

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

MINUTES

April 8, 2025

ILWU Lāna‘i Union Hall

CONVENE: 6:06 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura, Chair
Councilmember Tom Cook, Member
Councilmember Gabe Johnson, Member
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member

EXCUSED: Councilmember Tasha Kama, Vice-Chair
Councilmember Alice L. Lee, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member

STAFF: Ellen McKinley, Legislative Analyst
Maria Leon, Committee Secretary
Lori Ann Tengan, Committee Secretary
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney

Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office

OTHERS: Michele Weinhouse
Jerico V. Jaramillo
Dame Justine Tunac
Roselyn B. Dela Cruz
Fermainne Antonio
Kathleen Costales
Noemi Barbadillo
Shelly Kaiaokamalie
Annie C. Baltazar
Sherry Uy
Ashley Richardson
Diane Preza
Adam Purdy
Princess Baltero
Mary Lou Kaukeano
Kari Bogner
Eunica Espiritu
Meyah Fujie
Roger Alconcel
Stan Ruidas

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

Aira Agmata
Roxie Sumalbag
Kayla Sanches
Rose Jane Ancheta
Olivia Pascual
John Janikowski

Others (7)

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . . *(gavel)*. . . Thank you, everybody, for allowing us to be here. Welcome to the Budget, Finance, Economic Development Committee. We are so grateful to be on Lānaʻi. And welcome to this meeting. We...we are doing residency meetings so that...the Council is going to all of the residency areas, so this is very special for us. And the idea is to listen to you, and you can tell us what you think you see and what you would like to share with us about things that we can do as it relates to BFED-1, which is our agenda...on the agenda, and it's the Fiscal Year '26 budget. It is the Mayor's Budget that is before us, and we're hearing from Departments and the community, and we will be dissecting it, so your words are very important. Today we have your Councilmember, who's going to introduce his fellow Councilmembers.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Councilmember Sugimura, and aloha all. Thank you all for coming. So, I just start from my left, here we have Councilmember Tom Cook from South Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha everybody. Thanks for your hospitality, and I'm really glad to be back on Lānaʻi.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Next, we have Councilmember Keani Rawlins-Fernandez from Molokaʻi.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha everyone. Nice to see everyone tonight.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Of course, you met Councilmember Sugimura...myself, Gabe Johnson, your Councilmember for Lānaʻi. To my right, we have Councilmember Tamara Paltin from West Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha ʻauinalā kākou.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: And then finally all the way from Hāna, we have Councilmember Shane Sinenci as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Aloha, everybody.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lāna‘i Union Hall

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, once again, thank you all for coming. I see a lot of generational knowledge and generational faces in the crowd. And please share your voice with us and make your voices the wind in today's Budget. Thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. With us today we also have Maria Leon, who is probably out there with registration. Thank you, Maria. Lori Ann Tengan, Carla Nakata, and Ellen McKinley, they are OCS Staff. I always say that without them, we wouldn't be able to be here. They put together all the details to make our meetings happen.

**ITEM 1: PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2026 BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY
OF MAUI** (BILL 41 (2025), BILL 42 (2025), BILL 43 (2025), BILL 44 (2025),
BILL 45 (2025), BILL 46 (2025), and RESOLUTION 25-83)

. . . BEGIN PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: I want to invite any of you to come and testify. I'm sure you signed up, and the Staff will be calling you up in the order that you testified [*sic*]. If you would state your name and an organization that you're representing, and you'll have three minutes to do your testimony on any item in the agenda. And if you're not done, then we'll give you an extra 30 seconds. The Members will ask you questions. So, before you dash off, please pause a little bit so that in case they do--and a lot of times they don't--but if they do then they can ask you, and if you could help us tonight. And that's it, so let us begin.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the first testifier is Princess Baltero, to be followed by Eunica Espiritu.
(*pause*)

MS. BALTERO: To the Honorable Mayor, Councilmembers. My name is Princess Fey (*phonetic*), and I am currently a freshman student in Filipino class here on Lāna‘i. I am testifying on the current budget proposed by the Mayor, Bill 41. In particular, I would...it would be helpful if you consider allocating funds from the Lāna‘i Economic Development and Cultural Program to support the Lāna‘i Filipino Community Coalition. The LFCC is an organization dedicated to promoting and preserving Filipino heritage here on...on the island. As a Filipino class student, I've seen how their programs directly support cultural education. With funding, the LFCC would be able to help us, students in Filipino class, by providing resources for cultural performances, traditional costumes, educational workshops, and even helping with field trips to deepen our understanding of our history and identity. One exciting opportunity is the possibility of representing our school and our island off-island at school...at Filipino celebrations and events. With LFCC's support, we would be proud to bring our culture to broader audience through traditional dance, language presentations, and cultural exhibits. This experience would not only build our confidence, but also strengthen our pride in the...in being part of the Filipino community, supporting LFCC is supporting students like me, giving us a chance

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

to connect with our roots and to share that proudly with others. Thank you for your time, and for considering this important request.

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

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Princess. I just was wondering if you had a amount on the funding that you were requesting. The whole fund is like 140,000.

MS. BALTERO: I'm not...I'm not quite sure.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Just however much you can give? . . .*(laughing)* . . .

MS. BALTERO: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Okay. No other questions? Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Eunica Espiritu, to be followed by Meyah Fujie.

MS. ESPIRITU: Hello. My name is Eunica Espiritu, and I am a senior at Lānaʻi High and Elementary School. And just like Princess, I am also in the Filipino class. And I want to tell you why this...this is important to me. I am here to testify in support of the current budget proposed by the Mayor, Bill 41. Specifically, I ask that you consider allocating funds from the Lānaʻi Economic Development and Cultural Program to support the Lānaʻi Filipino Community Coalition. This is my own experience through this. Even though I am graduating soon as the first batch of the Filipino class, I still want to help the class as a consultant after I graduate. Going into this class, I never thought that it would make such an impact in my life because I already spoke Tagalog and Ilocáno, but it did. And we learned the history and culture of the Philippines, and that...and a lot of lessons were new to me. We then learned about the Sakadas that came here for the pineapple plantation. We took inspiration from these stories, and interviewed people who experienced working at the plantation. We made videos about their...the interviews, and that was originally our final for our class, but it ended up reaching Oʻahu for the Sakada Day Hawaiʻi Library Exhibit, and our class went to the education week in the State capitol as well. And soon...our video will soon be featured in the FilCom Center. Thank you for listening. Thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's fabulous. So, I hope you will share that video with us too. Thank you. No questions? Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Meyah Fujie, to be followed by Stan Ruidas.

MS. FUJIE: Hello, everybody. My name is Meyah Fujie. I'm a senior at Lānaʻi High and Elementary School, and I'm also a member of the school's Filipino class. I'm here to testify in support of the current budget proposed by the Mayor, Bill 41. And I ask that you consider allocating funds from the Lānaʻi Economic Development and Cultural

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

Program to support the Lānaʻi Filipino Community Coalition. As a member of the class, I have been exposed to a lot of culture that I never got to experience growing up. And as being Filipino myself, being able to experience that culture was very...had a very...had a very meaningful impact on my life. And I've learned so much through this class and through the LFCC, and I want the class to continue to have the resources in order to teach other kids and to share the culture...the Filipino community with other kids in the community. And I thank you for your time.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Okay. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair...Chair, the next testifier is Stan Ruidas, to be followed by Aria [sic] Agmata.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Stan Ruidas.

MR. RUIDAS: I was...I was waiting for all the kids to come first. I wanted to go last. Stan Ruidas, Lānaʻi resident...lifetime resident. I support everything and all things that you can bring to Lānaʻi. And I just wanted for talk about local knowledge. So, in local knowledge, when you hunt...you know, when the game is out there, when to, you know, harvest, and all that kine stuff, same with the fishing, you know, when is the best time to fish and all that. So, like in Maui, if you get local knowledge, right now Miyako is closed because they are say...they stay on vacation to Japan, so you cannot go. So, my local knowledge for Lānaʻi is we need a emergency shelter, that's...that's the bottom line. I mean, we deserve that. And also a...combined with a community center which can house...transient housing for like athletic teams, or even people that want to come and give services to Lānaʻi, like First Aid workshops or...all kine workshops. So, that would be my main one. And second one would be, my local knowledge says that we need to do a study on the Keomuku Highway because--who...who has the right-of-way when you go down to the beach, the guy coming up or the guy coming down on a lane...one-lane highway? What you do? So...and the last one is, we need a fleet maintenance for all the vehicles...and equipment, for all County equipment because we spend millions of dollars, and that's a lot of investment for Lānaʻi. And, you know, we like to keep things running because we're the last ones for to get...to get monies, yeah. And yeah, just...just see if you guys can set aside monies to do a feasibility study and data collection. That's all. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, Tamara too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Tamara can go first. Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then Member Paltin.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha, Mr. Ruidas.

MR. RUIDAS: Hello.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for...nice to see you again --

MR. RUIDAS: I know.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- in a couple of weeks. So, to...to clarify, with the emergency shelter, do you know specifically what it is that you want? The Youth Center has the hurricane clips, and so they...it now can also serve--well, when it opens--as an --

MR. RUIDAS: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- emergency shelter. So, you're...you're saying like in addition to that, and like hurricane...what level?

MR. RUIDAS: I would say Hurricane 3, you know, at least in a community plan. I think we did a Hurricane 3 plan for all new buildings. Maybe built below the skate park, and enough to hold a lot of people because we cannot fit 3,000 people in a old gym...the...the State, what you call, facility because that thing is like 50 years old, almost as old as me. But yeah, we need something that can, you know, house a lot of people in the event of...something happens. You know, as planners, we always plan for the future so, you know, that would be a worthwhile investment shell...you know, something happen to us. You know, all around the country...like compared to Lāhainā, what happened in L.A., what happened to North Carolina, you know, they're looking for shelters. So, you know, it's better to plan and not need it than to need it and don't have it.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Ruidas. I kind of had the same question because I thought we were building the Youth Center to a Hurricane 3 level of shelter. And I did see fleet maintenance...or in the Budget already, but I'm not sure if it's for the older vehicles on Lānaʻi. But you don't think that the...like in L.A., I think, and in Lāhainā, after the fire, it was gyms, but eventually the hotels took everyone in. You don't think your hotel on this island will take people in, in the event of a disaster?

MR. RUIDAS: We used to have a evacuation center at the hotels. I don't know if it's still in effect. I not on that civil defense thing. No, you cannot fit 3,000 people in shelters. We all got wooden houses, Hurricane 3, 4, 5...that's crazy. That'll wipe out everything, even Hurricane 2. So, you know, Youth Center maybe, at...at the most, 300 people if you can fit that, but what you do with the...the rest of the people?

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: We just heard from MEMA today, and they said that they assigned a person to Lānaʻi. Are...do you know who it is? Or...okay. All right. Thank you.

MR. RUIDAS: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Aira Agmata, to be followed by Roxie Sumalbag.

MS. AGMATA: To the Honorable Councilmembers, my name is Aira Agmata. I'm a freshman here at Lānaʻi High and Elementary School. And why I'm here today is I want to discuss with all of you the proposed Bill 41. Have...I cannot give you an exact number of how much I am asking for, but what I can give you is information on why I think our community really needs this, and my own experience. My entire life I've grown up as a Filipino, but it has...it has always felt like a continuous battle with myself. Growing up, primarily with people who would say I'm too much or too little, I have never found a place where I feel I belong. I have never been able to indulge in my own culture, or feel like I belong to anyone else's. However, when my high school decided to offer a Filipino 1 program, I really felt it was an opportunity for me to really find myself. And with this proposed bill, I feel I can give this opportunity not only to myself, but to the students around me. Because being from Lānaʻi, we don't really get a lot of opportunities to travel off-island, but I know if we did, we could do so much. The overall...what I've learned from that class is respect, and like learning about other people's culture, and I really want to share that with everyone around me. Yeah. What I was saying, the...with this potential funding, I really want to branch out, go to other islands, share what my island has to offer, more about the Filipino culture. Because I've really got to learn more about myself and the island in the past few weeks...not only weeks, but months, and I really just want to share that with everyone. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much. So, are there any other youth that would like to testify first? Did you...you have two more youth?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Roxie Sumalbag, to be followed by Rose Jane Ancheta.

MS. SUMALBAG: Hello, Councilmembow...Members. My name is Roxie Sumalbag, a sophomore at high school, currently taking Filipino 1. I stand before you today to testify about the current budget proposed by the Mayor, Bill 41. We would like you to consider granting funds from the Lānaʻi Economic Development and Cultural Program to support the Lānaʻi Filipino Community Coalition. For as long as I can remember, I struggled with...with my identity as a Filipino. While I am proud of my cultural identity, moving away from the Philippines at a young age greatly impacted the way I interacted with my culture. Growing up, I under...I only understood Ilocáno, and could barely speak. I believe the biggest conflict I had with my identity was my language. I envied others who

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

are able to speak their native language, while I couldn't. It felt like just understanding my language wasn't simply enough. Upon going back to the Philippines, I felt ashamed that I wasn't able to communicate with my cousins and family members. The language barrier, for me, felt isolating. When Filipino 1 was offered, it felt like a new door opened for a new start. I could finally learn the language I'd been desperately yearning for. My initial thoughts and feelings about learning Filipino, at the start, felt challenging. I could barely understand Tagalog, nor speak it. When I began this class, I was able to get the basics down. Over time, my understanding of the Tagalog language expanded where I can keep up with what people are saying. Some challenges I encountered are writing and translating the language. While the material was relatively easy to understand, translating it is my biggest weakness. I plan to continue practicing by downloading apps to learn the language on my own time, hoping that someday I can implement them into my daily life by speaking towards my family members. With the possible funding we can get, I believe that we can take a step forward to giving a voice to students who never had the opportunity to speak in their native tongue or connect deeply with...deeply with their culture. I feel like Filipino culture should have the chance to reach out to other places in Hawai'i, and...and reach out to people who are interested in learning about the...our culture.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Any question? One...one moment.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for your testimony.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: To...to clarify, Filipino 1 is Tagalog only, or does it also include Ilocáno or other languages from the Philippines?

MS. SUMALBAG: For now, this is our...actually our first year having Filipino 1. So, right now we're taking it slow and having Tagalog. But we...we are planning out to branch out to other things like Ilocáno, Cebuano, and other languages in the Filipino...in Philippines.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Awesome. Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Any more? None. Okay. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Rose Jane Ancheta, to be followed by John Janikowski.

MS. ANCHETA: Good evening, everyone. Hi. Thank you for coming tonight. My name is Rose Jane Ancheta. I am the Branch Manager here for Lānaʻi MEO. I'm here to humbly ask to continue to support the...the transportation here on Lānaʻi. It is such a beneficial support for our kūpunas, especially with the disability...disability clients, especially with our dialysis clients as well. And we thank you for funding us continually with our Maui Shoppings [sic] with our seniors, and our...also our community members. Thank you to...I'd like to ask for humbly...continue to support Lānaʻi MEO. Thank you.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. No questions. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is John Janikowski, to be followed by Michele Weinhouse.

MR. JANIKOWSKI: Hello. John Janikowski, local resident, physician here on Lānaʻi for the past 15 years. I want to first take the opportunity to thank you all for funding the skate park. I hope you've had a chance to go by and see it. Either...go by on weekends, you'll see 30 and more kids there. So, it's already being well used and well appreciated. And secondly, I want to express my support and thanks also for your contribution and funding Lānaʻi Kināʻole, the home health agency. As a physician here on-island, without that home health, many of our residents are stuck off-island in other facilities, and can't get back to their homes for treatment that they need that now we can provide here. And I think one problem that that organization has is a lack of funding for additional staff because there's already a waitlist for additional patients that are needing home healthcare, but we just don't have all the staff to accommodate everyone. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Dr. Janikowski, and I appreciate your testimony. Yeah, the skate park's great. The question is, is in regards to Lānaʻi Kināʻole's patient waitlist. Do you have a number, how long...or how many people are on that waitlist?

MR. JANIKOWSKI: I don't, but I'm sure...I'm sure Val does.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'll ask Val when she...if --

MS. JANIKOWSKI: I think there's . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Okay. So...all right. So, we're...I...thanks for that. I wanted to clarify how many you have. So --

MR. JANIKOWSKI: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much. Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Michele Weinhouse, to be followed by Jerico V. Jaramillo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can you move the mic up closer so we can hear you? Yeah.

MS. WEINHOUSE: Okay.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thanks.

MS. WEINHOUSE: How's that?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MS. WEINHOUSE: Okay. Aloha. My name is Michele Weinhouse, I'm the owner of Kapuas Farm Lānaʻi. I'm here today to testify to the Council to continue support of many of the programs sponsored under Bill 41. As a former educator at Lānaʻi High and Elementary School, I took advantage of your sponsored programs, such as Grow Some Good and Maui Economic Development Board STEMworks Program. As the middle school math/science teacher, I attended MEDB STEMworks training whereupon I taught coding, and was the middle school robotics coach, and chaperoned students to the Hawaiʻi STEM Conference. Later, as a high school teacher, I...and a new CTE Natural Resources teacher, I participated in their Ag STEMworks Program, which gave me hands-on training in a subject I knew very little about. It was as a Natural Resources teacher during COVID where I became passionate about growing food for my community. Now, as a farmer, MEDB has helped me transition from a teacher into a business owner. I know...I now mentor STEMworks ag interns as a community ag business, where I marry the food insecurity issues with the social media talent of our youth to challenge the vernacular of what it means to be Hawaiʻi grown. I learned how to become a farmer in another one of your sponsored programs, The Farm Apprentice Mentoring Program, through the Hawaiʻi Farmer's Union. Today, our Lānaʻi Chapter, of which I am the Vice President, is working with the Maui County Department of Agriculture, who's also supported by your Bill 41, to bring a much-needed farmer's market to our Lānaʻi community. By having a Lānaʻi Farmer's Market on County land, we achieve all four goals of the Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan. Being a farmer on Lānaʻi has not been easy, especially when the only farmland available is leased land. But every day that I'm on the farm working on the land, I am grateful to all of you for making it possible for me to do so. I saw the impact of STEMworks ag internships when I was mentoring two interns who didn't really understand food insecurity in the beginning of the program, but at the end of the program, I asked them to think about writing an article on food insecurity on Lānaʻi and what it meant to them. They now know how Lānaʻi-grown ag could impact the health of their own families, a few who had even recently passed away from diabetes. The importance of food security hit very close to home for them. Please continue the support of these programs that really do have an impact at so many levels for our Kānaka. The Lānaʻi Mamaki Z tea that you guys have all received is...the recipe was developed by the 4-H Club, which I am a co-advisor with. The Z tea was part of a program called the Young Entrepreneurs Program through the Hawaiʻi Ag Foundation. Educational pathways to develop future generations of ag-related professionals, something we really need. . . .(timer sounds). . . Can I get 30 more seconds?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, you have 30 seconds.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

MS. WEINHOUSE: Thank you. To develop future generations of ag-related professionals, it's stated as an objective in the Maui Nutrition Security Plan [sic]. Perhaps the YEP program can be a model of a future program that bring together Maui County youth, Maui County farm businesses, and UH Maui College to do so similar things. I thank you for your time. And if you have any questions, I'd love to entertain them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you for all you do. Wow. Anybody have any questions? Seeing none. Let's...yeah, thank you.

MS. WEINHOUSE: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Jerico V. Jaramillo, to be followed by Dame Justine Tunac.

MR. JARAMILLO: Aloha, or should I say, magandang gabi, naimbag a rabii to all of us here. So, I am the teacher of these 24...first batch of...first batch of the Filipino class, whom I have 24 students which my one, two, three, four, five, beautiful ladies here belong to. So, I am a J1 teacher under the Cultural Exchange Program of the HIDOE. So, I am here to share my culture, at the same time to also learn about the education system here in the U.S. So, as their teacher, allow me to give you a background of what is our Filipino class...look like. So, I start...moment of Lānaʻi High and Elementary School to pilot this here, a Filipino course, titled Filipino 1A or Filipino as foreign language. This course is assign for beginning Filipino language learners, or those who have had very limited exposure to Filipino language in high school. These students begin the study of the target language and its culture by developing a basic repertoire of learned materials needed to comprehend and respond to simple social situations of a daily and recurring nature. Emphasis is placed upon developing basic listening, speaking, reading, and...and writing skills. So, when my Principal approach me with the opportunity to teach Filipino as a course elective for high school students, I felt mixed excitement and responsibility. As a J1 Filipino teacher, I saw this as more than just an additional teaching assignment. It was a chance to share my culture, language, and heritage with students, especially those with Filipino roots, or those who are also willing to learn, and who would like to appreciate our Filipino culture. So, this experience became a gateway to deeper [sic] our connections, and cultural awareness, and personal growth both for my students and for me as an educator. So, beyond teaching the language, the course became a space for students to embrace their cultural heritage with pride. They engage in activities like traditional Filipino games, folk dances, and food-tasting events. And recently, we just represented, for the first time, our school outside the island. So, last December we...we joined the Sakada Day in O'ahu, and recently we also joined education week in the capitol. And, of course, I have here the poster, actually, of their...of their documentaries wherein we documented our Sakadas. So, our Sakadas...as we all know, if you try to look into the...the history of Lānaʻi you cannot see an individual history written. So, it always moosh up with other... ..(timer sounds). . . other history. Can I have extension, please? So, yeah...so, it's always moosh

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

up with other...other history. So, why not...let's have our own collection, and this will be began by my first batch of students. And that will be all. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good.

MR. JARAMILLO: Any question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

MR. JARAMILLO: Thank you so much. Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. JARAMILLO: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member...Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sorry. Well, I'm going to try to frame this in a question. But, first off, I appreciate you. That's such a wonderful thing to have happen. First time ever on Lānaʻi, and we need leaders like you to carry that flag. And obviously, these...these students will be leaders just like yourself, so thank you for that. Just to let you know, that this...this Council put money into the budget for you guys to travel. If you do plan to do any kind of interisland --

MR. JARAMILLO: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: -- travel, you can come to the County for the funds. So, right now, have you applied for any County funds for your travel?

MR. JARAMILLO: Not yet. I haven't tried, but --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. JARAMILLO: -- I'm open and --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. JARAMILLO: -- would love to have extra. Because if only...I'm bringing five students, I would love to bring 24 students, right?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Exactly.

MR. JARAMILLO: So...so that everybody would have the same experience. If not 24, all the students of Lānaʻi High and Elementary School.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. Now you're talking.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

MR. JARAMILLO: Sorry, I'm so ambitious.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . . *(Inaudible)*. . . thank you so much. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you very much for --

MR. JARAMILLO: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- what you do. Okay. Very good. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair...Chair, the next --

MR. TUNAC: Aloha, Honorable Members of the Council. My name is Dame Justine Tunac. I am a J1 teacher currently serving the students of the Lānaʻi High and Elementary School. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Mayor's Bill 41, particularly the allocation of the funds through the Lānaʻi Economic Development and Cultural Program to support the efforts of the Lānaʻi Community...Lānaʻi Filipino Community Coalition. As a teacher dedicated to providing meaningful and well-rounded education experience for...for our students, I believe that cultural exposure is a key component of student growth. Supporting LFCC would...would allow us to incorporate rich, authentic Filipino cultural experiences into our school programs, ranging from traditional music and dance to food, history, and storytelling. This experience has students embrace diversity, broaden their global perspective, and foster pride and understanding for our island's multicultural identity. For many students, especially those Filipino heritage, this activities have...offer a bridge between home and school, validating their cultural identity and strengthening their sense of belonging. For others, it opened doors to learning about the values, traditions, and stories for...of their peers, building empathy and community. Through collaboration with LFC...LFCC, we can create afterschool enrichment opportunities, schoolwide cultural celebrations, and student-led projects that center on heritage and community engagement. These experiences don't just live in the moment, they leave lasting impressions on the students, and often inspire them to become cultural ambassadors themselves, sharing that *[sic]* they have learned with family, friends, and future generations. Additionally, everyone...Lānaʻi is a unique and tightly-knit island where cultural pride is living *[sic]* part of their daily lives. Investing in LFCC through this funding will ripple outward, not only benefiting students and educators, but also enhancing the island's cultural landscape, and supporting local traditions that brings residents together. It is a wise and heartfelt investment of both education and community resilience. This investment goes beyond events. It's about community building, cultural preservation, and creating spaces where students feel seen and inspired. I strongly encourage your support for the Mayor's...Mayor's Bill 41, which allow the LFCC to continue and expand its invaluable contributions to our islands and our keiki. Mahalo for your time and for your supporting initiatives to uplift culture, education, and unity on Lānaʻi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

MR. TUNAC: Okay. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Roselyn B. Dela Cruz, to be followed by Fermainne Antonio.

MS. DELACRUZ: Okay. Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Roselyn Dela Cruz, and I am 4th grade...grade J1 teacher here in Lānaʻi City. I am here to support the Bill 41, Mayor's Budget Proposal. This proposed budget from the Lānaʻi Economic and Development Cultural Program is very important to us, not only for the whole community, and also the teachers and students. Okay, those like me who are part of the Cultural Exchange Program, this funding will help us organize activities that celebrate Filipino culture, but not only Filipino cultures, but the whole other cultures...or Lānaʻi...Lānaʻi community surrounded by. Okay, teach our student about the traditions, language, and values that...that surround the community. These activities are also supported by our Lānaʻi Filipino Community Coalition, or L...LFCC. And here are some my...of my example activities that I plan to do with my class and the other students. We have a cultural day where the students can wear their traditional clothes. They can also share their dances...our cultural dances that they...they'll learn from the...their teachers and from the community. I'm also plan to have language workshops, not teaching only Filipino language, but also the other languages that we have in Lānaʻi. Cooking demo, or taste of other cultures, where student watch...or taste some dishes from the other culture [sic], and also Filipino cultures, and storytelling and art projects. So, this activity will help our student to appreciate diversity and understand the Filipino culture and other culture that is part of Lānaʻi community. There...also help strengthen the connection between the students, family, and the local community. I hope you will approve this proposal, and continue to support the program that help educate and celebrate culture in our schools and community. Maraming salamat, and thank you very much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Thank you very much. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Fermainne Antonio, to be followed by Kathleen Costales.

MS. ANTONIO: Naimbag a rabii. Good evening everyone. Aloha, Councilmembers. My name is Fermainne Antonio. I am a 3rd grade teacher...J1 teacher currently teaching at Lānaʻi High and Elementary School. I am here today in strong support of the Mayor's proposed budget under Bill 41, and to humbly request that funds from the Lānaʻi Economic Development and Cultural Program be allocated specifically to support the Lānaʻi Filipino Community Coalition. The LFCC is not just an organization, it is a pillar of cultural preservation and education here on our island. As a teacher, I have witnessed firsthand how the programs and initiatives, led by LFCC, directly enriched the lives of our students and the broader community. They provide opportunities for our keiki and

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

their families to engage in cultural workshops, traditional arts, dance, music, food, language preservation, and community events that celebrate the deep roots and contributions of the Filipino community here in Lānaʻi. In our classrooms, students who participate in LFCC activities demonstrate a stronger sense of identity and pride in their heritage. This connection to culture enhances their confidence, their engagement in school activities, and their understanding of the diverse history that shapes our island community. The educational support LFCC will provide from cultural presentations to collaborations with local schools adds immense value to our curriculum by bringing cultural learning to life in a way that textbooks simply cannot. Beyond the wall...the school walls LFCC's impact ripples through the community. They foster unity among generations, bridge cultural gaps, and ensure that the traditions of the Filipino people are not only preserved, but celebrated. Their events bring families together, support local artisans, and contribute to the economic and cultural vitality of Lānaʻi. In a community as close...close-knit as ours, these efforts are invaluable. By investing in LFCC through the Lānaʻi Economic Development and Cultural Program, we are not just supporting an organization, we are nurturing cultural pride, educational enrichment, and community cohesion. I respectfully urge you to consider this allocation in your final budget deliberations. Mahalo nui lua [sic], maraming salamat, agyamanak, for your time and consideration.

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

MS. ANTONIO: Uh-huh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Kathleen Costales, to be followed by Noemi Barbadillo.

MS. COSTALES: Good evening, Councilmembers, and thank you for your time today. My name is Kathleen Costales, and I am the Treasurer for the Lānaʻi Filipino Community Coalition, also known as LFCC. I am here today to request your support for our organization as we continue to build and grow on Lānaʻi. I am here to testify on the current budget proposed by the Mayor, Bill 41. Specifically, we are seeking funding from the Lānaʻi Economic Development and Cultural Program to support our mission and upcoming events. The LFCC is in process of obtaining our 501(c)(3) status, and we expect approval within the next couple of months. Since our founding in May 2021, our board of directors have been working tirelessly to lay the groundwork for our organization. We aim to empower our members to engage with and improve the community, ensuring the legacy of Filipino culture continues to thrive on the island. Through our efforts, we have successfully hosted numerous community events that have sparked a cultural awakening on Lānaʻi. However, to continue our work and expand our reach, we are requesting your support. Specifically, we are asking for 40,000 in funding to help with our...to help with our upcoming cultural events and programs. This funding will help us host at least four major cultural events each year, as well as provide necessary resources for the community. In addition to supporting

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

our events, we ask that you allocate funds to the Office of Economic Development to travel to Lānaʻi and hold an in-person grant workshop. Recently, Molokaʻi and Maui had in-person workshops, while Lānaʻi didn't have any. The Expeditions' ferries times didn't allow us to travel, as well as the cost. It's essential that we have the same opportunities as our neighboring islands to apply for and utilize grant funding to support community development and cultural preservation. The Filipino Clubhouse, which is also maintained by the LFCC, is one of the few commercial kitchens here on the island. It has become an essential location for many community groups. Over the past three years, we have hosted over 20 events, some open to the public and others for private gatherings. The Lānaʻi Filipino Clubhouse kitchen is also used by other groups for fundraisers, such as a Saturday market, and school and sports fundraising. In closing, I respectfully ask that you consider our request for \$40,000 to help fund our ongoing work. This investment will go a long way in preserving Filipino heritage on Lānaʻi, supporting our community, and strengthening our cultural bonds. We truly . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . appreciate your time and consideration, and we hope that you will support the LFCC, and in our efforts to make a lasting impact on our island. Thank you so much you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Noemi Barbadillo, to be followed by Shelly Kaiaokamalie.

MS. BARBADILLO: Kumusta ko Councilmembers. My name is Noemi Barbadillo. I'm President of the Lānaʻi Filipino Community Coalition. I'd like to testify on the current budget proposed by the Mayor, Bill 41. In particular, we would like you to please consider allocating funds from the Lānaʻi Economic Development and Cultural Program to support the LFCC. I returned home 13 years ago, and one of my goals was to give back to the community that helped raise me, supported me, and helped shape the person that I am today. Reviving the LFCC is my way of honoring that legacy. When I was growing up, LFCC was more than just an organization, it was the heartbeat of our Filipino community. It brought us together through culture, tradition, and leadership. We learned to cook, to dance, to connect with our roots, and we learned that with hard work, anything was possible. LFCC sponsored pageants, sports teams, barrio fiestas, and sent Filipino youth to programs like Sariling Gawa, which I was blessed to attend as a high school student. That program showed me that it was not only okay to be Filipino, it was something to be proud of. It lit the fire in me to become a leader. Now I want to pass that light on to the next generation. I'm so proud to see all these students testifying because I was there...but not...but so much of what we had has faded. Our island is over 70 percent Filipino, yet our voice in the community spaces has grown quiet. LFCC is working hard to change that, to uplift our people again, but we can't do it alone. We want to bring back Sakada Day, Rizal Day, Miss Lānaʻi Filipino, Barrio Fiesta, not just the memories, but to rebuild community pride and in...and inspire our youth. We want to send young people to programs like Sariling Gawa so they can return motivated, culturally grounded, and ready to lead. We do have a Filipino Clubhouse, a place where we could be hosting these events and gatherings. But the reality is even

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

with a venue, we simply can't afford to plan and execute these programs. Everything costs more in Lānaʻi, from supplies, to travel, to food and entertainment. Without proper funding we can't bring these events to life. And without funding, we can't sponsor the outreach needed to engage all Filipinos and Filipinos at heart in our community. We can't connect, empower, or grow we...or grow the way our people deserve. Today, we have momentum. We have passionate J1 teachers. I think half of the J1 teachers are here tonight. We have dedicated members who are sacrificing their time to meet and to plan events. And we have a vision to uplift our youth and preserve our culture, but we need your help to make it real. Please considering...allocating funds to the LFCC. You'll be helping . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . us build a future of strong Filipino leadership, cultural pride, and meaningful connections, not just for Lānaʻi but for Hawaiʻi as a whole. This is my giveback to the community that gave me...that gave so much to me, and with your support, we can give our youth something even more powerful...the chance to rise, lead, and carry out our culture forward with pride. Maraming salamat. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Oh, go ahead. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, just a quick question. What is the capacity of your clubhouse?

MS. BARBADILLO: It's 120.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Thank you.

MS. BARBADILLO: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Any other questions? None. All right. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Shelly Kaiaokamalie, to be followed by Annie C. Baltazar.

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Aloha, everyone. My name is Shelly Kaiaokamalie. I'm here today testifying in my capacity as Executive Director of the Lānaʻi Culture and Heritage Center. So, thank you all so much for being here tonight. It's really nice to see you in person. And I just wanted to introduce our organization. We're a 501(c)(3) community-based nonprofit that was founded in 2007 with a vision of ola ka ʻāina, ola ke kanaka, ola ke kaiāulu--so, thriving land, thriving people, and thriving community. And we believe that all of those things are really deeply intertwined. We function in a few different ways to honor our island's rich history, culture, and values. So, we operate the only museum and archive here on Lānaʻi. It's always been free to the public, and we steward the largest collection of Lānaʻi-focused archival materials in the world. So, we take a lot of pride in taking care of our history and, you know, the family treasures that people entrust to us. We also do a lot of educational outreach with keiki here, and students. So, pretty much every month, we're in the school. We've worked with the entire elementary and middle school this past year, and do individual workshops with high school students. And we really pride ourselves on being able to offer ʻāina-based

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

educational opportunities that are relevant to Lānaʻi, and focus on our history and our culture. We also offer a...an annual Summer Cultural Literacy Program, that's our longest-running program, it's entering its 13th year. And we...all the programs that we've ever offered have been free of charge for the Lānaʻi community. So, we take a lot of pride in being able to really be of service to our students. And we're in the process of planning for our upcoming Kupulau Festival, which you folks are all invited to. It's on April 26th. And I wanted to mahalo you folks because last year we got a little bit of funding from the County to help to support bringing off-island entities to be able to celebrate our biocultural landscape, and to help Lānaʻi people learn about conservation efforts, both here and on other islands. And then the third way that we function is through ʻāina-based stewardship opportunities. So, we do a lot of community-based outreach at different cultural and natural significant sites on the island. And one of the programs I wanted to highlight for you tonight is our Lānaʻi Community Stewardship Program. It's a program that we started in 2021, which is part of the Kuahiwi a Kai Initiative to basically steward 20,000 acres on the eastern side of Lānaʻi. The program that we won...that we run is specifically a hunting program. So, it's our resident hunters out there using hunting as a form of ʻāina stewardship because of how detrimental invasive ungulates, like deer and mouflan sheep, have been to our island. And we actually have our Stewardship Managers here tonight. If you guys don't mind raising your hand. So, it's run by long-time Lānaʻi residents, hunters, who really understand the landscape, and understand this place. And we've had, you know, I think, close to 200 people participating in our program over the past four years. We've removed over 3,400 invasive ungulates, and that's all using local talent, local knowledge. So, we've really . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . been proud of that opportunity. And I know that there is money allocated for a deer management in your budget, however, I know it says specifically like for farm...farmers and ranchers to do deer mitigation. So, I'm not sure if we'd be eligible. However, I just wanted to come in, share with you folks that we do have a program like that, and maybe begin further discussion with you folks about if we might be eligible for some of that funding to be able to continue the program into the future because I think it's a really good ʻāina opportunity to...to steward our land. So, thank you so much. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Shelly. What...what is the ask for the funds? How much do you think you need?

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: So, it's...I...I don't have a clear answer for you because right now, we are awaiting word on this...up until this point, our...our grant funder has been National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: But I definitely wanted to come here tonight because we're in the process of asking for additional funding to continue our program through the Kuahiwi a Kai Initiative. However, with everything that's happening on the Federal level --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: -- with cuts to environmental programs and things, it's just a little uncertain. So, we're not going to know until May if we can extend our program through part of next year. So, my...part of my being here tonight is to seek other potential avenues so that this program doesn't die if for some reason --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: -- there's not funding available.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I think...Councilmember Paltin, did you have a question? I'm sorry, just . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's okay. That's okay.

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Hi.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Shelly. I was wondering where the hunting occurs --

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Uh-huh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- whose land that is?

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: So, it's Pūlama Lānaʻi. The Kuahiwi a Kai Initiative is a partnership between National Fish and Wildlife and Pūlama Lānaʻi. But National Fish and Wildlife is the...the grant funder, so all of that goes through them. But it's on the eastern side of Lānaʻi. So, I'm not sure how familiar you folks are with hunting, but it...we manage units A1 and A2--sorry, I don't have a map for you folks--but it basically is from the Keomuku Road all the way to Awehi, which is a dirt road that kind of is near Naha. So, pretty much the entire eastern side.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And is the hunting by a club or --

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: It's open to any Lānaʻi resident. So, we...it's...so, I forgot to mention, it's no bag limit, there's no fee to participate. And because of our hunting managers, we're able to open hunting for seven days a week. So, it's open any day if...as long as people are registered in our program. You know, they have to sign waivers, and do all the registration forms. And we do ask that they come to a volunteer day as well, to help give back to ʻāina in other ways. So, like out planting native plants, or removing invasive plants at culturally significant sites...but, yeah, that's kind of the . . . *(inaudible)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But there's a season, or it's seven days, 3-6 --

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Sorry, what was that?

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: There's a hunting season? Or --

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: No.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- it's seven days all year long?

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Seven days all year round. I think occasionally we close if there's like scientific research, or other kinds of things happening in the area. So, we work closely with...because there's other Kuahiwi a Kai grantees that are coming to do research, things like that. So, that's pretty much the only days we're closed. And yeah, we...we try to make it as...as...as accessible as possible because we really need...we have a big ungulate problem here. So, this is our way of trying to kind of make it a community-led effort.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And it...and it only...it cannot be sold, the meat, because of USDA?

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Yeah. So, nothing...yeah, we don't sell anything, but I know that at least...you know, our Stewardship Managers, they're giving out to kūpuna, to folks who maybe can't go hunting any more. So, we try to make sure that, you know, at least...you know, maybe not officially we're not...yeah, we're not like...we're not supposed...I don't...yeah, we don't sell anything. . . .(laughing). . .

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. . . .(laughing). . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I have a question.

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, is this part of Pūlama Lānaʻi, your program?

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: No.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or is the nonprofit separate?

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Yeah, so we're a 501...501(c)(3) nonprofit founded in 2007, so before Pūlama Lānaʻi ever existed. So, we're...we're a nonprofit entity. The program that it's under is a partnership between National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and Pūlama Lānaʻi to steward 20,000 acres. So, we're one of...I don't know how many other grantees are a part of it because it changes every year, but we've been a part of it since they started in 2021...or 2020.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, interesting. I did not know about your organization, but Pūlama Lānaʻi has a very good conservation program. I've always been impressed with what they've done for the whole island.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Uh-huh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, I would like to learn more about it.

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Get your number.

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: And we work closely with their Conservation Department, so it's definitely a good effort.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh. Gabe's bragging he used to work --

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Yeah. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Member Paltin has one more question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering how much are you getting from the NFWF grant?

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: So, it changes every year. I...I don't know the cumulative number off the top of my head, but it's all public. So, I can talk with you after because they post it on their...sorry, because we've done it for four years, so I've...I've just been requesting amendments, so...but we provide matching funding in the form of, you know, like the hunters that go out...we're not paying them anything, but if you --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: In kind.

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: -- were to pay, you know, hunters to do that, it would...yeah, quite...it would add quite a lot.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You don't have like a ballpark, like 10,000 --

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Yeah, it would probably be...let's see. Cumulatively, over four years, probably just over 300,000.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What?

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Probably just over 300,000 for four years. But I can give you the exact number in a follow-up.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

MS. KAIAOKAMALIE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Annie C. Baltazar, to be followed by Sherry Uy.

MS. BALTAZAR: Mayap a bengi. It's good evening in my own dialect in the Philippines. I am not an Ilocáno. I'm not a Tagalog, I'm a Kapampangan from Pampanga. It was the former culinary capitol of the Philippines. In [sic] behalf of my co-lower elem. J1 teachers, which they can't make it tonight for health reasons, I'm Miss Annie Baltazar from Pampanga...Ms. Ivy Makawili (*phonetic*), a SPED teacher from Metro Manila, and Ms. Gly Sacadano (*phonetic*), 1st grade teacher from Ilocos. We are highly supporting the BFED-1 bill. We are here to testify in support of the current budget proposed by the Mayor, Bill 41. Specifically, we ask that you consider allocating funds from the Lānaʻi Economic Development and Cultural Program to support the LFCC. I've been here for two years with my husband and my daughters, which is...my eldest is in 9th grade, and my youngest is in 4th grade. We have witnessed firsthand how LFCC's programs actively support cultural education. With additional funding, LFCC would be able to further support our Filipino students by providing valuable resources for cultural performances, traditional attire, educational workshops, and even field trips, deepening their understanding of Filipino history, identity, and pride. One exciting opportunity is the Filipino Cultural Day. Since we are teachers from lower elementary, some activity overviews would be kids-friendly traditional games; food tasting; folk dances; storytelling, which we could share Filipino legends and fables; arts and crafts; cultural dress-up, wearing the barong tagalog and our baro't saya; and cultural display, where we could display some woven mats, instruments, and artworks of Filipinos. It will be a schoolwide celebration, designed to promote cultural pride, heritage awareness, and community spirit among young learners. With a large percentage of students having Filipino roots, this event aims to honor their identity, while introducing all students to the beauty of Filipino traditions, values, and creativity. As J1 and Filipino teacher, especially teaching in K to 2, we believe it's incredibly important to help our students, particular...particularly those with Filipino roots, develop an understanding and appreciation of Filipino culture and history. At their young age, children are beginning to form their sense of identity--can I have 30 seconds-- . . .(*timer sounds*). . . and belonging. When students with Filipino heritage learn about their cultural traditions and language and history, it fosters a deeper connection to who they are and where they came from. So, in addition, this kind of cultural learning encourages empathy, respect, and appreciation for diversity among all students, not just those who are Filipino. We could also share this from kids here in Lānaʻi, like...like we have a lot of kids from...Hawaiian kids, or Micronesian kids, and so on. And so, we have Japanese kids...I have Japanese students. So, supporting LFCC means supporting the students of LHES, giving them meaningful opportunities to connect . . .(*timer sounds*). . . with their cultural roots proudly. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Proudly. Thank you.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

MS. BALTAZAR: Maraming salamat, dakal a salamat.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any question? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Sherry Uy, to be followed by Ashley Richardson.

MS. UY: Good evening, everyone. My name is Sherry Uy. I am one of the J1 Filipino teachers teaching in middle school. So, I strongly support Mayor...Mayor's Bill 41, which allocates funds to the Lānaʻi Economic Development and Cultural Program to support the LFCC. This bill is crucial for community, particularly for our students at Lānaʻi High and Elementary School. So, currently, we...middle school have enrichment...two enrichment classes per month, which they learn about Hawaiian dance, financial literacy, and basic medical skills. And we would like to propose adding Filipino culture and heritage to one of those enrichment classes. This would provide students the opportunity to learn about Filipino culture through arts, crafts, Filipino food, and other important aspects of our heritage, enriching their understanding, appreciation of the culture. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, can I ask you a question? So, is it part of DOE? Have you incorporated all of this as part of Department of Education?

MS. UY: For the enrichment classes, we get...like we get support from the community. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: From the school --

MS. UY: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- right?

MS. UY: From the school.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's part of DOE, okay. Thank you.

MS. UY: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Ashley Richardson, to be followed by Diane Preza.

MS. RICHARDSON: Hello. Good evening. I'm Ashley Richardson. I will be testifying on behalf of...I have three different hats tonight. The first one I am...sorry, sorry...testifying on Bill 41, requesting \$52,000 from the Lānaʻi Economic Developmental and Cultural Program to support the Pineapple Festival. I am VP of Lānaʻi Community Association, which I do have testimony from our President that I'll hand out to you, as she is not present. This money will go to supporting the festival's keiki activity area, which we will start this year. That would consist of inflatables, a petting zoo, and other fun-filled

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

activities for the kids, bringing in entertainment, and switching from LCA's annual fireworks show to a drone show. This year we are changing that primarily due to safety reasons, as well as sustainability. So, that funding will help and go towards all that. Okay. Next one...sorry. So, this is for the Molokaʻi and Lānaʻi student travel. I'd like to...would like the funds to remain and be available for our youth. The kids, coaches, volunteers, teachers, they work hard and dedicate a lot of time to the...these activities. The opportunities here are limited, so we're required to travel off of the island for sports, tournaments, clinics, games, school activities--which Jerico brought up, that they went to conferences. I grew up here traveling for sports. I mean, we loved it, but we couldn't go anywhere because...funding. So, it would be nice to have our kids travel for more opportunities, and visit different schools, other kids as well. Okay. I am also VP of Communications on the Lānaʻi Filipino Community Coalition. Okay. We are requesting...okay. Sorry, wrong. . . .*(inaudible)*. . . You guys love it. Bear with me. Okay...and as a resident of Lānaʻi, we'd like to bring back the culture or traditions and the memories that I grew up with. I mean, I grew up on Maui, coming back and forth here and there. We had the Barrio Fiesta, which was huge. We had it here, but when I moved here in '96, we would always go to Maui for theirs. So, that's something we'd like to bring back. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Education, history...could I have a few more?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thirty seconds.

MS. RICHARDSON: Okay. Education and history, the language...I grew up with it. I was never taught. I mean, it's great the school is bringing it back. I would love to learn it myself. The pageants...Miss Lānaʻi Filipina, we grew up playing with our friends, having our own little pageant, crying because I lost...but we looked forward to it when we were older. You know, like, hey, I'm going to run for Miss Lānaʻi Filipina. But yes, going to the Philippines this year has brought even more meaning to who I am, what I represent, and even more as a proud Filipina. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very nice. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Diane Preza, to be followed by Adam Purdy.

MS. PREZA: Aloha. Aloha, everyone, Chair Sugimura, and Councilmembers. Thank you so much for coming to Lānaʻi. I really appreciate you traveling all this way, and taking the time to listen to our community and our concerns. So, I'm Diane Preza, and I'm testifying on behalf of myself as a resident here. And I just want to say that I support the Mayor's proposal for the proposed budget. So, there's three things that I'm excited about, is affordable housing on Lānaʻi. Yay, affordable housing project. Thank you. So...so many people in the community that I talk to...so many people are so excited to hear that there is some money being proposed for water and sewer infrastructure. So, mahalo for that, we...we hope that happens. The other thing that I am supportive of is Lānaʻi Kinā'ole because they're the...the one agency that people on this island really depend on, including my own family. My mother, who is almost 95, and she receives services, physical therapy services in our home. And I'm so grateful to Valerie *(phonetic)* and her staff, so I just wanted to say that. The last thing is, I wanted to also...I'm in

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

support of funds, or at...at least making you folks be aware of the Lānaʻi Culture and Heritage Center's Stewardship Program, the hunting program. Because it not only helps...helps the island by removing ungulates, and it helps us to restore that side of the island, but it also provides a venue for us to all learn together more about Lānaʻi and the ʻāina. And especially for families, we all come together, we go to work projects together, people share the food, the venison. And so, we just want you to let...we wanted to let you know that we're there and we're tying our best at the Culture Center. So, that...that's what I have. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you very much, Diane. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Adam Purdy, to be followed by Mary Lou Kaukeana...Kaukeano, sorry.

MR. PURDY: Hello. My name is Adam Purdy, and I just want to say I...I'm sorry I haven't been able to do a lot of my own research into the budget and what it's proposing. But earlier today I was talking with my father, George Purdy, and he told me that I should probably come down here and just talk to you guys about the Hawaiʻi Economic Development Board STEMworks Program that I grew up in as a Lānaʻi High student, graduate of 2019. Because he was telling me that it looks like there might be a reduction in its opportunities to our youth here, or a loss of it. So, I just wanted to preference my testimony with that was the mindset that I was in as I wrote this this afternoon. But my...my name is Adam...my name is Adam Purdy. I'm a proud 2019 graduate of Lānaʻi High and Elementary School, and I recently moved back home to give back to the community that raised me. I now serve as a Director and an educator with the Lānaʻi Academy of Performing Arts, where I work to provide creative and educational opportunities for our youth through theater. I'm here today not just as an advocate for the Maui Economic Development Board, but as someone whose life was shaped by the STEMworks Program. My family and I didn't just attend these events, we helped run them. My dad, George Purdy, even led an afterschool drone program to teach kids about technology and the career paths that can come with being a drone pilot. Thanks to the early exposure and encouragement I received through STEMworks, I went on after graduation to become a licensed drone operator and a private pilot. I can say with confidence that most likely that would've never happened if it weren't for the foundation and inspiration I got through STEMworks. STEMworks gave our island something rare...opportunity. In a place where most extracurriculars revolve around sports, it opened doors for kids like me who are curious about science, technology, and creativity. It built confidence, sparked dreams, and gave us something meaningful...meaningful to be a part of. Now that I've come home, I've made it my personal mission to make sure youth continue to have access to outlets that help them grow. But if STEMworks is cut, I feel like I'll be trying to fill what's already a pretty empty lake with a water hose. I mean, just the other day, I saw some bright, local kids throwing rocks at cars for fun just because they didn't have any type of outlet or outreach to get them into good opportunities, good places where they can learn and be challenged. If STEMworks gets cut, it's not just trimming a budget line, it's stripping away pipelines for Lānaʻi's innovation, growth, and inspiration. And it's taking away from kids who are already

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

growing up in what I remember to be an underprivileged community with very little outlets. And I'm speaking from . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . experience where these programs aren't a luxury, but it's like our only chance to dream big and try to be more. So, please continue to support our youth.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin has a question for you.

MR. PURDY: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You can go first.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Purdy. I just wanted to clarify, did you come sing for us in 2019?

MR. PURDY: Did I sing for you? I...I have...I've been with the Lānaʻi Academy of Performing Arts for years, so possibly?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: That was really good. It was -- . . . *(laughing)*. . .

MR. PURDY: The chances are very likely.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Aww, very good. So, you're talking about there may be a decrease in the MEDB STEM Program --

MR. PURDY: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- for Lānaʻi.

MR. PURDY: For our rural community here in Lānaʻi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And I...I haven't heard of it.

MR. PURDY: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But do you know the amount that Lānaʻi had in the budget...well, requested from MEDB, do you know?

MR. PURDY: I'm not too sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. PURDY: I was just speaking with my dad today, and he told me I should come down here and make sure you guys know how important that STEMworks --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

MR. PURDY: -- was to me. So, regardless if it's losing money, or if it's getting money, just...I wanted to say that as someone who grew up in the...in the program, and it shaped my life a lot.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. PURDY: I wanted to come and say how much it meant to me.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. You're the success story. Thank you very much.

MR. PURDY: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Mary Lou Kaukeano, to be followed by Kari Bogner.

MS. KAUKANO: Hi. I'm Mary Lou Kaukeano. I'm representing basically youth...excuse me...youth sports on Lānaʻi. I coach a couple sports. I help run Little League Baseball here on the island, but I support all the sports--softball, all high school, everything like that. Not sure...the grant system, it's a great system if you know how to work it. We're not very good at it. You have to put out the money to get the money back, so it's really not a grant system if we're not getting anything back. It's a...it's a process, and we're not very good at it. I...over the last year or so, you know, we try...we're trying to get the funding back, it's...it's a struggle. So, we do need someone over here to come over and teach us how to get that money back to us. I travel every weekend with youth basketball over to Maui. I don't know if you know this, but Parks and Recs doesn't run any youth programs for middle school kids, and I think it's pretty important for that. They say because we have a REACH Program out of school...it's a three-week program that they get to do. It really isn't sufficient. So, over the last three years, we've been going back and forth to play basketball in Maui. Every Saturday we get on the 8:00, 8:30 boat, we play two games with three teams, and we get back on the 3:30 boat to play...to come home. Now, with that opportunities, we, on Lānaʻi, have...are the three-time MIL girls basketball champions in Division 2. I don't know if you guys know that, but very proud of that. But because we're able to go back and forth to Maui and...and someone...you know, that's the league that's run over there helps us, it's great for our kids. I mean, I take...last week we had 40 kids go over play in the Kihei gym. We go over there every Saturday and play. It...it's great for our kids. With the new Youth Center, hopefully, the old Youth Center would be able to house people coming here to play sports. We'll be able to host Little League Baseball, what is it? At the end of the year, you have your tournaments. We haven't had one here in...I've been here for 35 years. I think 2000, maybe '10...oh, I'm sorry. In 1998 they might've had one here, or something like that. That's how long ago the last time Little League Lānaʻi hosted the tournament. So, hopefully we could get the old Youth Center up to house some children, some players, some teams to come over and play. MEO...thank...thanks for MEO transportation, they pick us up at the boat every Saturday, take us to Kihei, and take us...pick us up at the end of it, and take us back. Keep that funding coming because it costs .../timer

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

sounds). . . \$900 for three teams to go to Maui every weekend for me to take these teams over. The kid...the parents pay, you know, we take the MEO, you know, back and forth. Lānaʻi Kināʻole, always got to keep that up there. And...yeah, that's about it. So, the funding that we get, we need help with that because we're not getting the money. We're putting out the money, but we're not getting it back. It's a struggle.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. KAUKANO: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. KAUKANO: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just had two main clarifications. Our Rec Division in Parks and Rec has plenty vacancies. Did they say they just weren't running the program because of the REACH in school, or...

MS. KAUKANO: Yeah, they say that the...the REACH Program...that's why they don't run middle school --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But if --

MS. KAUKANO: -- athletics.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- they did, would there be a candidate to do that job over here?

MS. KAUKANO: Well, I just ran middle school basketball for five teams. We had a 5th grade team, 6th grade...we had four or five teams, and I did it the last six months. I got a grant --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, you would apply for that job?

MS. KAUKANO: I'm sorry. No, I...I'm not applying for any job.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: You...oh. Oh. No, but I mean --

MS. KAUKANO: I volunteer my time to do it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- do they have someone they could hire, like, to do . . . (inaudible). . .

MS. KAUKANO: I think Parks and Rec has a staff already.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. KAUKANO: I mean, I...I...I don't know why we don't...they run K to 5, but we don't...I think the ones you really got to run is the kids that are 6th to 8th grade before you lose them --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Get them ready for --

MS. KAUKANO: -- you know.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- high school. The other question I had is, do you know who's the ownership of the old Youth Center?

MS. KAUKANO: I think you guys are. The County runs --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh.

MS. KAUKANO: -- that. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Cool.

MS. KAUKANO: And thanks for the skate park. The kids love it. I see them all day at...where I work at, at the pool facility. And then I see them, you know, to about 8:00 at night until it's dark, and coming home at 6:00 in the morning. I never miss a kid. . . .(laughing). . . But thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Awesome. Thank you.

MS. KAUKANO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, in regards to the grant...the accessing the money, do you think a part-time grant writer on Lānaʻi would help you with that?

MS. KAUKANO: Yeah, I...I don't have time. I don't have a clue how to do it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MS. KAUKANO: I could do every other thing but that.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. All right.

MS. KAUKANO: Oh, it would help if the grant...it...it's not getting the money, it's getting it back.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

MS. KAUCHEANO: I'm putting out 20,000 to wait to get the money back.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah. We hear that often, and then we're working on legislation to change it.

MS. KAUCHEANO: It...it's a struggle.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. KAUCHEANO: It's struggle. I mean, we did...you know I did all the paperwork. You know . . .*(inaudible)*. . . and I'm not, you know, beating up on the--you know, on that...those...that side of people who's running it, it's just we need more help --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MS. KAUCHEANO: -- for us to be able to do it. If we had somebody to teach us, or teach someone...I know Ashley said she'd volunteer to help, you know.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Thanks, Coach.

MS. KAUCHEANO: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

MS. KAUCHEANO: Anything else?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, no. Yeah. Okay. Thank you.

MS. KAUCHEANO: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Kari Bogner, to be followed by Roger Alconcel.

MS. BOGNER: Good evening, Councilmembers. My name is Kari Bogner, and I am the ʻĀina Education Specialist at the Lānaʻi Culture and Heritage Center. And I wanted to testify in support of Bill 41 regarding the budget. I also wanted to just speak a little bit more about the Lānaʻi Culture and Heritage Center. I know that one of the line items on your budget is the 285,000 slated for the feral animal...or feral animal control on the island. So, to speak a little bit more about the Lānaʻi Community Stewardship Program, which a lot of folks know is our free resident hunting program. I know Executive Director, Shelly Kaiaokamalie, did such a great job about explaining about the program with the goal of removing ungulates from the 20,000 acres on the windward side of the island. I have a little cheat sheet with more information about our hunting program. I...I noticed when Adam Purdy was talking, he mentioned about outlets for the youth. So, with our current hunting...free resident hunting program, it...the ages of individuals that are

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

involved in the program range from 10...or just over 10 all the way to at least 85. I know a father and son that go out every week to hunt and providing food for their families. And including those individuals, some of them represent three...three generations within a family unit. We also have about 10 to 15 percent of the hunters in our program are women, or young women, so we're really excited about that. And just to let you know that this program has been going for over three and a half years. As Shelly mentioned, over 34...3,400 ungulates have been removed, usually about 50 or 50-plus animals a month. And as a result of this hunting program, we have a lot of volunteers for our volunteer events where we mālama different areas of the landscape. We mālama a area such as out planting at Kānepuʻu Dry Land Preserve. We also more...most recently, we cleaned up the grounds around Ka Lanakila Church [sic] in historic Keomuku Village. And it really offers an outlet, an opportunity for folks to pursue hunting, something that we have done on the island for...for decades, and also opportunities to mālama and learn more about the island that we live on. So, I just...with that, I just have a cheat sheet to share. And I also wanted to say, all of the plants for the last one and a half years are...are...the native plants that we have grown all have come from our nursery at the Pūlama Lānaʻi Community Gardens. And we're so grateful to the Maui County Department of Ag and what...and their recent Food and Nutrition Security Plan that they just finalized. I'm looking forward to reading that in its entirety. And we're looking forward to hopefully applying for grants through the Maui County Department of Ag. So, with that, that's it. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Thank you very much. We can...we can have the Staff pass it out for you. Yeah. Here. Thank you. All right. Next testifier, please.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Roger Alconcel, to be followed by Kayla Sanches.

MR. ALCONCEL: Hi. Thank you again for all your services and helping the community, and thank you for dedication. I just want to thank you all for the affordable housing too, and I want to ask that you continue the momentum, it's going to be great for Lānaʻi. And I think that's what we actually wanted all these years, and hopefully, it will come to fruition. But thank you all for all your support. I came here just to talk about affordable housing, but I didn't realize the quality of life on Lānaʻi is basically because of everybody in this room. I...I didn't realize that I was getting free deer meat from the hunting people, and thanks to...for their services. Getting food from the LFCC on Saturday market, I didn't realize they also need the money too. The MEO bus, I didn't realize that they actually need funding for the kūpuna...and sports for Mary Lou, I know she needs that a lot for the...for the quality of life. And hopefully I don't need to use Lānaʻi Kināʻole, but if I do . . . *(laughing)* . . please give them money as well. But that's all. Thank you for all the support. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Thank you. Next testifier.

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the next testifier is Kayla Sanches, to be followed by Olivia Pascual, who's currently the last person signed up.

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay. I was going just ask. Thank you.

MS. SANCHES: Hello.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hello.

MS. SANCHES: Thank you for having me here. My name is Kayla Sanches, I'm a resident of Lānaʻi. I'm here on behalf of our preschool program, E Mālama I Na Keiki O Lānaʻi, and also a new youth sport program that will be starting. So, first, I would like to thank you for all this continued years for their grant funds for our preschool, that...it helps the families with financial burden. You know, I also have children in the program...four kids in the program. So, I utilize that funding as well, that assistance, so that I would...I...again, I just support you continuing on that...that was the financial assistance. Let's see. So, for the new youth's program...program that we are doing, we're starting up a youth softball team. We only have our high school softball currently, there's nothing for the younger children. We used to have PONO. And the girls can also participate in Lānaʻi Little League, but we want to have a softball to kind of, like, groom them for when they come up. So, we're starting a fast pitch. In the last two days, we already had 25 kids sign up. So, we are hoping that we can travel because we don't have any other team here, we...well, we will have to travel, actually. There are a couple of tournaments that we came across. Couple of them are in Oʻahu, and then, of course, there are Maui teams that we would like to travel there as well. So, I am in support of...of the travel funding. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any questions? Seeing none. Thank you very much. Was that the last testifier? Can you do last call?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, the final testifier signed up, at the moment, is Olivia Pascual.

MS. PASCUAL: Oh, please don't start the timer for another minute. I didn't realize we were being timed. This is my first time. Hi. Okay. Shelly, order for deer meat, please. Me too, I didn't know that. Okay. Okay. All right. So, good evening and thank you guys for coming all to this hearing for our community. My name is Olivia Pascual, and I am the Vice President of Community Engagement for Lānaʻi Filipino Community Coalition. Further, I'm usually shy about this, but I am also the first homegrown family nurse practitioner living here on island, serving our island, serving our patients here alongside with Dr. Janikowski. And I say that because I'm in a room here full of community members that are very proud to be part of this community. And like Noemi, I came home so that I could serve our community and give back, including sports. I wasn't the best athlete, but I knew the importance of it, and I traveled a lot because I wanted to get away from here. But I also have a lot of...I have three daughters--one who graduated high school, OSU now, here, and I have another one that's freshman. So, I'm also here, you know, impromptu supporting youth sports and their travels. Because as a mom who's been fundraising and helping with all of the other parents, it's a lot of work on top of your 40-hour job. Okay. Sorry, going back. So, I'm in support of both...over here and everyone else's programs. So, here I am today, testifying for Bill 41. And on behalf

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

of the LFCC, we believe in this investment as...as an essential part of preserving and promoting the rich Filipino heritage and our...and our culture here on Lānaʻi. Our culture...our...our population here is primarily of Filipino descent, and I heard 70 percent here. And we play...you know, along with other cultures, we play a vital role in shaping the history and culture of the island. So, we take a lot of pride in our traditions. We take a lot of pride in our legacy, and our ancestors that have brought here, including the strike that was, you know, in the 1950s, and a lot of them are Filipinos. In fact, I went through the community--I have it here--I went to the Lānaʻi Culture and Heritage Center, and they had a long post, many posts about the Filipinos that are a part of this, including Pedro de la Cruz, who has fought hard for the...for the strike for the unions. So, there's a lot of contributions here. And so, as our organization, we would like to continue educating, providing great opportunities . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . --oh, I said, no timer...okay, just kidding--to...to continue and formalize our efforts here, and celebrate and share our Filipino culture with the new generations to come. And I was so happy to see all of our students here. You know, there's more, but just for them to show their courage and bravery to come up here--because my legs are shaking--and all of our J1 teachers that we also support. So, thank you so much to you guys, and for your consideration and our funding. If you want to give more than what we ask for, all of us thank you in advance. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Any more testifiers?

MS. MCKINLEY: Chair, that was the last person signed up to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That was the last person to testify. Thank you.

MS. MCKINLEY: Would you like to do a last call? Or --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, can you do a last call?

MS. MCKINLEY: If anyone else would like to testify, please come up to the mic now. Chair, here's a countdown...three, two, one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. MCKINLEY: Seeing no one.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very good. Okay. I'm going to close public testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . . CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY . . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But I...I want to thank all of you for coming, and I want to do something that I just heard your teacher say, let's take a group picture. I think some of the

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

April 8, 2025
ILWU Lānaʻi Union Hall

testimony will say, this is about life. And this is really about Lānaʻi and the contributions that all of you make. But can we do a group picture, Gabe? Okay. Come up here, and let's make a group picture. *(pause)*

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion. (excused: TK, AL and NUH)

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. In all the excitement, Staff said I didn't adjourn the meeting. So, this meeting is now adjourned. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

ADJOURN: 7:38 p.m.

bfed:min:250408-Lanai:th

Transcribed by: Tricia Higa

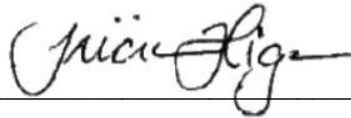
BUDGET, FINANCE, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTES
Council of the County of Maui

April 8, 2025
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CERTIFICATION

I, Tricia Higa, hereby certify that pages 1 through 34 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 29th day of April 2025, in Mililani, Hawaiʻi

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tricia Higa", is written over a horizontal line.

Tricia Higa