but we would seize the...we'd seize it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, is that something that we can implement in this budget now?

MR. PELLETIER: Yes, we could, if you give me 300,000.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Oh, okay, so that's the number.

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It's basically 300,000.

MR. PELLETIER: For this one, and then what we have to do is we'd have to come back, but that gets us started.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: Right. And...and so it wouldn't be a...it would be a forever thing. But maybe let's say for five or ten years, we'd have to have a certain...a modicum amount and...and then we'd make adjustments. And then we could see if it's working. And on recruiting, because of the Director of DPS, we had mentioned this...I just wanted to report back. We did a one-stop shop for dispatch recruiting the last...the last weekend, just a week ago. Thirteen conditional offers...offers for dispatchers. That's never happened before.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yay.

MR. PELLETIER: Thirteen. And that's a testament to the leadership of...of...of the folks that we have. And I just...I'm really proud of that. We've never been able to do that. And if we can get all 13 through, we...now we've got a game changer. Even if we get half of them through, we've got a game changer.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Good. I want to squeak one more --

MR. PELLETIER: So, this is a big win.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I want to squeak one more thing in here, since --

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- it's my turn. I don't...and I've never talked to anybody. I don't know if there's any possibilities, but the recent acquisition of the Haggai Institute and 25 percent of it's for teachers and I don't know if the police officers would fall within the income category. I believe that they would. But that's something that maybe you could ask sometime and we could see if that's possible because it...that's part of the problem is being able to pay them adequately enough and also being able to provide housing. I'm being very selfish. South Maui police officers, housing. So, anyway, I just want to throw that out there.
. . .(timer sounds). . .

MR. PELLETIER: So, if you're asking me to prom, the answer is, yes, we're interested. And...and the reason being is, is we've got to...but we got...but we got...we have to do something, right? We're...we're sitting here and the well is running dry. And so, whether we want to say first responders, police officers, you know, but yes. We need to get cops houses. And...and the reason being is, we got

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

April 4, 2024

one...luckily, we got him, we just...we hired him recently. He was from Big Island. But he was having a hard time coming to find a house. And so, that is a great solution. And we want...we want to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well, the we...captive audience. We're housing them, we're giving them a bonus over a period of time, so the retention would be really reinforced. Thank you, Chair.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you, sir.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great ideas, right? All right, next, Member U'u-Hodgins and --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Well, after you go to prom with Member Cook, can you come to my senior lū'au because Pā'ia needs some love, too.

MR. PELLETIER: I'm going to be at everybody's...I'm going to be married to everybody here and...and going on dates or prom or whatever we need to.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: You tell me what I need to; I'll be there.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: All right. Just making sure.

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I'm glad Member Rawlins-Fernandez asked about the overtime and...because I was wondering the same thing. It was quite interesting...and Member Cook and his recruitment plan, which is great. And I know this is going to kind of sound weird, but since you brought up what Oahu is doing. I don't know how much social media you guys watch, but I watch @HowsDisGuy, and he's been collaborating with Honolulu Police Department and going through like a mock interview to show, maybe, the normalcy of it all. Have we ever thought about doing something like that, where we have local social media influences...influencers kind of walk through that mock version of police officer training?

MR. PELLETIER: Such a great idea. One of the things we're looking to do is, I...I need to get right the job category of...of my PIO who, for two years now, has been locked into being an information and education person. And Alana Pico was the best PIO in policing that we've see in this State, maybe ever. And we saw what she

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

April 4, 2024

did during the fire. And we need to compensate her right; we need to compensate our people right. And I now DPS is working on that, but we can't keep kicking this can down the road. And underneath her would be a social media manager that the Department would have. The reason I'm saying that is we would have somebody dedicated just to exactly what you're talking about. I just met off the record with the editor for Civil Beat on Monday and I pitched an idea saying, why don't we have somebody come to an academy and actually go through the whole thing for the first few weeks.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: I don't mean parts of it, I mean, let...let Captain Medeiros's team beat them up. And I don't mean it, like, really...and I'm not saying active violence, but I'm saying let them...let them do push-ups, let them do the test, let them do those things, so that...so that they can report on it. And I think it would be an amazing recruiting tool. I think it would also help bridge the gap between those in the media. And so, I'm just saying that because we...we want to take that idea and...and really put it on some...on...on, you know--

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: -- on some medicine or, if you will and --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: -- and --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I mean --

MR. PELLETIER: -- I think it's great.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah. It's just, you know, to I guess bring it to somebody's everyday life and make it a little bit more normalized, but that's great. For the Special Response Team, under small equipment, we have an extra \$200,000 for equipment for the breaching program. And I'm wondering if you could just kind of explain what this means and I'll tell you what I think it means. It looks like you guys want to kind of build a mock door frame and practice kicking it down. Is that correct? The breaching program? Where commercial doors...residential...

MR. PELLETIER: I want to blow it up.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh.

MR. PELLETIER: So, we're doing an explosive breaching program. This...the Council's

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

April 4, 2024

already funded that. And we're going to be the first in the State. This is something that we have to do. We've encumbered the funds and just the class and the equipment for the class, right? Because we're not talking about, you know, something that's...we have to make sure we're safe. We're making sure we're adequate. We...we've found the best company in the world to actually do this. They actually helped with the Israeli program. There's...we're...we're not messing around. We're...we're talking about this. We're being very serious. It's just...it's just under 200,000 just to do that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I see.

MR. PELLETIER: But we need the equipment. We need to make sure that we have...and then we're going to...we're going to build a program that we expect the entire State law enforcement to actually come here and do that. But there's also mechanical breaching. There's different things like that. When people say, oh, like, what...what do you mean? Well, imagine somebody bad coming in here and fortifying these door with...with chains. And you don't think...oh, they can't do it. You could slap a couple of handcuffs on those double doors, and now you're laying outside trying to get in. Now we...no, but this is...but this is...this is how we defeat that. And this is how we get into a school. This is how we...we make sure. And my SRT team will...it is the best and will continue to be the best.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: And we're going to make sure that they have the tools and equipment. And that's...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. PELLETIER: I...I hope that give you that answer.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I was going to just ask if I could come also kick down the door but maybe I can't...I can't help with explosives. I'm not that...
...*(timer sounds)*...

MR. PELLETIER: I'm...I might be...you know, for an extra 30,000, I could bring you on...on...on the Department, right? And so, you know, that'd be a little fun. You know--

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. PELLETIER: -- a little surf and turf action between you and your husband, right?
You know?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair. And thank you, Chief. You mentioned one of your...your three CIP projects is --

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- the forensic center. What are some of the updates that you guys are planning for...for that CIP project?

MR. PELLETIER: Yes, so if I can, I want to say I think it's generator, refrigerator for the forensic...if I'm...if I'm...yeah, I want to say it's the generator and the refrigerator for the forensic...for the forensic unit. We saw eight months ago, you know, how...how much we need to make sure that we're on top of that. And I think everybody would agree why we need the refrigerator for obvious reason and I won't get graphic, here. But we...we understand that, that's there for the morgue and things. And we have to have...make sure that we have a generator. Over the summer that, it didn't have AC when we were dealing with that and we had an additional 120 folks that were in there. We were able to fix it very quickly, I mean, AC as far as where the people were working and we fixed that. I feel, just like the housing places in Hāna or Lānaʻi, we have many times overlooked and kicked the can down the road. Many times, we cut, oh, we don't need cars. Oh, oh, we don't need that. And it builds, right? Eventually the check comes due. And the forensic facility will continue to receive oversight by myself, by my team, because we know how it's that important. And you will see requests more and more over the up...upcoming years, as far as different things we need. I wanted to get through the FEMA funding, the rapid DNA machine, which is what we used to identify the individuals. But we didn't get it in time, but the Police Foundation...we were able to get it through the Police Foundation because they had raised some monies. And so, we're going to get that. And that's a quarter of a million-dollar piece of equipment. And people would say, wait a minute, we're not going to have that disaster again. Well, what if you have a...a...a...a car, God...God willing, with three people in it, but you don't know who those people are. And something happens and it's...right? So, of course we need it. We had the situation Upcountry in the Chair's jurisdiction, where the person was wrapped in plastic. We didn't know who that person was for several days. We eventually found out who they were. But those are examples of why you need that machine. And so, the forensic facility will receive it. And...and those are the two projects, sir.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you for that. And then you mentioned the Hāna housing, the County has two homes in Hāna for...for police housing. And

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

April 4, 2024

so...but it's seriously getting a...need maintenance. So, do you have plans to upgrade it or is there somebody that maintains the property?

MR. PELLETIER: So, the person that's in charge of that--and that's the last question that was submitted on this form that I can't talk about--but the answer on that last form would be, the District Commander is responsible for it. So, Lieutenant Nick Krau is responsible for it. Rest assured, that he and all the other District Commanders that have the housing are going to be tasked of making sure that they have a detailed what's needed, you know, what's working, what's not, how can we improve? And I'll just be totally honest with you; I wouldn't be shocked if we don't come back next year and...and have a very big number and say, we might need this. But I almost think we probably would be best off acquiring something versus building it because it doesn't seem like that goes very quickly.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Right, and our inventory in East Maui is very limited, so --

MR. PELLETIER: Right. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- at least we have those two homes.

MR. PELLETIER: So, we're going to have to figure something out --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: You know, for sure.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chief. Thank you, Chair.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you, sir.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I want to just continue with where Member Sinenci started, in terms of your capital improvement. So, you know, members of my family have been there, but I've never been there. So, I'm wondering if you could...I pass there every day, but I don't...I don't know what it looks like inside. So, I know what a refrigerator is; it's used to keep things cold. And in my refrigerator, we all have refrigerators that keeps our food cold, but how does it...I mean, aside from what I see on TV, what does the facility actually look like?

MR. PELLETIER: So, how about this? You just let me know. We'll schedule it with...whether it's Evan and I'll get you a tour. And I...and I offer that for any of the Councilmembers. That's...that's easy because it's your facility, you know? And there's a lot of good things that we're doing. So, happy to do that, whether

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

April 4, 2024

it's one at a time or --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: -- however, I mean --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, in terms of capacity --

MR. PELLETIER: That's easy, but...but...100...100 individuals that have passed away is --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. PELLETIER: -- the capacity --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: -- for the...for the inside --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: -- of the facility. And so, realize that the mortuary, depending on how quickly we can get them, as soon as we can we move them there. Because of the fire, we've had to hold back just a little bit because they're at...they're at capacity.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Capacity, yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: And so, we're trying to be as accommodating as we can, of course.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: But the facility itself will be able to service 100 decedents.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, you're purchasing two generators. And...but one is more costly than the other. One is for the forensic facility. The other one is for the...it looks like it's for the Wailuku District --

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- Dispatch Center. So, what is the difference between the two. Are they the same or different? What makes them different that one is more costly?

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah. The...it's size.

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

April 4, 2024

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: The...the size of the Wailuku Station square footage is much larger and you've got a...a larger electrical because of dispatch and those different things that are occurring and then the facility at the morgue is...is just a little less. And then just...just so you know, too, we're also the overflow for the hospital, and so...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's why. Okay. That's all my questions, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, Chief. You have a junior prom partner and a date for the senior lū'au; will you be my pickleball partner?

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Very good. In that case, I won't ask you about all of the discrepancies in your Department that I have down.

MR. PELLETIER: There's a few. There's a few.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'll just ask you one question, though. We talked about more efficient communications in emergencies. And can you tell me what you're going to implement right away, if you haven't already started?

MR. PELLETIER: So, one of the things we...we did right away that will be the way that the agency will...will be operating into perpetuity, we established in...in writing the creation of the Department Ops Center. Because the Department has to operate and oversee law enforcement. We'll have a liaison with Emergency Management and...and those different things, but we can't run Ops there. We have to run Ops at the Department. And the reason, people say, oh, what do you mean? What if it's an active shooter and we know who the bad guy is or we know who the decedents are? I can't share that with the room, especially if I've got to do something very critical, all right? Everybody knows everybody here. I have to keep that compartmentalized. And so, we'll do that. One of the other things is, we will be looking into the future...it's not in this budget, but...but...doing a real

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

April 4, 2024

time operation center. And what we'll do is we'll...we'll...we'd like to partner...I was calling it a real-time crime center, but we want to partner with Fire and with Emergency Management, because there's devices that can detect a flood in real time. There's...there's AI technology that can see the anomaly on a hillside of a fire in real time. My folks don't know what to look...we're not firefighters and we're not in EM. But I know that it can rain Upcountry and now South Kihei gets flooded. And what if it's 3:00 in the morning? Right? It's...let's just say it's raining up in Kula and it...and it floods. But you...there's sensors now that you can put in the flood zone and you can get notified in real time. How great would that be? And so, those are the types of things that we're looking to do and we want to build and we want to add. And we have 2.5 million, as far as Senator Schatz's processes, the third priority for Maui County, which is for a real time operation center. And so, you know, if we get that there's...and there's some things in here...and you mentioned discrepancies. The...the averages for the officers is way off. I don't know whose math that is. I'll fall on sword and say, you know, our bad on that. The reason being is we're actually at 1.8, is what that is. And they used a 2019 number, which makes no sense to me. I want to say, I think if was your question, but the actual number is...is...and they used 2019 at 2.8 which is before Covid and it's before George Floyd and there's a...been a mass exodus in the profession. And so, the actual number is about 2.2 and we're about 1.8. And if we get our 30 officers, we'll be closer to 2, which is the national goal that you want to get to.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you very much.

MR. PELLETIER: You're welcome very much. See you on the court. Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Now it's my turn. So, Department, I am...I'm now wondering, now that you have, like, a junior prom queen, you have a senior lū'au to go to, pickleball; will you be my date for...to ride in a motorcade or something like that?

MR. PELLETIER: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then we'll have escorts, right, from the Police Department.

MR. PELLETIER: I...I have a whole bunch of escorts.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. They can tell we love your Department. I...I...I have to ask about the 9-1-1 dispatchers. So, the good news that you just said, at your one-stop shop there were 13 potential candidates for that position. Was that for

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

April 4, 2024

9-1-1?

MR. PELLETIER: Yes, ma'am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So, yeah, and you said, even if you get half that would be good.

MR. PELLETIER: It would be a game changer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: A game changer. Yeah. We need them. And please apologize to them, as they were degraded during the whole August 8th debacle...the debacles with the mainland newscasters who were demeaning to them; that was so embarrassing because they work so hard. Please extend to them our appreciation. And their retention, are they fine?

MR. PELLETIER: You know, I...I know that you had mentioned, I want to say, last year that you thought we should look at \$1,000 for the monthly stipend. They...they currently get \$750. And --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

MR. PELLETIER: -- when you think about what they do and I just...again, I'm going to say something to...to...to the Council that...I would like this to resonate. We don't pay enough in this County for anybody period. Done. Done. It's...it's...it's ridiculous. People are going to be mad that I said it. I've been listening to people mad about salaries for well over two and a half years; get in line. And the reason I'm saying that is, \$160,000 a year is what Santa Clara pays their dispatchers. And guess what; they don't have a problem filling the seats. And so, we need to pay people what they're worth. And so, \$1,000 a month for first responders, which is what they are. And there are a lot of people that owe a lot of people apologies. And it's funny how they pipe off when they got no facts, like people did about them. And then now, just on Tuesday, our dispatchers received another worldwide...worldwide award by Rapid Deploy because we're the only agency in the State that uses this, and this is the text 9-1-1. This is the ability to take your cell phone and spin it around and use the camera to get your location. But Rapid Deploy recognized MPD dispatchers as being the best and receiving the first of its kind of award for their actions on the 8th of...of...of August last year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. PELLETIER: And you know, it's really funny how those people that spoke didn't say sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. PELLETIER: You know, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're so brutal.

MR. PELLETIER: -- but they're real quick to say something that's not right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: But maybe they ought to get there and say, you know what, yeah, they are incredible heroes. And so, I...and so to...to your answer, for an extra \$250 a month, I think it would make a big difference that we tell them that we're paying them 1,000 because I think it helps keep our people.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, next question. The Department is requesting on 20-63, 52 vehicles for 2 million 740...oh, \$2.748 million. What is the status of the subsidized vehicle program that you spoke about last year?

MR. PELLETIER: Chair, I'm really grateful that you asked that question. It...it's...it was agreed by the union and the Department, we want to do 100 subsidized vehicles. And we want to phase it in 30 a year for each year until we get to 100, you know, basically, you know, 30, you know, plus. We're the only agency in the State that's not doing this as far as the counties. The other three do this, and it's a retention bonus. Because if a cop knows that they can have part of the price of their vehicle offset and they use it for work. Well, that's another reason; it...it...it's easier on the family. It's all those different things. It...it's in DPS for whatever reason. I...I honestly don't know. But this shouldn't be there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. I can ask them.

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah, please. Because . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I don't ask DPS what kind of guns my guys shoot; why do I need to ask them what kind of cars they drive?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. My time's up. Thank you. Next, we can have another round. Is it three minutes per, right? And then we can go to lunch. We'll see if you have any more questions. So, Member Paltin and then Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Department. The...the fire clothing that you were requesting, is it enough for all the officers, or how do we decide who gets the fire clothing?

MR. PELLETIER: So glad you asked that and then once this does get signed, you'll see exactly what the number is, but yes. The number that we...we have is in there and it would...it would fit every commissioned officer with...it's a no-drip, no-melt, Nomex that we would use with our current vendor and...and depending on

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

April 4, 2024

how all the RFP stuff pans out. But yes, it's...it's adequate. It's in there. It's about \$350 per officer. And we would purchase one because...and that's expensive, right? And so, we would purchase one and then if they gain or lose weight...which is why the chairs that somebody asked me the question on the chairs. I need the...because I have some bigger guys and there's a weight limit on that, so I'm trying to answer two questions at once, but yes. It...it's enough.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, at one...one uniform per officer, how do they know when to wear it?

MR. PELLETIER: So, it would...it's like BDUs, right? So, it would be like BDUs and I...I'm just going to give, like, SWAT experience. Because he was a SWAT commander; I was a SWAT commander. If...if you know that you need it, you would dress out in it and it would just be BDUs and you throw your...your tack vest on on top of it or your belt on top of it. And so, does it mean you might get dressed in the field? Yeah. It might, depending on what it is. So, you could have it in your...in your go-bag in the car. It's incumbent upon you to have your gear. And so, you could...you could choose not to. You could leave it in the office, but that's...that's your job. I mean, no shame on you, but we're going to provide you...it...it's PPE, and so we're going to provide it for you. If you...if you choose not to put it on, that's on you. But we're giving you the no-drip, no-melt.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and you have enough P100 masks?

MR. PELLETIER: We have...I have boxes and boxes and boxes full of masks and different things like that.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: P100s?

MR. PELLETIER: Yes, I'm getting nods that, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then that 30,000 that we talked about in Committee, that's kind of like a hiring retention for the five years for the people that could retire, close to retirement but we want to keep them on. I was wondering if...if there is any Carryover/Savings in the A category as we speculate to the end of the term, would it be appropriate to, say a budget amendment, to convert that monies to a retention bonus for folks that are...could retire, close to retiring, but we want to keep them on?

MR. PELLETIER: I think that any type of retention bonus is certainly a good thing. I also think, I...my personal solution to really do this the right way is we would come up with a way to have your two...two whatever percent towards your retirement, make that higher, like 2.75 and it's...and that way we keep the people so that they're actually getting that on their years of...of service. Because that way, your high three...you might be in your high three, or you had your high

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

April 4, 2024

three, but now because you're going to get a higher percentage, you're going to stick around longer. And so, if there's any way that we could actually raise that, that's going to keep people here a little bit longer. And I also think we could look at a drop program. That would keep people here longer. And that would be a really good solution and...and really quick...I don't know if you can indulge me, but really fast. You...you...if you're going to retire, you can retire, but then you could hire back on the next day and...and you could do up to five or even ten years, but you don't collect your retirement and your new salary doesn't...doesn't have a retirement benefit. And so, your retirement just pools into a bank and then after your, let's say you do five in the drop program, now you've got that five years that banked and you'd get one lump sum of a nest egg.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would that have to be a statewide thing, or could Maui just do it?

MR. PELLETIER: I'm a big fan of let's get creative. You know, so I don't mind looking to see if we could do a drop program with Maui County. I have no problem. And then everybody else could follow us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And would the cost be . . . *(timer sounds)* . . .

MR. PELLETIER: It wouldn't cost us anything more.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. So next we have Member Johnson, followed by Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I'm going to jump into the Program [sic] Details on 20-65, in regards to the equipment for tech and support services program. There is \$175,000 for the purchase of work stations and dividers as a replacement. Can you explain why 175,000 records and support service program we'll be replacing and why? What is it and why?

MR. PELLETIER: So, this is in reference to a real-time ops center. Our thought was that if the 2.5 million comes, we wanted to be ready. We're going to build this. This will happen. And so, we wanted to make sure, like, let's get the equipment and get the pieces in place. And so, we know if we can encumber that and have that at least ready to go. It...it at least gets the ball rolling.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, what is it, cubicles?

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah. It's desks, cubicles.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. PELLETIER: It's sort of like the...it's not the software.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And then on page 710 of the Program Budget, just please justify the 250,000 for consultative --

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- services for CIP projects.

MR. PELLETIER: Yeah. So, we lost our consult...our CIP coordinator back in December. They ended up retiring and we don't have that person. And we don't...you know, in law enforcement, this is not our wheelhouse, you know?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: You want to do a hostage rescue. The Deputy and I, we can do a hostage rescue all day long. You want to build a building, that's really not our kuleana. And so, we wanted to hire that out, so that we can get these things done, you know. And so, we were trying to just get a little creative.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, this is in regards to...let's see here. Does the success measurement of OUI arrests annually, that's goal number 1.2, page 697 of the Program Budget, create an incentive or a quota for police arrests? If this success measurement is removed, are other success measurements sufficient to monitor goal 1.2? I think it was, like, 400-something and your goal was 500; but does having a specific number of goal for arrests; is that incentivized?

MR. PELLETIER: So...so...so we don't and we don't want to for a couple reasons. One, because it's a . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Federal program.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Oh.

MR. PELLETIER: And the way that we do it, you try to stay within that standard and you don't do it-- you get extremely criticized if you have a goal or a quota and you do traffic enforcement. And then, you can also lose cases because of that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. PELLETIER: And so, we don't want to have that. We want to make sure that we're

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

April 4, 2024

doing things effectively to affect the quality of life and protect our citizens. And...and...and I say that is...we're averaging this year between 30 and 50 OUI arrests, we're averaging between 3 and \$400...or 400 citations. None of those monies come back to the County; we don't write for that. It all goes to the State.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, you have 482 actual in 2023 and the estimate is 500. That's just saying, this is what we estimate.

MR. PELLETIER: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: This isn't a goal or incentivized.

MR. PELLETIER: No, it's not. We're just trying to go off the numbers and gauge what do we think we might be at, but none of that is incentivized.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: And I...and I would personally not allow it to be.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. Thank you, Chair. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Perfect timing. Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. So, at the Hāna District meeting the other day, we heard about maintenance to the Police cottages there. And we were talking about the condition on Molokaʻi and Lānaʻi as well. The day before the fire in those high winds, one of the teacher's cottages burned down --

MR. PELLETIER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- on Molokaʻi. And, you know, we all know that they're...they're old and have been neglected for some time. I...I...I don't see any funds for repairs for the cottages. Is that something the Department would be interested in, if we put funding in the budget for it?

MR. PELLETIER: Of...of course we would be interested. I mean, I...they...to echo Councilmember Sinenci's statement earlier and...and your question and Councilmember Kama's point, too. Yes. We cannot value and appreciate our people enough. We put them in these cottages. These cottages are...are outdated, antiquated. They...they...they need help. They really, really do. You

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

April 4, 2024

know, and we got to...we got to...we're going to have to find a better way . . . *(inaudible)*. . . exists. We just have to get creative and...and come up with that solution collectively together. You know, because if you...if you do know of something, we're...we're all ears. And I appreciate your compassion in the question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. So, for...I have two questions of things in the budget. One is on the Details 20-59 and that's the 670,000 expansion for service contracts. And I'm sorry if I missed it, if you already spoke to this. But I don't think I heard it and I was trying to look for it. I'm not sure if that's the radio site facility's contracts. That's for 400,000. It's a total of 670,000 expansion. And then, like...oh, go ahead.

MR. PELLETIER: So, the...more of the...more of the actual details...let me just do a quick overview. Some of that stuff is the infrastructure, and it's also for the entire County. And when the Police Department has done some of these things, they've run these things that...meaning...meaning the infrastructure, the wires, the different...the different projects. Some of the stuff that we're in on '24 right now, that stuff was damaged from two fires ago and we're sitting here and it was never fixed. And so, if we didn't even ask for that...and this is again, this is kicking the can down the road. So, some of that is to build some of the infrastructure and it's not just...we don't just benefit from the Police Department but the entire County benefits from some of that stuff. And...and more details will be in this document once it's signed that you'll have. And so, if you don't have what you need, please let me know and I'll get it to you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Chief. I...I love the idea of . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . the incremental bonuses. Is that a model that Honolulu did, or is that something that the Department discussed and...and developed itself?

MR. PELLETIER: So...so my team came up with our plan collectively between plans and training, ad services, and myself; we discussed this. We should be, again, second to none. And Oahu should never dictate what Maui County does.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chief. Eō.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Cook and then --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chief, I visited the Mobile Medical Education Unit, the

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

April 4, 2024

MMEU, in Kihei a couple weeks ago. I was very impressed with the professionalism. I mean, it was very emotional to see the MPD interfacing with the non-profit agencies that were there and the facilities that were provided in that bus. So, anyway, I think that it's a really worthwhile program and is it something that you are planning on continuing? And is it something that needs to be funded? It is...I'll just say it's golden to...in the community for MPD reputation, interaction with the unhoused, as well as the people in the park. And anyway, I'm strongly an advocate of this. So, I'm hoping that you're including that.

MR. PELLETIER: It...it is an amazing project, and the woman sitting back there with the Captain bars; it was really her idea and she helped to really bring this thing to the forefront. And in my opinion, it actually is a...a model agency best practice that you can see because what it does is it takes those that would normally not be getting services and it brings the service providers and the stakeholders to them. The Police Department allows the security for that to take place. And the goal is that we take service-resistant and eventually we make them a service participant and we get them elevated and out of being unhoused. And so, that is what the goal is on that. We will continue to do that as long as I am the Chief. We will continue to make sure that we...we move...we move forward. We'll take any additional, you know, fundings that you may see. I know it's funded, but some of those things are in the past and so, some of that we may be looking to...I want to say former Councilmember Molina had put 75,000 toward the bus. We probably could use a number similar to that as...as we move forward because there are things that are outdated and antiquated, so if...if it's something that you want to add to, we definitely will take it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Good. I have one more brief thing and it's a comment about the housing. I propose that you do consider doing a design-registered plan. You could have 1-bedroom, 2-bedroom, 3-bedroom for...for the Police housing, Hāna and in the various areas. It's cheaper to tear it down and rebuild if you didn't have to go through a long time...a long period of permitting review because you have the design-registered home. You could have the material list, a...a labor cost. And you can build a new house in 90 days. If you don't have to fuss with everything, you could tear it down, build a new unit in 90 days. And I'm just proposing that let's...we could work on that. But the units, I mean, there's a tree growing through the place in Hana on the deck. So, a lot of this stuff, like you say kicking the can down the road, it's not kicking the can down the road; it's planting seeds and letting them grow. So, anyway, that's just my two cents. Bumbai we can talk about it.

MR. PELLETIER: I...I think it's a great idea. I see my Acting Captain that's in charge of this. He's scribbling notes because he and I are going to have a conversation. I think it's...I think it's fantastic. I don't have that in the budget, so if you think...you know...you know better than I do. But I certainly would be very

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

April 4, 2024

agreeable because we...we do need to get these guys. And so, if we use that model and we know that those type of...I've got two...I've got two in Lānaʻi, two in Molokaʻi and two in Hana. So, six times whatever. You know, I...I think...I think we have to do these things. And so, why...why continue to wait?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Uʻu-Hodgins and Member Sinenci. . . .(timer sounds). . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh, perfect timing. Thank you, Chair. On page 707, for technical support services program, goal 3, item 2, support community programs and activities by promoting community involvement providing instruction in crime prevention, one of the subcategories is number of community outreach activities programs participated annually and it says CORE. So, in 2023, it was 59, and in '24 it was 12 and in '25 it was 12. Now, I wish we didn't need things like this; but are we ever going to see the number go back up to maybe what it was in 2023?

MR. PELLETIER: You saw the reduction because of the fire.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: And you still see the reduction because we...we've just kind of started and we're still trying to, you know, move ourselves into the ability to do more of that. The goal will be, you know, to get there, you know, and eventually, you know, exceed it. However, it's unrealistic while we're still trying to...we all are wanting to get back to what life was on August 7th of '23, but we...it's going to take us a minute to do that. And so, that's why you see that. The goal is there. Again, the leadership in this room knows and recognizes very strongly that, you know, the police are the community and the community is the police, and we're...we're united in this. And so, you know, I think they're all extremely important.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. I really don't have another question, but I do have another statement. And for the record, I would like to thank you guys a few weeks ago, for the Members, because we really can't necessarily talk about all of this stuff, but on Tuesday we heard so much from our community about Holomua Road and we've actually met with Police, Fire, MEMA and met people from Mayor's of the Office...Office of the Mayor, I mean, and Mahi Pono to figure out alternate routes. And the Police were extremely helpful and they're being extremely proactive. So, for the record, thank you so much. I really appreciate everything you guys do.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Well said. Member Sinenci --

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I also --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and then followed by Member Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. I also wanted to add, when we left Pā'ia that night, there was a lot of Police presence when we were...were leaving Pā'ia town. Yeah--

CHAIR SUGIMURA: He's right.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- so thank you for that.

MR. PELLETIER: Good. Makes me happy.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Going back to...to Hāna. And I'm happy to hear that, you know, some of the officers are...are willing to re-up to...to stay in Hāna. So, we appreciate that, a man from our community. Is there a...additional positions for an SRO at the school?

MR. PELLETIER: We filled it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, you did.

MR. PELLETIER: The...the current one that you have, we filled. But there...there's not an additional on top of that, but we did fill it, so you do have it.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right.

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you for that. And then just looking down the road...the Hāna Police Station. Any...if you ever out there. I mean, we'd be happy to just get a report on the condition and maintenance of that...the Police Station, Chief.

MR. PELLETIER: It's old and antiquated and needs to be redone. But I'm going to be honest with you; I have to two stations that I have to do first.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. PELLETIER: I have to do Moloka'i and...and Lāhainā.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We can wait.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. PELLETIER: I...I have to do those first.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah.

MR. PELLETIER: And...and she's not here right now, so would somebody do me a solid and let her know I said that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: We're supportive of that.

MR. PELLETIER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Chief. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Kama. Okay. So, I'm just wondering then the...the...I think what you're saying is the way you're going your CIP projects done is you're going to hire a consultant, right, because . . .*(inaudible)*. . . retired?

MR. PELLETIER: Chair, you're exactly right. I mean, that...that's how we envision, you know, completing them. I...I obviously...I have commissioned personnel, but they...they're at...they're...they're taxed and we...we really do need a professional to help us get these things completed.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, details...you know what I'm going to do? Because probably these...these questions are on your...your secret document right now. So, what I would like you to do is tell us the one thing you want us to know that you have all of us here that's in, whatever, in the letter, whatever. But how can we help you?

MR. PELLETIER: You know, that...that's probably one of the best opportunities I've had. And I would say this, as Councilmember U'u-Hodgins kind of alluded to this, but let me just expand. We are your Police Department. We are very much all 168,000 residents of Maui County's Police Department. And if you need us, we will be there. And if you need me or my team, all you have to do is ask. You know, we...we really are, you know, committed, and dedicated to you. And...and I don't want to get emotional here, but I know that this Council supports law enforcement and public safety. It...it's obvious. I guarantee you every...every single Council in Hawai'i wishes they have what...this. This is how this should be. This doesn't...and it's an exchange. You know, and at least you understand that we...I...I didn't refer to this. We had it here because we...this is...it...it's what we are. We...we respected the process enough that we wanted to come in here and do that. But I just want...I want you to know that we are so grateful to each and every one of you, grateful to you, Chair, for...for giving this opportunity just to have this conversation. I...I would ask that the idea for the recruitment that you have, sir, and that you have, ma'am for the extra \$250, that you...you put those in, because I do think it's going to make a difference. And as we move

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

April 4, 2024

forward, whether it's numbers wrong or different things, we'll all make mistakes. We're all human. But...but we'll also have no problem; we'll also come in front of you and we'll say, hey, we need an adjustment on this or we need to do that. And I will never ask you for something that we don't need. I'll defend it, you know, and if...if I'm wrong and I don't mind if it's, hey, can you do without the extra 150, you know, on this thing or whatever it is. Yeah, no problem. You know, but...you know, please know that I am grateful, you know, personally to each and every one of you. You know, you guys really matter. You guys really...you make it really easy to come in front of you guys. Because your hearts are...are...are...you wear them on your sleeves. And you...and your dedication to those that you serve is at the forefront. And you always are advocating for your areas. And I know that you do. You know, and so I'm blessed to...to be in this position. I wouldn't have it any other way. You know, so I would just say, you know, mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. And so, Members, unless if anybody has a round 3...you do? Okay. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I don't have a round 3 and I'm hungry, so I'm going to be brief. I just want...I wanted for all of the Department to hear; I never hear anything negative about MPD. The criticism that I hear is, they're not available. Your staffing, I think to me, is the one thing that we really need to get handled. I think if there was an...if you were fully staffed, then the parks and all these different areas where people are going; we call, and where are they, and how long is it going to take? And it's...you're doing a great job.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: We need to get you fully staffed, so let's please be very persistent with that and we'll do what we can. Thanks.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Wonderful. And so, I'm guessing that nobody else has a third round and we're going to...we're going to break for lunch. So, if you want to one hour to come back at 1:15, come back at 1:30? Okay. So, we'll come back at 1:30 and we're going to recess. Thank you very much, Chief.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And please tell your beautiful wife we're just joking because...he has the most beautiful wife. Great personality.

MR. PELLETIER: Thank you. That's all right. That's all right. Yeah.

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

April 4, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: This meeting is now in recess. We'll come back at 1:30.
...*(gavel)*...

RECESS: 12:16 p.m.
RECONVENE: 1:37 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: ...*(gavel)*... Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 1:38. And we are continuing on with this meeting and so, before we start, I wanted to just kind of think...I'm thinking of how to, you know, move forward. So, we have Personnel, we have Water Supply, and then we have the East Maui Authority, right? So, the last three. And I don't want to end at 10:00 tonight, so I wanted to have this discussion. So, from now until 2:30, we'll do Personnel. And it all depends on how many questions you have, right? You have choke...I'm surprised. And then after that, I was thinking from 2:30 til 4:00 maybe, Department of Water Supply and then doing the East Maui last. And I...I see Dr. Scheuer in the...in the audience and I wonder, yeah. He's here. I wonder if he's catching a flight back or what his schedule is because I don't think...you don't live here, or do you? Oh, okay. So, and then we have...we have Mayor Arakawa here, too. But is that okay? Like, 1:00 to...1:30 to 2:30, we'll take Personnel. And we can always catch up on time, if you don't have that many questions.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair. I...I would prefer taking the East Maui Water Authority before Water Supply because Water Supply is going to be longer.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It'll be longer. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And like Member Paltin said, like, all of us have a ton of questions for DPS...sarcasm.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, wait. So, you...what did you say, you want to do Water Authority now and not do Personnel? After. Okay. So, we'll do that then. Yeah, I know; we have her in her seat. And look, we have Director Stufflebean here, too. So, we're going to do this, then. We'll take now til 2:30, or until you're done with your round of questions for Personnel. And then you want to do Water Authority next, right? And that might take one hour or so-ish, and then we'll take Department of Water Supply because you might have more questions for them. So, sorry Director. I told you we would...you might want to come back. So...but we could always call you. Okay, so at this time then, we have Department of Personnel Services here. And just for your information, the Budget Department in Granicus is Bill 60, operations page 18. And it's your show. So, we are at questions, right? So, Keani, you are first.

DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Aloha, Director. Happy belated birthday. Mahalo for being with us today. Okay. I...I don't really have a ton of questions, and maybe the discussion, more questions will come up. But we just had the Department of Police before us, and he shared with us the plan to try to do sign-on bonuses and other kind of retention, you know, incentives in order to ensure we're...we're, you know, valuing and paying our employees appropriately, especially with the cost of living here. And it...it's...we just haven't been able to work with collective bargaining and getting...doing that work. And so, my question is, does DPS play a role in that? And if so, how can you folks be supportive of...of that initiative?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you for the question. So, we do play a role. So, we have a recruitment and incentive program that departments design, you know, according...because they fund it, so it's according to their budgets. And, you know, we work with them. We, you know, kind of share with them learning lessons from other departments. And so, you know, in full support of anything Police wants to do. I don't know the details of their program. I did kind of overhear what he was sharing with you with this Committee earlier. Yeah, you know, whatever we can do to help move the needle on, you know, filling...especially the Police and ESD seats.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. When we had MEMA before us, we had also asked similar questions with Police because for years we've tried to build capacity within the agency, so that MEMA would be able to meet the needs of our County and...and so now we have an Administrator that's willing to do that work, but he's...he, you know, explained to the Committee that he is also having trouble because of the low pay for the amount of work, the workload itself, and the...the tendency to burn out staff that work at MEMA. So, what does...what does that process look like for, like, the MEMA...so, MEMA?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, that...that's a great question. Thank you. So, we're somewhat tied to collective bargaining agreements. You know, what our compensation plan can pay. And so, it's a work in progress to, you know, we still have to stay within that framework. For certain positions that are difficult to fill in critical to fill positions, we can recruit above the min, which is what we've done. You know, but the Department has to have, again, the funding to provide the additional resources to...to pay. And so, we're working with them right now. And really, for Emergency Management, you know, right after the fires there was, you know, that burnout that you've talked about. I mean, pretty much across the board I think we've tasked all of our, you know, employees with, you know, the work at hand. And, you know, not to, you know, just to say that County workers are

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

April 4, 2024

the...the hardest working bunch but recognizing that resources are limited. So just, you know, kind of weighing that against, you know, what . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . you know, what we can afford, what we can pay and, you know, trying to make the best of that situation for...for everyone.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Member Cook, then Member U‘u-Hodgins and Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question for the Director --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- relating to the retention recruitment campaign, 150,000 was transferred from the countywide program for retention recruitment, page 18-6, Budget Details. What is the funding being used for and is the current contract being extended? Will a new RFP be issued?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, we've done...let me get to my page so I can help you with...answer that question. So, the funds were used kind of to create a brand. So, initially, before the fires, you know, is when kind of the program, you know, was being discussed, that we went into contract. And when the fires happened, I mean, it was almost, you know, like, kind of taking a temperature of, you know, the community and what, you know, everything...everyone was experiencing. So, there was a step back and, you know, kind of a more mindful approach to, hey, come work for the County, you know? And so, since then, they've, you know, we...with the contractor have launched the website that kind of navigates people to the County website. We've designed banners and, you know, kind of had that social media presence, I guess, that was lacking for lack of a better word. And we've kind of just partnered with them to see where...where else we can, you know, kind of promote, you know, County employment opportunities.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, my time is kind of limited.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay, sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Is another RFP going to be issued? Is...are we going to --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, we haven't really crossed that bridge yet. One, I don't have the money in my budget. So, in 2023 we were authorized that money, but it lapsed. And so, that's how the...the...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

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

April 4, 2024

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- we used the countywide funds.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thanks. So, Environmental Management, when we interviewed them and were discussing the various positions that need to be filled. And engineers is a challenging position because of the...the pay, for all the different reasons that we know.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I didn't...I didn't know that basically when you review that, and Department of Personnel Services reviews the applicants...and then you pass the ones on that you filter out to them to review. I mean, it seems like, why...if...if an engineer applies to a department--

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- can't just the department review their application and see whether they're qualified or not.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, that's an interesting question. Thank you. So, our role is, you know, every class has minimum qualification requirements, so be it a Bachelor's in Civil Engineering. And so that's what we're screening for, minimum qualifications. And so, when those persons meets the qualifications, that's who gets submitted to the department.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. So, I guess, I don't...I don't have much time. And like, the Parks Department has two painters and they've had vacancies forever and they can't fulfill those positions.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Every single department is short-staffed, as many as 700 people. 400...1100, but 400 is PALS, which are temporary, but 700 people.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: This is my second year here. And I said last year, well, I'm hoping when we're here next year it'll be substantively better. And it's not.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: It's not.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And I understand...you're...you have a very tough job. I'm not blaming you.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: You're kind of stuck.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Are we going to address the collective bargaining, the reviewing? We...we have a chronic issue.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: We are doing budget. We can't give people money. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . We can't hire the people that people need. We want to hire them and DPS is the choke point. And...and that's...and...and it's just a fact. And it's not all you by --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- any means.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: But it's never going to get better unless management in your Department addresses --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- and even just...even just put up the white flag and go, we can't do anything because of x, y, z.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: But it's, please, it's got to get better.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, if I can --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Sorry.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- have one minute --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Fast one.

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

April 4, 2024

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay. One minute to just respond to your question. So, we would love and, you know, to have, like, a one-stop recruitment. We did that with Police on Saturday. So, you know, just kind of approaching the departments with, like, hey, what are your critical needs to fill vacancies. Let's put an ad and get people to come down and have your panel ready to...to interview and make a hiring decision. And...and, you know, I'm not going to make excuses. It's just, you know, getting that in...because it's...it's partnering. And it's not just one department, it's multiple layers of that. And, I mean, I do that all day long.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I...I don't mean to be...beat up on you and be --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: No. It's fine.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- overly aggressive.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: It's fine.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, anyway, thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I understand the urgency and, you know, thinking outside of the box of like how we've done it before. So, thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you for being with us. I understand that we had a campaign recently to recruit. How is that going?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, I think it's drawing applicants to the website. You know, it's...our numbers are steady. So, it's not like blowing us up, it's just really steady. And, you know, if there are people out there in the world that are listening to this, when they apply, it's...it's as though they're not interested in getting a job. Because a lot of times, it's like empty. It's, you know, it's just a name. You know, it's not showing us, like, a resume or their application. So, I'm not beating up the, you know, the hundreds of people that do apply. But, you know, it's like that disconnect where it's like, are they really interested or are they just applying for, you know, just to say, look at me; I applied. But we're...what we've started doing is calling. And saying, hey, we received your application for this position.

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

April 4, 2024

You know, you're interested in the painter, but you don't have any painting experience listed. Please call me back and we can talk about it.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, just kind of that --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Has the --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- warm, you know, reaching out.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Has the newspaper and radio ads been effective?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, that's traditionally always been our go-to. Now, with the recruitment campaign, you know, we have a presence on social media, which we did in the past, but with the recruiting campaign that's not kind of our wheelhouse of specialty.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: And so, they've kind of polished the look of our ads, you know, like our branding presence, and so we're hoping.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Speaking of, like, branding presence, because I always find it interesting. You know, we hear the different departments come in front of us and as you've noticed, like, Chair Sugimura's questions start with, like, how many vacancies do you have? And, you know, you have the Fire Department, let's say, that has very little vacancies. And you have the Police Department that has probably the most vacancies --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- we have in the Department. I think they make up 26.5 percent of all the vacancies, if we take that 700 number and we minus the seasonal PALS people. So, why do you think that is? Because that's not necessarily...like, Fire's County, obviously. But you just...does everybody want to be a fireman? Or...I mean, I married one, so I get it. But I'm just --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: There you go.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- thinking, like, what's the deal? All men look great in uniform. How come we like that version better?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: You know, if I can just say. The work is different, obviously. You know, the scheduling is different. I'm kind of stepping out a little bit, because I

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

April 4, 2024

think that's obviously. But when we do a Fire recruitment, which we do every other year, we have 6-700 applicants.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, how can we make...and I mean...and I'm going to use this word but I don't necessarily mean it specifically for this, but like, how do we make the rest of the County just as sexy as being a fireman.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: That's a great question. So, with the recruitment campaign they do, you know, employee testimonials, you know, why we come to work, why we do what we do. And so, hopefully that message gets passed on to the community, that please come join us.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: You know, so I think there's, you know, some...some culture that needs to be --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Changed. Sure.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- changed behind being a County employee.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: And, you know, pay is one aspect of it. Just, you know, it's...it's the whole package, right?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: For sure. Yeah, I don't envy your job. A lot of people tell us, they don't envy ours. And some...I don't necessarily envy our job. But I definitely don't envy yours. But thank you.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Sinenci, then Member Kama, Lee, Paltin, Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Next year the Council will have our own calendar.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay. That's a start.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah. That's a start, like a fireman.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Nobody'll buy it.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: I know that we...we spoke about again, the vacancies. And last year, Director, the Council asked the...the department directors if they had to...to cut. Some of...some of these vacancies has been on the books for a couple years and the...and the funds is still funded in there, so we asked the department heads if...if we could cut a few, you know, for some positions that are still on the books for years, like, at least a couple months. Is there benefits to...to keeping the money in there, or no?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, having the money available allows them to seek and attempt to fill these positions, so...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And we gave the directors that...that option --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- for which ones...

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right. So, without the money...because I did...I did only speak to one division that was really concerned because we're in the process of recruiting to fill that position. And granted, you know, it sometimes takes us four months, you know, maybe longer to actually have a person sitting in the chair. But she was really discouraged because it was, like, if I have this position but I don't have the money, then I can't fill the seat. And so, it was like, well you...you know, it's say ten positions and they're only six months funding, I kept telling her but you can fill five for the full year. You know, so it's just kind of that figuring out, like, how to fill the positions, I think, is...would --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- be helpful for them.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And...and in that case, can those directors have that ability to...to move funds, or that would require a...an amendment?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I believe they can use the money. So, they have the EP that says they have, you know, say, five positions. And they have funding to fill for, I don't know, 36 months. So, however they choose to fill it. You know, is it the last six months of the year? Is it, you know, one and a half of the year? Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Lesley?

MS. MILNER: That's okay. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Sinenci. Yeah. As long as the funding is in their A budget. And that's one of the reasons I think the departments preferred the way you guys started doing it with just the

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

April 4, 2024

lump-sum cuts, instead of specific positions. Because that provides them with the flexibility. But as long as the money is in their A account, they can fill the positions that they feel are appropriate for the length of time that they have funding available. And if needed, we can come in to you guys with a resolution to move money if they have extra in their B or C to A, if they find, we hope, more people to fill those positions sooner.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: And that gives them more flexibility to, I mean, if they're needing to recruit and hire? Okay.

MS. MILNER: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Kama, followed by Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, my gosh. Does it sound like I've been waiting for you all day? So, my question is, so who sits on the negotiation team for the County when they're negotiating with the unions?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Who is on the --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Who sits on the negotiation team?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, it's all the jurisdictions. They have representatives from all the jurisdictions, so, you know, State of Hawai'i, all the counties, HHC, so Hawai'i hospitals.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, you all negotiate together, one time?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, we're the employer group, yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. And so, you all talk about how low the salaries are in Maui County and why we can't recruit people because we don't pay them enough? And you all talk about those things?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: We talk about those things. We also talk about like non-cost proposals. We talk about, you know, filling vacancies. So, we are not unique to, you know, the State has trouble filling positions. The City and County has troubles --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: For the same reason, that the pay?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yeah. We all share the same salary schedules.

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

April 4, 2024

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, how...why are we not talking about increasing those salaries, then?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, there's...there's a balance of --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- you know, the public money and...and how we spend it. I'm like, I'm not the authority on saying, you know, give all these people raises. So, you know, it's a...it's a negotiation.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, you sit on it with who else from our County?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, my team. So, there's members of my team that --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, it's just DPS.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. And no other County agency of the Mayor or Management or Corp. Counsel?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yeah, so Corp. Counsel will be involved towards --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Only as legal?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- towards the end, yeah, as legal. But the Mayor is the principal. So, I report back to him on, you know, this is what's, you know, being discussed. This is, you know, are you okay with something like this? During the...so, in HRS 89-6, I believe, the counties each have one vote and the State has four. So, and where we have, you know, members, or employees in those bargaining units. And so, we are one vote, you know, with the State.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, each county has one vote.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, we have four counties. And the State itself has four votes.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, eight...eight of these votes decide what those salaries will be, the SRs --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: It's essentially the State plus one county will decide.

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

April 4, 2024

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: State plus one...does that seem balanced?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Can...well, it's in the law, so that's how the...yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. Okay. I...I get that, so okay. I'll think about that. Okay, so my next question is, if I have time, on page 66 of the Program booklet, it says, provide hiring departments with eligible candidates in a timely manner. And then, so...so how long does it take to...for you all to provide...I mean, so do all the departments recruit continuously? I mean, do they all just say, just keep this until I tell you stop?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Essentially.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, if there's a vacant position, we will keep it open. If we have a list, you know, a long list we'll say, hey, we got 20 names on the list. Are you okay if we close this recruitment? You know, we'll usually discuss with them before we do. Because they might say, you know what, we got five more, you know, expansion positions or, you know, more people transferring or getting promoted. We'll still have to keep this vacancy open, so we'll maintain that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...so when they're recruiting, do you pass on the names to the departments right away or do you hold them and then pass it on when you have a list long enough, or --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: No. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . So, we send them the list of names generally as we're...we get them.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Sometimes we'll ask, though, because sometimes they'll be like, we're not going to interview them until x date. So --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- give it to use then.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So--

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

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

April 4, 2024

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- it's not always the same.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Chair Lee, then Member Paltin, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, so what happened with the vacant positions for the TAT collection in Finance?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: What happened with them?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, apparently it...it was taking very long to fill those positions, extraordinarily long.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, thank you for the question. So, they filled some of their positions and there was some turnover in that role. They had other positions that --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Excuse me. Turnover of the people that were just hired?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: People in the position, correct.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, yeah. But we did have...so, essentially when the program first started, the...when we discussed it with them, it was just, you know, created as classes that are existing in our comp plan, which is what other jurisdictions had done, so that we could quickly, you know, classify them, execute, fill them. And then, as, you know, they learned, what the process was going to be or, you know, kind of finessed it; then, if they needed more specialized positions then we could either, you know, change those classes or, you know, figure something out. And they...they didn't agree with that and so we kind of got into a little bit of, you know, what does this position do? It's...it's this. It's not this. It kind of went back and forth for a little while. And then, you know, we stopped hearing from them. It was like, we have questions. It's like, here's our answer. We have more questions. And so --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is it that discretionary? I mean, isn't a job description pretty plain and, you know, simple?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Well, we...we would like it to be, but, yeah. I don't remember off the top of my head, like, what they were asking for but it was...it was all kinds of different classes that --

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, this was --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- didn't exist.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, these positions were unusual.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes, very.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, there...there was nothing to base it on...them on.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Well, so there was...you know, they wanted Tax Department, high-level Tax Department type of positions; but you know, our experience is, when you make it so specialized and ask for all these specialized experiences and knowledge, we typically have difficulty filling those positions. And so, that was kind of, you --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- know, the --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But wouldn't --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- the feedback that we had.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But after a while, wouldn't you just let them try? No?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Well, we never heard back from them.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I see. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, before they start my time, I just wanted to give the disclaimer. We're running a tight ship and if I get the answer, I'll cut you off, but I don't mean to be rude.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. You can start the clock. Has the Land Management Administrator position come to you?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I checked and no.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then next, do you think that the time of application to your first paycheck is preventing us from getting some qualified people? From when you put in an application to when you get your first County paycheck.

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

April 4, 2024

MS. RAZO-PORTER: That's a great question. I would hope not, but I mean, I don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I mean, every department has a different, you know, from when they get the list, to when they interview, to when they make a hiring decision and they actually hire a person.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Versus if I were to --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Versus --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- walk into restaurant and get a job --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- that day.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes. I would hope that that would not ever prevent anyone, you know, from --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, but if you lost your job and your house and you need money--

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right. But you --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- you can't wait around months for a recruitment --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- interview.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: The online testing that you said, I think that's a good idea. I was wondering about the security of knowing that the person taking the testing is the applicant and that they're providing the own answers from their own head.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes. Great question. Thank you. So, the online platform that they log into, we get a copy of the video. And they have to show us their driver's license; they have to show us the room that they're in, that there's no one in the room, that the desk is clear. We do allow them a white board to, you know, if they have computation type answers that they need to, you know, calculate. So, it's...it's quite secure.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is there anyone stopping from coming behind the computer and flashing the answers after they show the room?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: No. No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: It...it's got the camera of them taking the test and the camera of them looking at. So yeah, they have a little bit to set up. So, it's their phone, showing us the room, you know, under the desk.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: When I got hired from the County of Hawai'i, they let me take the test, the civil service exam at the County of Hawai'i for the County of Maui. Is that still an option?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: That's still an option, but because we do allow the online testing, people can do it online, or they can always come to our office.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: To follow up on what Member Kama was saying and what you were saying about the balance of public trust dollars, does the conversation ever come up that, if we're not filling the vacancies, then we're paying overtime to existing employees? And is that the best use of the public's dollars as well as the fringe associated with the --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- high three that is involved. Is that a conversation that the employer group does have?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: The employer group does have that conversation. You know, it's...it's the fiscal, you know, looking at the...what is it? What do I want to say? Like, the cost of giving everyone a ten percent raise or the cost of, you know, giving whatever.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Versus the cost --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Versus --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- of burning out your employees --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Versus...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- and not serving the public.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yeah.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then is...do you ever envision a time when a salary rating of like 08 is going to be outlawed because it's not a living wage?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: 08?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: SR-08.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right. So, we made an effort to drop a lot of the bottom sections and so that's kind of a work in progress.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 8, 10s, and 12s?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I'll see you next time.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay. Next round.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Following Councilmember Paltin's line of questioning is really what I want to get into, is the low wages that we offer. So, how many positions in the County pay less than a livable wage calculated by the MIT, Massachusetts Institute for Technology Living Wage Calculator to be \$29.99 per hour? And as a single adult living in Maui County, which positions are those? I think you were mentioning the 08s and all that, but I know it's a long question, Director, but we gave you an advance. Hopefully you can address it.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yeah, so I'll just give you the figure. So, it's...it's almost half. So, half of our employees get more than, it exceeds 29.29. and I'm trying to look at that number; it's like 12...sorry, I don't have it memorized.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But we know what happens when we don't pay a livable wage. They go and apply for food stamps; they go and look for other government subsidies in different ways. Which leads me to one of my questions is, do you think if we provide free PALS for County employees, it will help them recruit and retain employees? Because parents have to...especially if we're asking them to do overtime, we need somebody to watch our kids. So, would that...would you think that would be a good way or use of County funds?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: It wouldn't hurt. PALS is, you know, very limited to summer --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

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

April 4, 2024

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- and limited --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sure.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- to winter breaks.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Are you suggesting we could do, like, this year-round supporting parents with childcare?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I mean that would be the best incentive I could think of. Because I think we lose some of the people that could be employees because they have younger --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: How would we do that? Would you put a budget...a budget...would you propose that as a budget item, or how would you go about doing that?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: That's a great question. I think Corporation Counsel would be angry if I suggested that. But I mean, to me that's what a big employer could do is, you know--

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- provide childcare--

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yes.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- provide support to, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I wrote a bill for the State to consider, you know, paid family leave because Federal employees get paid family leave.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And I wanted paid family leaves for our County and State workers.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But we can't...it didn't go nowhere, but the fact that we have to kind of...if we can't match the salary, then we have to look at some of the benefits.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Some...right, some perks.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. And so that's kind of where...what...what's your take on that as Director?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, thank you for the question. I...I don't know...you know, I haven't explored like how we would do this. But as an employer, I think that would be a huge benefit to our employees, our current employees, and future employees, if they knew that they would have safe childcare --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- you know, available to them.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Big preschool.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Preschool, yeah. Preschool.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That would...that would be...I think there are...I'm sure we could find other companies --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: that are doing it--

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum. Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- look at the way their doing it--

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- because we have to find a way --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- to...to incentivize. And I understand that the...the wages have to go up, and...or we're just going to get left behind. That's just a matter of fact.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But I know that the process is not easy for us. We're not a private company that says oh, give our raises.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum. Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But that being said, we look at the benefits on...on

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

April 4, 2024

childcare and preschool and summer PALS and winter PALS and all that. There are ways we can incentivize our peoples.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. The other question is in number 6, in...in the questions submitted to you. It said, in what ways did the Department recruit and fill vacancies and what were the most effective methods for attracting candidates? The response was interesting to me. Our most effective recruiting tool has been creating and maintaining a strong workplace culture that is positive and supportive. Can...can you give me, like, policies, like strong workplace culture and...what does that mean?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, and...so, I'm speaking . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . in my office.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: There's...there's a --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: That's why...can affect --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- the most positively.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: And so, in our office, you know, we support our staff. We have a young staff, so --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- lots of, you know, family issues come up. We offer hybrid work schedules.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Um-hum.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: We --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's great.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- have pizza parties. We, you know, have staff meetings. We, you know, we communicate and talk to each other.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

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

April 4, 2024

MS. RAZO-PORTER: You know.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I understand that.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The pizza party has become a meme lately --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Oh, I'm sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- of, like, how we, you know...and that...that's not us, but, you know, as employers, like, you know, we're...or, you know, the...the workers are struggling to pay rent and then we go and we get a free pizza party.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You know, it just doesn't seem to match what the workers are asking, you know?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: But my time's up, but that's really what I just wanted to see, what kind of policies.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I like the idea of four ten hours or even, you --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: We do that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- know, their talking about 32-hour work weeks, you know, less...you know, but that's...we'll talk about that maybe next round. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, Director.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, the 9-1-1 dispatchers, their bargaining unit, which is clerical. And I wondered if it's because, do they do things that are clerical that we can't move them out of that bargaining unit. I mean, do we...do they need to take some of their duties and switch it, so that it's --

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

April 4, 2024

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right. So HRS, again, the legislature can create bargaining units.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Right.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: And so, when classes are assigned to bargaining units, it's based on those 15 classes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: And I couldn't recite them to you, but you know, essentially, BU 1 is the blue-collar, BU 2 are the blue-collar supervisors. So, I think at the time and continuing to this day, the most appropriate class for the Emergency Services Dispatchers is BU 3, which is a white-collar. It's...we...we refer to them as clerical, but they're really the white-collar classification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Well, I think I will try to work on this until the day I die because I think that they really are emergency services. And out of respect for them, I think that we deserve to do that, but we're...we're...we're bound by whatever the structure is. So, on details, page 18-6, professional services; how is the retention recruitment campaign assisting the departments with filling the large number of vacancies? Did you talk on that...talk about that before, the 150,000?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I might of talked about it a little bit, but we can --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But if you did, then, that's okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We'll...we'll move on because we're short of time.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Members, we're...we can go into round two?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah? Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez. And three minutes, is that all right?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah? Okay.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. So, I...I agree with Chair Lee. It's important to have the, you know, that discussion on the TAT vacancies and...and collecting on the County TAT. But I think it's important that all relevant parties are here so that we can have the fullness of the discussion and understand all perspectives because we only have one department here, so...on Tuesday, the House Finance Committee heard a resolution making implications and imposing themselves into our budget process without knowing anything about our process. One of the clauses spoke to our vacancies without taking any responsibility for their part in those vacancies by preventing our employees from being paid a living wage, for example. So, I...I just wanted to ask that when you speak about our County vacancies, like the total amount, that you please be careful to not combine the number of vacancies. . .*(inaudible)*. . .employees because otherwise, for those that aren't paying attention and want to use that against the County, they will. They will just take the number without any understanding any of the nuance and that hurts us. So, if you could just be mindful when...when speaking about our vacancies. I did see the retention and recruitment campaign on social media, the testimonial videos. And it looks like that it was more for recruitment, but I was wondering if they were also serving for the purpose of retention a well. I guess it could be.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I was hoping that the Committee could request the plan for this fiscal year because I'd like to see that. And then my question, you said that the law currently states that the State has four votes and each County has one. Would you please, if you have it, if not I can follow up with, I guess, Corp. Counsel, the citation for the collective bargaining policy. Because, yeah, the State giving themselves almost, yeah, 50 percent of --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- the vote, giving them --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- themselves the edge --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- you know, exempting themselves from the Sunshine Law, you know, allowing corruption to continue to foster at that level, you know, just, you know, all of those things.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay. I want to quote you the right citation. It is in the letter.

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

April 4, 2024

I'm just struggling to find the page right now. It's like 89-6, and I'd be guessing, but I think it's C.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I'm sorry, it's D.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it. Mahalo.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: 89-60.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That'll conclude my questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we have Member Cook, Member U'u-Hodgins, Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, Director the...the...for clarification for me. The State has four votes, the County has one vote?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Each four counties have one vote.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Each county has one vote.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, there's eight.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Four and four.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, if there's a tie.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Governor.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Normally...normally you have an odd number.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Generally, they'll have one jurisdiction can --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Jan ken po or what?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I haven't been...I've been here for a while, but I've never seen that happen, so...

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Do the...so, none of the...none of the Administration,

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

April 4, 2024

members of the Administration...we are a member of the Administration...but the Mayor, Managing Director, Director of Water Supply, but nobody else participates in the negotiates in the negotiations --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Well--

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- besides...besides your --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- so --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- office?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- so for Police and Fire, Police and Fire participate in the negotiations. For BU 1...so, depending on the, you know, what we're negotiating, what we're discussing, what kind of proposals are at the table, there may be subject matter experts, like departments that this will directly impact. So, they'll be, you know, they may be involved, you know, in discussion, but --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- generally at the table, it's --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Not. So, there's the wage, which includes what the, what they get paid and the...and the...the direct and the indirect, so their benefit package as well as their pay. So, when they say low pay, it's basically what they're getting paid each week --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- but it accumulates. Is...is part of the discussion, like, not increasing the retirement benefits and all of that stuff, but putting more...but paying more money? Is that ever come into play? Or is it just always a rising boat that 74 percent of it is fringe and 25 percent of it is take home.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Let me think about that question --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Because --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- a little bit.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- I...I'm just saying, you give somebody a dollar and they're only taking 25 cents home and 75 cents is banked for when they retire--

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: If they live that long.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- or...or retirement and vacation --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- and...I don't have the numbers.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Anyway--

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- I won't bother you anymore.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'll be quiet for...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Are you done? Are you done? Member Cook? You're done. Okay, Member U'u-Hodgins, then Sinenci, then Kama. Oh, you don't have anything Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I don't have any questions either, Chair. Thank you so much for being with us today, Director.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, then we're down to Kama's side of the room.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, so I want to talk about...thank you. I was on at the wrong time. So, you know in the Housing and the Department of Housing, the new Department of Housing and the Department of Parks and Recreation. Both of them have new positions. Housing has the DHHL liaison and Parks has their PIO. And yet, both of these positions has the same SR, same bargaining unit, same everything, same pay. But yet, the job descriptions for one is already laid out but the other one has not been. How did...and then when I look at those two, to me they don't reconcile. So, I don't know why they're...they're getting...they're equal across the board, but they're job descriptions, I don't know if they're equal.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, both positions would be assigned to BU 13, so Bargaining Unit 13, which is professional and scientific. And so, the SR...someone asked that question in the letter that we received. So, the professional series, you know, SR-22 is a journey level worker, SR-24 is, you know, kind of classified as a super journey level work in a professional series, SR-26 is a supervisor of either those...those journey workers or they have some special capacity, special area of

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

April 4, 2024

expertise that they...or they look over.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, one of them...one of them is a PIO, okay?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And the other one was the DHHL liaison.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, they're...they're both same classification, same pay, same everything.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Well, they'd be a different classification, but they could be priced the same.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No, there...no, it's the same. If you take a look, SR-24D--

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- Bargaining Unit 13, same wage, same everything.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But they're not the same.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: No.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, can --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- can --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, we have many different classes of work with similar pay. So SR-22 is a salary range.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Yeah.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: It goes from D to --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes. To M, I think.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- M.

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

April 4, 2024

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: SR-24, SR-26. So, they would be similarly, you know, on the same SR level. And they could start at D because that's the entry level but be two different classes of work.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, they --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- could. That's possible.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, so the next question is, who's on this, for the State, who negotiates on the State side for the employer team?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, there's a Chief Negotiator that...he's...he's relatively new and will be the Chief Negotiator for the State.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, who is the Chief Negotiator for the State?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I should have his name. H...I want to spell it out. . . .(timer sounds). . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And is...is he the only guy? I thought there were four people on the State side, you said.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: No.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, one's the Chief.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: One Chief Negotiator.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah, but, there's three other people.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: No. Oh...oh, so I've been corrected. It's...so BU 1, 2, 3, 4, 13 for the County, it's the State has six votes. It's the BU 11 and 12 that the State has the four votes and the County has one vote, so my bad. Kala mai.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, please unconfuse me now.

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

April 4, 2024

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay, wait.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair, I have it...I have it pulled up if you want me to read it directly to help Director if you want.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: You want me to read it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Sure.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Please help to unconfuse me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Everybody's asking that question.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, yeah. So, HRS 89-6(d) reads, for the purpose of negotiating a collective bargaining agreement, the public employer of an appropriate bargaining unit shall mean the Governor together with the following employers: (1) For bargaining units 1, 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 13, 14, and 15, the Governor shall have six votes, and the mayors, the Chief Justice, and the Hawaii Health Systems Corporation Board shall each have one vote if they have employees in the particular bargaining unit; (2) For bargaining units 11 and 12, the Governor shall have four votes and the mayors shall each have one vote. So, that's the 11 and 12. (3) For bargaining units 5 and 6, the Governor shall have three votes, the Board of Education shall have two votes, Superintendent of Education shall have one vote; and (4) For bargaining units 7 and 8, the Governor shall have three votes, and the Board of Regents of the University of Hawai'i shall have two votes, and the president of the University of Hawai'i shall have one vote. Any decision to be reached by the applicable employer group shall be on the basis of simple majority, except when a bargaining unit includes County employees from more than one county. In that case, the simple majority shall include at least one county. And that's what you were saying.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, next we have Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That doesn't clear anything up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Does that answer your question? Chair Lee? Do you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I don't think...did we leave Member Kama?

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

April 4, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I don't --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes, they --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm sorry. I looked over and she was looking at you, so I thought she was pau.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: No, that's...no, no. Go ahead, Chair Lee. Because I'm going to --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You can have my time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You don't have anything? Okay. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Shoot, you guys are so distracting, I forgot what my question was. Oh, okay. You know how the PIO for like a DEM and the PIO for Parks isn't going to be the same kind of position, right? Because their...both PIOs, they probably get both paid the same amount. But for DEM you want a more...know more things, like about wastewater and things like that and for Parks, you want to know more things about, like, athletics, or whatever. So, when you recruit for, like, say a PIO or a Planner V across the Departments, does it each have its own separate listing? It's all just, we --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- have ten PIO positions open and where do you best fit?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yeah, so we would have, in the case of the PIO. So, we would recruit for that class, Public Information Officer. And when, you know, if we had Parks, DEM and, I don't know, Housing--

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Public Works.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: -- Public Works, looking for this position, we would send the names to these three departments. And, so...

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Same for, like, a CIP Grant --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- Coordinator, or whatever.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Yes. All of those classes that share the same type of class title. Like exactly as you mentioned, they would be unique to Public Works. Like, I should know Public Works projects and what's going on versus, you know, Wastewater and Parks. So, it would be looking for that...that right fit, that area

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

April 4, 2024

of interest.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

MS. RAZO-PORTER: But we wouldn't exclude because they didn't have, you know, Parks experience or --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, yesterday when Transportation was before us. They're recruiting for a Planner V. And Planner Vs are somewhat hard to come by. And I was, like, what if you just hire a Planner I and you work their way up. But they said that, if they want a Planner V, all you give them are people that qualify for a Planner V. Have you ever said, like, well, here's our Planner I list; do you want to try off of that and see if you can work their way up? Because it's something rather than nothing.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum. So, we've talked to departments about, you know, recruiting at the entry level because often we get lots of names because, you know, people are looking to get their foot in the door. If they're interested in that, we can certainly, you know, work with them to make that happen. It's just our experience has been, no, I need a V.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, and then --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I'm not just saying that was DOT, but just in general.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: You know, our goal is always to recruit at the entry level and grow our own.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, moving over into the subject of recruitment. Do you get any information from State Unemployment? Like, we have all these people making unemployment claims; we have all these vacancies. Let's smoosh them together and squeeze them around.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I like how you...you smoosh them around. So, right now we are working with the State. So, it's a different division. It's not Unemployment, but it's Workforce Development . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . and kind of trying to partner with, you know, matching some of those people that are looking for positions with vacancies in the County. And so --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But not Unemployment.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: But not --

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is there a reason not Unemployment? Because, I mean, like, somebody who was working the front desk at Pioneer Mill--

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- or I mean Pioneer Inn; what are they doing right now?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And if they moved to Wailuku because there's no housing in West Maui, maybe we can pick them up for, like, a clerk position or something or like, I mean, in reality --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Absolutely.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- housekeeping pays probably the same as a DMV and now you don't have sit in traffic for four hours a day, you know? Like, if you're...so I mean, like --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- maybe we need some YouTube ads like that or something, like, steal some workers from the hotels or something, or you know, like, do...do you guys research what the lowest paid jobs in the hotels are or the restaurant industry and say, hey, instead of sitting four hours in traffic and going to clean somebody's hotel room, why don't you come to the DMV and give...give out licenses, or something like that. Like, build the comparison for people.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: If the workforce is in Central but these low-paying jobs, like, find out...find out about your, not enemy but your competition, I guess, in the...in the job providing world and...and make the comparison about why we're better.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I like it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Buzzer went off. But, Director.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Selective hearing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Selective hearing, but Director, just know that when we're at our Community District Meeting, she's...she's searching for engineers. She's always asking the --

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

April 4, 2024

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Please.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Anyway --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have to --

MS. RAZO-PORTER: I mean, just drive them to our website.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have the STEM pipeline going...

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Call our office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, you have the STEM --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have the STEM AFTERSchool.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'll tell the 12-year-olds to put a application in and then when they...they graduate, you can give them a call.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we have Member Johnson then we're at the end of round two and it's 2:34 and we're trying to stick to a schedule. But go for it. I just want to know if you want a round three after.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I only have one question, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, good.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, this is on page 16-59 of the budget...budget guide. Please explain the 150,000 for a retention/recruitment campaign and describe this project. Is it working?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: So, I'd like to say that it's working. It's given us...well, our...our applications are holding kind of steady. It's comparable to last year to the year before. But I will say that having professional ads, having professional, you know, videos taken, having...having, you know, some marketing tools, I guess, in our toolbox, you know, giving us kind of a uniform look helps.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. You know, on the Federal level...I'm sorry, one...on the Federal level they have --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I'm not counting.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- they...they were talking about a 32-hour work week being full-time. You...you know and unions fought for a 40-hour work week being full-time. What is our definition of full-time here?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Forty hours.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's 40?

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Anybody want round three? Okay, while you're laughing, we're going to switch, then. Are...round three, you guys need? Done? Done. Okay. Thank you, Director.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

MS. RAZO-PORTER: Thank you, guys.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Next, we're going to have East Maui Water Authority. And I guess that's Dr. Scheuer and, if Mayor Arakawa can be here, we asked him to be a resource, and Cynthia Lallo, and also Cory-Lynn Vicens. Is that who you want here?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Since we also have the Board Vice-Chair in the gallery --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- are --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's his call.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- may I ask if there's any objections to also inviting the Vice-Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No objections. Kyle...is it, Kyle Nakanelua? Yeah. Sure. The list that I got is who I called, so it's your call. So, we'll do one round of four and round of three. So, for this I'm going to...oh, we need to set up still yet. So, I'm

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

April 4, 2024

going to one round of four minutes, a second round of three minutes, if needed. And Member Sinenci left. So, I'm going to go Member Sinenci, Member U'u-Hodgins, Cook, Rawlins-Fernandez, Johnson, Paltin, Lee, Kama...yeah, starting with Sinenci. Page him? Oh, we need a recess? Feels like we just came back from lunch. We did not take a recess, but...okay. Let's start with Member U'u-Hodgins then.

EAST MAUI WATER AUTHORITY

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thanks, Chair. Well, I really didn't have too many questions, but earlier you were talking, Mayor Arakawa, about other things you would like to see included in the budget. So, I know you were talking about cars, or...potentially. What other things do you think might need to be added to make this make the most sense and make it work right? And then, I can do my one question and we can go back to Member Sinenci.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. We'll go after you --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- back to the beginning.

MR. ARAKAWA: Well, you know as Budget Committee, you guys are asking a lot of questions from each department on a lot of different aspects of each budget. And there are many, many different aspects to a budget that you need to have. You can...it depends on what the Committee is actually going to do. We may need resource people, so I would...I would strongly recommend that we have some resources to be able to hire a group, like the former EMI heads, to be able to give us an idea of what the EMI system really is and to be able to fill in the gaps on who the ownerships are and what are the challenges, things like vehicles. We need to be able to have vehicles. If the EMI...if...if the Director is going to be doing things, we need to be able to have the ability to have legal staff, for instance. Are we going to be using the County legal staff, or are we going to be hiring different legal staff, since this is a different department from the other departments? Are we going to have people permanently assigned that know contracts? There...there are many different things that go into an office, for instance. What is the office rents going to be?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. ARAKAWA: What kind of things are you going to need to be able to support that office?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I mean, considering you used to be our former Mayor, do you not think Corp. Counsel would be sufficient, or would we

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

April 4, 2024

need --

MR. ARAKAWA: It would really --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- special counsel for this?

MR. ARAKAWA: It would really depend. The Council itself has different legal advisors. So, it really depends on who has the expertise to be able to deal with these types of contracts. Now, in the legal world, there are many different lawyers for different areas. So--

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Um-hum.

MR. ARAKAWA: -- does Corporation Counsel have someone that is specifically knowledgeable in water-type contracts? And what are the...what are the ramifications of what the State would require and what the residents would require? And how does the State Water Commission rules play into what we are going to be able to administer from the side of this new department?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. ARAKAWA: Things like that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. I guess I'll just continue because I just have a few minutes. But when we...Dr. Scheuer, when you were giving us your presentation, or the presentation, you guys were talking about recommending allocation of amounts of water to the Mayor and to the State...or to the Mayor and I think to us, but how does that work in relationship with the State?

MR. SCHEUER: Mahalo nui for the question --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you.

MR. SCHEUER: -- Member U'u-Hodgins. So, there...you're referencing one of the slides...was that one of the goals, purposes of a water authority in general, was to provide more water to residents and visitors.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes.

MR. SCHEUER: I think one of the common misperceptions that I've heard among members of the community about the existence of the Water Authority is that there is some intention to usurp or assert a role that the Water...Commission on Water Resources Management that the State of Hawaii has. And that is an incorrect perception. So, the State Commission on Water Resources

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

April 4, 2024

Management, which is consisting of seven members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate has the ultimate authority as the trustees of the State's water resources to make decisions about the determination of interim in-stream flow standards, which in East Maui, on non-designated water management area . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . is the primary tool...kala mai, is that for me?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: It's for me, but --

MR. SCHEUER: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- typically, they let you answer.

MR. SCHEUER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: But I won't have any more questions after this.

MR. SCHEUER: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. SCHEUER: So, the simplest way of describing what the East Maui Water Authority Board and Director's job is, is to stand up a new utility, a surface water utility taking over some of the watershed resources and water delivery systems and to deliver water to existing customers, including the County of Hawaii, the Ag Park and Mahi Pono. So, a utility has some ability to sort of sway how the water within their control is delivered, but it doesn't have any ability to step into the...the role of the water allocator, so...

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. SCHEUER: Does that answer your question?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes, thank you so much.

MR. SCHEUER: Mahalo nui.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you for that clarification.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Then we'll start with Member Sinenci and then go to Member Cook, Member Rawlins-Fernandez after.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Chair. And mahalo for the presentation this morning. I know both Ms. Lallo and Ms. Vicens spoke about the duties of the board, so maybe for Director Scheuer, I guess in the last three

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

April 4, 2024

meetings that...that the Authority met, what kind of progress has this board made?

MR. SCHEUER: Thank you very much for the question, Member Sinenci. Yeah, we...if you recall, Charter amendment in '22, it took quite a while to actually get all of the board members sat. I was the final board member sat, and that was really the month right before the fires. And so then, the County's attention appropriately went to not standing up a new board, but dealing with the immediate aftermath. We finally were able to meet for the first time on February 29th, and we've met three times since then. We'll meet again a week from today on the 11th. We've actually, in three meetings, accomplished four main sort of large things. We first elected a Chair and Vice-Chair. We then unanimously, every member present, vote...approved a letter that was sent, not to the Commission as was stated earlier, but the Board of Land and Natural Resources, who controls the State water licensing process to say simply the facts of the matter. We were empaneled. We were created as the result of these actions in front of the Council and then these votes by the citizens of Maui. Our directive is to seek to take over the water licenses, so we're asking you to take notice of us legally, that we exist. We have this charge and to begin the process for that. That was our second major thing. And that was a unanimous vote. The third major thing was, we discussed and then unanimously voted to approve a position description for Executive Director. Right? It's a volunteer board. We really need staff to get going. We've been very, very lucky with the generosity of the Mayor's staff and other parts of the County to help us out. But we need that staff so, we got that out and, with the Director of Personnel Services, that's been advertised. So, we're going to start to review those applications. And then we actually unanimously, with one reservation, voted to approve the budget that the Mayor had developed in the absence of an existence of a authority board that was empaneled. So, we're trying to move methodically, deliberately, thoughtfully. There is...there is, indeed, hundreds of important issues and details to be worked out in the future, but we're just trying to take, okay, what's the first? We...we need a Chair; we need a Vice-Chair. We need to make sure the State knows, because we don't want to keep going on this path and they don't know that we exist and so they go on another path. We want to have a Director, so we can have staff who's actually the one who's primarily responsible for developing a budget going forward and helping the board determine answers to key questions. And then, you know, we wanted to have a budget in the meantime and take some formal action on the budget. So, thank you for the question.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Mr. Scheuer. Thank you, Chair.

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

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I think you just answered my question; what factors

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

April 4, 2024

contributed to shaping the initial budget? If I summarized it, would that basically be creating the framework and structure to be able to establish what a bigger budget would be?

MR. SCHEUER: Yes. That's correct. And just let me clarify, so the Mayor's Office developed a budget. We were not empaneled until February 29th, well past the deadline by which the Mayor is supposed to start to develop their budget. So, I'm grateful for the existence of a budget, so that we can start to take things forward. But we didn't shape it. What we did do in our very first meeting, was review the 2024 budget and in our third meeting, review the proposed 2025 budget and as a body, as I said, unanimously approve it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. What...is...is EMI involved in the Board in your communications? What's the relationship with the board and EMI currently?

MR. SCHEUER: There is no formal relationship. I...I have notice...you can...you can see on Webex who's attending our meeting. I know that that is a critical relationship that has to be developed.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. I have no other questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then Member Johnson after that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Okay. I guess my first question, you know, before the electorate mandated this...the County Government establish this Water Authority, starting with the board, in order to hire a Director and additional staff. And mahalo to the Mayor for understanding what, you know, the...the duties and powers of this Water Authority by establishing the Director, or proposing positions for the Director, Administrative Assistant to assist the Director, and then the Grants Coordinator. Prior to the election, the Committee Chair at the time had held several different meetings with experts from, you know, different parts of America to explain to us how models have been used where these types of community or publicly owned facilities are run and how they can get funding in order to maintain and repair the...the systems that they either are, you know, acquiring, inheriting, you know, whatever the case is. And so, we learned from lots of different people how this can be done. And so, in...but first, you know, before we even, you know, get into that we need to get the water leases. And DLNR has, like, you know, you know, the DLNR Chair has, you know, fluctuated between, you know, like, putting it out for auction like immediately and like, and...and then kind of holding back. And so, that unpredictability gives our, you know, our community such anxiety. And so,

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

April 4, 2024

you know, I...I know that there are many people that were, you know, really chomping at the bit to have, you know, this Water Authority stood up even sooner. But as you said, Dr. Scheuer, it was the appropriate action of the County to deal with the aftermath of the fire first before this. And so, you know, in...moving as quickly, methodically as possible, understanding the...the work that has been done before the Board ever met for the first time and taking all of that into consideration, what do you imagine after the board hires the Director would be the first few steps, or, you know, like, perhaps the first few months of...of work that would entail? I know Mayor Arakawa talked about needing vehicles, et cetera, et cetera, but it...it seems to me that that...that would come a little later. Your thoughts, Dr. Scheuer.

MR. SCHEUER: Thank you very much for the question, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. I think on a very high level, some of the first steps of onboarding and bringing on a Director will involve a combination of legal and business analyses that are necessary for the County to thoughtfully do what the voters have directed us to do, which is to acquire these leases and acquire the systems. So, without wanting to discuss in too much detail items that the 'Aha Wai O Maui Hikina might discuss in executive session, but...right, there is...there is aspects of how...how the economics of the system currently works, how it might work in the future under County ownership, what existing and historic legal rights were given to the State of Hawai'i and its predecessors in being able to access the physical system that transmits water from Maui Hikina to Central Maui. Those things, as well as working through the States multiple processes of transferring things, would be one of the things. In addition, I would expect that we would work with...I have great faith we will find the right candidate...work with the new Executive Director to start to lay out cooperatively with the board the structure of...of grant writing and other Federal, State fundraising necessary to implement these plans, a staffing structure that's appropriate and then, of course, the associated infrastructural needs, be it office space, vehicles, other kinds of things necessary to first acquire and then actually stand up and operate.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. So, the Board, after discussion, opined that they thought the proposed budget by the Mayor was sufficient for this first year.

MR. SCHEUER: Yes, we had a robust discussion in response to a letter received from Member . . . (timer sounds). . . Arakawa and the discussion at the end, ultimately there was a motion by a member who said, we're ready to move and I think there was, I think, three seconds on the motion for being ready to move and then, as I said, with one reservation the board unanimously voted to accept the budget and really expressed their gratitude to the Mayor for having done the work that we weren't in existence to do to set up a budget.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Dr. Scheuer.

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

April 4, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Member Johnson's not here. We'll get back to him. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, my question would be for the Chair and Vice-Chair and I think I already heard the answer but I can't go through this without asking a question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You folks feel comfortable with what has been budgeted already; it satisfies both of your needs?

MR. NAKANELUA: Absolutely, at this point in time, I feel comfortable.

MR. SCHEUER: Yes, there's...there's no doubt that standing up a new significant utility will cost...will require a lot more capital in the future. But for the phase where we're in, like, heading into meeting number four, we're very comfortable with it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow. All right. First time.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. I have a question for Mayor Arakawa. So, when we were discussing this matter last year, the previous...the year before, actually...the previous Housing...I mean, not Housing, but Water Director was opposed to us acquiring the system. And one of the reasons why was because we didn't have enough...in her mind, have enough information. And that's why we urged the previous, well this past, what's his name, Stufflebean, to do a feasibility study, which was never done. So, this is like, you know, a cart before the horse. The.....the...the thing is, we don't know the initial physical impacts and requirements, the legal implications, ongoing maintenance and repair costs, as well as land acquisition. She said this would cost us tens of millions of dollars. Now, what is your perspective on this?

MR. ARAKAWA: Well, I've always had the perspective that you should study what you're doing and just not jump into anything. And you should have all the facts before you before you make decisions, so you don't make incorrect decisions with inadequate information. I actually believe we need to have a real study done, an intense study, on what the costs are going to be, how it's going to be managed, what the resource we're trying to get actually is. And, more importantly, what are the goals after we get all this resource? What are we actually going to do with it? If the State Water Commission has control over the distribution of water, then what is the endpoint that we are trying to obtain? The County can have control of the system, but as it is right now, all the water distribution is controlled by the

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

April 4, 2024

State as to how it's going to be allocated and how it's going to be used. So, even the County has to apply for an...a position. Now, the decisions that are going to be made by this Committee at the start are going to be very, very long term in its effect. You know, my father always told me, if it's something that you're not going to care about tomorrow, you can just willy-nilly go into it and enjoy it. If it's something that next month is going to be important, look at it a little more carefully. But if it's something that's going to affect generations to come, take all the time you absolutely have to, to make sure you do it right. Because this is not going to just impact today; it's going to impact everybody for long term. Now, what we're deciding here and trying to get information to try and do in acquiring the water systems, again, what are the real goals that we're trying to attain? The budget that was put together, we agreed to pass out the budget that was passed down earlier, even though we really did not have the information in front of us on what really was necessary because we really don't know. And we . . .(timer sounds). . . really didn't have that...that discussion. In trying to be able to determine whether or not we need feasibility studies, I absolutely believe we need a number of feasibility studies.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I think we've used up my time. Thank you.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you both for being here. It's nice to see you, Kyle; it's been years. My gosh.

MR. NAKANELUA: Mahalo, Councilmember.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...so my question is; I don't know if you saw the flow chart, if you all looked at the budget flow chart, but it has...you have your Regional Director that you'll be hiring. And then it has a Grant Writer, Community Liaisons, the water systems technical analysis. So, how long do you think it will take for you all to hire your Director, seeing as how...how long it takes to do stuff, but...and then, how soon after the hiring of the other positions that, I guess your Regional Director will probably have to do those others, right?

MR. SCHEUER: May I answer the question, Member?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Sure.

MR. SCHEUER: So, I think the hope is to have a regional director in place within months and then a few more months afterwards for them to get in place and hire those two other positions. So, certainly I would hope halfway through fiscal year 2025.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, okay. So, the assumption is you're going to get your regional director on board by maybe Summer of '24?

MR. SCHEUER: That's certainly the goal.

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

April 4, 2024

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And then maybe the others maybe in early '25?

MR. SCHEUER: I'm sorry, I'm referring to fiscal year 2025 --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, so it's like --

MR. SCHEUER: -- so I would, before the end of 2024 --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. SCHEUER: -- calendar year.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. That's what I was looking at. Okay. And then we talked about a feasibility study that's supposed to be ongoing and that's what Mr. Arakawa had referred to. So, are you folks on board with doing a feasibility study, too?

MR. SCHEUER: So, thank you very much for...the question was not directed at me earlier.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Yeah.

MR. SCHEUER: So, one of the very cooperative agencies has been the Department of Water Supply.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. SCHEUER: There is a quarter million dollars --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. SCHEUER: -- in the budget.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. SCHEUER: I have already met with Director Stufflebean on the general scope of it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. SCHEUER: We have had three very full agendas. Our next agenda, which is not public yet, is going to actually have a discussion of that scope of work.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. SCHEUER: And, as was indicated, there's a number of ways in which you could study different aspects of the transaction that is...the voters have directed us to, the clear goals. And so, we'll have to, as a body, sort of decide where that limited pot of funds should be focused on to give us the most meaningful information to take our next steps forward.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And one of the things that has come up in many of the departments that we have been discussing this week so far is their...the department's need for a PIO or a what's the...public information officer. So, do you all feel like because water is such an important issue here in our County and across our islands that you would want to maybe think about having a PIO within the structure.

MR. SCHEUER: I think that's an excellent suggestion, Councilmember.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Well, you tell us because this is going to be your budget, right?

MR. SCHEUER: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And this is the time.

MR. SCHEUER: At this point, we're comfortable with the budget that has been put in front of us. I think that is something I want to highlight in the discussions in the 'Aha as we start to look thoughtfully about coming fiscal year's budgets and needs.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, cool. Chair, I'm done. If you want to go round 2, you can.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Member Sinenci.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Member Sinenci, round two, three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you. And Chair Scheuer, I know at the last meeting...I know you were taking it virtually, but we had a couple of the members. And I wanted to add that each member represents the different leasehold areas from the Nāhiku, Ke'anae, Honomanū, and Huelo. And each one of these members had a specific personal knowledge of their watersheds as well as the different types of challenges for each of their watersheds. Everyone is different. And so, part of the...the presentation this morning was this board to approve a watershed plan moving forward so...so we could, as Mayor Arakawa say, look at some of the...the challenges and issues of each license area. So, are...are...is there a plan or what do you want to see in that...in that watershed plan? Maybe the PIO can be part of getting community input for that plan? If you may.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. SCHEUER: Thank you very much, Member Sinenci. Yeah, so, you know, the...the goals of the Water Authority are laid out in the Charter. And so, our job is to fulfill those goals. One of those goals is to develop a watershed management plan. There are in existence already multiple watershed management plans for different areas of Maui Hikina. For instance, the Nature Conservancy has a plan for Waikamoi. The Division of Forestry and Wildlife has a plan for its State lands, which primarily though focuses on some upper elevation lands with high levels of native biodiversity but might not spend as much attention in lower elevation areas that are very, very significant, not just in terms of biodiversity, but in terms of cultural access and practice and other community needs. What we're going to be doing, I hope, in the next few month is actually getting some briefings from people like the East Maui Watershed Partnership and other experts on...in existing things, continuing to draw on the really deep, amazing wisdom of our different board members and their generational knowledge in their communities to start to figure out how we fulfill our particular niche in Maui Hikina of adding to watershed protection. Is that responsive to your question, Member?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yes, thank you, Chair. And then maybe for the Vice-Chair. You know, we began this discussion with, you know, what is the Water Authority? And so, we took a lot of these models from the mainland types of management, right? And we've seen in...in these 100 years how Western ways of...of management have kind of, you know, desecrated the watershed. So, moving towards more of a...of a Native Hawaiian type of management. And I...and I know you spoke to some of the terms that we wanted to address as we...I mean, this this huge after 100 years, moving from that old mindset to more of one that is more sustainable.

MR. NAKANELUA: So, mahalo . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . for this opportunity to share some ancestral knowledge. This ancestral knowledge comes from the elder Samuel Ka'ai, who was born and raised in Kaupō and made his way out to this section. And the idea is, there is a continental mind and an island mind. So, in a continental mind, if you live on a continent, everything is unlimited and infinite. So, imagine you being a person standing in the middle of Oklahoma. You can go 4,000 miles this way, that way, you can go about 40,000 miles that way, you go over the top of the ice cap and meet you around on the other side. I mean, that's the kind of infinite stuff. They're dealing now with water and they have an infinite supply of water, so they believe. And only now, they're finding out...is that they're suffering from these impacts to their environment because of the way that they've been managing their resources in accordance with this infinite thinking. On an island, which we all live on, everything is finite. Land is finite. The rain that brings our water is finite. It comes at certain times of the year. It comes in certain amounts, et cetera, et cetera. So, that's what...if you want to...so as a basic fundamental to start off all of this, is getting all of our people to believe that we no live on one continent. We live on an island, the most secluded land mass in thousands of miles of ocean.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right, Member U'u-Hodgins, Member Cook, Rawlins, then Johnson. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Chair, I have no more questions, but thank you very much for being here with us all day. I appreciate it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair, I have no more questions. I want to thank everybody for your participation today and your information.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I wanted to call on Chair Scheuer for any additional insights on it.

MR. SCHEUER: Thank you. As we were finally empaneled, I...I...I had...I've had a number of thoughts and a number of insights that have brought by like...I mean, it's a really amazing board that you guys put together. And one thing that really has struck me is, right, I mean, Hawai'i has really been in a decades-long struggle of what do we do after the plantation? And it's really what's...what's struck me most about this process is that, you know, some communities just kind of, like, okay, a new landowner came in, bought everything up, controlled it on, and sometimes it's been for good and sometimes for not. Some people turned to the Agribusiness Development Corporation and said, hey, please run these systems. Some people tried with very different levels of success to do coops. I'm sorry, I'm going to get a little emotional. This is the only community that said, you know what? We think we are capable of running our own water future as a community, honoring the public trust, and serving the highest needs of our community. And so, you know, yeah, is it complicated? Is there like chances for failure? Is there a lot of questions to answer? Of course. But is it worth doing? Should we work with our best hearts and our best efforts to do that? Absolutely. You guys leading the way. And I'm like overwhelmed to be a small part of this. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Eō. E hū ē. I did have additional questions, but I'm going to leave it there.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin, Member...Chair Lee after that, then Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I wanted to ask if Mr. Nakanelua had anything else that he wanted to share with us.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. NAKANELUA: I was asked to provide a lexicon of hua 'ōlelo, or fruitful words for our 'Aha Wai a Maui Hikina. And so, I...it's a work in progress. It's a document that's live and will be ongoing. I'm making a presentation of our pōhaku ki'i or our four foundational words that we're going to build our paepae on and then we'll stand up our house on top of that at our next meeting. And one of our key hua 'ōlelo will be mo'o. And if you all could, I invite all of you to Zoom in and be a part of that presentation. It's going to be amazing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Mahalo. You want us to Zoom in on Webex? Webex. How...how is that working out for you guys?

MR. SCHEUER: It's working okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and to clarify, when...when is it going to be?

MR. SCHEUER: The...April 11th...actually, I believe our announced...previously announced agenda time is 9:00 a.m., so, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Well, we might have to start late that day.

MR. SCHEUER: It will also be recorded and posted along with the other.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Okay. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: No questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No questions.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. I just don't have any questions. But I just wanted to say that, you know, the struggle for water has been long time, and the resolve for this has been a long time coming. So, I want to ask if both you and Kyle and even Mr. Arakawa, just yes or no, if you think that this is the beginning of the resolution to all of our water issues that we've been looking at for the past 100 and some years?

MR. SCHEUER: Water is fluid, right? Hard to predict. It is a step...it is absolutely a step in the right direction, as far as I'm concerned.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Kyle.

MR. NAKANELUA: Age before beauty?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Mr. Arakawa.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. ARAKAWA: In that case, let the junior go first . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Mr. Nakanelua.

MR. NAKANELUA: The short answer is yes as long as everyone gets behind this and moves it forward.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Maika'i.

MR. NAKANELUA: We can all agree to disagree and we can all share.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Maika'i.

MR. ARAKAWA: Acquiring the system I think is a good direction. It's something that I've proposed doing for decades now; I wanted to get all of the water systems under the County. Making sure that, when we're acquiring the water system, we're taking care of everybody in our community is critical. Just remember, we all depend on everybody for the livelihood of all our communities.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. ARAKAWA: And the vast majority of our families are not necessarily in the District of East Maui. The vast majority of our families are throughout this County.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. ARAKAWA: And we have to remember the...the history of why we got to this point. And a lot of it is because we've had shortages throughout Maui County in many, many different areas. I know that when we were asked at the last meeting, what's important in our District...the farmers. Right now, we've been under a water moratorium for decades in the Kula area, Upcountry area, decades. While we've been having fights over whether or not there's available water, what we can do...and there's plenty of water available if we were to harvest it properly. The difference is in the cost of delivering the water and the systems that we have in order to deliver the water. If we're going to take care of our community long-term, and I mean everybody within our community, we truly all do have to work together going in the same direction. And I think it's very important that we remember it's everybody in our community, not just a handful. This is going to impact children for generations to come, in Kihei, in Lāhainā, Wailuku. Our population has grown from the time I was going to high school from about 30,000 to now we're about 170,000. All the areas that we used to have in agriculture and farms in Ha'ikū Upcountry area. A lot of those areas that were ranches before are now gentleman estates. A lot of really nice houses for people that have moved into our communities and have built where we shouldn't. . . *(timer*

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

April 4, 2024

sounds). . . have been building, but we really need to be able to put everybody together and realize with the moratoriums that we've had in the Upcountry area, we've literally affected lives negatively for decades. Not just in one area, but all areas. The plantation, at its peak, was harvesting over 300 million gallons a day. We should be able to take care of the little over 50 million gallons a day that we need for the population and for the agriculture...excuse me, the agricultural area that we have now. We should be able to do that if we all work together to make sure that the availability of water is not the drawback. Because of what we've been doing, fighting over water and the shortage of water, we've lost most of our farmers, we've lost of our farm areas, and we've lost most of the pristine areas within our community to very expensive houses. Look at the big picture. What we need to be able to create, where we need to be able to go, and how we are going to create the future that our children are going to be able to live in and our great-grandchildren. This is what the...this is all about. It's not...not about how fast you can do anything. This is about making sure that the community has the resources it needs for generations to come. So, part of your charge: we can get it started this way, but we need to do it right. And I keep going over and over, we need to make sure we got all our ducks in order and do it right. Because if we start doing wrong, we're not just affecting ourselves; we're going to be affecting generations to come. So, thank you very much.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, I just wonder for all of you...what you say is so important, right? And we have before us a...agreement that's going to be on the Council agenda tomorrow for Free Market Ventures. And I don't know if you've had a chance to...he can't look...oh, you can't. Okay, I won't look at you, Dr. Scheuer. I'll just speak to you like this. But that agreement then is...is about all of what you were just talking about, right? So, I wonder if maybe in the future if your Water Authority would look at that and give us some kind of perspective. And I don't expect you to say anything now because you probably haven't seen it, but I'm going to maybe send it to you and your Authority to look at, something that's kind of important Upcountry. And the other thing that has happened that has caused, I think, this water situation is a consent decree that the Ha'ikū Community Association has imposed upon this County that...that basically says that we can't take any water out of Haiku. And yet, water...and there's so much water in Ha'ikū, right? So, I wish that you as an organization would look at that too because you're right. You know, water is a public trust. And for it to be held in that way because of a legal authority, or legal document, I wonder if that's causing some of what we're seeing today also.

MR. SCHEUER: May I respond, Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. SCHEUER: And thank you and sorry for taking you off-mic but I did appreciate the Aloha Aloe contact. So, I...the...neither the Free Market Ventures proposal for developing wells near King Kekaulike High School nor the other matter has been formally transmitted to the Authority around the Ha'ikū Consent Decree, but I'm actually personally aware of them, so I would be very happy to have them come up as part of briefings in front of the Water Authority, the 'Aha Wai O Maui Hikina. I will say that...just a couple things. I...I...I...I do acknowledge that it is a...it is now a...a holding...the Ha'ikū issue is a holding against the County, but is one that the County actually assented to. Right? They agreed to the Consent Decree. And...and I'm just going to...this is my personal thoughts and, like, really trying to talk about Member Kama's question; how do we move forward from our fights over water? And right, the original proposal that I think drove the community in Haiku to seek this very protective stance was...so, we were still in the height of plantation, we were still taking 160 million gallons average a day out of East Maui. There were no stream restorations happening, and then the County came in and said, we want to take an additional up to 16 million gallons of ground water. And it wasn't for Ha'ikū; it was to ship it to Central and South Maui. And so, I think for...for a community that had seen their water resources already heavily reduced and then a very, very large proposal, not with them as part of the equation, they fought. I like...I understand why they would fight that level of proposal. I do not believe, from my discussions with Director Stufflebean, that that is the way County is looking at Ha'ikū now, right? It's like, can we have a little bit of . . .(timer sounds). . . supplemental backup water for Upcountry in times when the surface water flows from East Maui are very low, so that we don't get into critical restrictions. For me, in my experience that I've been privileged to have around the archipelago, around water fights and the few times we've managed to resolve them well, it has been when sort of historic injustices have been addressed, when there's been open hearts about things, and then when structures are put into place like the 'Aha Wai O Maui Hikina, where the people from water source areas actually have a significant role in saying how water is managed. When you bring everybody to the table, and they have a seat and they have a say, they're more inclined to accept more generous and more expansive solutions. When they feel it's just another step of take, take, take, there's zero incentive for people who've historically suffered to participate in that process. So, whether it's the proposed ground water source Upcountry, proposed trying to resolve the Ha'ikū issues, I think the pathway that this Council, through the Charter amendment, and then the voters of Maui, through the Charter amendment, have laid out does indicate a way that we move forward collectively in a positive sense. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So...you...you want to? No. So, we are done with interrogating you. Just kidding.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair.

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

April 4, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. I just...I wanted to ask a last couple questions. So, Vice-Chair Nakanelua spoke about the misguided thought about resources being infinite without putting back what you take. Like, you...you just said that we just have so much water. And that's not true if we're not properly recharging our aquifers, that we're not putting back what we take. We can't keep taking water or anything without and...and thinking there will always be more. I think that with...with...with farming...so, there's appropriate places to farm and there's appropriate crops to farm in those locations. California is having sinkholes everywhere after sucking their aquifers dry because they're farming thirsty crops in the desert. Continuing to stall results in the...in perpetuating the control over EMI to Mahi Pono. And that was something that our electorates said loud and clear that, if we want this to be successful as...as we're all saying we do, as Member Kama was speaking about; is this the direction that we want to take? It...it's...it's our people, our community controlling our resources, our 'āina for our next generations, for our future, making that determination here at home and not some private equity making those decisions somewhere else, that it's investor owned and not community owned, consumer owned, those who are directly impacted by the decisions that are made, like at HECO. And the water leases are not going to be available forever, so we cannot just keep waiting and...to make a decision, as Mayor Arakawa is saying. We cannot just keep waiting on...on another day to make this...this decision. In...in leading up to the court's determination that DLNR granting the holdover revocable permit to A&B year after year, avoiding completing an EIS was illegal. Mayor, you were...you were Mayor for twelve years and you could have done a feasibility study on the EMI, the Wailuku Water Company, all...all the systems you're saying should have been under County control. Under your Administration, you facilitated the sale of a parcel of Phase VI surrounding the Central Maui landfill that we are now having to commence eminent domain proceedings over. In the presentations, the review...or the revenue from water sold to Mahi Pono would pay for the cost of operating the EMI and...and the CIP for this system, so could you please explain why, under your Administration, which you had three terms, you didn't do a feasibility study of these systems?

MR. ARAKAWA: Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez, I tried to acquire the Wailuku water system. We explored the possibility of buying the Hāna system, and we were negotiating for it. We know and we...we actually did studies to know that there's limitations in the Lāhainā aquifer as well as the 'Īao aquifer. I was the one that pushed to be able to get the designation of the Wailuku Water Company, the Wailuku water area, both surface and sub-surface.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, Mayor, did...did you do the feasibility --

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

April 4, 2024

MR. ARAKAWA: I believe that we should --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- study that asking for . . . (timer sounds). . . for it to be done? That was the question.

MR. ARAKAWA: I didn't do a feasibility study because, if the Council wasn't even willing to pick up the Wailuku Water Company, which was being offered to us for --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh.

MR. ARAKAWA: \$10 million or ten and a half million --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because they wanted a feasibility study done.

MR. ARAKAWA: Then you wanted --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Because they didn't want to just take the --

MR. ARAKAWA: But that's what we were concentrating on. That's what we were concentrating on.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right.

MR. ARAKAWA: We weren't concentrating on --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: In the last couple years of your --

MR. ARAKAWA: -- EMI system, East Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- term. Right.

MR. ARAKAWA: So, yes, I do believe we need to do a feasibility study. The Council required it. The Water Department was doing it, but we concentrate on what we were trying to acquire. One of the things you learn in our occupation, which is running Government, is you can only do what you can do under the limitations that you have. We have financial limitations; we have personnel limitations and time limitations. So, getting the aquifer designated, being able to start working with actually trying to control the water in the Central Maui area and what's going to Kihei and Wailuku and Kahului, being able to try and develop the Upcountry water system, we did the Waikamoi...we did the flume in Waikamoi. We put in a lot of the improvements, but there's still a lot more to do.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Mayor. I think limitations are all based on one's perception. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, everybody. Okay. So, we're done. I want to thank everybody. As you can tell, water is a very passionate issue, and I think we all stand together with that and appreciate the work that you're doing. It's just begun, right? So, thank you very much. All right. So, I'm going to...I'm going to say thank you and call a...maybe a ten-minute recess, do you want? So come back at...3:30...so come back at 3:40. Bye. Thank you. And then we'll ask the Water Department to come. Thank you. Wait one second. I want to...I want to talk to you. . . .(gavel). . .

RECESS: 3:27 p.m.

RECONVENE: 3:47 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(gavel). . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. It is now 3:47 and the fun begins, Members. So, we have Water Supply here, Director Stufflebean and James Kimo Landgraf, Deputy Director. I'm going to do three rounds, I guess...four minutes, three minutes, two minutes, if need be. I want you to know that Director answered all your questions, submitted it to the Budget Office for the Mayor's signature and it's stuck on Lesley's desk. So, if you can ask him questions, he can probably answer it. But you won't know that he already sent us those questions. So, sorry about that, Director. So, at this time, I'm going to ask Member Cook, then Member U'u-Hodgins, Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez. And here we go. Member Cook.

DEPARTMENT OF WATER SUPPLY

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question for the Director, Water Administration Program goal 3, item 2, relating to processing permits in a timely and efficient manner, page 814 Program Budget; what internal changes has the Department implemented to reduce the average number of reviews days for single-family residential permits? How about commercial permits?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes, thank you. I'll summarize that we gave in writing, which is that, first, obviously we're trying to fill the positions. That's number one. We are also looking at streamlining some of the processes. And then beyond that, we have secured the services of a consulting firm to help us with some additional engineering services. We have, I mentioned earlier today, we have Carollo Engineering has provided two engineers to us, and they are now...they are now able to produce really well. They've gone through kind of a training and they're giving us additional permit...additional permit processing. And then, in this year's...in the 2025 budget, we have money for consulting services to really ramp that up and to try to get completely caught up on the...on the permit processing. And the other thing we're doing is looking at triaging the permits as they come in

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

April 4, 2024

so that we're looking at maybe like three different lanes for permits. One is like, the first lane is, it really doesn't involve us hardly at all. Boom, it's done. The...the harder lane is really complicated stuff that we're going to have to take a look at. And then, in the middle is something where we...it needs a little bit of time, but we can process it pretty quickly. And then what we'll try to do is devote some time to each one of those three, so that the ones that are really quick don't have to wait in line behind something that's going to take a long time. So that...those are the main things we are doing.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. That sounds like a...a big improvement. This process of hiring the consultants and them being here and learning the process that's been described as...as complicated; are we...is there...are we uncomplicating the process while they're learning it so they're getting...sort of reviewing how we doing it and identifying ways that it could be done simpler?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. So, we've also asked that same firm, Carollo, to...to help...to take a look at our process and then give us some suggestions. They do...they do work nationwide and...and they've got a lot of experience. And so, they be able to help us find some ways to streamline the process and make it quicker as well.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And then, my final question for now is, when you...is it...like, Department of Personnel Services, is there ever a time where you have someone approach the Department or you'll have...know someone who would be qualified and would be willing to work for the Department. Can you, like, streamline them through Department of Personnel Services. I mean, is there any handholding in that at all or do they just have to...you refer it to them and then you just cross your fingers?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We have...we have to use...we have to use the Department of Personnel Services. Everybody has to be given a fair chance at the positions. So, but...but if we do know there's people out there for a particular position, we can certainly open up the recruitment for that position, expedite that, and then they...we would evaluate that candidate along with others that submitted their applications for that.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, the Department does have the opportunity to go out and scout for talent?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Oh, yeah. And we're doing it. In fact, I think we...we just hired a new Engineering Program Manager, and...James Jensen. And he was previously a County employee, went to California. Then he realized what a mistake that was. He came back. And he...he's really, really good. And he just started a few weeks ago and he's going to be focusing on...kind of his...what I told

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

April 4, 2024

him I wanted the main things for him to focus on are permit processing, the code revisions, right, and...and recruitment. And...and he's got some really good ideas on how to really start getting out there. And...and to me...to me...and he agrees, the most important thing is to make this a really great place to work. And so, we're trying to make sure that people say, hey, I...I want to go to work for Water Supply or the County in general, so that's...and he's got some other ideas on how to help get some new engineers in.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. Member U'u-Hodgins, then Member Sinenci and Kama to follow.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Hello, guys. Okay, I don't know if this is what Member Cook was asking about specifically, but on page 817, there's a \$500,000 request for professional services, additional funding to process permits.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's it, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Is that what that's for?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. That's going to be the triage?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's going to be the permit processing.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: With the three --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Which will include the triage.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- lanes you described?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Cool. Okay. That makes sense. I'm wondering if you can talk to me about the--Member Johnson brought this up the other day-- the 20 percent increase for Ag rates. And then, for general water consumers, less than 5,000 wasn't raised, more than 5,000 was raised 10 percent, more than 15,000 was raised 20, and more than 35, 30 percent and then Ag water rates, 20

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

April 4, 2024

percent across the board. So, I'm wondering if you could walk me through the justification for that on your end?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right, you know the...the four tiers you talked about, that's just for residential. That's not the general rate. The general rate is a...is a fixed rate for that, commercial and business. It's only the residential rate that gets the tiers. And the...the...there's a logic for that in that residents can control how much that...you know, each home gets their own amount...their own meter. And they can then...if they save water, they get the lower rate. If they...they're efficient, they get the lower rates. On...on the Ag use it's...it's a fixed rate for the agricultural use. Our focus on this budget was to really make sure that the residents get the best rates, especially if they're efficient water users. So...we looked at everybody else then taking a bit of an increase. And even with that increase that we're proposing, the Ag rate, let me look at my answer, the Ag rate goes up to 4...1.43 per thousand and that is about a \$6 per gallon, \$6 per thousand gallons subsidy. So, we're...so, they're paying 1.43 and \$6 is...is what it would really take to cover the full cost. So, they're still getting a very significant subsidy from the rest of our rate payors for the Ag use. And so, we felt that was appropriate because they're still getting quite a...quite a good break on that.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Well, my question is not necessarily the larger ones but for, like, the smaller ones. For instance, I have Ag water. But my water rate is going to more than if I didn't have Ag water, if I use less than 5,000 gallons. Is that correct?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Well, so...the Ag rates...so, the way the Ag rates work, if there's a dwelling on the...on the property, then you go through the tiers for the...the water that you would typically use in the house. And then, after you've used that much, then you get into the Ag rate, which is lower. That's how that works. So, it's basically saying; for your house, you get the rate like everybody else's house and then...and then you're going to have Ag water beyond that. That's when you get the Ag rate. That's how that works.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay, well, I'll call you up if my water bill gets higher than it was and then I'll have you re-explain that to me, then I'll let the bill department know. But, as I was going through your CIP, I would like to say that I'm really happy with all the projects I see Upcountry trying to help Upcountry's water. Shoot. And I tried to mark the page and now I forgot it. So, if my bell rings, then they'll come back to me, but sorry. Okay, here. It's on page 893. The Makawao aquifer source development entails two well sites. Can you tell me where those well sites are? And when, I see that it'll probably be online at the end of 2029, but can you tell me where they are and who they might help?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, I can't because we don't know yet. So--

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- part of...the first phase --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I can appreciate that.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- is to take a look at different areas and decide where the best sites would be.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's phase one. In fact, I just signed the request for the solicitation today --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- to go out and look at that. So, the first thing will be, in this general area, these two general areas, where is the best site and then we . . .(*timer sounds*). . . would go from there. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. All right. Next.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mahalo, Chair. And aloha, Director and Deputy Director Landgraf. So, in your presentation, Director, you...you said for your...for your CIPs, was it, that you put a placeholder in anticipation of receiving some Federal funds. As the budget is balanced and if you don't get some of these Federal funds, what happens then?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: The money would just go back into the Water Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It would just go back?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. But it's...it's a placeholder just for your Federal

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

April 4, 2024

grants that you're applying for?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. We're going to be...our plan is to apply for Federal grants, quite a few Federal grants. And there's typically a matching that has to go along with that, that we would have to make sure is in our budget. If we don't get the grant, then we would reevaluate, and...but the money would just...either we would have to find additional money for the project, or it would go back into the Water Fund.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you for that. And then, I don't see any CIPs for the...for the East Side, but for your countywide, I know that sometimes it...we've been getting calls about, you know, just some, like, water line breakages, maybe down in lower Nāhiku, Ke'anae or the Pu'uiki areas, so those...those are covered under the countywide funds?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. So next we have Member Kama, Chair Lee to follow, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, this should be really easy, okay? Because...so here's the scenario. I'm a DHHL lessee. I have a home set up in Kula. What are the steps that it takes me to get my water meter? And after I'm okay, are you going to tell me that I have it and are you going to put it in and when does it get put in?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, I think that depends on exactly where you are. If you're close to a County line, then you can get a meter quickly. But if you're not, then it would take...it would take longer.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, so --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Do you want to address that as well?

MR. LANDGRAF: So--

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LANDGRAF: -- for the DHHL stuff --

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

April 4, 2024

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LANDGRAF: -- you just have to apply for your meter, right?

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay, right.

MR. LANDGRAF: And then we'll just go put it in, right? First apply for it.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: But if it's --

MR. LANDGRAF: But only for --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: But . . . *(inaudible)* . . . there's infrastructure, then they can.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: They all have infrastructure.

MR. LANDGRAF: But they all with, I think, all the DHHL is all within infrastructure, already.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: They all get infrastructure.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Okay. . . . *(inaudible)* . . . so just apply.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah. That's it.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, okay. So, we applied...

MR. LANDGRAF: Because the meter box should be there already.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LANDGRAF: You just have to bring it in, put in your application.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LANDGRAF: And then we'll look at it and then we'll put the meter.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, what's the length of time that it takes to get, from the time of application to the time when that meter actually goes onto that property and when do I know that it's there, if I'm not on the property?

MR. LANDGRAF: I can't tell you how long it takes. We're trying to do it as quickly as we can. So, the best thing is just keep following up. I mean, it doesn't sound right that you keep asking us, but if you put it in, we will track it. And we're

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

April 4, 2024

trying to develop it so we keep track of everything that's going on a little better now.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, do you have a...a like a...a sheet that goes and says Step 1, Step 2, Step 3 and...and...and how many days it would take or when we can anticipate this so that...people are not waiting for stuff to happen and we don't know stuff is happening?

MR. LANDGRAF: We don't really have a sheet for that. But we know the process...you come to Fiscal-- you apply for it. They make the paperwork that gets sent down to Operations. Operations sees it; they create a work order and then they go put the meter in. And then we know that it gets --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, a work order. Okay.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah. There's a work order that gets created for that.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, the work order has to be created. So, after you put in the application, the work order gets put in, after you get the...after you put in the app.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah, so it goes to Fiscal, right? They create the account.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

MR. LANDGRAF: That...that goes down to our Operations Division. They create a work order. And then the pipe fitters or somebody goes up and puts the meter in. And then they report back to . . .*(inaudible)*. . . it was completed.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And when do you let the lessee know that it's done?

MR. LANDGRAF: I don't know if there's a process to let the lessee know. I don't know that for sure. I can check on that one.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. Okay. So, I'll write that in my notes so that I can make sure that I follow up with you in the next round.

MR. LANDGRAF: Um-hum.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay, Director. You talked about a couple of wells that you'll be drilling in Makawao. Is that near the old, like, Pi'iholo wells?

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

April 4, 2024

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: In that general area, yes. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, at what...at what level is that?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, it has to be...it has to be outside of the area that's in the Consent Decree.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Um-hum.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: And so, it basically is just...just up the mountain, mauka from where the line of the Consent Decree is. That...that's where we're looking.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: What is that, about 1,500 feet? Two thousand feet?

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Or higher?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: About right.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah, 2,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: About 2,000 feet.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah, I would say between 1,500 and 2,000.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. And so, you're going to drill two wells?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's our plan, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And so, one is just like a backup? And one is a primary and one is a backup, or are --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: No.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- you going to use...

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, this would be two separate...two...two independent wells.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is that for the...to address the Upcountry list?

MR. LANDGRAF: Yes.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. This would provide additional source Upcountry that could

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

April 4, 2024

use, you know, for both to make sure that we have adequate supply for the existing users first. And then, when we get to the point where the reliable supply exceeds demand, then we can start processing the meter list. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, about how many people do you have on the meter list now?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Fourteen hundred eighty, I think. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And so how many would this new...these new two wells handle?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. It depends on how we determine...it depends on what...what the reliable capacity ends up being. You don't know how much the well is going to produce until you drill it. And so, when you drill it and then you have to make that you understand how much it can reliably produce, and then you can put that down to an equation for how many meters you can process. It...but remember, first, you want to make sure that you can meet the existing demand. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, these other two wells that Maui Land and Pine drilled a while back have determined to be not reliable?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, we're working with them on that. One of the wells isn't great. It may be a situation when we need to deepen it, make it a little deeper because it's probably in a perched...it's groundwater that sits kind of perched, it isn't like the main aquifer. We're just...we're working with them on that. We're looking at potentially getting a...getting the M...MLP well up . . . *(inaudible)*. . . Did you want to add anything?

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

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, we're looking at getting those. But again, the well that we...one well we certainly know wasn't a particularly good well. But again, it could just be that it needs to be deeper.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

MR. LANDGRAF: It's in...it's a confined aquifer.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

MR. LANDGRAF: So, it only can produce water for so long before you have to let it rest and then you can use it again. So, we got to see if it's really worth, you know, digging --

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: One of them lazy aquifers.

MR. LANDGRAF: -- deeper with the...yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Paltin, then Johnson. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair. You know, I'm...I'm looking at your response to question 18 and I understand about the structures and the things, but what about the water lines? Is there...is it pending a full damage assessment?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Oh, I see. The...is that about the damage assessment for the fire?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. So...so, the...the damage assessment for the fire, first off, we looked at the above-ground damage. And that was hydrants and meters mostly, right? And...and so...and that's been completed. We're preparing to give that information to get to FEMA with our consultant. And...and then, we...we were looking at a potential underground --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are...are you going to cc us on that. . .*(inaudible)*. . . document?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Okay. Sure, I can. Yeah. Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That'd be awesome.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Okay. And then, the...the second part is, well then, what is the underground damage? And we've concluded that there isn't a lot of underground damage because the system is...is not leaking. And so, we...we...and the cost of...the cost of determining the extent of underground damage is quite high. So, we're...at this point, we're concluding that, except in a few areas, we're going to assume that...and I think it's a good assumption...that the...that the actual main lines, the main County system is...is fine. So, that was the other good news because that means less we have to deal with. So, that's...that's where we are on the damage assessment.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would you --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: And then, we really didn't have any other damage, like, we didn't lose any treatment plants or pump stations, or any...any major issues. So,

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

April 4, 2024

we're...we're good there.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Would you, like, run a set amount of water through a pipe and see if that set amount of water comes out the other end, just to make sure --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. We can tell if it leaks, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- it's not leaking?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We know if it leaks, right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, you know it leaks?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, we can tell if it leaks.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, if it leaks.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Because if it leaks, it's going to be obvious. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Okay. And then --

MR. LANDGRAF: So...so, the...the all Lāhainā system is pressurized right now. And so, we are holding pressure and, you now, we have small leaks here and there that we're going to repair, but nothing...nothing major.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the whole system's already been checked for all of the burn zone.

MR. LANDGRAF: As far as leaking, the whole system is re-pressurized.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then, so everybody has water?

MR. LANDGRAF: They can get water. I mean, not all everybody can drink it, okay?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. LANDGRAF: But you can get water.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. Yeah, there are two issues. One is, do they have water pressure, which you want everybody to have for fire protection, right?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Right.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: And then the second question is, is it drinkable? And that's where you have to go through this...this big intensive test program that now EPA is helping us with to...to verify that it's all potable. And as you know, we've been going through area by area very methodically to verify the water is clean before we say it's okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: How do you choose the order in which you go through, the number of complaints?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: No, no, no, no.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: It...but it's an engineering question. You have to go in from the...where the water enters the system and you work your way down. Because if you clear something below and there was contamination above it, well then, it would come in and you would...so it would have to --

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

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- go in the direction that the hydraulic water...the water flows through the system.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Okay. So, have we gotten to those 24 still-standing homes in Wahikuli?

MR. LANDGRAF: We're working on it this week.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then, do you have a mapping of the areas that are leaking?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Oh, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like, what are we talking about in terms of time and resources to fix those leaks?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. Well, there aren't leaks. And so, it's --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, there aren't any leaks.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- the quality issue. There's just...little leaks are just something we always fix.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, that isn't a big issue. In terms of the quality issues, so we have a map online that we update every, you know, whenever we make any changes to it that shows what areas are...the water's good and what areas the water is...it's called an Unsafe Water Advisory. And as soon as we clear an area, we change the map and we put out a press release so people know, okay, this areas is now clean, right? And --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I've been to that site, and you know that disclaimer right at the front at the...it...it --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I thought we took it off. But anyway, yeah, it's --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- doesn't engender a lot of confidence in...in what you put out there, that it says, like, we're not responsible for any mistakes, or whatever, like. And then...and then you say, oh, it's safe. It's like...it's hard. I mean, like, I drink water from my pipe, but I live in Nāpili. . . .(timer sounds). . . But, like, when I go on the site and it says, oh, this information might not be accurate and whatever and we're talking about our drinking water, it's...it's difficult. Is...does that disclaimer need to be there?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Well, the disclaimer was there because of the map itself, not because of the testing that we do. And so, we tried to...did we not get that off? I thought we got that off?

MR. LANDGRAF: I don't know.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I thought we took it off. But I can take a look and make sure.

MR. LANDGRAF: I thought we changed it, though.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I thought we changed it to make sure it was that we are talking...the disclaimer refers to the map itself.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Not the water quality testing --

MR. LANDGRAF: Not...yeah.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So --

MR. LANDGRAF: It's more like a data thing --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. LANDGRAF: -- more than it is a result of what we're finding.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. Right.

MR. LANDGRAF: And, you know, if somebody pulls something...or something gets put in wrong, like the data gets put in the wrong section, right? Or somebody does something like that. It's not...it's not the result that we're getting from the testing; that is all good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I guess the result is we're still nervous to trust the data that we see online when we're drinking the water out of our pipe because, if the data is...or is not wrong and the map on which the data is being displayed could possibly be wrong, how do you know you're drinking the clean water or the still contaminated water?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So...so when we say, the...the map...the disclaimer is about the map itself, like, is the street exactly in the right place? Is it...you know, but when we...when we say that an area is clear on the map, the area is clear. That...that we can...that we are very confident in. So, you know, there may be little glitches in the map that aren't exactly right, but when we say an areas goes into...is pulled out...is...is...we say the water is safe, the water in that area is safe. So, I don't know, we can both say that as often as we can because that is actually the...that is the case.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Maybe we got to just clip that part of video and run it on YouTube, or something. *Akakū* --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- on repeat.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Johnson, then Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. Good afternoon, Department. So good to see you. I'll just jump into my questions. Did you consult with the farming community before proposing to increase the Ag water rates by 20 percent?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We did not, no.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Has any farmers come to you to tell them about what...or tell you about what that effect would do to their operations.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: They have not.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Because they don't know, right? Okay. That's concerning, but I...I heard your explanation before. But I think to compare them to...you know, like, yeah, they're getting a discounted rate, of course, much discounted than other users. But no other users is growing food for our community, right? So, that's the concern I have. So, the next question I have is, the operations total for the water administration program is decreased by 14 percent in FY 2025. And that's on page 815 of the Program Budget. How does this impact the total amount of grant funding available to support your goal number 4, which is support a sustainable water supply? Will less grant funding be available for watershed protection and management this year? That's what my concern is. I don't want us to cut folks --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: No, that's not being cut.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's staying the same. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Then the next, the last question I have for you right now is, please describe the water conservation program. And I have the numbers if you need it, but it's on page 24-15, Budget Details. Is this a grant subsidy fund? What will funds be used for? What would the funds be used for and how is this determined? Does the budget involve outreach...for example, homeowner associations...about the benefits of allowing xeriscaping? And then basically in here, it's a...it looks like a 380,000 proposed...is it for xeriscaping and native plants demonstrating...demonstration project, Maui Nui Botanical Garden financial, technical incentive workshops, West Maui.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Sure, yeah. The best person to answer that is online, Eva Blumenstein. So, Eva, if you could go ahead and answer that one, please? There she is.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: I can do that. Aloha. Do you hear me okay?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Loud and clear.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yeah, so, yeah. So, the conservation program, under 953158B code, yeah, so it's not a grant subsidy fund.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Nope.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: And we haven't approved...we've asked for an increase the last three years, but we're asking for a flat budget from last year, so the type of activities is, for this year, driven largely by feedback and a draft conservation plan that we had a consultant help us prepare a water conservation shortage plan.

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

April 4, 2024

And, in turn, that plan is...basically the foundation for that is the conservation policies and the water use and development plan. So, that's sort of like the foundation. The outreach is...we're trying to do more targeted outreach than generic. You know, we've done a lot of the conservation poster contests and outreach to schools and events. And we're trying to do that a little more targeted now to match that conservation metric. So, that could, for example, lead to homeowner associations to discuss particulars of --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: -- xeriscaping with native plants.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We are...we will be bringing to Council, right after budget, our proposal for enhancing the conservation measures in the County code, so you'll have a chance to look at some additional things we think we should look at to enhance that conservation.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Great. Well, on thing I'll add is, you know, you're working...you're finishing up your conservation plan, that's...that's what I heard?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: When...when you go to apply for Federal funds, it...quite often, they say, do you have a conservation plan? So, do you plan to use that conservation plan to go and reach out for those Federal funds?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Sure. Well, we already have a...a pretty good conservation plan.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Great.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: And we...we're just looking at making it more...you know, tweaking some additional measures. So, we can already say we have one --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- that's pretty good.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Then, does that...the Federal funds often ask...or --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- Federal guys often ask you if you have a --

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

April 4, 2024

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. They want to make sure that we're being efficient with what we're doing. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Wonderful. I didn't hear my time, so I'm just going to go for this question. If we keep the Ag rates flat . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I'll be back. Thank you.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I think I know where you're going.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's very good. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Aloha Director, Deputy Director. Mahalo for being with us here today. Okay. Let's see. I wanted to start with the new categories, and I...I am so happy, and I'm sure Mr. Brett Fahn [sic]...Fahnestock, Fahnestock, shoot...he was a testifier the first year I got onto the Council to talk about multi-family and how they pay the same as resort. And in working on the hotel and resort category to charge a higher rate to hotel and resort, there were so many layers to working on the multi-family. At least that's what I understood and it was going to take a lot of staff work and there wasn't a whole lot of support at the Department at that time that I wasn't able to get that done. And it took, like, over three years for...for me to...to get this through. And you came and in less than a year, you did it, so I'm so happy and grateful that you didn't need the Council to, you know, push you to...to do it. So, mahalo for creating it. I was wondering if you have a definition or how you're classifying the multi-family and commercial and how that's all going to work. Because I was asked to define what the hotel and resort category was going to be, who was going to be in it, how...you know, who was not going to be included. And so, I was hoping you could kind of just speak to that a little bit.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Sure. And I...I also have Ortaine, our Fiscal Manager, and she can probably answer that better. But we...I can also get you the...kind of the written definition to really make it very, very clear. It's essentially anything that's not a single-family dwelling or business, . . .*(inaudible)*. . .but Ortaine; did you want to add anything to that?

MS. ACIDERA: Yes. In our system actually where we were looking at this. It is actually the general consumers. There is another field where they actually separate the multi-family against the regular general consumers, which would consider it commercial. And then, the only thing that we have to do in addition, is to identify those hotels and resorts. And we use the record from RPT to be able to determine the hotel and resorts from our CC and B, our billing system, and separate those from the general consumers. And that's how we did it.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And I appreciate you. Thank you.

MS. ACIDERA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And so, I...I know you keep saying residential rate. But when you say residential, do you mean single-family?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that clarification because multi-family is also residential. And so, single-family is...is tiered; hotel, resort, commercial, multi-family are all flat; and then Ag and non-dwelling Ag are...are tiered. And I support that. Mahalo. Okay. I don't know if you have the information now, and I know it's only been three months...oh, I guess it was on your slide the...the amount of revenue that the hotel-resort category generated and how that compared to the revenue when it was a part of just all general users. If...if you've seen, like an...has there been observable water conservation? Did it generate, you know, approximately the amount of revenue that you anticipated or more...maybe more?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. So...so, when we put together the budget for 2024, we didn't assume additional revenue because we weren't sure how it was going to happen, so...and I haven't...we've only really had two months at this point to go on, so I haven't really looked at it yet, but we can take a look at that.
...*(timer sounds)*...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I'll wait for my round two.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department, in the Office of Management, Capital Improvement Project, when it talks about all the disaster projects, there are water projects that are listed and I wanted to know if you were involved in that. So, water supply infrastructure repairs and replacements, fire flow improvements to water system, Honokōwai to Wahikuli water line extensions, and of course, there's wastewater things that you'll be involved in but, with all the things you are doing, and the importance of what's happening with West Maui, I just want to know if you're involved in...is this...is this added to your list of everything you need to do?

MR. LANDGRAF: Yes. So, I'm directly involved with that portion of it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. LANDGRAF: So, I'm working with the Office of Recovery and Infrastructure on that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And that will...you have enough staff to simultaneously do everything else that you're doing under CIP plus this?

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

April 4, 2024

MR. LANDGRAF: Yes, we will be very, very busy.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: But I will add that, you know, our CIP, we just secured a contract with a consultant there, too, to help us deliver projects. So...because we're anticipating that our project load is...it's been fairly low this year because we only had \$10 million in the capital program. We're projecting a higher load next year plus the...plus the fire, so we...do we...we are getting a consultant. Our CIP staff is very good, but we are getting consultant assistance to help us make sure we get those projects out this year.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And it's not Tetra Tech. Who's your consultant you --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Stantec.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Stantec.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Well, but that's not...it's a different...that...Stantec is a different consultant we're using to help us get funding.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: It's Bowers is the...is the consultant we're using for the capital improvement project, which the County also uses them in other departments. So, they have a lot of experience in delivering projects.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I see. So, Bowers is doing the actual engineering work to get your work done and Stantec is looking after how do you get your money?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Essentially, yeah. And again, Bowers just...we haven't done...we haven't had...we just secured the contract with them. But they'll be actually...they won't be designing the projects; they'll be delivering the projects. So, the...the design is done by, some of it in-house; we use other consultants. And then, they're the ones that actually then say, take the design and get a project built.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, interesting.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah, and so Bowers is also working with us on...in the Office of Recovery.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wow.

MR. LANDGRAF: And so, a lot of those projects, too, if we can, we're going to combine them with the other the other departments so they can all be put together as one bigger project to get it done quicker.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So much work to do. Okay, so round two, Members? Okay. I'm going to just say two words, Merrie Monarch. I got asked. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Some people want to go home to...it starts at 6:00, so people want to go homes. Okay. Okay, round two and I...and I thought, oh, maybe we could get done by 5:00. But I don't know. Okay. So, Member Cook, Member U'u-Hodgins, Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question is regarding the countywide CIP improvement program over the six years, it's like 57 million. So, I'm just curious...permitting. Do you have issues for the new construction aspect when you're doing this type of work? I...I mean, and is that just like if it's an SMA, that you do, but other areas you don't? I'm just...how much of a permitting issue do you have when you're upgrading infrastructure, which may consist of tanks, pumps, transmission lines, trenching. I know it's a pretty broad question, but I'm asking how much of an impediment that is in your work.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. So, I'm going to ask Tom Ochwat to answer that; he's also online. I feel like I'm phoning a friend here, but he's...he's...he's our CIP person and he can talk about the permit issues that we had to go through. So, Tom.

MR. OCHWAT: Thank you, Councilmember Cook. We...I think we discussed this a little bit in the past. We have the same frustrations of getting permits as the public does of going through MAPPS with building permits, roadway...right to work in the roadway permits. And we try to deal with it as best we can. We try to inform the contractor of these potential delays, just because of the backlog of...of getting permits. Fortunately, a large portion of our projects, when we do a replacement for booster pumps or motor control pumps or...or motor control centers, one thing that we...we don't have to do is an EA. It's a replacement project and those replacement projects are exempt from the EA process.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Would that include tank replacement?

MR. OCHWAT: Yes. However, tank replacements do require a building permit.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Does it require a demolition permit?

MR. OCHWAT: That...that's usually in as part of the building permit process; there's

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

April 4, 2024

supplementary permits, so demolition permits, as well. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Anyway, I'll just...I'll sum it up. I'm hopeful that since there's a planned large scope of work, if the Department can...if we can work together and if the Department can identify how long it takes to do different aspects of it and where the potential streamlining could be and communicate, then we can either create legislation or work with the Administration to identify how much money it's costing because of the delays, and so that we can get the infrastructure done at a lower cost and more bang for our buck. . . *(timer sounds)*. . . That's just a suggestion and offer.

MR. OCHWAT: Oh, I appreciate that very much. I also would propose that, if the permitting process would allow or have us state that...the big thing for me is lapsing funds. And if I hold on...hold back this project until I get all the permits my funds may lapse because it may take over a year to get the permits. So, I think there needs to be a streamlining or a question on the permit application, will funds lapse with this CIP project this fiscal year?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Chair, can we propose that they are exempt from permitting in the future?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Okay. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: You're going to have all of Upcountry really upset if you exempt the Water Department from their own permits when Upcountry has no water permits. You want to start a fight; let's fight. I'm just joking. You would lose.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member U'u-Hodgins, Sinenci, Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Mary...we're trying to get out of here for Merrie Monarch.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's right.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. I only have one question, so I'll make it really quick. We've been hearing a lot about the fire concerns up at Holomua Road. And just the other day we'd learned that there is actually no water up there for even firefighting. What's the possibility of getting a hydrant up there or even a stand pipe?

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

April 4, 2024

MR. LANDGRAF: I don't know because there's no pipeline at all on that road. There's an old well at the old Maui High School. I'm not sure if that works still yet. We have H-Poko wells, but they're quite a ways from the site, so that would mean we'd have to run a new water line up to the tank and run it down Holomua Road.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And, okay. Then I'll ask Fire if there's any way we could get like a permanent pumpkin or something up there. But okay, so there's...there's no water line close at all.

MR. LANDGRAF: No, nothing. It's, you know, it's not an easy way to get a water line there just because of --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Sure.

MR. LANDGRAF: -- where everything is located.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: It's a very remote location.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay. Thank you. That's all for me, Chair. Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just had a follow-up question on Pro Tem Kama's question about the Upcountry water meter. So, once you've gone ahead and been approved for your water meter and purchase it, what's the next step again? How...is there a timeline as far as installation...actual installation of the...the water meter.

MR. LANDGRAF: So, once you're approved...you come in and you do your application for your water meter and you get approved. You pay the installation fee. We create something in Fiscal. And after that, Fiscal creates another form that gets sent down to Operations. Operations does a work order to go out and install the meter, then they come and say that the work order is complete. The meter was installed.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. There's nothing else that the applicant has to do. It's all internal.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It's all internal.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Is there a timeline for this...or...or...I'm...I'm getting calls. They're waiting. But I mean, normally, it takes what, a couple months?

MR. LANDGRAF: Well, I think once you come put in an application, it shouldn't take more than a month.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: More than a month, around a month.

MR. LANDGRAF: It...it shouldn't. It just depends on whether there was anything that was in the application or . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: So...so, it's...it's normally just a waiting game. Is there a...is there a way to contact the Department or online or anything or check on your...on the status of your installation?

MR. LANDGRAF: I don't think we have anything online, but you're more than willing to call the office.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Call the office?

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: But I would add that...that --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- we think we could do better on in customer service. And so, we think things...ideas like that is something we are focusing on in the next year to try to be more visible in terms of what's happening with these things. So, let...give us a little chance to work on it. We...I think we should...we should be...have some more visibility into what's going on with these permits, so we'll look into that.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Like a PIO.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's going to help. Yeah.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah, well, Director's right. So, we're trying to, you know, make the process more streamlined.

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

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

April 4, 2024

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. Okay. Member Kama, then Lee, Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, now we got to circle back to the...to the water meter Upcountry. You said, so once the work order is generated, then it's a matter of time until whoever's supposed to service that work order gets out there to do it.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Is that right?

MR. LANDGRAF: It...it shouldn't take us that long, but I'm...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

MR. LANDGRAF: I don't know where...I have to go look into it. I'm trying to track it once it gets done.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Um-hum.

MR. LANDGRAF: So, we're trying to make be it more efficient so once they get the work order, they go in and take and put the meter and it's, you know, taken care of.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Because I'm just going to tell you, I just texted my daughter. She said, it's still not there. And so, we're on two years, still yet, going into three come September. So, I keep asking and nagging about the process because it doesn't sound it's that easy because it's...it's supposed to be that easy.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But it wasn't. And I don't know what the hang up was --

MR. LANDGRAF: Okay, so --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- all these times, so I'm just...so, I'm tracking it for her. Right?

MR. LANDGRAF: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Because she can't track it because she can't track it because nobody talks to her. And I'm terrible because I don't have to have...I don't want to be the one to do this. It...she...she's just as important as I am, right?

MR. LANDGRAF: Um-hum.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But I know people and she doesn't. So, I want our people to be able to just knock on --

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

April 4, 2024

MR. LANDGRAF: Um-hum.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- your doors and do their application. Give you their \$90 for the water meter and then get a letter that says, hey, we got your...your application. We're waiting...we put in a work order and therefore, it should be there within...like, even the Spectrum TV guys, they tell you when they're coming to your house. They tell you between what day and what time. I mean, even the Menhune Water guy says, we have you on a schedule. I mean, it shouldn't have to be that long. That's all I'm saying.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yeah. So, we do need to make improvements to our...our process.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes.

MR. LANDGRAF: And so, tell me what the --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: But, that's all. I wasn't going to have a question.

MR. LANDGRAF: I will look into that meter. And...because I think I remember you coming to me --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LANDGRAF: -- already about that and it hasn't --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. LANDGRAF: -- been put in, so I will look into that.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, we should be able...we should be able to be --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: And then I talked to Director Stufflebean, I talked to him about that, too. And then I just got a letter in my office that said, it's done. So, I told my daughter, go check. And she said, no, it's still not there.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Oh, it's almost there, almost there.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, our goal is to definitely be better than the cable TV companies.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. That's all. Thank you, Member Sinenci.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Chair Lee, Member Paltin, Johnson, and

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

April 4, 2024

Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I thought I'd give them a break. No questions.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Oh, I do have...I do have a...a correction to what I said earlier.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: On the Makawao wells, it's actually two well fields and the...the proposal is two wells in each of those well fields. So, it would be a well and a back-up well --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- in each of those two locations.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. I just wanted to clarify it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, very good. Thank you.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Um-hum. Sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin, Merrie Monarch.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I have three topics for discussion questions. The first, the consultant fees, is that...any of those are professional services...any of those for the expedited permitting process for the Lahaina repopulation?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So...so, yeah...so, there's actually a separate process to expedite those permits and I know Kimo's been the most involved with that, so --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, it's not involved in your budget, it's --

MR. LANDGRAF: No.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. No. It's . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

MR. LANDGRAF: No. Not the expedited. The expedited comes under DSA, Public Works.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But there is an expedited permit process.

MR. LANDGRAF: Yes.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Is it rolled into the building permit process?

MR. LANDGRAF: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay, so --

MR. LANDGRAF: It's not sort of ours, but it's --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, it's a countywide effort.

MR. LANDGRAF: We're...we're participating with DSA in that process.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, there's an expedited permitting process and you're included in it, but it's not in this section of the budget?

MR. LANDGRAF: Right, it's not in our...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Got it. Thank you. And then, next question would be, I forget the guy's name, but Napili Hau single family homes; what was the solution for them?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: They'll get the multi-family rate.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. But they're single-family homes.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Well, but from our perspective, since there's more than one house on a meter, we consider them multi-family. So, we're giving them...they would be getting the multi-family rate.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's a good deal for them --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. But --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: They get Tier 2.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. But legally they're single-family homes.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Well, not from our perspective because of the meter situation, yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, the definition, right? So, that's the definition we need to make sure is clear.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: What's the --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: No, it's based --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- is it 5/8ths?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: No. It...it's based on...for our definition...single family means one meter per house. If it's a meter that serves more than one house, that's...for our definition, that's considered multi-family...multi-family. And that's important because the tiers don't work for that situation. But they're getting Tier 2, which is way better than the general rate that they were getting this year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'd like to check into Corp. Counsel maybe after, when they get a chance, if that is our legal definition of single-family home is one pipe going to one house. Because I don't know if that's true, but if...if they could be looking into that, that'd be great. The last question set that I have is the CIP designations for West Maui, the Honolua wells, Launiupoko wells, and the Honokōwai Valley Tunnel, the four million is for the Honokōwai Tunnel?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I have to take a look at the number. I don't off the top of my head know the number.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, it's page 991 of your Program Budget.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Tom, do you happen to know . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . Do you know that off the top of your head, Tom?

MR. OCHWAT: I'm looking that up right now. I believe the first phase is a design phase and then the second phase is the construction phase and I believe the construction phase is approximately \$4 million.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we're in the construction phase for the --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: No, next year would be the design phase.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, but there's \$4 million for construction.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. Tom?

MR. OCHWAT: Yeah. I'm following up right now on that. It's for fiscal '25, it's 400,000 for the design phase and fiscal '27 is \$4 million for the construction phase.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Of the . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Valley Tunnel?

MR. OCHWAT: That's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we wouldn't see the construction until '27?

MR. OCHWAT: Yeah, which would be July of '26, that fiscal year.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So then, was the sustainable yield of that going to be a million gallons a day?

MR. OCHWAT: I got...I received numbers from the Commission on Water Resources and --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Um-hum.

MR. OCHWAT: -- they gave me a range of, depending on the date or year, it ranged from a half million gallons per day to 900,000 gallons per day, or .9 million gallons per day.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: For \$4,400,000. But we just drilled the well for 16 million for one million gallons a day?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's a good deal.

MR. OCHWAT: Yeah, I think that's a pretty good deal because --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I agree.

MR. OCHWAT: -- the tunnel's already been drilled.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It should have been . . . *(inaudible)* . . . Okay. And then so I know that that was CWRM's recommendation to us and they're giving us that water free without a WUPA. The Honolua as well as the Launiupoko things that we're doing; do we have a WUPA for those?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, Eva...or Tom?

MR. OCHWAT: Yeah, that's a question for Eva.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, for Eva. Go ahead.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yeah. So, we don't know whether what is . . . *(inaudible)* . . . required for the Honokōwai Tunnel or not. That's the Commission's decision. So, we're just basing on what staff is telling us. We will need new --

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm sorry, you don't know what about the Honokōwai...I didn't...

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: For Honokōwai Tunnel, we don't know whether a new use...water use permit will be required. That's the Commission's, yeah, not the staff's decision. So, we don't know that yet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: But we will definitely need water use permits for all new sources.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's just the staff's...oh, it would...it would be just a recommendation and it depends on what the Commission...if they...if they follow the recommendation or not?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Oh, I don't know that there is any exemption to water use permit applications at all, really. I mean, it is an existing source, but it wasn't our existing source, so...so that determination has not been made. But for all new wells, our understanding is that we'll need water use permits.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm...I'm a little confused because the water is coming out and it's going into an unlined ditch. And it's just kind of being wasted. And if we're going to just take that water that's going into the unlined ditch and transfer it to, like, the water treatment facility. It's being used and it's still being used. It's just being used efficiently by somebody else. So, is it an existing use or a new use?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yeah, so it was not the Department's existing use. And I...I don't know that anyone has applied for an existing use for it so, you know, in terms of adding it to our system, it would add new source to us. So, that's our interpretation, that it would have been new use. But we'll definitely try to expedite it if...if possible.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then to clarify, if the Government were to transfer their use of...existing use of water in the burned down area and, like, reallocate it to the school below the airport, is that a new use or an existing use?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. Yeah, CWRM has told us that we have the flexibility to move water in the public system as we see appropriate. So, we can move water around, as long as it's not additional water, from one area to another in...as long as it's within the public system.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, would that not be the same as the Honokōwai Valley Tunnel? Because that is the State's water and it's governments and governments

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

April 4, 2024

moving water around.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's...we think that's the case, yes. We think it should be. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. Got it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the Honolua well and the Launiupoko well, you still need a WUPA for those? Before...are you going to get the WUPA before you even move forward with the design and this 4 million and 1.84 million on page 991? And what is the construction for if the construction money is not for the tunnel?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So...well, for the wells? These...these wells are different than the tunnel. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you're...you're putting money towards construction when you don't have a WUPA?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We're...we're...we're proposing that we drill some of the new wells in areas that we think are good. We understand that we would have to get a permit to do that. But we're putting them, you know, so that would be a part of the process to get a new permit for those wells. But we think those are...those are wells where there is sustainable yield and we feel that once CWRM gets to those areas, these would be wells that we would have a good chance of getting a permit. Obviously, if we don't get the permit, we wouldn't proceed with them. But we...that part of the process would be to get the permits for those.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, the money we're allocating right now are to get the WUPAs before any design or construction money is sent...spent?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Okay. And then the...the new well that broke ground last...was it last...last year, I think you mentioned that it's having some issues about something crossing the gulch or something in one of your responses. Is that the same one?

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

April 4, 2024

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah. Yes. And we're, you know, the well also includes piping to connect it to our system and a storage tank. And there were the kind of the typical construction delays. It's on...it's moving along quite nicely though. So...but it's a little late, but that's kind of always the way it is in construction projects. Nothing major, just dealing with typical construction.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And that one has an approved WUPA?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I think not. Eva, what's the status of that?

MR. LANDGRAF: I think that's submitted.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: There are no approved water use permits of the...

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: The Commission hasn't issued water use permits for anyone. So, they're still --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: -- well, they've looked at the first few. So, we don't know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But we have an application in?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: For all our existing sources.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But that's not an --

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: And all the existing sources that we use, even though we don't own them.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Even one that we ground last year would not be considered an existing source?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: I'm sorry, are you talking about Kahana well? Is that what you're talking about?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes. Kahana well. Yes.

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yeah, so --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yes.

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

April 4, 2024

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Yeah, so existing use is just those that were in active use at the time of designation, whether they were drilled or not. There's a bunch of wells that were drilled and not active and not considered existing uses. So, that's a new use.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, did we application for the Kahana well?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: We're putting it in now but after the existing use permits.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, we --

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: Because we know that the Commission is not...is not the same. You know, they haven't finished processing existing uses that need to be allocated first.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we're...we're drilling the well. We spent money on the planning, construction, and design, but we don't have a WUPA for it and we are going to put in an application?

MS. BLUMENSTEIN: So...so this well was in design and funded way before designation. So, it was already far into the process in an aquifer where, you know, we believe it's still remaining yield to...to satisfy the need for this well. So, this is just the sequence, you know of CWRM, how they process the water permits.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Right?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, we're...we're pretty much in the same boat as the Pulelehua wells?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Well, except that the CWRM does look at public wells differently than private wells. So, they...they tend to favor public...new public supplies versus private supplies.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. But is the public wells not going to be used to provide water for people to live in houses similar to, like, the...these private wells? I know some private wells are used for farming, some private wells are used for hotels or luxury resorts, STR, but we don't have affordable housing options right now in West Maui. A one-bedroom is going for 5 to \$11,000. So, I mean, whether it's a private purveyor or a public source, if the use is for affordable housing, what's the difference?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, that's really a question...I mean, what I'm telling you is

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

April 4, 2024

what...how CWRM prioritizes. And what they've told us is they prioritize the public systems. So that's really their...their decision.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Ask them that question.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes. Exactly.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Got it. I heard the bell.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So funny. But it is West Maui...it's West Maui, so we understand. Okay. So, I have no questions. Members, you have another round of question? You do, Member Johnson? Oh, I'm sorry, I didn't do you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, sorry. Oh, you didn't do it either. I thought Tamara Paltin took your time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That one was delayed hearing. The other one was selective hearing.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, sorry about that, Member Johnson, and Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I was going to ask a...a question, but my bell rang, so I wanted to wait for my second round. So, here it is. If we keep Ag water rates flat for FY 2025, where would you like to...to get the funding from?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So, that would obviously reduce the revenue. I can...I can determine how much that would reduce the revenue. I can't provide it right now, but I can figure that out and we can determine whether we need to made adjustments, based on how much that would be. So, I would have to look at that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, you'll get back to us?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, sure.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay, great.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Um-hum.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. So, this is just...I figure...a little bit of time here, I figured I, you know, having hearing these discussions with everybody else talking about water, public...our County water on Maui, I feel a little bit left out. Lānaʻi doesn't have a Maui water system; it's all private. On...we have 115 acres

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

April 4, 2024

of County-owned land on Lānaʻi, and the 70 acres that is...70 plus acres that we have for affordable housing project that is...we're trying to get going. Would you ever imagine a time where we would have a County-owned well on say, for example, that parcel where we could have...I could say to my constituents, yes, this is your water. It's a public trust. I believe in a public trust doctrine. But right now, I can't say that to my constituents, so is that a...would you look at, like, a size of a parcel, you'd say that's a place that we could? Or is it just more of that idea of like, well, do we only build a well if need water, but there's a private system that has the water. Do you see what I'm saying?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Sure, so I think I, you know, I prefer that water systems be public. So, we would certainly look at any situation where we want to look at converting a private --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Even if the system is a private well?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yes. And that's the same case anywhere on the County, where if there's private systems, I like the idea of them becoming public, so we would look at that anywhere.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, I'm sure that . . . *(inaudible)* . . .

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: It would be difficult on Lānaʻi because we don't have any personnel over there at all--

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- so that becomes, I mean, you know, a physical challenge, of course.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: It's a challenge, but historically, the plantation has owned the water, has owned the land, has owned the people's housing, has owned everything. And this is 2024 and there ain't no plantation over there, do you know what I'm saying?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Um-hum.

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

April 4, 2024

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, that's the thing I'm trying to catch up to. And I just wanted to hear your opinion on if there...if you look at it in a way of like, well, if there's an existing water line that's private, no need for County. But I'm...I'm hearing --

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's not how I look at it, no.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's great to hear that. So, that's my time and...or that's all I wanted to ask you, so thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Okay. So, back to rates and fees. Okay. So, I...I looked up a previous fiscal year, like FY '22 or something. It used to say, water...for a single-family dwelling, water service charges to single-family dwellings, single-family and accessory dwellings with a 5/8ths meter.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And that was taken out?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We took that out. Right. We took that out because I didn't feel it should only apply to a 5/8ths inch meter. That was something we took out last year.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I saw that it wasn't in last year.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. Because homes can have 3/4s meters, and they should still get the Tiers.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's great. Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I support that. All right. Next question. Okay. The water rate study, which was updated in 2022, recommended a 3.5 increase every fiscal year, but it was like right after the, or right during the pandemic and then I think it was delayed. So, I...I don't think it was like a 3.5 increase across the board and there's increases in different categories in the different tiers and stuff, but in your...in your presentation it was like a 9 percent increase. Is it just a 9 percent increase --

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

April 4, 2024

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: So. So.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- in all? Go ahead.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Yeah, so the...yeah. I don't know why this keeps turning. So, the...the increase that...if you look at all the different rate categories that were changing and then sum them up into how much more revenue we get...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's the nine.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's the 9.9 percent.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: And again, my goal was 10 percent, as I discussed last year.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: And that, again, that's not really...that's important for next year. But to me, this is building the base for years to come.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Um-hum.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We need to make sure that we have enough of a...of a base income to be able to handle both our...both our operating funds—operating budget and the capital program. So that's building the base for the long-term.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. I guess, as...as, you know, someone that pays County water too, I think everyone has expressed just that...that concern that, you know, like, our...our...our salaries don't increase at 3.5 percent, and so, like, just having all these different fees continue to increase, it...it becomes a heavier burden on our residents. And I...and I know that Tier 1 wasn't increased, so that's huge. Okay. Pau with rates and fees. The State revolving...revolving loan fund...I don't know if I said that right...and you said, like half of it gets forgiven?

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: It depends on the project.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: I see.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: On that particular project--

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It would.

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

April 4, 2024

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- . . . (*inaudible*). . . of it was forgiven.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: It qualified.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: They don't have to give any of it, but they usually do some.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: We got a really deal on that project --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: -- where they got half of it. Right.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, when it comes back, . . .(*timer sounds*). . . is it lump sum forgiven? Or how does that work and where does the money go? What...what...or it's just forgiven and we don't have to pay.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: That's right. We don't have to pay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, we just the loan and we just...okay. Got it.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: And you don't have to make any more payments.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah. Sorry. I just explain it to myself. Okay. I have another question, but it's okay. I can talk to you about it offline. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, do you all need a round three? No?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Merrie Monarch.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Tamara will stay here by herself and ask more questions. Just kidding. Okay, one more question Tamara.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Our Maui County Code 19.04.040 does not define single-family home in that way. And if we're a County of laws following the Maui County Code, the Charter, I just would say that we're not in alignment with our laws.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: I can discuss this with our attorney, Caleb, and if we need to make some modifications to that to make this happen, we'll look at that. Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Because, I mean, what do you tell a constituent

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

April 4, 2024

that says, my house is a single-family house based on the Maui County Code and you're not giving me the single-family water rate? And I know you said that by law, it needs to have a pipe to a house. But if you changed the law after that development was built, that's not their fault.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Right. That's why we're proposing to let them have Tier 2, which is a good deal.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I know it's a good deal, but it's not in alignment with the code.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Okay, well, then, we should look at changing the code. Right. We recommend something. And if that's the case and again, let me talk to Caleb about that, but if that's the case, we should --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I...I think they did that before and a guy named Minatoya said that there's legacy usage. If you were doing something at the time the way it is and then you change the law, you're...you're like changing the rules of the game mid-game kind of.

MR. STUFFLEBEAN: Okay. We can...we'll take a look at that. Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Done?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'm just saying what the code is; I didn't write the code.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you're...you're done.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Not that part.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Not that part.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay, Members. Very good. We are before 5:00. So, we made it. I wanted you to know that we do not have anything...no budget meetings tomorrow. And tomorrow's Council Meeting. But we do have meetings on Monday, and it's going to be Planning, Prosecuting Attorney, Public Works at 9:00 to 4:00, and then we have West Maui on Monday at 6 o'clock. So, we'll be traveling to Tamara's territory. Okay. So, we will look for all your answers or for all the questions that I know the Mayor's going to be signing off and Lesley will be letting us know, right? Okay. So, Members, thank you very much for a good discussion. We are done, and we are five minutes before 5:00. Yay. Meeting adjourned.

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

April 4, 2024

ACTION: DEFER PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSION.

ADJOURN: 4:56 p.m.

APPROVED:



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

bfed:min:240404:ch

Transcribed by: Charlotte Hunter

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

April 4, 2024

CERTIFICATION

I, Charlotte Hunter, hereby certify that pages 1 through 161 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 16th day of April 2024, in Wailuku, Hawaii



Charlotte Hunter