

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

MINUTES

April 2, 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 11:50 a.m.)
Councilmember Tamara Paltin, Member
Councilmember Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez, Member (in 9:44 a.m.)
Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci, Member
Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins, Member (out 12:48 p.m.)

STAFF: James Krueger, Senior Legislative Analyst
Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Legislative Analyst
Carla Nakata, Legislative Attorney
Yvette Bouthillier, Senior Committee Secretary
Jean Pokipala, Council Services Assistant Clerk

Additional staff

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tom Cook:

Jared Agtunong
Stacy Takahashi

Executive Assistant for Councilmember Gabe Johnson:

Axel Beers

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Tasha Kama:

Davideane Kama-Sickels
Evan Dust

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

Haunani Madela

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Executive Assistants for Councilmember Shane M. Sinenci:

Dawn Lono
Gina Young

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Yuki Lei K. Sugimura:

Michele Yoshimura
Jordan Helle
Jocelyn Moniz

Executive Assistants for Councilmember Nohelani U‘u-Hodgins:

Laura McDowell
Susan Clements

Residency Area Office (RAO):

Bill Snipes, Council Aide, South Maui Residency Area Office
Roxanne Morita, Council Aide, Lāna‘i Residency Area Office
Jade Rojas-Letisi, Council Aide, Makawao-Ha‘ikū-Pā‘ia Residency Area Office

ADMIN.:

Lesley Milner, Acting Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Shayne Agawa, Director, Department of Environmental Management
Robert Schmidt, Deputy Director, Department of Environmental Management
Eric Nakagawa, Wastewater Reclamation Division Chief, Department of Environmental Management
Michael Kehano, Solid Waste Division Chief, Department of Environmental Management
Wendy Nobriga, Administrative Officer, Department of Environmental Management
Tess Herman, Recycling Specialist IV, Environmental Protection and Sustainability Division, Department of Environmental Management
Cecile Powell, Recycling Specialist IV, Environmental Protection and Sustainability Division, Department of Environmental Management
Michelle McLinden Nuijen, Environmental Program Specialist, Environmental Protection and Sustainability Division, Department of Environmental Management
Kristina Toshikiyo, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Department of the Corporation Counsel

OTHERS:

Others (12)
Resource Personnel

PRESS:

Akakū: Maui Community Television, Inc.

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**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 to our second day of the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. Today is April 2nd, and the time is 9:07 a.m. I am Yuki Lei Sugimura, the Chair of this Committee, and wanted you to know that this meeting is being conducted in accordance to the Sunshine Law. And as a reminder, when your name is called, if you're not in the Chambers, please tell us who is with you in your vehicle, your workspace. And minors do not need to be identified. So, to start it off, I'm going to call...ask Chair Lee to give us our morning greeting. Chair Lee?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair Sugimura. Morning greeting is from Greece, where there are 10 million people that live there, and they say to each other every day, yassas. Yassas.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yassas.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm home alone...I'm home alone in my workspace, broadcasting from Wailuku. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yassas to you. Next, we have Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair, and yassas to you too.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yassas to you. Then we have Member Paltin in the Chambers.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Aloha kakahiaka. Live and direct from the Chambers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Then we have Member Johnson. Yassas.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great. We have...we do not see Member Rawlins-Fernandez, so we'll wait until she comes. And then Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Aloha, good morning, and yassas to all.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yassas to you. Member Uʻu-Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER UʻU-HODGINS: Good morning. Yassas, everyone.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yassas. And Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yassas, Chair. And I'm glad everybody got home safely last night. Sorry, I just drove in this morning and I didn't quite make it to the Chambers to join you all. So, I'm here at my home office, by myself. And there's no testifiers at the Hāna District Office.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Yesterday--Hāna's so beautiful. And I have to confess, I stopped to take pictures of the waterfall and...and just enjoyed...the drive was pretty difficult, though, and I would just want to say to Chair Lee that I did see--Member Kama and I were...drove together...in together, and we did see cows. Did you see cows on the road?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yes.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I'm glad you didn't...I'm glad you didn't hit them this time.

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

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yeah, Chair, all the...all the waterfalls were...were running this morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. It was so beautiful. Now we know why visitors like to stop on Hāna Highway just to check it out and...but I will tell you, Chair Lee, that Member Kama and I thought of you as soon as we saw the cows. We didn't say, oh, look, cows. We said we got to take a picture for Chair Lee, but they ran away.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you know that they jumped over the guardrails? They jumped over the guardrails.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Wow.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: They didn't, like, meander along the highway. They jumped over the--so, we never got a picture for you. We had planned to.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: But anyway...okay. Let me continue on with this meeting. It was fabulous yesterday. From the Office of the Mayor, we have Lesley Milner, Acting Budget Director. Department of Environmental Management, we have Shayne

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Agawa, Director, and Deputy Director Robert Smith. Department of Corporation Counsel, Kristina Toshikiyo. Committee Staff, thank you very, very, very much. Yvette Bouthillier, Committee Secretary.

MS. BOUTHILLIER: Good morning.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Good morning. James Krueger and Kasie Apo Takayama, Senior Committee Analysts. There's so much to talk about and do, and thank you really, really a lot. Jarret Pascual, Clarissa MacDonald, Legislative Analysts who have been working tirelessly. Carla Nakata--so glad she's back--Legislative Attorney. Megan Moniz, thank you very much for being there last night. She was there helping in Hāna. She's our Legislative Attorney. And Jean Pokipala, who's outside in the...of the...of the Chambers. Thank you very much, and welcome to being full-time for the Office of Council Services. Please see the last page for information on meeting connectivity. Thank you, Members, for attending today's BFED meeting. We have one item on the agenda, which is the entire proposed Fiscal Year 2025 Budget for the County of Maui. So, I'll be taking testimony for any item on the agenda, and Members will have three minutes to testify. Are there any testifiers? Well, it's a little early. Maybe we go through some opening remarks. . . .*(laughing)*. . . So, today we're going to be talking about the Department of Environmental Management, followed by public testimony, and then we will take questions from the Councilmembers. So, as a reminder, everyone, because we have the meeting, Nohe's committee meeting...community meeting, this meeting we hope to end by 4 o'clock so it'll give us all enough time to get to Pā'ia at...by...for the 6 o'clock meeting. When it comes time for discussion, my intention is for us to discuss the departments by division, starting with Wastewater, Solid Water, and finally, EP&S. For each division, I envision us starting with Operations, then CIP and other matters like Fees and Grants and...just to organize the questions. At this time, I would like to invite the Director of Environmental Management, Shayne Agawa, to provide a presentation on the Department and introduce any other members of the Department who are joining him today. Good morning, Director.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes? Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Did you want me to --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, yeah. That's --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- quickly do my --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah. Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: -- before Director Agawa goes?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, let's do that. Okay. So, before we do --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Okay. Real --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- the departments--go ahead. About last night.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Real quickly. Last night, we had 22 testifiers at the Hāna District budget meeting, including Ma Ka Hana Ka 'Ike Executive Director Ms. Lipoa Kahaleuahi and Hāna School Principal Chris Sanita, who supported partnerships with our community nonprofits, who will often provide the instructors for his elective courses, which then helps his rural school budget. Student Victoria Castro enjoyed Auntie Babette's culinary class that she now considers culinary arts as her college major. We received testimony about tourism management. Mr. Ka'aihue spoke to more signage on the Hāna Highway. Ms. Diliberto supported sidewalks at Hāna Town and the need for a greenway plan. And Mr. Furhmann asked for exemptions for local residents from the TAT tax. And Chair, although the general sentiment last night was in support of West Maui and Upcountry, residents just wanted to see their Civic Center project completed. The long wait has left the old school in disrepair while the town expands the need for more services. Bill Sides testified for the need of the certified kitchen for festival vendors, and Kamalu said that most nonprofits had already left the building. Senzi Moswani and Tarisai Mazinyani, both agricultural workers at Hāna Fresh, thanked MEO. And Regional Manager Kauai Brooks thanked the Council for the new busses, satellite phones, and the defibrillators. Again, mahalo to Laurie-Ann Smith and Kaiolo Smith for the mea'ai ono. And that concludes my report, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. I must agree, the food was excellent, as usual, from your community. That was good. But I wanted Shane to just kind of summarize, you know, some of the highlights because people...there were many people speaking about similar important issues or things in the community that they wanted us to continue supporting. So, anybody have any questions for Member Sinenci regarding last night? No? Okay. Thank you very much, everybody, for being there. And so...okay. So, now we can have the Department of Environmental Management do your presentation, and then we'll do testifiers. Thank you. So, this is number 64 on Granicus if you want to look at it online, the Department's presentation. Okay. Thank you.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

MR. AGAWA: Thank...thank you, Chair Sugimura. Good morning, Members. My...my name is Shayne Agawa. I'm the Director of Environmental Management for the County. To my left, we have Bob Schmidt, who's our Deputy Director. We also

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have logged on virtually division heads and staff. Eric Nakagawa, Division Chief for Wastewater Reclamation Division. We have Mike Kehano from our Solid Waste Division. And our acting Division head for our EP&S is Michelle McLinden Nuijen. And like I said, they'll...I believe there's additional staff that might be on as well to help answer questions. Thank you for this opportunity to present on our Fiscal Year '25 Budget. We're also here to answer any questions that...that you may have. So, I'll begin the presentation now. So, here is just our basic DEM organizational chart. We have our Administration, which is five of us, and then we have the three divisions that I mentioned earlier: Solid Waste, Wastewater, and Environmental Protection. I'm not going to go through all of the different sections, but under each one, color coded, are the different sections under each of the separate divisions. Next slide is...looks like it's cut off. Thank you. Next slide is our DEM Vacancy Report. We have a total departmental-wide vacancy of 34 positions. We have 214 filled positions, and the overall vacancy rate for Department of 16 percent. Underneath that, we have broken it down by vacancy rates of the different divisions. Our Solid Waste Division, we have 108 existing positions. Out of that, we have a vacancy rate of 10 percent. And underneath that, you can see the breakdown of the different positions. Not the exact position name, but where they are in the division as far as sections. In Wastewater, we have 124 existing positions. Out of that, there's a vacancy rate of 16 percent, and you can see the different sections and locations where the vacancy positions are. EP&S, we have 11 existing positions with a vacancy rate of 27 percent. And in there, you can see the...the vacancy positions and what section. So, what...what we wanted to explain, too, was the impacts of the August wildfires to our Department. These are just the main ones that impacted our operations and our infrastructure. So, under Wastewater, we had four pump stations that were affected. Two were totally destroyed. Those were Pump Stations 5 and 6. Those will require a complete rebuild. Pump Station 3 and 4 had some minor damages, and we can correct that by just some rehab. Our collection...collection system, which is our underground system, we recently had support from EPA that completed the damage assessment of about 90,000 lineal feet. We're waiting for a consultant to provide us the final report, damage assessment report, that was based on EPA's findings. And out of that, 9,000 lineal feet were deferred, meaning they either had a hard time accessing it for inspections. So, that would be under the...the County, under DEM's purview to...to inspect those. Now we're waiting for the final report, so the next step is to contract out the repairs based on the report. And we expect that some of the damages we can probably do in-house, but until we see the final report, we...we were not sure what we can take on in . . . *(inaudible)*. . . And . . . *(inaudible)*. . . our wastewater treatment plant in Lahaina due to the fires, so we worked with different SMEs and...and experts to get that stabilized to the best possible point. It's still not at 100 percent, so we really need to watch what goes into our treatment plant and our collection system. So, there, you see prevent non-wastewater dumps. One of the issues that I know of is there's issues of leftover water from, like, swimming pools, and that has been requested to be

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dumped into our sewer system. However, based on historical negative impacts, we're reluctant to accept that at this point because of the fragility of our system in Lahaina. Solid Waste, we had 847 refuse carts destroyed. That was the biggest impact to Solid Waste. The current replacement cost is about \$85 a cart. With the prices going up, we're not sure when we're...what the price would be when we contract that out. In EP&S Division, we had our drop box and HI-5 redemption center destroyed. That was near the Pioneer Mill Smokestack, and they're currently working with a vendor to get that back online. Now, we go into our capital improvement program. Two divisions have capital improvement programs, one is the Wastewater Reclamation Division. And here is just a comparison of what it was in Fiscal Year '24, which was \$36 million. And for this proposed '25 Budget, their capital improvement is 40.7 million. Our Solid Waste Division, who has less CIP projects than Wastewater, in '24 their budget was 7.2 million...7.25 million--sorry--and in '25, the proposed is 4.6 million. So, for Wastewater Reclamation Division, you see the total debt quoted on the top. And on the right, you can see how the different funding sources is proposed right now. So, out of that 40.7 million, there's 15.7 in bond, 10.7 projected in SRF funding, and 14.3 million in cash. On the left, there's the project types. There's varied reasons why we have projects. You know, some is to keep safety...public health and safety. Is it safe? There's one project there. Reliability, the useful life. Our system ages and we need to replace aging infrastructure. And then we have expansion of services, providing sewer service to places that currently do not have it. And then we also have recycled water or R-1 projects. In our Solid Waste Division, there's the same different project types. There's design, planning, and permitting projects, four of those out of the eight. There's also design build or design construction projects, three of those in that category. And there's also one in a permitting and acquisition project. And then on the right, the same breakdown: bond, \$1 million, and expected cash, 3.6 million. Now, we're going to report on revolving funds that affect DEM. In Wastewater, there's a NASKA Sewage Pump Station Fund. To my understanding, that is a passthrough that the State funds. And then it's their infrastructure, but we take the maintenance and operation of that and they pay us through that fund. There's also the Countywide Zero Capital Improvement Reserve Fund. This is an emergency type of fund that we contribute to every budget year for unforeseen emergency reasons that we could tap into that for sewer improvements. Under EP&S, there's the Highway Beautification and Disposal of Abandoned Vehicles Fund, and also the Disposal Vehicle Fee Fund. And there, you can see the totals that are the balance remaining in those funds. We have grants related to DEM. So, some of these grants we actually fund, and we are the grantors. So, our EP&S Division, we have two types of...actually, three types of grants. We have green grants. So, in Fiscal Year '24, we had grants awarded to five grantees for a total of 85,500. In our Recycling Section, we have our recycling grants. We had 14 grantees in '24, for a total of \$423,472. And then we also have our abandoned vehicles and metal grants. We had two grantees for a total of \$611,000. We also receive grants. Our EP&S, Abandoned Vehicles and Metals Section received \$150,000 in grants in

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Fiscal Year '24. We also have the State of Hawai'i Electronic Device Recycling Fund. In the recycling section in EP&S, we anticipate 200,000 to be granted to us in the last quarter of this Fiscal Year. The funding comes from State Department of Agriculture, and it's for the mitigation in the spread of coconut rhinoceros beetle. And then we're also anticipating grant funding, which needs to be determined from the Department of Health. And that is, I believe, a passthrough that we pass on through to glass processing grant recipients on Maui. Here, we have expected rates and fee changes in Fiscal Year '25. The only rates and fees that will change is in our sewer rates and fees. In 2024, we had a 2 percent rate increase. We're holding that steady for 2025, another 2 percent rate increase, which will produce a revenue of approximately 1.2 million. Here's an example of how that would affect the residential consumers. So, the rate/fee base charge in '24 was \$80.40. This is a monthly charge, so it will go up 2 percent or approximately \$2 in '25 for a total of \$82.40. And then for multifamily residents, the base charge...or the max charge in '24 was \$66.60. And in '25, the 2 percent increase will still be another \$2 per month, to a total of \$68.60. On the right--excuse for the size of the chart, but this is our standard rate-history chart that shows the rate increase, which is the base rate in blue versus the usage rate in red. So, on top of the base rate, you also have a usage rate per 1,000 gallons. And you can see that it goes all the way up to the...2035. So, we're right around three-fourths of the way up this chart. And that is our presentation. So, we'll be here for any questions that you may have. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, that's your whole presentation, and so what we'll do now is receive public testimony. And do we have any testifiers signed up?

MR. KRUEGER: Chair, we have no individuals signed up requesting to testify, so we'll do a last call at this time. If there are any...any individuals who would like to testify at this time, please identify yourselves now. On Teams, you can do that by using the raise-hand function. We'll do a countdown. Three, two, one. Chair, no individuals have indicated that they'd wish to testify.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, with your permission, I'm going to close public testimony and receive written testimony.

COUNCILMEMBERS: No objections.

. . .CLOSE PUBLIC TESTIMONY. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, Members, just for your information, the initial letter that was sent out to DEM is number 13 in Granicus. The Department questions, which were your individual questions, is number 15 in Granicus, as well as letter with questions relating to Ash Debris Transportation Fund, and the Ash Debris...Debris Transportation Fee is number 57 in Granicus. And so, at

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this time, we'll entertain questions from Wastewater. We'll do two rounds of questions. And I'm going to start off with Member Cook for all the rounds of questions because this is your...your Department. And we'll start off with three minutes...four minutes. We'll do four minutes, and then three minutes for second round just because it's a big department. So, Wastewater. Member Cook.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
Wastewater Reclamation Division Program

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My first question for the Director is the total cost per 1,000 gallons of wastewater collected, transported, and disposal decreased from 621 to 591. I was curious why there's a decrease.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question, Member Cook. I ask for the Members' patience in allowing us some time to answer those.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That's okay. The time's limited, so --

MR. AGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- I can--oh, go ahead.

MR. AGAWA: No, if Eric Nakagawa, Director of --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, yeah.

MR. AGAWA: -- Wastewater knows the answer, then --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: -- I defer to him.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Nakagawa? So, maybe you want to restate the question or just read the question again as we're waiting for Eric Nakagawa to come on board.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, there you are.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: There's Eric.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: There you are. Nice to see you, Eric.

MR. NAKAGAWA: . . .*(inaudible)*. . . My --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You...you heard the question?

MR. AGAWA: No. I heard something about --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: -- cost per 1,000 gallons, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Member Cook will ask this, and then --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: I'll repeat it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- we'll start your --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: The total cost of per --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- four minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: -- 1,000 gallons of wastewater collected, transported, treated, and disposal will decrease from 629 per 1,000 to 591 per 1,000. I'm curious what the reason for the decrease in cost is.

MR. NAKAGAWA: The decrease is...is because--so, every year we try to look at whatever the--so, basically, all it is, is our total flow divided by, right, our total expenditures that year. And so, the reason why it's decreasing is because I think that year, we based it off of the COVID flows, right? So, now flows are starting to come back again. So, essentially, you're...right, that's your divisible, right? So, basically, it's...it's going to go down this year because you're going to have more flow.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, lower...lower flow efficiency that's...that's helping the cost decrease, or is it simply less volume?

MR. NAKAGAWA: No, just strictly volume. Yeah. So, every year . . .*(inaudible)*. . . I won't take up your time. Sorry. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Yeah, I'll keep it short, like Chair Lee always tells me. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. That...that's okay. Thanks. My second question, as

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the Department's received two large Federal grants, including 600,000 from the EPA, engineering, design, and permitting the new R-1 distribution lines in North Kīhei, and the lines will link to the existing distribution system; is there a timeline for that construction?

MR. AGAWA: I'll defer to Wastewater again.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Oh, okay. Can you hear me, Chair?

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Yeah.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Oh, okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Can hear you.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. Sorry, if my camera and mic won't--I don't know. Something's wrong with it, but...so...yeah, Chair. So, Member Cook, the timeline right now--so, that 600,000 is actually technically...it's for a study.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Um-hum.

MR. NAKAGAWA: And it's part of that grant that we got. It's...it was a Congressional, I think, kind of grant that we got. And so, right now, we're actually working with a third-party, it's Hawai'i Community Foundation. So, they are helping us get the monies. So, receiving the monies. But unfortunately, you'll see in one of our answers, because you guys asked about grants and stuff, is all of our manpower resources are kind of diverted to higher priority stuff, i.e. --

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: That --

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- right, fires. So, we're working on it.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Sorry if I'm interrupt, but low...short on time. So, basically, possibly two years out? I'm just trying to get, for the community, broad strokes. I understand it's just a plan and it isn't --

MR. NAKAGAWA: Oh, I see.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So --

MR. NAKAGAWA: So, every project is roughly four years, right? So, you planning, then design, and then you have a gap for permitting, and then construction is in the last year. . . .(timer sounds). . .

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. That's all for now.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much, Member Cook. Nice seeing you, Mr. Nakagawa.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, I'm going to ask Member U'u-Hodgins, then Member Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin, Johnson. And Member Rawlins-Fernandez said she'll be a little late, so she'll be joining us. Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. To clarify--excuse me--are we asking questions specifically --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: On waste --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- about the Wastewater Department --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- then we'll move on to the --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- other sections --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. So, I'm --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- including CIPs?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, right now, we're just talking about Wastewater?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Wastewater. And you can ask about CIPs or whatever, but we're...we're --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Oh.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- going to stick to Wastewater, and then Solid Waste --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Copy.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- and then we go EP&S.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, we just stick to the divisions.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Sounds good. Just trying to figure out what we're doing. Thank you. Thank you guys for being with us. As we've been told before, this isn't just a come in, super casual thing, so I appreciate your time and being prepared with all the answers for us and everybody online. Priority 10 notes on page 7-37 in the Budget Details a replacement equipment trailer for \$50,000 because it was stolen. Is this common? Like, do you guys get stuff stolen often? I would hope not, but you know, sometimes times are hard. And if so, what are we going to do to ensure some sort of safe storage after we buy the trailer or any other replacement equipment you guys might need?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: I think they’re looking for it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question, Member U‘u-Hodgins. To my knowledge, equipment being stolen at that level, at that size of equipment is...is not common, not that I know of. And, you know, maybe Division Chief Nakagawa can correct me if I'm wrong, but it's not that common. And as far as what we're doing to...to mitigate that type of activity, we have worked with the Mayor's Department. They have a security chief there, and we've implemented cameras, a lot of cameras, remote cameras at our facility. Lighting, that type of thing.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: We also--I believe they...they have contracts for security as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: That's really my only question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: But I know that other people have had that issue, so, you know, just hoping to safeguard our equipment. Thank you. I appreciate that. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much, Member U‘u-Hodgins. Next, Member Sinenci, questions for Wastewater.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Yeah, we didn't submit any questions for the Wastewater

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Department. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Next, Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I'm on page 210 of your Program Budget. I said that so you can follow along so you don't have to go scrambling. The proposed 2025 budget for the Wastewater Operations Program increases 919022B-6132 professional services by \$2,600,000, noting that the increased funding is for the NPDES permitting process for Lahaina. Does the Department have a consultant under contract for this work, and is the increased budget to address scope and schedule expansions? Alternatively, does the Department expect to request proposals for this work because a consultant is not currently under contract?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member Kama. I would defer this to Division Chief Nakagawa --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: -- as far as, yeah, answering the question.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you.

MR. NAKAGAWA: All right. Chair, can you hear me good?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. NAKAGAWA: All right. Hey, Member Kama. Yeah. So, you're correct. So, basically, 2.6 million is...it's just a rough estimate. We did receive a draft NPDES permit, which the public and everybody was able to comment on. And from that draft permit, there's a whole load of studies, and labs, and testing, and all that kind of stuff. So--and which is not done by our expertise. So, that will be...all be either a consultant or contractors performing that type of duties. And so, this is...this is just kind of the beginning, right, because the process is still ongoing. So, we'll have a better number, but this is kind of the estimate we came up with on what we think because--and we already have a consultant that's helping us kind of navigate through the permitting process right now. So...

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, then you anticipate that this is what the cost might be, but you're not sure depending on what your other consultants are going to tell you?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yes. Correct. And then it also depends on what the final, actual permit comes out with. Right.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. That was my only question for

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Wastewater.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. So, next, we have Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you. So, this will be primarily for Division Chief Nakagawa. Hi, Eric.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Hello.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, I know you started the R-1 distribution project several years ago. What is the status of that in South Maui?

MR. NAKAGAWA: In South Maui. The...let's see...South Maui...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Remember, you showed us that loop where you were trying to --

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. So...so, you're going to notice in our CIP this year, there's a \$1.5 million construction cost for it. And so, essentially, what happened is I believe a private developer is having to build a portion of that line. And so, we are going to team up with them because we need to upsize the line because we need a bigger diameter pipe. And so, that's what that 1.5 million is for. So, that will be constructed, my guess, in this--like, soon in this...

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, the other thing is--I know Member Tom Cook is working on this as well, but--and there's no reason why we can't all support each other with this very important program. What about the possibility--since you already started up a private-public partnership, what about continuing on with a community facilities district, which would include all the homes that need, you know, to be on the...on the...on the line, including Maui Meadows and all the way down to Wailea, Grand Wailea? If we did a community facilities district for...for that area plus County in partnership, wouldn't we be able to afford a lot more a lot quicker? Eric? Eric, you're not moving.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We lost him. Eric, are you still there?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, then before my time is up, that'll be the question for him. And also, because let's face it, we can't afford that kind of system by ourselves, so we need additional funds. And I believe that a community facilities district program would allow for a tremendous amount of money that would be paid for by all the users. And then secondly, the other thing was I...I wanted to know how much General Funds are used, if any, to subsidize these Solid Waste program.

MR. NAKAGAWA: All right.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wastewater. We're on wastewater.

MR. NAKAGAWA: I'm back.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, Wastewater. Not Solid Waste, but Wastewater program.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Can you see me?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Nothing?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Can you hear me?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now we can hear you.

MR. NAKAGAWA: So, General Fund--oh, sorry, Chair. Yeah. So, General Funds is zero for Wastewater, so that would be great if we could get some of that. . . *(laughing)* . . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: But...but would you be open to taking on a huge project which would take you from...from...from the treatment plant, all the way down to Maui Meadows and further down to Wailea, to all the hotels there?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. So, Chair, yeah. Yeah. Chair Lee, I mean, it...it's really up to the Administration and this body, right? Just kind of keep in mind, right--so, right now, we're going north, right? And then if we go...depending if we go south, we really have roughly...I don't know. . . *(timer sounds)* . . . We only have our 2 million gallons left, right? So, it all depends on these major--like, I know that the ranchers, they want water, right? You're...we're going to take care of Bayer or Monsanto, whoever. They're going to offset about half a million gallons of potable water. So, it all depends on how and what this body wants to do, whether it's green zones and replenishing or offsetting potable water. So, those are the two kind of great --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah.

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- great --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Well, I...I think...I think that you'll find that this Council is very focused, hyper focused on diverting the use of...retaining the use of potable water, and then the use...expanded use of R-1 water. Okay. So, my time is up.

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Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Chair Lee. So, welcome, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Aloha kakahiaka, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good morning. All right. So, next, we have Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Before my clock starts, can we keep it tight? Because I got choke questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wastewater.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Wastewater only?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wastewater only.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I guess my first question is, you know, in Fiscal Year '23, the Wastewater Admin and Wastewater Reclamation Program was 4 million and close to 3 million budgeted that wasn't spent. Is this a trend that we expect to see continue, that we budget millions more than we actually spend?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department. Or is this Budget?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's about the Wastewater Administration Program and the Wastewater Reclamation Program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Page 7-7, Budget Details.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good question.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The Admin was 4,116,800 more than what was actually spent, and the Reclamation Program was 2,824,651 more than actually spent. And is it correct to say that this is your own money? These are not General Fund monies, right? So, it would just go back into your own fund, not back into the General Fund?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: But is that...is that how it is? We just...I mean, because that's what the fees are based on, is what the proposed costs are. So, if we're raising the fees and we're proposing these large budgets but we're not using, like, say, close to 7 million of it, then we're...we're raising the fees for not...

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, Department, you want us to go...go back to that? It sounds like we don't have an answer.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Next question. There's a proposed Construction Inspector II, Civil Engineer V, Wastewater Source Control Tech position proposed for eight months' salary expansion. Why did we choose Step M, which is pretty high up there? Do we have specific candidates in mind?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. Mr. Nakagawa can correct me if I'm wrong, but that position, I believe, is for...to address NPDES proposed or anticipated requirements. As far as the reason why we're budgeting that for Step M, I believe it's because of the position and the amount of work that's being anticipated by that position. There's a lot of requirements, as Mr. Nakagawa mentioned, as far as relating to the requirements of the NPDES permit, so that position is going to be expected to do a lot of work. And it...it helps to attract quality and qualified personnel.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Are we issuing an RFP for Lahaina's NPDES permit process, and what is the 2.6 million amount based on? Will there be a public hearing process with the Department of Health for the NPDES permits?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. As was mentioned earlier, I believe the 2.6 million is to anticipate, again, the amount of work that we would need to consult out to--for the requirements of the NPDES, a lot of lab testing and a lot of technical work that we cannot do in-house. As far as the public hearing, I believe that would be under DOH to answer, but if Eric knows the answer to that, then I defer to him.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Can you hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes, we can hear you.

MR. NAKAGAWA: All right. Yeah. Thank you, Chair. So, Tamara . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Ms. Paltin, yes. Your answer is yes. They'll have a public meeting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Public hearing, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Public hearing will happen.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. And did you want me to answer your other question?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I'd love it.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead. Go ahead.

MR. NAKAGAWA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And then...and then we'll move on to Member Johnson. Go ahead.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Okay. So, your...yeah. So, overages, we...Wastewater, we always expect to spend all of our...our...all of our funding every year. However, there are certain stuff, like whether it's special costs, right, debt service, FICA, you know, all those different special cost stuff that we cannot predict whether we have cost savings or not. And then there's also circumstantial, current affairs or...I don't know what you guys want to call it, such as COVID, or that kind of stuff, or...or mandated, you know--don't spend because we expect next Fiscal Year to be kind of tight, that kind of stuff. So--and you're correct. All of our funds goes back to us so it will minimize or eliminate rate increases the following year if we have Carryover/Savings. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Member...Member Johnson, then after that, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. Thanks.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. My question's going to be kind of a follow up with some of the Members speaking on the NPDES permit with in-house staff. Does the Department expect similar costs for professional services for each wastewater facility operated by the County?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Director.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question, Member Johnson. At this time, there's no requirements on the other treatment plans. However, looking ahead, it would be foolish of us to not prepare for this to be implemented at the other treatment plants. But budget wise, we don't have anything until that requirement is put...put on our budget on the other treatment plants. It's just on the West Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. I'm going to move on then. Let's see...what...why is the Wastewater Administration Program not applying for or expecting to receive any grants in FY 2025? That's on page 204 of the Program Budget.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. And again, Eric Nakagawa can correct me if I'm wrong, but right now, the issue with that is just lack of resources, lack of manpower to apply for grants, hunt them down, the deliverables. It--they're just swamped as is with the disaster and limited staff, so hence we're trying to fill a grants manager position Department-wide. And when that happens, I believe

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you're going to start seeing more grants being applied for and obtained by the Department overall.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is there any forecast on when that will happen if you--the grants manager for the whole Department?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question. I'm not sure if Wendy Nobriga is on, our AO. She may have an idea of the update on that position. Wendy, are you on? That's something we can follow up with.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Sure. Thank you. My next question's Lānaʻi specific. So, why is construction for the Lānaʻi Wastewater Reclamation Facility scheduled to proceed nine months after the design is completed? Can construction be moved up to be scheduled in FY 2027? And that's on page 868 of the Program Budget. The nine months gap is what I'm specifically asking, in regards to that.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question. That I'll defer to Eric Nakagawa.

MR. NAKAGAWA: All right. Chair, you can hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Okay. Yeah. So, essentially, designing and permitting, right? I kind of went over it real quick with Member Cook. It takes about two years to complete, right? So, essentially, you're doing...we're doing that facility plan, and I think we're doing the--that'll lead into the design and permitting side. So, I mean, that's kind of why you can't really expedite it quicker, because then we won't be able to start construction without our permitting stuff. So, that's essentially why.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Is there a way to make it more seamless in a way that the minute that they're done, then you go on to--I mean, doesn't that seem to make more sense? Or is it just--that's what--it's really about trying to make it more seamless, Eric, is what I'm trying to get at.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. So, the--I...I get this every year, whether it's this body or another body. To make it seamless, if you can get--expedite my environmental permits, I can build you guys anything in...in three...or two or three years. But unfortunately, environmental permits, as you guys all know, takes a while. And I don't think unless it's an emergency proclamation, you can get around it, right? So, that's the only way to make these projects more seamless. . . .(timer sounds). . .

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Well, that's my time. Thank you. Thank you,

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Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you, Member Johnson. Next, we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha, Director, Deputy Director, Division Chiefs and Staff. Some of my questions regarding the NPDES permit was asked, and I...I don't think--some of the questions that I had follow up, it sounds like you may have the answers to so maybe I'll talk story with you later about that. My first question is regarding the rates. Does Wastewater have, like, a sewer rate study the way that Water...the Department of Water Supply has a rate study they do every three years?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. The answer is yes, they do have a consultant that does a rate study. Mr. Nakagawa can maybe answer as far as who they are, but we do have a rate study and a consultant.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Director. Mr. Nakagawa, aloha. Do you know how frequently the rate study is updated? I saw in 2022, the...the rates were increased by 3 percent, and it's not clear if it was increased across the board uniformly or, you know, if...if there was a different kind of strategy in increasing the rates. Was--is this following the rate study's recommendations?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. Chair. Oh, yeah. Sorry. Hey, Member Rawlins. Yeah. So, you're absolutely correct. So--and we just, in fact, finished our update of the rate study--ah, I forget what the name--Raftelis or something, because they changed the name. Used to be Black & Veatch, and then was CMD, and it was, like, Raftelis or something. But she's been working on our rate model from the beginning. And so, essentially, they have algorithms. And everybody--I already explained to you guys, right--CFR requires us to go through Federal regulations. Everybody will pay their fair share, and so that's what the algorithm does. It makes sure everybody pays. So, when you guys look at the rate model, I know it's kind of--or rate increases, I kind of remind you guys, some is a little higher, some's a little lower. And--but be assured, everybody's paying their fair share. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: And how frequently is it updated?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Typically, it's every five years. I know there was one that we did miss two...two updates ago. It was, like, ten years, and so--but it's been every five years so far. And we're all good, they said. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great. Mahalo, Mr. Nakagawa. Mahalo, Chair.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. So, I have a question, Director. So, regarding Wastewater, Budget Details on 7-3, Public Information Officer. So, I know that there is a request for that, and I'm just wondering what kind of communication you have with the existing...the...I guess the Mayor's Office has been sending out your communications, and as we all know, what you've been doing is very critical for Upcountry and...and West Maui. So, communication is...is very important. Now you're requesting a PIO, so can you describe what it is that has caused the Department to ask for your own--not cause, but why you need your own?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair Sugimura. Yeah, that's a good question, and, you know, we learned a lot during these disasters. And one was that we needed to improve communication. The Mayor's Office does have a good comms team that was recently revamped, public affairs and comms separately, and that was through a learning process as well. So, what we found out was that communication, as you mentioned, is very key in...in this disaster, and not only disasters, but overall. And with our staff being so limited and wearing so many hats and multitasking, communication was not overlooked, but we didn't have the resources. And luckily, after a few, I want to say, weeks or months, we had support come in, but we needed and we were sorely wanting that additional support. We had a great person from Big Island, Charise (*phonetic*), and now we have Sarah Jenkins, who is doing a phenomenal job. But these are not County workers. And we...we need to prepare for the next one and just--to improve communication overall. And the Mayor's Office, they're the official one that gets out the messaging, but there's also the communication between Department and the Mayor's Office. And we want to make sure that communication is clear, concise, valid, and our staff just doesn't have the time and resources to do that. And there's disposition descriptions and...and requirements of that, not just PIO. They're going to be a...they're going to wear many hats as well for the Department. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. Electricity costs. How did you determine the inflationary cost increase, and what is the percentage increase?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Chair. I'll defer that to Eric.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Nakagawa? Is he frozen?

MR. AGAWA: I do have the total cost, but to answer your question, I'm...I'm not certain how the Division gets the percent....or anticipated percent rate increase. But the projected additional cost is 893,000 for electricity for Wastewater.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you know, Division Chief Nakagawa, you want to add anything to that?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Oh, sorry. Was that a question for me? Sorry. . . .(laughing). . .

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Regarding electricity costs and the inflationary cost increase.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Oh. So, essentially--yeah. So, Chair, so essentially, is that electricity cost, if you look, it's based off of the Fiscal Year 2023 actuals, right? And so, you'll notice that the difference is...we are allocated amount . . .*(inaudible)*.*(timer sounds)*. . . so they just added the additional--and I think it's about quarter-million per plant, right? So, if you subtract the two, that's...that's what the amounts are.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's your . . .*(inaudible)*. . . Okay. So, my time's up. So, next, we're going to go to round 3 if anybody has questions. And we will start off with, yeah, Member Cook, then we'll go to Member U'u-Hodgins, Member Sinenci, Member Kama, Member Lee, Member Paltin, Member Johnson, Member Rawlins-Fernandez. And then next, we'll go backwards if we get a round 3. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question would be I assume for Mr. Nakagawa. On page 209, which is following up on electricity, are there any partial solutions to the 800,000 increase in Wastewater electricity cost? I guess does the County have any either public-private partnerships or alternate energy plans to minimize our dependence on oil?

MR. NAKAGAWA: All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah, Chair. Oh, sorry. Is Director going to talk?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MR. NAKAGAWA: I'm good? Okay. I...I shut off my camera only because I think I'm glitching, so maybe that'll help. So, only the good-looking people was, I guess, over at the Chamber, so... . . .*(laughing)*. . . But yeah, Member Cook, that's a great question. We always get that. So, essentially, electricity cost is one of our major operational costs, and the way we address that is...is the typical, right, replacing all of our older, nonefficient equipment and mechanical electrical with newer, high-efficiency type of equipment. We have audits, right? We actually had hired consultants before and they do electricity audits. And then like everybody else, we attack the low fruit, like whether it's LED lights and all that other type of, I guess, equipment usage, right? And so, the latest audit was done by the Mayor's Office, right? JCI, that they--energy contract that overarching, and they identified a bunch of areas. But other than that, we participated in some of them, and we have not...we...we do have a PPA. I don't know if you've

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been to the PA and the Lahaina site. So, we PPA with--I forget what--they...they changed names already. And so, we have solar panels there that we pay that helps us save about ten grand a month, I think it was. But other than that, the only other one that potentially we might have a PPA with would be through that JCI contract, but they were kind of still deciding whether or not we were going to do that or not.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. My...I got time for another question?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Continue.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: For Director, Chair, I'm curious, on page 194, why will other government funds drop by 51 percent this next year?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: What was your page number again? 194? Okay. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Oops.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Chair? Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Nakagawa.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. Okay. Thanks, Chair. Yeah, Member Cook, so that...so, basically, in the Department, that's us, Wastewater. And what happened is this body in, I don't know, five years ago or more developed a Countywide infrastructure reserve fund. And so, essentially, that 50 percent is due to us. We...we...we eliminated that reserve fund for this Fiscal Year because simply it would drive up interest rate--I mean, not interest. Sorry--sewer rate fees, right, too high. So, we have to offset some stuff. So, we...we eliminated that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We'll come back to you, yeah? All right. Next, we have Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. On page 200 of the budget, when we're talking about goals in 201. So, for goal 1, provide effective division management on section 3, conduct timely pretreatment inspections, which is percentage of pretreatment inspections conducted on time. In 2023, the actual percentage was 57 percent, and the estimate of 2004 and 2005 were both 100 percent. Are we on our way to meeting our goal for '24, and do we assume we're also going to hit that for '25? I know that's in your goals, but is that accurate for '24 and we can assume it will continue to be accurate for '25?

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MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. And again, Mr. Nakagawa can correct me if I'm wrong, but we always--well, we put in 100 percent because that is what our intended goal is. We want to do our best and...and do all the...the inspections we can. However, as the year goes by, due to various reasons, we...we fall short, as you can see in Fiscal Year '23. But for the...the projected, we're always looking to...to be at perfection.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Before Mr. Nakagawa answers, let me ask my second question, and then maybe he can tackle both at once since my second question is about goal number 2, sustain reliable wastewater infrastructure. Section 4 is to minimize adverse impacts to wastewater system from noncounty activities and number of public information requests. So, in '23 it was 745, in '24 we estimated 1,000, and in '25, we're going to estimate 500. I just wanted to have some clarification on the variable of the numbers.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is it Division Chief Nakagawa?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Okay. Or is it me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Or whoever can answer.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, I'll defer to...to Eric.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Okay. So, let me see...so, the first...first question is...Shayne is correct. The problem is...is in--essentially, that whole pretreatment section, we don't have any bodies in it. So, what we have to do was contract hire back, and we're able to accomplish half of them, right? So, we do expect to do all of them now, but we still...we still have two bodies that are vacant, and that's the entire pretreatment section. So, hopefully we're able to accomplish the 100 percent. And then your second question for your variables for number of public information requests. So, I mean, that is--varies every year. We try to estimate, like you said, like, that 1,000 . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . only of historical information, right? So, if you look at '22, we had, like, roughly 741, in '23, it was, like, 719, and in '24, we're already at 715, so--and it's not even half the year, right, that's gone by. So --

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: I'm almost positive it's going to be in that four digit...the thousand range. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. Chair, can I ask really quick follow-up question --

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: -- before we move on? Back to goal 1, section 3, about the "on time," I wonder if you could define what "on time" means. How long do you guys have to respond to meet your goal? Ninety days, 60 days?

MR. NAKAGAWA: No. Yeah, Chair. Essentially, what they do is they--once they're done with their construction of their...oh, wait. Sorry. That's not construction. That's just regular--yeah. So, there's--we have annual inspections, and so, essentially, they kind of know when to do it and it's the matter of us getting around to do it or not. I mean, it's kind of...

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: So, there's no real time.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. NAKAGAWA: But it's an annual inspection, though.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Okay. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you. So, next, we have Member Sinenci, followed by Vice-Chair Kama. Three minutes.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. I just had a question for the Department. Immediately after the wildfires, the Department was asked to do a 5 percent reduction in their Department budget. Were there any areas in your budget that was considered for this reduction?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member Sinenci. Yes. So, we looked at where we could trim, right? Because every year our budget is--we're not asking for fluff. We...we were very tight with our budget. But when that 5 percent was asked of us, we really had to look at where we trim down. So, some of it was CIP. We could move it to another fiscal year. Some of it was equipment, that maybe we need a replacement, but we could stretch it for another year or so. And then there was also...as Mr. Nakagawa mentioned, there were some funding--or fund source that we contribute to that we...we pulled back on contribution. So, those were the areas that we concentrated on trimming our budget for that 5 percent reduction.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next, Vice-Chair Kama, then Chair Lee.

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VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair, I don't have any more questions for Wastewater.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Chair Lee.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Eric, do you have vacancies that are on an ongoing basis?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So, like, which ones?

MR. NAKAGAWA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . It's all the--and I'm sure nation...everywhere. It's all those skilled, licensed-type--that middle-management type. Grade 4 operators, right, licensed engineers, and very specific stuff like pre-treatment, right, that...that kind of --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, Eric. Eric. Eric, if you can't get the work done because of that, why haven't you increased your outsourcing?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. So--oh, sorry. Chair. Yeah. Chair Lee, yeah. So, we have--right? So, that's what we were starting to...we contract hired some of our pre-treatment side, so now we do that. We had just haven't gotten into--I don't know how there is no contracting source for the operator side. Great for operators because there's...there's just none. And then on the engineering side, we are looking to mimic Public Works, and I believe Water. They have some third-party review type of engineering.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: So...so Eric, do you...do you move money from A account to B account to handle those...those procurement services, or do you just have additional funds in your budget allowed for procurement services?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. Chair. So, Chair Lee, yeah. So, we already...I think we upped our professional services. I think it was one or two fiscal years back for it. So, we don't move any A funds to B funds, and if we do, we'll come before you guys to do it.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And so, for, you know, your engineers and the harder ones to fill, have you tried various other ways to attract people with sign-up bonuses, or any types of bonuses, or anything? Have you tried other ways to...to bring people into the fold?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Chair. Yeah. Yeah. So, it's really yes, absolutely. And then Shayne can more elaborate on that because he started it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, he started it?

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COUNCILMEMBER LEE: You know why? The reason why I said that--you know, I'm glad you started it because otherwise, it...it wouldn't be in our best interest to just let you continue to have these ongoing vacancies, yeah? Because maybe you should maybe start redescribing some of those positions or just moving it to the B account, Director?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thank you, Chair Lee. So, we did have a policy, internal policy to subsidize costs for people who are...incentivize payment for people who join the Department for these specialized positions. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . I forget the official name of it, but I believe we allocated up to \$5,000 per position. And what I had planned prior to the disaster--and this was started in my mind when I was even at Water, Deputy Director at Water, was reaching out to--my vision was West Coast...West Coast-based universities and sending a team to talk to, like, the dean of engineering or the dean of the specialized fields, and just show them. Because my feeling is there's graduates out there who are looking for jobs, but they don't know the need on Maui, per se. And my plan was to reach out. And then the disaster happened, so those plans kind of got sidelined. But I really wanted to start out a campaign and...and go out and reach out to these universities at that level.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Um-hum.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And when you're...when you're successful at --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- getting them to sign up, come to Maui, then...then we have that additional problem of figuring out where they're going to live. So, maybe if you want to use the 'Ohana Assistance program, you can add on to your house, Shayne.

MR. AGAWA: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: And then you can have all these people...you can have employee housing.

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

MR. AGAWA: Would be nice if I could build my main house. I'm living the 'ohana unit.

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

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MR. AGAWA: But, you know, that was also --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

MR. AGAWA: -- a part of the plan, was to see if the Department...at the Department level, we could actually obtain housing for our Department to...to house these positions. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have Member --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- Paltin, followed by Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I am confused on the CIP, that there's maybe seven Wastewater projects for West Maui that are under management. Are you folks not working on those projects? Is it completely consultants? Like, West Maui Recycled Water System, Lahaina Wastewater Treatment Plant upgrade, Wahikuli Sewer installation, pump station replacement, wastewater collection system laterals and cleanouts, wastewater collection system repairs, pump station temporary repairs. Is Wastewater Division not working on that?

MR. AGAWA: I'm not sure if I totally understand the question, but there are projects that are above our capability. So, some of those projects that you mentioned are at the mercy of support that our staff has, but I can defer to Eric to answer more in detail.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Those are the CIP I see in the Management section and not in the Environmental Management, but it applies to wastewater in Lahaina.

MR. AGAWA: Is there a page number, Member Paltin? Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure. Page 910 in the Program Budget.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: It's under Office of Recovery. And Budget Office has a comment. Do you want them to chime in also?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you Councilmember Paltin. So, some of the projects--all of the Departments have been working collaboratively with the Office of Recovery on what's needed. So, some of the projects that the Department will be working on, they will work collaboratively with the Office of Management...Department of Management. But it was just determined that it

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made more sense to put all of those together so that it was very easy to see our recovery-related projects in one place because they're...we're asking for those funds from the State.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, I can still ask Wastewater about it because they're collaboratively working? I'm...I'm not asking about the money, so much as the...the project.

MS. MILNER: Yeah. I think that's okay. And I think if they don't have the information, we can respond to you in writing.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, my question is no decisions have been made for the SMA zone, and permits will not be expedited for the SMA zone until that's figured out. And so, as we restore laterals, and cleanouts, and do collection system repairs, is there then the strategy to start above the SMA because those are the areas--are...are we going to prioritize the areas where the expedited permitting process is going to occur? Like, why would it make sense to restore laterals, cleanouts, collection systems in the SMA . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . when we haven't expedited...been able to expedite that permit process yet? And then what if you run out of money, and, like, you know, manage retreat is a thing. So, is there, like, a game plan here?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question. Yes, that's a very good question, and...and you're right. We are currently in the process of vetting through all of that. What is the plan with repairs moving forward, we haven't gone into that granular yet, but we will. That is a good point. A lot of it is linked to the damage assessment as well. So, once we get that, we'll have a clearer picture of how we can prioritize the rebuilding and the recovery.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And...and we're not going to get the damage assessment until phase 2 is done?

MR. AGAWA: No, the...the damage assessment is relating to the wastewater. We should be getting that, I think, sometime this week, within a week or so. That's the one that EPA did a damage assessment for us. Now, the lateral side is on the private side, so that is beyond our inspection. Ours is for the main collection system. So, we're still vetting through that, but I believe the damage on the private side, which is the laterals, would be on the homeowner to justify if it's viable or damaged or not.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The Department doesn't have laterals, or they have laterals, but their laterals are different?

MR. AGAWA: So, the lateral goes from the main to the actual home or the clean out. So, we...it comes under our jurisdiction up to the clean out. And Eric can correct

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me if I'm wrong, but any damage on the private side, the homeowner would need to assess and do the repair. And I believe the...the budget that they anticipate is to get support for an agency to help out the homeowner with that. But Eric can correct me if I'm wrong.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Lateral to the cleanout is the Department, cleanout to the house is the homeowner?

MR. AGAWA: I believe that is so. Is that right, Eric?

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yeah. Chair. Yeah. So, Shayne's...Shayne's right. And so, the projects, Tamara, that you're talking about, laterals with cleanouts, we just need to make sure cleanouts are there because what we're finding in our preliminary damage assessment is a lot of the groundwater is coming from the private side, owners' side. So, what we want to do is put in those cleanouts and get rid of the groundwater coming into our system because that's the one that's affecting our plant process. Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And the cleanout is the Department's responsibility?

MR. NAKAGAWA: No. Based on the ordinance, it's the actual private owner. But at this point, because it's affecting us as far as our plant process, which means our permitting, our...on our regulatory side, the State and Federal permitting, we're just most likely probably going to go in and start putting cleanouts so that it doesn't affect us anymore.

MR. AGAWA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You probably have another question for round 3. Member Johnson, then Member Rawlins-Fernandez. And then after that, do you want to take a break or continue on for round 3? We'll ask after that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Break.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: After. Okay. Go ahead, Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Sorry, I was about to sneeze. Okay.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. I'm...I'm ready. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Why does the Department anticipate there'll be three grease-related spills in FY 2025? And that's on page 200 of the Program Budget.

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MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. I believe, again, it's based on historical data and anticipation of being conservative. We hope there's zero, but we also need room for, you know, anticipated spills.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So...I'll come back to it if I have more time. The next question is in...in regard to these...this computer billing...okay. So, please explain the computer services' additional funding due to increase in DWS billing in the amount of \$52,000. That's on page 203 in the Program Budget. So, Director, do you see that additional 52,000 for the billing?

MR. AGAWA: Yes. Thank you for that question. So, I believe that there is some kind of interfund transfer for the services that water provides us with billing. And I believe that is going to go up or anticipated to go up, hence the additional 52,000.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, your...your slide mentioned...or during your presentation, you mentioned you not taking water from pools. Is there any other water that you're not taking? What about storm runoff or anything like that?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. So, stormwater runoff is actually not intended or has been asked to put into our system. That just goes through the...the drainage system that Public Works maintains to the ocean. Mitigation also comes under the Department of Public Works as far as BMPs type of thing. But to my knowledge, there hasn't been too many asks of--if you want to call it, like, foreign disaster-related water besides the swimming pool, which is what was requested recently.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I'm curious. So, why swimming pool water?

MR. AGAWA: So, what they've been finding is that as you get to the bottom--so, Army Corps has been utilizing a lot of the pool water for dust control. But once you start getting toward the bottom where you know, there's not that much water left, it's more...mostly high solid content or suspended solid content, then they need to dispose of that somehow. But because of the historical effects to our treatment plant from the debris in the water, we're...we're not accepting it at this time. So, it's just the bottom muck, I guess, if you want to call it.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: You don't want the muck going into our system, and it mucks it up. All right.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, it's a biological process. And then I think I mentioned in one time, it's kind of like an upset stomach where you introduce something, and then it throws off your system.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. So, the beneficial bacteria is what it would kill? Is that what you're saying?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah the...the live organisms that --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: -- treat the wastewater --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. AGAWA: -- break it down. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . That's my time. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Perfect. Okay. Member Rawlins-Fernandez, then we'll take a break after.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Okay. On Budget Details, page 7-3, it has an increase to the Director's salary, but there isn't one for the Deputy. And I guess the formula that's been used in the past is, like, 5 or 10 percent. The...the Deputy's salary is 5 or 10 percent less than the Director's, so just checking to see if that's a typo or an error, that it wasn't also increased.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question. I believe that's a typo. To my knowledge, the Deputy and Directors go up based on the same salary commission determination. But Wendy Nobriga's online now, she can confirm if that's a typo, if that's intended.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Office, you have a comment?

MS. MILNER: Yes. Thank you, Chair. Sorry to interrupt, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. So, the salary last year, when we entered it for FY '24, was entered at this year's rate. So, that's why there's no change between FY '24 and '25. Last year's salary was entered too high. . . .*(laughing)*. . . Sorry.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that explanation, Ms. Milner.

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So--but...but that was corrected in this fiscal year, that the correct salary was given to the Deputy and--okay. Got it.

MS. MILNER: Yes. That was savings in DEM.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Great. Thanks. Okay. Mahalo. And then on page 206 under goals and objectives, goal number 3, objective 1 and 2, conduct professional development sessions for each employee annually and conduct safety training classes to each employee annually. And so, the estimate for FY '24 is...for both is 12, and FY '25, both is 12, but the actual for FY '23 is 0.58 and 0.243. Is that also a typo or can someone explain how half a class is given?

MR. AGAWA: Again, I believe this is estimated at one per month, and because of the multitasking and just staff not having time, it is what it is. But I'll confirm with Eric if that is true as far as the numbers for the '23 actual.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Can you hear me? Oh, okay. Yeah. You know, I...Member Rawlins, I...I've been trying to change this for a while, but the reason it's like that is because they do...I don't know how you call it. It's that...you know, it's like that--you calculate it with the hours, you know what I mean? So, it becomes this point something for everybody. So, essentially, everybody's getting . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . training every month, but somehow when they do the calculations because it's hours that they're getting trained, it comes out, like, real funky. And so I--maybe next year, I'll try to figure out a better way of conveying that information. But yes, all...all...our guys all received their safety training. Reminding training, basically reminders also. But I'll go try figure out how to make that more--communicate clearly, I guess.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Mr. Nakagawa. And then Chair, I...I don't need a round 3, I just have a quick yes or no question --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. And we'll take a recess after.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- with permits. Are--so, to dovetail off of Member Cook's question earlier regarding the electricity, are you folks...is your Department working with Johnson Controls too?

MR. AGAWA: So, thank you for that question.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yes.

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MR. AGAWA: We are, but --

MR. NAKAGAWA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Sorry.

MR. AGAWA: -- it comes under a contract through the Mayor's Office. But we have been working with them directly as well.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that response. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Members, we're at break time. It's pretty perfect, 10:30. You want 10 minutes, 15 minutes?

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Fifteen.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . I knew you would say that. 10:45. This meeting is in recess. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 10:31 a.m.
RECONVENE: 10:52 a.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . Welcome back to the Budget, Finance, and Economic Development Committee. Thanks for taking a short break. And we are still in Wastewater for, actually, a round 3 of questions. If anybody has questions, there'll be two minutes each. So, I think what--you want to go...you want to go first, Member Rawlins-Fernandez? We've been putting you last, so do you care?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: No, no. I said I just had that last question. I don't need a round 3.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're fine. Member Johnson? We'll go backwards.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Moving backwards.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(laughing)*. . . You have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: I...I do have one that was kind of in regards to what Chair Lee was asking. I really appreciate the Department trying to find ways for retention and, you know, trying to find creative ways to keep the hard, filling positions in. So, in your...in the Budget Details, 7-5, there's a very tiny little line that says employees award program, last number...last section in that...on page

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7-5 in the Budget Details. And can that fund be used for performance bonuses, hiring bonuses, or retention bonuses for employees? It looks like it's only \$600, but I'm just curious what that could be done...you know, done with and what are you using it for?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. I actually was unaware of that, so I don't know if Wendy Nobriga knows what that funding is intended for.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Wendy Nobriga, are...are you on?

MS. NOBRIGA: Yes, I am.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. NOBRIGA: Can...can you folks hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Now we can hear you.

MS. NOBRIGA: Okay. So, that fund is for our DPS, when we do our retirement awards.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. NOBRIGA: And also, the years of service for...I think is after 25 years, each employee, once they hit that threshold, will get a check instead of a pin. So, that's what those funds are for.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: . . .*(laughing)*. . . We're going to be fighting over this small pot of money here, Members. So, I...I just was curious. I've never...I--thank you for clarifying that. I really appreciate it. . . .*(laughing)*. . .

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: So, I...I--is the Greasezilla...should we talk about Greasezilla now or...or at the next...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're...we're --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're talking about Wastewater.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: That's all my questions for now. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You're done? All right. Member Paltin.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. My question is in regards to CBS-3575, the return activated sludge program thing. Is that for sure going to be happening this year...this Fiscal Year?

MR. AGAWA: Can you repeat that CBS number or what district?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: 895. Page 895, Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility.

MR. AGAWA: Oh, 895.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Return activated sludge dewatering upgrades.

MR. AGAWA: That one, I'd...I'll defer to...to Eric Nakagawa.

MR. NAKAGAWA: Yes, Chair. Member Paltin, for that RAS project, yeah. The design is already initiated and started. I think it's only like 15 percent, but we --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Great.

MR. NAKAGAWA: -- we'll be able to get that out.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then the other question I had was page 7-37, there's a Ford 450 flatbed truck that needs to be replaced. It's 22 years old and has a mileage of \$46,697 [sic]. I was wondering, you know, if it's that old and we only use it less than 50,000 miles, would it make sense to rent one every time you need it? Like, how often did you use it in 22 years or is it just like...wondering about that. Or maybe give Lāna'i's truck to them or something? It's 919029C-7044. And then there was something about grit dewatering; is that something that's within the collective bargaining to do as well? Just getting my . . . (timer sounds). . . questions in before the bell. Those would be the three questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, did you get an answer?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Only for the first question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Shall we move on and go back to it?

MR. AGAWA: Oh, so the answer to the...the truck...the Ford F-450 one --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Uh-huh.

MR. AGAWA: -- that's on page 7-37. So, the answer to that is it's not going to be efficient to rent because of the unpredictability of the use of the truck and what the truck is used for, transporting large, heavy wastewater parts. They're used during

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emergency callouts, which aren't planned. So, the feasibility of renting it for use is not really that efficient for us.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then the grit dewatering, is that any violation of collective bargaining if they do it themselves? If it's a new...a new thing that they haven't used to do because we didn't have the thing that we were going to use to dewater the grit?

MR. AGAWA: I will defer that to Eric, but I believe the...the question is saying it's a duty that was not part of their PD prior to, but because we have that system now, that it becomes tacked on to their duties.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, that's the answer?

MR. AGAWA: Is that the concern is...yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Because you're getting a grit-dewaterer thing, and so they didn't used to do it, but we're trying to save money, which I'm all for. But there was, like, a problem before with the mill and fill and the stabilization fund, so I just wanted to double check that we're not taking somebody else's job away or that we're not violating collective bargaining agreements by telling them, hey, we could save money by doing this, but then the union steps in and files a grievance or something.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. I feel confident that that was vetted and it's part of their PD. But we can follow up on that if that --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: -- is not the case.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, we have Chair Lee, followed by Vice-Chair Kama.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Director, do you think it might be more feasible going forward to have a division that concentrates only on grant writing and grant administration, which you'd combine efforts with, let's say, Solid Waste, Wastewater, Public Works, maybe even Water, you know, rather than everybody have their own person? I think it might be more efficient if you just combine the departments that are related. What do you think?

MR. AGAWA: Well, thank you for that question, Chair Lee. That is a really good idea. Budget-wise, I'm not sure how we would--or who would that position come under, but moving forward, we already have our...our grants manager position approved,

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so we're moving forward with that. But in the future--yeah. Normally a grants writer with infrastructure background could cover all the infrastructure departments. So, that is something that I think we should collaborate among ourselves, the infrastructure departments, to see if it makes sense to have a unified division. I think that makes more cost efficiency. So, that's a good suggestion.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. You...you probably want to do the same for a public relations person, you know, as well and have maybe a team, just like a grants management team and a public relations team because I can see where it's you guys are really busy and you don't have time to stop for, you know, individual comments or interviews to reporters and so forth. And then getting the message out to the public really dilutes your...you know, your effectiveness if you're going to have to do that too, yeah? So, I can see the need for a public relations person. Yeah. But I think, you know, combining efforts going forward is something that maybe you folks should think about. Thank you. I don't have any more questions.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. That is why the Office of the Mayor has hired a grants person, I believe. But we will ask that question. Next, we have Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Chair, I don't have any more questions for Wastewater. I'm waiting for EPS and Solid, but --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Member Sinenci? And then we'll go to U'u-Hodgins and Member Cook. We're going backwards. Okay. Go ahead. Member Sinenci, do you have a question?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: No more questions, Chair. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Hodgins?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. I'm kind of going to expand on Member Paltin's question regarding the Ford F-450 flatbed truck, and then on the next page, there's a Ford F-150 crew truck and another Ford F-350. So, I just wanted to ask about the big price difference. So, the Ford F-450 flatbed is \$180,000, the other Ford 450 crew bed truck is 100, and then the 350 is \$80,000. I'm going to be honest. I have no idea how much a Ford F-450 flatbed...flatbed costs, but that's how much it normally costs, is near \$200,000?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question, Member U'u-Hodgins. The vehicle itself may not cost that. The base price, I think, would be similar with similar models, but a lot of these utility trucks are heavily modified for the intended use of each Department.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: So, a lot of the cost is in the modifications and the add-ons.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, okay. Okay. Heavily modified, specialized. Okay. That makes sense. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You're done? Okay. Now, Chair Cook of the Committee. Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. So, Director, my--circling back onto water for South Maui. And this is basically, I'm...I'm going to ask you for a comment. My office has been in discussion with both the ranches and the hotels to supply R-1 water to South Maui. The Director of the Department of Water Supply is supportive. It potentially can free up between 1 to 2 million gallons a day of potable water. I'm proposing in this budget that the Department budget for a PER, preliminary engineering report, to establish the route through ranch lands and not down the highway, and plan on with utilizing the information that you would get from this report in 2025 to Budget in FY 2026 for the engineering study...environmental study for the...for the entire area. Is that something that is feasible, and could you comment on a way path forward for that?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question, Member Cook. So, it is something we can look at. You know, I agree that the benefit of offsetting potable water in South Maui--we all know there's a benefit to that in utilizing R-1. However, you know, that wasn't part of our priority six-year CIP project list. But you know, there's--it makes sense fiscally for everybody, you know, for DEM, Water, and also the taxpayers, then we would definitely relook at that and entertain--you know, like, we all know a PER is the initial thing to get the ball rolling in these types of projects. And resource wise, a PER doesn't take up too much of a Department, so we would definitely look into that if...if there's funding assistance. Regarding the results of the PER and then moving forward, yes. The next step would be design, planning, permitting. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . Again, I would need to circle back with our Wastewater Reclamation Division if we were to be the ones to...to head that. But again, if it makes sense fiscally and for the benefit of the community, then, yeah, we would definitely need to take a look at that.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Could you grant me a brief minute for one more follow up?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Go ahead.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, since the ranches already are planning and engineering to pump it up to reservoir and to use it, is it possible--would it be appropriate and feasible for the County...to meet County standards for engineering to

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continue communicating with the Department, but basically private parties doing the engineering and...and parallel to meet this County standards, but not to put any demands on the County staff?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for the question. I fully understand. So, yes, it would benefit us to continue discussion, if that is the plan and the offer from the private side. We would definitely need oversight. But if the intent is to design it to County standards on a private venture, yeah, as long as it doesn't impact our resources or funds, we could definitely support that. And we would want to be part of it, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair, for your assistance.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. So, we are then done with Wastewater. And again, Members, if any of you have questions that come up that you want to submit tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock, please do submit it to Staff and we can send it to the Department.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
Solid Waste Division Program

CHAIR SUGIMURA: We're going to now move on to the Solid Waste Division. And I want to thank Eric Nakagawa for being with us for the Wastewater section. And now we are into solid waste, and we'll have Mike Kehano also, right? Is that right, Director?

MR. AGAWA: Yes, that is correct. Mike Kehano should be on board, Division Chief for Solid Waste Division.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Ready? So, we're going to have --

MR. NAKAGAWA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Members.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: -- a round of four minutes, and we'll start with Committee Chair for this Committee, Member Cook, for four minutes for Solid Waste.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My question for the Department for Solid Waste is how will the Department accomplish the doubling of the landfill diversion from FY 2024 to 2025? And that's page 221.

MR. AGAWA: So, if I'm looking at the right number, it's the goal number 1, item 1. Yeah. So, that, again, is a projection, again, estimate based on historical. We always strive to do more. If we get there is, you know, unknown, but based on historically, we're about 9,000. So, I think that's a realistic goal. From the Administration side, we are definitely thinking about waste diversion all the time.

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Again, I don't like to keep on using the disaster as an excuse, but obviously, it taxed our resources and our plan...changed our plans. But the...the concept of moving forward is waste diversion. But that is an estimate based on historical and projected goals.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. My...my next question is...well, how much of the waste diversion would be green waste?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Approximately, ballpark. Because--I'll finish my question. They're...you're proposed to get a grinder for green waste from the Molokai landfill. Do we currently have the grinder sufficient to process the material for the Central Maui landfill? Those are very expensive, specialized equipment with a long lead time; is that correct?

MR. AGAWA: That is correct. Our intent was to get a grinder. I'm not sure where we are in that process, maybe Mike Kehano can elaborate more. But the Molokai one, we have issues with the current grinder, so that is going to definitely upgrade our availability to serve the community as far as green waste. It also can also be utilized as a backup. If we have a contract down the road for waste or...or green waste processing or composting, the intent was for the Department to get our own grinder. It's just fiscally, you know, responsible. But as far where we are with the grinder, I...I--maybe Mike can explain a little bit more where we are with the status of that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Kehano?

MR. KEHANO: Hi this is Mike Kehano. The grinder for Central Maui Landfill has been received and it's...it's on island. So, we...we do have that in possession. We're just waiting on getting training from the...from the vendor. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you very much. That's it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: That's it? Member...Member U'u-Hodgins next, and then Member Sinenci, Member Kama, Chair Lee, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you. I'm going to ask just a general question about . . . *(inaudible)* . . . as it relates to both...well, all four of your divisions...or three of your divisions. But do you folks have enough manpower and staff to complete your goals for CIP, or how much do you plan on contracting out? I know Member Paltin asked a similar question, but moving forward considering the vacancies.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, that's a great question, Member U'u-Hodgins. So, when we plan

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out our CIP for every Fiscal Year Budget, we also need to take in consideration how much our personnel can handle the workload. There is a lot of trimming off because of resource...or lack of resources. So, I'm confident that we can manage the CIP load as submitted now. A lot of it is consulted out. But it's a balance, and that's something we look at. So, by the time it gets to the proposed budget, we feel confident that we can handle it with our resources.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. And then do you guys do some of your own design and permitting as well, or do you guys contract that out? I know Member Johnson was asking about, you know, the design process, and I understand post-design, you submit for permitting. But do you guys do all of that yourself in-house, or how does that work?

MR. AGAWA: Yes. Thank you for that question. So, to my knowledge, in-house design is just a small fraction of what we do. A lot of our design and projects are very taxing on our resources. We do have some in-house structural design and analysis. We have a structural...certified structural engineer on staff at Wastewater. But again, it's a small fraction of what we...we take on. It's normally contracted out.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And then the permitting as well?

MR. AGAWA: The permitting review is done, I want to say, mostly in-house review. We're very, very short-staffed with that too. But to my knowledge, I don't think we have a third-party assisting with permitting review right now. But that's more on the Wastewater side. So, I don't know if Eric is still on, but that's something we can follow up on. But I don't think we...we contract that out.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Okay. Well, specifically for the site we're going to need for the Central Maui Landfill as it relates to that permitting, you guys going do that in-house?

MR. AGAWA: So, that permitting we can manage in-house working with DOH. But we do have a consultant that's on board, mainly for the design portion, but he also has enough knowledge to help us with the permitting. But the management of the permitting with DOH is mainly done in-house.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next, we have Member Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. And mahalo, Director. I didn't see any CIP projects for the East Maui Community Plan area, but I was just wondering, are...are there any in your Countywide for...for the East Maui Community Plan area?

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MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question, Member Sinenci. To my knowledge, we do not have CIP for East Maui this fiscal year. I don't have the full six-year CIP, but...yeah. I'm not sure on subsequent fiscal years, but this year, we do not have anything in East Maui.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. All right. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You're done? Okay. Next, we have Member Kama, Chair Lee, Member Paltin.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. So, I have one CIP question. I was being very diligent in my questions. Okay. So, here it is. Environmental Management has programed 45.3 million of improvements in FY 2025. Does the Department have enough project management capacity to manage that level of capital investments? We noted that \$1 million was proposed to assist the Wastewater program manage its project. Is that enough, and has that been given to retaining a program management team for just the wastewater projects needed in West Maui to restore the lost portions of the wastewater systems? And that's page 845 on the Program Budget 2.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question, Member Kama. So, yes and no. Again, we only take on enough CIP that we feel our staff can manage.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: However, managing project utilizes heavily on consultants, as we know.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: So, the management portion, yes. We believe our staff can handle that. We have enough resources. But as far as the heavy lifting, a lot of that would be done by consultants or contract. Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Agawa. That was my one question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I'll pass the rest until we get to EPS.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. All right. Chair Lee, you have a question? Or your time.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah, I do. I do. I do. It's--we discussed this before, but if you could remind me, Director. What is the cost to expand the landfill in order

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to accommodate all the...the rubble from Olowalu?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. I believe the overall cost--now, there's different costs, right? There's design, construction, and then also operations. So --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: I meant total...total cost to just create it.

MR. AGAWA: Just to create it? Mike can correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe we're looking in the range of 45 million. Is that correct, Mike? Just to construct the landfill expansion?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Kehano?

MR. KEHANO: Yeah. Well, 39 million was the last estimate we had.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Director, you must be thinking of additional costs for the other 6 million. Is that for something else?

MR. AGAWA: That possibly could be this portion. But, again, I defer to Mike to clarify the costs.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, the other--okay. The other...the other part of the question is how much is...is it going to cost to restore Olowalu? And who does it?

MR. AGAWA: That's a good question. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Is it you or --

MR. AGAWA: So, the restoration is under Army Corps' purview. They're going to restore it back.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Army Corps?

MR. AGAWA: Yes. Army Corps.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Army Corps. And then--but Army Corps will be delivering...picking up and delivering all the debris to the new Central Maui Landfill site --

MR. AGAWA: That is --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- and that's where they're going to pay us tipping fees?

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MR. AGAWA: That...that is correct. Their contractor would be the one hauling. And then, yes, they would be paying us the standard tipping fee rates is my understanding.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, what's the difference, again, between what they're going to pay us and what it costs to construct?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Do you have that number?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, I think Mike should have that. Definitely, we're going to be short. We all know that, right, because they're going to going to pay us the base rate.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Yeah. We...we knew that. But --

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. So, it's --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- but the number keeps changing.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. I believe --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just wondering.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. I believe it's going to be mainly of the operation. So, we're going to have to contract out the operation work. So, if Mike has that costs...estimated costs of the operations portion for that.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Mike, do you have that?

MR. KEHANO: Yes. So, the operations costs, we're estimating 36 million to just operate the landfill. And then with the...the tip fee, assuming there's 400,000 tons that comes to us, it's about 46, 47 million that we would get in tip-fee revenue payment.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. So, that's--okay. And this 36 million will be annual, yeah, for operations?

MR. KEHANO: That's for the life of us receiving...or the County receiving the debris from Olowalu.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. All right. Because it's just going to be one time essentially, yeah? So, one-time cost to --

MR. KEHANO: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: -- take all this debris, right? I mean...

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MR. AGAWA: Yeah, it'll be the cost of operation until it all has been moved . . .(timer sounds). . . for the duration of the operation.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Okay. Thank you. Okay. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. So, next, we have Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. This one is keeping it tight, but similar to the first question of the last round, but with a twist. So, in 2022, we saved approximately 3.4, and in 2023, we saved approximately 2.2 million between the adopted and the actual costs. And I heard what Director...or Mr. Nakagawa said, but the twist here is that in '22 and '23, there was an interfund transfer of 4 million and 3.6 million. So, General Fund money supplemented Fiscal Year '22 \$4,041,955. Of that, you actually only needed \$563,655. So, there was basically a general fund transfer to the Solid Waste Fund of \$3,478,300. Is it correct that that money doesn't come back to the General Fund after Fiscal Year '22? And I think in Fiscal Year '23, despite the interfund transfer of \$3,615,742, you actually only needed 1,399,000.

MR. AGAWA: Well, can you reference where you're looking at that?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, sure. Seven--page...Budget Details 7-41. And then I also looked at Mayor Victorino's last year Budget Details to do the math, which would have been Fiscal Year '23, probably. So, basically--and then so the...the point is, last year you asked for 8, close to 9 million interfund transfer. And this year, we're asking for over 11 million interfund transfer for Solid Waste when millions are going unused. And that interfund transfer from the General Fund doesn't end up going back to the General Fund, right?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Office? Oh, sorry. Budget Office?

MR. AGAWA: I'll defer to Lesley.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes. I believe once it's transferred into that fund, it remains in that fund and is a Carryover/Savings as part of that fund. But I will confirm with the Finance Department that does the ACFR and get that information to you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then so the Carryover/Savings; is that part of the interfund transfer or is the interfund transfer separate?

MS. MILNER: Chair, I --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Because it kind of seems a little like a scheme. I mean, it

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gets worse when we go to Public Works, but...

MS. MILNER: So, are you asking if...sorry. The Carryover/Savings in the Solid Waste Fund is recognized in the Carryover/Savings line item on page one of the budget ordinance. So, that is not part of the interfund transfer. That's recognized in a separate line item.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: The carryover fund...sorry, carryover funds for the Solid Waste Department is not part of the interfund transfer?

MS. MILNER: Correct. They have a separate Carryover/Savings line item for their special revenue fund.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, then, basically, if they're asking for 11 million this year, and historically there's been about 2 million at least not actually used, should we cut the interfund transfer by like . . .(timer sounds). . . couple mil?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember. Yeah. I think that's something we'd need to talk to the Department about because I know they try and expend everything they budget and try and keep their budget fairly lean. But I think that's something we can certainly discuss.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. It...it gets to, like, 20 million at Public Works, so maybe we should discuss it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Great.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I got more questions but I heard the bell.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. That's great. Great, great. And so, next, we have Member Johnson, then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. I...I only have one question for Solid Waste, and...and it's in regards to the Lānaʻi Landfill and the years. Lānaʻi remaining years was...went from 16 FY '23 actual, to FY 2025 estimate, to 10. That's...that's--among the other...among the other landfills, that's a big change. Can you speak on why it's fluctuating, the big change?

MR. AGAWA: That's a good question. Thank you for that, Member Johnson. And Mike can correct me if I'm wrong, but recently, there was an uptick in the volume, the rate that was coming in due to housing development on the island. It was waste that we've never seen in the recent future until that project started. So, the rate of increase definitely went up. Other than that, I...I...I don't...I can't think of anything that attributed to the increase in volume rate, but Mike can correct me if I'm wrong. But I believe that housing development had a lot to do with it.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Mr. Kehano, is that--anything to add?

MR. KEHANO: Yes, I'll add that--so, what Shayne is saying is correct. There...there was an uptick. But also with these smaller landfills, because they're smaller, we--it's...it's harder to get good estimates of how much you're going to fill because any small changes or variations in either the tonnage or, you know--depending on where you're landfilling because of the cover soil, it...it can change the...the use. So, that's why it's very difficult. And we do have a consultant that helps us with this, and he's...he's said in his experience that it's...it's just very difficult to...to nail down a number, a consistent number with the smaller landfills. And it...it's a lot easier when you have really big, large landfills.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: All right. Okay. That's . . .*(inaudible)*. . . you know, if the...or when the Administration moves forward with the Lānaʻi Affordable Housing project, as well as the...the Hawaiian Home Lands being developed, it seems to me learning this lesson, that building homes adds a significant input to our landfills, then are we going to be prepared for that? I would hate to have that be the hang up when we're trying to build affordable housing or Hawaiian...homes for Hawaiians, right?

MR. AGAWA: That's a great question, Member Johnson. So, yes, the Department has been talking with Pūlama Lānaʻi for acquiring land to extend our landfill operations, not at the current site, but at a different site. There's a lot of factors that we have to look at. Regulatory factors, right. Vicinity to the airport, that type of thing. Adequate soil, UAC line. I don't want to go into the details, but we are vetting it out with Pūlama Lānaʻi. There's also been some verbal talks about their expectations on the land acquisition, meaning the Department's stance on going to waste-to-energy. They're...they're very environmentally conscious, so that's part of the...the talks about the land acquisition. But we have looked at acquiring land.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: How about the the...the...the cover...the soil cover, grub and grading--and are we good on soil for the cover of the landfill?

MR. AGAWA: To my knowledge, we haven't had any concerns about cover material being taken to the landfill.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Because, you know, when we grub and grade these parcels, right, I'm wondering, where does...you know, where does that go, and is it going in the landfill? And then there are projects that need fill, right? So, can we "two birds, one stone" that?

MR. AGAWA: My understanding, in the recent Hōkūao project, they had a surplus of cover materials, so we took a lot of that and stored it on-site, and we also looked

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at storage off-site. I don't know the update of that, but we did take a lot of that material.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: When you say you take it and we store it on-site, you're talking about at the landfill?

MR. AGAWA: Correct. So, those...the cut material from the developing project, if it's acceptable as cover material. Then we took it . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . and we stored and stockpiled it on our Central Maui...on the Lānaʻi Landfill site.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. Then we have Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. My first question is for Acting Budget Director regarding how premium pay is displayed on the...in the Budget Details. And so if you could explain how it's presented in the proposed Fiscal Year, so FY '25, as premium pay altogether, and will it be...will that information be broken up by detail in the next year's?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Go ahead.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes. When we prepare the budget, we put all of the possible premium pay costs under the general premium pay line item. And then as those funds are expended, they are charged to the appropriate sub-object codes that you see here and reflected in the actual expenditures where they were actually expended. Mahalo.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo for that. And then under transfers out to General Fund. So, fringe benefits, overhead, debt service costs. Can you explain why it's listed as transfers out to General Fund if...if it's all going to go to Countywide?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins-Fernandez. Yes. The way our system is set up, those transfers just show as General Fund. The costs for General Fund, those are the debt service charges. And then--I'm looking at page 213, by the way, if anybody's wondering--the interfund cost reclassification line item, that's where you'll see the fringe costs and overhead reflected. That's just a function of our system, how those show up there. We can certainly look at that if you feel it would be clearer to present it another way.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, the...the 10 million is for fringe and overhead, and the 6.6 million is for debt service; is that what you just said?

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Yes, that's correct.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. Okay. My next question is for Director. On the presentation, you told us that 847 refuse carts were destroyed. The refuse carts, are those, like, the large bins? Is that what you're talking about? And were they located in the burned area, 847 of them?

MR. AGAWA: Yes. Thank you for that question. So, the answer is yes, they are those large carts, and they were all in the burn zone. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: That's a lot of bins in that area. Okay. And then a follow up...oh, okay. So, they're not the large bins, they're, like, the small black ones?

MR. AGAWA: They're the --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Like, not the orange ones?

MR. AGAWA: Well --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: The carts?

MR. AGAWA: Larger than a standard household bin that you would get from Lowe's. It's --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right.

MR. AGAWA: I forget the gallons. Mike can say the gallons. But it's a...it's a County bin.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thank you.

MR. AGAWA: So, it's a bin per account per house. It wasn't a departmental loss at a base yard or something like that. No. It was individual carts that homeowners owned.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Thank you. Mahalo for that clarification because I was thinking the really large...dumpsters. Thank you. That's the word. . . .(laughing). . . Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .(laughing). . . Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .(laughing). . . Okay. Trash pickup. So, the monthly fee is \$34 per month, and it's flat. What's the actual cost for this year, do you know? I know--like, because it's subsidized.

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MR. AGAWA: Yeah, I would defer that to Mike if he knows that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay.

MR. KEHANO: Thank you, Member Rawlins. So, sorry, I don't know exactly the number, but I believe the \$34 covers most of the collection of the trash. But what it doesn't cover is when . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . that trash goes to landfill and we have to landfill it. So, that costs the landfill and is not covered in the fee that we charge to the resident.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. So, you don't have the actual cost of expense?

MR. KEHANO: Not offhand.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're...you're done? Okay. So, I have--actually, my question was asked, but I wanted to go back to the question asked about Office of Recovery and the CIP projects that are involving the West Maui wildfire. So, my general question is because Management on 910 and 911, which lists all of the...all of the CIP projects. So, I don't really--well, all the CIP projects that...that's going to be involved for bringing back West Maui. And it involves--I think a question was asked by Member Paltin as it would involve your Department. And it's huge, right? I mean, it is absolutely our priority and huge. And I wonder if you're going to have enough time to do other CIP projects. So, we'll...should we pause on some CIP projects because West Maui is priority? And if you look at these projects that are listed in the program under CIP page 910 and 911, I wonder if we should realistically look at what can the Department do and maybe pause on some other projects. So, if you could look at your list of CIP and give us a realistic handling of, you know, what is viable, even for Public Works. You know, I think your Department--and Water, you...you...because you're a basic infrastructure committees [sic], you know, you're...you're at front and center in terms of recovery for this portion. And so, I really wonder, realistically, how much can we ask the Department to do. And if it's going to be put out...is it going to be put out to only other...other consultants and RFP out? I don't really understand what Tetra Tech does, but are they going to do it, or are there other consultants that you have hired? So, that's going to be a question of...you have an answer now or shall we send it to you in writing? Okay.

MR. AGAWA: So, thank you for that question, Chair Sugimura. So, a lot of that recovery CIP work or project work I believe still needs to be determined from the damage assessment. We do know the major ones for the pump stations that we got damaged or destroyed--that, we are having support from our Federal partners.

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But as far as relinquishing some CIP to free up resources, we kind of are there already. A lot of our CIP are regulatory, required type of projects, so we...we couldn't cut those out. But I can work with Wastewater to see if there's any other ones. If they think that they're going to get into resource trouble, then we could definitely look at that. But I think right now, because there's so much unknown as to the support we're getting and are going to get, we can't determine that at this point. But very good point. And we may be taxing our people too much, but we don't know yet.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. I think we're taxing you a lot, right? Yeah, you and the Deputy. I mean, yeah, you're kind of like front center. And thank you very much for what you're doing. And then the other question that I had regarding this in terms of our recovery and CIP is because cash is really hard to get. And I wonder, based upon what we heard from Bond Counsel yesterday, are these projects or could these projects--have you looked at it to see which ones could be bonded and save our cash for rainy day? Because we really are expecting I think a different kind of fiscal year next year once we--you know, things kind of settle down, it appears. But I wonder, have you looked at all your projects to look at what can be bonded and what cannot, even in the recovery mode?

MR. AGAWA: Yes. Thank you for that question. Yes, we have. We've been collaborating with Budget Office as well to see what could be transferred to . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . bond versus cash. Not to say that there'll be additional changes coming up, but we did take a look at it at this point.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, whatever is in the CIP binder then is what you're committed to in terms of bonding, and that also includes what's in the management section for the recovery section? It doesn't...it doesn't say that, it says everything is cash. So...

MR. AGAWA: So, for the recovery section, as was mentioned earlier, all of that comes under the management of Office of Recovery. So, we don't have too much oversight except to give expectations of amounts and resources. But as far as the funding sources, that comes under Office of Recovery.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Oh, boy. All right. So, now we're onto round 2. And if we are interested in round 2, it'll be three minutes and we'll start with Member Cook. So, Member Cook, Member U'u-Hodgins, Member Sinenci, Kama, Lee, Paltin, Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My questions is for the Director. The waste energy--I know that you've been focused on that for a long time. Is there any funding currently for that, and is there any update over the next two to four years what we could expect?

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MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question, Member Cook. So, the answer to that is no. The simple answer is we don't have dedicated funding to a specific waste-to-energy program. However, as you mentioned, we have looked into it over the years. We've tried pilot projects to put the expense on the developer to show us what it can do. There's not too much knowledge or data, I should say, countrywide, that we can call up another municipality and say, hey, can we look at your RFP or your scope of work and base it on something? A lot of these technologies are developing. They're not at scale. So, I guess what I'm trying to say is we need to vet it more. We have to do more due diligence. My idea is to--once we get a little more time, not...non-disaster related and things settle down, is to go back to the initial plan where we hire some kind of consultant in that field to help us with an RFP with a scope of work to get the best proposal and see what works for us. We also have our Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan that'll guide us in what direction we go. Resources wise, we just had to sidetrack from that route a little bit, but that has always been a goal of the Department, is to go to waste-to-energy. We just need to get to a point that we can continue that track again.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, over the last few months, many people have come forward with "solutions." But were many of those sort of, like, if you put up the money, we'll show you what it can do, as opposed to proven, existing technologies?

MR. AGAWA: That's a very good question. A lot of these technologies, again, are proven. A lot of them are not at this scale. To be very frank, you know, as you mentioned, we've been approached with a lot of people. We just don't have the time or the resources to look at that right now. I mean, our job is to get sewer back to Lahaina, get people back on their homes, deal with the waste, the...the ash debris, and budget, right? So, it's not that we've been purposely neglecting to address these developers approaching us. The message that I'm...I'm trying to explain to them is there'll be a time and place to look at your technology, and we are dedicated to vet it through and find the right one for Maui. But right now, we--speaking for myself, and I might be selfish, I just don't have the capacity. I mean, just handling the day-to-day operations, keeping normal operations going, and handling the disaster . . . *(timer sounds)* . . . operations, I just can't take that on right now. So, if we can get the waste into a secure containment spot, we can take on the...the mitigation later is how I'm looking at it. We know where it is. We can vet the technologies and let the best technology win, and we'll deal with it at the right time.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: All right. Well, I...I know you guys have a full plate. You've been doing a great job, and I know that you're very committed to that. And we'll be supportive of it in the future. Thank you.

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

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after.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you. I actually want to follow up on Member Cook's question and your answer. I appreciate your honesty. I...I think that's really important for us to figure out what we also need to invest our time in moving forward because, you know, we've had a lot of those presentations as well. So, I appreciate your honesty, but I also wanted to follow up on Member Rawlins-Fernandez' question about the bins. That's a good question. When it comes to bringing people back home, do we have an extra 875 bins? Do we have to order them? Does the \$85 include shipping? Where do...and if so, like, where do they come from?

MR. AGAWA: I will need to defer to Mike. At one time, we had a surplus of bins. We did assist another County at the time, prior to the disaster. I don't know what our situation is now, so maybe Mike can elaborate more on where we are with supply.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay. Thank you. And then do people have to pay for the bins? Like, are we expecting them to pay the \$85 plus shipping, or do we just--I...I wouldn't know because I don't have County rubbish pickup, so thank you.

MR. AGAWA: To answer that, I believe--and Mike can correct me if I'm wrong--I believe the bin comes with once you open an account with our division. It comes with the account, and you pay twice yearly, I believe. But as far as the supply, Mike, can you elaborate on that?

MR. KEHANO: Yeah. So, we...we have a new contract with a new contractor who's going to ship the bins. And...and we order as needed. So, you know, obviously we don't need the...the bins that were lost yet in...in...for Lahaina or the West Side, but, you know, eventually, as we start to get applications for new accounts, then we would order appropriately to...to have a surplus so we can meet those demands.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Thank you. And the \$85, that's just a flat fee? Does it include the shipping as well?

MR. KEHANO: That...that does include the shipping.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Oh, thank you. Thank you. Thanks, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Next, Member Sinenci, then Member Kama following.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just a couple follow-up questions pertaining to the Hāna Landfill. Are there additional costs to trucking green

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waste out of the Hāna Landfill to Central, or...or is it just to fill trucks that are bringing in the cover for the landfill?

MR. AGAWA: Well, thank you for that question, Member Sinenci. I believe that contract...the scope of work is for the delivery of the soil cover material, as well as the trucking out of the green waste. And I...my understanding is we looked at an expansion position--I forget what fiscal year it is--to fill that role so we wouldn't have to pay under a contract. But Mike can add to that if he can.

MR. KEHANO: Yeah, that...that's correct. The--so, they're hauling the cover soil. And if we have green waste ready to take out, they'll haul out the green waste at a fee. If not, they go back out empty. And then we did have a position that we filled recently that we plan to get trained. And waiting on equipment as well to...to soon...to take over that...that process at some point.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Mr. Kehano, is that position at the Hāna Landfill or up here?

MR. KEHANO: Yes, it...it is at the Hāna Landfill.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. And then my second question for the Director, has there been a feasibility study on running water from the highway down to the landfill?

MR. AGAWA: To my knowledge, there has been a cost analysis. I want to say the estimate at the time, which was probably several years ago, was about 1.3 million. And I forget the size of the line, but...yeah, Mike confirm that.

MR. KEHANO: Yeah, I...I think that's correct, as far as --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay.

MR. KEHANO: -- the 1.3 million.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Vice-Chair Kama, then Chair Lee.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I would just want to get back to the conversation about the interfund transfer to solid waste. So, my understanding is that that is to help to keep the subsidies low, right? Is that right? So, if that's the case, then the question I would ask is how much would the ratepayer need to pay to avoid the interfund transfer?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Is...is that a question for Budget, or...

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MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thank you for that--we...we actually recently talked about that rate increase to cover the cost of General Fund. And right off-hand, I don't have that value --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: -- but we are looking at it --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: -- just to see what the numbers are.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MR. AGAWA: And we can follow up if --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's fine. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Agawa.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Good question. All right. Next, we have Chair Lee, followed by Member Paltin, then Johnson, Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Thank you, Chair. I...I do have a question for Member U'u-Hodgins, and then I have to excuse myself and I won't be returning until I see you in Pā'ia. But because of that, I need to ask her when she was talking about the flatbeds, I understand we're having Flatbread tonight?

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Yes. And you can tell my by --

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Just checking, you know?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- my answer, I...I couldn't differentiate between flatbread and flatbed.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Too many flats over here. But yes, we'll be having Flatbread pizza tonight for dinner.

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

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. That's very important.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: And I believe on Tuesday nights, it kind of varies, but it's their benefit night, so the County is also helping to--whatever nonprofit they have on Tuesdays, it takes a portion of the income and donates it.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, great.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: So, we are not only supporting a local business but the nonprofit for Tuesday as well.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, good. Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER LEE: Oh, okay. Thank you. Thank you very much. And I will see all of you later. And thank you to Director and your staff. All right.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, you're leaving. Thank you. So, Member U'u-Hodgins will leave, and her daughter is receiving a award at school, so you're going to come back after? No, you're not going to come back.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: No, I am. . . .*(inaudible)*. . .

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. What award, Student of the Year?

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: I wish it was Student of the Year, but we cannot take that much credit. She's Student of the Month --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, very good.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- the Koho Pono ceremony. At Pā'ia School, they have a value every month, and I think this month is akamai, so --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- I think she's demonstrated her intelligence this month. I hope to take some notes from her --

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

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: -- and the rest of us going forward.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, congratulations. Okay. So, all right. Thank you. So, Member Paltin, then Member Johnson, and then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. My first two questions are on page 211. The Solid Waste Administration estimates a loss of 460,000 and 1 million, 460,000 annual refuse collection in upcoming years, and 1 million decrease due to fewer visitors to the island. So, we're talking about financial loss, but does that...it doesn't say anything about less rubbish extending the length of the lifespan of the landfill. Like, are we just losing money with no benefit to that decrease?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. So, I believe the benefit is that we're not going to eat up as much landfill space due to the decrease in tonnage. But other than that, I don't...I don't see any other benefit related to Solid Waste. And Mike, you can correct me if I'm wrong.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Mr. Kehano?

MR. KEHANO: Yeah. No, there's...there's no benefit that...besides the gain in our reduction and use of airspace.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then my question would be with the Integrated Solid Waste Management plan. A constituent--I don't know if you're familiar, I think his name is Mr. Gerry Ross--he was very concerned that there was no food composting as part of the Integrated Solid Waste Management plan, that the only plan was to train master composters and divert food to the food bank, I believe. Is there still no food composting portion of the Integrated Solid Waste Management plan?

MR. AGAWA: To be honest, I haven't been really involved with that. Deputy Schmidt has been more involved. But at this time, we are not prepared to answer as to the reason why.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, it's under CBS-3565, and I had a PAF under one of our former analysts. We can try and get you the contact information to Mr. Gerry Ross. It seems that he would like to be more involved in the Integrated Solid Waste Management plan and food composting as a method of diverting approximately 75 tons of food waste generated daily by his estimate. . . .(timer sounds). . .

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. I...I actually know Mr. Ross.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, you got in contact?

MR. AGAWA: Prior to the disaster, the Director of Ag and myself, we were actually

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planning a visit to his farm. He was graciously invited to show us his composting venture there. And then circumstances happened where we had to--but we're very interested in his input and his expertise.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. So, I don't need to give you the number. You got it?

MR. AGAWA: It would help just in case. I...I do have it, I just--I don't know it's at.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I'll get with my PAF and I'll have my people talk to your people. Or we could do lunch.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you, Chair. My questions have been answered.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: All right. Okay. You're done. And then Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: All right. Mahalo. For Director, page 215 in the Program Budget, dovetailing off of Member Johnson's questions regarding the life expectancy of the landfills. So, for Molokai...so, Molokai, we're...we're not expecting, you know, like, a lot of houses coming online at once, so it's pretty stable as far as, like, six years. So, for FY '23, it's 6.4 as an actual, FY '24, it's estimated at 6, and then for FY '25 it's estimated at 6 again. So, are we just doing a good job at, like, not using capacity of our landfill? That would be amazing.

MR. AGAWA: I would defer that to Mike as far as why it stays at 6 and 6. I know we definitely don't have waste energy there yet, so...

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: . . .*(laughing)*. . . Not yet. Soon?

MR. KEHANO: So, yes. I would like to say that we are doing a good job of making sure we...we landfill correctly, but I think part of that is because of in FY '25, there's a section of our cell 5 that would open up. And so, it actually opens up more space. So, technically, we don't...we're not...we're using the space, but then we're opening up space at the same time, and that's why that number stayed the same.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, I went to the blessing of that new phase. And so, I guess I don't understand. So, if we open up new space, wouldn't that, like, add? So, wouldn't it be, like, you know, like, eight years or something, or how...how is it just flat if we're opening up that new...new space for the landfill?

MR. KEHANO: Yeah. So, the section that opened up is only increasing by about a year

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the amount of available airspace.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: So, the expansion is...that new expansion that they blessed, I think that was like last year, that...that's only estimated to last for a year, and then where...where next after that?

MR. KEHANO: Yeah. So, the expansion that was recently done, part of it wasn't completed when we estimated for FY '24. And now that it's completed, it's adding capacity for FY '25.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Got it. Okay. Mahalo for explaining. Okay. Following up on the Hog grinder from Molokai. So, that was under the CDBG grant, and we're not going to be doing that anymore because it takes, like, at least 14 months to...to...to get that Hog grinder. Can you explain if that Hog grinder was then . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . instead of, like, canceling the...the contract altogether or the request, was that sent to EP&S, or where did it go? Because did you...did you cancel it under CDBG, or did you--because we were waiting for, like, several...like, a good amount of time. So, instead of like wasting that time that we are waiting in line for it...

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thank you for that question. I believe the funding was pulled by CDBG. And I don't know if Mike knows this, but if we found additional source of funding for that and what was it?

MR. KEHANO: So, no, we...we did not find another source of CDBG funds. And so, that's why it's actually proposed in this year's budget.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Because I...I...I thought I...I heard different information . . .*(inaudible)*. . . so that we didn't lose our spot in line after waiting for months. So, we're...we're back to the end of the line and waiting for 14 months again?

MR. AGAWA: I believe so. I believe it's on 7-66. But the answer is yes.. The...the process, I believe, starts over again.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo for that. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, these are all the apartments we just bought with CDBG. Is that what the...what we're referencing, yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Yeah. Yeah. That was what when we redescribed the...the funding and reallocated it. I had spoken with someone on Molokai, and the...the thought was that we didn't lose our...our spot in line, and instead, it was purchased for a different division using different funding instead of CDBG. But if that's not correct, then it's good to have that...the correct

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information.

MR. AGAWA: I think we can reapply for that funding through CDBG, but --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Oh, no, no. I...that's not what I'm asking. I...I don't want to because it takes longer. And so, CDBG, I understand, is...is going with a different policy so that they're not drawing down...they're not...not drawing down the Federal funds in a timely manner. I think they said that they're going to try to use the funding now for things that they would be able to expend within the 12 months instead of, you know, more than 12 months. But what I heard was that the Hog grinder may have gone to EP&S instead of to Molokai.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, we have EP&S next. You can ask them that question. Oh, you have something?

MR. AGAWA: No, I...I am not aware, But yeah, they may be able to clear it up when EP&S comes on.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I have...I have a question. And then, Members, if we have more, we can go into, you know, another round of questions. But just for this, I wanted to ask, do you use Johnson Control for--at any of your facilities with Solid Waste?

MR. AGAWA: So, the Johnson Control contract is under the Mayor's Office from a past Administration. We do work with them. The contract is to look at all the different County facilities and how they can save us money, predominantly by electrical cost savings. So, I'm not too sure on how much of Solid Waste facilities they affect, but I know at Wastewater, they affected a lot of facilities. And maybe Mike can mention or speak to how much Solid Waste facilities are affected, but what we found out was that a lot of the...the projects affecting our infrastructure, one, wasn't vetted with our divisions, so there was a lot of redoing of efforts that we already looked into. But yeah, as far as Solid Waste, maybe Mike can explain better.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Mr. Kehano?

MR. KEHANO: Yeah. So, there was some upgrades made to, I think, the windows and doors to, you know, keep in the...the air conditioning. But other than that, I think the next thing they looked at was the water usage, but because we have to truck in our water usage, there wasn't any sort of savings on that.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Interesting. Okay. Thank you very much. And Director, I had a question regarding--actually, I...I thought it was for Solid Waste, but it's actually for Wastewater, but it's about an engineering position. So, I guess I have to send that in writing to keep with my rules, but I'll just tell you what it is. . . .
(laughing). . . Wastewater Reclamation Division--I thought it was Solid Waste--there's a Civil Engineering V position that you are...well, the Department is asking for on details, page 7-10, expansion position, Civil Engineering V, 8 months' salary of \$72,872. And the Department is...is requesting an expansion position for this Civil Engineer V position and has been vacant for 306 days. So, you don't have to answer because I...I missed it. So, I'll send to you in writing. You can answer us and we can review that. So, Members, round--anybody have any more questions that you want to ask for Solid Waste? Member Paltin. Oh, Member...oh, I'm sorry. Member Sinenci. Go ahead, Member Sinenci. And Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Just a follow up for Mr. Kehano on my last question on the water line to the Hāna Landfill. Do you know if it requires an EO from the State?

MR. KEHANO: I am not sure. I...I'm not sure if it requires an EO. I...I thought the road...if we ran along the side of the road, that the road was actually a County road. But that'd be --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay.

MR. KEHANO: -- the only way I can think of we wouldn't need to EO.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Next, we have Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I wanted to kind of follow up on Member Johnson's question about the Lānaʻi Landfill. So, it looks like the Lānaʻi, Molokai, and Hāna tonnage amount is way more, I don't know, because of transport and things like that. But when you said that Ellison or Pūlama Lānaʻi is very finnickily about waste to energy. Have we discussed with them about--because how you're, you know, busy--them vetting some waste-to-energy that would be acceptable to them, and then jumping on board when they find a good project or something? Because I...I thought Ms. Dancil was Dr. Dancil for, like, physics, or chemistry, or something. So, I mean, that might be--if they're not super busy with debris cleanup and all of that, and then it would be a project or a pilot that they themselves approve. And then we can jump on board, at least for our rural areas, if it works for them, because, you know, are we mandated to pick up rubbish or process rubbish on Lānaʻi? If we don't do it, who will? Would he be responsible for his own rubbish? And then what if people start illegally

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dumping it like how they do on Maui, you know, all over his property?

MR. AGAWA: That's a good question. You know, we did have talks about the land acquisition and what they expect from the County as far as efforts. We haven't specifically talked about a partnership and their role in maybe vetting out one of those waste-to-energies, but that's definitely something that I can talk to them about. We would fully support it. That's what we tried to do here. Unfortunately, we couldn't have both sides agree to it. We tried it out in Hāna with a developer, and it just didn't work out with the MOU portion. But yeah, if that's something that Pūlama Lānaʻi would be willing to take on, you know, from the Department side, I was always trying to see if we could see somebody's operation and show us that it works and show us that it meets all the different permit requirements from DOH. And then we couldn't guarantee them a contract, it would still need to go RFP. But during the scoring process, if we know you can do what you do, I mean, they would have a leg up, I guess you would say, with no guarantees. But yeah, I would definitely reach out to them and see if that partnership could work.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And then as far as mandate, if...if we reach the fill of Lānaʻi Landfill, and they don't sell us more land and we just close up shop, are we--then what? Like, are we in violation of something? . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . Or is it then become their own problem to deposit or process waste on an island that they own 98 percent of? Because, I mean, like, \$110 billion, you think they can figure it out.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, I really don't know about the mandated part, but I--we definitely know, right, that we cannot do any operation on non...on land that we don't own. So, I...I know what you're asking. And I don't know if we're--maybe Mike, you know, as far as regulatory requirements, if that role solely goes on the County, and what do we do when we don't have land? I mean --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. Because I've been dealing with a lot of State politicians recently and they kind of play hardball, so I'm learning how it works, you know? Like, what if we just don't rebuild Lahaina? What if we just don't rebuild a landfill? What if you just--okay, go ahead, dump it wherever you can and it's 98 percent somebody else's land or whatever?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, I don't know. Mike, are we required to receive trash because we're the County?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, Corp. Counsel, maybe.

MR. KEHANO: I...so, I...I don't have a definite answer on that. But somehow, I...I was being told in the past that there is a requirement that the County has to...is somehow responsible for...for waste on the island. Not that we have to do it, but

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we're responsible for it. So, I don't know how that plays out. But sorry, I don't...I don't have a good answer for that.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You want to ask Corp. Counsel?

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah, let's do that.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Maybe we can ask Corp. Counsel.

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

MR. AGAWA: And we can definitely follow up and answer that in writing too.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. Chair, would that be a question I need to write down and --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: well --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- send to Staff or would they have it?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No, let's ask Ms. Toshikiyo.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah? Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Hey, Ms. Toshikiyo.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: Hi.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Hi.

MS. TOSHIKIYO: I actually wrote that question because I don't know the answer to that and I'll have to do some research and get back to you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Just one last quick question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: It's not specific to Solid Waste, but it's to, like, everything about the PIO. Do you guys have, like, your own social media page, like County of Maui DEM?

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MR. AGAWA: Social media, we do not have. That is suggested by the Mayor's Office, that--they manage the social media. We do only have web pages on the County website.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So the PIO that you are looking to hire would update the web pages on the County site, as well as send content to the County PIO to put on their social media channels?

MR. AGAWA: That is correct. They would be an organizer and go between the Department, all the separate divisions, and then the County PIO.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, do they need to be an engineer?

MR. AGAWA: No. That...they wouldn't need to be a certified engineer. They would need to have, I would say, PIO background.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Okay. Members, so we are done with those questions, and we have EP&S next. My question to you is it's 12:10. Do you want to just finish EP&S, the Department, and then lunch after, or you want to take a lunch break, come back, and then do EP&S? You want to eat? Okay. Okay. Yes. Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. The question is do we want to finish now, and then when we break, we're going to adjourn and not come back?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Yeah. So, if that's the case, I...I would...I would support just finishing now and not taking a break and coming back.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: You're finished--I mean, you're...you're fine? Member Johnson, I know you're...you're fine with...okay. Yeah. You better--oh, look, it's almost...we must do that. Okay. So, Members--is that okay with you? Is that okay? Do...do you guys need a break? Yvette, you need a break? You want to take a little recess? Okay. Let's... . . .(laughing). . . We'll take a ten-minute recess just so that Staff can whatever or we can whatever, and we'll come back and we'll finish this Department, and then we'd...we will be done for the day. Okay.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Chair?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ten minutes from now --

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Sorry.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Should we...should we...should we confirm that our Departments are...are okay with this plan too?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, are you not done?

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah, we're done with Solid Waste.

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

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Yeah. Sorry. Yeah. Mike, thank you very much. So, we're going to then go on a little ten-minute recess, and then finish off with EP&S, and then we're going to be done for the day after that. Okay. So, we're going to be back at...let's be back at 12:21. . . .*(gavel)*. . .

RECESS: 12:12 p.m.
RECONVENE: 12:30 p.m.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: . . .*(gavel)*. . . It's 12:30. Welcome back to the BFED Committee. So, now we're going to take up EP&S. So, who is online from EP&S? We're trying to find the person. Oh, they're all there?

MR. AGAWA: So, Chair, it looks like we have Tess Herman from Abandoned Vehicles, Michelle McLinden Nuijen from Environmental Programs, and Cecile Powell from our recycling section.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, how do you want to proceed? Do you want to have the EP&S Administrator start off, and then we can go Division...or should we just take questions? Okay. So, we're...we're good. So, EP&S, Members. So, we are into a new section, and we will do two rounds, three minutes each round. Is that enough? Okay. So, at first, let's--not first--let's take Member Johnson, then we can go to Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
Environmental Protection and Sustainability Division Program

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. So, first question is does the EP&S Division have capacity to take on grant funding? I noticed there's two positions in expansion, and I just want to know their capacity. Can they take on more grants? I saw in your slide you talked about some of the grants they are working on. Can they go...can they do more?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. I know what those positions are, however, I would defer to our section heads as far as if they could take on more grant funding if they got those expansion positions. So, one is in the recycling section and one is in our environmental program, so Cecile or Michelle.

MS. MCLINDEN: Aloha or yassas, Chair, Councilmembers. Thank you, Director Agawa. Can everyone see me and hear me?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yes.

MS. MCLINDEN: Perfect. Thank you for having us here today. The two expansion positions are definitely designed in part to take on grants. As you know, we have two grant programs, the recycling grants, which Cecile manages, and the green grants, which I manage. They're...they're time-consuming. So, from my perspective, yes. Part of the idea for the expansion position was to help with...with the grants.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Wonderful.

MS. MCLINDEN: Cecile, would you like to add anything?

MS. POWELL: Sure. And thank you, Michelle. Thank you, Chair. Yes. For the recycling section, as part of our ongoing use, we need to expansion...expansion position to keep the baseline of our responsibilities going--which do include the grants, but also stem into education and outreach, legislative enforcement, and contract management as well, among other things. The grants is a small portion of the workload in recycling. But yes, hopefully that answers your question.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Let's see here...now, please describe the environmental programs introduced, organization supported, and partnerships established by the EP&S Division. And that's on page 222 of the Program Budget. So, who are you folks working with?

MS. MCLINDEN: So, as far as environmental programs, we are working with different businesses and organizations in the Sustainability Together speaker series. That is a quarterly speaker series which travels around the County. We have worked

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in the past with Maui Ocean Center. They are an awesome partner. We oftentimes would work with our grantees, Maui Huliau, to do zero waste, making sure that we divert the waste created at this...these events, these speaker series events. We also--a lot of our partnerships come through the grants. And for green grants, there are five . . .(timer sounds). . . grantees for last fiscal year. And those range from private-sector individuals, businesses, also nonprofit organizations. Just the whole gamut of...of stakeholders.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you so much. My time's up.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, next, we'll have Member Rawlins-Fernandez, and then Member Cook, followed by Member U'u-Hodgins.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo, Chair. Aloha. We were talking about the Hog grinder that was slated for Molokai in the CDBG budget, and I know that we canceled that request under CDBG. And then I spoke with someone on Molokai that thought that perhaps the EP&S had...the Hog grinder was put under EP&S instead. Do you have any information on that?

MR. AGAWA: Cecile or Michelle, do you folks know about the Hog grinder?

MS. POWELL: The Hog grinder--are you talking about the horizontal grinder for Molokai?

MR. AGAWA: Yes, that's the one.

MS. POWELL: Okay. From my understanding--and, you know, Mike Kehano, if you're still on board, you may want to chime in here--right now, the Molokai Landfill has a grinder. It does not have the capacity levels to handle the amount of green waste that comes in. So, the idea was we would get a new grinder for Molokai, and then that grinder would then go to Hāna to help Hāna Landfill with diversion. So, I'm not sure where it's at with the budget. I did put in a request to handle as part of the coconut rhinoceros beetle management. As a line item for that budget amendment was a grinder for Molokai for that. I don't know where that's at right now.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, when the Hog grinder was put under CDBG, I think there was, like, at least, like, 14...it takes, like, 14 months for us to get the grinder after putting in the request for it, right? So, did...did we lose our spot in line and are starting all over again at the back of the line?

MS. POWELL: That I am not aware. It would be a Solid Waste Division's kuleana. I was helping to facilitate the management of the money portion of that purchase. I'm hoping they didn't lose their spot in line for it, but we'll have to check in with Troy guys or Mike Kehano guys on that.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. All right. For--oh, sorry. I meant to ask this question earlier, but it falls under this division as well. So--and I'm sorry if I missed it earlier. A lot of the positions that were Accountant I were--well, there was a reduction in Accountant I, and then an addition to Accountant Clerk throughout. Did it...did you explain the--why that happened?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. My understanding is that they needed support on both sides, the...the clerical, as well as on the accounting. And so, we changed it from . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . an independent accountant or secretary position to an accounts clerk. And I believe it has something to do with interest in that position or availability of applicants. And EP&S can correct me if I'm wrong.

MS. MCLINDEN: I was under the understanding--and...and maybe Wendy can clarify if she's still here--that we have a secretary position that is unfilled, and we turned the accountant into an accounts clerk, which has been filled. So--and we're...and it's working out very well. Otherwise, the three section heads are handling general EP&S Administration.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo. Mahalo, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. You're done? Member Cook, do you mind if I ask Member U'u-Hodgins because she has to go off? Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER U'U-HODGINS: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Cook. I just have a couple questions. So, on page 7-76, for printing and binding, there's an expansion to add \$20,000 for printing, recycling, and zero-waste guidebooks. Now, I'm not going to say that's kind of ironic, but it kind of is that we're...we're printing it. But can you just expand on the idea of the needed \$20,000, and is there any way we can make some online version? Is there a QR code we can use or...what can we do?

MR. AGAWA: I'll defer to EP&S.

MS. MCLINDEN: So, Cecile go...I guess you can go ahead and answer.

MS. POWELL: Thank you. So, thank you, Director. I--that is for the recycling section's index code. And part of that printing and binding is for our legislative enforcement. A lot of times, we do mass mailings of the Admin rules for affected businesses. In this case is going to be reinstating our...our enforcement for the liquor licensee glass recycling mandate. But the recycling guide is still Mālama 'Āina Keiki Earth Day program. It's an activity coloring booklet for K through 6 graders that that would cover.

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COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Good save on the coloring booklet. I love that. Thank you.

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

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: . . .*(laughing)*. . . That was--okay. That's fine. We can do that. On page 7-79, can you please tell me what a Greasezilla is and where is that going to be located? And it's \$2 million, so if we could just get some information on that, I'd appreciate it.

MR. AGAWA: I...I--yeah. I...I can explain it, but I'll defer to Cecile because that's her baby, and she can do a better job in explanation.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Okay.

MS. POWELL: Thank you, Director. Yes. The Greasezilla system--we have a very problematic waste stream, that's FOGs, fats, oils and grease that comes from any kitchen that has a grease trap. And the Suck Em' Up Pumping trucks come to landfill. And right now, we're solidifying that with green waste, mulch and landfilling it, whereas the green waste mulch we're utilizing to solidify this liquid fats, oils and grease could be completely diverted from the landfill. We're talking about 500 tons per month of grease that comes in every month, and that's on the conservative side. The Greasezilla system is a...it's a proven method. So, there's a lot of municipalities, 24 municipalities on the mainland that have done this, so it's proven. And it actually would--it's a thermal decanting system where the Suck Em' Up Pumping would go through the screening, it would be decanted, and then we would use the water for compost, the green...the...the batter for compost, and then the grease, we can sell as a revenue source. And it would be located at the Central Maui Landfill, so the trucks would go over the scale like usual, but it would be placed over by the compost facility . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . that we're currently building.

COUNCILMEMBER U‘U-HODGINS: Wow. That's awesome. Thank you. Thank you, Director. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Member Cook, for letting me go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Very good. Thank you, again, Member Cook. Your turn.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you, Chair. My...my question is following up on Member U‘u-Hodgins. So, that fats, oils and greases is...isn't...is no longer being processed for fuel?

MS. POWELL: No. Those like to--also, sorry. I just went ahead, Shayne. Apologies. That...those activities stopped in 2016 when Pacific Biodiesel vacated the Central Maui Landfill. So, since then, it's all been solidified and it's been...it's been

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lined...being landfilled since 2018.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Go ahead, Member Cook.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, Director, so do they...do we charge a tipping fee for that material to be delivered?

MR. AGAWA: Yes. I believe the tipping fee for FOG is \$40 per ton in our rates and fees.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: And then how much is it for regular waste?

MR. AGAWA: So, commercial waste, municipal solid waste is 106 with an \$11 surcharge for recycling, so 117 per ton for municipal solid waste.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So, I'm just curious, is the...is the lower fee because it has some benefit or is this just easier and less work to deal with?

MR. AGAWA: I...to be honest, I think those rates weren't being reflected as far as inflationary over the years. In my opinion, there's a lot of catching up to do. But what that number is, I can't speak on it. If EP&S knows, if they can elaborate.

MS. POWELL: I can. Thank you. We...we do anticipate increasing the tipping fee for fats, oils and grease. We haven't in the past because we did include it in the co-compost operations, so the cost wasn't...the costs have changed. But since the operations are so volatile right now, we're...we're solidifying it. We're...we may be composting a part...a portion of it. We may be offsetting the...the costs. It merits, like, an actual study on what the expenses are for the Greasezilla system once we implement it. First we need to purchase the system, and then the tipping fees will reflect upon that in our FY '26. I anticipate increasing the...the tipping fee for that.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank you. Greasezilla is a really good investment and something necessary. So, my...my next question is--and it's...it's the phone books that you get that are delivered to your house, whether you want them or not, and then your...and your P.O. box, whether you want them or not. And inevitably, I just see people just immediately putting them in the trash. Is that something that the County has any ability to communicate with those distributors to mitigate that? That must cost a bit of money to be disposing of those. And also, it just seems like a tremendous waste. . . .*(timer sounds)* . . .

MR. AGAWA: Thank you, Member Cook. So, I know we manage the drop-off locations for recycling. However, I'll let EP&S speak on the possibility of working with the residents on, you know, recycling those books.

MS. POWELL: Thank you. Thank you, Director. The recycling...the phone books are

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not recyclable. We used to recycle them for--and they were put into worm bins on O'ahu in the past. But there's more ink than paper on those. And the last time we did a phone book recycling program, the magnets...believe it or not, it took too much manpower to take the magnets off, which was a contaminant, and remove all of the plastic. It's been years of hoping that we could get these phone books out of our waste stream here, but they've been...they've been very problematic and...and I've been working towards addressing that issue for over a decade now. So, it's definitely not a new problem, but we recognize it and we do our best to...to handle it. But they're not recyclable. They do go in the rubbish.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Well thank you. Is there anything the Administration or the Legislative branch can do to mitigate that?

MS. POWELL: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: It just...it just seems like a terrible waste.

MS. POWELL: It is. And what happens is people sell--it's distribution, right? So, the phone book companies are selling ads and they're...and they're claiming that you purchase...you purchase an ad and it's going to get distributed by X amount of households. So, they have to literally mail out all of these phone books in order to justify the ad purchases that they sell to folks. So, I'm not sure where that would fall under in any legislation, but that's the avenue to take as why they're able to do that because we haven't been able to stop them.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: So I have a suggestion. If we can, like, document and publish that 97 percent of them will be going into the waste stream. I mean, and I know it's a little outside of our wheelhouse, but I understand the...the business...the business that they're doing is selling ads. The fact that it's not working and it's costing us money. Anyway, hopefully it's something we can get creative and address. That's my last question. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. So, Member Sinenci, do you have any questions for EP&S?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Thank you, Chair. Yeah. My first question is on the Budget Details 7-95, index code 1011208, contractual services for the disposal of cars from residents. Just--my question was how many vehicles were towed and scrapped last year, and particularly, how many from East Maui, if you have that information?

MR. AGAWA: I'll defer to --

MS. HERMAN: Yes. So, from East Maui--or...or for this past year, we've towed and scrapped about 1,000 cars. From East Maui, it's only...it's just under 50, so it's

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very few from that whole proportion.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Is there a reason for that? Just people not signing up for the program?

MS. HERMAN: Yup. And when we've asked people in East Maui, they just say it's inconvenient.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Right. And...and I think when they speak to the inconvenience is that we have to...residents have to follow the car out with them. Is there a way that people don't have to accompany the car each time it's being towed from East Maui?

MS. HERMAN: We designed the program so that people have to keep an eye and keep an eye on their paperwork so that nothing ever goes missing to protect them, to prevent fraud. And generally, we do not allow people to throw vehicles away that they don't own because that could cause all sorts of problems, maybe like allowing landlords to throw away tenants' cars, things like that. But one flexibility we can create--and we do allow this for families, especially for kūpuna who cannot get to Hammerhead for...for reasons--is we can allow a representative, someone that they trust --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh.

MS. HERMAN: -- to be authorized to...to accompany their vehicle and their paperwork all the way to Hammerhead on their behalf.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh, okay. So, there can be somebody...they can designate somebody else on their behalf?

MS. HERMAN: Yeah. We can work to promote those flexibilitites.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Great. Thanks, Tess. Thank you, Chair.

MS. HERMAN: Um-hum. Thank you, Councilmember.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Member Kama, do you have a question for EP&S.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Thank you. And...and I just want to follow up on Member Sinenci's question because I was going to ask that question but not just for East Maui, but for our entire County because that's an issue that I've heard about in my community too, is trying to follow that tow truck when you don't have an extra driver to follow that tow truck with, and then that the owner has to accompany the car, too. So, but...so, my question is, if there is an allowed representative that's going to do this, does that representative need to have paperwork? Do they

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need to have some kind of...something that authorizes them to do this, or can they just show up and they just drop off the car? What is that?

MS. HERMAN: They would have to contact our office, and we would speak to the owner of the car, check their documents, have it confirmed in writing, and then we would tell Hammerhead Metals that this person is allowed to dispose of this vehicle on behalf of this person. So, it's something that we coordinate and set up in advance.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Okay. So, that's my one follow-up question, Chair. But I do have an EP&S question.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, I'm on page 229 of the Program Budget. Under the grant award description, the Electric...Electronic Waste Recycling program. So, it talks about the narrative and the table that don't match. So, the table talks about the summary grant reward that indicates a grant of 200,000 is going to be expected for 2025. But the narrative says that the County is going to be receiving about 99,000 per year from the DOH. So, what's...what's the difference between the 200 and the 99,000, and...and what's...what am I not reading, or what am I not seeing, or what's missing?

MS. HERMAN: You're right, Councilmember Kama, there is a difference there. So, for FY '24...for...for FY '24, we received 150,000 in a grant. In FY '23, it was 99,000. And this 200,000, we've reached out to Finance to have it corrected.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, what was that again? So, the...so, the FY '22 to 400,000 is correct. FY '23 is not correct or is correct?

MS. HERMAN: FY '23 is 99,000.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, what's in the Program Book is wrong?

MS. HERMAN: Yeah. And FY '24 is 150,000.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Budget Office wants to say something.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. Thank you.

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. I just wanted to point out that for the grants, we do the adopted amounts. So, these are the amounts that were included in the Budget, not necessarily the amounts that were

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received by the Department ultimately. So, that's why there's the difference between the 99 and the 400. They anticipated 400. They only got 99. But we only do the adopted amounts for the grants.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So, if you only do adopted amounts in terms of the grants, then the narrative doesn't match. So, the narratives...narratives have to be a lot clearer so that it actually explains what's in the table. So, in this entire book or all the Departments. . .*(timer sounds)*. . . are they all like that, that the narratives don't match up with the table because there's these things that happen that we don't know?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. I believe most of them reflect the adopted amounts, not the actual amounts. But as we go through, we'll make note of it and update it for the Council adopted version of the Program Budget.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: That's a lot of work. Okay. But now, since we're on you, Lesley, I have a question for you. And it's a...it's a...it's a grant question. So, I'm really curious to find out, since it seems like all the departments are wanting, and are requesting, and are putting in for grant writers, grant compliant officers, grant whatever. How much has the County spent in the year 2023 to acquire grants? How much have we spent in that? And out of all of that acquisition of these grants, how much did we actually get, and how many grants did we apply for that we did not get? So, in total, what is that number?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Ms. Milner?

MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Councilmember Kama. I don't have that at hand. We can work on it. One thing I would point out is that a lot of these grant positions work on both incoming and outgoing grants --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. MILNER: -- so they not only apply for grants, they're also --

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Right.

MS. MILNER: -- issuing grants. So, determining the percentage of a person's time that's spent on each may be difficult, but I can at least put together some numbers about how much we have invested in employees for grant management in general.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Okay. So, that would be for not only the writing and--but also the monitoring, the compliance, and then the reporting back to the funder, yeah?

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MS. MILNER: Thank you, Chair.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay.

MS. MILNER: Yes. And sometimes the funder is us.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

MS. MILNER: . . .*(laughing)*. . .

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Okay. I'll wait for that. Whenever you're able to. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: So, very good. Do we need Staff to write--make a note of that so we can send that for questions for tomorrow by 9? Yeah? Okay. Thanks. Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you, Chair. I...I wasn't clear--like, I...I did see the slideshow, I got it on my computer, that there's two vacant positions and one position being created. Are all of the EP&S revolving fund positions filled?

MS. HERMAN: There are two abandoned vehicle positions that need to be permanently filled as a temp hire, and then one, we're reallocating.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And so, in my booklets, nothing says abandoned vehicles. Do you have, like, a position number?

MS. HERMAN: Yes. Just a second. Yeah. So, those are within 101255 and 101120. But I'll get the position numbers.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: So, they're...they're both in the revolving fund section, the vacancies?

MS. HERMAN: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And do you try to hire those...do you...do you prioritize hiring the revolving fund positions?

MS. HERMAN: Yes, we definitely do. It's just taken us a very long time to get one allocated because we don't want to hire where it is. We're trying to get it reallocated up, which we've had the funding for. And so, that's...that process has been, I don't--maybe about seven months now we're still waiting for that. So, once that gets freed up, then we'll be able to kind of, like, get people in the right spots. But...

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And so, then the general --

MS. HERMAN: But they get priority.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- the two vacancies are revolving fund, and the one expansion position is going to be a General Fund position? The --

MS. HERMAN: Cecile, Michelle, the expansion positions?

MS. MCLINDEN: So, there's actually two expansion positions. I put in for an expansion position in Environmental Program Specialist. That is a new type of position at the County, so I'm pretty much the only Environmental Program Specialist. But according to my conversation with...with Wendy Nobriga, that can be developed into different steps. I, II, III, IV, V, perhaps. So, that's one of the expansion positions. The other expansion position was submitted by the recycling section, a Recycling Specialist I; is that correct, Cecile?

MS. POWELL: Yes. Thank you. Thank you, Chair. Thank you, Director. Yes. They are--it's an expansion position. And the recycling series positions start as a Recycling Specialist I. And as you train, you move up to a II, a III, and then ultimately, a IV. So, it's...it's designed to attract people from delving to go into a career path with...with the County.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay.

MS. POWELL: And each one of those step levels is also a pay increase over time.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. They --

MS. MCLINDEN: I...I think it's important to point that out because if we put someone in an assistant, it's very hard to attract somebody because it's hard to move them up. So, that's the rationale behind the...the starting at the I level, which is a higher . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . . *(inaudible)*. . . reallocating getting positions.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Thank you. And I guess the point of my question was has this, you know, plenty--not that I don't want to give you guys these positions and get them filled and all, but has this been talked over with the Department of Management? Would it require a reorganization? And because so many times we fund these positions and it goes back and forth with Management without ever getting to DPS, and then it needs to get to DPS to start a recruitment and a list. And, like, I mean, I'm not trying to blame you folks for other people's past bad actions, but we got freaking--oh, sorry. But we got a five-year Land Management Administrator position that's never been described, you know? So--and...and there's others too. So, I just was saying, like, on a general level, maybe we get the position described first and ready to recruit, and then put the

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money? Or I mean, what are your thoughts? Because that other revolving funds positions that you've been trying to describe for how long, seven months I think you said redescribe or something. Like, then would we really put eight months of funding in, or would...should we put five months of funding in if--and this is--you know what I'm saying?

MS. HERMAN: Yeah. As for the...as for the revolving fund ones, they're all described. We're just waiting on DPS to reallocate them. And then as for the expansion ones, that is a...is a good suggestion about the process of describing in advance. But I'll defer to Michelle.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Yeah. I mean, I wouldn't mind putting the position maybe, like, three months funding or something. That'll give you nine months to do the dance with DPS.

MS. POWELL: If I may, for the Recycling side, I'm extremely motivated to get...you know, get a person in. We...we need four people, and two people are doing the same amount of work that the four people were responsible for. So, whatever it takes. I would put eight months, but I mean, if...if I see it in...I'll start now, right? I...I don't foresee that being an issue here.

MS. MCLINDEN: Yeah. And I...I'd like to second that of what Cecile has just said. I think we all have pretty heavy workloads at EP&S, and so we'd be grateful to have any kind of help. A lot of it isn't in our control, and we work closely with our--you know, Wendy Nobriga and DPS. So, we just do what we can based on what we are doing. And...and, you know, daily...daily operations, we're all pretty, pretty booked up, so it'd be great to have more support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. I heard the bell for my --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- first go.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I have a question. And this is in the Highway Beautification and Disposal of Abandoned Vehicle/Derelict Vehicles Revolving Fund on page 43 of--this is actually special revenue funds. So, about Teens on Call to maintain the Pā'ia Bypass, and it's 25,000. Is this under your kuleana?

MS. HERMAN: Yeah. The bypass cleanup for the expansion of 25,000 for next year is under abandoned vehicles and metals. Yes.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, I have a meeting with Brian McCafferty from Teens on

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Call, and he indicated--and let me know if this needs to be with another department maybe--but he indicated that he also does calls, like, for the Clean and Safe program, which was done in Wailuku and--I don't know if it is now--in Pā'ia. But that program, he gets calls and he takes action, right? Because he...he lives in Pā'ia, I think, and he loves the town. And he has a dumpster in the parking lot to receive trash, and then he also has somebody to help clean up that area. So, kind of goes over and beyond the call of duty. So, any of you have any comments on that or does it belong in another department?

MS. HERMAN: Cecile and I both work with Brian McCafferty, and I'll echo what you said, that he definitely does go above and beyond. And I also like that his programs are not just community based, environmental based, but they're also, like, kid focused. They do a lot...he does a lot of workplace training as well. So, yeah, he could fit into a lot of different divisions for sure.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. So, . . .*(inaudible)*. . . this, he would be fine because I think he's doing--it would be a proviso under \$1.9 million. So, there's funds there, I would guess, and his is 25,000. And I believe that it's been 25,000 for years, and years, and years. I'm not too sure how many. But his...his love for the town and his love for just the people, environment, and helping those that are--you know, probably may need some assistance. Just in regular living life, he brings up...he brings up the best in people. So, this is okay with you? Or I see --

MS. HERMAN: Yeah. We would fully support.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. HERMAN: Um-hum. We fully support an increase. Yeah. Um-hum.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Yeah. Thank you. Cecile's hand is up.

MS. POWELL: Sorry. I actually spoke with Brian after he spoke with you, Yuki Lei, and he...he has a...he has a tendency to not put in the...the actual costs of what things --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Um-hum.

MS. POWELL: -- actually entail because he...he...he does his best to just utilize resources and he doesn't quantify those. So, when I did ask him how much it would cost to do the Pā'ia Bypass and related project, if someone else was to do it, what would the number be? And he replied 30,000 was the number that would actually . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . support the program.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Thank you very much. And I'll ask him to get more detailed information. Thank you. I have...I have another question later. So, round 2,

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Members, for EP&S. Member Cook. Or shall we just go down the row? Okay. Member Cook, then after that, Member Rawlins-Fernandez.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Thank...thank you, Chair. My question is about the...on page 229, the deposit beverage container program, and the \$292,396 proposed. Could...could you get some...could I get some clarification on the plastic recycling program? I recently took bottles back. They said you can't put the caps on them anymore. And the other issue is some of the new plastic bottles are, like, super flimsy, so if you're weighing them, you're not getting the same amount per bottle that you would from other plastic bottles. So, it's kind of in the weeds, but could you explain that program to me, please?

MR. AGAWA: Well, thank you for the questions. My understanding is that I think you're referring to the HI-5 Program, right? The redemption. So, that is a separate State program--and Cecile can correct me if I'm wrong--that utilizes our locations, drop box locations. But maybe Cecile knows about your specific question. If not, I think that's a State question.

MS. POWELL: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Council Cook. Yes, it is a State-run program. We do provide redemption centers at...at three of our recycling centers as a convenience for access for the community. Back in the 2000s, I was a contact for the HI-5 Program, so I do know the answers to your question. The...the caps are actually a different number, recycled number than the...than the actual bottles are. So, if you keep the caps on, technically it's a contamination. So, they do ask to take the caps off. But if you go to Aloha Recycling, they don't require the caps to be on, but if you go to our sites you're supposed to be removing the caps. And also, it removes the liquids. And if you go to a site, by law, if it's under 200, you can request for a manual count of your bottles and cans rather than being weighed. So, that...that would address your...your weight issue or the...the flimsiness of the container issue.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thanks. Yeah, I was going to--if I was bored, I was going to do an experiment and weigh the different bottles. So, the \$292,000, is that the County cost to provide the three redemption centers?

MR. AGAWA: Cecile, can you --

MS. POWELL: No, that...sorry, Director. Yes. The--our...the Department of Health, you know, we're in constant communication with them. They're one of our partners, right? So, they...they have reached out to the County municipalities asking for support in staff so that we would house inspectors to go out to the sites. That 293,000 is a part of that, and the other portion of it is--I believe the deposit beverage container has this . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . ADF grant as well. So, to incentivize the processing of non-HI-5 glass, we do dispute...distribute money between the . . . *(inaudible)*. . . that do process the non-HI-5 five glass. So, when

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you redeem something...you pay \$0.06 for something. When you redeem it, you get your nickel back. That one penny goes to this fund. And...and basically, that number is in the transfer monies from State to those entities, as well as the support staff who are inspecting.

COUNCILMEMBER COOK: Okay. Thank you. I have no more questions.

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

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. I just have one last follow-up question, and that is on...in the Program Budget on page 222, Goal Number 3, Objective 1 Number of Partnerships Established with Community Organizations, Businesses and Government Agencies. For this fiscal year, it's estimated at 15. And for next fiscal year, it's estimated at 6. Will you explain why you anticipate less--it...it looks like a decrease in partnerships?

MR. AGAWA: Defer to EP&S.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Mahalo, Director.

MS. MCLINDEN: So, thank you, Director. Thank you, Councilmember Rawlins. Basically, there's a difference between those...those two fiscal years because the environmental programming section, which is the section that I head, is...was new. And so, that showed that big expansion in partnerships. It might even be underreported. We...I think we have to do a little better on...on--we...we work with partners all the time. They're really crucial to our work. So, that's part of the reason. And for all three sections--correct me if I'm wrong, ladies--but we started a lot of programs last year, and those still need a lot of attention to get them off the ground. So, rather than continuing to expand, we're...we are focusing on really building a strong foundation with our current and newer programing, rather than just starting new programs. So, that would be a difference in the...the two numbers. And we...we plan, of course, to continue introducing new programs. We know there's a lot of environmental issues that continue to emerge. Climate change is...is big on the agenda. So, it's not that we won't stay there, but at this moment, we feel like we have our hands full, and we want to put quality time into the current programs that we have, rather than focusing on...on that number.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. So, it...it doesn't say, like, number of new partnerships. It just says number of partnerships. So, in this next year--and the FY '24 is current. We won't get the actual number until next budget session, so that...that number 15 could potentially be increased, as you mentioned. But for this upcoming fiscal year that starts in July, what you're saying is, like, some of the partnerships that you currently have, you'll end, and that's why the...the decrease?

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MS. MCLINDEN: No, we--I...I think for...at least for Environmental Programs and I know...from...from what I know about the other sections, we...we work consistently with a lot of the same partners. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . The new partners, we continue to build on, but that has--the Environmental Program section expects to start new programs a little bit as long as there's resources. So, we don't ever necessarily end partnerships because we have so many dynamic things going on. We can draw from our...we have a wide network of...of community members, businesses that we...we...you know, depending on what's going on, we can...we can...we've established that trust...that trust in those relationships so that we can continue to work and collaborate together.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Mahalo. And I heard the timer, but I want to quickly clarify because I...I still don't fully understand why that number is decreasing instead of increasing unless the organizations themselves dissolve. I would...I would think that if you don't end the partnerships, that it would continue to increase. So, it would be like 15 plus 6.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thank you, Member Rawlins. I'll take...I'll take that on. I think the numbers reflect the understanding that this is new partnerships, so we need to redefine the description. I know what you're saying, is that partnerships don't dissolve. But from what the response I've been hearing, it sounds like we work with the same partners, so you wouldn't see them double counted. So, the numbers, I believe, here reflect new type of partnerships. So, we'd need to correct that.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, it would say, number of new partnerships established within the community organizations business and government agencies?

MR. AGAWA: That is correct. And if we keep it current, then we should expect that number to go up in every upcoming fiscal year, right?

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Right. Exactly.

MR. AGAWA: If we continue--yeah. I see what you're saying, but yes.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. So, perhaps we can add that --

MR. AGAWA: Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: -- new --

MR. AGAWA: We'll clarify it.

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COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Okay. Great.

MR. AGAWA: Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER RAWLINS-FERNANDEZ: Thanks.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Very good. Next, we have Member Johnson.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Thank you. Thank you, Chair. If I can follow up on my original question about understand your guys' capacity. How does your division feel about taking on environmental grants from OED?

MR. AGAWA: I'll just speak in general. Once we get our grants manager position, and then subsequent, maybe, support staff, I think we would be able to maybe, possibly take on the environmental type of grants. As of now, I don't want to speak for EP&S, who manages most of the environmental grants or all of them, but --

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Right.

MR. AGAWA: -- they're pretty much taxed, so...

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Just letting you know, in my Committee, we're going to be looking at the Climate Action Resiliency Plan, the CARP. And we're just trying to find you know, what would be the suitable place for it. So, that's--thank you for answering that question, Director. I'm going to move on to--this is an important--I really like the data that you shared with us, the DEM and the lists of the jobs that you have posted and the number of interests or hits on those lists...on that list. Recycling Program Assistant--or I'm sorry, the writing's real small...small, but I think that says assistant. It had over 10,000 hits. I really...you know, that's really high as far as the amount of, you know, people visiting that. It seems to me that people are interested in that topic. They're interested in working in that..you know, on that issue. But, again, the struggle comes back to pay, comes back to housing. And so, does it have to be an assistant? Can we look at like, you know, ways to help with the pay?

MR. AGAWA: Thank you for that question. So, in general, it's a balance, right, between the pay we can offer and the MQs, the minimum qualifications. So, the pay goes with the higher expected minimum qualifications. Now, if you go with a higher pay range and the MQs are a higher level, then a lot of people won't qualify. And those, technically...I mean, to be honest, those are the people you want, the qualified people. So, it's a difficult balance. A lot of times, we look at entry level and then train them, but in...in those positions, they need to have some at least minimum qualifications in that field.

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COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Okay. Thank you. I'm going to go back to Godzilla.

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

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: The Greasezilla. I really...I really love the fascinating technology that's there. The...the price is large, and you're using...your proposal is to do cash. So, has the Department explored other options for purchasing or financing, such as grants, low interest loans, or bonds? Bonds?

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. Thank you for that question. I'll defer to Cecile because she tried to get that, I believe, prior to fiscal year.

MS. POWELL: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Councilmember Johnson. Yes. We applied for a grant in March of 2023. . . .*(timer sounds)*. . . We were not selected. I've also been working with, if possible, the private sector. There's a couple businesses that were kind of interested in purchasing it or partnering with us in some way, shape, or form. It's been about four years in the...in the making. And the coconut rhinoceros beetle working group that I'm...I'm a member of there, we were trying to see if we could justify purchase of it to reinstate the compost operations, but that didn't seem to really pan out. So, yes. We're...we're...we've been working towards this for a while, and we've...I've kind of, like, exhausted other options at this point.

COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON: Well, I appreciate your attempts. That's really important. Thank you. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much. Next, we have Member Paltin.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: I just was wondering what the grease, how you use it. Like, is it grease for cooking or grease for, like, lubing your car, WD-40? From the Greasezilla?

MR. AGAWA: Cecile?

MS. POWELL: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes, it is. It's not from grease from your car. It's actually grease from every restaurant who has a...is permitted --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Oh, not that part. I was wondering . . .*(inaudible)*. . . process it, and you're going to reuse the grease. Is it going to be --

MS. POWELL: I --

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- reused for cooking?

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MS. POWELL: No, we'd reuse it...we'd sell it to either an entity such as PacBio or BP Oil, and that rate fluctuates just like any other commodity as a per gallon cost. But we anticipate about 5 to 8 percent of the grease of that 500 tons per month being sellable oil to a processor who would further refine it and make it into biodiesel. So, our grease trap from our restaurants would be turned into biodiesel.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Too bad we . . . *(inaudible)*. . . that defunct energy or we could have just continued right along. The other question I had was, like, do you guys have friends that you're, like, recruiting for these jobs? Like, do you know...do you run with a crowd of people that are interested in doing these recycling things? Because I know you're motivated, but I...I imagine some of the other guys are motivated as well.

MR. AGAWA: Yeah, I don't...I don't have friends like that, but I'll defer to EP&S. I'm sure they do.

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

MS. MCLINDEN: Tess? Tess, maybe you want to say something about that since you have quite a lot of recruitment experience at EP&S?

MS. HERMAN: We can...we can certainly look around for some talented folks who...who would be local here, yeah, to help us...help us facilitate that. Thank you.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. And then also wondering if they involved you guys on the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan in the aspect of food composting?

MR. AGAWA: Cecile may be able to respond to that.

MS. POWELL: Thank you, Director. Thank you, Councilmember Paltin. Yes. Food waste composting has been on our radar for years. It's been an...an objective, you know, but that entails permitting and there's a lot of contamination involved with that. So, what...what the...what the plan of action...with the Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, I was more of a behind-the-curtain person helping revising the chapters as they were drafted. And we would have to align with the Department of Health on this. Right now, we're looking at pre-consumer vegetative waste. A lot of the kitchen scrap waste currently goes to pig farmers, so we don't want to mess with that waste stream. . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . It seems to be working well. And then we're looking at pre-consumer food waste at that point, and before going into post-consumer food waste, where we would have to have mechanical separators in order to use it for composting. And then there's a whole another avenue of vector controls, auto controls, and leachate controls. We just want to get our compost starting before we full move towards...we delve into food waste processing or composting, if that makes sense.

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COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Sure. . . *(inaudible)*. . . shared contact with Director Agawa and Mr. Gerry Ross, so he could probably share that number with you. I'm not sure what the Department of Health regulations are that would make it be a hazard to public safety. Is it, like, salmonella and stuff or something? E. coli?

MS. POWELL: Thank you. I can look into that. When we start...first started with the 3-Can Plan for curbside recycling, we started with food waste compost. We included kitchen food waste in that project, in which there were various problems with the Department of Health where we had to retract the food waste component of the 3-Can Plan. So, I can...I can review, and...and backtrack, and kind of get what we faced before. But also, under our current operations as we're delving into composting operations again, in speaking with the Department of Health, pre-consumer vegetative waste is...is where we are permitted to go. Food waste would entail a whole other set of parameters that we're not prepared to step into yet.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Chair, do we need . . . *(inaudible)*. . . that as a question for them to follow up on?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Please. Yeah.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Like, me personally? Or --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. We'll ask them. Did you get it? Okay. They got it.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: Okay. All right. I know you'll respond, but I guess the protocol is to send you the question, so we'll do it that way. Thank you.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you very much.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: And --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh.

COUNCILMEMBER PALTIN: -- if I could just say that I believe that you guys are all highly motivated.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Very energetic staff. Agree. So, Member Kama...Vice-Chair Kama.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yes. One last question, Chair, for the Director. So, what is your process for recruiting, hiring, interview...recruiting, interviewing, and hiring?

MR. AGAWA: To my knowledge, we just follow the standard Countywide practices that, you know, follow the DPS guidelines. We usually don't go out of the ordinary

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when it comes to that. On the recruiting process, like I mentioned earlier, I think that gives us the most flexibility of getting creative. The intent is to step up recruitment once things settle down. You know, reaching out to universities, targeting the...the highly sought after, hard-to-get positions which require certification of some sort. But as far as the interview process, those are usually standard, and the hiring process is usually standard.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...so, you go ahead and pull out the call. DPS puts out the...the...the--they...they send out notices to whoever, then whoever responds to the notice responds back to DPS, yeah? And then DPS says, hey, I got some people that applied for this, and then you do the interview?

MR. AGAWA: So, we get a list, usually from DPS, of qualified--they have to vet through the qualifications first. And then from that list, we would proceed with interviews. Normally, on the interview panel, we would have maybe two, three, four--it's up to us how many we want. Normally, we would have, like, the division head of that section that's hiring, maybe a personnel. Sometimes, when there's maybe possibility for controversy or doubt of maybe favoritism, I would make an administrative decision to bring somebody independent on the...the panel as well. But that normally is how it's done, is internally with supervisory positions in that division.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Are there any--I mean, do you come across a lot of favoritism in your interviews? I mean, knowing that this is such a small island, everybody knows everybody. I mean...

MR. AGAWA: No, I wouldn't say that we anticipate favoritism, but sometimes, there may be a perception, right, if those selected for the position might think that. So, if there's maybe a perception of possibility of favoritism, that's when I would maybe reach out to another Department and have at least an independent panel person be on there that could, you know, objectively vote and score them independently with no bias.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: So...so, that...so, you would do the hiring actually, and then DPS would tell the people if they got hired or not hired? I mean...I mean, so --

MR. AGAWA: We -_

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: -- if I'm an applicant, do I get a letter or something saying I...I'm in or I'm out?

MR. AGAWA: Yes. So, the Department would send letters to the applicants that did not get selected, as well as the person who did get selected, that they were. Yes.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Okay. So, when you recruit in your recruitment process, do

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you...do you include some incentives there? That's it? I mean, this is...come work for the County, this is what we offer, this, and this. And then...

MR. AGAWA: Yeah. So, we can't add any other incentive unless it's . . . *(timer sounds)*. . . managed by the Department. So, for us, we have that--I believe it's a recruitment incentive where we can subsidize, like, your travel, that type of thing. We have some discretion departmental wise, but as far as benefits, that...those are all set already.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah. Yeah. Okay. We got to do something better than give travel. I mean, get on a bus, and--you know? But anyway, thank you, Chair. Thank you, Mr. Agawa.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Personnel is coming tomorrow.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Yeah.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: And Member Sinenci, do you have any questions for EP&S?

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Thank you, Chair. I just had one more question for the Department on Budget Program, page 222, number 3 of goals and objections, Increasing Environmental Awareness and...and Understanding. Are these events held in Maui? Are these the...the metal collection events?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Department.

MS. HERMAN: Thank you, Councilmember. Yeah. We do...do four metal collection events in Hāna, and then we have a few events on the East Side going on, and other places as well.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. And then...and then our...our East Maui District Office normally gets those...those mailers that...that you guys will be having that, like, at least a month in advance.

MS. HERMAN: Yeah. We usually...usually reach out to Dawn.

VICE-CHAIR KAMA: Oh, okay. And then it looks like you're increasing it for this next fiscal year?

MS. HERMAN: Are you talking about the containers, or...

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: It says from five to eight. I think it's the number of events that you'll be holding.

MS. HERMAN: I think that figure must be for all of us holding events. We are...we...we

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have gone from four to seven in the ABM section for the East Side, so there must be at least another event coming from Cecile and Michelle.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Okay. Great.

MS. MCLINDEN: I'm...I'm hoping to bring the speaker series to --

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: Oh.

MS. MCLINDEN: -- to Hāna. So, if there's any suggestions on...on venues, topics that are important to the community, I'd be more than willing to work with your Staff, Councilmember Sinenci.

COUNCILMEMBER SINENCI: All right. Great. Yes, definitely. Thank you, Michelle. Thank you, Department. Thank you, Chair.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you. Thank you, Member Sinenci. So, just out of curiosity, do you have any contract or interaction with Johnson and...Johnson Control? EP&S?

MR. AGAWA: I don't know if EP&S does--are you folks familiar with anything with Johnson Controls as far as energy savings?

CHAIR SUGIMURA: No? Okay.

MR. AGAWA: The...the reason is that EP&S doesn't have really infrastructure facilities.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MR. AGAWA: We rent out office space, so...

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay. Great. For--I think this is Tess, but SeeClickFix. So, what's happening with SeeClickFix, and how can we help you in that regard?

MS. HERMAN: We submitted our suggestions, and...and if you could let us know which Administrator is the one who would be actually putting those suggestions into place in the application, I would love to know. So, I'll --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, okay.

MS. HERMAN: I'll send you a follow up email --

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Okay.

MS. HERMAN: -- Councilmember.

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CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you.

MS. HERMAN: Thank you. Thank you so much.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Thank you on that. Thank you. I think this is Cecile--but the rhinoceros...coconut rhinoceros beetle, you were working on that and mitigating the spread of. So, how does your Department work with--what are you doing with Department of Ag for the anticipated \$200,000 grant mentioned?

MS. POWELL: Sorry. Thank you, Chair. Yes. The \$200,000 would be like mitigating--it would be container and hauling services. Part of the coconut rhinoceros beetle implementation plan is, like, removing potential breeding sites, which would be stockpiled green waste on folks' property. So, to help incentivize folks from cleaning up any green waste in the Central Maui area, this 200,000 isn't going to go very far with this. But we're at least focusing on the Central area for now, and that's folks who have stockpiled green waste in--on their property. They can schedule a container to go to their property, and then we'll remove it and we'll bring it to EKO for composting.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, I see. I think when we were at East Maui, they were saying that theirs--is that right, Member Sinenci--the...the coconut rhinoceros beetle there by the Helene Hall? Oh, it's only a collection box?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yeah, it's supposed to collect them.

CHAIR SUGIMURA: Oh, you don't know? Okay. Yeah. We...we were asking one of the--maybe their public members who are familiar with the apparatus that were hanging in behind...behind the Helene Hall. I was surprised to see it there. So, I will ask all the Members--we're at the end. Anybody have any more questions? I think we're done with our last amount of rounds for this. Okay. So, very good. Members, this then concludes the EP&S and Department of Environmental Management. You'll be receiving questions from us, so please do send it in, 9 o'clock tomorrow with any questions that you might have at staff.bfed@mauicounty.us, and by 9 o'clock tomorrow, any of the Members. And so, tomorrow, we're going to be hearing from Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Transportation, Department of Agriculture. And thank you, everyone, for attending this meeting. We'll see you at 6 o'clock at the Pā'ia Community Center. Today--do we know if we got *Akakū* to film for tonight's meeting? Okay. So, we're trying to--sorry about that, Member Sinenci--where we didn't have *Akakū* at your meeting. I didn't realize it until we showed up that we didn't have that opportunity for...for Hāna. But I'm trying to arrange it for all the residency meetings from tonight forward. But because we're scrambling today, we may not have it tonight, but we're trying to. Appreciate all of you, as this is grueling work to go through the budget, and appreciate your detailed

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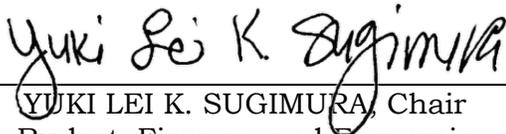
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questions. We're waiting for the responses from all the Departments to your earlier questions, as well as please do not forget to send your questions from today to the Staff in case you would like any more follow up. So, Members, at this time, this meeting is now adjourned. It is 1:34. . . .(gavel). . .

ACTION: DEFER pending further discussion.

ADJOURN: 1:34 p.m.

APPROVED:



YUKI LEI K. SUGIMURA, Chair
Budget, Finance, and Economic
Development Committee

bfed:min:240402:lt

Transcribed by: Logan Tsuji

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CERTIFICATION

I, Logan Tsuji, hereby certify that pages 1 through 93 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 14th day of April 2024, in Wailuku, Hawaii

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

Logan Tsuji